



*Welcome to the team!*

## Mark Simmons



I am pleased to introduce **Mark Simmons** as our new **Parks and Recreation and Youth Services Bureau Director**. Mark has over a decade worth of experience in various progressive roles in recreation and programming for all age groups including seniors. Currently, he is the Recreation and Senior Center Director in Plainfield. During his tenure in Plainfield, he has successfully managed twenty grants totaling over \$2M to expand recreation programming, senior services, and extensive improvements to their parks. He has managed a budget of about \$500K and supervised a combination of staff of approximately forty full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff. He has added new community events and increased attendance at others through revenues of \$265K with over 3400 program registrations and 465 programs and activities. These innovative programs and events focused on youth mentoring, youth theatre camp, STEM programming, adult fitness and nutrition classes, adult softball league, summer concerts, N.E. Jeep Invasion, Fall Fest "Trunk or Treat," 5K Fun Runs and Christmas Tree Lighting.

Mark has worked his way up in various organizations starting as a Parks and Grounds Maintainer, to a Youth Coordinator, to an Aquatics Supervisor, to a Program Coordinator to his current position as a Director. His knowledge of all these positions will be instrumental in delivering, evaluating, and expanding Preston's programming and department with a long-term vision of enhancing the quality of life in our community.

In addition, Mark has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Sports Management. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional and Playground Safety Inspector, Red Cross First Aid/CPR certified and recently was the recipient of the National Recreation and Parks Association 30 under 30 Young Professionals Award!

Mark is highly active in the area and where he lives, serving on the Northeast Opportunities for Wellness Programming Committee, Town of Voluntown Economic Development Committee, Voluntown Recreation Commission and Youth Services Bureau and a volunteer partner and mentor with Connecticut Special Olympics. He resides in Voluntown with his wife, Katina, 3-month-old daughter, Emersyn and dog, Lexi. They love to hike and camp all around New England.

Mark is enthusiastic about helping people and looks forward to bringing his experience and skills to embrace opportunities in Preston. We are fortunate to add him to our Preston team. Please give him a warm welcome when you see him!