

Monthly Report: Parks and Recreation, December 2025

The team continues, to a lesser degree, to mow, weed, and blow parks, parkways, medians, and miscellaneous green spaces as the weather turns. While grass is going dormant, weeds are not and that is keeping crews somewhat busy. The effort is made a little more complicated with holiday decorations as we have to dance around cables and cords.

With less of the normal activity, we spent two weeks clearing brush and removing sucker growth at the Sports Complex. Our crews have hauled away six trailers of debris. They have also cleared paths and removed rocks from the area. This provided an opportunity for an easy assessment of the many Oak Trees on the site. We had an arborist come out and give guidance for removal of those in poor condition and care of the many that are in fair condition. We will contract removal and trimming in January. We anticipate a dramatically improved look of the park and pool entry and the parking lot area.

With the expanded work for Parks and Recreation Crews, City Council authorized the addition of two Maintenance Workers in this year's budget. It has proven a bit of a challenge to find the right candidates, but we did add Michael Garrison to the roster this month and anticipate bringing our final team member in January. Michael has already proven a great asset. We are extremely pleased to have him on board.

The team has been working to add site furnishings to the Turnback Canyon Trail. Two doggie bag stations have been installed at the trail head and the terminus. Maintenance Worker Phil Obershaw has fabricated benches from downed cedars and is placing them along the trail. They will be a beautiful (and natural) addition to the trail.



We have closed Sunset Park ballfields this month to begin maintenance. We have already removed bases, pegs, and pitching mounds and will, next, till the fields to a 5" depth to accommodate more infield mix. We will level the fields, knock down grass lips, clean edges, and replace pegs and bases (adding multiple base pegs to accommodate additional age groups).

The irrigation system at Veteran's Park has not been working properly for some time. Our team has removed the backflow device as we have found it cracked. We will rebuild it and begin to fix deficiencies in the broader system, so we are good to green in spring.

We continue to defray costs by repairing old equipment already in the City's inventory. Parts continue to roll in from all over the country as the team repairs several old lawn mowers, weed eaters, and a tiller. The equipment has not been in use for a few years. If we can get the equipment running, we will not need to lease or purchase for incoming staff. This will save thousands of dollars. Last week, the team got the old tiller working and used

it to turn the safety surfacing under the playground at Sunset Park. It is an important regular activity to ensure the surface is maintained at an appropriate level for fall heights under the play equipment.

The City's electrical contractor has begun to replace bulbs at Upper Field (at the Sports Complex). Ten lights are out across all poles and we are working to correct the condition. Given the age of the system and pole heights and their locations, it is not an inexpensive fix. It is a necessary one, though, for safe night play.

Anyone who thinks pool operations are inexpensive, doesn't own a pool. This month, a contractor completed repairs on the stainless steel drain system. Cracks prevented full use of the pool's pump system, these have been welded and made in good working order. Additionally, plexiglass panels are being fabricated for the separation between shallow and deep ends of the pool. Lastly, our regular maintenance contractor is working to detect a leak in the pool as we are experiencing unknown water loss.

Lastly, if you've driven 1431 to or from Jonestown, you may have noticed a small construction project on the northside (across from Tyler Trail). TxDOT is completing a project that will, ultimately, be a City monument sign (Lago will have to add letters later). The project is the result of grant funding pursued by the City and Keep Lago Vista Beautiful. It will feature a V-shaped wall covered in various natural materials, landscaping, and dark skies-compliant lighting. The renderings reflect a beautiful addition to the roadside and we cannot wait for completion, slated some time in February.