

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** June 5, 2023
SUBJECT: Parks Maintenance and Operations Update
PRESENTER: Tanner Arwine, Assistant Director

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Mr. Tanner Arwine, Assistant Director, will present an update on the following Parks Maintenance and Operations activities:

General Park Maintenance

- Park staff have been diligently working to prepare NRH2O's turf and landscaping for the 2023 season. Preparation this year has included various plant replacements, 14 pallets of mulch, irrigation audits with associated repairs and 12 pallets of zoysia turfgrass.



- The Memorial Bench and Tree Program has been busy with three projects over the past two months. Three memorial trees have been planted at Tommy and Sue Brown, Founders and Richfield Parks. Additionally, a memorial bench has been ordered for Richfield along with a bike repair station for the Barfield Trailhead.
- Pond maintenance is in full effect across all parks. Warmer temperatures encourage the growth of both aquatic plants and algae. Ponds are treated as needed with two aquatic chemicals that are safe for mammals and fish but allow for management of invasive plant species.

- Park Supervisor Michael Salazar led a group of Smithfield Middle School NJHS students to make improvements to the existing Monarch Waystation area at Dr. Pillow Park. The work included woody plant removal, milkweed installation, staining the protective fence and installing a Waystation sign. For more information on the Monarch Waystations visit www.nrhmonarchs.com.



Infrastructure Maintenance

- Park staff and contractors completed the installation of a new small group pavilion at Adventure World Playground. This work included pouring a concrete foundation, installation of the pavilion, new picnic tables, subsurface drainage, and decomposed granite installation around the perimeter of the pavilion. This pavilion is available for private reservation and can accommodate up to 30 people.



- Staff has replaced several large playground parts with significant wear at Founders Park. Some of the decking and slides had shown significant wear and weathering which prompted the need for immediate replacement.
- Select park furniture has been replaced at Founders Park and Faram Park. The main items replaced consisted of picnic tables and park benches.
- Additional grills have been installed at Linda Spurlock Park. These grills originated as a Park Amenity Request that was approved for consideration by Park Board at the December meeting.

Athletics

- Spring athletic seasons are coming to an end. Park staff will continue best practices of turf care on all athletic fields including aeration and fertilization to increase the health of the turf for summer and fall usage.
- With the soccer season over, Green Valley soccer fields will be receiving a chemical treatment to kill the perennial ryegrass off. As ryegrass continues to grow into the warmer weather, it begins to compete with the established Bermuda grass. Staff will spray a selective herbicide so that the Bermuda grass can begin to outcompete the ryegrass. Green Valley fields are not available for large group or team usage with exception of select field locations for the upcoming BAYFA summer soccer camps and clinics in June.
- Staff will also begin summer athletic field renovations that consists of fence repairs, infield clay mix installation, and sod work in preparation for the next round of league play of all sports.