

The Bristol Park Board meeting held on **March 3, 2026**, covered several ongoing park improvement projects, staffing updates, and future planning

### **Park Beautification & Landscaping**

- **Congden Park Stairwell:** Guest Kathy Antonelli presented a proposal to plant hostas, perennials, and seasonal flowers around the stairwell in Congden Park. She used AI-generated renderings to illustrate the concept. The board approved her moving forward with the project as time and weather permit.
- **Tree Planting:** Street Supervisor Eric emphasized a goal to plant new trees in Congden Park by the end of April (targeting Arbor Day). The board discussed using "Gator Bags" (slow-release watering bags) to ensure the new trees' survival.
- **Herman's Park Wetland:** Plans are moving forward for native "ground cover" plantings in marshy areas to reduce the need for difficult mowing. A proposed raised wooden walkway (boardwalk style) was discussed to make the area accessible even when the ground is soft.

### **Staffing & Operations**

- **Park Board Employee/Coordinator:** The board is developing a job description for a part-time "Parks Coordinator" or intern. Responsibilities would include logistical planning, event assistance, grant writing, and reporting maintenance issues (like broken equipment or graffiti).
- **Student Intern:** The town has hired a high school senior, Ava, to start as a seasonal intern in mid-March. She will assist with the Farmer's Market and other summer events before heading to college in July.
- **Online Reservations:** Jill provided an update on the new online reservation system for park pavilions. A live demo and official launch are expected at next month's meeting.

### **Park Infrastructure & Repairs**

- **Cummins Park Restrooms:** The board reviewed photos of high-end restroom facilities used by Elkhart County Parks. While expensive (approx. \$230k), the board is exploring more cost-effective modular options to replace the current portable toilets.
- **Basketball Court:** A quote of \$3,300 was received for striping and repair of the basketball court. The board is seeking a second quote before making a final decision.
- **Memorial Park Redesign:** Due to upcoming water main construction, Memorial Park will be "torn up" this year. The board is treating this as an opportunity to completely redesign the space, potentially adding a **small covered stage** for downtown musical performances and a memorial brick program for fundraising.

### **New Business**

- **Public Art:** Jill announced an upcoming meeting with a mural artist to explore potential locations for public art in Bristol, possibly on the side of a park pavilion or a downtown building.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for **April 7, 2026, at 6:00 PM.**