



PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION

March 24, 2022

Bertram Athletic Park

Recreation staff is currently working on applying for an Outdoor Recreation Grant in 2022 for parking infrastructure and site access improvements to be completed in 2023. As part of this improvement to the parking area and parking expansion, a land alteration permit will be requested from Monticello Township at their next board meeting.

Ellison Park Restrooms

The prefabricated park restroom building is scheduled to be delivered after road restrictions are lifted in the spring. The restrooms will be installed prior to the first rental of the season in mid-May.

Shade Tree Disease Program

Monticello Parks is working with the MN Dept of Agriculture to identify shade tree pests found in Monticello. Further details will be shared as the abatement program is defined.

MCC Operations Programs Update:

Senior Center volunteers hosted a Learn to Play Pickleball class in February. The class was full, and we hope to offer more classes in the future with the help of our senior pickleball enthusiasts.

Open Pickleball on Tuesday nights in the gymnasium began March 1. Attendance has been increasing every week and we hope to continue. 55+ senior pickleball is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 8:00-11:00 a.m.

The Men's Spring Hockey League begins March 27 and will run through mid-May. The league is run in cooperation with the Moose Sherritt Ice Arena.

MCC's first Esports season concluded in March. We had a total of 15 participants register with our Esports partner, GG Leagues. The spring season begins in April.

Spring Swimming Lesson registration is currently open. Classes begin April 11.

A lifeguard training class is being offered on April 9, registration is open, and we hope to recruit some lifeguards for MCC out of the training.

The Spring Egg Dive event takes place in the pool on Friday, April 8. Participants dive for plastic eggs in the pool and trade their eggs for fun prizes. Pre-registration is required, and the event is nearly full.

Swan River's Breakfast with the Bunny will take place in the gymnasium on Saturday, April 9.

The Farmers Market opens May 19 and will take place every Thursday 3:30-7:00 p.m. in the Library Parking Lot. Vendor applications are currently being accepted.

Planning is underway for summer events, Walk & Roll, Music on the Mississippi, and Movies in the Park.

MontiArts

MontiArts has been busy this year and has developed into more of a force in the regional arts scene. We heard from the Central Minnesota Arts Board (CMAB) that neighboring towns reaching as far as Saint Cloud have expressed jealousy for our ability to have consistent programming and a continually growing arts footprint. CMAB requested to have their first in-person meeting at MontiArts and asked for a MontiArts presentation at their luncheon on Aug 23rd.

In the last week, we received a large state grant which will enable us to add a part-time support person to our MontiArts team for a year!

The GLOW parade was a huge success with positive feedback coming from all involved and from those who heard about it. It was quite the buzz around town and is now an event with enough momentum to grow each year. People from many communities attended. The community/high school art club GLOW build sessions added new creatives and glow creations to our collection.

Quick Notes:

- Our new website (montiarts.com) continues to broaden our reach and accessibility.
- We will be holding a community art show in a few months as well as hosting the school district's art show in early May.
- Our high school art club continues to be a great addition.
- Weekly open studios for writers and visual arts continue
- Artists in Residence continue to use the spaces.
- We're applying for Parker's Sculpture at Ellison Park in early