
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

ARPA Funding Prioritization: Parks & Recreation

In review of the park system, discussions with staff and comments received from the public the following projects have been identified as the highest priority needs for allocation of the ARPA funding. A number of these projects are identified in the POROS Plan 2018-2023.

A majority of these projects are going to require design services and depending on the project include public input during the design process before approval by the City. The design process will also determine an expected construction cost. It is my belief that these projects will likely exceed the \$2.25 million allocation and that prioritization will be an important step in this process.

It is the goal of the public input process to determine if these are the priority projects and a ranking in terms of importance to the community.

Playground Replacement Plan

This allocation would provide new playgrounds at Brooks Street, Rev US Pride, Brown-Hatchett, and Horace White. These are playgrounds that were scheduled for replacement from 2018-2020 in the 2016 replacement plan.

Pohlman Admin Building/Clubhouse Renovation

Funding would be used to convert the building to programmable space for recreation. The locker rooms could be used as flexible classroom space and have ability to be classroom style and/or fitness/movement-based studios. This would help create a home for recreation programming and re-purpose current vacant space within the park system.

Turtle Island Playground @ Riverside Park

This destination playground in the community is in need of an upgrade and we have the opportunity to bill this as an inclusive play site for all ages and abilities.

Summit & Vernon Splashpads

Splashpads installed at these locations previously are underwhelming, Council has allocated an additional \$300,000 for upgrades to the existing sites in addition to the \$2.25 million. My recommendation is to hire a consultant to design vibrant splash pads at both locations.

Turtle Creek Park

A master plan for park improvement was approved in 2019 after a lengthy process that involved considerable public input. The park was designated as a landmark in 1998 due to its historical significance to the Beloit community. The final plan identified 5 phases of future development with Phase I completed in 2021 that included a new entrance, expanded parking, and an open-air shelter. Future

phases call for new park restrooms, unity columns, park shelter, playground, nature trail and boat launch.

Edwards Ice Arena

Project would be to explore capabilities and costs associated with needed improvements for a year-round ice facility and expansion to include a seasonal arena that would allow another sheet of ice in the winter months and hardcourt or turf indoor programming space.

Krueger Pool Improvements

A feasibility study completed in 2017 identified \$2.3 million of needed investment into the facility. A very small number of these projects have been completed over the past 5 years. The allocation will focus on ADA compliance, replacement of pumps, heaters, and renovations to modernize the facility.

Riverside Park Lagoon Water Quality

In 2001 a decision was made to abandon the practice of pumping water from the Rock River into the lagoon. Since that time water quality has deteriorated in the lagoon creating a negative public perception of the amenity. This project would include a new motor and pump to resume this operation.

Big Hill Park: Peace Trail Connection

The remaining missing segment in the Peace Trail that connects Beloit and Janesville is from the Big Hill Center to the corner of Afton Road and Big Hill Road. This missing segment is approximately 2400 lineal feet. The Rock Trail Coalition has proposed this funding request.

AV System Improvements at Grinnell Hall

We recently had 3 contractors visit the facility to explore options to improve the audio and video capabilities for programming at the facility. Staff intends to review quotes and provide a recommendation for these needed improvements.

Develop standard design for park shelter/restrooms

The Open Space & Recreation Plan identifies the need for a number of park shelters and/or park shelter/restroom buildings. This project would develop a standard design for future projects. By having a standard design created and cost estimates determined it will assist in future capital planning and to establish a standardization for future projects.

Develop master plan for Leeson Park

Leeson Park includes a great deal of pavement that is not necessary for enjoyment of the park. A master plan would determine where vehicle access is needed, convert un-necessary road into multi-use path, and create a safer and more enjoyable park.

Tennis Courts

The tennis courts at Krueger & Riverside Park are in need of replacement. Options should be explored including membrane overlays, tile systems, and other new products on the market that expand life beyond traditional asphalt replacement.