



To: Mayor and City Council
CC: Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator
From: Michael Whitaker, Director
Date: October 8, 2020
Re: 3rd Quarter Report

Recreation Division



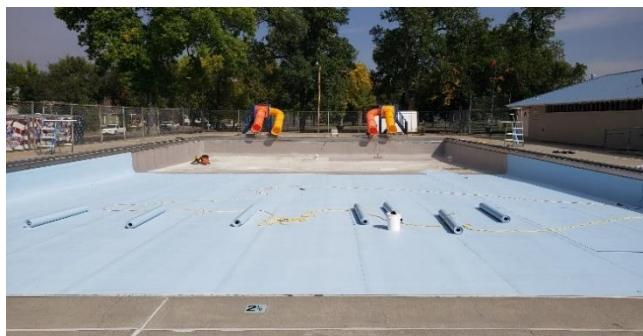
Summer Aquatic Operations: Under Phase 2 of the Governor’s Re-opening the Big Sky Plan, the Recreation Division was able to formulate health and safety protocols to meet the guidelines for opening the pools on June 3rd. With the assistance and cooperation from John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer, we received approval to open Rose and South Park community pools and the wading pools at Pioneer and Hawthorne Parks on May 26th. Under the Phase 2 opening for aquatic facilities, we were only allowed a 75% capacity at the pools along with numerous cleaning and distancing procedures that had to be adhered to daily.

In total, the Recreation Division employed 46 American Red Cross certified lifeguards to supervise both the community and wading pools. As a result of the Montana University System deciding to start the fall semester two weeks earlier than normal, we lost nearly 50% of the lifeguards needed to safely operate the pools. With the reduced staffing levels, we had to make the difficult decision to close the wading pools and South pool one week earlier than we had anticipated.

Overall, throughout what was an extraordinary summer season due to COVID-19, the community pools only saw a 6% decrease in attendance as compared to the previous year. A total of 38,812 people visited our community pools in 2020. Interestingly, we saw an increase of 17% in concession sales. It appears that the families and children who enjoyed their summer aquatic experience stayed at the pools for a much longer duration than past years and enjoyed having a cheeseburger for lunch and some extra ice cream later in the day.

To go hand and hand with recreational open swim for children and families, the Recreation Division also provided aquatic programming, which incorporated 343 children enrolled in our American Red Cross Learn to Swim program, 69 adult lap swimmers, and 18 children enrolled in our new all-day aquatic camp, Junior Lifeguarding.

The aquatic staff was commended for doing a tremendous job keeping our facilities safe and enjoyable for the community this summer.



In preparation for the summer of 2021, the Recreation Division has started work on two projects that will assist in getting our aquatic facilities ready for the season. At Rose Pool, the Recreation Staff is busy upgrading the chlorine delivery system. The renovation includes building a new manifold and replacing the lines that deliver the chlorine to the pool. At South Pool, due to the rapid deterioration of the pool liner originally installed in 2007, we replaced it with a new liner. The project was completed at the end of September. The new liner will reduce water loss and provides a safe surface that protects children's feet from the abrasive concrete floor.

Summer Camps Wrap-Up: In the midst of the impacts from COVID-19, the Recreation Division rose to the challenge of providing safe and enjoyable programs for the Community. In cooperation with the Yellowstone County Health Officials and approved health and safety protocols, we offered programs and summer camps at a reduced capacity of 75%. The Recreation Division successfully ran three all-day Youth Camps during summer 2020. These protocols included temperature checks, a great deal of cleaning and sanitizing, along with social distancing and other safety measures. Although it was a challenging summer, our seasonal staff did an amazing job keeping kids healthy and happy.



The Adventure Camp Series: This program was able to do many of the outdoor activities we normally do. Activities including, whitewater rafting, rappelling, horseback riding, swimming, and many more filled each day. This summer we started a Youth Leadership Week to close out the summer. William Henry, of Be Better World, spent the mornings with our campers teaching them a variety of leadership and anti-bullying skills while promoting teamwork with activities that engaged all campers. Our Adventure Camp Series was maxed out in enrollment each of the twelve weeks at 26 kids.

Magic City Summer Camp: This camp also participated in some similar outdoor activities. Magic City also filled in some mornings doing fitness classes, yoga, and acting classes. We normally would include many trips that we feel fall into the category of education. These would include trips to museums and historical sites around the Billings area. Unfortunately, many of these indoor educational sites were shut down during the summer months. Magic City kept an enrollment number between 20-26 kids each week.



Pioneer Playhouse: This camp is our youngest group (age 5-8) and does not travel. However, our Coordinator at Playhouse does an amazing job of doing themed weeks that are fun and educational. Each day is broken up with walking trips down to the Pioneer Park playground and wading pool. This camp keeps a 5:1 ratio of kids to counselors so that no camper feels left out and no counselor feels overwhelmed. This camp had consistent enrollment between 35 and 45 kids each of the twelve weeks.

The Recreation Division also provides a number of specialty camps. These camps are a weeklong and focus on a special skill, activity, or themes. One of our most popular theme is of course water. We ran **AquaNutz** and **Junior AquaNutz** out of Rose Park Pool. Programming included scuba diving, canoeing, snorkeling, whitewater rafting, and lots of swimming. This camp was run on two separate weeks and had full enrollment (20) each week. Junior AquaNutz offered basically the same programming, just geared towards a younger age group.



Girls Ninja Warrior Camp: This girl's only camp was run by our summer intern Jordyn Sartorie. Jordyn did an excellent job of taking this camp and making it her own with new programming and the same Girls Ninja Warrior feel. She added activities like 9 round kickboxing, martial arts classes, and an escape room.

Kids in the Kitchen: This camp is always full (12 kids) of young chefs looking to learn the basics of cooking. Our instructors did an admirable job of teaching beginner and intermediate recipes and food prep skills that the campers will use throughout the rest of their lives.

Rocket Camp: Rocket Camp focuses on the history and science behind rocketry and propulsion. Each camper builds and decorates their own rocket throughout the week. The last day of camp is launch day. Amend Park is always eager to have the kids there to launch their rockets, and they provide a safe, wide-open space for the campers to launch their rockets.



White Water Rafting: Saturday, July 18th was our Family and Group Whitewater Rafting trip that had its highest enrollment yet (20). The Recreation Division facilitated and bused two groups to the Stillwater River, where Absaroka River Adventures took them on a whitewater excursion.



Youth Cycling Camp: This camp was run in partnership with *Kids In Motion*, which is a non-profit within School District #2, and had a full enrollment of 12 kids. *Kids in Motion* prides themselves on fixing up bikes for underprivileged kids in the Billings Area and doing it for free. The Recreation Division decided to convert our Mountain Biking Camp into the new Youth Cycling Camp so that this service could become available

at one of our programs. The camp went from 1 ½ hours to 3 hours and now includes teaching basic bike maintenance to all campers. Each camper was given a tool kit, provided by *Kids in Motion* that will be able to handle all common bike repairs. The campers were taught bike safety and best practices on all of these different types of terrain and now can call themselves masters of their bikes. We will be very excited to keep this program going next summer.

ePACT Software: Our summer camps utilized our new ePACT software all summer to great success. This program was a way to make our camps paperless and all emergency info available on a dedicated camp tablet. ePACT offers a contactless, paperless method for the Recreation Staff to securely collect, manage, and access essential participant information and updates. This includes emergency contact information and instructions, forms for medical, waivers, and consent, and personal health and safety needs. We were able to use the program to record check-in and check-out of all campers and those lists were then archived for review by the Recreation staff at any time. There are many other features that will make ePACT a staple at camps going into the future.



City of Billings Tennis Academy: Billings Parks and Recreation's City of Billings Tennis Academy expanded programming in both youth tennis and adult tennis during summer 2020. Our daily programming, taught at three locations (Castle Rock, Rose, and Pioneer Parks) with 10 Net Generation certified instructors, saw 172 individual participants. In August, we added a traveling Junior Team

Tennis event where we took 9 junior players to Belgrade to compete in a one-day event against players from the Bozeman Area. We also hosted our annual End of Summer Non-Elimination tournament that saw 14 individual players ending our summer youth tennis programming. Given the circumstances and restrictions within the COVID-19 Pandemic, we saw this year's tennis programming as a big success and hope to continue this growth through the year.

Our adult lessons saw over 60 participants through our beginner and Intermediate lessons as well as our two new program offerings. These new classes were "**Live Ball Under the Lights**," a cardio tennis class, and "**Adult Drill and Play**," a structured class including equal instruction and play. Having adult classes each weeknight sparked a large amount of interest within the "new to tennis" adult community. We are excited to see how we can expand our programming with this user group in the future.



Youth Music Programs: Billings Parks and Recreation continued its youth music programming for in summer 2020. Back for its third year, **Rock Band Camp** took place in late July at Ben Steel Middle School and had five young musicians participate. Though this is a low number for this camp, we are very grateful we were able to work with School District #2 to implement a new music safety protocol to safely and successfully host this camp. During the end of camp performance this year, we worked with Mike Tutja of Midnight Blues Entertainment Group to professionally sound engineer the concert. This allowed the campers to get the full experience of playing a true rock concert. This year's **Keyboard Kamp**, hosted at the Billings Community Center, had eight total participants. This camp, following the same safety protocols as Rock Band Camp, proved another successful example of how in-person music can be taught during these "new normal" times.

Sports Camps and Leagues: In July and August, Billings Parks and Rec continued to provide an opportunity for the youth of the community to participate in a variety of our sports programs with our Sports Camp Series. This included three sessions of **Soccer Camp**, two sessions of **Basketball Camp**, and two sessions of **Volleyball Camp**. Soccer camp took place at beautiful Amend Park, while Basketball and Volleyball took place at North Park and Grandview Park, respectively. In all, we had 79 participants in the three camps.

The 7th year of **Cheer and Dance Camp** kicked off in mid-July that included two age groups with 17 participants. The weeklong camp concluded with a performance at North Park for the parents and guests of the participants.

Flag Football had another successful camp in August with 27 participants honing their passing, running, and athletic skills at Veteran's Park. We were excited to be able to hire one of our regular NFL Flag Football coaches as our August camp coach. This camp leads directly into our NFL Flag Football season that runs from early September to early November with games hosted on Saturdays at Gorham Park.

Junior Golf Lessons had thirty-two young adults (5 girls, 27 boys) ranging from 8-14 years old teed it up on the links for golf lessons at our Par 3 course in late June and early July. The 4 sessions for each age group provided the opportunity to improve their golf swing, chipping, putting, and overall play on the golf course. They also learned proper golf etiquette with a focus on honesty, integrity, and patience.

Summer Coed Adult Soccer successfully kicked off in June and ended in early August. The two-month-long season consisted of 11 weeks of regular season play with seven teams playing on Monday and Wednesday evenings at Amend Park. In August, the contests moved to Sunday afternoons with the last two weeks of play consisting of an end of the year tournament. The league focused on teams and players enjoying the game, getting some exercise, and having fun.



StrikeZone Batting Cages at Stewart Park:

The StrikeZone Batting Cages at Stewart Park originally scheduled to open in early April was delayed due to COVID-19. The Recreation Division submitted a health and safety plan and received approval to

open on May 12th. We saw a gradual increase in usage as the summer has progressed. Due to the delayed start, and missing the month of April, which is usually a very good month, we did not reach our typical revenue estimates. As Little League Baseball and Adult Softball began their seasons, we were there to provide both children and adults the opportunity to take their swings at getting ready for their seasons.

Senior Services at the Community Center: The Billings Community and Senior Center has been closed to the general public since March 18 due to COVID-19. During the Phase 2 provisions, which allowed us to open for programming, we started on June 10th by offering **Strong and Fit** and **Fitness by Design** classes. We have continued to expand fitness opportunities for our seniors by opening the fitness room through appointment only. While a few of our seniors cannot join us due to health concerns, our classes like Strong and Fit have maxed out and our Fitness by Design is at about 75% capacity as well. Prior to COVID, we had an average of 50-100 visits per day! Since reopening for programming only, we are getting an average of 35-45 people per day.



In July, we started two **Chair Yoga** classes and in August we added **Discovering Nutrition, Cooking for 1, Oil Painting,** and two **Sit and Get Fit** classes, that have been increasing in participation each session. The number of program offerings have almost doubled in 2 months and are continuing to add more in the upcoming months. We are also looking for ways to create more virtual programming to bring more programming into our senior's homes.

While cards, games, and bingo are not permitted during Phase 2, we are continuing to find many ways to create programming that helps seniors to stay active and fit. Phase 2 also does not allow for meals on-site or celebrations with large gatherings. Since gatherings are not permitted, we have been sending out birthday cards and vouchers for birthday bags to remind our seniors we still are thinking of them. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response from our seniors who have received the cards and birthday bags. They are calling and saying how much they appreciate the thought and some even say that the birthday bag may be the only gift they receive.



In September we started an evening **Zumba Gold** class for seniors 55-65. Many of these individuals came from the Aqua Zumba Class held at Rose Park Pool this summer! Many of the participants had an interest in staying active during the entire year, saying they do not do anything from September through May. Over the next 3 months, we have more programs starting, which offer more alternatives to stay fit and age gracefully. We will continue to watch for any new orders as they come out to ensure that we are going by local, state, and federal guidelines while providing valuable and safe programming.

Upcoming Fall Programs...



Our **NFL Flag Football** program has participation from over 100 girls and boys throughout the community. This program is offered at Castle Rock, Hawthorne, Optimist, Veterans, Gorham and Country Manor Parks. The program includes 5 Saturday game days held at Gorham Park starting October 10th. All participants receive replica NFL jerseys from the teams selected to represent each site. These teams included the 49ers, Seahawks, Bears, Cardinals, Vikings, Chiefs, Chargers, Eagles, Steelers, and Broncos.



The **Girls' 4th-6th Grade Basketball** program starts in early October on the 12th and was offered at all 6 Middle Schools (Medicine Crow, Castle Rock, Riverside, Lewis & Clark, Will James, and Ben Steele). Our Grade School Basketball program is offered in partnership with School District #2 providing 6th-grade students a program that utilizes the gymnasiums at

the schools in which they attend. We continue to see a steady increase in participation since the program moved to the middle schools. Participation is up over 60% since 2016 when the program utilized only elementary schools throughout the community.



The **Tennis is Elementary** program, offered in conjunction with USTA Montana, started in 2018 as a new program to introduce children to tennis and keep them active during the offseason. The program is available after school in the two elementary schools (Orchard and Meadowlark). Participation continues to increase each session/season as more children are exposed to QuickStart Tennis, which is designed to bring kids to the game by utilizing smaller racquets, slower and lighter balls, and shorter court dimensions, all tailored to the age and size of the child. It is divided into two different levels, ages 8 and under and ages 9-10. All equipment needed is provided in partnership with USTA Montana.



The **Adult Coed Soccer and Volleyball Leagues** continue to be a staple for fall adult recreation. A total of 6 teams are competing in the Adult Soccer League which plays on Sunday afternoons at Amend Park. The Recreation Staff is looking forward to the next possible World Cup in 2020 when interest in soccer seems to

spike and participation increases. The Coed Volleyball League utilizes Castle Rock Middle School for games on Sunday afternoons throughout the fall and early winter months. All 18 teams will qualify for a double-elimination tournament based on their records from the regular season. Championship matches will be held on December 6th in both the Competitive and Recreation Divisions.

With the recent grand opening of the first dedicated pickleball courts at Lillis Park last week, Billings Parks and Recreation is excited to offer **Beginner Adult Pickle Ball Lessons** beginning Tuesday, September 29th. The lessons will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday's from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm at Lillis Park. The lessons will focus on the introduction to pickleball, basic skills, and strategy for you to learn and play one of the fastest-growing sports.



Park Planning and Development

Annafeld Parks: Phase one of this project has developed 4 pocket parks and a large 5-acre park. The contractor has begun maintenance operations and will have this obligation until the spring of 2021 after which the Parks Division will assume those responsibilities. Phase two is underway and includes bank improvements along the Hogan Slough and Yellowstone River and the installation of playground equipment at the 5-acre park. The playground is scheduled to be completed by the first part of October.

Centennial Park Development: On July 7th the construction at Centennial Park was completed. In addition, the contractor has finished all adjustments and corrections to the site. Park staff is now managing the park and are working to establish the turf. The park will officially open by June 1, 2021. While the turf is getting established, parks staff is moving forward planting the shrub beds in the parking lot and at the entrances to the dog off-leash area.

The all-season modular concrete restroom has been constructed and the manufacturer is currently obtaining a building permit. Once the permit is issued, they will ship the building and place it on the prepared pad then make the final utility connections.



Coulson Park Development: Staff is currently working on the first phase of development at Coulson Park. This work will include the location of two ADA accessible modular concrete restroom structures, a boat ramp, parking, and a picnic area. The State Department of Justice (DOJ) recently approved the project and the consultant has begun design work. It is anticipated that construction will take place spring of 2021.



Rose Park Playground Remodel: This summer as part of the selection process for the new playground equipment at Rose Park, Billings' citizens had a chance to vote on their preferred playground design through an online voting system. There were over 700 votes cast. The winning design is being

implemented in the park. The staff has ordered the equipment and it is anticipated to arrive at the end of December. The installation will occur as weather permits.



Ponderosa Park Playground Before



Ponderosa Park Playground Afterwards

Ponderosa Park Playground Remodel: On July 24th a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the completion of the new playground at Ponderosa Park. Included in the project were play features such as swings, slides, climbing structures, and spinners. Many of the play pieces are inclusive so that children of all abilities can play and socialize side by side with their friends. Included in the improvements is an ADA accessible route from the street to the playground and a shade structure.



Amend Park Synthetic Turf Field: On August 28th the new synthetic turf soccer field at Amend Park was officially opened. A ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorated the event as dignitaries, citizens, and soccer players looked on. Amenities at the park include a 500 seat bleacher and LED lighting that will extend the playing season and number of games played per day. This field will provide a professional quality surface for play.

Dehler Park Maintenance: Dehler Park is nearly 12 years old and to maintain that facility in proper condition, the Parks and Recreation Department has hired a local architectural firm to inspect the buildings and concourse. They have identified the necessary repairs and are working to get bids from qualified contractors to do the work. Once this work is completed, it will extend the life of the stadium complex for many years to come.

Castle Rock Park Master Plan: The Parks and Recreation Department has retained the services of Cushing Terrell of Billings to assist staff in the development of a master plan for Castle Rock Park. The consultant has met with many user groups, stakeholders, and citizens to receive input about what should be included in the master plan. Also, a project website has been created to help keep citizens informed about the process. Go to the Parks and Recreation website at www.billingsparks.org for the latest information and to give your ideas about the plan. Also, future public meetings are posted at the site. On October 11th an open house at the park will be held to show the public the progress made to date and showcase the initial concept that has emerged from the meetings held to date. It is anticipated this project will be finished by the end of the year.

Terry Park Playground Replacement and Picnic Shelter: Terry Park will soon be getting new playground equipment and a picnic shelter. Funding has been appropriated for these amenities and staff is working to provide concepts for Billings' residents to vote for the play equipment they would like to see in the park. The goal is to install these new amenities in the spring of 2021.

High Sierra Park Restroom: A new modular concrete latrine facility will soon be placed at the High Sierra Park near the dog off-leash area. Plans and specifications have been developed and the building has been ordered. The building will be delivered and installed in the first part of November. Sidewalks to the dog off-leash area and ADA accessible parking will also be part of the project and will be constructed this fall weather permitting.

Volunteer and Community Outreach



Arbor Day: This past spring the Parks and Recreation Department postponed the annual Arbor Day Event due to COVID-19. The Arbor Day Committee was determined to hold an Arbor Day event in the fall, not knowing exactly what that might look like. It was decided to move the event from North Park and hold a much smaller, less formal Arbor Day at Centennial Park. The Parks and Recreation Department used this opportunity to rejoice trees in the community and begin planting the new Arboretum at Centennial Park. This year we had around 30 volunteers from

Montana Audubon Center, West End Task Force, Downtown Rotary, and West End Rotary helped with the volunteer projects consisting of tree planting in the dog park area and landscaping and tree planting in the main parking lot located off 32nd St. We held an Arbor Day Ceremony at 11:00, which was open to the public. We were honored to have Mayor Cole speak at the event and help plant the ceremonial Arbor Day Tree. The Parks and Forestry Divisions, and the Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator are responsible for coordinating the Arbor Day volunteer projects and Arbor Day Ceremony.

Parkland Gleaning Project: We are wrapping up the final plantings of the Parkland Gleaning Project and are beginning to recruit volunteers and organizations for long term commitments to monitoring and gleaning of fruit trees. We had our first volunteer gleaning at Amend Park in August with 94 lbs. of Apples, plums, and pears collected and donated to Family Services. Along with the HDR Grant, we have budgeted a portion of those funds to create signage that will be installed in the Parks at Parkland Gleaning sites. This will give the public information about the background of the project, other parks locations that have fruit trees available for gleaning, and more ways to get involved with future volunteer opportunities as part of the project.





Amend Park Community

Garden: This year we have filled all of the plots at the Amend Park Community garden. Five of the gardeners from Amend have agreed to volunteer as Leadership Team Members. These members helped with coordinating garden activities, projects, and general oversight of weekly tasks. The Garden also participated in the Harvest Hope Victory Gardens program along with the Songbird and St. Andrews Community gardens. The purpose of the project is for gardeners to plant extra plants in their garden, or provide additional garden plots, dedicated to growing food

that was donated to the food bank and local organizations that are helping community members experiencing food insecurities. The Victory Gardens at Amend are being coordinated by the leadership team. So far this year, the garden has produced 3,370 lbs. of produce and counting!

Ribbon Cuttings:



1. Lillis Park Pickle Ball Courts - September 15th
2. Amend Park Synthetic Turf Field – July 7th
3. Ponderosa Park Playground - July 24th

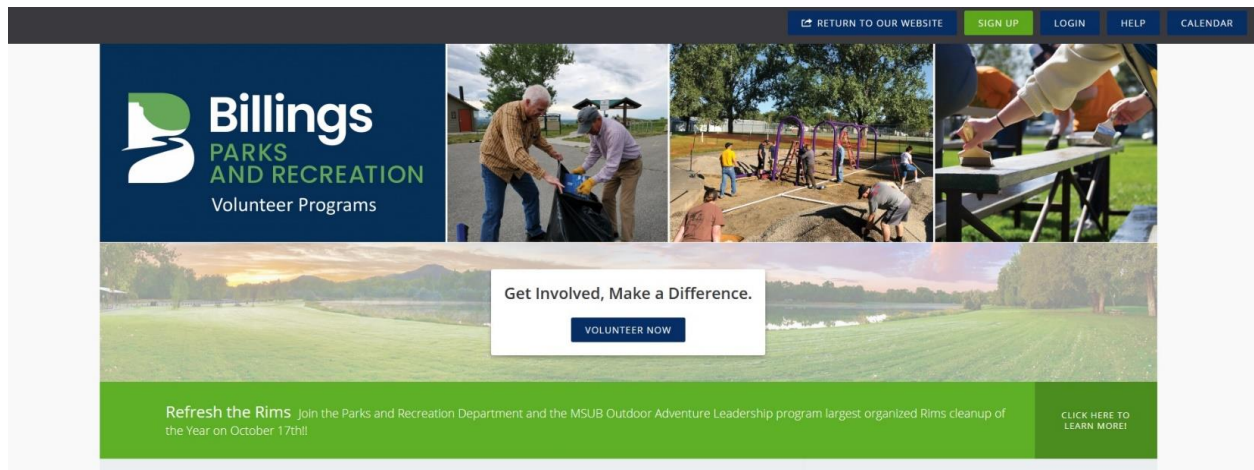
Volunteer Projects: Volunteer projects have picked up significantly since earlier in the summer. We have had several large volunteer projects take place this quarter with a total of 143 Volunteers contributing 603 hours of projects in the parks since the start of July. All volunteers are required to adhere to our approved Phase 2 Volunteer Program guidelines.

First Interstate Bank Volunteer Day: Volunteers from First Interstate Bank held their annual volunteer day this year on September 9th. We hosted two projects, a rims cleanup and a fencing project at Amend Park Community Garden. The Amend Garden Fencing project replaced the rodent fencing with a sturdy metal mesh fabric fencing material that will, last for many years. The previous rodent fencing was made of black plastic that had deteriorated in the sun and become ineffective in stopping small animals from passing through. The volunteers were able to replace over 400 ft. of fencing in a matter of a few hours.

RMC Rims Cleanup: The Rocky Mountain College girls volleyball team helped with a cleanup at the base of the rims located near Stanford Rd. The Team spent the morning hiking around the foothills picking up trash that had come off from the rims above. In around an hour, they had collected eight 55 gallon garbage bags worth of trash and litter from the area.



Refresh the Rims: Refresh the Rims is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th. This annual event is the largest organized Rims Cleanup of the year! The Billings Parks and Recreation Department and the MSU-B Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program lead volunteers across 5 miles of Parkland above and below the rims to clean up litter and debris from one of Billings' defining landmarks and a favorite Park area for residents and visitors of Billings. Volunteers are split into groups to cover specific areas along the rims. Volunteers can sign up at Billingsparks.org



New Volunteer Software: We have completed the implementation and a soft launch of our new volunteer software with galaxy digital. This software will expand our ability to recruit volunteers and will assist in volunteer recruitment, capturing volunteer statistics, engaging community members, scheduling volunteers, and advanced reporting. We are testing the site with our Refresh the Rims Event to get a feel for the system and make any adjustments. The volunteer system comes with a number of automated features that will streamline the administration of volunteers and volunteer events. You can look at our new volunteer software by going to <https://billingsmt.galaxydigital.com/>

Park Maintenance

Seasonal Staff: During the summer, the biggest hurdle the Parks Department faced was staffing levels. We were always 10 to 15 people down from full staff. The worst area was restroom closers. During most of the summer, full-time staff had to fill in due to the shortage. During August and carrying over into September the lack of adequate staff forced Parks to close 8 bathrooms each day at 4:00 pm instead of keeping them open until 9:00 pm. Optimist, Highland, Gorham, Sacajawea, Edgerton, Arrowhead, South, and North were chosen to be closed early, but only if there was not an event in the park that evening. The Seasonal labor shortage also affected our weekend schedule. There were delays in preparing shelters for events and trash service.

Operations: There were a number of pump issues during the summer. Lillis pump was down for 3 weeks at the end of July and into August. The repair parts were back-ordered and slowed the repair. The upper pump at Pioneer was unusable all summer. The line that supplies water to the station from the ditch was compromised. The lower pump station was used to irrigate the park all summer. The repair was made in September and is ready for next year. One of the transfer pumps at Castle Rock Park has a bad bearing and will need to be rebuilt over the winter, the other pump is operational and supplying the ditch water to the park. The ditch water was extremely silty this summer and caused a few issues with our primary filters at a number of locations. Using a large air compressor staff was able to keep the headgates clear. Staff will make some design changes for next year to improve the water flow during high silt times.

Irrigation: Staff started the winterization process early this year. Compressors for rent are scarce so we are down one large compressor, also with the lack of seasonal help, full-time staff will be needed to mulch leaves and do winter prep. Along with all the park restrooms and buildings, staff is responsible for winterizing 114 sites and 230 points of connection.



The irrigation project at North Park is nearly completed. The last thing that needs to be completed is a power line that needs to be bored over to the pump station, and we are waiting on NorthWestern Energy to schedule the project. The system has been running using a temporary tie into city water.

Park Vandalism: Vandalism was an expensive issue this summer. Two of the worst events were at Stewart Park and Yellowstone Kelly's Interruptive site. Graffiti on the rims and trash being tossed from the rims also continues to be a problem.



Turf Management: Staff continued to provide enhanced maintenance at Amend Park to ensure the turf is competition level quality. Additional fertilizer and aerification are required to allow the turf to stand up to all the traffic demands placed on these fields.



Spreading Fertilizer at Amend Park



Solid Tine Aeration at Amend Park

Projects:

Artificial turf field installed at Amend - Staff reinstalled and reworked the sprinklers that had to be moved to allow room for the new artificial turf field. Sod and landscape rock were also placed around the field.

Lillis Park PickleBall Courts – The pickleball courts were completed and the grand opening was held on September 14th.

Before



After



Mountview Cemetery

Operations: Burials increased significantly during the third quarter of 2020 compared to the second. This was mostly a result of families rescheduling cremation burials that were postponed during the early COVID-19 restrictions in the spring. Of the postponed burials, only two remain unscheduled at this point. Two of the cemetery's seasonal staff left early in the season. Despite attempting to hire one replacement employee, the position remained unfilled due to a lack of applications.

With the transition to fall, the maintenance staff has reduced watering. Additionally, the fall herbicide application has started. Cemetery staff is preparing for winter by trimming down the turf around the lot markers for easier identification. The Streets



Cemetery Staff leveling roads in the old section of Mountview

Department hauled in multiple loads of rototilling's to the old sections of the cemetery to complete the internal road system. Cemetery staff worked to prep the site and spread the millings. The delivered material completed about 40% of the desired project. As time and materials allow, Streets will continue to deliver millings to the cemetery in an effort to complete the project.

Equipment:

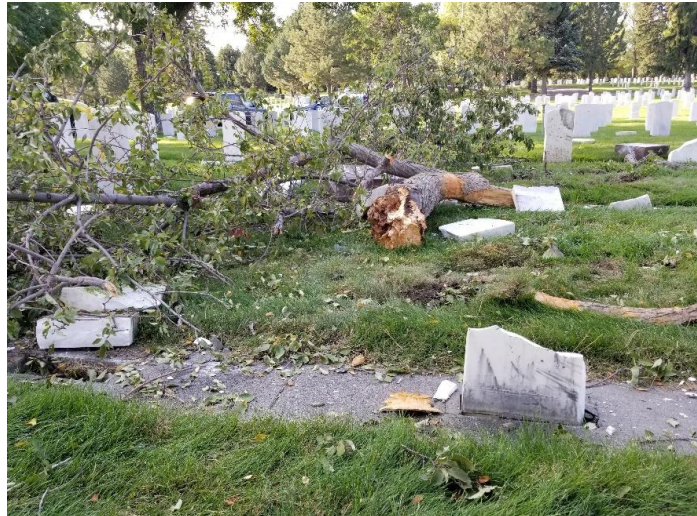
Through the City's Equipment Replacement Program, the cemetery replaced two Walker mowers. This should have a positive impact on the cemetery's equipment maintenance budget. Both mowers required significant repairs during the last year of their use.

Veterans' Section Damage:

On September 20, 2020, a vehicle crashed into the northern section of Mountview Cemetery off of Central Ave. It destroyed the granite entry sign, a mature crab apple tree, and caused damage to 29 Veterans' headstones and cemetery turf. Cemetery staff conducted preliminary cleanup of the site on the 20th to address safety issues.

Subsequent cleanup involved removing the fragments of the headstone bases from the cement curbing, replacing the damaged turf, and removing existing glass and debris from the site. Cemetery staff also worked with two cemetery volunteers to research Veterans' information to submit applications to the Veterans Administration (VA) for replacement military headstones.

The VA has agreed to provide the replacement headstones at no cost to the cemetery and will seek reimbursement from the driver's insurance if possible. The Yellowstone National Cemetery loaned Mountview Cemetery temporary grave markers to put at the Veterans' graves until replacement headstones are installed. The replacement applications were submitted to the VA on Monday, September 28. This rapid replacement timeline would not be possible without the tremendous volunteer efforts of Faith Barnwell and P.J. Smith who committed significant time to help cemetery staff find all the crucial information needed to complete the applications.



July-Sept Statistics:

	July	August	September	Totals
Full Burials	3	4	4	11
Cremation Burials	10	11	8	29
Infant Burial	0	0	0	0
Total Burials	13	15	12	40
Veterans Grave	0	0	0	0
Immediate Use Sales	0	2	0	2
Future Use Sales	1	1	0	2
Contract for Deed	4	1	0	5
Disinterment Full	0	0	0	0
Disinterment Infant	0	0	0	0
Other (cremation disentangment)	0	0	0	0

Urban Forestry

Forestry remained full staffed throughout the quarter, with two weed abatement seasonal employees and one arborist assistant. Staff pruned 216 trees, removed 41 trees, and watered all newly planted trees and the trees along Montana Ave and Broadway twice each month.

Forestry staff scheduled and managed the tree planting for Arbor Day. Over 30 trees were planted at Centennial Park as part of the Arbor Day celebration.

Forestry staff has been busy with weed abatements. This program runs from June through September. Staff assists Code Enforcement by mowing down overgrown properties that the owner will not comply with Code Officers. This season a total of 104 properties were mowed by Forestry Staff. These properties vary in size from a lot to multiple acres. A total of \$13,227.00 in revenue was generated through his program.

City Arborist Update for July 2020

Highlights:

- Pruned a total of 68 trees
- Pruned 19 trees in Frances (pruning is complete 44 trees pruned total)
- Weeded the tree area behind the playground in Frances
- Removed large dead Silver Maple in Ave. F Triangle
- Removed 5 dead trees in High Sierra dog park, weeded, and mulched around trees
- Removed one Canada red on Montana
- Raised up 26 trees around the police evidence bldg.
- Removed 9+ small cottonwood trees around the police evidence bldg.
- Pruned 4 large ash trees in Rocky Village park
- Watered 27 trees in Sacajawea, 90 in Lillis, 22 on Montana and Broadway

- Cut cottonwood suckers and mowed along the street in Josephine crossing
- Mowed and line trimmed along street and bike path in Descro Strip
- Started pruning in Evergreen park

City Arborist Update for August 2020

Highlights:

- Pruned a total of 111 trees
- Pruned 29 trees at MET Transit in Stewart Park (mostly raising)
- Pruned 29 trees along Parkhill and 3rd Ave. in Pioneer Park (raising and crown cleaning)
- Pruned 28 trees in Evergreen park (raising and crown cleaning)
- Pruned 16 trees around the police evidence bldg. (raising)
- Pruned 6 cottonwoods in Riverfront Park (raising and crown cleaning)
- Removed two dead ash trees in Uinta
- Removed very large branch hung up in cottonwood for the water dept.
- Cut back trees from growing into the street on Bohl Ave.
- Mulched 34 trees in Pioneer Park
- Mulched and watered 46 trees in Descro Strip
- Watered 38 trees on Montana and Broadway
- Watered 88 trees in Lillis Park
- Completed 6 work orders from Shawn in Harvest and Olympic Park removing 4 trees and raising many others above sidewalks.
- Updated inventory in Rocky Village (not done since 2010)
- Removed Bullet Galls off 31 Bur Oaks

City Arborist Update for September 2020

Highlights:

- Pruned 37 trees in Pioneer as part of the 7-year cycle along 3rd ave and along the south side by the football field
(5 were a complete crown clean, 32 raised up)
- Raised 3 trees in Lillis and pruned 1 on Montana Ave.
- Planted 70 trees total
 - 5 in Copper Ridge
 - 46 in Centennial
 - 3 in Lillis
 - 2 in Rose
 - 2 in Sac
 - 1 in Amend garden
 - 1 in Optimist
 - 1 in Terry
 - 1 in Pioneer
 - 1 on Montana
 - 5 in Howard Heights
 - 4 in High Sierra