

## Monday October 10, 2016 – Armory Prairie Dog Update

- Active trapping began on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and continued through the weekend.
- Trapping success was extremely high, resulting in the majority of animals being captured and released within the first 2 days of active relocation



*Figure 1. Covered pens installed over natural burrows give relocated prairie dogs protection to help them acclimate to the new site.*

- City staff assisted the relocator in releasing animals at Damyonovich on Friday afternoon and remained in touch with the relocator through the weekend



*Figure 2. OSMP Staff completed installation of 10 “nest boxes” at the Damyonovich receiving site on 10/6/16.*

- The relocater reports 142 trapped and released by Sunday- all within deep natural burrows or artificial nest boxes
- Community observations suggested fewer animals than reported by the relocater. The discrepancy in numbers is likely due to the difficulty in observing exact numbers from some distance away. City staff observed animal release on Friday afternoon and observed:
  - Up to three animals were transported in each large cage
  - Animal awaiting release were placed in the shade provided by the vehicle with the cages covered in towels to minimize stress (thus placing them largely out of direct view from the road)
  - Once animals were released, they were released directly into the burrows, which they quickly descended down, not allowing easy observation as they left the cage.



*Figure 3. Trapped prairie dogs await release at the Damyanovich colony*

- City staff is working with the relocater throughout the process to review numbers and data on captures and releases
- On Monday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, City staff observed the prairie dogs at the receiving site eating vegetables, exploring within their cages/pens, and performing normal prairie dog behaviors such as yip-jumps.



*Figure 4. Released prairie dogs inside nest box retention caps*

The relocation is on-going and updates will be provided as additional prairie dogs are captured



*Figure 3. OSMP staff will deploy 2-3 remote cameras to help monitor the relocated prairie dogs at the receiving site on Tuesday, October 11.*