New lighting was installed in the Ricketts gymnasium, converting old, cage-protected fluorescents to high-efficiency LED’s. This was paid for through a grant secured by Boyertown Multi-Service. The Borough Parks and Recreation crew and Borough electrician completed the work. The total cost of the project was approximately $5,000. The Department only had to pay for the man-hours and about $110 in small parts. The new lights are more efficient and eliminate the protective cages, which as they aged became an increasing safety liability. We are very pleased with the swift execution of the project and the massive improvements to performance and safety it affords.

The only other infrastructure-related project requiring an update is with regard to Pollock Park. In the late Summer of 2020 we submitted a contaminated soil delineation report to DEP for approval, but their judgement after review was that arsenic, lead and Benzo(a)pyrene readings near the property boundaries required us to pursue testing on the adjacent private properties. As you may know this can present a difficulty as sampling cannot be completed without the property owners’ consent. One property owner was cooperative and sufficient information was swiftly collected to delineate the contamination there with respect to arsenic and benzo(a)pyrene on the western boundary. We do not expect that any remediation will be necessary on that property as a result of those tests. The other two properties identified were not cooperative and we have referred the matter to DEP to follow up with. The concern there is primarily lead along the eastern boundary. In the meantime, we cannot get approval of the remediation plan until DEP judges the contamination delineated, which will not occur until the issue with the adjacent properties is settled. As such, we will need to resubmit the contamination delineation and clean-up report once the conditions of the adjacent properties are satisfied through DEP channels. While this does pose a regrettable delay in proceeding, there is one positive note which is that the benzo(a)pyrene threshold is scheduled to be adjusted in 2021 in such a way that delineation with respect to that contaminant will be considered complete. It is therefore to our advantage to submit at a time following the adjustment of that threshold. We are therefore primarily only held up by pending tests results for lead in the eastern portion of the area. I do not know how PA DEP plans to proceed in contacting the adjacent property owners nor do I know what means they have to secure the cooperation of the property owner. Neither does out consultant know.

We are moving forward on several infrastructure projects in 2021 as noted below:

- Potts Drive Park basketball resurfacing is scheduled to proceed as soon as weather permits, this will close out grants from PMRPC and PAHWF funding the project there which included ADA access and playground installation completed in 2020.
- Streambank stabilization will be executed in 2021 to protect the pedestrian bridge abutment over Manatawny Creek in Riverfront Park. Design engineers LandStudies have been retained as specialists in streambank restoration to design this project and we anticipate work will go to bid as soon as studies are completed. Commencement of this work will depend upon the weather as conditions in the waterway greatly effect the work.
- The RFP for streambank and pedestrian bridge restoration design in Memorial Park was issued late in January. These engineering and design services will be paid for in-part by a grant from PAHWF. Designs from this phase of work will be used in applications for funding from MontCo 2040, DCNR C2P2 and DCED CFA grant programs in 2021.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about these projects or any other park locations.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Lenhart CPRP CPSI
Borough of Pottstown
Parks and Recreation Director, 610-970-6608