



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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## **County Parks and Rec Brings Mowing In-House, Saves \$83k**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs asked all executive office branches to continue looking for savings as the current fiscal year comes to a close during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Parks and Recreation Department met that challenge by shifting resources to bring lawn mowing in-house.

As it stands, contractors currently mow about 30 parks. But a newly formed crew will take over nine of them. The savings? Roughly \$83,400 a year.

“After evaluating our staff, we were able to reassign some work and create a second mowing crew,” said Senior Director of Parks and Recreation Paul White. “During the summer months, they’ll be able to mow the parks each week and when it gets colder, they can join the other teams and work on the big projects.”

The department’s other 4-person crew oversees 13 parks and greenways.

Mayor Jacobs applauded the department’s effort.

“The budget is going to be difficult this year and this creative cost-savings will help alleviate some budgetary stress,” said Mayor Jacobs. “Constituents expect our parks to be clean and well-maintained. Our Parks and Recreation teams are the ones doing that work, even though people rarely see it as it’s happening. They do an incredible job.”

The new crew will take over the contracted parks on Saturday, May 23.

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