



## Operations Department Memorandum

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

### OPERATIONS

#### Arrowwood Point Archery Complex

Final preparations for the June 6th opening of the now officially named Arrowwood Point Archery Complex at Mill Creek Greenway Forest Preserve. Over the last thirty days all equipment has been delivered, assembled, and mounted on the archery field. To start the month, the field was still fairly empty, but in the last three weeks the final push was carried out to complete the project on time. Some of the tasks were the assembly, painting, and delivery of the target mounts. These mounts are designed to keep the targets up off of the ground, to avoid mold and mildew forming from saturation of either the straw or foam targets. These mounts were constructed from recycled boards acquired from replacing picnic table boards.

The introduction of the archery range has allowed staff to explore new and innovative ways to solve problems and experiment with new materials. As an example, all of the posts on the field for the bow stands are made of composite posts and they are anchored in the ground with a material called post foam. In the event we decide to ever redesign the range, these posts can be pulled and the foam can be cut off to use the post again.

#### Summer Projects are Underway

Multiple projects were undertaken by staff in May to get the preserves ready for the busy summer season.

Once the flooding waters of the Fox River receded, clean-up could begin. This included clearing portions of the Fox River Trail of mud and debris, as well as the preserve roadway at Buffalo Park FP. Also affected by the flood waters were the boat launches. At Jon Duerr FP several inches of mud were deposited on the accessible canoe launch that needed to be shoveled and rinsed to be sure it didn't remain too slippery for use. At the boat launch



*Staff working hard to get Arrowwood Point Archery Complex ready for opening day.*

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at Voyageur FP, much of the rock was washed away with the flood waters and had to be replaced.

Early in May, the Forest Preserve hosted free woodchip giveaways at both Burnidge and Big Rock FPs. At this annual event, woodchips collected from winter cutting projects are made available for the public to take home and improve their gardens and landscaping projects. Staff are available all morning to help load vehicles and trailers with mulch of varying levels of decomposition, depending on customer preference.

Staff continued to work on litter clean up in multiple locations. At Poplar Creek FP, a volunteer crew assisted with the removal of a truck load of garbage, mattresses, lumber and landscape materials. Afterwards, new signage was installed to remind citizens of the need to keep the property clean.

A major trail reroute was completed at Burlington FP to coordinate with the expansion coming to the bison project. The new trail will expand the views provided around the perimeter of the bison prairie.

In anticipation of the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday, the Soldier's Memorial at Jon Duerr FP was given some extra care and sprucing up.

Tree damage at Tyler Creek FP required a day of cutting and cleaning to remove all the materials on and around the shelter. Unfortunately, the shelter did not come out of the situation without some damage to the roof and frame. Results of the insurance review and plans for the future of the picnic area are still pending.

Facilities & Amenities

The sign shop has updated the Kiosk's with new information and doors have been replaced to enhance the appearance. Signs were created and installed for the new archery range in anticipation of the grand opening and an entrance sign is being created by the sign shop in house to let patrons know where to go. Operations was at the Jon Duerr Forest Preserve adding electric and water to shelter 1 and installed the grills and poured concrete for both shelters.



*Region 4 Staff cleaning up the canoe launch at Jon Duerr FP after flooding.*



*Ranger Dybeck cleaning the Soldier's Memorial at Jon Duerr FP.*



*Tree damage to shelter 2 at Tyler Creek FP.*

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Fleet

In addition to regular services, fleet staff worked on numerous equipment repairs. Vehicle and equipment repairs included, but were not limited to a stator replacement on a zero-turn mower, numerous hydraulic and oil leaks resolved on a triple deck turf mower, alternator diagnosis on a tractor, and start/run issue on a turf mower. We also overhauled the front steering components on 3 trucks replacing worn out dampers, ball joints, and tie rods keeping them in specification and safe for continued use. Two of these trucks also required front differential pinion seals that we took care of while replacing the front steering components.

Fleet also completed fuel site inspections and filter replacements on all six of the Districts fuel sites. These inspections help us to ensure the sites stay in good working condition and are being checked for concerns on a regular basis throughout the year. Replacing the fuel filters helps to not only extend the life of the site fuel pumps but also the fuel systems in our vehicles and equipment by keeping out impurities from the refueling processes.

The Districts new 2026 International 6x4 dump truck was also delivered to us from Henderson of Huntley after they completed the dump body upfit. This truck was then decaled in house by our District sign shop. Fleet will be taking it to KDOT for safety test lane inspection before it gets placed into active service. The new truck will be a great addition to our heavy hauling operations for large scale material hauling and equipment hauling needs throughout the District.



*Concrete poured around both shelters at Jon Duerr FP.*



*The 2026 International 6x4 dump truck was delivered last month.*