



Operations Department Memorandum

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

OPERATIONS

Spring Roadway and Parking Lot Repair

As with every year, with the transition from winter to spring, staff have to hit the ground running. Urgent attention was needed in roadways and parking lots, where potholes and cracks in the roads form due to heavy freezing and thaw. Crews spent a great deal of time in April patching potholes and replacing failed sections of pavement.

Stocking Up for the Season

Annual supplies were ordered and received, ranging from PPE for staff to everyday cleaning and restocking materials for the preserves. Conducting inventories, assessing trends, and placing orders to ensure adequate quantities are available is a tedious process. PPE such as safety glasses, gloves, chainsaw chaps, and hard hats are evaluated and purchased to ensure staff have the necessary protections while performing their duties. This also includes 1st aid kits in all District vehicles and buildings.

Orders for basic cleaning supplies include soaps, degreaser, disinfectants, enzyme tank treatment and hand soap, along with brooms, squeegees and spray bottles deployed to make use of the cleaners. With the majority of preserves having one restroom or more, it takes pallets of toilet paper, paper towels and garbage bags to keep them stocked for the year. Printed materials, such as trail maps to hand out to bicyclists and hikers, are stocked in District vehicles to quickly assist citizens navigating Forest Preserve properties and trails.

Preparation for the 2025 Camping Season

Paul Wolff and Big Rock Campgrounds open to the public on May 1st. Electric and water service must be operational and tested prior to the arrival of the campers. Banners were installed promoting the



Rangers Hernandez and Gregory installing fencing at the entrance of Fox River Shores FP.



Rangers Smith and Martin receiving a shipment of paper products.



Seasonal delivery of split firewood.

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opening and firewood stockpiles are also created to support the fire wood sales at both locations throughout the season.

Vehicles

All required District trucks and trailers passed Safety Test Lane inspections at KDOT. Each inspections ensures the fleet is being maintained to Illinois standard for use on public roadways, and is required every 6 months. The District mechanic has begun presenting a trailer safety briefing to field staff. Tyler walked staff through a 360 walk around pre-trip inspection, showing staff what to look for and how to identify possible issues. He also covered proper ways to secure equipment on trailers, explaining the dos and don'ts and the reasons behind them.

Fabyan

Fabyan was a busy place in April. The horticulture crew was busy preparing the beds for new plant material and conducting spring pruning. The Japanese Garden pond was filled and the pumps reinstalled; and a fresh coat of paint topped the benches prior to the first reservation of the season on May 3rd. The Gardens hosted a tour group of Master Gardeners, led by our Horticulturist; as well as many local prom goers for pictures. The Centennial garden received attention fixing the hoops and completed the first phase of soil amendments. Efforts were topped with the planting the Arbor to restore the once beautiful climbing roses that graced the estate. Inside the Villa Museum, motion detected lighting was added in the anticipate for the arrival of a Preservation Partner's newly acquired artifact display.



The restoration of the climbing rose arbor at Fabyan Centennial Garden has begun.



Annual maintenance done at the Fabyan Japanese Garden.