



Presented January 7, 2019

## **Town Council Report for December 2018 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:**

### ***Park Programming***

- *Environmental Education and Recreational Programming:* Our regular programming in this area (including those programs more traditionally viewed as “recreational” in nature such as dog walks, birthday parties, etc.) saw a total of 854 participants/visitors (up about 50 from last month). Of additional note, 450 of this month’s totals represent “drop-in visitors” at our Nature Center (unconnected to any particular program). For the last two months the drop-in visitors to the center have comprised a bit over 50% of our attendance, but this can be quite varied as the drop-in visitors generally tend to range from 25%-60% of our total contact numbers. Also, per normal operations, impromptu programming was offered to the drop-in visitors at our center, 144 (of the 450 subtotal) took advantage of these offerings.

### ***Other Highlighted Parks Matters***

#### *Several Key Park System Upgrade Projects:*

- The golf course irrigation piping and irrigation head installation is complete. Also the pumping station control panel and aboveground hardware pallet has been delivered to the site. Well drilling will follow as ground freezes enough to take the load of drilling equipment without too much rutting. After that the electric will be run to the panels and system and final plumbing connections can be made. Then the system will be flushed, programmed, and tested. The consultant assures us it will be operational in plenty of time for our normal late spring irrigation needs.
- Late fall is the most appropriate time for tree pruning and planting (after leaf drop and dormancy). The trimming (and planting) that had been started in late October and carried on in November continued into December as well. Over 100 trees were treated in one manner or another depending on the various situations. Keep in mind some of these would be fairly light pruning efforts that the average citizen may not have noticed, things like crossing branches and the like that introduce the potential for disease introduction and decline. Unfortunately this can take considerable time per tree as it needs to be careful and safe work. Other trees were more obvious situations, including the dropping of ash trees killed by the Emerald Ash Borer. Per accepted and sound professional practice, many of these trees will be returning to the forest biomass and helping the health of the ecosystem.
- The planting of 45+ trees that had been started in November was completed in early December. Most of the trees were mulched (except a few, like those in prairie areas). We plan to increase the presence of mulch rings, primarily on the newer plantings in some of our parks, including some existing trees near these plantings reported here.