Your Youth Bureau: An Overview

July 15, 2015

Ithaca Youth Bureau
Agenda

- Mission and Goals
- Who do we serve?
- Our Programs
- Projects
- Challenges
- Looking Forward
In 1948, Ithaca became one of the first 6 communities in NYS to establish a Youth Bureau.
Mission

To provide a broad cross section of recreation programs & youth services to promote the health, happiness and well-being of all residents in the greater Ithaca area.
The Youth Bureau is committed to:

- identifying and serving changing recreational and youth service needs in the community;
- efficiently managing its designated public resources;
- actively encouraging participation regardless of race, ethnicity, social status, gender, disability or other differences;
The Youth Bureau is committed to:

• working with other community programs for the welfare of youth and families;

• serving as an advocate for families;

• contributing to the quality of life and sense of community in the greater Ithaca area.
Who we serve...

- Young people ages 0 - 21 throughout Tompkins County
- Youth with Barriers to participation, such as: income, transportation, language, disability, etc.
- Youth identified as needing help for: academic support, reducing risky behaviors, making healthy choices, etc.
Youth Development

We serve over 750 youth annually through the following programs:

- Big Brother Big Sister
- Youth Employment Service
- Outings Program
- College Discovery Program
- Ithaca Youth Council
- Paul Schreurs Memorial Program
- Ithaca Bike Rental
Recreation Programs

Over 2500 youth served annually through various programs:

- Sports Leagues & Lessons
- Expressive Arts
- Day Camps
- Summer Programs
- Community Recreation
- Special Events
Recreation Support Services (RSS)

Over 400 youth and adults with disabilities served annually through a wide variety of programs, such as:

- Youth Programs
- Camp Inclusion
- Adult Programs
500,000 visits annually

- Swimming pools
- Ice Rink
- 21 Playing Fields
- Tennis Courts
- Fitness Trail
- 2 Playgrounds
- Children’s Garden
- Waterfront Trail
2015 – 2016 Projects

- Cass Park Renovations
- Waterfront Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- Ithaca Bike Rental
Challenges

- Shrinking dollars
- Increased costs
- State and local mandates
- Growing needs
- Aging infrastructure
Looking Forward…

We will continue to diversify our funding sources to maximize the City’s investment in its young people.

This pushes us to be collaborative and creative in how we provide service to the youth and families of our community.
Looking Forward…

We are in the process of planning for the future of Cass Park and will continue to work with our neighbors on cost-sharing solutions for both of our Waterfront Parks.
‘Children won’t care about their future unless they see that others do. This program makes it clearer that the community wants them to succeed.’
Rep. Maurice Hinchey, 22nd Dist.