



THE CITY OF ERIE

2026 SUMMER RECREATION GUIDE



City of Erie Residents: Discover **FREE** Programs Inside!

A Summer of Reading and Opportunity!



Erie is great at all times of the year but there is something special about the summer season here in the city that we love.

To help our youth make the most of this special time, I'm pleased to introduce the City of Erie's 2026 Summer Recreation guide that includes our effort to promote 2026 as Erie's Summer of Reading.

Since our first day in office, my administration has talked a lot about literacy, and for good reason. In an effort to support Erie's Public Schools and their new strategic plan, we have convened a community-wide effort in partnership with the Erie County Public Library and other local organizations to promote literacy all summer long.

Through our Summer of Reading initiative, we are working alongside partners to strengthen literacy, support residents of all ages, and build a shared commitment to learning. This effort is reflected in new City-funded summer programming requirements, which now include a literacy component to help reinforce reading skills across activities.

We are also launching a Mayor's Book Club to further encourage reading and civic engagement. Books are available at local booksellers Werner Books and Pressed, as well as all Erie County Public Library branches.

Finally, I want to emphasize that this summer and our efforts are about community building and investing in Erie's future — but it's just the beginning. This guide includes all City-funded summer programs, including recreation, arts, and culture opportunities, as well as additional programs and activities submitted by community organizations. We look forward to continuing to grow these efforts with our partners as we work to move Erie forward together, so thank you to everyone who has shared in this commitment and helped make summer programming possible.

These pages are a part of Erie's next chapter, so as you flip through, I encourage you to explore the opportunities available, take advantage of everything offered, and make this a safe, active, and meaningful summer.

Daria S. Devlin
Mayor, City of Erie

Mayor

Daria S. Devlin

Erie City Council

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City Officials

Casimir Kwitowski, City Treasurer
Brooke Sanfilippo, City Controller



**scan for more
information**

erie.pa.us/summerofreading

Recreational Parks and Amenities Locations

East Side

Andrews Park

Andrews Park Way and Lake Ave.
greenspace

Burton Park

East 38th St. and Burton Ave.
playground/tennis/basketball

Chautauqua Park

Lakeside Dr. and Chautauqua Blvd.
shelter/benches

Cranch Park

Lakeside Dr. and Cranch Ave.
benches/landscaped

Euclid Park

Lakeside Dr. and Euclid Ave.
greenspace

Franklin Park

East Seventh St. and Marne Rd.
softball

Hillside Park

East 41st St. and Old French Rd.
playground/baseball fields

Holland Street Playground

East 23rd St. and Holland St.
playground/basketball

John G. Carney Park / Woodlawn Park

1900 Block of Woodlawn Ave.
playground/greenspace

Joseph Walczak Sr. Park

East 44th St. and Alan Dr.
playground/baseball/soccer/basketball/shelter

Kosciuszko Park

East 12th St. and Wayne St.
softball/basketball

Lake Park

Lakeside Dr. and Lake Ave.
greenspace

Land Lighthouse Park

Foot of Lighthouse St.
playground/picnic shelter

McCarty Playground

East Second St. and Pennsylvania Ave.
basketball/softball

McClelland Park

East 26th St. and McClelland Ave.
shelter/greenspace/dog park/ADA accessible hiking trails/playground

McKinley Park

East 21st St. and East Ave.
basketball/tennis

Nate Levy / Jaycee Park

200 block of East Third St.
playground/soccer

Perry Square East

Between State St. and French St., North and South Park Rows
fountain/gardens/benches

Pulaski Park

East 10th St. and Hess Ave.
playground/softball

Rainbow Park

East 15th St. and Wallace St.
greenspace/garden/benches

Rodger Young Park

Buffalo Rd. and Downing Ave.
playground/softball/soccer/pool/basketball/football

Roessler Park

East 15th St. and Reed St.
playground/picnic shelter

Roma Park

East 35th St. and Zimmerman Rd.
greenspace/trails

Wallace Street Playground

East Front St. and Wallace St.
playground/soccer/softball

Wayne Park

East Sixth St. and East Ave.
benches/greenspaces/playground

West Side

Baldwin Park

West 25th St. and Berst Ave.
playground/basketball/pickleball/arboretum/trails

Barbara Nitkiewicz Park

West Third St. and Cascade St.
playground

Bayview Park

West Second St. and Cherry St.
playground/baseball/basketball/tennis/splash pad/swings

Brabender Memorial Park / Baur Park

West 21st and Baur Ave.
baseball/soccer

Columbus Park

West 16th St. and Poplar St.
playground/basketball/skatepark

Frontier Park

West Sixth St. and Seminole Dr.
playground/tennis/soccer/arboretum/trails

Garden Park / Pear Park

West 36th St. and Norman Way
greenspace/benches/picnic shelter

Glenwood Park

Glenwood Park Ave. and West 41st St.
playground/horseshoes/picnic pavilions

Gridley Park

Park Ave. and Liberty St.
playground/passive

Griswold Park

West 14th St. and Peach St.
fountain/benches

Hagerty Park

West 32nd St. and Schaper Ave.
playground/basketball/soccer/softball/shelter

Larry Fabrizi Park

1700 Block of West 27th between Ellsworth Ave. and Harvard Blvd.
greenspace

Martin Luther King Jr. Park

West Fourth St. near Chestnut St.
playground/picnic shelter

Orush Park

1700 Block between West 27th St. and 29th St.
greenspace

Pebble Lake Playground

Washington Ave. and Cold Springs Dr.
swings/gardens/benches/picnic shelter

Perry Square West

State St. and North Park Row
event stage/gardens/benches

Ruby Schaaf Park

West 19th St. and Myrtle St.
playground/basketball

Victory Park

West 13th St. and Lincoln Ave.
playground/baseball

Washington Square Park

West 24th St. and Raspberry St.
gazebo/benches

Woodland Park

Woodland Dr. and Kahkwa Blvd.
natural woods/creek

Woodlawn Park

West 32nd St. and Harvard Rd.
greenspace

Park event permits: David Rocco Special Events Coordinator / Municipal Licensing • 814-870-1253 • drocco@erie.pa.us

Tennis, softball, baseball, and pickleball permits: Gary Graham, Bureau Chief of Parks • ggraham@erie.pa.us

Golf tournaments: Darin Lindhart, Downing Golf Course • 814-899-5827

Summer of Reading

Mayor Daria S. Devlin has designated 2026 as the Summer of Reading in the City of Erie, expanding access to books, supporting learning, and strengthening literacy for residents of all ages.

Reading plays a bigger role than we sometimes realize. It shapes how we learn, how we communicate, and how we navigate the world around us. When more residents have access to books, programs, and support, it creates opportunity across our community. Visit erie.pa.us/summerofreading.

Mayor Devlin's Book Club

As part of these efforts to encourage reading, Mayor Devlin is launching a Mayor's Book Club to highlight the importance of literacy for both adults and children as a cornerstone of our community. This summer's selection, *The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History*, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement, explores American history and civic engagement as we celebrate America250PA.

Check out a copy at Erie County Public Library locations, or purchase one at Werner Books or Pressed. Books will include an official "Mayor's Book Club" bookmark. Follow @mayordevlin on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

Erie County Public Library Locations:

- **Blasco Memorial Library:** 160 E. Front St.
- **Iroquois Avenue Branch Library:** 4212 Iroquois Ave.
- **Lincoln Community Center:** 1255 Manchester Rd.

Booksellers:

- **Werner Books:** 3608 Liberty St.
- **Pressed:** 1535 W. 8th St.

Erie County Public Library: Founding Stories, An America250 Celebration

Location: All branches
Dates: June 15 – August 22
Time: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Ages: All ages

Take the all-ages Summer Reading Challenge and enjoy library programs, community visits, and the chance to win over \$2000 in prizes just by reading and using your library card.

Summer Reading Kickoff happens Saturday, June 20 at Blasco Library from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Register for the free reading challenge, get a library card, and enjoy an afternoon of outdoor games & festivities for the whole family!

Learn more at: eriecounty-pa.libguides.com/SLP

Erie County Public Library Bookmobile

The traveling library delivers services, materials, and resources throughout Erie County. Find the Bookmobile in a neighborhood near you at:

Learn more at: events.erielibrary.org/calendar/outreach

Rotary Club of Erie: Reading with Rotary

Location: McKinley Park, 1000 E. 23rd St.
Dates: Wednesday, July 8 (Rain Date: Wednesday, July 15)
Times: 12-3 p.m.
Ages: All ages

- Interact with local heroes
- Read in the park
- Fun literacy activities
- Write your own book!

Learn more at: erierotary.club

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF): LEAF Book Club

Location: LEAF, 1501 W. 6th St.
Ages: All ages
Dates: Last Thursday of every month
Times: 6-7 p.m.

Join the LEAF Book Club for a relaxed, all-ages gathering focused on books about trees and nature. It's a great opportunity to connect with others, enjoy thoughtful discussion, and deepen your appreciation for the natural world.

Contact: Claire Ciezki, claire@leaferie.org

Great American Book Sale

Presented by The Friends of the Erie County Library

Location: Flo Fabrizio Ice Center at the Erie Zoo | 527 W 38th
Phone: 814-459-2761 ext. 241
Dates: Sunday, June 14 – Thursday, June 18: 10am – 8pm
Friday June 19: 10am – 3pm
Ages: All ages

Browse more than 75,000 gently used books, including children's and young adult titles, as well as media items. Everything is at bargain prices. Come early for the best selection.

This event is free to attend and welcomes all book enthusiasts.

Lake Erie LitFest 2026

Erie Art Company, Werner Books, Friends of the Library

Location: Frontier Park

Dates: September 12 **Time:** 12-5 p.m.

Ages: All ages

Lake Erie LitFest is back at Frontier Park! We will continue offering writing workshops, readings featuring a variety of original works, and appearances by regional authors, along with free crafts and books for K-12 students. We will also host a free book giveaway featuring many challenged books from across the country, available while supplies last.

Volunteer sign-up and sponsorship opportunities available. No registration required.

Learn more: erielitfest.com

Hooked on Books

Location: Erie's Public Schools Elementary Locations

Ages: All ages

Dates: June 15 - July 14 (Five Mondays and Five Tuesdays)

June:

Mondays: 15, 22, 29

Tuesdays: 16, 23, 30

July:

Mondays: 6, 13

Tuesdays: 7, 14

Times and Grades (45 min for each age group):

K-2: 9 - 9:45 a.m.

3-5: 9:55 - 10:40 a.m.

Hooked on Books for Kids (HBKids) is partnering with the Erie School District (ESD) to bring books and reading experiences to students participating in ESD's summer SAIL program.

This program will take place at all 10 ESD elementary schools, with one visit per school. During each visit, students will receive brand-new, thematically selected books, with opportunities for read-alouds and related activities.

Scan QR code to register:



Contact:

Linda Graff, blgraff2@gmail.com, 703-795-8982

Fran Rosiak, frosiak@neo.rr.com, 814-440-6044

Erie's Public Schools: Beat the Summer Slide

What is the "summer slide"?

Summer Slide is the loss of learning that a child experiences during the summer months when school is not in session. Students who consistently experience learning loss each summer are an average of two years behind their peers by the end of grade 6.

How to combat summer slide?

Learning doesn't end with the school year! Every parent, guardian, and caregiver can keep their child's body and brain active and learning during the summer season - and doing so can be easy, free, and fun! Below you will find some ideas on how to #LearnWhereYouLive during the summer months.

Read at home every day.

Set aside time to read together or visit the library.

Use counting skills in daily activities.

Practice math while cooking, shopping, or playing games.

Look for art in your neighborhood.

Explore murals, public art, and creative spaces together.

Keep a summer journal.

Encourage kids to write about their experiences and favorite memories.

Be active outdoors.

Visit parks, go on walks, and explore nature together.

Get creative.

Use household items for crafts, storytelling, and imaginative play.

K-12 Summer Reading Lists:

erie.pa.us/summerofreading

United Way of Erie County: Imagination Library

Location: Erie County

Ages: Birth to 5

The Imagination Library is a FREE book program for Erie County children from birth to their fifth birthday and is made possible by United Way of Erie County. Each month, a new, high-quality age and developmentally appropriate book is mailed to children enrolled in the program.

Sign up: unitedwayerie.org/imagination

Contact: Joanna Peters, joanna@unitedwayerie.org

Public Golf Courses

J.C. Martin Golf Course

9 holes, sharpen your game, great for everyone

Location: 652 Shunpike Road, Erie

Phone: 814-864-1821

Daily fees | Cart extra

Weekdays, Weekends & Holidays

18 Holes \$22

9 Holes \$15

Downing Golf Course

Championship Layout

7,092 – Blue Tees | 6,580 – White Tees | 5,775 – Red Tees

Location: 1351 Troupe Road

Phone: 814-899-5827

Daily fees | Cart extra

Weekdays, Weekends & Holidays

18 Holes \$27

9 Holes \$18

Twilight (4:30 p.m.) \$24

Senior (55+) and Military

18 Holes \$27 Everyday (Anytime)

Youth Clinic Series

Teaching professionals and local area coaches introduce participants to the game of golf. **Clubs not provided.**

Location: J.C. Martin Golf Course

Dates: May 20 – July 25

May:

Wednesdays: 20, 27

Saturdays: 23, 30

June:

Wednesdays: 10, 17, 24

Saturdays: 6, 13, 20

July:

Wednesdays: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Saturdays: 11, 18, 25

Clinics will end July 25 with season pass give-aways

Time: Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

and Saturdays, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Ages: 4 to 14 (boys and girls)

Contact: J.C. Martin Golf Course at 814-864-1821.

Glow Golf

Location: J.C. Martin Golf Course

Dates: Saturdays

Time: Begins 30 minutes before dusk.

Phone: 814-864-1821

Glow Golf is back in Erie! Call ahead to book your tee times. Maximum of four golfers per tee time.

Glow golf balls and safety sticks must be purchased prior to play at the J.C. Martin pro shop.

Baseball/Softball Open Play

East Side: Franklin Park, Hillside Park, Joseph Walczak Sr. Park

West Side: Bayview Park, Brabender Park, Victory Park

As part of the City of Erie's YMCA Kid's Club, Bayview Park will offer open play for baseball all summer from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Open play is also available at the following parks:

- Franklin Park (softball)
- Hillside Park – Sam Jethroe Field (baseball, softball)
- Joseph Walczak Sr. Park (baseball)
- Bayview Park – Pontiac Field (baseball, softball)
- Brabender Park (baseball)
- Victory Park (baseball)

Youth Tennis Program

Dates: June 8 – August 7 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Locations: Frontier and Burton Parks

Ages: 5 to 18

Beginners (Ages 5 to 9): 10 – 11 a.m.

Intermediates (Ages 10 to 18): 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Advanced (Ages 10 to 18): 12 – 1 p.m.

Register on site. No fee. Flexible attendance.

Bring a racket if possible. Loaner rackets available.

Contact: Kelly Maslar at 814-218-0415

or kervmaz@hotmail.com.

65th Annual City Recreation Tennis Tournament

Location: Frontier Park

Junior: July 20–23 starting at 4 p.m. daily

Adult: July 31–August 2 starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Applications are available at Westwood Racquet Club, 2600 Zuck Road.

Contact: Kelly Maslar at 814-218-0415

or kervmaz@hotmail.com.



Erie Police Department Youth Programs

The City of Erie Police Department works with other law enforcement organizations and community partners to mentor, coach, and spend time with Erie's kids. These programs break down barriers and build positive relationships between the officers and the participants.

Erie Police Athletic League (PAL)

The Erie Police Athletic League (PAL) is supported by a strong network, including the Erie Police Department, Erie School District, Millcreek Police, the Erie County District Attorney's Office, the Erie County Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Administration, and other dedicated organizations. This coalition makes our program possible and ensures a quality experience for every participant.

Ages: Students grades 3-12

The PAL program fosters positive relationships between police officers and children through mentoring, interaction, and sports activities. It promotes character development and free programming after school and during the summer. This summer, four featured events will be held:

June 8 – 12: 6th Annual PAL Camp at Boys & Girls Club Camp

July 6 – 10: 6th Annual Junior Police Academy

July 15 – 16: 4th Annual Mercyhurst University Intelligence / Cyber Security Camp

July 27 – 31: 10th Annual PAL Gannon University Commuter Camp

PAL empowers and inspires Erie's youth to discover their potential and become confident members of our community. We are grateful for every partner who shares this mission. Working with Erie's schools and community centers, we aim to create a safe environment where youth grow, thrive, and build lasting positive connections with law enforcement.

Contact: Capt. Tom Lenox at: tlenox@erie.pa.us | 814-870-1168

Erie Police Community Outreach Program (COP)

Supported by the Erie Police Department, in collaboration with the Booker T. Washington Center.

Ages: Students grades K-12

The EPD's Community Outreach Program spends time at the Booker T. Washington Center during the after-school and Summer of Success programs, with a focus on:

- Building relationships with elementary and middle school students
- Tutoring
- Helping with homework and computer classes
- Holding informal group "chat" sessions
- Mentoring
- Building bonds through sports
- Holding sessions on the effects that drugs and alcohol have on our personal/professional goals
- Promoting a healthy drug-and alcohol-free lifestyle

To sign up for the Booker T. Washington Center 2026 Summer of Success Program, see page 10.

35th Annual Spoon's Basketball League

Spoon's League has provided summer basketball for inner city youth for years at Spoon's Courts, located at East 19th Street between French and Holland Streets.

Volunteer coaches are encouraged to sign up online at spoonsleague.org. All applicants will be interviewed and must receive approval from Commissioner Melvin Witherspoon.

To be considered, coaches must present a valid Child Abuse Clearance Certificate prior to the league start date. No exceptions.

Spoon's Courts

Location: E. 19th St. (between French and Holland Streets)

Game Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 5:15 - 9 p.m.

Bayview Park Courts

Location: Bayview Park, 598 W. 2nd St.

Game Days: Tuesday & Thursday, 5:15 - 9 p.m.

Co-ed Biddy Basketball Camp

Sponsored by the City of Erie and the Housing Authority of the City of Erie

Location: Spoon's Court II, Eagles Nest, 1130 Pennsylvania Ave.

Registration: Limited to 40 campers.

Camp: June 22 - 26 **Ages:** 5 to 9 **Time:** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

All participants will receive a t-shirt at the beginning of camp that they must wear during the camp to participate. Those who attend the entire week will receive a medal of participation.

Special Event Awards: Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend on Friday, June 26

Erie Center for Arts and Technology (ECAT)

Contact: Shannon Pullium, shanpullsports@yahoo.com

Summer Skill Development Program

Location: ECAT Facility, 650 East Ave.

Dates: Monday-Friday, June 15 - July 31

Ages: 9 to 17

Daily Schedule:

Session 1 (Ages 9-13): 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Lunch Break (Supervised): 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Session 2 (Ages 14-17): 12 - 2:00 p.m.

This Summer Skill Development Program offers structured basketball training for youth ages 9-17, focused on building skills, confidence, and teamwork. Participants train in age-based sessions and take part in weekly guest speaker events that introduce life skills, mentorship, and personal growth—creating a well-rounded summer experience both on and off the court.

Registration: shanpullsports.com/erie-sports-event/summer-basketball-skills-program/



YMCA Summer Programs

Additional funding is provided by the Housing Authority of Erie.

Brian Lee Crosby Memorial Learn to Swim Program

Sponsored by the City of Erie and Operated by the YMCA of Greater Erie

Locations: Rodger Young Park, Buffalo Rd. and Downing Ave. Downtown YMCA, 31 West 10th St.

Phones: Rodger Young Park: 814-452-3261, x221
Downtown YMCA: 814-452-3261, x221

Ages: City of Erie residents, 6 months to 17 years

Registration: Opens June 3 for swim lessons held at the Downtown YMCA. Call 814-452-3261 x221 or ymcaerie.org/programs

Classes meet 3 times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings for 2 weeks. Prior to the conclusion of each session, children will receive a certificate of achievement to celebrate the skills achieved and to identify the next stage in their continued progress. 4 sessions are available throughout the summer. Advanced registration is required.

- Session 1: June 15–26
- Session 2: July 6–17
- Session 3: July 20–31
- Session 4: Aug. 3–14

No lessons June 29 - July 3. Bathing suits are required. Parents/guardians are responsible for registration, attendance, and transportation. Class sizes are limited.

Swim Lessons: YMCA swim lessons teach water safety, skill development, and confidence for all levels. Certified instructors provide a safe, supportive learning environment.

Contact: Kelly Austin, kaustin@ymcaerie.org

YMCA Kids' Club Summer Parks & Recreation Program

Sponsored by the City of Erie

Location: Burton Park, Gridley Park, McKinley Park

Dates: Monday–Friday, Beginning Wednesday, June 10 – Friday, August 7 | Closed July 3

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Summer Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for ages 2 to 18.

Parent/guardian must be present for children ages 2 to 5.

Snack: 2 – 2:30 p.m.

Ages: 6 to 17

At the YMCA Kids Club Summer Parks & Recreation Program, kids spend their days taking part in a wide variety of summer play and learning activities while building a healthy spirit, mind and body. Before they know it, the day is over and they've made a new friend. Each day, YMCA staff leads hands-on-activities such as:

- Group games
- Sports & Fitness
- Board games
- Arts & Music

Contact: Zach Miller, zmiller@ymcaerie.org

YMCA Rodger Young Pool – Open Swim and Recreation Program

Sponsored by the City of Erie and the Housing Authority of the City of Erie

Dates: Monday–Saturday. Beginning Wednesday, June 10 – Friday, August 14 | Closed July 3–4

Time: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Snack 2 – 2:30 p.m.

Ages: 6 to 17 (Birth certificate required for ages 6 and 16–17)

Pool Hours: 12 – 5 p.m.

Registration: Any youth registered for the Summer Parks Program can participate in open swim and swim lessons without additional registration for lessons at RYP.

- Registration will start on June 9 with a meet-and-greet event from 4 – 6 p.m.
- Youths must be registered by a parent or legal guardian at the pool office. Proof of age must be provided for six-year-olds who are swimming their first year and proof may be requested of others.
- Children will enjoy both recreational swimming and lawn games beside the pool. Bathing suits are required to swim.
- Lifeguards are always on duty when the pool is open.
- Pool closes for inclement weather.

Contact: Zach Miller, zmiller@ymcaerie.org

Explore Summer Programs for Erie's Youth

Experience engaging summer programs for children and teens. From swimming and team sports to music and the arts, there's plenty to do this summer—all at no cost for City of Erie residents. Meet new friends, learn new skills, and build your future.

Bethesda Lutheran Services Trinity Center “All About Me”

While attending the Trinity Center's Summer Recreation Program, youth will take part in hands-on activities that support physical and social-emotional wellbeing. Programming includes nutritional health, financial literacy, reading and writing, math, and science exploration, all designed to help prevent the “summer slide,” a decline in academic skills over the summer months.

- **Field trips and experiences:** Youth will visit the PA Fish Hatchery, museums, and local farms, and take part in activities such as swimming, fishing, the Erie Zoo, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, bowling, and roller-skating.
- **Daily activities and family opportunities:** Participants will engage in physical fitness and sports, arts and crafts, cooking, team building, community service, and career exploration. Families can also attend a Wellness Fair and a family day at Waldameer.

Location: 462 West 18th St.

Phone: 814-724-7510, ext. 526

Dates: Monday–Friday, July 6 – August 14

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Ages: 5 (and completed Kindergarten) to 15

- Free breakfast, lunch, and snacks
- Cooking
- Arts and crafts
- Physical fitness
- Sports activities
- Team building
- Community service projects
- Field trips include: fishing, swimming, Erie Zoo, Asbury Woods, bowling, roller-skating, and more.

Registration: Families are required to complete a registration packet which is available at the Trinity Center beginning **Monday, June 1st** and attend a Parent Orientation.

Contact: Esther Thompson at 814-724-7510, ext. 526 or ethompson@bethesda1919.org

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center

Location: 312 Chestnut St.

Phone: 814-459-2761 ext. 229

Dates: Monday–Friday, July 6 – August 14

Time: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Ages: 7 to 14

The MLK Summer Program will provide constructive, organized activities designed to promote social interaction and positive behaviors.

Registration: Applications will be available June 15.

Contact: Stephon Mathis at 814-459-2761, ext. 229
smathis@mlkcentererie.org

John F. Kennedy Center, Inc. Bobby Harrison Way

Location: 2021 East 20th St.

Phone: 814-898-0400, ext. 3029

Dates: Monday–Friday, June 22 – August 7 | Closed July 3

Times: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. for ages 5-13 | 3 – 7 p.m. for ages 14-18
Breakfast 9 – 10 a.m. | Lunch 12 – 1 p.m.

Ages: 5 to 18

Registration: All youth and their parents/guardians must attend one of several Program Orientation sessions held **June 1-19** and must complete a Registration Packet. Free breakfast and lunch programs

- Activities/Services:
- Free breakfast and lunch
- Recreation, sports, board and table games, life skills and learning is fun activities
- 21st Century academic support
- 21st Century drones and robotics
- Girl Scouts
- Drug & Alcohol Prevention Program
- Arts & Crafts
- Special non-traditional summer activities such as golfing and fishing for Erie Housing Authority residents
- Intergenerational programs with JFK seniors

Accepting youth workers through GECAC's Earn + Learn

No transportation is provided except for 21st Century Learning Program youth after 12:00 p.m.

Contact: Tim Ward at 814-898-0400, ext. 3029. or
tward@thejfkcenter.org

Booker T. Washington Center

2026 Summer of Success Program (SAIL)

Location: 1720 Holland St.

Phone: 814-453-5744

Dates: Monday–Friday, July 1 – August 14

Breakfast 8:30 – 9 a.m. | Education 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Lunch 12 – 1 p.m. | Enrichment 1 – 4 p.m.

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Ages: Students grades K-12

- Life skills
- Movie day
- Peaceful playgrounds
- Library visits
- Weekly field trips
- Nutrition education
- Sports and recreation (fun competitions)
- Daily current events
- Arts and crafts (enrichment program)
- Erie Police Community Outreach Program (COP)

Our Summer of Success program balances education and recreation to give our students a chance to attain additional skills and bridge concepts over the summer in order to ensure their success beyond the school year.

Contact: Tim Cook at 814-453-5744, ext. 222 to register beginning in mid-June.

Urban Erie Community Development Corporation

Contact: Veronica Rexford, vrexford@gmail.com

Impact Summer

Sponsored by: City of Erie, Housing Authority of the City of Erie

Location: Islamic Association of Erie, 2419 Holland St.

Dates: Monday–Friday, July 6 - August 14

Time: 12 – 4 p.m.

Ages: 4 to 13

Culturally responsive activities include academic support, outdoor activities, arts & crafts, financial literacy, and field trips.

Register + Contact : Veronica Rexford , vrexford@gmail.com

Elevate Success

Sponsored by: Urban Erie CDC

Location: Islamic Association of Erie, 2419 Holland St.

Dates: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, July 7 - August 13

Time: 12 – 3:30 p.m.

Ages: 5 to 13

Culturally responsive activities include academic support, STEM activities, and outdoor recreation.

Register + Contact : Veronica Rexford , vrexford@gmail.com

Safe Life Church Summer Program

Sponsored by: Urban Erie CDC

Location: Safe Life Church, 3304 McClelland Ave.

Dates: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, July 6 - August 13

Time: 11 – 3 p.m.

Ages: 4 to 13

Culturally responsive academic support, creative projects, and outdoor play.

Register + Contact : Veronica Rexford , vrexford@gmail.com

Boys & Girls Club of Erie, Inc. “In the Summer”

Location: 1515 East Lake Road

Contact:

John Popoff: 814-459-1977 ext. 223 | Cell: 814-449-3040

Joe Grucza: 814-459-1977 ext. 235 | Cell: 814-449-2909

Dates: Monday–Friday, June 8 – August 14

Closed June 19 and July 3

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Ages: 7 to 12

Campers can attend the Club daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., where they receive breakfast and lunch and take part in a variety of enriching activities. Youth have opportunities to swim in the pool, explore the arts, learn about technology, and play indoor and outdoor games. This immersive camp experience blends youth development strategies with high-yield learning activities, creating a fun and purposeful summer.

Club staff fostering relationships with peers and Club staff. The Club is a safe, consistent environment. Programming is provided in six core areas:

- The Arts
- Guidance and Education
- Social Recreation
- Character and Leadership
- Health and Life Skills
- Sports and Fitness

Weekly themes and opportunities: Each week includes activities such as basketball, outdoor games, flag football, soccer, and Club-wide Olympics, along with special events like carnivals, scavenger hunts, and cookouts. Children also participate in field trips to regional destinations including Presque Isle, Children’s Experience Museum, Carnegie Science Center, Cleveland Zoo, and Erie SeaWolves games.

A free breakfast and lunch are available daily.

Applications are available at the Boys & Girls Club or on our website www.eriebgc.com.



To ensure the safety of Erie's youth, parents/ guardians are reminded that transportation to and from the program is your responsibility. Also, please register your child at each individual program. Additional safety rules and regulations are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization.

In addition to programs highlighted here, sports programming is available at the Martin Luther King Center, the JFK Center, the Boys & Girls Club, the YMCA Kids' Clubs, and the Booker T. Washington Center. Program information can be found throughout this guide.

Arts & Theater Programs

This summer, youth can explore their creativity through a variety of arts and theater programs across the City of Erie. From hands-on visual arts to dance and live performance, these opportunities are designed to build confidence, develop new skills, and bring young people together.

Dafmark Creative Arts Center (DCAC)

Sponsored by: Housing Authority of the City of Erie, City of Erie, Federal Department of Education, ECGRA, Erie Insurance

Dafmark Creative Arts Center

Location: 2110D East 10th Street

Dates: Monday-Friday, June 8 - August 21 | Closed June 19

Time: 3 - 7 p.m.

Ages: 6 to 18

Registration: form.jotform.com/260706805677162

Contact: Jennifer Dennehy, 814-449-8327

dafmarkarts@gmail.com

- Indian Dance & Hoop Dance
- Painting & Ceramics
- Drawing & Print Making
- Bookbinding
- Digital Arts & Animation
- Intro to Cyanotypes
- Jewelry Making
- Sewing
- Music
- Stop Motion Animation

A creative FREE summer program for youth who live in public housing at the John E. Horan Garden Apartments or for youth who attend a qualifying school: Edison, East, and The Eagles Nest.

DCAC provides art lessons taught by professional teaching artists. Our summer program rotates artists so that each week features 1 or 2 different art forms. Students are provided one-on-one tutoring at least once a week by our Education Specialists as well as fun and engaging educational group lessons taught by our Education Specialists. Healthy snacks provided daily.

Dafmark Youth Wellness Center

Housing Authority of the City of Erie, City of Erie, ECGRA

Location: 730 Tacoma Road

Dates: Monday-Friday, June 8 - August 21 | Closed June 19

Time: 12 - 7 p.m.

Ages: 6 to 18

A unique, fun, FREE summer program for youth who live in public housing at the John E. Horan Garden Apartments. Must live in public housing to attend this program.

DYWC provides cooking classes, dance, fitness & martial arts classes. Rotating community based educators who specialize in these fields.

DYWC is partnering with Opened Eyes to provide their LENS program and Premier Education providing Prevention Programming. Additionally, DYWC is partnering with Hope on Horseback to provide monthly field trips for a limited number of youth to learn how to care for and ride horses. Daily healthy snacks, food with the cooking classes, fun indoor and outdoor activities lead by the Site Coordinator.

Footlights Theatre Performing Arts Center

Phone: 814-566-0807

Contact: KC McCloskey, kc@footlightspac.com

Footlights Youth Theatre strives to empower young people through inclusive, inspiring, and community-centered performing arts experiences grounded in creativity, collaboration, and personal growth.

We are so excited for our 52nd summer with the City of Erie Summer Rec Program! This summer we'll be bringing students aged 6-18 to rehearse and perform the musical Finding

Neverland! As always, every student who registers for the program will participate in the show, regardless of any previous experience.

Finding Neverland

Ages: 6 to 18

Dates: June 15 - July 31

Time*: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 11:45 a.m./9 a.m.- 2:45 p.m. June 15 - July 24; 5-9:30 pm July 27-31

Location: TBA

Based on the Academy Award-winning motion picture and the play The Man Who Was Peter Pan, Finding Neverland follows the relationship between playwright J.M. Barrie and the family that inspired "Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up." Finding Neverland features music and lyrics by Gary Barlow and Eliot Kennedy and a book by James Graham.

J.M. Barrie, a struggling playwright, encounters a widowed mother, Sylvia Llewelyn Davies and her four sons in Kensington Park. As Barrie befriends the family, he is inspired by their adventures, particularly Peter, who is reluctant to play due to his grief. Barrie helps him to learn to play again and becomes inspired to create a new art form: children's theatre. But who will pay to see a play about children? Who will play these characters? And how will they make Peter Pan fly?

**Students may miss up to 5 days and still participate in the program. Attendance is mandatory July 20-31.*

Performances on July 29, 30, and 31.

Inner-City Neighborhood Art House

The Neighborhood Art House is celebrating its 31st year of providing free classes in the fine and performing arts as well as active environmental education to Erie's youth. We offer a five-week summer program from June 22nd - July 24th as well as a one-week day camp program at Camp Glinodo from July 27th - 31st. Space is limited, so be sure to return your registration packet as soon as possible!

Summer Program

Location: Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St
Dates: June 22 - July 24, each week is a different session
Ages: 7 to 14: Morning classes (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)
10 to 18: Afternoon classes (1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
• Lunch provided for students who attend both morning and afternoon classes

Hooked on Books reading program daily (12:05- 12:35 p.m.)
Field trips are offered with select classes and include fishing, nature hikes and more.

Class selections include a wide range of:

- Arts & Crafts
- Active environmental education & gardening
- Digital Arts & Animation
- Music & Performing Arts

Contact: Lourdes Jasso, Program Director
jasso@neighborhoodarthouse.org

Day Camp Program at Glinodo

Location: Camp Glinodo, 6270 E. Lake Rd.*
Camp: July 28 - August 1 **Ages:** 8 to 18
Time: 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., with lunch provided each day.

• Students can participate in archery, swimming lessons, nature immersion activities, hikes, sign language classes, and fine arts courses.

• A field trip to Panama Rocks and a blueberry farm is scheduled for Friday, July 31.

*Transportation is available between the Art House and Camp Glinodo, with drop-off at 9:15 a.m. and pick-up at 4 p.m.

Contact: Sarah Everett, Community Art Director
severett@neighborhoodarthouse.org

Mid Day Dance Break

In partnership with The Crime Victim Center

Location: West Perry Square Stage
Dates: Thursdays: June 11, 18 & 25 and July 2, 9 & 16
Time: 12 - 7 p.m.
Ages: All ages

Enabling Dance For All returns for its 13th season in partnership with The Crime Victim Center, bringing the interactive Mid-Day Dance Break (MDDB) to downtown Erie. The series blends dance and art to enrich the community through themes of empowerment and fun.

Each week features live dance performances centered on "empowerment," followed by a hands-on workshop where attendees can learn the style.

A rotating visual artist will also create a piece live in the park, inspired by the performances.

The season culminates with a partnership with Erie Arts & Culture, where MDDB artwork will be displayed and sold during September's Gallery Night. Proceeds benefit both the artists and The Crime Victim Center.



Our West Bayfront (OWB)

Contact: Gretchen Kerr, gretchen@ourwestbayfront.org

West BayFit

Location: Bayview Park

Dates: June 10, 17, 24 and July 8, 15, 22 and 29 **Time:** 6 – 8 p.m.

The Farmer's Market continues into August after the completion of West BayFit. Vouchers are available each week to marketgoers to help supply them with fresh produce from local growers.

West BayFit and the market is also accompanied either by live music or a DJ.

Farmer's Market

Location: Bayview Park

Dates: August 12 & 19 **Time:** 6 – 8 p.m.

The Farmer's Market continues into August after the completion of West BayFit. Vouchers are available each week to marketgoers to help supply them with fresh produce from local growers.

Gridley Park National Night Out

Location: Gridley Park **Date:** August 4 **Time:** 5 – 8 p.m.

Gridley Park National Night Out is the West Bayfront's biggest event of the year, with over one thousand residents coming together to enjoy a vibrant array of music, food, and activities in the heart of the community. As the largest National Night Out in Erie County, which is promoted and supported by United Way of Erie County, Gridley Park NNO is organized by an extensive network of community partners and appeals to residents of all ages.

Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN)

Contact: Lisa Ramsay, lramsay@ssjnn.org

Little Italy Farmers Market

Sponsored by: PA DCED, Erie Insurance, Highmark Health, Marquette Savings Bank, Northwest Bank, and Catholic Foundation of NWPA

Location: 430 W. 19th St. **Time:** 3 – 6 p.m.

Date: Mondays, June 22 - Sept. 28 | Closed Sept. 1

The SSJNN Little Italy Farmers market offers fresh, healthy and local produce on Mondays from June 22nd - September 28th from 3-6 pm at 430 West 19th Street. Farmstands can include SSJNN Urban Farm produce, Wild Field Urban Farm, Laughing Hill Farms, Post Apples, Beichner Farms and Strickland Honey. The last Monday of each month is a special event day with live music and free activities for kids and families! We are closed September 1st for Labor Day.

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF)

Contact: Claire Ciezki, claire@leaferie.org

LEAF Open Market

Location: Frontier Park, 8th Street side

Dates: June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22, September 5, and September 19 **Time:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

A curated market with local farmers & vendors open from June through September. Our mission and goal as an organization is to provide safe, outdoor experiences in Frontier and beyond, so we created an outdoor market bringing fresh, local food that is accessible to all, to one of our city's greatest, central assets - Frontier Park.

Move + Mingle Among the Trees

Location: Frontier Park, 8th Street side

Dates: May 31 **Time:** 3 – 5 p.m.

Ages: All ages (16+ preferred)

Join Move + Mingle with Adele and LEAF for a free outdoor workout among the trees at Frontier Park. Stay to mingle, meet new friends, enjoy refreshments from Juice Jar, and get stretched by the professionals at ProStretch Erie. All levels of fitness are welcome! The event is free, but registration is preferred.

Registration: leaferie.org/pages/move-mingle



2026 HACE Summer Activity Schedule

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie has developed a comprehensive Youth Development Program for the summer of 2026. It includes weekly sports and educational mini-camps including biddy-basketball, mentor/youth golf, wellness, and Learn to Fish. The summer program will be offered June 8th to August 14th unless otherwise specified. **Contact:** Sheila Hayes at (814) 452-2425.

Rodger Young Pool

Open swim and recreation program.
Location: Buffalo Road and Downing Avenue
Dates: Monday – Saturday, June 8 – August 15
Time: 12– 5 p.m.
Registration required, see page 8.

29th Annual Family Picnic – Waldameer Park

Date: Friday, July 10
Cost: \$7

Sign up at your management office by July 8. Public housing residents only.

National Night Out

Locations: Erie Heights
Dates: August 4
Time: 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Pony rides, petting zoo, water slide, drum circle, hoop lessons, barbecue dinner

Meet Your Neighbor Day

Pony rides, petting zoo, water slide, drum circle, hoop lessons, barbecue dinner
Time: 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Dates:

June 10: Eastbrook

June 17: John Horan Garden Apartments

July 15: Lake City Dwellings/
Better Housing

July 22: Harbor Homes

Residents only.

Soccer Mini Clinic

Locations: Pineview/Erie Heights
Dates: August 17-21
Ages: 10 to 15
Time: 1 - 4 p.m.
Contact: Sheila Hayes, 814-528-2539

John F. Kennedy Center Summer Recreation Program

Location: 2021 East 20th St.
Dates: Monday – Friday, June 22 – August 7
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Ages: 5 to 18
Phone: 814-898-0400

Breakfast and lunch provided. **Registration required.** All youth and parents/guardians must attend an orientation class. For information, and to register, call Tim Ward at the above phone number

JFK Summer Lunch Program

Locations: John F. Kennedy Center
Dates: Monday – Friday, June 22 – August 7
Time: 12 - 1 p.m.

Mentor / Youth Junior Golf Clinic Lessons

Public Housing, Section 8 Residents only.

Learn the basics of golf. Clubs provided.

Ages: 9 to 16

J.C. Martin Golf Course
June 22 – June 26

Mentor/Youth Golf Tournament:

Date: June 27
Contact: Sheila Hayes, 814-528-2539

Mentor / Youth Junior Learn-to-Fish Clinic

Public Housing, Section 8 Residents only.

Learn hands-on fishing skills from adult mentors. Participants receive free fishing gear.

Location: John Horan Garden apartments and Presque Isle State Park
Dates: July 29 - 30

Ages: 8 to 14
Contact: Sheila Hayes, 814-528-2539

Dafmark Art Club in the John E. Horan Garden Apartments

Location: 2110 East 10th St., Apartment C.
Dates: Monday – Friday
Time: 3 – 7 p.m.
Phone: 814-449-8327
Email: hoopsbydennehy@gmail.com

Registration required (year-round program).

Summer activities include: Weekly Art camps, and Field Trips

Dafmark Youth Wellness Center

Location: John E. Horan Garden Apartments – 730 Tacoma Road
Dates: Monday – Friday
Time: 3 – 7 p.m.

Activities include: fitness class, dance class, martial arts, culinary arts, soccer, Opened Eyes Lens Program, Hope on Horseback, enrichment lessons, field trips, and daily snack.

Registration required (year-round program).

Phone: 814-449-8327
Email: dafmarkarts@gmail.com

FIREWORKS & CONCERT

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