

Good Afternoon,

Please see below for infrastructure update on the Pottstown Parks and Recreation System for the February 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting

We have had a few updates with progress made on some ongoing large park infrastructure projects:

- We were notified in January of a successful grant award from Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Recovery Funds in the amount of \$239,300 for improvements to Chestnut Street Park. This project is also funded by a \$125,000 grant from Pa Dept. of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Greenways Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) secured in the Fall of 2022. The GTRP funding is for park improvements at both Chestnut St Park and South Street Parks. The South Street Park project is also funded by DCNR C2P2 (Community Conservations Partnership[Program) in the amount of \$85,200. Collectively, the Borough has secured \$449,500 in grant funding for these two parks and will commence with execution of the projects beginning with Chestnut Street Park in 2023. It is likely that these projects will not be executed in tandem as the DCNR funding sources require that each project be bid separately. We will plan to proceed with the Chestnut St Park improvements first in 2023 and move on to South Street Park improvements afterwards (starting later in 2023 or early in 2024).
- We were notified of approval of our PA DEP permit for design for the Memorial Park pedestrian Bridge project the week of 1/16/23. We will proceed with work on this project in 2023 to replace the pedestrian bridge in Memorial Park and make improvements to the Manatawny Creek waterway embankments in the vicinity of the bridge. This project is funded with DCNR and MontCo 2040 funds in the amount of \$332,165. \$45,000 in grant funding from Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation (PAHWF) was secured and spent for project engineering in 2022 bringing the project to the execution phase for 2023. The next steps will be submission of the design to our DCNR funders for approval.

We held a very successful New Year's Day Bonfire and Polar Bear Swim in the Schuylkill River on 1/1/23 in Riverfront Park. We had a record number of registered participants totaling 134 and made \$751 in gross sales of concessions and T-shirts. We received excellent volunteer support from Deb Penrod, Councilor Lisa Vanni (second ward), Patty McPhie, The Philadelphia Steam Fire Company and The Pottstown GoFourth! Organization and are very thankful for their assistance. The event also saw the return of a feature that has been absent for a number of years, which was live performance of the National Anthem by local youth from the Pottstown High School. Mayor Stephanie Henrick provided lovely opening remarks and we feel that the event stands are one of the greatest in the event's 14-year history. Following the event, we partnered with Manatawny Athletic Club to host the first Polar 5K run in Riverfront Park and had 128 runners attend.

Maintenance work was primarily focused on seasonal servicing of our mowing and landscaping equipment in advance of the 2023 season, which is something that occurs regularly this time of year, but several days in January were also devoted to cleaning up litter and debris in Memorial and Riverfront Parks associated with vacated encampments. From Memorial Park staff removed approximately 12 yards of debris, which is a significant accomplishment.

If you have questions about these or other Pottstown Park projects, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Parks and Recreation Director
Borough of Pottstown
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