

Special Thanks

Northampton Recreation Commission

Tom Parent, Chair Carol Bertrand

Kevin Coffey Michael Flynn

Lyn Connly Joan Finn

Mike Laga Jay Gladden

Jody Lemoi

Northampton Recreation Staff

Ann-Marie Moggio, Director of Recreation Chris Kostek, Senior Clerk

Shelby Michna, Assistant Director Eileen Wright, Dept. Secretary

Kathy Weston, Recreation Supervisor Sean Forys, Aquatic Supervisor

Erin Kettledon, Recreation Supervisor

Mayor Clare Higgins, City of Northampton

Former State Representative William Nagle

State Representative Peter Kocot

Major General George W. Keefe (retired) and the National Guard

City of Northampton Department of Public Works Parks and
Cemeteries Division, especially Rich Parisiliti

Wayne Feiden, Director, Office of Planning and Development

Former Recreation Commission and Staff



The Northampton Recreation Commission

welcomes you to the
dedication of the

Ray Ellerbrook Athletic Fields

June 13, 2009

Ceremony

June 13, 2009

Master of Ceremonies	Tom Parent, Chairman Northampton Recreation Commission
Mayor Clare Higgins	Mayor, City of Northampton
Rep. Peter Kocot	Massachusetts State Representative
George W. Keefe	Major General (Retired)
Gary Keefe	Youth League Administrator
Ray Ellerbrook	Former Recreation Director Executive Director Look Memorial Park
Tom Parent	Closing Remarks, Unveiling of Sign

It is a great honor to celebrate the naming of the Ray Ellerbrook Athletic Fields. Ray is a dedicated, hard-working recreation professional. Working for 27 years as the Director of Recreation for the City of Northampton, Ray directed programming for tens of thousands of our City's residents. Summer camps, youth and adult leagues, special events and school programs all thrived under his leadership. Recreation staff, residents and community members have benefited from his dedication and countless hours of devotion and commitment to the department.

Although supervising construction projects was not part of his job description, Ray always took the initiative to expand and improve recreation facilities. He was instrumental in the creation of not only this athletic area, but also Musante Beach in Leeds, the renovation of Arcanum and Veterans' Fields, and the establishment of the Park and Ride lot at Sheldon Field.

The citizens of Northampton dedicate the athletic fields with gratitude to Ray Ellerbrook for his years of service to the city.

The History of the Ray Ellerbrook Athletic Fields

- In June 1997, "Parcel C" of the former Northampton State Hospital became available for future use by the City. Designated as a site for possible playing fields, the City Recreation Department began working with the Office of Planning and Development on the design and construction of the 15 acre site. A multi-purpose field and two softball fields were planned.
- May 1999, Ray Ellerbrook coordinated with Major General George W. Keefe and the National Guard as they began ground work and grading of the area known as Parcel C.
- November 1999, the Recreation Commission worked along with Representative William Nagle and his aid Peter Kocot to apply for a Tourism Grant from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. The City was awarded the \$250,000 grant in March 2000.
- June 2001 construction began.
- 2002-2003, Northampton Department of Public Works Parks Division worked on installation of backstops, fencing, and other field enhancements.
- The Fields opened for play in September 2005.

Saturday, June 13, 2009—The fields are officially dedicated as the Ray Ellerbrook Athletic Fields.