



Operations Department Memorandum

TO: Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
FROM: Jeremy Jensen, Director of Operations
RE: July 2026 Department Monthly Report

OPERATIONS

Safety & Security

Many of the projects carried out by Operations in July related to preserving the safety and security of visitors, staff or District infrastructure.

With miles of road edge along District property, staff often need to cut back vegetation to keep the line of sight open at intersections and along ditch lines. At the request of local emergency services, staff cut back vegetation at two locations to ensure that first responders had a clear line of sight when approaching specific intersections at Fox River Bluff West FP and along the Fox River Trail. Vegetation hanging into trails is a constant obstacle to tackle, requiring trimming all year long, as well as tall mowing of prairie trail edges to keep the plants from hanging into the walk area. At Pingree Grove FP, the board walks were given a thorough cut back to keep the walking surface unobstructed and allow it to dry out in the sun.

Fences also claimed some staff time for maintenance. Vegetation growing up through the fence material needs to be cut back to retain open visibility, especially at busy intersections. Heavy vegetation coming down onto the fencing led to repairs of the perimeter security fence at the Schweitzer Dog Park.

A variety of inspections are completed throughout the year on District infrastructure to ensure that equipment is safe to use and any repairs needed are worked on swiftly. The Fox River Bluff West Bridge over the Fox River saw additional attention this month, with plans moving ahead to stabilize the deck surface and seek long-term funding for additional work.

Trail Resurfacing

July is the time of year when the district is both internally repairing trail surfaces and also when contracted projects for trail resurfacing take place. During the first few days



Storm damage threatens the security fencing at Schweitzer Dog Park.



Ranger Tech Wild and Ranger Dybeck trimming back vegetation along the Fox River Trail.



Staff laying down crushed limestone for trail repairs.

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of July a section of the Batavia Spur of the Illinois Prairie Path we resurfaced by an outside contractor. The section is a roughly one-mile section of trail east of Kirk Road going to the county line. This particular trail section is traveled heavily on a daily basis by cyclists and walkers alike.

Summer Storms

Mid-summer storm damage caused everything from downed trees to trail washouts in limestone sections. Fourth of July weekend brought heavy downpours to the area, which caused flooding throughout the region. In some areas of Aurora and to the west total rain was registered around eight inches. This flooding caused extensive trail damage throughout the area. Crews have worked as the water level has fallen to make repairs as the areas become clear for access to equipment and materials.

Prep for Demolition

Operations has begun the process to remove the houses at the Dick Young Forest Preserve and the Paul Wolff Forest Preserve. Environmental samples were taken at both structures for asbestos and the removal was completed at Paul Wolff. Both houses will be utilized by emergency responders for training prior to final removal.

Windmill Maintenance

Joe Palmisano assisted in the scheduled maintenance with Gerard from Verbij Windmill Design and Construction and Mark Rivecco, Fabyan Windmill volunteer, learning valuable knowledge on preventative maintenance practices. Scheduled maintenance inspections occur every 5 years with Verbij Windmill and are conducted monthly by District staff.



Rangers working to clear storm damage at Voyageurs Landing FP.

