

July 10th, 2022

Hello,

It was nice to have some great weather this weekend and luckily and for the most part the worst of the storm missed us on Friday.

Park Maintenance

With the heavy bouts of rain again this week road work was another major focus. Repairs were made to the beach hill from the upper parking lot to the lower parking area and from the lower parking area down to the water. Staff also cleaned out the culvert grate as it had become overgrown. More work was done to place sand on the roads around the park to improve drainage and reduce the large bumps while driving. We had the opportunity to burn the leaf and tree disposal this week before the rain on Tuesday. Thanks to the rain we haven't had any issues with the burn pile reigniting. At the old outhouse spot, work was done to level the area, and plant a couple of trees along the edge to allow the natural bush to grow back. This week Earl built a new announcement board that was mounted to the shower house to allow us to communicate more effectively with day campers about the activities occurring in the park. Earl also spent several hours this week servicing equipment and the mowers as they have been used more frequently this year. Staff have been busy these past couple of days with cleaning up after the bears. On Friday the bear got into several garbage cans at the C cabins and garbage was spread across multiple properties. Additionally, on Friday evening the bear got into the dumpster and dragged several bags of garbage into the forest and garbage was spread across the hiking trail. The bear also ripped out one of the flags on the golf course on Friday which was later fixed.

Concessions

The weather turned out to be nicer than forecasted this week which means that the beach was fairly busy. However, despite the nice weather on Saturday and Sunday the beach was noticeably less busy than I would have expected given the temperature and the time of the year. The campground was almost full this weekend with only two of the non-power P sites available. On Friday we had some issues with the network outage as it affected the use of most debit cards at our terminals. However, credit cards still worked and for the most part, the issue was not too disruptive to our customers. Last Sunday we started our regularly scheduled crafts at the front store. Last week there were about 10 kids that participated, however, today there were probably about 25 kids that came out and did crafts for a couple of hours.

Bear Sightings

Since the first larger incident and sightings on Thursday bear sightings have been increasing in frequency. Over the past three days, 29 sightings have been reported to the Front Store. Staff



and I have been in regular contact with the conservation officers regarding these sightings. The conservation officers came out Saturday afternoon and set a trap. The officer explained that due to the number of small children around the park they decided to deploy their newest trap as opposed to the old-style culvert traps which he said were known as the “kid killers”. They would like if we could minimize any traffic to the area and not publicly share the trap’s location to reduce the number of people in the area and improve the likelihood that the bear will be caught. The officer said that at this point there is nothing further they will do unless the bear becomes aggressive or enters someone's cabin or trailer. They would like if all sightings could still be reported to the front store, but we should no longer report sightings to them unless there is an escalation. He believes the problem is likely cabin owners and seasonals that have attractants such as birdfeeders and barbecues. The officer said that if they have to return they will likely seize attractants or issue fines to leaseholders. We have increased garbage collection for the campground and public spaces to twice daily and all cabin and seasonal garbage is being picked up daily. We have also worked to ensure that the bears cannot access our dumpsters again.

Emfest Planning

As the Canada Day weekend has now concluded we have begun spending more time planning for Emfest. We have sent out many requests to businesses’ in the area for silent auction donations and so far we have received several donations. The schedule for the weekend is largely complete, however, I am waiting to discuss with Blaine Lake Liquor and Hardware the possible plans for the Volleyball tournament/ beer gardens before publishing schedules and recruiting volunteers for that event. Many of our events require volunteers to be successful and anyone interested in helping or making a silent auction donation can contact the front store or myself.

Incidents

On Saturday we had several noise disturbances/complaints from the campground. The campers that were the source of the complaints were spoken to and the issue was resolved. Overall besides the bear sightings, the week went smoothly with few problems.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Kind Regards,

Damen Van Meter

