

Norfolk Insider

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“Preparing Johnson Park for Renovation”

People driving by Johnson Park this week may have noticed lots of activity- mostly the removal of some cottonwood trees in the park. City of Norfolk Park Superintendent Pat Mrsny said the removal was part of the preparations for a new trail and other refurbishments coming to Johnson Park this year. Last year the City was notified that they would receive over \$550,000 from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to help fund a new trail through the park.



“We are getting Johnson Park prepared for the new Riverfront Trail that will be constructed later this year. One of the first steps is to see which trees in the park are healthy and which ones need to be removed because they are showing signs of decay and are a danger to the public,” Mrsny said.

He and Steve Rasmussen, University of Nebraska State Forester, evaluated the trees in the park in December and determined some of them were dying at the crown or top of the tree and others were hollow and in danger of falling on park property.

“We treasure these trees that are over 70 to 80 years old and we do all we can to trim off dead branches so we can continue to enjoy them. At some point, though, we can’t get to large parts of the tree that are dying off and for public safety reasons, they have to be removed,” Mrsny said. Trees show signs of stress from many factors through the years including wind, heat, lightning, insect infestation and fungi.

He said the City of Norfolk will be replacing at least as many trees as were removed and the Tree Advisory Board has plans to apply for grants to plant additional trees in the park after the trail has been installed.

