

To: City Manager/City Council Members
Fr: Scott Hunter, Parks Manager
Date: March 30, 2022
Re: March Staff Report

Parks/Cemetery/Forestry/Mosquito/IPM Report – Parks staff has removed ten (10) downtown bike racks and are waiting on them to be re-powder coated. A few bike racks have been replaced, with one (1) being an odd color. Laramie Mainstreet is discussing some issues with the contractor that is providing the power coating. Rocky Mountain Power energized the new electrical tap at the Depot Park. The electrical panel consists of six (6) 20-amp outlets with space to expand if future needs require it. Laramie Mainstreet had a “Downtown Laramie” sign built and has staged it just north of the Garfield walk bridge. It is currently plugged into an outlet used for Holiday lights. Staff has ordered grass seed for the Optimist dog park and the Harney-Cedar intersection. Staff will plant the seed as the weather allows. In April, 5C Fencing will be adding post and cable along the Cirrus Sky path to help deter vehicle traffic along the ridge. Staff has received numerous calls on unauthorized vehicles traveling along the path and in the surrounding native areas. Leadership Laramie is refreshing the “Welcome to Laramie” signs located at each entry way. Staff is working on getting them down and putting them back up around weather. The “Curmudgeons” volunteer group has been refinishing the wooded downtown tables, downtown parking signs and will be assisting with pinecone cleanup in the cemetery. As the weather gets better, they will be assisting with some shelter painting/staining. Alicia Brisson is an intern that is spearheading the public comments for the new Coughlin-Pole Mountain Park. Alicia held two (2) public meeting at Fire Station #2 on March 23rd. There will be future class projects at Indian Paintbrush school and a presentation to the Parks, Tree & Recreation Advisory Board. Trash control has increased as the weather has gotten warmer, staff is checking trash receptacles two (2) times a week. Sports user groups have been calling to get fields open and scheduling early spring practices/games. Normally fields would not be opened until mid-April, however, staff has been able to get some fields inspected, prepped, and opened with the warmer weather. Currently the LaBonte softball field, Kiwanis, Roney, Red, Green and Aragon have been opened for use. Cowboy, Blue and Gold remain closed due to ice buildup within the shaded areas along the backstops and warning tracks. Soccer fields have been painted and staff is currently trying to get soccer goals up. Job announcements are open for provisional summer employees. Staff is seeing less applications this year and expect to be 60% filled for the summer. The City Arborist has completed tree pruning activities in Washington and Laprele Parks. Forestry staff has been assisting with snow removal and cemetery cleanup. The Greenhill Cemetery conducted seven (7) funerals for March. Staff is working on cleaning up the cemetery in preparations for Memorial Day. Staff is cleaning up the 15th Street beautification area and partnering with the University of Wyoming grounds workers to get the fence lines cleaned up. Mosquito Control received the new electric fogger and will be installing it this spring. The pesticide chemical bids were opened on March 29, with Van Diest getting both bids. Staff has completed the EIMG grant reporting and is expecting to receive \$30,000 in grant funding again this season. Staff is working on sending out landowner letters and prepping traps for spring. Staff is assisting with the salamander migration project that will be happening late March and into April. The open Mosquito Control FTE position has been filled by Taylor Allbright; he requested a transfer from the Parks Irrigation Crew. Steve Graham has requested a transfer from the Cemetery to fill the Irrigation opening. Staff will ask HR to post an FTE job opening for the Cemetery to help fill the position for spring cleanup.