

Pioneer Park Preparations *(Reprint)*

Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink must carefully plan crew workloads weekly, monthly, and seasonally in order to accomplish tasks required of Public Works. Weekly workloads can easily ‘go by the boards’ due to a waterline break, sewer line plug, pump failure at one of the treatment plants, and a variety of other unforeseen things that constantly happen when operating city utilities and infrastructure. Fortunately for the City, Karl is very good at his job. He has been working in public works settings his entire career. He has been doing his current job with the City for a very long time and he is on top of what has to happen to ensure that things are completed in a timely and orderly fashion.

However, sometimes as a Councilor or appointed official, that fact can be hard to remember when met with a citizen concern or complaint.

Pioneer Park is closed by the Brownsville Municipal Code from November 1st to March 31st. Below are some of the general steps Public Works and Staff take to get ready for the park season:

- ▶ **November** | Store picnic tables, lock gates, winterize the Pavilion and the restrooms.
- ▶ **December** | Place advertisements for Park Caretakers. Begin leaf removal process.
- ▶ **January** | Order signage, prepare supplies logistics.
- ▶ **February** | Finish leaves in the Park.
- ▶ **March** | Re-stretch fencing along the riverbank, install warning signs that have gone missing, sweep down and clean all buildings, ensure water is turned back on, make any miscellaneous repairs, and place picnic tables and trash cans around the Park. Some years, Public Works begins mowing in March depending on the weather. Coordinate needs of the Rec Center for use of the baseball/softball diamonds. Inspect all playgrounds and make necessary repairs. (Playgrounds are routinely inspected throughout the year.)
- ▶ **April** | Prepare the kitchen for use, clean grills, repair appliances etc., finalize hiring of Park Caretakers, work on park use agreements for major events. Check and replace basketball nets as needed and other applicable details.
- ▶ **May** | Train Park Caretakers, prepare all necessary forms and signage for Caretakers, perform trail maintenance, start repairing picnic tables, general housekeeping, and painting.
- ▶ **June** | Park Caretakers are in full swing with mowing, restroom cleaning and general maintenance. Everyone prepares for the annual Pioneer Picnic as defined in the agreement with Linn County Picnic Association. Families use the Park for a variety of purposes including graduation parties.
- ▶ **Summer Months** | Continuing to keep the park operating and maintaining at the high level expected by citizens and our Staff for all the activities that happen in our Park.
- ▶ **October** | Public Works starts planning for the closure of the Park.

As you can see, there must be careful planning, thought and plenty of attention to detail to operate the Park. The logistics of ordering supplies to keep the Park clean and ready for users, mowing, equipment maintenance and preparation, watering, and providing all the little things requested by the many groups that use the Park for events, family gathering, recreation programming, and a host of other social activities.