

PUBLIC MEETING

PARKS, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015

6:30PM

DPW OPERATIONS CENTER

2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI

AGENDA

- 1.) Call to Order
- 2.) Review Minutes of: May 13, 2015
- 3.) Citizens Participation

- 4.) Old Business – None

- 5.) New Business
 - a.) Review and consideration of the proposed schedule for the annual Parks Tour.
 - b.) Review and consideration of support of a proposed City Proclamation that would acknowledge July as National Parks and Recreation Month as designated by the NRPA and the US Congress.
 - c.) Review and consideration of a Remembrance Garden in Horace White Park as proposed and presented by Beloit Family Services.

- 6.) Director's Report
- 7.) Committee Members Comments
- 8.) Adjournment

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- * *Commissioners unable to attend are encouraged to contact Brian Ramsey @ 608/364-2919 or the Parks Administrative Secretary @ 608/364- 2929 prior to the meeting.*
- ** *Please note that, upon reasonable notice, at least 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services.*
- *** *For additional information or to request this service, please contact the Parks & Leisure Services Division located at 2351 Springbrook Court, Beloit, WI 53511 or by calling 608/364-2929.*

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
NEW BUSINESS ACTION REPORT – ITEM A**

MEETING DATE June 10, 2015

TITLE Review and consideration of the proposed schedule for the annual Parks Tour.

BACKGROUND As pre-determined by the P&R Commission in 2010, every other year the PARC would alternate which side of the Rock River that we would tour parks in the City of Beloit for our Annual Parks Tour. In 2014 we toured park sites on the west side of the Rock River, so therefore in 2015 it would be appropriate to tour various park sites on the east side of the river.

As in previous years, we will be offering a light snack and beverages for our participants as generally we start at 5:00pm and don't conclude until dusk, or approximately 9:00pm. Currently, I am proposing meeting and starting our Tour at the Edwards Pavilion in Telfer Park. Furthermore, I will contact the City of Beloit Transit Division and request that they provide us with a city bus for your tour.

Traditionally, we have scheduled and conducted our Annual Parks Tour in July as July is designated as National Parks & Recreation Month by the National Parks & Recreation Association. Therefore, once again, I would recommend that we schedule this event in lieu of our meeting on July 8, 2014. Attached is a revised tentative schedule for your review and consideration for this year's tour.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL IMPACT

- Budgeted Amount \$500.00
- Source of Funds Parks General Fund

OPTIONS

- 1.) Accept the 2015 Parks Tour Schedule as presented.
- 2.) Recommend changes as collective agreed by the Commission.

PROJECT TIMELINE As indicated on the attached Tour Schedule

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Parks & Leisure Services Division recommends approval of the Parks Tour Schedule as presented.

2015 ANNUAL PARKS TOUR – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Proposed Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2015

<u>TIMELINE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
4:30-5:00pm	Telfer Park @ Edwards Pavilion
5:00-5:20pm	Pohlman Field – Home of the Snappers
5:20-5:30pm	Skate Park
5:30pm	BUS DEPARTS TELFER PARK
5:30-5:35pm	Lee Lane Park*
5:35-5:40pm	Freeman Park*
5:40-5:45pm	Eagles Ridge Park*
5:45-5:50pm	Dog Park*
5:50-6:00pm	Leeson Park
6:00-6:05pm	East Lawn Cemetery*
6:05-6:10pm	Turtle Creek Floodplain: Greenway Trail – Parking Lot
6:10-6:20pm	Turtle Creek Park
6:20-6:25pm	Stateline Restoration Prairie*
6:25-6:30pm	Zonta Park*
6:30-6:35pm	Riverbend Bike Path (Water Street) *
6:35-6:45pm	Horace White Park
6:45-6:50pm	Rhodes Arboretum & Mechanics Green Park*
6:50-7:00pm	Hilliard Park
7:00-7:05pm	Strong Park & Oakwood Cemetery*
7:05-7:10pm	Roosevelt Park*
7:10-7:15pm	Partridge Park*
7:15-7:25pm	Brown-Hatchett Park
7:25-7:30pm	Luety Park*
7:30-7:35pm	Hope Park*
7:35-7:45pm	Summit Park
7:45-7:55pm	Tremont Park*
7:55-8:05pm	Totem Mound Park
8:05-8:15pm	Riverside Park: North-end parking lot
8:15-8:30pm	Riverside Park: Midlawn Shelter & Tennis Courts
8:30-8:45pm	Riverside Park: Main Parking Lot – Moore Pavilion/TI/RRC
8:45-9:00pm	Riverside Park: Jones Pavilion & Wood Family Bridge
9:00-9:05pm	Water Tower Park/Leisure Services Office*

There are 21 park sites, 2 Cemeteries, plus the Turtle Creek Floodplain and countless special use areas and/or facilities all located on the east side of the city. Annually, we've always attempted to conduct this tour within a 4 hour time period as it eventually becomes too dark to see after 9:00pm (depending upon weather conditions).

Based upon our last tour of the east-side parks in 2013, I have placed an asterisk (*) next to the sites that I am only recommending that we simply drive by and not stop, unless someone has special request to do so. However, since we have several new members of the Commission, and I anticipate the new City Manager, along with some new City Council members participating, I would like to minimally drive by each park site. Furthermore, the Snappers have a home game on this date, and we'll only have the ability to view the improvements made to the Concourse & the field; we will not be able to tour the Clubhouse.

As in previous years, this schedule is always flexible, and we can extend our stops and/or shorten them based upon your desires as we conduct this tour.

Revised/bcr: 06.02.15

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
NEW BUSINESS ACTION REPORT – ITEM B**

MEETING DATE June 10, 2015

TITLE Review and consideration of support of a proposed City Resolution that would acknowledge July as National Parks and Recreation Month as designated by the NRPA and the US Congress.

BACKGROUND

The National Parks & Recreation Association annually designates the month of July as National Parks & Recreation month, and encourages all membered agencies to join them in this distinction. Annually, the NRPA supports this initiative with an official Proclamation enacted upon by the US Congress. Therefore, as a member of the NRPA, it is highly recommended that we support this initiative with by supporting a local City Proclamation with the same designation of July as National Parks & Recreation Month within the City of Beloit.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL IMPACT None.

OPTIONS None.

PROJECT TIMELINE City Council Agenda, June 15, 2015

STAFF RECOMMENDATION Accept and support the Proclamation as presented.

**CITY OF БЕLOIT
PROCLAMATION
DECLARING JULY AS PARK AND RECREATION MONTH**

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including here in Beloit, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation areas are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, parks and natural recreation areas improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS, Beloit, Wisconsin recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin, hereby designates that July is recognized as Park and Recreation Month in the City of Beloit.

Adopted this 15th day of June, 2015.

City Council of the City of Beloit

Charles Haynes, President

Attest:

Judith A. Elson, Duty City Clerk

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Submitted by: Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting – June 10, 2014 @ 6:30pm*

A.) Correspondence

- 1) Beloit 2020 Memo, dated May 27, 2015 along with my prepared response.
(Attachment A1-A4)

B.) Parks Report

1) Routine park maintenance:

- Picking up litter and debris in all parks & along the business corridor of Milwaukee Road.
- Empty trash barrels in all parks weekly.
- Trimming trees and downed branches in parks, trails, and cemeteries.
- Inspect trails and remove any felled trees.
- Routine cleaning and maintenance of the Dog Park.
- Mowing routes of parks & other designated areas, including two (2) new areas, Milwaukee Road corridor and the area around the Big Hill Center in Big Hill Park.

2) Park Projects:

- Removed felled trees on the Creed Road Trail & in Riverside Park.
- Hired contractor to complete roof & siding repairs at Big Hill Center.
- Hired contractor to make repairs to Wootton Park boat docks & ramp.
- Repaired floor drains in rest rooms in Leeson Park
- Replaced doors to rest rooms at the Leeson Park shelter.
- Removed graffiti in Riverside Park.
- Turned on-line the water for Turtle Island playground.
- Completed park & cemetery preparations for Memorial Day Weekend.

C.) Horticulture Report

- 1) Assisted with the removal of trees at Big Hill Park and the Golf Course.
- 2) Completed the removed of the asphalt from the old tennis court area on the north side of the Edwards Pavilion in Telfer Park. Added new black dirt and top seeded the area for new turf growth that will enhance the appearance of this section of the park.
- 3) Installed new planting in the new planters at Pohlman Field
- 4) Continue weeding out all landscaping beds, including Riverside Drive boulevard, downtown parking lots, and around park entrance signs.

- 5) Sprayed designated parks & river rip rap areas for weeds and dandelions.
- 6) Installed flower hanging baskets on Portland Avenue Bridge & Grand Avenue Bridge, along golf course fence line on Burton Avenue, and in Riverside Park promenade.
- 7) Started water hanging baskets, new trees in Hilliard Park, and other landscaping areas as deemed necessary.
- 8) Assisted DBA by providing them with mulch for downtown landscaping beds.
- 9) Prepared parks & cemeteries for the Memorial Day Weekend
- 10) Weeded the Lo Grow Sumac Streetscape beds on White Avenue.
- 11) Assisted the Golf Course in landscaping in preparation of the BMHS Invitational Golf Tournament, and the Regional State Tournament.
- 12) Renovate Celebration Sculpture in Riverside Park with new plant material and a new planting design.

D.) Big Hill Center Acquisition

- 1) The closing date on the purchase of this facility located in Big Hill Park is scheduled for June 26, 2015. We continue to work with the Badgarland Council of the Girl Scouts in transiting the use of this facility. Shortly thereafter, we will begin a transition plan to move the Welty Environmental Center into this facility in July.
- 2) Currently, we are seeking proposals to repair & paint the trim.
- 3) Once the City takes ownership of this facility, we have three immediate goals:
 - Prepare the facility to accommodate the Welty Environmental Center.
 - Complete any and all additional repairs to the exterior and interior of the building.
 - Prepare the lower level activity room to accommodate private rental request.

E.) OTHER/MISC:

- 1) **July 4th Celebration – “Pop on the Rocks”**
 - Contract has been signed & initiated with Melrose Pyrotechnics for the Fireworks display, viewed from Riverside Park & the surrounding area.
 - The July 4th Committee has sent a second letter out soliciting for funds to support & pay for fireworks, donation can be made to the fund at the Stateline Community Foundation.
 - The Rock River Philharmonic has been confirmed and will be performing in Riverside Park prior
- 2) **Vernon Park Playground RFP** – Appropriately advertised and distributed directly to the Playground Manufacturers in May, the deadline date for submitting proposals for the new playground in Vernon Park is Friday, June 26th. Again, once the proposals are received, our Playground Committee will evaluate and score each proposal in order to select the best two (2) proposals. Shortly

thereafter, we will schedule and host a neighborhood citizens meeting and invite the residents that live within the Vernon Park area to view the two (2) finalists and vote for the playground they prefer to have purchased and installed in their neighborhood park. After the playground is selected, it generally takes approximately 60 days before the playground will be installed, and therefore we are anticipating an installation date sometime in October.

3) Rock River Trail Signage

New signage has been received for installation along the Rock River Trail that promotes and provides direction of the new designated Bike Route and Hiking Route. We hope to have this new signage up to mark these two new routes by mid to late July, and in doing so, the City of Beloit will apparently be the first community along the Rock River to have this new signage posted.

4) Vandalism in Parks

- Vehicles destroying turf in Leeson Park & Big Hill Park *(Attached Picture E1)*
- Dog Park Drop-Box destroyed, manufacturing new box in similar design as the one at the Wootton Park Boat Ramp. *(Attached Picture E2)*
- TV's Dumped in Leeson Park, due to new camera's that were recently installed, we were able to provide the Police with a picture of the vehicle & plate, and they were able to confront the suspected who confessed and subsequently fined. *(Attached Picture E3)*


F.) Recreation Report: (See Attachment F1)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - ATTACHMENTS

*Submitted by: Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting – June 10, 2015 @ 6:30pm*

Attachments:

- A1) Letter/Memo from Beloit 2020: May 27, 2015 – Riverside Park
- A2) Response Letter to Beloit 2020: June 1, 2015
- A3) Design Plan: Celebration Sculpture – Riverside Park
- A4) Design Plan Planting Examples: Celebration Sculpture – Riverside Park
- E1) Picture: Turf Damage in Leeson Park
- E2) Picture: Turf Damage in Big Hill Park
- E3) Picture: Vehicle Dumping TV's in Leeson Park

Memo To: Brian Ramsey ✓
CC: Larry Arft
From: Rick Barder, Sec. Beloit 2020 
Subject: Beloit 2020 River Walk May 2015
Date: May 27, 2015

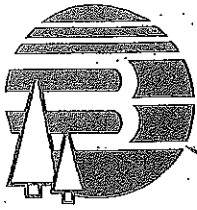
Included as part of this memo is a DVD which has photos of several areas that need attention as the following people took a tour of the River Walk starting at the SLU Turtle and doing a loop around both sides of the Rock River:

Dwight Kruse, Jeff Adams, Steve Eldred, Rick Barder, Gary Grabowski & Jennifer Kodl.

We fully realize that this is a very large area and feel that in general the grounds looked pretty good. Since I had already sent you an e-mail and photos reg the need to spruce up the area around "Celebration" I did not include those pictures in the photo disk.

Shown below is a number after each photo with a description of responsibility for maintenance as we understand it.

- # 1786 SLU Turtle Beloit 2020 had refinished
- #1789 Bricks Beloit 2020 will fix the dip
- #1793 Geoglyph Beloit 2020 will have fixed
- # 1794 & 1795 Entry Rocks to Geoglyph Beloit 2020 will fix
- # 1796 Weeds & Mulch City of Beloit
- # 1793 Weeds City
- # 1799 Weed City
- # 1800 Men's Bathroom Vent City
- # 1801 Women's Bathroom Vent City
- # 1802 Lights cleaned & painted? City
- #1803, 1804, 1805, 1806 Dead Trees City
- # 1818 & 1819 Weeds along the bank need to be killed with
Acceptable pesticide City
- # 1820 Dead trees on west side of river City
- # 1822 & 1823 Weeds on west side of river; does Beloit Box
Board own some of this property?
- # 1824 & 1828 Bad Boards on Wood Family Bridge City
- # 1826 & 1827 Broken Lights on Bridge City
- # 1825 Dead Tree stuck under Bridge City
- # 1829 Graffiti on Pole City
- # 1830 Flashing need to be fixed City



City of
BELOIT, Wisconsin
Parks & Leisure Services Division

2351 Springbrook Court • Beloit, WI 53511
Office: 608/364-2929 • Fax: 608/364-2930
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June 1, 2015

Mr. Rick Barder
Beloit 2020 Secretary
Beloit, WI 53511

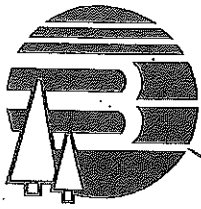
Dear Rick,

Thank you for recently presenting me with a CD of photos and other documentation highlighting various concerns that Beloit 2020 has in and around the Riverside Park area. Furthermore, I greatly appreciate Beloit 2020 efforts and continual support in recently completing the repairs to SLU Turtle, and your consideration of assisting with future repairs to the Heritage Walkway and the Geoglyph Turtle located just east of the Lagoon. Please coordinate these efforts through my office in order to avoid any conflicts with intended use of the park, as well as having general information to provide in response to any public inquiries.

In response to your various concerns within Riverside Park and the Riverwalk area, we have a general plan and timeline as related to addressing general maintenance within our city parks, including spraying, weeding, mulching, and removal of trees. It would appear that the majority, approximately 90% of these items that appear on your list of concerns, are already on our work schedule, and if they haven't been completed as of this date, you can rest assure that they are schedule to be addressed.

In regards to some of the major items as listed, the plantings surrounding the Celebration Sculpture at the north end of the park has never matured as was originally expected when the plants were selected in the fall of 2013, and we fully agree that we need to take a new approach in landscaping this area. Therefore, all the original prairie plants have been removed and will be replaced as indicated by a new design created by our new Horticultural Specialist, Sam Huffman. I think this new design will bring a greater luster and ambiance to the sculpture, and incorporates some ornamental grasses at the base of the sculpture that should meet with your expectations as well as our own. I have included the new design and examples of species of plants that we hope will flourish in this location, as we will also be revitalizing the soil conditions which should enhance the growth of these new plantings.

In regards to lighting the Wood Family Bridge, I believe several years ago we looked at the cost to relight the bridge and found it to be substantially high at over \$100,000, and unattainable according to our long-term Capital Plan. This is a beautiful structure and amenity to our park system, but often requires a



City of
BELOIT, Wisconsin
Parks & Leisure Services Division

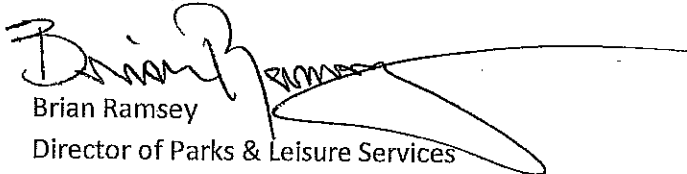
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great deal of maintenance that is sometimes beyond our funding levels. However, I would be happy to look into this cost again if Beloit 2020 was willing to partner with us in regards to addressing the cost of this major project. Nonetheless, the broken boards can and will be repaired/replaced as warranted.

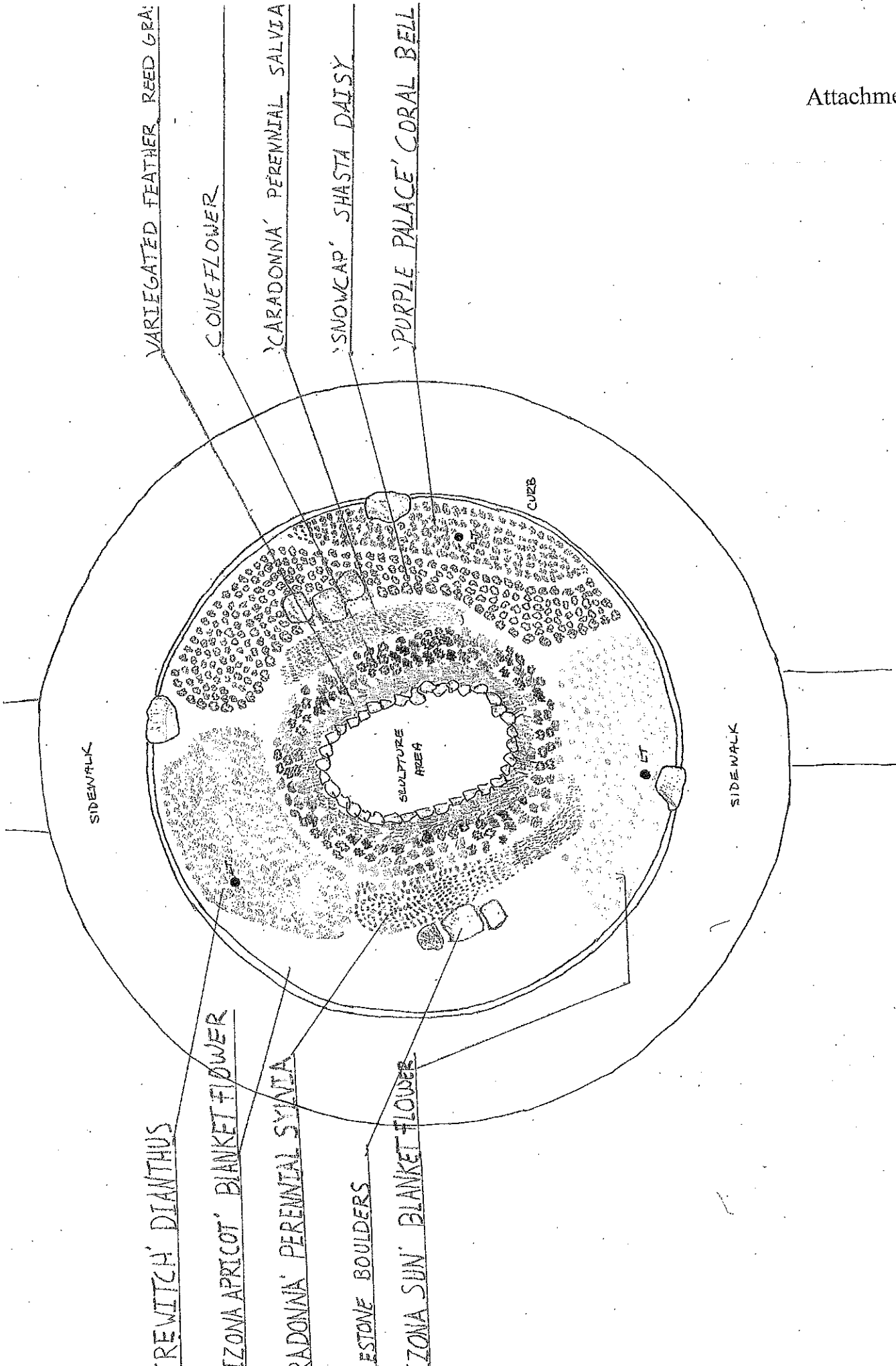
Lastly, the dead tree that is stuck up against the Wood Family Bridge is one of many that get lodged up against the bridge on an annual basis, along with other debris in the river. Due to the swift current in this section of the river, it's extremely dangerous and rather costly for our staff to engage in removing this debris. Therefore, we only remove this debris once a year, and generally do so in the late summer/early fall after the high water levels have dropped and minimize our risk.

In closing, once again I'd like to thank you for bringing these issues to our attention. Feel free to contact me in the future for any other issues, or to invite me to any meeting where I can personally address these issues as well. I greatly appreciate the on-going relationship with Beloit 2020 and the assistance you often provide to the City of Beloit and our Parks & Leisure Services Division.

Respectfully,


Brian Ramsey
Director of Parks & Leisure Services

Enclosure: Celebration Sculpture Landscape Design
C.C. Lori Luther, City Manager
Greg Boysen, DPW Director
Mark Young, Golf & Horticulture Supervisor
Mark Edwards, Parks & Cemetery Supervisor



VARIEGATED FEATHER REED GRASS

CONEFLOWER

CARADONNA PERENNIAL SALVIA

SNOWCAP SHASTA DAISY

PURPLE PALACE CORAL BELL

SIDEWALK

CURBS

SCULPTURE AREA

LET

SIDEWALK

REMITCH DIANTHUS

ZONA APRICOT BLANKET FLOWER

CARADONNA PERENNIAL SALVIA

STONE BOULDERS

ZONA SUN BLANKET FLOWER

PERENNIAL
'Caradonna'
Perennial Salvia
AWARD WINNER
FULL SUN
Salvia nemorosa

PERENNIAL
'Arizona Sun'
Arizona Series
Blanket Flower
AWARD WINNER
FULL SUN
Gaillardia aristata

PERENNIAL
'Snowcap'
Shasta Daisy
FULL SUN
Leucanthemum superbum

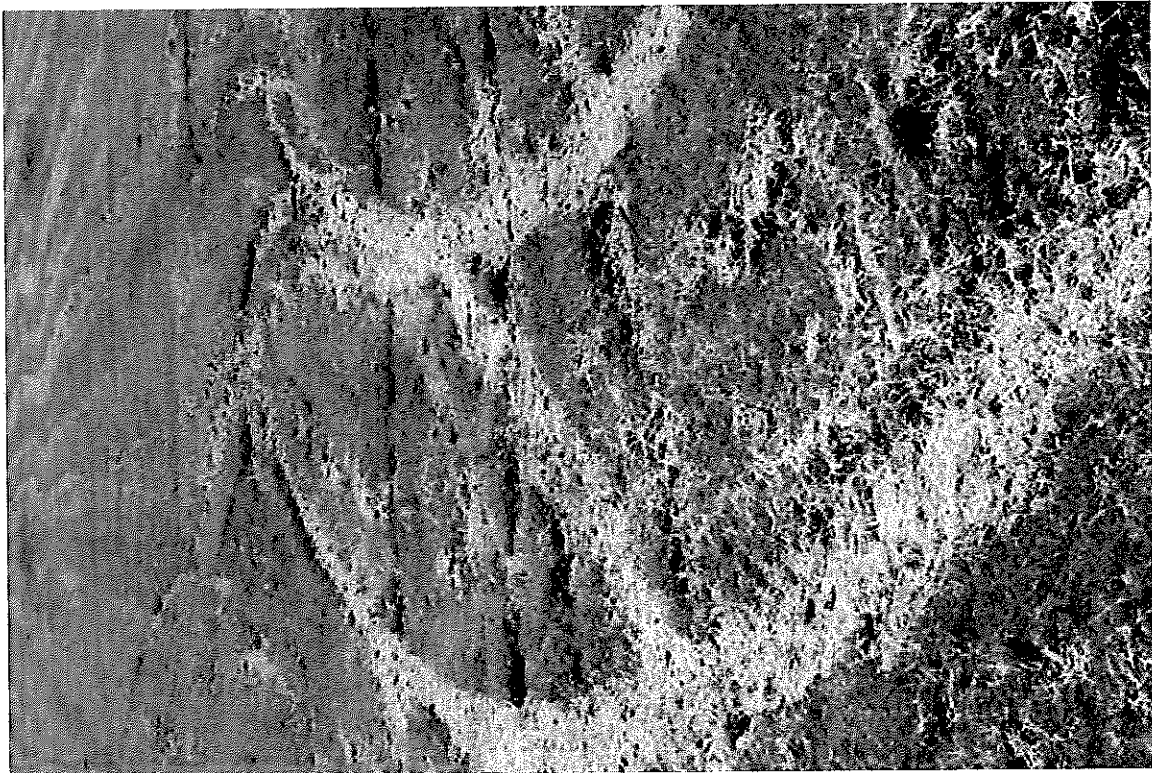
PERENNIAL
'Firewitch'
Pinks
AWARD WINNER
FULL SUN TO PART SHADE
Dianthus gratiopolitanus

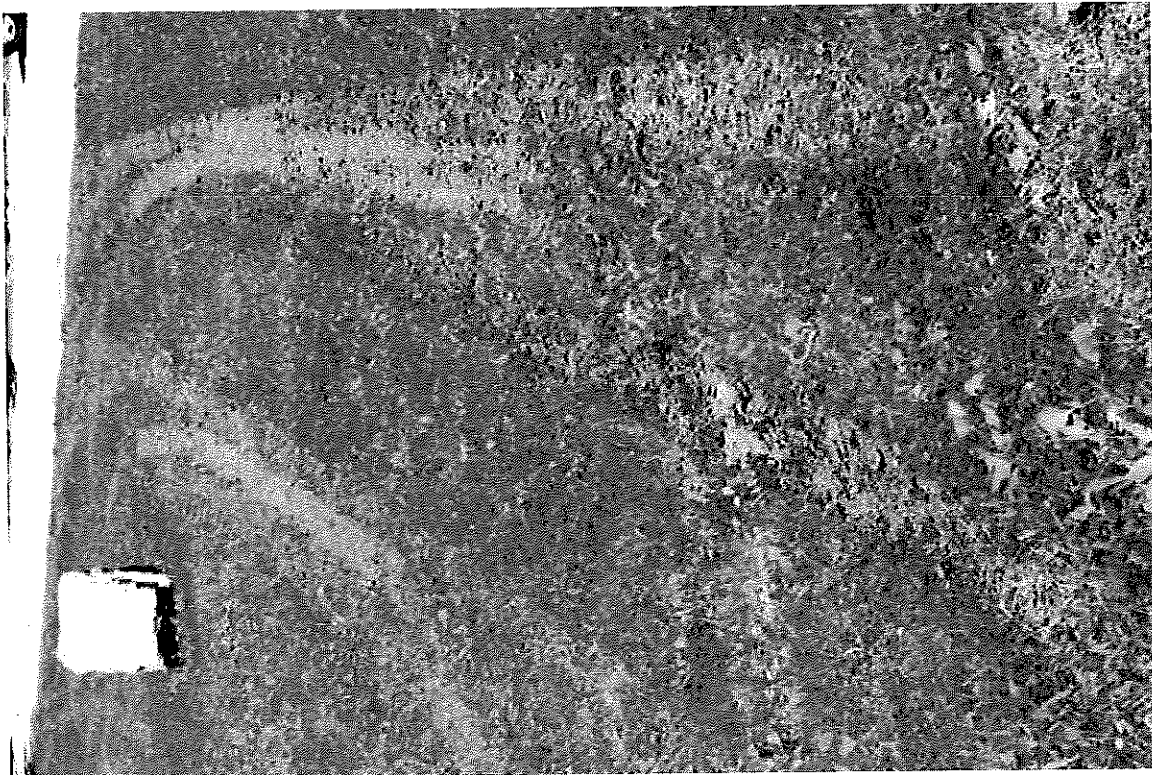
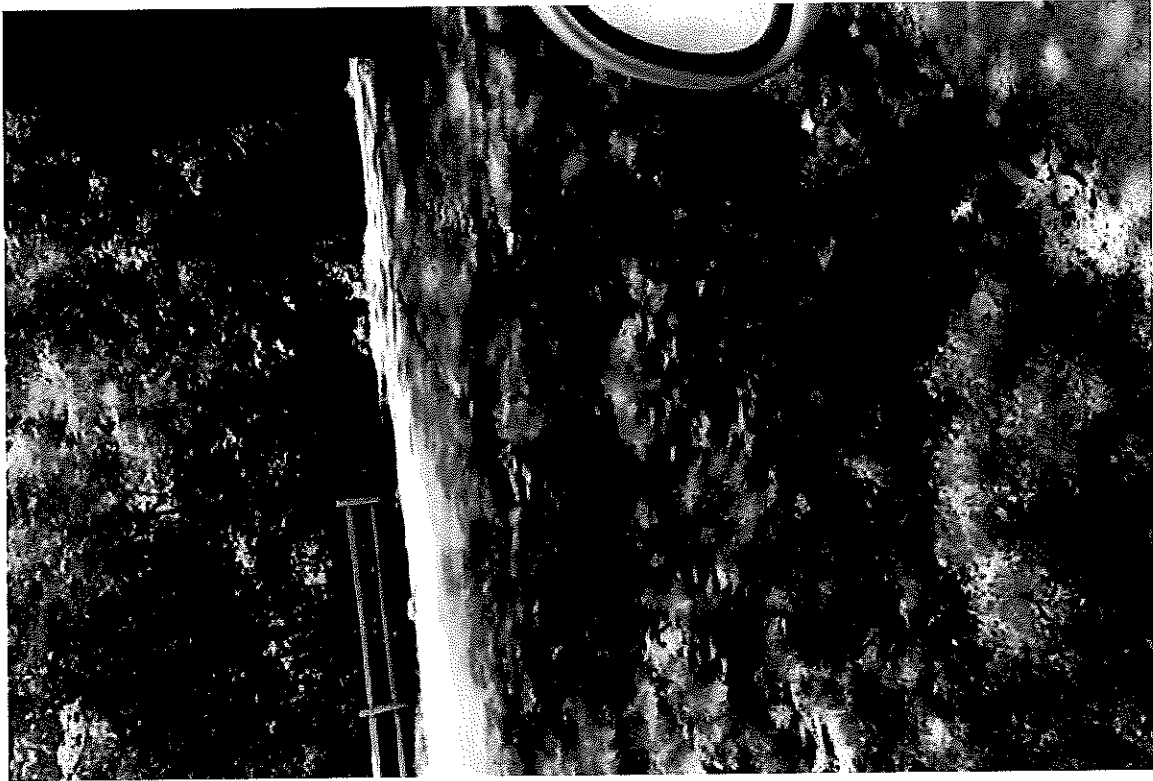
PERENNIAL
'Daybreak'
LIL BANG Series
Tickseed
FULL SUN
Coreopsis

PERENNIAL
'Arizona Apricot'
Arizona Series
Blanket Flower
AWARD WINNER
FULL SUN
Gaillardia aristata

PERENNIAL
'Avalanche'
Variegated Feather
Reed Grass
FULL SUN
Calamagrostis acutiflora

PERENNIAL
'Caradonna'
Perennial Salvia
AWARD WINNER
FULL SUN
Salvia nemorosa





Attachment E3



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