



## PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

**MARCH 27, 2024**

**John P. Murzyn Hall—Keyes Room, 530 Mill St NE**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

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### AGENDA

#### **ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC**

*Members of the public who wish to attend may do so in-person, by Teams Meeting ID 232 366 062 314. For questions please call the Recreation Department at 763-706-3730.*

#### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

**COMMUNITY FORUM:** At this time, individuals may address the Park and Recreation Commission about any item not included on the regular agenda. All speakers need to state their name and connection to Columbia Heights, and limit their comments to five (5) minutes. Those in attendance virtually should send this information in the chat function to the moderator. The Board will listen to brief remarks, ask clarifying questions, and if needed, request staff to follow up or direct the matter to be added to an upcoming agenda.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*(These items are considered to be routine by the Park & Recreation Commission and will be enacted as part of the Consent Agenda by one motion.)*

1. Approve February 28, 2024 Park & Recreation Commission Minutes
2. Approve Payment of Bills - Parks February 2024
3. Approve Payment of Bills - John P Murzyn Hall February 2024

#### **LETTERS AND REQUESTS**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

4. Park Improvements Discussion.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REPORTS**

**Recreation Director**

**Public Works Director/City Engineer**

**Commission Members**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Auxiliary aids or other accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request when the request is made at least 72 hours in advance. Please contact Administration at 763-706-3610 to make arrangements.*



**Park & Recreation Commission Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Senior Center, John P Murzyn Hall 530 Mill St NE**  
**February 28, 2024**

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**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Tom Greenhalgh called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Members present: Teresa Eisenbise, Tom Greenhalgh, Dayna Gulley, Taher Harzallah, Andrew Macko, Andrea Ostergaard

Staff present: David Cullen, Public Works Interim Director; Keith Windschitl, Recreation Director; Deanna Saefke, Recreation Secretary; Amada Marquez Simula, Mayor, Council Representative; Liam Genter, Urban Forestry Specialist

**Community Forum**

None at this time.

**Consent Agenda**

Eisenbise asked why on the expenditure reports it indicates that 100% of the budget is used. Windschitl reported it looks like the 2024 budget has not been updated on that report.

**Motion** by Macko, second by Harzallah, to approve the consent agenda. Upon vote: All ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Letters and Requests**

None at this time.

**Old Business**

Liam Genter the City of Columbia Heights Urban Forestry Specialist introduced himself. He indicated Kevin Hansen was going to attend the meeting this month and had a family situation. Genter reported he would be the person applying for these grant opportunities involving the parks. The first grant is through the DNR, the Department of Natural Resources, and would be an outdoor recreation grant. This is an annual grant is awarded at \$350,000 and is a required fifty-fifty match. Some of the items that could be included with this funding would be to upgrade and repair the walking trail at Sullivan Lake. This is the most used trail in our parks. This grant would include some types of accessories to the trail such as upgrading the lighting and the retaining wall. Staff are in the planning stages of this application and discussions with contractors. This is called the Outdoor Recreation Grant through the DNR. Ostergaard asked if additional benches could be included. Genter replied the pricing for the retaining wall would need to be obtained first in order to see what other items might fit within the costs of the project. He indicated there are other requirements with the application such as the trail, that is the main focus, it would need to be at least ten feet wide and meet ADA requirements. These requirements would all need to be met first prior to adding other elements to the application. Cullen asked if there will be a lot of applications for this grant. Genter replied that it will be highly competitive. It is a statewide program and there is a wide range of activities allowed on the application. Ostergaard asked about the condition of the bridge at Sullivan Lake Park. Genter indicated staff would like to resurface the bridge but the structure itself is in good

condition. The whole surface doesn't need new decking, just parts of it, so he doesn't feel that should even be added into the grant application. Ostergaard replied the bridge is stable unlike the retaining wall. Genter stated the bridge is in excellent condition. Cullen indicated staff have already replaced some of the treated wood underneath the bridge. This usually is done when the lake freezes because the boards are tucked in. Marquez Simula asked if this is still able to be done when the lake doesn't freeze. Cullen replied yes, the water level is low enough and it just gets mucky, but they can still get to the area. Harzallah asked what the timeline for submission is. Genter replied the application is due at the end of March and notice of awards are towards the end of summer. There is an additional environmental review after that. Completion of the project would be in 2025. Harzallah asked if there is a large amount of funding for this grant where they would be able to award multiple cities. Genter answered this is relatively a small grant, but it depends on where it gets maxed out from the recipients. Gulley asked where staff find available grants. Genter replied he receives a lot of funding opportunities through email lists with organizations like the DNR, Pollution Control, MNDOT, some federal organizations, and others. There are many sources of funding, and it is a matter of reading through all of them carefully because there are so many various qualifications, and the project needs to fit well with each type of grant. Cullen pointed out how fortunate we are to have Genter working for the city because he has an extensive background with the grant process. Most of these grants are very competitive and require very specific information. Genter stated there needs to be a project that fits the grant when there is an opportunity available.

Genter presented the second grant opportunity with the National Fitness Campaign. This group works with communities and nonprofits to build outdoor gyms that are freely accessible to everyone. The old fashion types that people might recognize are the wood structures with pullup bars. This campaign would create an outdoor workout space. There are two sizes, one is half the size of a tennis court. It has a large wall on one end and has a blue rubber surface area. It is placed on a concrete pad. There are six different workout stations. It is designed to be fully accessible, and all of the stations can be modified to fit any need. A user can scan a QR code to view a catalogue of workouts. The system is designed for ages 14 and older. One requirement is to have the area 150 feet away from any playground. Another exciting component is this grant works with a sponsor and this year it is Blue Cross Blue Shield. They will be providing funding for ten communities. The grant is for \$50,000 towards the equipment. There is also an option for a public art component on the side of the wall that has a wrap of an artist's creation. Blue Cross Blue Shield will be paying for that at a \$25,000 value. On the other side of the wall from the fitness equipment is a blue tiled area meant to have group fitness classes. The city could program classes for that area, or it could opportunities for residents to use that space. This equipment is designed to be used 365 days a year. Staff have taken two steps towards exploring this grant. Genter met with someone from the National Fitness Campaign that runs this program and their group from the campaign did some site assessments in the city. They found that we have two sites that score above 90 in their scale which qualifies us for the program. The two sites were Huset Park and Sullivan Lake Park. They used motion maps to help determine the most movement within the city. Sullivan Lake Park is the most popular walking spot, and the second trail is at Huset Park West. The busiest park year-round is Huset Park and attracts the most visitors total. Eisenbise asked how that data is tracked. Genter replied the group had done hundreds of these things and they probably use location apps or other software for occupancy. There is a cost associated with this grant. Staff will be bringing a proposal to the next city council work session. This is a rolling grant application, so it is beneficial to apply. Other cities receiving this grant are Robbinsdale, Wilmar, Brooklyn Center, and Minneapolis are receiving two of these fitness stations. He indicated the best way to research this is to search for The Fitness Court and watch the YouTube video. Gulley asked if the grant is for \$50,000. Genter stated that plus the \$25,000 for the artwork. Gulley asked what the total cost is. Genter replied it depends on what size court is received. The smaller court is approximately \$165,000 and the larger size \$210,000. Gulley asked if the grant was not received would the city still pursue the project. Genter stated that would be something to discuss but the grant makes this an attractive option. Cullen indicated this grant is a multi-year ongoing program. Genter indicated Blue Cross

Blue Sheild is the sponsor for two years for up to ten total courts. They award \$30,000 - \$50,000 depending on your score. With our higher scores at Huset or Sullivan Lake Parks we would receive the \$50,000. Marquez Simula stated that some cities have grant writers on staff. We are very fortunate to have Genter on staff and doesn't think we have ever applied for so many grants. She receives many grant notifications from our state elected officials. There are many grants that need to be applied for within six weeks or less. That often hurts smaller cities that do not have dedicated staff for put together the research and applications. She indicated the local officials know about these various funding opportunities and they also want to get them into their communities. Ostergaard knows of some grant opportunities and works in a nonprofit setting, so she understands the quick process. One thing that is essential in the application process is to have a plan in place. If and when the comprehensive park plan is in place it will be much easier to pull those grant applications together. She feels it is more critical to talk about this and pull together the plan so we can utilize more opportunities. If the plan details were accessible then Commission Members could apply for various grants without needing as much time from staff.

#### Park Improvement Discussion

Cullen indicated he was waiting on the new administrative staff person, Elizabeth, to help upload the park documents and email them to the Commission. He would like to take the document and look at it one section at a time. The Park Plan Preface and Introduction were handed out to the Commission Members. Cullen invited members to look over the two sections and draft their thoughts. At the next meeting the group can discuss the two sections. It is important to point out why a park plan is needed. It enables us to apply for grants and have structure in place. The group will look at the benefits of the Parks and Recreation Departments, and a park mission statement. Gulley indicated one way to approach the park planning would be to look at the hierarchy of needs within each park and she sees that safety is a top priority in the survey. Cullen indicated a lot of the survey results are valid today. Ostergaard replied the survey was very well done and asked when it was completed. Windschitl replied in 2022. Cullen replied that the bike/pedestrian survey was done within the last five years and the other document referenced is from 1996. Working on the Introduction section will include a classification system which many of the parks are still the same as in this document. An inventory is important to know what we have and work on future improvements. The data analysis component is taking a look at the inventory and rating the amenities; are they passed their prime or is the feature even needed. One of the purposes of a park board or commission is to determine if what the city is offering aligning with the community, has anything changed? The analysis section would be which direction do we want to go and what is the overall plan. Then comes the strategies and how to pay for the process.

Ostergaard asked if the 2040 Comprehensive Plan the park section, whatever the Commission does should align with the 2040 Plan, but how up to date is some of the park information. Was the verbiage taken from the 1996 document or was it recreated. Marquez Simula indicated the 2040 Plan began in 2018 and was completed in 2020, so there is some old and some new verbiage. Cullen stated during the upcoming city events there is an opportunity for Commission Members to conduct community outreach and start asking what people are looking for. Gulley replied there are online surveys, but she still feels the clipboard paper survey is a great way to engage in a conversation with people. Cullen replied they are all great ideas. Ostergaard indicated having something available for the community to react to would be more useful than just gathering ideas on a whiteboard. It would be nice to have feedback on something the Commission is presenting versus just open questions. Saefke replied that also happens during the park planning process. For example, when the splash pad was being designed there was a community open house where the public was picking which features they wanted to see at the splash pad area. Windschitl indicated that a process was done at Keyes Park with the neighborhood to see what features they did or did not want within the park. Ostergaard stated this year the two pieces that might become the focus are the introduction piece and needs assessment piece. She stated this project is huge and for

this group to update the plan in a year is not realistic. Cullen replied this 1996 document was put together by an intern. If the commission digests this slowly and takes it one section at a time it will be less intimidating. Saefke mentioned Windschitl indicated at the last meeting when the parks were initially developed and built there were four quadrants of the city, and the goal was to have a ballfield in each one and have playground in multiple neighborhoods. Now the focus has changed for our small city to think about using the amenities in a spot that will be the most beneficial to as many people as possible. This is a completely different viewpoint than what the discussion has been in the past eighteen years that she has been working here.

Ostergaard asked what the next step is. Should the group establish a point person to continue to drive this forward, do staff drive this process. How do we keep things moving forward. At the next meeting we should have a portion of it as a work session. Cullen replied staff are here as a resource for the Commission and the driving does happen from the group as a whole. Defining the mission statement will be helpful. Ostergaard stated the roles have stayed the same but maybe some of the language needs to be updated to be with current times. Saefke replied staff have decided to continue this topic as a line item on the agenda moving forward so that there is dedicated time for discussion no matter if it is a few minutes or longer. The Park Improvement Discussion will be ongoing. Cullen replied he is available any time for Commission Members to reach out to him with questions or discussion in between meetings. Harzallah indicated there is a desire and need to move forward on the plan. He would like to see dedicated time each meeting on the agenda to discuss this so that it never goes away. This would be the first step. The next step would be on their own to identify how they can move forward based on experiences and research. He suggests attending meetings of other park boards or commissions in other cities. Eisenbise replied that anyone can attend other cities meetings that are open to the public. Cullen stated a future meeting could be a joint meeting with the sustainability committee but would suggest having a mission statement first. Gulley replied the YMCA has an excellent mission statement that speaks a lot about inclusivity and might provide some guidance to the group. Harzallah replied there is homework to do for sure.

### **New Business**

Windschitl indicated the fireworks for the 2024 Jamboree will be on Saturday, June 29, 2024. Attached to the packet are two different proposals from two companies the city has worked with previously. For multiple years the city has used J&M Displays and they have done a great job, they work well with staff, they are reliable, and they have incorporated into the proposal the 8% extra product if paid in advance, as well as a 15% extra product for their loyalty program. The other company, RES, offered a very good proposal as well. They do a lot of indoor fireworks shows. Staff have been happy with the current company from previous years. The two proposals are similar but slightly hard to decipher between the sizes and styles of the fireworks unless you are familiar with the products. Windschitl stated the rainout, backup date for the show would be Sunday, June 30.

Gulley asked if there were issues last year with the drought. Windschitl replied no there was not, and the fire department assured him they would handle the situation. He has received many compliments over the years on the fireworks from this company. This would be the opportunity to change companies if someone was not happy with the current show. As far as staff working with this company it has been a very good relationship with J&M Displays. Harzallah asked if drums are used to shoot off the fireworks. Windschitl replied no it is all computerized. Ostergaard asked why the Commission is getting an opinion on this and not other things. Is it a decision that is made historically on this. Windschitl replied that for many years he had brought this to the Commission. The cost for the fireworks show is in his budget and he budgets \$8,000 for the show. Ostergaard asked if the question is whether or not this keeps happening or if it is to approve this budget item. Windschitl indicated the budget is already set and we are trying to select the preferred company. He likes to get input from the Commission and what they hear from residents. Eisenbise stated she prefers to use local companies but is

happy to stay with the same company due to positive experience. Windschitl replied J&M Displays has multiple locations throughout the country and the one in Minnesota is in the St. Cloud area. They have changed headquarter locations over the years as they have grown. Harzallah asked if there are any issues with the environmental impact. Windschitl replied not really. Public Works does a great job cleaning up the park after the event and getting any debris left in the field. Cullen replied there is a Toro lawn sweeper that they take across the field in one day. Macko indicated J&M Displays has done a fantastic job and doesn't see a reason to change a good thing.

**Motion** by Macko, second by Gulley, to approve the fireworks proposal from J&M Displays. Upon vote: All ayes.  
**Motion Carried.**

## **Reports**

### **A. Recreation Director**

Windschitl wanted to thank Greenhalgh for over 22 years on the Commission. That is a great dedication to the city and to the Park and Recreation Departments and Commission. We appreciate everything he has done for us and will miss him. Greenhalgh said thank you.

Windschitl reported the air conditioner was repaired this week. Freon was added and seems to be working correctly. The City awarded the HVAC maintenance contract to a new company which is a good thing. The representative who works with our facility has done a lot of work for us in the past with other companies.

Windschitl reminded the Commission that the previous after school grant in partnership with the school district was denied. In recent weeks they were informed of a new grant opportunity within that program. It had a very quick turnaround and staff worked with the school district to submit an application last week for this new grant at just under \$500,000. The city would receive around \$100,000 with recreation receiving \$85,000 and the library receiving \$15,000. This would be applied towards a lot of our programs that are offered at little to no costs to the participants. A lot of the enrichment programs and summer programming would be funded out of this grant.

Windschitl mentioned the Recreation Department is hosting an open house on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm outside in Huset Park. There will be activities, games, and inflatables. This event is free. If any Commission Members want to be involved they can let staff know.

### **B. Public Works Director**

Cullen reported a contractor has been pruning trees around Sullivan Lake Park. Without snow staff have had the opportunity to go through all the parks and cut branches and limbs. If people are seeing branches lying around that is because there is only one chipper so it will take time for staff to go back through and process all of the cuttings, buckthorn control and things like that. Gulley replied this is so nice to get these things done ahead of schedule. Cullen replied yes and it has also given the streets department the opportunity to get ahead of pothole season too.

### **C. Commission Members**

Eisenbise asked about the expense for a vehicle air pack unit. Cullen replied that is \$24,000 to replace an old mobile welding unit on a truck. It is used when there is equipment breakdown in the field. This air pack unit is three separate pieces of equipment in one. With the transition to EV vehicles this piece of equipment will allow staff to jumpstart or charge the vehicle mobility. There is also an air compressor and mobile welder on the unit. Eisenbise asked how many E-vehicles are in the city. Cullen replied there are a few in various departments;

engineering, the city manager, the police captain, and there are some hybrid vehicles in the police department. He sees the city having more of them in the future. Harzallah asked if the recreation department has one. Windschitl replied no. There has been a van on order for a few years and now there is a recall on the rear backup camera so they will not release the vehicle. The representative told him there have been a lot of issues with equipment built during the covid timeframe. He hopes to have the van before summer.

Ostergaard asked if there is any update on the Public Works building. Cullen replied no update. Staff are waiting to hear back on the grant application.

Eisenbise asked about the timing of the babysitting class because it is overlapping with another recreation outing. Windschitl replied this class was being offered in partnership with the school district. The ski trip is a rescheduled trip due to poor weather conditions on the originally scheduled date. This was the only other date with the kids off school that would work to ski again. Otherwise, we typically do not overlap programs. Eisenbise asked if a safety camp would be offered this year. Windschitl replied there has been one in the past with multiple departments taking part in the day camp. The participation numbers were decreasing each year, so it has been a few years since the last one. Staff can certainly look into offering one again. Eisenbise added an internet safety component would be appreciated.

Marquez Simula invited people to attend the CoHi Con on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are vendors, artists, food trucks, video games, board games, and a craft room. This is held at Murzyn Hall from 10am – 12am. It is a family friendly event, at 6pm is a cosplay costume contest, then at 7pm it is a 21+ event with a Lions Club bar and karaoke. There will be 43 vendor tables in the main hall. Kids under 6 are free, ages 6-12 are \$10, adults are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Last year there were around 350 people. It is a very cross generational event with a chill crowd.

Greenhalgh adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.  
Deanna Saefke, Recreation Secretary



Parks GL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS					
TRANSACTIONS FROM 02/01/2024 TO 02/29/2024					
Date	Description	Reference #	Debits	Credits	Balance
Fund 101 GENERAL					
Department 5200 PARKS					
02/01/2024	101.5200.42010 MINOR EQUIPMENT	BEG. BALANCE			0.00
02/20/2024	MINNEAPOLIS SAW CO INC	166508	319.99		319.99
	WEED WHIP				
02/29/2024	101.5200.42010	END BALANCE	319.99	0.00	319.99
02/01/2024	101.5200.42161 CHEMICALS	BEG. BALANCE			0.00
02/06/2024	CONTINENTAL RESEARCH CORP	0051415	1,951.00		1,951.00
	GRAFFITI B GONE, WASP-AWAY				
02/29/2024	101.5200.42161	END BALANCE	1,951.00	0.00	1,951.00
02/01/2024	101.5200.42171 GENERAL SUPPLIES	BEG. BALANCE			457.19
02/13/2024	MINNEAPOLIS SAW CO INC	176158	89.93		547.12
	HANDS SAWS				
02/21/2024	MINNEAPOLIS SAW CO INC	176359	639.99		1,187.11
	BATTERY, BULL LOPPER, RIGGING				
02/22/2024	MCCLELLAN SALES INC	018776	231.31		1,418.42
	SAFETY GAS CANS				
02/29/2024	101.5200.42171	END BALANCE	961.23	0.00	1,418.42
02/01/2024	101.5200.42172 UNIFORMS	BEG. BALANCE			69.30
02/23/2024	SUMMARY PR 02/23/2024		122.57		191.87
02/29/2024	101.5200.42172	END BALANCE	122.57	0.00	191.87
02/01/2024	101.5200.42173 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	BEG. BALANCE			0.00
02/23/2024	SUMMARY PR 02/23/2024		200.00		200.00
02/29/2024	101.5200.42173	END BALANCE	200.00	0.00	200.00
02/01/2024	101.5200.42280 VEHICLE REPAIR AND P	BEG. BALANCE			979.58
02/12/2024	AMAZON.COM	114-7686461-7641	247.49		1,227.07
	HITCH FOR TRACTOR RIDES-SNOWBLAST				
02/29/2024	PARKS PARTS	14175	1,172.30		2,399.37
02/29/2024	101.5200.42280	END BALANCE	1,419.79	0.00	2,399.37
02/01/2024	101.5200.42282 GAS, OIL, LUBRICANTS	BEG. BALANCE			521.15
02/29/2024	PARK FUEL	1	594.43		1,115.58
02/29/2024	PARK FUEL	14173		594.43	521.15
02/29/2024	PARK FUEL	14174	594.43		1,115.58

02/29/2024	101.5200.42282	END BALANCE	1,188.86	594.43	1,115.58
02/01/2024	101.5200.43050 EXPERT & PROFESSION	BEG. BALANCE			58.20
02/29/2024	101.5200.43050	END BALANCE	0.00	0.00	58.20
02/01/2024	101.5200.43210 TELEPHONE	BEG. BALANCE			102.01
02/26/2024	POPP.COM INC	992822452	4.84		106.85
	022624 -10013121				
02/29/2024	101.5200.43210	END BALANCE	4.84	0.00	106.85
02/01/2024	101.5200.43211 CELL PHONES	BEG. BALANCE			154.58
02/01/2024	VERIZON WIRELESS	9955537403	154.58		309.16
	020124 342019817-00001				
02/29/2024	101.5200.43211	END BALANCE	154.58	0.00	309.16
02/01/2024	101.5200.43250 OTHER TELECOMMUNIC	BEG. BALANCE			16.55
02/01/2024	ARVIG ENTERPRISES, INC	020124	0.69		17.24
	INTERNET 0224				
02/14/2024	ANOKA COUNTY	B240214G	3.75		20.99
	BROADBAND CONN 0224				
02/15/2024	COMCAST	194889718	9.72		30.71
	021524 934571297				
02/29/2024	101.5200.43250	END BALANCE	14.16	0.00	30.71
02/01/2024	101.5200.43310 LOCAL TRAVEL EXPENS	BEG. BALANCE			76.78
02/12/2024	NORDLUND/JOHN	021224	12.30		89.08
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012324-012524				
02/12/2024	NORDLUND/JOHN	021224	16.78		105.86
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012324-012524				
02/12/2024	NORDLUND/JOHN	021224	16.78		122.64
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012324-012524				
02/12/2024	NORDLUND/JOHN	021224	15.00		137.64
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012324-012524				
02/12/2024	NORDLUND/JOHN	021224	15.00		152.64
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012324-012524				
02/12/2024	NORDLUND/JOHN	021224	15.00		167.64
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012324-012524				
02/12/2024	SANDQUIST/TIM	021224	16.78		184.42
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012424-012524				
02/12/2024	SANDQUIST/TIM	021224	16.78		201.20
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012424-012524				
02/12/2024	SANDQUIST/TIM	021224	15.00		216.20
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012424-012524				

02/12/2024	SANDQUIST/TIM	021224	15.00		231.20
	GREEN EXPO PARKING & LUNCH 012424-012524				
02/29/2024	101.5200.43310	END BALANCE	154.42	0.00	231.20
02/01/2024	101.5200.43600 PROP & LIAB INSURANCE	BEG. BALANCE			1,883.33
02/29/2024	24 PROPERTY & LIAB INSURANCE ALLOC	14191	1,883.33		3,766.66
02/29/2024	101.5200.43600	END BALANCE	1,883.33	0.00	3,766.66
02/01/2024	101.5200.43800 UTILITY SERVICES	BEG. BALANCE			654.95
02/29/2024	101.5200.43800	END BALANCE	0.00	0.00	654.95
02/01/2024	101.5200.43810 ELECTRIC	BEG. BALANCE			126.57
02/08/2024	XCEL ENERGY (N S P)	1088997902	104.72		231.29
	020824 51-0012266105-3				
02/09/2024	XCEL ENERGY (N S P)	1089137355	26.82		258.11
	020924 51-0010057576-7				
02/12/2024	XCEL ENERGY (N S P)	1089414486	116.42		374.53
	021224 51-4159573-1				
02/14/2024	XCEL ENERGY (N S P)	1090104720	22.28		396.81
	021424 51-7654903-4				
02/14/2024	XCEL ENERGY (N S P)	1090104720		21.87	374.94
	021424 51-7654903-4				
02/14/2024	XCEL ENERGY (N S P)	1090104720	204.78		579.72
	021424 51-7654903-4				
02/14/2024	XCEL ENERGY (N S P)	1090104720		152.88	426.84
	021424 51-7654903-4				
02/29/2024	101.5200.43810	END BALANCE	475.02	174.75	426.84
02/01/2024	101.5200.43830 GAS	BEG. BALANCE			0.00
02/07/2024	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	5452216-4	217.47		217.47
	020724 5452216-4				
02/07/2024	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	10802324-3	94.57		312.04
	020724 10802324-3				
02/07/2024	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	5467671-3	17.10		329.14
	020724 5467671-3				
02/12/2024	BONA BROS MINNOCO	101378	68.40		397.54
	NON OXYGEN GAS				
02/15/2024	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	8000014661-5	315.59		713.13
	021524 8000014661-5				
02/15/2024	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	8000014661-5	304.24		1,017.37
	021524 8000014661-5				
02/15/2024	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	8000014661-5	147.20		1,164.57
	021524 8000014661-5				

02/15/2024	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	8000014661-5	225.73		1,390.30
	021524 8000014661-5				
02/15/2024	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	8000014661-5	267.07		1,657.37
	021524 8000014661-5				
02/29/2024	101.5200.43830	END BALANCE	1,657.37	0.00	1,657.37
02/01/2024	101.5200.44000 REPAIR & MAINT. SERV	BEG. BALANCE			26.49
02/22/2024	J. BECHER & ASSOC INC	2413052-F	394.79		421.28
	TROUBLESHOOT PATHWAY LIGHTS-PRESTEMON PA				
02/29/2024	101.5200.44000	END BALANCE	394.79	0.00	421.28
02/01/2024	101.5200.44020 BLDG MAINT CONTRAC	BEG. BALANCE			139.00
02/29/2024	101.5200.44020	END BALANCE	0.00	0.00	139.00
02/01/2024	101.5200.44030 SOFTWARE & SOFTWARE	BEG. BALANCE			183.75
02/07/2024	SHI INC	B17932462	427.68		611.43
	MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 020724-013125				
02/08/2024	SHI INC	B17938004	966.44		1,577.87
	MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 STREETS & PARKS 030				
02/29/2024	101.5200.44030	END BALANCE	1,394.12	0.00	1,577.87
02/01/2024	101.5200.44050 GARAGE, LABOR BURD.	BEG. BALANCE			2,056.14
02/29/2024	PARKS LABOR	14175	3,991.87		6,048.01
02/29/2024	101.5200.44050	END BALANCE	3,991.87	0.00	6,048.01
02/01/2024	101.5200.44100 RENTS & LEASES	BEG. BALANCE			7,873.68
02/17/2024	ON SITE SANITATION INC	0001676389	68.00		7,941.68
	SATELLITE RENT-MCKENNA				
02/17/2024	ON SITE SANITATION INC	0001676390	68.00		8,009.68
	SATELLITE RENT-LABELLE				
02/17/2024	ON SITE SANITATION INC	0001676391	68.00		8,077.68
	SATELLITE RENT-KEYES				
02/17/2024	ON SITE SANITATION INC	0001676392	146.00		8,223.68
	SATELLITE RENT-HUSET				
02/17/2024	ON SITE SANITATION INC	0001676393	68.00		8,291.68
	SATELLITE RENT-HUSET				
02/17/2024	ON SITE SANITATION INC	0001676394	146.00		8,437.68
	SATELLITE RENT-SULLIVAN				
02/17/2024	ON SITE SANITATION INC	0001676395	68.00		8,505.68
	SATELLITE RENT-OSTRANDER				
02/29/2024	24 GARAGE SPACE ALLOCATION	14192	7,241.68		15,747.36
02/29/2024	101.5200.44100	END BALANCE	7,873.68	0.00	15,747.36

02/01/2024	101.5200.44390 TAXES & LICENSES	BEG. BALANCE			833.75
02/29/2024	101.5200.44390	END BALANCE	0.00	0.00	833.75
02/01/2024	101.5200.45180 OTHER EQUIPMENT	BEG. BALANCE			1,736.67
02/29/2024	101.5200.45180	END BALANCE	0.00	0.00	1,736.67
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT 5200 PARKS			24,161.62	769.18	

Parks EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS							
PERIOD ENDING 02/29/2024							
% Fiscal Year Completed: 16.39							
		2024	YTD BALANCE	MONTH	ENCUMBERED	UNENCUMBERED	% BDGT
ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AMENDED BUDGET	02/29/2024	02/29/24	YEAR-TO-DATE	BALANCE	USED
Dept 5200 - PARKS							
41010	REGULAR EMPLOYEES	516,900.00	55,703.42	28,008.03	0.00	461,196.58	10.78
41011	PART-TIME EMPLOYEES	6,600.00	351.85	176.53	0.00	6,248.15	5.33
41012	SEASONAL EMPLOYEES	50,500.00	10,377.84	5,172.00	0.00	40,122.16	20.55
41020	OVERTIME-REGULAR	25,400.00	1,213.80	666.90	0.00	24,186.20	4.78
41210	P.E.R.A. CONTRIBUTION	41,000.00	4,193.15	2,133.72	0.00	36,806.85	10.23
41220	F.I.C.A. CONTRIBUTION	45,700.00	4,860.96	2,445.60	0.00	40,839.04	10.64
41300	INSURANCE	92,900.00	11,104.58	5,720.54	0.00	81,795.42	11.95
41510	WORKERS COMP INSURANCE PREM	42,200.00	4,662.20	2,321.61	0.00	37,537.80	11.05
41810	COLA ALLOWANCE	(25,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(25,000.00)	0.00
42010	MINOR EQUIPMENT	25,000.00	319.99	319.99	0.40	24,679.61	1.28
42011	END USER DEVICES	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
42030	PRINTING & PRINTED FORMS	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
42070	TRAINING & INSTR SUPPLIES	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
42160	MAINT & CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS	26,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,500.00	0.00
42161	CHEMICALS	8,500.00	1,951.00	1,951.00	0.00	6,549.00	22.95
42171	GENERAL SUPPLIES	20,000.00	1,418.42	961.23	0.00	18,581.58	7.09
42172	UNIFORMS	2,000.00	191.87	122.57	0.00	1,808.13	9.59
42173	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	2,000.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	1,800.00	10.00
42280	VEHICLE REPAIR AND PARTS	23,000.00	2,399.37	1,419.79	0.00	20,600.63	10.43
42282	GAS, OIL, LUBRICANTS	15,000.00	1,115.58	594.43	0.00	13,884.42	7.44
43050	EXPERT & PROFESSIONAL SERV.	1,000.00	58.20	0.00	0.00	941.80	5.82
43105	TRAINING & EDUCATION ACTIVITIES	4,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,500.00	0.00
43210	TELEPHONE	200.00	106.85	4.84	0.00	93.15	53.43
43211	CELL PHONES	2,500.00	309.16	154.58	0.00	2,190.84	12.37
43250	OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS	200.00	30.71	14.16	0.00	169.29	15.36
43310	LOCAL TRAVEL EXPENSE	100.00	231.20	154.42	0.00	(131.20)	231.20

43320	OUT OF TOWN TRAVEL EXPENSE	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
43500	LEGAL NOTICE PUBLISHING	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
43600	PROP & LIAB INSURANCE	22,600.00	3,766.66	1,883.33	0.00	18,833.34	16.67
43800	UTILITY SERVICES	38,700.00	654.95	0.00	0.00	38,045.05	1.69
43810	ELECTRIC	23,000.00	426.84	300.27	0.00	22,573.16	1.86
43830	GAS	9,800.00	1,657.37	1,657.37	0.00	8,142.63	16.91
44000	REPAIR & MAINT. SERVICES	57,000.00	421.28	394.79	0.00	56,578.72	0.74
44020	BLDG MAINT CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	2,700.00	139.00	0.00	0.00	2,561.00	5.15
44030	SOFTWARE & SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPT	3,500.00	1,577.87	1,394.12	(427.68)	2,349.81	32.86
44050	GARAGE, LABOR BURD.	39,500.00	6,048.01	3,991.87	0.00	33,451.99	15.31
44100	RENTS & LEASES	87,000.00	15,747.36	7,873.68	0.00	71,252.64	18.10
44330	SUBSCRIPTION, MEMBERSHIP	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
44376	CIVIC EVENTS	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
44390	TAXES & LICENSES	800.00	833.75	0.00	0.00	(33.75)	104.22
45180	OTHER EQUIPMENT	0.00	1,736.67	0.00	0.00	(1,736.67)	100.00
Total Dept 5200 - PARKS		1,215,000.00	133,809.91	70,037.37	(427.28)	1,081,617.37	10.98
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - FUND 101		1,215,000.00	133,809.91	70,037.37	(427.28)	1,081,617.37	10.98

JPM GL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS					
TRANSACTIONS FROM 02/01/2024 TO 02/29/2024					
Date	Description	Reference #	Debits	Credits	Balance
Fund 101 GENERAL					
02/01/2024	101.5129.42010 MINOR EQUIPMENT	BEG. BALANCE			301.96
02/29/2024	101.5129.42010	END BALANCE	0.00	0.00	301.96
02/01/2024	101.5129.42171 GENERAL SUPPLIES	BEG. BALANCE			35.44
02/27/2024	MENARDS CASHWAY LUMBER-FRIDLEY	5085	71.43		106.87
	UTILITY MAT, SINK STRAINERS & BULBS				
02/29/2024	101.5129.42171	END BALANCE	71.43	0.00	106.87
02/01/2024	101.5129.42990 COMM. PURCHASED FOR R	BEG. BALANCE			248.00
02/29/2024	101.5129.42990	END BALANCE	0.00	0.00	248.00
02/01/2024	101.5129.43050 EXPERT & PROFESSIONAL S	BEG. BALANCE			250.00
02/13/2024	ADAM'S PEST CONTROL, INC	3862460	90.00		340.00
	PEST CONTROL JPM 0224				
02/29/2024	101.5129.43050	END BALANCE	90.00	0.00	340.00
02/01/2024	101.5129.43210 TELEPHONE	BEG. BALANCE			68.47
02/26/2024	POPP.COM INC	992822452	1.37		69.84
	022624 -10013121				
02/29/2024	POPP.COM INC	992823545	50.50		120.34
	022924 -10010429				
02/29/2024	101.5129.43210	END BALANCE	51.87	0.00	120.34
02/01/2024	101.5129.43250 OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIO	BEG. BALANCE			44.77
02/01/2024	ARVIG ENTERPRISES, INC	020124	2.20		46.97
	INTERNET 0224				
02/15/2024	COMCAST	194889718	34.02		80.99
	021524 934571297				
02/29/2024	101.5129.43250	END BALANCE	36.22	0.00	80.99
02/01/2024	101.5129.43600 PROP & LIAB INSURANCE	BEG. BALANCE			700.00
02/29/2024	24 PROPERTY & LIAB INSURANCE ALLOCATIO	14191	700.00		1,400.00
02/29/2024	101.5129.43600	END BALANCE	700.00	0.00	1,400.00
02/01/2024	101.5129.43810 ELECTRIC	BEG. BALANCE			0.00
02/09/2024	XCEL ENERGY (N S P)	1089199166	165.84		165.84



	020924 51-4697130-6				
02/09/2024	XCEL ENERGY (N S P)	1089199166		151.74	14.10
	020924 51-4697130-6				
02/16/2024	CORNILLIE 2 COMMUNITY SOLAR	17451	333.63		347.73
	021624 SOLAR POWER				
02/29/2024	101.5129.43810	END BALANCE	499.47	151.74	347.73
02/01/2024	101.5129.43830 GAS	BEG. BALANCE			0.00
02/15/2024	CENTERPOINT ENERGY	8000014661-5	1,868.43		1,868.43
	021524 8000014661-5				
02/29/2024	101.5129.43830	END BALANCE	1,868.43	0.00	1,868.43
02/01/2024	101.5129.44000 REPAIR & MAINT. SERVICES	BEG. BALANCE			275.00
02/29/2024	101.5129.44000	END BALANCE	0.00	0.00	275.00
02/01/2024	101.5129.44010 BUILDING MAINT:INTERNAL	BEG. BALANCE			925.00
02/29/2024	24 BUILDING MAINT ALLOCATION	14186	925.00		1,850.00
02/29/2024	101.5129.44010	END BALANCE	925.00	0.00	1,850.00
02/01/2024	101.5129.44020 BLDG MAINT CONTRACTUAL	BEG. BALANCE			567.18
02/05/2024	CLEAN BEVERAGE LINE	24-HALL-2	63.00		630.18
	BEER LINE CLEANING 0224				
02/06/2024	CINTAS INC	4182444030	38.29		668.47
	MOPS JPM 020624				
02/14/2024	CINTAS INC	4183164439	38.29		706.76
	MOPS JPM 021324				
02/14/2024	SHAMROCK GROUP-ACE ICE	2989430	990.37		1,697.13
	REPLACE BROKEN POP GUN				
02/27/2024	CINTAS INC	4184602821	39.55		1,736.68
	MOPS, LINENS JPM 022724				
02/29/2024	ALTEMP MECHANICAL, INC.	264763	375.00		2,111.68
	ICE MACHINE CLEANING 022024				
02/29/2024	CINTAS INC	4183892832	122.03		2,233.71
	MATS, LINENS, MOPS JPM 022024				
02/29/2024	NORTHLAND REFRIGERATION INCORPORATE	3479	#####		13,769.55
	REPLACE COIL HVAC UNIT 1 - JPM				
02/29/2024	NORTHLAND REFRIGERATION INCORPORATE	3488	1,500.00		15,269.55
	REPLACE CONDENSER MOTOR & FAN 022724				
02/29/2024	SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORP INC	8106479194	79.96		15,349.51
	PREVENT MAINT 0224-JPM				
02/29/2024	101.5129.44020	END BALANCE	#####	0.00	15,349.51
02/01/2024	101.5129.44030 SOFTWARE & SOFTWARE SU	BEG. BALANCE			0.00

02/07/2024	SHI INC	B17932462	1,283.04		1,283.04
	MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 020724-013125				
02/29/2024	101.5129.44030	END BALANCE	1,283.04	0.00	1,283.04
02/01/2024	101.5129.44040 INFORMATION SYS:INTERNA	BEG. BALANCE			516.67
02/29/2024	24 IT ALLOCATION	14193	516.67		1,033.34
02/29/2024	101.5129.44040	END BALANCE	516.67	0.00	1,033.34
02/01/2024	101.5129.44100 RENTS & LEASES	BEG. BALANCE			(5,533.34)
02/29/2024	24 MURZYN SPACE ALLOCATION	14194		5,533.34	(11,066.68)
02/29/2024	101.5129.44100	END BALANCE	0.00	5,533.34	(11,066.68)
02/01/2024	101.5129.44310 CREDIT CARD FEES	BEG. BALANCE			110.62
02/29/2024	CC FEE REC/COM DEV 02/24	14207	67.71		178.33
02/29/2024	101.5129.44310	END BALANCE	67.71	0.00	178.33
02/01/2024	101.5129.44390 TAXES & LICENSES	BEG. BALANCE			85.00
02/01/2024	MN DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	5317	250.00		335.00
	CONSUMPTION PERMIT 2024 JPM				
02/29/2024	101.5129.44390	END BALANCE	250.00	0.00	335.00

JPM EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS							
PERIOD ENDING 02/29/2024							
% Fiscal Year Completed: 16.39							
				ACTIVITY FOR			
		2024	YTD BALANCE	MONTH	ENCUMBERED	UNENCUMBERED	% BDGT
ACCOU	DESCRIPTION	AMENDED BUDGET	02/29/2024	02/29/24	YEAR-TO-DATE	BALANCE	USED
Dept 5129 - MURZYN HALL							
41010	REGULAR EMPLOYEES	32,800.00	4,958.85	2,458.16	0.00	27,841.15	15.12
41011	PART-TIME EMPLOYEES	109,900.00	10,667.57	5,778.76	0.00	99,232.43	9.71
41020	OVERTIME-REGULAR	300.00	215.59	215.59	0.00	84.41	71.86
41210	P.E.R.A. CONTRIBUTION	10,700.00	1,173.60	621.96	0.00	9,526.40	10.97
41220	F.I.C.A. CONTRIBUTION	11,000.00	1,206.07	643.68	0.00	9,793.93	10.96
41300	INSURANCE	6,600.00	1,033.05	516.84	0.00	5,566.95	15.65
41510	WORKERS COMP INSURANCE PREM	8,900.00	882.58	476.87	0.00	8,017.42	9.92
42000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
42010	MINOR EQUIPMENT	5,000.00	301.96	0.00	0.00	4,698.04	6.04
42011	END USER DEVICES	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
42030	PRINTING & PRINTED FORMS	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
42160	MAINT & CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS	900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	0.00
42161	CHEMICALS	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
42171	GENERAL SUPPLIES	10,000.00	106.87	71.43	0.00	9,893.13	1.07
42172	UNIFORMS	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
42990	COMM. PURCHASED FOR RESALE	2,000.00	248.00	0.00	0.00	1,752.00	12.40
43050	EXPERT & PROFESSIONAL SERV.	9,000.00	340.00	90.00	0.00	8,660.00	3.78
43210	TELEPHONE	1,500.00	120.34	51.87	0.00	1,379.66	8.02
43220	POSTAGE	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
43250	OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS	500.00	80.99	36.22	0.00	419.01	16.20
43430	ADVERTISING OTHER	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
43600	PROP & LIAB INSURANCE	8,400.00	1,400.00	700.00	0.00	7,000.00	16.67
43800	UTILITY SERVICES	4,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,100.00	0.00
43810	ELECTRIC	29,000.00	347.73	347.73	0.00	28,652.27	1.20
43830	GAS	10,000.00	1,868.43	1,868.43	0.00	8,131.57	18.68

44000	REPAIR & MAINT. SERVICES	4,000.00	275.00	0.00	0.00	3,725.00	6.88
44010	BUILDING MAINT:INTERNAL SVCS	11,100.00	1,850.00	925.00	0.00	9,250.00	16.67
44020	BLDG MAINT CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	27,000.00	15,349.51	14,782.33	0.00	11,650.49	56.85
44030	SOFTWARE & SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION	1,300.00	1,283.04	1,283.04	(1,283.04)	1,300.00	0.00
44040	INFORMATION SYS:INTERNAL SVC	6,200.00	1,033.34	516.67	0.00	5,166.66	16.67
44100	RENTS & LEASES	(66,400.00)	(11,066.68)	(5,533.34)	0.00	(55,333.32)	16.67
44310	CREDIT CARD FEES	3,300.00	178.33	67.71	0.00	3,121.67	5.40
44330	SUBSCRIPTION, MEMBERSHIP	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
44390	TAXES & LICENSES	500.00	335.00	250.00	0.00	165.00	67.00
Total Dept 5129 - MURZYN HALL		250,400.00	34,189.17	26,168.95	(1,283.04)	217,493.87	13.14
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - FUND 101		250,400.00	34,189.17	26,168.95	(1,283.04)	217,493.87	13.14

# Comprehensive Park Systems Plan Columbia Heights, Minnesota

Draft

**FORWARD**

The most heavily used recreational spaces in the US are our urban and near-urban parks. Like our cities, these parks are aging, neglected, and fraught with problems. Columbia Heights is no different. Suffering from rising labor costs, streamlining of government, and increasing demand for alternative recreation facilities and programs, our parks now stand at a pivotal point and are in dire need of repair. The City of Columbia Heights must now recognize these changes and plans.

**Commented [DC1]:** Same Forward as the 1996 DOC

This Comprehensive Park Plan is the first step in the renewal process. To ensure the successful implementation of this plan, we must first restore interest in the minds of the city decision-makers and the general public that parks and trails are not luxuries but essential elements of a broader strategy to promote fiscal strength and private economics, growth, and improve the quality of life in Columbia Heights.

This plan identifies the vast number of issues affecting and contributing to the Columbia Heights Park system as a whole. By careful analysis of each issue, flexible management and developmental priorities were ranked, and strategies were developed to help ensure that the future of the Columbia Heights Park System best suits the needs of its ever-changing community.

## **PREFACE**

**Commented [DC2]:** Same Preface as 1996 DOC

Overview:

The City of Columbia Heights Park System was formally established in 1939 with the acquisition of 60 acres of land bounded by 37th and 40th Avenues on the south and north and from 5th Street to Quincy on the west and east. Huset Park- the City's first park, occupying 28 acres of this land, which at one time served as a spring-fed pasture for cows and horses.

Fueled by increasing development, the city became actively involved in expanding the Columbia Heights Park System by acquiring "leftover" parcels of land to be converted into city parks. Through the late 1970s, the city acquired various parcels of land, most of which were sited on swampy or unstable ground, to be used as park space.

Today, the City of Columbia Heights owns and operates a park system containing 15 city parks ranging from less than 1 acre to 28 acres in size. Serving as the backbone of the community, the park system offers essential recreation and leisure opportunities for all city residents. These include organized activities such as baseball, softball, basketball, and hockey and less structured activities such as skating, biking, picnicking, walking, and running.

**Commented [DC3]:** Change from 14 to 15 - Bruce Nawrocki Park

## **Roles of the Park Maintenance and Recreation Departments:**

### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**Commented [DC4]:** Per the city's website about REC

The mission of the Columbia Heights Recreation Department is to provide recreational and service opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. The Recreation Department offers vast, year-round, comprehensive programs that strive to meet the needs of the whole community.

These programs include youth athletics/programs, traveling athletics, youth enrichment programs, adult athletics, senior center, Active Agers 50+ outings, special events, John P. Murzyn Hall management, community garden plot rentals, neighborhood event wagon rentals, park scheduling, and Hylander Gym and Fitness Center management.

1. To provide safe and secure facilities for everyone's enjoyment.
2. To encourage citizen resource contributions.
3. To inform the public of available services and programs.
4. To cooperate with other government and recreation agencies, organizations, and groups involved in leisure service.
5. To maintain and improve all displays and areas' physical beauty and educational value.
6. To promote a positive Recreation Department to the community and public.

**Commented [DC5]:** Same/similar of 1996 DOC

#### **PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

(1) The Park & Recreation Commission shall supervise and control the use of public parklands, recreation, and senior citizen programs in the city, including parks, parkways, playgrounds, recreation fields and buildings, and lakes, streams, and beaches therein, and all public service facilities related thereto. The Commission shall also recommend improvements for such parks as may be necessary and desirable, and shall be able to make reasonable administrative rules and regulations, including setting fees. Governing public use of parklands and buildings, but shall at all times be subject to the direction and authority of the Council. All recreation programs shall be in accordance with the policies approved by the City Council

**Commented [DC6]:** The section was taken from the City of Columbia Heights - Ordinance 1664

#### **PARK MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

The Columbia Heights Park Maintenance Department, part of the Public Works Department and overseen by the Public Works Director, is managed by a Public Works Superintendent. This department includes one working foreperson and six full-time staff members.

The primary duties included but are not limited to:

1. Preparation of the athletic fields.
2. Turf management.
3. Waste collection.
4. General Landscaping.
5. Snow removal
6. Weed control.
7. To assist all other Public Works Departments as needed.

**Commented [DC7]:** Changed to include the Superintendent position.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **Why is a Park Development Plan Needed?**

The Columbia Heights Park System, a community cornerstone, enhances a community's beauty, vitality, and property values through green spaces and recreational opportunities, fostering healthful interactions

**Commented [DC8]:** Similar to 1996 not same

and neighborhood cohesion. A sound park system not only allows citizens to recreate and interact with one another but also enhances the physical landscape while improving a community's property value.

A Comprehensive Park Plan is an overarching strategy that guides development, managing, and enhancing a community's park system. It assesses existing park facilities, identifies community recreational needs, and sets forth a vision for future growth and sustainability.

This plan integrates parks and recreation into the broader context of community planning, ensuring that green spaces contribute to the quality of life and environmental health. It also outlines funding, maintenance, and policy frameworks to achieve long-term goals for the community's parks and recreational spaces.

#### Goals of a Park Development Plan:

##### Preservation

- To maintain and improve park resources in the community.
- Community Support

##### Sustainability

- To identify the current and future needs of the community.
- To prioritize park projects for future development.

##### Accessibility

- To develop a Park system that best suits the community's changing needs.
- The system must adapt and change to meet the community's needs.

##### Planning

- To provide uniform standards and guidance in the park development.
- To identify the current and future issues affecting park systems.

#### The Benefits of a Park and Recreation Plan:

Parks and recreation play a pivotal role in enriching community life, offering numerous benefits that extend to health, safety, environmental stewardship, economic growth, and overall quality of life. As outlined by The Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario, key advantages include:

- Fostering well-being and fulfillment through recreational activities and fitness.
- Boosting property values in neighborhoods with accessible parks.
- Supporting child development through essential play opportunities.
- Promoting health and wellness via regular physical activities serves as a natural health safeguard.
- Enhancing the beauty of areas elevates residents' satisfaction and quality of life.
- Contributing to environmental conservation, with parks being self-sustaining assets.
- Providing vital leisure services that enhance the lives of individuals facing disabilities or socioeconomic challenges.
- Leadership opportunities that help build strong communities.
- Community interactions that promote ethnic and cultural harmony
- Recreating together helps build stronger families, the foundation of a stronger society.
- Investments in parks and recreation yield huge economic returns
- Parks and Recreation help reduce the high cost of vandalism and criminal activity.
- Parks often serve as a catalyst for tourism and community development and a huge sector of our economy.

**Commented [DC9]:** All similar to the original but not the same.



**Park Plan Mission Statement**

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that all parks and open areas remain clean, safe, accessible to all, and up to date to best serve the residents as well as improve the quality of life in Columbia Heights.

To ensure that this mission is carried out to its fullest extent, we recognize that a support network from various sources must be directly involved in the planning and decision-making processes.

We recognize that working with other departments, such as the Recreation Department, Park Department, Public Works, and Engineering Department, along with citizen participation through community groups and other organizations are necessary and will help lead to the successful implementation of this plan.

**Commented [DC10]:** Direct from 1996 DOC