July 8, 2022

#### **MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Lisa Sprinkle, Marketing Manager

Re: July Staff Report

#### **Executive Director (Lorrie Pearson)**

- Bridgette and Lorrie, along with Vermilion County Conservation District and Urbana Park District met with State Senator Scott Bennett to discuss progress of the Kickapoo Rail Trail (KRT). The meeting was productive and Senator Bennett offered his support on development hurdles such as the Glover Crossing and land acquisition in Urbana.
- John and Lorrie met with Sanford Hess, City of Urbana's IT Director, to help assess the District's IT plans and priorities. Hess confirmed the District's priorities and encouraged continuing to work with a consultant to help us keep the big picture in mind and make progress on our 5-year plan.
- Met with Brad Uken, Manager of Champaign County Farm Bureau, who also chairs Champaign County's Broadband Task Force. Discussed the Farm Bureau's current focus areas, including cover crops, and how we can support broadband access in areas that could also serve our preserves.
- Presented at the June 30 meeting of the Kiwanis Club with approximately 25 attendees. We discussed current referendum projects underway, the KRT expansion, and many of the ways they can continue to show their support for our shared mission.

#### Planning and Construction Department (Bridgette Moen and Mike Fry)

- Sealcoating at Lake of the Woods is complete. There has been one change order in the amount of \$3,000 for additional cold patch.
- Sam worked with Museum staff to design wayfinding signage for the exterior of the Museum.
- Sam updated the District vehicle fleet inventory, which will improve the capital equipment planning process and make reporting for financial and Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) audits smoother.
- Justin and Clint have made good progress on framing the Headquarters (HQ) basement and will complete the work following the HVAC installation.
- Work on Willow Pond is nearing completion. The liner is complete and the pond has started to fill back up. Remaining work is primarily site cleanup and restoration.

**Sealcoat Change Order #1** 

Description	Add	Total Contract
Original Contract	\$214,118.00	\$214,118.00
CO1	\$3,000.00	\$217,118.00



- Laura Williams with WDAN (Vermilion County First) interviewed Bridgette about progress of the KRT.
- KRT Phase 2C construction is on schedule. The contractor has begun grading and earthwork for the surfacing. There has been one change order since the June meeting for additional special waste monitoring, required by IDOT.
- Construction has been working on the residence at Homer Lake to prepare for Skylar's move.



# **KRT Phase 2C Construction: Change Order Tracking**

Last Updated 07/05/2022

Contract Description	Federal	State	Local	Total
Construction Engineering:				
Farnsworth O.C.	\$142,410.00	\$17,801.25	\$17,801.25	\$178,012.50
Construction: Stark O.C.	\$754,143.20	\$94,267.90	\$94,267.90	\$942,679.00
CO1: HMA Extension	\$12,204.26	\$1,525.53	\$1,525.53	\$15,255.33
CO2: Special Waste Monitoring	\$7,680.00	\$960.00	\$960.00	\$9,600.00
Total	\$916,437.46	\$114,554.68	\$114,554.68	\$1,145,546.83

Current Budget Summary	Federal	State	Local	Total
Project Budget	\$1,091,840.00	\$136,480.00	\$136,480.00	\$1,364,800.00
Project Scheduled Costs	\$916,437.46	\$114,554.68	\$114,554.68	\$1,145,546.83
Project Anticipated Savings	\$175,402.54	\$21,925.32	\$21,925.32	\$219,253.17

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

- Business and Finance filed the 2021 audit with the County Clerk, EMMA for required municipal bonds disclosure, PDRMA, Government Finance Officers for consideration of the financial reporting award, and provided notice in the News-Gazette of the availability of the audit report and the District's Public Funds Statement for 2021.
- After Business and Finance reviews, CliftonLarsonAllen filed the annual financial report to the State Comptroller and the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation return for organizations exempt from income tax.
- John worked with Lisa to update the District Finances page on the CCFPD website to the most current financial information, including the District audit.
- Blair set up annual cyber-threat training for all staff and targeted cyber-threat training for employees who fail to recognize simulated phishing attacks from KnowBe4, the district's cyberthreat education vendor. Employees who select links on the simulated phish attacks are identified for targeted training to address the specific cyber-threat type that they failed to recognize.
- John contacted Craig Williams with ClientFirst to secure quotes for implementing cyber-threat priorities, securing greatly improved connectivity for Middle Fork and Homer Lake, and upgrading the District's phone system to replace the current twelve-year old system with all

preserves having access to VoIP and greatly improved and integrated voice communications not only across the District but with mobile devices and personal computers.

# **Human Resources (Dara Edgington)**

- During the month of June Human Resources processed a total of 10 hires and one separation.
- As of June 30, our total headcount was 118 employees including 45 FT, 19 PT, 53 seasonals, and one paid intern.
- The District documented three accidents/incidents over the month: one patron and two employees.

# **Marketing (Lisa Sprinkle)**

- First and second interviews were held for the Marketing Specialist position.
- Freedom Fest was held Friday, July 1 at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, after a brief rain shower around 4pm it was a beautiful night. We took in \$4,851 at the gates, meaning we have just over 2,400 people in attendance. Sponsorship totals were \$4,625 and we had three food vendors for a total of \$150 in fees.
- The Mahomet Area Chamber of Commerce is developing a Mahomet-based Monopoly game. They held a lottery for member businesses to receive a game board space and CCFPD was one of the winning businesses. Additionally they are offering businesses the opportunity to have a Community Chest or Chance card so we did one for Lake of the Woods Golf Course and one for the Museum of the Grand Prairie. Here's the wording for each:
  - O You won a golf tournament at Lake of the Woods Golf Course, collect \$200.
  - The Museum of the Grand Prairie opens a new exhibit, advance to the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. If you pass Go, collect \$200.
- Media coverage last month included:
  - o <a href="https://www.chambanamoms.com/2022/06/12/free-air-conditioned-family-outings-champaign-urbana/">https://www.chambanamoms.com/2022/06/12/free-air-conditioned-family-outings-champaign-urbana/</a>
  - o <a href="https://mahometdaily.com/museum-of-the-grand-prairie-looking-for-submissions-for-upcoming-exhibit/">https://mahometdaily.com/museum-of-the-grand-prairie-looking-for-submissions-for-upcoming-exhibit/</a>
  - o <a href="https://www.smilepolitely.com/arts/healing\_hearts\_community\_collage\_to\_share\_pandemic\_stories\_in\_words\_and\_ima/">https://www.smilepolitely.com/arts/healing\_hearts\_community\_collage\_to\_share\_pandemic\_stories\_in\_words\_and\_ima/</a>
  - o https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/illinois/five-different-planets-will-align-sky-il/
  - o <a href="https://pantagraph.com/lifestyles/travel/watch-now-homer-lake-a-peaceful-place-to-explore-wildlife-recreation/article\_51bb49be-ef30-11ec-b3f4-778dc82b5bf1.html">https://pantagraph.com/lifestyles/travel/watch-now-homer-lake-a-peaceful-place-to-explore-wildlife-recreation/article\_51bb49be-ef30-11ec-b3f4-778dc82b5bf1.html</a>
  - o <a href="https://pantagraph.com/lifestyles/travel/watch-now-homer-lake-a-peaceful-place-to-explore-wildlife-recreation/article-51bb49be-ef30-11ec-b3f4-778dc82b5bf1.html">https://pantagraph.com/lifestyles/travel/watch-now-homer-lake-a-peaceful-place-to-explore-wildlife-recreation/article-51bb49be-ef30-11ec-b3f4-778dc82b5bf1.html</a>
  - o <a href="https://mahometdaily.com/mahomet-and-seymour-prepare-for-fourth-of-july-celebrations/">https://mahometdaily.com/mahomet-and-seymour-prepare-for-fourth-of-july-celebrations/</a>
  - https://www.stjosephrecord.com/2022/06/27/work-continuing-on-railtrail/?fbclid=IwAR2YT4rag3csjWvdqRkzn3mRC9htKymXLe7SPP7BOpeNv-McaP8w6sDx8YQ
  - o <a href="https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2022/06/28/five-international-dark-sky-association-places-closest-wisconsin-michigan-illinois/7734382001/">https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2022/06/28/five-international-dark-sky-association-places-closest-wisconsin-michigan-illinois/7734382001/</a>
  - o <a href="https://www.chambanamoms.com/2022/06/29/champaign-urbana-weekend-planner-fourth-of-july-has-arrived/">https://www.chambanamoms.com/2022/06/29/champaign-urbana-weekend-planner-fourth-of-july-has-arrived/</a>
  - https://www.wandtv.com/news/covid-19-cases-on-a-rise-leading-up-to-the-holidayweekend/article\_8b7d1fd4-f812-11ec-8788-37bff39766ae.html

- o <a href="https://www.wcia.com/ciliving-tv/schoolhouse-in-the-summer-concerts-and-facility-rentals-available-with-champaign-county-forest-preserve-district/">https://www.wcia.com/ciliving-tv/schoolhouse-in-the-summer-concerts-and-facility-rentals-available-with-champaign-county-forest-preserve-district/</a>
- o <a href="https://www.chambanamoms.com/2022/07/06/champaign-urbana-weekend-planner-summer-fun-in-the-sun/">https://www.chambanamoms.com/2022/07/06/champaign-urbana-weekend-planner-summer-fun-in-the-sun/</a>
- o <a href="https://jg-tc.com/news/local/watch-now-homer-lake-a-peaceful-place-to-explore-wildlife-recreation/video">https://jg-tc.com/news/local/watch-now-homer-lake-a-peaceful-place-to-explore-wildlife-recreation/video</a> af004b02-8f5b-56be-a2e9-f34b3e0d80d4.html
- o <a href="https://www.wcia.com/news/state-news/pritzker-names-87-parks-as-grant-recipients/">https://www.wcia.com/news/state-news/pritzker-names-87-parks-as-grant-recipients/</a>
- o <a href="https://www.effinghamradio.com/2022/07/08/governor-pritzker-announces-30-3m-in-grants-for-87-local-park-projects-throughout-illinois/">https://www.effinghamradio.com/2022/07/08/governor-pritzker-announces-30-3m-in-grants-for-87-local-park-projects-throughout-illinois/</a>

#### • Social media numbers continue to increase.

	FACEBOOK	+/-	INSTAGRAM	+/-	TWITTER	+/-
CCFPD	6,356	+91	2,971	+62	570	+4
KRT	4,376	+117	142	+2	138	
MGP	4,660	+42	1,254	+6	261	0
HLIC	3,090	+17				
GC	1,842	+34	337	+3	114	+1
FPFF	550	+4				

## • June Facilities Rental Report

#Rentals	Preserve	Facility	\$
12	HL	Salt Fork Center	\$4,100
10	HL	Walnut Hill Shelter	\$1,470
2	LOW	Botanical Garden Weddings	\$1,990
8	LOW	Elks Lake Pavilion	\$3,000
4	LOW	Izaak Walton Cabin	\$645
23*	LOW	Lake of the Woods Pavilion	\$850
5	LOW	Lakeview Shelter	\$360
7	LOW	Riverview Retreat Center	\$1,260
8	LOW	Rotary Hill Shelter	\$1,330
2	LOW	Sycamore Hollow Shelter	\$140
3	MF	Activity Center	\$900
TOTAL: 61			\$16,045

<sup>\* 20</sup> were Early Voting and Election at no charge

#### **Volunteer Coordinator (Sue Gallo)**

- Four service events (all for the Natural Resources Department and all cancelled due to heat) and the 4-day Catholic Heart Worker Campers engaging 12 volunteers for a total of 240 hours. Additionally, 194 hours were claimed in the database at this time by regular volunteers for service in June.
- We had two groups of Catholic Heart Campers who helped the Golf Course, the Museum of the Grand Prairie, the Botanical Garden, Natural Resources, and the Volunteer Coordinator. It was really hot when they were here, so plans were altered with safety in mind.
- Sue was recertified in First Aid & CPR, attended two webinars about maintaining volunteer engagement, met with this year's Master Naturalist cohort and spent the remainder of the month recruiting, communicating and preparing for Freedom Fest.





Left: Freedom Fest Volunteers Lynn, Tim and Jim photo by volunteer Peter Xiao, right: Catholic Heart Camp Workers volunteering with Natural Resources to remove invasive clover and wild parsnip from Buffalo Trace Prairie

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

- On June 4<sup>th</sup> we had 10 donors join us for a guided hike of Willow Pond by Peter Goodspeed and Bridgette Moen. The donors had very positive responses to the event and one of the donors sent in a donation after the event.
- CCFPD was awarded an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for \$294,000 (\$588,000 total project) for a Dark Sky Trail at Middle Fork. Scope includes a new trail, sky watching nodes, a new Dark Sky parking area, a nature playground, campground expansion, and small observatory. Depending on the timeline for receiving our grant agreement from the State, construction will likely start in spring 2023.

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

- In June, NR staff planted native plugs in the following locations:
  - o LOW bare areas near kayak and canoe launch
  - o SR bottomland areas where reed canary grass has been controlled
- Integrated pest management (IPM) was in full swing the month of June because many of the herbaceous invasive plant species were bolting and flowering. IPM consisted of mowing, hand pulling, and herbicide application of following invasive species throughout the preserves:
  - o Poison hemlock

- Wild parsnip
- Reed canary grass
- o Bird's-foot trefoil
- o Purple crown vetch
- Yellow sweet clover
- Canada thistle
- Japanese hops
- White sweet clover
- Staff collected seed from the following native plant species to propagate in future restoration projects:
  - Spiderwort
  - o Wild dill
  - Nodding fescue
  - $\circ$  Shooting star
  - Shorts sedge
  - o Wild geranium



- NR staff conducted a prescribed burn on three acres at Middle Fork. This was done to burn off the dead vegetation to prep the site for the planting of a sunflower cover crop mix.
- Over the course of two days, NR staff and 12 volunteers from the Catholic Heart Work Camp pulled wild parsnip and yellow sweet clover at Buffalo Trace, covering nearly 45 acres.

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

- June was a very successful month from a revenue and play standpoint. While encountering some hot stretches, we did not receive hardly any precipitation. Joie and his staff did a tremendous job of keeping the course in great condition and we heard several compliments from patrons. We had 5,815 players in June. This is 700 more than 2021 and well above the 5-year average of 4,640. Revenue also saw a similar trend as we had total revenues of \$135,239 this June, well above the 2021 total of \$108,156 and the 5-year average of \$105,265. Both play and revenue numbers are the highest June totals since 2009.
- We held 3 golf tournaments and one large outing in June. The Bulldog Open, which raises money for the Mahomet-Seymour High School athletic department, had a total of 107 players in their event. Our tournaments had the following player counts:
  - Naughtin Open 38 (2-Day Stroke Play Tournament)
  - Hartwell Match Play 28 (Summer long bracket play event)
  - Parent-Child Tournament 56 (18-Hole alternate shot event for parent and child twosomes of all ages)
- June also saw the return of our annual Junior Clinics. These clinics are held each Tuesday during the month (4 sessions) from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Each session is one hour and broken down by age group (8-9; 10-12; 13-17). We limited participation to the first 25 enrollees in each age group. Both the 8-9 and 10-12 age divisions were full and we had 10 participants in the 13-17 group. Students in these clinics learn the basics of the game, while rotating stations between the driving range, putting greens, and Par 3 course. David Sebestik, Jason Troyer and a couple of high school varsity team members assist with teaching these clinics.

- Head Professional David Sebestik also started a PGA Junior League team and Golf Academy this year. The Junior League is comprised of 10 players, ages 10-12, and competes against other area courses in a 9-hole event on Tuesday mornings throughout the summer. The Golf Academy meets every Thursday afternoon and is split into Junior High and High School age divisions (also one hour each). This academy is focused towards youth that are interested in being, or are already, part of the high school golf teams.
- The maintenance crew at the golf course has done a fantastic job on keeping the course in great shape with the drought conditions this summer. The rough, tees, and fairways are being mowed once a week due to these conditions.
- Potholes on # 6 and # 7 fairways were filled and seeded.
- Maintenance crew replaced eight bad sprinklers heads on the back nine course.
- Superintendent will be slicing the fairways to open up the plant canopy so it can allow moisture and nutrients into the soil.

# **Museum and Education Department (Barb Garvey and Stacey Clementz)**

- Visitation for the Homer Lake Interpretive Center (HLIC) doubled since last month with 295 visitors. Visitation at the Museum of the Grand Prairie (MGP) is almost back to pre-pandemic levels with 1,451 visitors in June 2022. That's 1,000 more visitors than June 2021!
- At HLIC, we have hired two amazing people as our EE Day Camp Educators: Grace Hanson and Quinlan Carrell. They have hit the ground running and all the campers love them.
- The Museum of the Grand Prairie (MGP) welcomes Ben Gould, a new iSchool intern, who will working to process the Hoskins collection.
- Cathy Schneider successfully trained 17 Counselors-in-Training and they are all scheduled to help with Eco-adventures day camp this summer. Katie Snyder trained her two CITs and they are doing a great job helping with camps at the museum. Pat Cain has taken on 2 CITs to assist him with Museum Mondays.
- Cathy Schneider trained two new families as animal enrichment volunteers and we have one family returning from last year. These volunteers come once a week to take our animals outside for exercise.
- Linda Wright and Taylor, Waylon, Lilly, Madilynn sponsored our education animals for one year.
- At MGP, the Robert F. Smith intern from the Museum of African American History, DeBorah Ault, is at the half way point of her internship, and has started working on the public programming aspect of her project, in addition to the oral history processing.
- Jen Grove and Rob Diehl began working at Sangamon shed to begin large-scale relocation of artifact to Rankin Center.
- Jen Grove, Rob Diehl, Mark Hanson, and the construction crew removed all collections steel rack shelving from the basement of HQ and relocated it to museum storage for reuse. Artifacts have all been removed from HQ basement as well.
- Jen Grove and Rob Diehl delivered deaccessioned Bonner collection shirt to Lake County Forest Preserves Dunn Museum.
- Collections staff facilitated a Museum Advisory Committee meeting to discuss reaccreditation, collections acquisitions, and possible deaccessions.
- Mark Hanson received the contract for the upcoming ISHRAB grant project and began prepping the Hoskins oral histories for digitization and reformatting

- Stacey Clementz and Mark Hanson continue to work with Doug Mills on an exhibit on his wetland photography that will be on display at the Interpretive Center starting late September.
- Mark Hanson and volunteers completed digitization of an old Illinois Quilt Research Project travelling exhibit discovered at the Illinoi State Museum and returned to us.
- Cleaning of all exhibits and collections areas has begun in preparation for reaccreditation assessment visit.
- The Exhibits Committee continued work on tool wing upgrade and new online exhibit sharing
  oral histories from continuing Revisiting your Legacy oral history project. This Legacy is Yours
  and Your Legacy Too exhibits have been redesigned and updated and our now again available
  on our website.
- Leal elementary hosted a camp this summer and checked out the Water Quality Loan kit which was seen by 95 students.
- Jennifer Wick with Katie Snyder and Pat Cain to organize details with translators for a combined Prairie Stories/Welcoming Week event in September.
- Jennifer's first post-pandemic Canoeing for Beginners program had a great turnout with 10 participants.
- Jennifer's library programs are in full swing; Allerton library (65), Tolono library (2), Oakwood library (15), Homer library (18).
- Jennifer, with assistance from other education staff, taught fishing to the Big Grove Day Camp girls (67) who had rented out the Walnut Hill shelter for the week.
- The StarWatch at Middle Fork had around 80 participants with a large majority of campers from the campsite thanks to Christy Wallace, Activities Coordinator, for roaming around the campgrounds letting people know about it.
- This month's Walk with a Naturalist had two participants.
- Eco-adventures summer camps are going great despite the hot weather. We have 109 campers this year, which is significantly lower than pre-pandemic numbers. We did have to cancel the afternoon camps because of low or no enrollment but we are happy that is the case because it has been super-hot during camp.
- The Nature Explorers Preschool programs were canceled due to very low enrollment. These were to take place at the beginning of June; one at Homer Lake and one at Lake of the Woods.
- We had several outside program requests including Prince of Peace in St. Joseph with 13 students learning about Prairie and 17 learning about the animals that call Homer Lake home. We also saw a camp group from First Christian Church in Champaign with 46 kiddos.
- Katie Snyder welcomed back children to in-person summer programming with our Four Elements Camp. Children cooked over a fire, made a fort in the woods, learned about flight and played water games on Wednesdays during the month of June. 12 children and one Counselor in Training took part in the program.
- Garden Adventures/Tiny Tots was back in-person this summer. Marina Montez-Ellis hosted 4 preschoolers and their 4 adults at this fun camp where kids planted, learned about insects and made fun recipes using fresh produce.
- Garden Adventures Camp was back in person this summer. Marina Montez-Ellis welcomed 7 kids to this fun camp where kids planted, learned about insects and made fun recipes using fresh produce.

- On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Katie Snyder was interviewed by Pat Cain for "Mornings at the Museum," about our Healing Hearts Community Collage with 54 views. Submissions are being accepted through July.
- For the month of June, The museum was the host site of the monthly Champaign County Museums Network meeting. Network members got a tour of the museum's new "A History of Healing Exhibit" and conducted their regular business meeting afterwards in the museum's Education Room
- The CCFPD Summer Concert Series Kicked off in June. Aces N' Rhythms performed in late June at Homer Lake's Walnut Shelter (123 patrons). Candy Foster and The Shades of Blue returned to LOW's Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden for a concert in early July (319 patrons).
- The museum kicked off a special virtual speaker series tied to the new "A History of Healing" exhibit. The series kicked off with a presentation from Dr. Leslie Reagan, Professor of History at the University of Illinois where she has affiliations in the Departments of Gender and Women's Studies, Media Studies, and the College of Law. Leslie presented a program titled "Responding to Polio" where she described the national and local impacts of polio, especially during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She drew special attention to local U of I students affected by polio and other physical disabilities and the activism they participated in to make the university a more accessible place for all. The series is funded by a grant from Illinois Humanities and also includes funding to make programs more accessible. During this program and all future programs in the series, an American Sign Language interpreter will interpret program content live and on-screen for program viewers. (194 patrons)
- Another summer of Museum Monday programs has begun. Each week, program participants have taken part in hands-on and engaging activities all centered on a theme related to history, culture, and/or nature. Themes for programs so far this summer have included "Toy Stories," (19) "Let There Be Light," (16) and "Dog Days of Summer" (14) where program participants had the opportunity to interact and de-stress with therapy dogs from CU Canine Connection.
- The museum has begun a partnership with the Champaign County Medical Society. In this partnership, staff will be working with the society to discuss an idea titled "Museums on Prescription" to help promote the positive health and wellness benefits that can be achieved through visiting museums and the outdoors. The society has also offered funding to help support programming related to the "A History of Healing" exhibit.
- The museum hosted first-person Abe Lincoln interpreter, Kevin Wood, on the Friday of Fourth of July Weekend. In full character and costume, Wood presented a program titled "A New Birth of Freedom." The program was funded in part by a Looking for Lincoln/Abraham Lincoln National Heritage area grant. (44 patrons)
- Pat Cain recently met with PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living and the organization's
  Deaf Advisory Committee. Pat provided a presentation that included a general overview of the
  district and the museum. Also, Pat listened to committee recommendations for making district
  facilities and programs more accessible for those who may be deaf or hard of hearing. Pat is
  hopeful that this is the beginning of a great partnership that will make district offerings more
  accessible.

## Lake of the Woods (Rusty Maulding)

- Our trails are being kept clean more efficiently with the new stand-on blower, recently approved for purchase by the Board. It will make a significant impact in our ability to manage leaves this fall on trails and around the many facilities at Lake of the Woods.
- The annual plantings in the botanical garden and out on property are starting to come into their own and are adding extra pop to the perennial beds for both pollinators and people to enjoy. We've had to water quite a bit more to get them established this year due to the extremely dry June. Other areas of the botanical garden have also required more water than usual. We employee a method of deep, more infrequent irrigation to force the plants to send roots deeper into the soil so they can be as self-sufficient as possible.





- Our aging equipment fleet consistently requires relatively small repairs including a motor that would not turn off, failed mower spindle, dead battery, oil leak, failed pully bearing, a vacuum leak from old tubes, failed tensioner pully and an ABS light that has just illuminated all within the last 30-40 days. While nothing so far has been a high dollar repair, there are multiple times a week when equipment goes out of service and it varies from same day to 3 weeks for repairs to be completed depending on parts availability and sometimes service dealers.
- We have raised the height of cut on all mowers to 3.5" minimum. This elevated height will directly increase the turfgrasses ability to root deeper and better compete with weeds. We plan to revert to a shorter height of cut in the late fall and early spring, and resume this elevated height of cut next year earlier.
- The Operations, Botanical Gardens and Construction staff setup and tore down another Freedom Fest with the help from Headquarters, Golf Course and many, many volunteers on the day of the event and a different set of volunteers arrived on Saturday to help with litter. We sincerely appreciate everyone's help in pulling this event off with a special shout out to Tammy Fry for leading the work and coordinating with vendors.

# Middle Fork River (Matt Kuntz)

• We noticed a smaller crowd with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend at the campground this year. Most responses from campers when asked why they needed to cancel, answers ranged from fuel

- prices being too high, Covid, and weather concerns with the heat. The weekend after the 4<sup>th</sup> we went right back to being fully booked for the I&I Tractor show in Penfield.
- The Willow Pond restoration project is coming to a close this month. White Construction has done a fantastic job on this project and working with our staff to ensure little disturbance to the campground and visitors to the park. We are starting to fill the pond, hoping for more rain to help out.
- Staff is currently evaluating a potential issue at the South Waterfowl Area. We noticed the water levels have been going down over the last few weeks, where a break in the metal culverts was found at the water control structure. Once the water has receded we will be able to see how much damage has occurred on this structure and start getting a game plan on a fix.

#### **Homer Lake (Skylar Smith)**

- Skylar Smith started as the Site Superintendent at Homer Lake on June 14. Since starting he has met with several department heads and received a tour of LOW. Everyone has been very helpful and friendly.
- Roy Woodmansee celebrated 30 years with CCFPD in June. We all appreciate Roy's hard work and dedication.
- With the lack of rain over the past few weeks, there has been an opportunity to chip away at our to-do list for maintenance around the forest preserve.
- We are currently looking for a seasonal staff member to work the weekend shift.

# **District Cultural Competency Initiatives**

- June 5<sup>th</sup> Katie Snyder attended a lecture by Mike Benner, director of the Greater Community AIDS Project of East Central Illinois, of "Sewn in Memory: AIDS Panels from Central Illinois," at Spurlock Museum.
- On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Katie Snyder did an on-line read-aloud of the book, "Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag," for PRIDE month, with 128 viewers.
- Katie Snyder completed the Chicago Wilderness Jedi Equity and Culture Training led by
  August Bell of Cream City Conservation Consulting, which took place from Oct. 2021 to June
  2022 and included: Introduction to Racial Equity; Foundations of Internalized Racism;
  Decentering White Dominant Culture; Social Identities and Intersectionality; Recruitment and
  Retention for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Equity Tools.
- June 20, Katie Snyder, Marina Montez-Ellis and Selena Gonzalez collaborated with Y on the Fly at Ivanhoe Estates mobile home park in Urbana to serve 4 children and 8 adults.

# 2022 Capital Projects - July Update

LOCATION STATUS PROJECT NOTES

\*Denotes facility improvement made possible
by November 2020 referendum funding.

GOLF	100%	Driving Range Turf Improvements	Complete.
GOLF	100%	Front 9 Bunker Renovation	Complete
GOLF	100%	Front 9 Irrigation Heads	Complete.
LOW	100%	Sealcoat Roads*	Complete.
MF	100%	Replace Shower House Sinks *	Complete.
MF	100%	Replace Campground Water Fountains*	Complete.
NR	100%	KRT Tree Removal	Complete.
NR	50%	Integrated Pest Management	Ongoing.
NR	50%	Hazard Tree Removal	Work completed at
HQ	20%	Basement Office Space	HVAC and lift contracts in place. Windows and lift to be completed in October (materials ordered).
GOLF	10%	Cart Path Improvements/Expansion	Initial bids rejected. Partial in-house completion possible in 2023 dependent on staff availability.
HL	10%	Natural Playscape Pump Replacement*	Working with Aquascapes on a solution. Regular system cleanouts are helping temporarily.
HL	10%	Observation Deck Shelter Replacement*	Removal complete. New material sourcing in progress.
HV	10%	Parking for Heron View Forest Preserve	Some tree and brush removal complete. Considering multiple alternatives.
LOW	10%	Replace Gravel Walks in BG	Bids rejected. Will proceed with reduced scope in fall.
LOW	10%	Replace West Gate Columns*	Planning underway.
LOW	10%	Spillway Repairs	Funding in process – later 2022 construction.
LOW	10%	Replace Fishermans Shelter*	Some materials on hand.
LOW	10%	Replace Roof on Covered Bridge*	RFP issued in July. Approval in August.
MF	10%	Storm Shelter	Shelter is ordered. Lead time is 28 weeks.
MU	10%	Blacksmith Wing Renovation	Project started.
District	10%	HVAC Replacement*	Funding allocated to HQ Basement. Contract awarded.
LOW	10%	Enabling Garden Shade and Planters	Plans in progress.
NR	0%	Willow Pond Shoreline Planting	
MF	0%	Material Bays	
LOW	0%	West Maintenance Roof Replacement*	
SR	0%	Replace Second Story Windows*	
HQ	0%	Replace Windows in Heritage Hall*	Planning underway.
District	0%	Sign Replacement – BT/RP/MF	10 Pannier Stands on Order
RB	0%	Sidewalk Repairs and Adjustments*	ADA funds moved to HQ elevator.
MF	0%	East Barn Demolition*	Holding for 2023 project.
MF	0%	Renovate Activity Center Kitchen	Holding for 2023 project.

# **2022 GRANT/DONATION PROJECTS**

KRT	95%	ITEP Amenities	Some signage remains.
KRT	15%	Phase 2C Construction – Ogden	On schedule for September completion.

LOW	10%	Discovery Greenhouse	RFQs received. Approval at August Board Meeting.
MF	10%	OSLAD Dark Sky Amenities	OSLAD Grant Awarded. Majority of work to be completed in 2023.
NR	0%	Seeding Buffalo Trace	Seeding winter 2022-23.

# **RESERVES PROJECTS**

MF	95%	Willow Pond Renovation*	Essentially complete. Final sign off in progress.
----	-----	-------------------------	---