

City Manager Report

2022 Legislative Session Ends

The 2022 session ended with multiple new laws that could positively impact the city. There should be more funding for affordable housing, disaster preparedness and recovery, community resilience, assistance for law enforcement, wildfire prevention, infrastructure, and transportation, to name a few. I will be collaborating with the City Attorney to review the new legislation and implement any required changes for local governments.

From the Departments

Parks and Recreation

Parks, Open Space, and Trails Division

- Staff continues to serve on the Routt Recreation and Conservation Roundtable Land Manager and Executive Committee <https://routtrcr.org/>. The Roundtable was convened with a goal of providing non-binding insights and recommendations to land managers engaged in recreation and conservation planning processes in Routt County. The group has received \$110,000 from a Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant to assist with the development of a Recreation and Conservation plan for Routt County public lands. As the group continues to gather and refine information with consultants, next steps include public information gathering sessions to assist with the plan development. Additionally, the Roundtable has a destination management subcommittee that is finalizing the installation of a Partners in the Outdoor grant funded webcam at the Dry Lake parking lot, to help manage parking issues during the winter months.
- Staff will be meeting on July 13th with Parks and Recreation Commission to continue the discussion on the e-bike trial period, focusing on transportation uses. Future meetings are planned to address recreational use on paved trails, neighborhood/connector trails, and singletrack trails.
- Staff will be meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission in August to continue discussion of the off-leash recreation trial period, specifically looking at Whistler Park, Spring Creek Road, and educational and compliance opportunities.
- Staff will be bringing a resolution to City Council in July for the naming of the new playground planned in Little Toots Park. The Ski Town Lions Club's requested name "Lions Club Playground" was supported unanimously by Parks and Recreation Commission. Playground construction is anticipated to start in August and last into October.
- Staff will be working through the public arts process on the installation of 3 new approved art pieces on city property.
- In partnership with Bicycle Colorado, Routt County Riders provided a Bicycle Friendly Driver course to Parks and Recreation staff. The course provided important safety reminders for staff training, emphasizing safe driving techniques around bicycles and pedestrians.
- Northwest Excavating finished the new crusher fines loop trail in Rita Valentine Park creating an improved soft surface path for walking within the off-leash dog park boundary. Revegetation efforts will begin soon for areas impacted by the construction. This project was funded by Steamboat Digs Dogs and a grant from the Yampa Valley Community Foundations Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund.
- The new shelter at the Rita Valentine Park Off Leash Dog Park has been installed and is

providing beneficial shade for park visitors. The project was funded by Steamboat Digs Dogs.

- Staff has started working with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps on a variety of maintenance projects including a full day of hand pulling Dalmatian Toadflax from the Spring Creek canyon. The crew removed 10 full trash bags of the noxious weed from steep terrain along Spring Creek, Spring Roll, and the Ditch trail. The crew is also helping with beaver mitigation work along the Yampa River in partnership with Yampa Valley Sustainability Council and helping with trail maintenance projects throughout town.
- Native Excavating is finalizing work replacing the crusher fine soft surface trail adjacent to the Yampa River Core Trail in the area impacted by Mt. Werner Water interceptor project. The trail will be closed for approximately one week.
- The river has dropped below 700 cubic feet per second which is typically when commercial outfitters will begin tubing operations. Staff have planned an educational event for the first tubing weekend of the year at River Creek Park with giveaways to help engage and educate all river users about the new city municipal code banning disposable containers being brought onto the Yampa from city property.
- Emerald Mountain Organized Recreation Outfitters have been selected through the Request for Qualifications process. Steamboat Powdercats and Ride Workshop have been selected to provide summer mountain biking with Powdercats also providing hiking/running lessons/tours. Both outfitters will be offering winter fat biking. Steamboat Powdercats will also be offering



backcountry ski/snowboard tours and snowshoeing. Staff is in the process of finalizing permit requirements for both outfitters. The new program limits use to low levels, requires trail etiquette education for all customers, and will be reviewed in the fall.

- The Parks, Open Space and Trails division added two new electric Workman Toro carts to the vehicle fleet. In addition to reducing our carbon footprint, the electric toros are much quieter than our gas-powered vehicles, creating less impact to the public while staff works in high use areas.
- The city has seen many visitors in the month of June for softball and baseball tournaments. Tournaments kicked off the weekend of June 10th with 48 teams participating in girls fastpitch softball. The weekend of June 17th brought 37 teams to town for youth baseball, and June 24th was the final weekend of youth baseball with 58 teams from multiple states playing in the tournament.
- The Parks division has closed seasonal hiring for the year with 85% of the needed seasonal staff hired. Hiring was paused to help manage the personnel budget as we adjusted seasonal hourly pay and offered bonuses.
- Parks and trails use continue to increase and we are experiencing increased use and vandalism to public restrooms. The increased use and vandalism require additional maintenance and services from city staff and contract services.
- Staff continues to execute weekly field preps for a busy summer of local soccer, baseball, lacrosse, and rugby teams.
- With increased use throughout the trails and parks system, staff has increased the number of portable toilets available at various locations throughout town.
- The number of mainline and lateral line irrigation breaks at Ski Town Park, Emerald



Park and Howelsen Park continue to challenge parks staff with many hours dedicated to executing these repairs. Replacement of older irrigation systems are being prioritized and will be requested through the annual budget and Capital Improvement Plan process.

Howelsen Ski and Rodeo

- Ski/Rodeo staff worked on landscaping and site preparation at the loading and unloading terminals of the new Barrows lift to facilitate summer operations. These improvements included a re-route of the base area access road that serves as an important link in the trail system for recreation and race-course connectivity.
- Staff worked hard to prepare the Rodeo facility for the first Steamboat Springs Pro Rodeo Series rodeo on June 24th.
- The Rodeo hosted the first Gymkhana performance at the facility on June 8th. Gymkhana has moved from their traditional Thursday night slot to Wednesdays for this season. Their season runs through August 10th.
- Ski Corp has been moving their operations into the Rodeo facility in preparation for providing food and beverage service to the Rodeo for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.
- Howelsen Hill leadership have been working with Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club to update the annual use agreement for summer 2022 through winter season 2022/2023. This agreement has been helpful in defining our shared goals and working relationship.
- Staff have worked to get the jump flats amphitheater ready for the summer Free Concert Series season.

Botanic Park

- Two hundred and fifty people enjoyed the Passport Through the Botanic Park event which raised \$125,000 for the Park's operations and gate renovation campaign.

Youth Programs

- Youth Program fall registration will open on July 18th at 8:00AM. Available programs will include Afterschool Action, School Days Off, ASSET Clubs, and Kids Night Out. Enrollment numbers and the quantity of programs offered will be determined by staffing levels.
- We are currently advertising for a full-time Recreation Coordinator to work with Youth Programs
- The first trip for seniors will be on August 21st to see a Colorado Rockies game. Additional trips available for registration include a trip to Blackhawk, another Colorado Rockies game, and the Grand Lake Theater.
- We were able to hire two additional seasonal staff which opened space in summer camps for 16 additional children. The seasonal incentive bonuses were essential for getting staff hired.

Haymaker Golf Course

- After a successful spring tournament season, Haymaker is now starting to get busy with regular daily play as we reach the summer season. Rounds for the month of June are on par compared to last year.
- The driving range has been open for the month of June on mats and the new grass driving range tee fully opened on July 1st.
- Resident rounds continue to be strong with a record number of season pass holder and punch card holder rounds played in June. Non-resident rounds have been slightly lower compared to last year but have not dipped too far due to far more large group bookings than we have seen in past seasons.
- Juniors golf camps and adult clinics have begun and continue to be very successful. All classes have been sold out and we are looking at opportunities to expand several of our group clinics.
- Leagues at Haymaker grew this spring as we continue to make expansion of our leagues a priority.
- During the week of June 27th, staff began aerification on select tee boxes to alleviate

compaction issues.

- Greens are scheduled to be vertically cut July 12th-13th.
- Water levels in both the Enterprise and Intersection ditch have remained adequate for irrigation needs.
- Approach area drain installation project is set to begin the week of July 11th. This project will improve playing conditions near the greens complex.

Howelsen Ice Arena

- The Howelsen Ice Arena recently passed the annual amusement ride inspection and renewed licensing with the state to continue operating the successful bumper car operation. 2022 bumper car revenue is on pace to exceed all previous records.
- Rocky Mountain Hockey Schools will be hosting their annual week-long hockey adventure camp the week of July 4th. This will be their 23rd year hosting a camp at the Howelsen Ice Arena.
- We have started a new high school summer league which has over 50 participants. This successful new addition helps fill summer ice time and is adding over \$10,000 in revenue.
- The Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting for the Howelsen Ice Arena expansion project was held on June 15th and was attended by members from City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, Ice Rink Advisory Committee, user groups, city staff, and the public. This helps kick off the rental season for the arena with plans for the multi-purpose room to be open for Afterschool Programs in the fall.

Parks Projects

- The Howelsen Ice Arena Expansion project celebrated its grand opening on June 15th with a large group and a speech from City Councilor Heather Sloop. A couple punch list items remain and painting/staining the exterior is scheduled to be completed by early July.
- Howelsen Hill Chair Lift Installation Project:

the reclamation project is complete at the base and unload areas. The phase 2 electrical work is currently in progress and should be complete by late October.

- US40 Median Improvement Project: median improvements are progressing nicely with better-than-expected impacts to traffic on US40. Median #1 is scheduled to be completed on June 30th. The project will pause from July 1st to July 4th to be less disruptive to US40 traffic. Work on median #2 is scheduled to begin July 5th. The project is still on track for a late-September completion.
- Howelsen Tubing Installation: staff is working to get final engineering contracts set for installation in July. Electrical infrastructure began on the primary electrical feed for the lift.
- Ski Town Park Irrigation and Turf Improvements: irrigation design efforts were to set to begin in mid-June.

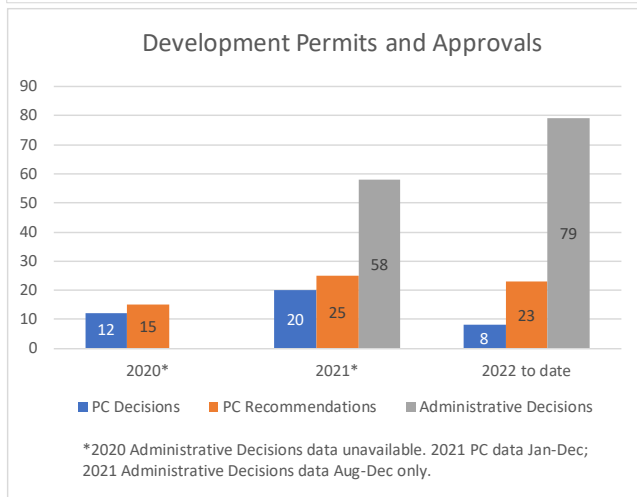
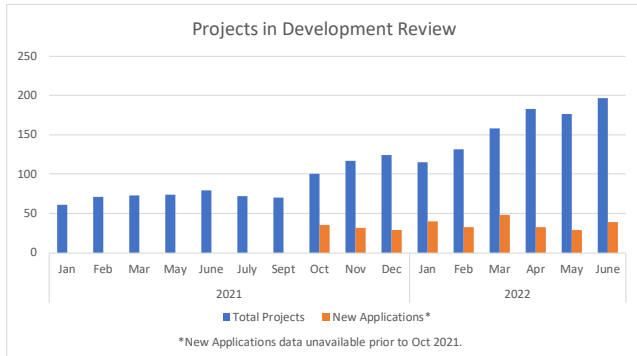
Athletics

- Summer leagues are under way and include multiple programs in volleyball, softball, hockey, and curling. Most leagues are at capacity with several customers on waitlists.
- Adult soccer programming has been taken over by the Steamboat Soccer Club and we are partnering with them for registration as the transition continues.
- The Town Challenge Bike Race Series held its second race at Emerald Mountain on June 22nd with over 200 participants. The series continues in July with a Season Pass only race in Oak Creek on July 13th and another race on Emerald on July 27th. There will be no races offered at the Steamboat Ski Area this year due to construction.

Planning

- Development Review:
 - There are approximately 197 projects currently in the development review process, including 21 short term rental legal nonconforming registrations.

- So far in 2022 (January-June), the Planning Commission has held public hearings on 8 projects for final decision and 23 projects for recommendation to City Council.
- A total of 79 administrative decisions have been made year to date.



- **Code Compliance:**
 - So far in 2022, 106 code enforcement cases have been opened, including 37 noxious weed enforcement cases.
 - There are 93 open cases pending resolution, including 18 vacation home rental-related cases.
- **Short-Term Rentals:** Granicus has identified 2,501 short-term rental units in city limits currently being advertised. Physical addresses have been located for 89.1% of the units.
- **Housing:** the city was awarded a \$105,000 Innovative Affordable Housing Planning Grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to assist with the development of new and enhanced housing codes, partnerships, and strategies. Planning staff are preparing to release a Request for Statements of Qualifications to secure professional

consultant services to assist with the DOLA-funded project as well as other code and policy updates included in the 2022 budget. The project will advance multiple city and community priorities identified in sub-area plans, ongoing community dialogue related to opportunities to create affordable and attainable housing, and adopted City Council priorities. Anticipated deliverables include housing demand and segmentation analysis, technical analysis to serve as basis for housing-related fee structures and mitigation rates, revisions to codes and standards that promote affordable housing and community resiliency, and feasibility analysis for new program designed to incentivize short-term rental owners to convert their properties to seasonal and long-term rental options for the local workforce.

- **Staffing:** while we are still recruiting for a Historic Preservation Planner and Planning Technician, we are excited to welcome several new employees to our team:
 - Darby Kenyon, Administrative Assistant (June 29th)
 - Jeremy Brown, Planner (August 1st)
 - Samantha Harles, Short-Term Rental Compliance Officer (TBD)
- **Floodplain Management:** Floodplain Manager Bob Keenan completed the city’s annual Community Rating System recertification process. The state’s review of the city’s construction certificates resulted in a correctness rate of 100%.

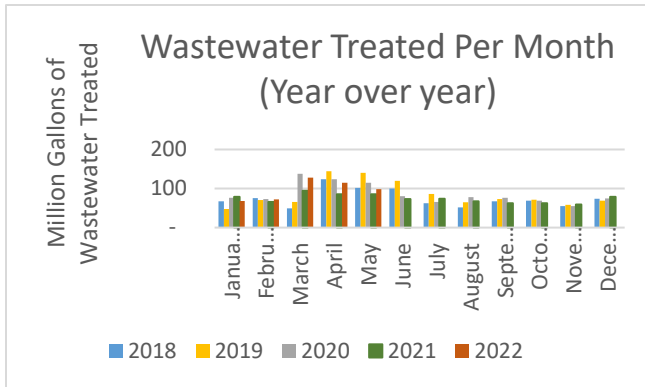
Public Works

Wastewater

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant treated 98 million gallons of wastewater in the month of May. This is up 16% from May 2022 when 85 million gallons of wastewater was treated, with the increase in treatment mostly due this year being a significantly wetter spring as compared to last year.
- A-basin 4 and digester 5 were drained and cleaned to facilitate construction resuming this summer.
- Three different classes of 5th grades from

Strawberry Park toured the facility this month.

- Fencing around the Treatment Plant has been repaired.



Water and Sewer

- 2022 planned capital projects updates:
 - Dream Island Water Main Replacement: the contractor will begin mobilization activities the week of July 4th with construction beginning the following week.
 - Stehley Park Sanitary Sewer Replacement: contracting is in progress for this project which is anticipated to begin later this summer.
 - Willet Heights Pump Station Improvements: construction on the improvements is anticipated to begin later this summer.
- 2022 Sanitary Sewer Jetting and Video Inspection: the city contracted with High Country Pipe and Utility to clean and conduct video inspections of about 40,000 feet of sanitary sewer on the west end of the city. High Country completed this work on June 15th. City staff will review the inspection videos to identify future capital maintenance projects for the collection system.
- Meter Transmitter Replacements: city staff and Keystone Utility Systems had a kickoff meeting on June 28th.
- Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention Program Management: contracting is currently in progress with CityView to move the management and administration of the city's Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Program into the CityView

software. City staff anticipate full implementation sometime this summer.

- Fish Creek Filtration Plant Project:
 - Phase 2B Corrosion Control Treatment project is currently at the 60% design level, however, the associated cost estimate is substantially higher than the preliminary engineering cost estimate which has prompted the city and Mt. Werner Water to pause design efforts while the city evaluates implications for the city's wastewater treatment plant to change the corrosion control treatment process to orthophosphate addition which would cost significantly less than the proposed treatment process currently designed to 60%. Staff met with the engineering consultants to discuss the plan, evaluate cost and environmental implications for the addition of orthophosphate at the water treatment plant with regards to the impending Regulation 85 nutrient value. The consultant anticipated providing city staff with cost estimates for phosphorus removal at the city's wastewater treatment plan by the end of June for the city and Mt. Werner Water to use in evaluating next steps.

Engineering

- As of June 23rd, 194 development applications have been submitted with a review due date in 2022; 12 are currently in queue. Of the completed reviews, 97% met the review deadline. The average Engineering review was delivered 8 days ahead of the required deadline.
- Duckel's Construction has been awarded the contract for the Walton Creek Road and US40 floodplain and sidewalk improvements. Construction will begin later in the summer.
- Native Excavating has been awarded the contract for the South Hotels Trail project. Construction timing is still being determined.
- Engineering staff continue to engage in design scoping and public outreach efforts Associated with the Ski Corp-led efforts to

redesign the Gondola Transit Center.

- Design of Ski Time Square is moving very quickly with public engagement, adjacent property owner coordination, and utility conflict evaluation in full swing.
- Gunn Enterprises has been retained to provide on-call field inspection and permit review services for the city.

Airport

- The Runway Rehabilitation project began the week of June 13th and is expected to last through September. A tenant and user meeting and pre-construction meeting were held on June 6th and June 7th.
- The Airport Manager attended the Colorado Airport Operators Association conference in Grand Junction. The Colorado Airport Board met during the conference and the Airport was awarded a grant to purchase a simulator for the FBO. In addition, Airport Manager Stacie Fain was elected to the Board.

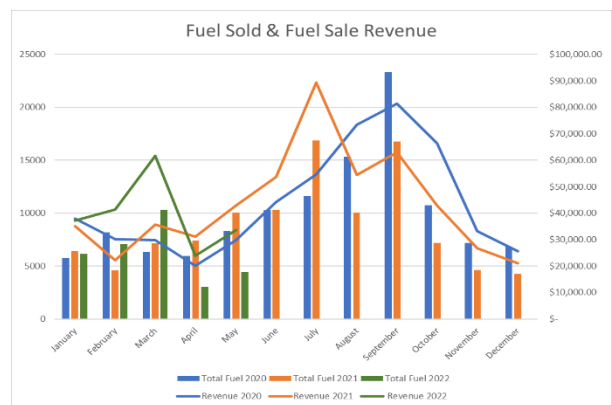
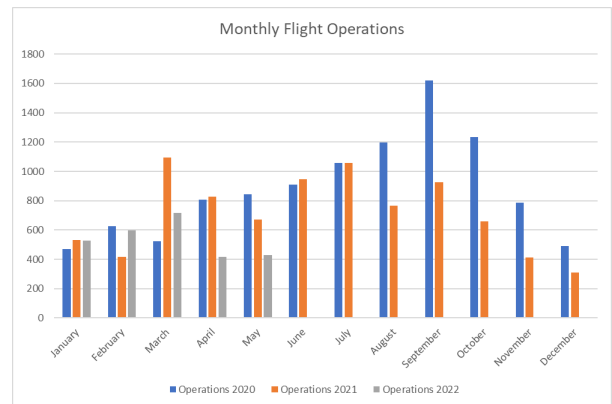


- The US Army conducted mountain flying training in their Eurocopter H-72.
- With the help of city grant writer Ginger Scott, the airport successfully applied for a simulator grant, which was awarded by the Colorado Aeronautical Board. In fact, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) liked the city’s grant application so much they are implementing a state-wide initiative and are encouraging all other non-commercial FBOs in the state to apply for a simulator grant through the CDOT Education division.



- Friends of the Yampa conducted two Eco Flight tours of the Yampa River and Green River confluence.

- Construction is complete on the new Automated Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast tower which will improve safety at the airport by providing operators of properly equipped aircraft with traffic position information delivered directly to the cockpit, as part of the Federal Aviation Administration’s improved navigation system called NextGen. In tandem with this work, the airport is also installing a large generator which will provide backup power to the airport lighting and radios in the event of a power failure.
- The Airport will host a Fly-In and Airport Appreciation Day and Runway Celebration for the newly completed runway rehabilitation project on September 18th.



Streets

- The 2022 Paving program and Striping programs are complete.
- Crews striped crosswalks, curbs and super sharrows throughout town and river crosswalks on Yampa Street.
- Most of the curb repairs along Lincoln Avenue have been completed.
- Crews assisted the Fire department with

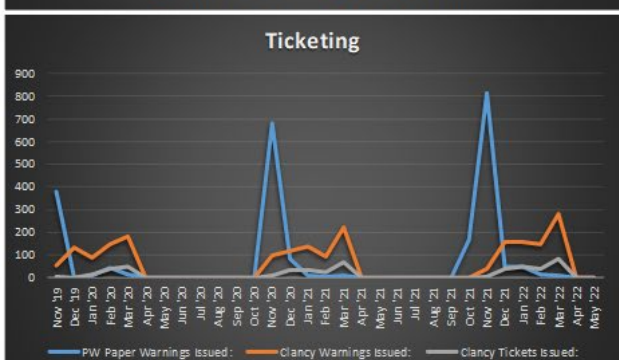
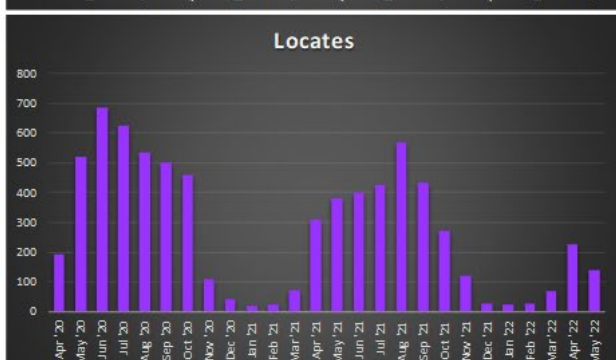
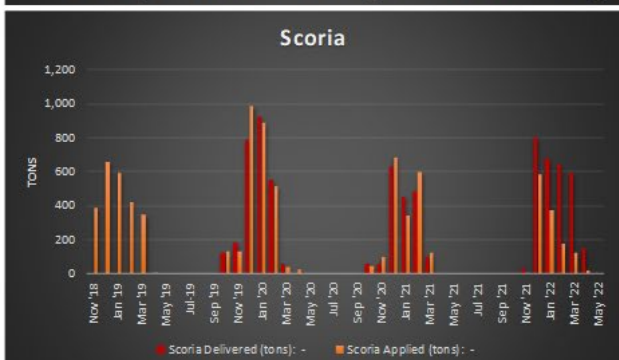
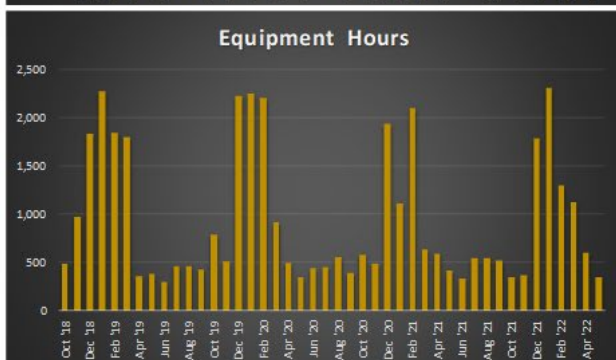
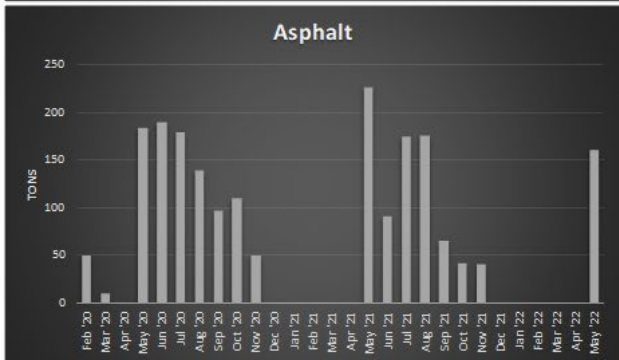
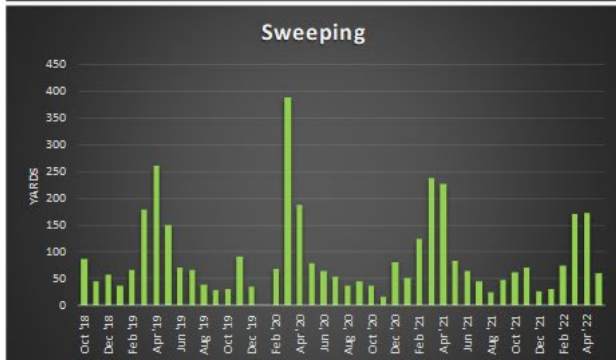
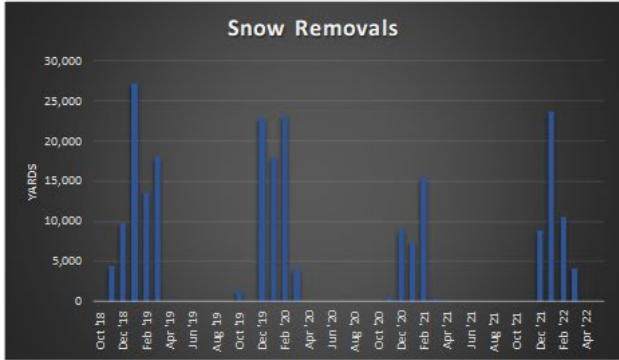
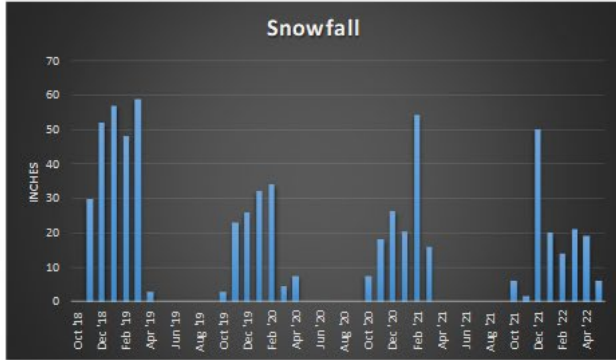
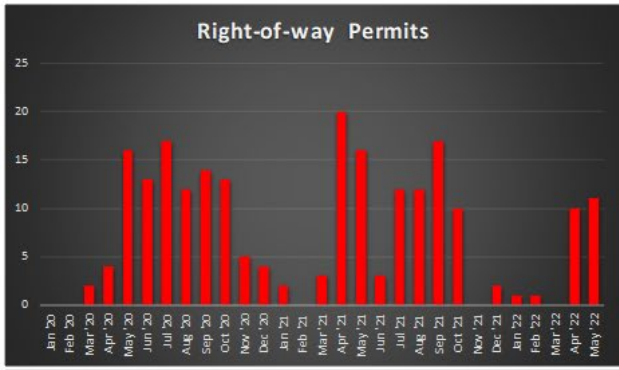
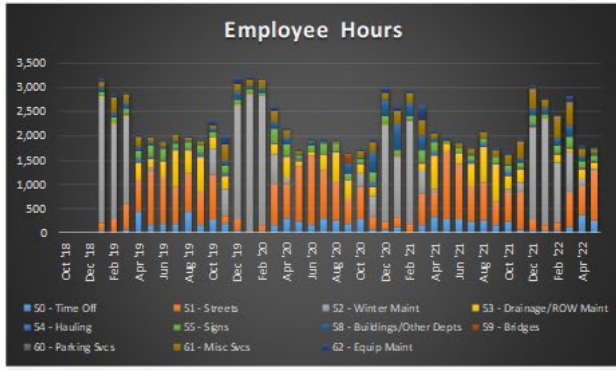
vehicle extraction training.

- Responded to 139 requests for locates.
- Statistics regarding snowfall, snow removals, sweeping, asphalt, equipment hours, scoria, locates, ticketing, right of way permits, employee hours, and more can be found in Attachment 1.

Transit

- Summer season ridership is up 54% (18,789) over the same period last year. Year to date, Steamboat Springs Transit (SST) ridership is up 63% (191,875). Please see Attachment 2 for May statistics.
- As of May 23rd, SST has carried 479,533 passengers. Last year this milestone was not reached until December 2nd.
- The best on-time percentage for the month was 99% and the poorest on-time percentage was 89%.
- Cost per passenger this summer is down 28%. This summer's average cost per passenger is \$6.07 compared to \$8.41 last summer.
- The revised "Yellow Zone" continues winter's trend of increased ridership. Current ridership is averaging above 3 of the last 5 years.
- The Regional Bus service came very close to setting a ridership record.

Attachment #1



Attachment #2

