

Parks and Recreation Director's Report

March 2024

Outreach/Partnerships

- Manion attended the Michigan Recreation and Parks Associations Annual Conference. Met many new local Parks Directors. Will be participating in the West Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.
- Kent Garden Club agreed to design the gardens within Memorial Park and around the museum.

Volunteer Program

- The VIP (Volunteers in Parks) and Tuesdays at 10 workdays continue to grow. They have worked at parks (i.e. Peace Park) and along pathways (i.e. Camelback Bridge)
- GE Aviation has signed up for a garlic mustard pull this spring.

Committees

- Board of Trustees approved the purchase of two new trucks and a dump truck.
- Thornapple Special Assessment District will continue their weed treatments and water quality testing in 2024.

Park Updates

- **Burton Park**
 - McKenna's Landscape Architect partner designed a new small parking lot off the Burton entrance. Construction will begin as soon as possible.
 - After concerns of people driving through the park, the gate off Windcrest has been closed. Boulders have been placed in the path to indicate that it is a path not a drive.
- **Cascade Park**
 - Staff will be installing new cameras to improve security within the park.
 - The Community Officers and Zoning Administrator have been to Cascade Recreation Park to educate the visitors on the importance of leashing their dogs.
 - AYSO requested a change in soccer fields within the park. This will double its capacity.
- **McGraw Park**
 - No updates at this time.

- **Memorial Park-**
 - The play sculpture has been moved to Friendship Park. The musical instruments are being refurbished before placement in Friendship Park.
- **Friendship Park**
 - Progress continues at a rapid pace.
- **Peace Park**
 - No update at this time.
- **Tassell Park**
 - The bathrooms at Tassell are in the process of being remodeled before opening this spring.
- **Wycliffe Trailhead Park**
 - Playground equipment will be installed the second week of April.
 - No bids were received for the construction of the vault toilet.
 - ODC has agreed to pick up the black locust removed as part of the park development.
 - Staff are working with Unity Church to create a shared parking area.

Other

- Four staff are now certified to apply pesticide.