
JERICHO UNDERHILL PARK DISTRICT REPORT

The popularity of Mills Riverside Park continues to grow every year. Visitors from Jericho, Underhill and our surrounding towns, consider the park a destination for many kinds of year round recreation, events and the enjoyment of nature. This predictable pattern of activity was suddenly interrupted in March with the appearance of the Corona virus pandemic. The Park District board of trustees was confronted with many hard choices. How could the park stay safely open and available for our community? What activities could continue and what could not? As the nation grappled with this deadly virus, we followed the evolving CDC and state guidelines and applied them to the park. Spring sports were canceled along with our summer concert series. The 20th Anniversary of the Park was canceled. We limited the number of people at the pavilion to thirty for social distancing reasons. We put up signs in all the key areas reminding visitors not to congregate. Happily, careful management allowed the Farmers' Market to maintain its Thursday afternoon schedule. Fall soccer and other sports resumed with new protocols.

Due to the Corona virus, we are all facing new and difficult realities that are ever changing. But one thing is very clear and never changes; our community has a growing need and appreciation for open and natural places. House-bound families and those working from home seek the outdoors and exercise. Mills Riverside Park provides the trails, playing fields, scenic vistas and quiet, natural areas for respite and sustenance. Park visitation exceeded all records with as many as 460 people per day! The Jericho Underhill Park District board of trustees is extremely pleased that the park has proved to be so invaluable to our community.

The Jericho Underhill Park District Board of Trustees is extremely grateful for the volunteer help that keeps our park outstanding. We would like to especially thank Eagle Scout Chieftain Calacci and Boy Scout Troop 627 for their construction of picnic tables and the staining of our barn and woodshed. The Troop has also helped with trail maintenance. We also want to thank the many community members who have rolled up their sleeves and worked at the park. Six miles of trail depend on routine ditch and culvert clearing. I would also like to thank our very active board members who are extremely dedicated to Mills Riverside Park and its management every single day.

Livy Strong Chairperson
Dave Williamson Vice-Chair
Donna Pratt Treasurer
James Massingham Secretary

Tom Cota (trails, work projects)
Dan Lerner (website, virtual meetings)
Bruce Blokland (projects, organization)