

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# First Public Input Session Scheduled for Recreation Study

**May 29, 2009**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Rus Wilson, Recreation Director  
(603) 766-1483

**PORTSMOUTH** – The City of Portsmouth Recreation Board has scheduled the first Community Input Session for the Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study. The Community Input Session will be held on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Portsmouth High School in the Little Theater.

This input session is the first opportunity for the public to provide information and ideas on future community needs for recreational facilities and programs. The community input session is being conducted as part of a Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study initiated by the City. The study's purpose is to assist in identifying and planning future recreation building, field and program needs.

Members of the public who are unable to attend the input session, are invited to submit comments via the City's website [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com). More information about the June 16<sup>th</sup> community input session can also be found on the City's website.

The Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study will include a review of existing recreation facility conditions, which will encompass fields and buildings as well as recreation programming; an extensive public input component; and a needs assessment that identifies future recreation facility and program needs. Additional public meetings will take place early this fall with the study expected to be complete in November 2009.

Earlier this month, the City selected The Architectural Team of Chelsea, Massachusetts to carry out the Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study under the direction of the Recreation Board and City staff. Sub-consultants that will be part of the study team are Ballard\*King and Associates (recreational planner), Water Technology (aquatics infrastructure), Copley Wolf Design Group (parks and recreation landscape architecture) and Barker-Seacat Architecture (recreational

architecture). Mark Rosenshein, lead project manager for The Architectural Team, will be the facilitator for the June 16<sup>th</sup> input session.

Carl Diemer, Chairman of the Recreation Board, said public input is a major part of this project. “This is a great opportunity for our recreation users to come forward and advocate for the improvements and services they feel are needed going forward. We want to hear from as many people as possible who have contact with the Recreation Department and use the City’s ball fields and other assets.”

According to Recreation Director Rus Wilson, “the community input session is a key first step in the study. We are looking for members of the public and recreation users to provide their ideas for what the Recreation Department services should look like in the future.”