Good afternoon,
As we move into the busy season in our parks, a number of infrastructure projects as well as program initiatives are developing with great positives. Throughout the pandemic, we have seen a marked increase in park usage, keeping with trends across the U.S. We are hopeful that this will continue and develop a deeper appreciation within the community for our parks and open spaces. Below please find an update of ongoing park projects.

Programs and Events
- The PowWow on Manatawny Creek was held May 1 and 2 at Riverfront Park with great success. Parks and Recreation co-sponsored the event. We estimate 800 - 1000 visitors attended the event each day over the 2 days of operations. We further estimate representatives from 30+ Native American Nations presented or performed.
- The Pottstown Rumble is forthcoming for June 25 – 27 in Memorial Park. We are excited to see the return of the event to Memorial Park as it represents the largest tournament of its kind in the Country.
- Fireworks are slated to occur in Memorial Park for Jul 4, 2021 as sponsored by Pottstown GoFourth Festival. We are very grateful for their community leadership and volunteerism. Other July 4 events planned include a parade on High Street from Adams to York Streets, hosted by the Pottstown Rotary and a Patriotic 5K host by Pottstown Parks and Recreation
- Recent changes have been made to the Maple Street Tennis Court User Agreement and access hardware to provide access for Borough Resident only. To be granted an access code, Borough residents need to register with the Parks and Recreation Dept. Through our NEW online web portal https://pottstown.recdesk.com/Community/Home. There is no cost associated.
- Facility rentals are available throughout the season for pavilions and athletic fields and we are pleased with the volume we are seeing at this time.
- A new issue of the Borough newsletter is to be uploaded to the Borough website by the first week of June. Be sure to subscribe to website notifications so you don’t miss the latest news from the Borough and encourage your constituents to do so as well.

Infrastructure
- We are excited to announce that Pottstown Borough has been awarded a $200,000 grant from the MontCo 2040 program for Memorial Park for the Streambank Stabilization and Bridge Replacement project. This brings the full scope of the project to approximately 70% funding. Two further grants have been submitted for this project and are pending decision. These grants are for $150,000 from the DCNR C2P2 program and $250,000 from the DCED CFA GTRP program. Decisions on these applications typically are announced in the Fall. Engineering and design for this project is underway with Herbert, Rowland and Grubic Inc utilizing a $45,000 grant from Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation.
- Engineering and Design work is commencing with LandStudies LLC on streambank stabilization in Riverfront Park along the Manatawny Creek. The project seeks to stabilize the embankment at the pedestrian bridge that carries the Schuylkill River Trail across the creek and through Riverfront Park. The project scope will armor the embankment with a rip rap wall and remove a waterway obstruction in the form of a large alluvial mound upstream for the location. It is judged that this project will prevent failure of the bridge in the future. Execution of the scope of work is expected for 2021 late Summer. Following stabilization of the waterway, a bridge restorative maintenance effort will begin in 2022 with seeking funding.
- Potts Drive Park is still not opened following revitalization work there completed in the Summer of 2020 with funding from PAHWF, PMRPC and the Walmart Foundation (sponsored by our local store at Shoemaker Rd). We are awaiting a replacement part for slide damage incurred through a faulty part damaged by winter weather. This part will be provided and repaired at no cost to the Borough upon
receipt. We still anticipate a Summer 2021 opening which will provide access to newly-surfaced basketball Courts and new play equipment.

- Spruce Street basketball courts still remain closed down for the most part due to damage to the backboards discovered during the pandemic shutdown. Grant funds have been secured from PAHWF for a portion of the project seeking to resurface the courts and install new standards, however companion grant funding necessary to fund the full scope will not be available until later this year. The grant round will open in August. If successful, we will seek to begin work in the Fall, depending on a pending assessment of the existing paving. The assessment will provide prices for multiple options to remedy the surface cracks, including crack sealing and resurfacing and a complete tear-out and reinstallation.

- Preparations are underway to remedy damage to the Memorial Park playground caused by 2020 flooding. We have secured $7,000 in funding from local community sources and another $600 through fundraising associated with our Spring 5K. We will continue to align resources to re open the facility for the Summer. Equipment remains undamaged, but the protective surfacing is unsalvageable.

- $125,000 in grant funding has been secured through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for repairs to Sundstrom field, damaged extensively in the 2019 flood. We will be seeking design engineers to design the project for a bid later this season. Work will focus on repair of the backstop, retaining walls, dugouts, spectator areas and associated utilities in those locations. This funding was made possible through the diligent support of Representative Tim Hennessey and Senator Bob Mensch.

- Natural Lands Trust is currently working on a stewardship and replanting plan for Riverfront Park to address restoration of the understory and plant diversity. This project is funded in-full through a grant they hold from William Penn Foundation.

- The Fountain of Youth Spray Park will operate this season beginning June 4th, daily from 10:30 AM to 7 PM.

Please feel free to contact me with questions about these projects and any other facilities about which you would like to make inquiry.

Sincerely,

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