



## **MARCH 2026**

### **PARKS DEPARTMENT**

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#### **Tree Removals**

- Staff have removed 110 boulevard trees infected with EAB, locations include River Mill, Sunset Ponds, and 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
- EAB tree removals will continue through early April.

#### **Winter Maintenance**

- Ice skating rinks were closed for the season on February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- A few minor snow events have required salting and/or plowing.

#### **Special City Council Special Meeting 3/9/26**

Staff met with the City Council and members of the athletic associations to review the Bertram Chain of Lakes Athletic Park Feasibility Study.

- Council provided staff directions to proceed with one complete project to bond for \$13M for the Bertram Athletic Park Buildout, Staff is asked to come back with infrastructure that can be completed with that price and the cost for operation & maintenance of the new facility. Proposed construction to begin in 2027 with completion in 2028.

#### **City Council Meeting 3/9/26**

- City Council approved the Special Event Permit for Swan River PTO's Breakfast with the Bunny Fundraiser on March 21, 2026 in the Gymnasium at the MCC.
- City Council awarded the mowing and landscape maintenance contract to Cross Cut Property Services. This is a two-year contract with a one-year extension.
- City Council adopted Resolution 2026-16 approving the plans and specifications, and authorizing advertisement of bids for the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Athletic Park Phase III improvements (the pickleball courts with the parking lot alternate, and the shared maintenance facility).

- City Council adopted Resolution 2026-17 authorizing submission of a 2026 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Grant application for vault restroom units at the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Athletic Park.

### **City Council Meeting 3/23/26**

- Council is being asked to approve a contract with Bolten & Menk to provide engineering services for the Bridge Park Sidewalk Improvements Project.
  - The City successfully secured funding through MnDOT’s Local Partnership Program (LPP) to construct an ADA compliant pathway/sidewalk connecting River Street, east of Trunk Highway 25 (TH 25), to the sidewalk improvements completed as part of the Downtown Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements Project. The proposed project includes the following improvements:
    - Installing a bituminous trail from River Street to the pedestrian underpass beneath the TH 25 Mississippi River Bridge within East Bridge Park.
    - Extending the sidewalk width under the TH 25 bridge.
    - Extending sidewalk to connect to the existing sidewalk within East Bridge Park.
    - Updating the lighting system for the TH 25 Mississippi River Bridge pedestrian underpass.
    - Updating the guardrail along the pedestrian underpass connecting East Bridge Park to West Bridge Park.

### **Staff Shoutouts:**

- Park employee Scadden passed her ISA tree license.
- Park employees Braun & Scadden have started their pesticide license recertification course.
- All Park staff completed their tree recertification course.
- Park staff has been assisting with various projects around the MCC.

### **Spring Trees**

- The Spring Tree Sale is open now with eight varieties of trees available to purchase at a cost of \$50 each. Bare root trees are approximately 1” in diameter and 8-10’ in height. Orders are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Details can be found on the city website at: <https://www.monticellomn.gov/179/Spring-Tree-Sale>.
- Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 24, 2026, with a tree giveaway at the MCC. Bare root Norway Spruce will be given away this year.

- As part of our Canopy Solutions Grant, Davey Tree will host a tree planting workshop at the MCC on April 21 from 6-7 p.m. in the Bridge. This workshop is free for the public to attend.
- Spring tree planting with the FFA in May, the date is TBD.

### **Heritage Day**

- We received a Joy Grant for \$5,000 from the Initiative Foundation to support Monticello Heritage Days 2026. This is a new community celebration honoring our past and the stories that have shaped Monticello today. Join us on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at West Bridge Park & River Street for the inaugural Heritage Day as we come together to celebrate Monticello's history while enjoying a fun, family-friendly event designed for all ages. This special day will highlight our community's roots as a logging community during the 19<sup>th</sup> century timber boom, local traditions, and shared pride through engaging activities, entertainment, and opportunities to connect with neighbors. While the event is still in planning stages, we can confirm activities will include:
  - Lions Club Pancake Breakfast.
  - Lions Club Chuckwagon (concession stand).
  - Historical Presentations.
  - Bald Eagle Program by the Raptor Center.
  - All American Lumberjack Show and Interactive Lumberjack Camps. (3 shows and 3 camps throughout the day).
  - Paul Bunyan Live entertainment show.
  - Trading Post/Maker's Market.

We also have a chainsaw carving artist at the ready provided we can receive additional donations. Other activities are also in the planning stages.

We have set up sponsorship levels on the city website for the event. Please visit: <https://www.monticellomn.gov/740/Heritage-Day> for more details.

With the opportunity to host this special event, we have chosen to do this in lieu of Walk & Roll this year. However, Walk & Roll may return in subsequent years.