

Good Afternoon,

Please find below a list of projects/developments and updates in the Parks and Recreation Department for the month of September.

- As noted previously at the Sept. Council Meeting, Memorial and Riverfront parks were flooded by the Sept. 1-2 tropical depression. Damages were primarily suffered in the southern portion of Memorial Park, which was under 4 to 6 feet of water. Riverfront Park, endured little lasting damage though it too was under water. In Memorial Park, The Bark Park fencing was once again laid over. This fencing had been up-righted from the 2020 flood and limited operation of the Bark Park was underway until this flood. Currently, the Bark Park is closed. Previous repairs were executed in-house, so we have not lost a significant amount monetarily with the damage to the facility. Memorial Ballfields #1 and #2 were also damaged. Memorial Ballfield #1 is now operational, having only required 10 tons of new infield mix and two days of work from our staff. Memorial #2 is closed for the season and will require 150 – 200 tons of replacement infield mix as well as re-seeding. However, Memorial #2 was not stripped down to the sub-base as in previous floods. There was no damage sustained to the island, workshop or BMX track. Spray Park pumps were submerged partially and will require servicing before the 2022 season. All things considered, the park fared well in this storm, with less overall damage compared to the 2019 and 2020 floods. Recognition is due to the staff for having foresight to shut off electrical service to susceptible areas prior to the storm, preventing costly damage to those electrical service locations.
- Several successful community events were held in Memorial Park in September
 - o 10th Annual Pet Fair 9/11/21, which included dedication of the Bill Sharon Memorial Garden in Memorial Park. Bill Sharon was a proud life-long Pottstownian and founder of the Pet Fair event. He worked for the Borough in licensing and Inspection until his death in 2018. The garden area of the park was built using funds raised by the Pet Fair in 2018 and 2019. The event was well-attended and an overall success.
 - o Relay Bark for Life on 9/18/21 was hosted in Memorial Park by the American Cancer Society and was a great success for them.
 - o The Pottstown Veterans' Community Day was held 9/25/21 on the island and included honors paid to three local veterans of the armed services: SFC Robert Edmunds US Army; Capt. David Garner, US Marines; and SPC Michael Gmitter US Army. The event also featured dedication of the newly refurbished bandstand as a memorial to the Korean War. Also, there was a dedication ceremony attended by the surviving family of Anthony Marchione for the plaque highlighting his service to our country during WWII. The plaque is installed on the WWII Memorial endcap. As noted in the previous report, Marchione was a Pottstown native and the last American serviceman to die in combat during WWII.
 - o CCLU held their annual Latin Heritage Festival in Riverfront Park on 9/18/21 with very good attendance
- Memorial Park Playground equipment has been relocated to its new location just north of the Fountain of Youth Spray Park. Over the next 3 weeks, the project will be finished with re-grading to allow for ADA access and installation of the safety surfacing, consisting of engineered wood mulch. This work will be completed by the Parks and Recreation staff. This location is between 3.5 and 4 ft higher in elevation from the previous site. We judge this raised elevation and choice of surfacing will make the site better resistant to future flood damages.
- A grant was submitted to PAHWF for playground replacement in Washington West Park. We will hear a determination from the organization of the status of the event later in the Fall.
- Grant announcements for applications to DCED GTRP and DCNR programs will be announced in October. We have \$300,000 requested collectively from these sources for the Memorial Park Pedestrian Bridge project. In the meantime engineering and design for the work is still underway utilizing grant funds from PAHWF

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions about these items or others.

Sincerely,

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