

Good Morning,

Please see below for infrastructure updates and upcoming projects for the Pottstown Parks and Recreation System.

- The parks and recreation crew have finished the primary work on staging materials in Riverfront Park for tub grinding. We do apologize for the eyesore on the Riverfront Park River walk trail. You will find a large quantity of tree trunks, limbs and deadfall piled at a central location in the park along this path. These materials are comprised of dead ash trees cut down due to Emerald Ash Borer infestation, as well as materials deposited in the park from the last three major floods (2019 through 2021). These materials will be ground up to make way for new plantings in the park. Due to the early arrival of Spring temperatures, we will have to wait to execute grinding as the heavy equipment cannot efficiently access the site under the current wet conditions. We have tentatively scheduled the work for July when we typically begin to encounter dryer conditions between rainfalls; however if conditions become favorable before then, we will have the contractors move on the work as available. Grinding will take place for two days, removing as much materials as possible in that timeframe.
- March 10 the crew will begin removal of playground equipment at Washington West Park. This playground is being replaced and reoriented with funds from PAHWF and the David Yeck Foundation. Upon removal of the equipment, we will need to await delivery and installation of the new equipment. There will be a period of time during which the site is empty of equipment. When the project is completed, there will be new playground equipment for users ages 5-12, including swings and a rotating element. Plans also include a small picnic pavilion (12' x 12') and ADA parking.
- Grant applications were submitted for MontCo 2040 for the Riverfront Park bridge and embankment as discussed at last month's meeting. Later this month we will submit a DCNR application for park improvements to Chestnut and South Street Parks as discussed at this month's meeting. Information on that project is as follows: The type of improvements for the parks are replacement and reorientation of playground equipment at Chestnut and South Street Parks. Reorientation will free up more open space in the parks for free play, primarily in Chestnut Street Park. In South, the orientation changes will be geared more towards creating more-adequate ADA access. Better ADA access to play areas is the second aim of the project. The project will also include tree trimming and basketball court resurfacing at South Street Park. Drainage of the playgrounds will be addressed in the installation process as well. The final piece will be removal of the Chestnut Street bandstand which is perpetually in need of repair and is under-utilized, unless we get some kind of major objection to its removal between now and project execution. We are requesting \$86,822 from DCNR. We are matching that amount for 2024, with \$60,000 coming from the Cash Capital Savings and \$26,000 from the regular budgeted Capital Expenses. However, we will be seeking matching funds from DCED GTRP later this year in the amount of \$87,000 - to \$110,00 for the same project. If secured we will be able to decrease our match (possibly to \$0) and move up project execution to 2023. If we are not successful in our 2022 DCED request, we can always apply again in 2023 for the purpose of decreasing match for the estimated 2024 execution. We may also use DCED funds to enhance the project with the substitution of poured-in-place playground surfacing for engineered wood fiber, hence the range of the DCED request amount noted above. We technically have 4 years for a DCNR grant, so there is time to seek match funding to decrease our obligations through other possible funding streams, including PAHWF and private donors.
- Delineation and Clean-up plans were submitted to PA DEP for Pollock Park on February 15, 2022. PA DEP will have 90 days from the date of receipt to review and render an acceptance of the report or request additional information. In the meantime will be pursuing an application for State Funding through the Industrial Site Reuse Program to complete remediation. We are planning to budget adequate match for this project for 2023. An estimate for remediation of contaminants was made at \$396,000, for which we would need to provide \$99,000 in matching funds for the above-mentioned grant. Match funds could be

sought in the meantime from other sources to defray the Borough match, though it is expected some match will still be required.

- The Department is in the midst of seasonal hiring for Park Maintenance, Summer Program and Manatawny Green staff. Applications are posted at pottstown.org.
- Work in the coming weeks will include seasonal preparation of the Memorial Park Ballfields and Manatawny Green. Work at Memorial will include final restoration work for Memorial Field #2, damaged in the 2021 flood, and turf management consisting of the application of fertilizers and pre emergents. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about these projects or others.

Sincerely,

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Borough of Pottstown
Parks and Recreation Director
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