

Parks and Recreation Report for the Month of April 2021

Recreation Staff worked on preparations for both the youth and adult softball programs. We had a few new coaches this year along with several long-term coaches returning. We want to thank these volunteers for their commitment to providing a fun softball season for the youth of our community. The youth program could not be run without these volunteers. All leagues are now playing and game schedules are available on our website.

The staff has continued training on the new registration software system that will go live on July 1st. All currently registered participants will need to log on and recreate a password to activate their new accounts. Residents are going to be notified via email of the upcoming changes.

Staff completed the summer catalog and it will be mailed to residents the week of May 17.

Program Coordinator Jessica Abt resigned her position and we have begun the search for her replacement. We also were able to fill a vacant part-time support specialist position and the new hire will start in June.

The community garden raised beds have all been reserved for the summer.

The new volunteer program, Adopt-a-flower garden, now has 6 residents and one group that have been assigned to various parks. The volunteers will tend to the park's flower gardens by pulling weeds, removing overgrown plants and planting donated annual. We wish to thank these citizens for their dedication to keeping our parks looking beautiful for the summer and fall.

We had 260 park surveys returned via the water bill or that were completed online. The data collected will allow the city to gain a broader understanding of the park system and amenities.

I submitted a SHIP Neighborhood Mini-Grant Application for water bottle filler stations to be installed at two of our parks, Able and Lakeside. In addition, this submission included programs to increase physical activity and map out safe bike routes between Able and Lakeside Park. We were notified that our submission was approved in the amount of \$2,000.

Activities offered during April included Yoga, art classes, Nordic Pole walking, Zoom Mature Driver Courses, Movies with Eric, and firearm safety.

The Tower Days Committee met on April 27 and more details were finalized. New this year is the 5k run on Saturday and the Medallion Scavenger Hunt. The week after the meeting the Governor announced some of the COVID restrictions would be lifted however with such short time frame to work with many of the changes that were made will stay in place. I have attached the tentative schedule to this report.

I attended the following additional meetings during the month of April:

Department Head Meeting on April 6th.

LMC Loss Control Workshop on line on April 8th.

Playground Equipment Training on April 9th.

Coaches Meeting, April 18th.

City Council April 19th.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kay Okey

Parks and Recreation Director