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Fitzgerald, Officials Celebrate Ribbon Cuttings at North Park

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald today officially opened the newly-renovated Tennis Court Fieldhouse and the reconstructed Marshall Island Bridge, celebrating the completion of the two North Park projects with ribbon cuttings. He was joined by Council Member Cindy Kirk, Chief of Staff Jennifer Liptak, County Manager William D. McKain, Parks Director Andy Baechle, Public Works Director Steve Shanley, and additional staff members from Parks, Public Works, Special Events and Marketing.

“Since taking office, my commitment has been to continue to invest in our county parks and facilities as our 12,000 acres are one of our greatest assets in this community,” said Fitzgerald. “Their importance, and place in our county, has only been elevated throughout the pandemic as more and more residents, and visitors, sought to be outside for their own physical and mental health. These two projects are just the latest improvements from that investment, and I look forward to celebrating even more in the coming months.”

Originally built in 1937, the Tennis Court Fieldhouse was designed by Kenneth Saylor. The $453,000 renovation of the building included the addition of accessible flush restrooms, a park ranger office, vending machines, and seating overlooking North Fork Pike Creek. To restore its’ original design, board and batten wood siding was meticulously restored, new insulated windows and doors were installed, and a new standing seam metal roof replaced the asphalt shingle roof. The work was done by Graham Construction of Claysville, PA.

The new bathrooms feature porcelain tile floors and wall finishes, new low-flow fixtures, new partitions, LED lighting and baby changing stations. The 12,657 feet of roadway in the area was also recently paved by the Department of Public Works, including the tennis parking lot, the boathouse parking lot, and Tennis Court Road. Designed to be sustainable and resilient, the tennis fieldhouse supports patrons using the park’s racquet complex as well as other amenities.

Just down the road, the 1935 Marshall Island Bridge was renovated and has now reopened after being closed to the public in August 2018. The $260,000 project included new beams, deckin, railings, and sidewalks. Keeping in the spirit of naturalistic design standards from North Park’s creation nearly 100 years ago, the reconstruction used natural materials included new railings and decking made from black locust lumber, a highly rot-resistant, native tree species. The work was done by the Parks Department, Gateway Engineers and Pugliano Construction. The island is open year-round and includes a wheelchair accessible sidewalk and ramp.

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