

May 15th, 2022

Hello,

The past week was busy and filled with many projects and preparations for today's park opening. This week, we were slightly hindered by staff illness as three employees called in sick each for two days. Despite staff absences, we still made progress on the projects around the park. Next week we will continue to prepare the park for May Long Weekend and the increased usage of the park facilities.

Water

On Thursday morning, we shocked the wells and turned off the pumps for 24 hours. With the water turned off, it allowed us time to try to identify the leak occurring at wellhouse number three. On Thursday, we determined that the leak was coming from the water line that supplies Poplar Cove, and therefore maintenance staff spent the day digging up the water lines to find the leak. On Friday, we followed the line under the road where we found a connection with one branching line containing the leak. We restored water to all seasonal poplar cove sites by Friday at 4:00 pm. Through this endeavour, we have learned that the park's water line maps do not reflect where the lines are, and we plan to update the map as we learn more. Next week we plan to relocate the water line supplying poplar cove out from underneath the road because, in places, it is only ½ inch below the surface, and future road maintenance could easily damage the line again. By Friday afternoon, we were able to restore water to the other wellhouse after shocking them, and we began chlorination for the season.

Golf Course

On Tuesday, Earl went to pick up the seeding equipment that we rented to re-seed the damaged parts of the golf course. On Wednesday morning, we were able to reseed the golf course in approximately 3 hours, and we used all of the seed purchased in the fall. With the rain on Friday and the forecasted rain this week, we are hopeful that the course will make a full recovery. We also noticed a spot along the road entering the park where it appeared there was an entry point used by a golf cart to access the course. We installed a couple of new posts the next day and connected them with cabling to prevent access.

Grant Projects

During the past week, staff started working on a couple of the different grant projects we applied for. We completed the first part of our planned picnic table upgrades and replaced the wood on ten picnic tables. Staff were also able to begin prepping the rental cabin exterior to have the eavestrough installed next week and complete the vinyl skirting the following week. Working with the Spiritwood Home Hardware, we put together a building package for the new outhouse. The new outhouse is planned to be more modern and durable than the previous ones, with vinyl siding, shingles, steel exterior doors, and interior solar lighting. Hopefully, these upgrades in design mean that the outhouse will withstand the weather better, last longer, and provide a better experience to park patrons using them.



Burn Pile

On Tuesday, maintenance staff and I were able to burn the accumulated leaves and trees in the burn pile. While the pile was burning, the staff member monitoring the burn was able to process some of the fallen trees and deadfall left beside the pit to cut more chopping blocks to be utilized in the campground. For the second year in a row, most of the chopping blocks in the campground disappeared over the winter, so these new ones allowed us to replace them and have some spare blocks available.

Day Campsite Sizes

This past week I measured our day campsites and noticed that some of the campsites have gotten significantly larger since they were last measured in 2015. In many of the sites, it was evident that campers have pushed further into the bush and have enlarged their sites over the past six years. This week before some of our long-term campers check in, I plan to mark off the boundaries of these sites to reflect their 2015 sizes closer. Some sites will be left slightly larger than in 2015 to accommodate larger trailers that the previous measurements don't allow. Once all the site boundaries are established, the sizes will be updated on Let's Camp to enable campers to accurately assess and book the sites. Once the measurements are complete, we will attempt to reforest the cleared areas of the sites.

I am glad that the park is now open for the season, and it is great to be seeing and talking with members of the community once again. I look forward to welcoming and training our first couple of students working the long weekend.

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

Kind Regards,

Damen Van Meter

