

**Director's Report
For March 8, 2017**

**Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Play. Every Day.**

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. LC Fountain

- a. Fountain is shut down for the season. Will be ready for season open before May 1.
- b. Both previous mechanical and chemical service contractors have submitted bid for the next 3 year bid cycle. Contracts are at Attorney's Office for approval.

2. Miscellaneous Projects

- a. Pathway lighting Replacement: 95% complete.

3. Park Shelters

- a. Washington Park Bowl Restroom Rehab: need ceiling installed and some detail work. Project 95% complete. No change.
- b. Matson Shelter:
 - i. Electrical Upgrades. Complete.
 - ii. Plumbing upgrades. Will be complete by March 15.
 - iii. Concrete replacement & Basketball Court. Bidding complete. April installation.
 - iv. Project completion expected May 1.
- c. Hantschel Shelter: PRCS is rehabbing the park shelter.
 - i. Door replacement pending installation. Completion by March 15.
 - ii. Plumbing upgrades in process.
 - iii. Roof replacement bids pending.
 - iv. Concrete replacement is bid pending for April installation.
 - v. Project will be complete by May 1.
- d. Solbraa Park Shelter Rehab:
 - i. Roof & electrical upgrades complete.
 - ii. Masonry complete.
 - iii. Door replacement is 95% complete.
 - iv. Plumbing upgrades in process. Will be complete by March 15.
 - v. Concrete replacement bid pending for April installation.
 - vi. Project completion expected May 1.

4. Parks Paving

- a. Gaslight Pointe Walkway Repairs: out for bid. Bids due March 27.
- b. Parks Service Center: preliminary plans demolition of existing concrete complete.
- c. Myers Parking Lot Paving: plans complete. DPW bidding March 27 for early summer installation.

5. Community Centers

- a. Bryant
 - i. Harmony Park complete.
- b. Chavez
 - i. Rehab Room 24 plans complete. Reviewing for bidding July for September construction.
- c. Humble
 - i. None
 - ii.

- d. King
 - i. None
- e. Tyler-Domer
 - i. None
- 6. **Cemeteries:**
 - a. Mound & Graceland:
 - i. Annual crypt repairs will begin mid-February.
 - ii. **CIMS Updates:** Upgrade of drawings to Auto-Cad of Mound Cemetery is complete. Will complete revisions to match CIMS upgrades as they are available (no change).
 - b. Mound:
 - i. Mound Section 5 expansion has been surveyed and field marked.
 - c. Graceland:
 - i. None
- 7. **Golf Courses:**
 - a. Johnson:
 - i. Clubhouse Basement Wall Issues: DPW's consultant has reviewed the structure and provided some options for repair.
 - b. Washington:
 - i. Raised Storm Drains: DPW will send a crew removed ring from storm drain covers to allow proper drainage (no change).
 - c. Shoop: Drainage Issues:
 - i. Drainage Issues: Consultant reviewed. Delayed until March 2017 (no change).
- 8. **Wustum:**
 - a. None
- 9. **Zoo:**
 - a. Roof Replacement Feline/Primate Building: Project has reached substantial completion.
- 10. Percentage of YTD - PFS Hours Charged to CIP as of February 28, 2017 = **93.0%**

Parks

Parks Division:

1. Parks staff ground 93 stumps.
2. Two equipment operators worked all of February on the EAB logging project with the forestry crew.
3. Kept up with litter routes.
4. Swept bike paths once.
5. Removed old duct work at Matson Park as part of building improvements.
6. Worked with DPW to adjust storm water drain heights at Washington Park Golf Course.
7. Delivered approximately 75 yards of wood chips to the disc golf volunteers working on the course at Johnson Park. More will be delivered. Also will provide 18 trash barrels to control litter.
8. Repainted lines in our main garage for vehicle placement.
9. For 2 days staff worked on park clean up at Island and Colonial Park as part of the EAB logging project.

Forestry Division:

1. Removed approximately 23 inventoried trees.
2. Responded to approximately 3 reports of branches down and/or hanging branches.
3. The forestry contractor removing ash trees in the following parks is 95% complete: Lincoln, Island, Brose, Lee, Riverside, Washington Golf Course, Washington Woods. The second contractor is not expected to start until November/December 2017.
4. Forestry crews (with the assistance of several Parks employees) spent the majority of the month chipping tree tops and cleaning up debris resulting from the ash tree removal project.
5. The City Forester and four Arborists attended the annual Wisconsin Arborist Association Winter Conference in Green Bay. At the conference the City Forester was re-elected to a second two-year term as secretary for the Wisconsin Arborist Association Board of Directors.

Recreation

Upcoming events and programs:

1. The PRCS mailer is currently in the bid process. When printed, the mailer will go out with the water bill over the next 3 months. PRCS events, a QR Code that links to the PRCS Facebook page along with sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, are highlighted in the mailer.
2. The PRCS Bowling Fundraiser for Youth Activities is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2017. The event is hosted by PRCS and held at Castle Lanes in Racine. The cost is \$20/person for 3 games of bowling and shoe rental. Anyone can participate in this fun event! Plenty of raffles and prizes will be available.
3. Bowling fundraising lane sponsors, donations items for the raffles and bowling teams are all still being accepted. Thank you to our current sponsor's: Azarian Wrecking, AC Auto, Anthony's Car Company, Mario's, NASSCO, Racine Municipal Credit Union, Landmark Credit Union, Insinkerator, Pouros Electric and Fastsigns.
4. After a brief hiatus, the legendary Gus Macker 3 on 3 Tournament returns to Racine. Hosted and presented by PRCS, the location of the event will be at Gateway Technical College on July 15 and 16.
5. Gus Macker National Conference was held February 16th – 18th in Grand Rapids, Michigan. More than 40 representatives from 20 cities were there to discuss the upcoming tour.
6. Open Mic events at the Dr. John Bryant Community Center will be held the second Friday of each month (beginning March 10) from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.
7. Spring Break Basketball Camp is scheduled for April 18 – 20 for grades 2 – 5 at the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

Youth Activities:

1. The final Snow Shark trip was scheduled for February 22. This year was a challenge to get all our trips in with weather related postponements.
2. Youth Softball sign ups have begun. We will once again collaborate with Mt. Pleasant Recreation on the 12-14 year old program.
3. The Annual Free Throw Contest took place March 4 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon at the Cesar Chavez Community Center. First place finishers qualified for the SEPRC (Southeast Park and Recreation Council) Free Throw Contest on March 18 at West Allis Central High School.
4. The High School Basketball Program is scheduled to begin March 6. Teams representing four community centers will be competing on Mondays with the championship tournament on April 10.
5. Planning is underway for Track & Field, Lake F/X games, Movies in the Parks, and the Registered & Traditional Playgrounds programs.

Adult Activities:

1. The City League Basketball Tournament concluded March 4 with the semi-final game & Championship games at the Cesar Chavez Community Center.
2. Adult Softball and Sand Volleyball registration deadline are fast approaching. Staff will begin creating leagues and schedules shortly after the close of registration.
3. There is a softball managers/players meeting scheduled for April 19 at 6:30 pm. Our annual bat inspection day will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 8:30 – 11:30 am. Both events will take place at the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

Miscellaneous:

1. The Milwaukee Bucks have reached out to us and have offered tickets through March for select home games through their charitable ticket program.
2. Staff has begun the lengthy process to prepare for the May 1 opening of the Laurel Clark Fountain. Scheduling of orientation, creating staffing schedules, updating manuals, and procurement of supplies are currently in the works.
3. Primary elections were held at Lakeview Community Centers.

Community Centers

1. King Center

- a) The centers adult men's basketball league will begin this month. Games will be played on Monday and Wednesday nights starting at 5:00 pm. We hope to have 6-8 teams register.
- b) The Coretta Scott King Women's Basketball League is set to start April 2. Games will be played on Sundays beginning at 3:00pm. We hope to attract 4-6 teams.
- c) We received 788 nominations for the 33rd Annual Black History Youth Achievement Awards. The program was held on Saturday, February 25 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Memorial Hall. The keynote speaker was one of the M.L. King Center's own and Regional Director of Wells Fargo in Louisville, Kentucky.
- d) Youth Hoops games were held here at the King Center on Saturday February 12. The games were well attended and very competitive.
- e) Working with the Volunteer Center of Racine to find an individual who would be interested in teaching a robotics program. We are collaborating with RUSD.

2. Humble Park

- a) Tax Assistance Program will run February 1 through April 12 on Wednesdays from 9:15 am to 3:15 pm, by appointment only.
- b) Tai Chi, Zumba and Senior Clubs continue to take place at the center.
- c) Special Olympics held their Valentine Dance on February 10. Approximately 150 people attended.
- d) Will begin AAU teams practice scheduling soon.

3. Cesar Chavez

- a) Youth Hoops ended with the 5th – 8th grade tournament on February 12. We estimated 1,000 people attended the championship games. Overall the season went well. We appreciate and thank the over 45 part time employees who work Saturdays to keep this program running smoothly. A special thank you to Landmark Credit Union for sponsoring the tournament.
- b) Will be working with the Racine Tennis Association on summer programming.
- c) Main Gallery applications became available at the PRCS Administrative Office on March 1. Will be submitting a CDBG grant application this spring with the hopes of receiving funds to continue this program.
- d) Primary election voting was held at the center on February 21.
- e) Will be meeting with AAU coaches in early March to discuss renting gym space for youth basketball teams.
- f) New Bridge Club for seniors is tentatively scheduled on Tuesdays from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

4. Bryant

- a) Primary election voting was held at the center on February 21. Turnout was very low.
- b) The *Link Up* youth took a field trip to Red Robin in Kenosha.
- c) We held a Black History Program on February 24. Over the course of a month, the youth diligently prepared an art exhibit for the community to view. A local artist also displayed his work. The program was a success. We had two performances. One youth read a poem and another sang a song.

5. Tyler - Domer

- a) We will begin scheduling AAU basketball practices.
- b) Continue to work on the bowling fundraiser.
- c) Scheduling of high school and traveling team spring sports is underway and will continue through fall.
- d) Playgrounds preparation is still underway. Weekly activities including field trips are scheduled. Playground Leader interviews will begin this month.