



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

February 05, 2024

7:00 PM

7071 University Avenue NE Fridley, MN 55432

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- [1.](#) December 4, 2023 and January 2, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

New Business

- [2.](#) Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Spree Event
- [3.](#) Neighborhood Park Site Plan Review - Plymouth-Logan-Edgewater Gardens
- [4.](#) Commons Park Planning Update
- [5.](#) Fridley Parks and Recreation Mission and Vision

Old Business

Staff Reports

- [6.](#) Springbrook Nature Center Report
- [7.](#) Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report
- [8.](#) Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Adjournment

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



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

December 4, 2023 and January 2, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Background

Attached are the meeting minutes of the December 4, 2023 and January 2, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the December 4, 2023 and January 2, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

- December 4, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes.
- January 2, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes.

Vision Statement

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



Park Commission Meeting

December 4, 2023

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

Minutes*

***Due to a technical difficulty, the audio recording of this meeting was not captured and are based on notes taken during the meeting by Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director.**

Call to Order

Chair Borman called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present

Luke Cardona
EB Graham
Peter Borman
Suad Maow
Tim Kirk
Ken Schultz
Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for December 4, 2023

A Motion was made and seconded to approve the December 4, 2023 meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for November 6, 2023

Motion made and seconded to approve the November 6, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. 2024 Neighborhood Park Playground Designs for Edgewater Gardens, Logan and Plymouth Square Parks

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Maher stated that updated designs have been received by vendors based on initial concepts presented at neighborhood meetings and recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Commission reviewed the designs and asked several clarifying questions about vendor selection for the playground designs and playground budgets.

Mr. Maher stated that vendor selections will be based on designs but also a positive track record with the City delivering projects in a timely manner. Mr. Maher further stated that staff are working to see savings in park projects on engineering and site work so that the overall project can stay within budget while accommodating some playground additions requested by residents.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the refined playground designs for Edgewater Gardens Park, Logan Park, and Plymouth Square Park. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Moore Lake Community Building Rental Fees and Policies Review

Mr. Maher commented that a proposed fee structure for the Moore Lake Community Building has been developed for review by the Commission. The building capacity is 72 individuals seated and suggested hours of operation are daily from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm with limited availability on holidays.

Mr. Maher detailed that rental reservations would be made in half-day or full-day increments with full day rentals being the only option on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. A resident rate of \$150 for half-day rentals and \$250 for full-day rentals is proposed with a non-resident rate of \$225 for half-day rentals and \$400 for full-day rentals. Staff support would be an add-on at \$25 per hour with a two-hour minimum. A \$200 damage and code of conduct deposit will be required.

Mr. Maher provided an overview of additional operational guidelines such as building access, set-up, cleaning and cancellation policies.

The Commission

Motion was made and seconded by the Commission to endorse the fees and guidelines presented in the Moore Lake Community Building Fees and Guidelines Document. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Facility and Shelter Rental Rates Proposed Fees

Mr. Maher stated Overall goal is to incorporate new assets and to align pricing into fewer categories for streamlined user experience.

The large shelters at Locke Park and Springbrook PAC proposed fee: \$170 resident, \$250 non-resident (was same for weekday/weekend for Locke and was \$130/\$250 for SNC)

Standard shelters with capacity of 50 would have a proposed fee: \$80 resident, \$120 resident (Currently \$65/\$100) (SNC open air, Moore Lake, Commons, Flanery)

Springbrook classroom proposed rate: \$40/hr resident, \$65/hr non-resident (Currently \$30/\$50)

Moore Lake Community Building proposed rates: \$150 half-day, \$250 full-day resident and \$225 half-day, \$400 full-day non-resident

Cancellation policy is same across all rentals and non-profit rate is same as resident.

The Commission

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the fee structure presented in the proposed park system rental rates document to be effective January 1, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Staff Reports

4. Springbrook Nature Center Report

Mr. Maher commented on the completion of recent grant funded projects including a fireplace addition to the pavilion and an interactive stream lab adjacent to the nature-based play area. Mr. Maher further stated that the City's annual Winterfest celebration would be held at the nature center on Saturday, January 20th.

The Commission accepted Mr. Maher's report.

5. Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Mr. Maher stated that a successful Turkey Fun event was held at Springbrook Nature Center through partnership with Parks and Recreation staff and a sponsorship by the Fridley Lions. 200 individuals enjoyed the event. Mr. Maher directed the Commission to view the detailed program enrollment numbers in the written report.

The Commission accepted Mr. Maher's report.

6. Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Mr. Maher stated that park maintenance staff were preparing winter park features such as sledding and skating facilities and had been working to install signage and amenities at Locke Park. Mr. Maher shared updated photos and progress of the Moore Lake Park construction project.

The Commission accepted Mr. Maher's report.

Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, the Commission discussed a desire to tour the Moore Lake Community Building as a work session meeting on Tuesday, January 2nd at 6:00 pm.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher
Parks and Recreation Director



Park Commission Meeting (Park Tour)

January 2, 2024

6:00 PM

Moore Lake Park, 5890 Central Ave NE

Minutes*

***The meeting was a tour held at Moore Lake Park. No action was taken by the Commission as the tour was informational only.**

Call to Order

The Moore Lake Park tour began at 6:02 pm.

Present

Luke Cardona
EB Graham
Peter Borman
Suad Maow
Ken Schultz
Don Whalen
Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Adjournment

The Moore Lake Park tour concluded at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher
Parks and Recreation Director



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Spree Event

Background

A representative for the non-profit Springbrook Nature Center Foundation will be in attendance to discuss the upcoming Springbrook Spree fundraising event scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2024. Community members are encouraged to consider attending this fundraising event to support Springbrook Nature Center and volunteers will also be needed to assist in planning and running the event.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

-

Vision Statement

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



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Neighborhood Park Site Plan Review - Plymouth-Logan-Edgewater Gardens

Background

Four neighborhood parks will be improved with new site work, playgrounds, trails and amenities in 2024. Site plans are substantially completed for Plymouth Square Park, Logan Park, and Edgewater Gardens Park. The fourth park, Sylvan Hills, is on a different schedule due a grant opportunity for stormwater treatment to be incorporated into the site design. Jesslyn Quiram, an Engineering Technician with the City of Fridley, has been developing the site designs based on site conditions, community input, playground designs, site features and feedback from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Site designs will be used to request bids for construction of the three parks.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission review the current site plans and provide recommendations for plan refinement.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Edgewater Gardens Park Concept Plan from Park System Improvement Plan
- Edgewater Gardens Site Design Draft
- Logan Park Concept Plan from Park System Improvement Plan
- Logan Park Site Design Draft
- Plymouth Square Park Concept Plan from Park System Improvement Plan
- Plymouth Square Park Site Design Draft

Vision Statement

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

Edgewater Gardens Park

6700 ASHTON AVENUE NE

PARK TYPE: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

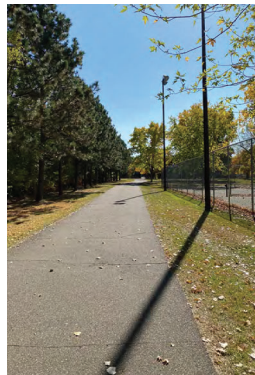
SIZE: 4.4-ACRES

RESIDENTS SERVED: 749

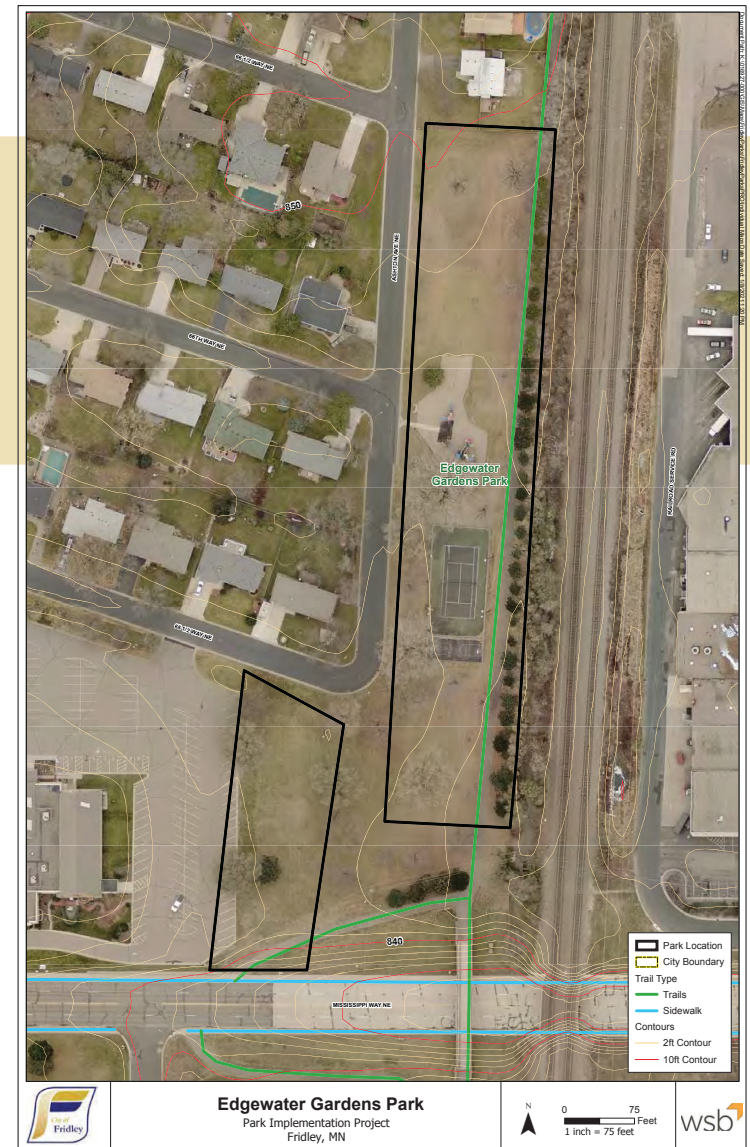
SPECIAL USES: MISSISSIPPI RIVER REG TRAIL

DESCRIPTION:

Neighborhood park with a very linear shape that adjoins the Mississippi River Regional Trail and services neighborhoods #23 and #16. A pedestrian bridge provides a safe connection to neighborhood #23. A cell tower and stormwater management areas are also planned in or near the park. Open lawn spaces are shared with the adjacent church.



EXISTING PARK FEATURES:



RECOMMENDATIONS & ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS:

General recommendations include confirming an updated site layout with the neighborhood for an improved experience meeting a broad range of user groups and making use of the regional trail connection.

Recommendations include:

- Landscape enhancements with optional ornamental garden
- Convert turf to low-grow and/or bee-friendly mixture for open lawn spaces
- New expanded playground meeting broader range of challenge levels and age groups with ADA compliant playground surfacing (engineered wood fiber) and rubber surfacing or tiles at primary access points and high-wear areas
- Concrete playground border
- Relocated single tennis court (optional pickleball overlay)
- Relocated larger basketball court
- Exercise stations
- Picnic shelter with 4-6 tables (permanent restrooms optional)
- Four parallel parking stalls to allow for safety and accessibility due to larger service area
- Site furnishings with common characteristic (benches, tables, receptacles, bike racks, drinking fountain, etc.)
- Trailhead amenities (bike fix-it station, drinking fountain, kiosk, etc.)
- Expanded walks / trails for improved accessibility and loop route
- Optional community gardens with arbor seating and storage shed
- Wayfinding signs
- Security light

The estimate of probable costs for completing the recommendations shown range from approximately \$550,000 to \$773,000 for base preferred improvements and an additional \$512,000 to \$718,000 for deferred or alternate improvements.

Specific assumptions and exclusions:

- Does not account for unknown site factors (poor soils, drainage concerns, etc.)
- Assumes general budget for optional restroom utilities

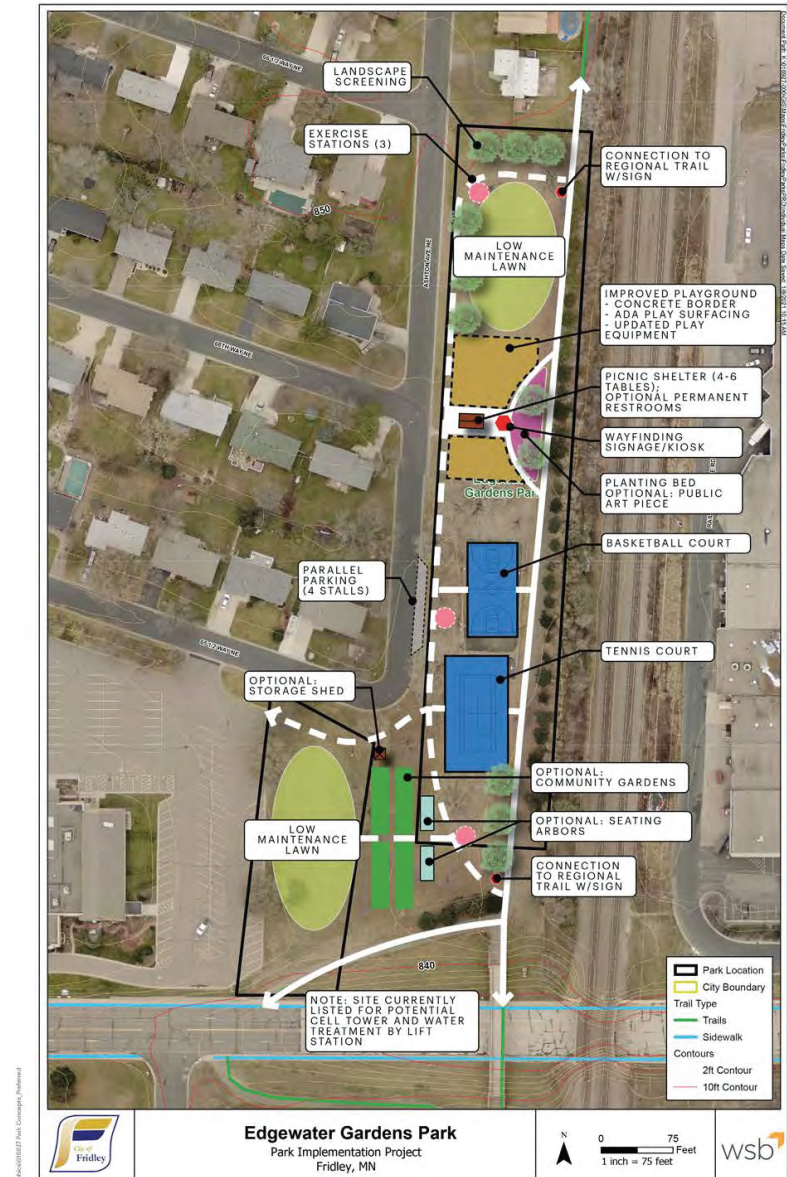
PRIORITY LEVEL:

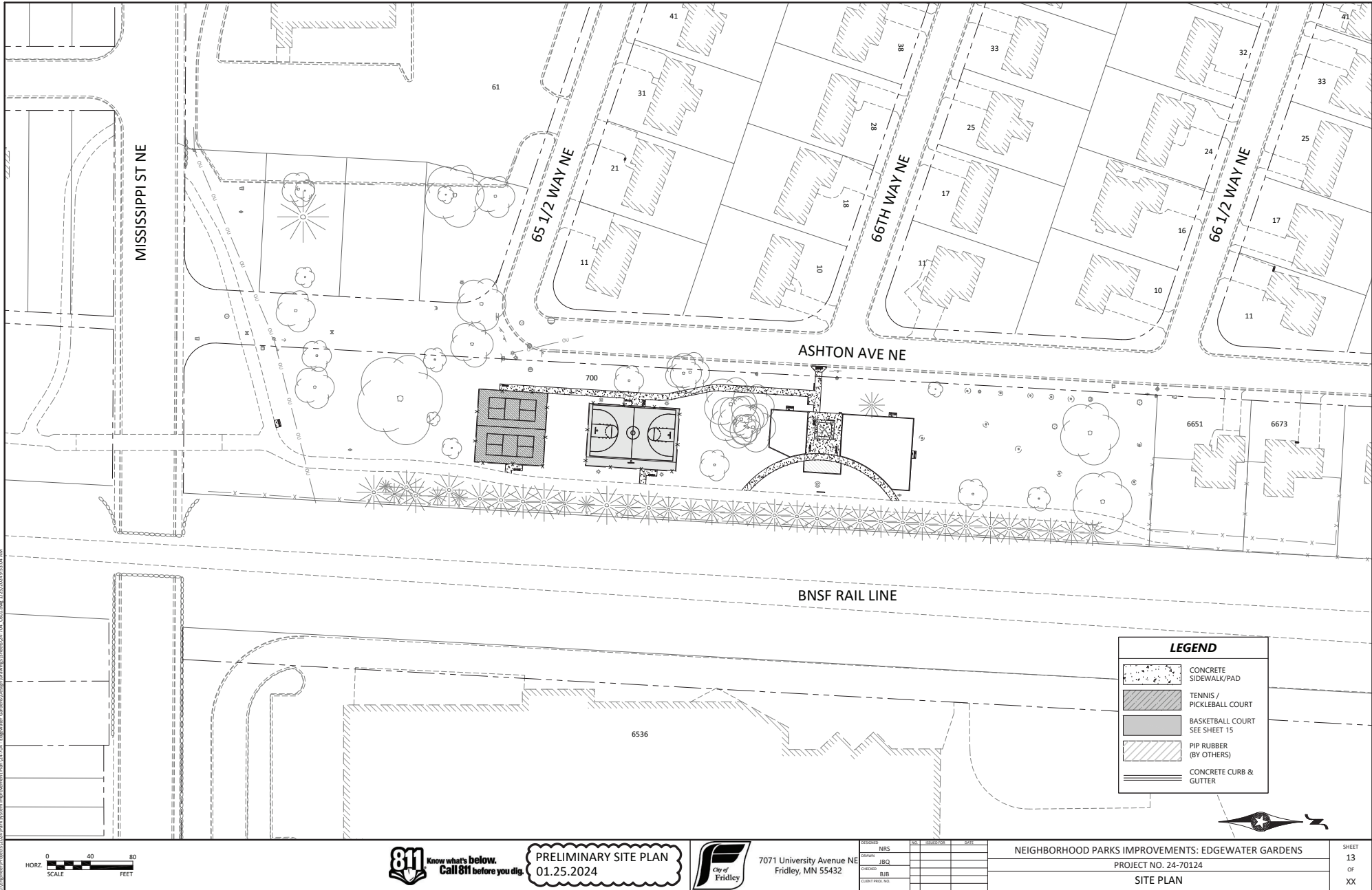
LOW

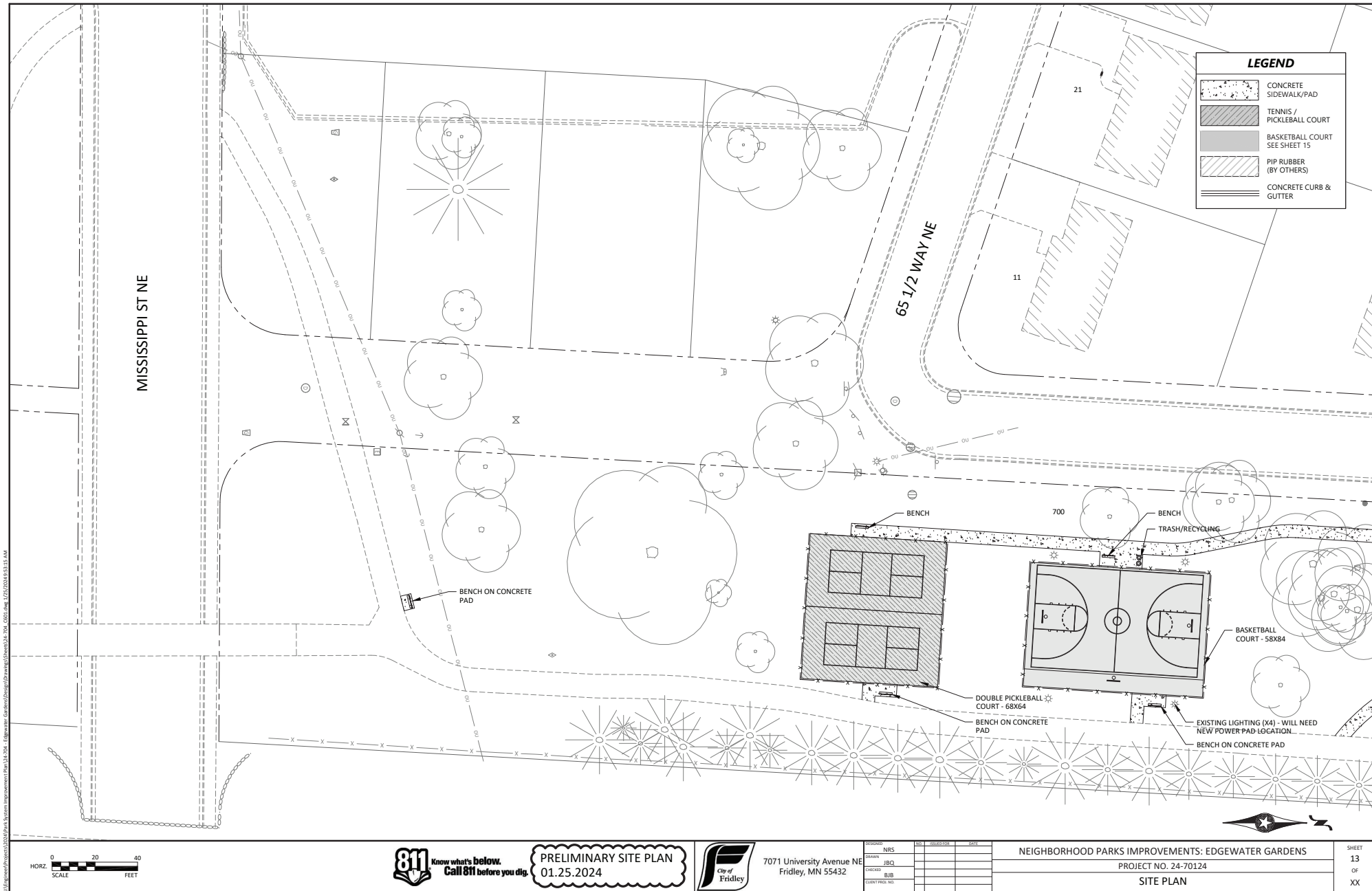
MEDIUM

HIGH

This neighborhood park offers a broad range of recreational amenities for multiple neighborhood service areas, and is ranked high.









Logan Park

155 LOGAN PARKWAY NE

PARK TYPE: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
SIZE: 2.0-ACRES
RESIDENTS SERVED: 287
SPECIAL USES: WINTER SKATING

DESCRIPTION:

Neighborhood park servicing neighborhood #10 with potential to also service neighborhood #11 and Area A as noted on the Service Area Analysis Map with improved connections. The park contains a ballfield with poor orientation for play, a single tennis court and half basketball court that are both in poor condition, an older picnic shelter, and playground. An area of mature trees is located on the northern section of the site.



EXISTING PARK FEATURES:



RECOMMENDATIONS & ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS:

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

Recommendations include:

- Landscape enhancements
- Low-grow and/or bee-friendly turf mixture
- New playground meeting varying age groups with new container
- ADA compliant playground surfacing (engineered wood fiber)
- Concrete playground border
- Walk and trail connections with optional internal loop
- Picnic shelter with 2 tables
- Ballfield improvements
- Site furnishings with common characteristic (benches, tables, receptacles, bike racks, drinking fountain, etc.)
- Reconstructed tennis court
- Reconstructed half court moved further south to allow for slight playground expansion
- Park sign on Pearson Way
- Wayfinding signs (to Riverview Heights)
- Security light

The estimate of probable costs for completing the recommendations shown range from approximately \$370,000 to \$520,000 for base preferred improvements and an additional \$65,000 to \$90,000 for deferred or alternate improvements.

Specific assumptions and exclusions:

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

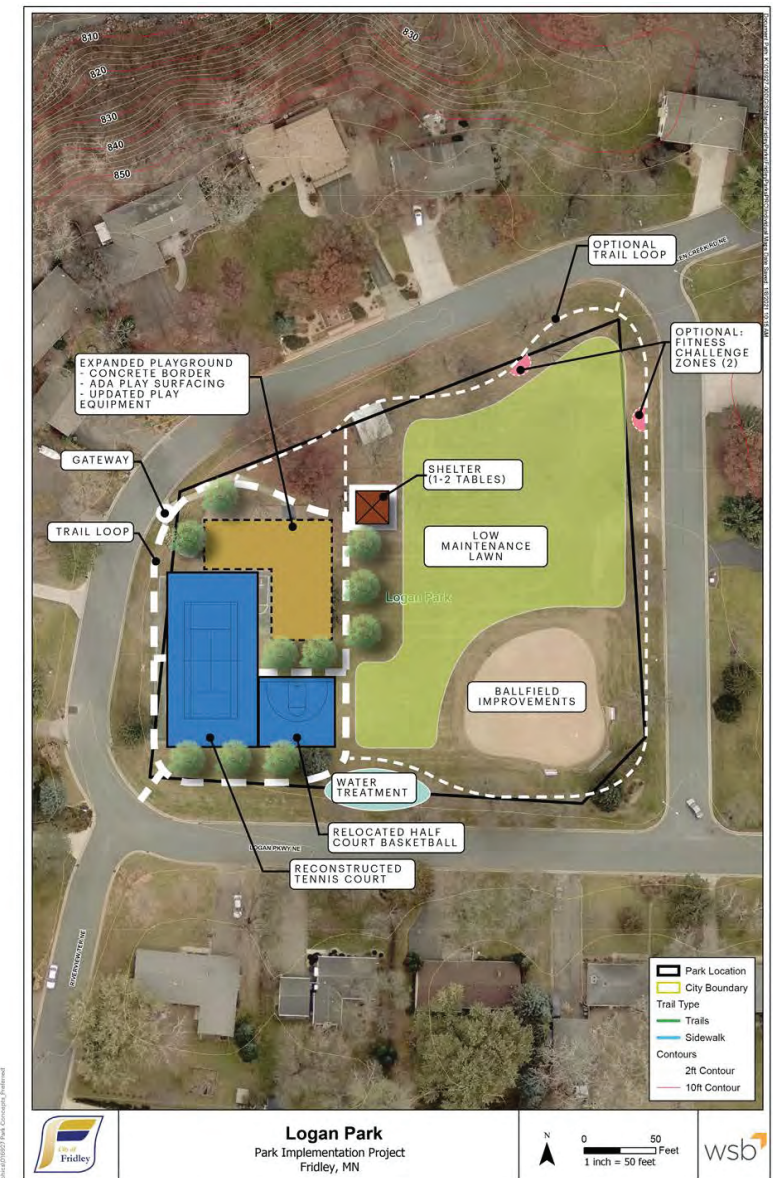
PRIORITY LEVEL:

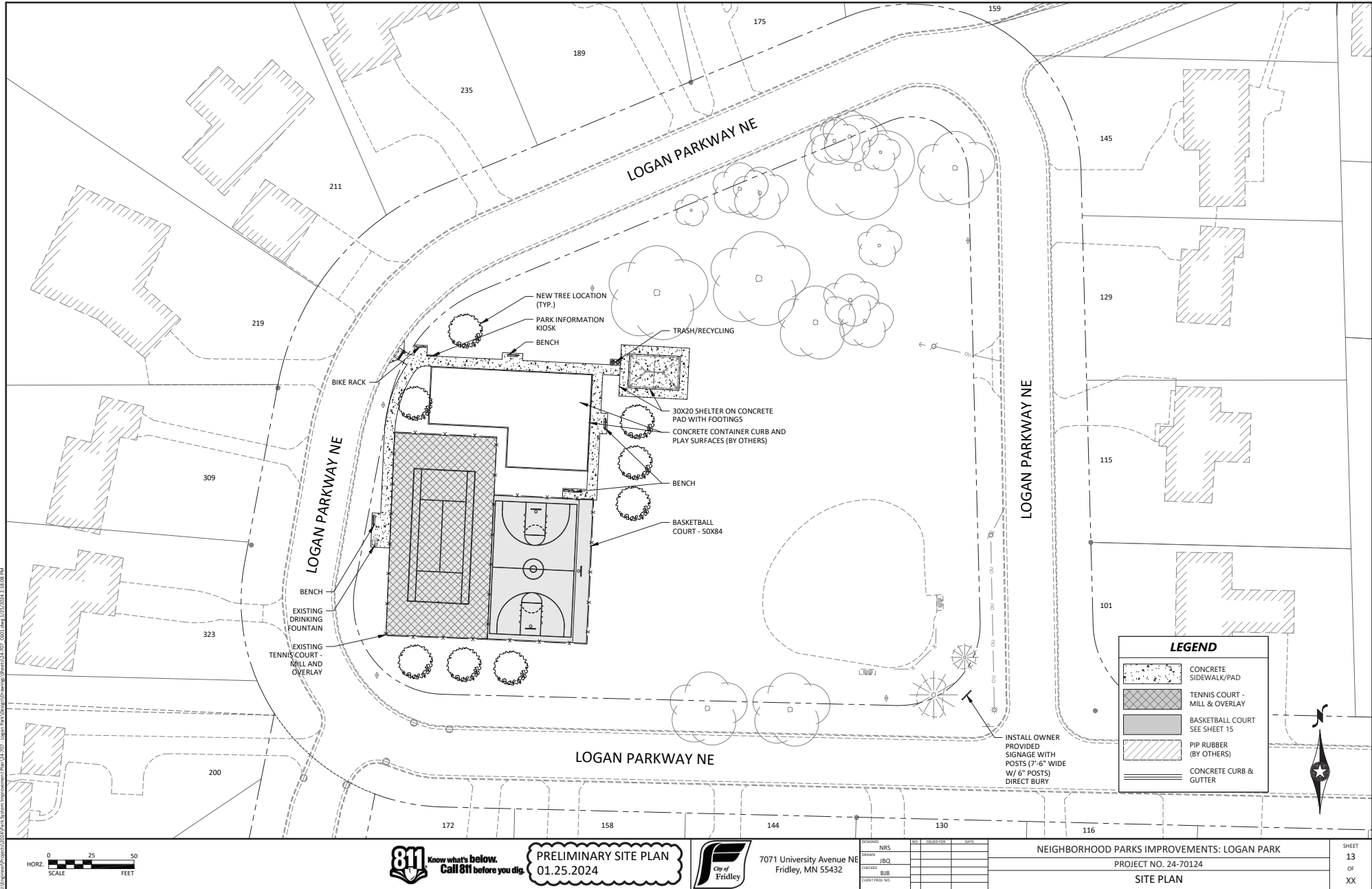
LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

This neighborhood park has opportunities to service numerous neighborhood areas with improved connectivity, and is ranked high.





Plymouth Square Park

4801 MAIN STREET NE

PARK TYPE: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
SIZE: 1.1-ACRES
RESIDENTS SERVED: 543
SPECIAL USES: NONE

DESCRIPTION:

This small neighborhood park services neighborhood #40 in the southernmost portion of Fridley with a playground and full basketball court. There is a large open lawn that once had a ballfield and only the players benches remain with a chain link fence around the majority of the park. The park feels very old and outdated.



EXISTING PARK FEATURES:



RECOMMENDATIONS & ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS:

General recommendations includes full redevelopment with a new layout to make the most of the park land available with a broader range of amenities for an improved recreational experience.

Recommendations include:

- Landscape enhancements
- New playground equipment meeting a broader range of ages in a new location
- ADA compliant playground surfacing (engineered wood fiber)
- Concrete playground border
- Basketball half court (confirm option of full or half court with neighborhood)
- Single tennis court (if only a half basketball court is installed)
- Picnic shelter with 2 tables and outlet on a central plaza
- Open lawn
- Trail connections
- Site furnishings with common characteristic (benches, tables, receptacles, bike racks, drinking fountain, etc.)
- New ornamental or black vinyl clad chain link fencing where necessary
- Wayfinding signs
- Security light

The estimate of probable costs for completing the recommendations shown range from approximately \$345,000 to \$445,000.

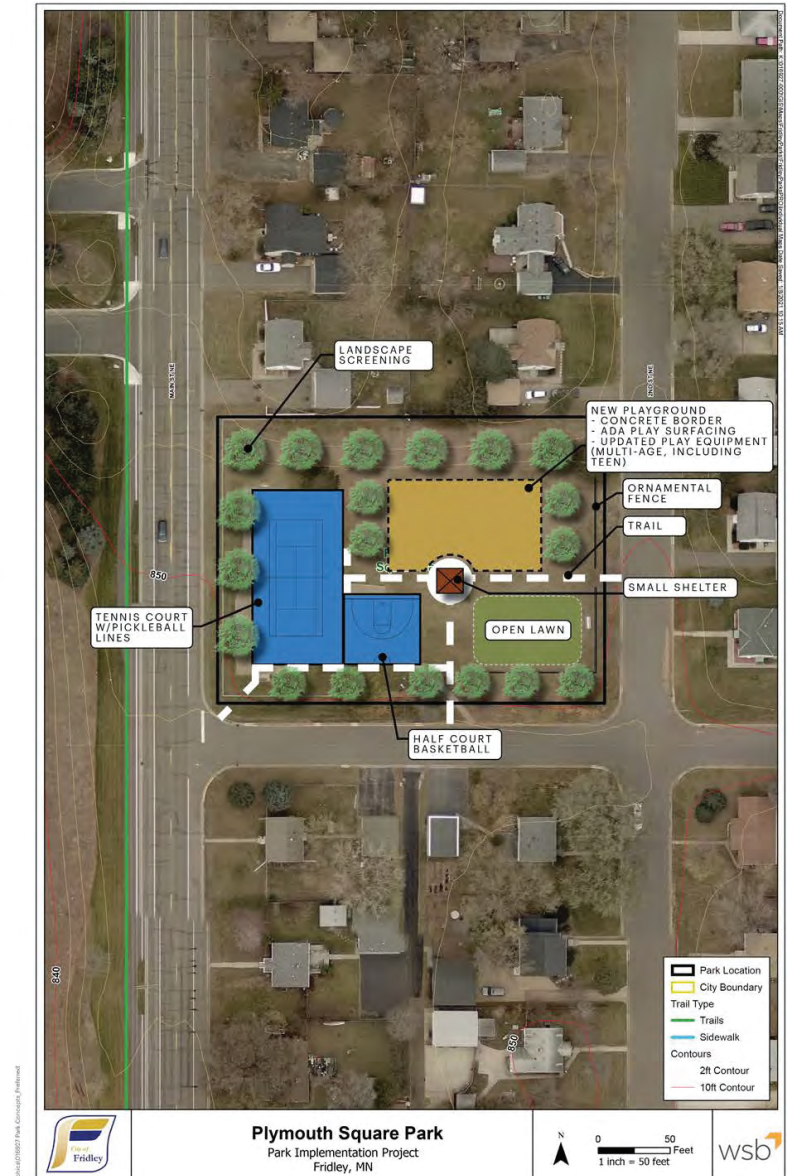
Specific assumptions and exclusions:

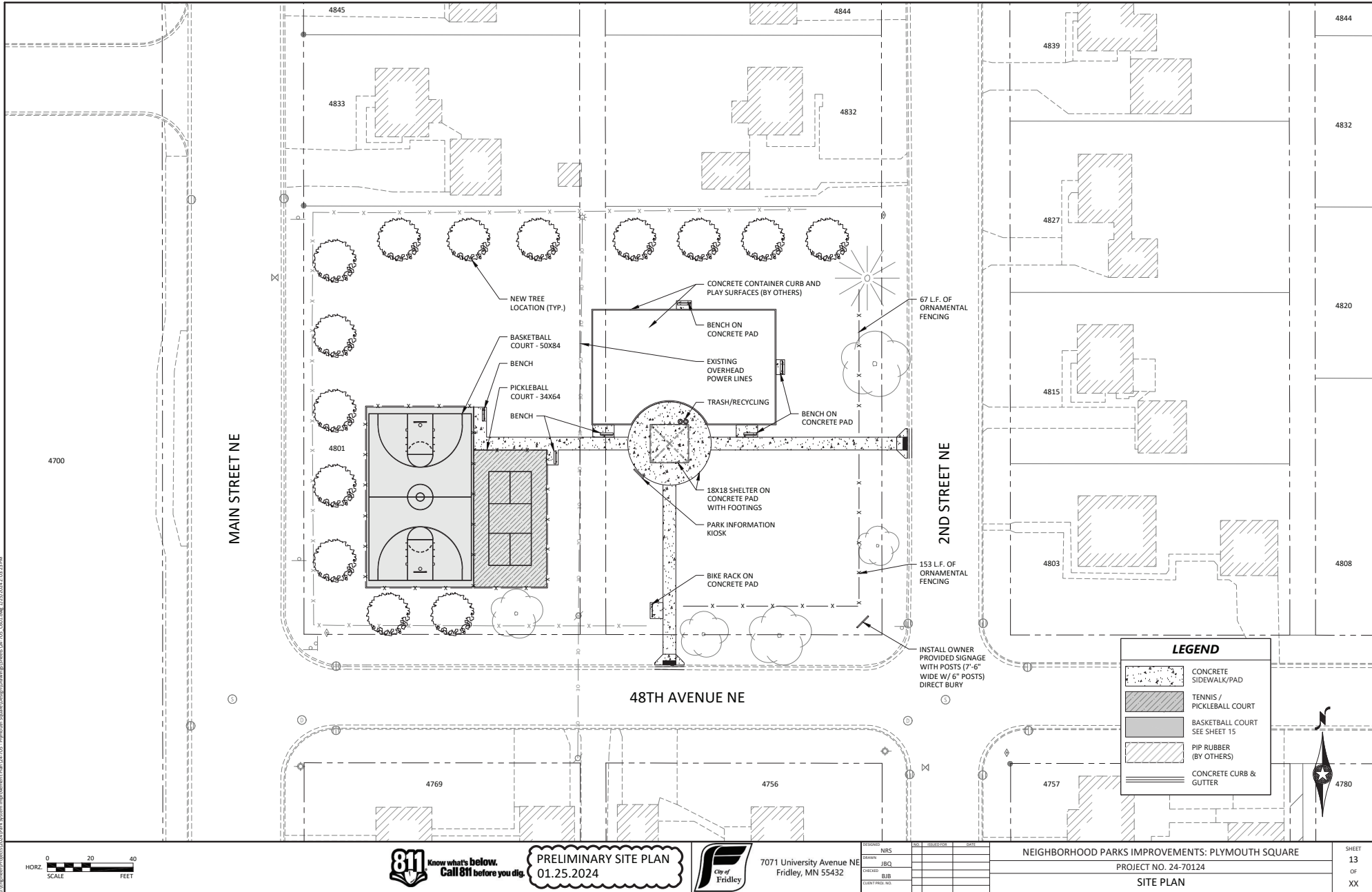
- Does not account for unknown site factors (poor soils, drainage concerns, etc.)
- Does not include utilities

PRIORITY LEVEL:



This park would provide a broader range of recreation for the neighborhood service area and is ranked medium.





Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.

PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN
01.25.2024



7071 University Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432

DESIGNED	CHECKED	DATE
NRS	JBQ	
	BUB	

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IMPROVEMENTS: PLYMOUTH SQUARE
PROJECT NO. 24-70124
SITE PLAN

SHEET
13
OF
XX



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Commons Park Planning Update

Background

Commons Park will receive significant improvements as the second of two community park renovations funded through Fridley's Park System Improvement Plan. Construction is expected to begin in 2025, with planning to be completed in 2024. Current work includes refinement of the site plan and identifying the design team for architecture and landscape architecture. Staff recommends modification of the site plan appearing in the Park System Improvement Plan to better accommodate a developed park gateway with optimal relationships between a park building, splash pad, inclusive playground, gathering plazas and winter recreation amenities. In order to accomplish this, two baseball diamonds will need to be removed from the park and a field will need to be developed on City or Fridley public Schools property to meet the needs of the youth baseball association. Several meetings have been convened to discuss options for new field locations and a follow up meeting will be held with the School District and FYSA Baseball.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission review the current site plans for Commons Park as well as the vision for park development and provide feedback on the plan.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Commons Park – A Destination Park at the Heart of Fridley Draft Presentation

Vision Statement

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



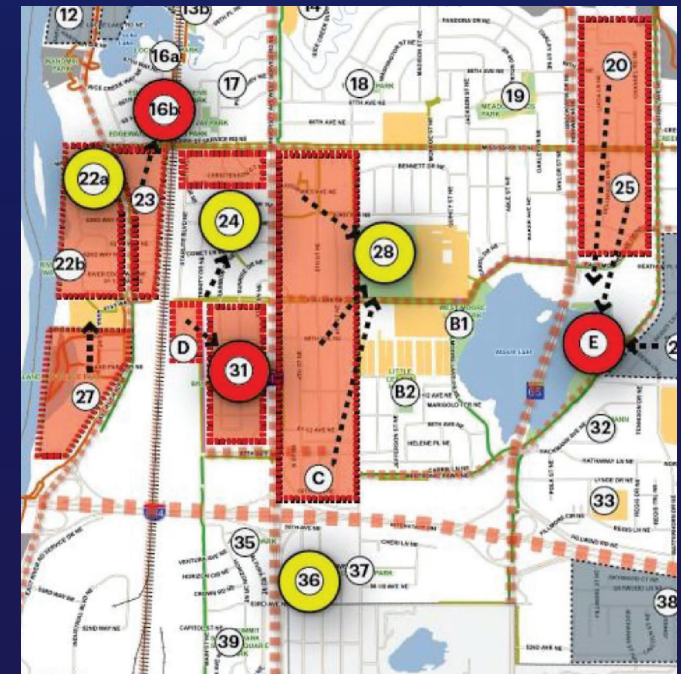
Commons Park Recreation Building

Vision for a Destination Park at the
Heart of the Fridley Community



Park System Improvement Plan – Creating a Modern, Equitable and Balanced Park System

- Comprehensive approach to balance recreation across the community
- Prioritize park redevelopment
- Meet the needs of diverse community demographics
- Improve access to recreation for underserved populations
- Account for changes in recreation trends and demands
- Revitalize programs and invest in high-quality facilities



Fridley's Park System Improvement Plan



Improved
Playgrounds
& Amenities



Gathering
Spaces



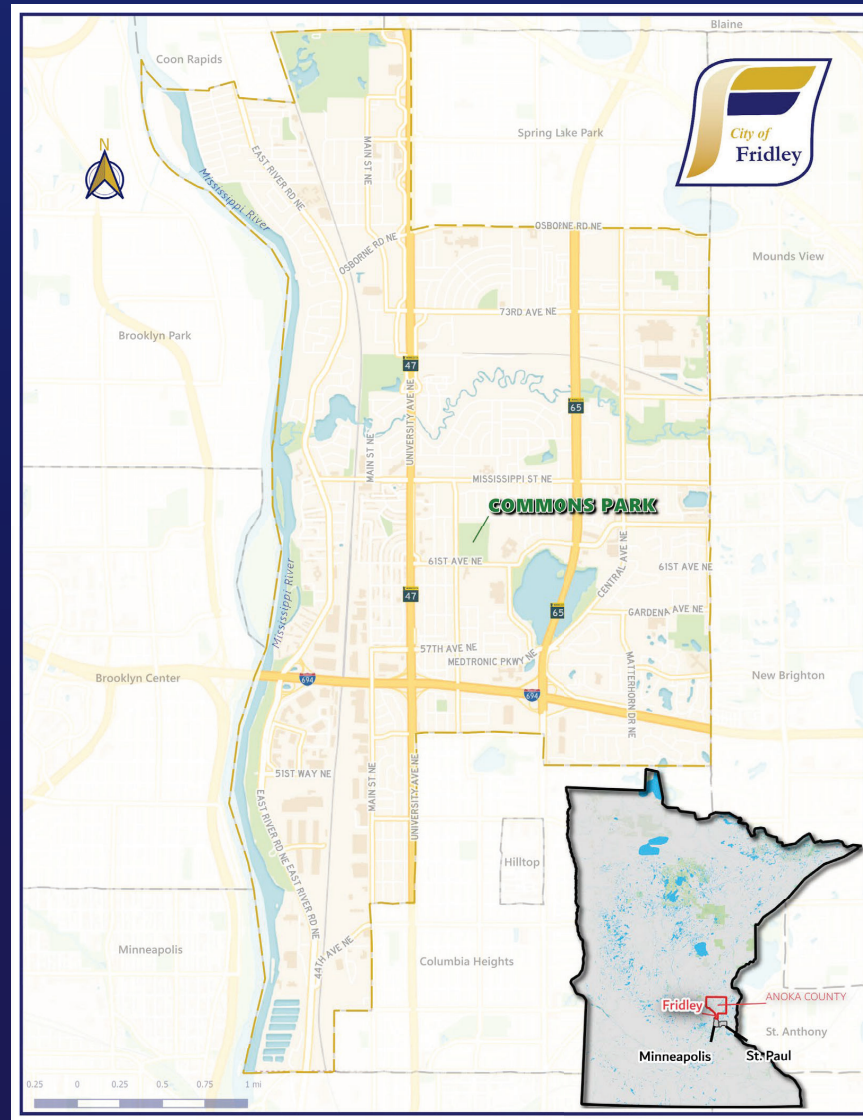
Year-Round Use
& Connectivity



Unique
Amenities and
Experiences

Commons Park

A Four-season
Destination
Park at the
Heart of Fridley



Current Status – Concept Development



Current Status – Planning and Timeline

- Concept plans developed as part of Park System Improvement Plan
- Project budget of \$9-12 million
- Community Engagement and design phase 2023-2024 with construction in 2025-2027
- Strategic partnerships coordinated in 2024



Commons Park Redevelopment Community Vision



- **Inclusive** – Enriching the lives of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities in Fridley
- **Four-season Recreation** – summer splash pad to s'mores and sledding
- **Unique and Amenity-rich** – Year-round access to gathering spaces, innovative programs and memorable experiences
- **Accessible** – An extension of our school community through **safe routes to schools**, enrichment opportunities, and inclusive play

Commons Park – Inclusive



- **\$500,000 grant received from State of Minnesota for \$1 million+ inclusive playground**
 - Supported by Allina Health, Gillette Childrens Hospital, The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, Multicultural Autism Action Network and The Arc, Minnesota.
 - To include accessible surfacing and safety enclosure per recommendations from inclusive play advocate groups
 - Focus on multigenerational play opportunities.
 - Adjacency to parking, splash pad, and park building for added play value, immersive user experience, and access to amenities.

Commons Park – Four Season Recreation

- A splash pad has been the most requested addition to the Fridley park system through nearly five years of community engagement.
- Requires adjacency to park building for access to restrooms and amenities as well as housing of pumps and other splash pad equipment.
- With robust programming, inclusive playground, pickleball court complex, community building and flexible fields, Commons Park will be a destination park space and will require significant parking and amenities.



Commons Park – Four Season Recreation

- Amenity-supported winter recreation to create core memories and make winter recreation accessible and inviting to all in our community.
- Park building with indoor-outdoor space including warming house, fire pits, restrooms, gathering spaces, recreation equipment, vending and program spaces.
- Sledding, skating, groomed pathways, and winter programming.



Unique Experiences – Community Programs

- Commons Park will serve as the central hub for Fridley Parks and Recreation including classes, parties, events, athletics, workshops and equipment check-out.
- Hosts 49er Days, Summer ROCKS, Wet and Wild Day, Nickel Jamboree, youth sports, shelter rentals, family concerts, and much more!
- Indoor activity rooms, warming spaces and indoor play options could be key features of a park building.



Safe, Modern, Accessible Gathering Spaces

- Modern and accessible park spaces and amenities will allow for all in our community to enjoy Commons Park.
- Comfortable gathering spaces, warming areas and seating will promote year-round use and multi-generational experiences.
- Lighting, security and support from Fridley Public Safety for a welcoming park.



Recreation Building Essential Functions

- Provide welcoming space for a diverse offering of classes and programs for up to 60 (room divisible into three spaces)
- Support summer park functions including splash pad, inclusive playground and community events
- Support winter park function such as sledding, skating, events, and indoor play
- Serve as an amenity hub for an interconnected and immersive park environment
- Support staffing with space for flexible offices, reception, break room for up to six



Recreation Building and Park Wish List Items

- Indoor Playground
- Refrigerated skating rink or loop
- Snow-making capability for sledding hill
- Fitness studio space with wood flooring (can be part of multipurpose classroom/meeting space)
- Performance area for bands, DJ's etc. (multipurpose space)



Next Steps and Discussion Points

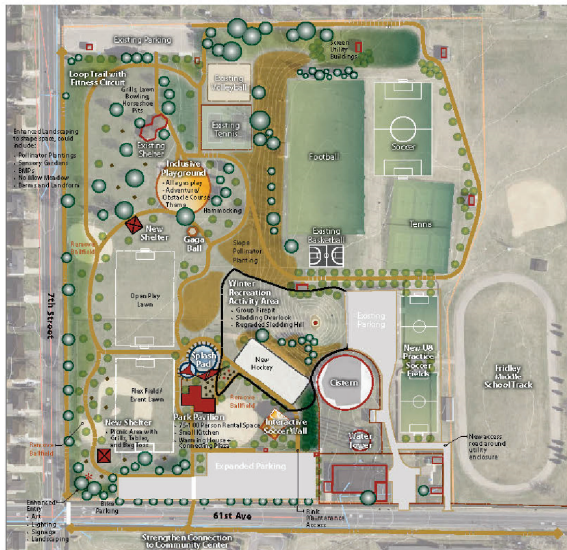
- Engage in conversations with stakeholders to account for needs of youth athletics for fields – Fridley Public Schools. Varsity field, Little League Fields, Community Park, other field resources?
- What long-range plans does Fridley Public Schools have for areas adjacent to Commons Park?
- Coordinate project in parallel with Safe Routes to School Grant Opportunity
- Staff meeting with HKGI followed by workshop to coordinate park concept planning with FYSA and Fridley Public Schools.
- Finalize site and recreation building priorities and budget.
- How do we maximize access to winter recreation opportunity with our site and budget?
- Bring on design team and finalize project delivery



Questions?

PLANNING BACKGROUND:

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



COMMONS PARK PLANNING FRAMEWORK A DRAFT January 2020

RECOMMENDATIONS - YOUTH AND PLAY:

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

Recommendations include:

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

PRIORITY LEVEL:

LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

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

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



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Title

Fridley Parks and Recreation Mission and Vision

Background

A draft Mission and Vision statement for Fridley Parks and Recreation has been prepared for review by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff recommends that a mission and vision statement be adopted to serve as a framework for alignment of Fridley's parks, trails and programs as the Park System Improvement Plan is implemented. Further, a clearly defined mission and vision will guide staff as new programs and services are evaluated and community partnerships are leveraged to meet the needs of the community.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff Recommends that the Commission discuss the draft Mission and Vision statements and select a preferred option between the two similar variants of the Mission statement. Staff further recommends that the Commission endorse the Mission and Vision statements for adoption.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Fridley Parks and Recreation Mission and Vision Statements for Commission Review

Vision Statement

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



Mission and Vision Statements

Fridley Parks and Recreation





Mission and Vision Statements

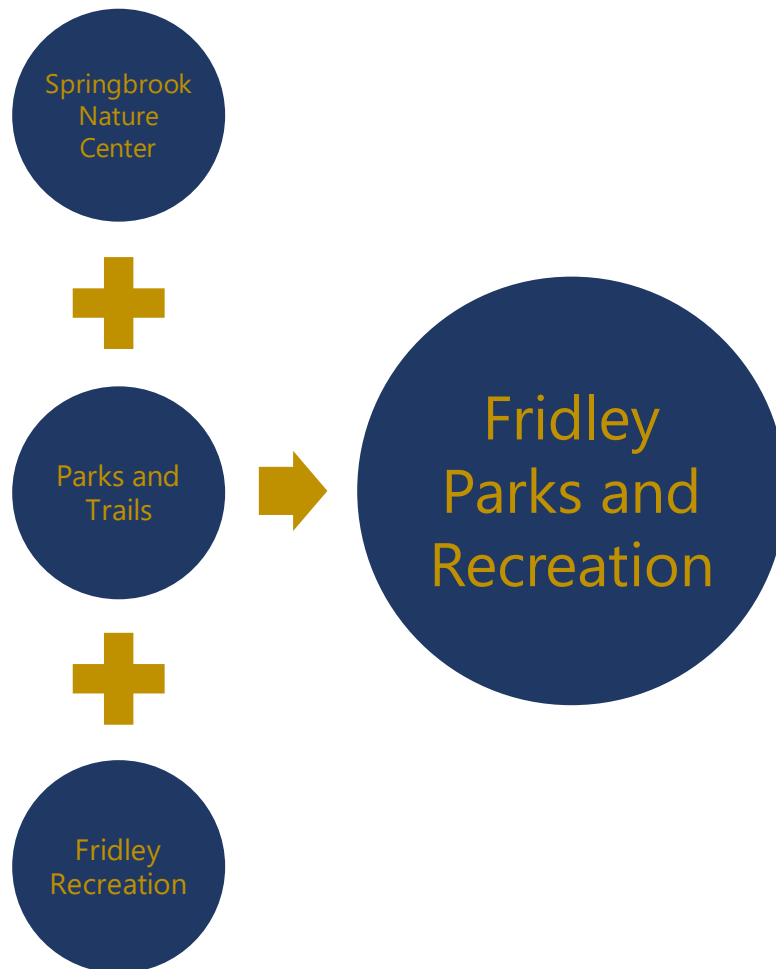
Parks and
Recreation

Item 5.

Fridley Parks and Recreation Mission and Vision Statements

Purpose

- To align the purpose of Fridley's parks, trails, and programs as the Park System Improvement Plan is implemented
- Provide direction to staff on community priorities
- Provide a tool to define scope of community impact in relation other agencies such as Anoka County Parks and Fridley Public Schools Community Education





Mission and Vision Statements

Parks and
Recreation

Item 5.

Mission (Version 1): To promote a high quality of life in Fridley through welcoming parks, inclusive programs, and unique experiences.

Mission (Version 2): To continually improve the quality of life in Fridley through welcoming parks, inclusive programs, and unique experiences.

Vision: Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities are valued by all in the Fridley community.

Springbrook Nature Center Mission and Vision:





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Tara Rogness, Springbrook Nature Center Manager

Title

Springbrook Nature Center Report

Background

Attached are the updates from Springbrook Nature Center for the February 5, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Springbrook Nature Center December 2023 Update for February 5, 2024 meeting.
- Springbrook Nature Center January 2024 Update for February 5, 2024 meeting.

Vision Statement

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

Springbrook Nature Center

Park & Rec Commission Report

December Teaching

- Hayes 3rd grade students learned about growth, survival and reproduction through costumes that focused on each organism's adaptations. In the new year, they will also get the chance to snowshoe (if we get snow) and learn about adaptations used to keep warm blooded creatures warm.
- The December Polliwogs program focused on Deer. Lots of fun was had out in the woods playing games and pretending to be hoofed mammals!

November Rentals

- There were 7 indoor rentals this month. They ranged from family birthday parties, baby showers, the Christmas Bird Count to a workplace holiday event.
- There will be no outdoor shelters or PAC rentals until May 2024.

Grants

- We have been awarded an **International Paper Foundation grant** for a project entitled "Bringing the Natural World into Focus". We have plans to purchase microscope projection equipment that will allow students to see the tiny creatures they find outdoors. It will help to further enhance environmental education programming.

Park & Building Maintenance

- The **carpet in the classrooms** will be replaced at the end of the month. We look forward to having a new clean, inviting surface for all our upcoming programs and events. Work is slated to be started and completed on December 28, 2023.

Events

- The first **Coffee Chat with a Nat** happened on December 6th. Naturalist Cody talked about Winter Tree Identification with about 6 folks.
- Our last **Lantern Light Hike** of the year took place on December 8, 2023. Nearly 50 people attended. We are hoping to have snow for our next hikes in January, February and March.

Upcoming Events

- **Lantern Light Hikes** will start up in December and run through March. Bring the family out to enjoy the trails by candlelight. If there's enough snow you can rent snowshoes as well! Mark your calendars for December 8, 2023, January 12, 2024, February 9, 2024 and March 8, 2024.
- **Coffee Chat with a Nat** is a brand-new program that will debut on the first Wednesday of the Month from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Join Naturalist Mady on Wednesday January 3rd for a program on Animal Tracks and Signs (and some delicious coffee). Each program will include an optional hike and is free to the public. This program is geared towards adults.

Springbrook Nature Center

Park & Rec Commission Report

Item 6.

January Teaching

- Nature Preschool Club is really taking off – we have a full session of 12 kids participating in this session.
- Naturalist Mady put together a couple of Winter Natural History Hikes for the public at no charge.
- Naturalists taught Stevenson 3rd graders both at the nature center and in their classrooms. They learned about strategies to stay warm in cold weather while participating in an experiment we like to call Jar Creatures. And in the classroom, they expanded their knowledge of adaptations to look at inherited and acquired traits.
- Katy and Kady presented a couple of Live Animal Programs at Park Terrace Elementary. In addition to seeing some reptiles live, the students learned about reptile adaptations, and how to classify reptiles.
- Mady taught 42 scouts and 40 parents at the Pack 609 event. They focused on winter adaptations during their program.
- Naturalist Cody taught a local homeschool about Winter Ecology.

January Rentals

- There were 4 indoor rentals in January with folks celebrating family gatherings, family holidays, and family birthday parties.
- There were 5 naturalist led birthday parties this month.

Grants

- We have made our purchases for the **International Paper Grant** "Bringing the Natural World into Focus". We are thrilled to have two new microscopes (a stereo microscope and a dissecting microscope) which will work with our AV system to project specimens onto our large screens, four microscopes that attach to phones or ipads, and a variety of field equipment.

Park & Building Maintenance

- The **carpet in the classrooms** looks great!
- We have **geothermal heat pump** and **commercial cooler** repairs are being scheduled this month.



Events

- The first **Coffee Chat with a Nat** happened on December 6th. Naturalist Cody talked about Winter Tree Identification with about 6 folks.
- Our last **Lantern Light Hike** of the year took place on January 12th, 2.24. Nearly 125 people attended. We are hoping to have snow for our next hikes in February and March.
- **Winterfest** took place on Saturday, January 20th. We had about 250 people out to experience a cold and non-snowy winter. They were able to pick up winter gear for free, visit with vendors indoors, look for the medallion, try out fat tire bikes with Trailhead Cycling, shake it during an outdoor Zumba demonstration, make bird feeders and learn about winter bird identification, make s'mores, eat popcorn and drink hot cocoa. It was a beautiful afternoon, even though we didn't have more snow.

Upcoming Events

- **Lantern Light Hikes** will start up in December and run through March. Bring the family out to enjoy the trails by candlelight. If there's enough snow you can rent snowshoes as well! Mark your calendars for December 8, 2023, January 12, 2024, February 9, 2024 and March 8, 2024.
- **Coffee Chat with a Nat** is a brand-new program that will debut on the first Wednesday of the Month from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Join Naturalist Mady on Wednesday February 7th for a program Winter Ecology (and some delicious coffee). Each program will include an optional hike and is free to the public. This program is geared towards adults.
- **Locke Park Lantern Light Hike** will take place on Friday, February 16th at Locke Park. This inaugural event will be free to the public. Bring the family out to experience the trails lit by lanterns, cook up a tasty s'more, and try out some snowshoes (if we ever get snow!)



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Margo Numedahl, Recreation Division Manager

Title

Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Background

Attached are the updates from the Parks and Recreation Department for the February 5, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- December 2023 update from the Parks and Recreation Department for the February 5, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.
- January 2024 update from the Parks and Recreation Department for the February 5, 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Vision Statement

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



HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation Division: December 2023

Winter Programs

Below is a list of programs and participation numbers for those running during the month of December.

PRESCHOOL: Ages 3-5

Movin' and Groovin' (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	8
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ELEMENTARY – MIDDLE SCHOOL: Grades K-7

Mobile Machines Gr. K-4 (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	11
Ho-Ho-Holiday Fun Gr. K-4 (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	14
Track & Field K-4 (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	16
Sky Zone Field Trip	19
Snow Tubing Field Trip	11

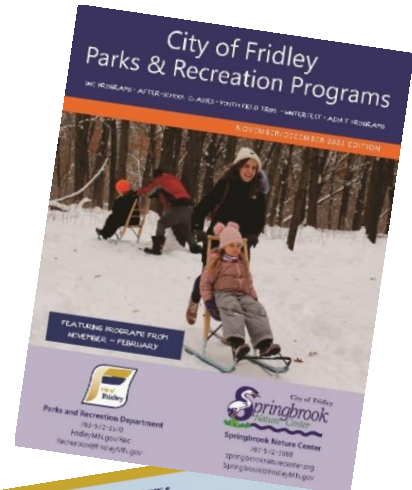
All Ages

Winter Lights Tour	16 homes
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ADULT FITNESS & ATHLETICS

Zumba (2 classes/6 sessions each): Oct-Dec	16
Aqua Zumba (6 sessions): Nov-Dec	
Pickleball for Beginners (4 sessions): Nov-Dec (6 – Fridley; 6 – SLP)	12
Pickleball Ladder League – All Ages: Nov-Feb (23 – Fridley, 22 – SLP)	45
Pickleball Ladder League – Ages 20-35: Nov-Feb (14 – Fridley, 1 – SLP)	15
Volleyball Coed Rec League: Sep-Dec (North Metro League*: Fridley – 1 team)	8 teams
Volleyball Coed Competitive League: Sep-Dec (North Metro League*: Fridley – 1 individual)	6 teams
Volleyball Women's Competitive League: Sep-Dec (North Metro League*: Fridley – 2 individuals)	9 teams
Coed Bag Toss League: Dec-Jan (North Metro League*: Fridley – 4 teams)	8 teams
Adult Men's Basketball League: Dec – Feb (Fridley only)	15 teams

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



Parks and Recreation Brochure

The Jan/Feb brochure is currently being designed and will be mailed to residents during the week of January 9.

After-School & Preschool Classes

The second session of After-school and Preschool Programs ended on Thursday, December 21. Classes included: Mobile Machines, Ho-Ho-Holiday Fun, Track & Field and Movin' & Groovin'.



Family Open Gym

On Saturdays, Family Open Gym is offered from 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. at Hayes Elementary School. Cost is \$2 per child or \$4 per family. Participants are encouraged to play together using a variety of equipment including: balls, hoops, scooters, jump ropes, bouncy house and more! Attendance has been great, we've had 115 participants since November 4 (six Saturdays).

December Field Trips

On Wednesday, December 27 and Thursday, December 28, children in grades K-5 joined our Recreation Staff for two exciting field trips. Spring Lake Park Recreation partnered with us on these offerings. We had 25 children (19 – Fridley; 6 – SLP) registered for the outing to Sky Zone and 22 for the Snow Tubing trip (11 – Fridley, 11 – SLP).

Volleyball Season Conclusion

North Metro Fall Volleyball Leagues concluded on December 11 and 13 at Highview Middle School and Mounds View Community Center. This was the first season we offered a recreational and competitive league and overall the expansion is a good fit for the different skill levels we see in our teams. We will be moving forward with the same format in the future.

Basketball League

Fridley Men's Basketball League began on December 7. The league takes place at the Fridley Middle School front and back gyms consisting of a Recreational and Competitive division. Each game has two referees and a score keeper. The Basketball League will run through February.

Adult Bag Toss League

The North Metro Bag Toss League began on December 5 in the Hayes Elementary School Gym. In total 10 teams are registered for the eight-week league. We are excited to offer this casual indoor activity for participants to enjoy!

Pickleball Courts

On Saturday afternoons we are offering Pickleball Court reservations. Staff have lined three courts in the Hayes Gym. In December we had 9 reservations, totaling 11 hours (cost is \$15/hr).

Winter Lights

The 2023 Fridley Winter Lights Contest has concluded this December. In total, we had 16 different houses register to participate and five different categories for winners. Categories included: biggest and brightest, most unique, largest inflatable, brightest neighborhood, and judges choice. The Winter Lights Map with a link to a google map route mapping the most efficient way to see all the lights was available on our website. Hard copies were given out at Fridley City Hall.



Warming House Preparations

On December 18, we held a staff training and preparation meeting at the Commons Park Warming House to prepare for the upcoming season. Staff were trained on procedures, and also cleaned and organized the facility to prepare for opening day. Warm weather has delayed the opening of the warming house, but we hope to have it open as soon as the weather cools and ice can be made at the rink.



HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation Division: January 2024

Winter Programs

Below is a list of programs and participation numbers for those running during the month of January.

PRESCHOOL: Ages 3-5

Basketball (6 sessions): Jan-Feb	16
Track and Field (5 sessions): Jan-Feb	12

ELEMENTARY – MIDDLE SCHOOL: Grades K-7

Basketball Gr. K-1 (6 sessions): Jan-Feb	11
Basketball Gr. 2-4 (5 sessions): Jan-Feb	15
Tae Kwon Do Gr. K-4 (6 sessions): Jan-Feb	8
Glow in the Dark Art K-4 (6 sessions): Jan-Feb	16

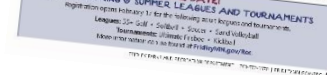
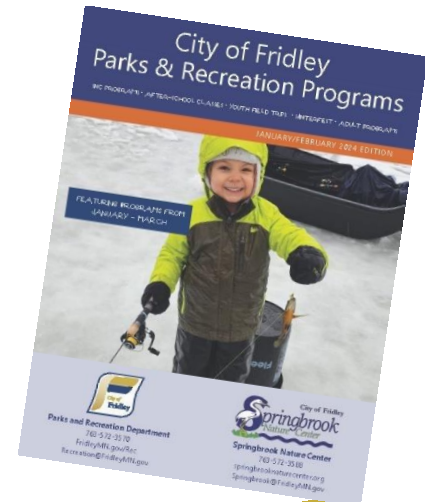
ADULT FITNESS & ATHLETICS

Zumba (2 classes/6 sessions each): Jan-Feb	20
Aqua Zumba (6 sessions): Jan-Feb	7
Pickleball Skills & Drills (4 sessions): Jan-Feb (6 – Fridley; 6 – SLP)	12
Pickleball Ladder League – All Ages: Nov-Feb (23 – Fridley, 22 – SLP)	45
Pickleball Ladder League – Ages 20-35: Nov-Feb (14 – Fridley, 1 – SLP)	15
Volleyball Coed Rec League: Jan-Mar (North Metro League*: Fridley – 2 teams)	15 teams
Volleyball Coed Competitive League: Jan-Mar (North Metro League*: Fridley – 5 individuals)	12 teams
Volleyball Women's Competitive League: Jan-Mar (North Metro League*: Fridley – 1 team; 3 ind)	15 teams
Coed Bag Toss League: Jan-Mar (North Metro League*: Fridley – 4 teams)	8 teams
Adult Men's Basketball League: Dec – Feb (Fridley only)	15 teams

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

Parks and Recreation Brochure

Content for the Mar/Apr brochure is complete and the graphic designer is working on it.



After-School & Preschool Classes

A new session of After-school and Pre-school Programs began this month. Classes included: Basketball, Tae Dwon Do, Glow in the Dark Art, and Track & Field.

Family Open Gym

On Saturdays, Family Open Gym is offered from 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. at Hayes Elementary School. Cost is \$2 per child or \$4 per family. Participants are encouraged to play together using a variety of equipment including: balls, hoops, scooters, jump ropes, bouncy house and more! Attendance has been great; we had 67 participants on the first two Saturdays in January.

Winter North Metro Volleyball Leagues

Our second year of North Metro indoor volleyball began this January. For this season we have a total of 42 teams registered in the three different leagues: Coed Recreational, Coed Competitive and Women's Competitive. Leagues that take place on Monday and Wednesday night at the Mounds View Community Center and Highview Gymnasium. Of these teams, three are made up of individual registrations. We are excited to continue to offer year round volleyball through this partnership with New Brighton, Mounds View and Spring Lake Park.

Zumba

Zumba and Aqua Zumba started this January. Zumba classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the Dance Floor at the Fridley Community Center. Aqua Zumba is hosted on Sundays at the Fridley Middle School Pool.

Pickleball Skills and Drills

The 2024 pickleball classes have begun with our first offering of the Pickleball Skills and Drills class which started on January 6 in the Hayes Elementary School Gym. Our Saturday morning classes have become popular and this class is at capacity with 12 participants.

Pickleball Courts

On Saturday afternoons we are offering Pickleball Court reservations. Staff have lined three courts in the Hayes Gym. In December we had 9 reservations, totaling 11 hours (cost is \$15/hr).

Warming House

The Commons Park Warming House finally opened on January 19. The warming house will be open on Fridays from 3:30 – 7 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 1 – 6 p.m. Weather conditions this winter have not been ideal for making ice, so we are excited to be able to open. Free ice skate rentals will be available at the warming house again this year.

Winterfest

The sun came out on Saturday, January 20 and from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. the community joined us at Springbrook for a fun celebration of winter. We estimate that 250 people came through to enjoy the many activities including: fat tire biking, campfires, photo ops, Zumba, K9 Demo, storytime, arts & crafts, frozen bubbles, snow games, bird feeder making, scavenger hunts, winter gear grab, and the always popular medallion hunt.

This event would not be possible without our many volunteers and partners. A huge thank you to the Fridley Lions that helped sponsor the event as well as brought out a crew of volunteers to help with the bonfire and concession area. In addition, we had 10 student and adult volunteers that help with activities. The following groups joined us to provide an activity and information about their organizations: Fridley Environmental Planning, Fridley Public Safety Department (Fire and Police), North Suburban Center for the Arts, Coon Creek Watershed District, Fridley ECCE, Anoka County Library Mississippi Branch, and the Metropolitan Council.

It was a blast for the Parks and Recreation Department (Springbrook and Recreation Divisions) to host Winterfest this year! Although the weather was chilly, the crowd was warm and positive! The community came together and enjoyed all that winter has to offer here in Fridley's parks, even without much snow!





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager – Streets, Parks, and Facilities

Title

Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Background

Attached is the Park Maintenance and Construction report for the February 5, 2024 meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Park Maintenance Report for February 5, 2024 meeting

Vision Statement

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



Memorandum

Item 8.

Date: 1/25/2024
To: Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
From: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager, Streets, Parks, Facilities
DEPT: Public Works
CC: Margo Numedahl, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Parks and Recreation Commission Report for February 5th, 2024 Meeting

The Park Maintenance Division has been working hard to make skating ice with the very uncooperative weather that we have been getting this winter season. When temperatures were good, we did get all skating rinks up and running. We observed many signs of rink use from citizens. Forecasts are now calling for record warm temperatures which will probably shut down some rinks, but hopefully we will be getting more cold weather to keep our hockey rinks going.

Parks has been keeping busy with projects including removing fence along University Ave, cleaning all parks, tree trimming and removal, working on equipment and assembling and installing furnishings in our three reconstructed parks from this summer.