

Bret McCarthy and Marc Pickelman newest employees of Park, Recreation & Forestry

Department grows to five full-timers

Bret McCarthy and Marc Pickelman have joined Harrisburg's Park, Rec & Forestry Department. The Department has now grown to five full time employees.

Bret is from Harrisburg and has lived in the community for 22 years.

Taking a job with the city's park department meant changing careers.

"After 22 years, I left the corporate world where I worked for Nabisco as a sales representative,"

This job change is for the better he says.

"I loved all that a city park job had to offer me, including less stress. My plan is to finish out my work career with the Parks Department."

Bret believes moving from a corporate role to a job that means spending lots of time outdoors, will be an easy transition. After all, he says, the great outdoors is part of his wheelhouse.

"I have loved living in South Dakota and have always enjoyed the great outdoors. I especially like spending free time fishing with my sons.

Bret grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota. Today he and his sons Connor, 18, and Cooper, 12, and the family dog and cat call Harrisburg home.

"The spring is going to get busy," he says "The Park Department is already gearing up for Harrisburg Days. I am looking forward to everything ahead."

Working alongside Bret will be Marc Pickelman.

"Like a Hiawatha I came from Michigan to South Dakota to marry my Minnehaha. Since then, we have been blessed with the gift of two sweet daughters," said Marc.

Marc's career odyssey brought him to "the isles of marketing, education and the trades and now to parks and rec."

"Harrisburg Parks Dept leader Jason Thurston valued my experience in education, the trades and English and, for these reasons, has brought me on the Harrisburg Park's team," Marc said. "I will be providing manpower and help in recreational programming."

Besides spending time with his wife, daughters, family and friends Marc enjoys reading, writing, studying languages and, of course, the outdoors.

For Marc, parks help shape a community.

“We are all called to love and serve one another,” he said. “It is my hope to serve the people of Harrisburg as best I can, being moved by the Love who moves the sun, and the moon and the stars.”