

July 7, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**Executive Director (Mary Ellen Wuellner)**

- Thanks to the planning department, we now have the 2020 election data mapped by precinct. The data mapping project was completed by Bridgette and intern Sam Ihm. Six maps are attached to this staff report comparing the 2008 and 2020 results, both countywide and a zoom-in on Champaign-Urbana. The maps have been shared with the EIU/SUNY Brockport/UIUC research team as well.
- Staff and Friends Foundation members met on June 30 with Bob Ballsrud, Jennifer Gunji-Ballsrud, Kimiko Gunji, and other close friends of Stan Rankin whose bequest to the museum made it possible to construct the Rankin Collections Care Center. The group toured the new large artifact storage building that has been dedicated to Stan Rankin. Stan's friends loved the building and asked for a second tour when it is filled with the museum's oversized collection pieces.
- Will Timmons, Ryan Anderson, and I met via Zoom with a second firm to solicit a proposal to fundraise for the development of the new Homer Lake nature center. This latest proposal appears to be less expensive and more hands-on than the first firm's offer. A series of stakeholder meetings and conversations with potential lead donors are the initial steps in this multi-faceted fundraising proposal. We plan to take the two recommendations to the foundation at its August meeting for consideration.
- With upwards of 7 inches of rain in the Mahomet area in the week leading up to July 2, the Freedom Fest committee decided that the fireworks event could not be held without seriously damaging the grounds or risking the safety of visitors. At this time, the event is tentatively rescheduled for Friday, July 30.

**Planning and Construction Department (Mike Daab and Mike Fry)**

- The Construction crew finished the curb cut at Lake of the Woods Road, and the County has installed signage and a crosswalk with flashing light. Construction is substantially complete; IDNR has inspected the site and billing is underway.
- The ITEP amenities bid was awarded to Stark Construction (through IDOT). Stark is set to begin in late summer. IDOT received three bids for the project, with Stark's bid of \$283,447.50 being the lowest. The bid exceeded the grant estimates, due to escalating construction costs; however, the Friends Foundation has agreed to cover the \$76,681 overage from KRT donations already raised. Stark will bill IDOT for work performed and IDOT will bill the District for the match reimbursement once work begins.
- Staff presented to the KRT Friends group in Oakwood on June 24. The group is regaining momentum, and will next meet at Kolb Park in St. Joseph on July 22 at 6:30pm.
- Construction is substantially completed on the Rankin Collections Care Center. IDNR has inspected the site and billing is underway.
- We are planning public input opportunities to kick off the Comprehensive Plan process. Planning intern Sam Ihm produced a wide variety of fascinating maps/graphics,

ranging from the acreage per resident over time to the location of our donors across the State. Some of these maps and graphics will help inform the community at future Comp Plan public meetings. The CAC is scheduled for an initial discussion at its August meeting, while the September meeting of the Board of Commissioners would be the first forum for board input.

- The construction department helped to alter the electrical layout in the HQ basement to prevent future issues with water leakage threatening the District's servers.
- The construction department and Homer Lake staff poured a new ADA parking space at the HLIC which, in addition to providing parking for those with limited mobility, fulfills the requirements of an IL Clean Energy Community Foundation public amenities grant.
- Initial solar power project proposals for Lake of the Woods have been received and are under review by staff and CAC members. Additional proposals are expected shortly.
- The Ameren Small Business Incentive lighting program is nearly complete, with the majority of the lighting at Lake of the Woods buildings upgraded to highly efficient LEDs.

### **Business and Finance (John Baker)**

- Business and Finance filed the 2020 audit with the County Clerk, EMMA (Electronic Municipal Market Access) for required municipal bonds disclosure, PDRMA, Government Finance Officers for consideration of the financial reporting award, and Dunn and Bradstreet, and provided notice in the News-Gazette of the District's Public Funds Statement.
- CliftonLarsonAllen is finishing up the annual financial report for the State Comptroller. John is updating the audit reports for the Illinois Grant Portal as well.
- CliftonLarsonAllen finalized the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) with information supplied by Business and Finance. John has reviewed and approved the document contents.
- Blair Balbach and Ryan Anderson selected Tim Sullivan as the District's Accounts Payable and Fundraising Assistant. Tim is in training for processing District purchase orders and purchasing card transactions.
- John worked with Lisa to update the District finances page on the CCFPD website in anticipation of questions from Executive Director candidates. The District finances page is now a link on the District's primary landing page.

### **Human Resources (Dara Edgington)**

- The District's student placement from the Youth Employment Services program is going very well. As of June 27<sup>th</sup>, our student participant has completed 61 of the maximum 110 hours he is allowed to work for the season. Thanks again to Michael Dale for overseeing his work and providing the opportunity for the District to be able to participate in this valuable community program.
- The District has entered into a contract with the Parkland Community Education Team to conduct a series of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workshops for our staff. Our facilitators for these workshops are Sam Smith, the Krannert Center's Director of Civic Engagement and Social Practice, and Emily Laugeson, Co-Director of Engagement at the Krannert Center. A portion of these workshops are targeted for all staff, however, some workshops are for a more targeted group - the Risk Management team and DEI committee. The first workshop for this targeted group was held on June 10<sup>th</sup>; thus far, feedback from staff has been very positive and we look forward to continuing this crucial work.

- I participated in the DEI funding subcommittee meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. This subcommittee will be responsible for allocating and/or awarding funds from the District’s DEI fund. Our first priority is to develop a sound process, with a goal to announce to staff sometime during Q4 2021 for allocation of the 2022 DEI budget.
- 2021 hiring continues; year to date, 68 offers have been extended and 60 employees have been successfully onboarded.
- I partnered with Mary Ellen, Lisa, and the rest of the DEI Committee to develop a Public Engagement Survey. The survey is designed to help us understand how the public currently interacts with the District and which offerings they value most, as well as give us a sense for visitor demographics. Once this data has been gathered, the goal is to hold a couple focus groups in order to achieve a deeper understanding of the emergent trends and ascertain how we can most appropriately respond to the community’s feedback.

**Marketing (Lisa Sprinkle)**

- Media coverage last month included:

**Inside|Out: Bluebird days of summer**

[https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/parks-recreation/inside-out-bluebird-days-of-summer/article\\_37ba3015-ccae-5979-a602-b3465d2dec7f.html?fbclid=IwAR2KM6ihLHZs4biToRwSRzMLpoXNIKJN151UGeApgHfqERBG4HIIw4\\_wBnU](https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/parks-recreation/inside-out-bluebird-days-of-summer/article_37ba3015-ccae-5979-a602-b3465d2dec7f.html?fbclid=IwAR2KM6ihLHZs4biToRwSRzMLpoXNIKJN151UGeApgHfqERBG4HIIw4_wBnU)

**Volunteers get dirty in giving Middle Fork preserve a natural face-lift**

[https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/environment/volunteers-get-dirty-in-giving-middle-fork-preserve-a-natural-face-lift/article\\_91130847-d648-50ce-bf6a-85fe12b9714c.html](https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/environment/volunteers-get-dirty-in-giving-middle-fork-preserve-a-natural-face-lift/article_91130847-d648-50ce-bf6a-85fe12b9714c.html)

**The CCFPD Summer Concert Series Begins June 27<sup>th</sup>**

[http://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/the\\_ccfpd\\_summer\\_concert\\_series\\_begins\\_june\\_27th/](http://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/the_ccfpd_summer_concert_series_begins_june_27th/)

**Lake of the Woods Freedom Fest is Postponed**

<https://mahometdaily.com/lake-of-the-woods-freedom-fest-is-postponed/>

**What’s happening this month with the Champaign County Forest Preserve District**

<https://www.wcia.com/ciliving-tv/whats-happening-this-month-with-champaign-county-forest-preserve-district/>

- Social media numbers continue to increase.

	FACEBOOK	+/-	INSTAGRAM	+/-	TWITTER	+/-
CCFPD	5,467	+114	2,497	+53	555	+2
KRT	3,281	+48	99	+2	127	+1
MGP	4,372	+15	1,176	+1	244	+2
HLIC	2,821	+44				
GC	1,722	+17	321	+3	98	+1
FPPF	449	+3				

**Volunteer Coordinator (Sue Gallo)**

- Sue again tweaked our on-line volunteer applications to capture different languages spoken by volunteers. The question demonstrates we recognize the value of multilingualism and the information can hopefully allow us to be more responsive to our community more easily.

- The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services reached out to us because they are updating their resource database and wanted to include more options for outdoor activities and services. Sue created entries for the District and for volunteering within the District, and worked with Pam and Pat to make entries for HLIC and MGP.
- Sue encouraged the DEI committee to come up with a proposal for a small Stewardship Network grant targeted towards increasing volunteer and visitor diversity and is supporting Dara and Ryan in applying for it.
- Finally, learning about how Freedom Fest operates, recruiting volunteers for it, and collecting safety information (waivers, emergency contacts, security checks) were the primary foci of the last month. Sue built a new on-line application to help with part of the process.

### **Grants and Development Specialist (Ryan Anderson)**

- Foundation
  - Applications Submitted
    - The Nature Conservancy VSN Stewardship Grant- \$911.56
      - We applied to receive tools for our volunteers to maintain our natural areas and help with educational programs.
    - The Nature Conservancy VSN Community Convening Grant- \$1,000
      - We applied for funds to host a focus group of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) community members. This focus group is intended to determine how to increase visitation and participation in programming of people of color.
    - Illinois Humanities Covid Relief and Recovery General Operations grant- \$5,000
      - We submitted a grant to cover lost program revenue at the Museum of the Grand Prairie over the last year.
    - Illinois Humanities Covid Relief and Recovery Programs grant - \$5,000
      - We submitted a grant to cover the cost of hiring a researcher to update and expand the “This Legacy is Yours: Celebrating African American Women of Champaign County” virtual exhibit.
- District
  - Illinois Department of Natural Resources – OSLAD and Public Museum Capital grants
    - The final reports for the Peninsula Project (OSLAD) and the Rankin Center (PMC) are submitted. We intend to submit for reimbursement within the next month.

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

- The maintenance crew edged the bunkers and repaired irrigation leaks on the Par 3 course.
- Summer weed and crabgrass control treatments have been applied on tees and fairways.
- A hydraulic leak from the greens mower created minor damage to five greens on the course. Fortunately, biodegradable hydraulic fluids are used in these mowers to help prevent losing any turf when a hydraulic leak occurs.
- The maintenance crew has done an incredible job keeping up with the mowing despite having Mahomet receiving 7 inches of rain. The course is in excellent condition and we continue to hear great compliments from the patrons.

- June was a good month for the golf course, but could have been much better if not for the rainy weather the entire final week. For the month, we had 5,146 players and revenue of \$118,735. These numbers are well above the 5-year average (4,393 and \$106,312), but short of June 2020 numbers. As we recall, the course almost fully reopened for business in June last year and this was one of the few activities deemed safe, and the numbers reflected that. Also, as mentioned, we had just shy of 7 inches of rain the final week of June this year, and this limited our ability to have carts out or even be open to walk most of those days.
- With school being out, June saw the return of our Junior Clinics and Junior League. The clinics were held every Tuesday in June (4 sessions) for ages 8 through 17. We had 45 kids in the program this year. Classes were split up by age in one hour sessions each week (8-9 year olds 1:00-2:00; ages 10-12 2:00-3:00; ages 13-17 3:00-4:00). This gave David and Jason manageable class sizes for teaching.
- The Junior League is comprised of ten middle school age children that practice each week and then play a match on Tuesday mornings against another local golf course. This is a great way for this age of children to learn the rules of golf and to get competition feel prior to heading into high school. Other participating courses include UI, Lincolnshire, Legends, Champaign CC, and Urbana CC.
- Outings, events and tournaments have returned to somewhat of a “normal” schedule in 2021. The June events we held are listed in the chart below. We are not holding shotgun events (events that all begin at the same time) this year. We made the decision to keep all outings and tournaments tee time based, for the safety of our staff and patrons, due to the unknown of the pandemic and gathering restrictions at the beginning of the season. We are looking at proposing two price points for events moving forward in 2022, with one of those options being a shotgun start event and the other tee time based.

<b>Outing</b>	<b># of Players</b>	<b>21 Total Rev</b>	<b>21 Actual Merch</b>
Slumberland	15	\$518.22	\$143.22
Pasfield Golf Group	15	\$390.00	\$0.00
Ladies Team Golf	24	\$384.00	\$0.00
Urbana Firefighters	44	\$1,945.00	\$220.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters	80	\$3,425.23	\$625.23
<b>Tournament</b>	<b># of Players</b>	<b>21 Total Rev</b>	
Naughtin Open	39	\$2,730.00	
Hartwell Match Play	35	\$700.00	
Parent-Child	39	\$1,560.00	

- Finally, we received our lighting upgrade throughout the facility through the Ameren Small Business Incentive Program the last week of June. All fixtures were updated/retrofitted in the Pro Shop, Office, Back Room, Storage Room, Repair Room, and hallways. This is not only an upgrade in savings to the district, but an upgrade to the extremely old and decrepit lighting that existed in most of the building. It has been a noticeable difference to staff and patrons as they have come through the building!

#### **Natural Resources (Peter Goodspeed)**

- Integrated pest management was in full swing in June with staff utilizing various methods of invasive species control including:

- Mowing the entire south right-of-way of the KRT. Spot mowing also occurred in new prairie plantings in Buffalo Trace and established prairie restorations at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. Mowing was used prevent seed production of invasive wild parsnip, poison hemlock, sweet clover, and reed canary grass.
- For smaller patches of invasive biennial and perennial plants, staff pulled and removed plants by hand in areas throughout all of the preserves.
- Aminopyralid, a narrow spectrum, broadleaf-specific herbicide, was applied to small patches of hard-to-control perennial species like Canada thistle, crown vetch, and birdsfoot trefoil. Herbicide was only used when mowing and hand pulling were not effective options in meeting management objectives.
- With the help of site operations staff and volunteers, NR staff planted approximately 3,000 native plugs along a shoreline section of the first pond at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. The shoreline planting was also featured in a News-Gazette article.
- Approximately 1,000 native plugs were also planted along a section of the shoreline of Sunset Lake at River Bend Forest Preserve.
- During dry spells early in June, staff allocated time to watering newly planted trees and plugs to ensure survivability and successful establishment.
- Some seed collection began for several early woodland species.



**Museum and Education Department (Barb Garvey and Pam Leiter)**

- This summer, the Homer Lake Interpretive Center (HLIC) is using the honor system for visitors – we are asking anyone who has not been vaccinated (including children ages 2-11) to wear a mask indoors, but vaccinated visitors can be un-masked. The museum continues to request either proof of immunization or mask wearing. Both facilities have returned interactive elements to their exhibits.
- The Rankin Center inches toward completion. The permanent electrical hook-up is scheduled to happen on July 6, 2021. The appropriate floor drains have been installed. Once the permanent electrical hook-up is completed, the heat tent (now set up and ready to be used) can be run and we can begin to move artifacts into the space. Some landscaping, security and furnace issues remain to be finished, but those can happen while the movement of artifacts is taking place.
- Later this month volunteers will get a virtual tour of the Rankin Collections Care Center. Pat Cain has facilitated program development for the volunteers and sent invitations.

- Mark Hanson has completed and sent for staff review the Museum and Education Department Disaster and Emergency Preparedness plan, a requirement for reaccreditation. He has now added all the necessary information in respect to the Rankin Center. This will be sent to the CCFPD Board of Commissioners in its August meeting for review and approval.
- Mark and staff also have several exhibit projects underway for the museum. Because we finished the work for our Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board grant, which funded East Frisian oral history transcriptions, with \$900 remaining, we were encouraged to use the money in some other way that supported the mission. We have elected to create a traveling exhibit promoting the project which we hope to display in several of the East Frisian communities (Royal, Gifford, Flatville, and Rantoul).
- Another MGP exhibit project underway is a virtual quilt exhibit featuring the quilts made by Stan Rankin and his mother, Dorothy. Stan Rankin donated the money that made the completion of the Rankin Center possible, but he was also an avid and very talented quilter.
- Two other exhibit projects underway for the MGP include a revision of the blacksmith exhibit and next year's special exhibit. Both are still under development.
- Museum staff have begun the long process of working through the paperwork for reaccreditation. Final documents and plans are due to the American Alliance of Museums in March 2022. A site visit will take place in 2022, with a final report in 2023.
- Barb and Mark worked with Bridgette and Mike Daab to provide information necessary to apply for the Public Museum Capital Grant to build a replacement greenhouse that will have some flexible classroom space.
- We have two families coming out once a week to "exercise" our education animals for their enrichment and health. They take them outside to explore. It has been going very well and the animals really appreciate it. This is a volunteer opportunity that we are piloting with two families that have been coming to programs for a while.
- Our resident toad passed away; he was only with us for a short time but was able to melt a lot of hearts. American toads only live for two years and we found him later in life.
- Jennifer Wick hosted Chris Sturdyvin for a program about getting started with water gardens. Attendance was light, but the participants were engaged and interested. In preparation for the program, Chris' staff spruced up the water feature in our birdfeeder area and added new plants. We will likely work with him in the future for similar program offerings.
- Jennifer took our "Fairy Houses" StoryWalk to Middle Fork River FP and set it up along a loop of the Oak Burl trail over Father's Day weekend. It was well received and visited by many. She was interviewed about this activity by CiLiving and also talked about Middle Fork preserve and the upcoming StoryWalk at Homer Lake, which has been delayed in opening due to flooded trails.
- Jennifer and Katie, along with a team of other district staff, are exploring a StoryWalk partnership with the Mahomet Public Library for a permanent StoryWalk installation at Lake of the Woods that will have books year-round.

- Jennifer’s first “Walk with a Naturalist” program this summer was fully booked; we had to cancel because of weather, but will continue to offer these programs each month to see if they hold their popularity. She also visited Catlin Library for their summer reading program and discussed colors in nature, and created a training video for volunteers about managing and removing sweet clover for Sue Gallo.
- Stacey & Jennifer did a popular Meet the Critters program.
- HLIC staff have had in-person programs scheduled nearly every day in June, including summer camps, Naturalist in the Classrooms, and more!
- Stacey’s summer activity guide is on our website and out at LOW, HL and MF.
- Pam Leiter did a WCIA Morning Show Whys Guys presentation on lightning bugs, and a roving naturalist program at the campground.
- A woman who might be interested in switching careers to environmental education observed programs and talked with staff one day this week. She was not sure what her next steps would be in her search for a meaningful direction.
- Katie hosted a unique program as part of the *Pandemics as A Portal to Change* online art exhibition. Artists Eric Benson and Kim Curtis discussed their work and the intersection of the creative process and the pandemic of Climate Change. Joining the panel was our friend from Urbana Park District, Savannah Donovan, who offered a perspective from an environmentalist viewpoint. The discussion was hosted by the MGP in collaboration with Krannert Art Museum, Urbana Arts and Culture Program, The Urbana Free Library, the College of Fine and Applied Arts at UIUC, and Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center.
- On May 29, Pat Cain brought our special exhibit (from 2007), *A Whole ‘Nother Ball Game: Baseball in East Central Illinois, 1860s-1970s*, to be part of the Vintage Base Ball Jamboree in Philo that day! It was the first in-person public event we attended in over a year and it was a beautiful day to meet new friends and enjoy some baseball! The Summit Station VBBC organized the event. The Chicago Salmon Vintage Base Ball Club, Springfield Long Nine Vintage Base Ball Club, Prairie Chickens Vintage Baseball Team Of McLean County, and the Rock Springs Ground Squirrels all participated. There were several hundred spectators. For the summer, we have hung the exhibit in the Education Center hall.
- On June 1, the museum premiered its first Camp in a Bag of the season for garden campers. They were provided with seeds, materials to make a potpourri cabin craft, plant-coloring cards, materials to make a bug craft ring, a sun catcher, and plant markers you create!



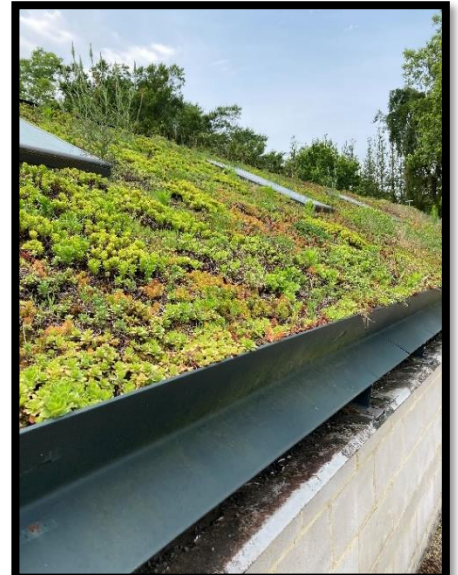


- A second Camp in A Bag premiered on June 15, *Nifty Needlecrafts*. Campers were given materials to make a nine patch quilt square, a weaving activity, materials to dye wool and everything needed to make a simple embroidery piece. Videos were run throughout the week to assist with the construction of the crafts on both bags. They each cost \$10 per bag and quickly sold out.
- In a similar vein, the MGP collaborated with the Champaign County Museums Network and the Tolono Library to present a program on blacksmithing. The Illinois Library Association theme this summer is *Reading Colors Your World* and the color that Sandy Osborne presented was gray, as many items that blacksmiths make are gray. A craft bag was provided to participants, and a Zoom class was led by Osborne.
- Pat Cain hosted another *Mornings at the Museum* on June 9 called *Summertime Sun*. Guests this time included Pam Leiter and Marina Montez Ellis.
- On June 14, Pat began a small group, registration-based version of Museum Mondays, which filled quickly. Thus far, he has offered Art in Nature, Toy Stories, and Adventures in Clay. Families are really enjoying personal interaction again.
- Two events were postponed because of the heavy rains in the latter part of June. The Summer Garden Concert: *Déjà Vu w/ Candy Foster & Shades of Blue* will be represented on August 15 in the Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden. The reschedule date of *En Plein Air: Painting with Evelyne Tardy* has yet to be determined.
- Pat worked with Lisa Sprinkle to develop a poster for the Summer Concert series. And Pat was successful in his sponsorship requests with the League of Women Voters sponsoring our all-female led bands this summer.
- Pat, Barb and Lisa met with Accuraty to begin the process of creating a new website for the museum. The current website is about 15 years old.
- Sandy created an activity bag for campers at Middle Fork. Materials and instructions on how to make a simple, old-fashioned toy out of a button and string were distributed over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.
- Pat was interviewed by MahometDaily.com about upcoming Summer in the Schoolhouse programs
- Katie created an activity tub of indoor games and another of outdoor games for the summer school students at Thomas Paine. Sandy Osborne made accompanying videos to show how the games are played.
- HLIC Facebook stats, June 1-31: Average Daily Organic Reach: 1,122 (Sum: 33,672); Average Daily Page Engaged Users: 62 (Sum: 1,864)
- MGP Facebook stats, June 1-31: Average Daily Organic Reach: 766 (Sum: 22, 981); Average Daily Page Engaged Users: 36 (Sum: 1099)
- The HLIC hired Quinn Powers as our Seasonal Naturalist. Welcome Quinn! He has grown up in Eco-Adventures, was a CIT and is now staff. He will be with us until November. Quinn completed CPR/First Aid/AED training and certification this month.

### **Lake of the Woods (Doug Sanders)**

- Michael Dale took a three day field trip to several garden locations out of state. Among the gardens he visited were the Cincinnati Zoo/Botanical Garden, Yew Dell Botanical Garden (Louisville), and Riverside Garden (Indianapolis Zoo). He went through several greenhouses

and got some great ideas that will be helpful in future plans for our Botanical Garden and greenhouse. Some interesting features he saw were a “green” roof that was covered in succulents, a landscaped area consisting of an active bee hive, and a variety of potted water garden arrangements. These types of trips are helpful in designing new features in the garden and learning best practices from others who have already done the work.



- Staff prepared the LOW grounds for the annual Freedom Fest event. The department has a list of items we address each year in preparation for the event that takes approximately two weeks to complete. Tasks include mowing and trimming the grounds, repairs to the ground display framework, tree trimming, and the setup of the stage, porta potties, and the traffic navigators/caution tape. Tammy Bruehl serves on the Freedom Fest Committee throughout the year.
- Staff continue to be busy with normal seasonal tasks. Lake of the Woods has remained very active with fishing, school picnics, family gatherings, graduation parties, and garden weddings. Staff have also assisted construction staff with a few concrete pours at the peninsula.

#### **Middle Fork River (Matt Kuntz)**

- The campground continues to see full capacities each weekend. We have also found our second pair of campground hosts for this summer. They have camped with us for over 20 years and have always wanted to be campground hosts.
- Middle Fork staff continue to monitor the Pt. Pleasant Wetland control structure. With drenching rainfall, the structure has held up quite well and of course has brought in an incredible and diverse amount of wildlife.
- Dark Sky visitation continues to be quite popular each week. We have received many requests from our visitors asking when the stargazing events will be coming back.

#### **Homer Lake (Brian Taylor)**

- Mowing in the park slowed down enough to finally allow us time to mow intersections and edges of the KRT for the first time. We are extremely grateful for the work that the trail stewards are doing as they care for their sections of the trail. Many of them ride the trail as they

go about their work and they have reported very few problems so far this season. The surface remains in good shape after four years of use.

- We assisted the construction crew with the new handicapped parking space at the Interpretive Center. You can see the new garage in the background.
- We have done quite a bit of road work already this season by patching several pot holes mainly along the edges of our roads. I suspect that the increase in traffic over the last year has put more stress on the edges of the road.



### **District Cultural Competency Initiatives**

- The DEI committee is working on a draft District DEI plan, which identifies desired outcomes, opportunities, weaknesses, progress, and data indicators.
- Barb Garvey attended a charrette for institutions involved in Facing Change, the American Alliance of Museum DEI initiative. This charrette was entitled, “Board Level Community Engagement & Equitable Partnerships.”
- Researcher Jamila Appleby has begun contacting local residents, especially those included in the MGP’s *This Legacy is Yours* project, to do oral histories with prominent African Americans. Mark Hanson, Katie Snyder and Barb Garvey worked with Jamila to develop questions. The museum purchased updated digital equipment to do the recordings and provided Jamila with the training and appropriate paperwork to collect this important material. Jamila is being paid a stipend, funded in part by the Frieda Mumm fund for diversity interns.
- Pat Cain toured the preserves with U of I Community Academic Scholar, Hannah Carraway, as she begins her research for the district in determining what diverse populations want and need to enjoy the resources of the CCFPD.
- [Please note several other DEI initiatives listed under the HR section above.]