

VILLAGE NEWS



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Strategic Plan in Motion

Fields 3 and 4 undergo total renovation



In an ongoing effort to enrich the lives of residents and foster a sense of community through open space recreational facilities, parks and programs, Phase I of the Department of Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan sought to answer several questions, including current conditions of existing facilities.

Community Park's athletic fields sit atop of a former landfill. Over the years, subsurface decomposition and settling has caused irregularity in playing surfaces, particularly Fields 3 and 4, that often resulted in unacceptable playing conditions.

Continued on page 2

Inside This Issue:



**Road Resurfacing
Coming to a Street
Near You**
6



**Water Meter
Replacement
Underway**
5



**St. Paul's
Parking Plan
Under Review**
5



**Irrigation System
Coming to All
Village Parks**
4

Fun in the Sun: Pool Upgrades Make a Big Splash

The fully renovated ladies and men's shower and restroom facilities at the Garden City Pool made their long awaited debut June 11 as one of the Village's most treasured assets kicked off its 60th season of fun in the sun. The Pool bathhouses had not been renovated in more than three decades. The project, bonded and paid for through the Pool Enterprise Fund, began in early March.

Each bathhouse now includes eight shower stalls, two of which are handicap accessible. The restroom facilities for both men and women offer six bathroom stalls, and one handicap accessible stall with its own sink.

Continued on page 3

"These fields suffered the most and affected playability," Deputy Mayor Richard Silver, Board of Trustees liaison to the Recreation and Parks Department, said. To address these issues, Field 3, used for softball and baseball, and Field 4, a lighted 90-foot baseball field, underwent a complete overhaul. A September 8th ribbon cutting marked their re-opening.

"We are very pleased the Village has completed the first major project identified in year one of the Department's Strategic Plan," Kevin Ocker, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, said. "The complete renovation of Fields 3 and 4 has been completed on time and under budget."

Renovations included new irrigation, synthetic turf infields and new under drain systems. Safety fencing, backstops and dugouts were also replaced. Both fields re-opened September 9 with a full schedule of games on both fields. "It will be an outstanding improvement and enjoyed by all that use those fields," Mr. Ocker said.

Looking ahead, plans are already in motion for the 2017-18 renovation of the soccer field at Community Park. The Strategic Plan released earlier this year contemplated a conversion of that field to artificial turf, the installation of an under drain system and permanent lights. Subsequent to the publication of the Strategic Plan, however, representatives of a number of athletic organizations came forward to ask if the scope of the planned work could be expanded to turn the current field into a true multi-purpose facility, one which will be regulation size for multiple sports.

"To do so requires a meaningful expansion of the current facility, reorienting a service road and other work - things that were not contemplated in the original plan," Deputy Mayor Silver said. "We welcome the input and the study that we recently commissioned will explore the feasibility to do so."

Cameron Engineering, the design consultant and engineer, will also lead focus group meetings with representatives from local sports organizations. "This is a very open dialogue and design process," Mr. Ocker said.

Deputy Mayor Silver added, "Of course, as the plan itself notes, our ability to accommodate changes in scope depends in large part on our ability to pay for any increase in costs. That is something that we will address once the cost is known, as we have previously done for the other costs of the Strategic Plan."

Also in 2017-18, a new under drain system will be added in the infield of Field 1, currently used for softball. Field 2, a lighted Little League baseball field, is slated for renovation in 2018-19. Improvements include installation of a new synthetic turf infield and sod outfield, irrigation and an under drain system throughout all playing surfaces. Safety fencing and dugouts will also be replaced, as will playground apparatus and safety surfacing located next to the clubhouse.

Across town, numerous upgrades are also slated for the St. Paul's Recreation Complex. Though the athletic fields have held up well to past renovations, an old cinder running track restricts the normal rotation and placement of fields.

The 400-meter track, which sits just below grade, has created an uneven surface condition within the field of play on several soccer fields. The entire track will be removed and replaced with topsoil and seeded.

Improvements to Cluett Hall and the Field House, heavily used for after-school recreation activities, winter and summer camp programs and outside rentals, will include refurbished floors and walls, renovated restrooms and new exterior doors and backboards. The handicapped accessible ramp to Cluett Hall will also be reconditioned.

This multi-year capital investment program is designed to bring the Village's fields and facilities to the high standards residents have a right to expect in Garden City. To read more about Phase I of the Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, visit www.gardencityny.net.



The locker area is now connected to the shower area for an easier flow. The Family Bathroom doubled in size and includes a baby changing station and shower area, in addition to the already existing toilet and sink. There's also a brand new bathroom near the Adult Pool as well as a new First Aid Room.

“This year the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees and the Department of Recreation and Parks, are proud to announce a number of improvements and opportunities designed to improve both the membership value and experience,” Kevin Ocker, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, said.

New features that also debuted this summer included the sale of beer and wine at the Snack Bar on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as on the Fourth of July and Labor Day for members aged 23 or older. The success of last year's “Member Appreciation Night” led to three “Party Under the Stars” events this season.

Also new this summer was a Pool Enrichment Program for members and non-members ages 7 to 11 years old. The program, which kicked off in July and included lunch, offered age appropriate activities such as crafts, games, sports and swimming. Sunset yoga, Date Night Movie Night, as well as several “Paint and Sip” events, were also offered for the first time this season.

Stop by the Pool Office at Community Park, the Rec Office at 108 Rockaway Avenue or visit www.gardencityrecreation.org for membership inquiries.

Improvements Slated For All Five Village Parks



The Department of Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan, a 54-page document brimming with important steps to address aging inventory, not only focuses on Community Park and the St. Paul's Recreation Complex but also the Village's five neighborhood parks and Stewart Field.

Although all of the neighborhood parks are busy during the summer, on an annualized basis Grove and Nassau Haven Parks are utilized slightly more because they contain soccer fields in addition to the typical Little League field, playground and courts, Kevin Ocker, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, said.

Field playing surfaces are in need of upgrade, mainly due to lack of good irrigation systems. "Our park renovations as outlined in the Strategic Plan will occur in sequence based upon existing conditions," Mr. Ocker noted.

Hemlock Park's existing irrigation on the ball field will be replaced in 2016-17. Renovation of the baseball field, including new safety fencing, renovation of the comfort station and replacement of the heating plant will follow.

At Nassau Haven, the baseball infield will be renovated in 2016-17, as well as new irrigation installed on the baseball and soccer fields. Safety fencing will also be replaced. Future improvements include renovation of the comfort station and replacement of the heating system.

Irrigation and safety fencing will also be installed at Edgemere Park and the baseball field renovated in 2016-17. Renovation of the comfort station and replacement of the heating plant will occur the following year.

Grove Park will receive new playground apparatus and safety surfacing in 2016-17, as well as new irrigation and safety fencing for the baseball/softball and soccer fields. The interior of the comfort station will be renovated the following year.

Tullamore Park will also receive a new irrigation system in 2016-17. A new shade structure will be erected the following year and a full renovation of the comfort station will follow in 2018-20.

In the East, Stewart Field will see improvements to the infield of its fenced 60-foot baseball field. Dugouts will be reconditioned and a new irrigation system installed in the football field, Field 1 and Field 2 and the fenced Little League field.

Revenue enhancements from programs, field rentals and intramural participation fees will help fund these needed improvements.

"With the addition of new irrigation systems in all of our neighborhood parks and Stewart Fields, our athletic field playing conditions will be greatly improved," Mr. Ocker said.

St. Paul's Parking Plan Under Review

A potential parking plan still under review for the St. Paul's Recreation Complex could create 50 additional spaces, bringing the total number to 275.

"These additional spaces could increase capacity at the site by 24 percent for a relatively low cost," Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi, who has been working closely with Kevin Ocker on the proposed plan, said.

The project would cost approximately \$75,000, roughly \$1,500 a space.

Several residents joined Mayor Nicholas Episcopia and members of the Board of Trustees during a walk-through of the site September 8th to review the potential layout with Mr. Ocker.



Water Meter Replacement Program Nearly Complete

A water meter replacement program that began in May is now more than 50 percent complete, according to Public Works Director Robert Mangan, averaging 250 replacements per week.

National Metering Services Inc. is performing the system upgrade, which now enables the new meters to be read by radio transmitter. Affected residents should have received a letter from National Metering Services Inc. Scheduling for appointments began May 23, 2016.

This installation service is free of charge. Access to the home or place of business to install the new meter, however, is required. National Metering Services Inc. installers are required to be in uniform and have identification badges displayed at all times. Their vehicles will also be appropriately marked with the company name.

The upgrades are expected to be complete within three months, dependent on residents' availability. For project information, visit National Metering Services Inc.'s website, www.nmsnj.com.

Road Resurfacing Project Addressing An Aging Infrastructure



Garden City's Road Resurfacing Project is yet another example of how the Board of Trustees continues to invest in strategic capital projects that address an aging infrastructure.

"The upkeep of our Village roads is extremely important to the quality of life in Garden City. Our Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance and, when necessary, the replacement of 67.5 miles of streets and curbs," Mayor Nicholas Episcopia said. "To accomplish this work, the Board of Trustees has budgeted \$1,700,000 per annum for each of the next five years. I believe this shows we are very committed to the proper maintenance of our streets and roads."

The \$1.7 million road repairs budget allows for the milling and paving of 5.13 miles of road in 2016. The minimum annual recommended maintenance of roads is 3.7 miles or 74 miles at a 20-year cycle. This cycle, however, has not been consistently applied over the last 10 years, which has resulted in an increased need for investment in the future years.

The project, which began June 20 and is running on schedule, addresses nearly a dozen roads including Stewart Avenue, Kingsbury Road, Sixth Street, Fenimore Avenue, Second Street and Wilmar Place, according to Public Works Director Robert Mangan. Temporary road closures are expected.

"The 2016 Road Resurfacing Project enables the Public Works Department to address more than five miles of Village roadway in need of attention," Mr. Mangan said. "The program's benefits far outweigh the temporary inconvenience."

For project updates, visit www.gardencityny.net.