



Park Board Agenda
Monday, February 26, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Kirkwood Community Center
111 South Geyer Rd.



I. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 PARK FUND BUDGET

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS *(See instructions on the previous page for offering a comment. The public comment portion of the meeting is an opportunity to hear comments from citizens. It is not a question and answer session and the Park Board will not respond to comments or answer questions during the comment period. The Chairperson may refer any matter to staff or hold discussion during the "Other Matters" section of the meeting).*

III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 22, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

IV. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS

- a. No Reports

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Strategic Plan Update
- b. WGNSS – James Earl Comfort Sign Board

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Purchase Delay of One Ton Dump Truck – Re-appropriate Funds
- b. Master Plan – Re-appropriate Funds
- c. Officer Nominations
- d. Other Matters

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS, HEAD RANGER AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORTS

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting – March 25, 2024

Staff Liaison: Kyle Henke. Phone: 314.822.5856 Email: henkekk@kirkwoodmo.org

Chair: Ellen Edman

Accommodation: The City of Kirkwood is interested in effective communication for all persons. Persons requiring an accommodation to attend and participate in the meeting should contact the City Clerk at 314-822-5802 at least 48 hours before the meeting. With advance notice of seven calendar days, the City of Kirkwood will provide interpreter services at public meetings for languages other than English and for the hearing impaired. Upon request, the minutes from this meeting can be made available in an alternate format, such as a CD, by calling 314-822-5802.

From the desk of:
Kyle Henke, Director of Parks and Recreation
111 S. Geyer Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: 314-822-5856 Fax: 314-984-5931
E-mail: henkekk@kirkwoodmo.org



Memo

To: Kirkwood Park Board
From: Kyle Henke
Date: February 22, 2024
Re: February 26, 2024 Agenda Memo

Budget Hearing - This represents the annual public hearing to allow for public comment on the proposed budget. The proposed budget has been available for public viewing at the Community Center since the January Park Board Meeting. Affidavits for proof of public notice are included in the packet along with proposed budget documents. The Public Hearing will begin at 7:00 PM with recess of the regularly scheduled Park Board Meeting. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Park Board meeting will resume.

Committee Reports

No Reports

Unfinished Business

Strategic Planning Update – This represents the monthly opportunity to provide updates on any actions taken regarding the strategic plan.

WGNSS – James Earl Comfort Sign Board – At the previous meeting the Park Board asked the Superintendent to collect quotes for a proposed James Earl Comfort recognition sign. Pete will be reporting the findings

New Business

Purchase Delay of One Ton Dump Truck Re-appropriate Funds - Due to a purchase delay staff is asking for previously approved capital funds be re-appropriated from the

FY23-24 Budget for the purchase of a One Ton Dump Truck in the amount of \$90,150 in account 201-09-100-101-000-620050, PF2402 to the same account in the FY24-25 budget.

Master Plan – Re-appropriate Funds – Due to the length of time required to obtain a Master Plan consultant, staff is asking for previously approved capital funds be re-appropriated from the FY23-24 Budget in the amount of \$124,600 from account 201-09-100-101-000-620090, Engineering Fees into the same account in the FY24-25 Budget.

Officer Nominations – Two Park Board members are asked to put together a slate of officers for those who are interested in running for Park Board President, Vice President and Treasurer, to be presented during the March Park Board meeting. During the April Park Board meeting a vote will take place and the new or returning officers will assume their roles in May. As a reminder, newly appointed Park Board members will join the board in June.

Maintenance Report – Pete's report is included. As well as a Report from Ron Hall, Head Park Ranger.

Director's Report – My report will include information on the following:

- Master Plan
- Community Center
- Ice Rink
- Aquatic Center



**Park Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 29, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Kirkwood Community Center Room 202**



IN ATTENDANCE: The meeting was called order at 7:04 p.m. with President Ellen Edman, Steve Ostrowski, Nate Wurtz, Jordan Wienke, Kathy Paulsen, Christopher Molitor (absent), Kevin Miller, Lauren Nieman, Becky Jones and Staff Liaison Curt Carron and Pete Laufersweiler in attendance.

I. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Allen Hopefl, 12 Orchard Way, reviewed the proposal in the packet from Planning Design Studio and feels that the proposed number of surveys is too low. He thinks 2,000 – 3,000 surveys should go out and that there should be a subcommittee established for the survey.

Rich Thoma, 320 Frieda Ave., a member of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society and will answer any questions during the meeting.

Gwen Wahlmann, agrees with Allen about the survey process. She hopes that the Trail Committee will continue with trail system and wayfinding in Kirkwood and Emmenegger Park. Likes the use of trail blazes to mark trails.

II. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Park Board recognized Allen Hopefl for his volunteer efforts and invasive honeysuckle removal. Allen was presented with a plaque and shirt to commemorate his volunteer efforts.

III. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

A motion made by Lauren Nieman to approve the December 18, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Becky Jones. Motion approved unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Finance Committee – Steve Ostrowski discussed the upcoming budget process, there will be a public hearing at the February 26th meeting and voting will happen at the March 25th meeting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Strategic Goals Update – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Webster Groves Nature Study Society Sign Proposal – WGNSS is willing to donate \$1600.00 towards sign but the Park Board would like a different type of sign to match similar signs throughout the parks. This sign would cost about \$2000.00 more.

Motion by Lauren Nieman to suspend Roberts rules of order to allow a representative of WGNSS to speak. Seconded by Kevin Miller. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion by Nate Wurtz to approve staff to move forward with getting bids on the sign. Seconded by Jordan Wienke. Motion approved unanimously.



- b. Master Plan – Kyle discussed the proposal from Planning Design Studio that was recommended by the selection committee. The Park Board asked questions about the proposal.

A motion made by Kathy Paulsen to enter into a contract with Planning Design Studio for a not to exceed amount of \$124,600.00 from account # 201-09-100-101-000-620090, Engineering Fees.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT

- a. Pete Laufersweiler discussed the Superintendent of Parks report and introduced Sebastian Kaiser, the new Parks Horticulturist.

VIII. DIRECTORS REPORT

- a. Community Center Renovation – Kyle gave an update.
- b. Aquatic Center – Several pool leaks have been identified.

IX. BOARD COMMENTS

Kathy Paulsen asked Kyle to clarify upcoming meeting dates. February 26 and March 25 are the next two meeting dates.

- X. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

OPERATING BUDGET

Account Description	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget	2024 Projected Actuals	2025 Request	Variance 24 -25 Req Vs. 23-24 Budget	Comments
Property Taxes	\$1,467,823	\$1,380,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,450,000	\$70,000	
Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Interest Revenue	\$22,898	\$5,500	\$17,145	\$25,000	\$19,500	DRAFT PARKS BUDGET JANUARY 2024
Donations	\$11,250	\$6,750	\$8,500	\$7,000	\$250	
Sponsorship	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$0	(\$250)	
Concessions	\$4,408	\$3,110	\$3,602	\$3,500	\$390	
Ball Field Rental	\$57,957	\$48,000	\$47,420	\$50,000	\$2,000	
Picnic Fee	\$33,783	\$26,000	\$22,320	\$27,000	\$1,000	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$58,596	\$58,596	City and SBD transfer (now split)
Transfers from Other Funds	\$82,130	\$84,830	\$85,055	\$26,000	(\$58,830)	Transfer from Rec accounts (now split)
Transfers from Park 1/2 cent sales tax	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$550,000	(\$25,000)	Voluntary reduction offset
Sale of Capital Asset	\$12,726	\$20,000	\$2,691	\$15,000	(\$5,000)	
Insurance Proceeds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	\$2,267,974.44	\$2,149,440.00	\$2,161,733.00	\$2,212,096.00	\$62,656.00	
Wages Full Time	\$794,101	\$920,879	\$890,000	\$924,761	\$3,882	
Wages Part Time	\$67,555	\$122,306	\$100,250	\$124,745	\$2,439	
Overtime Civilian	\$30,081	\$32,550	\$30,741	\$34,200	\$1,650	
Social Security	\$54,973	\$66,695	\$62,373	\$65,450	(\$1,245)	
Medicare	\$12,856	\$15,599	\$14,669	\$15,315	(\$284)	
Pension Civilian	\$54,057	\$62,352	\$57,583	\$60,870	(\$1,482)	
Deferred Compensation	\$16,185	\$32,040	\$16,918	\$18,700	(\$13,340)	
Insurance Health	\$143,939	\$160,100	\$162,163	\$197,310	\$37,210	Premium increase
Insurance Dental	\$4,817	\$6,467	\$5,280	\$5,630	(\$837)	
Insurance Vision	\$968	\$1,260	\$1,065	\$1,150	(\$110)	
Unemployment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Audit	\$750	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$1,000	
Legal	\$3,273	\$3,500	\$2,955	\$3,650	\$150	
Training	\$2,160	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$2,005	\$5	
Professional Services Other	\$44,029	\$87,050	\$87,050	\$88,750	\$1,700	
Volunteer Program	\$2,866	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$0	
Building & Grounds Maint	\$5,677	\$2,800	\$7,605	\$2,800	\$0	
Equipment Maintenance	\$1,313	\$6,100	\$7,500	\$6,100	\$0	
Office Equipment Maintenance	\$300	\$400	\$375	\$400	\$0	
Radio Equipment Maintenance	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$875	\$1,200	\$0	
Telephone & Cellular	\$4,004	\$6,230	\$5,056	\$6,200	(\$30)	
Landfill Fees	\$4,520	\$5,200	\$4,266	\$5,500	\$300	
Rentals Equipment	\$9,766	\$11,300	\$11,300	\$11,300	\$0	
Insurance General	\$16,077	\$16,500	\$16,700	\$18,150	\$1,650	
Insurance Workers	\$93,420	\$98,090	\$106,262	\$103,020	\$4,930	DRAFT PARKS BUDGET JANUARY 2024
Travel	\$816	\$600	\$600	\$1,250	\$650	
Office Supplies	\$888	\$1,000	\$875	\$1,000	\$0	
Building & Grounds Supplies	\$12,975	\$7,000	\$8,038	\$9,000	\$2,000	
Clothing	\$4,930	\$4,300	\$6,500	\$4,300	\$0	
Film & Media	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Food	\$733	\$600	\$800	\$600	\$0	
Janitorial Supplies	\$5,317	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$0	
Landscape Supplies	\$15,842	\$19,650	\$16,490	\$17,950	(\$1,700)	
Machinery/ Equipment Supplies	\$2,822	\$3,300	\$4,700	\$3,400	\$100	
Irrigation	\$3,950	\$4,325	\$5,800	\$5,600	\$1,275	
Natural Gas	\$2,669	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$0	
Water	\$44,885	\$46,800	\$46,800	\$50,400	\$3,600	
Membership Dues	\$308	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$0	
Law Enforcement	\$750	\$1,600	\$1,300	\$2,200	\$600	
Motor Fuel &	\$26,505	\$39,500	\$29,578	\$31,440	(\$8,060)	
Operating Supplies	\$3,973	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	
Safety Equipment	\$3,125	\$4,250	\$4,250	\$4,250	\$0	
Small Tools	\$1,016	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$2,850	(\$400)	
Vehicle Repairs & Parts	\$2,572	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	

Administration Fees	\$10,100	\$10,100	\$10,100	\$10,100	\$0	
Fleet Services	\$69,163	\$76,325	\$76,325	\$84,067	\$7,742	
Water Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Transfers to Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Small Cap Office Furniture	\$4,505	\$15,000	\$15,108	\$11,300	(\$3,700)	
Building & Site Improvements	\$55,598	\$67,000	\$65,228	\$10,500	(\$56,500)	
Park Improvements	\$32,804	\$33,250	\$22,509	\$35,000	\$1,750	
Machinery & Equipment	\$76,325	\$80,000	\$84,386	\$30,000	(\$50,000)	
Rolling Stock	\$0	\$49,811	\$0	\$235,000	\$185,189	
Engineering Fees	\$0	\$140,000	\$0	\$0	(\$140,000)	
Feasibility Studies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	\$169,231	\$385,061	\$172,123	\$310,500	(\$74,561)	
Bldg & Grounds KWD	\$16,827	\$14,600	\$11,709	\$14,600	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds Greentree Park	\$568	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$1,800	(\$1,100)	
Water Greentree Park	\$4,955	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds Emmenegger	\$552	\$1,200	\$1,900	\$1,200	\$0	
Water Emmenegger	\$510	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds Meacham Park	\$841	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$1,120	\$120	
Water Meacham Park	\$3,285	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds Quarry Park	\$1,001	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$0	
Water Quarry Park	\$200	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds Walker Park	\$268	\$500	\$1,700	\$1,200	\$700	
Water Walker Park	\$1,877	\$1,800	\$1,900	\$1,800	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds Monfort Park	\$85	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0	DRAFT PARKS BUDGET JANUARY 2024
Water Monfort Park	\$826	\$900	\$975	\$900	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds Quinette	\$552	\$200	\$200	\$320	\$120	
Water Quinette	\$163	\$150	\$175	\$150	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds Avery	\$755	\$600	\$250	\$600	\$0	
Water Avery Park	\$1,270	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds SBD	\$4,721	\$8,650	\$8,650	\$8,700	\$50	
Machinery & Equipment SBD	\$509	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$0	
Bldg & Grounds Fillmore Park	\$26	\$400	\$450	\$400	\$0	
Water Fillmore Park	\$2,029	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0	
Expense	\$1,793,281	\$2,335,554	\$2,064,007	\$2,315,578	(\$19,976)	
Revenue	\$2,267,974	\$2,149,440	\$2,161,733	\$2,212,096	\$62,656	
Net	\$474,694	(\$186,114)	\$97,726	(\$103,482)	\$82,632	Fund Balance Requirement for FY24-25
Fund Balance	\$2,378,674	\$2,192,560	\$2,290,286	\$2,186,804		Between \$1,336,717 and \$1,503,809

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Park Fund Capital Budget						
2023-2024						
One Ton Dump Trucks (620050 Reappropriate)		\$91,150	(Replaces '11 Ford F450 7519)			
Park Master Plan (620090 Reappropriate)		\$124,600				
2024-2025		\$215,750				
Trash Truck (620050)		\$160,000		(Replaces 1999 GMC 7514)		
4WD Crew Cab Pickup (620050)		\$45,000		(Replaces 2014 Ford F150 7504)		
Brush Chipper (620040)		\$30,000		(Replaces 2004 Vermeer 7540)		
Seal Coat, crack sealing Tennis Court Lot (620020)		\$10,500				
Mitchell Park Construction (620020)		\$35,000				
2025-2026		\$280,500				
Walker Lake Tributary & Lake Pump (620020)		\$35,000				
Avery Playground Surface (620030)		\$35,000				
Replace Greentree Restroom (620020)		\$120,000				
4WD Crew Cab Pickup (620050)		\$45,000		(Replaces 2014 Ford F150 7505)		
Utility Vehicle (620050)		\$20,000		(Replaces 2012 Gator 7522)		
Paint Diamond 3 light poles (620020)		\$5,500				
McEntee Park Whirl Event (620030)		\$10,000				
2026-2027						
Facilities Tech Cargo Van (620050)			\$50,000	(Replaces 1999 GMC 7514)		
Greentree Field Irrigation (620020)			\$35,000			
Meacham Park Entry signs (620030)			\$20,000			
Grants Trail Restroom (620020)			\$40,000			
Ranger Patrol Vehicle (620050)			\$40,000	(Replaces 2018 Ford Interceptor 7503)		
Horticulture (SBD) Pickup Truck (620050)			\$45,000	(Replaces 2017 Dodge 1500 7512)		
Diamond 3 Irrigation			\$35,000			
2027-2028						
Meachum Park Playground Equipment (620030)				\$170,000		
Meachum Park Playground Surface (620030)				\$115,000		
One ton Dump Truck (620050)			(Replaces 2016 F450 7513)	\$90,000		
2028-2029						
Kirkwood Park Playground						\$300,000
Skid Steer						\$85,000
Annual Total		\$496,250	\$270,500	\$265,000	\$375,000	\$385,000

DRAFT 1-8-2024

Park Fund Capital Budget 2023-2024

One Ton 4WD Dump Truck (\$91,150) - Replacement of 2012 F450 (#7513) with 4WD and a dump bed. Used for general purpose and salt distribution. (Reappropriate)
 Park Master Plan (\$124,600) - Comprehensive system wide plan to replace the 2005 version. (Reappropriate)

2024-2025

Trash Truck (\$160,000). - Replacement of 1999 GMC (#7514) with 8 CY refuse bed. Bed was replaced in 2009. Truck used to collect trash throughout park system

two times a week.

4WD Xcab pickup (\$45,000) -Replaces one of two 2014 light duty crew cab pickup trucks (#7504) used for general transport of maintenance staff, materials and supplies.
Brush Chipper (\$30,000) - Replaces 2004 Vermeer chipper (#7504) used to reduce branches and up to 12" trunks, to chips for easier handling and disposal
Seal & Stripe Tennis Court Parking Lot (\$10,500) - Lot was resurfaced over 10 years ago and needs to be sealed
Mitchell Park Construction (\$35,000) - Park Board portion of Grant

~~2025-2026~~

Walker Lake Tributary and Lake Pump (\$35,000) - Repair rock wall water supply line for walker lake waterfall.
Avery Playground Surface (\$35,000) - Replacement of PIP colored surface
Replace Green Tree Park Restroom (\$120,000) - Complete replacement of restrooms.
4WD Xcab pickup (\$45,000) -Replaces one of two 2014 light duty crew cab pickup trucks (#7505) used for general transport of maintenance staff, materials and supplies.
Utility Vehicle (\$20,000) - Small utility vehicles are used on a daily basis for a variety of tasks, wear faster and require replacement sooner than full size vehicles.
Diamond 3 lightpoles (\$5,500) - Routine maintenance for longevity of light poles.
McEntee Park Whirl Event (\$10,000) - Replaces Existing Whirl Event (Merry-Go-Round)

~~2026-2027~~

Facilities Tech Cargo Van (\$50,000) - Van is used on a daily basis to move tech equipment and tools for facility repairs.
Greentree Field Irrigation (\$35,000) - Would add the ability to keep field turf healthy for rental use without damage to field.
Meachum Park Entry signs (\$20,000) - Project will add a title sign at Meachum Park similar to other new signs in the system.
Grants Trail Restroom (\$40,000) - Restroom upgrades are required to extend the life of the facility.
Ranger Patrol Vehicle (\$40,000) - Vehicle is used daily for patrolling all parks and recreation locations.
Horticulture(SBD) Pickup Truck (\$45,000) - Vehicle is used daily for hauling material and driving between locations.
Diamond 3 irrigation (\$35,000) - Project will improve playability and rental opportunities.

~~2027-2028~~

Meachum Park Playground Equipment (\$170,000) - The original equipment as installed in 2009 and will require replacement.
Meachum Park Playground Surface (\$115,000) - When the Playground structure is replaced, the PIP surface will require replacement.
One Ton 4WD Dump Truck (\$90,000) - Replacement of 2016 F450 (#7513) with 4WD and a dump bed. Used for general purpose and salt distribution.

~~2028-2029~~

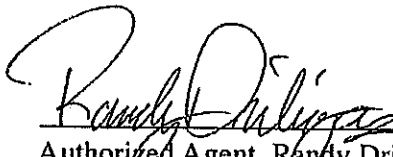
Kirkwood Park Playground (\$300,000)
Skid Steer (\$85,000)


AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Date: 2/1/24

City of Kirkwood
 139 S. Kirkwood Rd.
 Kirkwood, MO 63122

I, Randy Drilingas, being duly sworn, both depose and say that I am an authorized representative of the WKTimes LLC, publishers of the Webster-Kirkwood Times Newspaper in the county of St. Louis, MO, and that the advertisement shown below was published in the Webster-Kirkwood Times February 2, 2024 edition.


 Authorized Agent, Randy Drilingas
 Webster-Kirkwood Times



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 before the Park Board of Kirkwood, MO

The Park Board of the City of Kirkwood will hold a public meeting at the hour of 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening, February 26, 2024 to consider the proposed 2024-25 budget for the Kirkwood Park Board.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Beginning Fund Balance (Estimated)	\$2,290,061
Revenue:	
Property Tax	\$1,450,000
Transfer From Park Sales Tax and Other Funds	\$635,000
Interest Income	\$25,000
Fees and Charges	\$80,500
Grants and Donations	\$7,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>\$15,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$2,212,500
Expenditures:	
Operating	\$2,005,078
Capital	<u>\$310,500</u>
Total Expenditures	\$2,315,578
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,186,804

Copies of the operating budget are available for public inspection at the Parks and Recreation Department office, located at the Kirkwood Community Center between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Such hearing may be adjourned from time to time until completed.
 By order of the Kirkwood Park Board

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE PARK BOARD
OF KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI**

The Park Board of the City of Kirkwood will hold a public meeting at the hour of 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening, February 26, 2024 to consider the proposed 2024-25 budget for the Kirkwood Park Board.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

Beginning Fund Balance (Estimated) **\$2,290,061**

Revenue:

Property Tax \$1,450,000

Transfer From Park Sales Tax and Other Funds \$635,000

Interest Income \$25,000

Fees and Charges \$80,500

Grants and Donations \$7,000

Miscellaneous Revenue \$15,000

Total Revenue \$2,212,500

Expenditures

Operating \$2,005,078

Capital \$310,500

Total Expenditures \$2,315,578

Ending Fund Balance \$2,186,804

Copies of the operating budget are available for public inspection at the Parks and Recreation Department office, located at the Kirkwood Community Center between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Such hearing may be adjourned from time to time until completed.

By order of the Kirkwood Park Board.

2577649 County Feb. 2, 2024

MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2024

For period Jan. 23rd through Feb. 26th

BURN BABY BURN!:

We have been working on our annual burns in Kirkwood Park, the SBD, and the Performing Art's center. Every year we burn the vegetation on our native plantings to promote healthier plants. Initially Pete worked with Sebastian and the Horticulture crew to get them started and pass on the processes we have in place. This was our 10th year of using fire as a regular tool in our toolbox, and it has been very successful. As an example last year was our 1st time burning the 3,400sqft detention basin behind the KPAC. If we were to cut it all down, and haul it off by hand it would take almost a full day for a 3 person crew with multiple trips to dump the truck. Properly using fire we are able to clean up the entire bed in about 30 minutes.

STOP THE LEAK:

All summer long we have had water leaking across the concrete walking path in the rear of the Greentree Prairie Wetlands site. It had created a stinky, slippery, slimy mess that was hazardous to walkers and bikers. We had to close off the section walk and divert people away from it. We were hoping to be able to redirect the water this winter when things froze, but since the water never stopped flowing it would not totally freeze. We decided since we couldn't get in there with heavy machinery that we would do it by hand. Parks staff opened up the channel that had been clogged and redirected the flow back to where it was supposed to be. While the source of the constant water is still a mystery, the Kirkwood Water Department believes it is coming from a private line feeding one of the businesses in the Tree Court Industrial complex.

LET IT SNOW:

We finally got a decent chance for our new staff to practice their snow plowing and salt spreading skills. What was supposed to be ½"-2" of snow ended up being a 4"+ snow storm in Kirkwood. Staff worked through the afternoon and into the evening clearing the paths, roads, and parking lots in Kirkwood Park and at the KPAC. A conditional snow agreement between the Parks Department and the Public Works Department approved by the Park Board in 2009 and updated by Staff in 2017 also has the Parks Department responsible for clearing snow on the public parking lots in the Special Business District, City Hall, Police Station, and Firehouses 1, 2, and 3.

BENCH INSTALLATIONS:

Four donor benched were installed at sites in Kirkwood Park, Emmenegger Nature Park, and Quarry Park. Parks staff is in the process of finishing up the grading work around the newly installed benches, and the plaques will be installed as the last step.

Services	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Park Enf. Contacts	19												19
Public Contacts	45												45
PD Assist	2												2
PD Dispatched Calls	1												1
Interpretive	0												0
Reported Maint.	3												3
Injuries	0												0
Wildlife Related	0												0
Recovered Property	1												1
First Aid	0												0
Missing Persons	0												0
Training Hours	24												24

Summary of Activities

-Ron Hall completed the CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) class. This brings the total number of CIT trained rangers to three.

-New hire Steve Stevens was hired in January and is completing the new hire process. He replaces Lauren Walls who left in December. This puts the rangers staffing at six.

Prepared by: Ron Hall, Senior Park Ranger