

March 2021 Public Works Report

Roads/Equipment

- The first week of March saw temperatures in the 40's and the roads and ditches began to melt quickly.
- The seasonal load limits went into effect just as the ice road and 'crack lot' officially closed on March 8th.
- The newly purchased hot water pressure washer and steam cleaner was used periodically throughout a three-week period to clear frozen and plugged culverts. I believe our culvert clearing efficiency has increased by about 300%. This machine has proved to be the best we could possibly hope for with this application. One afternoon alone Evan and Pete steamed 4 culverts on the north end in a 3-hour period, which has never been possible before.
- There are many failed or failing culverts around the island that the crew and I are very aware of. We will be replacing the worst of the worst as soon as the frost allows.
- Plows were taken off the pick-ups and the 2-ton sander was put up for the season.
- The crew spent the better part of a day cutting back extensive and dangerous hanging limbs from the cottonwood trees lining Mission Hill. There are still many more, but we made a good effort getting the ones most likely to fall onto the road and clip truck mirrors.

Parks

- Park related activity for March included planning for big projects, completing inventory, staff hiring and planning, and continued repairs when possible. Next month will be very active as we ready the Park system for a busy season.

MRF

- The MRF continues to move forward with improvements, including partnering with St. Johns to open 'The Island Closet' in the old firehall garage, the likelihood of purchasing a rust-free hook lift truck from a southern state, and continued upgrades to the infrastructure and site.

Misc.

- Joe and Evan did a fantastic job cleaning up the extensive stump and brush piles at the entrance to Ashland County's north end pit. That job has been on our list for at least 2 years, and the temps and snow cover allowed for an overdue clean-up operation.

Happy Spring,
Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram, Public Works Director