

Mr. Ranger why don't you clean your potty's more often? ☹

Let me start by apologizing for your having to find one of our restrooms in poor condition.

You may have heard on the news, or read about it in the local papers, the city is having some budgetary issues stemming from a variety of causes. In a letter to City Council City about the upcoming 2010 budget City Manager James Keene states "The credit crisis, stock market plunge, sharp housing downturn, business bankruptcies, unemployment increases, and eroding consumer confidence have led to deteriorating revenue streams. For us, sharp declines in sales, transient occupancy, and documentary transfer taxes, as well as permit revenues, serve as the unfortunate backdrop..."

One part of the solution to the city's budget crisis is to trim departmental budgets. This has a direct effect on us and an indirect effect on you. With less money in our budget to pay for salaries and benefits we are forced to do the same amount of work with less money. In order to do this we do some of our regular maintenance tasks, less regularly. It is also cheaper for us to pay a contractor to do some things (like janitorial work) than for us to do it ourselves.

By now you may have guessed this: we have contracted out to have the restrooms cleaned in our open space areas. The frequency of cleaning may not be ideal; but, we are trying to do what we can in the situation we have found ourselves in. Outside of the scheduled, contracted cleanings we are generally not cleaning the restrooms ourselves. I don't mean to say that we are **not** cleaning the restrooms, just that we are doing it much **less** frequently.

If one of us happens to be in the restroom for ummm some reason and we see a mess or no toilet paper or no soap in a dispenser we will of course fix the problem. Unfortunately we are not always there to discover things.

We would be delighted if park visitors could serve as our eyes. Please, let us know if you find a mess in a restroom or any other situation that needs remedying in open space; we will do our best to get it fixed as soon as possible.