

## Park and Forestry Report – February 7, 2023

In 2022 the department issued 871 park reservation permits totaling \$143,587 in sales for the City. The DPW front office does a great job working with the residents to find a shelter and a date that will work for their gathering. The parks department cleans up after each reservation so the area is ready for the next rental. There are 10 open picnic shelters, six enclosed pavilions, two picnic areas, Fountain Park bandshell, and City Green that can be rented during set dates during the year.



In addition to routine maintenance, the division is responsible for delivering park equipment to the major festivals and smaller gatherings within the park system. The department charges these organizations for use and delivery of the equipment. DPW received \$19,123.00 in equipment rentals fees for 2022.

### North Point Bluffs

The Parks Division continues to work with Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP), and several other partners, to hire Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WisCorps) to remove and chemically treat a variety of invasive species along the Broughton Drive bluff. Stantec, an environmental engineering consultant, is instrumental in working with WisCorps along the Bluff. WisCorps were able to work two weeks on the bluff again in 2022. The Bluff Restoration Project consists of removing invasive species and planting a variety of native grass seed, trees, and shrubs for erosion control.

## Quarry Beach and Adventure Park

The adventure park first opened in 2013, leased by the City to a private company. In 2017, a local company, EOS Surf, took over management and lease of the Quarry. The current lease runs through 2024.



## Evergreen Area 5 Bridge

Construction of the new bridge in Evergreen Area #5 was completed in 2022. The area will remain closed to rentals for a portion of the 2023 season for additional planned improvements and to allow growth of newly planted grass seed.



## Sheboygan Biergarten

John Powers, owner of the Sheboygan Biergarten, a public private partnership held in Kiwanis Park, said that it was his best year ever since opening in 2019. The Biergarten was open Friday – Sunday for the summer season. John stated that many walkers and bikers are using the new trail to visit the Biergarten and there are many boaters also stopping on the river. Next year John is working with the Parks Division to provide docking space for boaters.



## New Landscaping around the Marina

Department staff removed overgrown arborvitae trees that were encroaching into the Marina pool area and boardwalk along the lake. Privacy screen was added to the fence during the season and park lakefront staff designed and planted vegetation that beautified the boardwalk.

## Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)

The department spent a significant amount of time with Graef Consulting in 2022 to update the city's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Keeping a current plan not only provides an assessment of recreational facilities and current needs but it also allows the city to be eligible for certain recreation grant programs administered through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other state and federal agencies. Facilitated by Graef Consulting, three community meetings were held throughout the summer and a month-long community survey was provided in several forms to reach as many community members as possible. This was all done in an effort to receive as much



community feed-back as possible about what the public wants from our city parks and trails. The proposed completion of the plan is May 2023.

### Vollrath Disc Golf Course

DPW worked closely with the Sheboygan Water Utility to make room in Vollrath Park for a \$41 Million dollar drinking water project. Unfortunately, it meant the loss of hole 13 or affectionately known as the "Lake Monster" by the local disc golf community. In return the department is working with local golfers to make small changes to the course and add another hole in an area known as the buffalo pit. This area is where the buffalo were kept when Sheboygan had a zoo in the park. As part of construction the deep swale is being partially filled with clean fill from the project. Trees will be planted and a new disc golf hole will be made.



### Adopt-A-Park/Trail Program

In 2022 Evergreen Park was adopted by the Friends of Sheboygan County Cycling. The Friends group started meeting with the city initially in 2021 to aid in the fundraising of a \$25,000 trails assessment and trail improvement project for Evergreen and Jaycee (Quarry) parks. After the storm on June 15, 2022, the Friends group made it their mission to clear all of the biking trails in Evergreen Park because the department was busy with the removal of hazardous trees along the city streets. The city did receive a quote for clean-up of the trails from a tree removal company at a price of \$25,000. The Friends group instead held several work groups and cleared almost all of the trails. They were unable to use

chainsaws on city property so all work was done with hand tools. When completed, two city forestry staff worked for only four hours to help finish by cutting the larger trees left on the trail. The Friends of the Sheboygan County Cycling continue to fundraise for the trail improvement project.



#### Park Storm damage from the June 15, 2022 storm

Evergreen Park was not the only park impacted by the June 15 storm. Almost all parks on the north side of the city suffered tree damage. All divisions of DPW came together to clear roads and remove hazardous trees. It was most of three weeks before work could be done in the parks. Much of the park work was done during overtime hours. Landmark Landscapers, a local landscaping company, donated a crew for a day to help clear trees in the Vollrath Park disc golf course.

The Jaycee (Quarry) disc golf course was heavily damaged by downed trees and unfortunately the lower holes remained unusable for much of the summer. The city also received a quote for storm clean-up in the disc course area in the amount of \$30,000. When DPW crews finally had the streets secured, park staff organized overtime crews to start clearing the course. Community volunteers that were anxious to get the course open also helped with the weekend storm

clean-up. BoMallies Restaurant provided food and water to the workers including 50lbs of wings during one of the clean-up days.

#### City Storm Damage from the June 15, 2022 storm

On the evening of June 15, 2022, a thunderstorm with very high winds left thousands of down and damaged street trees in the city. The majority of the damage was on the north side of the city. The Department of Public Works responded immediately after the storm, inventorying the damage and prioritizing the clearing of trees from blocked roads. For the next several weeks storm damage clean-up was all hands-on deck working long hours by any staff that could be pulled from other duties.

Once the roads were open, crews worked on opening blocked driveways and removing trees that were on vehicles. Crews then concentrated on removing trees that were on top of houses – this work needed to be carefully performed and a crane and excavator needed to be rented. Trees or limbs blocking sidewalks or laying in the parking lane or terrace were then addressed. It took just over four weeks for the department to address most of the reported 1,082 damage concerns. The Departments forestry crew along with contracted services, including removals and stump grinding, spent the majority of the summer and fall removing the left-over damaged street trees in the city.

Below is the inventoried storm damage and the cost of the storm clean-up:

37 trees on houses  
40 roads completely blocked  
651 Branches partially blocking road  
320 sidewalks blocked  
A total of 1,082 street trees had reportable damage  
479 street trees were removed

Cost of Storm  
\$210,000 Contracted Removals and Stump Grindings  
\$13,000 Rented chipper, crane and excavator  
\$16,000 Branch grinding  
\$9,000 Topsoil (for stump restoration)  
\$150,000 DPW Labor (5,635 hours)  
\$24,000 Street lights and signs  
\$28,000 Sidewalk repairs  
Total \$450,000