



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

June 03, 2024

6:00 PM

Commons Park: 6249 7th Street NE Fridley, Minnesota
United States, 55432

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.](#) Proposed K9 Training Area at Locke Park
- [2.](#) Commons Park Project Walking Tour and Discussion

Old Business

Adjournment

Staff Reports

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

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.

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 3, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Proposed K9 Training Area at Locke Park

Background

Fridley Public Safety is interested in utilizing a defined segment of Locke Park for an enclosed K9 training area. Their proposal indicates that a suitable area has not been available in the City and that they have a need for the training space as well as existing training tools and equipment. The proposal includes fencing off an area approximately the size of a football field that is currently unutilized within the park due to its location largely under power lines.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the establishment and maintenance of the K9 training area are proposed to be covered by Fridley Public Safety, largely through donations that have been received.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission discuss the proposed project and provide questions and feedback regarding the establishment of the K9 training area.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Locke Park Police K9 Training Area Proposal

Vision Statement

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

Fridley Police K9 Training Area Proposal

Locke Park (840 71st Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432)

Sergeant Tom Roddy



(Sgt. Roddy/K9 Finn pictured left and Officer Lusignan/K9 Jager pictured right)



(Current FPD K9 Finn)

What: Fridley Police Department K9 Unit needs a designated police K9 training area. The two police dogs in Fridley require constant and ongoing training, exercise, and play. The K9 unit had a training area located at the old Fridley Fire Training Facility which was demolished and is now part of the Civic Campus. Available land area within the city has proven difficult to find however Locke Park appears to have a secluded area adequate for the needs of the K9 unit.

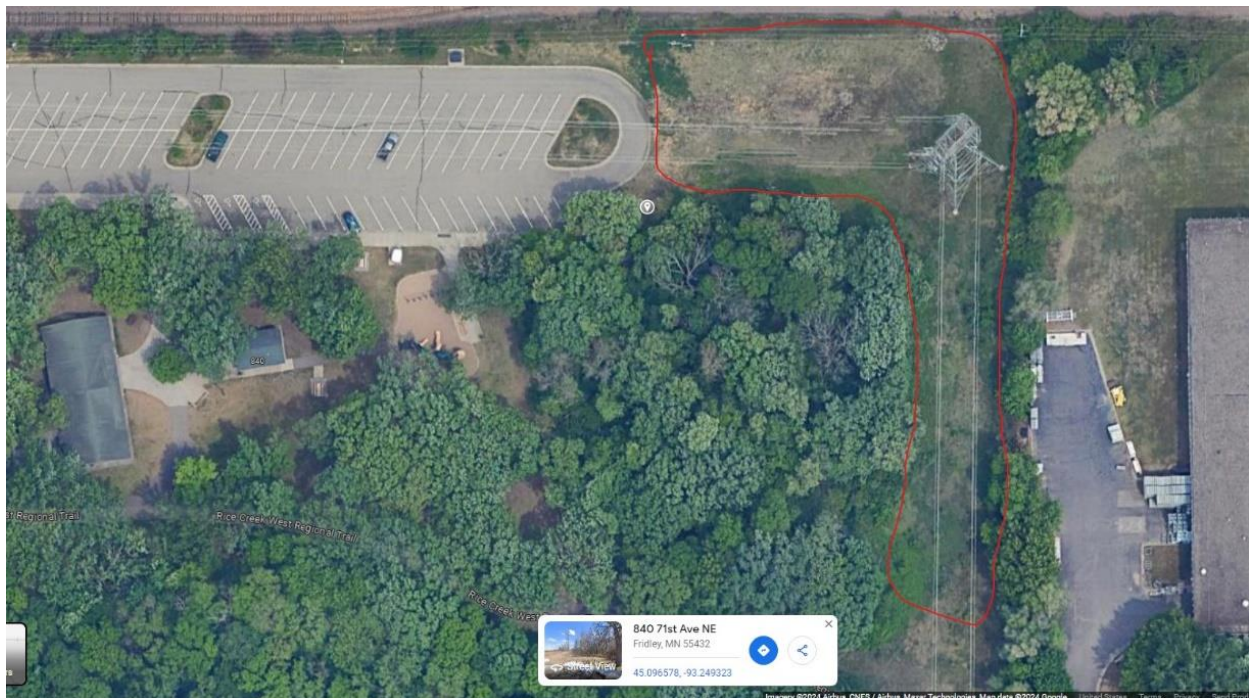
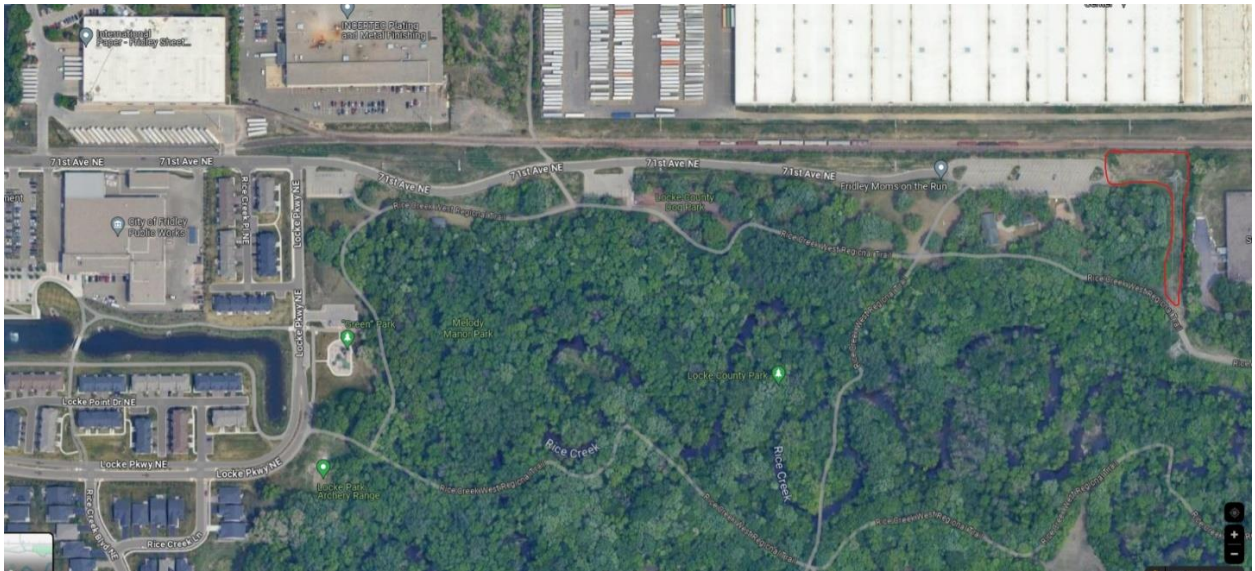
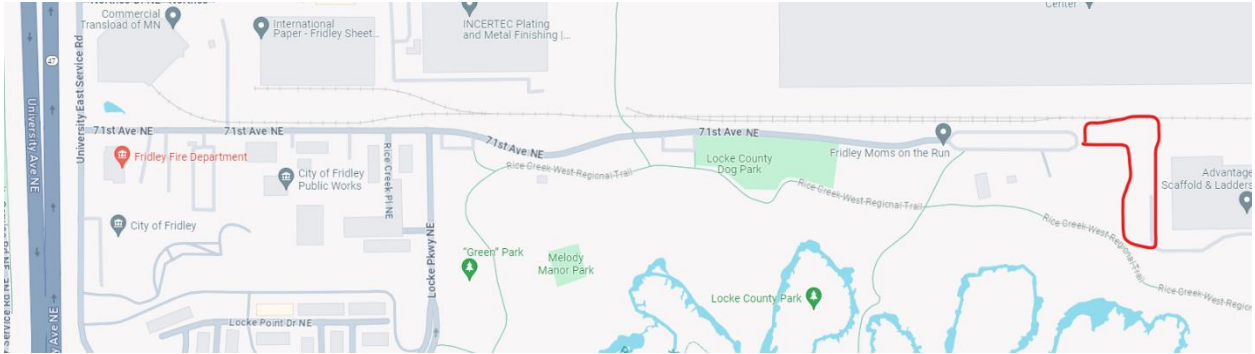
Why: The two police dogs need an area where they can train and exercise with their handlers without public interruption. The training area would contain agility equipment as well as “search boxes” to practice the various disciplines the K9 teams certify in yearly. The previously mentioned equipment is already owned by the city, and it was purchased using funds donated to the K9 unit. The equipment is currently stored on a small unusable piece of land leased by the city for storage.

All surrounding law enforcement jurisdictions with K9 units (ie. Coon Rapids, Blaine, Lino Lakes, Anoka County) have their own training areas. Fridley Officers routinely need to leave the city to train on and off duty to stay current on the exercises.

Requirement: A cleared and open area of land slightly smaller than a football field. It would be beneficial for this area to be secured by a fence and locked gate to prevent unauthorized access. Signage designating the area as “FPD Police K9 Training Area - Authorized Personnel Only” would be desired. The area would most likely need to be mowed a few times a year to prevent overgrowth of grass and vegetation. The K9 unit would assist with the maintenance, cleaning, and overall professional appearance of the facility.

Location: There is a wooded area east of the parking lot for the Locke Park picnic area (840 71st Ave NE) which has been identified as a useable area. Currently the land is covered by vegetation and a wooded area. With the proper planning, involving qualified individuals, it appears the area vegetation could be mowed to a more reasonable height, and the area could be used as a field to place the training equipment. The area appears large enough to exercise the police dogs in a safe and secure space away from public interruption. The area would be mostly out of direct sight of the public and it would have minimal interference with the natural wildlife. If permitted, this location would be developed with the intent to cause as little interruption to the park as possible.

Locke Park location identified in red.

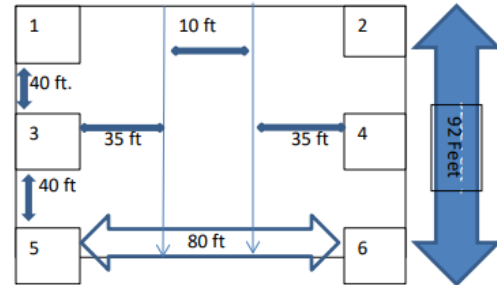


Examples of K9 Agility Equipment / Search Boxes layout

(Photos courtesy of USPCA Trial Handbook)



DIAGRAM OF BOX FIELD LAYOUT





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 3, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Commons Park Project Walking Tour and Discussion

Background

Commons Park will receive significant improvements as the second of two community park renovations funded through the City's Park System Improvement Plan. Building and site design will be substantially completed in 2024, with construction expected to begin in 2025. HCM Architects have been brought on board to design our recreation building and HKGi has been hired as the Landscape Architect.

Central to the park design will be an interconnected complex featuring a park building, parking, splash pad, inclusive playground, and winter recreation area. Copies of the concept improvement plan published in the 2022 Park System Improvement Plan as well as an updated 2024 preferred concept plan are attached for review and discussion at the meeting.

Financial Impact

The Commons Park project total budget is \$11-12 million. The park building budget discussions have ranged from a base of \$4 million and above as construction cost projections have increased significantly in the two years since the Park System Improvement Plan was established.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission review the concept vision for Commons Park and provide questions, feedback and direction to staff as the project design team moves from concept design to design development.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Commons Park Concept Plan – Park System Improvement Plan 2022
- Commons Park Updated Concept Plan - 2024

Vision Statement

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

Key:

- Sand Volleyball
- Restrooms
- Pickleball
- Inclusive Playground
- Shelter
- Parking Lot
- Splash Pad
- Warming House
- Ice Skating Rink
- Ballfield
- Sledding Hill
- Basketball Court
- Hockey Rink
- Tennis Courts
- Soccer Fields
- Hammock Area

Item 2.



Commons Park

6249 - 7TH STREET NE

PARK TYPE: COMMUNITY PARK
SIZE: 23-ACRES
SPECIAL USES: SLEDDING HILL

DESCRIPTION:

Commons Park is the City's most popular park and includes a rentable shelter, hockey rinks, warming house, playground, volleyball courts, tennis courts, basketball court, sledding hill, ballfields, and turf fields used for football and soccer. Commons Park is well-used for recreation programming, athletic groups, and active play and adjoins the Fridley Middle School with combined recreational spaces.

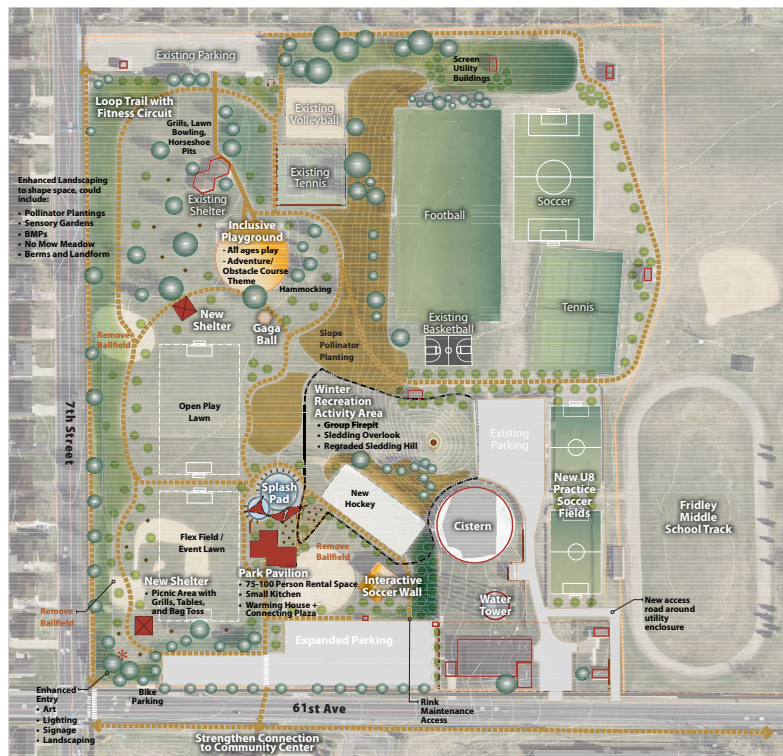


EXISTING PARK FEATURES:



PLANNING BACKGROUND:

A Concept Plan for Commons Park was initially created that removed the existing baseball and softball fields (shown below) and included more flexible turf space with a central winter recreation area and splash pad. During the community engagement it was determined that it was highly desired to keep the baseball field due to the current athletic needs and its relation to the school sites for joint programming.



COMMONS PARK PLANNING FRAMEWORK A DRAFT January 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS - YOUTH AND PLAY:

General recommendations include improving and replacing existing amenities with some reorganization to improve overall function, accessibility and user satisfaction while still meeting the needs of programmed athletics by keeping the primary baseball field. New amenities are identified to meet current demands and trends, as well as to expand upon four-season recreation. Coordination and partnership with the school district will be necessary for some of the recommendations shown on school property and necessary for a balance of recreational amenities.

Recommendations include:

- Integration of winter activities within a central location with an improved sledding hill and relocated paved hockey rink for multi-season use with optimal N-S orientation
- Community pavilion building with meeting room, outdoor fire pit, gathering spaces and restrooms
- Inclusive playground with a focus on unique and challenging equipment meeting a broad range of ages and abilities
- Loop trails for improved connectivity within the park
- Reorganization and improved athletic fields for greater function and flexibility
- Addition of splash pad with adjoining seating plaza with shade
- Expansion of picnic spaces and picnic shelters
- Addition of dedicated pickleball court complex (includes removal of two existing tennis courts)
- Improved and expanded parking
- Expanded volleyball courts
- Replace existing basketball court

PRIORITY LEVEL:



This is a popular destination park that also serves a large neighborhood service area containing high density and low income populations and provides a broad range of outdoor recreational amenities for varying user groups and therefore is ranked high.

Estimate of Probable Costs is a range of \$8.5 to \$12 million for base preferred improvements and an additional \$1.8 to \$2.6 million for deferred or alternate improvements.



Fridley Park Concepts - Commons Park

Fridley, Minnesota
December 9, 2021 WSB Project number: 016927-000





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 3, 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 June 3, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Springbrook Nature Center Update for June 3, 2024 meeting

Vision Statement

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

Park & Rec Commission Report

May Teaching

May is a BUSY teaching month as we head into the last weeks of the school year. Our naturalists have been incredibly busy finishing up partnership programs (Fridley Schools, Adams Elementary) and also teaching a variety of other schools coming in for their end of the year field trips. Below is a listing of the groups and their topics.

- Stevenson and Hayes Elementary School First Grade – Pond Study and Life Cycles
- Hayes and Stevenson Kindergarten – Recycling
- Fridley Preschool - Habitats
- Adams Elementary Kindergarten – Living and Non-Living
- Adams Elementary 5th Grade – survival shelters
- Adams Elementary 5th grade – survival fires
- Adams Elementary 1st grade - insects
- Nature Preschool Club – learning in nature through exploration and wonder
- Girl Scouts – Leave no Trace
- Centennial Elementary Kindergarten – Pond Study
- Osseo ECFE Preschool - Amphibians
- Davinci Academy 2nd grade – Pond Study
- Davinci Academy 2nd grade – Habitats
- Bel Ai Elementary 2nd Grade – Habitats
- St. John the Baptist Kindergarten – Springtastic
- Wilshire Park Elementary 1st grade – Animal Classification
- Cedar Island Elementary Offsite – Reptiles and Amphibians
- Madison Elementary Kindergarten – Pond Study)
- St. Stephens Preschool – Pond Study
- Johnsville Elementary 3rd Grade – Insects
- Family of Christ - Mamals
- Intro to Botany Public Program
- Intro to Phenology Public Program
- Polliwogs Parent and Child Class
- Grow Your Own Food Class – Public Program

May Rentals

- Three birthday parties this month – reptiles, fort building and insects
- 1 indoor rental – celebration of life
- 1 PAC rental – Grad Party

Grants

- Springbrook Nature Center has been awarded a \$7,500 grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation for the project entitled “Wild Connections in Environmental Education”. Purchasing will start later this summer with a custom-designed enclosure for our large Bull Snake (amongst other things).

Park & Building Maintenance

- We are reviewing a quote to repair the caulking around the bases of the columns in the entryway and front reception areas. The concrete floor is also experiencing cracking of the caulked joints. The

company who gave the quote on the columns declined to bid for the joints as they were concerned the procedure they use would damage the recently refinished floor.

Item 3.

Upcoming Events

Environmental Fun Fair will take place on Saturday, May 18th. May 18, 2024 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Springbrook Nature Center

- Event Passport and Prizes
- Environmental and Educational exhibitors
- Pop-Up Community Toy Store
- Stock the Community Toy Store: Swap out your old, under-utilized toys this year. Help us promote reuse in our community by dropping off your lightly loved children's toys, puzzles, games and art supplies to be distributed during the Pop-Up Community Toy Store at the Environmental Fun Fair. We will be collecting toys in the lobbies of Fridley City Hall and Springbrook Nature Center during business hours from April 16-May 16.
- Games, Crafts & Activities focused around Environmental Stewardship
- Bouncy Castle
- AND MORE!



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 3, 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 June 3, 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 June 3, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Vision Statement

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HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation Division: May 2024

Spring Programs

Below is a list of programs and participation numbers for those taking place during May.

Preschool: Ages 3-5

Soccer (5 sessions): Apr-May	12
T-ball (4 sessions): Apr-May	12

Elementary – Middle School: Grades K-7

Spring Crafts K-4 (6 sessions): Apr-May	14
Dodgeball Gr. K-4 (5 sessions): Apr-May	14
Tae Kwon Do K-4 (6 sessions): Apr-May	14
Field Trip to Grand Slam K-5: Mar 29	19
Teen Pickleball Clinic (1 session): Apr 4 – Fridley, 2 – SLP	6

All Ages

Container Gardening: May 10	6
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Adult Fitness and Athletics

Zumba (2 classes/6 sessions each): May-Jun	17
55+ Golf League: May-Aug	21
Teen Pickleball Camp: May 4-5 1 – Fridley, 5 – SLP	6
Pickleball Intro Clinic (1 session): May 4-5 4 – Fridley, 2 – SLP	6
Pickleball Ladder League – All Ages: May-Jul 30 – Fridley, 24 – SLP (2 leagues)	54
Pickleball Ladder League – Ages 20-35: Mar-May 23 – Fridley, 11 – SLP	33
Volleyball Coed Rec League: Apr-May North Metro League*: Fridley-1 team, 2 individuals	7 teams
Volleyball Coed Competitive League: Apr-May North Metro League*: Fridley-1 team, 2 individuals	8 teams
Volleyball Women's Competitive League: Apr-May North Metro League*: Fridley – 1 team; 4 ind)	9 teams
Coed Bag Toss League: May-Jul North Metro League*	5 teams

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



Parks and Recreation Brochure

The content for the July/August brochure is complete and is currently being designed. The brochure will be mailed to households during the first week of July.

May Facility Rentals

Facility Rentals

Moore Lake Community Building	20
Shelters (Commons, Flanery, Locke, Moore Lake #5)	15
Community Park	26
Ray Thompson Little League	58
Commons Park Ball Fields	57

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

On May 20, four full-time staff and five summer lead staff attended the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training in Brooklyn Center. Staff learned best practices on how to help youth who might be experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or are in crisis. A 5-step action plan was presented on how to best help youth in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and all staff who attended are now certified Youth Mental Health First Aiders for the next three years.

Interns Started

Both of our interns have started their summer work and are busy preparing for the programs they will lead this summer! We look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish!

Afterschool & Preschool Classes Ended

Our last session of after school and preschool classes ended on May 23. It was another successful year. One parent recently wrote, "I just wanted to let you know how much my kids have absolutely loved this class! My daughter gets so excited for "after school day". So just wanted to say thank you!"

Summer Prep

We are currently using Dory's motto, "Just keep swimming!" as we are in the thick of prepping for a busy summer. Staff have been working on training the interns, training lead staff, and getting ready for our all staff training that will take place the first week of June. We also are getting summer marketing materials together, and preparing for summer ROCKS, concert series, and other programs. We are excited for a great summer!

Environmental Fun Fair

The Environmental Fun Fair was on Saturday, May 18 at the Springbrook Nature Center. It was a beautiful day to enjoy nature and the event hosted a crowd of about 500 people! This event is coordinated by the Fridley Parks and Recreation Department and Springbrook Nature Center with partnership from Fridley Environmental Planning and Anoka County 4H. The event had a variety of exhibitors from the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota area meet to share information through activities for all ages. Participants were given a map and event passport when they arrived. The event passport encouraged them to visit different exhibitors to get "stamps" on their passport that entered them in to win prizes at the welcome table. Flamingo's Ice Cream and Rustic Chef Food Truck were at the event to provide food, beverages and ice cream! In addition, there were two presentations from the Wildlife Science Center and a live musical performance by Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade providing even more entertainment for visitors!

Exhibitor list:

- All Energy Solar
- Anoka County 4-H
- Anoka County Commute Solutions
- Anoka County Recycling
- Birch Tree Care
- Cedar Creek Ecosystem Reserve
- Center for Energy and Environment
- Coon Creek Watershed District
- Fridley Recycling Truck & Street Sweeper
- Fridley Parks and Recreation Garden Towers
- Friends of the BWCA
- Geological Society of MN
- Growing Green Hearts
- International Wolf Center
- Manna Market
- Metro Mosquito Control
- Minneapolis Toy Library
- Minnesota Mycological Society
- MN 350
- MN Herpetological Society
- MN Ornithologists' Union
- North Suburban Center for the Arts
- Springbrook Nature Center Birding Hikes & Presentations
- UMN Master Gardeners
- UMN Turfgrass Science
- We All Need Food and Water



Free Summer Concerts

This summer we will have two concerts at Springbrook, four at Civic Campus, and three at Moore Lake. In addition, the City Band will be playing at various parks on Monday nights through July. We invite you to bring a lawn chair and join us for a night of music this summer with others in our community!



FREE *community concerts*

Springbrook Nature Center – Tuesdays
Springbrook concerts are supported by a generous donation from the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation.
JULY 9: SOUTHSIDE ACES, JAZZ | 7 - 8 p.m.
AUGUST 13: LOS REBELDES , TEX-MEX | 7 - 8 p.m.

Civic Campus – Tuesdays
JUNE 18: THE INLAND SEAS, IRISH | 7 - 8 p.m.
 • Food Truck: Rustic Chef & Flamingo's Ice Cream
JULY 16: DIA TOTI, RnB | 7 - 8 p.m.
 • Food Truck: Rustic Chef & Flamingo's Ice Cream
JULY 30: SAWYER'S DREAM, ROCK/AMERICANA | 7 - 8 p.m.
 • Food Truck: Flamingo's Ice Cream
AUGUST 20: SOCAHOLIX, CARIBBEAN/CALYPSO | 7 - 8 p.m.
 • Food Truck: Rustic Chef & Flamingo's Ice Cream

Mondays at Moore
 Join us on Mondays this summer to enjoy concerts at our beautiful, newly renovated park, Moore Lake! Flamingo's Ice Cream Food Truck will be present at all Moore Lake events.
JUNE 24: FRIDLEY CITY BAND | 7 p.m.
JULY 22: MATT HANNAH, ACOUSTIC | 7 p.m.
AUGUST 5: JEFF LOVEN, ROCK N ROLL | 7 p.m.

Kids' Performance
JULY 24: COMMONS PARK: SHREK THE MUSICAL, JR. | 10:30 a.m.
 Let's go to the theater—but this time at Commons Park! We will watch ETC Production's Shrek the Musical Jr.
See page 4 for details.
Kid's Book Swap — Bring a book, take a book! Come early to find a new treasure at the kid's book swap before the performance.

Music in Our Parks – Mondays
FRIDLEY CITY BAND | 7 p.m.
 JUNE 10: FLANERY PARK
 JUNE 17: LOCKE PARK
 JUNE 24: MOORE LAKE PARK
 JULY 1: MADSEN PARK
 JULY 15: SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER
 JULY 29: BRIARDALE PARK

Bring a lawn chair
Enjoy live music with your neighbors
Free and friendly for all ages.

We hope to see you there!



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: June 3, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director (on behalf of Public Works)

Title

Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Background

Attached is the Park Maintenance and Construction report for the June 3, 2024 meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Park Maintenance Report for June 3, 2024 meeting

Vision Statement

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



Memorandum

Item 5.

Date: 05/29/24

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
(on behalf of Public Works)

CC: Margo Numedahl, Parks and Recreation Manager

RE: Parks and Recreation Commission Report for June 3rd, 2024 Meeting

- Seasonal employees are starting for the summer season in both Park Maintenance and Recreation. Over 40 employees will be joining the team for programming, mowing, park maintenance and special projects.
- Bids were awarded for construction of Logan Park, Edgewater Gardens Park and Plymouth Square Park. Playgrounds will be replaced in early June and site work will begin in early July. Tree removal has been completed to facilitate playground installation.
- Finishing touches continue at Moore Lake Park with bench installation, turf repair, installation of air conditioning in the park building and final surfacing of the pickleball courts being a few items recently completed. Furnishings for the covered plaza and patio will be installed in mid to late June.
- Field maintenance is ongoing for soccer and baseball fields for facility rentals and FYSA
- A volunteer group has been organized to manage invasive buckthorn at Innsbruck Nature Center and will work independently on pre-determined plots.
- Community engagement efforts are being planned for playgrounds for Oak Hill Park on July 30th at 5:30 pm, Jubilee Park on August 14th at 5:30 pm, and Commons Park on August 20th at 5:30 pm.
- Construction is ongoing on the 61st Avenue Parklet (61st and University) to include amenities for commuters and users of public transit in a park-like setting. This is a grant funded project and will not be considered a city park.
- The park bench sponsorship program is now available on the City of Fridley website with bench opportunities being highlighted at newly improved parks. For more information, visit: <https://fridleymn.gov/1666/Bench-Sponsorship-Program>. The first bench and sponsorship included 1 of 4 new benches installed at Locke Park.