

Agenda
Parks and Recreation Commission
City Of Edina, Minnesota
Braemar Golf Course - 6364 John Harris Dr.

Tuesday, September 14, 2021
7:00 PM

- I. Call To Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval Of Meeting Agenda
- IV. Approval Of Meeting Minutes
 - A. Minutes: Parks & Recreation Commission July 13, 2021
- V. Special Recognitions And Presentations
 - A. Welcome Student Commissioners

VI. Community Comment

During "Community Comment," the Board/Commission will invite residents to share relevant issues or concerns. Individuals must limit their comments to three minutes. The Chair may limit the number of speakers on the same issue in the interest of time and topic. Generally speaking, items that are elsewhere on tonight's agenda may not be addressed during Community Comment. Individuals should not expect the Chair or Board/Commission Members to respond to their comments tonight. Instead, the Board/Commission might refer the matter to staff for consideration at a future meeting.

VII. Reports/Recommendations

- A. Special Project Request: Expansion of Braemar Ice Arena
- B. 2021 Work Plan Updates
- C. 2022 Work Plan Development Discussion

VIII. Chair And Member Comments

IX. Staff Comments

- A. City Council Updates July 21, Aug. 4, and Aug. 17, 2021
- B. Informational Items
- C. Upcoming Meetings and Events

X. Adjournment

The City of Edina wants all residents to be comfortable being part of the public

process. If you need assistance in the way of hearing amplification, an interpreter, large-print documents or something else, please call 952-927-8861 72 hours in advance of the meeting.



CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

Edina, MN 55424

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Date: September 14, 2021

Agenda Item #: IV.A.

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Item Type:

Minutes

From: Perry Vetter, Parks & Recreation Director

Item Activity:

Subject: Minutes: Parks & Recreation Commission July 13,
2021

Action

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve minutes from the July 13, 2021 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting.

INTRODUCTION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Minutes: Parks & Recreation Commission July 13, 2021



Minutes
City of Edina, Minnesota
Edina Parks & Recreation Commission
VIRTUAL MEETING
July 13, 2021
7 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Chair ltes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Answering roll call were Commissioners Doscotch, Good, Haas, Miller, Nelson, Strother, Willette and ltes

Absent: Commissioner McAwley and Student Commissioners Mork and Nahlovsky

Student Commissioner Sorem arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Staff present: Staff Liaison Perry Vetter, Assistant Director Parks & Natural Resources Tom Swenson and Administrative Coordinator Janet Canton

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion made by Nelson to approve the meeting agenda. Motion seconded by Good. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Miller to approve the June 8, 2021 minutes. Motion seconded by Haas. Roll call vote. Motion carried.

V. Community Comment

None

VI. Reports/Recommendations

A. 2021 Work Plan Discussion

Chair ltes debriefed the commission on the joint work session with the City Council.

Updates were given on the following initiatives.

Initiative #1 – Review and comment on proposed plan to identify barriers for participation and reach communities of color through different modes and feedback. Staff Liaison Vetter indicated this remains at the staff level. Staff has been working on this and a draft plan has been completed but staff has been prioritizing the Just Deeds project. He reviewed the process for residents to be involved with Just Deeds.

Initiative #2 – Create presentation to share information about Parks & Recreation facilities, services, and systems with up to six community groups. Commissioner Nelson updated the commission on the progress of this initiative including trying to condense four larger topics into one smaller topic

and keeping it at a high level. Staff Liaison Vetter noted he talked to the communications staff which is considering the request to do a series.

Initiative #3 – Report and provide recommendations on alternative funding sources for park related improvements including parks, facilities, and enterprise upgrades. Chair Ites updated the commission on what the different commissioners are working on regarding this initiative. He noted this is one initiative that will probably have some carryover into 2022.

Initiative #4 Study and report on options to categorize underutilized park amenities/areas and identify park amenity needs. Commissioner Doscotch recapped the initiative and noted there was dialogue with staff and he received additional direction from the director on how the commission might provide additional guidance and work on this initiative in a way that will be of value. He indicated he planned on updating the materials that are already created for the group to review and also will be setting up a group meeting to discuss this initiative further.

Initiative #5 – Study and report evaluating options for determining benchmarks (park amenities, operations, service areas) the commission started studying in 2020. Commissioner Good reviewed the progress on this initiative. He noted of the nine benchmarks, there has been input on seven of the nine and two are ongoing discussions (capital spending and funding sources as well as annual expenditures on planning and development).

B. 2022 Work Plan Development Discussion

Staff Liaison Vetter reviewed the 2022 Commission Work Plan calendar. He noted at the August meeting the commission should try to have their recommended initiatives finalized to bring those forward to the Engagement Coordinator and then to the City Council October work session.

Chair and Member Comments

- Chair Ites noted a resident asked him how many trees were being removed at the golf course and he indicated he was not sure about the count but assured the resident that an approximate number similar to that was replaced.
- Commissioner Good explained regarding the parking lot set of ideas, he got the impression that the Edina residents thought the city had a great park system, which he thought was correct, and the residents are letting everything that needs to be done up to the park system and the park group. He wondered if there was some way the City can, without a lot of money, work on some philanthropy program to connect residents more to their local parks. Staff Liaison Vetter added he would like to have more philanthropic discussions regarding the park system.
- Commissioner Good indicated he would like to review and continue working on the strategic plan.
- Commissioner Haas would like to bring back some other ways, a work item to look at, how the City can connect people safely through the community using way finding in relation to the park system such as what is on page 18. Commissioner Strother agreed with the way finding piece and connecting the parks for pedestrians. She noted the challenge has always been working with the Transportation Commission and looking at

how the Parks Commission can integrate their desires with the Transportation Commission's work.

Chair Iles suggested the commissioners send their ideas to Staff Liaison Vetter to put them into the parking lot set of ideas in the Work Plan.

VII. Chair and Member Comments

VIII. Staff Comments

Director Vetter updated the Commission on the following items:

- City Council actions and activities.
- Arden Park supplemental equipment was authorized for ages 2 to 5.
- Park system activity has picked up.
- Braemar Ice Arena hosted the City of Lakes Figure Skating Club Annual Competition
- The Beauty League at Braemar Ice Arena is starting up again.
- A grant was received for \$25,000 at the arena to help support the dehumidification project.
- Braemar Golf Course continues to be busy in all aspects. Lessons and junior programs continues to be popular.
- The Leagues and activities being offered at the Courtyard are full.
- Centennial Lakes Park has been a busy location with the upcoming Torchlight Concert and the Yacht Club Lighthouse in August and the Fall in the Arts Festival will be conducted in September which will be a full-scale festival without restrictions.
- Several popular art fairs have been cancelled.
- Edina Aquatics Center continues to be a busy location.
- Several programs continue in the city as well and the city is in the process of filling the Recreation Supervisor position.
- Senior Center has opened to full capacity.
- A city website refresh is being planned.

Staff Liaison Vetter reviewed upcoming Park Commission calendar events.

IX. Adjournment

Motion made by Nelson to adjourn the July 13, 2021 meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion seconded by Haas. Roll call vote. Motion carried.



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Date: September 14, 2021

Agenda Item #: V.A.

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Item Type:

Other

From: Perry Vetter, Parks and Recreation Director

Item Activity:

Subject: Welcome Student Commissioners

Information

ACTION REQUESTED:

None, informational only.

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to newly appointed student commissioners Urva Jha and Samuel Presthus.



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Date: September 14, 2021

Agenda Item #: VII.A.

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Item Type:

Report and Recommendation

From: Perry Vetter, Parks and Recreation Director

Item Activity:

Subject: Special Project Request: Expansion of Braemar Ice
Arena

Discussion, Information

ACTION REQUESTED:

The goal of adopting a special project request process was to allow residents to bring forth ideas about amenities to expand offerings in the park system. These requests are meant to be informal and used as a beginning point of dialogue, saving the resident, staff, and the commission from having to develop a detailed analysis for the project at the introductory stage.

Staff is requesting feedback from the commission on this concept proposal from the resident to gauge interest. At this stage in the process staff is supportive and would outline a more detailed process for the request to follow.

INTRODUCTION:

The sport of hockey and skating are rich with tradition in Edina. Braemar Arena is home to a variety of dedicated user groups such as the Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club, Breakaway Academy, Edina High School, the Edina Hockey Association, many other dedicated users, and also two partners in General Sports and the Velocity Training Center.

A group of residents have initiated a special project proposal for the expansion of Braemar Ice Arena to add a fourth sheet of indoor ice. Braemar Arena currently operates three indoor ice sheets year-round (West Rink, East Rink and South Rink) as well as an outdoor sheet (Backyard Rink) that is also refrigerated. The resident has been invited to the September meeting to introduce the request in concept.

ATTACHMENTS:

Special Project Request: Braemar Arena Expansion

STAFF REPORT



Date: Sept. 14, 2021

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Perry Vetter, Parks and Recreation Director

Subject: Special Project Request: Braemar Arena Expansion

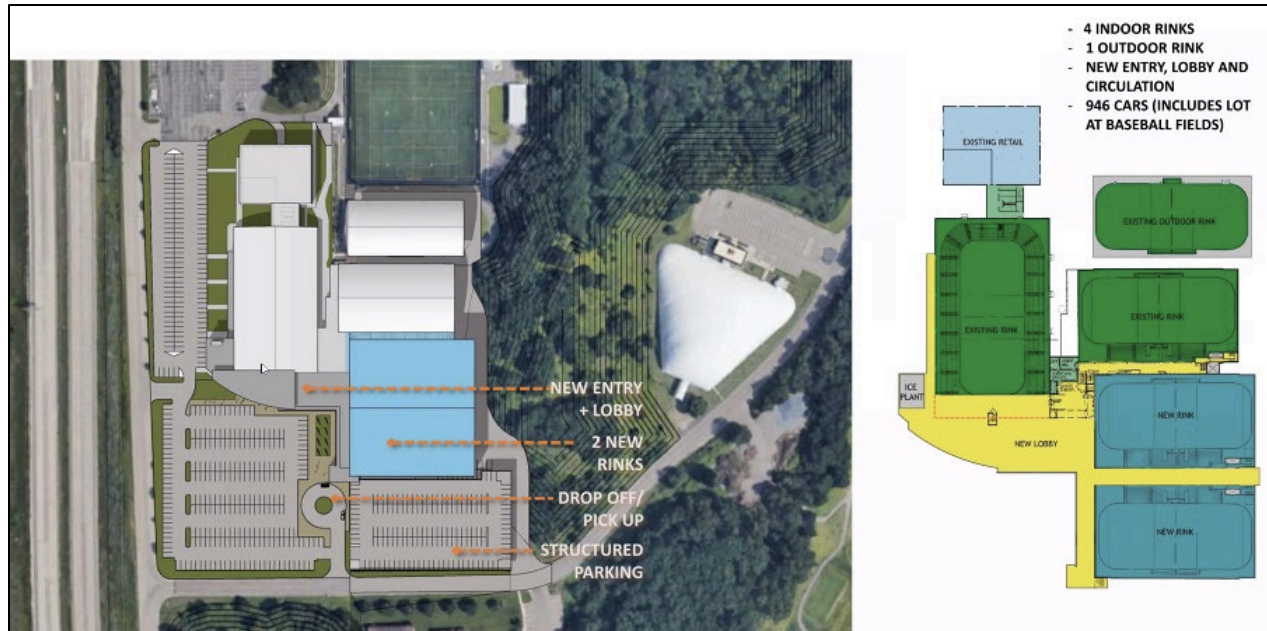
Information / Background:

The sport of hockey and skating are rich with tradition in Edina. Braemar Arena is home to a variety of dedicated user groups such as the Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club, Breakaway Academy, Edina High School, the Edina Hockey Association, many other dedicated users, and also two partners in General Sports and the Velocity Training Center.

A group of residents have initiated a special project proposal for the expansion of Braemar Ice Arena to add a fourth sheet of indoor ice. Braemar Arena currently operates three indoor ice sheets year-round (West Rink, East Rink and South Rink) as well as an outdoor sheet (Backyard Rink) that is also refrigerated. The resident has been invited to the September meeting to introduce the request in concept. For clarification, this proposal is not currently included in the Braemar Park Master Plan and Braemar Arena Facility Improvements being considered for the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) referendum in 2022.

Staff has been discussing for some time, albeit interrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic impacts, with this group ways to improve the experience at Braemar Arena, make short term improvements and to have a long-term vision that meets the demands of the hockey and skating community. In November of 2020, this group submitted a petition of support to the Edina City Council supporting funding for the capital improvement program items for Braemar Arena. That support helped with the allocation of funding to replace an aging South Rink dehumidification unit.

Under the initial idea, one sheet of ice would be demolished, and two new sheets would be constructed, along with a covered walkway to the existing West rink and a parking deck. The building lobby would be expanded, as would the drive lane, drop-off area and outdoor programming space. A concept created for the city is below.



Staff Analysis:

When reviewing this proposal, staff identified potential factors for study and analysis.

Operational and capital expense implications

One factor for study would be a pro forma analysis on the impacts a fourth sheet of ice would have on the operational costs and long-term capital costs for Braemar Arena. Operational impacts would include operating cost recovery as well as a staffing analysis to ensure proper coverage, maintenance and service is considered on an expanded facility. Capital expense projects is also important. As we continue to manage the long-term investment challenges with park, enterprise, and city facility assets it is important to project those costs related to expansion. This would include an analysis on the market for ice demand and potential lease tenant expansion opportunity.

The city has many roles and responsibilities to its defined athletic associations. The first responsibility is to act as a liaison between the associations and the city to assist associations in providing program offerings that are desirable, fair and equitable to all participants. The second is to provide access to city-owned facility space and priority access to District-owned facility space. The city has a responsibility to try to meet space needs for the community and recognized athletic associations, such as the Edina Hockey Association. By defining ice demand in the community and what expansion can provide this is an important step in fulfilling the city's role in meeting its responsibility to associations for boys and girls' sports.

Land use, planning and other expansion implications

The proposal, like any other land use application, would be reviewed to ensure the necessary planning and land use regulations are reviewed. This would include a review of traffic and parking demands to ensure the facility is adequately served.

Financial Obligations

Sen. Melisa Franzen asked the City of Edina to submit a request for State funding for capital improvements at Braemar Arena to be considered in the 2022 legislative session. At the request of Sen. Melisa Franzen, the City Council has affirmed the request by resolution at their July 21, 2021 meeting for funding in the 2022 State Bonding Bill.

City staff understands there are also other important priorities and needs in the park system. The bonding dollars (and separately, the proposed local option sales tax) are funding methods that the City of Edina does not traditionally have access to. The projects that typically are eligible for these funds need to be regional in nature and many of the unfunded projects in the city's capital improvement program would not meet that criteria. Braemar is one of the busiest ice arenas in the entire state; from March 2019 to March 2020, approximately 500,000 visits were recorded there from residents of 158 Minnesota communities, 12 states and one other country. This is an opportunity to apply for State Bonding at the Request of Sen. Franzen that otherwise does not exist.

Facility design, amenities and building components

The addition of a fourth sheet of ice would provide an opportunity to review important factors such as sustainability and the implications to the city's climate action goals, its commitment to public art and ability to engage underrepresented members of the Edina community.

Summary

The Parks & Recreation Department has many amenity offerings in its park system. If the Braemar Park master plan and expansion are completed, Braemar Arena will arguably be the best such facility in the metro area and beyond. Under the initial idea, one sheet of ice would be demolished, and two new sheets would be constructed, along with a covered walkway to the existing West rink and a parking deck. The building lobby would be expanded, as would the drive lane, drop-off area and outdoor programming space.

Staff Recommendation:

The goal of adopting a special project request process was to allow residents to bring forth ideas about amenities to expand offerings in the park system. These requests are meant to be informal and used as a beginning point of dialogue, saving the resident, staff, and the commission from having to develop a detailed analysis for the project at the introductory stage.

Staff is requesting feedback from the commission on this concept proposal from the resident to gauge interest. At this stage in the process staff is supportive and would outline a more detailed process for the request to follow.



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Date: September 14, 2021

Agenda Item #: VII.B.

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Item Type:

Report and Recommendation

From: Perry Vetter, Parks and Recreation Director

Item Activity:

Subject: 2021 Work Plan Updates

Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED:

Provide available updates to the 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan.

INTRODUCTION:

Discuss and provide any updates to the 2021 Work Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

2021 PARC Work Plan



Commission: Parks & Recreation Commission

2021 Annual Work Plan

Initiative #1	Initiative Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event Council Charge <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (Study & Report) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 (Review & Comment) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 (Review & Recommend) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 (Review & Decide)		
Review and comment on proposed plan to identify barriers for participation and reach communities of color through different modes and feedback.	Deliverable Comment on the plan	Leads Strother (Lead), Miller, McAwley	Target Completion Date Q4 2021
Budget Required: 2021 department funds are available to support various marketing materials to promote the events and opportunities to gather feedback.			
Staff Support Required: Coordinate with R&E Coordinator.			
Progress Q1: Parks and Recreation staff are working with the Race and Equity Coordinator to provide a draft plan for commission review. Currently staff is working on the Just Deeds initiative and upon identifying public park properties impacted, will transition back to identifying a barrier reduction plan.			
Progress Q2: Staff has distributed a plan outline to commissioners for feedback and future discussion.			
Progress Q3:			
Progress Q4:			

Initiative #2	Initiative Type <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event Council Charge <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (Study & Report) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 (Review & Comment) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 (Review & Recommend) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 (Review & Decide)		
Create presentation to share information about Parks and Recreation facilities, services, and systems with up to six community groups.	Deliverable Presentation for community groups and summary report to council	Leads Nelson (Lead), Good, Haas, Nahlovsky (S), Ites	Target Completion Date: Q4 2021
Budget Required: 2021 department funds are available to support various marketing materials to promote the events and opportunities to gather feedback. Presentations, info sheets, marketing materials.			
Staff Support Required: Communications support required for informational press kit, materials for presentations either for in person or electronic. Communications made aware.			
Progress Q1: Commissioners have reviewed a presentation outline that can be customized to target groups and also broad topical areas. They are discussing one of the six sessions would be virtual to manage through the pandemic restrictions and also to encourage equity in participation. The virtual session may follow the Town Talk format. Currently working on presentation content.			
Progress Q2: Communications division has indicated that a town talk event could be scheduled in Q4 of 2021 and again in Q1 of 2022.			
Progress Q3:			
Progress Q4:			

Initiative #3	Initiative Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event Council Charge <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (Study & Report) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 (Review & Comment) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 (Review & Recommend) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 (Review & Decide)		
Report and provide recommendations on alternative funding sources for park related improvements including parks, facilities, and enterprise upgrades.	Deliverable Report to City Council	Leads McAwley (Lead), Haas, Willette, Ites	Target Completion Date Q4 2021
Budget Required: Funds not required.			
Staff Support Required: None.			
Progress Q1: Group will continue to review which funding alternative methods would be applied to each park, facility or enterprise area. Each member has been assigned an area of research to determine if that method is viable for Edina. Members are also reviewing research done in other communities through National Recreation and Parks Association publications.			
Progress Q2:			
Progress Q3:			
Progress Q4:			

Initiative #4	Initiative Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event Council Charge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 (Study & Report) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 (Review & Comment) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 (Review & Recommend) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 (Review & Decide)		
Study and report on options to categorize underutilized park amenities/areas and identify park amenity needs.	Deliverable Report to Parks and Recreation Department	Leads Doscotch (Lead), Good, McAwley, Nelson	Target Completion Date Q4 2021
Budget Required: Funds not required.			
Staff Support Required: Staff liaison.			
Progress Q1: Group has met and discussed the relationship of this work group to initiative #5 and currently developing a timeline for completion, deliverables, assignment or responsibilities and set next meetings. This initiative requires additional dialogue with staff to ensure deliverable is worthwhile to department.			
Progress Q2:			
Progress Q3:			
Progress Q4:			

Initiative #5	Initiative Type <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event Council Charge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 (Study & Report) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 (Review & Comment) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 (Review & Recommend) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 (Review & Decide)		
Study and report evaluating options for determining benchmarks (park amenities, operations, service areas) the commission started studying in 2020.	Deliverable Report to Parks and Recreation Department.	Leads Good (Lead), Sorem (S), Mork (S), Doscotch	Target Completion Date Q4 2021
Budget Required: Funds not required.			
Staff Support Required: Staff liaison.			
Progress Q1: Group has collected benchmark data as part of 2020 work plan. Has used both internal Edina and National Recreation and Parks Association benchmarking and best practices. Established a foundational draft of 9 recommended benchmarks, that correlate to the NRPA benchmarks to compare to like cities. It will also be important to monitor the ability to address developing park services that match both current and future demographics to assets and programs.			
Progress Q2: Staff has taken the data from the 2020 annual financial report and compiled cost recover metrics benchmarks. Staff will share that data with the initiative members.			
Progress Q3:			
Progress Q4:			

Parking Lot: (These items have been considered by the BC, but not proposed as part of this year's work plan. If the BC decides they would like to work on them in the current year, it would need to be approved by Council.)



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Date: September 14, 2021

Agenda Item #: VII.C.

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Item Type:
Report and Recommendation

From: Perry Vetter, Parks and Recreation Director

Subject: 2022 Work Plan Development Discussion

Item Activity:
Action, Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED:

By motion adopt a draft 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan for presentation to the City Council.

INTRODUCTION:

During the June and July meetings commission members began discussing potential topics of interest for the 2022 work plan. The plan should be finalized at the August meeting and recommended via motion. Chair Ites will present the proposed work plan to the City Council for consideration in early October.

Each initiative should have a initiative title, type (project, ongoing/annual or event) and a desired deliverable.

ATTACHMENTS:

2022 Commission Draft Work Plan

Comprehensive Guide Plan - Parks, Open Space, and Natural Resources Chapter

Key Projects of the Strategic Plan



Commission: Parks & Recreation Commission 2022 Annual Work Plan Proposal

Initiative #	Initiative Type <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event Council Charge <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (Study & Report) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 (Review & Comment) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 (Review & Recommend) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 (Review & Decide)		
Initiative Title	Deliverable	Leads	Target Completion Date
DRAFT INITIATIVES			
Budget Required: (Completed by staff) Are there funds available for this project? If there are not funds available, explain the impact of Council approving this initiative.			
Staff Support Required (Completed by staff): How many hours of support by the staff liaison? Communications / marketing support?			
Liaison Comments:			
City Manager Comments:			
Progress Q1:			
Progress Q2:			
Progress Q3:			
Progress Q4:			

A.	Evaluate, continue or expand 2021 #2 - <i>Create presentation to share information about Parks and Recreation facilities, services, and systems with up to six community groups.</i>
B.	Next steps on 2021 #3 - <i>Report and provide recommendations on alternative funding sources for park related improvements including parks, facilities, and enterprise upgrades.</i>
C.	Study and recommend ways to better connect Edina residents with its park system. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Potential ideas to explore: Improved signage & wayfinding to build awareness of assets nearby or direct those looking to find assets in other parts of the community. Expanding Clover bus route to include Rosland Park, and possibly other park assets. Wayfinding and marketing to encourage the completion of and promote awareness and use of Edina Grand Rounds route.
D.	Refresh existing park Master Plans to ensure scope is aligned with current view on strategic priorities (e.g., mountain biking, pickleball, etc.) and content is prepared for potential use in upcoming LOST referendum.
E.	Review city playground assets with the intent of prioritizing opportunities and improvements at each location. Output would feed into an updated proposal in the CIP, both on costs and timing for each specific park asset.

<p>F. Review and advise progress or status of 12 Key Projects from 2016 PARC Strategic Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create Multi-use trail system through the city to connect parks and enterprise facilities. 2. Explore a multi-generational community center that is all-inclusive. 3. Create a natural resource manager to guide preservation and development of natural areas, access and interpretive/educational opportunities. 4. Improve marketing and communication delivery. 5. Replace or decommission community park buildings that have outlived their designed lifespan and are currently insufficient in providing services. 6. Relocate the Edina Art Center to provide a facility that best supports their programming needs. 7. Replace inadequate and outdated play areas and playgrounds and provide new facilities to address under served areas. 8. Improve branding and wayfinding to parks throughout the city and internally. 9. Strengthen financial sustainability. 10. Provide additional community gathering areas. 11. Develop community driven master plans for parks throughout the system. 12. Develop business plans for all enterprise facilities throughout the park system.
<p>G. Accessibility expansion around playgrounds</p>
<p>H. Staff Items: Philanthropic Wish List/donation process</p>
<p>I. Potential initiative to multiple Commissions: Tree Ordinance</p>
<p>I. Volunteer assistance and expansion program (connecting volunteers to local park initiatives)</p>
<p>J. Develop a working framework for communications with other City and County Boards regarding access and pedestrian safety around our city parks. These other boards could include the Edina Planning Commission, Edina Transportation Commission and any similar county commissions. The objective would be to communicate any concerns the community may have regarding easy access to our parks and trails (or lack of or barriers to access), and to also get communication regarding city and county plans for our built infrastructure that may impact our parks or access to the parks.</p>

EDINA Comprehensive Plan



6. Parks, Open Space, and Natural Resources

Chapter Highlights

The following six points guided the development programs, goals and policies presented in this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

1. Edina has committed to a minimum of 15 percent of its land area to be used as parks and green space. (As of the most recent census, we are right at this threshold.) Future standards will need consider “hardscape” environments as represented in the Greater Southdale District Plan.
2. All Community and Special Use parks will have an updated Master Plan to guide use, growth and future development. Every Park MP will include an approach to best maintain, improve and promote its natural resources.
3. Connecting our neighborhoods via a Grand Rounds concept and in coordination with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.
4. Be intentional on the use of benchmarking to assess progress against strategic objectives.
5. Explore alternative funding models to support future growth and accomplishment of our Mission.
6. Establish a goal to have park facilities within a maximum distance of one mile from each Edina resident

The Major Challenge

Like many communities, Edina is witnessing demographic changes. Changes that occurred between 2008, when the last comprehensive plan was written, and now are only a glimpse of what is expected to occur over the next 10 years. In order to ensure that the City’s park system will continue to meet the needs of residents, the City will need to continually provide sensitive and appropriate responses to changes in social, demographic, technological, economic, political and environmental trends. The magnitude of these changes will demand flexibility in planning practices to appropriately respond to rapidly changing needs.

Edina Parks and Recreation Department Vision and Mission

The Parks and Recreation Department’s vision and mission are stated in the 2015 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. This policy plan document can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlink below.

<https://www.edinamn.gov/315/Park-System-Strategic-Plan>

Introduction

The City of Edina operates one of the most well-regarded parks and recreation systems in the metropolitan Twin Cities. Edina is a fully developed first ring suburb of Minneapolis with a park system that continues to be improved with targeted additions and innovative operations. The park system, comprising the City's physical park lands, recreation areas, and trails, along with numerous programs and collaborations with local youth sports associations, greatly contribute to a high quality of life.

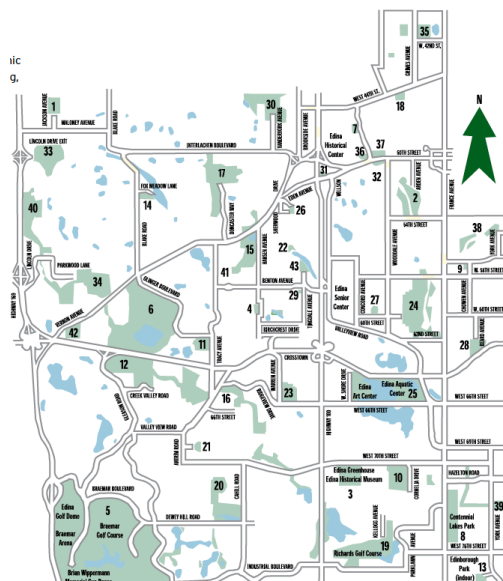
The Vision of the Edina Park and Recreation Department (EPRD) is "To strive for excellence in our parks, recreation and trails system to provide Edina a high quality of life by nurturing the health and well-being of our people, our community, our environment and our economy." In fulfillment of that vision, the EPRD's Mission Statement is "To create parks, facilities, and programs to foster a healthy and inclusive community. We accomplish this through creative leadership, collaborations, environmentally sustainable practices and the responsible use of available resources."

Inventory and Current Conditions

The National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) periodically publishes "Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" for municipal park and recreation agencies to assist in comprehensive planning. The NRPA suggests that the "national standards" be used only as a benchmark guideline, because each community has its own unique profile in regards to demographics, total acreage, terrain, climate and a host of other affecting factors. Nonetheless, Edina currently exceeds the national standard guideline for acres per 1,000 residents.



The NRPA suggests a national standards guideline of 25 acres per 1,000 residents. This standard would include all local, county, and state-owned property within the community. There are currently no county, state or federal park lands in Edina. All 1,565 acres of park land and open space are owned and maintained by the City of Edina. The City's 1,565 total park and open space acreage computes to 30.2 acres per 1,000 residents (based on the 2016 Census population of 51,804). Currently, the EPRD oversees 43 parks and open spaces totaling more than 1,565 acres and operates nine facilities, which include:



- Edina Aquatic Center
- Edina Art Center
- Braemar Ice Arena and Sports Dome
- Braemar Golf Courses
- Braemar Golf Dome
- Centennial Lakes Park
- Edinborough Park
- Arneson Acres Park
- Edina Senior Center

Figure 6.1: City of Edina Parks and Facilities Map



Park amenities at these facilities include baseball and soft ball diamonds; football, soccer, and lacrosse fields; basketball, tennis, pickleball and bocce ball courts; outdoor skating rinks; playground equipment for young children, including an adaptive playground; a community garden; and both winter warming houses and summer picnic shelters. The Department also maintains over eight miles of scenic pathways for bicycling, walking, jogging, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and mountain biking.

Regional Parks and Trails and the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan

As stated in the Goals and Policies and section of this chapter, it is a goal to make connections to parks and trails to ensure that Edina residents have convenient access to recreational facilities and services. These include regional park and trail facilities both outside and within the City.

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan adopted by the Metropolitan Council in February 2015 is the metropolitan system plan for regional recreation open space, and there are regional public parks and facilities in the Twin Cities area that serve Edina residents. For example, Three Rivers Park District owns and maintains regional parks and trails throughout suburban Hennepin County, such as the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in addition to seven park reserves, 12 regional parks, five special recreation features, and 15 other regional trails. The Minneapolis Park Board's Grand Rounds trail system (including the Chain of Lakes Trail) and the Three Rivers Park District's Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail are regional facilities that are outside the City of Edina but can be accessed by Edina residents. These regional parks offer a variety of recreation opportunities. For example, Three Rivers Park District parks offer snowmobiling, horseback riding, boating, archery, camping, canoeing, downhill skiing, nature centers and historic farm facilities.

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan does not identify regional park and recreation facilities directly in the City of Edina, with the following two exceptions:

Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail – Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail is a 15-mile multi-use trail that spans the Cities of Hopkins, Minnetonka, Edina, Richfield, and Bloomington. It also connects to the Lake Minnetonka LRT, Minnesota River Bluffs LRT, Cedar Lake LRT, North Cedar Lake, and Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trails as well as the planned Minnesota River State Trail, Dakota County Big Rivers Regional Trail, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Bloomington Visitor Center, and Fort Snelling State Park. Much of the trail was completed and opened for use in 2017. The Edina segment of the trail was completed in spring 2018.

From the west, it currently enters the City of Edina from Hopkins over the Bren Road/Londonderry Road Bridge Interchange at TH-169. From the east, it enters the City from Richfield at the cul-de-sac of Xerxes Avenue just south behind Fire Station 2. In 2020 the Park District anticipates it will construct a safer and more direct connection under TH-169 that will pass



Figure 6.2: Alternative Alignments for the CP Rail Regional Trail
Source: Three Rivers Park District



through the Nine Mile Creek watershed.

Canadian Pacific Rail Regional Trail (CP Rail Regional Trail) – This proposed regional trail was first identified in the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan (adopted in June 2005 as the Southwest Hennepin Regional Trail West). The regional trail generally follows the existing north/south, Canadian Pacific Railroad alignment in the City of Edina. Once constructed, it will link the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Park Reserve in Bloomington to the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Edina. From Edina, the future trail will connect regional trails in Hopkins, St. Louis Park, Golden Valley, and Crystal.

In 2019, Three Rivers Park District completed a regional trail study and master plan for the south Edina portion of the CP Rail Regional Trail. Figure 6-2, on the previous page, shows the preferred alignment through this area along Bush Lake Road, Dewey Hill Road, and Cahill Road.

City Park Inventory

The following are individual park locations and acreage totals.

Mini-Parks - 12 Parks – 21.12 Acres

A Mini park is characterized by a size of approximately 2 acres or less and is designed to serve primarily the needs of pre-school age children, although it may provide facilities designed to serve the recreation needs of other age groups. Edina's Mini-Parks typically do not have scheduled athletic facilities. Mini parks are typically used to address limited or isolated recreational needs. Service Area - ¼ Square Mile.

Table 6.1: Mini Parks			
Park	Address	Size	Quadrant
Birchcrest	6016 Hansen Road	1.61 Acres	NW
Browndale	4510 Browndale Avenue	.82 Acre	NE
Chowen	5700 Chowen Avenue	.93 Acre	NE
Grandview Square	5213 Grandview Square	.60 Acre	NW
Kojetin	4201 W. 44th Street	2.69 Acres	NE
Lake Edina	4400 Parklawn Avenue	3.10 Acres	SE
McGuire	W. 69th & McGuire Road	2.00 Acres	SW
Melody Lake	5501 Melody Lake Drive	4.18 Acres	NW
Sherwood	Sherwood Rd. & Edenmoor	1.53 Acres	NW
St. Johns	W. 60th & St.Johns Avenue	.94 Acre	NE
Tingdale	W. 59th & Tingdale Avenue	.67 Acre	NW
York Park	5448 York Avenue	2.05 Acres	NE

Neighborhood Parks - 12 Parks - 112.85 Acres

Neighborhood parks are designed to serve primarily the needs of children six to fourteen years of age. Tennis courts, softball diamonds, basketball and ice skating facilities are commonly provided in neighborhood parks. Some of Edina's neighborhood parks have one or more scheduled athletic facilities, such as outdoor hockey rinks and/or fields for soccer, football, baseball, and softball. Neighborhood parks typically range in size from approximately two acres to twenty acres. Service Area = 1 Square Mile.


Table 6.2: Neighborhood Parks

Park	Address	Size	Quadrant
Alden	6750 Belmore Lane	5.12 Acres	NW
Arden	5230 Minnehaha Boulevard	17.75 Acres	NE
Cornelia School	7124 Cornelia Drive	10.75 Acres	SE
Countryside	6240 Tracy Avenue	9.01 Acres	NW
Fox Meadow	Blake Rd. & Fox Meadow Lane	3.84 Acres	NW
Heights	5520 W. 66th Street	4.00 Acres	SW
Normandale	6501 Warren Avenue	10.06 Acres	SW
Strachauer	6200 Beard Avenue	4.50 Acres	NE
Utey	50th & Wooddale Avenue	5.73 Acres	NE
Wooddale	W. 50th & Wooddale Avenue	4.70 Acres	NE
Yorktown	W. 73rd & York Avenue	3.42 Acres	SE
Todd Park	4429 Vandervork Avenue	33.97 Acres	NW

Community Playfields – 8 Parks - 253.68 Acres

Community playfields typically range in size from approximately 20 to 60 acres. These parks are designed to provide facilities for diverse recreational activities for young people and adults, although a section is also typically set aside for smaller neighborhood children. All of Edina's Community Playfields have one or more scheduled athletic facilities, such as outdoor hockey rinks and fields for soccer, football, baseball and softball. Service area - 9-16 square miles.

Table 6.3: Community Playfields

Park	Address	Size	Quadrant
Creek Valley	W. 64th & Gleason Road	10.00 Acres	SW
Garden	5520 Hansen Road	18.74 Acres	NW
Highlands	5200 Doncaster Way	44.05 Acres	NW
Lewis	Dewey Hill & Cahill Road	21.04 Acres	SW
Pamela	5900 Park Place	62.00 Acres	NE
Van Valkenburg	4935 Lincoln Drive	41.76 Acres	NW
Walnut Ridge	5801 Londonderry Road	44.24 Acres	NW
Weber	4115 Grimes Avenue	11.85 Acres	NE



Community Parks - 4 Parks - 549.05 Acres

The community park is usually a large park of more than 100 acres, or a smaller park containing special community facilities.

Table 6.4: Community Parks

<u>Park</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Quadrant</u>
Braemar	SW Corner of Edina	500.00 Acres	SW
Centennial Lakes	7495 France Avenue	25.00 Acres	SE
Kenneth Rosland	4300 West 66th Street	22.05 Acres	SE
Edinburgh	7700 York Avenue South	2.00 Acres	SE

Special Purpose Parks - 7 Parks - 287.11 Acres

The special purpose park provides a single or specific form of recreation. Service Area is citywide.

Table 6.5: Special Purpose Parks

<u>Park</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Quadrant</u>
Arneson Acres	4711 West 70th Street	15.00 Acres	SE
Bredesen	Vernon Ave. & Olinger Boulevard	206.00 Acres	NW
Richards	7640 Parklawn Avenue	39.65 Acres	SE
Southdale Gateway	SE Corner of Edina	9.97 Acres	SE
Tupa	4918 Eden Avenue	1.00 Acre	NE
Williams	West 50th & Browndale	.34 Acre	NE
Grandview Square/ Senior Citizen Center	5280 Grandview Square	5.15 Acres	NW
Weber Woods	40th Street & France	10.0 Acres	NE

Summary of Parks and Natural Resource Parks - 7 Parks – 1,575.94 Acres

Table 6.6: Park Summary

<u>Park Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Natural Resource Areas (19 areas)	352.13
Mini-Parks (12)	21.12
Neighborhood Parks (12)	112.85
Community Playfields (8)	253.68
Community Parks (4)	549.05
Special Purpose Parks (7)	287.11
Total Parklands & Natural Resource Areas	1,575.94



The following are parkland acreage totals per park classification.

Table 6.7: Total Acreage by Number of Park Facilities				
Component	Character	SVC Area	# of Parks	Total Acreage
Natural Resource Areas	Vary in size	Varies	19	352.13
Mini-Parks	Less than 2 acres	¼ sq.mi.	12	21.12
Neighborhood Parks	Serve children (ages 6 to 14)	1 sq.mi.	11	78.88
Community Playfields	Serve recreational needs of young people and adults	9-16 sq.mi.	9	287.65
Community Parks	Large parks in excess 100 acres. Serve pre-school-adult active and passive recreational pursuits	4-16 sq.mi.	4	549.05
Special Purpose Parks	Provide a special form of recreation	City Wide	7	287.11
Total Parkland & Natural Resource Areas			62	1,575.94

Natural Resource Open Space Areas

The NRPA defines Natural Resource Areas as lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. These lands consist of:

- Individual sites exhibiting natural resources.
- Land that is unsuitable for development but offers natural resource potential. (Examples include parcels with steep slopes, and natural vegetation, drainage-ways and ravines, surface water management areas (man-made pond areas, and utility easements).
- Protected lands, such as wetlands/lowlands and shorelines along waterways, lakes, and ponds.

All natural resource open space areas were inventoried and categorized as follows. The City's quadrants were determined by the two dividing highways in Edina: TH 62 and TH 100. Table 6.8, below, presents results of the inventory.



Table 6.8: Natural Resource Open Space Areas	
Northwest Quadrant	Acreage
Nine Mile Creek Right of Way	148.15
Lincoln Drive Floodplain	17.16
Division Street Storm Water Drainage	18.14
Moore Property (Melody Lake)	4.96
Normandale Rd. (NW Benton & Hwy 100)	2.14
Garden Park Addition	6.70
Glenbrae & Ayrshire	4.30
Krahl Hill	7.75
Pine Grove Road (S and E of dead-end)	4.39
Northeast Quadrant	Acreage
Littel & Lynn Avenue	.46
W. 41st Street and Lynn Avenue	3.10
Minnehaha Creek Right of Way	22.88
Townes Road	1.00
Southwest Quadrant	Acreage
Nine Mile Creek Right of Way	9.75
Cahill School Backlot	11.05
NE of High School & S of Crosstown	37.29
Dewey Hill Ponds	48.00
Limerick Dr. (dead end W of RR)	3.90
Southeast Quadrant	Acreage
Bristol & Mavelle	1.01
Total Natural Resource Acres	352.13

Other Maintained Grass Areas

Table 6.9: Maintained Grass Areas	
Park Type	Acres
Plazas, Triangles, and Circles	5.00
Storm Water and Drainage Areas	60.00
Total Maintained Grass Areas	65.00



Edina: A Community of Learning. Edina has a prized education system of high-quality public schools. The Parks, Open Space, and Natural Resources chapter of the Comprehensive Plan recognizes the importance of extending the benefits of education to the entire community through parks-related policies and programming and building on both obvious and not so obvious linkages between the City's parks, public schools, Public Works projects, heritage resources, arts and culture, community health, etc.

For example, the parks can be used as classrooms by the public schools to expose students (and their parents) to the importance of pollinator gardens and rain gardens. Moreover, informational kiosks can be installed in the City's parks that explain how recreational trails and paths are constructed and how stormwater is filtered in retention ponds.

Trends and Challenges

There are numbers of trends that should be considered in the park and recreation planning process. In this post-industrial age of rapid change, constant monitoring will be required to ensure awareness of trends that have a bearing on park programming, utilization, and sustainability. In the case of Edina, the City will need to continually provide sensitive and appropriate responses to changes in social, demographic, technological, economic, political and environmental trends. The magnitude of these changes will demand flexibility in planning practices to appropriately respond to rapidly changing needs.

In 2015, the EPR completed a Strategic Plan to guide decision-making, priorities, and plans over the next 10+ years. This chapter of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan is structured around five "Key Development Areas" that were identified and discussed in the 2015 Strategic Plan. With the "Key Development Area" as a foundation, content in the Comprehensive Plan has been structured as goals, policy statements, and action items applicable to policies.

Goals and Policies

The Goals and Policies section is organized around five sections: 1) Parks, Open Space, and Trails; 2) Natural Resources and Sustainable Parks; 3) Recreational Facilities; 4) Recreational Programs; and 5) Finance and Management.

Parks, Open Spaces and Trails

Goal 1: Ensure that parks, recreational facilities, and trails are a source of community pride by providing a balance of well connected, active and passive spaces that reflect high quality design principles and maintenance standards and appreciation of the arts; that allow residents to engage in healthy activities and engage in enriching experiences.

Policy I-A: The City will devote a minimum of 15 percent of Edina's land area to parkland and open spaces.

Policy I-B: The City will work to meet NRPA guidelines indicating a need for 15-20 miles of additional trails in Edina.





Policy 1-C: It is the intent of the City to maintain and, when feasible, increase its current park and open space property. The City, on a case by case basis, will consider the sale, swap, or disposal of park property, as deemed in the best interest of the City.

Goal 2: Encourage and support active lifestyles through use of City Parks and participation in City sponsored recreational programs.

Policy 2: The City will, through the EPRD, develop promotional and educational materials about the benefits of an active lifestyle and the relationship between health and parks and recreation.

Goal 3: Develop plans based on research and analysis of current trends, input from community members, input from City departments and Commissions, state-of-the art approaches, and best practices to ensure: a) that parks, recreation, and trail needs are documented, b) plans are developed with broad participation from the community, and c) capital expenditures for future investments in parks and recreational facilities and services are justifiable.

Policy 3-A: The City will follow recommendations outlined in the 2015 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, Vision Edina 2015 and the 2017/2018 Big Idea Workshops as one of its guides for investments in parks, recreational facilities and trails.

Policy 3-B: The City will update its Parks Master Plan every ten years (or less) to guide use, growth, improvements, developments, and capital expenditures for all Community and Special Use parks, recreational facilities, and trails.

Policy 3-C: The City of Edina has utilized Small Area Plans to provide long-range vision for land use and development in specific areas of the city. The ERPD and PARC will support the successful development and execution of these plans through a proactive engagement process in planning how parks and green spaces fit in these development plans.

Natural Resources and Sustainable Parks

Goal 1: Protect, enhance, engage, and restore our urban forests, natural areas, and water resources to sustain a healthy, diverse, and balanced natural environment for all to enjoy and understand. Wildlife will be nurtured and protected. Animal and bird populations that are considered a threat to public health or safety, or may be considered hazardous to the environment or infrastructure within Edina, will be proactively managed.

Policy 1-A: The City will include a section on how to best promote, improve, or maintain our natural resources in each new Master Park Plan.

Policy 1-B: The City will exhibit leadership in the area of sustainability in our park system to support the health of our parks and open spaces.

Policy 1-C: The City will develop a wild life management program to reduce wild life migration away from their primary habitat.

Recreation Facilities

Goal 1: Provide safe, clean, and reliable facilities and program spaces that provide users the highest level of value, which supports their health and wellness, while supporting financial sustainability for the



City in the future.

Policy I-A: The City, through EPRD, will maximize the use of enterprise facilities primarily, but not exclusively, for Edina residents.

Policy I-B: The City will manage enterprise assets as fee-based revenue generating facilities that support programs and collectively cover all expenses including capital investments, land purchases, and all operating expenses.

Policy I-C: The City will exhibit leadership in matching facility space and utilization with the future needs of our community.

Recreation Programs

Goal I: Develop, provide, and manage recreation programs to support the community's need for health and wellness, individual skill development, and community connectivity in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Policy I-A: The City will develop recreation programs that emphasize Edina as a learning community.

Policy I-B: The City will develop recreation programs that exhibit a balance of inclusion across generations, skills, economic conditions and seasons.

Policy I-C: The City will develop recreation programs will include aspects of art, culture, health, sustainability and also support unstructured recreation.

Policy I-D: The City will prioritize program development that focuses on enhancing health and activity for all ages, while providing special consideration for our youth population.

Finance and Management

Goal I: Provide and encourage use of parks, trails, facilities, and programs that deliver on the community's expectations for a safe and enjoyable experience while keeping the infrastructure of the system in a quality state.

Policy I-A: The City, through EPRD, will provide a high level of park maintenance to achieve all aspects of our EPRD vision.

Policy I-B: The City, through EPRD, will form partnerships when appropriate to provide new services or facilities to Edina residents.

Policy I-C: The City will remain open to unique ideas and opportunities to enhance financial leverage to capitalize and operate the park system.

Policy I-D: The City, through EPRD, will demonstrate its commitment to inclusion and diversity across a broad range of the Edina community.

Policy I-E: When planning and making improvements, EPRD will consider impact to the brands of both the City of Edina and its park system.

Policy I-F: EPRD will build strong connections with established neighborhood organizations to best understand and serve specific needs in those areas (nodes).



- Policy I-G: To ensure transparency, accountability and sustainability of Edina assets, ERPD staff will work with the City Manager to renew long term business plans for the park system's our Enterprise facilities every third year. The structure, content, and oversight of these plans will be at the sole direction of the City Council in coordination with the Edina City Manager.
- Policy I-H: The ERPD will use benchmarking to assess progress against our Vision.
- Policy I-I: ERPD will maintain a focus on its Comprehensive Plan by including a 2018 Comp Plan self-audit in its work plan every third year.

1995 Revised Inventory Guidance

In 1995, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Academy of Park and Recreation Administration (APRA) revised the suggested classifications for parks, recreation areas and open spaces. The key changes were the inclusion of park-school sites, athletic fields, private park/recreation facilities, natural resource areas/preserves and greenway classifications. This new classification system states that there are essentially two types of park and recreation land:

- Privately owned land that contributes to the public's park and recreation system.
- Publicly owned land.

Examples of privately owned land that contribute to the public's park and recreation system would include:

- Edina Country Club
- Interlachen Country Club
- Church-owned properties
- Southdale YMCA
- The meadows in White Oaks neighborhood
- Power line easements
- Other miscellaneous privately owned vacant space

These privately-owned spaces and facilities provide the public with valued park and recreation services and benefits.



STRATEGY AND PLAN

The synthesis of significant data collection and inventories; system analysis; community and staff input; and consultant experience is the creation of the Strategic Plan and Implementation Framework. Full details of the Implementation Framework can be found in *Appendix A*. The Implementation Framework is broken down by purpose statements, goals, strategies, and tactics that are intended to be a living document; evaluated and updated every 5-years to gauge progress and adapt to changing needs and realities. The Implementation Framework was informed by EPRD's existing vision and mission statements and will be critical to achieving them. The EPRD vision and mission are as follows:

EDINA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT VISION

To be recognized as having Minnesota's premier parks, recreation and trail system that provides unrivaled opportunities to maximize Edina's quality of life by nurturing the health and well-being of our people, our community, our environment, and our economy.

EDINA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT MISSION

We create parks, facilities, and programs to foster a healthy inclusive community. We accomplish this through creative leadership, collaborations, environmentally sustainable practices, and the responsible use of available resources.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles were crafted for the strategic plan to establish the fundamental directives that represent what is desirable for the park system. The principles should remain constant regardless of changes in goals, strategies, and types of projects embarked upon. Park board members and staff developed the following Guiding Principles for the Strategic Plan:

- Promote community health and wellness for residents in our parks and programming.
- Provide excellence and innovation in parks and recreation services and facilities to meet the needs of the community.
- Promote equity and engagement within the parks system and its programs.
- Protect Edina's assets through strong financial stewardship and creative funding.
- Connect residents to park facilities and their programs.
- Advance environmental stewardship and conservation to preserve and protect natural resources and build excellence through sustainability.

KEY AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

Five key areas of development have been identified that constitute broad categories of EPRD improvements, activities, and initiatives necessary to implement the Strategic Plan. These areas allow focused investigation and recommendations to be explored that will have the greatest impact on the overall Park system. The key areas of development include:

- Natural Resources & Sustainable Parks
- Parks, Open Spaces & Trails
- Recreation Facilities
- Recreation Programs;
- Finance & Management

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Each of the key areas of development are further broken down to create an Implementation Framework that can act as a road map to implementing the Strategic Plan. The following aspects further break down the Key Areas of Development to define the Implementation Framework:

- **Purpose** - statements that recognize the critical elements and over-arching philosophy of approach for each key area of development.
- **Goals** - define the most critical objectives that will need to be focused on under each key areas of development to ensure the purpose is addressed.
- **Strategies** - provide guidance on actions necessary to accomplish the goals.
- **Tactics** - are specified in *Appendix A - Implementation Plan* and list specific actions to achieve the strategies. The tactics are intended to be actionable items, where progress and timelines can be tracked, evaluated, and modified as needed.

Together, the purpose, goals, strategies and tactics are intended to serve as a flexible guide to adapt to changing trends, needs, and City priorities. They should be re-evaluated and updated every 5-years to gauge progress and ensure that the master plan truly serves as a living document, that is dynamic and pro-actively meeting the Community's needs and vision.







GUIDING PRINCIPLES KEY	
	Promote community health and wellness by engaging all residents in our parks and programming
	Provide excellence and innovation in parks and recreation services to meet the needs of the community
	Develop creative funding opportunities and programming partnerships to ensure excellence in facilities, programs, and financial stewardship for future generations
	Advance environmental stewardship and conservation to preserve and protect natural resources and build excellence through sustainability
	Connect residents to park facilities and their programs
	Promote social equity and engagement within the parks system and its programs.

Figure 1.4 - Guiding Principles Key

KEY PROJECTS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The following key projects have been identified based on community engagement, city staff and park board recommendations, and focus group and stakeholder input. These projects will require a variety of strategies and tactics to achieve - as defined in this document and *Appendix A - Implementation Framework*. The implementation will require continued efforts from the Park Board, Parks and Recreation Staff, other City Departments and Administration and support from the community. Progress will be evaluated annually and presented in the EPRD Annual Report.

The key projects identified are supported by the guiding principles and the icons in Figure 1.4 link the projects back to the applicable guiding principles.

Applicable Guiding Principles:



1. CREATE A MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM THROUGH THE CITY TO CONNECT PARKS AND ENTERPRISE FACILITIES.



2. EXPLORE A MULTI-GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER THAT IS ALL-INCLUSIVE.



3. CREATE A NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGER TO GUIDE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL AREAS, ACCESS AND INTERPRETIVE / EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.



4. IMPROVE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION DELIVERY.



5. REPLACE OR DECOMMISSION COMMUNITY PARK BUILDINGS THAT HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR DESIGNED LIFESPAN AND ARE CURRENTLY INSUFFICIENT IN PROVIDING SERVICES.



6. RELOCATE THE EDINA ART CENTER TO PROVIDE A FACILITY THAT BEST SUPPORTS THEIR PROGRAMMING NEEDS.



7. REPLACE INADEQUATE AND OUTDATED PLAY AREAS AND PLAYGROUNDS AND PROVIDE NEW FACILITIES TO ADDRESS UNDER SERVED AREAS.



8. IMPROVE BRANDING AND WAYFINDING TO PARKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND INTERNALLY.



9. STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY.



10. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY GATHERING AREAS.



11. DEVELOP COMMUNITY DRIVEN MASTER PLANS FOR PARKS THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM.



12. DEVELOP BUSINESS PLANS FOR ALL ENTERPRISE FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE PARK SYSTEM.



CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

Edina, MN 55424

www.edinamn.gov

Date: September 14, 2021

Agenda Item #: IX.A.

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Item Type:

Other

From: Perry Vetter, Parks & Recreation Director

Item Activity:

Subject: City Council Updates July 21, Aug. 4, and Aug. 17, 2021

Information

ACTION REQUESTED:

None, informational only.

INTRODUCTION:

City Council Updates - by Scott Neal

July 21, 2021

- Approved a request for purchase for Braemar Ice Arena West Rink replacement condenser
- Approved a request for purchase for Braemar Field dome lighting
- Approved 2021-2022 Student Commissioner appointments (*see informational items*)

Aug. 4, 2021

- Approved a request for purchase for Yancey Tennis Court Replacement
- Approved a request for purchase for Rosland Tennis Court Replacement
- Approved a request for purchase for Walnut Ridge Tennis Court Replacement
- Approved Request for purchase for Braemar Ice Arena Roof Repairs

August 17, 2021

- Adopted a resolution allowing the City to impose a Sales and Use Tax of one-half percent, if approved by voters at the Nov. 8, 2022, General Election, to pay for development of Fred Richards Park and improvements to Braemar Park. (*procedural step in the LOST process*)



CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

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Date: September 14, 2021

Agenda Item #: IX.B.

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Item Type:

Other

From: Perry Vetter, Parks and Recreation Director

Item Activity:

Subject: Informational Items

Information

ACTION REQUESTED:

None, informational only.

INTRODUCTION:

Attached are items of note for the August and September meetings.

ATTACHMENTS:

Informational Items - September 2021

STAFF REPORT



Date: Sept. 14, 2021

To: Park and Recreation Commission

From: Perry Vetter, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: Informational Items

Information / Background:

Braemar Arena Da Beauty League

The Da Beauty League at Braemar Arena concluded the season with approximately 14,135 attendees attending their events.

Braemar Arena South Dehumidification Replacement Project

The South Rink dehumidification replacement project continues to remain on schedule with the new unit arriving the week of September 13. Once the unit is installed, the vendor will be on-site approximately 3 weeks to do electrical, duct and controls connections as well as gas piping of the unit. Once that is complete, the temporary unit will be disconnected.

Braemar Golf Course Junior Club Championship

The Braemar Junior Club Championship was held on the Academy 9 Par 3 golf course on Saturday, Aug. 21. Fifty-eight of our brightest young stars in the Braemar junior programming competed in ten divisions for their respective titles. Boys and Girls ranging from age 4 to age 17 competed in the Championship. Winners include Lilly M. and Brooks A. in the 4 to 5 age group, William S. and Nora B. in the 6 to 7 age group, Mason C. and McKenzie C. in the 8 to 9 age group, Veer D. and Page H. in the 10 to 11 age group and Peter B. and Stella B. in the 12 and over age group. Stella and Veer were also crowned the overall Academy 9 Club Champions. There will also be a Boys and Girls Championship 18 Junior Club Championship to be contested in September.

Centennial Lakes Park

Lawn games and paddleboats are open through the end of September. Check website for current hours. The Farmers Market extends through September 30 on Thursdays from 3-7pm.

Community Forestry Corp – Americorps Member

On August 27, Americorps community forestry member for 2020-2021 Owen Palmer had his last day of service with the city. Owen will be attending the University of Minnesota this fall for his first year of law school. Over this past year, Owen assisted City Forester Luther Overholt with multiple projects including an update to the tree inventory, the Just Deeds project removing racial covenants on city property, and updating the EAB management plan mapping ash trees that need to be removed this winter. Luther applied for the community forestry grant again and was successful. On September 13, Laura Beres will start her first week of training and will begin her year of service officially with the city on September 20. Luther is

looking forward to having another Americorp member for 2021-2022 to provide assistance on this important work.

Edina Arts Center

A total of 212 youths participated in Summer Youth Art and Summer Technology Camps at the Art Center. Participants learned about drawing, painting, cyanotype and linoleum printmaking, Sumi-e painting, puppet construction, paper folding, plaster construction, pendulum painting, sewing, weaving, macrame, air-dry clay construction, bookmaking, cartooning, interior design, and architecture; animation, movie making, video game design, and coding. In addition, Adults contributed 128 registrations for classes and workshops in drawing, painting, *plein air* painting, acrylic pouring, and printmaking.

Edina Aquatic Center

The Aquatic Center closed for the season on Sunday, August 22. Overall, there were 44,215 paid daily admissions and 44,002 member check-ins for a total attendance of 88,217. Daily Admission revenue totaled \$448,768, while season pass revenue totaled \$402,064. The concession stand had a record-breaking year selling 54,289 items for a total revenue of \$156,300. Edina Swim Club had 5,200 visits by swim club participants and the Aquajets swim club participants had 2,400 visits. Challenges throughout the season included mechanical issues, staffing shortages, and prolonged periods of excessive heat. Total revenue for the season is expected to be approximately \$1.1 million.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation opened registration for fall and winter and launched a new recreation registration software. Within the first hour of registration there were 650 transactions totaling \$93,000 and after one day of registration over 1,087 individuals registered for activities totaling \$130,000.

Parks & Recreation Department Staffing Updates

Casey Hagert started as our Recreation Supervisor-Sports Emphasis on September 8. Casey has a bachelor's degree in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Casey has spent the last five years at the City of Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation in a similar role and prior to that worked for the City of Wilmar.

Laura Fulton has been selected and has accepted the position of Recreation Supervisor-Arts & Culture Emphasis. After earning her undergraduate from the College of St. Catherine, Laura joined the City of Edina in 2016 and has served the majority of her time as the Assistant General Manager at Centennial Lakes Park. Laura will officially begin her new role on October 11 with some transition planning occurring between now and her start date.

Walk With the Mayor

Walk with the Mayor gives residents the opportunity to share opinions and thoughts with Mayor Jim Hovland while walking through the city. Upcoming walks include:

- 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, Rosland Park, meet at shelter building



CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

Edina, MN 55424

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Date: September 14, 2021

Agenda Item #: IX.C.

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Item Type:

Other

From: Perry Vetter, Parks and Recreation Director

Item Activity:

Subject: Upcoming Meetings and Events

Information

ACTION REQUESTED:

INTRODUCTION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Upcoming 2021 Meetings and Events

STAFF REPORT



Date: September 14, 2021

To: Park and Recreation Commission

From: Perry Vetter, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: Upcoming 2021 Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Time	Location
*Tues. Sept. 14	Regular Meeting	7:00 pm	*Braemar Golf Course
Oct. 1	Quarter 3 Work Plan Progress Due	-	-
**Oct. 4	Yancey Park Dedication Event	4:30 pm	**Yancey Park
Oct. 5	2022 Work Plan Review w/ Council (Chair only)	5:30 pm	Community Room
*Tues. Oct. 12	Regular Meeting	7:00 pm	*Braemar Golf Course
*Tues. Nov. 9	Regular Meeting	7:00 pm	*Braemar Golf Course
*Tues. Dec. 14	Regular Meeting	7:00 pm	*Braemar Golf Course
TBD	Commission Member Annual Reception	-	TBD
TBD	Chair and Liaison Annual Morning Meeting	7:00 am	TBD
Dec. 31	Quarter 4 Work Plan Progress Due	-	-

* Location change – Commission meetings have been relocated to accommodate greater social distancing. Meetings will now be held at Braemar Golf Course – Banquet Room at 6364 John Harris Drive. The city no longer has the authority to offer hybrid or virtual meetings due to the expiration of the peacetime emergency.

** Yancey Park Dedication Event will be held at the park on Monday October 4, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. Race and Equity Task Force Co-Chairs James Pierce and Jessi Kingston and Human Rights and Relations Commissioner Jasmine Stringer Moore will honor the family and tell the renaming story. While this is not a formal meeting and does not impact commission attendance, we hope you are able to attend this important event to honor the Yancey family.