

**Director's Report
For
May 14, 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 started on May 1 with only minor maintenance issues. It was operational for Pancake Day, May 3.
- b. The fountain maintenance and chemical service contracts are in year 2 of 3.

2. Parks Paving Projects for 2014

- a. Two pending paving projects:
 - i. Douglas parking lot upgrades is ready for bidding.
 - ii. Graceland Cemetery Road Replacements - Fall project

3. Playground Equipment Replacement:

- a. Hantschel & Hamilton Parks 2013 – CDBG parks and play equipment improvement:
 - i. Play equipment has been ordered.
 - ii. Site preparation begins May 5 & should be complete by May 16.
 - iii. Equipment installations are currently out for bid. Installation of equipment can begin as soon as bids are accepted.

4. Park Electrical Upgrades:

- a. Island Park North Softball Lights: Lights are up and operating. Punch list items remain to be completed.

5. Miscellaneous Projects

- a. Pershing Bleacher Replacement: Field work in process. (No Change)
- b. Pershing Fence Replacement: Field work in process. (No Change)
- c. Lockwood Road Removal: Complete
- d. Pending Concrete Projects:
 - i. Sidewalk inspections: Set to begin the week of May 5.
 - ii. Park & Community Center Concrete Replacement Inspections: Set to begin the week of May 5.
 - iii. Concrete for park benches & trash cans (lake front parks): June
 - iv. Concrete for ADA accessibility improvements: June

6. Community Centers

- a. Bryant
 - i. None
- b. Chavez
 - i. Parking Lot Paving - See 1a
- c. Humble
 - i. None

- d. King
 - i. Painting Interior: Complete
 - ii. Replacement Counters: Bids accepted – counters have been ordered.
- e. Tyler-Domer
 - i. None

7. **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: Walls & Ceiling have been dry walled & painted. Door, decorative finish & plumbing fixtures need to be installed.
 - ii. Mound Chapel AC and electrical: Field work in progress. Waiting for engineering from WE Energies. (No Change)
 - iii. Mound Fountain Liner: Liner deteriorated over the winter. Repair can only be complete with weather over 65 degrees. Will schedule repairs for late July or August.
- c. Graceland:
 - i. Section 23: Plots have been filed with Racine County Register of Deeds. Tree planning & site directional markers will be complete late spring. (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.

8. **Golf Courses:**

- a. Johnson: No Update
- b. Washington: No Update
- c. Shoop: No Update

9. **Wustum:** No Update

10. **Zoo:** No Update

Recreation

- 1. The Milwaukee Bucks donated over 150 tickets to two home games against the Raptors and Hawks.
- 2. The Milwaukee Brewers donated over 500 tickets to home games against the Cardinals on April 14 and the Padres on April 22. The tickets were distributed to the general public through our downtown office.
- 3. The Just Add Kids Expo at Case High School was a fun event that gave us a chance to showcase our department. Many people stopped to get program and department information during the event.

4. There are “nine more safe boaters” who graduated from the About Boating Safety class presented by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at Cesar Chavez Community Center on April 12 and 19. The interactive class introduced participants to all aspects of safe boating.
5. We are working with members of the Racine Yacht Club to present sailing classes this summer. We are looking at including classes in the summer playground program and also a family night sail.
6. We are working with Nate Thompkins to develop a grass root urban soccer program that will offer play for youth ages 4-10 and possibly an organized adult program.
7. Plans for the Fall Flag Football league are underway. We are hoping to offer two coed leagues for grades 4th & 5th and 6th & 7th.
8. The local Hershey Track and Field date has been set. The event will take place Wednesday, May 21 at 4:00 pm on Case High School track. Friday, May 23 will be used as a rain date.
9. The interview process for playground leaders went smoothly and all interviews are complete and the new leaders have been selected.
10. Planning continues for the Lake F/X games scheduled for July 26.
 - a. In cooperation with the Health Department and their medicine collection information mailing, PRCS was able to include the programs schedule. Working on posting schedules on line.
11. Once again, PRCS has teamed up with Mt. Pleasant Recreation’s Youth Softball Program this summer. Two departments will have three (3) boys 12 -14 year old softball teams and four (4) girls 12 – 14 year old teams. Games will be played on Thursday evenings.
12. Adult Softball Leagues have started. Over 800 softball bats have been inspected since April 26. Bats are inspected every Tuesday at 10 am. In the month of May only, bats will be inspected on both Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 am.
13. The Laurel Clark Fountain was turned on for the season on May 3. PRCS staff is scheduled to supervise during the month of May. The Downtown Ambassadors will provide the supervision during the summer months of June, July and August.
14. Arbor Day took place on Friday, April 25 at Myers Park. PRCS Forestry crew planted 28 trees with the help of some volunteers. PRCS received the Tree USA Award for the 16th year of being a member, as well as the Tree Growth Award for the 2nd year.

Parks

1. Parks crews have mulched the Ohio Street and Northwestern Avenue medians. More mulching is planned throughout the city.
2. Forestry crew began spring tree planting.
3. Seasonal employees are all here and we are working hard on litter picking our parks from bad winter.
4. Had two water main breaks at Lockwood Park. One has been repaired and the second has been scheduled. These breaks are due the cold winter and the amount of frost.

5. Old wooden bleachers at Pershing are being torn down due to a safety issue.
6. Set up new mowing route trailers and have them ready to start mowing the week of May 5.
7. Stage on Wheels has been picked up from winter storage and is at the garage for a maintenance inspection.

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. Easter activities held on April 18 from 1:00 – 5:45 pm. Activities included Easter hat & mask crafts, face painting, egg hunt, along with refreshments. There were about 95 youth and parents that attended.
2. There was another lifeguard testing session on Saturday, April 26. We tested four additional individuals that were interested in being a lifeguard for the 2014 beach season.
3. Met with Al Days of the Racine Police Department on April 23. We spoke about developing a protocol/plan of action should an incident occur that could be potentially life threatening.
4. Held a community cleanup project as part of Earth Day on Tuesday, April 22. We took about 12 youth throughout the neighborhood picking paper, cans and bottles. Afterward youth were treated to pizza and soda. We also collected old tennis shoes as part of the re-use a shoe program on April 26 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.
5. The painting inside of the center is almost done. The ceiling in both locker rooms will be done soon. New counter tops will be installed in the kitchen and senior lunch room.

B. Humble Park

1. Tax service for the year has finished.
2. Our 5th & 6th and 6th & 7th grade basketball teams are still competing in the Bray Center tournament for the middle school league. The final games are scheduled for the first week in May.
3. Staff and participants threw a going away/congratulatory celebration for Gabbi Ortiz. She grew up at Humble and will be going off to college in the fall with a full scholarship to play basketball in Oklahoma. What a great example for the children at the center.
4. Beginner pickleball is becoming more and more popular. We have up to 15 to 20 people using the indoor courts on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The outdoor courts will have a lot of new people using them.
5. Senior clubs remain about the same, not really a growing group, but a consistent number of participants.
6. The children at the center participated in a March Madness pool. Prizes from Buffalo Wild Wings were awarded to the top 4 winners.

7. Easter was a big hit. The staff put on an egg hunt, egg toss, relay races, and egg coloring. The kids had popcorn, candy and juice. They had a great time. Pictures and videos were turned into the Marketing Coordinator for viewing on the web site.
8. Great job Humble Park!!!

C. Cesar Chavez

1. Main Gallery received a \$10,000 grant through the Racine Community Foundation for programming in 2014.
2. Old Timers Football sign-ups were held on April 2 with over 100-125 people registering.
3. Worked the Case High School Job Fair on April 4 to promote PRCS programming.
4. Worked the Just Kids Expo on April 5 at Case High to promote PRCS programming hundreds of families were in attendance.
5. Met with Nathan Thompkins on April 14 to discuss the partnership with his organization and PRCS to offer youth soccer program through PRCS. This would target city youth and preliminary discussions are to use Pershing field.
6. Main Gallery application deadline was April 11. We have many more applicants than positions available. We plan to start interviews in mid-May.
7. Will be meeting with Lee Roberts from the Racine Journal Times on April 28 to work on a feature story to promote Main Gallery's 20th anniversary and highlight this successful arts program through PRCS.
8. Youth Softball registration is coming to an end. Working on team formation, schedules, and searching for a few youth volunteer coaches. We are still accepting registrants in all grade levels with some coming close to full and other leagues in need of more youth.
9. Two families participated in an Earth Day clean up on April 23 picking up litter throughout the Douglas Park perimeter.
10. Voting was held on April 1.
11. Boating Safety class scheduled through Duncan Cortez was held on Saturdays, April 12 and 19 from 8:00 am - 12:00 noon. Approximately 10 -12 people attended.
12. Douglas Avenue Revitalization group held their meeting on April 23 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.
13. Alderman Kaprelian-Becker held a meeting on April 23 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm.
14. Adult Softball bat inspection was held on April 26 from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon.
15. Met with James Wilson, Chief Howell, Al Days and John Polzin on April 23 in the Chiefs office to discuss on how we can increase police presence at the centers during the high times in summer and how we can partner to come up with building safety plans in case of violence or other acts at our buildings as well as having officers come in to talk with our part time staffs.

D. Bryant

1. The Center hosted the 2nd District voting on April 1. There were over six hundred resident voters.
2. The Bryant Center hosted our first recital this month. The children did a great job. This was small recital for parents in order to help the children with their experience in performance in front an audience. We will at a later date do a large scale recital for the community.
3. St. Cat's High School Community Service Project was completed on April 30th, 2014. The youth cleaned bleachers, cleaned backboards and chairs. There is a great interest to do another community service project in the near future. There were 15 youth in total.
4. We are preparing for Juneteenth Day. The date this year is June 14, 2014. I am waiting on a response from Caron Butler, so I can move forward with some of the planning.
5. The Bryant Center was very excited about the article in the Sunday paper featuring our Performing Arts Program. We have had great response from the article, I'm sure donations will follow.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Hair Force is going strong with 12 kids on Monday and Wednesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Monday is at the Hair Force Shop and Wednesday is at TDCC. The kids are learning how to become barbers. A nice article was placed in the Journal Times.
2. Racine Raider Cheerleaders are using our building for practices on Monday and Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
3. Dance team (20 girls) are practicing here Monday and Friday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.
4. The middle school basketball league finished for TDCC teams. Both teams made it to the final four.
5. Attended the Case High School Job Fair for 2 days, promoting PRCS programs and work opportunities.
6. Violin group (8) use the building 3 days a week to practice their music from Park High School.
7. A past participant and neighbor of TDCC celebrated his 85th birthday here at the center. About 60 people in attendance.
8. St. Cat's High School volunteers and a civil group were scheduled to work on our garden as well as clean up the area for Earth Day. It was postponed due to poor weather.
9. Women Resource Center presented information at the center to the center's participants.
10. Zumba numbers are up and down. Seems to be related to the weather. Range anywhere from 20 to 55.
11. We started a "senior" over 50 pool league. We currently have about 6 seniors who come and compete on a regular basis.
12. A staff member now picks up donuts from the Bryant Center and brings them to the center daily for the seniors and the kids after school.
13. Panther Pals is a favorite program from Park High School. Integrating children from Park with the developmentally disabled. They cook, play games, do crafts and next month there will be a cook out.

F. Marketing, Special Events and Program Coordination

1. Hiring is in place for two summer support staff for community outreach– marketing.
2. Transitioning the program booklet to an updated look and new mailing door to door method through new printing company research and distribution through USPS.
3. Editor at large, William May, produced and edited a piece regarding our Summer Playground Program that successfully made it to the Racine Journal Times on April 16, 2014. We look forward to his work on our next project.
4. Plan to update the look and information on the bulletin board located outside our office.
5. Ordered new marketing items such as pens, lanyards, cups, cozies, tote-bags, coffee mugs, etc.
6. Promoting all of our department’s events and programs – Arbor Day, Tennis, Youth programming, Sand Volleyball, EAB event, etc.
 - a. Facebook – Nearing 1,100 Likes. We have successfully reached our goal of 1,000 in March.
 - b. Twitter – @RacineParksRCS - Over 100 Followers
 - c. Vimeo – Over 10 videos on our channel. Works to develop our channel further, and will move to YouTube.
 - d. Instagram – @RacineParksnRec
7. We drastically increased and are maintaining over 450 subscribers to our newsletter. We are enhancing the viewers experience with more interactive content such as video and photos from current events. Our goal was to reach 500 subscribers by the end of April.
8. Working to get our own Parks TV.
9. Special Events
 - a. Created Marketing materials for Arbor Day. Developing better plan that will focus on targeting more people in our community for next year.
 - b. Plans underway to coordinate our special events for 2014. Kids to Parks, National Park and Recreation Month, Fitness Fair on the Square, and Pedal, Paddle, N’Stroll.
10. Appearances
 - a. Attended the Opportunity Fair at Park and Case High Schools.
 - b. Sourcing expo booth set –up to update our appearance.
 - c. Attended Just Add Kids Expo on April 5. Over 2,500 were in attendance as well.
11. Final details developing new Fitness in the Parks Program, slated for June.