

We are heading into the busy time of year for the Parks and Recreation Department and very excited to report on the upcoming season and developments in the Pottstown Park system. Please see below for a list of infrastructure items in development or pending.

1. Michael Lane has announced his retirement from the position of PARRC Coordinator after an overwhelmingly successful 4+ years of grant writing and regional project coordination. His accomplishments include working with Navarro and Wright on the Tri-County Regional Trail Network Plan, linking walking trails amongst most of the municipalities in the Pottstown Metropolitan Planning Region. Future development of this plan will increase access to the SRT and establish Memorial Park as something of a regional trail hub. Development of these trails segments will remain a priority for the individual who will be taking his place in the PARRC Planner position. Michael's accomplishments also include working on the Memorial Park playground grant package, which incorporated a Nature Play area and the addition of a new member to the PARRC, with East Coventry having joined officially early in 2020 as well as numerous other grants and park planning projects for our park system and those of our neighbors in the PMRPC. Michael's contributions cannot be under estimated and he will be greatly missed as he enters a well-deserved retirement. PARRC has successfully sought and secured the services of a replacement and is happy to announce that Patricia McCloskey will join the team in April to pick up where Michael has left off. Patricia is formerly a Senior Planner at the Mid-Atlantic Region, Appalachian Mountain Club, Bethlehem, PA, and brings a wealth of experience developing trail implementation projects and recreation and open space projects. We look forward to working with Patricia in continuing the high-level of performance that the PARRC program has brought to our region.
2. Parks and Recreation staff installed a new digital scoreboard in the Richard J Ricketts Sr Community Center gymnasium, which was purchased by Boyertown Area Multi Service. We look forward to the return of indoor sports programming when conditions permit.
3. Tree planting at the Richard J Ricketts Sr. Community Center will take place in April, replacing trees removed in the last 2 years due to wind damage and disease. This is made possible through the generosity of David Sutton, Master Gardener, whom we thank for his generosity of time and resources.
4. Work will begin in April on the addition of a walk of honor connecting the WWII Memorial and the refurbished cannon in Memorial Park. This project is executed by the Veterans' Island Project. Sponsors who wish to purchase and personalize a brick may contact The Veterans' Island Project through their Facebook page. This presents an opportunity to honor the service of veterans whose names and service has not yet been recorded by any of our existing veterans' memorials. However, bricks may be given in recognition of any individuals or organizations through the stewardship process. This short walkway will enhance the connection between the memorial pieces and be constructed of concrete and brick, utilizing services and materials from local donors as well as funds raised by the Veterans' Island Project through their ongoing fundraising and stewardship efforts. We are ever grateful for their assistance in maintaining and enhancing the Island in Memorial Park.
5. Design work has begun on stream bank stabilization efforts along the Manatawny Creek in Riverfront Park. LandStudies INC is designing a mortar-less rip-rap wall to prevent undermining of the eastern abutment of the pedestrian bridge at that location. Design work and DEP permitting will be completed by the end of April and the Borough will begin the bid process for executing the project immediately following with a mind to executing the work this Summer.
6. The first of 3 grants targeted at funding the pedestrian bridge and stream bank restoration along the Manatawny Creek in Memorial Park was submitted in March. MontCo 2040 was petitioned for \$200,000 for project execution. \$150,000 will be petition from DCNR in April and \$250,000 from DCED in May to fully fund the project. Herbert, Rowland and Grubic INC has been recently selected as the design

consultant for the engineering phase of the project, funded with a \$45,000 grant from PAHWF, and will begin work in April on designing the bridge replacement and streambank stabilization

If you have any questions about these or other pending Parks and Recreation infrastructure projects, please feel free to contact me.

Thank You,

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