



Operations Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
FROM: Jeremy Jensen, Director of Operations
RE: May 2025 Department Monthly Report

OPERATIONS

Centennial Celebration on June 8th

With the upcoming Centennial Event at Johnson's Mound, much of the attention of Operations was turned to preparing the preserve for that event. Grounds work such as the reseeding and rut repair of the sled hill, mowing in new grass trails to go in conjunction with the installation of new limestone trails, correcting concrete of the shelter pad and repairing depressions around the lower picnic shelter were examples of that preparation. All shelters, bathrooms, and sidewalks were pressure washed and scrubbed. The Johnson's Mound cabin was pressure washed, scraped, and painted both inside and out to freshen up the look for the event. Every detail was accounted for, including a fresh coat of paint for the garbage can and grill. Staff will continue to prepare for the event right up to last few days before the June 8th event, including final mowing, sign production, and marking the parking area to assist on the day of the event.

Safe Conditions in the Preserves

One essential aspect of preserve maintenance that is easily overlooked is the repairs related to vandalism or theft and quick correction of dangerous conditions in the preserves. These activities come in a variety of forms, requiring Rangers to be vigilant and detailed during preserve checks, and have a diverse set of skills to correct the condition of amenities available to the public. Sometimes the occurrence is theft of materials; recently seen at the Raymond St tunnel, where electrical components were taken from the tunnel lighting system. Other situations involve intentional damage to plumbing in the restrooms or graffiti on the walls that needs to be removed promptly to limit visibility to preserve users. Fire damage may require a response from emergency services, as seen at Raceway Woods FP with a tree set



Staff doing dirt work around the shelter at Johnson's Mound.



Ranger James Martin transporting the injured owlet to a medical care facility.

Operations Department Memorandum
May Report

on fire, and the loss of a dumpster at Burnidge FP this month. Arrangements then need to be made to replace the dumpster after the damage has occurred. Sometimes nature is the culprit in creating dangerous conditions, like hazardous trees that need advanced chainsaw skills to safely remove the tree, or potholes in trail surfaces that must be patched promptly. Preserve water systems and historic structures, such as the Dairy Barn at LeRoy Oakes also received attention. Operations staff respond to all these situations, quickly repairing amenities and making a visit to the preserves safe and enjoyable.

Vehicles and Equipment Maintenance

Regular vehicle and equipment services and repairs continued in May. These repairs included tie rod end replacement, diagnostic of the electrical systems, starter replacement, throttle controller replacement, rebuilding a gear box, alternator replacement and hydraulic hose replacements. A part-time employee also started in May, extending capabilities of the Fleet Division.

A new 2025 Ford F-250 4x4 Service truck was added to the District's fleet. It received its District logos and numbering and has entered service.

Garden Work

For the month of May, the horticulture crew completed planting the first new section of the arbor! Some roses came in fairly large (yay) so we began the trellising process. Mulch was added to the arbor, the full sun bed in the Centennial Garden, and around Creek Bend. Annuals were planted around the Villa, Centennial garden and around Creek Bend as well. The Japanese Garden benefitted from help of the Geneva Garden Club to bolster the perennial/groundcover element throughout the garden. Routine aeration and top dressing of the wedding circle was also conducted.



Pothole patching done along the Fox River Trail.



Tree found aflame at Raceway Woods FP.



A tree frog hanging out at Camp Tomo Chi Chi Knolls.