Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

December 02, 2024
7:00 PM
Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Open Forum
The open forum allows the public to address the Commission on subjects that are not on the Regular Agenda. The Commission will accept feedback or questions from the public and asks that comments are limited to five minutes or less.

New Business

1. Fridley Public Art Initiative
2. Sylvan Hills Park Design Review
3. Fridley Parks and Recreation Commission Draft 2025 Workplan

Old Business

Staff Reports

4. Springbrook Nature Center Report
5. Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report
6. Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Adjournment

Accessibility Notice:

- If you need free interpretation or translation assistance, please contact City staff.
- Si necesita ayuda de interpretación o traducción gratis, comuníquese con el personal de la ciudad.
- Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus los sis txhais ntaub ntawv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cov neeg ua hauj lwm.

- Haddii aad u baahan tahay tarjumaad bilaash ah ama kaalmo tarjumaad, fadlan la xiriir shaqaalaha Magaalada.

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 CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov or (763) 572-3450.

AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 2, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Fridley Public Art Initiative

Background

Through a series of community meetings, a desire for public art in Fridley has been identified and a structure has been established to guide this process. A new Public Art Commission has been created. Scott Hickock, Community Development Director, serves as the staff contact for this seven-member Commission. Mr. Hickock will present an overview of the new Commission including their work to date and plans for the future.

In addition to the Public Art Commission, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, the Fridley Creative Arts Foundation, has been established to promote public art in our community and raise funds and awareness for the arts. Mayor Scott Lund has been instrumental in the establishment of this organization and will be present to speak about the non-profit and answer questions from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 2, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Sylvan Hills Park Design Review

Background

Sylvan Hills Park was originally scheduled for improvements in 2024. A $1.5 million grant received from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization led to a more involved design process with the new park to feature a variety of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI). The project is designed to mitigate stormwater runoff from a 77-acre drainage area, resulting in significant reductions in total phosphorus and sediment to the river as well as flood mitigation.

The design is in the final stages of development and is expected to be put out for construction bids in December with the project award in January of 2025. The project will be completed in 2025.

The commission has reviewed and approved the playground design in February of 2024 and made several recommendation to inform the park layout including keeping a tennis court with pickleball overlay and full basketball court in the park design at the October 2023 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Financial Impact

Park improvements are being funded through Fridley's approved park system improvement plan and grant funds.

Recommendation

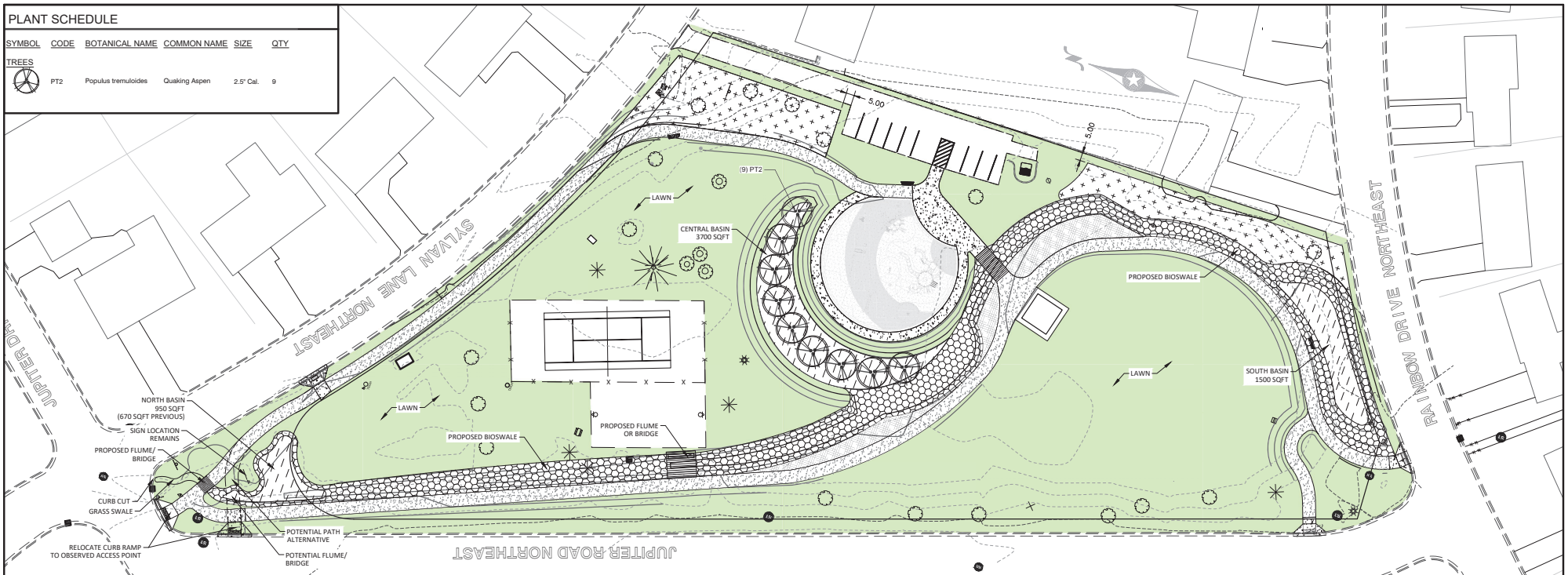
Staff recommends that the Commission review the plans, ask questions and provide feedback. Staff would welcome a recommendation supporting the shown park design.

Attachments and Other Resources

- 2954_Sylvan Park_Landscape Plan_ver 2.pdf
- Plant Palette.pdf

PLANT SCHEDULE

SYMBOL	CODE	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	QTY
TREES					
	PT2	Populus tremuloides	Quaking Aspen	2.5" Cal.	9



LEGEND

- RAIN GARDEN BASIN
- BASIN SLOPE AND SWALES
- NATIVE MEADOW RESTORATION

*SEE PLANTING PALETTE FOR CONTAINER PLANT SPECIES LIST

HORZ. SCALE 0 30 60 FEET

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION, OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

ALEX SCHMIDT
LIC. NO. 53741 DATE XX/XX/2024

DESIGNED NRS
DRAWN AZ/CC
CHECKED AS
CLIENT PROJ. NO. 9068-0001

NO.	ISSUED FOR	DATE

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IMPROVEMENTS: SYLVAN HILLS
PROJECT NO. 24-70124

SHEET OF XX

C:\Users\110059\Dropbox\Sylvan Park\9954_Sylvan Park_Landscape Plan_ver 2.dwg 11/13/2024 8:04:59 PM

Rain Garden Basin

Tussock Sedge — *May-Jun*
Carex stricta

Swamp Milkweed — *Jun-Oct*
Asclepias incarnata

Culver's Root — *Jun-Sept*
Veronicastrum viginicum

Cardinal Flower — *May-Oct*
Lobelia cardinalis

Blue Lobelia — *Jul-Oct*
Lobelia siphilitica

Obedient Plant — *Aug-Nov*
Physostegia virginiana

Basin Slopes and Swales

Prairie Dropseed — *Jun-Aug*
Sporobolis heterolopis

Smooth Blue Aster — *Jul-Oct*
Symphyotrichum laeve

Lavender Hyssop — *Jun-Sep*
Agastache foeniculum

Black eyed Susan — *Mar-Nov*
Rudbeckia hirtia

Common Yarrow — *Apr-Sep*
Achillea millefolium

Butterfly Milkweed — *May-Sep*
Asclepia tuberosa

Meadow (General Purpose)

Side Oats Grama Grass — *Apr-Aug*
Bouteloua curtipendula

Purple Coneflower — *Apr-Sep*
Echinacea purpurea

Wild Bergamot — *May-Oct*
Monarda fistulosa

Canada Anemone — *Apr-Aug*
Anemonastrum canadense

Little Bluestem — *Jun-Dec*
Schizachyrium scoparium

Plains Coreopsis — *Mar-Nov*
Coreopsis tinctoria

AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 2, 2024 **Meeting Type:** Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Fridley Parks and Recreation Commission Draft 2025 Workplan

Background

Attached is a draft 2025 workplan for the Parks and Recreation Commission to help guide the groups work on projects and priorities for the coming year.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff will review highlights of the 2025 workplan and requests that the Commission provide input on possible additions and edits to the document.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Draft 2025 Workplan

2025 Parks and Rec Commission

Goals, Initiatives, and Workplan

December 2024 Meeting

2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Draft - December Meeting

Goals and Strategic Initiatives

1. Continue a meeting format and schedule that meets desired outcomes for staff and Commissioners:
    a. Incorporate work session/park tour format as needed to better facilitate advisory role of Commission
    b. 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. Hold a monthly planning meeting with the Chair and Staff Contact to plan future meeting agendas and share information.

4. Play advisory role to staff and City Council in policy recommendations for Park System:
    a. Park, facility and operational policies for City of Fridley park system
    b. Park redevelopment

5. Assist staff in process of planning and prioritizing program offerings – especially in newly developed park spaces and buildings.

6. Provide recommendations when residents raise concerns with park use or development.

7. Meet with community interest groups that utilize parks and facilities such as youth sports organizations to determine needs and gather feedback.

8. Serve as ambassadors of Fridley Parks and Recreation through volunteering, participating in community engagement and being a resource for community members.

2025 Parks and Recreation Commission

2024 Workplan

Item	Process	Status
2025 Goals and Workplan	• Review at December 2024 meeting, make updates per direction of Commission • Update throughout year	In progress
Commissioner Orientation and Training	• Opportunity for new members to meet with Staff • Review Commission onboarding manual at meeting in early 2025	In progress
Vice Chair	• Nominations and voting at March meeting	Complete for 2024
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	Completed in 2023, 2024 as requested
Oak Hill Park – 2024 Planning and 2025 Construction	• Provide input in community engagement efforts • Provide input in playground design • Provide input on park site plan and common elements • July 30th Community Engagement Event	Community Engagement Complete. 2025 Construction.
Jubilee Park – 2024 Planning and 2025 Construction	• Provide input in community engagement efforts • Provide input in playground design • Provide input on park site plan and common elements • August 14th Community Engagement event	Community Engagement Complete. 2025 Construction.
Programs and Special Events	• Opportunities to volunteer at Parks and Recreation programs and events	In progress, ongoing

2025 Parks and Recreation Commission

	• Opportunities to share program and event ideas as an agenda item during meetings • 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	
Special Use Permit	• Provide feedback on first draft of Parks Conditional Use Permit policy and application • Approve revised policy and application	In progress
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.	Ongoing
Flannery Park Community Engagement	• Flannery Park is currently scheduled as a 2026 redevelopment project • Typical process will be to conduct community engagement on park layout and several playground options during summer of 2025 • In-person and online survey opportunities	
Madsen Park Community Engagement	• Madsen Park is currently scheduled as a 2026 redevelopment project • Typical process will be to conduct community engagement on park layout and several playground options during summer of 2025 • In-person and online survey opportunities	
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	Complete

2025 Parks and Recreation Commission

	• Assist in planning of Grand Opening, attend and participate as possible • Opportunity for construction tour	
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	Complete
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	Complete
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	Complete
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	Complete
Park Bench Sponsorship	• Provide feedback on second draft of park bench sponsorship fees and guidelines • Approve bench sponsorship fees and guidelines	Complete
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	Complete
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	May Meeting - Complete
Review and Provide Feedback on Park Building	• Staff will develop a flowchart to help guide responsible reuse and/or	Complete

2025 Parks and Recreation Commission

and Equipment Disposition Policy	recycling of park buildings or equipment that are taken out of service	
	•	
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	Complete

AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 2, 2024 **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 December 2, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Springbrook Nature Center Update for December 2, 2024 meeting

Springbrook Nature Center
Park & Rec Commission Report

November Education Programs

We have transitioned from the busy fall teaching months into a slightly slower time. November brings the seasonal end of our Adams Elementary School and Fridley Schools partnerships along with a smattering of field trip groups from local Anoka Hennepin and Mounds View School districts. We have been lucky to have favorable weather conditions this month.

Number of Children Taught: 857

Number of Hours of Teaching: 1016.5

November Rentals & Birthday Parties

- There were 5 birthday parties in November, with themes including Reptiles, Survival, Fort Building and Eco-Pirates.
- In November, there were 9 indoor room rentals.

Grants

- We have started purchasing for the Xcel Energy Foundation Grant entitled "Wild Connections in Environmental Education" soon. Be on the lookout for new animal enclosures and equipment to make it easier to teach with animal ambassadors.
- We have been awarded a grant from The International Paper Foundation for a project entitled "Culture and Team Building in Nature" in which we aim to enhance our team building programming with portable low ropes challenges that will create perceived risk and aid in communication, active listening, trust, leadership, and social emotional skills in children and adults.

Park & Building Maintenance

- The last component of the play area has been ordered and should ship the week of Thanksgiving with installation slated for the first week of December. In the meantime, we have opened the area for play and are thrilled with the interest and attendance we've seen. Adding in some elements with a higher perceived risk has resulted in more adults playing on the equipment themselves, and further engaging with their children in this space. (That's a win-win in my book!)

Events

- We are preparing for our **Lantern Light Hike** programs to start in December and run through March on the first Friday evening of each month from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. This serene program is great for all ages and is a great way to still get outside during our shorter light months. $5 per person, children 2 and under are free, and if there's enough snow, there will be snowshoes for rent for an additional $5.
- **Winterfest** is on its way. Mark your calendars for January 25th from noon – 3 pm. There will be a variety of activities to participate in that will help you love the MN winters even more!
- The **Winter Gear Drive** begins on December 1 and runs through January 22. Bring your new and gently used warm weather clothing to either Springbrook Nature Center or Fridley Civic Campus.

(Insulated jackets, snowpants, new hats, mittens, and winter boots for all ages are on our wish list this year)

AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 2, 2024 **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 December 2, 2024 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 December 2, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation Division: November 2024

Fall Programs

Below is a list of programs and participation numbers for those that took place in November.

All Ages

Turkey Fun: Nov 23 (registration as of Nov 15)	120

Preschool: Ages 3-5

Track & Field (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	5
Little Ninja (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	12

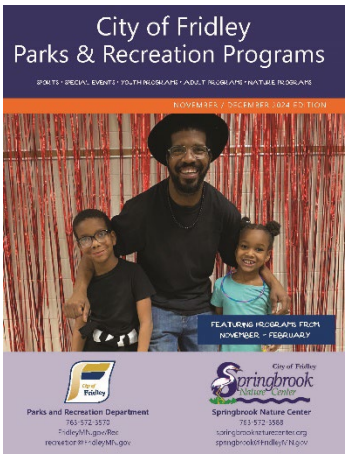
Elementary – Middle School: Grades K-7

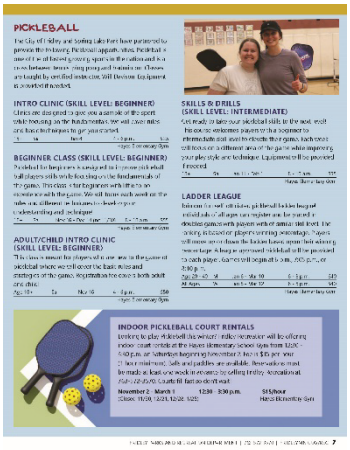
Track & Field Gr. K-4 (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	14
Tae Kwon Do Gr. K-4 (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	15
Ho Ho Holiday Fun Gr. K-4 (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	11
Ninja Warrior Gr. K-4 (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	13

Adult Fitness and Athletics

Zumba (2 classes/6 sessions each): Nov-Dec	18
Aqua Zumba (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	12
Pickleball for Beginners (4 sessions): Nov-Dec 3 – Fridley, 3 - SLP	6
Pickleball Live Play Coaching (4 sessions): Oct-Nov 5 – Fridley, 5 – SLP	10
Pickleball Ladder League – All Ages: Oct-Dec 23 – Fridley, 22 – SLP	45
Pickleball Ladder League – Ages 20-40: Oct-Dec 19 – Fridley, 9 – SLP	28
Volleyball Leagues (Coed Rec/Comp, Women's Comp) North Metro League*: Fridley-4 teams, 3 individuals	32 teams

*North Metro Leagues are offered in cooperation with Mounds View, New Brighton, and Spring Lake Park.





Parks and Recreation Brochure

Staff are currently working on the content for the January/February brochure which will be designed in December and delivered to residents during the week of January 10, 2025.

November Facility Rentals

Facility	Reservations
Moore Lake Community Building	11

Afterschool Program

The second session of After-school Programs began on Tuesday, November 12. Classes include: Ninja Warrior, Ho-Ho-Holiday Fun, Tae Kwon Do and Track & Field. We have great participation in this session and children are enjoying the activities. We continue to work closely with Fridley School District staff on dismissal procedures and the snack program.

Family Open Gym

The Family Open Gym program began this November and is off to a great start. This program parents/guardians and their children the opportunity to get into the Hayes Gym on Saturday mornings and expel some energy as we get into the colder winter months. Activities include a variety of sports opportunities, hula hoops, scooters, jump ropes, and our small bouncy castle. Open gym will run all winter long and we are happy to see an increase in attendance with 18 participants on the first week and 26 on the second.

Pickleball Court Rentals

Pickleball Court rentals have begun at the Hayes Elementary School Gym. We rent out three different courts from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays throughout the cold weather months. New this year we are opening up the reservations online and are excited to make the court reservation process more efficient and accessible.

North Metro Volleyball Playoffs and Wrap Up

North Metro Volleyball Fall league wrapped up this November with two rounds of single elimination playoffs. We ran three different leagues on Monday and Wednesday nights including recreational and competitive coed leagues and a competitive women's league totaling 34 teams. Games were played at the New Brighton Community Center and Highview Middle School. Winter Volleyball will begin in January.

Aqua Zumba

The first session of Aqua Zumba began in November at the Fridley Middle School. Aqua Zumba sessions are a great alternative to traditional Zumba programs for those who need a lower impact activity while still getting a quality work out.

Beginner Pickleball Class

Pickleball for Beginners class began in November. Students learned the basic rules and technique of the sport. This class is a great gateway for new pickleball players to get introduced to the sport and start participating in our many pickleball programs.

Upcoming Events

We invite the community to join in the fun at our upcoming events!

Turkey Fun
2 - 4 p.m. | Saturday, November 23 | Springbrook Nature Center

Winter Lights Tour
Registration deadline December 8. | Maps available on December 13.

Kids Holiday Formal
6:30 - 8 p.m. | Friday, December 13 | Hayes Gym

Family Open Gym
10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | Saturdays through March 1 (closed 11/30, 12/21, 12/28, 1/25) | Hayes

Pickleball Court Reservations
12:30 – 3:30 p.m. | Saturdays through March 1 (closed 11/30, 12/21, 12/28, 1/25) | Hayes Gym

AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: December 2, 2024 **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 December 2, 2024 meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Park Maintenance Report for December 2, 2024 meeting

Memorandum

Date: 11/19/2024

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 December 9th, 2024 Meeting

The Park Maintenance Division has moved into fall and winter work preparing for the upcoming winter season.

We have been mulching and removing leaves all month and will continue until weather does not permit.

Projects we have been working on include removing old chain link fence on highway 47 to make room for street and trail projects and building a new K-9 training area in Locke Park. This project included removing trees, mulching brush and preparing the ground for seeding. We have quotes for installing fencing and hope that will be completed this year.

We are in the process of getting all equipment ready for skating rinks and it looks like the weather is going to cooperate to start flooding rinks the last two weeks of November and will hopefully stay below freezing so we can have good skating conditions this winter.

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