



May 2023

Public Works Report:

The month of May saw rapid melting of the remaining snow. Snow that had been pushed to the sides of the road have melted and in some cases caused standing water to enter the road surface. Due to the overall slow melt of snow and ice many city roads have water in the ditches and are extremely soft, this has limited our ability to cut ditches due to the soft shoulders. The city has many roads that have ice lenses under the surface, while they melt, mud bogs have developed in the center of several roads. PW has placed truckloads of gravel into these locations to create a drivable surface, several locations are still very wet with water coming up to the surface even when walking on them. All of the worst roads are little more than pioneer roads with corduroy under a shallow layer of gravel, with the amount of rain last fall and a heavy snowfall these soft spots are lasting longer than anticipated. We have used a backhoe as the lightest road service equipment we have to place and level gravel to attempt to make a drivable surface, heavy vehicle traffic has caused repeated damage to repaired sections. Closing those roads was not an option due to limited alternate access availability. PW checks road conditions daily to monitor the damaged roads as they dry out.

One serious issue we are having is with city residents who are using heavy equipment to work on city roads, these people are not authorized to do anything to city roads. We have two roads that were severely damaged by residents who had no permission to do road work, these roads had serious mud and sink holes on them while they thawed and dried out. Instead of waiting for conditions to improve they dug up the roads, causing severe damage. These roads are Enchanted Cir, to fix the damage done could cost the city in excess of \$10,000, the base has to be excavated out and the road reconstructed (100'+) to MSB standards. The second road is White Rabbit, this road had a large mud/sinkhole in the middle of the road, PW placed 6 loads of gravel on this spot to attempt to make it drivable, and the extreme amount of water under the surface continues to seep to the surface. PW discovered during a third round of repairs one of the residents with a Dozer was digging up the road without any permission. He claimed the neighbors wanted him to do it. This road now has no ditches and has large rocks placed into the road, additionally several culverts were buried and damaged. Additionally neither of these people obtained a utility locate before digging, this is dangerous and illegal. The operator said he always works on this road, this is a reason that some of the city roads are as bad as they are, unauthorized road work, generally done at night or weekends. These issues will continue unless the city can take legal action against these people, it's not fair to the other city residents to pay for road damage intently caused by others.

Campground is already experiencing vandals breaking in. someone removed a 6x6 post out of the trail that was placed to limited access to off road vehicles (4-wheelers) only. Vandals have been entering the campground on this trail with full sized trucks and tearing up the road, campsites and surrounding woods. PW is taking steps to block access again.

Road grading is being done to selected areas as the ground dries up to safely use heavy equipment on without causing additional damage.

The city wide cleanup went well, the large dumpster placed at FS9-1 was filled to capacity during the week. We will begin working on clearing the ROWs of brush and trees the first of June.

PW is remodeling the old emergency services rooms at FS9-1 for the State Troopers to use as a substation.

Parks Report:

- Zero Lake Trailhead is open and has been active. The cleanup of the trailhead and parking went very well with a lot of volunteers to help out. Sadly on Monday after the cleanup PW caught people dumping junk and shooting it up in the parking lot. The Troopers were called and responded, they made the offenders cleanup all there mess.
- Little Susitna camp ground is closed for maintenance. Campground opening ETA is June 1st, 2023. This is due to the snow still covering half the campground until the middle of May. PW is in process of doing the final cleaning and clearing for opening. Campground opened 5/31/23.
- PW will be making some upgrades to the Campground this spring, grading roads, removing stumps and debris, Replacing trash barrels with a dumpster, adding material to camp site pads. This work has been done.
- Little Su day park is open and active.
- Planning underway for a walking trail from Day Park to millers landing.
- Reviewing land on Susitna Ct, for possible river access point and boat launch.

Permits Issued in May 2023

Type	Issued in May	Total Issued for 2023
Construction Permit	4	11
Driveway Permit	9	9
Utility Permit	7	21
Conditional Use Permit	0	0
Land Use Amendment / Re-zone	0	0
Variance Pavilion Rental	0	0
Firewood cutting permits	0	0
Junk & Trash & ROW Notices sent	10	23

Respectfully

George Thompson

George Thompson,
Public Works Director