

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Story Book Walk

Borrowing an idea from the Audubon Center at Riverlands, Recreation staff created a new Story Book Walks program for walking pathways in City parks. Each story will follow the seasons and rotate through each park. The first book, *A Snowy Day*, premiered at Indian Meadows Park during the late winter. It will rotate through display at the other four parks next winter. The spring book *Bunny's Book Club*, debuted along the Sassafras Trail at Warson Park. We've received positive responses from park users about the stories.



Figure 1 A Snowy Day story book walk along the Indian Meadows walking path.



Figure 2 Bunny's Book Club along the Sassafras Trail at Warson Park

Pavilion & Playground Operations

Renting Park Pavilions for special events remains more popular than prior to the Pandemic. Irv Zeid and Villa Parks are now reservable online. Stacy Pavilion may be booked over the phone or in person. Online reservations are allowed up to a year in advance. If requested booking is within 48 hours of use, renters must contact the Parks & Recreation Office to ensure reservation signs are posted and the pavilion is serviced prior to use. Weekend contract cleaning of reserved pavilions has resumed with Revive Janitorial. Revive will also clean park restrooms following pavilion rentals. Unreserved pavilions will not be cleaned over the weekend, but will be cleaned by Park staff on Fridays and Mondays.

Along with picnic table and restroom deep cleaning and painting touch ups, several park swing seats were replaced this spring. The water valve to Villa Park was repaired, and irrigation heads at Stacy and the Community Center were replaced. The water supply line to the Stacy Pond was also repaired. Under the new CDC guidelines Park staff will re-open drinking fountains in all the parks before Memorial Day. Irv Zeid Park is receiving a new ADA compliant drinking fountain funded through CBDG (Community Development Block Grant) funds. Installation is underway and will be completed within the next ten days. Electrical repairs are scheduled for the Villa & Irv Zeid Pavilions.

Personnel Update

Recreation Coordinator – First round interviews are complete. Second round interviews and practical exam will be held the week of May 17.

Limited Equipment Operator- a full-time Limited Equipment Operator has been allocated to the Parks Division within the Parks & Recreation Department. Recruitment for this new position will begin in May.