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“Ryan Kuchar – Working on Norfolk’s Parks”



If you really want to know a job, it's important to understand it from the ground up. That's why Ryan Kuchar, the Park Division employee that has been assigned to Veterans Memorial Park, is on hand at the park when new water pipes are buried and electrical lines dug.

“I've been at all the planning meetings for the last six months and now I want to be onsite as work progresses. It's good to know how everything is put together so I can easily trouble shoot when it's all in operation,” Kuchar said.

As a City of Norfolk parks and recreation employee Kuchar has worked on nearly all aspects of parks maintenance at the existing pools and parks. Once the Veterans Memorial Park improvements are made, he'll be the go-to man if one of the cannons in the swimming pool doesn't spray or if a fuse blows in the concessions stand.

Kuchar will know how to fix about anything when the park renovation is finished. He has worked with all kinds of heavy equipment, irrigation and welding when he grew up on the family farm south of Meadow Grove. He has worked in the welding fabrication field and for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. He has a

bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries with a minor in Geographic Information Systems.

Kuchar's days will include assisting with the upkeep of the baseball field, keeping the sprinkler system going, and just making sure everything is operational from the scoreboard to the bathhouse to the lighting system.

“I'll also occasionally need to rake the turf field as it needs to be groomed after it's been played on for a period of time,” Kuchar said.

Right now he's in charge of getting Liberty Bell Pool and Memorial Pool up and going besides spending a lot of hours at Veterans Memorial Park which include helping with the installation of the turf field.

Kuchar explained how there will be eight drain tile lines installed two to three feet deep under the field that will hold the 8" drain tile and be surrounded by road gravel. Above the drain tile sub-drain system will be 6 inches of 5/8" crushed rock aggregate with another 2 inches of 1/4" aggregate on top of that. The artificial turf will be installed on top of that. Crumb rubber will then be incorporated into the artificial turf fibers for safety cushioning and to hold up the turf fibers giving it a natural look when finished.

"When the contractors dug up the field, they found an old manhole in the middle of the field as a street used to go right through the park. They dug out an eight inch sewer line. The field has now passed required compaction tests and work to install the sub-drain system can begin. We're on schedule and look forward to having the teams play on the new turf this fall," Kuchar said