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(Neb.)-Officials Warn Residents To Stay Out Of Closed City Parks



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 10/09/2013 10:54 AM

(CHADRON)-Chadron city officials and the Chadron Police Department would like to remind individuals that Wilson Park at 9th and Morehead Streets, Finnegan Park at 4th and Cedar Streets, and Memorial Park at 9th and Shelton Streets are all currently closed due to immediate public safety concerns with damaged and/or broken trees and tree limbs. Only professionals who are working on cleaning up the parks are allowed to enter the parks at this time, and anyone else will be asked to leave and will receive a warning or possibly even a citation for trespassing if they do not leave.

Police chief Tim Lordino says, "This is an issue of safety, and we just want to make sure that the citizens of Chadron are safe. It's just too dangerous for people to be walking around in the park until (downed and hanging tree branches) are addressed."

Barricades have been put up to limit access to the parks. As workers enter the park, sometimes the barricades are moved for easier access. This does NOT mean the parks are open. Officials say they will not be open for quite some time, possibly three weeks or more.

City ordinance 16-102 authorizes the police department to restrict access to city parks when it is in the best interest of public safety. Each park has signs posted that read, "City Park Closed. No Trespassing By Order of the Chief of Police." Lordino encourages workers who encounter someone in the park who is not supposed to be there to report it to the police department so the situation can be addressed.

As soon as each of the parks are cleaned up and deemed safe once again, they will be reopened again for use by the public.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail news@chadrad.com.)

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