

**NORTH HUNTINGDON TOWNSHIP
DEPT. OF PARKS & RECREATION
MONTHLY MEETING REPORT**



PARKS & RECREATION

DAN MILLER

DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF PARKS & RECREATION

MAY 19, 2022

The following report has been submitted for your review on behalf of the Dept. of Parks and Recreation. As always, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office so that we may assist you.

PARKS OPERATIONS

Lincoln Acres Park tree cutting is ongoing to clear dead locust trees in danger of falling. Assistance from DPW and the township bucket truck is appreciated.

Labor staff will start its painting work to park maintenance facilities that are in need of sprucing up to not become an eyesore.

Awning area at Indian Lake has received confirmation for spring install this month for early morning use for our senior population and park loyalists after morning walks.

Parks operations have made enforcement requests for various ordinance violations in the parks including but not limited to tobacco, dogs off leash, motorized vehicles, where park users are not adhering to the regulations.

Mowing of parks, fields, common areas and grass maintenance is a priority now that the season is upon us. Efforts have been strained a bit with the labor staff keeping up due to early season wet weather.

Park staff recently installed new batteries on all auto flush units in parks restrooms providing for more efficient water usage and less costly repairs and maintenance work.

Pavilion reservations and park requests are being handled with frequency as more residents look to a summer in the park in the wake of reservations being cancelled due to the pandemic concern over the previous season.

Lions Park improvements continue. We are preparing for outdoor fitness equipment and new park benches later this summer.

Overseeding of athletic and soccer fields is ongoing while play is active this spring.

3.

Additional stone was placed along curbing at Westmoreland City Park where erosion and parking have become a minor issue.

Most seasonal summer staff look to be hired this month. We still are accepting applications.

Rubber safety surface projects at park playgrounds (Penns Woods and Lincoln Acres) look to receive attention now and identifying park improvements.

Oak Hollow Park will anticipate receiving curbing attention along its roadways with the installation of fresh top soil and seed and or aggregate stone to ease vehicle safety issues and restore areas from winter damage and maintenance deliveries.

Rolling and aeration of athletic fields are scheduled again for this month. This cultural practice will allow for a safer turf for those using the fields.

Oak Hollow Park pond is receiving appropriate doses of algaecides that is needed to keep water fresh while Indian Lake fountains are to be installed later this month around the Memorial Day holiday to assist with water movement.

A spring fertilizer application to the soccer fields at Oak Hollow Park and ballfield at Penns Wood Park has been applied this month.

Seneca Pavilion is on the “to do” list for pressure washing to clean this structure from the elements of the winter season.

Beginning this month, work orders are being discussed accordingly for high grass accounts, creek debris and tree removal. Parks is working cooperatively with Code Enforcement, DPW and utilizing the Traiser system to ensure the matters are resolved promptly.

Spring athletic field renovations are receiving seasonal attention. Community ball fields will have infields incorporated with conditioners and outfields rolled, aerated, fertilized and over-seeded where needed. It remains our staff priority to have fields safe and playable for local organizations to participate when play returns.

Working around the crazy spring weather patterns is always a challenge this time of year and the parks mowing schedule has remained consistent and will continue as conditions become more favorable. Scheduled and budgeted overtime will allow us the opportunity to catch up if necessary.

Normal seasonal work continues and staff is operating its daily maintenance duties and best maintenance practices with pride and diligence.

RECREATION PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Our spring wildflower walks have concluded at Braddock's Trail Park.

Our program partners at Jump Start Sports are being discussed offering youth sports activities in soccer and t-ball this summer.

Spring/Summer Program Guides were not published this spring and have been displaced by efforts to utilize social media platforms and cooperative efforts with the school district.

Outdoor movies in the parks have been scheduled for June, July & August with the implementation of our new movie equipment making it inviting for the community to watch outdoors or from the comfort of their vehicles in true drive-in fashion. Theme nights are also being discussed.

The Recreation Advisory Board is actively recruiting new student representatives and board members to add and assist in planning, promoting and advocating recreational opportunities for the township.

Disc Golf at Oak Hollow Parks has witnessed plenty of activity. Although the course is still being developed, we look to organize league play later this summer.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPT. NOTES

Director was named to the PA. Parks Maintenance Institute Advisory Board for a new two year term.

NHT will participate in the WCPRA Parks Challenge where county residents are asked to explore local parks and hike/walk logging their distance for recognition.

NHT was named the host facility for the 2021 *Relay For Life of Norwin* Community Cancer Awareness event this summer at Indian Lake Park. Planning is about to begin for this national community program.

Recent site visits were completed on Turf Mgmt./Fields, & Maintenance in preparation for a summer workshop where Director will serve as a special instructor.

Best Maintenance Practices are constantly being researched and reviewed.

Day to day office duties continue with diligence and integrity.