

Good Afternoon,

Please see below for an update on items from the Pottstown Parks and Recreation Department for the month of February.

We have some new timelines to contend with for our current infrastructure projects in Chestnut Street Park and Memorial Park. At the last report, Memorial Park pedestrian bridge replacement, which is funded by grants from DCNR, Montgomery County and PAHWF, was slated to proceed in the Summer of 2023; however, project execution will need to be moved to the Summer of 2024 based on the fabrication lead time required for the pre-fab steel bridge that will be utilized to complete the project. The reported lead time from the bridge manufacturer (Con-Tech) is 50 weeks. Fortunately, this bridge and the abutments can be purchased directly from Con-Tech through the COSTARS cooperative purchase program. This will allow the Borough to make the purchase now with a set price and therefore begin the fabrication process. We will not need to bid these material costs and deal with the associated delay. Once we have a firm date for the bridge delivery, we can time the bid component for the installation accordingly.

As we are pushing the Memorial Park project execution back a year, we will therefore move-up execution of the Chestnut Street Park project. Chestnut St Park project is funded by DCNR and DCED grants and was originally slated for 2024 execution, but we will execute the work in 2023 based on the above-mentioned delay. This project will replace playground equipment and increase accessible features of the park. The department is gathering quotes for professional services to proceed with the final design work, bidding and construction oversight services. We expect to initiate a contract for the work this March.

Riverfront Park waterway and pedestrian bridge work will commence early this fall, which is also slightly later than anticipated, as it was determined that a GP11 permit would be required from PA DEP to proceed with replacement of the bridge deck. That permit will be submitted this March. If the permit is returned earlier than the usual review period, we will be able to commence immediately. The fall execution date above is based on DEP taking the maximum review period, which is not always the case.

The maintenance crew assisted with work at the Little League complex to clean-up overgrown areas and remove accumulated yard waste so that the Pottsgrove Pottstown Little League organization can maintain the facility in good order for what they anticipate will be a robust season with growing registration. The maintenance staff also spent several days removing tree stumps from areas throughout Riverfront Park. These were stumps left over from ash tree removal in 2021 and 2022.

This month the Pottstown Parks and Recreation Department will receive the annual Excellence in Recreation and Parks Award from the Pennsylvania Parks and Recreation Society (PRPS) at the Annual PRPS Meeting and Conference in Hershey, Pa. Pottstown Parks and Rec. was nominated for the award based on the successful 2022 Play Streets Program run from June to August. We are very proud of this accomplishment and would like to pay special recognition to Andrea Graham, Programs Coordinator, who did much of the planning and execution work for the program.

If you have questions on these items or other ongoing projects, please feel free to contact me.

Thank You,

Michael A. Lenhart CPRP CPSI

Parks and Recreation Director

Borough of Pottstown

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