



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager
FROM: Bob Beatty, Director
DATE OF MEETING: May 6, 2024
ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Parks & Recreation

Parks & Forestry Department-

Parks staff have completed one round of mowing. We have both mowers on duty and one part-time maintenance worker. The last two have been hired and will be starting once college is out. Staff have been busy getting parks open and cleaned for the season. Park restrooms will be delivered on May 1. The inclusive playground will be installed the week of April 29. Once installed, a different company will come to pour the surfacing. We will then pour the accessible sidewalk and fill the dirt and seed. We will likely fence off the area until we get some grass in. Hopefully, we will have a grand opening before Memorial Day weekend. We will be adding a bathroom to the park's shed this spring. We want to get the excavation, water, and sewer run this fiscal year.

Recreation Department-

Angie has been busy getting all the Little League teams, schedules, and rules ready for their league. We will have to make some serious changes to the league as the coaches are becoming very thin. This season was a struggle, to say the least. This will mark the first time we have had to eliminate and combine many teams due to a lack of coaches. We will look at all options this offseason. Part of that may be eliminating requests, cutting down on the number of River'sEDGE teams, or limiting how many assistants we allow. We will be trying out in some of our leagues our version of Velo ball that will be a fast-paced version of Little League. Our goal is it could cut down on coaches, kids not playing infield/outfield, and get kids way more at bats. The faster pace should be more enjoyable to watch. We will test it this year, get feedback, and make adjustments as necessary. Between River'sEDGE and little league we are at a new record of 621 breaking the previous high of 588. First time we have ever been over 600.

River'sEDGE Facility-

River'sEDGE teams all will have their first tournament under their belt this month. Many started in April and some of our older groups began with indoor tournaments in February. River'sEDGE is packed on a nightly basis and Little League will be in soon to get some practices ready. We are looking at ways we can incorporate even more usage by our little league. We have been able to expand programming and travel teams every year, but we are getting close to our max if we do not remodel more dead areas. Hopefully, we will have some time to make a plan before 2025 tryouts.

Dog Park-

Dog Park remains busy. We will close the park every Wednesday 10-11 for mowing.

Falcon Civic Center-

The Falcon Civic Center remains busy. We typically sign up 10-15 new 24/7 access memberships a month. As we see our hours shrink for summer it continues to drive people to the 24/7 memberships. Our

weightroom is in dire need of additional space and we have some expansion ideas that hopefully we can do on our own in the future.

Aquatic Center Facility-

The pool has been drained and the first round of power washing is complete. We have several repairs lined up for this spring as well. We will also be painting (hired) the vessel this fall. We are still in need of guards. We will have a couple certification opportunities at our own facility this spring and hopefully we will run one later in the summer.

RV Park Facility-

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

Complex Facility-

The complex is getting closer to ready. We continue to look for the last field sponsor. We are down to a couple of dugouts still available. We have placed nearly 20 new 4'x8' advertising signs with a lot more room. The cameras have been installed and we are getting closer to getting ready. A HUGE thank you to Light and Power for all their help! They are such an asset to our community and the City in general. We have hired someone to help input the data into the system and to help get awards and coaches packets ready for the season. We have hired a concession manager, and she has already started cleaning the concessions. We will need to build shelves, arrange food prep area, work on menus, work on z-outs, and the cleaning/chore checklist. Still a ton to do with a couple of weeks left, IPRD is planning on the "grand opening" and festivities to be May 24. More details to follow but we would love to see you all out there that night. This 2024 season will be under construction most of this season. We are still trying to pin down dates for the asphalt, fundraising for the chipseal in the parking lot, the batting cage installation, the sidewalk to T-Mobile field. We hope people are patient and understanding but for us there isn't a great time of year to complete projects.

Cemetery-

We hired a mower for the summer. He is working on the first round as the weather hasn't been cooperative. I will check in with the fundraiser once we get the complex up and ready. We would like to start scheduling some headstone repairs as money allows.