



# Parks and Recreation Commission

September 02, 2025

7:00 PM

7071 University Avenue NE

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## Agenda

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

### Approval of Agenda

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. August 4, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission 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

2. Fridley Community Festival Discussion
3. Cooperative Agreement with Great River Greening for Habitat Restoration at Innsbruck Nature Center
4. Commons Park Operations Planning

### Old Business

### Staff Reports

5. Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff Report

### Adjournment

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#### 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](mailto:CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov) or (763) 572-3450.



# AGENDA REPORT

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**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2025

**Meeting Type:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**Submitted By:** Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

## **Title**

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August 4, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

## **Background**

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Attached are the meeting minutes of the August 4, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission.

## **Financial Impact**

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None.

## **Recommendation**

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Staff recommends approval of the August 4, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

## **Attachments and Other Resources**

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- August 4, 2025 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 4, 2025

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  
Melissa Luna  
Tim Kirk  
Jodi Rehlander  
Ken Schultz  
Don Whalen

### **Also Present**

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

### **Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for August 4, 2025**

*Motion by Commissioner Schultz to approve the August 4, 2025, meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for June 2, 2025**

*Motion by Commissioner Kirk to approve the June 2, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **New Business**

1. Discussion on Ordinance Update Allowing for Youth Member and Non-Voting Youth Sports Representative Member of Parks and Recreation Commission

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the City Council recently updated the ordinance governing advisory commissions to include language that allows for the appointment of a youth member to each of the advisory commissions. Language was also added to allow one non-voting member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, nominated by a Fridley youth

sports organization and confirmed by the Council. It was confirmed that these two members would be in addition to the seven members of the Commission, for a total of nine.

Chair Borman commented that it seems the youth sports organization would be tasked with nominating a member to serve, noting that the organization would then be tasked to reappoint if the member left their organization.

Commissioner Schultz asked about the intention of adding this type of member. Mr. Maher commented that through the Commons Park planning process, they learned that it is important to have the needs of youth sports communicated, and this would allow the flow of communication to move both ways. Commissioner Schultz asked if the member would then be tasked to communicate with other sports in the organization. Mr. Maher noted that soccer, baseball, and football are the largest park users, and therefore, he would want to ensure that the member is informed on those sports topics.

Commissioner Graham asked if the City has spoken with FYSA and whether the organization has this interest. Mr. Maher was unsure.

Mr. Maher recognized that FYSA is the larger sports organization, but other organizations could also be considered. The Commission agreed that they should begin with FYSA, but other organizations could be considered if the organization uses City parks and has Fridley youth involved.

Chair Borman commented that he does see the benefit of adding a youth member as well.

Mr. Maher commented that City staff is working to advertise the opportunities, and there will then be an open application period this fall with the expectation to appoint members around November.

*Motion by Commissioner Rehlander to have the ex officio position application process open to all Fridley youth sports organizations. Seconded by Commissioner Luna. The motion passed unanimously.*

## 2. Flanery Park Community Engagement Summary

Mr. Maher commented that Flanery Park is on the schedule for improvements in 2026; therefore, staff have begun the process for community engagement. He reviewed the Park System Improvement Plan (PSIP) recommendations for the park, as well as the input received through community engagement.

Roger McGowan, 7450 Lakeside Road, agreed that the rinks are underutilized but believes that is because there are no warming houses. He noted that the two times he used the rink last year, he was the only skater, and he does not often see others using the rinks, but would like them to remain. He agreed that there is a need for a parking lot and supported the reorientation of the

tennis courts. He stated that he does not see people play tennis, but the courts are used for pickleball, and he would like to see at least two designated pickleball courts. He provided input on the basketball courts, noting that a full court would be nice and a situation that prevents the ball from rolling away. He stated that if there are going to be trails, it would be better to have them paved. He believed that the trees should be thinned out. He commented that residents have not been allowed inside the park building, so he could not comment on the condition of the building. He identified a shaded area that could benefit from added picnic tables. He asked if the restrooms and shelter could be made available to the general public and not just those renting the space.

Mr. Maher explained that they do not open the building and restrooms to the general public because of the risk for vandalism and other issues; therefore, they are only open for rentals. He stated that restrooms are typically opened in community parks where there are more users to deter that type of activity. He stated that the warming house was closed due to lack of use, noting that there would be a pleasure rink at Commons Park with a staffed warming house.

Commissioner Graham asked if there would be an issue with noise if the courts were converted to pickleball. Mr. McGowan commented that he would not have an issue with the noise.

Commissioner Whalen commented that Edgewater Gardens Park has been updated to convert the tennis court into two pickleball courts along with a full-sized basketball court, if the resident wanted to see an example of those items. Mr. Maher commented that Commons Park will also have six pickleball courts.

Mr. Maher commented that some items in this planning process are not yet clear, but those decisions do not need to be made tonight. He stated that they could proceed with the playground planning and work out the details on the other elements at the staff level to bring back additional information.

Commissioner Kirk suggested that additional information should be added in future discussions related to the water treatment element.

Commissioner Schultz recognized the comment of the resident that the rink is not used and therefore supports the removal of the rink. He asked if the parking would be large enough to support the demand. He stated that it would also be helpful to have information on the rental data of the space to determine if funds should be allocated for that use. Mr. Maher estimated about 12 rentals per year, but recognized that this has fluctuated based on construction and other updated rentals available at other parks.

Mr. Maher explained that the PSIP included budgets for items, such as playgrounds, but the cost for those items increases over the years. He stated that this will now be year five of the plan, and they have to be more creative in how they update the parks to include features that will be used rather than everything that was originally in the plan to stay within the budgeted amounts.

Commissioner Schultz recognized that there are two side-by-side tennis courts at this time and asked if one court could be converted to pickleball. Mr. Maher commented that there are alignment issues, but they could look at creative options. Chair Borman believed that it makes the most sense to realign the court and fix the drainage issues.

*Motion by Commissioner Graham to select playground concept 1 for Flanery Park. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. The motion passed unanimously.*

### 3. Summit Square Park Community Engagement Summary

Mr. Maher provided an overview of the recommended improvements within the PSIP as well as the community engagement responses received.

*Motion by Commissioner Graham to select playground option two for Summit Square Park. Seconded by Commissioner Rehlander. The motion passed unanimously.*

### 4. 2026 Proposed Meeting Dates

Mr. Maher presented the proposed 2026 meeting dates.

*Motion by Commissioner Schultz to approve the 2026 meeting dates as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **Old Business**

None

## **Staff Reports**

### 5. Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff Report

Mr. Maher provided an update on the events, activities, and programming that have occurred thus far for the summer months, as well as upcoming events, activities, and programming opportunities. He also provided updates on the progress of park improvement projects.

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## **Adjournment**

*Commissioner Luna made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Kirk. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Staff Liaison



# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2025

**Meeting Type:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**Submitted By:** Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

## Title

Fridley Community Festival Discussion

## Background

Fridley has celebrated 49er Days for since the mid-1970's. The community festival name is based on the incorporation of the City of Fridley in 1949, with much of the traditional event theming based on the California gold rush of 1849. Fridley has changed a great deal over the past fifty years with increased demographic diversity, new industries, and a wider variety of housing types throughout the community. Recent improvements to the Fridley Civic Campus and park system, in particular, Commons Park, as well as the establishment of a public art program, have raised questions about possible reimagining of the Fridley community festival.

Additionally, recent years as well as long-term weather data have shown the traditional "Father's Day" weekend in June is statistically more likely to have rain or thunderstorm impacts than other dates later in the summer.

The Commission plays an important role of representing the community and staff seeks input from the Commission to weigh alongside input from other stakeholder groups such as the Fridley Lions and 49er Days Committee. Several questions to discuss include:

- What impact will the updates to Commons Park have on event planning for future community festivals?
- Does the Commission recommend consideration of a date change for the community festival with two options including July 16-18 or July 23-25 (Assumes parade continues on a Thursday).  
**It is important to note that Fridley Public Safety has requested that if a date change is to be considered for 2026, that they be notified by September 10, 2025.**
- Is there value in reimagining the theme and name of Fridley's Community Festival? Would a "Fridley Festival of the Arts" or similar appeal to larger demographic of Fridley Residents?
- Is there an opportunity to celebrate the grand opening of Commons Park as well as a new public art sculpture in the park as part of a 2025 Community Festival?

## Vision Statement

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

**Financial Impact**

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Fridley's 49er Days Festival has been funded through community donations secured by the Fridley 49er Days Committee

**Recommendation**

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Staff recommends strong consideration from the Commission to endorse both a name/theme and date change of the community festival but recognizes that buy-in from event stakeholders prior to any final determinations being made is essential to the community-based nature of the event.

**Attachments and Other Resources**

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None

**Vision Statement**

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# AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2025

**Meeting Type:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**Submitted By:** Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

## Title

Cooperative Agreement with Great River Greening for Habitat Restoration at Innsbruck Nature Center

## Background

The City of Fridley has the opportunity to enter into a cooperative agreement with Great River Greening for restoration of habitat at Innsbruck Nature Center. The agreement would utilize grant funds provided for the project through the State of Minnesota's Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

The work would remove invasive trees and shrubs throughout the 22.25-acre site followed by several years of treatment of regrowth of invasive trees and shrubs. Additionally, native grasses would be planted in infested areas to promote biodiversity and at least one volunteer event would be held to help manage the site and engage community members.

## Financial Impact

The total project cost is \$209,700 with Great River Greening contributing \$194,700 and the City of Fridley being responsible for \$15,000 over a five year period of project implementation.

## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission consider a motion of support for the cooperative agreement between the City of Fridley and Great River Greening for habitat restoration at Innsbruck Nature Center.

## Attachments and Other Resources

- Cooperative Agreement between Great River Greening and City of Fridley

## Vision Statement

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

**GREAT RIVER GREENING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT**, hereinafter referred to as “Agreement”, is made the **23<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2025**, by and between the **City of Fridley**, hereinafter referred to as the “**City**” and/or “**Landowner**” and **GREAT RIVER GREENING**, hereinafter referred to as the “**GRG**” and/or “**Grantee**”.

**RECITALS**

GRG is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) conservation organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota organized for the purpose of restoring natural areas and open spaces through community engagement; and

Funding for this project was provided from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature and recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC).

Under Minn. Stat. §84.026 the Department of Natural Resources is empowered to enter into grant agreements. *The Grantee has received an appropriation:*

Under ML 2025, Ch. 26, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd.5(i), Metro Big Rivers 15, \$6,793,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries in the metropolitan area as follows: \$975,000 to Great River Greening.

GRG desires to contribute **\$194,700** towards the partnership project; and  
The Landowner desires to contribute **\$15,000** towards the partnership project; and

The Landowner seeks to enter into an agreement with GRG for the purpose of detailing partnership contributions and the provision of Technical Services in support of the Innsbruck Nature Center Phase 1 project. With GRG contributing funds from the appropriation to the project(s), the City is subject to the terms as described in Exhibit A.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual undertakings and agreement contained within this agreement, the Landowner and GRG hereby agrees as follows:

1. **Compensation and Terms of Payment**

a. **Compensation**

**Total Project Costs:**                   **\$209,700**  
*GRG Contributions:*                   **\$194,700**  
*Landowner Contributions:*           **\$15,000**

The Parties agree that GRG will complete or arrange for services to be completed under this Agreement. The cost of such services will be funded by joint contributions of the parties. \*Note: GRG's contribution outlined above includes the project-specific costs opposed to the grant level project total.

The Landowner's contributions under this agreement shall be paid to GRG, not to exceed **\$15,000**.

GRG shall assume fiscal responsibility for all services completed under this agreement, besides the Landowner's cash match and/or in-kind contributions. GRG's financial obligation, as set out above, shall be in accordance with the Outdoor Heritage Fund which is attached and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**, and may be met through actual payment for services to a third party or calculation of the value, on an hourly basis, for “in-kind” services provided.

b. **Terms of Payment**

For the Landowner's contribution, GRG shall submit invoices on an annual basis to the authorized agent of the Landowner for payment of the annual allocation, as shown in the table below. Payments shall be made within thirty (30) days after receipt of invoices by the authorized agent of the Landowner.

June 2026	\$3,000
June 2027	\$3,000
June 2028	\$3,000
June 2029	\$3,000
June 2030	\$3,000

2. **Condition of Payment**

All services provided by GRG pursuant to this agreement shall be performed to the satisfaction of the Landowner and its authorized agent, and in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. Payment shall be withheld for work found by the Landowner or its authorized agent to be unsatisfactory, or performed in violation of federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations.

3. **Scope of Services (Project Map can be found in Exhibit B)**

Innsbruck Nature Center

GRG agrees to provide the following list of services for the 22 acres of forest restoration at Innsbruck Nature Center:

- Project oversight by GRG Ecologists.
  - Write a Natural Resource Management plan (NRMP) including potential plans for grant funded restoration activities as well as descriptions for suggested maintenance for 10 years post grant funding.
  - Grant administration, reporting and document storage for 7 years after grant close.
  - Draft, release, and award public RFB (Request for Bid) and specifications to hire a qualified natural resources service provider to implement prescribed restoration activities.
  - Oversee implementation of workplan by service provider and act on City's behalf over course of implementation.
  - Coordinate stewardship event(s).
- Coordination of contracted work, including but not limited to:
  - Invasive tree & shrub removal across the site utilizing multiple removal, disposal, and treatment techniques.
  - 3 years of invasive seedling, sapling, and resprout follow up management with fall foliar.
  - Seeding of infested areas with native grass mix for buckthorn follow up. – delayed 1 ½ years after any biochar spread on site.
- Coordination and facilitation of one volunteer event for habitat enhancement (50-100 volunteers).
- All required state grant administration, yearly auditing, biannual reporting, and required storage of grant related documents for 7 years after completion.

The Landowner agrees to provide the following list of services for the project:

- Access to site by GRG or subcontractors.
- Coordination and approval of Project activities consistent with the City plans, goals and policies.
- Resident and park user notification and signage as appropriate for communication to the public.
- In-kind Landowner or volunteer labor or assistance as agreed upon to facilitate tasks required for the completion of the project which otherwise would have been paid for by the grant. If in-kind is provided, the Landowner will submit a memorandum summarizing the value of services provided, no less than 30 days after completion.

All plans, specifications and documents will be shared with the Landowner for documentation of work and for building future staff knowledge. Contracted work plan(s) subject to change from above and will only go forward with prior authorization from the Landowner.

4. **Effective Date of Contract**

This agreement shall be effective on the date the agreement has been fully executed by all parties..

5. **Term of Contract**

This agreement shall remain in effect until **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2030**, or until all obligations set forth in this agreement have been satisfactorily fulfilled or unless earlier terminated as provided, whichever occurs first.

6. **Notices**

The Landowner shall appoint an authorized agent for the purpose of administration of this agreement. GRG is notified of the authorized agent of the Landowner as follows:

<b>City of Fridley</b>	<b>Great River Greening</b>
<b>Authorized Contact</b>	<b>Authorized Contact</b>
Mike Maher	Evelyn Moran
<b>Address</b>	<b>Address</b>
7071 University Avenue NE Fridley, MN 55432	251 Starkey Street, Suite 2200 St Paul, MN 55107
<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
(763) 572-3575	(651) 247-4569
<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Mike.maher@fridleymn.gov	emoran@greatrivergreening.org

7. **Partner and State Audit**

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 16C.05, Subd. 5 (2007), the books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of GRG relative to this agreement shall be subject to examination by the Landowner and the State Auditor. Complete and accurate records of the work performed pursuant to this agreement shall be kept by GRG for a minimum of six (6) years following termination of this agreement for such auditing purposes. The retention period shall be automatically extended during the course of any administrative or judicial action involving the Landowner regarding matters to which the records are relevant. The retention period shall be automatically extended until the administrative or judicial action is finally completed or until the authorized agent of the Landowner notifies GRG in writing that the records need no longer be kept.

8. **Indemnity**

GRG agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold the Landowner, its employees and officials harmless from any claims, demands, actions or causes of action, including reasonable attorney's fees and expenses resulting directly or indirectly from any negligent act or omission on the part of the GRG, or its subcontractors, partners or independent contractors or any of their agents or employees, in the performance of or with relation to any of the work or services to be performed or furnished by the vendor or the subcontractors, partners or independent contractors or any of their agents or employees under the agreement.

GRG shall be responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy, and the coordination of all services furnished by GRG under this agreement. GRG shall, without additional compensation, correct or revise any errors or deficiencies in GRG's final reports and services.

9. **Insurance**

GRG shall not commence work under this agreement until it has obtained, at its own cost and expense, all insurance required herein. All insurance coverage is subject to approval of the Landowner and shall be maintained by GRG until final completion of the work.

a. **Workers' Compensation**

- 1) State: Minnesota – Statutory
- 2) Employer's Liability with minimum limits of:
  - Bodily Injury by Accident: \$100,000 each Accident
  - Bodily Injury by Disease: \$100,000 each Employee
  - Bodily Injury by Disease: \$500,000 policy limit
- 3) Benefits required by union labor contracts: as applicable

In the event GRG is a sole proprietor and has not elected to provide workers' compensation insurance, GRG shall be required to execute and submit an affidavit of sole proprietorship in a form satisfactory to the Landowner before entering into the agreement.

b. **Commercial General Liability**

Including Premises, Operations, Products, Completed Operations, Advertising, and Personal Injury Liability, with the following minimum limits of liability:

- \$2,000,000 Aggregate
- \$2,000,000 Products & Completed Operations Aggregate
- \$1,000,000 Personal Injury & Advertising Injury
- \$1,000,000 Occurrence
- \$ 100,000 Fire Damage Limit
- \$ 5,000 Medical Expense

Policy should be written on an occurrence basis and include explosion, collapse and underground.

c. **Commercial Auto Liability**

Automobile Liability should include Hired and Non-Owned, and the Landowner should be named as an additional insured.

Minimum limits of liability shall be:

If split limits:       \$1,000,000 each person/\$1,000,000 each occurrence for Bodily Injury  
                              \$1,000,000 each occurrence for Property Damage

If combined single limit:                               \$1,000,000 per occurrence

d. **Proof of Insurance**

Insurance certificates evidencing that the above insurance is in force with companies acceptable to Landowner and in the amounts required shall be submitted to Landowner for examination and approval prior to the execution of the agreement, after which they shall be filed with Landowner. **The insurance certificate shall name the Landowner as an additional insured and specifically provide that a certificate shall not be materially changed, canceled or non-renewed except upon sixty (60) days prior written notice to Landowner.** Neither Landowner failure to require or insist upon certificates, nor other evidence of a variance from the specified coverage requirements, amends GRG's responsibility to comply with the insurance specifications.

10. **Subcontracts**

GRG shall ensure and require that any subcontractor agrees to and complies with all of the terms of this agreement. Any subcontractor of GRG used to perform any portion of this agreement shall report to and bill GRG directly. GRG shall be solely responsible for the breach, performance or nonperformance of any subcontractor.

11. **Force Majeure**

Landowner and GRG agree that GRG shall not be liable for any delay or inability to perform this agreement, directly or indirectly caused by, or resulting from, strikes, labor troubles, accidents, fire, flood, breakdowns, war, riot, civil commotion, lack of material, delays of transportation, acts of God or other cause beyond reasonable control of GRG and the Landowner.

12. **Data Practices**

GRG, its agents, employees and any subcontractors of GRG, in providing all services hereunder, agree to abide by the provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, as amended, and Minn. Rules promulgated pursuant to Ch. 13. GRG understands that it must comply with these provisions as if it were a government entity. GRG agrees to indemnify and hold the Landowner, its officers, department heads and employees harmless from any claims resulting from GRG's unlawful disclosure, failure to disclose or use of data protected under state and federal laws.

13. **Termination**

This agreement may be terminated by either party, with or without cause upon 30 days written notice to GRG or the Authorized Agent of the Landowner.

14. **Independent Contractor**

It is agreed that nothing contained in this agreement is intended or should be construed as creating the relationship of a partnership, joint venture, or association with the Landowner and GRG. GRG is an independent contractor, and it, its employees, agents, subcontractors, and representatives shall not be considered employees, agents or representatives of the Landowner. Except as otherwise provided herein, GRG shall maintain, in all respects, its present control over the means and personnel by which this agreement is performed. From any amounts due to GR, there shall be no deduction for federal income tax, FICA payments, state income tax, or for any other purposes which are associated with an employer/employee relationship unless otherwise required by law. Payment of federal income tax, FICA payments, state income tax, unemployment compensation taxes, and other payroll deductions and taxes are the sole responsibility of GRG.

15. **Notices**

Any notices to be given under this agreement shall be given by enclosing the same in a sealed envelope, postage prepaid, and depositing the same with the United States Postal Service, addressed to GRG at its address stated herein, and to the authorized agent of the Landowner at the address stated herein.

16. **Controlling Law**

The laws of the State of Minnesota shall govern all questions and interpretations concerning the validity and construction of this agreement, the legal relations between the parties and performance under the agreement. The appropriate venue and jurisdiction for any litigation hereunder will be those courts located within the County or Landowner, State of Minnesota. Litigation, however, in the federal courts involving the parties will be in the appropriate federal court within the State of Minnesota. If any provision of this contract is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will not be affected.

17. **Successors and Assigns**

The Landowner and GRG, respectively, bind themselves, their partners, successors, assigns, and legal representatives to the other party to this agreement and to the partners, successors, assigns, and legal representatives of such other party with respect to all covenants of this agreement. Neither the Landowner nor GRG shall assign, sublet, or transfer any interest in this agreement without the prior written consent of the other.

18. **Equal Employment and Americans with Disabilities**

In connection with the work under this agreement, GRG agrees to comply with the applicable provisions of state and federal equal employment opportunity and nondiscrimination statutes and regulations. Failure on the part of GRG to conduct its own employment practices in accordance with applicable laws may result in the withholding of all or part of regular payments by the City due under this agreement unless or until GRG complies with the Partner policy, and/or suspension or termination of this agreement.

19. **Changes**

The parties agree that no change or modification to this agreement, or any attachments hereto, shall have any force or effect unless the change is reduced to writing, dated, and made part of this agreement. The execution of the change shall be authorized and signed in the same manner as for this agreement.

20. **Severability**

In the event any provision of this agreement shall be held invalid and unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and binding upon the parties unless such invalidity or non-enforceability would cause the agreement to fail its purpose. One or more waivers by either party of any provision, term, condition or covenant shall not be construed by the other party as a waiver of a subsequent breach of the same by the other party.

21. **Entire Agreement**

It is understood and agreed that the entire agreement of the parties is contained herein and that this agreement supersedes all oral agreements and negotiations between the parties relating to the subject matter hereof as well as any previous agreements presently in effect between the Landowner and GRG relating to the subject matter hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this agreement to be duly executed intending to be bound thereby.

**CITY OF FRIDLEY**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**GREAT RIVER GREENING:**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: Kateri Routh

TITLE: Executive Director

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant Manager Initials:** RT 07/24/2025

**Conservation Director Initials:** TR 7/25/25

**Director of Finance Initials:** GS 07/23/2025

**EXHIBIT A: State of Minnesota – ML 2025 Outdoor Heritage Fund  
Metro Big Rivers 15**

<b>Grantee</b> Great River Greening	<b>Landowner</b> City of Fridley
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Under ML 2025, Ch. 26, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd.5(i), Metro Big Rivers 15, \$6,793,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries in the metropolitan area as follows: \$975,000 to Great River Greening.

As a sub-recipient of this funding, the Landowner is subject to the terms below:

**COMPLIANCE**

The Landowner acknowledges that these funds are proceeds from the State of Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund, which is subject to certain legal restrictions and requirements, including Minnesota Statutes Chapter 116P. The Landowner is responsible for compliance with this and all other relevant state and federal laws and regulations in the fulfillment of the Project.

**LIABILITY**

The Landowner must indemnify, save, and hold the State, its agents, and employees harmless from any claims or causes of action, including attorney's fees incurred by the State, arising from the performance of this grant agreement by the Grantee or the Grantee's agents or employees. This clause will not be construed to bar any legal remedies the Grantee may have for the State's failure to fulfill its obligations under this grant agreement.

**ACCESS AND MONITORING**

The Landowner agrees to allow the Recipient and the State access at any time to conduct periodic site visits and inspections to ensure work progress in accordance with this grant agreement, including a final inspection upon program completion. At least one monitoring visit per grant period on all state grants of over \$50,000 will be conducted and at least annual monitoring visits on grants of over \$250,000.

Following closure of the program, the State's authorized representatives shall be allowed to conduct post-completion inspections of the site to ensure that the site is being properly operated and maintained and that no conversion of use has occurred.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND ENDORSEMENT**

**Acknowledgment.** The Landowner must acknowledge financial support from the Outdoor Heritage Fund in program publications, signage and other public communication and outreach related to work completed using the appropriation. Acknowledgment may occur, as appropriate, through use of the fund logo or inclusion of language attributing support from the fund. The acknowledgement will contain the following language and/or logo(s):

Funding provided from the Outdoor Heritage Fund as part of the Clean Water, Land, & Legacy Amendment.

Landowner agrees to maintain signs installed by GRG at the project site that includes this logo and will include it in permanent signage installed by Landowner.

**Endorsement.** The Landowner must not claim that the State endorses its products or services.

**ECOLOGICAL AND RESTORATION PLAN**

For all restorations, the Grantee in coordination with the Landowner must prepare and retain an ecological restoration and management plan that, to the degree practicable, is consistent with current conservation science and ecological goals for the restoration site. Consideration should be given to soil, geology, topography, and other relevant factors that would provide the best chance for long-term success and durability of the restoration. The plan must include the proposed timetable for implementing the restoration, including, but not limited to, site preparation, establishment of diverse plant species, maintenance, and additional enhancement to establish the restoration; identify long-term maintenance and management needs of the restoration and how the maintenance, management, and enhancement will be financed; and use current conservation science to achieve the best restoration.

**LONG TERM MANAGEMENT**

As a partner with Great River Greening, the Landowner commits to maintaining the investment put forward over time.



### LONG TERM RESTORATION

The Landowner acknowledges the long term maintenance and enhancement needs of the restoration process to achieve restoration goals. The Landowner agrees to maintain restoration for a minimum of 10 years. The Recipient agrees to make reasonable good faith effort to significantly contribute to the successful maintenance of the project.

If the Landowner(s) should fail to maintain the habitat restoration for 10 years, then the Landowner(s) agrees to reimburse the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund for the pro-rated costs of all habitat restoration projects placed on the described land through this Agreement.

### PROTECTED LAND

Landowner testifies that the restoration project is on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership or in public waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15; and will provide reasonable written documentation of such protection.

### RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT GUIDELINES

Recipient and Landowner practices shall comply in every respect with:

DNR Pollinator Best Management Practices and Habitat Restoration Guidelines

([http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural\\_resources/npc/2014\\_draft\\_pollinator\\_bmp\\_guidelines.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/npc/2014_draft_pollinator_bmp_guidelines.pdf)); and

Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources' Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines

(<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2019-07/Updated%20guidelines%20Final%2007-01-19.pdf> January 2019 version)

MN-DNR Operational Order #113 Invasive Species

([http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/heritage/oporder\\_113.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/heritage/oporder_113.pdf))

MN-DNR Operational Order #59 Pesticide and Pest Control

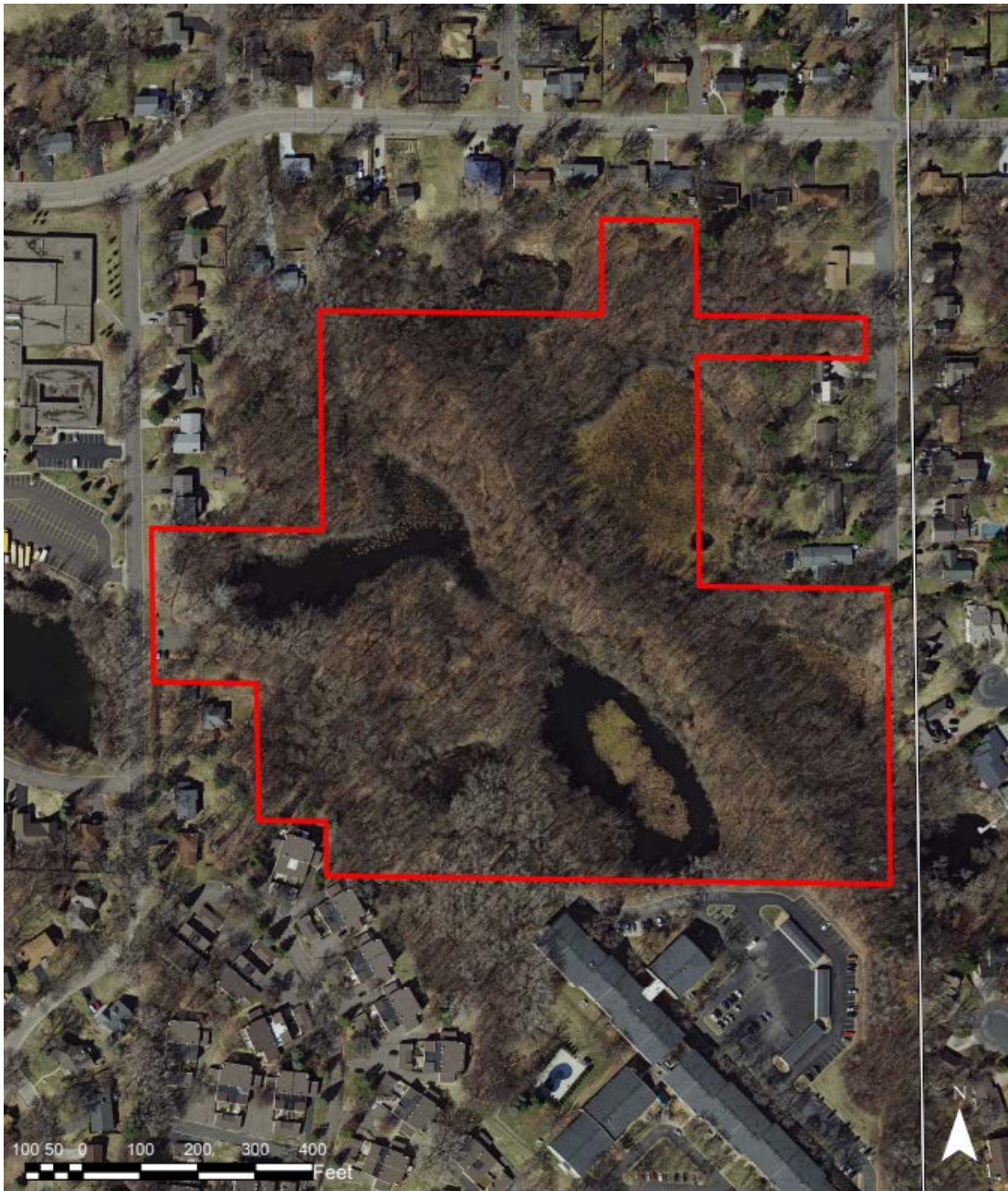
([http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/heritage/oporder\\_59.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/heritage/oporder_59.pdf));

MN-DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife Pest and Pest Control Guidelines

([http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/heritage/faw\\_pest.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/heritage/faw_pest.pdf));

EXHIBIT B: PROJECT MAP  
Innsbruck Park, Fridley, MN

Total Project Acres: 22.25  
Woodland Enhancement and Native Establishment





# AGENDA REPORT

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**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2025

**Meeting Type:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**Submitted By:** Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

## **Title**

---

Commons Park Operations Planning

## **Background**

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Staff are planning ahead for the opening of the new Commons Park in the summer of 2026 and seek input from the Parks and Recreation Commission on assumptions for operation of the park and park building.

## **Financial Impact**

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Increases in both regular and seasonal employees are being considered for Parks and Recreation as part of the 2026 City budgeting process.

## **Recommendation**

---

Staff requests input on programming, hours of operation, staffing and services provided in the new Commons Park

## **Attachments and Other Resources**

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- Commons Park Operations Presentation

## **Vision Statement**

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



# Parks and Recreation

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Commons Park Operational and Staffing Plan



# Collaborative Operational Model

## Parks and Recreation

- Community Programming
- Athletics – scheduling of courts and fields
- Guest Services Staffing (building monitors)
- Program staffing (rentals, birthday parties, etc.)
- Summer camps
- Rental coordination (activity rooms, open-air shelters, field trips, equipment)
- Custodial upkeep during open hours (turn over a rental room, new toilet paper, etc.)
- Waste stream management in building during open hours

## Public Works (Parks, Facilities)

- Park maintenance (mowing, landscaping, etc.)
- Building maintenance and custodial staffing for overnight cleanings
- Waste stream management on park grounds
- Building and park mechanical system maintenance and repair (HVAC, Irrigation, Security, splash pad, lighting, etc.)
- Snow removal
- Athletic field and court maintenance and prep
- Ice skating ribbon maintenance

# Commons Park Recreation Building Operations

## Assumptions:

- Open weekends year-round
- Open daily May 1 through September 30
- Year-round programming
- Two staff on-site during open hours
- Activity rooms available for community rental year round
- Restrooms and warming area may be open without opening full facility
- Select “warming house” function during weekdays in winter based on conditions, demand – rentals, music, hot chocolate, etc.



# Summer Schedule Example

Building Hours 8 am to 8 pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	Summer ROCKS	Summer ROCKS	Summer ROCKS	Summer ROCKS	Summer ROCKS	Birthday Party Rental	Pickleball Club Zumba
Afternoon	Summer ROCKS	Summer ROCKS	Summer ROCKS	Summer ROCKS	Summer ROCKS	Birthday Party Rental	Private Rental
Evening	Outdoor Rec Program	Outdoor Rec Program	Outdoor Rec Program	Outdoor Rec Program	Outdoor Rec Program	Closed w/ Restrooms Open	Closed w/ Restrooms Open



# October-April Schedule Example

Building Hours 10 am to 6 pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	Preschool program		Preschool Program		Social Coffee Club	Fitness Class	Private Rental
Afternoon	Teen Program	Fitness Class	Teen Program	Fitness Class		Birthday Party Rental	Birthday Party
Evening	Fitness Class	Art Class	Fitness Class	Social Club	Warming House (Winter)	Warming House (Winter)	Warming House (Winter)

# Parks and Recreation Current Staffing

## *Parks and Recreation Team Current*

- Parks and Recreation Director
- Recreation Manager
- Recreation Coordinator–Athletics/Community
- Recreation Coordinator–Youth/Community
- Recreation Specialist
- Customer Service Representative (.6 FTE)

**Total: 5.6 FTE**

## *Springbrook Nature Center Team*

- Nature Center Manager
- Nature Center Coordinator
- Nature Center Coordinator
- Admin Assistant (.7 FTE)
- Admin Assistant (.7 FTE)
- Custodian (.5 FTE)
- Custodian (.5 FTE)

**Total: 5.4 FTE**



# Parks and Recreation Proposed Staffing

## *Parks and Recreation Team Current*

- Parks and Recreation Director
- Recreation Manager
- Recreation Coordinator
- Recreation Coordinator
- Recreation Specialist
- Customer Service Representative (.6 FTE)

Total: 5.6 FTE

## *Parks and Recreation Team Proposed*

- Parks and Recreation Director
- Recreation Manager
- Recreation Coordinator – Athletics
- Recreation Coordinator – Youth Programs (NEW)
- Recreation Coordinator – Community Programs
- Recreation Specialist
- Customer Service Representative (NEW .4 FTE)

Total: 7 FTE



# Parks and Recreation Current Staffing

## *Fridley Parks and Recreation Department*

Current FTE (with SNC)	11
Proposed (with SNC)	12.4

## *Other Community Examples\**

Blaine	6.5 FTE
Golden Valley	9.1FTE (Recreation plus community center)
New Hope	11.5 FTE (Rec, Ice Arena, Golf Course)
New Brighton	14 FTE (Recreation plus community center)
Richfield	16 FTE (Recreation, Nature Center, Ice Arena)

\* Generally including program staff and excluding maintenance staff housed in Parks and Recreation.



# Detailed Staffing:

- May have two staff members primarily officed from Commons Park Building
- Weekend and evening staffing through seasonal or intermittent building monitors supplemented by regular staff, intern, program staff
- Some staffing resources will be consolidated to Commons Park as it will serve as a primary programming location.



# Outcomes:



- *Fulfillment of outcomes requested in Park System Improvement Plan*
- *Expanded programming*
- *Signature park will be point of civic pride*
- *Higher level of interaction between staff and residents*
- *Ability to reach more diverse audiences*
- *Staffed park will provide higher level of service and oversight of investment in park improvements*
- *Allow integration of public art initiatives into a comprehensive offering of community programs*

# Questions:





# AGENDA REPORT

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**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2025

**Meeting Type:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**Submitted By:** Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

## **Title**

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Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff Report

## **Background**

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Attached is the update from the Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff for the September 2, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

## **Financial Impact**

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None.

## **Recommendation**

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None.

## **Attachments and Other Resources**

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- Attached is the update from the Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff for the September 2, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

### **Vision Statement**

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



# STAFF REPORT

## Recreation Division: August 2025

### Summer Programs

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

#### Preschool: Ages 3-5

Soccer (2 classes/4 sessions): Jul-Aug	24
T-ball (4 sessions): Jul-Aug	15
Track and Field (4 sessions): Jul-Aug	8
Little Ninjas (4 sessions): Jul-Aug	8

#### Elementary – Middle School: Grades K-6

Soccer (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	8
Track and Field (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	9
Little Ninjas (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	5
Summer ROCKS: Weeks 1-8	389
Moore Summer Fun Camp	15

#### Adult Fitness and Athletics

Zumba (1 class/6 sessions each): Jul-Aug	7
Pickleball Skills & Drills: Jul-Aug F=2, SLP=7	9
Pickleball Drills & Precision Clinic: Aug 23 F=2, SLP=1	3
Pickleball Ladder League All Ages (2 leagues): Aug-Sep F=25, SLP=5	38
Pickleball Ladder League Ages 20-40: Aug-Sep F=4, SLP=8	12
55+ Golf League: May-Aug	17
Sand Volleyball Coed Rec: Mondays, May-Aug*	13 teams
Sand Volleyball Coed Rec: Wednesdays, May-Aug*	8 teams
Sand Volleyball Coed Com: Mondays, May-Aug*	6 teams

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

### Parks and Recreation Brochure

The Sept/Oct brochure is complete, and will be mailed to residents beginning on August 25.

**City of Fridley Parks & Recreation Programs**  
SPORTS • EIGHTS • CONCERT SERIES • YOUTH PROGRAMS • ADULT PROGRAMS • NATURE PROGRAMS  
REVISED AUGUST 2025 EDITION

FEATURING PROGRAMS FROM JULY - SEPTEMBER

**City of Fridley Parks and Recreation Department**  
763.572.2370  
cityof Fridley.gov/recreation | cityof Fridley.org

**Springbrook Nature Center**  
763.572.2388  
springbrooknaturecenter.org | springbrookof Fridley.org

#### YOUTH EVENING SPORTS (AGES 3-13)

The sports leagues level an average of 100 to 150 kids each week has with both boys and girls. The sports leagues are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Springbrook Nature Center. Registration is required. Program fees will be mailed to your home by the start of the program.

Classes will be held at: Recreation Department, 5000 Dundeleville Drive, located at Ages 3-13 (elementary).

SPORT	DATE	TIME	AGE	REGISTRATION	PROGRAM FEE
SOCCER	July 17 - Aug 14	5:00 pm	3-5	\$10	\$10
	July 17 - Aug 14	6:00 pm	6-8	\$10	\$10
TRACK AND FIELD	July 17 - Aug 14	5:00 pm	3-5	\$10	\$10
	July 17 - Aug 14	6:00 pm	6-8	\$10	\$10

#### REC 'N ROLL

Join us this summer for Rec 'n Roll activities in our parks. It's a fun and exciting way to get your kids and you active. We'll have a variety of activities including games, sports, arts, crafts, music and more. Don't miss out on this fun-filled event. Registration is required. Program fees will be mailed to your home by the start of the program.

Classes will be held at: Recreation Department, 5000 Dundeleville Drive, located at Ages 3-13 (elementary).

Classes will be held at: Recreation Department, 5000 Dundeleville Drive, located at Ages 3-13 (elementary).

#### SUMMER ROCKS & LITTLE PEBBLES

Registration, October 1st - 15th. For more information, visit the Summer Rocks website.

**MOORE SUMMER FUN CAMP**  
For more information, visit the Moore Summer Fun Camp website.

#### NORTH METRO SPORTS ADULT LEAGUES

Registration, September 1st - 15th. For more information, visit the North Metro Sports website.

**SAND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**  
For more information, visit the Sand Volleyball Tournament website.

**INDOOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE**  
For more information, visit the Indoor Volleyball League website.

**June - July Facility Rentals**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Reservations</b>
Moore Lake Community Building	30
Moore Lake Shelter #4	4
Locke Park Shelter #1	12
Locke Park Shelter #2	2
Flanery Park Shelter	7
Community Park Fields	76 hours
Ray Thompson Little League, Terrace and Flanery Ballfields	4 hours

**Field Use**

Fridley Youth Sports Association Baseball program will resume for the fall season. They will use fields at Ray Thompson Little League and the new field at Community Park. Frights (Fridley/Columbia Heights) Youth Soccer will also hold a fall season at Community Park on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays through October.

**Pickleball Leagues**

We offered three different pickleball Ladder Leagues at the Fridley High School and Moore Lake Park. Two leagues are for all ages and one for players between the ages of 20 – 40 years old. Pickleball Ladder Leagues are designed to accommodate players of all skill levels.

**Rec N Roll**

Rec N Roll returned this summer at Moore Lake and Creek View park on Tuesday's and Moore Lake and Flanery Park on Thursday's. The program was led by the Parks and Recreation Department's summer interns who planned activities and crafts for the participants each week. We again partnered with Fridley Public Schools to distribute free meals and snacks for participants under the age of 18. Moore Lake proved to be a popular location for the program being the highest attended park.



**Bike Rodeo**

On June 30, Parks and Recreation teamed up with Public Safety, Anoka County Commute Solutions, and Rachel Workin for the free bike rodeo event at Moore Lake Park. Anoka County Commute Solutions provided 50 free helmets to kids ages 5-12, and kids were able to practice their biking skills. After the concert, a free rock concert was provided by Jeff Loven in the covered outdoor area of the Moore Lake Community Building.



**Sand Volleyball**

The North Metro Sand Volleyball Leagues concluded in August. Recreation and competitive skill level coed and open leagues were offered at City Hall Park and Silverview Park in Mounds View on Monday and Wednesday nights.

**Evening Sports**

The second session of evening sports concluded at Stevenson Elementary in August. This year we offered soccer, tball, track and field, and ninja classes designed to be a fun introduction to their respective sports while providing a positive social environment for the participants. We offer two age groups for most classes, one for preschoolers and one for kids in grades K-4.



**55+ Golf League and Tournament**

The 55+ Golf League concluded with a tournament and banquet at Brightwood Hill Golf Course in New Brighton. Participants enjoyed special events, prizes, and a luncheon at the club house.



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

Our summer day camp, ROCKS, concluded on August 8. Participants and staff had an amazing eight weeks of fun. Kids enjoyed morning classes (sports, STEM, art & crafts) and afternoons involved playground time, games & crafts with an afternoon theme, and each day ended with free time back at Stevenson. On Wednesdays, we had field trips and special events that included: Zero Gravity Trampoline Park and Shoreview Destination Playground, Magic Show, Glow Dance Party, Cascade Bay, Field Games, Conquer Ninja, Grand Slam, and Bunker Beach. On multiple Fridays, the kids in the 4-6 grade group went for a bike outing in the afternoon utilizing the Fridley Bike Fleet. (Special thanks to Park and Recreation Director, Mike Maher, for leading the group on 2 of the rides!) Naturalists from Springbrook lead the K-3 group in a few Friday outings that included a hike to Islands of Peace Park, and an animal showing. A free breakfast and lunch was provided each day by Fridley Public Schools Nutritional Services.

The kids had a blast and parents have shared positive feedback on the program. Both the kids and our seasonal staff celebrated the last day of ROCKS with a trip to Locke Park for a musical, a picnic lunch in the park, and an afternoon party at Stevenson with minute to win it games, bingo and a dance party!



### Children's Concert—The Little Mermaid Jr.

On Friday, August 8, we held our children's concert at Locke Park! An estimated 350 people attended. ETC Productions, a team of high school student actors from Apple Valley schools, have their summer jobs touring around the Twin Cities performing one musical. This year's production was the Little Mermaid, Jr. Families were mesmerized by Ariel, Ursula and crew, and it even included a bubble machine! Rachel Workin, Fridley Environmental Planner, was also present with a kids' book & puzzle swap, and the Fridley Fire Crew was there showing families the fire engine. It was a fun morning for a theater production in the park!



### Moore Summer Fun Camp

Fifteen kids ages K-4 joined us for our first camp at Moore Lake Park! Breakfast and lunch were provided by Fridley Public Schools. This camp was planned by one of our interns and included playground time (their favorite!), sports classes, crafts, pickleball on the courts, and fishing on the pier with Mike Maher! The kids were onsite for the delivery of the mosaic art frog and our special event of the week was a Zumba beach dance party! We had a great time and it was a nice way to end summer camp.



### Summer Concert Series

This summer, we provided 15 total free concerts to the public at various parks in Fridley! On Tuesdays, a variety of genres were heard at Civic Campus Plaza and Springbrook Nature Center including rock, reggae, country, jazz and bluegrass. On Mondays, we utilized the Moore Lake building (rain site) and covered outdoor area for concerts. Member of Fridley's Northeast Orchestra performed 3 chamber music concerts at Moore Lake, and the Fridley City Band played 4 concerts at Briardale Park, Edgewater Park, Logan Park, and Springbrook Nature Center. One resident mentioned that their favorite part of the summer in Fridley was all of the high quality, free music that is available. The July concert at Springbrook was rained out and is rescheduled for Sept. 16 at 6:30pm with Juliet and the Montagues (jazz) performing. An estimated 1,500 people attended the concert series this summer!



**Civic Campus:**

Mr Winky - 125

Innocent Reggae Band - 250

Darlene and the Boys - 150

Jack Brass Band - 500 (including Touch a Truck folks)

**Moore Lake:**

Jeff Loven - 100

Duo Corda - 85 (held inside)

**NE Orchestra:**

String 4tet - 20 (inside with severe weather threat)

Flute Duo - 60

Horn 5tet – 40 (cold weather, windy off Moore Lake)

**Touch-A-Truck:**

On August 19, before the concert, we held our annual Touch-A-Truck event from 4-7 p.m.! The event featured multiple vehicles from Public Works, Fridley Fire engine, Fridley Police cars, Schmit Towing truck, Voigt's school bus, Allina ambulance, electric vehicles, lawn equipment, two inflatables generously donated by the Fridley Lions, food trucks and activities. A State Patrol helicopter did a flyover at the event as well! Kids of all ages enjoyed climbing and exploring the vehicles. New this year was a sensory friendly hour from 4-5 p.m. with no horns, lights, or sirens. We also turned the Fireside Room into a family friendly quiet zone, where families had a chance to cool off in the air conditioning and color.

We are grateful to the Fridley Public Works staff, Rachel Workin—City of Fridley Environmental Planner, Anoka County Library Mississippi Branch, Schmit Towing, Allina EMS, Voigt's Bus Company, Fridley Lions, MN State Patrol, Creative Flow Art Center, Fridley ECFE, Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, Rustic Chef Food Truck, and Flamingo's Ice cream for their contributions to make this event successful. We had 500+ community members in attendance and received positive feedback from many folks in the community.



### Upcoming Events and Programs

- September 10: Public Art Ribbon Cutting – 6-7:30 p.m. at Moore Lake Park
- September 16: Rescheduled Concert, Juliet and the Montagues (jazz) – 6:30 p.m. at Springbrook Nature Center
- October 18: Pumpkin Night in the Park 5-9 p.m. at Springbrook Nature Center

*You're invited to the*

# **MOORE LAKE SCULPTURE**

*Ribb-et Cutting Event*

• • • • •

Wednesday, September 10  
from 6-7:30 p.m.  
5890 Central Avenue NE Fridley, MN 55432



*Sculpture Sneak Peek!*

## Springbrook Nature Center

### August Environmental Education Programming

We’re beginning to transition from summer programming into the planning period for fall school year teaching. We’ve had many visitors in the building, on the play equipment, and on the trails.

**Number of Youth Participants: 191**

**Instructional Hours: 2,971**

### June & July Rentals & Birthday Parties

August Birthday Parties	3
August Indoor Room Rentals	5
August PAC rentals	7

### Grants

- Springbrook Nature Center Foundation was recently awarded a grant to fund a project entitled “Community Science in Action” from the Xcel Energy Foundation. Plans will include adding more community science projects with the hope of increasing volunteerism and science literacy in our area. We are beginning to implement this grant program with upcoming projects like Project Feederwatch, Bluebird Trail Monitoring, Phenology monitoring with Chronolog and Nature’s Notebook.

### Park & Building Maintenance

- A new Water Pump Water Feature has been installed in the Nature Play Area. Our visitors are thrilled – this is a very popular section within the Nature Play Area.
- Exterior building painting is planned for sometime after the summer camp season (likely September).

### Upcoming Events

- Volunteer Open House September 13, 10-11:30 am  
Learn about volunteer projects including community science, connect with other volunteers, learn how to get involved, and enjoy refreshments. You do not need to be a current volunteer to attend.
- Concert Reschedule: Juliet & the Montagues September 16, 7-8 pm
- Intro to Campfire Cooking September 19, 7-8:30 pm  
Fee: \$5 per person  
Learn the basics of campfire cooking while being entertained by campfire stories. This class is intended for people 10 years and older. All minors must be accompanied by an adult. This class is sponsored by the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation.

- Autumn Sampler September 26, 6-8:30 pm  
Enjoy a lively evening with friends and neighbors as you sample a wide variety of local foods and enjoy beer and wine tastings, all to help Springbrook keep connecting our community with the beauty and awe of nature.

Gather your friends, dress casually, and come have fun -- this adults-only event is a highlight of Springbrook's year! Tickets are \$35 each.

- Pumpkin Carving October 12-16, various times  
Bring the family, your scout group, the entire neighborhood to help carve pumpkins. You bring the creativity and person-power, we provide the rest (gutted pumpkins, carving tools and patterns).

Carving will take place at the Picnic Shelter (outdoors) at Springbrook. Please make sure to dress for the weather conditions. Sign Up sheets are live now – check the nature center website to sign up for your time slot.

- Pumpkin Night in the Park is Saturday, October 18, 5-9 pm



**PUMPKIN NIGHT IN THE PARK**

HAVE A GOURD TIME WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY!

• MORE THAN 1,000 GLOWING PUMPKINS  
 • COSTUMED CHARACTERS  
 • FIRE DANCERS  
 • KIDS DANCE DJ  
 • FOOD TRUCKS  
 • ENTERTAINING BONFIRES  
 • AND MORE...

**\$12**  
 TICKETS ARE LIMITED  
 NO SALES AT GATE  
 CHILDREN 2 & UNDER ARE FREE

TICKETS ON SALE SEPT. 1

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**  
[www.springbrooknaturecenter.org/PumpkinNight](http://www.springbrooknaturecenter.org/PumpkinNight)

City of Fridley  
**Springbrook**  
 Nature Center

## Park Maintenance and Construction

- The conversion of Field 1 at Community Park from softball to baseball is complete. The field has been improved and features adjustable baselines with magnetic bases, a portable pitching mound and available lighting
- Commons Park construction is moving quickly with concrete flatwork in progress and the park building slab being poured. The ballfield and pickleball court complex on the north side of the park are nearing completion.
- Sylvan Hills Park is nearly complete with court striping and surfacing being completed and an emphasis on establishment of turf. The playground surfacing has been installed and most features of the park are available for public use.
- Work is being completed at Fire Station 3, which is being improved through a Community Development Block Grant and will be operated by the Rum River Art Center as the Creative Flow Art Center. The group plans a grand opening in October.
- Most of the summer seasonal employees have wrapped up their terms of employment after a great summer.