

**To:** Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director

**From:** Ben Jaszewski, Parks and Planning Superintendent

**Date:** May 11, 2022

**Subject:** Parks and Planning Newsworthy

Parks maintenance staff has been working hard prepping the parks and athletic fields in anticipation of an exceptionally busy summer season. With full and part-time staff recruitment completed, the maintenance crew will be in good shape to meet a demanding spring, summer, and fall. On May 10, Volunteer Day, staff worked with volunteers to plant annuals and repair winter turf damage at the Community Center and Central Park. The mowing season officially began on May 9, starting with heavy use sports fields. As we move deeper into spring staff will begin irrigation startups and repairs as needed. Staff is assisting Aquatics staff in preparing signage and the new plan of operation for the Weaver Lake Beach. Buoys will be installed the first week of June prior to the anticipated opening date of June 4.

- **Gleason Fields Sports Field Poles**

As part of the Gleason Fields renovation project there are eight existing light poles on the soccer fields that are slated to be removed, salvaged, and delivered to the City. From the onset of this project staff has intended to either re-use or sell the poles to recoup some of the costs of removal which is \$1,125 per pole for a total of \$9,000 for all eight poles. Over the course of the past month in preparing to have the poles removed we have had two offers and an auction house willing to place the poles on their consignment auction in June. Musco Sports Lighting placed a value of approximately \$3,500 per pole. After negotiation we have a verbal agreement to sell the poles to Starry Electric for \$22,000 or \$2,750 per pole. The existing poles will be removed by the project contractor and transported by the buyer.

- **Vandalism**

Vandalism of park buildings and equipment continues to be an issue system-wide. In speaking with maintenance staff from other municipalities vandalism seems to be a problem throughout the metro area. To circumvent vandalism and damage inside of our buildings we have temporarily and strategically locked down certain buildings at specific times throughout the day. However, staff learned that when buildings are locked then the exterior of buildings are spray painted and damaged. Staff will continue to document and alert the police department when vandalism is observed. Staff is currently working on a messaging plan for social media, City webpages and mailers.

- **Central Park Splash Pad**

Park maintenance and facilities staff have been preparing Central Park for the upcoming splash pad season. The annual inspection is scheduled for May 18. Staff will go through a series of system calibrations to ensure the water is safe and beautiful for visitors. The splash pad will fully open on May 27 running from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily throughout the summer and fall as temperatures allow.