

Good Morning,

Please see below for an update on park projects and infrastructure.

The parks were hit hard by the 9/1/21 flood though damage by comparison to 2019 and 2020 floods is only moderate. 6 feet of water covered Memorial Park. The Spray Park only took on about 6 inches of water and the Memorial Park Island only took on about 1 inch of water. Riverfront Park was almost completely under to the full extent of the documented floodway. Conditions are as follows.

- Spray Park will be closed for the rest of the season. The season was scheduled to conclude after 9/6/21 anyway. The only significant outcome anticipated from the spray park flooding at this time is the pumps will need to be serviced as water reached the motors.
- Clean up of debris will commence in both parks throughout the following week. A large number of fallen trees are across the Riverfront paths and large deposits of mud and silt are in all areas. We will focus on Memorial Park as we prepare for the 9/11/21 Pet Fair to be held there.
- Ballfield damage in Memorial Park was significant on Field #2 and minor on fields #1 and #3. Overall, we would rate this as moderate damage. No damage to backstops was noted.
- Bark Park fencing was laid over again as in previous floods, though no replacement was conducted on site since the previous flood, so the net loss is negligible.
- The new site into which the Memorial Park playground is to be installed fared very well, so we anticipate the relocation will be a wise move. That work is scheduled to begin 9/7/21. In advance of this work, Parks and Rec crew have begun to clear the damaged rubber surfacing from the site and stockpile fill for site restoration and grading. Barring any difficulty in securing materials such as playground mulch, we anticipate a completion date of October 3.
- The Riverfront Park pedestrian bridge at Keystone Blvd also fared well through the storm. We do not see significant damage to the embankment to the extent that it would affect the engineering plans for embankment armoring and restoration, which are ongoing. Preliminary plans have been received and are being reviewed. We will put the project to bid as soon as plans are confirmed.

New grants have opened up and submission is in process for the following:

PAHWF - Replacement and reorientation of playground equipment at Washington/West Park - \$25,000

PMRPC – Spruce Street Basketball Court resurfacing - \$25,000

We are still awaiting word on grants submitted to DCED and DCNR for Memorial Park Bridge Restoration. Announcements of those grant awards are expected for October.

Memorial Park Bridge design continues utilizing \$45,000 in funding from PAHWF. The survey work is done and the bridge design has commenced. The bridge location will be moved North up the waterway to provide for a better connection for ADA access.

The Pottstown Veterans' Island Group and Vietnam Veterans have been hard at work on the war memorials on the Island in Memorial Park. We are grateful and proud of all their hard work. Most recently, they have arranged extensive landscaping around the bandstand and replaced and repaired a number of bricks there and repointed stone work. They will be affixing bronze plaques to the bandstand in the near future to rededicate the bandstand as a memorial to the Korean War. Tree work has been completed to trim up trees around the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. A walk of honor has been installed at the WWII Memorial connecting the cannon to the memorial. Bricks laid there are engraved by sponsors with custom messages. Additional brick courses will be laid in the future and the opportunity to engrave bricks exists. Contact Parks and Rec. to be put in touch with the organizers. Perhaps most importantly, a plaque honoring Sgt. Anthony J. Marchione, born in Pottstown, has been installed on the WWII Memorial (photo attached).

Anthony Marchione served his country as in the Pacific Theater during WWII as an aerial gunner. He holds the distinction of being the last American soldier to die in action during WWII. On August 18, 1945, while aboard a recon flight, he was killed by Japanese fighters who refused surrender and fired upon the flight. At the 9/25/21 Pottstown Veterans' Community Day to be held in Memorial Park, the plaque will be dedicated and his memory honored. In attendance will be his surviving sisters.

Upcoming Park Events:

- Pottstown Pet Fair 9/11/21 in Memorial park from 10 AM to 2 PM
- Relay Bark For Life in Memorial Park 9/18/21 from 2 PM to 7 PM
- CCLU Latin Festival at Riverfront Park 9/18/21 from 12 PM to 7 PM
- Pottstown Veterans' Community Day 9/25/21 in Memorial Park on the island from 11 AM to 1 PM

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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