

**Director's Report
For
October 9, 2013**

**Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Play. Everyday.**

The mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to preserve our parks and open spaces and provide essential recreational programs and cultural services in a safe, professional and friendly manner.

Projects

1. **DNR Stewardship Grant:**
 - a. Grant was denied.
2. **Laurel Clark Fountain:**
 1. Closed for the season.
3. **Parks Paving Projects for 2013**
 1. All scheduled projects are complete.
4. **Lockwood Softball Diamond:**
 1. The softball diamond restoration & backstop replacement – work in progress.
5. **Playground Equipment Replacement:**
 1. Installation is complete for Parker & Heck Parks.
 2. Hantschel & Hamilton Parks – CDBG parks and play equipment improvement designs are complete. Coordination of the formal protocols for CDBG paperwork has slowed the process this year. Installation will not take place until spring of 2014.
6. **Park Electrical Upgrades:**
 1. Island Park North Softball Lights: Bid to Wil-Surge Electric – in progress.
 2. Washington Park Bowl Lighting Electric Service – in progress.
 3. Humble Lighting Electric Service – in progress.
7. **Cemeteries:**
 1. **Mound:**
 - i. Chapel Restroom: Work has begun and is moving very quickly. Completion date will be earlier than expected.
 2. **Graceland:**
 - i. Section 23 drawings have been approved by the Cemetery Commission. The construction will be completed in phases. Concrete is complete. Full project should be complete by November.
 - ii. Fence work is complete. Money is available to complete a gate design.
8. **Golf Courses:**
 1. **Johnson:** Tee & Green Rehab Project: Project going well with minor field changes.
 2. **Washington:** No Update.
 3. **Shoop:** No Update.
9. **Wustum:**
 1. Project on hold at this time.
10. **Zoo:**
 1. Completed 2013 concrete & asphalt inspection. Complete.
 2. Safety Issue with Zoo Entry Gate: Have contacted the manufacturer & asked for solutions.

Recreation

1. Skate park attendance continues to be strong, with an estimated 50 participants per day.
2. The Fall Coed Kickball program has been an entertaining success so far. There have been no forfeits and there are always at least twenty-five (25) spectators and a lot of fun.
3. Twenty-five (25) youth have signed up for the Fast Break Basketball Camp. The Camp has taken place on Wednesday evenings (September 18 & 25; October 2 & 9) at the Chavez Community Center from 5:30-6:30 pm. Participant numbers have increased over last year. Thanks go out to the PRCS office staff for helping to recruit participants.
4. Youth Basketball evening registrations were held on September 4, 12 & 17 at Chavez Community Center from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. As of September 27, we have approximately 900 registrants in girls and boys basketball 2nd – 8th grades. We are taking late registrants nightly, from 5:00-6:00 pm on first come first served basis until leagues fill up. We expect over 1,000 to participate this year.
5. We are updating the Adopt-a-River Program and looking for new member organizations. The “Current” newsletter was released on October 1.
6. Plans for the “Monument Mash” event are coming along. The event is scheduled for October 19 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Monument Square.
7. Plans are also underway for the Make-A-Difference Day, Haunted House, the Reuse-A-Shoe program, and the Youth Hoops basketball clinic.
8. Our department is participating in the Milwaukee Bucks Charitable Ticket Program again this year. Hopefully, we will have many opportunities to see the updated Bucks and hometown favorite Caron Butler this season.
9. The Snow Sharks Ski and Snowboard Program will begin its 11th season in December. We have scaled back the program from 12 to 10 nights. We hope this attracts additional participants. The informational/registration session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13 from 5:30-8:00 pm at the Chavez Community Center. The “Shark Bites” newsletter was due out October 1.

Parks

1. The process of closing down North Beach has begun.
2. Landscape mulching of several parks has begun.
3. Fall trimming of shrubs has been assigned at North Beach.
4. The Tree Inventory is complete. The service will provide us with a final report that will include a master plan.
5. Forestry crews are catching up on tree trimming in various sites around town.

6. Heck and Parker Parks have received new play equipment.
7. We took delivery of new play equipment for West Park that plans to be installed before the end of the year.

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. Held a Community Day, on Wednesday, September 4 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Several community service organizations were invited to set up information booths on the various programs and activities they offer. The event included a car wash, football and basketball camp and free hotdogs. Parents were also given free health care information from Molina Health Care. The event was well attended with around seventy-five (75) to eighty-five (85) participants.
2. Our first Craft Fair was held on Saturday, September 21 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. There were a total of nine (9) vendors that committed to the event. Attendance was good. A total of \$289.00 was raised during the event. Each vendor received \$10.00 with the remaining dollars to go toward youth programs and the GED Program. The idea is to make this an annual event.
3. Met with Cyndean Jennings of Gateway Tech. We spoke about the possibility of hosting various classes and/or workshops.
4. Looking to offer Credit Recovery this coming November. I spoke with Kathy Dunkerson of RUSD Lighted Schools to work out some details. She indicated that a fee of \$3,500.00 is needed to cover teacher salary.
5. In a collaborative effort with O.M.I Church, a 3 on 3 basketball tournament was held on Saturday, September 28 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. In addition to the basketball games, there was free food and other activities offered to those who attended.
6. Working with Love and Charity Mission to start a breakfast club in October. The goal is to provide breakfast once a month on a Saturday mornings from 7:30 – 9:00 am.
7. Fall Zumba classes have started. Zumba is now offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:30 – 11:30 am as well as Saturday from 10:00 – 11:00 am.
8. Working with Community Action Agency and Aids Awareness, a workshop and information session was held on Tuesday, September 17 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. About 45 youth and adults were in attendance.
9. UMOS held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 10. They have 12 members that attended.

B. Humble Park

1. Staff from Humble Park assisted with basketball registrations at Chavez on September 4, 12 and 17.
2. Senior Pickleball on tennis courts is continuing to go strong this month with daily attendance over twenty (20).

3. Beginner Pickleball inside is averaging over fifteen (15) participants Tuesday – Thursday.
4. Two new used public access computers were installed the week of September 16 in game room.
5. Youth football has started on Saturday in Humble Park. Old Timers will be using the storage room for yard markers and equipment.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. Youth Basketball registrations were held on September 4, 12 & 17 at Chavez Community Center from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. As of September 27, we have approximately 900 registrants in girls and boys basketball 2nd – 8th grades. We are taking late registrants nightly, from 5:00-6:00 pm on first come first served basis until leagues fill up. We expect over 1,000 to participate this year.
2. Fall open recreation hours are in full swing with youth numbers rising in the after school hours.
3. Youth Basketball Camp was being held in the big gym Wednesdays on September 18 & 25; October 2 & 9 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Twenty-Five (25) youth are involved.
4. Hispanic roundtable held a luncheon on September 13 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm in small gym. Over 75 were in attendance.
5. Met with individuals who would like to start a Hispanic Bible study group in the evenings starting in late October.
6. Will be attending monthly Gang Diversion meetings. The next one is scheduled for September 26 at Bray Center.
7. Foot Clinic was held September 25 from 9:00 am -12:00 noon for seniors. The foot clinic is held by Kenosha Visiting Nurses association. 10 seniors participated.
8. Brewer ticket giveaway on the September 12 was success. All tickets were gone within the first ten (10) minutes of giveaway.
9. Two (2) new used public access computers were installed the week of September 16 in game room.

D. Bryant

1. Fall Program Selection:
 - a. Music Instrument Lessons (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) 5:00 pm- 6:00 pm
 - b. Community Choir (Mondays) 5:00 pm-6:00 pm
 - c. Arts & Crafts (Tuesday-Friday) 4:00pm-5:30 pm clean-up till 6:00 pm
 - d. Youth Ceramics (Mondays and Wednesdays) 5:00 pm-6:00 pm clean-up till 6:00 pm
 - e. Girl Power Program (Mondays and Wednesdays) 4:00 pm-5:00 pm
 - f. Basketball Skills & Drills 4:30pm-5:45pm (Monday & Wednesday) in the gym.
2. We received a grant from SC Johnson to fund our new arts and music program. The group Fresh Cut Collective will run a ten week course for our youth.

3. An art student is also on board in the area of arts and crafts. She is working with the youth right now on paper Mache projects.
4. Fifteen of our youth attended the Party on the Pavement event. The youth felt it was a great experience.
5. I am now working with Keith Fenderson in the area of drama. I have hopes that Sam's Club will be the sponsor of this portion of our programming.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Campus life is back on Wednesday mornings. They bring students over from Park High School and have lunch, some recreation time and lessons. This brings approximately 40 kids each Wednesday.
2. Community organizations that continue to use the building on a weekly basis: Narcotics Anonymous, Park High School transitional program, developmentally disabled from Careers.
3. Two high school kids and 2 staff are putting together a Saturday 3 on 3 basketball tournament. Teams register on a first come first serve basis.
4. Working with the Plasma Center, the community center held a rummage sale here on a Saturday, September 14 to raise money for cancer. They raised over \$500.00 and the left over items were brought to Goodwill.
5. Planning Halloween party and haunted house for the kids. It is scheduled for October 30 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.
6. The center received six (6) new computers. The community is free to use them at their convenience. Staff is assigned to the room for supervision during youth time.
7. Met with one of the deans and a professor from Gateway. Working on bringing in different free programs from Gateway to our participants. Some of the suggested ideas were, GED, ESL, work training, workshops and life skills for young men and women.
8. Craft classes continue to draw about 15 to 20 kids doing a variety of projects to take home or hang in the center.
9. A former TDCC participant will be starting an exercise program for people of all ages for free. He wants to give back to the community. I am trying to find mats for the participants and then we can get started. It will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the senior room.
10. Zumba continues on Monday and Wednesday.
11. Quilters are continuing to come and the numbers are growing. We have about 6 ladies now.
12. Our numbers are also growing with the weight lifters. The new equipment and set up has drawn more participants.
13. Met with the Gang Collaboration group and are planning on having meetings at the various centers to work together as a community and not just individual efforts to help kids and educate staff. The next Gang meeting will be held here on October 24 at 1:00 pm.

F. Marketing

1. Launched our PRCS promo video on Facebook. Received over 2,100 views, 16 shares, and 10 likes from our page.
2. Promoted our inaugural National Visit a Park Day celebration to be held along the Root River on October 5. Created posters, flyers, and digital Ads to be distributed at local schools, organizations, and events, such as Party on the Pavement.
3. Coordinated with United Way to celebrate their Day of Caring on September 7. Ten (10) volunteers showed up to help pick up trash along the Lake Michigan Pathway by Zoo Beach.
4. Created and distributed our new fall promo cards “Play. Everyday.”
5. Created and distributed our October Newsletter.
6. Created and distributed an *EventSpot* page to launch our smaller announcements to our subscriber list.
7. Used the addition of our new media library to add more photos and liveliness to our online publication.
8. Attended the Racine Youth Correctional Facility’s Health Fair and shared information on our programs and activities with their staff.