

To: City Manager/City Council Members
Fr: Scott Hunter, Parks Manager
Date: April 27, 2022
Re: April 2022 Staff Report

Parks/Cemetery/Forestry/Mosquito/IPM Report – Parks staff has been busy preparing the athletic fields the season. UW Club baseball, High School Girls softball and Legion have had games in Laramie. As weather warms up, staff has begun getting park restrooms opened and cleaned. Staff started at restrooms that supported the early spring sports. Staff removed three (3) Laramie entrance signs for the Leadership Laramie group to sand and repaint. Spring cleanup has started in all park locations, this year a continued lack of staffing has slowed the process. Parks had a mini job fair at the University of Wyoming Union Breezeway in an attempt to attract summer applicants. The extreme windy conditions caused damage and created issues in park areas. Staff continues to clean up debris from the recent high winds. Staff continues to replace downtown bike racks as they come in. Forestry staff inspected trees within the City parks system and removed seventeen (17) trees. Staff had a presentation for the Laramie Garden Club on “Best Tree Species” for Laramie Wyoming. Staff finalized the tree sales for Rooted in Laramie and will assist with planting fifty-eight (58) trees on June 4th. Quotes are being solicited for the downtown tree removal and replacement project; trees have been purchased. Laramie Mainstreet received some funding to help offset costs associated with the project and will partner with the city for the replacements. Greenhill Cemetery conducted seven (7) funerals in April. Road edges have been swept and winter grave decorations have been removed. The 15th Street beautification area is being cleaned up in preparation for new mulch. Quotes are being received for replacement windows on the cemetery shop, the old windows are beginning to fail. Staff met with Nathan Steiner for the final design concept for the future columbarium. The “Curmudgeon” volunteer group helped staff with pinecone cleanup around the cemetery house rows. Mosquito Control has converted all ATV’s and trucks from snowplows to Mosquito and IPM summer use. Staff has started larval surveillance and treatment in some areas, staff is currently seeing low numbers. Landowner permission letters have been sent out for treatment areas on ranch lands. Staff assisted with tree pruning activities in LaPrele and Washington Parks. Beaver activity is beginning to increase along Spring Creek and the Laramie River, staff will be doing more inspections in these areas. Staff toured the Monolith Ranch before spring flooding to get an idea of the area. The City was awarded \$30,000 from the EMIG grant to help fund WNV culex treatments and surveillance. Staff will be attending the AG Expo at the Hansen Arena to do presentations for school age children on Mosquito Control Operations on May 10th and 11th.