Installation of an Exerplay swing set and concrete bench for the Reunion neighborhood park were installed in March. Additional neighborhood park improvements include:

- New concrete tables and benches at Denali, Copper Basin, and Blossom parks.
- Tot turf replacement at Inspiration, Enchantment, Yorktown, and Blossom parks.
- BBQ grill replaced in Blossom park.
- Painting of all park ramadas.

The improvements are a result of recommendations made to the APCA Board by the Neighborhood Parks Committee (NPC) and are part of the pre-approved five-year plan for park improvements. The majority of these park enhancement projects are funded from the Reserve Study.

The Neighborhood Parks Committee, comprised of Anthem residents, meets monthly with the APCA community manager to identify necessary park maintenance and suggest improvements. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the HOA office. Parkside residents are welcome to attend.

To learn more about the NPC, or submit a suggestion for a park improvement, email the NPC directly at npc@anthemparks.info
Seating of the 2018-2020 Board of Directors

On April 19, 2018, the Anthem Parkside Community Association (APCA) Board of Directors held its annual meeting. Continuing on the Board for the 2018-20 term will be incumbents Doug Sutherland and Chris Yano. The third available seat was filled by former Board member Bettye Ruff. The Board of Directors held the election of officers and elected the following:

Doug Sutherland, President
Bettye Ruff, Vice President
Tim Pyke, Treasurer
Shari Miller, Secretary
Chris Yano, Director

The APCA Board of Directors is looking forward to another year of progress and growth with the continuing goal of good relations with Parkside residents.

Playground safety in the summer

The warm Arizona climate can mean hot playgrounds. Playground equipment can heat up quickly and retain the heat easily, causing serious burns to skin upon contact. Please be sure to check the temperature of the equipment and surfacing before letting your children play on the playground.

What to do:

• Remember, a young child’s skin will burn faster than your own. If it feels hot to your hand, it may be too hot for a child’s bare skin.
• Because some materials transfer heat more slowly than others, these materials may not feel hot with a quick touch.
• Always dress your child in appropriate clothing for the playground (e.g., shoes, pants).
• Remember that playground equipment, as well as playground surfacing, may cause burns.
• Always watch your children while on the playground. Supervision can help to prevent some incidents.

Summer heat safety tips for pets

We all love spending the long, sunny days of summer outdoors with our furry companions, but being overeager in hot weather can spell danger. To prevent your pet from overheating, take these simple precautions:

• Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it’s hot or humid outdoors. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful not to over-exercise them, and keep them indoors when it’s extremely hot.
• Know the symptoms of overheating in pets, which include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse.
• Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. Not only can it lead to fatal heat stroke, it is illegal in Arizona!
• Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool—not all dogs are good swimmers. Introduce your pets to water gradually and make sure they wear flotation devices when on boats. Rinse your dog off after swimming to remove chlorine or salt from his fur, and try to keep your dog from drinking pool water, which contains chlorine and other chemicals.

Time for bermuda grass transition

When overnight low temperatures are consistently above 65 degrees (usually in May), you can begin transitioning your winter ryegrass back to bermuda grass for the warm season. If you allow the ryegrass to grow unchecked, it will outcompete the bermuda grass. When June comes with its Arizona heat, the ryegrass will finally die and you’ll be left with nothing but bare spots. To avoid that, follow the below steps and you’ll have a summer lawn the whole neighborhood will envy!

• Reduce your watering to 70-80% of your normal usage. This will start stressing out the ryegrass but will continue to support the bermuda grass.
• Lightly verticut your grass to open up its canopy. This allows more sunshine to reach the bermuda grass below.
• Aerate your ground. This increases water penetration and nutrient uptake, breaks up soil compaction, and allows more oxygen to reach the root zone. Most home supply stores rent verticutting and aerifying equipment.
• Gradually lower your mower settings and increase your mowing intervals to twice a week so that the grass height does not exceed 1/2” to 3/4”. Make sure to bag all clippings. If they remain on the ground, they’ll create a mat layer that will inhibit the growth of the bermuda grass.
• Beware of shady areas in your lawn. The ryegrass will grow aggressively in these areas so you must maintain a low mowing height to allow the bermuda grass to get its needed sunlight.
• Fertilize and increase your watering schedule. After about 2 weeks, you should notice that the bermuda grass is overcoming the ryegrass. Finally, once your bermuda grass is growing again, use a high nitrogen fertilizer such as 21-0-0 or 21-7-14 once a month to keep it green.

Did you know?

All string lights (including holiday and rope lights) must be removed from fences, homes, trees and patios. These lights are prohibited except during the approved holiday dates.

Holiday decorations may be displayed in season only from November 1 to January 15 and, during other times of the year, from one week before to one week after any nationally recognized holiday. Halloween decorations may be displayed from October 1 to November 12.

• Aerify your ground. This increases water penetration and nutrient uptake, breaks up soil compaction, and allows more oxygen to reach the root zone. Most home supply stores rent verticutting and aerifying equipment.
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