

City Of Barnesville Maintaining Momentum



An online reservation system for Wagner Campground, which was well utilized in 2017, will begin in April 2018. The campground has from 15 to 30 overnight campers every night from May well through September. Each year more and more campers find this friendly neighborhood park and call it home, at least for a little while.

By Michael Stein

There are a lot of good things bubbling to the surface in Barnesville. From great residential lots to the further enhancement of an already terrific park system, the City of Barnesville

“One of our main focuses will be to continue selling lots in the Del Acres Gilbertson Second

Addition,” said City Administrator Mike Reitz. “We want to keep the momentum going as we fill out that development.”

The city recently received a grant to help fund a solar garden. Rietz said homeowners will be able to purchase one of the solar panels, which will lead to receiving a monthly credit on their electric bill.

The solar garden will be located near the public works facility.

“The We Love Kids funding efforts for the city’s parks are continuing,” Rietz said. “Not only will this funding develop a park in the new addition, it will add to amenities in the existing parks. McGrath Park is one we’ve already invested in with the addition of the splash pad

last year. But it will receive some additional enhancements from the funding.”

Rietz said the city has been working on a revision of its web site. “We’re updating the design and making it more interactive. For example, users will be able to fill out and submit things like the building permit form and job applications.

We also view the site as part of our marketing efforts. It helps people get a sense of what we offer. These days it’s one of the first things people look at. It’s often the first impression people get of a community.”

The City of Barnesville is in the beginning stages of planning for reconstruction of Front Street from Main Avenue to Highway 9, which is a state project planned for 2023.

“Starting this year, reservations will be required to camp,” Rietz said. “Campers will go online to purchase a site, which gives us the ability to see what our occupancy rate is out there on a real-time basis.”

Rietz said the campground has been a good investment for the city. In 2017, income exceeded \$50,000, reflecting a gradual increase over the last few years.

“More and more people are finding us,” he added. It gives campers a quiet and clean option that’s close to Fargo-Moorhead and lakes areas.”

Barnesville’s parks are going to receive a huge facelift this summer. A campaign, “We Love Kids,” has been underway over the winter and spring, which will double the money available to spend on new park equipment.

The city has pledged to match financial contributions to Barnesville’s parks up to \$130,000.

“That plan includes water and sewer utility replacement,” Rietz said. “We’re also teaming up with the Partnership for Health to help out with planning improvements to Front Street, one of those being opportunities for trails and paths. The broad plan includes potential connection with other trails in the area.”

Another improvement that will be coming to the forefront as we get closer to spring and summer is the installation of an online reservation system at Wagner Campground.



Concept drawings of planned new park at Del Acres Gilbertson Second Addition.

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