



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

August 3, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Fridley Civic Campus 7071 University Avenue NE

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of Previous Months Meeting Minutes

Approval of Agenda

Open Forum

The Open Forum allows the public to address the Commission on subjects that are not on the Regular Agenda. The Commission may take action, reply, or give direction to staff. Please limit your comments to five minutes or less.

New Business

2. Commons Park Operational Refinement
3. Briardale Park Community Engagement
4. Hackmann Circle Park Community Engagement
5. Harris Lake Park Community Engagement
6. Madsen Park Community Engagement
7. Ruth Circle Park Community Engagement

Old Business

Staff and FYSA Reports

8. Staff Report June-July 2026

Adjournment

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of Fridley services, programs or activities. If you are in need of an interpreter or require auxiliary aids, contact the City at 763-572-3450 at least five business days in advance to ensure arrangements can be made.

A solicitud, se darán adaptaciones para permitir que las personas con discapacidades o las que necesiten servicios de interpretación participen en los servicios, programas o actividades de la Ciudad de Fridley. Si necesita un intérprete o requiere ayudas auxiliares, comuníquese con la Ciudad al 763-572-3450 al menos cinco días hábiles de antelación para asegurar que se puedan hacer los arreglos.

Markii la codsado, adeegyo caawimaad ah ayaa la siin doonaa dadka naafada ah ama kuwa u baahan adeegga turjumaadda si ay uga qayb qaataan adeegyada, barnaamijyada, ama hawlaha magaalada Fridley. Haddii aad u baahan tahay turjubaan ama qalabka caawiya dadka naafada ah, kala xiriir Magaalada taleefankan 763-572-3450 ugu yaraan shan maalmood oo shaqo kahor, si loo hubiyo in qabanqaabada lagu sameeyo.

Raws li kev thov, yuav muaj kev pab tshwj xeeb rau cov neeg xiam oob qhab lossis cov uas xav tau kev pab txhais lus kom lawv tuaj koom tau nroog Nroog Fridley (City of Fridley service) cov kev pab cuam, cov kev kawm, los sis cov dej num sib txawv. Yog koj xav tau neeg txhais lus los sis xav tau lwm yam kev pab, thov hu rau lub Nroog ntawm 763-572-3450 kom tsis pub tsawg tshaj tsib hnuv ua hauj lwm ua ntej, xwv kom peb thiaj li npaj tau rau koj raws li lub sij hawm ntawv.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2026
Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission
Submitted By: Alex Metchnek, Customer Service Representative
Title: Approval of Previous Months Meeting Minutes

Background

Minutes of the June 1st meeting of the Parks and Rec commission for approval

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the previous months minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

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1. PK 06-01-2026

Vision Statement

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



Park Commission Meeting

June 1, 2026

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
Melissa Luna
Tim Kirk
Jodi Rehlander
Ken Schultz
Don Whalen
Riley Auna (Ex-Officio) (arrived at 7:09 p.m.)

Absent

EB Graham

Also Present

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Councilmember Luke Cardona

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for April 6, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Kirk to approve the April 6, 2026, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for June 1, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Rehlander to approve the June 1, 2026, meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Luna. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum

New Business

1. Islands of Peace Park Property Transfer to Anoka County for Regional Park Operation

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Maher stated that there were presentations and discussions on Islands of Peace Park at both the March and April meetings to consider transferring ownership of several pieces of property to Anoka County so that entity can continue operating it as a regional park. He provided an overview of the park and its operations, existing plans and documents, and potential future plans. He asked the Commission to consider making a recommendation to the Council to transfer these three parcels to Anoka County.

Commissioner Schultz asked what would happen to the land if Anoka County stopped using the property as a park and whether the land could revert to the City of Fridley if that were to happen. Mr. Maher stated that there are covenants that would prevent the County from building or developing the land, as it has been permanently designated as parkland. He stated that the Commission could place that qualifier upon its recommendation if desired. He provided additional clarification on the difference between Islands of Peace, which is designated as a regional park, and Locke Park, which was transferred from Anoka County to Fridley.

Ex-Officio Member Auna arrived.

Chair Borman referenced the section of land behind Stevenson Elementary, noting that the ownership seems to be in question, and asked if that would be an issue. He noted that vagrants and people are camping in that area. Mr. Maher stated that he has not received any updates from City or County staff on that property. He stated that any recommendation would be specific to the three pieces of land identified in the presentation; this action would not impact any other parcels of land that may or may not have undetermined ownership. Ex-Officio Member Auna stated that he looked online, and it appears that land is owned by the School District, but agreed that there should be additional clarification.

Commissioner Rehlander asked if this transfer would result in less work for the City parks staff. Mr. Maher replied that the City has not invested any maintenance activity in the three properties since the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) was established in the 1980s.

Chair Borman stated that this would also provide an opportunity for the County to run its maintenance program from this site as well, using the facilities that already exist.

Motion by Commissioner Kirk to recommend and endorse the transfer of the City-owned parcels of Islands of Peace Park to Anoka County, and that legal and administrative fees be the responsibility of Anoka County, and that Anoka County work in partnership with the City of Fridley on future development and program plans for regional park locations within the city. Seconded by Commissioner Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Commons Park Project Updates and Discussion

Mr. Maher provided updates on the Commons Park project elements, including the recreation building, splashpad, playground, public art installation, athletic amenities, and opening plans.

Chair Borman asked for information on the work that is being done on 7th Street and when that will be completed. Mr. Maher replied that is a separate project and provided a brief overview, noting that segment of the project is being prioritized in hopes that it would be completed prior to the 49er Days parade. He noted that there would continue to be construction adjacent to the park as that project continues through the summer.

Ex-Officio Member Auna provided additional information on the discussions about the ballfield. He stated that the association was caught off guard when they received information that the field would not be usable this season, and has been using fields that are not in as good condition. He stated that the association believes that the ballfield is ready for use and would like to be able to use that field still this season. He noted another communication which stated that soccer would be using the space this season, and wanted to ensure that the baseball kids could use the field as well.

Mr. Maher asked for clarification on the end of this season. Ex-Officio Member Auna replied that summer baseball ends the first weekend in July. He hoped that they could play a few games this season and could use the field for the fall season.

Commissioner Schultz replied that if the City uses the field before the contractor signs off, any damage would be the liability of the City. He stated that if the contractor signs off, he would agree that the association could use the field, but would not want to do so until that sign-off occurs. Ex-Officio Member Auna agreed.

Chair Borman asked if any date had been suggested by the contractor. Mr. Maher explained that different elements utilize different contractors. He stated that the ballfields are included in the work being completed by the site work contractor and that date has shifted from the original timeline, as there have been some delays. He stated that staff continue to monitor this and also hope that the field could be used this year. He clarified that the field would not be used for internal programs above FYSA activities and stated that he would follow up with the contractor to get more information on the criteria in the contract.

3. Proposed 2027 Parks Capital Investment Projects

Mr. Maher commented that each year, he presents a list of proposed capital improvement projects for the next year for review and recommendation. He reviewed the list of proposed 2027 projects.

Chair Borman asked if the Springbrook trail resurfacing would just be the hard trail or whether that would also include the boardwalk, which is also in disrepair. Mr. Maher referenced the wooden boardwalk along 85th Avenue, which has been in terrible shape for the past three years. He stated that project was put out for bid and a contract was awarded at the City Council meeting on May 11th, but noted that there is a lag time on materials.

Ex-Officio Member Auna referenced the community soccer complex and asked for more information. Mr. Maher stated that it is his understanding that they wanted to allow the summer soccer season to finish and then begin construction this fall, with restoration to occur in the spring. He stated that they would need to juggle fields in 2027 until that area is restored. Ex-Officio Member Auna stated that the association is willing and able to move to another park for the fall season.

Motion by Commissioner Kirk to recommend the presented slate of CIP items to the City Council for adoption in the 2027 budget. Seconded by Commissioner Luna. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Reports – Staff Report and FYSA Report

4. Staff Reports

Ex-Officio Member Auna provided the FYSA report highlighting information on baseball, football, soccer, and basketball.

Mr. Maher provided an overview of the written report, highlighting progress on park projects, staffing, events, programming opportunities, and information about Springbrook.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Staff Liaison



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2026
Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Commons Park Operational Refinement

Background

Commons Park was opened for public use on June 12. Since that date, staff have been noting issues with the site, building, guests, and other park amenities. Staff are working on problem-solving operational issues, resolving items under warranty from contractors and completing punch-list items from the construction period. Feedback from park visitors, Commissioners, Council Members and stakeholders has been extremely valuable to identify areas for improvement.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

1. Commons Park Punchlist

Vision Statement

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

Commons Park

Site, Building and Operational Refinements List, August 3, 2026

Commons Park Identified Issues and Plans to Address

Pickleball Courts

Issue: Users have provided feedback that balls exit the court fencing through the openings that provide access through the court fencing

Remediation: Staff are seeking quotes to add gates to several of the courts. Adding gates may not meet ADA requirements for courts, so at least one court would not receive gates.

Issue: Court lighting timer has not been installed

Remediation: Staff are working with contractor to update specifications and schedule installation.

Playground

Issue: During first week of operation, several children below recommended age fell from a rubber walkway element.

Remediation: LSI approved addition of a second, lower rope handhold. No additional incidents have been reported.

Splash Pad

Issue: Excessive water is pooling to the east of the splash pad.

Remediation: Slope of concrete section will be corrected.

Issue: Users extending beyond padded landing of slide

Remediation: Additional section of pad and "stop" provided by LSI and likely to be installed after season to allow for proper adhesive curing. Water turned off on this element but still in use.

Issue: Water cannons and bucket need adjustment

Remediation: Correction scheduled with contractor

Ballfield

Issue: Storage building needed to store portable mound

Remediation: Being ordered and installed by staff with goal for use for fall baseball use

Park Building

Adult Changing Table

Restroom stalls

Door hardware

Issue: Cracks in exterior block

Remediation: Staff working with RJM and manufacturer to monitor and address repairs or replacement after monitoring period.

Visitor Safety

Issue: Visitors have commented on social media about garbage collecting on the ground in and around the playground and splash pad

Remediation: additional garbage and recycling cans were immediately ordered and installed. Litter pickup kits were assembled and made available to staff, who are asked to walk the high-use areas every 1-2 hours to monitor.

Issue: Bikes, scooters, etc. being used heavily in congested areas leading to unsafe conditions.

Remediation:

- Temporary signage on sandwich boards in place
- Furnishings rearranged to calm speeds
- Permanent signage on order
- Staff have been asked to monitor and provide reminders to park guests
- Concept of park service monitor/officer may be explored for next summer
- Additional racks for bike and scooter security may be needed. Possibility to offer lock checkout to guests

Basketball Court Lighting

Issue: Basketball court lighting was set up on a photo-sensor, running the lights through the night instead of being scheduled to turn off at 10 pm at park closing. Several times, larger groups of youth gathered to play after park closing, which staff do not want to encourage.

Remediation: Staff are working with the contractor to install a controller for the lighting so that it can be timed to turn off at park closing. Lighting is temporarily disabled until a solution is in place.

Ice Cream Vending

Issue: Several ice cream vendors were operating in the parking lot without a license or in violation of city code, which does not allow vendors to operate in park parking lots.

Remediation: Park staff worked closely with Permitting and Public Safety staff to immediately report unauthorized vending and have public safety issue warnings and/or citations.

Turf Establishment

Issue: Turf is not established after hydroseeding east and north of seating plaza/public art installation.

Remediation: Staff are working with the contractor on warranty for turf establishment and will reseed area as needed.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2026
Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Briardale Park Community Engagement

Background

Staff conducted a series of community engagement events for 2027 park construction projects in May and June of 2026. Community engagement consisted of an online survey and an event held in each of the neighborhood parks. Feedback was accepted on park layout, playgrounds, athletic amenities, park features and other considerations that may be unique to each neighborhood park. Summaries were compiled and trends were identified to assist staff in the development of final designs for each of the parks. Park designs are anticipated to be completed over the fall and winter months and projects will be bid in the spring of 2027. Grant funding may impact timelines on some projects.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the commission endorse recommendations found in the community engagement summary to allow staff to continue work on final designs.

Attachments and Other Resources

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1. Briardale Community Engagment Summary FINAL FOR COMMISSION

Vision Statement

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



Briardale Park

Community Engagement Summary

July, 2026





Briardale Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Briardale Park

Process

Briardale Park will be renovated in 2027. Staff created an online survey and held an event in the park on June 16, 2026. Comments will be used to inform updates to the concept plan found in Fridley's approved Park System Improvement Plan as part of the final design.

Site Plan Comments



- Tunnels
- Fix basketball net, it has been broken for 20 years
- Do not need an ice rink
- No restroom building
- No sand in playground – sand wasps
- Include a permanent bench by low maintenance turf/skating area
- No woodchips
- Please include trail loop
- Please no restroom building
- Include shade by playground
- Keep ice rink
- Remove two pine trees by the playground and replace with higher quality trees
- Would like to use some of the open space to create a wiffleball field

Playground Comments and Preferences

- **Option 1 received 22 “votes”**
- **Option 2 received 14 “votes” and several comments:** spinners blue, swings green, big slide green, spinners/swings yellow or blue, strongly against wood chips, include tall slides, friendship swing, shaded benches and playground shade, more equipment for younger kids

Playground Concepts

Concept 1





Briardale Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026



Concept 2





Online Survey Comments:

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?

I like the zip line but usually prefer the longer ones.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Get rid of the triangle thing on the left with a spiral climber. Skip the musical instruments and add a little house for toddlers.

What do you like about Option 2?

I like the ramp. Toddlers love to walk up and ramps. It appears accessible also. I like the lack of musical instruments.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

A little more options for older children



Briardale Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Briardale Park.

Actual restrooms with running water are extremely valuable at parks.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Briardale Park.

Please keep the tennis courts. They keep being replaced with pickleball courts and you can't play tennis on those. I have a high schooler that is finding it harder and harder to find a court to play on. Parks should have a bit of everything for everyone.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

Shade, poured on place, zip line, monkey bars, climbing walls

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

No sand. No wood chips. We get sand mites and the wood chips although considered ADA accessible, is nearly impossible to roll a wheelchair on. All poured in place. Zip line with circle seat. Taller slides. Rock climbing wall. Roller slide. Swing that can hold 2 people facing each other.

What do you like about Option 2?

Shade, poured in place, more accessible, straight monkey bars

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Everything seems to be pretty low. Maybe one side can be for little kids and one side can be bigger with taller slides, taller climbing walls, etc. 2 person swing. All poured on place, no sand, no wood chips. More input/output features.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Briardale Park.

Make sure tennis court has both tennis and pickle ball lines. Seating outside the tennis court area. Permanent bench over by where the ice rink is in the winter.

Which playground option do you prefer?



Briardale Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

Zip line, slides, swings, climbing gear.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Theres a loss of a lot of slides we currently have, I also prefer mostly rubber and no woodchips. There also is not a lot of connectivity to it.

What do you like about Option 2?

I like the umbrella covering, the continuity, and slides.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Hardly any extra sensory or climbing gear. Also would prefer mostly rubber and no woodchips.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Briardale Park.

I would like to keep a basketball court, turn the tennis court into a pickleball court, and have no sand or woodchips/wood fiber on the playground as they are always hard on kids feet. Rubberized surfaces are best.

Also we love the green space if it could be leveled out a bit as there are a number of holes and areas making it dangerous to run on and it also is a breeding ground for gnats and mosquitos.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

Activities for more age ranges. Looks more interactive.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

All rubberized.

What do you like about Option 2?

Shade

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2



Briardale Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

What do you like about Option 1?

The zip line, most variety of options of play.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Don't prefer this color scheme, would prefer no woodchips or sand. Could be more actual run around area on the play structure

What do you like about Option 2?

More run around space on the play structure, better slides and color scheme.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Rubber everywhere, maybe a few more play options

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Briardale Park.

Would prefer more benches/seating at the top of the hill where the sidewalk leads.
More benches where you have a better view of children of all ages playing. Would prefer no woodchips but def woodchips over sand. Still want basketball court.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 2?

Accessibility with ramp Monkey bars

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Separate playground equipment for little kids

Rubberized surface everywhere (wood chips get carried outside the play area and are not as safe as rubber surface)

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Briardale Park.
Include pickle ball courts

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?

Rubber surface

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?



Briardale Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Rubber surface all over

What do you like about Option 2?

More diversity for different age groups

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Rubber surface all over place

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Briardale Park.

Different play sets for the age groups below and over 6 years of age would be great.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

More variety

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

More slides

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Make it suitable for all older kids too

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Briardale Park.

Replace tennis courts with pickle ball courts. Add soccer goals to the field.

Summary Recommendations:

Based on the site comments, playground voting, and online survey responses, staff proposes the following guidance for final design:

1. **Proceed with playground option 1.** If budget allows, consider enhancements to accessibility and to add elements catering to ages 2-5 and 10+.
2. **Increase shade and seating throughout the park.**
Add shade structures, install additional benches with views of play areas, provide seating near the skating/ice rink area, and include benches along the upper sidewalk and trail connections.



Briardale Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

3. **Improve park circulation with a walking trail loop.**
Add a perimeter trail loop to increase opportunities for walking, accessibility, and neighborhood connectivity.
4. Improve existing recreational amenities to **replace existing basketball courts and include both tennis and pickleball options** in the form of a dual-purpose court or separate dedicated courts if budget allows.
5. **Feedback was mixed on the seasonal ice rink**, with some residents requesting the rink remain while others felt it was no longer needed. Additional evaluation of usage and long-term maintenance should guide future decisions.
6. **Enhance the open lawn and landscaping.**
Level uneven turf areas to improve safety, replace aging pine trees near the playground with more suitable shade trees, improve drainage where needed, and leave open space for open play or emerging athletic trends.
7. Feedback was split regarding restroom facilities. While several participants opposed constructing a restroom building, others supported permanent restrooms with running water. **Staff recommends a dedicated concrete pad and screening to allow for portable restroom use and service.**



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2026
Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Hackmann Circle Park Community Engagement

Background

Staff conducted a series of community engagement events for 2027 park construction projects in May and June of 2026. Community engagement consisted of an online survey and an event held in each of the neighborhood parks. Feedback was accepted on park layout, playgrounds, athletic amenities, park features and other considerations that may be unique to each neighborhood park. Summaries were compiled and trends were identified to assist staff in the development of final designs for each of the parks. Park designs are anticipated to be completed over the fall and winter months and projects will be bid in the spring of 2027. Grant funding may impact timelines on some projects.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the commission endorse recommendations found in the community engagement summary to allow staff to continue work on final designs.

Attachments and Other Resources

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1. Hackmann Circle Community Engagement Summary Final Combined

Vision Statement

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



Hackmann Circle Park

Community Engagement Summary

July 1, 2026





Hackmann Circle Park

Process

Hackmann Circle Park will be renovated in 2027. Staff created an online survey and held an event in the park on May 19, 2026. Comments will be used to inform updates to the concept plan found in Fridley's approved Park System Improvement Plan

Site Plan Comments

- No water option
- Bring hockey rink back
- Big play set area
- No park shelter
- No basketball – or if included make half-court and move away from homes (per Steve and Pam [REDACTED])
- Add dog waste station
- Add benches
- Include four-square and new pavement on basketball court
- Half size basketball preferred over full size
- Half basketball with multipurpose striping preferred
- Tables and shade umbrellas preferred over gazebo
- Add adult fitness equipment
- Add community garden
- Add rain garden
- Please no basketball court – keep park friendly for young kids – basketball available at Moore Lake
- No water garden – concern with flooding of residences/basements
- No: full basketball, water treatment, courts by homes, park shelter
- Yes: add benches, new larger playground
- Picnic tables and shelter
- No need for a shelter in this park
- Shelter could be problematic
- Half size basketball instead of full size
- More picnic tables
- Thanks to the park and grounds keepers
- City staff did a great job at the meeting

Playground Comments and Preferences

- **Option 1 received 13 "votes"**
- **Option 2 received 17 "votes"**
- Like option 1 with swings from option 2
- Make larger



Hackmann Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

- Preserve and refurbish the caterpillar play feature – iconic and helps measure growth of kids
- Learning wall and storefront panel
- Include a sand play area in playground
- Include more accessible play features
- Include swings and spinning features
- Add sand play
- Keep existing caterpillar
- Like option 1 but love the swings and boogie board from option 2
- Playground preferences include: oodle swing, swings from option 2, climbing net, monkey bars, structure and climbing elements from option 1, “jig jag” climber, lots of monkey bars.
- Like option 2 but would love the s ring bridge
- “jig jag” climber nice
- Add sand play
- Nature play important
- Love to keep current caterpillar
- Area for sand play

Summary Recommendations from Comments Received at Neighborhood Park Meeting and Online Surveys

Based on the community engagement summary and individual survey responses, here are 10 recommendations organized by theme that reflect the strongest and most consistent community feedback.

Playground Design

1. Build a larger, more diverse playground using the best elements of both concepts. Residents generally favored a hybrid approach rather than choosing one concept outright. While Option 2 received slightly more votes (17 vs. 13), many respondents preferred Option 1's climbing features combined with Option 2's swings and layout.
2. Prioritize climbing, swings, and inclusive play experiences.
The most requested play features included:
 - Multiple swing types (especially group/oodle swings)
 - Monkey bars
 - Climbing nets and structures
 - Spinning equipment
 - Sand play
 - Accessible play features



Hackmann Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

- Nature play opportunities
- These amenities were mentioned repeatedly across both the engagement event and surveys.

3. Preserve beloved existing play elements where feasible.

- The existing caterpillar play feature emerged as the strongest single preservation request. Residents described it as iconic, nostalgic, and a neighborhood favorite, with several respondents specifically asking that it remain in the redesigned park.

Comfort & Accessibility

1. Increase shade, seating, and picnic amenities.

Shade was one of the most common themes throughout the responses. Residents requested:

- More trees
- Shaded seating
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Canopies or shade over play equipment
- Opinions on a full shelter were mixed, suggesting smaller picnic spaces may better balance community preferences.

2. Improve accessibility and family-friendly safety.

- Residents supported additional accessible play elements and suggested features such as playground fencing to better serve children with autism or other safety needs. Families also requested baby swings and improved circulation throughout the playground.

Park Amenities

1. Add practical neighborhood amenities rather than destination facilities.

Frequently requested improvements included:

- Benches
- Dog waste stations
- Drinking fountain
- Adult fitness equipment
- Community or flower gardens



Hackmann Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

- Improved walking paths
- These suggestions generally emphasized everyday neighborhood use.

2. Improve park landscaping and walking connections.

- Several respondents noted that the park's large open lawn could better connect amenities through trails, landscaping, and additional trees while maintaining open play space.

Recreation Facilities

1. Scale recreation courts to fit the neighborhood context. Feedback consistently favored:
 - A half basketball court instead of a full court
 - Multi-use striping
 - Locating courts away from adjacent homes. Many residents opposed expanding competitive court facilities while still supporting opportunities for casual recreation.
2. Retain valued seasonal and informal recreation. Residents expressed support for preserving:
 - The seasonal skating/hockey rink
 - Open grassy areas
 - Flexible spaces for neighborhood play and picnicsThese existing uses were viewed as important community assets.

Neighborhood Compatibility

1. Design improvements that respect neighboring homes and park character. Residents emphasized maintaining the park as a neighborhood-focused destination by:
 - Avoiding water features or rain gardens near homes due to flooding concerns
 - Limiting parking expansion
 - Maintaining lighting for safety
 - Locating active uses away from adjacent backyards
 - Overall, respondents favored modest, family-oriented improvements over large destination amenities.

From: Jotform
To: Maher, Mike; Numedahl, Margo
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 8:14:31 AM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about
Option 1?

Good use of space

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 1?

Fencing around the playground perimeter. My wife and I live very near this park. We have two sons, 5 and 7 years old, both autistic. We love to use this park, but our boys are both "bolting" risks, meaning they tend to take off running into unsafe situations without warning. I believe I saw research somewhere that suggests that children play more freely and openly in places that have defined boundaries (e.g. fencing) as well.

What do you like about
Option 2?

Very open, lots of swings!

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 2?

Fencing around the playground perimeter. My wife and I live very near this park. We have two sons, 5 and 7 years old, both autistic. We love to use this park, but our boys are both "bolting" risks, meaning they tend to take off running into unsafe situations without warning. I believe I saw research somewhere that suggests that children play more freely and openly in places that have defined boundaries (e.g. fencing) as well.

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

Fencing around the playground perimeter. My wife and I live very near this park. We have two sons, 5 and 7 years old, both autistic. We love to use this park, but our boys are both "bolting" risks, meaning they tend to take off running into unsafe situations without warning. I believe I saw research somewhere that suggests that children play more freely and openly in places that have defined boundaries (e.g. fencing) as well.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: [Jotform](#)
To: [Maher, Mike](#); [Nuredahl, Margo](#)
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:53:27 PM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about
Option 1?

Climbing options

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 1?

More shade taller and more hiding spots. That's what the kids
said.

What do you like about
Option 2?

Shade and standing swing and group swing.

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 2?

More places to hide. More shade the slides get hot.

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

More trees and plants. Benches under shade.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: [Jotform](#)
To: [Maher, Mike](#); [Nuredahl, Margo](#)
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Friday, May 8, 2026 9:03:09 AM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about
Option 1?

It looks better and has more shade

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 1?

How about some picnic tables or a pavilion? I live across the
street and many people picnic there and play basketball. The
ice rink is always nice in winter

What do you like about
Option 2?

N/a

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 2?

N/a

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

Picnic pavilion basketball court improvements

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: [Jotform](#)
To: [Maher, Mike](#); [Numedahl, Margo](#)
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Friday, May 8, 2026 12:23:11 PM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option Option 1
do you prefer?

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: Jotform
To: Maher, Mike; Nuredahl, Margo
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Friday, May 8, 2026 10:45:17 PM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about
Option 1?

Monkey bars and the two person swing.

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 1?

Have the big circular swing from option 2 instead of the climbing
structure on the left. Add a bridge instead of the rope ladders
connecting the two main structures.

What do you like about
Option 2?

The big circular swing. Canopy to help keep it shaded.

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 2?

Do different type monkey bars. Classic style. Or add more
throughout.

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

Be sure to keep the natural grass areas. And I would like it if
they continued having the skating rink in the winter.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: [Jotform](#)
To: [Maher, Mike](#); [Numedahl, Margo](#)
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026 12:07:10 PM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about
Option 1?

The rope brings the play locations together. Kids like to play "the floor is lava" and this would be great for it. The rope allows for needed climbing and allows more kids to play on it than the spinny thing. The main play structure looks more fun, too.

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 1?

Plant more trees for shade around the perimeter of the playground. Playing in the bare sun takes enjoyment out of the experience.

What do you like about
Option 2?

Meh.

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

Plant more trees for shade around the perimeter of the playground. Playing in the bare sun takes enjoyment out of the experience.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: [Jotform](#)
To: [Maher, Mike](#); [Nuredahl, Margo](#)
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 8:46:26 PM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about
Option 1?

Separate money bars

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 1?

Tops on playground

What do you like about
Option 2?

Many swing options

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 2?

Nothing

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

Please dont add parking. People bike or walk here. Parking just
brings People who sit in their cars not People using the park

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: [Jotform](#)
To: [Maher, Mike](#); [Nuredahl, Margo](#)
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026 2:26:21 PM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.



Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about
Option 2?

The different swings. Like the way the equipment is spaced.
Would like to see the dinosaur spring equipment stay at the
park. It's a child favorite

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 2?

Would like the dinosaur spring equipment stay as it is a
neighborhood child favorite.

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

Would rather not have a basketball or pickleball courts. Would
prefer a flower garden with benches. Perhaps even a trail
around the garden. Neighbors could perhaps donate their
favorite blooming perennial to the garden.
The current configuration puts the court very close to that
neighbors back yard. I wouldn't want it to be that close if I lived
there.
If there is a rain garden, move it further away from the property
closest to the park.
Keep the existing lights at the playground area. There have
been problems with playground property destruction. Also a
problem with night time drug deals.
The lights have greatly reduced the problems.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: [Jotform](#)
To: [Maher, Mike](#); [Nuredahl, Margo](#)
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Saturday, May 30, 2026 10:05:13 PM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about
Option 1?

The layout/colors look aesthetically good and take up the space better than 2. Good variety of items for the kids as well. Like how it doesn't feel as disconnected as 2.

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 1?

Nothing of note, however the Park could benefit from better walk ways and landscaping. Such a nice, large space to just leave empty.

What do you like about
Option 2?

Not much, looks kinda bland and disconnected.

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 2?

color, layout, more items.

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

Could benefit from walk connections/landscaping to make use of the large green space and unify the park. Since people tend to cut across the green space anyways, adding a paved trail with benches could be nice – especially when the trees that were recently planted mature. Just a thought.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: [Jotform](#)
To: [Maher, Mike](#); [Nunedahl, Margo](#)
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 11:33:22 PM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about
Option 1?

There is a nice mix of play options.

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 1?

Maybe add a baby bucket swing.

What do you like about
Option 2?

There are a lot of options for play.

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 2?

Something different instead of the group swing.

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

I like a hard covered picnic shelter with 2 tables (not a fabric
sail), a drinking fountain, open grassy area, and that the
playground will be put farther away from the property line. Can
the basket ball court be half size or a smaller version like the
one there now? Can there be a dog waste & bag receptacle?
No water treatment area, please. Lights are good, maybe
motion sensor lights?

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

From: [Jotform](#)
To: [Maher, Mike](#); [Nunedahl, Margo](#)
Subject: Re: Hackmann Circle Park Survey
Date: Saturday, June 6, 2026 12:14:11 PM



Hackmann Circle Park Survey

Please provide your email
for follow-up questions as
needed.

[REDACTED]

Which playground option
do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about
Option 2?

the big swing

What improvements do
you suggest for Option 2?

My grandkids would love to keep the caterpillar currently in the park.
When my granddaughter heard the caterpillar was going away she started to cry. She asked to add a message.
KEEP THE CATERPILLAR - KEEP THE CATERPILLAR -
KEEP THE CATERPILLAR!
DON'T BE CRUEL. KEEP THE CATERPILLAR!!!!!!!!!!

Please provide ideas or
feedback on the draft
concept development
plan for Hackmann Circle
Park.

Prefer a half-basketball court. Add a sandbox with diggers.
Keep it small, not too fancy.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

Playground Concepts

Option 1



Option 2



Hackmann Circle Park

1071 HACKMANN CIRCLE NE

PARK TYPE: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
SIZE: 4.4-ACRES
RESIDENTS SERVED: 385
SPECIAL USES: NONE

DESCRIPTION:

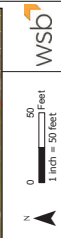
Neighborhood park that services neighborhoods #32 and #33 with some possibility of neighborhood #29 that is currently lacking a park. All of these neighborhoods are also supported by Moore Lake Park. Hackmann Circle has a playground and full size (undersized) basketball court up right on the northern property lines with a large open green space.



EXISTING PARK FEATURES:



Hackmann Circle Park
 Park Implementation Project
 Fridley, MN



RECOMMENDATIONS & ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS:

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

Recommendations include:

- Landscape enhancements and screening
- Open lawn with low-grow and/or bee-friendly turf mixture
- New playground (moved further away from property line) meeting varying age groups
- ADA compliant playground surfacing (engineered wood fiber)
- Concrete playground border
- Relocated full size basketball court
- Picnic shelter with 2 tables
- Site furnishings with common characteristic (benches, tables, receptacles, bike racks, drinking fountain, etc.)
- Walk connections
- Optional water treatment area
- Security light

The estimate of probable costs for completing the recommendations shown range from approximately \$270,000 to \$340,000.

Specific assumptions and exclusions:

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

PRIORITY LEVEL:

LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

This neighborhood park has limited opportunities for added types of recreation but it services multiple neighborhood service areas, and is ranked medium.



Hackmann Circle Recommendations

Feedback to be Considered in Final Park Design

Summary Recommendations from Comments Received at Neighborhood Park Meeting and Online Surveys

1. **Playground feedback was very mixed, and input suggests a hybrid design based on option 2 with elements of design1, such as additional climbing elements, expanded swing types, sand play, accessible elements.**
2. Explore options to **retain the caterpillar play element** in the existing playground into a new playground design.
3. **Consider shade canopies** over seating vs a traditional park shelter and incorporate as much shade and seating into the park design as possible.
4. **Enhance walking paths, connectivity and landscaping within the park.**
5. Strong support was shared to **include a half basketball court only** and to move the half court away from residences. Striping on the court should include activities such as four-square and hopscotch to allow for a variety of types of play.
6. **Landscape screening between park amenities and residences was an overall park priority.**
7. Residents shared concerns about high groundwater levels and park **improvements that may help alleviate ponding or flooding should be strongly considered.**



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2026
Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Harris Lake Park Community Engagement

Background

Staff conducted a series of community engagement events for 2027 park construction projects in May and June of 2026. Community engagement consisted of an online survey and an event held in each of the neighborhood parks. Feedback was accepted on park layout, playgrounds, athletic amenities, park features and other considerations that may be unique to each neighborhood park. Summaries were compiled and trends were identified to assist staff in the development of final designs for each of the parks. Park designs are anticipated to be completed over the fall and winter months and projects will be bid in the spring of 2027. Grant funding may impact timelines on some projects.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the commission endorse recommendations found in the community engagement summary to allow staff to continue work around final designs.

Attachments and Other Resources

-
1. Harris Lake Community Engagement Summary FINAL FOR COMMISSION

Vision Statement

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



Harris Lake Park

Community Engagement Summary

July 2, 2026





Harris Lake Park

Process

Harris Lake Park will be renovated in 2027. Staff created an online survey and held an event in the park on June 16, 2026. Comments will be used to inform updates to the concept plan found in Fridley's approved Park System Improvement Plan as final design is determined.

Site Plan Comments

- We appreciate keeping the path cleared from the easement from Dana Circle into the park
- Crosswalk (Mississippi St). with accessible curb cuts – easier to cross with young children, strollers, bikes. Thank you!
- Try to phase construction to begin in August to minimize disruption to nesting waterfowl – especially along woods on west side.
- Crosswalk and baby swing please!
- Need a pedestrian crosswalk on Mississippi at Fridley (for sure) and McKinley Streets
- Continue to work with County on crosswalks on Mississippi at Fridley and McKinley
- Please add a crosswalk across Mississippi
- Use clover or other non-turf alternative for open lawn
- The dock jutting into the pond seems to be a safety issue for younger children. I think this should be dropped. Add more seating.
- Aerator for fish
- Stock pond with fish
- Hammock stands or posts
- I don't think the off-street parking is needed. People usually walk to the park.
- To improve safety, there could be crosswalks on Mississippi St.
- Would like a safer way for residents north of Mississippi St. to reach the park. If a dock is put in the plan, it should have railings to prevent someone slipping off into the muck.
- Possibility of aerator system for pond and wildlife
- Winter ice rink would be fun
- I don't think the parking lot is necessary or desirable
- I would prefer not to have the fence
- Include a pet waste station
- Improve the easement pathway so people are more comfortable using it and can have a safer route into the park
- Crosswalk requested

Playground Comments and Preferences

- **Option 1 received 9 "votes"**
- **Option 2 received 36 "votes"**
- Add a friendship swing or flex swing



Harris Lake Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

- Put friendship swing into plan
- Like option 2 but would like tower and long slide if possible
- Places for adults to sit – possibly by the fence lakeside
- Hammock stands!
- Prefer option 2 swing set



Playground Concepts

Concept 1





Harris Lake Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Option 2





Harris Lake Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Online Survey Comments:

What do you like about Option 1?

I like that at the high slide it seems like the area is somewhat enclosed to prevent falls.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

I don't think there are enough opportunities for children to develop upper body strength.

What do you like about Option 2?

I like that it is more unique than most parks. It has lots of opportunities for children to develop opportunities body strength and climbing skills. A lot of playgrounds don't seem to have enough equipment for the kids to hang from their arms and engage their core.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

One taller slide would be nice but not a huge deal. Lots of playgrounds have slides.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Harris Lake Park.

It would be really nice for some parks to be mostly fenced in to help cut down on elopement and to keep children safe in general.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?

I like the slides and tower.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Please consider this unique waterfront site. My kids LOVE the ship-themed structure that is there now, it sparks endless fun creative play. It would be sad to lose it for a generic play structure that can be found at most playgrounds around. Boats, sand, water, and nature play elements seem like a better fit here.

What do you like about Option 2?

I like the climbing elements and saucer-type swing. Slightly different compared to other playgrounds nearby.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

(Same feedback as option 1) Please consider this unique waterfront site. My kids LOVE the ship-themed structure that is there now, it sparks endless fun creative play. It would be sad to lose it for a generic play



Harris Lake Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

structure that can be found at most playgrounds around. Boats, sand, water, nature play elements seem like a better fit here.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Harris Lake Park.

These are all great elements. Pedestrian access across Mississippi Ave is essential. People cross there regardless of whether there are safety measures or not - better to put in the safety measures. Please add curb cut access directly across from McKinley and Fridley streets.

We would love to see elements that enhance the health of Harris Lake. No-mow turf, native plants, rain gardens, keeping trees, minimal pavement.

Play structures that tie in to this unique setting would be wonderful. Sand to dig in, tree-like climbing structures, nature play elements, water play features, boat-like play platforms would all promote creative and collaborative play under the tree canopy at this sweet little lake!

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 2?

The climbing structure is different than other nearby playgrounds

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

The tower and taller slides.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

The big disc swing.

What do you like about Option 2?

The disc swing and teeter totter.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

A tower and taller slides.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?



Harris Lake Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

I like the rubberized pad under the swings. I like the variety of swings.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

I can't think of anything

What do you like about Option 2?

I like the rope climb option. I think it's a great way for kids to learn balance and challenge themselves

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Nothing

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Harris Lake Park.

I love the concepts of picnic areas and accessibility. I love the idea of a parking area. Much safer than on street parking.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?

Features a large curved slide designed for older children and adventurous kids who enjoy sliding.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

It would be nice to add standalone play elements, such as spinning, rocking, and sensory features, similar to Option 2.

What do you like about Option 2?

Creative play opportunities and standalone play elements, including spinning, rocking, and sensory features, to encourage exploration and engagement.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Large slides designed for those who love the excitement of sliding.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Harris Lake Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed improvements to Harris Lake Park. I appreciate the thought and effort that has gone into this plan.

I like the overall park concept and especially appreciate the inclusion of the water treatment area, which provides both environmental benefits and an attractive feature that will draw more visitors to the park. As a parent, I



Harris Lake Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

regularly bring my 2-year-old daughter and my three nephews to Harris Lake Park to play, explore, and spend time outdoors away from screens whenever possible. It is a valuable community space for our family and many others.

Because the park is located along a busy street, I believe safer pedestrian access should be a priority. Enhanced crossings, traffic-calming measures, and improved pathways would help visitors reach the park more safely. In addition, lighting throughout the park would improve visibility and enhance safety and security, particularly during the evening hours.

I also think the proposed walking trails are a wonderful addition. It would be especially beneficial to include trail connections that allow residents from nearby neighborhoods to access the park without having to travel along or cross busy streets whenever possible.

Beyond these safety improvements, I am excited about the proposed dock. I often see people sitting on the lakeside benches enjoying the birds, trees, and peaceful scenery, and my family has enjoyed spending time there as well. A dock or other lake-access feature would create additional opportunities to experience the lake, enjoy nature, and further enhance the park as a community destination.

Overall, I am grateful for the investment being made in Harris Lake Park. The proposed improvements have the potential to make the park even more welcoming, accessible, safe, and enjoyable for residents of all ages.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?

It looks fun and engaging for younger kids while using space well.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Older kids won't find this as fun - pretty boring

What do you like about Option 2?

All of the interactive elements are great.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Harris Lake Park.

Please, please, please add a crosswalk or some kind of crossing area from the sidewalk across Mississippi St to Harris Lake Park. We live in the neighborhood north of the park and it feels dangerous to cross at times. There is no sidewalk on the south side of Mississippi (where the park is), so all of the foot traffic needs to cross over to the park. Please make this safer for our kids!!!

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2



Harris Lake Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

What do you like about Option 1?

Slides

What do you like about Option 2?

My kids especially like climbing so would prefer the ropes

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

I don't have children, but most of the kids I see playing at the park are very small, and it seems like a better option for the 2-6 year old crowd. That said, maybe something for bigger kids would bring them in?

What do you like about Option 2?

Looks cool, but seems designed for older kids.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Harris Lake Park.

Lots of nice things here! Anything that would help address water quality would be very helpful. I see there is planned water treatment, which is great. Maybe doing more to treat the water would make the city eligible for watershed or state grants?

The way the water is now, I'm not sure how useful a dock would be. The fish are tiny, and I'd be afraid a dock would prompt kids playing in the water, which is probably a bad idea given how gross the water is.

I like the idea of a little trail. I do a loop informally now. The biggest issue with that is goose poo, and I'm not sure if paving/chipping a trail would make a dent in that.

Which leads to something not mentioned, which is the goose overpopulation on the pond. I have counted over 42 in my yard at a time this week. That is probably not all the geese on the pond, and I know they spend time at the park as well. With more use of the park (hooray!), there will likely be even more goose/people conflict. And I don't think that many geese help the water quality. They certainly make the grass disgusting.

Another helpful thing not on the list would be marked crosswalks from the sidewalk on the north side of Mississippi St. to the park (on each end, ideally).

A drinking fountain would be great, and one with a dog faucet would be awesome. And a dog waste station like the one at Briardale Park would be nice.

So glad you're looking at improving the park! I hope the city council can make this happen.



Summary Recommendations:

Based on the comments received at the public engagement event and through the online survey, the following recommendations are proposed to guide the development of the final park plan:

1. **Prioritize safe pedestrian access across Mississippi Street.**
Continue working with the county to install highly visible crosswalks with accessible curb ramps at Fridley Street and McKinley Street. This was the most consistent request from both event attendees and survey respondents and is viewed as critical for neighborhood access and child safety.
2. **Develop the playground using Option 2 as the preferred concept.**
Option 2 received strong public support due to its climbing opportunities, challenging play, unique equipment, and broader variety of play experiences. Opportunities for refinement include:
 - Expand inclusive and family-friendly play amenities.
Include a friendship/flex swing, disc (saucer) swing, sensory and standalone play elements, and provide additional seating for caregivers.
 - Celebrate the park's unique lakeside setting through play design.
Incorporate nature- and waterfront-themed play features, such as boat or water-inspired structures, nature play, sand play, tree-like climbing elements, and other creative play opportunities that reflect the site's identity.
3. **Improve environmental sustainability and lake health.**
Continue incorporating water quality improvements through native plantings, rain gardens, no-mow or alternative turf areas, water treatment features, and evaluate additional strategies such as aeration, fisheries improvements, and goose management.
4. **Enhance park accessibility, circulation, and neighborhood connections.**
Improve the Dana Circle easement path and trail connections where feasible, maintain accessible routes, and provide lighting to improve safety and usability.
5. **Evaluate amenities with an emphasis on safety.** Enhance lake view seating in favor of possible dock, further evaluate dedicated parking lot, fence between playground and lake not perceived to enhance safety.
6. **Provide amenities that support everyday park use.**
Enhance picnic areas, benches, consider hammock posts and pet waste stations.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2026
Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Madsen Park Community Engagement

Background

Staff conducted a series of community engagement events for 2027 park construction projects in May and June of 2026. Community engagement consisted of an online survey and an event held in each of the neighborhood parks. Feedback was accepted on park layout, playgrounds, athletic amenities, park features and other considerations that may be unique to each neighborhood park. Summaries were compiled and trends were identified to assist staff in the development of final designs for each of the parks. Park designs are anticipated to be completed over the fall and winter months and projects will be bid in the spring of 2027. Grant funding may impact timelines on some projects.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the commission endorse recommendations found in the community engagement summary to allow staff to continue work on final designs.

Attachments and Other Resources

-
1. Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary FINAL FOR COMMISSION

Vision Statement

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



Madsen Park

Community Engagement Summary

July, 2026





Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Madsen Park

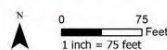
Process

Madsen Park will be renovated in 2027. Staff created an online survey and held an event in the park on May 28, 2026. Comments will be used to inform updates to the concept plan found in Fridley's approved Park System Improvement Plan as final design is determined.

Site Concept Plan



Madsen Park
Park Implementation Project
Fridley, MN





Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Site Plan Comments

- Move basketball court away from play area
- Extend basketball court new surface, hoops, same size hoops

Playground Comments and Preferences

- **Option 1 received 3 “votes”**
- **Option 2 received 0 “votes”**

Playground Concepts

Option 1





Option 2





Online Survey Comments:

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

The musical elements are great for littles. I also love the shade towers and think one more would be a good idea. The less wood chips the better! I also like that there are options for smaller kids and larger ones that aren't at two separate areas that way if there's only one parent with two different ages of kids they can easily watch them both.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Shade over the smaller play structure, a water fountain with two levels of water available (big and little kids) , a few benches surrounding the area that aren't metal.

What do you like about Option 2?

I like how many swings there are (less wait times) and that the larger play structure doesn't have large gaps at the top where kids can fall from



Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

More shade, more climbing structures , less bark and more foam like flooring

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

Don't put automatic hand driers as the only option. They scare many of the kids and make the bathroom that much harder for parents. Please add more changing tables to restrooms for both sexes and have toilets/sinks that are fit for children. This is something I never see at parks but would be amazing.

You can

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about

Option 1?

Lots of options

What do you like about

Option 2?

Unique design

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

More spread out and don't need musical elements.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

Move the parking lot and basketball court closer to the church. Adding a warming house would be great. Offer free skates to use or charge minimum fee. Add another dog waste station. Please keep as many trees as possible. Looking forward to the improvements!

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

More accessible for all ages and has more options to play

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

No wood chips! All rubber surface

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.



Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Pickle ball court!

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

Larger playground, variety of play areas, available for all age groups to play and use.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Avoid loose gravel/woodchips/sand

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

Would love a pickleball court near by!

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?

Looks bigger and more options.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

N/A

What do you like about Option 2?

Love that the swings are together. More running space so doesnt feel tight. Love the enclosure on both the bigger and smaller kids area.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Please add seating/covering for parents!

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

Love all of it! Please just ensure seating/coverings for parents especially when theres no shade. Bathroom is amazing!

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1



Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

What do you like about Option 1?

The musical elements are more apparent and there seems to be more play space.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

There are a lot of older elementary kiddos in the neighborhood. More climbing options and options suited to older kids would make it a more full family resource

What do you like about Option 2?

Many swing options

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

The overall play space seems really small

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

Edible orchard seems like it would be hard to maintain and that it would likely be under utilized. Walking paths around the park would be amazing for families with strollers. Keeping the basketball court is critical, but having a second court that is maybe designed for the younger player may make it more possible for families to utilize the courts and not always get bumped by grown ups trying to play real games. Even a couple additional half courts would be lovely
You

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

I appreciate that it seems bigger compared to option 2. I also appreciate the spacing between items that makes the space feel more open and easier to play on.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

It still feels like a playground for younger children. I'd love to see higher structure, bigger slides, and different elevations/hills for older. I would also love to see more table and bench seating around the playground for caregivers. French Regional Park in Plymouth is a good example.

What do you like about Option 2?

I like the colors and swing options.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?



Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Similar as one with about the playground being for a younger crowd. It also seems small and couldn't accommodate a larger group. Also missing features like a zip line and other features.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

I like the idea of park trails to make it easier to navigate. Entry points include from melody manor neighborhood, from the frontage road off 73rd, and from the Grace evangelical free church.

I like the idea of a pavilion building that could be accessed by the community. This is my neighbor's park and I'd love to use that space.

If the hockey and basketball areas were combined I'd love to be sure they both feel accessible when it makes sense. I don't see many people use the hockey area but the basketball court is highly trafficked.

A full size basketball court would be nice and better quality hoops. Also a pickle ball court instead of the hockey area could be a popular option.

I also think there could be a benefit to having a partially fenced basketball court. And even adding another set of courts.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

More variety it seems. Toddler area

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

More basketball space, not overlayed in the hockey space. The basketball courts are always busy. Concerns about the potential noise, crowds that a pavilion would bring to the quiet neighborhood.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

More spread out.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?



Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Add some hills like shoreview. Especially if it's a destination.

What do you like about Option 2?

The dedicated space for 2-5 year olds

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Add some imagination animals or vehicles for play pretend

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

I come to this park almost everyday and I always see volleyball tournaments. It should have a dedicated section for beach, or sand volleyball. In addition, a splash pad would be great, the trails are nice if there are things to do along the trail.

I'm not a big fan of hockey, but if it's a multi use space, we can use it to play soccer or Ecua Volleyball ball which is very popular sport. It can't be grass though. It needs to be turf or concrete.

Which playground option
do you prefer?
Option 1

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

Looks like there is more to do for all ages. Fun features.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

None

What do you like about Option 2?

The slide structure looks cool!

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

None

Which playground option do you prefer?



Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

Zip line. More appeal for older age groups.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Seating for parents.
You

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

Seems more appropriate for older kids - there are numerous upper elementary school age children in Melody Manor

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Madsen Park.

I like the pavilion building, and wood chips over sand. I like the idea of the new trails.

A change I would recommend is shrinking the parking space, and potentially removing the basketball court. I like the park being focused for the immediate neighborhood.

Summary Recommendations:

Madsen Park Redevelopment – Summary Recommendations for Final Design Development

Based on comments received during the public engagement process, the following themes emerged to refine the concept plan for Madsen Park as a final design is developed for construction.

1. Proceed with Playground Option 1 as the Preferred Design with a few changes:
 - Residents favored its larger footprint, greater variety of play opportunities, more open layout, and ability to serve multiple age groups in one space.
 - Add more challenging play opportunities for older elementary-aged children, including taller structures, larger slides, climbing features, zip lines, hills, and varied elevations.



Madsen Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

- Continue providing dedicated spaces and play opportunities for toddlers and younger children while keeping all ages within sight of caregivers.
- Incorporate plenty of seating and shade for caregivers
- 2. Enhance Basketball Facilities
 - Maintain basketball as a key park feature.
 - Relocate the basketball court farther from the playground to reduce conflicts between uses.
 - Improve the court with a new surface and higher-quality hoops.
 - Consider expanding basketball opportunities with additional half courts or a second court, as residents noted existing courts are heavily used.
- 3. Additional Recreational Amenity Considerations
 - Include tennis and pickleball if possible or combined court
 - Sand volleyball facilities
 - Small indoor restroom building with drinking water if budget allows
- 4. Expand Walking and Trail Connections
 - Develop internal walking loops suitable for strollers and casual exercise.
 - Improve connections to surrounding neighborhoods, nearby streets, and adjacent community destinations.
 - Consider incorporating small activity stations or interactive elements along trails. Possibly public art.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2026
Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Ruth Circle Park Community Engagement

Background

Staff conducted a series of community engagement events for 2027 park construction projects in May and June of 2026. Community engagement consisted of an online survey and an event held in each of the neighborhood parks. Feedback was accepted on park layout, playgrounds, athletic amenities, park features and other considerations that may be unique to each neighborhood park. Summaries were compiled and trends were identified to assist staff in the development of final designs for each of the parks. Park designs are anticipated to be completed over the fall and winter months and projects will be bid in the spring of 2027. Grant funding may impact timelines on some projects.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the commission endorse recommendations found in the community engagement summary to allow staff to continue work on final designs.

Attachments and Other Resources

-
1. Ruth Circle Community Engagement Summary FINAL

Vision Statement

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



Ruth Circle Park

Community Engagement Summary

July, 2026



Ruth Circle Park

Process

Ruth Circle Park will be renovated in 2027. Staff created an online survey and held an event in the park on May 12, 2026. Comments will be used to inform updates to the concept plan found in Fridley's approved Park System Improvement Plan

Site Plan Comments





Ruth Circle Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

- Love the concept but a lot of kids and adults play basketball so I think a dedicated court is a must. Love the zipline! Would be very popular
- Dog run would be great. Lots of dogs in our neighborhood.
- Research pickleball noise as balls hit pavement. Noise of the balls can be quite loud.
- Kids love the soccer field and basketball so these should be kept.
- Remove shrubs adjacent to street
- Include two fixed picnic tables at the playground
- Info to River Point Apartments
- Would love pickleball

Playground Comments and Preferences

- **Option 1 received 5 "votes"**
- **Option 2 received 17 "votes"**

Playground Concepts

Option 1





Ruth Circle Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Option 2



Online Survey Comments:

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?

The slides

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

A bigger kid section and a little kid section

What do you like about Option 2?

Zip Line

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

A bigger play area for smaller kids

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Ruth Circle Park.

Loop trail or walking paths, picnic shelter



Ruth Circle Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 1

What do you like about Option 1?

I like that its more friendly for younger age kiddos as well and this is the closest park for my almost 2 year old.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Create a gate as well. Also another mini park or maybe a little trampoline

What do you like about Option 2?

I like the layout and the swings

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

its for older kids. also more close together

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Ruth Circle Park.

Need better parking as well

What do you like about Option 1?

It seems fewer ways to get hurt and more play value for smaller children. Note that neither option seems to have as much play value as the current set , which look remarkably well preserved, sturdy, and unbroken since they were new, maybe two decades ago.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Both in the proposed mockups will change the park for us which we know as the "red park" because of the dominant color of the playground equipment. Craig park is the "green park". Springbrook park at Hugo and Broad is the "blue park". Even Kennedy Park at 85th and East River Road we know as the "Arthur Park" by the Arthur graphics in the equipment. Red would be great.

What do you like about Option 2?

Just the slide

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Fewer rope and dangling pieces. Red color theme

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Ruth Circle Park.

Forget the restrooms, only homeless people will use them. A temporary porta potty is sufficient.



Ruth Circle Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Which playground option
do you prefer?
Option 2

Which playground option do you prefer?
Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?

Lots of different items to play on

What improvements do you suggest for Option 1?

Something for bigger kids

What do you like about Option 2?

Things for all ages

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Another slide

Which playground option do you prefer?
Option 2

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Ruth Circle Park.

Please keep the soccer nets as many enjoy them. Thank you for this opportunity to view and share ideas.

Which playground option do you prefer?
Option 2

What do you like about Option 2?

Love the zip line which makes it different from every other park you see

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

Could you add something more for toddlers?

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Ruth Circle Park.



Ruth Circle Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

I live right next to the park and walk through it every day. Make sure you keep the basketball court. I would stick with 2 hoops and keep it the same size as it is now. This is the only option for older kids and they are always using the court. Have you ever thought of adding a pickle ball court?

The other thing is DO NOT add a parking lot. There is plenty of room to park on the street. Ashton Ave is much wider than the average road and can handle the extra vehicles. Plus most people walk to the park so I don't think it is needed. Plus it would just turn into a late night teenager hangout or something worse. Basically it would attract the wrong type of people.

Which playground option do you prefer?

Option 2

What do you like about Option 1?

This is a better option for younger kids. This structure design is more accessible to them.

What do you like about Option 2?

I appreciate that it has platforms for the zip line. That is missing from the current park, which makes it inaccessible to smaller sized kids.

What improvements do you suggest for Option 2?

I wish it had bigger/more slides.

Please provide ideas or feedback on the draft concept development plan for Ruth Circle Park.

I would love to have a tennis court included in the new design.

Summary Recommendations:

Based on the comments from the public meeting, concept plan review, and online survey, staff recommends the following guidelines to guide the creation of the final park plan:

1. **Proceed with Playground Option 2.** If budget allows, expand toddler play opportunities. Consider red as a primary color for the playground.
2. **Retain a full-size basketball court in the final plan.**
3. **Preserve the existing soccer field and goals.** Residents noted that the soccer field is well used and should remain part of the park's recreation offerings.
4. **Consider addition of tennis/pickleball if budget allows and separate court from residences to alleviate noise concerns.**
5. **Enhance park amenities for families and gatherings.** Add fixed picnic tables near the playground and **include an open air shelter vs. enclosed restroom building.**



Ruth Circle Park Community Engagement Summary

July 2026

Additional walking/loop trails, portable restroom pads and features such as bike racks and benches may encourage family use and longer visits. Dog walking was listed as a priority.

6. Review site circulation, landscaping, and **safety improvements**. Remove shrubs adjacent to the street to improve visibility and safety and consider other design elements that enhance sightlines throughout the park.
7. **Addition of a parking lot was not supported.** One request for additional parking was made but several residents commented that existing on-street parking is adequate and preferable to constructing a parking lot. Additional parking should only be pursued if demonstrated by future demand.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2026
Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission
Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Title: Staff Report June-July 2026

Background

Staff Report encompassing June and July numbers.

Recommendation

N/A

Attachments and Other Resources

-
1. Staff Report.JunJul 2026

Vision Statement

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

STAFF REPORT



Recreation Division: June and July 2026

Summer Programs

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

Preschool: Ages 3-5

Soccer (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	14
T-ball (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	18
Track and Field (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	15
Little Ninjas (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	8

Elementary – Middle School: Grades K-7

Soccer Gr. K-4 (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	18
Little Ninjas Gr. K-4 (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	9
Track and Field Gr. K-4 (4 sessions): Jun-Jul	18
T-ball/Baseball Gr. K-4(4 sessions): Jun-Jul	11
Safety Camp Gr. 2-4: Jun 23-24	39

Adult Fitness and Athletics

Zumba (2 classes/6 sessions each): Jul-Aug	19
55+ Golf League: May-Aug	20
Pickleball Intro Clinic (1 session): Jun 7	3
Pickleball for Beginners (4 sessions): Jul-Aug	9
Pickleball Live Play Coaching (4 sessions): Jun 6 – Fridley, 2 - SLP	8
Pickleball Ladder League – All Ages: Jun-Aug 40 – Fridley, 16 – SLP (2 leagues)	56
Pickleball Ladder League – Ages 20-35: Jun-Aug 21 – Fridley, 4 – SLP	25
Minnesota Pickleball DUPR League: Jun-Aug	30
Sand Volleyball – 4 Leagues: Jun-Aug* Fridley-14 teams	34 teams

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



Parks and Recreation Activity Guide

The content for the September/October edition of the Activity Guide is complete and the designer is working on the document. We'll be editing the draft in early August and the guide will be mailed to residents during the week of August 24.

June - July Facility Rentals

Facility	Reservations
Moore Lake Community Building	43
Picnic Shelters	29
Baseball/Softball Fields	87
Soccer Fields	144

Summer Seasonal Staffing

Our staff training took place June 8–12, and we were excited to welcome 25 seasonal staff members who have been leading the summer programs! Our summer team includes 12 returning staff and 13 new staff which is a great mix of experience and new perspectives. Our intern, Aaron, also led several training sessions and activities, sharing valuable knowledge and insights from his previous work experiences. Each day of training was held in the new Commons Park Building, and it was exciting to see our staff's enthusiasm as they entered the building seeing it for the first time! One of the highlights of every training is watching our returning staff step into leadership roles, mentoring, and supporting our new staff. At the same time, our new staff bring incredible energy, positivity, and fresh ideas that has helped make this summer a success!

Facility Monitors and Commons Park

On June 12, our facility monitors started working the desk at Commons Park! We hired 6 monitors, and they have been scheduled to keep the Commons Park building open everyday to the public. Facility Monitors are tasked with keeping an eye on the building and the park, routinely pick up trash in the pick, and walk around to greet park-goers. June 12 was the soft open date, and we learned a lot about the needs of the building and park prior to the grand opening during 49er Days on July 18. Many park-goers have been very positive about the changes and are thrilled with the new building, playground and splash pad. A lot of comments are similar to "This is what Fridley needed!" Hourly weekend rentals of the indoor activity rooms and Shelter #2 started on July 25. The building is currently open Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays & Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Our summer day camp for children in kindergarten through 6th grade, has been in full swing since June 15 at Commons Park. Camp is divided into three age groups (K–1, 2–3, and 4–6), with an average weekly attendance of 50 kids. Our maximum capacity is 60 kids, and the 4–6 age group has been at or near full capacity almost every week. Each morning, kids participate in themed activities that include a creative craft, a low-energy activity such as themed trivia, and a high-energy activity like relay races. In the afternoons, kids rotate through classes in arts, STEM, and sports, giving them

opportunities to explore a variety of interests as well as trying something new! We also partner with the Anoka County Library, Tech Academy, and other community organizations to bring engaging, hands-on experiences to camp. Wednesdays are dedicated to field trips and special events, including: The Fun Lab, Field Day featuring track and field challenges, an Escape Room, AMC Movie Theatre, the annual ROCKS Talent Show, Ninja United, Bunker Beach, Frozen the Musical, and Zero Gravity. On select Fridays, our 4–6 group enjoys a three-mile bike ride from Commons Park to Moore Lake Park. We continue to receive wonderful feedback from families, with parents commenting on the kindness and enthusiasm of our staff, and how wonderful the Commons Park improvements are!

Evening Sports

Session one of our evening sports classes took place from June 15 – July 9. Evening sports provides opportunities for kids both preschool aged and in grades K-4 to get exposure to soccer, tball/baseball, track and field, and a little ninjas class. The programs focus on the fundamentals of each sport/activity while creating a fun welcoming atmosphere for all skill levels over the course of four weeks. Classes take place on Monday – Thursday evenings at the Commons Park Stadium Field.

Rec 'N Roll

Rec 'N Roll takes place on Thursdays at Creekview and Moore Lake Parks from June 18 – August 13. Seasonal staff led by our Summer Intern Aaron Casey-Fix head to the parks in our Rec 'N Roll mobile and provide free recreational activities, crafts, and meals. Meals are provided through a partnership with Fridley Public Schools.

Pickleball Leagues and Classes

Over the course of June and July we offered four pickleball leagues and two different pickleball classes. Three of our ladder leagues are run in partnership with Spring Lake Park Parks and Recreation using a ladder system ensuring players are playing opponents of a similar skill level. The fourth league is new this summer and is in partnership with Minnesota Pickleball. This is a competitive league that uses the DUPR Pickleball system. We have offered two classes as well including a Pickleball for Beginners and Live Play Coaching class. Players have really enjoyed using the new facility at Commons Park!

Summer Concerts

July was full of free, community concerts! On July 7, over 300 folks gathered to watch Todd Anderson as Elvis at Springbrook Nature Center. On July 21, over 150 folks gathered for our rescheduled June concert of the New Feral Cats (rock/blues) at Civic Campus. We have also had the Fridley City Band playing at various Fridley parks on Monday nights, and have had chamber music concerts with Fridley's Northeast Orchestra at Moore Lake. Many residents say that the summer concerts are their favorite way to gather in Fridley with their neighbors!

Fridley '49er Days Parade and Festival

The Fridley '49er Days Committee held a successful festival and grand opening celebration of Commons Park on July 16 – 18. The events were supported by the City, Fridley School District, Fridley Lions Club and many community sponsors. The community came together to enjoy the many activities throughout the festival and loved celebrating the new amenities at the park. The committee raised over \$40,000 this year and all of the activities were offered free of charge creating an event that everyone in the community could attend.

Sponsors and Partners

- Fridley Lions Club
- City of Fridley
- Fridley Public Schools
- Northern Stacks
- Twin City Gateway
- RAO Manufacturing Co.
- Blaine Festival
- CenterPoint Energy
- Fridley American Legion
- Friendly Chevrolet
- Fridley Rotary
- Allina Health
- Bob's Produce Ranch
- Forgotten Star Brewing Co.
- Willows Bend Senior Living
- Custom Graphix



Sunday, July 12 – Saturday, July 18

Medallion Hunt

The city-wide medallion hunt was a hit again this year! Clues were posted each day beginning on July 12 and the medallion was hidden in a City Park. The medallion was found by a Fridley family on Thursday, July 16 at Community Park!



Fridley 49er Adventure Quest

New this year we hosted an app based scavenger hunt on Goosechase. Registered teams could choose missions throughout the week earning points and raffle tickets. Seventeen teams participated, six of which were very active logging over 130,000 points! Each team was awarded a raffle ticket for each 10 missions completed and the prize drawing took place at Commons Park on Saturday evening.

Thursday, July 16

Pre-Parade Party, Fun Run, Fridley Lions Club Parade

Unfortunately, Thursday's events and the parade were cancelled due to heat and extreme smoke. Many organizations came to participate in Saturday's events instead.



Friday, July 17

MSMA Car Show

Friendly Chevrolet | 5-8 p.m.

The Car Show was a success. Money was raised for the Fridley Youth Wrestling Association. All enjoyed the new location, music by Tunes to Go and food trucks as well.

Music and Movie in the Park

Commons Park | 5:30-11 p.m.

The evening kicked off with a performance by the Fridley City Band, followed by the School of Rock band. Trivia Mafia hosted two exciting trivia games inside the Recreation Building from 7 – 9 p.m. The fun evening ended with the Movie Hoppers, which began outdoors, but moved inside when lightning and rain came through shortly before 10 p.m. Throughout the event Food Trucks were serving meals, treats and popcorn!



Saturday, June 17

Commons Park Grand Opening!

Commons Park | 12 – 7 p.m.

The park was buzzing with excitement throughout the day on Saturday. The highlights of the day were the Grand Opening of Commons Park Ribbon Cutting and Public Art Dedication. The community was proud of the transformation of the park and celebrated the success.



Musical performances took place throughout the event, performers included: Los Rebeldes, BlueDog, DJ Howie and CoMingl. The Fun Zone was active with inflatable challenges and activities, arts and crafts, magic shows and more! Thank you to the following organizations for providing activities for families: Fridley Fire Department, Home Depot, Girl Scouts, Creative Flow Art Center, Delta Kai Tae Kwon Do, City of Lakes Youth Hockey Titans, U of M Master Gardeners, and Met Council. In addition, the Minnesota Twins came out to host a fun baseball clinic, about 50 kids participated and FYSA Baseball volunteers helped coordinate.



Fridley '49er Committee Members

It takes the planning committee a full year to plan and prepare for the festival. The committee met once a month to prepare for the festival.

President/SecretaryJo Young
 Treasurer.....Angie Nolan
 Sponsorship.....Ann Bolkcom
 VolunteersGayle Peters
 Social Media.....Paul Diederich
 and Brad Gudim

Parade ChairNick Kroger
 Fridley Schools LiaisonStephen Keeler
 Fridley Historical SocietyMark Bonesteel
 City Liaisons.....Margo Numedahl
 and Mike Maher

Upcoming Events and Programs

- August 13, August 27: Our Leaders Are Readers
- August 5: Frozen Jr, The Musical kid's performance at Commons Park
- August 18: Touch-A-Truck & Concert at Civic Campus