

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 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.

Town of Wrightsville Beach Parks and Recreation

1 Bob Sawyer Drive, POB 626, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480
 (910) 256-7925, Email: parcsandrecreation@towb.org
www.townofwrightsvillebeach.com

Other programs and activities offered by Wrightsville Beach Parks & Recreation include:
 After School Program (WB Elementary) ~ Art Camp ~ Kids' Cooking ~ Performance Club
 Cotillion/Pre-Cotillion ~ Safe Sitter® Babysitter Training ~ Junior Lifeguard Program
 Lacrosse Camp ~ Hammerheads Soccer Camp ~ Tennis Camp for Youth—QuickStart
 Foundation Flag Football for Youth ~ Spring & Fall Soccer Skills Instruction
 Tennis and Pickleball Lessons—Youth & Adult ~ Men's 4-on-4 Outdoor Basketball League
 Men's 7-on-7 Flag Football ~ Refuse to be a Victim® ~ Barre Fit ~ Boot Camp ~ Gentle (Hatha)
 Yoga ~ Vinyasa Yoga ~ Low Impact Aerobics ~ Tone, Strengthen, & Stretch ~ Shag Lessons
 Bark in the Park Canine Disc Championship ~ Concerts in the Park ~ Farmers' Market

Wrightsville Beach Park

Inclusive Playground with the Liberty Wheelchair Swing



Call the Wrightsville Beach Park office for key information and swing instructions.

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Wrightsville Beach Park Inclusive Playground

In June, 2016, the Town of Wrightsville Beach opened a new inclusive playground in Wrightsville Beach Park. The playground was funded through a \$300,000 grant from Trillium Health Resources. The playground includes a wide range of play components for children of various ages and abilities. In addition to swings for toddlers, youth, and special needs, the playground includes a wheelchair accessible swing (the Liberty Swing) that allows children in wheelchairs to enjoy the fun and recreation of swinging.

The Liberty Swing functions in a similar way to an ordinary swing, but there are many design and engineering provisions included in order to safely accommodate a wheelchair. There is a ramp that attaches to the swing so that a wheelchair can be rolled up on to it. The swing also includes an additional feature - a collapsible chair for those who are not necessarily dependent upon the use of a wheelchair but who are unable to use a conventional swing. The chair unfolds when needed and has a retractable harness-type seatbelt.

The Liberty Swing's capsule is made from a heavy-duty plastic with an internal steel structure and **supports weights of up to 550lbs** making it robust enough to withstand the rigors of an outdoor playground. A comprehensive set of instructions and diagrams on how to safely use the swing are printed on the swing and on a sign mounted to the surrounding gate. Some important points to remember when using the swing:

- 1) Check the ramp to insure that it is locked in place before backing the wheel chair on to the swing.
- 2) Lock and/or turn off the wheelchair.
- 3) Attach the chains to the wheelchair following the printed instructions mounted on the fence.
- 4) Secure seatbelt found in the locked box on the back of the swing.
- 5) When finished using the swing, insure that the ramp is in place before releasing wheelchair. Make sure that the equipment is secured and that the gate is locked. Return keys to lockbox (see below) unless using a personal set.

Two keys are required to use the swing - one to unlock the gated area around the swing and another to unlock the swing. The same keys work at Hugh MacRae and Wrightsville Beach Park so you only need one set. You may contact either NHC Parks & Gardens at 798-7620 or Wrightsville Beach Parks & Recreation at 256-7925 to acquire a set. You may also access the keys which are located in a lock box on the fence at both sites if you choose not to have your own set. Call either park during regular business hours for the code to unlock the lockbox and access the keys.

If you have questions or need assistance, you may contact the Parks & Recreation office Monday through Friday, 8:00 am—5:00 pm. Please call 910-256-7925 or email parksandcreation@towb.org.

LIBERTY SWING	
KEY HOLDER INFORMATION	KEY _____
Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Email Address	
Home Phone	Mobile Phone

LIBERTY SWING USER INFORMATION	
Name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	

Statement of Liability: Liberty Swing access keys are provided free of charge to the public. I have received instruction on the proper use of the swing and I take full responsibility for the safety and proper use of the Liberty Wheelchair Swing and release the Town of Wrightsville Beach from any and all claims that I or the user of the swing may have resulting from our use of the swing. I understand that the maximum combined capacity of the swing (user and wheelchair) is 550 lbs. and that only caregiver and user are to be in the gated swing area at any time. I further understand that the caregiver must be over the age of 16 and must remain in the swing area with the user at all times. I agree to return the access key to Wrightsville Beach Parks and Recreation if no longer needed. I also agree that I will not loan or give the access key to anyone else. If the key is lost, damaged or stolen, I agree to pay Wrightsville Beach Parks & Recreation a \$40 replacement fee.

Key Holder Signature

Date