

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director

FROM: Ben Jaszewski, Parks and Planning Superintendent

DATE: February 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Parks and Planning Newsworthy

Park maintenance staff are continuing operations to ensure that parks are safe and accessible to the public throughout the winter months. A lot of time is spent clearing snow and ice from sidewalks, walkways, parking lots, and other areas and keeping parks and trails accessible. With the warmer temperatures staff will shift focus to tree pruning and removing broken branches that have fallen over the course of the winter. This time of year is great for trimming trees and opening trails. With spring approaching staff will be performing routine maintenance to ensure HVAC and lighting systems are functioning properly throughout the park system in preparation for spring sports. Staff will continue to work on outdoor ice rinks, though increased sun exposure and warmer temperatures have created nearly impossible conditions for keeping ice skate-able. Staff will continue to monitor weather conditions for outdoor ice rinks and the ice-skating loop. Typically, outdoor rinks close at the end of February and the ice-skating loop remains open into mid-March. Staff is also working with contractors preparing for the scheduled tear-down of the Sports Dome which is tentatively scheduled for the week of April 24th.

Lakeview Knolls Park Improvement Project

At the January Park Board meeting staff informed the Board that two design options would be presented to the Board for consideration at the February meeting. Since soil borings were completed late last fall our engineering and design team needed additional time to review the plans and evaluate existing site conditions to provide more accurate cost estimates. The engineer and design team found the schematic plan requires significant changes to the subgrade and stormwater drainage in the areas where the new courts, restrooms, and picnic shelter were located in the approved layout. Over the past few weeks staff and consultants have been reviewing re-design options and updating cost estimates. The updated costs for both options have increased beyond what was considered when the Board authorized this project in early 2022. The increase in costs are due to many factors, mainly the geotechnical information found during the soil borings, but also the construction materials shortages in both asphalt and concrete, and the continued labor shortages for certain labor-intensive tasks. Our consultant has estimated an increase in overall project costs nearing fifty percent since the schematic design review in August 2022. Staff will take an additional month to review new estimates and consider design options and budget engineering before bringing forth a recommendation to the Board. Staff will present an update during the staff report at the February Board meeting.