

Parks and Recreation Director's Report

May/June 2023

Crew Management

- Met with each Buildings and Grounds employees to learn their vision for our parks and pathways.
- Began a daily reporting system to track time spent on each task to learn current tasks and to help with evaluating for efficiencies.
- Began meeting weekly with staff.
- Created a list of training to help develop the staff's skill set.
- Set up technology station (computer, ipad and printer) at Burton Park for MacDonald and Crew to access.
- Hired three seasonal employees.

Outreach/Partnerships

- Met with members of Unity Spiritual Community and chair Wanty to continue to build a strong partnership in the management of Wycliffe Park and the surrounding landscape.
- Met with Jessie Schulte of Kent Conservation District about past invasive species treatments and volunteer workdays. Developed a plan on how to work together into the future.
- Met with Wes Landon from Native Edge and Lulu Brown from Cascade Library to review the plan for the outdoor gathering space.
- Met with Community Officers, Deputy Dieppa and Deputy Chase, to learn about the past and current law enforcement issues within the parks. Discussed security needs within the parks.
- Hosted two oak wilt programs at Burton Park with chair Wanty's leadership. One was directed to neighbors, while the other was for the West Michigan Conservation Network.
- Working with Calvin College to research different monitoring methods for detection of tick-borne diseases within the community.
- Met with Cascade Community Foundation to discuss potential projects and fundraising opportunities.
- Responded to 27 phone calls/emails from constituents concerning parks related issues.



Volunteer Program

- Met with Jeanine Heibel to discuss her experience as a dedicated volunteer to Cascade Township Parks and potential increase in volunteer activities.

Committees

- Met with Chair Wanty to learn the priorities of the Parks Committee. Assisted Chair Wanty and Secretary Engel in updating and getting board approval of the Parks Committee bylaws.
- Met with potential new Parks Committee member Bill Otten.
- Met with Chair Rissi of Pathways to learn the history of the Pathways Committee and current priorities.
- Assumed leadership of the Thornapple SAD. Summer Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) treatments were done on Wednesday 6/9/23. Contractor was selected to install hazard and navigation markers upstream of the dam.
- Met with millage subcommittee before the departure of Manager Swayze.

Projects

- Met with constituents concerned about the over population of deer around Burton Park. Developing a plan on how to address the issue. Waiting to hear back from DNR Wildlife Biologist.
- Worked with the crew to address numerous maintenance issues at Tassell Park and Virgil Nishimura Westdale Memorial Park.
- Developed a project list with MacDonald for the summer and fall of 2023.
- Developed a landscape plan for Tassell Park and medians within Centennial Park Overlay District. Began the process of securing plants.
- Developed landscape plan for the DTE tree planting. Began the process of trying to locate native trees.
- Met with engineer Thorne to discuss various engineering projects within the pathways and parks.

