

**To:** City Manager; City Council Members  
**Fr:** Scott Hunter, Parks Manager  
**Date:** April 28, 2021  
**Re:** April Staff Report

**Parks & Cemetery – Parks/Cemetery/Forestry/Mosquito/IPM Report** – Hiring of summer provisional staff is ongoing, currently we are projecting firing 40% below capacity this year. Staff believes this is due to pandemic response and how the University has handled the students for the Spring Semester. Everyone in town seems to be hiring and the workforce is limited this season. The High School Girls Fastpitch season got under way this last month, weather has required us to shuffle around their games. All athletic fields are open to practice and play. The fencing contractors have completed fence and backstop improvements at Aragon and Cowboy. The fence project around the Washington Park Horseshoe pits will be completed shortly. The playground at Undine has been removed and Luckydog is in the process of installing the new equipment. The synthetic turf is scheduled to be installed the first week of May, with an estimated opening date of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Parts have been replaced at the Optimist playground, a new slide has been ordered and should be replaced in May. Staff continues to clean up the parks and rental permits have started coming in. Restrooms and irrigation systems will begin to come on-line in early May. Staff is sweeping paths in all locations and have drug out/leveled the Jacoby Ridge path. Staff purchased 90 board planks to replace broken/worn decking on the greenbelt boardwalk bridge and volunteers installed those boards on May 1, 2021. Leadership Laramie helped remove and replace these boards as their annual project. Dreamland LLC was selected for the skatepark expansion project and will begin design in May. The cemetery had ten (10) funerals scheduled in April. Staff continues to clean the cemetery grounds in preparation of Memorial Day and is working with the Church of Latter-Day Saints on a volunteer event in late May. RFQ's have been submitted for a new columbarium within the cemetery, staff is reviewing proposals and will select a firm for Council consideration. The 15<sup>th</sup> Street entrance has been closed due to UW construction activities. The maintenance gate and Willett gate will both remain open to the public. As the construction moves down 15<sup>th</sup> Street, the main gate will reopen, and the maintenance gate will be closed to traffic. Chemicals have been ordered for the spring/summer season and staff has begun treating areas including athletic fields, medians, path shoulders and City buildings. Staff has found mosquito larvae within town water holding areas. Mosquito Control will begin treating the areas as staff become available. The Emergency Insect Management Grant was reduced to \$30,000.00 this season, about half of what was requested. The State is expecting higher than normal grasshopper populations and expanding grants in that area. The vacant Mosquito FTE position has been filled and Caleb Swan will begin work on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Forestry has been assisting the other departments as needed, pruning trees/shrubs, working with memorial trees/benches and gearing up for the planting season.