



Operations Department Memorandum

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

OPERATIONS

Special Events

The end of summer marks the shift to special event season across the District. Preserves are used for charity walks/runs, cross country races, weddings, District events, and even a car show at Raceway Forest Preserve. The Meadowdale, Motorsports and Memories Car Show has been an annual event for a number of years. Operations invests time every year to the success of this recreational opportunity. The show cars utilize a large percentage of the original Meadowdale International Raceway track for the display of racecars and hotrods for public viewing and enjoyment.

The District's annual Harvest Fall Fest was held at Oakhurst Forest Preserve while several weddings were prepped at Creek Bend, Brewster Creek, and the Japanese Garden. LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve hosted a high school cross country invitational, that drew nearly 3,000 spectators and local athletes as well as a Toyota volunteer event. Other special use events benefitting various charities can be found most weekends within the preserves and linear trail systems. While the Operations Department is not the organizer of the event, staff provides the required support to make these events happen. Whether it is mowing, cleaning, providing staff, or any other need that arises, Operations is always there to ensure the facilities are in excellent condition, assist other departments and represent the District in a positive and professional manner.

Vehicles and Equipment

Regular vehicle and equipment service and repairs continued in September. These repairs included brake replacements, electrical system diagnostic,



The Annual Meadowdale Car Show took place at Raceway Woods FP last month. The Oscar Meyer Weiner mobile made an appearance.



Ranger Andrew Gregory tamps down the gravel entrance at Raceway Woods.



Ranger Chase Lietz working on shelter staining.

wheel hub and exhaust repairs. Vehicle and trailer repairs were the top priority with Illinois State Safety Lane Inspections beginning October 1st, in coordination with KDOT. The District received a new squad for Public Safety, a 2025 Ford F-150 Police Responder, which required a few additional components and decals to be installed prior to placing the vehicle in-service. Additionally, preventative maintenance supplies were inventoried and replaced through current vendors. Approximately \$1,800 worth of outdated filters were exchanged for current use items.

Bridge Re-decking

The West Aurora Bridge on the Virgil Gilman Trail was identified for decking replacement due to the majority of the condition of the boards. There were two layers of 2x12 decking that trapped water between the two layers that hastened the deterioration. New 3.5 in. oak deck boards were custom ordered. A crew of a five-person team removed all the old decking and prepped the steel to lay the new oak decking and screw down the material.

Gardens

For the month of September, annual maintenance of watering, weeding, leaf removal, seasonal perennial cut back, mowing, and weed whipping remained the focus. In the Centennial Garden we removed everything except the Clematis around the second section of the arbor, as part of the amendment plan. Some plant material was able to be relocated to the Windmill bed. At the Windmill we weeded the large oval bed to plant those previously mentioned plants. Creek Bend received a seasonal, fall color refresh within the front containers. The Japanese Garden benefitted from assistance of volunteers to continue filling the beds with more desirable plants.



Operations staff completed a full replacement of the decking on the Virgil Gilman Trail bridge through Aurora West.



Seasonal cutback at the Centennial Garden arbor.