

TO: Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director

FROM: Ben Jaszewski, Parks and Planning Superintendent

DATE: January 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Parks and Planning Newsworthy

Park maintenance staff is continuing its winter operations and moving a lot of snow from recent snowstorms over the holidays. Several outdoor rinks opened on December 21<sup>st</sup> and crews have been out daily, sweeping, edging, and scraping. The remaining outdoor rinks opened on Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>. Maintenance staff have been assisting events programming staff with setup for the wonders of winter celebration scheduled for Saturday, February 4th. Staff will continue preparations by clearing entrances and widening paths. The crokicurl court has been completed at Central Park as well, and will also open on January 14th. January kicks off annual safety training provided by SafeAssure and a bi-annual safety inspection of the public works building. In preparation for the summer season select staff will be attending certified pool operator classes, shade tree classes, and the northern green expo. Normal operations of the Central Park ice skating loop and outdoor ice rinks will continue as weather allows.

#### **Court Sealcoating**

Annually the park board reviews court sealcoating bids in late winter or early spring and the work is performed throughout the summer. Quotes for this project typically in the \$35k to \$40k range. This spring staff will review courts system-wide to determine which courts will be seal-coated over the next five years based on current conditions. This program will be reviewed by the board in early summer. Funding for this work was approved by the Board as part of the 2023 general fund budget.

#### **Trail Sealcoating**

Annually the park board reviews trail sealcoating bids in late winter or early spring and the work is performed throughout the summer. Staff typically looks to sealcoat 20k to 30k LF of trails annually if needed. Quotes for this project are expected to be in the \$40k to \$50k range. As with the courts staff will be reviewing trails system-wide to determine need based on current conditions and will bring to the board for review in early summer. Funding for this work was approved by the board as part of the 2023 general fund budget.

#### **Portable Toilets Rental**

Annually the Park Board contracts for 23 portable toilets to be rented and serviced throughout the non-winter seasons. Typically, portable toilets are placed in locations with athletic fields, high use trails, and special use facilities such the Weaver Lake boat launch and Arboretum. Many of the portable units are scheduled to be delivered in mid-April and are on site throughout the summer months and into the fall. In 2022 quotes for portable toilets ranged from \$14k to \$28k. Staff anticipates slight increases in the low

quote for 2023 in the \$16k range. Funding for this work was approved by the board as part of the 2023 general fund budget.

**Lakeview Knolls Pickleball**

Staff is continuing to work with consultants updating the site plan and working toward a schematic design that includes a possible renovation of the existing courts and connects the courts to a welcoming plaza area with restrooms, shelter, and seating area. The tentative project schedule for the construction of the pickleball courts is as follows:

- February 2023 meeting.....Finalize preliminary design and authorize construction docs
- March 2023 meeting.....Construction docs 100% and authorize to bid
- April 2023.....Staff accept bids
- May 2023 meeting.....Board review bids
- June 2023.....Construction commences
- October 2023.....Substantial completion

In September the board approved a redesign of the ballfields. Construction of the new t-ball fields began in October 2022 and will be completed in May 2023 prior to scheduled recreation programming that typically begins in early June.

**Central Park Pickleball Donation**

Staff is working with a potential donor for a new slat-style windscreen and a backboard for individual practice at the central park pickleball courts. Staff is working out pricing and availability of these new amenities. The park board will review the donation, windscreen and practice backboard at a future meeting.