



## **Trails Update**

Johnson stated that segment 3 trail project is moving right along as the contractors have been poured all the concrete. Iowa Northern came in this month to place the rail pads to cross on the tracks on the north side of the lights for the street crossing. Bacon Const. finished pouring the last few aprons and started on backfilling and dirt work. We have received several complements about this segment from the public already. The trail segment has been landscaped and seeded as we have had a few all-day rain showers to help the seed start germinating. The gates at the railroad crossing are a requirement of the railroad that must stay in place. The fence at Oakdale Cemetery was installed as part of the segment 3 trail project and looks fantastic. Johnson stated that the contractor will be in tomorrow to install the signs on this trail segment that will complete the project.

Johnson has been working on several upcoming grants for trails including FRT, TAP for future trail development. Johnson stated that he is working with a couple other counties and submitting a Destination Iowa grant proposal through Upper explorer land for more trail funding for segment two. Johnson told the commission that they are planning on completing segment two next season which will run from the west side of the viaduct and run to Redgate Park.

## **Tree Board Update**

Johnson stated that the tree board will be conducting their annual tree planting on Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup> this year. This planting is made possible by a grant the park department wrote and was awarded by Trees Forever. The planting will consist of around 55 trees of varying species to promote diversification in the community. Johnson stated that they will most likely start in the morning as this is a huge project that is spread throughout the community. Johnson stated that if board members were interested in donating some time to volunteer to help the department out that he will send them time and location information when the board decides at their upcoming meeting.

Johnson stated that he has arranged for the Iowa DNR Forestry department to come in and complete a tree survey of the parks and cemeteries. Johnson stated this will be similar to the street tree survey that the park department and DNR completed in 2018. Johnson stated that this is great information for the department for future projects. Johnson stated that Emma and Janessa are using the handheld GPS units again to properly identify the trees and they will submit a full report to the city as they did with the street trees. Johnson stated that the street tree survey is on the park department website for anyone to view at any time.

## **Parks/Cemetery Update**

The pool season is wrapped up this past month as the boiler decided to give us problems one last time the last weekend. Nate and I cleaned out the holding tank at Redgate Park this last week and the cemetery guys laid sod on the past two burials we had last week. It has been a busy month just keeping up with the mowing in both departments as the weekly rain events won't quit. I met with Jon with Fehr Graham to look at locates and plans for the drain project with the aquatic facility.

The pool season concluded on Thursday August 18th with the doggy dip at the end of the day. This year we had a great turnout for the event with around 25 dogs in the pool at one point. The days following the pool season, I took the boiler apart and cleaned out the top end. This month we took down six ash trees at Redgate Park that were infected with EAB, including the last large tree in the upper part of the park. I met with Alliant at the aquatic center to get the gas shut off and talk with them about the location of their gas line regarding the drain project. The trails and cemetery roads were swept once again this week prior to chip sealing. The contractors chip sealed the three main north south roads at Woodlawn this past month as well as Redgate Park in its entirety. These roads were used extensively during the cleanup from the tornado that came through in the spring of 2020. City Park Road was done from the main entrance to the dog park as

well. The basketball hoops that we installed at Wings have been a big hit this year as there is a steady stream of people utilizing the new facilities.

We have been working on winterizing the aquatic center as there is a lot to finish yet bring supplies back to the shop and cleaning up equipment. I have been working on budget and CIP pricing for the upcoming budget season as well. I sent out the agenda for the upcoming tree board meeting and trails committee for September. This short week the employees are completing all the mowing of the city properties as the weekly rain events continue. Nate and Joshua have been working on winterizing the aquatic facility pulling shade structures down, covering boards and slides. Nate and Joshua ran up to Wings as the west outfield lights were not working and fixed them and looking at some grants to upgrade the lighting at the ballfields to LED. The employees constructed an area for the campground to stop the split wood to stay dry until sold. The employees took the batting cage at Wings Park for storage and have been busy cutting down dead ash trees when they have the time. The guys went through the viaduct area with leaf blowers and cleaned that out once again. Chris J. ground out all the stumps from the ash trees that were removed from Woodlawn along the waterway and put down black dirt and grass seed. I met with Brian with Fehr Graham to get some final readings so the drain project at the pool can be sent out for bidding.

The airplane project is moving right along as the gravel was put down around the concrete pad and the two benches showed up for installation. On Friday we had a donation from Greg Bryan and Dave Garrigus delivered to the sports complex. Greg and Dave donated a couple loads of black dirt that we will spread on the soccer fields to improve the soil conditions. The park guys were busy taking ash trees down at City Park this past week. The cemetery guys also took down several ash trees in block 20, on the north end, as we keep chipping away at these ash trees. I arranged for Alliant Energy to come in and trim a couple of dead ash trees away from the power lines at City and Chrysler Parks. This month, after completing the mowing the guys started blowing the water lines out at the aquatic facility with the air compressor. Staff also brought the extra picnic tables back to the shop area from Redgate Park for the season. Fire extinguishers were serviced this week for all the departments. Nate took the harley rake to the ballfields at Wings and utilized the new sod cutter for the last burial at Woodlawn. The airplane project is wrapping up as the two benches were installed this month.

Notice was put in the paper, both city websites and Facebook for concrete foundations orders to be submitted for Woodlawn Cemetery. Johnson stated that they have 14 foundations orders thus far as people have until this Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, to submit their orders. Johnson has also been working on the layouts for the disc golf signs to be installed at City Park for the new disc golf course. Johnson stated that the airplane project has wrapped up with construction and there will be a dedication ceremony on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

Johnson stated that he has talked with Signs & More about designing a new sign layout for all the park signs so that they are all uniform. Johnson stated this way they can include the Saur-King jet plaza addition to the new signage. Johnson reminded the board that upgrading park signage was one of the park and recreation commissions 6-10 year long term plans for the parks. Johnson showed the board totals from the trail counts as of September first. Johnson showed the board totals from the campground, shelter reservations, Woodlawn burials, and ash trees removed.

**Board Member Updates - None**

**Adjournment – 5:52pm** motion Stasi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jorgensen

**Next Meeting:** October 17<sup>th</sup> @ City Hall