



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager
FROM: Bob Beatty – Parks & Recreation Director
DATE OF MEETING: July 7, 2025
ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Parks & Recreation

Forestry

Flower and tree watering has been excellent this season. We did have that one hot and windy weekend that hurt some of the tanks without reservoirs. The downtown baskets and planters were relatively unaffected by those days (some wind damage) due to the water reservoirs keeping them hydrated. As we move forward, maybe we can purchase a couple of those planters each year to use in the parks as well. It will reduce watering and help prevent some of the damage caused by the weather.

Parks

The Parks staff remain busy with mowing and weed-eating. Staff were able to edge many of the parks and will continue that after the 4th of July. They also changed all the lights at Liberty Park and cleaned up the shelter – thanks for pointing that out to us. Adding water there this spring has certainly helped. We have put out pricing requests for the tractor and the new UTV, and all pricing is due back by July 7. Since these are expected to be under \$50,000, they will be within the City Manager's authority as a budgeted expense.

Recreation

Little League wrapped up last week. Finishing another successful season. We have posted all of our fall baseball and softball leagues.

River'sEDGE Facility

River'sEDGE teams will be competing at state over the next three weekends. We did have our 11U softball team play in the State Championship a couple of weekends ago. They finished 2nd. Our 14th team to play in a State Championship (RE is 7-7 in those games). We will be posting tryout dates for the 2026 season and restarting that process. The graduation party season has ended for us. We hosted many again this year and are already booking for next year.

Falcon Civic Center Facility

The FCC has slowed with the warmer temps, but many of the college kids and 24/7 members keep it busy at night. We replaced our broken lateral pull-down machine and have been extremely happy with the new piece of equipment.

Aquatic Center Facility

The Aquatic Center remains busy. We started the year slowly due to the cool temperatures, but the heat and humidity have once again boosted attendance. Most of our lifeguard crew are new and inexperienced, but have done a great job this season. We have had many saves, and water safety

remains a priority. We have completed a couple of lesson sessions and will continue those for most of July.

RV Park

The RV Park remains busy. We did have a few evictions and hired a camper to do some extra mowing, and it has worked out very well. I think it is a 180-degree turnaround from what it was in the Spring, and going back to seasonal will only help that further.

Complex

The last River'sEDGE tournaments of the season are scheduled this weekend, hosting 27 teams. Thus far, we have had 401 teams participate in tournaments this summer. We have one more large rental and have also applied to host one age group for State. We are reviewing estimates for expanding the Banklowa field, so we don't have to move the fence on McMillan and T-Mobile back and forth.

Cemetery

Staff will finish mowing and trimming this week in preparation for the 4th of July. The cemetery brigade continues to meet and work on Saturday mornings.