

Parks and Recreation Director's Report

November 2023

Outreach/Partnerships

- Attended a Kent County meeting on the Grand River Greenway to get an update on the project.
- Kent Conservation District worked with miEcoBuzz to create a fantastic educational [video](#) about invasive bittersweet, featuring Burton Park and Jeanine Heibel.
- Volunteer Coordinator and Parks Director met with the Kent Garden Club to discuss possible Adopt-A-Garden for Memorial and Tassell Parks.
- West Michigan Conservation Network held their Fall Feature on how to make conservation work more accessible to underrepresented groups.
- Township Supervisor and Parks Director met with a representative from Rotary to discuss possible ways to partner.

Volunteer Program

- Tuesdays at 10 is going well. A consistent group of volunteers attend. Tassell Park has been the focus in November.
- The public workday removing woody invasive species at Friendship Park was highly successful with 12 volunteers.
- MillerKnoll removed autumn olive from Peace Park as part of their Day of Purpose.

Committees

- The Board of Trustees received the 2024 budget. The budget will be up for vote at the November 15, 2023 meeting.

Park Updates

- **Burton Park**
 - Invasive bittersweet treatments evaluated. Significant progress has been made in higher quality areas.
- **Cascade Park**
 - Volunteer workday removed barberry from around bathroom.
 - New roof for pavilion scheduled for installation in December.
- **Friendship Park**
 - Construction began.
 - Pavilion in final steps of design.
 - Ceremony held to honor donors.
- **McGraw Park**

- no updates at this time.
- **Memorial Park**
 - Ramp railing replaced.
 - Museum repainted.
 - Holiday decorations installed.
- **Peace Park**
 - Kent Conservation District removed woody invasives.
- **Tassell Park**
 - Masonry completed.
 - Holiday decorations installed.
 - Lease with Tuffy ending. Analysis of the Village Area is budgeted for 2024 which will include the Tuffy Area and the doctor's office.
- **Wycliffe Trailhead Park**
 - Picnic table will arrive in November.
 - Buildings and Grounds Supervisor and Parks Director met with Kompan staff to discuss nature play area ideas.
 - Vault toilets were researched.

Other Business

- Software selected to help with preventative maintenance and work orders, including a public interface.
- A proposal to dedicate a section of the pathway system to memorialize Allan Cox, a long-standing resident of Cascade, will go before the Board of Trustees in December.
- Buildings and Ground crew member will be attending the Michigan Playground Safety Certification Course in December.
- Assessment of mowing along pathways will be completed in early 2024 with intent of reducing mowing.
- Park Millage is temporarily on hold.