

October 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Lisa Sprinkle, Marketing Coordinator
Re: October Staff Report

Executive Director (Lorrie Pearson)

- I have appreciated the hours so many have spent the last few weeks helping me acclimate. I have met most of the staff from each department, toured each staffed site, and have started on my goal to spend time with a different department or at a different site at least once each week. Toward that goal, on October 11, I participated in the native seed collection along the KRT, saw the new fencing at Homer Lake, and met the Interpretive Center's ornate box turtle. On October 12, I learned a bit about the Botanical Gardens and toured the very popular spooky trail.
- I have attended or plan to attend a number of regional and CCFPD events: October 14, the MTD unveiling of their new hydrogen fuel cell buses and to thank IDOT Secretary Osman for our recent ITEP grant award for the KRT; October 15, the IAPD Best of the Best gala in Wheeling to honor award-winner volunteers Fred and Sandy Lu Newport; October 16, the donor-appreciation tour of the Buffalo Trace, followed by a volunteer-appreciation and meet-and greet at the River View Retreat Center; October 21, the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting.

Planning and Construction Department (Mike Daab and Mike Fry)

- The Elks Lake roof replacement project is complete. (see photos)



- The Construction Department has made substantial progress on the Lake of the Woods canoe and kayak access at the Izaak Walton Cabin. The Upper Sangamon River Conservancy River Runners took advantage of the new construction, and the group of 13 floated from Lake of the Woods to the Village of Mahomet's Greenway access. The trip of 3 miles took less than two hours and was clear of any major obstructions.

- The quarter mile multi-use asphalt path through Stidham Woods was milled and resurfaced, and parking spaces were added to the parking lot that serves as the eastern terminus of the 3.3 mile bike trail.
- The high number of engagements with the multi-use path and the canoe and kayak launch posts on social media demonstrate the popularity of outdoor recreational amenities in our community.
- Michael Daab and Peter Goodspeed met with IL Department of Natural Resources staff to tour the areas of the Salt Fork River watershed where Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funding has been utilized as well as future use of the funding is proposed. The NRDA oversight committee will meet in October to discuss and extension to the IGA with CCFPD, which is currently set to expire on December 31st, 2021. They will also discuss providing additional funding for proposed land acquisition and restoration projects.
- Bridgette Moen attended the IPRA Supervisor Symposium in Bartlett, IL, on September 10th.
- Staff attended the IPRA Learning Lab: "Communicating Value and Drawing People In" on September 23rd. This presentation featured speakers from both forest preserve and conservation districts sharing what they have done to draw people into their organizations in the areas of marketing, programming, services, and volunteers. The session was sponsored by IPRA's new Forest Preserve and Conservation Committee.
- Michael Daab attended "The Diamond of Care Approach to Loss Prevention and Liability Control", a section of PDRMA's Virtual Risk Management Speaker Series, on October 1st.
- Bridgette Moen provided a comprehensive plan update to the Citizens Advisory Committee at the October meeting.
- The Sustainability Committee met to discuss outreach efforts, carbon and waste reduction, and developing and end of the year report.
- Construction is underway on the parking lot and detention area in St. Joseph and signage is being fabricated for the rest nodes. The KRT Amenities project is on schedule to finish by the end of the year.
- Staff attended a kick-off meeting with IDOT for KRT Phase 2c construction in Ogden. Assuming there are no delays from environmental reviews, the bid can be let in early 2022.
- The DCEO Tourism grant application for the Willow Pond Renovation has been submitted. There is no official timeline for announcements; however, the next round of rolling applications is due on December 31st, so staff anticipate an update before then.

Business and Finance (John Baker)

- Received an update from Champaign County on the District's projected 2021 EAV which now exceeds \$4.6 billion. Based on the EAV, the 2022 property tax increase will approximate \$155,000.
- Towards finalizing the 2022 district budget request, met with the IT committee to finalize the 2022 IT request, met with departments and HQ staff about rental fees and policies, also met with Chris Edmondson, and David Sebestik regarding 2022 golf fees and current golf financials.

- Finished initial review and entry of all 2022 budget requests. Sent reports to each department for final review and comment. Began reviewing department narratives, 2022 objectives, and third quarter program budget results towards preparation of the 2022 Management Plan and Budget.
- Prepared the District’s 2021 pay 2022 tentative tax levy ordinance based on current and future District operating needs and upon projected cash balances for affected District funds.
- Updated and posted the Open Meetings Act compensation report on the District website. Responded to a FOIA request for employee total compensation for all 2021 and 2022 employees.
- Signed contract and began implementation of the KnowBe4 security application to handle malware and ransom attacks.

Human Resources (Dara Edgington)

- The HR department participated in the 2022 Park & Recreation salary survey administered by HR Source.
- The IPRA’s newly minted Forest Preserve and Conservation Section held a “Communicating Value and Drawing People In” webinar on September 23rd, which Dara attended. Our fellow forest preserve professionals shared their ideas and best practices on everything from recruitment to social media coordination. Dara also attended the regular Forest Preserve and Conservation Section Meeting held on September 16th.
- District employees are currently wrapping up Slip, Trip, and Fall assessments on PDRMA’s new loss control platform.
- For the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, HR attended an in-person recruitment event hosted by the Champaign Chamber of Commerce on September 21st (pictures attached). Attendance was down slightly from when the event was last held in the summer of 2019, but overall it was great exposure for the District.



- On September 21st, Dara attended the “Next Generation Leaders: How to Attract, Engage & Retain a 5-Generation Workforce” webinar hosted by the Central Illinois Human Resources Group.

Marketing (Lisa Sprinkle)

- Media coverage last month included:
 - **Champaign County Forest Preserve District picks Urbana official as new executive director**
<https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/parks-recreation/champaign-county-forest->

[preserve-district-picks-urbana-official-as-new-executive-director/article_4f1a1992-05ca-5d69-88d6-50568579abd9.html](https://www.wcia.com/ciliving-tv/exploring-the-outdoors-with-champaign-county-forest-preserve-district/)

- **Pearson: New position with forest preserve “great combination” of strengths and passion**
<https://illinoisnewsroom.org/pearson-new-position-with-forest-preserve-great-combination-of-strengths-and-passions/>
- **Live your best 19th century life at this Prairie Stories event on September 11**
https://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/live_your_best_19th_century_life_at_this_prairie_stories_event_on_september/
- **Exploring the outdoors with Champaign County Forest Preserve District**
<https://www.wcia.com/ciliving-tv/exploring-the-outdoors-with-champaign-county-forest-preserve-district/>
- **Benson, Gonda record hole-in-one at Lake of the Woods**
<https://mahometdaily.com/benson-gonda-record-hole-in-one-at-lake-of-the-woods/>
Inside Out | Monarchs are on the move, how do they know it’s time?
https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/parks-recreation/inside-out-monarchs-are-on-the-move-how-do-they-know-it-s-time/article_de9a4f0f-9e99-5b15-9517-e8317efb4dc0.html
- **Pond Upgrade in the works**
https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/parks-recreation/pond-upgrade-in-works-at-middle-fork-river-forest-preserve/article_d0daf73f-7d4e-5b4a-a57c-40f2ac6bea3d.html
- **Explore More museum ticket loans partner with EPL, Illinois libraries to improve youth cultural literacy**
<https://dailynorthwestern.com/2021/10/01/city/explore-more-museum-ticket-loans-partner-with-epl-illinois-libraries-to-improve-youth-cultural-literacy/>
- Lisa is working with Lorrie on a new video series, “Exploring with Lorrie”. The videos will follow Lorrie as she familiarizes herself with the preserves and activities throughout the District as she engages viewers for their feedback. The first two videos show Lorrie helping with native seed collection on the KRT and inviting others to volunteer in future collections and touring the “Spooky Trail” in the Botanical Garden at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve.

- Social media numbers continue to increase.

	FACEBOOK	+/-	INSTAGRAM	+/-	TWITTER	+/-
CCFPD	5,668	+94	2,629	+45	563	+9
KRT	3,423	+39	123	+10	131	+1
MGP	4,414	+21	1,193	+7	252	+4
HLIC	2,928	+25				
GC	1,752	+13	325	+2	103	+2
FPPF	481	+15				

Volunteer Coordinator (Sue Gallo)

- With the return to M&E event programming, Sue worked with M&E staff to improve the liability waiver completion rate for event volunteers. This was the final volunteer area to assess and Sue believes the CCFPD now has a very high level of volunteer liability waiver completion.
- The “Thank you for volunteering” water bottle distribution continues, and has been very well received with approximately three times the response than to the volunteer appreciation event! Many volunteers commented on how nice it was, and a few sent emails like this one:

“Just picked it up, what a beautiful bottle! Thanks for providing all the wonderful volunteer opportunities and for the bottle as well!”

- Anniversary of first volunteering post cards got sent out for the first time instead of birthday cards.
- September had 9 new volunteers apply, and 7 volunteers newly gave time and we worked with volunteers from the following organizations: Ryan Dallas Real Estate, Fisher Fabulous 4-Hers, Phi Gamma Nu, and U of I Rotaract. Thanks to the Natural Resources team who hosted a seed collection event attended by 30 volunteers of whom 23 were new to us, the Museum team who hosted Prairie stories that engaged 32 volunteers to provide a fabulous program for visitors, the Garden staff who supported a service event requested by Phi Gamma Nu and Middle Fork River staff in support of the river clean up event.



Grants and Development Specialist (Ryan Anderson)

CCFPD Applications

- DCEO – Tourism Attractions & Festivals Grant Program -- \$335,500
 - As noted earlier in this report, the application for this grant was submitted following approval by the board at its September meeting.
 - This is a grant opportunity funded through federal COVID bills and administered by DCEO to encourage a quick return to tourism. The scope of the application follows the capital improvements plan for Willow Pond at the Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, including grading the pond, replacing the liner, stabilizing the shoreline, and installing better fishing access nodes. The applications are rolling, but the funds decline with every round. District staff submitting the grant in the first round. The next round is due in December, so we anticipate some news before then. If the application score is too low for an award but meets a minimum score, it is rolled into the next round of judging.

Awarded Grants

- FPFH
 - Illinois Humanities- \$7,500
We received funds from Illinois Humanities to cover lost revenue for the Museum of the Grand Prairie related to Covid-19.

Lake of the Woods Golf Course (Chris Edmondson and Joie Torres)

- We had 4,648 rounds played in the month of September, despite losing a couple of days to heavy rains/lightning and also experiencing unseasonably warmer than normal temps. This is slightly lower than the total of September 2020 play (5,244), but well above the 5 year average of 3,535. As with rounds, revenue for the month held to a similar pattern (slightly lower than last year and significantly higher than the 5 year average). September revenue was \$105,564, as compared to \$114,385 in 2020, and a 5 year average of \$83,667. These numbers are consistent

with the National Golf Foundation reported average of 9% decline from 2020, across the country. This excerpt is from the NGF monthly report:

“But these results don’t mean golf demand is slipping.

A year ago, before coronavirus vaccinations were rolled out, summer vacations and other activities remained limited through the end of the summer. There was also very golf-friendly weather in most parts of the country into the fall and beyond.”

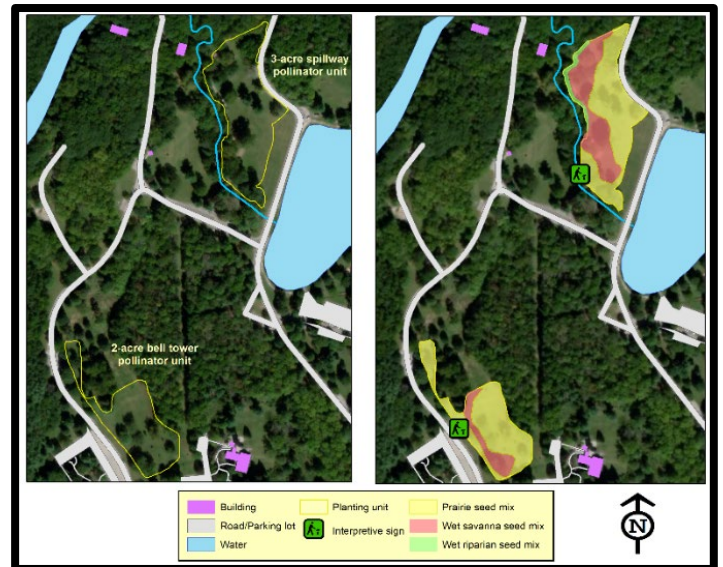
- The course hosted several events in the month of September, as listed in the chart below:

Outing	# of Players	21 Total Rev	21 Actual Merch
Piatt County FS	20	\$754.00	\$154.00
Mahomet Chamber of Commerce	72	\$3,290.00	\$360.00
AMBUCS	92	\$4,440.00	\$660.00
Grasshoppers	32	\$832.00	\$0.00
Apollo Conference Boys	42	\$1,260.00	

- September brings the end of our Association league play for the season. The Associations played every Wednesday, beginning the last week of April. The Women’s Association ended with a “Fun Day”, which was an 18-hole scramble, with mixed teams from the 9 and 18 Hole groups and a potluck lunch. The Men’s Association concluded with a grab-and-go dinner, followed by the annual Night Golf event on the Par 3 course. We had 105 paid members of the Men’s Association this year, and routinely had between 70 and 90 players each week. The 9 and 18 Hole Women’s Associations had 24 paid members between them, and generally had 10-15 players each week. We are exploring ways of increasing membership and participation in the Women’s Associations moving forward (i.e. different days, times, structure of league, recruitment, etc.).
- The Golf Committee met on September 23rd. It was the first time the committee had met in person in over a year. Items discussed included course projects, updates on the 2021 season, grounds update, volunteer opportunities, and committee member suggestions and recommendations.
- Lake of the Woods Golf Course was proud and honored to be named as the “People’s Choice - #1 Golf Course” by the News-Gazette. This is not an honor taken for granted, as we strive to be recognized by our patrons and community members each year, based on customer service and course conditions. The award we received is displayed in the Pro Shop. We also had photos and an article about the course and staff printed in the News-Gazette’s “Best of” edition.
- Finally, we wanted to thank Mary Ellen Wuellner for all of her contributions, guidance, and support of the golf course and District over the past 3.5 years. We wish her all of the best in her retirement. We are very excited to welcome Lorrie Pearson to the District and look forward to working with her to continue the development, growth and success of the golf course and its staff and facilities.

Natural Resources (Peter Goodspeed)

- In September, tree work continued with the removal of the final black locust trees in the unit south of the tree tunnel at Buffalo Trace. The next phase of this project will be burning brush piles and prepping the seed bed for cover crop planting.
- Some timber stand improvement also happened in the month of September at Lake of the Woods and Heron View. This involved the girdling and treatment of invasive or aggressive native trees in the natural areas, allowing more light to reach the understory for native plants.
- Field prepping began for the Pollinator Meadows project at Lake of the Woods. Turf grass was terminated below the lake impoundment and between HQ and Elks Lake. The next step of this project will be possibly duff burning and light disking for seed bed prep.
- Integrated pest management continued with more woody species follow-up resprout spraying. One notable project was 4.5 acres north of Odle Woods at Middle Fork. This winter clearing project was 13 acres total so 35% of the area was completed for first year follow-up. In August, staff mowed a number of sites for weed control and planting prep including several old fields at Buffalo Trace that will be planted to cover crop and ultimately converted to native grassland.
- Volunteer Work
 - Staff hosted a volunteer seed collection event at River Bend, collecting a large amount of Golden Alexander, a versatile plant for both woodland and prairie restorations. Staff also hosted a weekend volunteer event on National Public Lands Day at Homer Lake.



Museum and Education Department (Barb Garvey and Pam Leiter)

- Pam Leiter, Ryan Anderson, and Mary Ellen Wuellner met with a consultant from CCS to talk about their fundraising feasibility services for the nature center. Planning will conduct a workshop with the Museum and Education Department staff at the end of October to clarify building and space needs. Nature Center meetings continue among senior staff.
- The new snake enclosure mentioned last month is now complete and the snake is loving his new space! Cathy Schneider & Stacey Clementz are also in the process of upgrading the aquatic turtles' habitats; more info to come.
- Barb completed the Slips Trips and Falls Self Study for PDRMA for the museum, annex, and education center.
- Many thanks to the Construction Department who created a new pad and enclosure for the museum garbage cans as they were left orphaned by the destruction of the fence opposite the

greenhouse. They also completed several smaller tasks for finishing the Rankin center including the addition of rock to the south side and painting the new electrical conduit.

- In accordance with Museum of the Grand Prairie (MGP) requests for the Rankin Center, P & P zoned the Rankin center HVAC system so that the collections processing room could be isolated in temperature and humidity from the collections storage room. This zoning will make it possible to keep the storage room a steady temperature while the heat tent and human activity will create fluctuations in the processing room.
- The museum had its annual Fire Pump and Backflow Inspection for the sprinkler system in September. Elevator permits were also applied for this month.
- Museum staff and Furat are exploring the idea of replacing the museum's security camera system since the current system requires repairs and is so outdated that replacement parts are no longer available. Since security is required by accreditation, this camera system circumvents the need for human guards. The current system has been in place since 2006 with some minor repairs being made later.
- Pam Leiter attended the 2nd Leadership Illinois conference, Power of the Marketplace, in Chicago. Presenters included an impressive slate of women: Dr. Ngozi Ezike Director of IDPH, Cook County Circuit Court Judges, Dean of the College of Art, Architecture, Design and Arts (UIC), a Wealth Advisor, President of the Univ. of Iowa, entrepreneurs, and business owners.
- Jennifer Wick worked with mammologist Tara Hohoff (Illinois Natural History Survey) to pilot a new bat survey volunteer citizen science program at Lake of the Woods. CCFPD Volunteer Coordinator Sue Gallo assisted with recruiting a small group of volunteers to pilot the program this fall, and we hope to offer it to a wider audience next spring. Two groups of volunteers checked out the backpack in September and had successful monitoring sessions with several species of bats identified!
- Jennifer featured our first-time-ever bilingual Story Walk in September in honor of Welcoming Week. It's been well visited! We left it up through Take a Child Outside Week.
- Jennifer's new "Take a Child Outside Week" Scavenger Hunt Challenge was a hit! We handed out over 40 scavenger hunts to children. Thanks to Lisa and Sue for the swag donations!
- Jennifer hosted a Nature at Night: Bats program at Homer Lake. This was the first time she offered this topic at Homer Lake and had great attendance. She used the new portable PA system that we purchased during the shutdown, and it worked great!
- Museum staff and 30 volunteers hosted a successful *Prairie Stories* event this year. The day was filled with many outdoor demonstrations, activities, and musical performances helping bring 19th century Illinois history life for visitors. With great preparation and staff & volunteers



modeling proper behavior, we had excellent compliance from nearly 150 patrons in terms of our COVID-19 safety protocols. Pat Cain would like to thank all involved for helping put on such an engaging and safe in-person event.

- Pat Cain hosted another *Mornings with the Museum* program on September 8th with a theme of “Fantastic Friends: Pt. 4”. Fellow members of the Champaign County Museums Network discussed latest updates and happenings at their institutions. The program included representatives from the Spurlock Museum and William M. Staerkel Planetarium during this live virtual program streamed on museum Facebook and YouTube pages.
- Pat Cain hosted Mark Hanson on an online program as part of a national museum movement on September 15, 2021. *Ask A Curator* gave our audience the opportunity to ask Mark any question they liked about collections and collections care. The program was hosted on YouTube and Facebook.
- Museum Customer Service Retail associates have decorated the museum and surrounding outdoor areas for the Halloween season. Decorations will be used along with interpretation for a self-guided educational scavenger hunt. The hunt will be up through most of October and will be part of an upcoming program held on October 22nd.
- Pat Cain was interviewed recently by a reporter from The Daily Northwestern, a daily newspaper on the campus of Northwestern University, about the museum’s involvement in the Explore More Illinois program, a cultural pass program that allows Illinois public library cardholders access discounts at museums, park districts, historical societies, zoos, arts centers, recreational facilities, and other attractions.
<https://dailynorthwestern.com/2021/10/01/city/explore-more-museum-ticket-loans-partner-with-epl-illinois-libraries-to-improve-youth-cultural-literacy/>
- Pat Cain, Mark Hanson, and Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey attended a webinar presented by the Institute of Museum & Library Services. The webinar discussed IMLS grant opportunities for institutions who recently participated in Collections Assessment Programs.
- Pat Cain attended the kickoff meeting for a new History-Social Sciences Ed Alumni Board at Illinois State University. The goal of the board is for alumni in the field to discuss ways to support and improve history education with current faculty in the ISU History Department. These discussions will help the department as they improve curriculum and opportunities for students in their History-Social Sciences Education program.
- Pat Cain continued to work with Barb Garvey on the replacement of the museum’s website with Accuraty.
- Marina Montez-Ellis led a full program of families for the MGP Take a Child Outside Scavenger Hunt program.
- Stacey Clementz put together a custom loan kit for the East Central Illinois Master Naturalist Education committee to use at a popular local event. *Pictured: Joan Crockett and David Witzany at the Champaign Farmer’s Market.*



- Stacey Clementz is eager to report that the in person Environmental Education programs are going gangbusters for several of the outlying Champaign County schools. Programs are being conducted outdoors and with COVID precautions, and only certain schools are participating, but numbers are returning, Both the environmental and museum educators are starting to get programs scheduled for spring 2022.
- The Homer Lake Interpretive Center (HLIC) acquired a new toad for use in future programs.
- Pam Leiter attended a meet and greet for the new St Joseph Village Administrator.
- Pam wrote an article about monarch butterfly migration which was published in the News-Gazette on Sept 19; she also did a live Whys Gals segment on the WCIA 3 Morning Show on that topic.
- Katie Snyder attended the virtual workshop: “Children’s Literature—Embracing the Power of Story,” Miami Public Library
- Mark Hanson wrote and submitted a proposal to the U of I Source Lab program to use newly collected oral history interviews from the African American Community and granted them permission to reuse a proposal from 2018.
- Mark began making connections to get the East Frisian traveling exhibit into the community through traditionally East Frisian Lutheran Churches.
- Mark spoke to the Immanuel Lutheran Church history committee about the East Frisian travelling exhibit and oral history collection.
- Mark met with Dr. German Gurfinkel to talk about the Lake of the Woods covered bridge and explore the opportunity to conduct an oral history interview with him.
- The exhibit committee began work in earnest on the 2021 temporary exhibit to replace woman suffrage. The topic: Healing and Hope: Disease and Community Response in Champaign County (title still under discussion).
- Jennifer Grove supervised the completion of the item-by-item artifact inventory of Museum Storage. Despite its generic name, it’s our term for one of the six storage areas the museum now stewards. Inventory is required for accreditation and includes checking that each item is in the proper location, reports its condition. We also include catalog record updating and are continuing the process of barcoding the entire collection.
- Mark cleaned up water leaks in the woman suffrage exhibit and downstairs in Discovering Home following a torrential rain.
- Barb and Mark began work on the online Stan and Dorothy Rankin Quilt Exhibit. This exhibit will use the Omeka platform to permanently show the quilts made by major donor Stan Rankin and his mother Dorothy (for whom the Rankin center is named).
- Jennifer Grove and Mark Hanson completed two artifact heat treatment cycles and processed those artifacts into the Rankin Center.
- Jen and Mark began planning the relocation process of artifacts from the HQ Basement to Rankin Center.
- Jen began new monthly #collectioncorner posts on the MGP Facebook and Instagram pages. These posts feature our new Rankin Center equipment (heat tent and artifact vacuum) as well as our fine collections volunteers.



- Staff successfully planned for and reopened the Discovering Home exhibit which has been closed since March 2020 because there is so much interactive (i.e., touchable) material in the exhibit. Those touchable items have been reduced and regular cleaning is occurring.
- HLIC Facebook stats, September 1-30: Average Daily Organic Reach: 689 (Sum: 20,655); Average Daily Page Engaged Users: 32 (Sum: 972)
- MGP Facebook stats. Average Daily Organic Reach: 727 (Sum: 21803); HLIC Daily Page Engaged Users: 40 (Sum: 1189)

Lake of the Woods (Doug Sanders)

- Staff took the department’s trucks and trailers in for their six month safety inspections. This assessment involves checking various parts of the vehicles and trailers, such as brakes, lights, horns, mirrors, windshield wipers, and tire tread. The State has moved the trailer inspections to a 1-year requirement so the trucks will only be required in May 2022.
- The BG staff are currently installing a “Spooky Trail” on the short nature trail boarding the east side of the BG. A family-fun trail is sure to put a smile on your face when you see the painted pumpkin faces, smiling ghost, and wildlife skeletons.



- As we near cooler temperatures in October, several facilities and water amenities will be closed in the next few weeks for the winter. In addition, plants are being moved into the greenhouse and the grounds are being cleaned up and prepared for the winter season. Note, starting November 7th gates at LOW and RB will be closed at 5 PM.

Middle Fork River (Matt Kuntz)

- The Harry L. Swartz campground continues to see record numbers for this year. With nice weather coming into the final month of camping bookings continue to produce fully booked weekends, and heavier reservations through the week.
- Middle Fork staff is prepping for fall invasive removal projects. Areas of interest include the Miner's Trail, Oak Burl trail system, and several acres of continuing prairie renovation project sites.
- Middle Fork staff have completed several construction projects including more lighting replacements in facilities with updated led fixtures, decking and ramp replacements in user areas, and maintenance facility repairs.

Homer Lake (Brian Taylor)

- Most of our time this month consisted of pruning and cutting dead and dying ash trees along park roadways. We were fortunate to have rented an aerial lift so that we could systematically remove limbs to make the job a bit easier and much safer. (See picture)
- Thanks to the natural resources department for all their help with the tree removal process. We have many more ash to remove. Peter has arranged for a two day chain saw safety class to be held at the Salt Fork Center where participants will remove several more ash trees in that area of the park.



- Staff finished installing playground surfacing material at the natural playscape in the log climbing area and around the spider web climber. (See picture)

- The Lunker Hunters bass fishing tournament was held on September 18th, and there were thirteen boats and twenty six participants. Nine largemouth bass were weighed in with the biggest fish weighing five pounds.



District Cultural Competency Initiatives

- Katie Snyder and Jennifer Wick collaborated to create 150 craft bags for students in the dual language programs at Stratton Academy of the Arts for Welcoming Week a community collaboration with the University YMCA. The CCFPD Drawstring Backpack contained crafts from both history/culture and nature, as well as information in various languages as to where families could receive Covid-19 vaccinations, and a list of all Welcoming Week activities throughout Champaign County.
- Summer interns completed their assigned work on the Doris Hoskins Archive.
- Mark continues to serve on the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail committee and archive sub-committee.
- Katie Snyder attended, “The Courage to be Part of the Change Summit: Reducing Domestic Violence in CU.”
- Katie Snyder attended the monthly Race Relations subcommittee of the Community Coalition Walk as One group.
- Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey attended her first meeting of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area committee to promote interpretation of the Underground Railroad in Illinois, a subcommittee of the ALNHA Steering Committee.
- The Museum of the Grand Prairie applied for a Robert F Smith Internship from the Smithsonian Institution to work on the Hoskins Archive. These paid internships, subsidized by the SI, create opportunities for African American students to work in archives that are primarily of African American material.
- Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey spoke to a University of Illinois class, U of I called Gender, Race, Class and Work. The student will be working throughout the semester to make an exhibit about

a 1970s nurses' strike that took place in Champaign County. Barb was invited to talk about what makes for an effective local public history exhibit.

- Katie Snyder attended the webinar, "Parable Path CU—Pathways to Acorn," "Krannert Center for the Performing Arts (themes of how community coming together might address global warming and racial inequality)
- The New American Welcome Center's Welcoming Plan launched publicly at the I-Hotel on Sept 15 to a large and enthusiastic audience. Pam presented on the Health & Well-being section as lead of that working group and participated in a panel discussion. It was such an honor to stand beside others to see this come to fruition in the community. Implementation is the next step, with many opportunities to get involved.



- Jennifer Attended an IPRA webinar "Communicating Value and Drawing People In."
- Jennifer, Pam, Katie, Mark, and Pat attended CCFPD DEI committee meeting; Pam is co-leading this committee with Dara in the interim.
- Ryan Anderson attended a webinar put on by the National Environmental Education Foundation, Power of the Parks for Health Roundtable-Hispanic Heritage Month. He shared the link for the webinar with the internal DEI committee.
- Peter Goodspeed, Pat Cain, and Marina Montez-Elliott talked about Indigenous People Day with the volunteers at the KRT Seed Collection on Oct. 11.