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LIVABLE COMMUNITIES EDITION

Live, Love, Lock Haven: The City of Lock Haven's Approach to Livability

COLLABORATIVELY WRITTEN BY ABIGAIL ROBERTS, PLANNER & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, AND KASEY CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE. BOTH WORK FOR THE CITY OF LOCK HAVEN

Introduction

A small city along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, the City of Lock Haven boasts spectacular views, a walkable community and events for all ages. Over the past five years, local government and their partners have placed an emphasis on initiatives that increase the quality of life for residents and visitors. This has led to new and growing programs, projects and events throughout the city.

Parks & Recreation

The City of Lock Haven is conducting substantial improvements to their public parks to promote safe and equitable play for all ages and abilities. Utilizing funding from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and PA Department of Community and

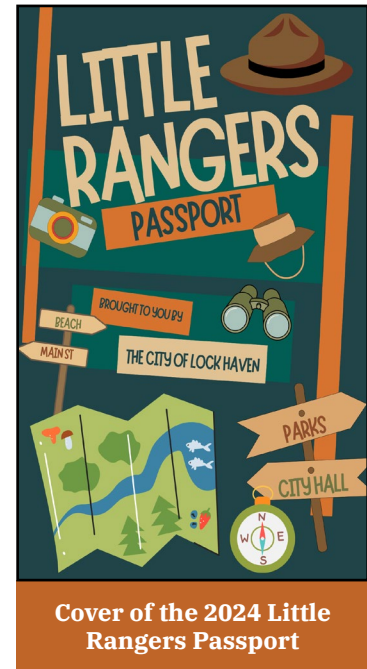
Economic Development (DCED), the city has been able to complete improvements to two parks while another is under construction this summer. Before each park is addressed, city staff conducts a period of community engagement to learn what type of improvements parks users would like to see. The feedback is then used to shape the design, leading to a community centered recreation resource.

One instance of the public's feedback coming to life will be transformed this summer at Hoberman Park when extensive construction occurs. While a new skatepark was already installed last fall to kick off the construction project, more improvements are slated for this summer and fall. Amenities like a basketball court, multipurpose court, pavilions, walking path, restroom, ball fields, community garden and more will give new life to Hoberman



The recently completed playground

Park. Although each of these amenities will be a tremendous addition to the park, the highlight of the summer will be the community [playground build](#) hosted by KABOOM! and the Pennsylvania Municipal League. The build will occur on August 3 and a new



Cover of the 2024 Little Rangers Passport

playground will be constructed in one day! We are excited to partner with KABOOM!, The League, and the Lock Haven community to bring a new playground to life at Hoberman Park.

Another recreation-focused initiative in the city is the Summer Recreation Program. Conducted by Keystone Central School District in partnership with the City of Lock Haven, the youth program is held in public parks throughout the summer. Every weekday, the free program is hosted at three parks in the city to encourage youth to continue learning throughout the summer. Educational and fun activities occur each day and free meals are provided to all attendees. This program is a unique addition to the city and keeps local youth



involved in recreation throughout the year. Partnering with Keystone Central School District ensures an educational connection to the program while boosting the usership at city parks.

Lock Haven Rangers

Oftentimes, residents and visitors are not aware of projects or programs that may benefit them, leading to confusion or indifference toward city initiatives. In an effort to increase transparency and outreach in the City of Lock Haven, the Lock Haven Rangers began creating videos focused on various projects, events or opportunities in the community. In addition to their monthly videos, the Rangers offer a Little Rangers Passport Program. A program in its third year of implementation, aims to get youth involved in the community through various activities. Running the bases, high fiving a lifeguard and attending the KABOOM! playground build are just a few of the activities compiled in a passport available for free at City Hall. If a child completes a majority of tasks over the summer, they can bring

their passport in to receive a special prize and are dubbed a “Little Ranger.” The program has recognized 10 Little Rangers throughout its lifetime and looks to name more this summer!

Lock Haven Summer Concert Series

The Lock Haven Summer Concert Series is celebrating its 26th year in 2024. These concerts offer free entertainment for residents and visitors to the area, and the Susquehanna River offers a perfect backdrop to the Floating Stage at the J. Doyle Corman Amphitheater. This year the concerts will take place on Friday and Sunday evenings, with Friday night concerts taking place in Triangle Park, and on Main Street in Downtown Lock Haven. The Sunday evening concerts are held at the amphitheater, and feature bands from all over the country.



A photo of Lock Haven

initiatives, Downtown Lock Haven, Inc. presents “Final Fridays” over the summer months. The monthly event closes a section of Main Street and welcomes restaurants and businesses onto the street. This community-wide festival includes music and activities and is a great opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate the community.

Conclusion

Choosing a place to live can be a difficult decision based on a variety of factors. While some factors may be beyond the control of local government, the City of Lock Haven is focused on the ones that can be changed. Things like free programming, events, culture and music and education, are just some of the factors Lock Haven is improving to boost livability and raise the quality of life in the city. Through partnerships, new initiatives, and continued community engagement, the City of Lock Haven can grow into a place where people not only choose to live but choose to love. □

Downtown Lock Haven, Inc.

Downtown Lock Haven, Inc. is a non-profit organization focused on bettering the downtown district through events, merchant support, grant programs, and more. Among many other



The recently renovated Fallon Alley, a project that dramatically improved a heavily trafficked alley in the downtown. The alley is used for outdoor dining and includes a kiosk with a merchant directory and a solar charging station for cell phones.