



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Bob Beatty, Director

DATE OF MEETING: July 1, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Parks and Recreation

Parks & Forestry Department-

Parks staff remain busy mowing and maintaining the Park System. We were thrilled with the opening of the Inclusive playground. That park is busy every day, and we will need to invest money in benches and updating the shelter closest to the park. We would also like to run a sidewalk from the NW shelter to connect picnics or gatherings to that play surface.

Forestry-

Robert is busy watering, but the new downtown planters and baskets look amazing. We water those twice a week and only three times a week when the heat and humidity are high. We were able to get several trees planted throughout the park system and are looking to add more as they go on discount. Typically, we water them near the greenhouse to help their chances of survival later. We ordered three more tanks (planters) for the Riverwalk and other landscapes in the park system.

Recreation Department-

All Little League is in its final week of the season. It's hard to believe it went so fast. We were excited to try a few variations and will evaluate them after the season. The goal of these leagues is fun and fundamentals. We're looking forward to next year already. We are currently advertising fall baseball, softball, and other adult leagues.

River'sEDGE Facility-

River'sEDGE facility has started to slow. In July, we will not be open for several days. RE softball is close to over as their State is early to mid-June. We had seven softball teams, our all-time best. We hope to set up tryout dates next week and get the 2025 process started. RE Baseball still has three or four weeks left in its season, depending on classification. We ended up with 15 teams competing this summer, another all-time high. We will establish tryout dates for 2025 soon.

Dog Park-

Dog Park remains busy, and we have been getting use after dark with the lighting provided.

Falcon Civic Center-

Falcon Civic Center remains steady with memberships and customers. We added another credit card machine to cover the FCC, Pool, and Complex in the summer. We take so many payments there that it is a necessity to have year-round.

Aquatic Center Facility-

The Aquatic Center has been steady. The lack of heat early on is likely going to cost us in the end. When the temps don't get to 90 before the end of June, the pool usually suffers a little. We are going to need to look at different ways to meet our pizza needs, and purchasing a small commercial maker may be in the works for 2025.

RV Park Facility-

RV park is filling up. This year, we have hired a cleaning company to clean the bathhouse twice a week. In the past, we had hired a person to work in the campground for lot rent. We felt we needed a different direction this year.

Complex Facility-

The first season (although delayed) is amazing. We have one of the best facilities in NE Iowa and will continue to improve each year. We will be looking to book rentals in 2025 and already have several calls. We added the asphalt and that has been so impactful. Before the snow flies, we will get the new sidewalk to the T-Mobile field, new foul poles, backstop pad extensions, parking lot chip sealed and expanded, and new batting cages (turf left over from the project), and we will be looking at how to fund a playground. This is almost a must, as this facility has become a destination. Hotels will see an impact in 2025. We are definitely excited about the future. We do need to look at ways to make our concession manager a full-time employee. We will run numbers and hopefully have something prepared by budget season.

Cemetery-

The Cemetery has been maintained much better this summer. They are trimming this week and next for the third time. Staff have done a little tree work as time allows or if something falls. We did lose a tree and it damaged a few stones on the way down. Will be ordering cleaner this week so the committee can get started cleaning stones.