

Parks Department 2020 End of Year Report

In 2020, the Hartford City Parks Department mowed and maintained all City parks, along with the grounds of City Hall, the HCHS Memorial, all City water towers, the old section of Greenlawn Cemetery, Veteran's Gardens, the former Lion's Club, and Monroe Street properties. All were inspected on a daily basis with trash & limb removal as needed. In addition to these daily tasks, the following was also completed in 2020:

- The entire parks system followed CDC guidelines and state recommendations in our response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. All park playground equipment was treated per CDC requirements. As no park employees were exposed to the virus; no work time was lost. Due to Covid, the Park Board made the decision to not open the pool during the 2020 season.
- Grants and Income: Despite a Covid-shortened season, shelter rental still managed to bring in \$1,300, while there was no income from the City Pool to report in 2020 due to the Covid virus. A Ball Brothers grant for Wilderness Prairie development was received totaling \$5,000.
- A 5 Year Parks Master Plan for 2021 was completed this year.
- 400 gallons of asphalt sealer was applied to the parking lot of the Hartford City Memorial Swimming Pool. The pool's main pump was replaced at a cost of more than \$10,000. An emergency back-up pump was also replaced. New LED lights were installed in the pool's basement.
- Wilderness Prairie- Enhancements were made to the bridge area. New flower beds, signage and a flagpole were installed and other improvements were made to the property.
- Wilderness Prairie was officially opened to the public in August. More than 50 dignitaries, contributors and well-wishers were in attendance.
- Pearl Street property – adjoining Wilderness Prairie - was enhanced.
- Wilderness Trails were cleared of limbs, while mulch was added to the main entrance.
- New power lines were installed to service the Sigma Phi pee-wee football field complex. Sigma Phi Gamma sorority provided the \$3,000 needed for the project.
- New trash barrels were added to the pee-wee football field complex.
- The dug-outs at Sigma softball fields were enlarged with new roofs added.
- Paver blocks were added to the Sigma corn-hole boards.
- The roof was replaced at the Hoover Park shelter.
- The diagonal sidewalk at Hoover Park was replaced.
- Specially-engineered mulch was installed at all park playgrounds.
- Special emphasis was given to beautify all park flower beds.

- Bleachers at the Blackford Youth Baseball Fields were scraped and repainted.
- More than 100 railroad timbers were replaced with concrete parking blocks.
- Recycled a dozen city trash cans and repurposed them for park use.
- Purchased and implemented the use of a broadcast weed sprayer.
- Two fleet trucks were replaced with donated vehicles from the Fire and Waste Water Departments. The two old trucks that were replaced were sold.
- Donated two out buildings to Blackford County Greenspace.
- Began construction on a new parks department headquarters.

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