



**For more information, contact:**

Emily A. Breen  
Development Services  
Communications Coordinator  
City of Cedar Rapids  
Mobile: (319) 640-5414  
e.breen@cedar-rapids.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Storm Response Update August 20, 2020**

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – August 20, 2020 – The City of Cedar Rapids continues to work with the state, county, and local social service agencies to help organize resources, consolidate services, and identify volunteer and donation needs following the devastating storm that occurred on August 10, 2020.

### **Curfew Update**

The curfew remains in place daily from Midnight to 6 a.m. due to significant number of neighborhoods that remain without power. The curfew does not apply to individuals commuting directly to and from work. Also, cab companies, Uber and Lyft drivers may continue to operate for essential services, such as taking individuals home after being discharged from the hospital or to conduct urgent transports.

### **Tree Debris Update**

On Wednesday, we collected approximately 2,500 truckloads of debris, bringing our total to 12,306 truckloads. This equates to approximately 27,000 tons of debris hauled away. As of this afternoon, we have completed a first pass on approximately 14 percent of our roadways. We have approximately 53 percent of our roads prepped for hauling, meaning that tree debris has been moved off the surface of the road and ready for pickup. Approximately 33 percent of our roads are in progress. Residents can find an updated map of progress on the City's website, cedar-rapids.org.

### **Traffic Signals and Signs Update**

We have re-energized 163 of our 191 signals. We anticipate signal restoration by Saturday for any signals where power has been restored by Alliant Energy. After this week, we will begin focusing on re-energizing pedestrian signals.

### **Building Permits and Online Resources**

Residents can find information on the permit process and a list of where to find reputable contractors on the City's website: [www.cedar-rapids.org/homerepair](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/homerepair). To verify your contractor is licensed, please call the Building Services Department at 319-286-5929, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Public Safety Updates**

Police averaged about 157 extra calls for service per day between August 10 and August 18. A typical period average of 354 calls increased to 511 calls for service per day during the past week. Firefighters typically respond to about 37 calls per day but averaged about 200 calls per day over the August 10-18 period.

### **Parks and Recreation Updates**

Parks staff estimate 50 percent of the city's tree canopy was lost. The overall impact is much higher, however; trees that were destroyed were large and provided a higher percentage of benefits in water quality, energy savings, and storm water retention than smaller trees. The Parks and Recreation Department estimates we lost at least \$60 million in tree structural value. Pre-storm, the structural value of the city's trees were \$112 million.

Additional statistics:

- More than 75 percent of street and park trees were impacted.
- Some parks have more than 90 percent tree loss, with few large trees remaining.
- Approximately 80 percent of commuter trails have been cleared for use.

### **Text Alerts**

Subscribers to CR News Now text and email alerts started receiving critical messages from the City within hours of the storm. More than 1 million messages have been delivered to more than 45 thousand users since the storm through the CR News Now service. Sign up for email and text alerts at [www.CRNewsNow.com](http://www.CRNewsNow.com).

###