

To: Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director

From: Ben Jaszewski, Parks and Planning Superintendent

Date: April 14, 2022

Subject: Parks and Planning Newsworthy

Park Maintenance staff continues to prepare for the summer and have completed a number of smaller projects that cannot be accomplished in the winter months. Early in April staff installed a new privacy screen for the portable toilet at the Weaver Lake boat launch and are preparing the parking lot and ramp for the summer. Trail sweeping and brush mowing trailside buffers with the boom mower continues to be a priority while the plants remain dormant. As the weather continues to warm up staff will be out line marking athletic fields and have prepared the varsity baseball field for their first ball game on April 11th. The Central Park ice skating loop officially closed on April 17th commencing its longest ice-skating season to date. The Phenow pavilion will be cleaned and prepared for summer use and a busy upcoming splash pad season. Staff has been working with the Rotary Club on a volunteer event to pull buckthorn at the Arboretum. The volunteer event hosted by the Maple Grove Rotary Club will take place on Thursday April 21st. At the end of April staff will be attending a training on 2-wire irrigation systems. The training will cover controls, replacements, and repairs. In 2022 staff will further utilize Cartegraph (asset management tool) for routine maintenance tasks such as building cleaning, trash collection, and eventually mowing. The park maintenance crew is looking forward to a busy summer season and some warmer temperatures.

- **Gleason Fields**

Staff is hosting a preconstruction conference on April 18th, 2022 to officially kick-off the Gleason Fields Renovation Project. Subsequent preconstruction meetings with individual subcontractors will be taking place over the next two weeks as contractors mobilize and stage equipment. Cooler weather conditions and extended road restrictions have slightly delayed the delivery of earthmoving equipment, but the construction schedule and overall timeline remain intact. Project updates will be provided to the public on the City website and directly to the Park Board at each monthly meeting. Temporary site signage announcing construction have been placed throughout the park and a letter went out to area residents on Thursday March 30th.

- **Kid's Don't Float Adopt a Life Jacket Loaner Station**

North Memorial Hospital and Safe Kids would like to install life jacket loaner stations for placement at Weaver Lake Boat Launch and the carry in access point near Weaver Lake Beach. The loaner stations store and provide free life jackets for use while people are boating,

kayaking, or canoeing on the lake, reducing the risk of drowning when they are used properly. The life jackets are donated to Safe Kids and provided to users for free. Life jackets are returned after each use. There are currently multiple loaner boxes at boat landings across the Twin Cities that have been used with great success. The loaner boxes will be installed this spring. The Maple Grove Fire Department will assist in monitoring and storage of the life jackets during the winter months.

- **Donahue South**

Staff is working with Inside Outside Architecture Inc. to finalize specifications and construction documents to send out for quotes. Quotes will include trail and court paving, site furniture, and shade. Once the paving is complete, maintenance staff will remove the old playground equipment and refill the existing container with sand. Volleyball standards will then be purchased and installed. Staff anticipates receiving quotes in time for the Board to review at their May 2022 meeting. Construction would take place in June and the project would be completed in a two to three weeks. Both playgrounds would be open for use each evening until the work is completed.