



Item No. 6c Town of Atherton

PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
FROM: STEVE TYLER, PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: JUNE 3, 2015
SUBJECT: PARK GOINGS ON MAY 2015

REGULAR STAFF

For the month of May (as of 05/28/2015)

On May 9, 2015, Mike Homer Field at Willie Mays Ballpark was officially opened to the public. While the ballpark was not completed in total, a temporary occupancy permit was issued for the use of the field and restrooms. It was a very impressive event filled with Hall of Famers and stars of the game. Food and beverages were served at the event, and a good time was had by all.

MCE hired a new lead for the park. His name is Oscar Pacheco, and his resume is attached. In his first few weeks in the park, Oscar has used his specialties in high end irrigation systems and plant enrichment to work in the park.

At the May 20, 2015, the Atherton City Council voted 4-1 to accept the Park Masterplan in its latest edition from BFS Architects. This took place two years to the month of Council approving Atherton staff to put a proposal out for the Masterplan.

The Rose Garden relocation project was nearly completed in early May. Thanks to Marylue Timpson, Marion Oster, Denise Kupperman and all the folks who pulled the rope in the same direction to make this happen. There is only the matter of planting a few plants (Italian Buckthorn) along the perimeter of the garden to finish up the project.

Park facility improvements – staff is actively working on/taking bids on the following park improvements:

- Jennings pavilion roof
- Jennings pavilion kitchen improvements
- Tennis Court resurfacing (scheduled to begin in August by mutual agreement).

Broken heads, valve malfunctions and clogged nozzles worked on a LOT this month in preparation for an early summer.

Our irrigation systems are set right now to provide about 50% of the normal water usage we would normally use in a July time period. We will watch and adjust the system to make sure things stay alive during this period of drought. As you know, the park is irrigated using well water and is not subject to the water reductions asked for by local water purveyors, but even so, we will use conservation methods that mimic as closely as possible those used by potable water purveyors.

Several of the large elms in the park (near the entrance, by the playground and in the research area) were given a treatment of a companion fungicide + fertilizer (ground injected) to give them a “shot in the arm” to increase their vitality and vigor. This will be enhanced by a few “deep and infrequent” watering’s with non-potable water during the spring/summer. As you may remember, our Elms suffered the stresses of the drought last year by being hit hard by bark borers and Dutch Elm disease. We lost about a dozen trees. Hopefully these measures can insure loses this year are less significant.

One thing you may notice in the park is that we are actively “hand watering” many of our Redwoods, Elms and Oaks in the park with hoses and sprinklers during daylight hours in the park. This is due to the fact that these trees have been stressed the past few years by negligible winters and need some hand watering to survive. Once again, this will be done with non-potable water and will be monitored closely by park staff in our best efforts not to let these trees die due to lack of water.

Park project – MCE staff (Ed Murdock) is working to bring the Arboretum features in park project # 15 to reality in the park. Also, new sand and fi-bar for the playground has been ordered and may be installed by the end of the month.

EVENTS

See attached sheet for June events. May revenue sheets will be provided at the meeting.

TENNIS

HPP Court Use & Attendance: April

Hours of court usage (# of courts x time)

Clinics: 255

Lessons: 230

Events: 3 (Training)

Total # of students: 570