

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** February 6, 2023
SUBJECT: Parks Maintenance and Operations Update
PRESENTER: Tanner Arwine, Assistant Director

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Mr. Tanner Arwine, Assistant Director, will present an update on the following Parks Maintenance and Operations activities:

General Park Maintenance

- Contractors recently performed tree pruning maintenance at Cross Timbers, Faram Park, North Tarrant Parkway, The Lakes of Hometown, Linda Spurlock and JB Sandlin Parks.
- The EF-1 tornado on December 13 caused significant damage at Tipps Canine Hollow. Staff and City contractors removed several large oak trees that were uprooted by the storm. Fencing was also damaged by these falling trees and was also repaired. All cleanup and repairs were performed to be able to open the park by the end of week.
- Park Operations staff performed some repairs around the pond edge at Linda Spurlock Park. These repairs consisted of concrete around some erosion issues, grading of topsoil, and the establishment of new sod.
- Park water fountains and irrigation pumps have been winterized to prevent damage as temperatures consistently drop below freezing. Several water fountains are set to be replaced at Walkers Creek, Norich, and Ace Parks. New fountains are typically being replaced with the standard drinking fountain, plus a bottle filler and dog fountain.

Infrastructure Maintenance

- Staff recently replaced section of worn fencing on the south fence line at Tipps Canine Hollow.
- Staff has re-striped the parking lot at Liberty Park and will stripe Tipps Canine Hollow in the coming weeks as weather allows.
- Pull-up/somersault bars were recently added at Faram Park. These bars replaced an older playground piece that had reached its life expectancy.

Athletics

- Athletic crews have been performing fence replacement on various fields at Richfield and Walkers Creek parks. Damaged and worn fencing is replaced as identified for player safety.
- Infield clay and conditioner has been delivered for replacement for the baseball and softball fields. Clay will be added to improve drainage and playability. Conditioner helps the fields control soil moisture, providing optimum playing conditions.
- Field 4 at Cross Timbers will be receiving an artificial pitching mound in the coming weeks. Artificial mounds have been installed on all fields with mounds at Richfield and Cross Timbers that are utilized by the Richland Youth Association. These mounds help prevent rain outs, save labor hours, and provide an excellent pitching surface.
- Pre-emergent applications for warm season annual weeds will begin over the next several weeks. Simultaneously, post-emergent applications will take place to treat winter weeds such as henbit, annual bluegrass, and rescuegrass.
- Ryegrass will be fertilized in the coming weeks at Green Valley Park in preparation for the upcoming soccer season.

Staffing

- Positions within the new Park Operations staffing structure have been filled, with the exception of Maintenance Work I new hire positions. Matt Johnston was recently promoted to Park Superintendent, the position vacated with the recent retirement of Gary Bechthold. Michael Salazar has filled the Athletic Field Supervisor position, Cody Lewis has filled the Irrigation Supervisor Position, and Scott Pearce has filled the Landscape Supervisor position. Chris Lamar has been in a supervisory role and will continue to serve as the Infrastructure Supervisor.