

Good Afternoon,

Please find below an update on recent parks infrastructure projects and other departmental updates for the month of November 2021.

- Volunteers planted 11 bare roots trees with help from Borough staff on 11/21/21 in Riverfront Park utilizing the Tree Tenders Bare Roots grant. This was completed at no cost to The Borough. These trees replace a portion of the ash trees removed in the past two years due to emerald ash borer damage. Species planted include Catalpa, Elm Hybrid, Heritage Oak, Yellow Wood and Red Maple. Two trees were also planted in Potts Drive Park and 4 trees in Memorial Park in conjunction with this project the following week, making for a total of 17 new trees with 1.5" - 2" caliper.
- Borough staff and contractors began installation of Memorial Park / Spray Park security improvements utilizing ARPA funds. This project will install a number of cost-saving measures and security cameras in the vicinity of the Island and Spray Park in the northern portion of Memorial Park. Cameras will provide security coverage for the new playground, spray park and pavilion. This will allow us to catch and prosecute vandals and also catch unauthorized formalized usage of the pavilion that would otherwise require a permit. Individuals caught can therefore be prosecuted for theft of services. Additionally, cost-saving measures for the spray park will decrease the need for staffed overtime during the spray park's operating season. These measures include an automated backwashing system for the spray park and automated door locks for the restrooms. These improvements will help to address long-standing concerns with cost control and wear-and-tear on the facilities at our park system's most-visited amenities.
- Illuminated Snowflakes were put up on High Street for the holiday season the week of November 15th.
- Parks and Recreation will assist with the installation of a 20 ft Norway Spruce Holiday Tree in Smith Family Plaza on Dec 1.
- Work was authorized to proceed on relocating the transformer at Ricketts Community Center to alleviate water infiltration issues into the gymnasium. The selected contractor is awaiting procurement of a vault and will proceed with the work once it is received.
- Preliminary plans from Remington & Vernick Engineers were reviewed for improvements at Sundstrom Field. These plans will be used to post a bid for improvements to the facility to be executed with funds received from the Commonwealth Financing authority in the amount of \$125,000. Plans focus on improving drainage on site and replacing dug outs with sturdy, flood-resistant designs. Also, the design plans include replacement of the backstop and repair / replacement of the raised spectator areas behind the backstop. These areas are located atop a deteriorating cement pad which can be redesigned for better ease of access and user safety. We will seek funding from the MLB Baseball Tomorrow Grant to complement this funding and scope of work.
- Between 100 to 150 tons of #6 rip rap stone was secured at no cost to the Borough from the King Street Bridge project. This stone will be used in streambank stabilization projects upcoming in Riverfront Park at the pedestrian bridge. This cost-saving measure should decrease the material cost of the project.
- A grant request was submitted to the EPA for Brownfield Clean-up funding for Pollock Park in the amount of approximately \$317,000. This funding will be used to remediate contaminated soil so that Pollock Park can return to daily operation as a park and further development of park enhancements as identified by the 2017 Master Plan can be pursued. See next item.
- New contamination guidelines were adopted by the PA DEP on 11/20/21 which will allow us to proceed with the Pollock Park remediation project. These new standards (MSC's) will allow us to drop benzo(A)pyrene from the list of contaminants we need to remediate on-site, opening a pathway to proceed with the project. However, new standards for vapor intrusion do require that we run an additional vapor intrusion evaluation on site before submitting. We will proceed with that work forthwith. In the

meantime, we have submitted a grant request to US EPA for funding to complete remediation as noted in previous item

- Unfortunately, Commonwealth Financing Authority funding through the Greenways ,Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) was denied for our request for \$250,000 in funding for the Memorial Park pedestrian Bridge Project. No elaborative explanation was given for the denial. However, \$200,000 was secured from Montgomery County for the Project earlier this year and a request to DCNR for companion funding in the amount of \$125,000 is still pending. We expect to be notified of the outcome of the request any day now.
- Site reviews were conducted in Borough Parks 11/28 and 11/30 to update our Comprehensive Park Plan. The updated plan should be available for the January Infrastructure report and will include site inventories, assessment of needed repairs and suggestions for future site development as appropriate.
- The 13th Annual Pottstown Polar Bear Swim and New Year's Bonfire is scheduled for 1/1/22 in Riverfront Park. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and participants may plunge into the frigid waters of the Schuylkill promptly at 10:30 AM assuming the river is not frozen. We hope to see you there.

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