

A wide-angle photograph of the ocean under a clear blue sky. Several sailboats are visible on the water, including a prominent white sailboat on the left and a smaller one in the center. The water has a textured, wavy surface. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Ocean Beach Recreation Program 2022 in Review



September 2022
Village of Ocean Beach and
the Ocean Beach Community Fund

Overview

- In a collaboration with the Village of Ocean Beach and the Ocean Beach Community Fund, Ocean Beach Youth Group launched the first post-Sandy recreation program in Ocean Beach. We delivered a wide range of activities for all ages and strengthened and re-invigorated our sense of community.
- In an attempt to balance the scale of weekly renters, day trippers and non inclusive neighbors, Ocean Beach residents of all ages were able to participate in a wide variety of events, classes and water sports.
- Whether it was a first time event like Cake Wars, where we gathered 170 people to decorate cakes in teams, or a meaningful tradition like the Steven Einig Sandpiper Race, OB Rec had its hand in executing two full months of fun and engaging activities.

Goals we met:

Reach of participants

We estimate we had a total of 2,956 participants in all of our programs and events. While the primary objective was to create this program to fill a need for Ocean Beach residents, we also had participation from other communities.

Range of activities

We offered a 22 unique programs and events from athletic to educational, and already have ideas on how to expand.

Teenagers

Teenswept provided a safe and wholesome “home base” for kids to meet and socialize.



Pickleball

A paddle sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. Pickleball can be played as doubles or singles and enjoyed by all ages and skill levels.

Reach:

Beginners to avid pickleball players – and everyone in between – showed up to play. We averaged 20 players per session.

Frequency:

We set up temporary courts on the school's outdoor basketball courts 4x/week – Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-7 pm to not conflict with OBYG or Fire Island basketball.

Key Learnings:

- Need to continue to have an AED certified staff present at all times per the FISD
 - Without a dedicated court, we are making do with temporary ones on our basketball court. We plan to make some improvements to equipment.
 - Have been asked to plan tournaments for next summer
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Testimonial

“A bunch of us will be having drinks to celebrate our successful Pickleball season. I’ve met more new friends in the past 2 months than I did for the past 30 years. My colleagues and I have taught the game to over 40 people (from 10 to 80 years old) , and welcomed all interested parties, several families and many renters that found it a plus to be in the beach scene and having the ability to try this new fad.” - Tom Calogero, OB homeowner



Teenswept

The downstairs of Windswept was transformed into a teen lounge with supervision, which included 2 video game stations, ping pong, foosball, air hockey, and craft materials and workspace.

Reach:

Kids from all neighboring communities, and even some day-trippers just out to dinner with their family attended Teenswept, bringing in 10-25 kids per night.

Frequency:

We offered open play to teens (12+) 5 times a week from 7-10 pm and added another night mid-summer.

Key Learnings:

- Kids were waiting at the door for it to open at 7. The average age skewed young and as the summer progressed moved even younger.
 - Plan to expand hours to accommodate different ages and have more programming and tournaments next summer.
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Testimonial

“I just have to thank you for Teenswept. Every night I know where my kids are. I know they’re together, socializing with their friends and that they’re safe.”

- Erin Hasemann, OB business district



Hoops on the tennis courts

Pre-Hurricane Sandy, the wagon park adjacent to the ferry was a heavily utilized basketball court. It's been sorely missed. We purchased 2 high-end portable Spalding basketball hoops that were rolled out nightly so they didn't interfere with tennis.

Reach:

Everyone – nightly averages from 10-20 kids.

Frequency:

Basketball hoops and balls were available every evening from 6-10 pm throughout the whole summer.

Key Learnings:

- The solar lights installed were a good short-term solution but original street lighting would be ideal.
 - OBYG counselors were hired to roll out the hoops every evening and clean up all the litter so tennis players weren't burdened in the morning.
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Events

We hosted special weekly events which included sunset concerts on the Windswept deck, Cake Wars, Bingo and Salsa and Bachata dance lessons.

Reach:

OB residents and visitors from neighboring communities.

Frequency:

One unique event per week.

Key Learnings:

- Will institute a better way to communicate with residents and renters not on social media.
 - While a bit labor intensive and costly, Cake Wars was worth every sprinkle. Its new, fun and inclusive nature created quite a buzz.
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Testimonial

“I’ve been on Fire Island for 54 summers. And I can honestly say that Cake Wars was a top ten moment of fun.” - Marc Millman, Seaview



Waterfront Sports

We offered free rentals of paddle boards and kayaks on weekends and private and group sailing lessons 6 days/week.

Reach:

Ocean Beach residents, typically between 15-30 people each weekend.

Frequency:

Weekends in late July and August

Key Learnings:

- Need for a dedicated app for reserving sailboats, kayaks and paddle boards to rent
 - Staffing for specialized roles continues to be challenging.
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Testimonial

“Took our guests to the bay and they had a blast on the paddleboards and kayaks! It was great to have the opportunity to do different activities beside going to beach, especially on red flag days or when there were shark sightings!”

– Donna Carew, OB homeowner



Adult Ed, Book Club, Afternoon + Evening Fitness

We offered an art class, a parenting wellness circle, karate, yoga and an expert-moderated discussion.

Reach:

OBYG families, members of the Ocean Beach Bulletin Board facebook group, personal social circle of experts and teachers. Class attendance ranged from 3 to 15.

Frequency:

3-4 times per week in the evenings

Key Learnings:

- Need for a dedicated app for rec enrollment
 - Need a centralized place for all events and classes to be listed
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Now that we got our feet wet...

Coming soon to OB Rec 2023, page 1



OB Rec App

Communication will improve with a easy to use app “WindsweptGo” that is free to all users.



Improved Waterfront

With season 1 under our belt, we can better staff and find a dedicated reservation platform.



Adult card games

Regularly schedule mah jong, canasta, scrabble with hired instructors to ensure a lively game night.



More events & movies!

Square dance, anyone? We will continue to bring new events to Ocean Beach, including the much requested *movies*.

Coming soon to OB Rec 2023, page 2



Babies and Toddlers

Plan engaging programs for our littlest Ocean Beachers.



Beach Sports

Designate a place for a semi-permanent volleyball and information booth at the beach.



Cooking Classes

Let's put that beautiful Windswept kitchen to use with our local talent.



Entertaining

Outfit Windswept with the necessities to create turn-key events for the whole community.

How we spent your money:

Payroll

Insurance

Basketball hoops on the tennis courts

Pickleball

Teenswept

Waterfront: sailboat, kayaks, paddle boards, rower

Sports equipment

Cake Wars

Musicians, artists and experts

GoMobile App

Security for new equipment

Freight

Housekeeping

Garbage removal



2023 plans for expansion

To accommodate the growth we expect for 2023, we need to make the following enhancements:

Staff

- Dedicated recreation director overseeing staff for: waterfront, teenswept, sports, marketing and an assistant
- AED certification for pickleball staff

Programming

- Pay artists, educators and instructors to keep programs free or at a reduced cost for OB residents

Equipment

- Pickleball paddles, lines and netting, lighting for tennis court basketball, beach sports equipment, etc.

Key deliverables for Spring 2023

Free App:
“WindsweptGo”

- Offer a free app so everyone can find events and updates all in one place.

New platform for
waterfront rentals

- Enlist a more suitable reservation and payment platform for rentals and classes

Calendar of Events

- Expand on successful events and programs

Teenswept expansion plan

- Improve and expand existing success

Thank you!

OBYG Board of Directors