

To: Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director

From: Ben Jaszewski, Parks and Planning Superintendent

Date: June 9, 2022

Subject: Parks and Planning Newsworthy

Maintenance operations are in full swing. We have a healthy crew of new and returning seasonal staff this summer. The maintenance crew desires to perform on a daily basis to meet the demands of our growing system! The splash pad is up and running. Park and recreation staff have done a great job this season developing improved and additional training for seasonal staff operations at Central Park. Clean up from storm and wind damaged trees continues system-wide. Contract work for the natural resource management plan at Arbor Lakes began on June 7. Most of the work in 2022 will be herbicide treatment and mowing to eradicate invasive weeds. Seeding and plantings will take place near the end of this five-year plan. Park staff worked with aquatics staff to install new signage at the Weaver Lake Beach. Rob Heitke and the maintenance crew built and installed the mesh backing for the new signage. Lisa Gedker designed and installed the new signage to incorporate changes to the city's public beach ordinance. A great job by all involved.

- **Vandalism**

Vandalism, especially to park shelters and warming houses, is still taking considerable staff time. We will be temporarily locking some facilities due to continued and increasing activity. Some of the damage requires ordering parts for dividers, toilets, and sinks. Portable toilets will be provided when sites are locked for repairs. Staff has begun a messaging campaign through social media to inform the public about ongoing vandalism issues. Signage will also be placed near and around park buildings to discourage continued issues.

- **Donahue South**

At the September 2021 meeting the Board approved construction documents and quotes to complete the basketball court, volleyball court, and connecting trails. The playground is completed and staff is moving forward with acquiring quotes for construction. Contractor availability is an issue and has delayed the process from quickly moving forward. However, staff expects to bring quotes for construction at the July 21 Board meeting and which can begin shortly after. During construction of the court and trail staff will remove the old playground equipment and bring in sand to make the conversion to the volleyball court. Construction should be completed by September.

- **Rush Hollow**

The Rush Hollow subdivision (Territorial Road) the Board reviewed at the work session with the Planning Commission and City Council on April 18, 2022 has been delayed and will be reviewed at the Planning Commission meeting on July 25, 2022. Staff is working with planning and engineering staff, the developer, and Three Rivers Park District to evaluate trail corridors and connections between city trails and the regional trail corridor. Staff expects that the Board will review the Rush Hollow Addition at their meeting on July 21, 2022.

- **Playground Replacement 2022**

On June 23, staff and a representative from Flagship Recreation will meet with neighborhood residents to gather feedback for the new playground designs at Boundary Creek (west), Hidden Meadows, and Grove West parks. The meetings will occur in succession in the evening. Staff intends to bring the playground designs to the Board for approval at their July Park Board meeting. Following positive review by the Board, staff will order equipment. Depending on lead times, playgrounds may be installed this fall or spring of 2023. In past years lead times were approximately five weeks. Today, lead times can be several months. Moving forward staff and consultant will complete the design work earlier in the year to expedite the process and ensure playgrounds are installed in the same year of purchase.

- **Weaver Deck**

Maintenance staff is preparing to have the deck near the Weaver Lake Beach pressure washed and stained. Currently, staff is making necessary repairs and pressure washing the decking and rails. The Lions of Maple Grove are putting together a group of volunteers to spend several hours over a three-day period to do the actual staining, with assistance from the park maintenance staff. Weather permitting, the deck will be stained between June 13 and June 15. Staff is extremely appreciative of the community support provided by the Maple Grove Lions to assist park staff every year.