

Board of Marina, Parks & Forestry
Parks & Forestry Report
February 6, 2024

Park Division

- The following Park CIP projects are approved for construction early this year.
 - Cleveland Park splash pad
 - Kiwanis Park six court pickleball
 - Butzen Sports Complex 700-vehicle parking lot
 - Veterans Park four court pickleball and full basketball court
- Kiwanis road and small parking area, and Wildwood Sports Complex parking lot improvements, will be bid out for construction of this year. These were future CIP projects that were moved up ahead of schedule. American Rescue Plan Act funds will be used. The Wildwood Sports Complex parking lot is used by users of the sports complex and Wildwood Baseball Park.
- Small Dog Park fencing for Kiwanis Park - CIP includes and small fenced in area for Kiwanis Park Area 8. Location still needs to be determined.
- Sheboygan County Bicycling group and their consultant, International Mountain Biking Association, held their first community meeting on January 24 at the Library to discuss trail network feasibility and assessment for Evergreen Park. Forty bikers, neighbors and park users were in attendance. There were around 200 people that participated in the online survey.
- Renovation planning for Fountain Park – Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act have also been designated for Downtown Public Space. Part of those funds will go towards the conceptual planning for the renovation of Fountain Park. The city has an agreement with the firm, Parkitecture + Planning located in Madison. Scope of project and timeline will be available soon. A similar project that was just completed is Central Park in the City of Two Rivers.
- Wildwood Sports Complex Operations – In October, a non-renewal letter was sent to Mid-Lake Softball Association informing the board that their agreement with the City of Sheboygan would not be extended for another year. The department has looked at several options for continuing adult softball to be played at the complex as well as

opportunities for youth play. As of this report an agreement is being finalized with a private company for the operation of Wildwood Sports Complex. The departments goals during this process is to provide a well-run adult softball leagues with a family friendly atmosphere, provide opportunities for other types of programming such as youth baseball and softball, and to provide financial revenue for park improvements.

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The biggest focus in 2023 when talking about urban forestry here in Sheboygan was put on training. We replaced two open arborist positions and have focused on getting them familiar with what we do here and how we do it. Stump grinding was one of the largest training efforts because it was new to three of our four arborists.

Here are last year's totals:

- 352 Trees Removed
- 352 Branch Down Work Orders
- 149 Stumps Ground
- 1798 Trees Pruned
- 605 Ash Trees Treated
- 640 Street Trees Planted
- 126 Park Trees Planted
- 1616 Citizen Tree Concerns



Tree work goals for 2024:

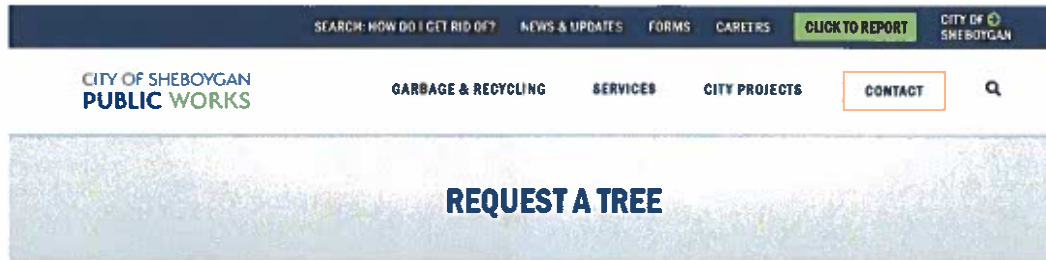
- Plant more trees than we remove
- Re-treat at least 600 ash
- Prune at least 2000 trees
- Grind and restore at least 400 stumps



Just like last year we will be utilizing our Tree Gravel Bed to help us more effectively plant bare-root trees. Purchasing trees bare root allows for a much lower price per tree. Placing them in our Tree Gravel Bed helps to accelerate the root growth during the summer months to greatly enhance the survivability and planting success. We held about 400 trees in the gravel bed last year and plan to do the same this year.



The goal is to plant 300 trees in the spring and 400 trees in the fall. The majority of these trees will be planted along city streets and a smaller percentage will be planted in park areas. If a resident would like a tree planted in the right of way adjacent to their property they can request one on the DPW website.



GO GREEN, REQUEST A FREE TREE

The Department of Public Works is always looking for opportunities to improve our community and enhance our residents' quality of life. If you'd like to make Sheboygan greener, request a street tree for your property's right of way today! Act fast - trees are limited!

[REQUEST A TREE FORM](#)

Through a \$5,000 grant from Alliant Energy and Trees Forever the City was able to purchase 50 trees for reforestation at the east side of Vollrath Park. Volunteers from Sheboygan North High School's Environmental Club assisted in tree planting on November 1st.



The most important trees to prune are young trees, to train them to have good structure. This is called training pruning and is scheduled to happen 3 years after trees are planted, then again at 6 years, 10 years, and 15 years. In 2024 there are about 400 trees that need training pruning.

