

# Hiawatha Parks and Recreation



**To:** Park and Recreation Commission  
**CC:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Angie Cole, Park and Recreation Director  
**Date:** July 5, 2013  
**Re:** Park and Recreation Report

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## **Year End Report for Fiscal Year July 2012-June 2013**

Enclosed is Fiscal Year 2013 report that highlights what we have done in our facilities, new partnerships, numbers from our programs and budget, a report of our sponsors, grants, budget impacts, accomplishments and goals for FY14. We have had a very successful year.

### **Discussion on Capital Improvement Plan**

**Guthridge Park pavilion/band shell** has \$50,000 budgeted in FY 14 (this July). As you can see from the attached pavilion/band shell discussion and history, this has been a topic for quite some time. The positives and negatives of a permanent or portable bandshell have been identified and my recommendation and reasons to have our City Engineer Coordinator review the pavilion plans we have in-hand are included.

### **Basketball Court replacement Guthridge/New at Tucker**

Guthridge Park basketball court was seal coated in 2010 by Pate Asphalt Systems for \$1080. The court now looks the same as it did in 2010 with major cracks that at least need seal coated again. This court as had this done several times throughout the years and does see a lot of wear and tear from the tent poles at Hog Wild Days from weight of the tent on the court. An overlay was bid for the courts in 2010 from Pate for \$13,997 and Kluesner at \$11,934. The problem with the overlay is that it will add an additional 2 inches to a court that already sits 2 inches above grade and it is not recommended to add a new overlay to an unstable/cracking court.

My recommendation would be to have the parks department employees seal the basketball court cracks and then have a company come in to put the seal coat on this year. In addition when the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Play calls for a basketball court north of the splash pad in 2012-2016. When/if this is done I would recommend replacing (not overlaying) the Guthridge Park court at the same time to save costs. Many departments have been successful at putting in a concrete court and doing the work

themselves. I would budget \$1500 for hoop sets and \$10,000 for concrete.

### **Discussion on Land Acquisition**

At the CIP meeting Council thought near a million dollars was a lot to spend in Clark Park and recommended the Commission look at new areas of town that have no current recreation opportunities (the northwest territory). The question being reviewed is "Where is the best place for the lodge?" Kramer's property was originally chosen because of the nature amenities that could work along with getting a REAP grant. Since that isn't an option at this point, I have enclosed a synopsis of what the Commission has been discussing regarding Clark Park and land acquisition for the lodge placement. There are two viable options which rumor has it may be owned by the same family. Please see my recommendations on these two potential land acquisitions. I would recommend a set amount be put in the CIP for engineering fees should we want to move forward with acquisition and possible grant applications. John Bender, Engineer Coordinator recommended \$10,000 to easily cover the engineering work.

### **Other items listed in the CIP are as follows with recommendations:**

1. Fay M Clark Memorial Park FY 15 has Playground Equipment for \$40,000 / Facility, restrooms and Playground for west side for \$290,000 / Parking lot and landscaping west side \$135,000.  
Recommendation: I would recommend moving these Clark Projects to FY17 to allow time for the Commission to work through the placement/engineering of the lodge and land.
2. Tucker Park FY15 has playground equipment replacement in \$15,000. This project was suggested in the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan I believe specifically to the tot swings and slide. The slide was removed and we decided not to replace it because of its close proximity to the pavilion. The tot swings are still in good shape as our maintenance on them has been continued through our playground inspection. If there is a need to replace these swings at a future date it could be done through the department budget for around \$2000. This does not reach the funding level for a CIP project so I would remove this project from the plan.
3. City Gazebo FY15 construct small playground equipment and install grills. We have in the FY15 plan to add a city sign to this location. The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan suggested these items to create a pocket park in this area. While I like the idea discussion should be had that the city does not own the parking for this location and may not want to attract large groups to the area. I would suggest leaving the \$15,000 funds in but when considering playground equipment I would keep it limited to one smaller piece.
4. Clark Park gilsonite application has been moved to the CIP to FY 15 in the amount of \$13,000.

### **PARK UPDATE:**

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> Ted Olson met many members from the **Trees Forever Tree Keeper** class to hold an informational meeting at Clark Park. The TreeKeepers program allows members to participate in a variety of classroom and hands-on trainings allowing the members to:

- Actively participate in tree plantings in their neighborhood and the community.
- Gain hands-on experience caring for street and park trees.
- Protect community trees and be a tree ambassador.

At Clark Park they were able to do onsite maintenance, pruning and mulching. Ted provided the mulch and

drive through the park for easier access. In addition Hiawatha will be hosting a TreeKeeper class in the Community Center. Usually this class is \$30, includes a TreeKeepers handbook, t-shirt, and refreshments and lunch. TreeKeepers will learn about:

- Tree Identification & Biology
- Proper Planting & Maintenance
- Benefits of Trees

Since we are hosing this event we are offered four free registrations. Two employees from the parks department plan to attend. Please let Kelly know if you would like to attend as well.

**Guthridge Park Improvements to Emmons St. sidewalk** did not received the grant from Safe Routes to Schools. We are combining this project with the flagpole planter in Guthridge Park. The city will do the majority of the work with the stamped concrete contracted out as we do not normally do this kind of work. Our hope is to start this project this fall.

**Boyson Road CIP Phase 1A** is moving forward due to the upcoming opening of the Kirkwood Community College Center on Boyson Road. This project will be acquiring bids for design of this project which will also include a pedestrian median on Boyson Road and a sidewalk installation on the open lot on N. 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue which will finish the connection to Clark Park to give pedestrians full sidewalk access on N. 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. City Staff has been approved to proceed with Requests for Quotations.

#### **RECREATION UPDATE:**

**Movies on the Square:** The second Movie on the Square was held on Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> in Boyson Square. The Friends Foundation grilled hotdogs, brats and sweet corn at 6:00PM. Tatyana's and Brickside also sold pizza and pastries. The Foundation made over \$300 with Tatyana's making \$191.00 and Brickside making \$197.00. Starting the event earlier made a huge impact on our revenue! There were plenty of kid's activities to do before the showing of the movie Wreck It Ralph that started at 7:30PM. We had over 375 people attend and we were very pleased with the turn out. The last Movie on the Square will be September 6<sup>th</sup> showing the animated film the Incredibles.

**Back to School Bash:** The Parks and Recreation Department and the Foundation participated in the Back to School Bash on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11-2PM at the Eastern Iowa Sports Complex. Macaroni Kid, CR Titans and Planet X put on the event with our assistance. All 500 tickets for the event sold out. Each vendor was to bring 500 school supplies to help kids get ready for school at a low cost. Wal-mart donated supplies for our booth which amounted to over \$1500. The Friends Foundation passed out crayon boxes, binders, and Kleenex at our booth. Kelly contacted the free and reduced families that the Friends Foundation helps support to gives free tickets to. The families were very grateful for giving them the opportunity to attend.

**Soccer and Blastball Surveys:** Soccer and Blastball are now completed and went very well this year. Kelly sent out a survey on Survey Monkey after both programs to see what kind of feedback we could get from this summer. Looking through the data over 50% of the kids in each of the programs had never participated, this meaning it was their first year in either program. With numbers lower than last year we believe we have a new batch of kids and will increase our numbers next year. We were very satisfied with the feedback.

**Adventure Camp:** Adventure Camp ended last Friday. Angie and Kelly met with the staff to go over how the summer went and what improvements could be made for next year. We had great participation numbers this year but think that the price should increase for the following years. A survey was also sent out to all participants to see what feedback we could get. We are still waiting on more responses but the ones we have received have all been positive!

**Touch-A-Truck:** We had our first Touch-A-Truck event on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm at the 10 Avenue parking lot of Guthridge Park. The Fire Department, Police Department, Streets, Parks, Pecks, Hawkeye Ready Mix and many more were in attendance. HACAP was also in attendance to collect non-perishable food items from the community.

**Hiawatha and Marion Kickball League:** Kelly has been working with Marion Parks and Recreation staff to develop an Adult kickball league this fall. We think it will be a great program to get started as it will also be a great partnership for future programs. The league will also bring people into Hiawatha and vice versa letting people see what amenities we have to offer as well as other programs. Attached is the registration flyer.

### ***NEW!* Adult Co-Ed Kickball League**

Adults 18+

Gather your best team of friends, family, and coworkers and take yourself back to recess with this exciting new league offered by the Marion and Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Departments. This self-officiated league features a 6 game regular season, followed by a single elimination tournament at the end of the season. Teams will be seeded based on their regular season record. Games will take place at either Lowe Park in Marion or Guthridge Park in Hiawatha. Limited number of spots available.

Register by: September 6, 2013

Fee: \$75 per team

Program dates: September 19-October 27

Thursday Evenings at 6:00pm    Tournament held Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

**HiBRAI:** HiBRAI is this Saturday and Sunday, August 17 & 15<sup>th</sup>. We have over 126 riders so far and have received a sponsorship of \$1,000.00 from Ameriprise Financial. We have had many food and supplies donated for area business. We should have another great turnout this year!

**Color Run Update:** Kelly attended the last two meetings for the Splash a Smile 5K helping to provide input and keep them on the right track for their race in September. The committee decided to go with Jonnie 5 Apparel for their t-shirts which we partnered with this past year for our youth programs and 5k Race. They are working through their marketing and advertising to get the word out, hoping to still get 2,500 in attendance.

**UICCU Kids Movie Night:** Movies nights are back! Our first movie will be on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you are available to attend. Movies begin at 6:30pm in the Community Center. The next few dates are as follows: September 13<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>.