



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

October 02, 2023

7:00 PM

7071 University Avenue NE Fridley, MN 55432

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- [1.](#) September 5, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

New Business

- [2.](#) City of Fridley 75th Anniversary Celebration Discussion
- [3.](#) Community Engagement Summaries for 2024 Park Projects – Edgewater Gardens and Sylvan Hills Parks
- [4.](#) Parks and Recreation Commission 2023 Goals and Workplan Review

Old Business

Staff Reports

- [5.](#) Springbrook Nature Center Report
- [6.](#) Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report
- [7.](#) Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Adjournment

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs, or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact the City at (763) 571-3450.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 2, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

September 5, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Background

Attached are the meeting minutes of the September 5, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the September 5, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

- September 5, 2023 Parks and Recreation Minutes.

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



Park Commission Meeting
September 5, 2023
7:00 PM
Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Borman called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present

Luke Cardona
Peter Borman
Suad Maow
Tim Kirk
Ken Schultz
Don Whalen
Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Absent

EB Graham

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for September 5, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Kirk to approve the September 5, 2023 meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for August 7, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Schultz to approve the August 7, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Cardona. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Proposed 2024 Meeting Dates of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Maher reviewed the proposed 2024 meeting dates

Motion by Commissioner Kirk to approve the 2024 meeting dates of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Schultz.

Further discussion: Chair Borman recognized previous comments about potentially not holding as many meetings. Commissioner Schultz recalled that the discussion was to cancel a meeting if there was no business to consider rather than simply holding a meeting to hold a meeting. Chair Borman agreed that he could make the decision with staff to cancel a meeting if there was no business to consider.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Innsbruck Nature Center Park Name Discussion

Mr. Maher provided background information on Innsbruck Nature Center, its naming, and how the park has transitioned in use over the years. He noted that perhaps there would be value and clarity in changing the name, as nature center typically implies a staffed park with a visitor center, indoor restrooms, and other amenities. He commented that New Brighton has an Innsbruck Park nearby which features typical park amenities and also causes confusion for visitors.

Chair Borman asked about the process for renaming a park and how that would be rolled out to the public. Mr. Maher commented on the practices the City would follow to update the name as well as other actions the City would take. Chair Borman commented that if the name were changed to Innsbruck Natural Area that would seem to better describe the area.

Commissioner Schultz asked if there is a reason for the Innsbruck name and whether there would be pushback from neighbors if that portion were changed. Mr. Maher commented that he would think the neighborhood is sentimental to the Innsbruck name while it does also lead to some confusion with Innsbruck Park. Commissioner Schultz stated that perhaps they reach out to the neighborhood for input, as he would favor changing the entire name to eliminate all the confusion.

The Commission agreed that this would be a good opportunity to reach out to the community for input on a total name change or changing the name to Innsbruck Natural Center. There was agreement that natural area would better describe this rather than nature center or park.

3. Community Engagement Summaries for 2024 Park Projects – Logan Park and Plymouth Square Park

Mr. Maher stated that they recently wrapped up community engagement for the four parks scheduled for improvements in 2025 and the intent tonight is to review the input collected for the first two parks. He provided an overview of the community engagement for Logan Park.

Commissioner Whalen asked when these parks were last updated, he acknowledged that Plymouth Square needs updating but commented that the playground equipment at Logan does not look old. Mr. Maher commented that the equipment is past the typical 20-to-25-year lifespan and explained that maintenance becomes an issue as replacement parts are not often available. He noted that accessibility also becomes a factor.

Chair Borman commented that he was surprised at the popularity of the spring ride structure. Commissioner Schultz commented that they should attempt to provide the amenities wanted by the neighborhood as this is a neighborhood park, using the example of the basketball court if that is feasible. He commented that they could cut back on other park features to provide the neighborhood with what is wanted.

The Commission commented that it would prioritize a full basketball court over the paved trail loop if the budget does not allow for both amenities.

Motion by Commissioner Cardona to recommend playground concept A for Logan Park with the addition of a spring rocker, colors to be determined by staff, a full basketball court, inclusion of a trail loop; priority should be given to the basketball court over the trail loop if the budget does not allow for both. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen.

Further discussion: Commissioner Kirk noted that there is no off-street parking at this location and basketball can often bring in visitors that would need to park on the street.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Maher reviewed the community engagement for Plymouth Square Park.

The Commission acknowledged the desire for pickleball.

Motion by Commissioner Cardona to recommend approval of playground concept A with the addition of shade sails for Plymouth Square Park. Seconded by Commissioner Kirk. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Cardona to recommend a full basketball court and full tennis court for Plymouth Square Park; the full tennis court should be substituted for a pickleball court if the budget is limited. Seconded by Commissioner Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Staff Reports

4. Springbrook Nature Center Report

Mr. Maher provided an overview of the report, highlighting some events and upcoming plans. He stated that tickets for Pumpkin Night are available online or at City Hall.

5. Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Mr. Maher reported a successful summer season.

6. Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Mr. Maher provided an overview on the progress for Moore Lake Park.

Mr. Maher noted the five-year celebration for the Civic Campus that will be held Saturday, September 9th.

Adjournment

Commissioner Kirk made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
Recording Secretary



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 2, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

City of Fridley 75th Anniversary Celebration Discussion

Background

Incorporated in 1949, Fridley celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2024. Staff desires to hear ideas from the Parks and Recreation Commission on events, campaigns, and other creative commemorations for this milestone year. The Fridley 49er Days Committed has begun planning a theme of next year's event to revolve around the 75th anniversary.

Financial Impact

None

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 2, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Community Engagement Summaries for 2024 Park Projects – Edgewater Gardens and Sylvan Hills Parks

Background

As part of the Fridley City Council approved Park System Improvement Plan, a schedule of park improvement implementation has been endorsed and includes a plan to hold community input meetings and surveys in advance of scheduled improvements. City staff held a series of four events during the summer of 2023 for parks to be improved in 2024. Summaries of the first two of the four parks were reviewed by the Commission at the September 5 meeting. Summaries for the second pair of parks, Edgewater Gardens and Sylvan Hills are presented to the Commission at this time for recommendations based on the community engagement feedback.

Financial Impact

A budget framework has been approved for each park improvement as part of the Park System Improvement Plan (PSIP). Park concept plans and playground concept plans have been developed to fit within the already established guidelines of the PSIP. Staff will manage the budget for each park improvement project and, generally, recommendation opportunities presented to the Commission will not cause a park project to exceed budget thresholds. Should a Commission recommendation result in estimates exceeding approved overall budgets, staff will bring the item back to the Commission for further consideration.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission review the summaries of community feedback for Edgewater Gardens Park and Sylvan Hills Park and make appropriate recommendations related to playgrounds, athletic courts, trails, or other park features where community input may not have provided clear direction to staff.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Edgewater Gardens Park Community Engagement Summary
- Sylvan Hills Park Community Engagement Summary

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

EDGEWATER GARDENS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

ATTENDANCE: 40



PICKLEBALL / TENNIS COURTS

- Pickleball instead of tennis.
- See no need to move or rebuild tennis court, it doesn't get used.
- Add pickleball courts instead of tennis courts.
- Would like to see dual use court. Tennis and pickleball use.
- Pickleball vs tennis or both?
- Put in Pickleball.
- Nobody used the tennis court. Not sure why we would spend money to relocate. You need to do a study on what gets used before spending money or making updates that will just not get used.
- I would like pickleball courts, at least 2 and not tennis courts.
- Many of the neighbors want a pickleball court. It would be a great social addition to the neighborhood.

BASKETBALL COURT

- Possible add the larger bb court to the end it is currently on.
- Add fenced in basketball court.
- Single rim basketball hoops.
- Single net rims.
- Lights on the basketball court.
- Fenced in basketball court.
- Why do we need to flip the basketball and tennis? Redo it, but don't flip them. The tennis courts don't get used.
- Take out basketball.
- Fenced in basketball court.
- Full basketball court fenced in.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

- Friendship swings as much as possible. Water fountain.
- Would like to see a shuffleboard court in our park too.
- Add a friendship swing
- Add an ice skate rink for winter.
- Add a shuffle board court.

SECURITY/LIGHTING

- Add lighting to the park for safety.
- Add lighting for security.
- Light the park for safety.

EXERCISE STATIONS

- Start with a few exercise stations, but plan to add more perhaps when budget allows.
- It would be nice for the fitness equipment to be closer to the playground, so parents can use it while being close to their kids.

SHADE / SHELTER

- Please keep as much shade and our natural forest as possible.
- Do not want to see the mature trees taken down if at all possible.
- Remove the trees in the middle of the park, so we have space for baseball or football.

RESTROOMS

- No permanent restrooms unless it is like the shelter at Commons.
- I am very against a portable toilet at the park. Have had bad experiences with people who use them at the train station.
- No public restroom
- No public restrooms for safety.
- The permanent restrooms would be nice for young kids.
- No public restrooms.
- No restrooms.
- Do not feel need for permanent or temporary restrooms either. It is a neighborhood park, so restrooms are not necessary.
- I don't think a public restroom is needed.

GARDENS/GRASSY AREA

- No community garden.
- Instead of adding clover to native turf, would they consider prairie grasses in a good sized area? Maybe even a path through the tall grasses and flowers?
- No thank you on community garden
- No community gardens.
- Remove the trees that were added in the middle of the park.
- If there is a community garden, could there be a gated area to prevent animals from disrupting this area.
- Love the pollinator lawn.
- I would love to utilize the community garden.
- If there is a garden, fence it in.
- No community gardens.
- No community garden please.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- They do take good care of this park and we appreciate it.
- Move the park to the north, because making the corner in winter is difficult.
- We don't need to lose park space for parking.
- Add a bike fix it station.
- Have a bike connection with ramp @Ashton/65th.
- Do not need the city to waste money in taking up park land for 4 more parallel parking spaces.
- Appreciate all that the city is doing for our parks and community.
- Like to see a walk/bike path connecting street adjacent to railroad.
- No parking as this is a neighborhood park.

PLAYGROUND CONCEPT A – 25 VOTES

- Shade canopy. Benches for parents
- No parking.
- Add a swing for a child and an adult. Plus another baby swing.
- Pickleball courts please
- Add a baby/adult swing
- A sun sail or shade structure would be nice.
- Add a friendship swing
- Zip line would be fine. The shade feature is nice on #2. Do infants/toddlers use the molded swing? If not, one of those would be nice.



landscape
structures

Edgewater Gardens - Option 1

Friday, EdgewaterGardens OPT1 070223 • 7/14/2023

flagship
recreation

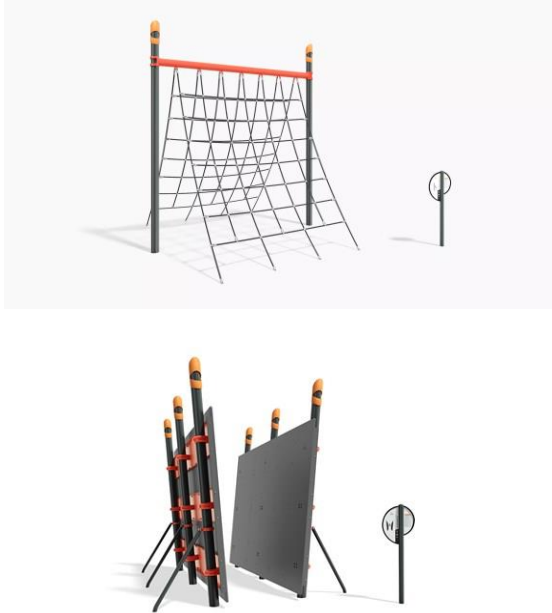
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PLAYGROUND CONCEPT B – 6 VOTES – NO COMMENTS



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT VOTES – TALLY

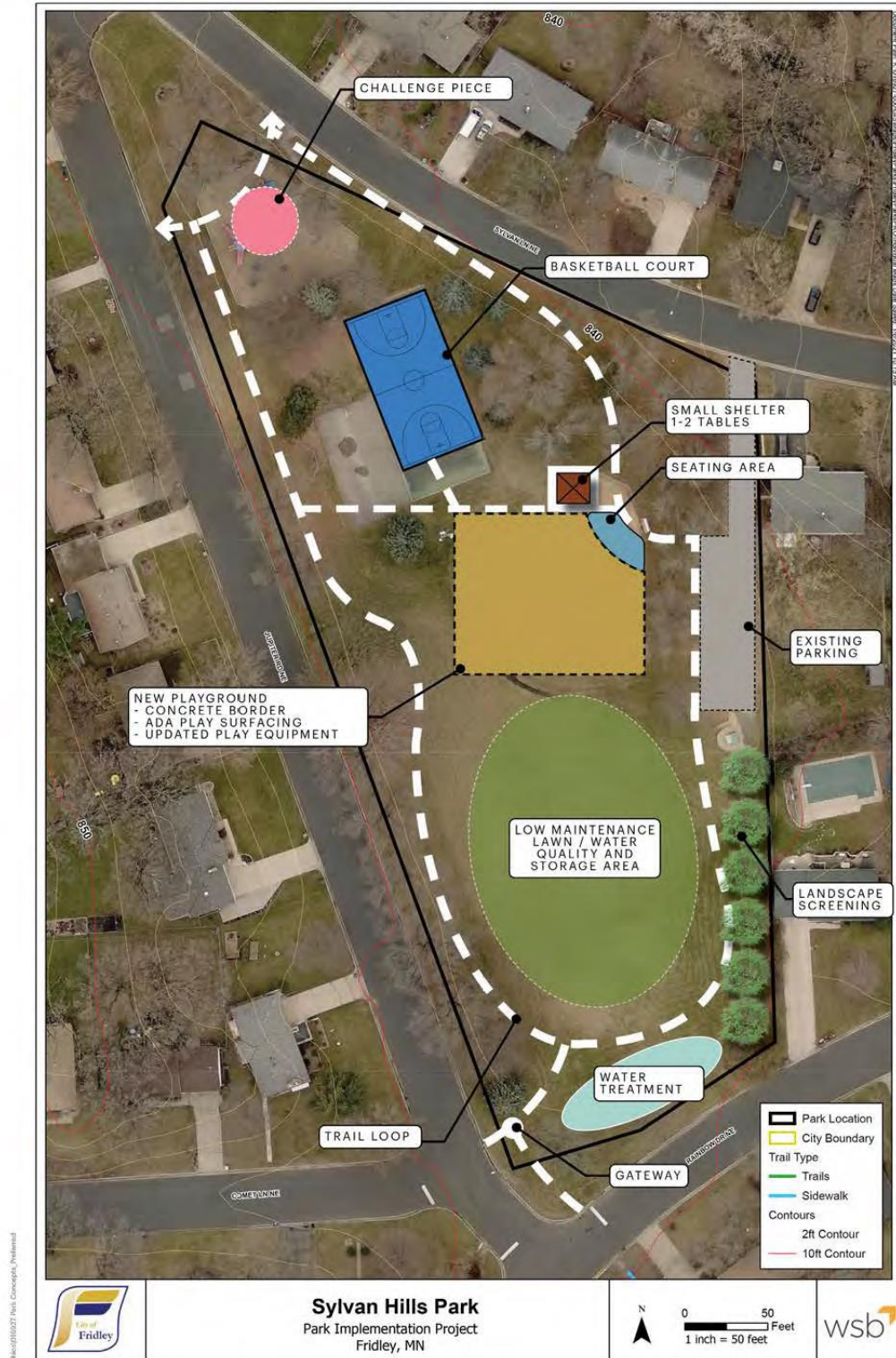
Fitcore Equipment	Healthbeat Equipment
Wheel Bridge – 2	AB Crunch – 5
Unstable Bridge – 1	Mobility – 2
High Step – 2	Hand Cyclor – 1
Quintuple Steps – 8	Pull Up/Dip – 4
Vertical Cargo Net – 5	Plyometrics – 1
Ledgehanger – 8	Tai Chi Wheels – 2
Peg Bridge – 5	Stretch – 5
Angled Overhead – 4	Squat Press – 7
Angled Balance Bean – 4	Balance Steps – 5
Rope Climb – 3	Parallel Bars – 4
Over-Under Bars – 2	Elliptical – 4
Jump Hang – 4	Assisted Row/Push Up – 5
A Frame Cargo Net -6	Chest/Back Press – 11
Globe Grasp – 1	Cardio Stepper - 13
Spiderwalk – 11	
	

MOTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION

1. Does the Commission desire to endorse the park concept plan?
2. Does the Commission desire to endorse playground concept A?
3. Does the Commission desire to make a recommendation relating to tennis or pickleball courts?
 - a. Tennis only
 - b. Tennis with pickleball overlay
 - c. Pickleball only
4. Would the Commission like to recommend fitness equipment be included in the park plan?
 - a. Fitcore Equipment
 - b. Healthbeat Equipment
5. Would the Commission consider a motion to recommend excluding the optional permanent indoor restroom building as was indicated in public comments?
6. Are there other recommendations the Commission would like to consider?

SYLVAN HILLS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK – THURSDAY, AUGUST 24TH 2023

ATTENDANCE: 45



PICKLEBALL / TENNIS COURTS

- I would love a pickleball/tennis court.
- Tennis courts please. Keep!
- Pickleball court please.
- Please keep the tennis courts.
- I think we need to keep the tennis courts. It is getting used more.
- Our family loves tennis and pickleball and would love to still have one of those courts.
- Keep the tennis courts and add pickleball lines to it.
- Please don't get rid of the tennis court. It is highly used by the neighborhood kids and adults. Removing it would mean families would need to travel out of the neighborhood which will make it more challenging.
- Me and my whole family like playing pickleball. I would love to have a pickleball court.
- Leave the tennis courts please.
- Leave the tennis court be!
- Please keep the tennis court and add pickleball lines. It is the fastest growing sport in the country.

BASKETBALL COURT/ BASEBALL FIELD

- We are excited about the new basketball court.
- Basketball court yes. Baseball field yes.
- Please keep the baseball field.
- Add a basketball court.
- Please don't get rid of the baseball diamond. We love using it for skating.

TRAILS

- A sidewalk and trails for safe walking and kids riding bikes.
- I do not support a paved trail surrounding the park. I view it as an ongoing maintenance issue.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

- Add a zip line.
- Love the satellite dish swing.
- Please no wood chips or sand underneath. Use astroturf or rubber instead.
- Add celestial elements to the playground, because our neighborhood has street names like rainbow, star, Jupiter, sun, starlite etc.
- Friendship swing.
- Wading pool or splash pad in the challenge piece.
- Challenge area should be near the playground to allow parents to work out while watching their kids. Playground would work better in a similar area that it is now.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- I feel like this would benefit the community.
- I feel like this would help out the community a lot.
- Adults and teenagers need to be able to use the park also. This is a neighborhood of different ages kids and/or no kids. The park has to be for everyone.

PLAYGROUND CONCEPT A – 6 VOTES

- Make sure picnic tables are available.
- Also adult features such as adult equipment, features, walking path or weights.
- I love option 1, but you have to think of the pre-teens or heavy-set kids and also the parents getting up the kids. So my choice is #2. We have to keep kids playing and moving.



PLAYGROUND CONCEPT B - 21 VOTES

- Love the spin feature on swing.
- Bike rack at playground.
- Multiple trash cans, especially at the basketball court
- More than 1 picnic table.
- Reconsider the deletion of the tennis court.
- We would like shade.
- We would like a spring rider. Daughter loves whales or other animal themes.
- Picnic tables and benches for parents to sit at.
- Tube slide.
- Can you save the tennis court.
- Please put in a double swing.
- Keep whale spinner.





MOTIONS FOR THE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER

1. Does the Commission recommend that City staff proceed with playground concept B?
2. Does the Commission support a recommendation to include a tennis court with pickleball overlay in the updated site plan if site conditions and budget will allow (the park currently has tennis, which does not appear in current concept plan)?
3. Are there other recommendations the Commission would like to make at this time?



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 2, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Parks and Recreation Commission 2023 Goals and Workplan Review

Background

A draft of the 2023 goals and workplan has been updated to reflect annual progress and staff desires to review the workplan to discuss additions and priorities for items to be reviewed at future meetings of the Commission. Discussion on priorities for the upcoming 2024 year would be appreciate by staff for development of the workplan for the coming year.

Financial Impact

None

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Commission discuss the goals and workplan and make suggestions for updates and revisions for the remainder of 2023 and into 2024.

Attachments and Other Resources

- October 2023 DRAFT Parks and Recreation Commission Goals and Workplan

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



2023 Parks and Rec Commission

Goals, Initiatives, and Workplan

DRAFT – October Meeting





2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Draft - October Meeting

Goals and Strategic Initiatives

1. Determine a meeting format and schedule that meets desired outcomes for staff and Commissioners:
 - a. Frequency of meetings
 - b. Incorporate a work session format to better facilitate advisory role of Commission
 - c. Meeting cancellations when a meeting is not needed
2. Provide strong orientation to new Commission member to include training opportunities, meetings with staff, and review of background materials and documents.
3. To better define the roles and responsibilities of the Chair and to hold a monthly planning meeting with the Chair and Staff Contact to plan future meeting agendas.
4. Play advisory role to staff and City Council in policy recommendations for Park System:
 - a. Park shelter rental policies and fees
 - b. Park building rental policies and fees (Moore Lake)
 - c. Sponsorship policies for park benches, events
 - d. Scholarship and fee assistance
 - e. Conditional use policy and permit – commercial photography, non-City special events, classes for fees, races, etc.
5. Advisory role in Park System Improvement Plan:
 - a. Assist with selection of park common elements
 - b. Provide feedback on park plans and features
 - c. Provide feedback on play equipment
6. Assist staff in process of planning and prioritizing program offerings.
7. Provide recommendations when residents raise concerns with park use or development.
8. Meet with community interest groups that utilize parks and facilities such as youth sports organizations to determine needs and gather feedback.
9. Serve as ambassadors of Fridley Parks and Recreation through volunteering, participating in community engagement and being a resource for community members.



2023 Workplan

Item	Process	Status
2023 Goals and Workplan	- Review at February meeting, suggest revisions if needed - Approve at February or March meeting - Update throughout year	In progress
Commissioner Orientation and Training	- Opportunity for new members to meet with Staff - Training with City Attorney on meeting law, procedure	In progress
Vice Chair Position	Nominations and voting at February meeting	Complete
Role of Commission Chair	- Establish monthly meeting with Chair and Staff Contact to set agenda for following meeting - Opportunity for Chair to attend a Council Conference Meeting to interact with Councilmembers	In progress
Local Sports Assn. Check-in	- FYSA Soccer Completed - FYSA Baseball - FYSA Football - Kizen Soccer Club	Complete for 2023
Creekview Park – 2023 Construction	- Play equipment ordered 2022 - Provide input on park common elements - Provide input on site plan - Assist with planning grand opening - Commission represented at Grand Opening	In progress
Ed Wilmes Park – 2023 Construction	- Play equipment ordered 2022 - Provide input on park common elements - Provide input on site plan - Assist with planning grand opening - Commission represented at Grand Opening	In progress
Skyline Park – 2023 Construction	Play equipment ordered 2022	In progress



2023 Parks and Recreation Commission

Item 4.

	• Provide input on park common elements • Provide input on site plan • Assist with planning grand opening • Commission represented at Grand Opening	
Moore Lake Park – 2023 Construction	• Playground approved 2022 • Review and provide feedback on community building and site design • Provide input on community building operational policy and rental rates, provide recommendation to Council • Assist in planning of Grand Opening, attend and participate as possible • Opportunity for construction tour	In Progress
Edgewater Gardens Park – 2023 Planning and 2024 Construction	• Provide input in community engagement efforts • Provide input in playground design • Provide input on park site plan and common elements	Community engagement completed, moving to design phase
Logan Park – 2023 Planning and 2024 Construction (New)	• Provide input in community engagement efforts • Provide input in playground design • Provide input on park site plan and common elements	Community engagement completed, moving to design phase
Plymouth Square Park – 2023 Planning and 2024 Construction	• Provide input in community engagement efforts • Provide input in playground design • Provide input on park site plan and common elements	Community engagement completed, moving to design phase
Sylvan Hills Park – 2023 Planning and 2024 Construction	• Provide input in community engagement efforts • Provide input in playground design • Provide input on park site plan and common elements	Community engagement completed, moving to design phase
Programs and Special Events	• Opportunities to volunteer at Parks and Recreation programs and events • Opportunities to share program and event ideas as an agenda item during meetings	In progress



2023 Parks and Recreation Commission

Item 4.

	• Invite President of 49er Days Committee to attend meeting and gather feedback from Commission • Provide input on plans to commemorate City of Fridley's 75th Anniversary	
Conditional Use Permit	• Provide feedback on first draft of Parks Conditional Use Permit policy and application • Approve revised policy and application	
Park Bench Sponsorship	• Provide feedback on second draft of park bench sponsorship fees and guidelines • Approve bench sponsorship fees and guidelines	
Fee Assistance Program	• Review fee assistance program policies and provide feedback • Approve fee assistance program changes if warranted	Complete
Parks Tour	• The June meeting may be a parks tour to visit current and upcoming parks being improved	Locke Park Completed, Schedule Moore Lake Tour
Review of Capital Investment Program	• Per City Code, the Commission shall recommend a Capital Investment Program for Parks prior to June 1 for the following year	Complete
Review and Provide Feedback on Park Building and Equipment Disposition Policy	• Staff will develop a flowchart to help guide responsible reuse and/or recycling of park buildings or equipment that are taken out of service	Complete
Review and Provide Feedback on Commons Park Concept Plan	• Community engagement for a major redevelopment of Commons Park will begin as early as summer of 2023. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be engaged and involved in the planning through all phases of redesign.	



2023 Parks and Recreation Commission

Item 4.

Review Draft Rental Policies for Moore Lake Community Building and Park Shelters	An updated policy document to include rental fees and policies across the park system will be presented to the Commission for input	November meeting
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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 2, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Tara Rogness, Springbrook Nature Center Manager

Title

Springbrook Nature Center Report

Background

Attached is the update from Springbrook Nature Center for the October 2, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Springbrook Nature Center Update for October 2, 2023 meeting

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

Springbrook Nature Center

Park & Rec Commission Report

Item 5.

August Teaching

- Nature Center staff taught 1 **birthday party** during August.
- **Summer Camp** has been BUSY and FUN. During August, camp staff taught Wild Child – August, Camp Classics – August, Preschool Wild Child and Preschool Camp Classics. **111 campers** were with us during the month. They spent a **WHOPPING 2928 hours** with us.
- Staff Naturalists as taught a couple of offsite Reptile and Amphibian programs at Columbia Heights Schools and an onsite Archery program to local boy scouts.

August Rentals

- There were 4 PAC (pavilion activity center) rentals this month. The events being celebrated included a birthday party, grad party, family reunion, and a celebration of life.
- Indoor classroom rentals (3) included an open house, family birthday party, and a bridal shower.

Grants

- We have been awarded the Xcel Energy Grant for \$7,500. The grant project is an **Interactive Stream Workshop**. We hope to install a water feature stream laboratory just outside of the Nature Play Area that will allow students to study how water moves, how it has the power to erode and change the landscape.
- Springbrook Nature Center has been awarded a **MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant** for a \$150,000 to increase funding for the Nature Play Area expansion. We are excited to begin work on an expanded nature-based play area.



Park & Building Maintenance

- The **Beaver Pond Trail Bridge** has been completed along the nature center's paved accessible trail. We are grateful for a sturdy crossing for all nature center visitors.
- We are moving forward with an installation of a **patio and free-standing fireplace** adjacent to the existing picnic shelter. Funds have been donated by Joe and Irene Maertens, Fridley Lions, and the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation. We hope to begin construction in mid-September with completion in mid-October. Fingers crossed it will be ready to go in time for use at this year's Pumpkin Carving events!



Events

- The **Madagascar Live Childrens Concert** happened at the Amphitheater to a crowd of delighted children and adults! This event was sponsored by the Anoka County Library.

Upcoming Events

- **Pumpkin Carving** will begin Sunday October 15 and will run through Thursday October 19. If interested, check out the nature center website SpringbrookNatureCenter.org/PumpkinNight and look under the Pumpkin Carving tab for sign-up sheets.
- **Pumpkin Night in the Park** is back on Saturday, October 21 from 5 pm- 9 pm. Tickets are on sale beginning September 1. Tickets will be available online on our website or in person at both Springbrook Nature Center and Fridley Civic Campus.





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 2, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Margo Numedahl, Recreation Division Manager

Title

Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Background

Attached is the update from the Parks and Recreation Department for the October 2, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Attached is the update from the Parks and Recreation Department for the October 2, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation Division: September 2023

Fall Programs

Below is a list of programs and participation numbers for the first session of fall programs which began in September and will run through October.

PRESCHOOL: Ages 3-5

Soccer (6 sessions) – 2 classes	18
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ELEMENTARY – MIDDLE SCHOOL: Grades K-7

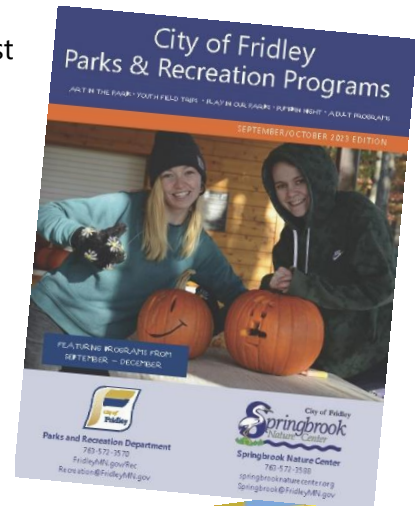
Soccer K-1 (6 sessions)	15
Soccer 2-4 (6 sessions)	16
Outdoor Games & Halloween Fun K-4 (6 sessions)	25

ADULT FITNESS & ATHLETICS

Zumba (2 classes/6 sessions each): Sep - Aug	15
Pickleball Intro Clinic (2 sessions): Sep (3 – Fridley, 4 – SLP)	7
Pickleball Live Play Coaching (4 sessions): Sep - Oct (4 – Fridley; 4 – SLP)	8
Pickleball Ladder League – All Ages: Aug – Oct (21 – Fridley, 19 – SLP)	40
Pickleball Ladder League – Ages 20-35: Aug – Oct (11 – Fridley, 1 – SLP)	12
Volleyball Coed Rec League: Sep - Dec (Fridley – 1 team)	8 teams
Volleyball Coed Competitive League: Sep - Dec (Fridley – 1 individual registration)	6 teams
Volleyball Women's Competitive League: Sep - Dec (Fridley – 2 individual registrations)	9 teams

Parks and Recreation Brochure

The Nov/Dec brochure content is complete and the designer is working on it.

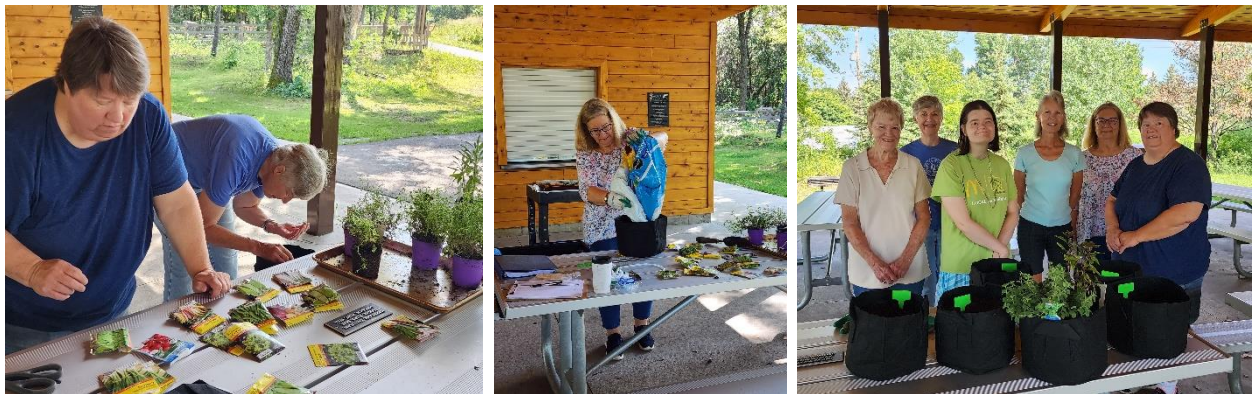


SHIP Edible Garden Grant Award

In June, we were awarded \$3,000 Anoka County Minnesota Eats SHIP grant. This grant provided funds to purchase and install six planter towers, dirt, plants and seeds to teach the community about growing their own food. In July, youth from the community helped plant all six towers of edible produce. Three towers were placed at Civic Campus next to the edible orchard, and three towers were placed at Springbrook, with the intention of providing free produce to those that would like it. It has been fun watching the community come together to plant, appreciate, and harvest local food! Over 100 youth have been part of this program, and we estimate that over 600 folks have interreacted with the gardens in the last 2 months!

Gardening Class

In late August, one fall gardening class was held at Springbrook to teach residents how to plant a fall garden. Six adults participated in the Friday morning class (most were senior citizens) and they each took home three grow bags with plants and seeds that would provide fall herbs and greens that could be placed anywhere they had a small spot and some light! Participants had a great time and were also able to tour the garden towers at the Nature Center.



After-School Classes

Our after-school programs started on September 19 offering Soccer for gr. K-1 and 2-4, and Outdoor Games & Halloween Fun for gr. K-4. This year we streamlined the scholarship process, and 12 families were able to apply online and self-administer their allocations! We look forward to another great year of programs at Hayes Elementary.

North Metro Volleyball

North Metro Volleyball moved back indoors for the fall season. Between Fridley, Mounds View, New Brighton, and Spring Lake Park the group was able to collect registrations for Coed and Women's leagues. This is the first session where leagues were separated into recreational and competitive skill levels. In addition to team registrations, we were able to collect enough individual registrations to form a team in each league. The goal of this was to give people interested in playing the opportunity to meet other participants and play volleyball in a positive environment.

Fall Pickleball Ladder Leagues

Both of our Pickleball Ladder Leagues are up and running for the fall season. We offer a league for all ages and another for ages 20 – 35. This will be the last outdoor session before moving indoors to the Hayes gym for the winter.

Pickleball Live Play Coaching & Beginner Clinic

Our final outdoor sessions of our Pickleball Live Play Coaching class and Pickleball for Beginners clinic were held this month. Pickleball Live Play is a 4-week class designed to allow students to receive coaching by our instructor as they play in real game situations. Our beginner clinic is designed to teach rules and basic techniques for players who are new to the sport. Clinics consist of a shorter two-day session, perfect for people looking to try pickleball for the first time.

Telescopes & Constellations

On September 23, the Autumnal Equinox, the Bell Museum was scheduled to come out to Commons Park with three giant telescopes and tell stories about the constellations in our sky. Unfortunately, the weather and clouds did not cooperate, and we had to cancel the event. The Facebook event attracted 123 interested participants and many people expressed interest at our public events. We look forward to rescheduling with the Bell Museum in 2024!

Five Year Anniversary & Touch a Truck Event

On September 9 we held an event to commemorate five years at the Civic Campus! The event featured a touch-a-truck event with multiple vehicles, an electric vehicle showcase, live music performed by ROBOS, inflatables, food trucks and a variety of crafts and activities. At the event, city staff unveiled a bronze medallion, designed by local artist Priya Rai, to mark the former location of Columbia Arena's center ice.

We are grateful to the Fridley Public Works staff, Rachel Workin—City of Fridley Environmental Planner, Fridley ECFE, North Suburban Center for the Arts, Anoka County Library Mississippi Branch, Fridley Girl Scouts, Schmitt Towing, White Bear Mitsubishi, electric vehicle owners, Great Plains Institute, Allina EMS, Rustic Chef Food Truck, Mr. Taco and Flamingo's Ice cream for your contributions to make this event successful.

We had 400+ community members in attendance and look forward to continuing our partnership with ECFE & Public Works to offer outstanding Touch-A-Truck events in the future!







AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 2, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager – Streets, Parks, and Facilities

Title

Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Background

Attached is the Park Maintenance and Construction report for the October 2, 2023 meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Park Maintenance Report for October 2, 2023 meeting

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



Memorandum

Item 7.

Date: 9/25/2023
To: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
From: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager, Streets, Parks, Facilities
DEPT: Public Works
CC: Margo Numedahl, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Parks and Recreation Commission Report for October 2nd, 2023 Meeting

The Park Maintenance Division has been working on finishing outstanding summer projects in neighborhood parks like installing benches, garbage cans, and grills. Staff have been cutting back plants and grasses in landscaping installations. We worked our annual tree sale and planted all new trees to replace green ash trees that were removed last winter.

We are still cutting grass every week and keeping all athletic fields prepped as needed. We will be moving into round-a-bout maintenance and center median maintenance that needs to be done before winter. Irrigation drainage and leaves will be the main activities for the next month.

We had a new bridge installed at Springbrook Nature Center and will begin work on the Springbrook fireplace in the next two weeks. Preparations are being done to prepare for Pumpkin Night in the Park including cutting brush on trails and repairs to the 85th Ave. boardwalk.