

Originator  
Parks and Recreation

Item  
**Park and Recreation Manager's Report**

Date  
9/9/2015

Description

1. Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail Project (formerly Intercity Regional Trail) – Three Rivers Park District is moving ahead with the installation of the trail. Work will continue on the 12th Avenue pedestrian bridge crossing I-494 through late September 2015. The bridge truss is tentatively planned to be placed the week of September 7 and will be installed during an overnight closure of I-494 along with a possible closure of 12th Avenue. East 78th Street remains closed between Chicago Avenue and 12th Avenue to allow for equipment staging for the pedestrian bridge work. A detour is provided. Boulevard restoration on Old Cedar Avenue between American Boulevard and 86th Street is anticipated to be complete by early September. Old Cedar Avenue between American Boulevard and East 80th Street has been reopened to traffic.

During the funding application and master planning process for the trail, the name Intercity Regional Trail was used because it connects the three cities. This was intended as a temporary name and recently Three Rivers Park District Board voted to rename the trail as the Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail. This name was chosen because it reflects their practice of naming regional trails after water bodies as well as trying to clearly conveying where the trail is and what it connects to.

2. Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project – The contractor has successfully drilled through the existing six foot wide west abutment pier 1 without hitting the existing H pile that was behind the abutment and installed with the 1957 repair of the abutment. This hole will be used to install the new tieback anchors to keep the abutment from moving farther. The tieback anchors are currently scheduled to be installed the week of September 21.

The contractor is gaining speed on installing the temporary access spans and will be working on temporary access spans 5 and 6 the week of August 31. The contractor will be off loading concrete barrier that will be used as part of the heavy duty silt fence construction on the east side of the bridge. They will be temporarily storing this material on the Fish & Wildlife Service Archery Range. The delivery of the material is currently scheduled for September 1, and should only close the range for that day (weather dependent).

Once access span 5 is complete, the contractor can begin removing the timber deck and stringers from existing span 1 of Old Cedar Avenue Bridge. This work is anticipated to begin in early September. A new graphic to help clarify the updates has been developed for the website as work begins on the existing structure. Work on the Century Link fiber line under the bridge has begun. This work must first be completed before work on the bridge itself may commence. It is expected that this utilities work should be completed by mid-July.

3. 2015 Centerpoint Energy Beltline Project - The Bluff trail was scheduled to reopen on September 1, pending the removal of a couple of downed trees.
4. Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements Project - The bid opening for the Pedestrian Crossing Project (which includes the crossing of East Bush Lake Road at the entrance to Bush Lake Beach), which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> bid opening for this project, was held on July 14 and there were no bids received for the project. Staff was optimistic on receiving bids based on previous discussion with Contractors after the first bid opening, however due to the large amount of available construction work many Contractors do not have much capacity to bid anymore work this construction season. Staff has been in contact with MnDOT Federal Aid

and intend on rebidding this Project in early 2016 when Contractors are looking for projects to bid for the 2016 season and typically more competitive bids are received.

5. Hyland Greens Task Force Update – The City received a total of 45 applications for the task force. On September 14, Council will be asked to appoint representatives and alternates in each of the following categories:
- General community representative (Bloomington resident)
  - Two neighborhood representatives (live within 2,000 feet of Hyland Greens)
  - General Hyland Greens user (golfer at Hyland Greens)
  - Business community representative (works or operates a business in Bloomington)
  - BAA Golf representatives (volunteers with the BAA Golf program)

Also on September 14, Council will also be asked to appoint a Council representative and alternate to the task force. The two commissions represented on the task force have designated their task force members. The PARC selected Jim McCarthy (alternate: Lenny Schmitz) and the Planning Commission chose Roger Willette (alternate: Kelley Spiess). Staff serving in an advisory capacity to the Hyland Greens Task Force will include Golf Manager Rick Sitek, Parks and Recreation Manager Randy Quale, Budget Manager Cindy Rollins, Planner Liz Heyman and Community Services Director Diann Kirby.

6. Creekside Reroof - Construction has begun on portions of the Creekside roof. The roof has experienced frequent leaks during normal rain events the last few years. This work should take two to three weeks to complete. The construction will not interfere with any of the activities scheduled during the construction period.
7. Crossing the Minnesota River for the Dan Patch Corridor - A scoping study has been completed regarding a new transportation connection at the existing location of the Dan Patch Swing Bridge crossing of the Minnesota River. The studied crossing is located at approximately the location of Normandale Boulevard extended alignment. The City of Savage would like to see such a crossing be built, and has also received support from Scott County. Bloomington has been silent throughout the study. This crossing was studied as part of the *1986 Final Environmental Impact Statement for County Road 18* (now TH 169), and was not chosen as a location for the crossing of the Minnesota River. The study was funded by the Scott County Community Development Agency.
8. Coyotes in Bloomington – Over the past few weeks we have seen a significant increase in incidents involving coyotes in southwest Bloomington where either dogs or cats have been victim to an apparent coyote attack. Police have taken eight reports that imply small dogs have been killed by coyotes this summer. Along with the confirmed kills, there have been a number of dogs that were injured by coyotes, and a number of missing dogs and cats reported. There has been a recent uptick lately where three small dogs were killed by a coyote(s).

Police staff has notified neighborhoods of these recent coyote attacks via Social Media sites; and the Sun Current Newspaper also featured an article. All notifications included information on which neighborhoods reported the most active coyote populations. In addition, animal control has made personal visits to affected area homeowners to educate them on hazing techniques and to encourage pet owners to keep a close eye on their pets.

Police staff has recently teamed with the DNR and a local Wildlife expert hoping to identify and remove the problem coyote(s). Live-traps have been deployed, so far only a red fox has been caught. No coyotes have been caught as of this time. Police staff will continue to address concerns as we are contacted while we work to manage this evolving situation with coyotes.

9. 90<sup>th</sup> Street Sanitary Sewer Project - The sanitary sewer project is moving along on both the east-west route along 91<sup>st</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> Streets near Valley View Park and the north-south route along 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenues. This past week they began working on and out of a manhole that is buried about 2 feet in the playground sand at Valley View Park. To keep the area safe for kids and workers the playground will be closed August 31 – September 4 to complete the work. The area will be secured and informational signs will be posted.
10. Public Health Promotes Biking and Walking to City Events - Public Health is kicking off a joint project this week to promote biking and walking to city events in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. A map and listing of some the summer’s most bike- and walk-friendly events taking place in the three cities will be available at many event locations and online at <http://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/sites/default/files/media/HikeBikeEventsMap.pdf>. Bike parking at several events will be identified with reusable bike-parking banners provided by this project. The Statewide Health Improvement Program is providing support for this promotion through Public Health and its partnership with Tri-City Partners for Healthy Communities.
- The purpose of this promotion is to make it easier for community members to have fun in their cities while doing something good for their health and the environment. It also highlights biking and walking as viable forms of transportation. Residents that participated in the Alternative Transportation Plan update process indicated that they consider a more robust alternative transportation system to be a valuable improvement to their quality of life.
11. Staffing of Bush Lake Beach ended for the season on Sunday, August 23. The Bloomington Family Aquatic Center remains open on weekends through Labor Day, September 7.

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Requested Action

No action required.

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Attachments:

Buckthorn Bust Flyer