

FREDERICK COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT OF SHAWNEELAND MANAGER'S REPORT – AUGUST 2023

Echota Trail Extension:

The Echota Trail extension project was completed by Frederick Counties on-call contractor, General Excavation, Inc. (G.E.I.). The project took 6 days to complete. A total of 20 tandem dump truck loads of trees and brush had to be cleared before the dirt portion of the project could begin.

This section of road was built to include a cul-de-sac for traffic to safely turn around and exit. It will also allow a safe place for the snow equipment to turn around during winter weather events. The cost for this project was \$26,483.50.

Tomahawk Mailhouse Mailboxes:

I met with the postmaster, Karen Davis on July 12, 2023, at 11am onsite at the Tomahawk Mailhouse. The USPS mail carrier contractor and the foreman for General Excavation, Inc. (G.E.I.) were also in attendance.

After a long discussion on how to proceed with removing the old mailboxes and installing the new ones the postmaster suggested that to make the transition easier and to have a quick turn around time that we move and remount the old mailboxes to the parking lot. The new mailboxes could then be installed in the mailhouse without any disruption of mail service. This entire process took 3 full days to complete.

The USPS has now completed everything they need to do, and the new mailboxes are in use. The USPS owns the old mailboxes and will be taking some of them for their use elsewhere. The postmaster is going to provide the Sanitary District with a letter stating that Shawneeland can have the remaining mailboxes and can do what they wish with them. Once this letter is received the old mailboxes will be removed from the parking lot.

The cost for the removal and remounting of the old mailboxes, the installation of the new mailboxes, and patching holes in the concrete slab came to \$9,084.98.

Mowing Along Trails:

All the trails in Shawneeland have been mowed at least 1 pass in each direction. Normally we mow 2 passes or more in each direction depending on the need for that particular area but due to the staffing situation we were unable to do so.

In addition, we also used the ax mower that attaches to the 924G Loader to cut 4 miles of brush that was blocking site distance.

Tree Crew:

On July 10, 2023, a licensed and insured tree contractor removed 11 more dead and dying trees from the right-of-way. These trees were in danger of damaging structures, vehicles, or powerlines.

I am going to schedule them to come back and remove more trees this fall.

Cherokee Lake Level:

Cherokee Lake is unusually low this year. The lake level as of August 3, 2023, was 130" below full pool. The last time the lake was at a full pool level was May 9, 2022. The lake level dropped to 152.5" by November 9, 2022. The dry spring and summer along with the leak is the reason for the situation.

The lake is leaking at the rate of 125 gallons per minute at the checkpoint by the council house. While 125 gallons per minute doesn't sound like a lot of water, it equates to 7,500 gallons per hour, 180,000 gallons per day, and 1,260,000 gallons per week.