

Town of Patterson
Putnam Lake
P A R K D I S T R I C T

Newsletter

Summer 2013

Putnam Lake Residents

All beaches, parklands, facilities and services including use of the lake water is open to all residents owning or renting homes within the Putnam Lake District.

The Park Advisory Board

Chairperson: Dede Lifgren
Members: Hank Earle, Mike Ercole, Duane Holze, John Logue. These are unpaid positions. All board members volunteer their time.

Monthly Public Meetings

The Park Advisory Board meets monthly at the New Life Church located at 29 Marshall Court in Putnam Lake. This open meeting is held the first Thursday of every month at 7pm. Residents can attend to get information, offer suggestions, or simply ask questions. Please come and join us. All residents are welcome!

Park Advisory Board Work Sessions

There's a lot of work to be done! The Park Advisory Board also meets for work sessions twice per month to continue the management and improvements of the district. Information from these meetings can be found on the Park District website.

From the Park Advisory Board

With much anticipation, the Putnam Lake Park District has been established under the Town of Patterson as of January 1st, 2013. We now look forward to our very first summer season!

As we plan our new district, we are reminded of its primary goals:

1. To ensure that all residents have equal access to the parkland and lake.
2. To initiate a plan of action that

will improve the water quality of Putnam Lake.

3. To provide maintenance and services that will enhance enjoyment of this beautiful resource.

In an effort to achieve these goals several policies and improvements have already been initiated. This newsletter will help introduce these initiatives and provide some general information about our new Putnam Lake Park District.

How the Park District was Formed

The Putnam Lake Park District was established for the benefit of Putnam Lake residents when a community petition was presented to the Town of Patterson in 2011. All facilities and services, use of the lake and parkland are now reserved for residents owning or renting homes within the district.

The boundaries of the district were determined by the properties that have deeded rights to use the lake.

The Park District operates under its own budget and is one of many special districts under the Town, paid for by those using the services (similar to a sewer or lighting district.) The cost is paid as a separate line item through taxes, based on individual property values. An average Putnam Lake home pays approximately \$100. (CT properties with

deeded lake rights may use the facilities as an "out-of-district" user by paying a \$100 fee to the Town of Patterson.)

The title to parkland property previously owned by the PLCC has been transferred to the Town of Patterson for all the district residents to enjoy. The Patterson Town Board approved a new section of Town Code for the district and has appointed a Park Advisory Board to administer it.

For the past six months with input from residents, the Park Advisory Board has been developing a structure for the new park district and beginning the steps of many improvements to the beaches, parklands and water quality.

The latest information on the Park District can always be found at public meetings or by visiting www.PutnamLakeParkDistrict.com.



Swim Team

The Park District is continuing the "Piranhas" Putnam Lake Swim Team (first grade to 16 years old.) Practices started June 24th and are held mornings at Warren Beach throughout July. Concession participation is handled by the Piranhas' Booster Club which covers costs for additional supplies, swim caps and trophies. Registration rates for 2013 are: \$70 for first child, \$40 for a second child and \$20 for a third child plus a \$20 per family donation to the Piranhas Booster Club. All are welcome to join. Please visit one of the morning practices for more information.

Swim Lessons

Swim Lessons will be available through Hudson Valley Swim Inc, School of Swimming and are held at Jackson Beach from 12pm-3pm. All levels welcome. Classes are Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting July 15, \$90 for each two week session. Three two week sessions will be offered through July and August. Contact Hudson Valley Swim for information at 845-226-3456.

Parklands

During the last six months, the park district was busy with several parkland cleanups. Brush and fallen trees were burned and truck loads of garbage were removed from the parkland (including 76 tires that were found along the shoreline!)

This spring, Warren and Jackson Beaches were improved and enlarged. Warren, located on the west side of the lake had a major facelift. New sand was added, the beach was widened, and vines and weeds were removed around the perimeter. Picnic tables were painted, new signs were posted and a new shed was installed.

Located on the east side of the lake, Jackson Beach had more extensive work done to increase bathing capacity, and to improve its overall appearance. Several tons of white sand was brought in and grass was planted in the outlying areas. Vines and weeds were removed from the fence and around the perimeter. An

excavating machine was used to install new drainage, extend the beach with top soil and spread sand. A new shed now houses emergency and beach equipment.

Both beaches had new float lines installed. The bathing areas were cleared of rocks and aquatic weeds were hand pulled around and in the swimming regions.

Many more improvements will continue as the year progresses.

Volunteer List

Many of the community improvements you see are performed by volunteers. Please get involved by adding your name to our volunteer list. We will send a notice when there are opportunities available to help. Email us your contact info at: info@putnamlakeparkdistrict.com, leave a message at 878-6500 x41 or attend one of our public meetings. We look forward to meeting you!

Beaches

The beaches are a great way for us to stay cool this summer! In an effort to reserve these facilities for our Park District residents (and their guests) we have implemented a simple beach identification system.

Each family is asked to show a wristband upon entering the beach. All family members do not need to

wear a wristband, one per family is sufficient. Guests must accompany a resident. Registration and bracelets may be obtained free at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall. Warren and Jackson Beaches are now open full time. We hope everyone enjoys a wonderful summer!

Boat Storage

In an effort to remove the many abandoned boats littering the parkland and to locate non-resident boats, Park District stickers are required on all boats being stored on the parkland. One free boat sticker is available for each house-

hold. There is a \$15 charge for a second boat and \$30 for a third. Boat registration forms, regulations and information are available on our website. For your convenience, registration can be done through the mail or at Patterson Town Hall.



Water Quality Testing

The NYS CSLAP water testing program initiated by the Park Advisory Board will save our community over \$45,000 in water quality testing.



Putnam Lake Softball League

Beginning Spring 2014, any park district resident may form a team to play in the Putnam Lake Softball League. Information, rules and schedules are available at www.PLSoftball.com

Lake Water Quality & Improvement

Perhaps the most important issue for our community is to improve the water quality of Putnam Lake. With this in mind, the Park Advisory Board's first goal was to get accepted into the NYS Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). We are happy to say that was very successful!

This five year program was put together by the NY Federation of Lakes and the NYDEC. Volunteers from our community have been trained to collect water samples biweekly from June to October. The samples are frozen and sent to the DEC each week for testing and analysis. An end of year report will then be provided to us which explains the data and identifies serious issues that exist in our lake.

CSLAP is free to our district and will save us over \$45,000 in water quality testing alone. With over 7500 bodies of water in NYS and only 100 of them chosen for the program, this is an amazing opportunity for Putnam Lake.

To coincide with this program, Allied Biological Inc. was hired to complete a lake assessment which includes additional water testing where CSLAP leaves off. In addition, they will conduct a comprehensive

weed survey to identify the type and concentration of aquatic weeds in the lake. An up-to-date weed evaluation is important. Lake conditions can change drastically in a short period of time, and with it a change in weed concentration and type.

There are several tactics to rid lakes of weeds and algae, but each method carries a varying degree of effectiveness depending on the species that exist in the water. To combat the excessive weed and algae growth in our lake, we first have to identify what kind we have, the concentrations and where exactly in the lake they exist. A mapping of the weed growth in combination with water testing will essentially provide a blueprint of our current condition and enable us to gauge our progress as we institute remediation. This data will also enable us to obtain the proper state permits for improvements.

The overall goal is to create a strategy and long-term lake management plan to improve the water quality. Testing for both of these programs has already begun and will continue through the year. Information will be posted to the website as it becomes available.

Memorial Field

The Memorial field located north of the lake along Haviland Drive is also property of the park district and may be used by any resident. Kick a soccer ball, fly a kite or play a game of baseball with family or friends. The field is open for your enjoyment (no pets please). Large functions, parties, and scheduled games must be prearranged and scheduled through the Park Advisory Board.

The Putnam Lake Softball League, a tradition from the past, will continue their games at the field and have already started their 2013 season. They play every Sunday through September. The league pays for all costs to run the teams including supplies and maintenance of the field. Beginning Spring 2014, any Park District resident may form a team to play in the Softball League.

Town of Patterson
Putnam Lake
PARK DISTRICT

1142 Route 311
Patterson, NY 12563

Stay Informed

To get the latest information on what's happening with the Putnam Lake Park District, visit our website at:

www.PutnamLakeParkDistrict.com

We also have a bulletin board located outside the Market and post information on both the VFW and Fire Department Community Boards.

Contact Us

We welcome your input! Please contact the Advisory Board by email at:

info@PutnamLakeParkDistrict.com
or by phone at 878-6500 x41.



Going to the Beach?

Registration and Beach Wristbands may be obtained free at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall.

Beach Hours:

Monday-Thursday 12-5
Fridays & Saturdays 12-7
Sundays 12-6.

Information, beach rules and regulations are available at the Patterson Town Hall or at:
www.PutnamLakeParkDistrict.com

Our Environment

Putnam Lake is for the enjoyment of our Park District residents. How we live within our lake community today will affect the water for generations to come.

Patterson Town Code now includes measures to keep our water and parklands safe and healthy. The code prohibits dumping on the parklands (including yard waste), con-

struction on parkland property, overnight parking along the lake side, removal of trees, planting, or altering the parkland in any way unless permission is obtained by the Park Advisory Board and Patterson Town Board. For more information on the town code regarding Putnam Lake, visit the Town of Patterson website at www.pattersonny.org.

Find Out What You Can Do

The lake and parklands are our responsibility. On our website and available at Town Hall is information entitled, "The Best Practices for a Lake Community." It includes educational material on ways to protect our lake. Simple actions like where

we put our yard waste, the condition of our septic system or how we fertilize our lawns all play a role in parklands and water quality. Pick up your copy or go to our website to find out how you can help our lake.