

## **Falmouth Parks and Public Works Department**

### **Operations and Current Projects**

Parks and Public Works are responsible for a number of operations related to street maintenance, solid waste services and parks and open space. The department also assists in other areas as needed.

Major areas of responsibility include:

1. Street Maintenance
2. Vehicle Maintenance
3. Solid Waste Services
4. Recycling Services
5. Parks and Open Space

Street Maintenance is done by the 9 person crew.

1. Street plowing, and winter maintenance activity of approximately 90 miles of streets
2. Spring lawn and mailbox repair
3. Street sweeping
4. Street line painting
5. Culvert and drain repair
6. Roadside mowing
7. Catch basin cleaning
8. Sign maintenance
9. Fire hydrant clearing

Parks and Open Space maintenance is done by a 3 person crew along with seasonal employees over the course of the summer.

1. The Parks Division services over 50 parks and open space areas. Facilities include: general use parks, traffic islands, cul-de-sacs, Town Beach, and parking lots.
2. Winter operations involve clearing of parking lots at Town Hall, Legion, Town Library, Fire Stations along with maintenance of ice rinks, cross country ski trails, and other general use facilities.

Staff work

1. Municipal street construction CIP, paving
2. Subdivision street construction review and inspection
3. Commercial development site inspection
4. Coordination with other agencies such as MDOT, PACTS
5. Street opening permits

Vehicle Maintenance is done by 2 mechanics and welder/fabricator

1. Public Works
2. School Department
3. Public Safety
4. Community Programs
5. Wastewater
6. Miscellaneous

Solid Waste Services

1. Solid Waste Collection contract
2. Transfer Station operations
3. Recycling operations (Silver Bullets)
4. Curbside Recycling Contract

Other Services

1. Setting up voting booths
2. Moving floats and docks
3. Transport / store documents
4. Assist other town departments as needed
5. Assisting with community events

The public works crew has evolved from a maintenance operation into a small construction operation and the work has not become simpler. Regulatory laws and rules as well as the overall growth in the community make public works more complex than ever before. Contributing factors include:

1. MDOT / PACTS funding: Many of the town streets are eligible for state/federal funding but the inconsistency and uncertainty of available funds makes it more difficult to develop long term financial plans. The Falmouth Road and Route 100 projects have been designed and “awaiting” funding for 5 years now with no immediate funding in sight.
2. NPDES Phase 2: The town is permitted under federal law for discharge of any street drainage into waters. This requires increased effort in education, training, maintenance mapping etc.
3. E-Waste, Universal Waste, and Hazardous Waste: Handling, disposal and reporting requirements are growing to deal with the recognition that these wastes must be controlled.
4. Inflation/ Cost: Construction and material costs have risen dramatically and will make funding our needs more difficult.

