

Department of Youth Report

July 2025

What's happening at the Department

In June, the Youth Department had a productive month, wrapped up Afterschool Programming with a ice cream party on our last day, June 20th. Congratulations were extended to Liz for her leadership. Staff continued to work on preparing for Oakdale Camp and organizing the Youth Center. Our staff of the month was Jazia Shivers and our students of the for K-2 were a Aiyanna Fernandez and Isabel Lopez. For 3-8 Eliyah Green and Wolfe Azarov and for Teen programming Markel Johnson and Calhen Campeta - congrats to our members!

A core team has been meeting regularly consisting of Gail Wittwer-Laird and Chris Anderson of *Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners*, Peter Frank of *FoHY*, Caitie Hilverman Executive Director of *Spark*, Alderperson Vicky Daskaloudi, Youth Commissioner Maija Reed, and myself over the past month to discuss design concepts and planning for revitalizing Oakdale Park.

In effort to further the legacy of the Youth Center, the department is also collaborating with Suzanne Snyder of *Oral History Summer School* and students from across the country to conduct interviews with Youth Center members, camp counselors, parents, and alumni about their connection and the impact the Youth department has had on their lives. This project is all about sharing powerful stories and historical insights to counter ideas like defunding or privatizing the Youth Department.

Last day of ASP



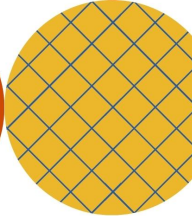
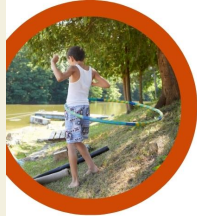
Ice Cream making with Syliva Center
& Stewarts



LET'S BUILD *a better* Oakdale Park



*Saturday
June 28
12pm to 2pm
Rain or Shine*



WE'RE WORKING ON PLANS TO REVITALIZE OAKDALE'S
PLAYGROUND AND WE WANT YOUR INPUT.
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUN COMMUNITY EVENT AT THE PARK!

A community outreach event took place at Oakdale on June 28th at noon to showcase design concepts and gather feedback from the public. The project is currently in the programming phase, with the goal of completing construction by October 2026



STARR WHITEHOUSE
Landscape Architects
and Planners PLLC

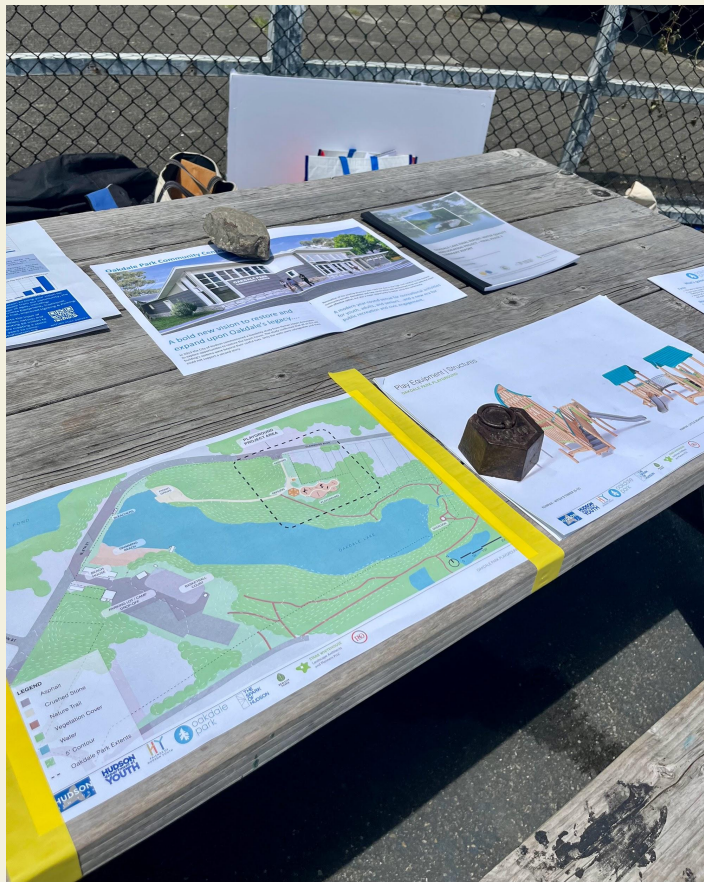


Let's Build a better Oakdale Park
Workshop



Let's Build a better Oakdale Park
Workshop





Programming

A message from Full Time Rec Attendant Jahmeeka Hughes:

The last month of programming was so bittersweet! The kids this year had an amazing time at programming learning new things from all the different programs we had and making new friends.

For the last day of Cirkus they got to do their favorite game! The parachute game where you have to keep the ball on the parachute while moving it. Another game they played with the parachute was where the teacher would announce things like if your birthday is in January switch spots with someone. The kids would have to find a person with the same month birthday and switch spots before the parachute falls back down. Any of the parachute games were a hit with the kids.

Mrs. Linda and Mr. MonRay always had the kids entertained with all the cool books and activities that went along with it. The kids always came out showing the staff what they had made and what the book was about that they read. They always had a blast in that program.

Mrs. Julianna came once a month for us and on her last day with us they made some lovely butterflies. They even got some scented stickers.

Some of the K-2 graders got to participate in the Flag Day parade for the first time ever and they had a blast. They said they would love to do it again next year. It was so fun to see all those people watching them walk in the parade.

The big field trip we had this month was going to see the WNBA game the New York Liberty VS the Connecticut Suns. It was some of the kids and staff first time outside of Hudson. That was such a great experience to see all the kids smiling and having so much fun watching the game. It was a special game as well because it was Ellie the mascot's birthday! The kids got to sign her birthday card and they showed it on the big screen. The joy the kids felt was amazing. We would all love to do that again next year as a field trip.

We all can't wait to see what next year has in store for us, now we are onto the next project, Oakdale!



3rd-8th After School

Consistent Programming - Steady enrollment and activity participation Maintained

- Field Trip to Clermont State Park to engage with the gardening club

Social Skills Development - Students actively building peer relationships through program participation

- We added a second pool table to the Rec. Room

Storytelling Program - Ms. Badila's specialty program showing excellent results

- JUNE 20 - 22 7pm at MC SMITH NKENGE "Cursed by Beauty"

Food Service - Meals and snacks running smoothly with no issues. We are grateful to CCRK for their contributions to providing our youth with a nutrition supper.



**Clermont Park –
Gardening Club**



**Storytelling
with Ms.
Badila**

**Rec. Room
Pool table**

Evening Teen Programming

June marked the end of our teen programming season. Despite the shortened month, attendance remained strong, with teens consistently engaged in both gym and programming activities.

We celebrated a successful year with an ice cream party, a sweet conclusion to a positive and productive season thanks to the dedication of both teens and staff. We anticipate this trend will continue into the summer months, with teen hours being offered 5:00 - 8:00 pm three days a week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!

Programs – Registration & Attendance

These numbers reflect programming from June 2, 2025 –June 22, 2025

K-2 Registration/Attendance: Registration remained the same at 33 with a daily average of 19 students being served. Some students come daily and some only come once to 3 times a week.

3-8 Registration/Attendance: Registration for 3rd-8th stayed the same, 72 with a daily average of 21 students being served.

Teen Registration: Teen registration stayed at 53 this month with a daily average of students served tailoring off to 12.

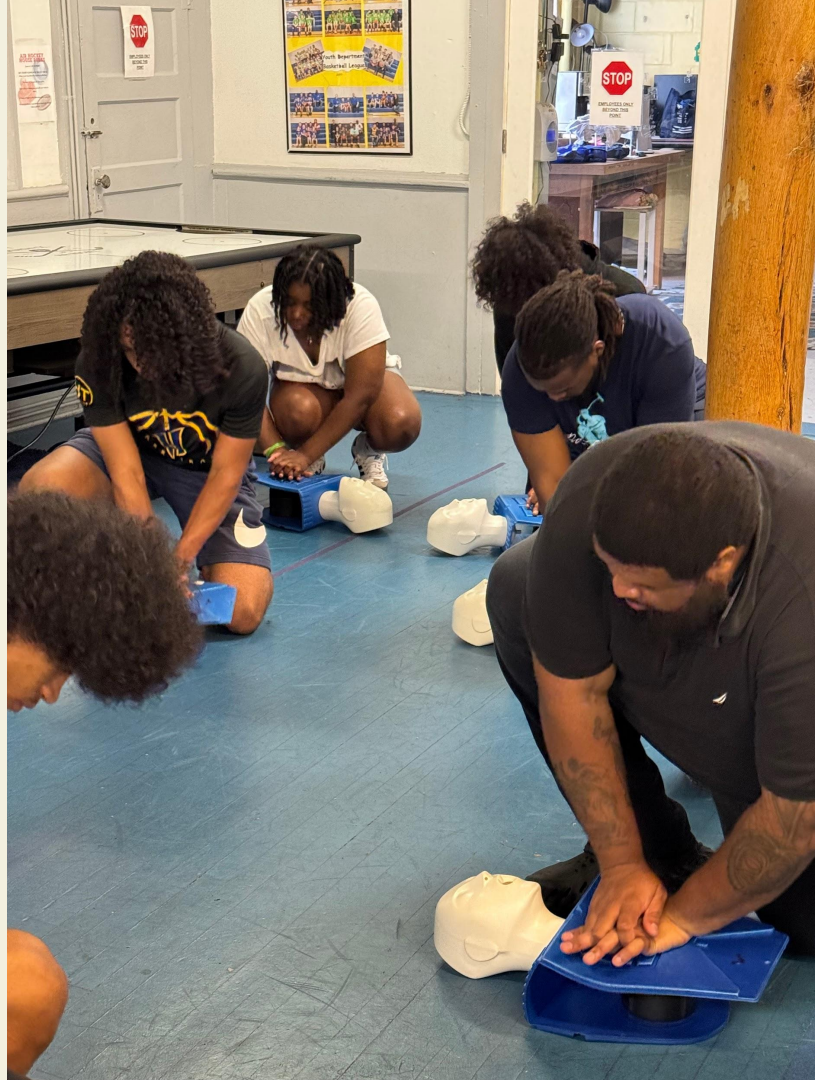
Oakdale Camp Update

Oakdale Camp commenced on Monday, July 7th, prior to opening extensive preparations by staff and counselors. All Head Counselors and Co-leads are certified in First Aid/AED/CPR, ensuring camper safety and support. A comprehensive camp orientation was conducted last week for four days, covering crucial topics such as fire drills, safety plans, camp policies, counselor and camper expectations, incident reporting procedures, bussing logistics, and food service operations.

This year, Da-Naysia Walker, a Hudson High graduate, and her co-worker Maureen from Bank of Greene County generously provided a financial literacy workshop for the camp counselors. Additionally, David Yuzzo, a scientist who previously presented on water quality at Spark, offered to speak with Oakdale Lifeguards and Counselors about lake ecology, algae, and turtles.

Orientation Week









Oakdale Lake update



[Preview attachment Oakdale One-Page.pdf](#)
[Oakdale One-Page.pdf](#)
[260 KB](#)

Oakdale Lake is safe for recreation and is eutrophic, meaning it's rich in nutrients which leads to fast-growing aquatic plants and algae. Most of the algae is not harmful, and harmful algae blooms are monitored with public alerts issued if necessary. Studies by Great Ecology and Friends of Oakdale Lake show high but stable phosphorus levels, and lower algae levels in the last two years compared to 2020. The studies also suggest a need for more oxygen in the lake. Recommended next steps include adding a fountain to increase oxygen, better targeting barley straw applications, exploring future options like green infrastructure and algae treatments, and ongoing water sampling. The conclusion is that Oakdale Lake is safe and can remain healthy with continued community support and management.

YDSL 2025

This program is open to all children grades K-6, local location to be determined, and goes for 7 weeks.

Grades K-2 will participate in skills and drills each Saturday, while grades 3/4 and 5/6 will form teams for weekly Saturday games with weekly practices scheduled per your coach's availability.

SEASON STARTS 8/30

- ✓ Skills & ball techniques
- ✓ Footwork exercises
- ✓ Strategy & teamwork exercises
- ✓ Fun games & trial matches

SKILLS & DRILLS

K-2nd Grade
9 AM - 10 AM

GAMES

3rd & 4th Grade
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
5th & 6th
12 PM - 1:00 PM

REGISTER BETWEEN JUNE 30TH-AUGUST 15TH

18 S Third Street, Hudson, NY 12534

Registration Link
cityofhudsonyouth.org

More Information
518-828-0017 info@cityofhudsonyouth.org



For more Information:

Website: www.cityofhudsonyouth.org

Phone: 518-828-0017 (Youth Center) 518-697-5620 (Oakdale)

Email: info@cityofhudsonyouth.org

Instagram: oakdaleparkhudsonny
 Hudsonyouthcenter

Facebook: City of Hudson Department of Youth

Thank you.