

**Director's Report
For August 13, 2014**

**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. LC Fountain

- a. Fountain was shut down on 7/22 for the afternoon due to high chemical readings. The chemical contractor determined the likely cause for the high readings was a combination of testing methods and aging testing materials. The contractor verified the water was safe and the fountain was re-opened the next morning.

2. Parks Paving Projects for 2014

- a. Two pending paving projects:
 - i. Douglas Parking Lot Upgrades: Common Council approval.
 - ii. Graceland Cemetery Road Replacements: Some site engineering has been completed. Fall & Winter 2015 project. (No Change)

3. Playground Equipment Replacement:

- a. Hantschel & Hamilton Parks 2013 – CDBG parks and play equipment improvement: Complete

4. Miscellaneous Projects

- a. Pershing Bleacher Replacement: Field work in process. (No Change)
- b. Pershing Fence Replacement: Field work in process. (No Change)
- c. Pending Concrete Projects:
 - i. Sidewalk inspections: Spring Complete. Will be added to the PW phase II sidewalk walk replacements this month.
 - ii. Park & Community Center Concrete Replacement Inspections: In Process
 - iii. Concrete for Park Benches & Trash Cans (Lake Parks): In Process
 - iv. Concrete for ADA accessibility: In Process

5. Community Centers

- a. Bryant
 - i. None
- b. Chavez
 - i. Parking Lot Paving - See 2a
- c. Humble
 - i. None
- d. King
 - i. None
- e. Tyler-Domer
 - i. None

6. Cemeteries:

- a. Mound & Graceland:
 - i. Crypt repair master plan is complete. Repairs are recommended in three phases and much can be completed in the winter. Critical required repairs are expected to cost \$120K. This project will be bid this year if possible – (No Change).

- b. Mound:
 - i. Chapel Restroom: Fixtures have arrived – should be installed by the end of August.
 - ii. Mound Chapel AC and electrical: Bids accepted – should be complete by the end of August.
 - iii. Mound Fountain Liner: Liner deteriorated over the winter. Repair will be bid for an early 2015 project.
 - c. Graceland:
 - i. Section 23: Tree planning & site directional markers will be complete, late summer. (No Change)
 - ii. Graceland Pond Rehab: DPW/Utilities project. There have been two meetings regarding the pond rehab. This project appears to be best suited for winter construction and is anticipated for late 2014 & early 2015. (No Change)
 - iii. Paving Road Replacement: Will be coordinating with DPW/Traffic to replace roadways along the pond area after the pond restoration is complete. (No Change)
 - iv. Stewardship Grant: Submitted a grant request that may pay for 50% of some road removal and replacement with walkway. (No Change)
7. Golf Courses:
 - a. Johnson: WE Energies will be upgrading their wiring and transformers at JP. The upgrades will have no impact on the golf course.
 - b. Washington: No Update
 - c. Shoop: No Update
8. Wustum:
 - a. Siding and Window Replacement Project: Bid are in and being reviewed.
9. Zoo: No Update

Recreation

A. Youth Activities

- 1. Playgrounds
 - a. The youth in program have been golfing, sailing, kayaking, participating in soccer clinics, a football tournament and a mini triathlon. Field trips were taken to a water park, North Beach, and the State Fair. The programs conclude on August 13.
- 2. Softball
 - a. The Youth Softball Program is coming to an end. Besides rain dates, the leagues ran smoothly.
- 4. Soccer
 - a. The youth and adult sand soccer programs have been well attended each week. The youth program has over thirty participants per night.
- 5. Lake F/X Games
 - a. We had a record number of participant registrations of over 50 plus approximately 600 spectators throughout the course of the day. We have strong co-sponsorship from Gateway Technical College, Warren Industries, Sky High Skate Shop, Racine Cyclery, and the Friday Optimist Club.

B. Adult Activities

1. Softball

a. Busy with makeup games due to rainy weather.

b. City Tournament action took place August 1 – 3 for the Men’s Closed Division and August 8 – 10 for the Men’s and Women’s Open Divisions.

2. Sand Volleyball

a. The Sand Volleyball League continues to be successful with approximately 400 players and spectators per week.

3. Fall Softball & Kickball registration forms are now available. League play begins in September.

C. Special Events

1. Outdoor Movies Series is scheduled as follows:

a. Saturday, June 28 at Solbraa Park – Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2

i. Over 200 guests attended this movie.

b. Saturday, July 5 at Mound Cemetery – Monsters, Inc.

i. 250 guests attended this movie

c. Saturday, July 19 at Lockwood Park – Despicable Me 2

i. 300 guests attended this movie

d. Friday, July 25 at Hantschel Park – The Lego Movie

i. 200 guests attended this movie

e. Tuesday, August 5 at Chavez Community Center – Frozen

f. Friday, August 8 at Matson Park – Tad the Lost Explorer

2. The inaugural Family Sail was scheduled for Friday August 1 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm at North Beach. This free event was in collaboration with the Racine Yacht Club. Participants received a safety orientation, were fitted with a PFD, and then had an opportunity to sail Lake Michigan or the harbor depending on conditions.

D. Miscellaneous

1. Programs in the works: Flag Football, Fall Soccer, Youth Hoops

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. Lunch Program has gone well. We are serving 55 lunches per day.

2. UW Extension held the nutrition workshop on July 14 – 17. We had eight youth actively involved in this program.

3. Beach Safety Day was held on Friday, August 24. A collaboration effort between PRCS, YMCA, and Wheaton. The program was well attended. The workshops were held at 8:45am and 1:00 pm at North Beach

4. The Iron Man Competition went well. A total of 26 Lifeguards were on duty to work with Iron Man staff to ensure that the swimming portion stayed safe.

5. We have nine youth who are participating in the Keys 2 Key Board Program. This is a ten week workshop that teaches participants how to play either the piano or keyboard. This program will run through August 7.

B. Humble Park

1. Playgrounds have gone smoothly at Humble Park. Good attendance and great leaders.
2. The staff had planned activities for National Night Out on August 5. Participants had food, games, beads, face painting, a bouncy house and lots of donations from various community organizations.
3. Youth for Christ held their week long camp which had 60-80 participants each day. They have already booked for next year.
4. Very busy in the early afternoon with the school age kids. Gym is full.
5. Pickleball participants are playing outside on all 6 courts. Play is also occurring on the weekends for all ages.
6. Senior card groups continue to attend the center faithfully to play various card games.
7. Zumba continues to have attendance.
8. The developmentally disabled continue to use the building on various days.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. Youth softball games have been going well on Mondays and Wednesdays at Humble Park. We have had several rain outs on Wednesday evenings early in the season. We will make up games through the second week of August. We did have some coaches/parents questioning the addition of the four year olds to the T-ball program as they feel they are too young. We will reevaluate this and make appropriate changes to the program so there is a good experience for all.
2. Main Gallery held its 20th Anniversary Art Exhibit at the Racine Arts Council July 11 – July 26. Over 23 pieces were on display from past participants and instructors in the program. Over 150 people went through the exhibit during the opening ceremony from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. on July 11.
3. I have been working with the Racine City Soccer Academy planning a new Fall Soccer league to take place at Pershing Park this fall for youth in age groups u6, u8, u10, and u12. Registrations are currently being accepted at the Annex. This will be a new program added to our department.
4. Attended CVMIC training July 15 at City Hall.
5. Traveling basketball practices will come to an end the week of August 11. We had over 20 teams participate this summer.

6. National Night Out was held at the Chavez Center August 5 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. There was food, a jump house, games with playground leaders, face painting by Main Gallery young artists and the movie “Frozen” played on the big screen at dusk.
7. Youth Basketball sign-ups will begin September 3 at the Annex. We are preparing the registration forms, postcards, advertising, practice permits and game site locations. A lot of work goes into the preparation and administration of this program.
8. Chavez Center parking lot is slated to be repaved this fall. We are hoping all goes smoothly with this process and hope to be ready to go when youth basketball begins in October.
9. Senior Pickelball and volleyball continue to have great attendance all summer long.
10. Main Gallery came to an end with our annual Charities Art Auction on Monument Square Saturday, August 2. The live auction began at 11:00 a.m. Some of the artwork auctioned off included decorative painted furniture, wood carvings, painted birdhouses, painted hand bags, and framed photography. This program also did a 6ft carved story pole which will eventually be placed down by the Rec Center on 6th Street.

D. Bryant

1. The Drill Team performed in the 4th of July Parade. There were 45 young ladies on the team.
2. There was a carwash/ bake sale held at the center. This was a fundraiser for center programs.
3. The center now has a Pom-Poms squad. We have 15 enrolled and parents are still coming to sign up.
4. The center is now having basketball games on Friday evenings. We are seeking other teams to make this an ongoing program for the fall.
5. There are two individuals serving community service hours and a maintenance worker from DVR. It has helped out a lot with keeping the center running smooth.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Main Gallery finished up the last week of July. They have done some awesome projects. The wood story pole is awesome and will be housed down by the REC Center. They carved it inside the locked tennis court area to keep it safe.
2. Pickleball contract is back in the hands of the Pickleball Club and they will get it back to the PRCS for finalization.
3. The garden is coming alive at TDCC. We have 8 beds that are planted with a variety of vegetables and flowers. We also have a mound of dirt that has squash growing on it. Some Park H.S. teachers have become involved and we will be meeting in fall to plan for next spring so we are ready for planting when the weather permits.
4. Starting to schedule for fall sports for the high schools that use our facilities.

5. Plans were made for National Night Out which was held on August 5. Activities included food, games, face painting, bouncy house and visit from police and fire. Should be a great event.
6. Met with a lady from the community who would like to start a drill team. This team would be a disciplined team learning how to present the flag, march to direction etc.
7. Playgrounds is going great and will be winding down the middle of August. We have been to the Milwaukee Zoo, North beach, bowling, and Cool Waters Water Park. Leaders are doing great keeping the kids safe and having fun.
8. Attended a CIVMIC supervisor training session at City Hall.
9. Helped Old Timers with their softball tournament at Horlick Field. They had greater participation this year.
10. Prepared for the City Softball Tournament. Scheduled score and book keepers.