



PPR Clusters Update

Over the past year, 11 Clusters have been working on a new initiative to provide more and better programming opportunities for youth and families in neighborhoods throughout the city. By working together, staff are able to better utilize their existing programming strengths, the amenities



at their facilities and their capacity to form community partnerships so that, whether a family's local PPR facility is a one-room playground or a two-story recreation center, they have access to the same robust menu and quality of programming.

The 11 Clusters, comprised of 33 Rec Centers and Playgrounds, 11 parks and a handful of specialty facilities, made some important first steps toward working together over the last year. A variety of new

programming and events grew out of their monthly staff meetings and efforts to share staffing and facility resources.

- The spirit of friendly competition is alive and well in the **Waterview Cluster**. Youth from this cluster participated in two different Cluster Chess Tournaments and a Frisbee Golf Tournament at Wister Woods.
- At the **Gathers and King Clusters**, youth from multiple facilities had the opportunity to join the PPR/Mural Arts A2O Program, further advancing both organizations' interest in broadening the reach of quality art programming in our communities.
- In the Northeast, the **Pelbano Cluster** got kicking with a Cluster Swim Meet at Lincoln High School Pool, and the **Vogt Cluster** got digging with a new Worm Farming program.
- And, of course, in South Philly, the **Vare Cluster** was very busy making sure youth from all the surrounding neighborhoods had the opportunity to participate in the many free programs offered throughout the cluster. Just one example is the award-winning gymnastics program at Vare, which has expanded to include youth from D. Finnegan and Smith Playgrounds.

In total, over 40 new programs were implemented in PPR's 11 clusters between October and May of 2015. Collaboration has been the key to success, as many of these programs in clusters such as Rizzo, Wright and Shepard were led by the rec leaders with the help of our new Workforce staff.

The above are just a few examples of the expanded opportunities our staff are providing in their communities through the cluster initiative. And there's more to come this year! Overheard at various cluster fall planning meetings:

- The **Feltonville Cluster** is working with PPR's own Urban Gardening and Nutrition units, along with their local Free Library branch, to develop a one-of-a-kind Caretaker Nutrition Program. And, the Health Department's Get Healthy Philly staff participated in the most recent Feltonville Cluster meeting and are facilitating a new partnership with Latinas in Motion!
- The **King Cluster** has a seasoned soccer expert at Clemente Playground and great indoor facilities at King. What will happen this fall if they combine these assets? Looks like the King Cluster might be starting up a new soccer program!



PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION

- The **Lonnie Young Cluster** is out to prove they've got the lock on creative talent, moving into year two of their Cluster's Got Talent showcase events.
- Many great new partnerships are building in the **Vogt Cluster**. In addition to their internal work to provide a new girls volleyball program and an exciting partnership with the Franklin Institute to provide really cool Family Star Gazing events, the Vogt Cluster is in the early stages of a new After School partnership in Tacony. Working with Councilman Henon's office, Disston School, the Free Library, Playworks and others, the cluster is getting ready to launch an exciting new After School Program.

Stay tuned for more news on the PPR Clusters, and next time you see one of these hardworking Rec Leaders, make sure you congratulate them on their year one success!

