

Wednesday October 12, 2016 – Armory Prairie Dog Update

- Active trapping began on Friday, October 7th and will continue until all prairie dogs are captured, or trapping success drops to zero for a period of at least 5 clear weather days.
- 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 cages/caps installed over artificial burrows give relocated prairie dogs protection to help them acclimate to the new site.

- Prairie dogs have been settling into their new home at Damyanovich.



Figure 2. Pens installed over natural burrows encourage the prairie dogs to remain in the area and offer protection to help them acclimate to the new site. Fresh digging can be seen on the pre-existing natural burrow (notice prairie dog outside the pen who likely exited the newly reconnected burrow outside the pen).

- The prairie dogs have further excavated natural burrows within their pens and in at least one case appear to have reconnected their release burrow to an old entrance outside the pen. Prairie dogs seem to be coming and going inside and outside the pen.
- Many of the pens and cages have now been removed following a period of confinement to encourage the prairie dogs to adjust to the site.
- Prairie dogs continue to be fed high energy and high water content food on the site and additional animals that are trapped will continue to be released.
- Initial observations of the released animals suggest continued use of the artificial nest boxes and natural burrows they were released into as well as

digging and use of other natural burrows in the area not used for release that were either partially open or had previously filled in.



Figure 3. Released prairie dogs eat food provided outside of their new home

- On Tuesday, October 11, city staff installed a number of remote, motion activated cameras to monitor the release burrows.
- Photos from these cameras suggest that the prairie dogs are in good shape and are remaining in the area, consuming the food provided, and behaving as expected.



Figure 4. Released prairie dogs enjoying the view in their new home

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



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Figure 3. A prairie dog performs a jump-yip outside its new home.