PARKS & RECREATION

PARK IMPROVEMENTS/DEVELOPMENT

- Final design for the West Alligator Creek Trail were completed. The final design included constant communication and input from the citizen’s steering committee. In addition, a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant in the amount of $300,000 was secured for project construction.

- Kerlick Park improvements were installed including an ADA compliant sidewalk and bench swing which add a low impact amenity to the park.

- Mission Hill Park Improvements were completed including a twelve-car parking lot and 900+ feet of concrete, ADA compliant trail. Four interpretive signs are on site narrating the history of the families who lived on the property and noting natural features of the park. An Open House at the park was held on Saturday, September 17, 2022, with over 90 citizens attending.

- Final design of the Fischer Park Nature Play Area was completed. Equipment has been ordered and staff is waiting on delivery of equipment for installation

- Prince Solms Parking Lot was improved with a mill & overlay and new striping.

- Staff coordinated on Comal River Improvements project and Comal River and Park Signs project.

- Outdoor lighting at sand volleyball courts in Landa Park were replaced with fixtures including technology to schedule and remotely access timers.

- Fischer Park Playgrounds were replaced due to safety concerns. New play structures include inclusive play features.

- Department leadership collaborated with Capital Programs staff to prepare PER’s for all recommended 2023 Park Bond projects. A total of ten projects were reviewed for updated costs and 30% design.

- 15 acres greenspace was acquired at Arroyo Verde development through a Development Agreement. This property will be a part of the larger West Alligator Creek Trail corridor.

PARKS AND RECREATION BY THE NUMBERS

- $83,718 DOLLAR VALUE OF VOLUNTEER EFFORTS
- 220 TREES PLANTED
- 17,090 PARK PATROL HOURS
- 367,828 MEMBERSHIP SCANS
- 6,464 RECREATION PARTICIPANTS
- 220 ADULT OUTDOOR LEAGUE TEAMS
- 112,130 LPAC ADMISSIONS
- 7,612 ANNUAL TUBE CHUTE ADMISSIONS
- 2,041 PICNIC PERMITS ISSUED
- 8,126 DAS REC MEMBERSHIPS
Summer hiring required a new intensity and approach in order to fill seasonal positions. Two “On the Spot” hiring events were held that led to successfully filling all positions. These events were coordinated with Human Resources and Communications.

A new point of sale POS system for Mini Golf, Paddle Boats and Tube Chute was implemented allowing credit cards to be used for admissions for the first time.

A Cost Recovery Analysis was undertaken for FY2021. Upon completion, the results will show which programs and activities are meeting their recommended cost recovery targets.

The Das Rec backyard project was opened featuring a fenced, artificial turf space and equipment box to expand fitness programming and variety.

Das Rec reached an all-time high membership of over 15,500 members. The facility achieved a cost recovery of over 120% for the fiscal year.

The Landa Park Golf Course saw over 57,800 rounds of golf played over the year, a course record. Cost recovery for the year was 109%.

Summer day camp registrations sold out in less than five minutes for the entire summer. Seele Elementary was secured as an additional location for Camp Minnehaha allowing enrollment to increase by 80 campers.

Parks and Recreation hosted several Fire Fighter Games events in July including pickleball, basketball, soccer, golf, and sand volleyball.

Several full-time staff were promoted during the year including:
- Chad Donegan promoted to Assistant Director
- Michael Goodner promoted to Membership & Outreach Supervisor
- Shari Silvio promoted to Administrative Assistant
- Lisa Resendez promoted to Administrative Secretary
- Sami Morrison promoted to Nature Center Assistant Supervisor
- Quint Alexander promoted to Golf Manager
- Mandi Scott promoted to Economic & Community Development Coordinator

Staff participated in a Community Vitality Project with PlayCore, a national recreation research company. New Braunfels was one of ten communities in the nation to be included. The project will provide mobility data for five locations consisting of estimated visitor counts, travel patterns and more. The project will conclude in FY2023.

A new Parks and Recreation Departmental Orientation Program was implemented to increase employee engagement and further develop departmental culture. Program elements include:
- Buddy system: new staff members are assigned a buddy, a team member from another division, to be a resource and build relationships within the department
- 30 Day Check In: A meeting with the Department Director to provide feedback on what is going well, what may need attention and how we can make getting acclimated to a new position easier
- Supervisor Check In: A meeting with the Department Director annually to provide insight on how things are going in the field, what tools/processes are needed, what training and professional development is desired, and how we are doing with communication

Faust Street Bridge wood decking was 100% replaced by city crews saving +$20,000.

Staff assisted the Park Foundation in hosting a Golf Tournament raising almost $10,000 for park investment.