

2020 Elkins Parks and Recreation Committee Annual Report

2020 Parks & Recreation Committee Members: Lynn Francis (Chair), Lindsay Watt (City Council Representative), Emily Kingsbury, Stephanie Cowan, LaNae Taylor, George Torres, Danielle Dozier

The Elkins Parks and Recreation Committee was reestablished in June of 2019 by Ordinance 06-20-2019A. The Committee has worked to fulfill the duties laid out by the ordinance as well as to pursue our mission to build partnerships between city departments and interested citizens to enhance the quality of life in Elkins by providing safe, well-maintained parks and providing opportunities to strengthen community engagement through a variety of recreational opportunities, enrichment programs, and services for all ages and abilities.

The committee originally put a significant amount of work into planning a March work day to make improvements to the park structures. Committee members were diligent in working to obtain donations for the workday and put a significant amount of time into planning the projects to be completed and coordinating with area volunteer organizations. Due to weather and the COVID-19 pandemic, the projects from the original work day were instead completed by a coalition of local businesses, and organizations over a number of months.

In March, Elite Steel Erectors volunteered to install metal donated by Central States Manufacturing onto the Park Stage and Concession Stand. This was a significant project, with the stage remodel including demo of existing stage structures and new metal on the backwall as well as new roofs on both buildings.

In August, Councilmember Francis volunteered to make needed repairs to both the concession stand and the stage before community groups painted both structures with paint donated by Sherwin-Williams. Boy Scout Troop 460 scraped and painted the exterior of the concession stand and stained the nearby picnic tables.

In September, members of the Elkins Lions and Leos Clubs met to prime and paint the stage and the Francis family finished painting the trim work and completed the first phase of painting on the inside of the concession stand.

The committee is grateful to Central States Manufacturing and Sherwin-Williams for their donation of supplies. Special acknowledgements should go to Elite Steel Erectors, Boy Scout Troop 460, the Elkins Lions and Leos Club, and Councilmember Francis (and daughter Molly) for donating their time to improving our park.

The committee would also like to acknowledge the work of Elkins Water Department employees. In addition to keeping the parks mowed and cleaned, they made improvements to Bunch Park, including installation of a new privacy fence and improvements to the gravel parking lot and prepped park structures for repairs and paint.

The committee is currently meeting the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months over Google Meet. A set of working guidelines for meetings was passed in September to provide a framework for meeting organization and structure.

Looking forward, the committee has identified additional needed repairs for the tennis and volleyball courts, as well as a few of the picnic tables. The committee is working on grant-writing projects to help fund these needs, as well as additional, accessible playground features.

Stage Before



Stage After



Concession Stand Before



Concession Stand After



Bunch Park Goals 2021

Basic Maintenance Needs:

- Replace cracked Window in concession stand
- Find and repair leak in concession stand south wall
- Remove old grill base by picnic tables
- Build new ramp for stage
- Resurface & Paint Tennis Court & Replace Net
- Build a Park Sign/Walking Trail Map to affix to posts by old Pavillion
- Improve Sand Volleyball Court

Recommended Budget and Improvements:

- Recommended Up to \$2,000 Improvement budget out of the General Fund
- New Fridge/Freezer for Concession Stand
- Plan to purchase or repair 1-2 new picnic tables per year for the next few years

Proposed Grant Projects:

- Home Depot Community Fund – Tennis Court resurfacing supplies
- Christopher Reeves Foundation – Swings and other playground equipment for people with disabilities, possibly picnic tables
- Walton Family Foundation – Begin work on expanding Bunch Park Trails to connect to other city services (Library, Schools, etc.)