

Monthly Report: Parks and Recreation, September 2025

Closing Out the Fiscal Year and Readyng for the One to Come...

With the fiscal year coming to a swift close, we sought to complete whatever projects time and money would allow.

No one knows when the splash pad was last operational; thus, staff met with vendors to discuss how to repair it. Apparently, the aged system will need to be almost completely rebuilt, and two sanitation systems installed (it has none). During their visits, both vendors noticed our water toys at the pool and indicated Texas law mandates a secondary or supplemental sanitation system as cryptosporidium parasites are common when water becomes airborne.

Additionally, at the request of a local swim team, we asked two vendors to provide quotes to install a heater in order to expand the aquatic season and increase revenue potential. We are still awaiting most quotes.

We also pursued quotes for lifeguard services, chemical management, and pool cleaning for the 2026 season. We have received three quotes and only one is under the budgeted amount (\$85K) for next season.

Finally, our existing contractor provided a quote for a supplemental sanitation system, we will have the system installed in early October, at a cost of \$17,000. While not cheap, it is less than half the cost of other supplementary systems. Sheesh, I guess we'll take it.

We have also received a quote for tree trimming on Foothill Cove. It's a bit tough to get to the Turnback Canyon Trailhead given the density of foliage. The contractor will tackle the project during the first week of October. We will follow-up with weed abatement as some weeds are three feet tall.

With Council authorization to use Pocket Park funds to make the Sunset Park restrooms accessible, we have enlisted the help of a contracted vendor. For \$25,000, a little more than anticipated, they will make the restrooms, playground, and picnic tables accessible and will enhance the area by planting some trees. While it's more than the budget line item, we are getting a lot more than expected and the community can leave the parking lot and easily make their way to three amenities.

Both existing team members have been registered for their Pesticide Applicator's Training in Austin on October 15th. Once the first full-day training is complete, the team will be required to pass two exams. Fingers crossed, they will and then, we will schedule them for the next phase of training. If all goes well, they will be certified in ornamental grass (parks) and vegetation management (medians and parkways). In their enthusiasm for learning, one staff commented, "I haven't been to school in forty years." Yep!

Having quickly blown our wad, we looked at what activities we could complete in-house. It is only possible when existing team members bring some measure of skill to the job. Fortunately, they do. We were able to do extensive repairs to the softball field at Sunset. We removed the infield lip, leveled the whole infield, and reworked high-use areas (pitching mound, batter's box, and base paths). After three days frying in the Texas sun, field users exclaimed they looked "the best they have in years." Damn right they do!

The team also replaced picnic tables (and power-washed the concrete pads beneath them) at the Sports Complex at the request of LVUBS and benches at the Pickleball Courts—most players were very pleased. There was one exception... there always is.

Dean Kornegay also did some concrete grinding around Upper Field to eliminate a number of trip hazards. While he was there, he restriped the parking lot at the Complex and repainted handicapped stalls. He will replace handicapped signs in early October. Lastly, he power-washed Veterans' memorial Park.

All of the above activities are in addition to the daily maintenance of parks, parkways, and medians, and... other duties as assigned (which this month included mowing the airport). Damn fine work by a whopping crew of two.