



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

September 05, 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.](#) August 7, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

New Business

- [2.](#) Proposed 2024 Meeting Dates of the Parks and Recreation Commission
- [3.](#) Innsbruck Nature Center Park Name Discussion
- [4.](#) Community Engagement Summaries for 2024 Park Projects – Logan Park and Plymouth Square Park

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: September 5, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

August 7, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Background

Attached are the meeting minutes of the August 7, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the August 7, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

- August 7, 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
August 7, 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

EB Graham
Peter Borman
Tim Kirk
Ken Schultz

Absent

Luke Cardona
Suad Maow
Don Whalen

Others Present

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for August 7, 2023

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

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for June 5, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Schultz to approve the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Initial Review of City Code Chapter 508 Parks and Parkways

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the City is in the process of completing a comprehensive update of the City Code, one of which is parks and parkways. He stated that the intent is to have the Commission have a first look at the chapter which will help staff gauge the amount of review time that may be necessary.

Commissioner Shultz referenced 508.15 and asked for clarification on the language, specifically whether games would be allowed on non-athletic grounds. He believed that the space could be used as long as it did not interfere or cause danger to others. Mr. Maher commented that he also felt there was ambiguity in that language and had marked that as well. He noted that in the Parks Improvement Plan they were intentional to create flexible areas that could be used in multiple ways. Commissioner Shultz provided additional input on language to be cleaned up, related to alcoholic beverages, cannabis use, and whether dogs can be in the water on park property. Mr. Maher noted that the City is working to address the recreational use of cannabis and believed that ordinance would be in place prior to the update of this chapter and advised that he would keep the Commission updated.

Chair Borman commented that the chapter does seem dated. He suggested that the Commission review the language and highlight items to review and/or discuss. Mr. Maher commented that there is not a rush to review this, and they could continue to bring this back multiple times. He agreed that some of the language is dated and noted that it may also be appropriate to add language about trails. He provided details on exemptions available for groups to serve alcohol in certain scenarios with the proper permitting.

It was the consensus of the Commission that Commissioners should send in their comments and suggestions to staff via email prior to the next meeting and staff could use that input to make draft changes for continued discussion.

2. Park Furnishing Deconstruction Guidelines

Mr. Maher commented that this item came forward at the direction of the Commission and the draft guidelines were included in the packet. He noted that the EQEC reviewed, and endorsed, the document at its last meeting. He reviewed the park furnishing decommissioning priorities.

Commissioner Shultz commented that this is a comprehensive list and seems to be the correct order as well in terms of reuse priorities.

Chair Borman asked how they would go about determining which priority would be followed. Mr. Maher replied that staff would most likely have the knowledge on whether the items could be reused by the City or have resale value, and to ensure that the process would not interfere with the timeline for the project.

Mr. Maher recognized Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner, who did the majority of the work on this document. The Commission thanked Ms. Workin for her excellent work.

Old Business

Staff Reports

3. Springbrook Nature Center Report

Mr. Maher highlighted the summer day camp programing, staffing changes, other programs, and receipt of a DNR outdoor recreation grant.

Commissioner Shultz noted that his grandkids enjoyed the recent programing they participated in and passed on the kudos to staff.

4. Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Mr. Maher provided an overview of the report highlighting 49er Days, safety camp, summer concerts, wet and wild day, summer ROCKS, and the summer intern.

5. Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Mr. Maher reviewed the report highlighting park maintenance and construction updates.

Unfinished Business

None

Adjournment

Commissioner Kirk made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
Recording Secretary



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 5, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Proposed 2024 Meeting Dates of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Background

A proposed schedule of meetings is presented to the Commission for the 2024 calendar year. Generally, meetings are the first Monday of each month with several exceptions to adjust to holidays. Traditionally, the Commission has not held a meeting in July and has held a work session or park tour for the June meeting.

Financial Impact

None

Recommendation

Staff recommend the approval of the proposed 2024 meeting dates.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Proposed 2024 meeting dates of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Vision Statement

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Fridley Civic Campus

7071 University Ave N.E. Fridley, MN 55432
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Park and Recreation Commission 2024 Proposed Meeting Schedule

**Unless Indicated Otherwise, Meetings are the first Monday of each month
at 7 pm in City Council Chambers (2nd floor)**

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 (shifted one day due to New Year's Day)

February 5, 2024

March 4, 2024

April 1, 2024

May 6, 2024

June 3, 2024 (Work Session at Park Location TBA)

July 2024 - NO MEETING

August 5, 2024

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 (shifted one day due to Labor Day)

October 7, 2024

November 4, 2024

December 2, 2024

Revised. 8/25/2023



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 5, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Innsbruck Nature Center Park Name Discussion

Background

Innsbruck Nature Center is a 24 acre natural resource-based park in Fridley featuring walking paths and a small parking area and trailhead. This park property was established as Innsbruck Nature Area in the late 1970's when there was a small staffed interpretive building, staff, and programming at the site. When the Springbrook Nature Center park property and interpretive building were completed in 1981, naturalist staff moved to that location and Innsbruck became a passive park property with no interpretive/visitor's center. The "nature center" name, however, has remained attached to the Innsbruck park property for several decades and may no longer be the most appropriate or descriptive name for the park.

Financial Impact

None

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Commission make a recommendation to adopt an updated name for Innsbruck Nature Center, maintaining the Innsbruck name but considering natural area, park, natural history area, or similar designation to replace the 'nature center' part of the park name.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Innsbruck Park History Interview and Photos

Vision Statement

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

INNSBRUCK PARK HISTORY

Interview with Siah St. Clair, retired Director of Springbrook Nature Center (SNC); Jan. 17, 2022; Maija Sedzielarz

1973: City of Fridley hired Dan Hoff (sp?). Current location of SNC was being considered as a spot for a municipal golf course. Hoff was to explore and describe other Fridley locations that could be a nature center.

- Created trails, self-guided leaflet for the Innsbruck park.
- Moved A-frame building to Innsbruck to serve as a nature center. Originally, the building was used as HQ for the 1972 GOP Presidential run in MN, near Hwy. 55 (? , maybe 52?) and 694.

Siah was hired in 1978. He was located at Innsbruck Park, along with a small staff of 4 grant-funded employees. This grant funding expired and these employees left.

Siah added live critters to the nature center building, e.g. frogs, turtles, etc.

A barn built on property to the south of Innsbruck was discovered to be within park boundaries. It was added to the Nature Center and used as the summer camp HQ. The loft was used as a raptor rehab area though collaboration with the U of MN Raptor Center. Mostly owls were housed there. They were provided live food until the birds were self-sufficient hunters. They had a window through which they could come and go to the loft area. The building was used from 1979-~1984, when the barn was torn down.

1979: The City received a grant to build SNC, and staff moved from Innsbruck in 1981. The building was left vacant, with occasional use by Totino-Grace High School, across the street, for student services. There was minimal maintenance and finally, the fire department used the building as a training exercise for fire-fighting (mid-1990s) and burned down.

Siah worked with Jack Kirk to develop maps for Innsbruck. (These may be the ones in the paper file. There is no date on these maps.) The original trail was a circle (now where signs are?).

The City added better access from Stinson, on the opposite side of the park from the parking lot. They also provided trail access from Black Forest Apartments, upon requests from the residents.

Innsbruck is a valuable natural history area. Among other things, it has a unique geology, unlike most of Fridley. The park contains a glacial esker, with gravelly fill. There are 4 natural ponds. Continued housing development surrounding the park added to erosion and fertilizer pollution and damaged ponds with excess vegetation growth. Ponds had unique aquatic insects and bird populations, mostly rainfall-fed; no creek or stream flow through ponds.

Siah kept a folder of Innsbruck history. He left it at SNC when he retired.

Note: Maija requested this folder from Tara Rogness, Manager of SNC, in January 2022. After a thorough search of files and folders, along with consultation with Mike Maher, former SNC Director, and current Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Fridley, a folder was located.





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 5, 2023

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

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

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 are included for review by the Commission and staff seeks any recommendations the Commission wishes to make 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 Logan Park and Plymouth Square 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

- Logan Park Community Engagement Summary
- Plymouth Square Park Community Engagement Summary

Vision Statement

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

LOGAN PARK COMMUNITY FEEDBACK* – WEDNESDAY, JULY 12TH 2023

*Feedback is combined comments from July 12 event held at park and online survey made available from July 12 to August 23, 2023. 30 residents participated in the event at the park and 8 individuals provided input via the online survey.

PICKLEBALL / TENNIS COURTS

- Keep tennis, basketball courts and baseball field.
- Support pickleball lines. Would not support conversion to pickleball only, however.
- Lights on a timer for the tennis court.
- Would like to see pickleball lines included on the tennis court.
- Not interested in pickleball court, too noisy.
- All looks good. Please minimize pickleball court due to noise.
- Tennis court backboard.
- Do not want paved path. Takes away from available play area.
- Pickleball court.

BASKETBALL COURT

- Consider larger basketball court. 3 on 3 or full court.
- Full court for basketball instead of half court.

TRAIL LOOP

- Trail all the way around.
- I'd prefer the trail around the park to be crushed limestone or something pervious. Less runoff and more filtration.
- No walkway. Or if you have it, plow it for winter snow.
- Walking trail outside.
- Trail loop seems unnecessary. People walk road. Safe and low traffic.
- I like the trail loop area.
- Is a trail necessary. Will it be plowed during 4 months of snow. If not, is it worth the cost. Will existing trees be removed.
- Trail loop around west end courts and playground ok. Not in favor of trail around east end lawn and ball field.
- Please don't cut down oaks for a walkway.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

- I like concept#2, but not the purple. I prefer more earthy tone, green/orange is a nice complement. I like the universal swing of #1. Playhouse is cute.
- I prefer more natural or neutral colors for the parts that are higher and more visible from a distance.
- Swing with plank seat. Slings are hard on adults with hip issues.
- Monkey bars
- More benches around playground area.

SHADE / SHELTER

- Can there be an electric outlet at the shelter.
- Larger shelter X 2 comments.
- Shelter with more than 2 tables.
- Benches in shaded area.
- Larger shelter with 4 tables. Move smelly trash can away from the playground equipment.

DOG PARK

- Small dog park.
- Dog park. Fenced in area.

POLLINATOR GARDENS / GRASSY AREA

- Pollinator garden. Milkweed.
- Pollinator features, wildflower, prairie grass. Some beautifications.
- No chemical spray in park area. Keep pollinators and insects healthy. No removal of trees.
- No chemical spray on lawn. We need to protect our land and water along with our community of people and pets.
- Low maintenance lawn. Pollinator friendly.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Do more nature labeling and learning opportunities.
- Need labels for trees with species name and info.
- Water resources preferred here.
- Bike features for all ages. Tot track, flow course, skills course. Small footprint and low maintenance.
- Consider a small disc golf course or putting green.
- Replace water fountain with bottle filler.
- Larger picnic shelter with more tables. Gets used for family gatherings & Nite to Unite events. 2. More benches - around full loop walking trail & play areas. 3. Flat swing for adults (not sling seat) 4. Tennis court backboard on one end 5. Dog waste trash can station away from children's play area & picnic areas. Bucket for donating & providing clean bags has been working well. 6. People have been using the Little Free Library -- keep near children's area to encourage donation of children's books. 7. Keep donated bin of sports equipment. People have been using & appreciating it.
- I'd love to see a larger gathering space, paths, trees and benches. Any improvements to the playground are welcome. I hope all of the choices are accessible to kids with mobility difficulties.
- This park is more a "neighborhood" park than a "destination" park due to its size and lack of parking. There are currently many smaller kids in this neighborhood, and while they will grow over time, consideration should be made in meeting the current as well as the future needs of the neighborhood.
- The biggest comment I wanted to make is related to the trees at the edges of the park. Many of the trees along the southern edge of the park are about half dead, as are the trees in the southeast corner. The parts of the trees that are still alive tend to lose their leaves extremely early and the trees turn green very late, so most of the year they just look leafless and lifeless. I know several people in the neighborhood are hoping that this park renovation could include replacement of many of these trees. So, I just wanted to leave this comment to point out the tree topic. Thanks for reading!
- I like the general idea of what to improve and how. I'm glad you're not taking away any of the features...unless you don't plan to make an ice rink there anymore? I haven't seen anything mentioned about that. It is a great location for an ice rink, provided it is taken care of throughout the winter. In regards to the playground, I've actually always liked how there are separate sections for "little" and "big" kids, divided by the swings. I didn't really see that in any of the suggested playground concepts. My kids also LOVED the two ride-on horses.

Any chance either those or new ones can still be at the playground when it is redone?

- More benches by the playground for people to sit, nice if they are in shaded areas or could be under an umbrella structure. Working water fountain
- I think pavement around the park would be useful for someone who has a stroller or walker or small child with trike.
- Include accessible/inclusive structures, shade so kids can play mid-day, and play options that are appropriate for younger kids. The small house thing in all of them is pretty underwhelming

PLAYGROUND CONCEPT A - 64 VOTES

- Add Zipline
- Add Monkey Bars
- More natural colors
- Like main structure, swings and slides, and climbing blocks
- Suggest keeping current equipment including spring animals, expanding climbing section and more inclusive/accessible features



PLAYGROUND CONCEPT B - 20 VOTES

- Needs and inclusive swing for wheelchair kids
- Good color key
- Add slide. Add inclusive swing
- Like ramp, climbing feature and swings
- Suggest adding shade, more slides, more options for toddlers



PLAYGROUND CONCEPT C - 49 VOTES

- No Comments
- Like shade sails, structure with slide, multiple structures
- Suggest keeping spring animals
- Suggest separating climbing structure from other elements
- More inclusive and accessible features



RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION

1. Recommendation to proceed with playground design A
 - a. Consider addition of spring rocker element per comments
 - b. Does the Commission desire to make a recommendation on playground color?
2. Does the commission desire to recommend that the basketball court be expanded from a half-size court to a full-size court?
3. Does the commission desire to recommend inclusion or deletion of a trail loop within the park?
4. Does the commission desire to make any additional recommendations?

Logan Park

155 LOGAN PARKWAY NE

PARK TYPE: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
SIZE: 2.0-ACRES
RESIDENTS SERVED: 287
SPECIAL USES: WINTER SKATING

DESCRIPTION:

Neighborhood park servicing neighborhood #10 with potential to also service neighborhood #11 and Area A as noted on the Service Area Analysis Map with improved connections. The park contains a ballfield with poor orientation for play, a single tennis court and half basketball court that are both in poor condition, an older picnic shelter, and playground. An area of mature trees is located on the northern section of the site.



EXISTING PARK FEATURES:



RECOMMENDATIONS & ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS:

General recommendations include redevelopment with some minor layout modifications to incorporate new amenities and replace existing amenities for an improved recreational experience.

Recommendations include:

- Landscape enhancements
- Low-grow and/or bee-friendly turf mixture
- New playground meeting varying age groups with new container
- ADA compliant playground surfacing (engineered wood fiber)
- Concrete playground border
- Walk and trail connections with optional internal loop
- Picnic shelter with 2 tables
- Ballfield improvements
- Site furnishings with common characteristic (benches, tables, receptacles, bike racks, drinking fountain, etc.)
- Reconstructed tennis court
- Reconstructed half court moved further south to allow for slight playground expansion
- Park sign on Pearson Way
- Wayfinding signs (to Riverview Heights)
- Security light

The estimate of probable costs for completing the recommendations shown range from approximately \$370,000 to \$520,000 for base preferred improvements and an additional \$65,000 to \$90,000 for deferred or alternate improvements.

Specific assumptions and exclusions:

- Does not account for unknown site factors (poor soils, drainage concerns, etc.)
- Does not include utilities

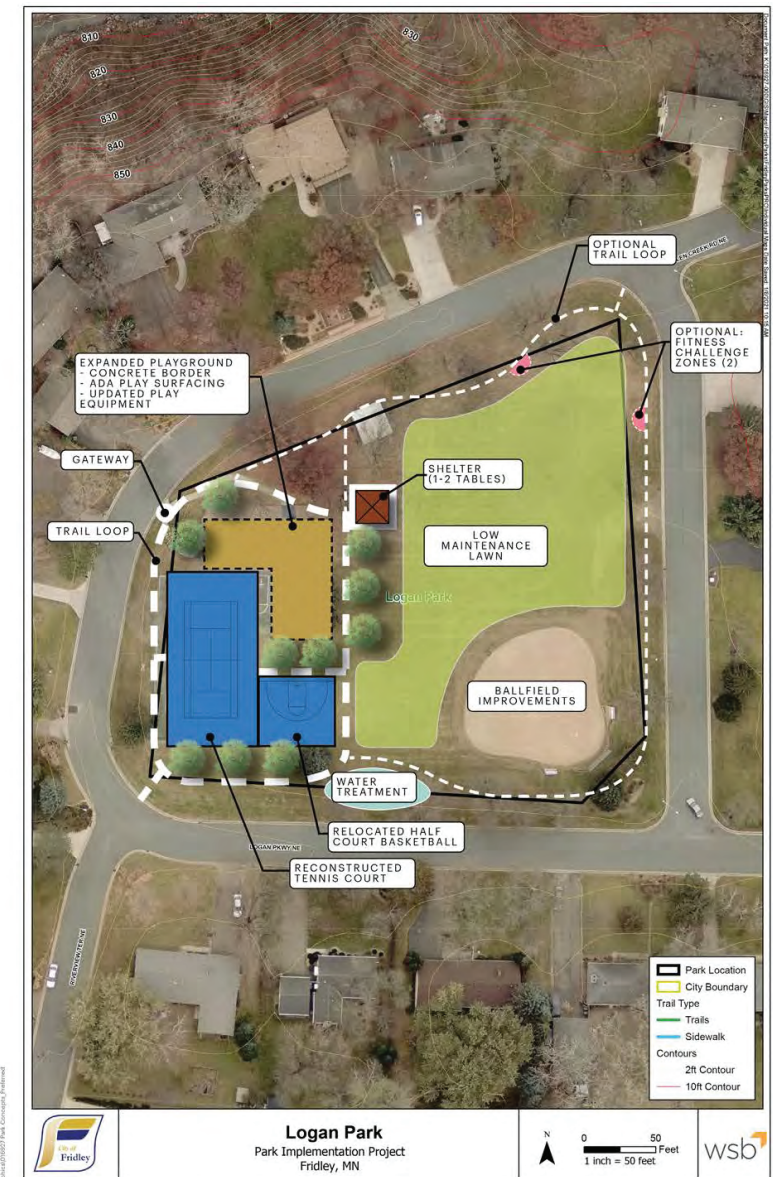
PRIORITY LEVEL:

LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

This neighborhood park has opportunities to service numerous neighborhood areas with improved connectivity, and is ranked high.



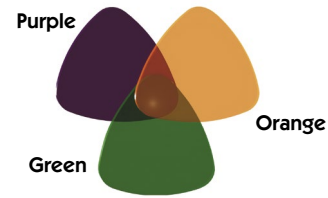
COLORS THAT MOVE YOU

Item 4.

POWDER COAT PAINT



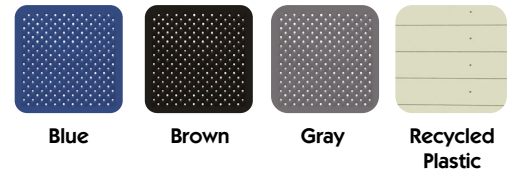
SOLIS HUE TOPPERS



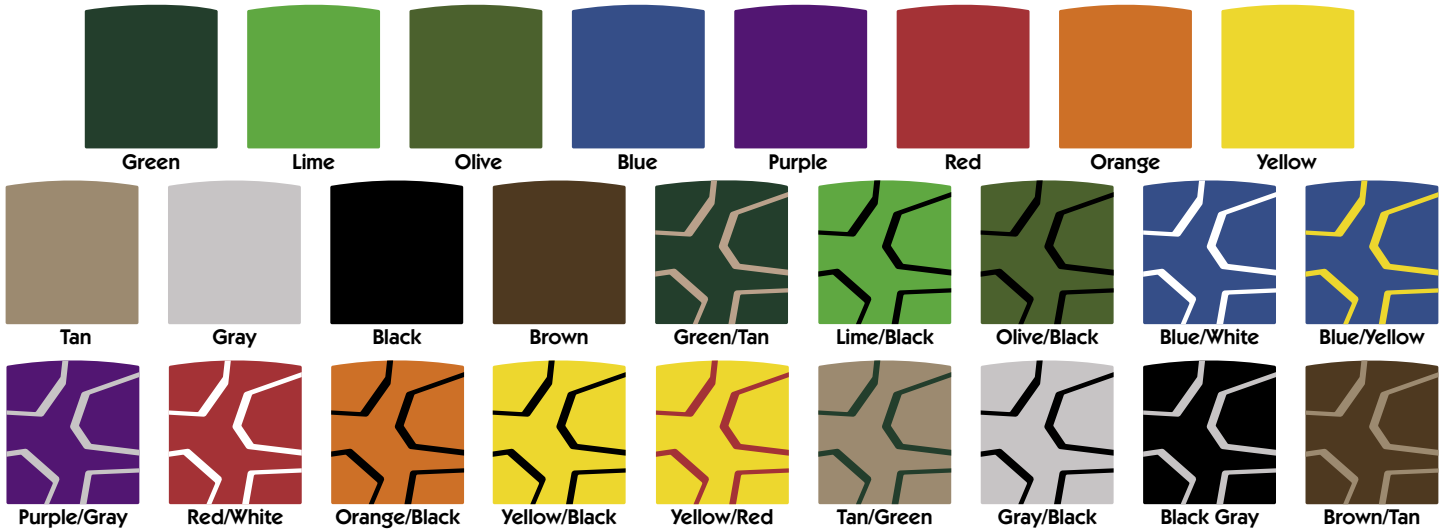
ROCKIT CLIMBERS



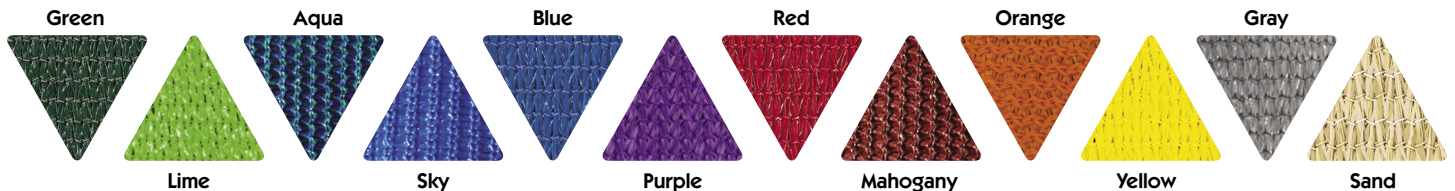
PLATFORMS



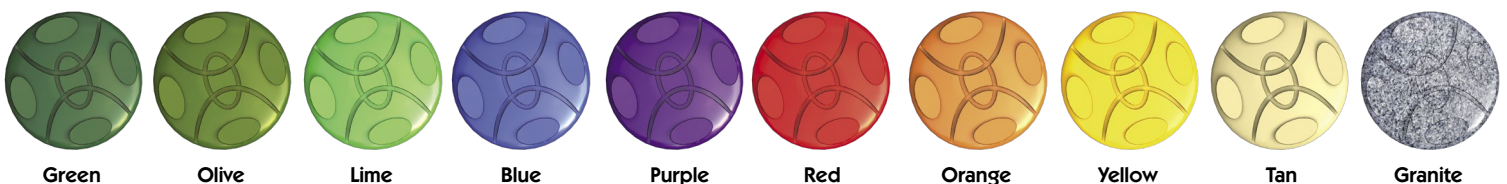
HDPE PLASTIC PANELS



SHADE CANOPIES



ROTOMOLD PLASTIC



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COLORS THAT MOVE YOU

Item 4.



Electric

Navy posts, granite plastic, blue shade, lime accessories & blue platforms



Bayside

Green posts, blue plastic, blue shade, aqua accessories & brown platforms



Daisy

Fuchsia posts, lime plastic, purple shade, lemon accessories & gray platforms



Aster

Aqua posts, purple plastic, purple shade, lemon accessories & brown platforms



Urban

Silver posts, red plastic, red shade, black accessories & brown platforms



Psychedelic

Navy posts, orange plastic, lime shade, lime accessories & brown platforms



Chameleon

Black posts, lime plastic, lime shade, aqua accessories & brown platforms



Freedom

Sky posts, red plastic, red shade, white accessories & brown platforms



Forest

Burgundy posts, green plastic, green shade, tan accessories & brown platforms



Retro

Charcoal posts, granite plastic, mahogany shade, redwood accessories & brown platforms



Enchanted

Brown posts, lime plastic, lime shade, tan accessories & brown platforms



Sunflower

Redwood posts, yellow plastic, yellow shade, olive accessories, & brown platforms



Macaw

Aqua posts, yellow plastic, orange shade, lime accessories & gray platforms



Orchid

Lemon posts, purple plastic, lime shade, aqua accessories & brown platforms



Parrot

Sky posts, red plastic, red shade, lemon accessories & brown platforms



Seabreeze

Mint posts, granite plastic, aqua shade, aqua accessories & gray platforms

PLYMOUTH SQUARE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK – Thursday, JULY 27TH 2023

25 residents attended an event at Plymouth Square Park on July 27th and three completed an online survey to provide feedback on the park and playground designs.

PICKLEBALL / TENNIS COURTS

- Tennis courts in other parks in Fridley (e.g. Horizon) really aren't used. Full basketball is used.

BASKETBALL COURT

- Full basketball is used.
- A full basketball court would be nice and in my opinion, used more than tennis.
- Full size basketball court.

TRAILS

- Trails wouldn't really be used. Guests in the park mostly come for the basketball court and playground.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

- Sand wasps have been known to make nests in the playground sand.

SHADE / SHELTER

- Trees are good, since a lot of the mature trees have been lost or removed in the park.
- Please save the pine tree by the current basketball court if possible.
- It would be great if the park could have more shade over the equipment. It gets very hot during the day.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- The large open space Plymouth Square Park is now, is wonderful. The open space should be re-created.
- Add Volleyball.
- A wading pool would be cool.
- Lighting in pavilion area, not on courts, so it keeps noise down.
- Dog water stations.
- Access to park entrance. Can it be on non-residential side. Parking becomes difficult for residents.
- Would love to see a bigger basketball court, or a volleyball court or soccer goals! Lots of families come to play together in the late afternoons in the summer. I'm so happy for the update!! I have 4 kids aged 2-9 and it's been sad watching the current playground deteriorating. We will use it for years to come!

- Please don't put in a tennis/pickleball court. Our neighborhood plays a LOT of Basketball and Volleyball. Please reconsider shrinking the basketball court for our neighbors. We make good use of the existing basketball court and need it to be full-size.

POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

1. Consider a recommendation to approve playground design A
 - a. Consider a recommendation to approve playground design A with addition of shade sails as possible with available budget
2. Consider a recommendation to update concept design to include a full-size basketball court
3. Does the Commission wish to make a recommendation to include a tennis court with pickleball striping or a single dedicated pickleball court?
4. Are there any additional recommendations that the Commission would like to make regarding plans for Plymouth Square Park?

PLAYGROUND CONCEPT A – 21 VOTES

- I like it, but swings should go with it.
- Could use a canopy.
- Add shade sails. Like variety, slides and climbing features.



PLAYGROUND CONCEPT B - 14 VOTES

- This one is nice, but the color is really dark. It should be a bright color.
- Like slides and climbing wall, monkey bars.
- Needs more variety and shade sails.



PLAYGROUND CONCEPT C - 13 VOTES

- The monkey bars look fun, but not for tricks.
- Like shade and 2-person swing, disc swing
- Add more options for 2-5yrs and older kid climbing feature.



Plymouth Square Park

4807 MAIN STREET NE

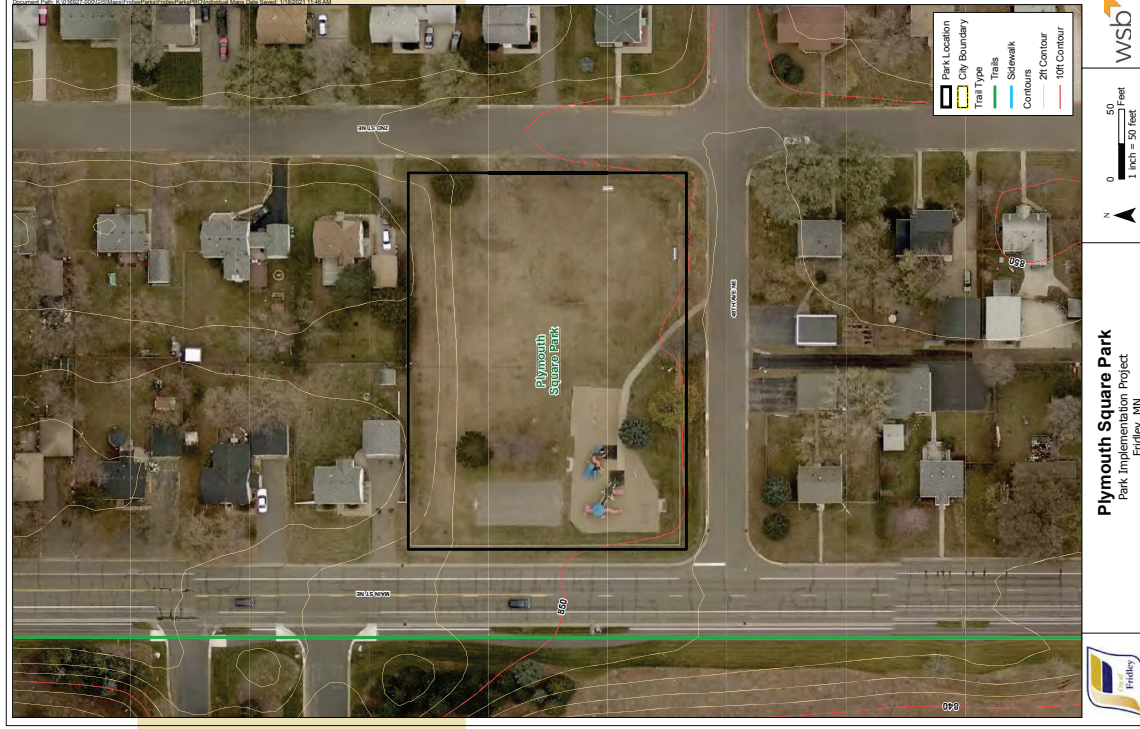
PARK TYPE: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
SIZE: 1.1-ACRES
RESIDENTS SERVED: 543
SPECIAL USES: NONE

DESCRIPTION:

This small neighborhood park services neighborhood #40 in the southernmost portion of Fridley with a playground and full basketball court. There is a large open lawn that once had a ballfield and only the players benches remain with a chain link fence around the majority of the park. The park feels very old and outdated.



EXISTING PARK FEATURES:



158

159

Item 4.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS:

General recommendations includes full redevelopment with a new layout to make the most of the park land available with a broader range of amenities for an improved recreational experience.

Recommendations include:

- Landscape enhancements
- New playground equipment meeting a broader range of ages in a new location
- ADA compliant playground surfacing (engineered wood fiber)
- Concrete playground border
- Basketball half court (confirm option of full or half court with neighborhood)
- Single tennis court (if only a half basketball court is installed)
- Picnic shelter with 2 tables and outlet on a central plaza
- Open lawn
- Trail connections
- Site furnishings with common characteristic (benches, tables, receptacles, bike racks, drinking fountain, etc.)
- New ornamental or black vinyl clad chain link fencing where necessary
- Wayfinding signs
- Security light

The estimate of probable costs for completing the recommendations shown range from approximately \$345,000 to \$445,000.

Specific assumptions and exclusions:

- Does not account for unknown site factors (poor soils, drainage concerns, etc.)
- Does not include utilities

PRIORITY LEVEL:

LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

This park would provide a broader range of recreation for the neighborhood service area and is ranked medium.



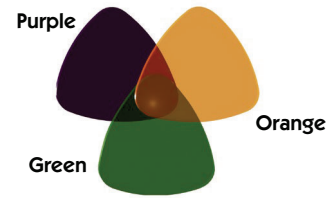
COLORS THAT MOVE YOU

Item 4.

POWDER COAT PAINT



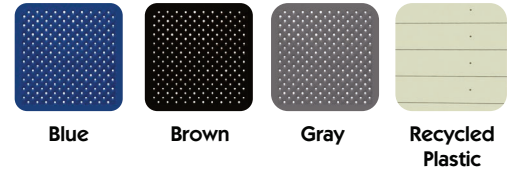
SOLIS HUE TOPPERS



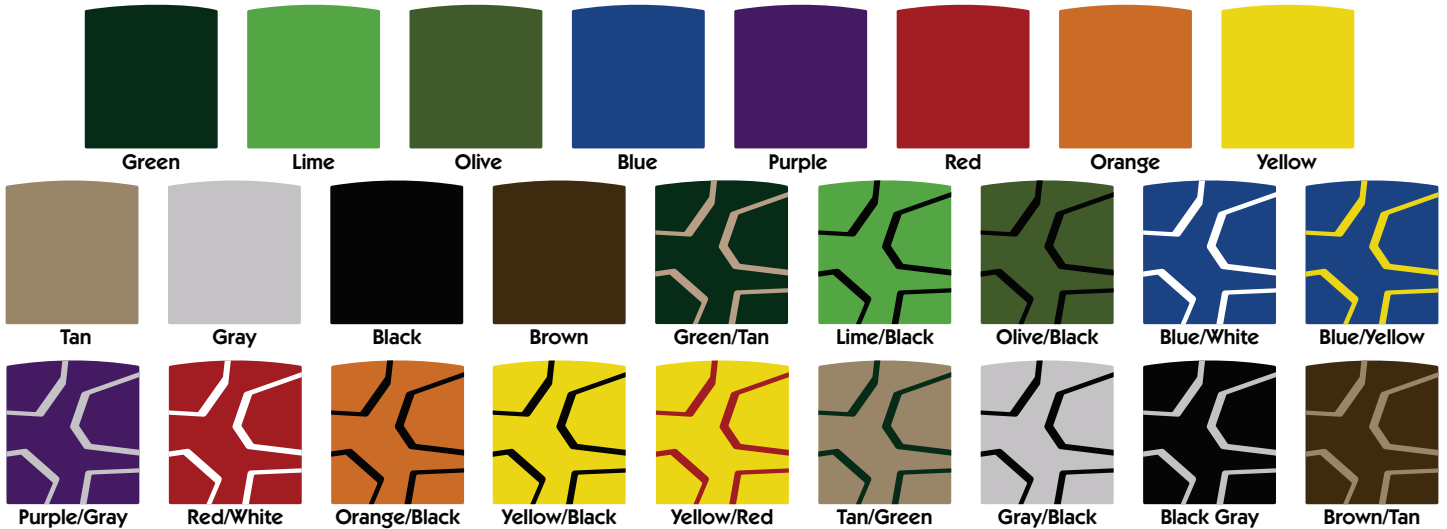
ROCKIT CLIMBERS



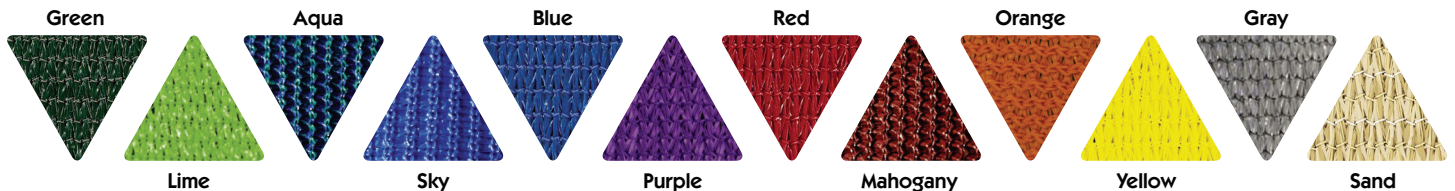
PLATFORMS



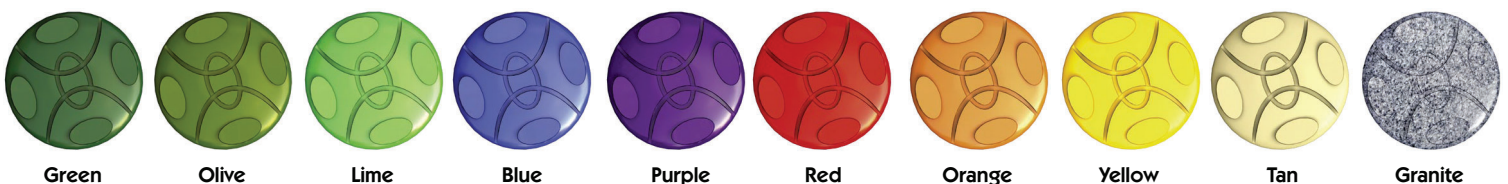
HDPE PLASTIC PANELS



SHADE CANOPIES



ROTOMOLD PLASTIC



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COLORS THAT MOVE YOU

Item 4.



Electric

Navy posts, granite plastic, blue shade, lime accessories & blue platforms



Bayside

Green posts, blue plastic, blue shade, aqua accessories & brown platforms



Daisy

Fuchsia posts, lime plastic, purple shade, lemon accessories & gray platforms



Aster

Aqua posts, purple plastic, purple shade, lemon accessories & brown platforms



Urban

Silver posts, red plastic, red shade, black accessories & brown platforms



Psychedelic

Navy posts, orange plastic, lime shade, lime accessories & brown platforms



Chameleon

Black posts, lime plastic, lime shade, aqua accessories & brown platforms



Freedom

Sky posts, red plastic, red shade, white accessories & brown platforms



Forest

Burgundy posts, green plastic, green shade, tan accessories & brown platforms



Retro

Charcoal posts, granite plastic, mahogany shade, redwood accessories & brown platforms



Enchanted

Brown posts, lime plastic, lime shade, tan accessories & brown platforms



Sunflower

Redwood posts, yellow plastic, yellow shade, olive accessories, & brown platforms



Macaw

Aqua posts, yellow plastic, orange shade, lime accessories & gray platforms



Orchid

Lemon posts, purple plastic, lime shade, aqua accessories & brown platforms



Parrot

Sky posts, red plastic, red shade, lemon accessories & brown platforms



Seabreeze

Mint posts, granite plastic, aqua shade, aqua accessories & gray platforms



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 5, 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 September 5, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Springbrook Nature Center Update for September 5, 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.

July Teaching

- Nature Center staff taught 2 **birthday parties** during July. One was a nature scavenger hunt and the other was an eco-pirates theme.
- **Summer Camp** has been BUSY and FUN. During July, camp staff taught Adventure Camp (for 10-14 year olds), Beast Lore, Bushcraft Camp, Preschool Animal Explorers, Epic Eras and Woodlands and Wildthings. **161 campers** were with us during the month. They spent a **WHOPPING 4792 hours** with us.

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

- 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!
- The **suspension bridge** along the Beaver Pond Trail is slated for a replacement this September. We are looking forward to a solid crossing just before Pumpkin Night in the Park

Events

- The **Fridley Community Band** performed at Springbrook on July 24th.

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 will go on sale on September 1 (use code PNITP2023 for \$2 off per ticket from 9/1/23 – 9/15/23). Tickets will be available online on our website or in person at both Springbrook Nature Center and Fridley Civic Campus.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 5, 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 September 5, 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 September 5, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Vision Statement

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

Summer Concert Series

The concert series ended in August. The Civic Campus concerts have averaged approximately 200 attendees per concert! Concert goers have enjoyed the wonderful music, along with games from our Rec 'N Roll mobile and food has been available for purchase from local food trucks. August concert at the Civic Campus was the Everett Smithson Band on August 8. Unfortunately, due to the high head index we had to cancel Carolyn Naomi on August 22. We hope to reschedule or book her for next year. Rachel Workin, Fridley Environmental Planner, partnered with us to promote different aspects of her work as a pre-concert activity. The August 8 concert focused on our connection to the Mississippi River, with local watershed districts present. The August 22 was planned to feature a line-up of electric vehicles, bikes, and lawn equipment, this activity will move to the Civic Campus 5-year Anniversary Celebration on September 9.

We had a children's musical, Madagascar JR, this year at Springbrook Nature Center in partnership with Anoka County Library Mississippi branch. The musical was performed by ETC Productions, which employs high school kids from the metro doing theatrical performances as their summer jobs. The show brought over 325 kids, adults, and even a few summer care facilities to the park to watch this free event. It was a great time and we hope to have them back again next summer!



Youth Evening Sports

The second session of evening sports wrapped up in August. Fridley Recreation offered a wide variety of sport class options for children of preschool and elementary school age including: soccer, t-ball, track and field, and a games and sports class. In addition, we offer tennis for elementary and middle school children. These programs were an introduction to the sports where participants learned fundamentals in a supportive social environment. Evening sports program were very popular this summer having most classes fill; class maximums were also increased to 18 total participants after a large number of students were held on the waitlist prior to the expansion.

Nickel Jamboree

Nickel Jamboree returned to Commons Park on August 9. Participants enjoyed carnival games, hay rides, the bouncy castle, inflatable slide, face painting and snacks at the concession stand. Approximately 300 children and families participated in the event despite rainy weather. Groups from Spring Lake Park Parks and Recreation and Tiger Club were able to attend and enjoy our awesome carnival!



Rec 'N Roll

We had another successful summer in the parks with the Rec 'N Roll mobile! The Recreation team visited 4 parks each week on Wednesdays and Thursdays between June 14 – August 17. Locations are Ruth Circle, Madsen, Commons and Flanery Parks. The Onsite coordinator of this program this year was our summer intern Taylor Trost who did a great job connecting with the families that visited the program. We were happy to partner with Fridley Schools Food Services again this summer to provide free snacks to all children that participated.

Summer ROCKS (Recreation Opportunities for Creative Kids in the Summer)

Our summer day camp, ROCKS, concluded on August 18. Participants and staff had an amazing 9 weeks of fun. Kids enjoy morning classes (sports, STEM, art & crafts) and afternoons involved playground time, games & crafts at Commons Park, and each day ended with free time back at the Middle School. On Wednesdays in August, we had field trips and special events that included: Nickel Jamboree, Bunker Beach Waterpark and Anoka Aquatic Center. The kids had a blast and parents have shared positive feedback on the program. Both the kids and our seasonal staff shed many tears the last day as they did not want ROCKS to end!

Bike Outing at ROCKS

Fridley Parks and Recreation was able to use one of their newer resources with the ROCKS participants this summer, the bike fleet! For the first time children in the 4-6 grade group went on a bike ride from Commons Park to Locke Park and back. Students were led by Recreation and Springbrook Nature Center staff. They all had a great experience!

Our Leaders Are Readers

The story time partnership with Anoka County Library Mississippi branch was a success this summer! Bringing out approximately 30 people for each of the three events. The program was held Civic Campus and included songs, games and story readings by our civic leaders in the Fireside Room. Following the story time our readers took participants on a tour of the Fire Department, Police Department or Council Chambers.

- Aug 3 - Fire Department Readers Alisa Brakić Schuster and James Lange
- August 16 - Mayor Lund
- August 31 - Police Department Reader Patrick Faber



55+ Golf League

The Fridley Golf League took place at the Brightwood Golf Course in New Brighton. The 19 participants played with partners for the season and were paired with different teams each week, giving them the opportunity to enjoy golf and meet other seniors. The season concluded on August 31 with a golf tournament and banquet featuring food, prizes and the end of season ceremony.

Sand Volleyball League

This was our second summer offering the Sand Volleyball League with the North Metro Sports group. In total 18 teams participated in this league across Fridley, Spring Lake Park, New Brighton and Mounds View. Games were held at City Hall Park in Mounds View and Commons Park in Fridley. This was our largest volleyball league yet and we are excited to offer year-round volleyball opportunities thanks to the help of our partner cities!

Moore Lake Park

Construction at Moore Lake Park is well underway with much of the site and underground work being completed and more visible elements such as building framing, court surfacing and playground equipment scheduled for early September. The overall schedule is on track for completion by early December and there is hope that the north end of the park may be able to open for access to the playground, picnic areas, basketball, volleyball and pickleball in October.



Neighborhood Parks

Construction is underway at Creek View, Ed Wilmes and Skyline Parks and will be completed by mid-November. Play equipment has been installed at Creek View Park. Engagement events for 2024 park projects have been completed at Logan, Plymouth Square, Sylvan Hills and Edgewater Gardens Parks. Attendance was strong for all four events.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 5, 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 September 5, 2023 meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Park Maintenance Report for September 5, 2023 meeting

Vision Statement

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



Memorandum

Item 7.

Date: 08/23/2023
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 9/5/2023

The Park Maintenance Division has been working on finishing up all summer projects as most seasonal employees have finished their positions as of this time. Projects we have just completed are Old Central round-a-bout planting, civic campus plantings and plantings in front of City Hall.

There has been a large amount of tree work being done from various storms this summer causing damage in most parks and we will be getting ready for Pumpkin Night in the Park by getting a new bridge installed, making repairs to the 85th Ave. boardwalk and overseeing a new fireplace installation at the Springbrook Nature Center pavilion.

Park Maintenance staff are still in full summer mode with mowing, weeding, athletic fields, rental clean-up, irrigation and watering plants/trees and general park maintenance.