

City of Fremont
Parks Department



2014
Annual Report

2014 brought us many challenges that needed to be overcome. One of the largest impacts on the Parks Department was the July 10 Storm of 2013. The damage from this storm will continue to be noticed for years to come. Although I am happy to say that with the work of our City Crew and the use of contracted labor we were able to address many of the situations that were created by the storm. Also the relentless winter of 2012/2013 placed a large burden on all of the City Crews. Many hours and hard labor were put into these situations, but we were able to overcome the challenge.

Another factor which comes in to play is the effects of the economy and shrinking budgets. The Parks Department is staffed with a total of 7 full-time employees, 1 Superintendent, and 2 seasonal employees. A few years back we operated with up to 12 seasonal employees which will demonstrate the effects of the shrinking budget situation. The challenge is accomplishing the same work with less manpower. Not totally impossible, but priorities have been shifted in an attempt to too offer these services and facilities. It is through the dedication and hard work of the employees that makes this possible.



The Parks Department maintains many areas throughout the City.

- Mowing and maintaining over 200 acres of grounds
- Forestry Division
- Six (6) City Parks & Inland Bike Trail
- Street Flags, Seasonal Banners and Christmas Decorations
- Snow Plowing and Hauling
- Fremont Community Recreation Center
- Mosquito Control Program
- Community Based Programs



Grounds maintenance: The Parks Department mows and maintains over **200 acres** of grounds throughout the City of Fremont. This includes not only the mowing and string trimming, but cleaning of debris. We have four (4) zero turn mowers, one (1) zero turn with bagger and one Jacobsen field mower with an eleven foot cut.

Areas mowed and maintained by the Parks Department:

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| Rodger Young Park | Birchard Park |
| Maier Park | Anderson Field |
| Swartzlander Park | Walsh Park |
| Biggs- Kettner Park | Ozzie Rousch Park |
| Water Tower | Cedar St./Oak Harbor Rd. |
| Wilson St. Water Tower | S. Wayne St. Cemetery & Lot |
| Lutz Rd. Pump Station | Reservoir and Pump House |
| Tschumy Garden/RR. Tracks | Wood St. Lot |
| Water Treatment Plant | Maint. Building/Fuel Depot |
| Street Department | Soroptimist Garden |
| City Blvds. West (McPherson-Granville-Monroe-Memorial Pkwy.-McKinley-Mosser Dr.) | |
| East Side Fire Station | Walnut St. Water Tower |
| Graham Drive Entrance | Camelback Bridge |
| Fremont Recreation Center | Fifth St. Hill |
| City Blvds. East (Collingwood-Linden-Birdseye-Christy) | |
| City Cul-de-sacs East (Highland Ct.-Gordon Pl.-Eagle Ct.-Mallard Ct.) | |
| Claus Property | |

Most of the mowing pertains to our Park areas but some of the other areas maintained include the Reservoir entrance and pump house area, City Boulevards, City Water Towers, Wayne St. Cemetery, Lutz Rd. area along the river, Wood St. lot, Graham Dr. entrance, various City cul-de-sacs. Other areas of responsibility include all of the trash generated throughout the Parks, Downtown and areas along the river associated with the Annual Fish Run. Many hours are dedicated to this clean- up work alone.

Forestry Division: The Parks Department also maintains around 100 miles of Street Lawn trees along with all City Right of way trees.

We were able to remove many of the hazardous trees identified throughout the City with in-house labor and contracted labor.

The Parks Department totals for the year were

- 98 Tree Take-downs
- 34 Trim Request
- 8 Bus Garage Trim Request
- 52 Stumps Removed

Multiple Street cleanups. Which includes trims and take downs:

Court Street, Collingwood Blvd, Christy Blvd, Birdseye Blvd, and Linden Blvd.



Through the use of contract labor we addressed many trees near primary power and inaccessible areas. The numbers are as follows.

- 155 Tree Take downs and Stumps Ground and cleaned up.

Clean up on the Inland Bike Trail

Also this year with the money allocated for tree planting we were able to replace around 50 trees. It will take a few years and a major financial investment to catch up.

Brush Collection: In May 2014 received approximately **84 loads** of brush during the week of brush drop-off. We had three other weekends dedicated for drop-off throughout the year. Also in September we had the City Wide Brush Pick Up. With the help Of the Street Department we were able to pick up and haul a total of **186 loads** of brush from the curb for the citizens of Fremont. The brush pick-up breaks down as follows: **104 Loads** from the West side of town and **82 Loads** from the East side of town.

Also throughout the year we picked up debris from the curb that was caused by storms and wind damage.

We strongly urge the public to utilize the dates available for Drop Off and the date for Curbside Pick-up. As with all Departments and budget cuts, the extra burden imposed by continually placing material at the curb cannot be met. Also we ask that you do not place yard waste in the Boulevards for pick-up except for the week in September for the annual Curbside Pick-up. Your cooperation with this program is appreciated.



Parks: The City of Fremont has six (6) Parks to be maintained. Some of the items to be taken care of include.

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| 13 Shelter Houses | 6 Permanent Rest Room Facilities |
| 2 Concession Buildings | 9 Baseball/Softball Fields |
| 6 Playground Structures | 6 Swing sets |
| 4 Multipurpose/Soccer Fields | 5 Basketball Courts |
| 13 Tennis Courts | Fremont Community Recreation Center |

Throughout the course of the season we prepare the athletic fields for hundreds of games. In the peak season for the diamonds we are preparing nine fields daily for play. In the past two years we have been adding manufactured sand in the infields in an effort to make play more feasible on rainy days. These efforts have helped immensely and we will continue this course in an effort to increase play and decrease the cost of preparation.

Also we have to clean and ready the shelters throughout the Parks for rentals. It is wonderful to see the many families and groups that utilize the Parks for events such as Family reunions, Birthday parties and groups that organize company events. We also take care of all of the maintenance to these structures from roofing to painting.

Included in the responsibilities is The Fremont Recreation Center. The Parks department has a full time Maintenance Man that handles the repairs and maintenance at the Center. Some of the tasks we help with are the community pool and ice rink. There are times we will send the crew over to work on larger projects: This year we installed the new lighting in the Gym area, cleaned and repaired the Men's Showers.

Unfortunately we also have to deal with the vandalism to many of the areas. We have experienced damage to many of our play structures and have had to invest nearly \$7,000 in the last couple of years to repair them. Also during the warmer months we have to continually remove graffiti from many of the areas within our department. Many hours are spent annually repainting and removing graffiti from buildings and structures.



Mosquito Control Program: This program starts in the mid spring season with the treatment of the catch basins throughout the City using a Larvacide product. If the timing of this application is correct, the development of the larvae is hindered cutting down on the number of adult mosquitos. For those that do survive and the ones that migrate in from the surrounding areas the use of an adulticide is deployed. You might know it as the noisy truck that drives around the town at dusk

spraying something into the evening sky. Thankfully with the work of some genius entomologist we are able to control those night time pest. Also there are some other factors which come into play in the control of mosquitos. Moisture and temperature also play a large part in the development of adult mosquitos. When conditions are correct, they come out with a vengeance. During a dry season the control of them is much easier. The spraying of town is done by section.

East Side consists of everything east of the River and is completed in one evening.

Northwest section consists of everything north of State St. and West of the river along with a small section that is created by the angle of Napoleon St. which is referred to as the point.

The Southwest section is the remaining area south of State St. and Napoleon which is handled on the third evening of the week of spraying.

In the case of inclement weather we have the ability to double up the routes with the use of a backup machine which allows us to utilize two crews in an evening thus enabling us to complete the scheduled spraying that week.

Community Based Programs: Along with the duties described the Parks Department also assist with other activities throughout the year. There are many requests for the use of Bleachers and Picnic Tables which we deliver for events. From Festivals, Farmers Market, County Fair, Re-enactments and other functions throughout the City.

We also assist the School Systems with the use of our Parks for Sporting Events and races held within the Parks.

Also the Parks Department takes care of a lot of Seasonal work:

- Five Seasonal Banner Changes throughout Downtown
- Street Flags
- Christmas Decorations