



**CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
DEPARTMENT REPORT**

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager
FROM: Bob Beatty, Director
DATE OF MEETING: November 4, 2024
ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Parks & Recreation

Parks & Forestry Department-

The mowing has ground to a halt as we haven't had rain in 6+ weeks. We continue to work on small projects. We have several projects yet to complete this fall.

The new IPRD little league practice field is getting closer to completion. Big thanks to Independence Light and Power for setting the poles and the Street Department for helping haul and level material. We will put the net backstop up, home plate and bases in the spring. We are in need of more practice areas but will see what impact one additional field makes. The plan is to have that as a dedicated little league practice field.

Another huge thank you to the Independence Street Department. The work they did putting in the sidewalks to the new boat ramp is really second to none. The fundraising group did an amazing job, and the finishing touches set the project apart. We will work on signage next.

The fencing is up for the new pickleball court. We also had some of the cracks leveled off and we caulked them. The first coat of paint was put down Oct 24 and hope weather stays nice to paint the rest.

Forestry-

We watered for the last time October 11. All ground pots were pulled on October 14. We pulled the plugs on the upper baskets and pulled the flowers October 17. The lower pots on main street may stay awhile longer as the Chamber may transform them for the holiday. Carl did an amazing job finishing the season for us. The flowers looked their best in the month of September.

Recreation Department-

Flag football will wrap up October 28. We had 7 coed teams the last session that wrapped up October 2 with the postseason. Hopefully we can continue to grow adult sports and events with the new fields. Basketball is being advertised.

River'sEDGE Facility-

Staff will start some demo projects in the coming months. We are getting pricing on the North window replacement and an awning over the south multipurpose entrance. We will be taking out the vestibule but leave the upper lean to roof and dressing that up. We will be taking out the wall

that separates the golf from the current weight/storage. We are adding another batting cage in preparation for more teams, at this time we are planning to keep one golf hitting cage(no simulator) and organize the storage for the multipurpose room. We are hoping to stretch the dollars we have and can do some of the projects and most of the demo ourselves. We are currently offering a fitness class at RE in cooperation with Cliff Baldwin.

Summer Wrap-up

River'sEDGE added two more State Championships this summer. 11AAA and 10A were state champions and our 13A team and 14AA were also State runner-ups. This was River'sEDGE's 6th and 7th State Championship and have had now 13 teams play for State Championships (7-6). River'sEDGE will also have a record number of teams in the summer of 2025. Our goal is to host two tournaments per age group to help costs (schedule below). We have finished the 2025 team placement. We will have 25 teams in 2025 (new record) 18 baseball and 7 softball.

Dog Park-

The patronage at the dog park remains steady. This summer we started locking the park when mowing just to avoid encounters or incidents.

Falcon Civic Center-

Craft show was October 19 was full and we had several new vendors. The attendance was over 500. We are still waiting on Decorah Glass to replace the front door and side lighting. We have also been taking some pricing for rearranging some closets and getting a small boost in size to the weightroom. This is a future project as there are no dollars to support it. We will be replacing two treadmills and adding a couple pieces to the weightroom this winter.

Aquatic Center Facility-

Aquatic Center vessel was painted and calked. Dreyer did an excellent job and we look forward to opening next summer. The boiler was also repaired this fall. They replaced the insulation and parts to make it more efficient. We will likely winterize and fill the pool in the coming weeks.

RV Park Facility-

RV Park remains busy. We will have another 20 or so campers winter with us.

Complex Facility-

We were able to complete the asphalt to the shed this fall. We will also be completing the sidewalk to T-Mobile Field in October. They will also be pouring a pad for a portable restroom closer to that field and pad for a bleacher behind the back stop.

Summer/Fall Recap Complex

Our 2024 Complex season was a huge success. The construction was really smooth and thanks to the SOD change order we were able to make our May 12 start date. The SOD has done really well all year even with the dry weather we have had over the last 6 weeks. Parks guys have done a good job keeping it watered. This season we had 142 teams travel to Independence to play in a baseball or softball tournament. 56 softball teams and 86 baseball teams. We were able to operate one tournament per age group and two for 14u Softball, 8u Coach Pitch baseball, 13u Baseball. We were also able to divide 12u softball, 8u Coach pitch, 13u Baseball, 12u Baseball, 9u baseball and 10u baseball into upper and lower division tournaments leading to better competition. Our biggest 1 day was 22 teams on June 29th. In 2024 we brought in a record high for tournament entry. This season total (not including River'sEDGE teams) was over \$39,000. Fall league brought in a little over \$15,000 in registrations which is not included as in last fiscal numbers.

The Fall league wasn't as big as we had hoped but we ended up with 9 softball teams and 24 baseball teams. This is equivalent of 38 teams for softball and 96 teams for baseball as each team traveled here each weekend for 4 weeks.

The 2025 slate is a huge undertaking, but we feel like we can grow Tournament entries over \$60,000, rentals \$7500, and concessions to over \$100,000. We need to look at adding a full time concession operator. Currently we hire a college student, and they can only work part of the year and Angie and I typically do the ordering and Trenton fills in as griller a lot of the fall. We are still working on the details for the wintertime responsibilities and will be proposing a FT employee for the 2025-2026 Budget season. We had twelve RE tournament dates and four rentals in 2024 and next summer we will have fourteen RE tournament dates and fifteen rental dates. This will still give us opportunities to try different slow pitch or kickball type tournaments in July and August. We have also submitted the paperwork to host and age group of state in July.

2024 Complex Tournament Schedule (142, 172)

May 12 13u Softball (4)
May 12 14u Softball (6)
May 12 16u/HS Softball (5)
May 18 11u Baseball (8)
May 19 12u Softball Upper Division (9)
May 19 12u Softball Lower Division (8)
June 1 13u Baseball (9)
June 1 8u Baseball Upper Division (4)
June 1 8u Lower Division (4)
June 2 10u Softball (8)
June 8 8u Softball (8)
June 8 12u Baseball Upper Division (5)
June 8 12u Baseball Lower Division (4)
June 15 9u Baseball Upper Division (9)
June 15 9u Baseball Lower Division (6)
June 22 10u Baseball Upper Division (9)
June 22 10u Baseball Lower Division (6)
June 29 13u Baseball Upper Division (6)
June 29 13u Baseball Lower Division (6)
June 29 8u Baseball (10)
June 30 14u Softball (8)
July 13 TBB USSSA Tournament (11)
July 14 TBB USSSA Tournament (11)
Fall League 4 Weeks
August 17-Sept 14 10u Softball 4 (16)
August 17-Sept 14 12u Softball 3 (12)
August 17-August 24 HS Softball 2 (4)
Sept 7-Sept 28 10u Baseball 5 (20)
Sept 7 – Sept 28 12u Baseball 10 (40)
Sept 8 – Sept 29 13u Baseball 9 (36)
October 6 KQ Rental 14u Softball 4
October 6 KQ Rental 16/HS Softball 4

2025 Complex Schedule

March 7
March 8
March 14
March 15
March 21
March 22
March 29
March 30
April 5 KQ Sports
April 6 KQ Sports
April 12 TBB Softball
April 13 TBB Softball
April 19 Triple Bagger USSSA
April 20 Easter
April 26 KQ Sports
April 27 KQ Sports
May 3 10u/12u SB RE
May 4 8u/13u/14u SB RE
May 10 13u/8u BB
May 11 10u BB RE
May 17 Triple Bagger USSSA
May 18 Triple Bagger USSSA
May 24 Memorial Weekend
May 25 Memorial Weekend
May 26 Memorial Weekend
May 31 11u BB RE
June 1 12u BB RE
June 7 9u BB RE
June 8 8u SB
June 14 Triple Bagger USSSA
June 15 Triple Bagger USSSA
June 20 10u BB RE
June 21 10u/12u SB RE

June 27 12u BB RE
June 28 9u BB RE
July 5 11u BB RE
July 6 13u/8u BB
July 12 Triple Bagger USSSA
July 13 Triple Bagger USSSA
July 19
July 20
July 26
July 27
August 2
August 3
August 9
August 10
August 16
August 17
August 23 SB Fall League
August 24 SB Fall League
August 30 Labor Day Wknd
August 31 Labor Day Wknd
Sept 7 Fall SB
Sept 8 Fall SB
Sept 14 Fall BB/SB
Sept 15 Fall BB/SB
Sept 20 Fall BB/SB
Sept 21 Fall BB/SB
Sept 27 Fall BB
Sept 28 Fall BB
Oct 4 Fall BB
Oct 5 Fall BB
Oct 11 KQ SPorts
Oct 12 KQ Sports
Oct 18

Cemetery-

A huge thank you to Independence Light & Power and the Street Departments for their work on taking out the dead trees. The cemetery looks amazing and the significant stonework from the volunteer group has been amazing.