

Parks and Recreation Department

March 2024 Monthly Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2/1/24 – 2/29/24

February brought exciting events, accomplishments, and awards to the Parks and Recreation Department

- OPRA Marketing Innovation Award
 - Melissa Hindman and Gina Kolp accepted the OPRA Marketing Innovation Award at the OPRA Annual Conference.
 - Caught Being Cool was a summer marketing initiative in partnership with Handel's Ice Cream. Coupons were given to park users by Public Service staff to acknowledge their patronage of our parks, and their commitment to unplugging and connecting with friends and family to lead healthy lifestyles.
 - Public Service staff were able to meet and speak with the community. They took the opportunity to highlight their work, city maintenance projects, and park improvements. Children were delighted to investigate their vehicles, tools and learn about their jobs.
 - 13 agencies throughout the state of Ohio were recognized for their excellence, and awards were determined by a judging team of peers.



- 3rd Friday Chocolate Walk

Despite a mini blizzard, the community enjoyed the Chocolate Walk on Friday, February 16th. Eleven downtown locations were paired with local bakeries to provide chocolate treats to the first 100 visitors. Locations included: The City of Powell, PeachTree Street, Lohcally Artesian Chocolates, Cute as a Button, Huli Huli, Kimberly's Diamond Corner, Board and Brush, Buzzed Bull Creamery, Zen Hen, Finn & Roe and Local Roots. Bakeries included Sweet Tooth Cottage, Mrs. Turbo's Cookies, Beehive Bread, Giant Eagle Catering, Lohcally Artesian Chocolates, Buzzed Bull Creamery, Aladdin's, Monte Carlo, and The Buckeye Lady. Huli Huli offered a specialty cocktail that was part of the DORA.

- *Adventure Park Playground Improvement*

Invasive and overgrown landscaping at the Adventure Park playground was cleared and removed. Alternative surfacing for the area is being investigated to reduce invasive growth and provide a safe surface for natural play.

- *Baseball/Softball Diamond Improvement Project*

We have started the process of renovating three baseball/softball diamonds at two parks (Library/Seldom Seen). Fields will be laser graded, new top dressing will be applied, infield lips will be removed, drainage will be improved, and bases/pitching areas will be replaced. We expect to hire a contractor to perform this work within the next month so the fields are ready for spring and summer play.

- *Parks Master Plan and Facility Assessment*

City staff met with the consulting team in February to review the information provided during the data request. The information provided is specific to the City of Powell and includes information on existing programs, budgets, previous improvements, previous studies (community attitude survey, etc), and much more. MKSK and the consulting team will continue to use and develop the information throughout the process.

Next Milestone: MKSKs consultant will begin working on developing the statistically valid survey. A park tour is also scheduled with the entire consulting team in March.