
To: City Manager/City Council Members
Fr: Scott Hunter, Parks Manager
Date: September 28, 2022
Re: September/October Staff Report

Parks/Cemetery/Forestry/Mosquito/IPM Report - Parks staff has been concentrating on mowing and trimming holding ponds, ROWS and undeveloped properties. Irrigation drip lines will be the first systems to be winterized this fall, staff has picked up the rental compressor and started knocking down some systems. Parks mowing operations have slowed down due to lack of provisional staff. Full time staff has been running the mowing equipment as time allows around trash, permits and other projects. Renovation at the Little League and Cowboy fields have been completed ahead of the fall sports programs. A concrete pad has been installed at the Kiowa Park playground to add an ADA seating area with a new park bench and trash receptacle to be installed after the concrete cures. Staff will be preparing landscaping repair at Holding Pond #1 upon completion of the new sidewalk. The new downtown "large" bike rack has been delivered and staff will install it at the end of September. The bike rack is designed to be removed during the winter and staff will take it down before snow flies. Park signs have been taken down to be sanded and refinished. New light poles have been ordered for the LaBonte Skatepark and they will be installed when they arrive, currently the lead time is twenty weeks. The LaBonte floating dock has been reattached after the heavy rains and flooding in August. Mosquito Control continues to monitor traps around Laramie; Rock River, the Big and Little Laramie Districts have ceased mosquito trapping for the season. Staff added some mosquito fogging nights after the water from the August rains rejuvenated some mosquito habitat, currently the fogging operations have ended for the season. West Nile Virus RAMP testing has slowed down but will continue if the vector mosquitos are present in the traps. Forty-one (41) mosquito pools have been tested with only one (1) pool testing positive this summer. Mosquito staff has begun prepping equipment for winter operations and data processing for grant reporting. Forestry pruned eighty-nine (89) trees from the ground and removed eight (8) dead or declining trees. Staff continues to hand water the smaller trees as the temperatures cool off and the weather remains dry. Four (4) stumps were removed from the Greenhill Cemetery and the City Arborist inspected three (3) trees for Laramie residents upon request. The Greenhill Cemetery conducted ten (10) funerals for the month of September. The Cemetery house and shop have been painted; some touch ups are being tackled. Updated windows for the cemetery shop have been ordered with installation planned for December. Staff has been working on weed suppression and continue to mow/trim with limited provisional help. Staff is preparing to winterize irrigation systems ahead of upcoming temperature changes. All Parks staff are working with Fleet to get new equipment and vehicle replacements ready.