



Wrightsville Beach Parks and Recreation

Department History

June, 2016

The Parks and Recreation Department of Wrightsville Beach was founded in July, 1974. The Board of Aldermen approved an ordinance that created a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on July 26, 1974, and just weeks later the Board of Aldermen appointed the first Parks & Recreation Director on August 5, 1974. In March, 2003, the Parks & Recreation Director's position was eliminated and Parks & Recreation combined with Planning & Inspections to create the Department of Planning & Parks.



The Town of Wrightsville Beach through a grant from the LWCF (**Land and Water Conservation Fund**) officially obtained Wrightsville Beach Park in November 1975. The Park was developed with fields, tennis and basketball courts, tennis back wall, and playground. The staff moved into their now current office in 1989 and the Fran Russ Recreation Center was opened for programming in 1990. Playground equipment in Wrightsville Beach Park was replaced in 1999 and again in 2004, with a second structure added for younger children in 2006. The event stage was added in June 2011 along with a second basketball court funded through the New Hanover County Parks Bond Referendum and a matching **Parks and Recreation Trust Fund** Grant. In October, 2015, the Town of Wrightsville Beach was awarded a \$300,000 grant from **Trillium Health Resources** for an inclusive playground. The playground was opened for use on June 16, 2016.



Throughout the years Parks and Recreation has offered a variety of programs, many of which have come and gone with the trends, but many have maintained a consistent level of participation. For further information, please contact us by phone, email us, or visit our website.

