



Parks and Recreation Commission

October 06, 2025

6:00 PM

Commons Park 555 61st Avenue NE (Rain Site - 7071
University Avenue NE)

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. September 2, 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. Commons Park Construction Site Tour
3. Scholarship Program Report - 2025

Old Business

Staff Reports

4. Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff Report

Adjournment

Accessibility Notice:

- If you need free interpretation or translation assistance, please contact City staff.
- Si necesita ayuda de interpretación o traducción gratis, comuníquese con el personal de la ciudad.
- Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus los sis txhais ntaub ntauv dawb, ces thov tiv tauj rau Lub Nroog cov neeg ua hauj lwm.
- Haddii aad u baahan tahay tarjumaad bilaash ah ama kaalmo tarjumaad, fadlan la xiriir shaqaalaha Magaalada.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov or (763) 572-3450.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

September 2, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Background

Attached are the meeting minutes of the September 2, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the September 2, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

- September 2, 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

September 2, 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

Peter Borman
Tim Kirk
Jodi Rehlander
Ken Schultz
Don Whalen

Absent

EB Graham
Melissa Luna

Also Present

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Jo Young, President of 49er Days Committee

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for September 2, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Kirk to approve the September 2, 2025, meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for August 4, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Schultz to approve the August 4, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Rehlander. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Fridley Community Festival Discussion

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director, provided background information on Fridley 49er Days, which is a long-time community event. He stated that there have been discussions as to whether the changes at the park would result in changes to the event as well. He commented

that the Fridley 49er Days Committee met to recap the most recent event, and a representative is present to further discuss the event and potential future changes.

Jo Young, 49er Days Committee, stated that the organization has been looking at options for doing something different for the event. She discussed the name of the event and noted a desire to better publicize the reason for the 49er Days name rather than changing the name. She commented on the wet conditions in past years and a desire to change the date. She stated that the Committee was interested in potentially combining the 49er Days event with an opening for Commons Park. She noted that they have spoken to the City Manager, who supports the concept, and therefore she is present to gain the opinion of the Commission. She provided some concepts that the Committee has been discussing to update the event.

Chair Borman stated that the only hesitation he would have is whether the park would be open in July. He acknowledged that the plan is to have the park open before that time, but there could be a potential for project delays.

Commissioner Shultz agreed that the changed date makes sense.

Commissioner Rehlander suggested a history walk to help reinforce the 49er Days theme. She agreed that they should keep the name and work to educate people about the meaning.

Chair Borman stated that the Fridley 49er Days Committee is separate from the City, although they work cooperatively together. He recognized that when he served on the Committee, there was a cost to the organization of about \$25,000 to \$30,000 for the event. Ms. Young stated that the parade is fully funded through the Lions at a cost of \$14,500. She stated that the Fridley 49ers 501-3C spent \$43,000 on the festival this year. She estimated that the event would have a cost in excess of \$50,000 for 2026.

Chair Borman provided information about the carnival that was once a part of the event, which does not have a cost to the Committee and would include some type of profit sharing. Ms. Young commented that she has been contacted by a carnival company, but the festival Committee is not interested in adding a carnival back into the festival because of concerns with liability, public safety, and safety. She confirmed that their next step is to discuss the potential changes with the City Council.

Mr. Maher provided additional information on the next steps, should the Commission support the change to the dates.

Commissioner Rehlander noted a potential conflict with the Community Theater and the related parking lot at the high school. Ms. Young confirmed that she would find out additional information.

Commissioner Kirk commented that there will always be some potential conflicts, but agreed with the proposed date change.

Motion by Commissioner Schultz to support the Fridley 49er Festival date changes and maintain the 49er Days name with increased marketing and outreach. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Maher presented an opportunity to accept grant funds from the State of Minnesota, given to Great River Greening, for the purpose of habitat restoration. He provided additional information on the proposed project, Cooperative Agreement, required matching funds from the City of Fridley, and the proposed scope of work for Innsbruck Nature Center.

Commissioner Schultz asked if this work would be similar to the work at Springbrook. Mr. Maher explained that the work being done at Springbrook is being done by hand through volunteers, whereas this work would be completed by contractors with equipment and herbicide.

Chair Borman asked if this would be a five- or seven-year commitment. Mr. Maher replied that the work would be completed within a period of five years.

Commissioner Rehlander asked how the City became aware of the program. Mr. Maher replied that the City has worked with Great River Greening in the past and provided more information on the grant application process.

Motion by Commissioner Kirk to recommend approval of the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Fridley and Great River Greening for habitat restoration at Innsbruck Nature Center. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Commons Park Operations Planning

Mr. Maher stated that the project is underway with an anticipated opening in the summer of 2026. He stated that they have begun to discuss operations for the park as part of the 2026 budget discussions. He provided additional details on the collaborative operational model between parks and recreation and public works, building operations, potential schedule for the year, and staffing.

Commissioner Whalen asked for more information on staffing and how often the needs would be reviewed. Mr. Maher replied that they would like to deliver the same level of service the City currently does and expand from there. He stated that if the staffing is approved as discussed, staff would work within those parameters, and any adjustments would be made using interns and/or seasonal employees.

Staff Reports

4. Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff Report

Mr. Maher highlighted items from the report, including recent programming and events at different parks and facilities, as well as upcoming opportunities for programming and events. Additional information was provided on the Pumpkin Night in the Park event held at Springbrook. It was noted that volunteers are always needed for the event and the carving that occurs prior to the event.

Commissioner Kirk asked if there was any feedback on the sensory hour offered for Touch a Truck. Mr. Maher replied that staff received a number of comments in appreciation of that addition to the event. He expected that they would continue to offer that in the future.

Unfinished Business

None.

Adjournment

Commissioner Kirk made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Staff Liaison



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Commons Park Construction Site Tour

Background

Commons Park construction is in progress with the overall park layout including trails, play features, athletic courts and fields being visible. The Parks and Recreation Commission will walk the site and learn more about the project and construction process with the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on use of the park space for future events, programs and activities. Hard hats and safety vests will be provided and Commissioners are asked to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. The group will meet in the south parking lot at 6 pm.

Financial Impact

None

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- Site layout

Vision Statement

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



Commons Park Site Layout for 10/6/2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Scholarship Program Report - 2025

Background

The Commission reviewed and approved a scholarship policy and application in May of 2023 and requested yearly reporting of the utilization of the program. Basic parameters of the scholarship program are that the benefits are available to all FRIDLEY residents who register and sign off verifying that there is a need for assistance. Each individual is eligible for up to \$400 in program credits per year. The summer ROCKS program is not eligible for scholarships.

2025 data indicates that 22 individuals (Ages 3-14) registered for programs utilizing scholarship funds for a program value of \$3,653.03, as of September 25, 2025.

By comparison, 2024 data indicated that 40 individuals (Ages 3-16) registered for programs utilizing scholarship funds for a program value of \$6,439.00, as of December 31, 2024.

The request comes in October as enrollments for many of our 2026 programs are currently underway and staff would like to be able to make scholarship funds available for utilization at the beginning of the 2026 calendar year.

Financial Impact

With less than \$4,000 in scholarship funds being utilized to date in 2025, there does not appear to be a level of use that will cause financial strain to the Parks and Recreation Department and the program goal is to allow individuals to participate in programming without financial barriers.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Commission endorse continuation of the scholarship program with the understanding that there will be an annual review of program utilization.

Attachments and Other Resources

Vision Statement

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

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- Scholarship Program Application

Vision Statement

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

[Scholarship Application \(jotform.com\)](http://jotform.com)



Fridley Parks & Recreation
7071 University Ave N.E. Fridley, MN 55432
763-572-3570 | Recreation@FridleyMN.gov | FridleyMN.gov

Who Qualifies?

Scholarship funds are available to FRIDLEY residents only. Participants must remain full-time residents of Fridley during the activities they have received scholarships for. Proof of residency or income need may be requested at the time of application. Households must have a scholarship application digitally signed and dated for each calendar year of participation in the program.

Applications must be renewed annually.

What Qualifies?

Individuals that qualify for the scholarship program will receive a subsidy for the remainder of the calendar year, applicable towards eligible recreation programs and classes.

Summer ROCKS and Adult Sports Leagues are not eligible.

Who Can Fill Out This Application?

Parent, guardians, and adults over the age of 18 can complete this application.

If you are completing this application for children, you must be their primary caregiver.

Scholarship Guidelines:

In event you can no longer participate in a registered program, we ask that you call the Recreation office at 763-572-3570 to cancel.

Staff reserves the right to cancel a program registration if an individual enrolled through scholarship does not attend classes on a regular basis without communication to recreation.

Name of Adult Completing the Application *

First Name

Last Name

Address *

Street Address

Apartment or Condo Number

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Email *

example@example.com

Phone Number *

Please enter a valid phone number.

How many children would you like to apply for scholarships for?

Please call or email recreation if you have more than 4 children and would like to apply for scholarship.

How many Adults would you like to apply for scholarships for?

Please Select ▼

By checking the box, I certify that I or my household will benefit from the City of Fridley scholarship program and that it will allow for enrollment in classes, activities, or programs that may otherwise present a financial barrier to participation. *

Agree/Certify


By providing my signature, I declare that the scholarship application information provided is true and complete.

Sign Here 

Powered by [Jotform Sign](#)

In accordance with the MN Government Data Practices Act, the Recreation staff of Fridley hereby informs you that the personal information we are requesting of you and/or your children on this form is considered private. Private data is available to you and to City staff who need to have this information to administer the program – but not to the public.

Please verify that you are human *

I am human 
hCaptcha
Privacy - Terms



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff Report

Background

Attached is the update from the Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff for the October 6, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Attached is the update from the Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff for the October 6, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Vision Statement

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STAFF REPORT

Recreation Division: September 2025

Fall Programs

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

Preschool: Ages 3-5

Soccer (6 sessions): Sep-Oct	15
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Elementary – Middle School: Grades K-6

Soccer (6 sessions): Sep-Oct	15
Tae Kwon Do (6 sessions): Sep-Oct	16
Outdoor Games & Halloween Fun (6 sessions): Sep-Oct	15

Adult Fitness and Athletics

Zumba (2 classes/6 sessions each): Sep-Oct	15
Pickleball for Beginners: Sep-Oct F=5, SLP=3	8
Pickleball Ladder League All Ages (2 leagues): Aug-Sep F=25, SLP=6	39
Pickleball Ladder League Ages 20-40: Aug-Sep F=4, SLP=8	12
Volleyball Coed Rec: Sep-Nov*	14 teams
Volleyball Coed Comp: Sep-Nov*	15 teams
Volleyball Women's Comp: Sep-Nov*	14 teams

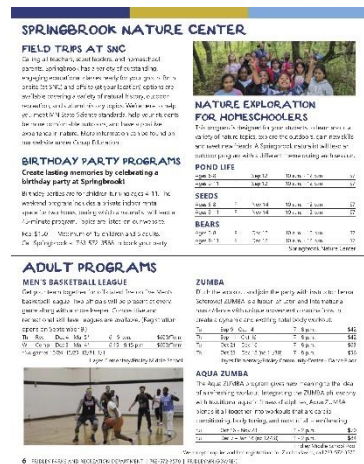
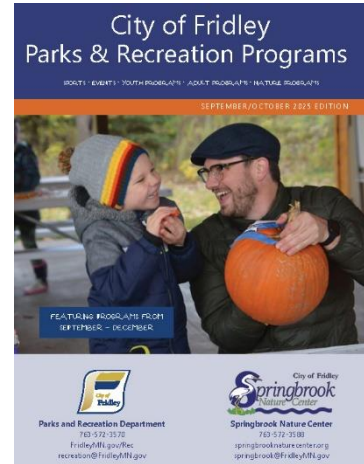
*North Metro Leagues are offered in cooperation with Mounds View, New Brighton, and Spring Lake Park.

Parks and Recreation Brochure

The Nov/Dec brochure content is finalized and is in the design process. It will be mailed to residents beginning on October 27.

September Facility Rentals

Facility	Reservations
Moore Lake Community Building	16
Moore Lake Shelter #4	2
Locke Park Shelter #1	5
Flanery Park Shelter	7
Community Park Fields	198 hours
Ray Thompson Little League Ballfields	36 hours



Field Use

Fridley Youth Sports Association Baseball program has resumed for the fall season. They are using field #2 at Ray Thompson Little League and the new basefield 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.

Volleyball

North Metro Fall Volleyball began at the New Brighton Community Center and Highview Middle School. We are currently offering coed competitive and recreational leagues as well as a competitive women's league on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Pickleball Ladder League

Outdoor pickleball ladder leagues ended this September. The Wednesday night league was moved to Hayes Elementary School early to accommodate the shorter days and less day light in the fall. Players are excited for our outdoor leagues to be held at Commons Park next summer!

Pickleball for Beginners

A new group of pickleball players joined in to learn the fundamentals of the game. This is the first class that we have held at the new courts at Edgewater Gardens. Players appreciate being able to utilize the lights to continue to play outdoors as the days get shorter!

Back to School Events

Staff attended three back-to-school events in Fridley: elementary school orientation events at Hayes and Stevenson Elementary Schools, and the annual Backpack Giveaway Event at Fridley High School. Flyers were given to Fridley Public Schools families about our upcoming programs, events and classes. In addition, the Rec N Roll truck was on display with games and fun for all!

Afterschool & Preschool Classes

Our first 6-week session of after-school and preschool classes started on September 16. This session's classes are: Afterschool Soccer, Tae Kwon Do, Outdoor Games & Halloween Fun, and Preschool Soccer. All classes filled by the end of August! Classes are held at Hayes Elementary School and fun is being had by all participants!



Staffing Update

We recently completed interviewing 13 candidates that applied for our open seasonal recreation instructor/gym attendant positions. Offers have been made and we hope to have new workers starting in a few weeks! These positions will support afterschool and preschool classes, adult sport leagues, open gym, and scorekeeping.

Upcoming Events and Programs

- October 15 – 31: Fridley Halloween Tour
- October 16: Field Trip to Zero Gravity and Pumpkin Carving for grades K-5 (registration required)
- October 18: Pumpkin Night in the Park 5-9 p.m. at Springbrook Nature Center (tickets required)
- October 23: Folk Art Black Bird fabric art class at Moore Lake (registration required)
- November 1: Houseplant Swap at Moore Lake
- November 6: Immersive Soundbath at Moore Lake (registration required)

PUMPKIN NIGHT
IN THE PARK / OCT. 18 | 5-9 P.M.

Tickets | \$12 per person (ages 2 and under are free).
Visit FridleyMN.gov/PumpkinNight to purchase tickets.

Bring the entire family out for a night of gourd-tastic fun. Wander the trails by the light of more than 1,000 jack 'o lanterns, visit with friendly costumed characters, warm up by one of our campfires, enjoy some spooky entertainment at the amphitheater, and nibble on tasty tidbits provided by one of the delicious food trucks.

Where do I park? Easily park for FREE at Spring Lake Park High School and take the FREE shuttle which will drop off at the event gate.

SCAN ME

Springbrook Nature Center TWIN CITIES GATEWAY

 SpringbrookNatureCenter.org/PumpkinNight

PUMPKIN CARVING

Reserve a time to bring your the family, your scout group or the entire neighborhood to help carve pumpkins for this year's Pumpkin Night in the Park! You bring the creativity and person power - we provide the rest (gutted pumpkins, carving tools and patterns).

Carving will take place outside at the Picnic Shelter at Springbrook Nature Center. Please make sure to dress for the weather conditions.

Sign up for a timeslot at: FridleyMN.gov/PumpkinNight

October 12 - 16
(various times available)

RESERVE YOUR TIME SLOT TODAY!

Park Maintenance Report

The Park Maintenance Division has 5 seasonal employees still working and helping us keep up with mowing and then will move into mulching and sweeping leaves. Staff have been working on and completing many projects including a native planting site at Community Park, the placement of the art piece and landscaping at Moore Lake Park, tree planting project in Parks and City right-of-way, shrub plantings off University AVE and various other projects.

Athletic field maintenance is still going strong along with shelter rentals requiring work every day. The FYSA is now using the converted baseball field at Community Park and seem to be very happy with the results. Staff will begin preparing all properties for winter, help prepare for Pumpkin Night and start getting things ready for winter recreation in the next month to be prepared for November.