

Kayak Lake Elizabeth

Year One: July– October 2008

Year Two: May – September 2009

Year Three: May – September 2010



Program Description

Kayak Lake Elizabeth's pilot program offered free kayak use and instruction in the Northside's scenic Allegheny Commons Park every Wednesday evening July through October 2008.

Participants were outfitted with kayaks, PFD vests and paddles, and instructions on how to paddle. Flat water kayaking is perfect for families and youth, and Lake Elizabeth has proven to be a perfect beginner-friendly location because of the shallow depth, scenic surroundings, and pleasant paddling loop around the small island in the middle. The program averaged 60 participants per day, serving nearly 500 people over the course of the summer.

Lake Elizabeth is sometimes seen as a passive centerpiece of the Allegheny Commons Park. Approximately 7,000 people live within walking distance, representing a highly diverse population, both ethnically and economically. This project sought to improve the overall perception of the Allegheny Commons as a community asset with family oriented programming for neighborhood recreation opportunities. Program funding from the Charms Bracelet Project removed economic barriers, encouraging and developing healthy active outdoor lifestyles for all.

The project also added color and liveliness to the park. The success of the program led to an ongoing sustainable program, beginning in the summer of 2009, at a cost of \$5 per 30-minutes of kayaking to cover insurance costs.

Collaborative Partners

Venture Outdoors

Allegheny Commons Initiative

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