

STAFF REPORTS



Date of Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting: October 2019

To: Park and Recreation Advisory Board

From: Jae Morrison, Streets and Parks Supervisor

Subject: Park update

Action Requested: PRAB Discussion

Summary Report: Projects completed by the Street & Park Dept.

- **Compost Site**
 - The compost site monitors are seeing increased numbers of users due to Fall season
 - We have requested the recycling company screen more rows of compost, again
- **Green Space (not a park) Near The Crossing Condominiums**
 - The green space has been rough cut mowed (before and after pictures below)
 - The Crossing Condominiums have extended a 'Thank You' to our Park Dept.
 - The group is pleased with our work
- **Babcock Park**
 - Crews have noted that two toilets will need to be replaced
 - We are waiting for our contracted plumber to replace these toilets
- **Sechler Park**
 - Ballfield use has become less and the official 'ball' season has ended
 - Community Education and YMCA flag football season has ended
 - Crews installed a countertop in the shelter for user groups to use instead of tables
 - The accent wall in the shelter was painted
 - Plumbing repairs are needed in the shelter and near the maintenance shed
 - Staff was able to repair the plumbing issue near the maintenance shed
 - We are waiting for the contracted plumber to make repairs in the shelter
 - Volunteers from NYBA were onsite the week of 10/7 doing cleanup
 - Crews have noted that one toilet will need to be replaced
 - We are waiting for the contracted plumber to replace this toilet
 - Fall cleanup will begin soon
- **Riverside Park**
 - Crews have noted that one sink faucet will need to be replaced
 - We are waiting for the contracted plumber to replace this faucet
 - Crews installed a countertop in the shelter for user groups to use instead of tables (See photo)
 - The accent wall in the shelter was painted
 - Staff met with the Wild Ones, a gardening club in Northfield

- This club would like to put in 500-700 plugs of native perennials in Spring 2020
- The plugs would be placed at the end of 7th St along the river and trails (see photo)
- The club is hoping to gain publicity to stimulate new membership
- Please see email from the Wild Ones

Jae and Cole,

Thank you for taking time to meet with me last Wednesday. As I explained, I am a member of the Northfield Prairie Partners chapter of Wild Ones. Wild Ones is a national nonprofit organization committed to educating and advocating for native plants. More information about our group can be found at: <https://northfield.wildones.org/>

I am pleased that you are supportive of our groups' efforts to increase the number of native plants on Northfield's public properties. We hope that doing so will also increase awareness of the many of benefits of native plants and give some visibility to Northfield Prairie Partners.

My current plan (which is certainly flexible) is to grow approximately 700 native "plugs" that our members would plant in Riverside Park in late May or early June of 2020. The plugs will be planted in the strip along the river behind the area used as a farmers market. The plugs will be placed in the strip that is not currently mowed. Mowing the strip this fall or next spring would make planting easier.

Species would include

Swamp Milkweed

New England Aster

Iron Weed

Cup Plant

Joe Pye

And perhaps others that might get suggested

I want to be upfront that this is not a garden but rather an attempt to add diversity and more desirable native plants. The area will not be weeded or otherwise tended. The species were based on growing requirements and tolerances and because they provide nectar for pollinators and/or seeds for birds. They were also chosen because they are "assertive" plants and it is hoped that they will be able to compete and replace some of the weedy species that are currently growing along the river.

If there are any questions from the City or others, I can be reached via this email address or by phone at 507.263.5369.

I look forward to hearing from you after you have discussed the idea with the appropriate parties.

Thanks

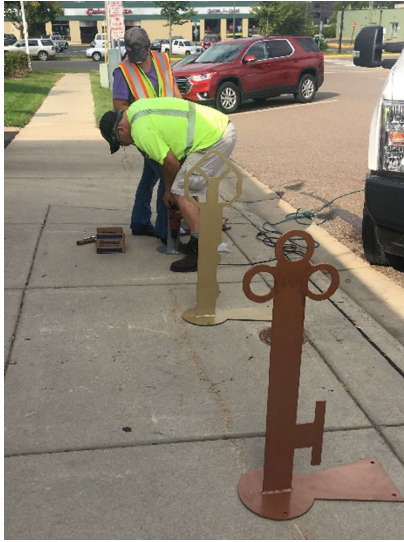
Nancy Schumacher, Northfield Prairie Partners Chapter of Wild Ones

- **Bigger Picture**

- Staff had a demonstration of a robot that stripes/lines fields (see photo)
- Mowing routes are on a schedule (we hired an additional mowing staff), weather permitting
- Staff worked with 'The Key' to place new bike racks along 6th St and Water St (photo)
- Several play feature activities have been blocked off from accessibility due to damage (see photo)
- Staff are making preparations for the snow season







Respectfully Submitted,
Jaeson M. Morrison, Streets & Parks Supervisor