



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Bob Beatty, Director
Independence Parks and Recreation

DATE OF MEETING: July/Aug 2024

ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Parks & Recreation

Parks & Forestry

Parks staff remain busy mowing and maintaining the Park System. We have lost all college and high school aged workers. The Inclusive playground has been very popular. We have also connected the Northwest shelter to the inclusive play area and added a couple of benches. Staff also got a new edger and have been busy with that as time allows.

Forestry

We have hired an employee to water the rest of the fall and fill in where needed in the Parks system. We may be switching some of the flowers over to mums.

Recreation

Flag football is being advertised. We have 7 coed teams this session, up from 4 in the first session. Hopefully, we can continue to grow adult sports and events in the new fields. Last year, we had ZERO. The fall softball league has completed its second weekend. The fall baseball schedules were posted, and we have 26 teams, a new all-time high.

River'sEDGE

We have finished the 2025 team placement. We will have 27 teams in 2025 (a new record): 20 baseball and 7 softball. The growth remains steady, but we will be eliminating the golf area for more cage space. River'sEDGE brought in over \$151,000, and golf accounted for \$162.00 of that.

Dog Park

Dog Park remains steady. Hopefully, some of the members made it to the Dog Swim at the pool.

Falcon Civic Center

The craft show is scheduled for October; we still have spots. We will be looking to upgrade the front entry. One door is beyond fixing. We will also be upgrading more weight equipment. The 24/7 has been amazing for us, and we hope to continue to upgrade even without the Civic Center Levy.

Aquatic Center

We are closed for the season. We had another solid revenue year, bringing in over \$130,000, exceeding the \$104,000 projection.

RV Park

RV Park remains busy. Strong construction has helped fill open spots. We had record revenue there, over \$95,000. Staying open in the winter helps, and we will try it again this season. We believe the WIFI dead spots have been addressed with the assistance of ILPT.

Complex

Fall baseball begins September 7, and we will have 26 baseball teams and 7 softball teams. We are excited about this season's league. Even with a shortened season and no fall leagues last year due to construction, the Complex brought in over \$100,000. We had a great (shortened) year and look forward to our first full year.

Cemetery

A group of volunteers has done significant work on the cemetery, including cleaning and stone repair. The before-and-after pictures are amazing. Thank you to all involved.