

# Parks and Recreation Director's Report

January 2024

## Outreach/Partnerships

- Staff continue to work with Kent Garden Club to potentially form a partnership in the creation and maintenance of a historical garden at Memorial Park.

## Volunteer Program

- Heibel, Volunteer Coordinator, continued to provide volunteer opportunities through Tuesdays at 10 and a weekend workday at Peace Park. New volunteers continue to join.
- Staff is recruiting volunteers for service-based workdays.
- Spring garlic mustard workdays have been scheduled at various parks.

## Committees

- Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a wood chipper and covered trailer to help with park maintenance and improvements, among other township responsibilities.
- Board of Trustees approved additional projects at Friendship Park as a result of receiving the RAP grant.

## Park Updates

- **Burton Park**
  - Burton Park's parking lot off Burton St. continues to be problematic. Staff is working with a landscape architect from McKenna to create a short-term solution with the intent of a more in-depth analysis in the future for a long-term solution.
  - As a result of concerns over park users' safety, the gate at Windcrest has been closed to stop through traffic. The Board of Trustees also expressed that the gate was never meant to be left open because it is not a designated drive and creates liability.
- **Cascade Park**
  - An RFP has been posted for the assessment and initial design of Cascade Rec Park.
  - The metal rooves at the gazebo and small picnic shelter have been installed.
- **Friendship Park**
  - Great progress has been made in construction of the park.
  - Visser Bros. has started the pavilion.
  - Fourth of July parade/event plans are taking shape with a focus on the new park.
  - Mlive wrote an article on the project, likely in response to the new sign.

- **McGraw Park**
  - No updates at this time.
- **Memorial Park-**
  - The musical instruments have been removed. They are currently being refurbished for later placement at Friendship Park.
- **Peace Park**
  - No updates at this time.
- **Tassell Park**
  - Staff is moving forward with contracting OHM to create a village design that will incorporate Tassell and Memorial Parks.
- **Wycliffe Trailhead Park**
  - Trees have been removed within the playground areas in preparation for installation of play equipment.
  - An RFP for construction of the vault toilet was posted.
  - Staff installed the split rail fence to prevent children from running into Cascade Road.

## **Other**

- Staff is ahead of schedule for launching the new maintenance software. Internal implementation will begin soon.
- Four staff, including Heibel, passed the first test to receive their Pesticide Certification.
- McCarty, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, will be attending class to get certified as a Playground Inspector in April.