

June 8, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Lisa Sprinkle, Marketing Manager
Re: June Staff Report

Executive Director (Lorrie Pearson)

- Attended breakfast for contractors that are part of the City of Champaign's Diversity Advancement Program (CDAP) to solicit feedback on our bidding process and projects and ensure they are aware of upcoming capital projects on which to bid.
- Co-led conference session at Illinois and Wisconsin City/County Management Associations' joint conference entitled "Free Your Mind! Interactive Techniques for Critical DEI Conversations," with approximately 175 participants.
- Bridgette, Lisa, and Lorrie went on a tour of the Champaign Park District's Marten Center.
- Lisa and Lorrie attended the New-to-C-U Mixer, hosted by Visit Champaign County on May 24 at the Blind Pig Brewery Garden. The event invited new residents to meet VCC's ambassadors from the Chambana Welcome Crew, learn about the community, and explore the forest preserves with the Champaign County Forest Preserve District.
- At the end of this report is a summary of the progress made on the program budget actions in the FY2022 budget during the second quarter.

Planning and Construction Department (Bridgette Moen and Mike Fry)

- Work on KRT Phase 2C, which is the 1.5-mile stretch in the Village of Ogden, has begun. Staff met with IDOT, our engineer, and the contractor for a pre-construction meeting. Work is estimated to be complete by September. Bridgette and Lisa issued a press release to alert residents about the upcoming work. Bridgette also passed out flyers to all neighbors and spoke with many residents while on site about the project. The Contractor has begun laying out the path and removing felled trees.
- Significant progress has been made on Willow Pond restoration. The contractor has installed the clay liner and is in the process of compacting the material. The contracted work is anticipated to be complete by July, but it will take time for the pond to fill to capacity.
- Mike Daab, Mike Fry, and Bridgette met with an engineer to discuss strategies for reducing erosion along the Sangamon River near critical infrastructure at Lake of the Woods, specifically Trillium Road and the Covered Bridge.
- The Construction crew has started the renovation work in the basement of Headquarters. Justin and Clint have framed out the new conference space and insulated the exterior wall for improved efficiency.
- Bridgette attended a meeting with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Champaign County Web-Based Regional Environmental Framework Steering Committee. CCRPC is developing a tool to score ecological vulnerability for IDOT work



planning specifically, but this could also provide helpful information for the District planning, especially land acquisition opportunities.

- Sealcoating at Lake of the Woods was delayed due to contractor equipment failures and poor weather. The contractor has remobilized and work is wrapping up.



- Sam Ihm started his position as Planning Assistant on June 6th. Sam recently completed his Masters of Urban Planning at UIUC and was the planning intern at CCFPD in 2021. Sam will be helping out with inventory updates, the comprehensive plan, and gathering public input to start. We're very excited to have him on the team!
- Construction Department removed the observation deck at Homer Lake in preparation for a new accessible pavilion to be constructed. The structure had significantly deteriorated over time, and

what material that could be salvaged was. Some of the decking was replaced several years ago. We repurposed this material immediately as new dock approaches at Elks Lake. With higher costs, and supply issues, this allowed us to save the district almost \$1000 while fixing a safety issue without delay.

- An existing culvert was removed and replaced by the Rayburn Purnell restroom at Lake of the Woods. The road was failing due to separation of the old concrete sections of pipe. Gardens/Operations staff already has plans to reuse the usable sections of the old culvert for trail maintenance.
- Mike Daab, Peter Goodspeed, Matt Kuntz, and Jacob Pruiett met with Jason Bleich of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to discuss the potential to partner on several upcoming wetland projects. USFWS has funding available from multiple sources and to meet multiple goals, and are likely able to help us address existing infrastructure and restoration needs as well as create new wetlands at various District sites.
- Mike Daab had a pre-site visit meeting with AmeriCorps Assistant Program Director Alana Svenson Hults to discuss project objectives and expectations for the team that will serve CCFPD during the week of August 8th-12th.
- The Sustainability Committee met and welcomed new members John Baker and Andrew Kerins (not present). We further discussed solar installation options at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, electric equipment purchasing, brokered purchasing of clean energy, and Stacey Clementz's News-Gazette article on the CCFPD Climate Commitment. Great job, Stacey!

Business and Finance (John Baker)

- Responded to several information requests as CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) finalized its review and developed the audit report. At the time of this writing, staff had just received the final report for review and began preparing the Management Plan and Discussion analysis and statistical sections. After reviewing the report, staff noted a couple of corrections and several more edits to CLA. Staff expects finalize and file the audit prior to the June 30 deadline but this timeline will require reviewing the audit with the Board at the July Board meeting instead of June.
- Began internal planning with the Leadership Team for the 2023 District budget preparation and requested reviewed schedule and general plan with Board President and Treasurer. Reviewed timeline with and provided budget preparation materials to department and section heads responsible for requesting and managing budgets.
- Initiated discussion of inflation impacts with department heads. Business and Finance received notice that electric supply rates are expected to increase 55% in 2023 and electric transmission fees 246%. CQI and Associates, the District's utilities broker, contacted us about getting early quotes to lock in the best pricing for the next 3-4 years. Departments have noted doubling and tripling of certain items commonly used here, as well as supply chain issues that are delaying project work and equipment acquisition.
- Began addressing PDRMA IT security requirements for continuing cyber threat insurance coverage next year. Immediate needs being addressed are automated software patching to prevent malware incursions, strengthening security for employee remote access, and selecting an endpoint detection application to track attempts to breach the District's network, identifying the network weakness, and potentially the hacker.
- Instituted the Positive Pay function with Busey Bank as a result of check fraud on two District checks. Positive Pay tracks checks as the District issues them and only pays those that are properly identified with the check number and recipient. The two fraudulent checks were caught early so the District was not impacted financially.
- Attended the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts meeting as one topic of discussion was collaborating with IAPD to increase the statutory property tax caps on

the General and Improvements and Developments funds. The 2023 CCFPD tax extension hit these two tax caps this year, the first time that has happened.

Human Resources (Dara Edgington)

- During the month of May HR processed a total of 24 hires and one separation (Brian Taylor's retirement), resulting in a turnover rate of 0.97% for the month.
- As of May 31st, our total headcount was 106 employees including 43 FT, 18 PT, and 44 seasonals, and 1 paid intern.
- Interviews for the Homer Lake Site Superintendent are now complete and I'm pleased to share that Skylar Smith has been selected for this role! Skylar obtained his B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from UIUC in 2016. Skylar currently works for the United States Geological Service and also worked as a seasonal employee at Homer Lake under Brian Taylor from 2013-2016. Welcome, Skylar – we are so pleased to have you on board!
- The District documented zero incidents with PDRMA over the month of May.
- Mary Beck attended PDRMA's annual membership meeting.

Marketing (Lisa Sprinkle)

- Lisa attended the American Trails webinar, "Engaging Kids on Trails: A National Trails Day® Fireside Chat", on June 2.
- Lisa attended the First Aid/CPR/AED Training at Salt Fork Center on Friday, June 2.
- Media coverage last month included:
 - https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/history/area-history-june-2-2022/article_8de4e17c-622f-596a-a2a6-7a75412209a1.html
 - <http://www.sjodaily.com/2022/05/16/kickapoo-rail-trail-construction-through-ogden-to-begin-this-month/>
 - <https://www.wcia.com/news/expansion-coming-to-kickapoo-rail-trail-this-summer/?fbclid=IwAR1Cd5GkMAB6cOWDvJxPqFCo4wYzKqla89uL54LIYNYfQ17PcuYNU7qKmjM>
 - https://will.illinois.edu/217today/episode/217-today-new-section-of-trail-is-being-added-to-the-kickapoo-rail-trail?fbclid=IwAR1eo89RE9Gbvzrk4ejhE8xcm1vOmKx7lCRCGMkpsiDSEllCRu_4cjDuqYA
 - https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/parks-recreation/inside-out-forest-preserves-steps-up-to-climate-challenge/article_842c70f0-30c1-5110-b27e-5e334739d6b6.html
 - https://www.wcia.com/news/destination-illinois/destination-illinois-the-covered-bridges-of-central-illinois/?fbclid=IwAR0A3G-dWe9x6IcBckNiDLogS_DC3-hxJt6yGM3lNf5H6IyI0-4ET09XiBU
 - https://www.news-gazette.com/sports/illini-sports/golf/secrets-out-mahomet-has-a-golfer-in-the-u-s-open/article_254a5f67-09f4-5121-8574-552b0c008cbc.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwAR1_nXW3aYBpocKnwRJ6FZMux4hFb-YLbjVbQBjME-WyuRArgKI7flzTQBM
- Social media numbers continue to increase.

	FACEBOOK	+/-	INSTAGRAM	+/-	TWITTER	+/-
CCFPD	6,265	+94	2,907	+33	566	-2
KRT	4,259	+106	140	+0	137	
MGP	4,618	+13	1,248	+4	261	0
HLIC	3,073	+34				

GC	1,808	+6	334	+3	113	+2
FPPF	546	+4				

- June Facilities Rental Report

June 2022 Rental Summary			
# Rentals	Preserve	Facility	\$
7	HL	Salt Fork Center	\$2,500
5	HL	Walnut Hill Shelter	\$720
6	LOW	Botanical Garden Weddings	\$4,975
10	LOW	Elks Lake Pavilion	\$4,150
6	LOW	Izaak Walton Cabin	\$240
9	LOW	Lake of the Woods Pavilion	\$3,670
3	LOW	Lakeview Shelter	\$240
5	LOW	Riverview Retreat Center	\$960
9	LOW	Rotary Hill Shelter	\$1,110
3	LOW	Sycamore Hollow Shelter	\$400
4	MF	Activity Center	\$1,200
1	RB	River Bend Shelter	\$40
68			\$20,205

Volunteer Coordinator (Sue Gallo)

- May numbers and events: 7 service events totaling 190 hours and 67 volunteers engaged, additionally 290 service hours by our regular volunteers in Volgistics
- Highlights: Urbana Scout Troop 101 brought 17 volunteers who helped for a total of 36 hours removing garlic mustard from Miner’s Trail/Odle Trail in north Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. One of our trail stewards reported they had found a lot of GM at the site and the troop was willing to remove what they could. Many thanks to Emily Williams for coordinating this (photo right, scouts used the HIPP wagon in background to pile the GM and garbage bags). Additionally, 16 Lincoln’s Challenge Cadets removed trash adjacent to the KRT in the drainage area next to Walmart. Always a good thing to get trash out of natural areas and waterways! (photo below)
- Worked with Mary Ellen Wuellner and Ryan Anderson about a sponsor for volunteer program tee shirts.
- Coordinated with Cathy Schneider for efficient on-boarding of Counselor’s in Training (CITs).



Grants and Development Specialist (Ryan Anderson)

- We had 10 donors register and join us for a tour of Willow Pond to learn about the restoration of Willow Pond and the habitat restoration work happening at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. The tour was led by Bridgette Moen and Peter Goodspeed.

Natural Resources (Peter Goodspeed)

- In May, NR staff finished pulling garlic mustard throughout high quality woodlands.

- There were two more volunteer garlic mustard pulling events at the following locations:
 - MF N Waterfowl savanna (41 acres)
 - MF S Waterfowl woods (5.2 acres)
- Staff planted 9 container trees at the HL Collins pond reforestation area and 6 trees at the HL Old Homer Park expansion.
- Integrated pest management activities for the control of herbaceous invasive plant species included:
 - Mowing the right-of-way along the KRT (Mayview to St. Joe)
 - Mowing sites for restoration prep at LOW Buffalo Trace and MF (13 acres)
 - Mowing large patches of reed canary grass at MF Point Pleasant
 - Spraying poison hemlock along the edge of the KRT (Mayview to St. Joe sections)
 - Spraying various patches of poison hemlock at HL
 - Spraying reed canary grass patches at LOW Buffalo Trace
 - Spraying reed canary grass patches at MF Point Pleasant
 - Spraying reed canary grass patches at SR
- Other activities that NR staff did in May included:
 - Attending the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council Symposium at Starved Rock Lodge
 - Treating algae in LOW Stidham pond
 - Felling hazard trees over trails
 - Breaking beaver dams at MF Point Pleasant to achieve desired water levels
 - Routine maintenance and equipment repair



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

- May continued to be cool and damp, but the good days were really good for business at the course. We had 4673 players for the month, which is just shy of last May (one of our best in 15 years), but much higher than the 5 year average of 3610. Our revenue was \$119,070 in May, which is \$3,000 higher than 2021 and exceeds the 5 year average by \$39,000! This is the highest May revenue since 2007. User fees and food and beverage sales all showed significant increases.
- Larry Denton began and completed the 3rd phase (of 4) in the bunker renovation project. This year he remodeled, reshaped, or removed 10 more existing bunkers on the Front 9. Golf course staff, including some of the Pro Shop employees, along with a few volunteers spent 2 days laying sod once the project was completed (pics attached). This project will continue to help the playability and aesthetics

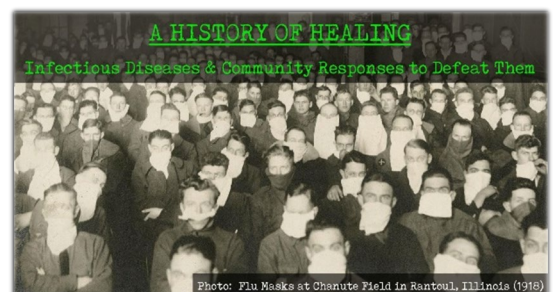


of the course for the long term. Our final project is 10 more bunkers on the Back 9, which we are looking to budget for 2023 completion.

- We had several events start up for the 2022 season in May. David and Jason held the first session of the “Get Golf Ready” Adult Clinics in May. The clinics were held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on each Monday night and limited to the first 10 paid participants. The class was full! Session 2 will be held in July and registration is filling up quickly for that one.
- The Monday Night League began on May 9th. This is a 2-man league of 12 teams, which will play a 12 week schedule against one another, followed by the top 8 scoring teams making the playoffs the following 3 Monday’s.
- In May, we also held our first Shotgun start golf outing since 2019. The Bulldog Gridiron Club had 80 players for their 9:00 a.m. shotgun start on May 13th. We have several shotgun start events scheduled moving forward this summer.
- Bunkers project completed! The maintenance crew continues to water sod on the bunkers.
- Golf Superintendent sprayed fungicide applications on the greens and tees for dollar spot control.
- Tees and fairways have been fertilized.
- Maintenance crew has been doing a fantastic job keeping the course in great shape! Lots of patrons complimenting on how great the course is looking!

Museum and Education Department (Barb Garvey and Stacey Clementz)

- Jennifer Wick and Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey attended the lunch presentations of the two Homer Lake site superintendent candidates.
- Homer Lake Interpretive Center’s (HLIC) first ever office specialist, Jeremy Cagle, started this month! Jeremy is a recent graduate from UIUC and we are excited to welcome him to the team in this brand-new position.
- The Museum of the Grand Prairie welcomes two new employees. Selena Gonzalez will be joining the MGP staff as an Education Specialist I. Selena recently graduated from the U of I, and has been substitute teaching while working with Bundle Benefits Online Learning. She volunteers for the Smithsonian as a facilitator for online classes as well. We also welcome Eric Roth to the team as a Day Camp Educator for this camp season. Eric previously worked at Middle Fork as a Maintenance Worker I and has recently been substitute teaching and attending classes in the interim.
- Three new interns have joined the museum for the summer. Welcome Liam Gardner from the History Department at Eastern Illinois University who will be helping to develop the new exhibit in the farm tool wing. Intern Emma Fleming will be returning to work with Pat Cain to create Clio self-guided tour content for History of Healing: Infectious Diseases exhibit and intern Ben Gould, UIUC iSchool intern will be assisting with the continued processing of the Hoskins Archive.
- The museum was proud to open the special exhibit, “A History of Healing: Infectious Diseases & Community Responses to Defeat Them.” A private exhibit opening event was held on Friday, May 20th where staff, volunteers, donors, and other contributors to the exhibit were invited. It was great to see the support of so many friends of the district & museum at the event, including Julie Pryde and Chaundra Bishop of CUPHD.



- Much of the month of May was spent preparing for the exhibit with collections prep, graphics preparation both off and onsite, and mounting. After the exhibit, Jen Grove and Mark Hanson began the cleanup and recovery and documentation crosscheck phase following exhibit completion.
- Immediately after the opening of the exhibit, Jen Grove and Mark Hanson removed the last artifacts from the HQ basement, and began hauling out pallets. Planning is also underway to remove the steel rack shelving as soon as possible.
- The Museum and Education Exhibits Committee is planning for the MGP toolwing upgrade, temporary exhibits in the Education Wing hallway, and exhibits in the HLIC in autumn 2022, and spring 2023. Stacey is working with Doug Mills who will be creating an exhibit on wetlands at the Homer Lake Interpretive Center. It will debut on Sept. 24 and go through to early spring.
- The museum received a 2022 Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB) grant to digitize the remaining undigitized Hoskins oral history collection.
- Staff scheduled the next Museum Advisory Committee meeting to discuss new acquisitions, reaccreditation, and deaccessioning.
- Cathy Schneider took the new-to-us eastern box turtle to vet for wellness check. He seems healthy and we should concentrate on getting him to eat, then switching to a healthier diet.
- Cathy also introduced the two box turtles and they tolerated each other. This is the first step to moving them into the same enclosure.
- Dave and Karen Huber, previous owners of the HLIC rat snake, sponsored him for one year.
- Cathy Schneider recruited and scheduled three families as summer Animal Enrichment Volunteers.
- Cathy also finished Counselors-In-Training (CIT) interviews and placed 21 of 22 applicants. She also worked with Sue Gallo and Stacey Clementz to update waivers for CITs.
- Bat monitoring season is going full swing with monitors at Lake of the Woods and Homer Lake-6 people are trained.
- The Museum and Education Department is still working with Planning and the Mahomet Public Library to move forward with the installment of a permanent StoryWalk trail at Lake of the Woods. Signs were ordered this month by Lisa.
- Greg Walburg and Belinda Porter have volunteered to assist with the care and upkeep of the HLIC pollinator garden.
- Cathy Schneider, Quinn Powers and Stacey Clementz taught 242 students this month; 50 off-site from Thomasboro Spectrum and Unity (Tolono) Spectrum, 192 on-site from Our Lady of the Lake (Mahomet), Judah Christian (Champaign), Shiloh (Hume), St. John Lutheran (Champaign), Unity East (Tolono), Heritage (Homer), Fisher and Countryside (Champaign).
- Katie Snyder and Marina Montez taught 179 students this month, all on site. Programs included Seed Safari with Eastlawn (Rantoul), St Thomas (Philo), Fisher Grade School (Fisher); Wagons Ho, St Thomas (Philo); and a history scavenger hunt especially designed for Bourbonnais High School students.



- Discovery kits from MGP have been getting good use this spring. Julia Rush, who is a member of the 4th grade team at Yankee Ridge, borrowed the 50 Native American kit (50 students) Lori Gregg, a 5th grade teacher at Next Generation, borrowed the Civil War kit and the Old Fashioned Outdoor Games kit. 72 students, 8 teachers. And Brekke Day of Montessori School of CU, borrowed the Native American kit for 27 student. 3 teachers.
- Katie Snyder and Pat Cain attended the virtual job fair for YES, Unit 4's Youth Employment Service.
- Marina Montez-Ellis led and in person program, Gnome Home Miniature Gardens, 15 people with children and parents.
- Museum staff finished its virtual series of programs giving "A Closer Look" at content from the museum's upcoming "A History of Healing" exhibit. Pat Cain presented a program associated with community responses to polio and HIV/AIDS and Mark Hanson presented a program on the history of house calls and their recent resurgence during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Marina Montez-Ellis, Katie Snyder, and Pat Cain continue to work with Michael Dale, his staff, and district volunteers to reimagine the Discovery Garden space. The space will now feature sections dedicated to medicinal uses of common plants as well as the practice and growth of healthy foods. Each section will also feature educational interpretive signage providing more information about the plants within the garden and their use in the present as well as the past.
- Museum staff recently partnered with Bill Handel, retired botanist with the Illinois Natural History Survey and manager of the American Indian Medicinal Plant Garden at Spurlock Museum. Handel is providing advice and consultation to museum staff for the reimagination of the Discovery Garden space and is also providing many native plants for use in the space.
- Pat Cain concluded his asks for sponsors of this year's Summer Concert Series. The Music Shoppe has signed on to be the lead Series Sponsor for this year's concert series with additional contributions from the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation, chambanamoms.com, Christie Clinic, Smile Politely, Organizing CU, and an anonymous donor.
- Katie Snyder welcomed local artists Lori Fuller and Keenan Dailey for a filming session as they created artwork within the museum's "Champaign County's Lincoln" as part of an artist-in-residency program between the Center for Lincoln Studies (CLS) and Visual Arts at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) where innovative artists focused on the legacies of Abraham Lincoln. The artworks will be exhibited from August to September 2022 in the Visual Arts Gallery at UIS, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, and the Springfield Art Association. The exhibitions will include short videos that document the making of the physical art and explore each artist's historical perspective and artistic approach. The videos will later form the basis of a permanent digital exhibit hosted by the Center for Lincoln Studies. The digital exhibit will document the historical legacies explored by the artists and will provide resources for K-12 teachers to teach about Lincoln and the American past.
- Katie Snyder did a read-aloud of, "A Day for Rememberin': Inspired by the True Events of Memorial Day," by Leah Henderson, illustrated by Floyd Cooper, on Face Book, with 195 views.
- Jennifer Wick taught a program at Tolono library for eight people and a Walk with a Naturalist for 13 people.
- This month saw the return of two of our larger public program events: an event for International Migratory Bird Day (16 participants) and Take Me Fishing (53 participants) at Middle Fork. The turnout for Take Me Fishing at Middle Fork was great!
- Summer camp registrations are still slowly trickling in. Stacey Clementz and Katie Snyder both made an Exploring with Lorrie video to help increase registrations. Stacey has had to cancel all afternoon Eco-adventures camps because of low or no enrollment.

- Christy Wallace has been hired back but in a new position. She was previously our Campground Naturalist but is now our Activities Coordinator to better serve our patrons at the Harry L. Swartz campground.
- Stacey Clementz is working with Angie Clayton, Pat Cain and Mary Beck on the Employee Recognition committee.
- The Lincoln Legacy Committee, with Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey as chair, met again this month. By-laws were updated and the committee began long-term planning.
- Cathy Schneider shadowed Marina Montez-Ellis' Seed Safari program to assist with her programming if needed. Katie shadowed Cathy's Hatchet program
- Stacey attended an Illinois Climate Change Education Online Workshop Series by Climate Generation. They shared activities on climate change for K-12th grade.

HLIC Facebook Stats for May

Daily Organic Reach		Daily Page Engaged Users	
Average	Sum	Average	Sum
761	23601	70	2197

MGP Facebook Stats for May

Daily Organic Reach		Daily Page Engaged Users	
Average	Sum	Average	Sum
664	20606	44	1366

Lake of the Woods (Rusty Maulding)

- Boat rentals started with a bang over Memorial Day weekend. Patrons flocked to the activity and record or near record earnings of \$1430 were received over opening weekend.
- We are still facing headwinds in finding seasonal staff and are getting creative in our approach. We are now sharing an employee with the Golf Pro Shop to help cover Boat Rentals over the summer. Mary and Chris have been great in working with Tammy to make this happen and keep everything costed where it should be and schedules coordinated.
- After a wet, hot and cold May, annual plantings are all in and we are evaluating spaces where it would make sense to replace select annual plantings with perennial selections to reduce future costs and still provide seasonal pop with a more native based approach.
- Work has begun in reusing materials from the greenhouse out on property, such as gravel, in preparation for demolition.
- The Egg Hunt program was a big hit! The limited run window has closed and the eggs have all been collected and stored for the year. Thank you Michael Dale for spearheading this effort and to Lisa Sprinkle, Brian Taylor and Matt Kuntz for ensuring the program was messaged well and locations of eggs spread throughout the Forest Preserve District properties.

Middle Fork River (Matt Kuntz)

- In May we finally received better weather for the camping season, and it showed with fully booked weekends and a successful Memorial Day Weekend.
- For the Memorial Day Weekend, we held several activities with the help of our new Activity Coordinator, Christy Wallace. A cornhole tournament was held with over 20 teams participating, and close to a hundred spectators. Take Me Fishing was held on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend with a great crowd. This even was moved to Cypress Lagoon due to the Willow Pond renovation. It was great to see large numbers for our weekend activities, where we are trying to help the visitor experience without having the swim beach available.

- The Willow Pond renovation is getting very close to a complete date. The clay liner has been laid down and compacted and the next couple of weeks should consist of small detail work such as rip rap placement, sand, and our fishing access areas to be built.
- We would like to welcome Stephen Wolfe to the full time Middle Fork staff team. Stephen started at the beginning of May and brings great experience to our department.

District Cultural Competency Initiatives

- MGP's Robert Smith Intern, from the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of African American History, DeBorah Ault, arrived on May 31 and has begun working on indexing Hoskins oral histories. She recently graduated from Brandeis University with a B.A. in Business and Education.
- Katie Snyder attended the monthly meeting of Community Coalition, Walk as One
- Mark Hanson attended culturally competent mentor training for the Smith internship.
- Mark Hanson was asked by the Champaign County African American Heritage trail signage committee to research, source photos and write copy for the 99th Pursuit Squadron/Chanute Field marker.
- Barb Oehlschlaeger-Garvey gave a program at Windsor of Savoy on June 2, entitled *Juneteenth and Early African American History in Champaign County*.
- Marina Montez-Ellis, garden educator, gave away plant-starts at the Shadowwood neighborhood event as part of an initiative by CUPHD to encourage growing and consumption of fresh vegetables on May 7, 2022.