



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Bob Beatty – Director

DATE OF MEETING: May 5, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Parks & Recreation

Forestry Department

We will start watering the park tanks next week. This spring, we planted several hundred trees. Brent wrote a grant to MidAmerican Energy, and we received an additional \$2,500 for tree planting throughout the park system this year. We will also water some seeding areas for the Utilities Department this month.

Parks

The Parks department has been busy getting parks open and ready to mow. The mowing staff started this week. The new practice diamond, with backstop netting and additional surfacing, is ready to go. We are still looking to fill 2 trimming/parks maintenance positions.

Recreation Department

Angie is working on Little League teams this week. We have our coaches meeting on May 6. Field space is always at a premium with 25 River'sEDGE teams and 46 IPRD teams trying to share diamond space. Once games start on May 22, it only becomes more difficult. We will continue to look at more spaces to put diamonds or enhance diamonds. We are currently helping St. John's fix up their diamond to give us more usable space in the summer.

River'sEDGE Facility

River'sEDGE has started to thin out just in time for Little League to start using the facility. All our River'sEDGE teams have moved outside. We are currently trying to finalize tournament fees and take payments. The back room is pretty full as graduation season is here. We have two graduation parties this weekend.

Falcon Civic Center

The FCC has slowed with the warmer temperatures, but will pick up again when the college group returns for the summer.

Aquatic Center Facility

We offered a recertification class last weekend. Angie met with lifeguards at the high school to hand out hiring packets and Aquatic Center information. At the end of the month, around 15 new guards will be certified. We are excited to have so many and hope for another successful season.

RV Park Facility

The RV Park remains full. We are working with a couple of sites on cleanliness and other issues. We have banned fences and are waiting for a couple to get back into town. We will be closing the park on

November 15 for site, road, and grounds repair. We will not be housing or allowing anyone to store RVs there for the winter of 25-26. We will also be advertising for a new Host/Hostess for the 2026 season.

Complex

April has been very busy. We had 41 teams in our opener, April 5/6, 48 teams April 12/13, and 66 teams April 26/27. In the first month of rentals, we exceeded our 2024 (shortened season) with 155 teams. We also have 179 teams currently registered in our tournaments this summer. Our River'sEDGE tournaments start this weekend. We have hired a couple of people to grill and are also looking to add more concession workers.

Cemetery

Our staff member was hired and started last week. We already have a mow in, and it looks very nice. The repair brigade continues to meet, and we have ordered and delivered additional sullies to work on headstone repair or cleaning.