

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager    **DATE:** August 1, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Parks Maintenance and Operations Update  
**PRESENTER:** Gary Bechthold, Parks Superintendent

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Mr. Gary Bechthold, Parks Superintendent, will present an update on the following Parks Maintenance and Operations activities:

1. The extended high heat temperatures is resulting in unusual heat stress for much of the plant material (trees, shrubs and turf) throughout the parks and city landscaping. Unfortunately, additional irrigation is not always adequate to help save plant material. Regardless of the moisture levels in the soil, extended daytime periods of 100+ degrees, slow the biological functions of plants. Extended periods of extreme heat reduce the amount of time a plant can produce and store its food resulting in plant material decline.

The Autumn Blaze Maples in front of City Hall that are especially showing signs of distress. Potassium will be added to the soil which will hopefully assist with water and nutrient movement in the trees.

2. Several steps have been taken to help staff beat the heat. Staff is currently starting their shift an hour earlier in the morning. Also, pallets of bottled water are kept at the Parks maintenance facility and are readily available for staff. Crews are instructed not to work alone and encouraged to watch over each other for signs of heat stress and heat stroke. Crews are also encouraged to take breaks as often as needed.
3. During the heat wave, many of the parks and city facilities mowing cycles have been reduced from weekly to every other week.
4. Several playground pieces were replaced at Clyde Zeller Park and Kay Granger Park. Older slide pods with worn and dilapidated platforms were replaced with spinning poles and bowls along with balance beams.
5. Playground fall zone material (double grind engineered wood chips - fibar)) were recently added to several city playgrounds. Playground safety guidelines recommend at least 12-16 inches of fibar spread throughout each playground pod.
6. A "first-time" turf irrigation system was installed at Adventure World. The cost of the irrigation project was \$37,000 and managed by Tanner Arwine.