

Public Works Monthly Report

For the Months of March & April 2025

4/17/2025

Streets

- All winter equipment has been removed and necessary repairs completed.
- While equipment was out for teardown, the shop parking area was cleaned and organized. The Wastewater Department assisted by clearing the shop drain using their vac truck.
- Completed storm drain maintenance on Eldon Store Drive, including debris removal, excavation of the bank, and installation of a small retaining wall to prevent soil erosion.
- Ongoing patching as needed; winter patch stock is nearly depleted. Hoping the asphalt plant opens by the end of April.
- Cleaned and leveled the brush and spoils dump area following the winter thaw.
- Assisted the Electric Department with tree removals on Ithaca Road and near the bike trail.
- The street sweeper completed its first full sweep of the city; initial round takes approximately two weeks.
- Heavy brush collection month, with three weeks of pickup including leaves not collected during last fall's vacuum season.
- Added gravel and smoothed transitions and rough areas along E 5th Street.
- Sold surplus items via auction, including an old skid steer broom attachment and unused air jackhammers with accessories - totaling \$1,749.00
- Spring large item collection went smoothly with no reports of missed pickups.
- Transitioned to summer hours effective March 31.

Buildings & Grounds

- Conducted a controlled prairie burn along the Pine River on 3/18/2025. Minor damage to a few boards was addressed with replacements; the burn was successful overall.
- Tilled and leveled all baseball diamonds; added 60 ft. bases to Field 4. Volleyball courts were also tilled due to poor condition. Ordered a load of lime to maintain field quality over the next few years.
- Replaced basketball and soccer nets on several smaller goals.
- Ordered eight replacement boards for the small footbridge after inspecting deterioration underneath; frame will require future attention.
- Created a new pathway under the bridge at North Park for safe access to the east soccer field.
- Set up and tore down equipment for the recent election.
- Modified shelving at the Community Center to store ballot machines on-site, reducing transport needs and complying with separation requirements for machine components.

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- Installed emergency parking signage at the Aquatic Center.
- Installed a sump pump at the Aquatic Center to manage standing water and reduce mud hazards around the concrete area.
- Partnered with Darcy to photograph and list recovered bicycles from police storage on Wisconsin Surplus; all units were successfully sold. Totaling \$216.00
- We are evaluating equipment for areas designated for reduced mowing (4x/year). Recommended renting potential options before purchasing to ensure practicality and avoid underutilized assets.
- Covered graffiti at the footbridge; police were notified and are investigating. Batteries in the trail camera were dead at the time of the incident. Replaced batteries and cleared the memory card. Moving forward, batteries will be replaced biannually to ensure ongoing surveillance.

Airport

- Continuing efforts to assess and identify suitable replacement equipment.
- Ongoing maintenance projects include brush removal, doorknob repairs, storage shed maintenance, and tractor servicing.

Cemetery

- One full burial completed; ground conditions allowed for excavation without the use of a frost burner.
- Eight cremation burials scheduled in the coming months, including several family groupings on the same day.
- Increased inquiries from monument companies as spring stone installations begin.
- Upcoming tasks include headstone repairs, holiday décor cleanup, and site restoration from fall burials.

Forestry

- Stump grinding is scheduled to begin this month, with site cleanup handled by the grounds crew.
- The Arbor Day event is set for April 23, 3:00–4:30 PM at the library. Activities include a story reading by Brian Wahl (DNR), 75 seedling giveaways, potential tree planting, and informational handouts on tree planting and native plants. The event has been promoted via Facebook, the electronic billboard, and WRCO outreach.
- Boulevard replacement trees are expected to arrive this month and will be planted promptly.

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- The dead tree on the hill near Bohmann Dr and Hwy 14 has been successfully removed. The City contracted Climbing Bee LLC to perform the hazardous tree removal. The original bid was \$1,807 but the final cost was \$903 due to reduced labor time. We will There will be ongoing efforts to clean brush & downed trees in the area.

Director Notes:

- Notifications regarding updated mowing protocols—specifically related to dike maintenance—have been distributed to affected residents.
 - Resident concerns:
- The department has completed the purchase of the Husqvarna Automower 550 EPOS Robot Mower. The equipment has been installed and is now in operation at the softball fields.
- Due to a delay in receiving all the information required, the donation resolution originally planned for the April Council meeting has been postponed to May. The resolution will outline a donation from RCYBS for the installation of new dugouts on Youth Baseball Field #1 and new manual scoreboards for Fields #1 and #2.
- We are working to repair two of our main kayak landings that are unusable. The problem is that sediment is deposited under them in high water and it causes the ramps to come out of adjustment.
- Frontier is still active in the city with fiberoptic installation. Concerns are being raised regarding ground settling. We are communicating with Frontier on a consistent basis to try to assure that repairs are made.
- We are working to schedule a final walk through for the 8th & Park St project from last year.
- We continue to work towards liquidation of obsolete items and underutilized equipment from our equipment fleet. Next on our list is a 3-point hitch tiller. We were able to partner with utilities and use their tiller that attaches to our skid steer.
- Working to gather chip seal or overlay bids for about 6 to 10 blocks of street.