



## PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, February 23, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
  
2. Organization of Advisory Bodies as per Chapter 8 of the Isanti City Code.
  - A. Chair of Parks, Recreation and Culture Board
  - B. Vice-Chair of Parks, Recreation and Culture Board
  - C. Secretary of Parks, recreation and Culture Board
  
3. Approval of Minutes from November 24, 2020 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting
  
4. Review Parks, Recreation & Culture Board Meeting Dates
  
5. Overview of 2021 Projects
  
6. Adjournment

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 24, 2020**

**Call to Order:** Aaron Zdon - Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon, Council Member Jimmy Gordon, Michael Becker

Staff Present: Jenny Garvey - Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager

Motion to approve the agenda motioned by Witte, seconded by Becker with no modifications. Motion passed 4-0

**2. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Witte; second by Becker to approve meeting Minutes from October 27, 2020. Motion passed 4-0.

**3. Public Hearing:** None

**4. Isanti Family Farmer's Market and Community Garden Updates** – Garvey reviewed that the 2021 Isanti Family Farmer's Market rules and regulations, as well as the 2021 Community Garden rules and regulations is attached for their review and that staff has no changes for either of these items. Zdon asked if any members had anything to add. Witte reviewed that he had reviewed the documents and didn't have any changes to note. Becker added it looks good and Gordon added that we didn't have any complaints from the vendors. Garvey responded that the IFFM vendors were satisfied and that both IFFM and gardeners were very happy that we were able to continue with these areas for the 2020 season. Witte asked if there were any abandoned plots this year. Garvey noted that we had a couple that were not attended too and staff has had communicated with them. Motion to accept these two documents as is. Witte motioned; Becker seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**5. Department Purchases-** Garvey explained that staff was able to purchase the following items for 2020 budget, inclusive swing for Rum River Meadows Park, additional replacement belt swings, a hopscotch stencil and a pressure washer for ICC and BMX bathrooms cleaning. The inclusive swing is in response to a resident request for an additional one.

**6. Department Updates-** Garvey reviewed the department has had to cancel several events due to the COVID 19 pandemic surrounding us, including some upcoming events. Curious Creatures was cancelled for November 10 and December 8. Movie Night for November 6 and December 11 along with the Santa event. The community center is temporarily closed, with the exception to Lions Christmas Project and Sr Dining, as these can continue under the new executive order. The Candy Cane Flashlight hunt for December 13 and the grand opening of the sledding hill for December 16 are on as planned. If things would change staff would alert the public, council and the board of any changes via Facebook or the city website. Public Works will continue to prep and prepare the pleasure rink for use this winter. The sledding hill will be able to remain open for use when we have snow. The rules sign was posted November 18<sup>th</sup>. Witte inquired about the time of the grand opening, which is at 3:30 for Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. Witte inquired about the Santa event and ideas of Santa reading or via zoom and maybe something for the future and not necessarily for this year. Garvey replied that she has been brainstorming ideas as well to see if this would be possible. Gordon noted that the Santa may be less expensive as this would be a different format that what was previously set. Garvey added that she has not got in touch with the contracted company as of yet to inquire

about the cancellation of the event and the perimeters within the contract, which may have to be that we postpone the Santa for next year. Zdon asked if there was anything further. Zdon noted that he has heard people are excited that the sledding hill is here and is it being utilized.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Witte, second by Becker to adjourn the November 24, 2020 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted  
Jenny Garvey  
Parks, Recreation and Culture Manager



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Matt Sylvester, Public Services Director  
**Date:** February 23, 2021  
**Subject:** Review Parks, Recreation & Culture Board Meeting Dates

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### 2021 PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING AND APPLICATION SUBMITTAL DATES

<b>Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Application and Material Submittal Dates</b>
(Fourth Tuesday of Month)	(Fridays)
Cancelled	
February 23	February 12
March 23	March 12
April 27	April 16
May 25	May 14
June 22	June 11
July 27	July 16
August 24	August 13
September 28	September 17
October 26	October 15
November 23	November 12
**No meeting in December	



## MEMO

**To:** Chair and Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Matt Sylvester, Public Services Director  
**Date:** February 23, 2021  
**Subject:** Overview of 2021 Projects

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### **Background**

Since the last meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board, the 2021 budget has been approved by City Council and includes funding for the following projects:

- 2021 Parks Marketing/Publications
  - Parks Brochure was finished in the fall of 2020 and will be used at various events to help promote the department.
- New Bleachers at Unity Park
- The Isantian will be digital and available for viewing on the City website. Some copies will be printed to those who request one.

### **Budgeted in the CIP (Pending Council Approval)**

- Bluebird Park Amphitheater
- Bluebird Park Bathrooms

In addition to these projects, dates for 2021 PRC events have been set as follows:

- Easter Egg Hunt - March 27
- Street Dances:
  - Saturday, June 19 – Bad Jack
  - Saturday, July 17 – The Farmer’s Daughters
  - Saturday, August 7 – Skitzo Fonic
  - Saturday, September 11 - Good for Gary
- Splish Splash Summer Blast – Friday, July 9
- Farmers’ Market – Fridays, May 28 to September 24
- Earth Day Clean Up – Monday, April 22
- Citywide Clean Up – Saturday, May 9
- Medallion Hunt – July 5
- Family Day at Legacy Park – Sunday, September 26
- Curious Creatures –Monthly on Tuesdays
- Santa Event – Friday, December 10 (*tentative*)
- Candy Cane Flashlight Hunt – Sunday, December 12



## PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, March 23, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
  
2. Organization of Advisory Bodies as per Chapter 8 of the Isanti City Code.
  - A. Oath of office for new Parks, Recreation & Culture Board Members
    - a. Chair of Parks, Recreation and Culture Board
    - b. Vice-Chair of Parks, Recreation and Culture Board
  
3. Park Visits Assignments
  
4. Department Updates
  
6. Adjournment



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson -Parks, Recreation, and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** March 23, 2021  
**Subject:** 2021 Park Visits

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### **Background**

In 2018, the PRC Board determined that instead of doing a whole group tour during a meeting that it would be more effective for members to each visit a couple of parks ahead of the meeting to provide more thorough inspections. The review took place at the April meeting.

2020 Park Assignments were:

Aaron Zdon – Academy Park and Whisper Ridge

Brian Thum – Legacy, Mattson and VFW

James Witte – Rum River Meadows, River Bluff Preserve and Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park

Jimmy Gordon – Bluebird Park, Riverside, and Unity Park

The PRC Board will need to determine if these visits will happen again in 2021, and if so, will need to update the park assignments. The 2020 checklist for the visits is attached.

### **Attachments:**

- Park Ambassador Checklist

### Park Ambassador Checklist

**Park Name :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Visit:** \_\_\_\_\_

Below are some items to look for while you visit each park. Remember, City staff also inspect the parks regularly for maintenance issues, so on these visits think “big picture” – how is the park doing overall, are there changes that should be made? Skip any sections below that do not apply.

Playground Equipment

**Overall appearance of playground:**

1	2	3	4	5
Very Poor				New or Like New

**Safety or maintenance concerns**

List any damaged or missing pieces of equipment:

Grounds

**Playground mulch:**

Does there appear to be adequate mulch around the playground equipment?

Yes  No

**Trails:**

Pavement conditions:

1	2	3	4	5
Very Poor				New or Like New

Are there any trail obstructions? (Tree limbs, encroaching vegetation, pot holes, etc.)

Yes  No

If yes, explain:





## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** March 23, 2021  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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The final Movie Night will be showing The Sandlot this Friday, March 26.

The Easter Egg Hunt for March 27 has been canceled.

The March Curious Creatures was canceled due to no registrations. The next event will be held on April 13 at Academy Park with the theme of Springtime.

Earth Day Clean Up will take place on April 22. The Boy Scouts have reached out to volunteer for cleanup throughout the city.

Community Garden applications are coming in steadily and only 9 plots remain open. The Garden will open on May 6.

Isanti Family Farmers Market will open on May 28. We currently have 8 vendors registered and will continue to promote to the community.

### Upcoming events:

- March 26 - Movie Night at Isanti Community Center. Doors open at 6:30pm, 7pm showtime
- Curious Creatures 9-10am each date
  - April 13 – Springtime at Academy Park
  - May 11 – Fishing at River Bluff Preserve
- April 22 – Earth Day Clean-up
- May 6 – Community Garden opens
- May 28 – Isanti Family Farmers Market opens from 2-6pm



## **PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA**

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, April 27, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Approval of Minutes from March 23, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
3. Park Visits Summary
4. Department Updates
5. Adjournment

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 23,2021**

**Call to Order:** Aaron Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon and Council Member Jimmy Gordon  
Staff Present: Matt Sylvester: Public Services Director

**Agenda/Modifications:** Zdon asked that February Minutes be added to the agenda. Sylvester added it to the Agenda with motion by Witte; second by Gordon.

**2. Oath of Office:** Aaron Zdon, James Witte, Jimmy Gordon completed their Oath of Office.

**2b. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Witte; second by Gordon to approve meeting Minutes from February 23, 2021. Motion passed 3-0.

**3. Designation of Park Visit Assignments:** Sylvester reminded board members that previously members of the board would select parks to visit and review, then provide recommendations for upkeep. Zdon chose Academy Park, Whisper Ridge and Legacy Park. Witte chose Rum River Meadows, River Bluff Preserve, Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park, and Mattson Park. Gordon chose Bluebird Park, Riverside Park, Unity Park, and VFW. Board agreed to complete their reviews prior to April board meeting.

**4. Department Updates**

Sylvester shared that the final Movie Night of the season would be held Friday, March 26. The Easter Egg hunt for March 27 was canceled as the VFW had other plans for this year and would like to revisit in 2022. March Curious Creatures was canceled due to no registrations, but Sylvester noted he asked Alyssa to promote April event to garner more interest. Boy Scouts have reached out to volunteer on Earth Clean-Up Day. Community Garden is almost full with only 9 slots left. 8 vendors are registered for the Farmer's Market, with 1 being a new vendor. Sylvester discussed our strategy of accepting a variety of vendors. Sylvester asked if anybody had anything they would like Alyssa to look into ahead of the next board meeting and to email if they have ideas. Witte asked when the fishing bridge will go back in; Sylvester said as soon as the water goes back down. Sylvester also explained that the dock is left down by the river instead of storing at the shop to reduce damage and potential for injury in moving up and down the hill.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Witte, second by Gordon to adjourn the March 23, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 3-0, meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Alyssa Olson  
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** April 27, 2021  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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The final Movie Night was held on Friday, March 26. We had 2 families show up for The Sandlot.

The April Curious Creatures was held on April 13 at Academy Park with the theme of Springtime and had 10 children attend. The May 11 program will focus on Fishing.

Earth Day Clean Up took place on April 22. We had 5 groups help out and they covered Bluebird Park, Mattson Park, Academy Park, and Towns Edge Road.

All plots in the Community Garden have been filled. The Garden will open on May 6 after the gardener kick-off meeting.

Isanti Family Farmers Market will open on May 28. We currently have 15 vendors registered.

Plans for Splish Splash Summer Bash are underway. Fireworks have been booked for Thursday, July 8 following the parade. We're working closely with North 65 Chamber to cross-promote and connect events with Jubilee Days and the Rodeo.

Performance Center and Restrooms in Bluebird Park were discussed at the April 20 Committee of the Whole meeting. The Committee decided to move the Performance Center build and lighting for the Sledding Hill to Council for approval. Restrooms will be paused until the Performance Center has been approved and re-addressed at a later date.

Bleachers have been ordered for Unity Park and will arrive in June.

Community Center will be closed for the month of May for maintenance and painting.

### Upcoming events:

- May 6 – Community Garden opens
- May 8 – Citywide Clean Up
- Curious Creatures 9-10am each date
  - May 11 – Fishing at River Bluff Preserve
  - June 15 – Farmers' Market at Bluebird Park
- May 28 – Isanti Family Farmers Market opens from 2-6pm



## PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
3. Park Survey
4. VFW Park Lease Termination
5. Pickleball Court Painting
6. Department Updates
7. Adjournment



## PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
3. Park Survey
4. VFW Park Lease Termination
5. Pickleball Court Painting
6. Department Updates
7. Adjournment

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 27, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Aaron Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon and Council Member Jimmy Gordon  
Staff Present: Alyssa Olson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator and Matt Sylvester, Public Services Director

**Agenda/Modifications:** Zdon asked that February Minutes be added to the agenda. Sylvester added it to the Agenda with motion by Witte; second by Gordon.

**2. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Witte; second by Gordon to approve meeting Minutes from March 23, 2021. Motion passed 3-0.

**3. Park Visit Summary:** Zdon gave update on Legacy Park with notes of minor knife marks, but overall everything is nicely maintained. Recommended adding a dog waste station, to replace trail maps and set a note for future discussion on allowing bikes on the path. Whisper Ridge is in bad shape with large cracks in court surface. Recommended filling cracks and restriping, and discussing possibility for turning the court into a pickle ball court per resident requests and previous discussions. Mentioned it does get a lot of use, just needs to be better maintained. Zdon also noted that previous discussions suggested the future park at South Passage be turned into pickle ball courts. Olson to look at previous minutes on pickle ball discussion to assess viability. Academy Park in great condition with no visible safety issue. Recommended moving the portable so it is ADA accessible and connected to the trail instead of at the curb; then looking into connecting the trail to the cul de sac. Witte gave update on Rum River Meadows with notes of light graffiti and mulch throw; a lot of trash was onsite – Sylvester noted that Public Works had slowed down pick up to prepare for Earth Day Clean-Up but the crew would be picking back up on that maintenance this week. River Bluff Preserve had debris on trail – Sylvester noted that was likely due to the river water levels and would send crew through once the water level is down. Witte recommended expanding rock layer around Community Garden instead of stopping partially through. Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park was in okay condition as a park with presumed minimal use with some knife marks and wearing equipment. Mattson Park had light graffiti and limited trash as Earth Day Clean-up crew had cleaned the park that week. Gordon gave update on VFW park and noted it was in good shape, but the gate is chained up and looks like the park is closed although it isn't. Sylvester mentioned the gate could be opened consistently to minimize that perception. Gordon noted the bleachers at Unity Park need replacing – Olson noted new bleachers were recently purchased and will be replaced in the coming weeks. Witte noted the field contains a few bumps that could be dangerous for players. Bluebird Park is in great shape, but there remains to be a garbage issue at the skate park. Sylvester noted it's a consistent problem with the park users not using the receptacles and the Public Works crew knows to check that area frequently during their clean up. Noted the grass is starting to grow on the sledding hill and will hopefully cover in the next few weeks as it gets summer. Discussion was had on the hopscotch stencil with no confirmation if we own one or borrowed from Academy Park; Olson and Sylvester will look into to confirm. Riverside Park is well maintained, but the equipment appears to be dirty consistently. Zdon mentioned it may be because of the tree cover and may just need pressure washing. Mulch needs replacing under swings, but is otherwise well maintained.

Olson requested the Board's opinions on turning underused parks into green space or transitional park spaces. Witte noted the volleyball court doesn't appear to be used and could be moved to replace with more active recreation. Gordon would like to see us move towards replacing some parks with green space, but there's no rush to do so as long as they are being used and maintenance of equipment is not a burden. Zdon noted it doesn't make sense to spend resources to tear a park out while money is being spent to upkeep the area. Olson asked if there are any thoughts about transitioning elements of those parks as equipment needs replacing, but not all at the same time. Zdon mentioned liking the natural parks like Winona where dirt is used with slides and log structures built into the space, but noted they are likely expensive. Olson pondered if adding more recreation for adults would be useful, i.e. adding fitness structures or equipment that could be used by older residents. Witte noted it would be helpful to poll the community through a survey on how much they use the park and what they would like to see there. Olson will look into surveying options and put together a draft for the May Board meeting.

#### **4. Department Updates**

Olson shared updates from March events: Movie Night had 6 people attend and noted that the program should be reviewed as Fall programs are considered; April Curious Creatures had 10 kids attend that all seemed to enjoy the program and wish to return; Earth Day Clean-up had lighter support than previous years, but Olson noted is likely due to COVID impacting businesses that would have supported previously. Community Garden is full and will open on May 6; Farmers' Market vendors are filling space as well with each week having approx. 12 vendors and more applying each day; Kids Day planning is ongoing and fireworks have been booked for Thursday night. Olson is working with North 65 Chamber to ensure proper cross-promotion and support of the event. Olson shared the approval to move forward with the Performance Center in Bluebird Park, pending Council final approval at end of May. Zdon requested to see the blueprint for the Performance Center and site plan, which will Olson will provide at the May meeting. Olson prompted the Board to send any ideas for events, parks, programs, etc. her way to research as needed for future potential.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Witte, second by Gordon to adjourn the April 27, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 3-0, meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Alyssa Olson  
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** May 25, 2021  
**Subject:** Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park Survey

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### **Background**

In the April 2021 PRC Board meeting during a discussion on park upgrades and inspections, it was determined that a survey was needed in order to assess the usage rate and preferences of the Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park. That survey would be provided to all residents in the neighborhood via a physical mailing and would be returned to City Hall for review. Feedback would then be used by the Board to determine next steps and potential future updates to the park.

The attached survey includes a letter from the PRC Board to residents and would include a postage paid mailing envelope for easy return by respondents. An online survey option would also be provided.

Surveys would be distributed the first week of June with responses requested by June 30, giving a month for residents to return their feedback. Responses would be collected by the PRC Intern and presented to the PRC Board for review and discussion of future plans in July.

### **Request**

Staff would like feedback on the attached survey and plan to distribute and collect survey responses with a deadline of June 30.

### **Attachments**

- Park Survey



**Dear Community Member,**

The City of Isanti and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board are conducting research on City parks to determine how often residents of your neighborhood utilize your local park, what features are utilized most often, and if there are features the neighborhood wishes to see incorporated into future park plans.

As an Isanti resident, your feedback is highly valuable to the development and enhancement of our parks and trails. Your input on the attached survey will help ensure that our neighborhood parks continue to serve the needs and interests of our community members.

This survey is anonymous and your remarks will be used by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board and City staff to gain a better understanding of the needs and interests of your neighborhood as we develop future plans for community development.

If you wish to provide additional feedback or be a part of future focus groups, please include your contact information at the end of the survey. Additionally, you can contact [IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us](mailto:IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us) at any time with questions or to provide additional feedback regarding community parks, trails, programs and events.

We appreciate you taking the time to complete this brief survey and for supporting our efforts to create a desirable neighborhood for you and your family!

*Thank you!*

Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
City of Isanti

763-762-5754  
[IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us](mailto:IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us)

Once completed, simply place your survey in the postage-paid envelope and drop off at City Hall or mail **by June 30, 2021**. Postage is prepaid and no additional stamps are needed.

You may also complete this survey online at [bit.ly/3elPfpd](https://bit.ly/3elPfpd)



# Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park Survey



Thank you for taking part in our park survey! We appreciate your feedback as it will help us create a neighborhood that you and your family will continue to enjoy!

1. How many residents currently reside in your home?

- 1-2
- 3-5
- 6 or more

2. Do you have children under the age of 19 that currently live at home with you?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how old are your children? (Select all that apply)

- Infant - 3 yrs
- 4 - 6 yrs
- 7 - 10 yrs
- 11 - 14 yrs
- 15 - 18 yrs

3. How often does your household use the Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Bi-Weekly
- Monthly
- Bi-Monthly
- Yearly
- Never

4. What are the primary reasons your household uses this park? (Select all that apply)

- Proximity
- Accessibility
- Playground Features
- Exercise Needs
- Leisure
- Other:

5. What park equipment does your household typically use? (Select all that apply)

- Slide Unit
- Swingset
- Jungle Gym
- Bouncing Characters
- Dirt Diggers
- Park Benches
- Picnic Shelter
- Open Recreational Space
- Other:

6. What about this park does your household enjoy?

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7. What about this park does your household dislike?

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8. What features would make your household use this park more often? (Select all that apply)

- Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc)
- Fitness Equipment
- Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
- Natural Elements
- Early Childhood Learning Features
- ADA Accessible Elements
- Other:

If you would like to be a part of future discussions regarding this park or are available to share further insights or feedback, please include your contact information below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



To return this completed survey, place in postage-paid envelope and drop at City Hall or mail **by June 30, 2021**.



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** May 25, 2021  
**Subject:** VFW Park Lease Termination

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### Background

In the May 18, 2021 City Council meeting, Alyssa presented an opportunity to release the VFW Park from City operations. Upon reviewing the original 1987 agreement with the VFW, the park was leased on an annual commitment and only needs an announcement of termination to release that contract.

The Council approved the move in order to meet the goals of limiting the number of park properties being managed by the City. Alyssa will open the discussion with the VFW to confirm next steps. The VFW will be offered the playground as a donation, should they wish to keep the property intact, and they will be responsible for all upkeep and safety standards. Alternatively, the VFW may request that we dismantle the playground and restore the park to its original state. If that is desired, Alyssa and Matt will identify those needs and any costs associated with restoration of that space.



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** May 25, 2021  
**Subject:** Pickleball Court Painting

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### **Background**

After the April 25, 2021 PRC Board meeting, Alyssa and Matt reviewed the park layouts and identified Mattson Park as the ideal location to add a Pickleball court, per resident requests. The park offers visibility for new and potential players, and is well maintained due to that visibility. It also offers more nearby parking options than the alternatives.

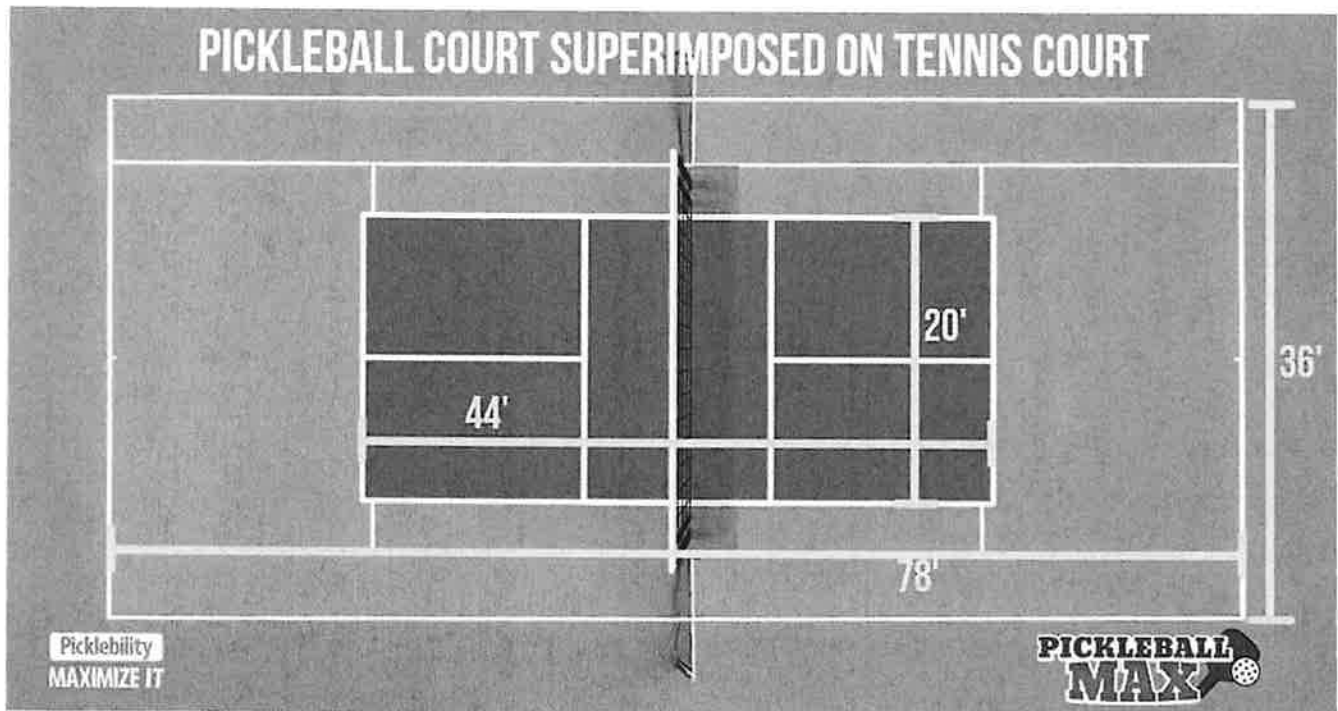
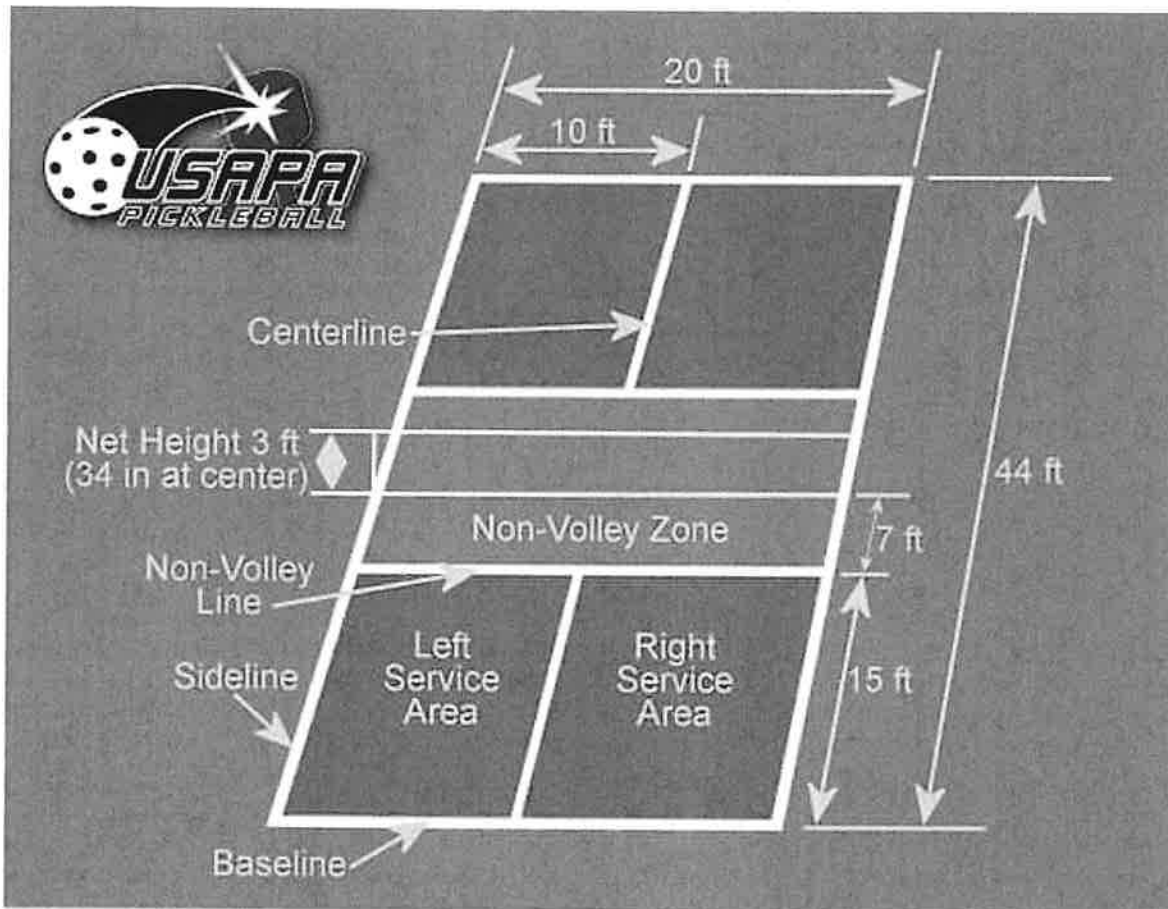
Alyssa researched options to add Pickleball court lines to the existing tennis court without imposing on either game and found a viable option, attached. Public Works can utilize street paint to create the lines needed to produce an active court.

In the May 18, 2021 City Council meeting, Council approved the creation of this court on the Mattson Park tennis court and the use of street paint for surface lines. Public Works will complete that painting in the coming weeks when begin repainting the traffic lines.

### **Attachments**

- Pickleball Court Layout

# Pickleball Court Layout





## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** May 25, 2021  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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The May Curious Creatures was held on May 11 at River Bluff Preserve with the theme of Fishing and had 6 children attend. The June program will focus on the Farmers Market.

Community Garden is now open and gardeners have started planting.

Isanti Family Farmers' Market opens Friday. We have 17 vendors registered for the first week and an average of 15 vendors each week throughout the season. Allina and Isanti Rental are returning as sponsors through the Cultivate Wellness Program.

Bleachers for Unity Park have arrived and will be set up next month.

Community Center maintenance and painting are nearly complete and will be open again on schedule for reservations on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Street Dance operations have been secured and promotion is underway. Kwik Trip and Dahlheimer Beverage are returning as Gold sponsors and Dahlheimer is producing signage again this year.

Bids are being finalized for the Performance Center in Bluebird Park with a goal to be approved by City Council on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Renderings of the approved design are attached.

### Upcoming events:

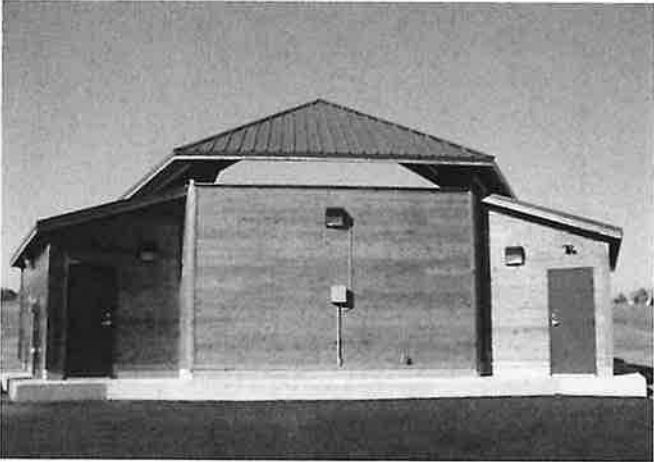
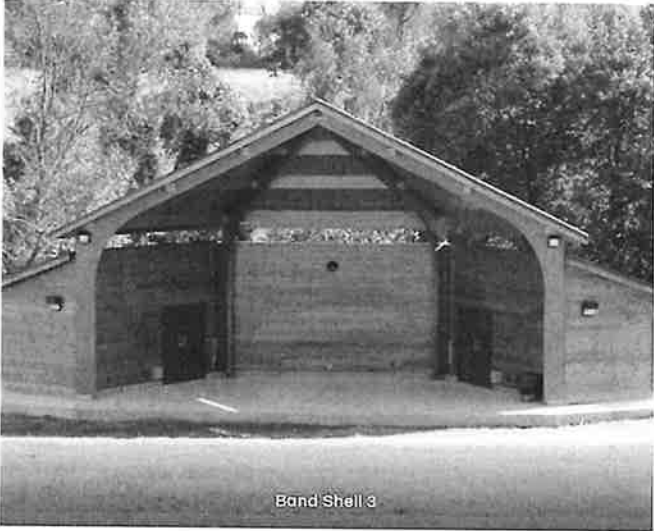
- May 28 – Isanti Family Farmers Market opens from 2-6pm
- June 15 – Curious Creatures: Farmers' Market at Bluebird Park from 9-10am
- June 19 – Street Dance featuring Bad Jack from 7-11pm
- July 5 – Medallion Hunt at Legacy Park
- July 8 – Fireworks at Bluebird Park at 10pm
- July 9 – Splish Splash Summer Bash from 11am-3pm

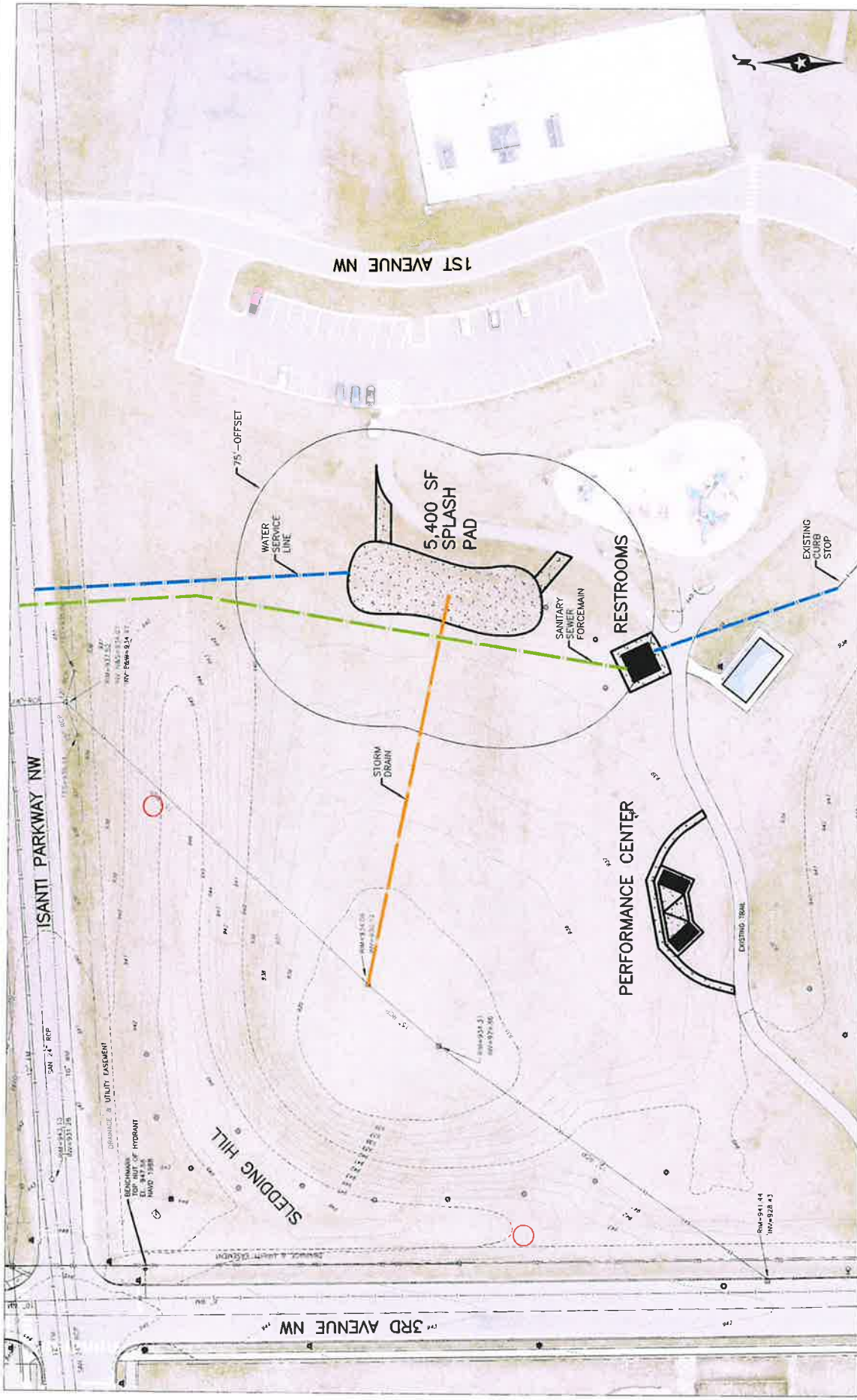
### Attachments

- Performance Center Mockup
- Performance Center Site Plan

# Performance Center Mockup

Kit: Band Shell #3





PROJECT		ISANTI, MN	
DATE		08/11/2010	
DRAWN BY		JRM	
CHECKED BY		JRM	
SCALE		AS SHOWN	
SHEET NO.		1	
PROJECT TITLE		BLUEBIRD PARK BANDSHELL, BATHROOM, SPLASH PAD	
CONCEPT SITE LAYOUT			

**BOLTON & MENK**  
 7433 CAMARON DR. NW, SUITE 205  
 RAVENHAM, MINNESOTA 55123  
 Phone: (763) 433-2801  
 Fax: (763) 433-2802  
 Email: info@bolton-menk.com  
 www.bolton-menk.com

**Isanti**  
 Engineering for Living  
 201-123-130

SCALE  
 0 30 60 FEET



## PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Oath of Office for new Parks, Recreation & Culture Board Member
3. Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
4. VFW Park Lease Termination
5. Department Updates
6. Adjournment



---

**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States; the Constitution of the State of Minnesota; and to discharge faithfully the duties of Board Member for the Park, Recreation and Culture Board of the City of Isanti, Minnesota to the best of my judgment and ability. So help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 27, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Aaron Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon and Council Member Jimmy Gordon  
Staff Present: Alyssa Olson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator and Matt Sylvester, Public Services Director

**Agenda/Modifications:** Zdon asked that February Minutes be added to the agenda. Sylvester added it to the Agenda with motion by Witte; second by Gordon.

**2. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Witte; second by Gordon to approve meeting Minutes from March 23, 2021. Motion passed 3-0.

**3. Park Visit Summary:** Zdon gave update on Legacy Park with notes of minor knife marks, but overall everything is nicely maintained. Recommended adding a dog waste station, to replace trail maps and set a note for future discussion on allowing bikes on the path. Whisper Ridge is in bad shape with large cracks in court surface. Recommended filling cracks and restriping, and discussing possibility for turning the court into a pickle ball court per resident requests and previous discussions. Mentioned it does get a lot of use, just needs to be better maintained. Zdon also noted that previous discussions suggested the future park at South Passage be turned into pickle ball courts. Olson to look at previous minutes on pickle ball discussion to assess viability. Academy Park in great condition with no visible safety issue. Recommended moving the portable so it is ADA accessible and connected to the trail instead of at the curb; then looking into connecting the trail to the cul de sac. Witte gave update on Rum River Meadows with notes of light graffiti and mulch throw; a lot of trash was onsite – Sylvester noted that Public Works had slowed down pick up to prepare for Earth Day Clean-Up but the crew would be picking back up on that maintenance this week. River Bluff Preserve had debris on trail – Sylvester noted that was likely due to the river water levels and would send crew through once the water level is down. Witte recommended expanding rock layer around Community Garden instead of stopping partially through. Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park was in okay condition as a park with presumed minimal use with some knife marks and wearing equipment. Mattson Park had light graffiti and limited trash as Earth Day Clean-up crew had cleaned the park that week. Gordon gave update on VFW park and noted it was in good shape, but the gate is chained up and looks like the park is closed although it isn't. Sylvester mentioned the gate could be opened consistently to minimize that perception. Gordon noted the bleachers at Unity Park need replacing – Olson noted new bleachers were recently purchased and will be replaced in the coming weeks. Witte noted the field contains a few bumps that could be dangerous for players. Bluebird Park is in great shape, but there remains to be a garbage issue at the skate park. Sylvester noted it's a consistent problem with the park users not using the receptacles and the Public Works crew knows to check that area frequently during their clean up. Noted the grass is starting to grow on the sledding hill and will hopefully cover in the next few weeks as it gets summer. Discussion was had on the hopscotch stencil with no confirmation if we own one or borrowed from Academy Park; Olson and Sylvester will look into to confirm. Riverside Park is well maintained, but the equipment appears to be dirty consistently. Zdon mentioned it may be because of the tree cover and may just need pressure washing. Mulch needs replacing under swings, but is otherwise well maintained.

Olson requested the Board's opinions on turning underused parks into green space or transitional park spaces. Witte noted the volleyball court doesn't appear to be used and could be moved to replace with more active recreation. Gordon would like to see us move towards replacing some parks with green space, but there's no rush to do so as long as they are being used and maintenance of equipment is not a burden. Zdon noted it doesn't make sense to spend resources to tear a park out while money is being spent to upkeep the area. Olson asked if there are any thoughts about transitioning elements of those parks as equipment needs replacing, but not all at the same time. Zdon mentioned liking the natural parks like Winona where dirt is used with slides and log structures built into the space, but noted they are likely expensive. Olson pondered if adding more recreation for adults would be useful, i.e. adding fitness structures or equipment that could be used by older residents. Witte noted it would be helpful to poll the community through a survey on how much they use the park and what they would like to see there. Olson will look into surveying options and put together a draft for the May Board meeting.

#### **4. Department Updates**

Olson shared updates from March events: Movie Night had 6 people attend and noted that the program should be reviewed as Fall programs are considered; April Curious Creatures had 10 kids attend that all seemed to enjoy the program and wish to return; Earth Day Clean-up had lighter support than previous years, but Olson noted is likely due to COVID impacting businesses that would have supported previously. Community Garden is full and will open on May 6; Farmers' Market vendors are filling space as well with each week having approx.. 12 vendors and more applying each day; Kids Day planning is ongoing and fireworks have been booked for Thursday night. Olson is working with North 65 Chamber to ensure proper cross-promotion and support of the event. Olson shared the approval to move forward with the Performance Center in Bluebird Park, pending Council final approval at end of May. Zdon requested to see the blueprint for the Performance Center and site plan, which will Olson will provide at the May meeting. Olson prompted the Board to send any ideas for events, parks, programs, etc. her way to research as needed for future potential.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Witte, second by Gordon to adjourn the April 27, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 3-0, meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Alyssa Olson  
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** May 25, 2021  
**Subject:** VFW Park Lease Termination

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### **Background**

In the May 18, 2021 City Council meeting, Alyssa presented an opportunity to release the VFW Park from City operations. Upon reviewing the original 1987 agreement with the VFW, the park was leased on an annual commitment and only needs an announcement of termination to release that contract.

The Council approved the move in order to meet the goals of limiting the number of park properties being managed by the City. Alyssa will open the discussion with the VFW to confirm next steps. The VFW will be offered the playground as a donation, should they wish to keep the property intact, and they will be responsible for all upkeep and safety standards. Alternatively, the VFW may request that we dismantle the playground and restore the park to its original state. If that is desired, Alyssa and Matt will identify those needs and any costs associated with restoration of that space.



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** June 22, 2021  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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The June Curious Creatures was held on June 15 at Bluebird Park with the theme of Farmers Market and had 8 children attend. The July program will focus on the Rodeo.

We received an Adopt-A-Park application from the Rotary Club of Cambridge & Isanti. They have selected to maintain Rum River Meadows for the 2021 park season.

We're running into week 5 of the Isanti Family Farmers' Market. We have 15 vendors on average each week and are starting to see some produce available. Attendance is low according to vendors, but no record to confirm. Allina and Isanti Rental have returned as sponsors through the Cultivate Wellness Program.

Community Garden harvests are starting to come in. We've had some gopher problems and have had to lay out some traps and poison.

Bleachers for Unity Park have been installed.

In May, the Council approved the painting of a pickleball court on the Mattson Park tennis court. That painting has been completed.

A park survey has been distributed to approximately 100 households in both the Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park and Rum River Meadows vicinities. We've started receiving responses and will have an update in July.

Community Center maintenance and painting were completed at the end of May. The Lions Club is looking at options to replace the convection oven and bring it up to code.

The first Street Dance took place June 19<sup>th</sup> with 8 food vendors. Kwik Trip and Dahlheimer Beverage have returned as Gold sponsors and Dahlheimer is producing signage again this year.

The Medallion Hunt will start on July 5. Maizy is working on clues and a good location to hide the medallion.

Fireworks have been scheduled for July 8 following the Jubilee Days parade at 10pm. We're hoping to include some food trucks in this year's event.

Splish Splash Summer Bash will take place on July 9 at Bluebird Park. This year will once again feature Kids Dance performances and a water slide. A slip n' slide inflatable has also been rented and additional kids activations will be included. Food trucks and community organizations have also been invited to participate, including a Pop Bottle Rockets station and launch area.

On June 15, the Committee of the Whole requested to further investigate opportunities to add an archery range to Isanti Park offerings. Staff will be exploring options to bring back to COW in July.

In June, the Council approved the design and construction bid for the Performance Center in Bluebird Park. Renderings of the approved design are attached. Construction will begin in mid-August with hopes of being completed for the September 11 Street Dance. Lighting near the Sledding Hill was also approved with this plan and will be installed in the coming months.

Upcoming events:

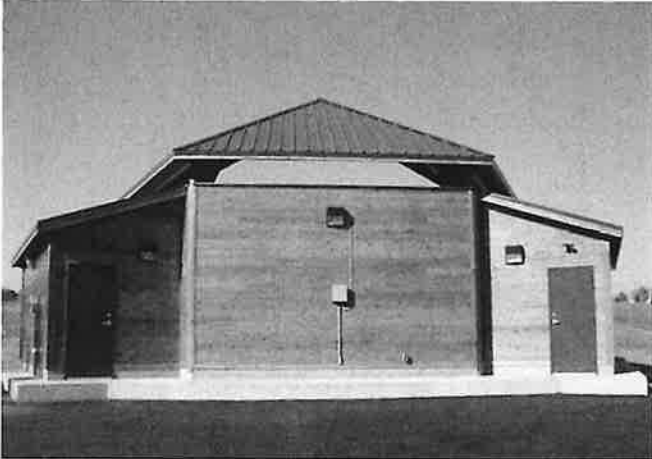
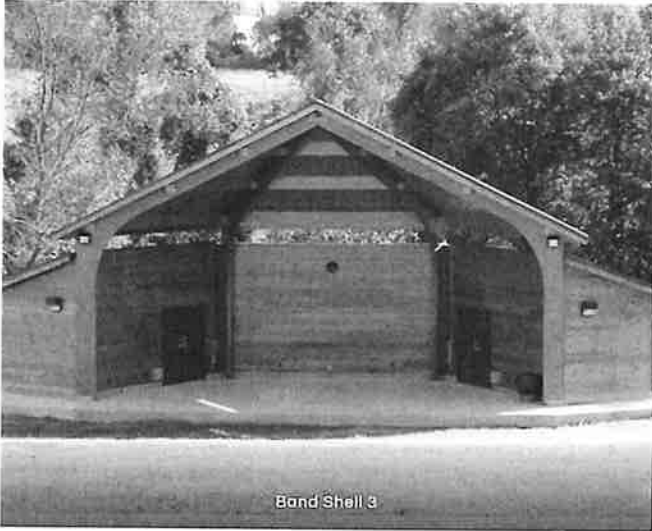
- Fridays – Isanti Family Farmers Market opens from 2-6pm
- July 5 – Medallion Hunt
- July 6 – Curious Creatures: Rodeo Roundup at Bluebird Park from 9-10am
- July 8 – Fireworks at Bluebird Park at 10pm
- July 9 – Splish Splash Summer Bash from 11am-3pm
- July 17 – Street Dance featuring Good for Gary from 7-11pm

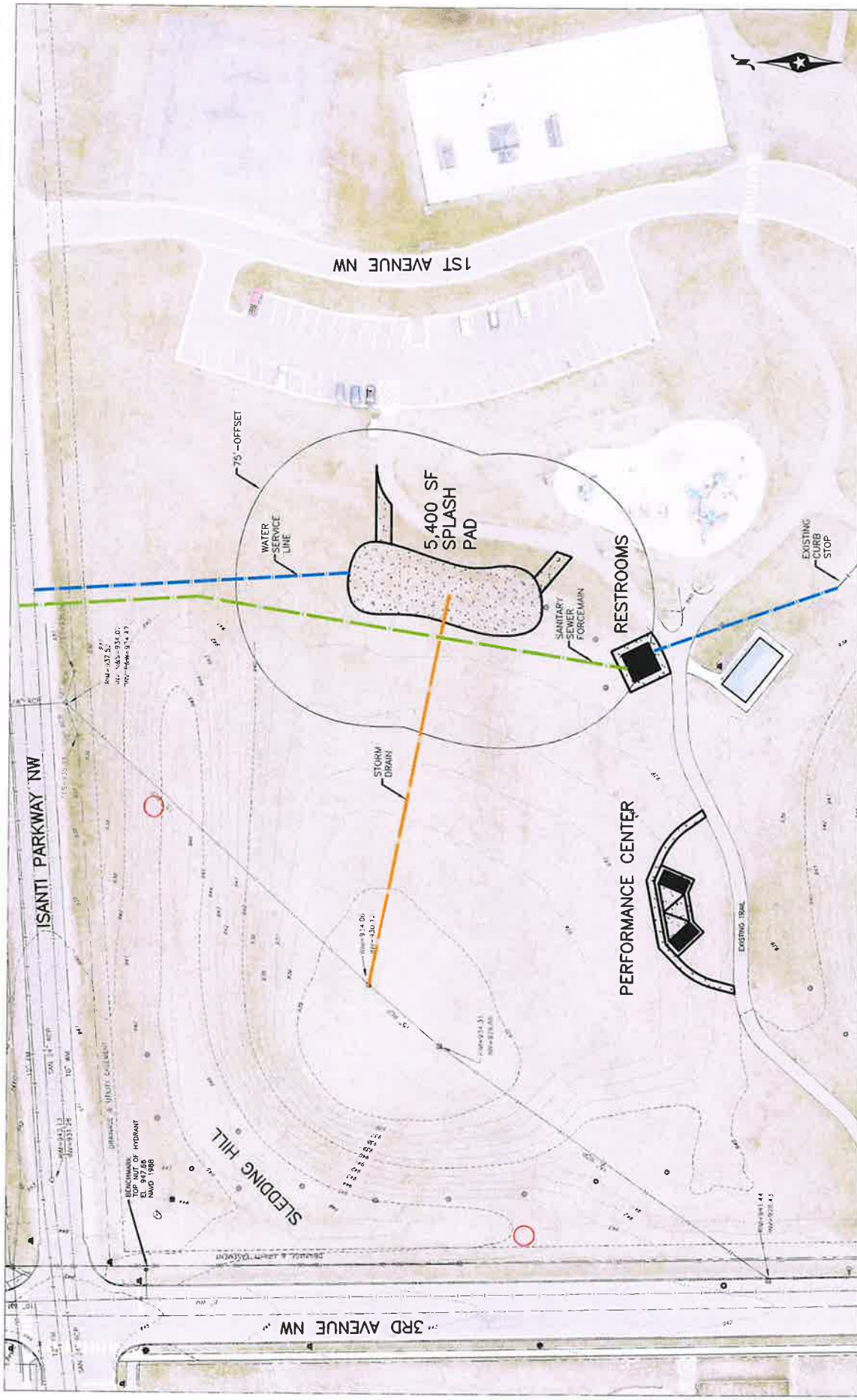
**Attachments**

- Performance Center Mockup
- Performance Center Site Plan
- Park Survey and Letter

# Performance Center Mockup

Kit: Band Shell #3





**BOLTON & MENK**

7433 SANDERS DR. NW, SUITE 206  
 RANGY, MINNESOTA 55203  
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**Isanti**  
 A Community for Everyone

ISANTI, MN  
 BLUEBIRD PARK BANDSHELL, BATHROOM, SPLASH PAD  
 CONCEPT SITE LAYOUT

SCALE 0 30 60 FEET

DATE: 10/20/10

PROJECT: 10-001

1



**Dear Community Member,**

The City of Isanti and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board are conducting research on City parks to determine how often residents of your neighborhood utilize your local park, what features are utilized most often, and if there are features the neighborhood wishes to see incorporated into future park plans.

As an Isanti resident, your feedback is highly valuable to the development and enhancement of our parks and trails. Your input on the attached survey will help ensure that our neighborhood parks continue to serve the needs and interests of our community members.

This survey is anonymous and your remarks will be used by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Board and City staff to gain a better understanding of the needs and interests of your neighborhood as we develop future plans for community development.

If you wish to provide additional feedback or be a part of future focus groups, please include your contact information at the end of the survey. Additionally, you can contact [IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us](mailto:IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us) at any time with questions or to provide additional feedback regarding community parks, trails, programs and events.

We appreciate you taking the time to complete this brief survey and for supporting our efforts to create a desirable neighborhood for you and your family!

*Thank you!*

Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
City of Isanti

763-762-5754  
[IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us](mailto:IsantiParks@CityofIsanti.us)

Once completed, simply place your survey in the postage-paid envelope and drop off at City Hall or mail **by June 30, 2021**. Postage is prepaid and no additional stamps are needed.

You may also complete this survey online at [bit.ly/3elPfpd](https://bit.ly/3elPfpd)



# Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park Survey



Thank you for taking part in our park survey! We appreciate your feedback as it will help us create a neighborhood that you and your family will continue to enjoy!

1. How many residents currently reside in your home?

- 1-2
- 3-5
- 6 or more

2. Do you have children under the age of 19 that currently live at home with you?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how old are your children? (Select all that apply)

- Infant - 3 yrs
- 4 - 6 yrs
- 7 - 10 yrs
- 11 - 14 yrs
- 15 - 18 yrs

3. How often does your household use the Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Bi-Weekly
- Monthly
- Bi-Monthly
- Yearly
- Never

4. What are the primary reasons your household uses this park? (Select all that apply)

- Proximity
- Accessibility
- Playground Features
- Exercise Needs
- Leisure
- Other:

5. What park equipment does your household typically use? (Select all that apply)

- Slide Unit
- Swingset
- Jungle Gym
- Bouncing Characters
- Dirt Diggers
- Park Benches
- Picnic Shelter
- Open Recreational Space
- Other:

6. What about this park does your household enjoy?

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7. What about this park does your household dislike?

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8. What features would make your household use this park more often? (Select all that apply)

- Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc)
- Fitness Equipment
- Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
- Natural Elements
- Early Childhood Learning Features
- ADA Accessible Elements
- Other:

If you would like to be a part of future discussions regarding this park or are available to share further insights or feedback, please include your contact information below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



To return this completed survey, place in postage-paid envelope and drop at City Hall or mail **by June 30, 2021**.



## PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, July 27, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Oath of Office for new Parks, Recreation & Culture Board Member
3. Approval of Minutes from June 22, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
4. Neighborhood Park Survey Results
5. Department Updates
6. Adjournment




---

**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States; the Constitution of the State of Minnesota; and to discharge faithfully the duties of Board Member for the Park, Recreation and Culture Board of the City of Isanti, Minnesota to the best of my judgment and ability. So help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
June 22, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Aaron Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: James Witte, Aaron Zdon, Zachary Gahm and Council Member Jimmy Gordon  
Staff Present: Alyssa Olson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator, Maizy Burk, Parks, Recreation & Culture Intern, and Mayor Jeff Johnson

**Agenda/Modifications:** None

**2. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Gordon; second by Witte to approve meeting Minutes from April 27, 2021. Motion passed 4-0.

**3. Oath of Office:** New member Zachary Gahm pronounced the Oath of Office and was officially welcomed to the Board.

**4. VFW Park Lease Termination:** Olson shared an update on the VFW Park lease termination conversation with the VFW. She relayed that a discussion has taken place with the incoming VFW President who has brought the position to the Post members. Olson is awaiting the decision from the VFW on whether they wish to receive and maintain the playground equipment as a donation or if they would like the City to dismantle the property in terminating the lease agreement.

**5. Department Updates:** Olson shared updates from May and June events, which have been well-attended. An Adopt-A-Park application has been received and accepted for the Rotary of Cambridge and Isanti. They will begin maintaining Rum River Meadows Park beginning in June through the end of the Park season. New bleachers have been installed at Unity Park. Community Center maintenance was completed and the Isanti Lions are working on getting the oven up to code. Pickleball court has been painted at Mattson Park. The park survey has been distributed to 100+ residents surrounding both Rum River Meadows Park and Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park. Responses are coming in and Maizy is collecting results to be analyzed after the June 30 deadline. Zdon noted the previous survey didn't receive many results so the 50+ received so far is a good improvement.

The Farmers' Market has welcomed a good assortment of vendors, featuring 18-20 through the rest of the season. Attendance has been low, but office staff are taking measures to increase promotion of the weekly markets. First Street Dance was a hit and welcomed an estimated 3000 attendees. The band had a short sound issue at the beginning, but recovered quickly. 8 vendors were onsite and all sold out of most items; they were very pleased with attendance and excited for the next event. Trash was excessive and there was a large number of unsupervised youth in attendance so increased safety and waste measures will be added to the upcoming dates. Medallion Hunt will take place again this year. Maizy is managing the project and coming up with clues and hiding location. She is also connecting with area businesses to secure prizes with a goal of a \$500 value. Olson confirmed they are taking measures to extend the hunt period this year and make the medallion more difficult to find. Fireworks have been scheduled for July 8 following the Jubilee Days parade and 4 food trucks will be present onsite. Splash Splash Summer Bash will take place at Bluebird Park on July 9. This year will feature Kids Dance, a waterslide, slip 'n slide, food trucks, pop bottle rockets, face painting and additional water-based activities. Gahm inquired about having community organizations involved. Olson noted she had connected with a few, but it may not be viable for them to participate this year. The goal is to continue to grow the event for future years and include more participation from local businesses and groups.

Olson shared that the Committee of the Whole, prompted by Councilmember Gordon, has requested research on adding an archery range to the Isanti park offerings. Olson will be looking into options and considerations to share at the July COW meeting, and for the PRC Board in July. The Board had a number of questions regarding safety measures and staffing options, to which Olson will be including in her research. Olson shared that the Performance Center and lighting project in Bluebird Park was approved by the City Council and should be completed in mid-August/early September. Olson noted the goal is to move the September 11 Street Dance to the park, but will depend on construction timeline. Members of the Board had a number of questions regarding the decision to move the Street Dances to the park. Mayor Johnson provided some background on that decision and that it would help with safety measures and event logistics

to be able to use the park instead of the downtown streets. The Board shared concerns about the Street Dances losing their appeal by not being in the street, and that the downtown businesses would not benefit from the move. Olson noted that the businesses downtown don't currently engage in the event and all are closed during it. Zdon shared that bands will want an elevated stage and that should be considered in the height of the Performance Center. Olson noted that the Performance Center was scoped as an amphitheater, which assumes a downward view, but would clarify the height of the cement base. Witte asked about the splash pad plans and if those were to move forward. Olson noted the restrooms and splash pad projects had been postponed, per the Council, and she would be researching those projects more moving into 2022. Mayor Johnson provided some insights into the project from his initial research and stated it is slated to be completed in 2024.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Witte, second by Gordon to adjourn the June 22, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Alyssa Olson  
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** July 27, 2021  
**Subject:** Neighborhood Park Survey Results

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### Background

In the beginning of June 2021, a survey was distributed to residents in close proximity to both Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park and Rum River Meadows Park to understand the needs, interests, and future uses for these parks. Responses were collected through June 30. Results and highlights from survey findings are outlined below.

#### Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park Findings:

- Majority of local children are either under 3 years old or between ages of 7 and 14.
- 33% respondents use the park weekly or bi-weekly. 18% use it monthly.
- Proximity is the #1 reason residents use the park. Playground features and leisure are also leading reasons.
- Bouncing characters and dirt diggers are the least used features. Swingset, slide and jungle gym are most used.
- Park benches and picnic shelter are non-playground features used most often.
- 60% respondents would use the park more often if sports equipment were added. 53% if recreational elements were added. 30% fitness equipment and/or Early Childhood learning features.
- Notable dislikes:
  - o Rowdy teens appear to be a nuisance in the evenings
  - o Playground features are not useful for toddlers on their own
  - o Outdated equipment
  - o Difficult to access by vehicle and when paths become muddy

#### Rum River Meadows Park Findings:

- Majority of local children are either under 3 years old or between ages of 11 and 18.
- Proximity, playground features and leisure are the leading reasons for use.
- 18% use the park daily, 22% weekly.
- Most popular features are the swingset and large slide. Park benches and open recreational space are also commonly used. 17% of respondents use the volleyball net.
- 70% respondents would use the park more often if sports equipment were added. 60% with recreational elements and 48% with natural elements.
- Notable dislikes:
  - o Rowdy teens appear to be a nuisance in the evenings
  - o Needs more shade
  - o More activities for young kids and teenagers/adults
- Also noted: the neighborhood gets together often and would benefit from a gathering space (pavilion, etc)

### Attachments

- Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park Survey Results
- Rum River Meadows Park Survey Results



# 34 responses



Accepting responses

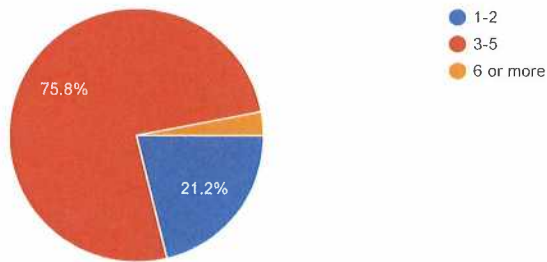
Summary

Question

Individual

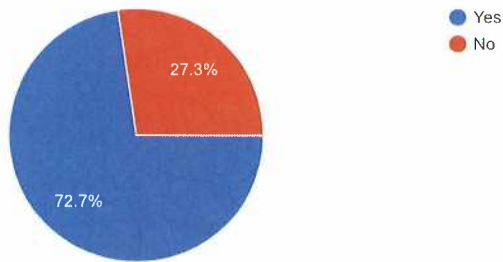
How many residents currently reside in your home?

33 responses



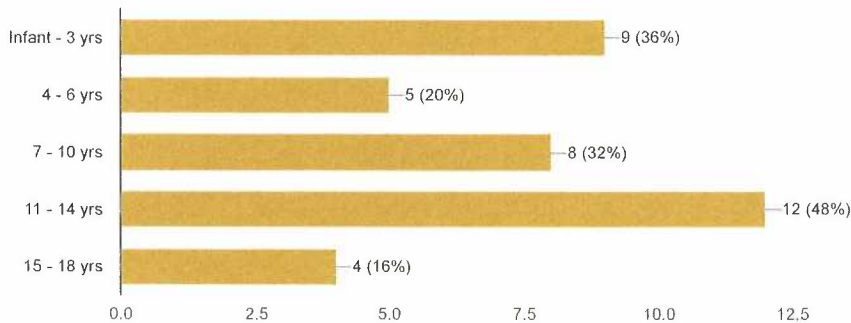
Do you have children under the age of 19 that currently live at home with you?

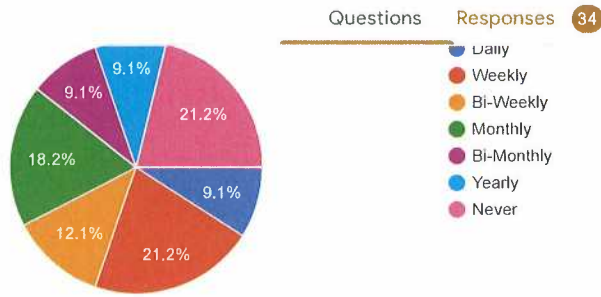
33 responses



If yes, how old are your children? (Select all that apply)

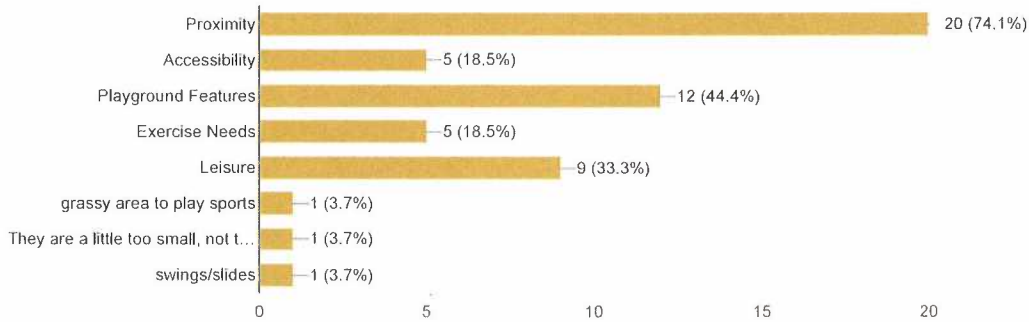
25 responses





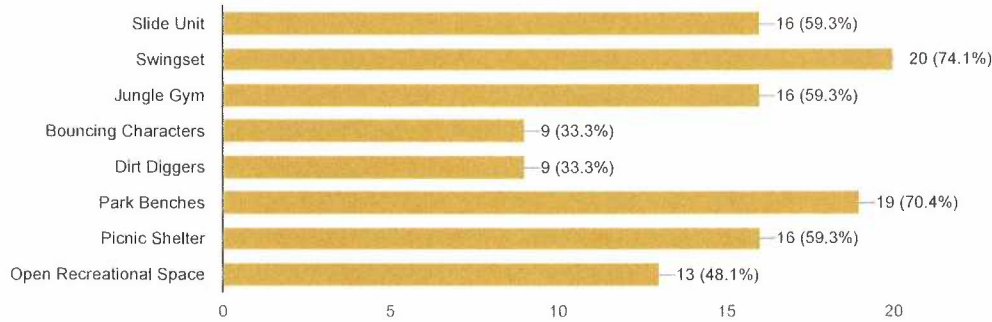
### What are the primary reasons your household uses this park?

27 responses



### What park equipment does your household typically use? (Select all that apply)

27 responses





Questions Responses **34**

Location

Mature trees ; provides shade, My Son loves the dirt diggers and swings

It's a nice walk. Kids have fun

Great place for nephews and grand kids.

It is nice to have a park for all the families in the neighborhood. It does get used a lot.

It's close to the house.

It's handy when our grand kids visit!

It's a nice park for younger kids and space to run

All the playground equipment. It's close enough for the kids to go when mom + dad are busy.

What about this park does your household dislike?

21 responses

enclosed slide - too hard for a 2 year old to get in (no handles) , hard to climb up the jungle gym, make more friendly for all ages to use.

There were a lot of stickers on the ground.

It's not on a main road so I feel it doesn't get patrolled often. After dark especially in the summer it gets sketchy. We can hear things going on. Lot's of unsupervised kids not being respectful to the parks + equipment.

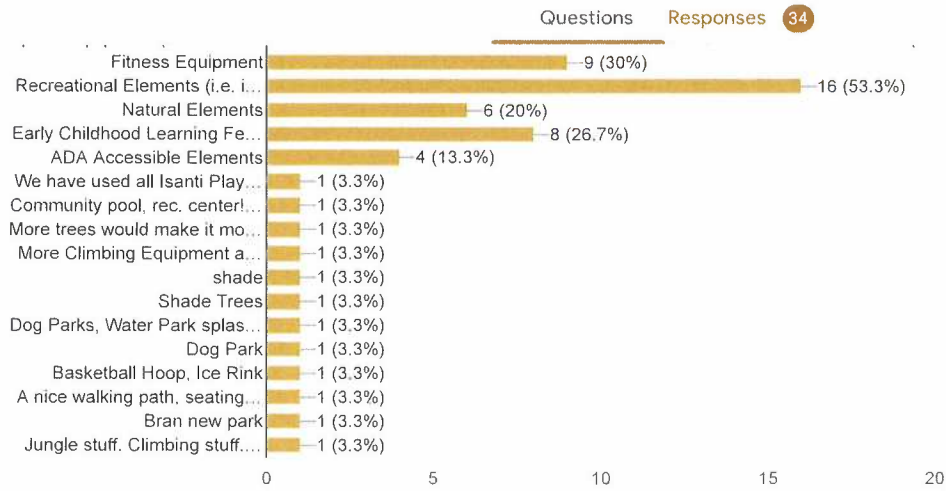
Teens starting porta potty on fire, dumping garbage out, leaving their garbage in the picnic shelter, smoking pot, peeing on the equipment

Brats... teenage crowd

We don't use it often in the summer because of the older kids that are rude and run their mouths. It's hard to bring young kids there for fear of exposure.

Older kids smoking, vaping, swearing and bullying younger kids.

Not enough shaded things for people to use or barbecue



If you would like to be a part of future discussions regarding this park or are available to share further insights or feedback, please include your contact information below.

Name

7 responses

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park**  
**Resident Survey Results 2021**

How many residents currently reside in your home?	Do you have children under the age of 19 that currently live at home with you?	If yes, how old are your children? (Select all that apply)	How often does your household use the Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park?	What are the primary reasons your household uses this park?	What park equipment does your household typically use? (Select all that apply)	What about this park does your household enjoy?	What about this park does your household dislike?	What features would make your household use this park more often? (Select all that apply)
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs	Bi-Monthly	Proximity	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Bouncing Characters, Dirt Diggers, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter			Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc)
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs, 4 - 6 yrs	Bi-Weekly	Proximity, Accessibility, Playground Features	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Bouncing Characters, Dirt Diggers, Park Benches	It's a nice walk. Kids have fun		Fitness Equipment, Early Childhood Learning Features
3-5	Yes	15 - 18 yrs	Never			I walk my dog through it - that's it.	Make it another dog park!	Dog Park
6 or more	Yes	7 - 10 yrs, 11 - 14 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Leisure, grassy area to play sports	Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space	close enough to home for the kids to enjoy	The illegal activities that go on after dark.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc)
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs	Bi-Weekly	Proximity, Playground Features	Swingset, Bouncing Characters, Dirt Diggers		not much for younger kids	Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Early Childhood Learning Features, ADA Accessible Elements
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs, 15 - 18 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Accessibility, Playground Features, Exercise Needs, Leisure	Swingset, Jungle Gym, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space	Location	Needs more shade + possibly a few updates to equipment.	Natural Elements, Shade Trees
1-2	No		Never					
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs	Daily	Proximity, Accessibility, Playground Features, swings/slides	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter	swings and slides	Not enough for young children to play with - wood chips	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements, Early Childhood Learning Features
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs, 4 - 6 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Playground Features, Leisure	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Bouncing Characters, Dirt Diggers, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space	Mature trees ; provides shade, My Son loves the dirt diggers and swings	enclosed slide - too hard for a 2 year old to get in (no handles), hard to climb up the jungle gym, make more friendly for all ages to use.	Early Childhood Learning Features, ADA Accessible Elements, We have used all Isanti Playgrounds and Parks. We would like to see updated play equipment at Isanti Hills like those at Rum River Meadows.
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs	Bi-Weekly	Proximity, Leisure	Jungle Gym, Park Benches, Open Recreational Space	The open space to play.	Nothing	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs	Never	They are a little too small, not toddler friendly	Slide Unit, Swingset, Bouncing Characters		Not toddler independent friendly	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Early Childhood Learning Features
1-2	No		Yearly			Benching outside		
1-2	No		Never			It is nice to have a park for all the families in the neighborhood. It does get used a lot.	It's not on a main road so I feel it doesn't get patrolled often. After dark especially in the summer it gets sketchy. We can hear things going on. Lot's of unsupervised kids not being respectful to the parks + equipment.	
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs	Monthly	Proximity, Leisure	Open Recreational Space	The open green space for my children to play football with their friends.	Older kids smoking, vaping, swearing and bullying younger kids.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
1-2	No		Never					Fitness Equipment
1-2	No	Infant - 3 yrs, 4 - 6 yrs, 7 - 10 yrs	Weekly	Playground Features, Exercise Needs	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Bouncing Characters, Dirt Diggers, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space	I am a teacher and at this time I run my own daycare/preschool out of my home. (licensed by Isanti county and my teaching license). We use Dogwood/6th Ave Park it's the only one we can walk too. I have ages range from 1 year to 10 years. We don't enjoy much at Isanti Hills anymore...	Park off Dogwood and 6th I am referring too. Very old, rundown, not much equipment, very empty looking kids get bored fast...causing kids to make trouble!	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements, Early Childhood Learning Features, ADA Accessible Elements, Dog Parks, Water Park splash pad pool, nature centers, Archery Outdoor Targets, Ice Skating Rinks, Skate Parks, fishing areas for kids
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs, 11 - 14 yrs	Monthly	Proximity	Swingset, Bouncing Characters, Dirt Diggers, Park Benches			Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Fitness Equipment, Early Childhood Learning Features

3-5	Yes	7 - 10 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Playground Features	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Bouncing Characters, Dirt Diggers, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space	All the playground equipment. It's close enough for the kids to go when mom + dad are busy.		Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements, More Climbing Equipment and Disc Golf Basket
3-5	Yes	7 - 10 yrs, 11 - 14 yrs	Daily	Proximity, Playground Features	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Bouncing Characters, Dirt Diggers, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space	Park behind house for kids to be kids		Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
3-5	Yes	15 - 18 yrs	Never				Not enough shaded things for people to use or barbecue	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), shade
1-2	No		Monthly	Proximity	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter	It's handy when our grand kids visit!	Brats... teenage crowd	Natural Elements, More trees would make it more comfortable on sunny days & trees would make it more visually pleasing!
								Community pool, rec. center!! With Banquet, meeting spaces for revenue, rental use!
3-5	No		Yearly	Leisure	Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space	It's close to the house.	Teens starting porta potty on fire, dumping garbage out, leaving their garbage in the picnic shelter, smoking pot, peeing on the equipment	Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Accessibility, Playground Features, Exercise Needs, Leisure	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space	Basically that we just have a place to go outside of the house to play.	We wish there were more fun playground equipment like Cambridge city park. Like Jungle stuff.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Jungle stuff. Climbing stuff. A splash pad would be awesome!
3-5	No		Yearly	Playground Features	Swingset, Picnic Shelter	Great place for nephews and grand kids.	There were a lot of stickers on the ground.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
3-5	Yes	7 - 10 yrs, 11 - 14 yrs	Daily	Proximity, Playground Features	Slide Unit, Swingset, Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space	Large area for neighborhood kids to hangout.	Wish there was a drinking fountain.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Basketball Hoop, Ice Rink
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs	Bi-Monthly	Proximity, Accessibility, Leisure	Swingset, Jungle Gym		Not enough for my small visitors	Fitness Equipment, Early Childhood Learning Features
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs	Monthly	Proximity	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Park Benches, Open Recreational Space			Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
1-2	No		Never	Exercise Needs	Picnic Shelter	Location		Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
3-5	Yes	4 - 6 yrs, 7 - 10 yrs	Bi-Monthly	Proximity	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Picnic Shelter	It's a nice park for younger kids and space to run	We don't use it often in the summer because of the older kids that are rude and run their mouths. It's hard to bring young kids there for fear of exposure.	
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs, 7 - 10 yrs	Weekly	Proximity	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Dirt Diggers, Park Benches		That it's close to the house	Bran new park
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs	Bi-Weekly	Proximity	Slide Unit	How close it is	The park is small with not much equipment. The path can get muddy and it's not easy to get in or out. There isn't a lot of seating and parking can be difficult since you need to park on a narrow road.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements, A nice walking path, seating and picnic areas
3-5	Yes	4 - 6 yrs, 7 - 10 yrs	Monthly	Playground Features	Slide Unit, Swingset, Jungle Gym, Park Benches			ADA Accessible Elements
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs, 15 - 18 yrs	Monthly	Exercise Needs, Leisure	Park Benches, Picnic Shelter, Open Recreational Space			Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, volleyball net, disc golf basket, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)



# 28 responses



Accepting responses

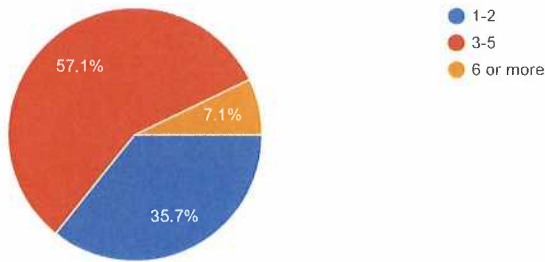
Summary

Question

Individual

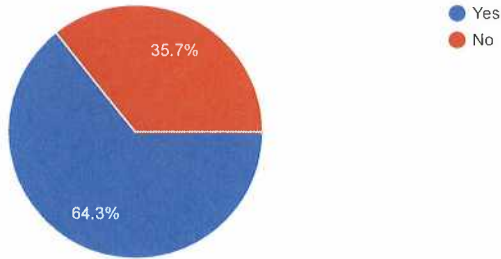
How many residents currently reside in your home?

28 responses



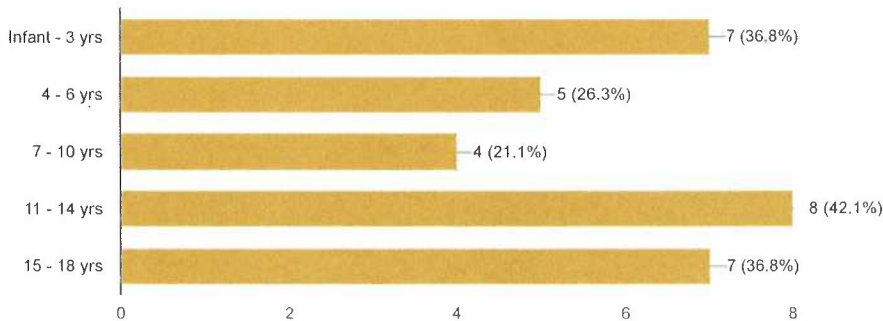
Do you have children under the age of 19 that currently live at home with you?

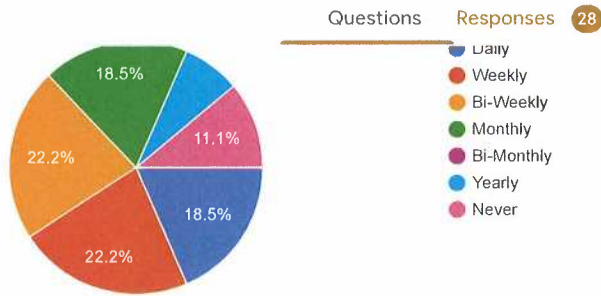
28 responses



If yes, how old are your children? (Select all that apply)

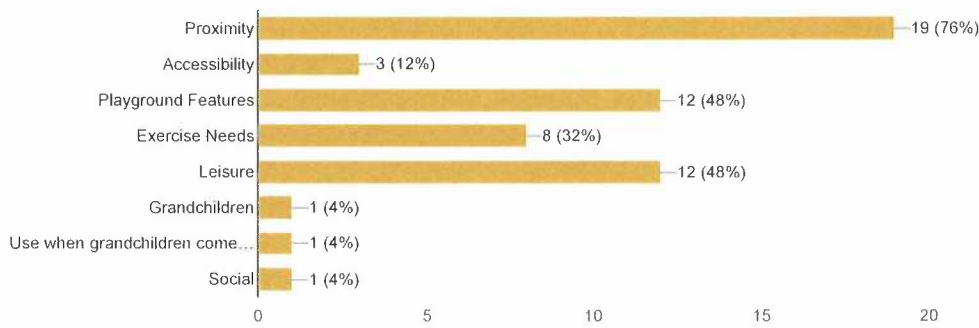
19 responses





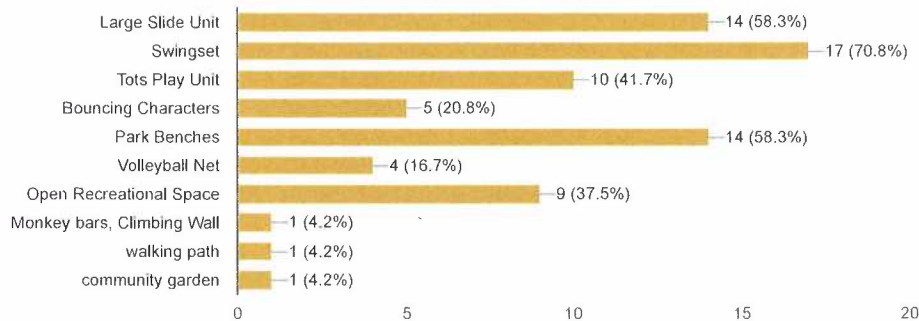
What are the primary reasons your household uses this park?

25 responses



What park equipment does your household typically use? (Select all that apply)

24 responses





Questions Responses 28

It's accessible for the community. Great fun for kids and parents.

Big climber and swings

Closeness to home

It's Clean

it is across the street, grandchildren love it, we are impressed with how well it is kept up and checked for safety

Our 2 children love getting to play at the park.

It is close to our house and provides playground for our toddler and open space for other activities.

Grandchildren love the slides

All of it

What about this park does your household dislike?

17 responses

Not sure who is responsible for the lawn, but it could be in better shape.

More defined boundaries as to avoid entering neighboring properties.

Nothing

Teenagers at night

Lack of Shade

Needs more activities for grown ups / teens. Cover from the sun would be nice.

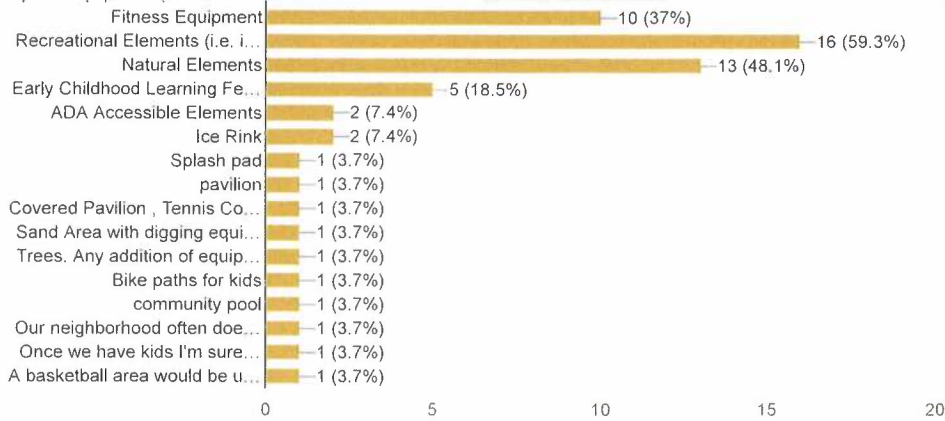
Wanting more equipment for smaller kids

No shade

N/A



Questions Responses 28



If you would like to be a part of future discussions regarding this park or are available to share further insights or feedback, please include your contact information below.

Name

10 responses

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]



**Rum River Meadows Park  
Resident Survey Results 2021**

How many residents currently reside in your home?	Do you have children under the age of 19 that currently live at home with you?	If yes, how old are your children? (Select all that apply)	How often does your household use the Isanti Hills Neighborhood Park?	What are the primary reasons your household uses this park?	What park equipment does your household typically use? (Select all that apply)	What about this park does your household enjoy?	What about this park does your household dislike?	What features would make your household use this park more often? (Select all that apply)
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs, 15 - 18 yrs	Bi-Weekly	Proximity	Large Slide Unit, Swingset	Big climber and swings	Nothing	Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Splash pad
1-2	No		Monthly	Proximity, Playground Features, Use when grandchildren come over	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Park Benches	Grandchildren love the slides		
3-5	Yes	4 - 6 yrs, 7 - 10 yrs	Daily	Proximity, Exercise Needs	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Tots Play Unit, Park Benches, Open Recreational Space	Meeting place for friends and neighbors	it does not appear to be made from recycled materials, recycled rubber ground is better than woodchips	Fitness Equipment, Natural Elements
3-5	Yes	15 - 18 yrs	Yearly	Proximity, Exercise Needs	Open Recreational Space	The soft grassy area in front of the play equipment	The weedy/prickly grass in the purchased lots on each side of the original park.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), A basketball area would be used every day by our family!!
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs, 11 - 14 yrs	Bi-Weekly	Proximity, Accessibility, Playground Features	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Tots Play Unit, Bouncing Characters, Park Benches			Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Early Childhood Learning Features
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs, 4 - 6 yrs	Bi-Weekly	Playground Features	Swingset, Tots Play Unit, Bouncing Characters, Park Benches	Our 2 children love getting to play at the park.		Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
1-2	No		Daily	Proximity, Accessibility, Leisure		It seems nice and well maintained.		Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements, Once we have kids I'm sure we will use this park on a daily basis (I started filling this out thinking this was for a natural area so my apologies on the mess)
1-2	No		Never					Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)
1-2	No		Weekly	Exercise Needs, Leisure	community garden	Just enjoy unspoiled nature, the river		Natural Elements

6 or more	Yes	11 - 14 yrs, 15 - 18 yrs	Daily	Proximity, Exercise Needs, Leisure	Park Benches, Open Recreational Space, walking path	porta potty access. Lawn / equipment maintained	kids / young teens there late at night	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs	Monthly	Leisure	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Volleyball Net, Open Recreational Space	meeting friends	wood chips	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements, community pool
1-2	No							Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements
3-5	Yes	4 - 6 yrs, 15 - 18 yrs	Bi-Weekly	Proximity, Playground Features	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Tots Play Unit, Park Benches	It is close to our house and provides playground for our toddler and open space for other activities.	Needs more activities for grown ups / teens. Cover from the sun would be nice.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Fitness Equipment, Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements, pavilion
3-5	Yes	15 - 18 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Playground Features	Volleyball Net, Open Recreational Space	Pet Friendly	No shade	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Covered Pavilion , Tennis Court
1-2	No		Bi-Weekly	Proximity, Grandchildren	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Park Benches	it is across the street, grandchildren love it, we are impressed with how well it is kept up and checked for safety		Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc)
1-2	Yes	7 - 10 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Playground Features, Leisure	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Park Benches, Volleyball Net, Monkey bars, Climbing Wall	Climbing and gymnastics features (bars), adults enjoy the volleyball net in the summer.	N/A	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Sand Area with digging equipment, beam, balance equipment

1-2	No		Yearly	Proximity, Accessibility, Leisure	Open Recreational Space		More defined boundaries as to avoid entering neighboring properties.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Early Childhood Learning Features, ADA Accessible Elements, Ice Rink
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs	Daily	Playground Features, Exercise Needs, Leisure	Swingset, Tots Play Unit	It's Clean	Lack of Shade	Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements, Early Childhood Learning Features, Ice Rink
6 or more	No		Never			It's accessible for the community. Great fun for kids and parents.	Not sure who is responsible for the lawn, but it could be in better shape.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), ADA Accessible Elements
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs, 7 - 10 yrs, 11 - 14 yrs, 15 - 18 yrs	Daily	Proximity, Playground Features, Exercise Needs, Leisure	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Tots Play Unit, Bouncing Characters, Park Benches, Volleyball Net, Open Recreational Space	All of it	Wanting more equipment for smaller kids	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Fitness Equipment, Early Childhood Learning Features
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs	Monthly	Proximity	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Tots Play Unit, Park Benches			Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Natural Elements
3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs, 4 - 6 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Playground Features, Exercise Needs, Leisure	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Tots Play Unit, Bouncing Characters	It is with in walking distance. It's so convenient that we go after dinner or on the weekends so our kids can play.	We wish that there was more shade on very hot days or when my son was a baby.	Natural Elements, Trees. Any addition of equipment would be great too.
3-5	Yes	4 - 6 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Playground Features	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Tots Play Unit, Bouncing Characters	Rock Wall, Large Slide Unit	People always move the picnic tables under the large slide unit.	Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc), Bike paths for kids
1-2	No		Never	Leisure	Park Benches			Fitness Equipment
3-5	Yes	15 - 18 yrs	Monthly	Leisure	Park Benches, Open Recreational Space	Closeness to home	Teenagers at night	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Natural Elements
3-5	Yes	11 - 14 yrs	Bi-Weekly	Proximity	Swingset, Park Benches	How close it is to our house	It seems small and rundown	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Natural Elements

3-5	Yes	Infant - 3 yrs, 11 - 14 yrs	Weekly	Proximity, Playground Features, Exercise Needs, Leisure, Social	Large Slide Unit, Swingset, Tots Play Unit, Park Benches, Open Recreational Space	I love watching the kids play. My son loves playing with the neighbor kids.	The teens bullying kids - otherwise we love the park it's why we moved here.	Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Fitness Equipment, Natural Elements, Early Childhood Learning Features, Our neighborhood often does block parties so something to incorporate being able to have a gathering. Like Picnic Pavillion, Public Art. Sports Equipment : Basketball Hoops, Disc Golf Basket. Natural Elements : More trees or flowers.
1-2	No	7 - 10 yrs, 11 - 14 yrs	Monthly	Proximity, Playground Features	Large Slide Unit, Swingset	It's close to our home, the kids can walk there. It's a nice park and well maintained.		Sports Equipment (i.e. basketball hoop, disc golf basket, climbing structures, etc), Recreational Elements (i.e. ice rink, bike path, etc)



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** July 27, 2021  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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The July Curious Creatures was held on July 6 at Bluebird Park with the theme of the rodeo and had 8 children attend. The August program will focus on baseball.

The Medallion Hunt started on July 5 and was found on July 6 at Legacy Park. The boys that found it won \$430 in prizes from local businesses.

Fireworks took place July 8 following the Jubilee Days parade. 3 food vendors and 1 novelties vendor were onsite. The parade ended early, which possibly lead to a lighter crowd, but est. 800-1,000 people attended.

Splish Splash Summer Bash took place on July 9 at Bluebird Park. Pop Bottle Rockets and the face painter were a big hit. Kids Dance provided solid entertainment. Presentations on stage outside of the MC aren't likely needed going forward. 3 food vendors were onsite (1 canceled last minute), but the event should include more food and drink options.

The second Street Dance took place July 17. Attendance was lighter, but still gathered approx.. 2,000 people. Same 8 vendors were onsite. August and September will include an additional 4 food vendors.

Passport to Parks is currently running through Aug. 6 and the grand prize will be drawn at the August Street Dance. Maizy is working on the grand prize, which will include passes to Bowlero and The Fun Lab.

Isanti Family Farmers' Market gets busier each week as produce and product options increase. We have 18-21 vendors booked each week through the rest of the season.

Plans for the Performance Center in Bluebird Park are moving forward with delivery of the unit and construction tentatively planned for mid-August. Staff are awaiting concrete dates to begin groundwork and installation of the street lights.

In the July COW meeting, the Council decided to move forward with an archery range in the lot south of the Dog Park. Alyssa will be developing that project plan for approval by the City Council this fall. The range would be included in the 2022 budget and installed (presumably) in the Spring.

In the July COW meeting, it was requested that Alyssa look into event costs and logistics for adding a carnival to City events and to continue progress on a potential holiday lights event for 2022. Alyssa will be researching these opportunities for the August COW meeting.

### Upcoming events:

- Fridays – Isanti Family Farmers Market opens from 2-6pm
- August 7 – Street Dance featuring Skitzo Fonic from 7-11pm



## PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, August 24, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Approval of Minutes from July 27, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
3. Movie Nights Plan
4. Amphitheater Naming
5. Eagle Park Upgrades
6. Tree Plan
7. Department Updates
8. Adjournment

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
July 27, 2021**

**Call to Order:** James Witte called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: James Witte, Zachary Gahm, Dan HinnenKamp and Council Member Jimmy Gordon

Staff Present: Alyssa Olson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator, Maizy Burk, Parks, Recreation & Culture Intern

**Agenda/Modifications:** None

**2. Oath of Office:** New member Dan HinnenKamp pronounced the Oath of Office and was officially welcomed to the Board.

**3. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by HinnenKamp; second by Gordon to approve meeting Minutes from June 22, 2021. Motion passed 4-0.

**4. Neighborhood Park Survey:** Olson shared results from the neighborhood park surveys. 30% of nearby residents returned surveys with feedback. Residents near Isanti Hills have younger children that use the park weekly to monthly. Main playground features used are the slide, swingset and jungle gym, as well as park benches and shelter. The bouncing characters and dirt diggers are least often used. Respondents identified adding sports equipment, recreational elements and fitness equipment or Early Childhood Learning features as enhancements that would increase park use. Respondents identified rowdy teenagers, playground features that aren't appropriate for toddlers, outdated equipment and accessibility issues as deterrents to park use.

Residents near Rum River Meadows Park have children under 3 or over 11, missing core ages in elementary school. Most respondents use the park either daily or weekly. Swingset and slide are the most used features, along with park benches and open recreational space. Volleyball net does get some use, but minimal. Most respondents identified adding sports equipment, recreational elements and natural elements to the park would increase use. Rowdy teenagers, absence of shade and absence of activities for both young kids and teenagers/adults as deterrents to park use. This neighborhood also noted that they gather often and could benefit from a communal space at the park.

Gahm asked about costs and logistics of adding shade structures and of requesting more patrolling from Isanti PD of these parks at night. Olson will look into options and connect with Chief Muyres on safety recommendations.

**5. Department Updates:** Olson shared updates from July events, which have been well-attended.

Medallion was found after 1 day at Legacy Park. The boys that won took home \$430 in prizes. Will work to create harder clues and a more difficult hiding space next year.

Fireworks had about 1000 people in attendance. Gap in time after the parade likely deterred audience from sticking around.

Splish Splash Summer Bash went well. Kids enjoyed the pop bottle rockets, face painting, Kids Dance and the inflatables. ICF presentation was unnecessary and will be eliminated in future years, just keeping DJ entertainment on stage. Food vendors were limited due to a last-minute vendor drop out. Olson will work to incorporate more vendors in the future. Attendance was similar to last year, with possible slight increase, but they stayed onsite longer with more activities. Gahm asked about adding more activities next year and Olson noted she has requested budget for this event in 2022. If approved, that will help to add more inflatables, face painters and activities to the event. Olson will also look for a face painter that focuses on smaller designs that take less time to complete and can get more kids through.

Street Dance had lighter attendance, but still around 2,000 attendees. Food vendors seemed light because there was more room, but had same 8 vendors as the first month. August and September will have 11-12 vendors onsite, which should help with lines and options for guests. Gahm asked how the vendors do and Olson noted most sold out of product in June and many sold out of individual items in July.

Passport to Parks is currently running with first 50 winners getting a prize. All correct answers will be added to the grand prize, which will be drawn at the August Street Dance. The prize is a Family Fun Pack that includes passes from area attractions.

Farmers' Market is still going well with 18-21 vendors each week. Due to this season's weather issues, only one vendor has been able to provide a variety of produce, but the other products onsite have provided shoppers with unique items to try. Traffic has picked up and is reasonably consistent week after week. Gahm asked if the vendors are now satisfied with the attendance. Olson noted that the complaints have stopped, so if there are issues, they are not being relayed to staff. Weather continues to play a role in attendance so hopefully attendance will pick up as we get towards the Fall.

Performance Center is moving forward and just waiting on shipping date. The field lights will be installed in the next couple weeks.

Olson shared that the Archery Range has been requested to move forward to Council. The Council decided on the Dog Park location and Olson will be gathering more concrete costs and logistics for installing the range in the Spring so that budget will be used in 2022.

In the July COW meeting, Council member Lundeen requested Olson research options to add a carnival to City events in 2022. The thought was to add the carnival to one of the Street Dances, presumably the Fall date as an endcap. Gahm asked where that would be and Olson noted that a location would depend on if the Street Dances remain on Main Street or if they move to Bluebird Park. Olson will be looking into those logistics and costs, with the help of HinnenKamp, who has ample experience in the area. Gordon and Witte mentioned not wanting the Street Dances to move to Bluebird. Gahm mentioned the Street Dances being geared towards adults and a carnival being for kids. Olson noted that the Street Dances have a rather large youth attendance and that moving these events could reduce the amount of damage caused during the events. It is also easier to contain bad activities in an open space where there aren't alleyways to hide in. HinnenKamp mentioned the carnival being its own event and that it wouldn't compete with any other area events. HinnenKamp also noted that a carnival would want to run for longer than one day to be beneficial. Olson requested insight about the importance of having the Street Dances in the street and if the community cares where it takes place. She also noted the businesses don't get engaged, which was the initial intention. Witte noted it may be posing a greater risk to these businesses if the dances are causing damage to their properties. Gordon noted the atmosphere of being in the street is appealing and didn't know if another street would be an option. Gahm mentioned we may need to give it a try and see how it goes in the park, to use the performance center. Olson noted maybe slowly migrating in order to test the appeal.

The Council also requested that Olson develop a plan for the holiday lights event. Olson has pulled together a proposal for that event that will be shared at the August COW meeting.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Gahm, second by HinnenKamp to adjourn the July 27, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Alyssa Olson  
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** August 24, 2021  
**Subject:** Movie Nights Plan Discussion

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### Background

The City's annual Movie Nights at the Community Center will begin in November. Licenses have been purchased for the following schedule and showings:

- November 19: Raya and the Last Dragon
- December 17: Jack Frost
- January 21: Snow Day
- February 18: Gnomeo & Juliet
- March 18: The Croods: A New Age

Attendance was dismal in the last year due to COVID-19 and staff transitions. Multiple nights were canceled and/or had no guests attend. Previous years showed an average of 30 guests per event.

### Request

Staff is requesting ideas or additions that might draw larger attendance to make these events successful.

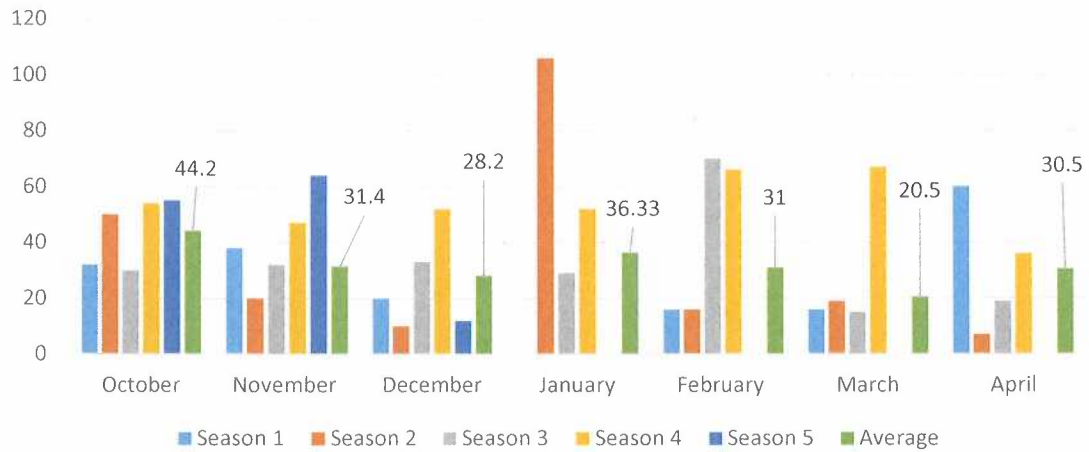
### Attachments

- Movie Night Attendance

# MOVIE NIGHT ATTENDANCE

	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Season 1 14-15	32	38	20	0	16	16	60
Season 2 15-16	50	20	10	106	16	19	7
Season 3 16-17	30	32	33	29	70	15	19
Season 4 17-18	54	47	52	52	66	67	36
Season 5 18-19	55	64	12				
Season 6 19-20	NA	19	42	31	18	0	NA
Season 7 20-21	NA	0	NA	0	0	6	NA
<b>Average</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>36.33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>30.5</b>

Movie Night Attendance





## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** August 24, 2021  
**Subject:** Amphitheater Naming Discussion

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### Background

Construction on the new bandshell in Bluebird Park will be completed in early September. As part of its opening, staff is looking for recommendations on what to call it and how to celebrate the opening if it is not completed in time for the Street Dance on September 11.

### Request

Staff is requesting the following to present to the City Council in the September Committee of the Whole meeting:

- Ideas for names
- Grand opening celebration



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** August 24, 2021  
**Subject:** Eagle Park Upgrades Discussion

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### Background

As part of the Main Street improvement project, a large corner of the parking lot surrounding Eagle Park will be removed and turned to grass. With that, the park area will nearly triple in size, allowing for upgrades to be made to enhance the park.

### Request

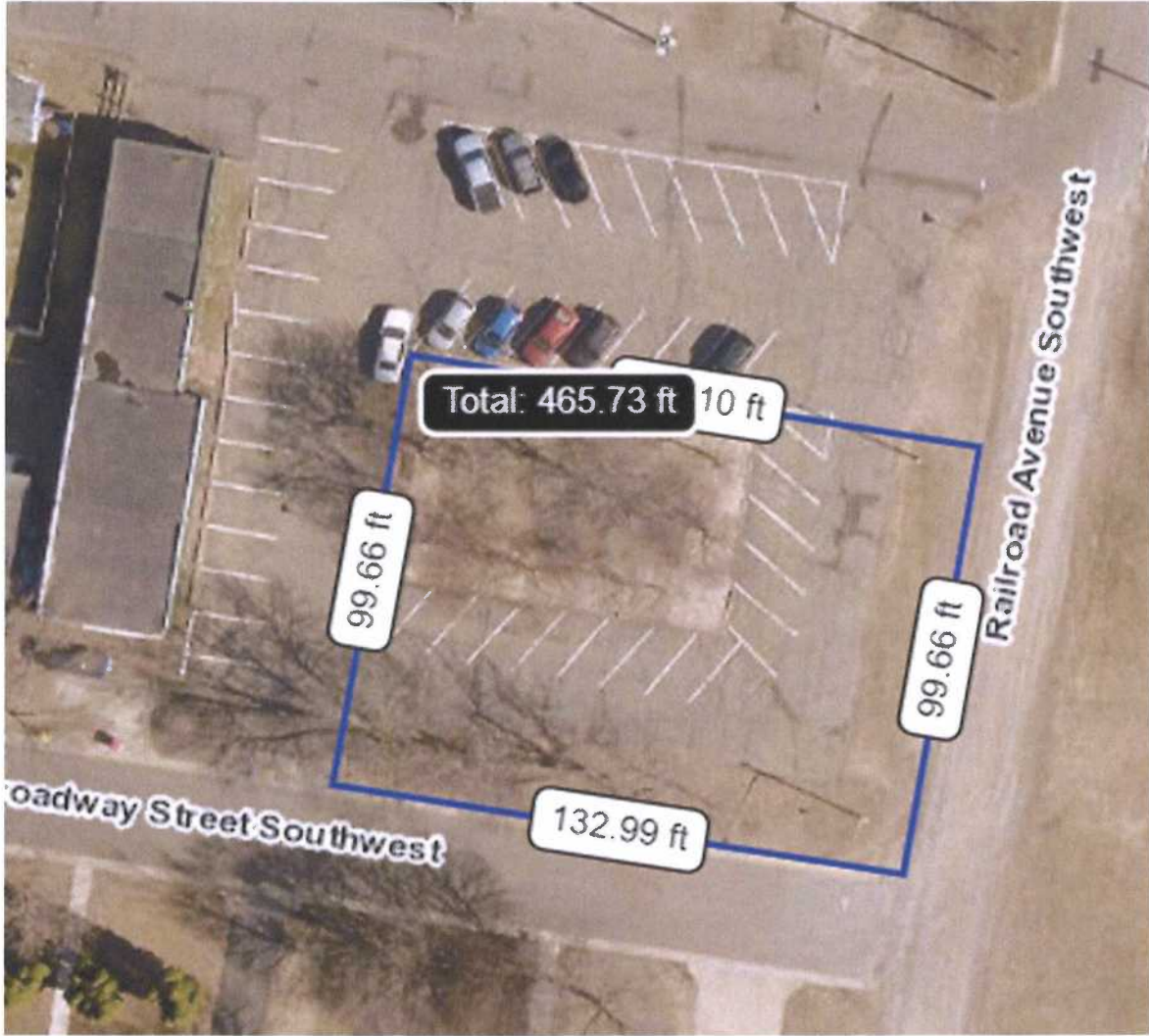
Staff is requesting feedback on the following recommendations and any additional ideas the Board may have:

- Remove wood chip perimeter and return to grass
- Move (3) benches to the outer perimeter
- Add another picnic table/seating area
- Create concrete step path to picnic tables or walking path
- Add colorful bushes and perennial plants
- Add semi-permanent game elements (concrete cornhole, horseshoes, etc)

### Attachments

- Aerial View

Eagle Park  
Aerial View





## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** August 24, 2021  
**Subject:** Tree Plan Discussion

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### Background

Over the past year, Public Works has had to remove approximately 10 trees from Bluebird Park and Mattson Park due to damage or disease. In the process of replacing these trees, Alyssa will be working on a tree plan for the full park system that includes planting locations and types of trees to be included in the park designs.

For future grant opportunities, the Park system should consist of no more than 25% of the same tree species and should diversify varieties where able. As such, new trees should avoid maple varieties and species that drop fruit or nuts (i.e. crabapples, oak) as they can be more time-intensive to maintain.

### Request

Staff is requesting direction on the following:

- What types of trees the Board would like to see planted
- Where additional trees may be needed
- Additional landscaping requests or ideas

### Attachments

- Preferred Tree Species

**Preferred Central MN Tree Species**

**Cedar, Eastern Red**



**Spruce, Norway**



**Cherry, black**



**Larch, American**



**Elm, 'Cathedral'**



**Hickory, bittersweet**



**Hackberry Tree**



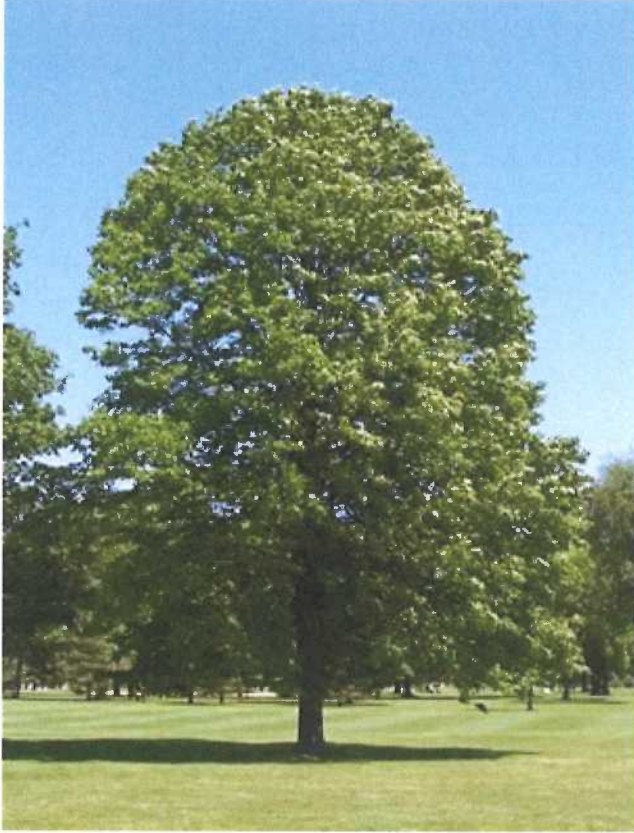
**Hophornbeam – Ironwood**



**Lilac, Japanese tree**



Linden, American



Serviceberry, Allegheny



Viburnum, nannyberry



Oak, red





## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** August 24, 2021  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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The August Curious Creatures was held on August 10 at Unity Park. We had 6 kids attend and they learned different skills for T Ball. The September program will focus on sunflowers at the Community Garden.

The Street Dance took place August 7 and included a special presentation for Grace McCallum. Attendance was approx.. 2,000 people. Rainstorms earlier in the day likely detracted from attendance even though the skies cleared later in the afternoon. 12 vendors were onsite and all were satisfied with the attendance. The Grace McCallum presentation drew in local media and the event was featured on numerous news reports (Kare 11, KSTP, WCCO, MPR News to name a few) in both print and video. Images from the event were also picked up by national media and included in a highlight reel by ABC News World News with David Muir. The September 11 event is on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 and Alyssa is working to incorporate a patriotic theme and elements to honor our first responders and veterans.

We're entering the last month of the Isanti Family Farmers' Market and have 18-21 vendors booked each week. Mixed reactions from the vendors each week with some expressing their satisfaction and selling out of products and others not seeing a great return.

Ideas for the holiday light event are being developed with three options that will be presented to COW in September. Those options include different levels of events with different price points that will be discussed by the Council. Determinations will provide further direction on if the event is viable in 2022 and what style of event the Council wishes to move forward with.

Family Day at Legacy Park will take place on September 26. Alyssa is working on activities, including a s'mores station with fire pit, nature games, and an area for family photos.

Upcoming events:

- Fridays – Isanti Family Farmers Market opens from 2-6pm
- September 11 – Street Dance featuring Good for Gary from 7-11pm
- September 14 – Curious Creatures
- September 26 – Family Day at Legacy Park from 3-5pm



## **PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA**

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, September 28, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Oath of Office for new Parks, Recreation & Culture Board Member
3. Approval of Minutes from August 24, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
4. Department Updates
5. Adjournment



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**OATH OF OFFICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States; the Constitution of the State of Minnesota; and to discharge faithfully the duties of Board Member for the Park, Recreation and Culture Board of the City of Isanti, Minnesota to the best of my judgment and ability. So help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 24,2021**

**Call to Order:** Aaron Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: Zachary Gahm, Dan HinnenKamp and Mayor Jeff Johnson  
Staff Present: Alyssa Olson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator

**Agenda/Modifications:** None

**2. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Gahm; second by HinnenKamp to approve meeting Minutes from July 27, 2021. Motion passed 4-0.

**3. Movie Nights Plan:** Olson shared the list of movies and dates that have been selected and secured for the 2021/2022 City Movie Night calendar. Olson requested the Board's ideas on how to improve attendance at these events after poor attendance and multiple cancellations in the last season. Zdon mentioned reaching out to previous organizations that have 'hosted' nights in the past to see if they would be interested in doing so again. Gahm recommended reaching out to the local area schools and putting a flyer in kids' bags to promote the events. Olson will be reaching out to both groups to garner interest.

**4. Amphitheater Naming:** Olson shared that the new bandshell in Bluebird Park will not be ready for the September 11 Street Dance as anticipated. Board members recommended creating a Fall-style festival as a grand opening celebration that would prelude a potential larger Fall event next year. Notes were made to include vendors and a possible performance and dedication. Olson noted that any dollars spent would need to come from current budget. On naming, Johnson suggested a name in recognition of Council member Lundeen's efforts to forward this project. Zdon mentioned requesting the schools enter names for the Council to approve, similar to how the resting areas in Legacy Park were named. Names would be gathered in September and brought to the next Board meeting to discuss. Olson will reach out to the area schools for name suggestions and will bring all options back to the Board and Council for consideration in September.

**5. Eagle Park Updates:** Olson shared an update on the Main Street Improvement project that impacts Eagle Park, expanding the park footprint. Olson noted additions like removing mulch perimeter, adding another seating area, adding perennial plants and flower beds and adding permanent game elements. Olson mentioned any upgrades should be minimal cost and minimal maintenance. HinnenKamp mentioned creating a "Railroad Viewing Park" that would include a viewing platform and schedule for trains. Board agreed that would be an interesting idea and would be unique to our area. HinnenKamp noted a similar location he visited attracted a lot of visitors. Olson and HinnenKamp will research this idea to see if it would be a viable option and bring value to the community.

**6. Tree Plan:** Olson shared that a number of trees have been removed from both Bluebird and Mattson Parks that need to be replaced. There are also a number of vacant areas throughout the City's parks that need shade cover or beautification. Olson will be putting together a tree plan in the Fall for next year and requested direction on types of trees or styles the Board would like to see included. Olson also noted that any trees not on the current zoning approval list would just need approval from the Council. Zdon recommended looking at the past tree plan to view previous placement suggestions. Johnson mentioned we applied for a state grant and Olson shared details of what that would allow us to accomplish, should we be approved. The funding would allow for 15-20 trees to be added in the next 3 years under that program. Of the list provided, the Board identified 6 trees – Cedar, Eastern Red; Hickory, Bitternut; Ironwood; Japanese Lilac Tree; Serviceberry, Allegheny; and Linden, American – that would be preferred to include in future tree plans. Gahm mentioned Bluebird needing large shade trees for coverage and the CISC complex is in need of shade coverage as well and should be considered as the tree plan develops.

**7. Department Updates:** Olson shared updates on August events, including Curious Creatures, Farmers Market and Street Dance. The Street Dance having a celebration for Grace McCallum went well despite morning rain. Gahm noted he really enjoyed the event and the band. Olson mentioned the band is on the short list for next year as they had the best crowd response yet. Olson shared the event was picked up by

both local, state and inter/national media. Olson shared she is working on incorporating a 9/11 tribute at the September event. Johnson requested the fire truck from the Fire District. Gahm suggested connecting with the Cambridge recruiting center. Olson noted she has requested presence and ideas from local first responder and veteran groups to enhance a tribute. HinnenKamp recommended asking vendors to incorporate a patriotic element to their offerings. Zdon mentioned having the VFW present the flag or the National Anthem with their color guard.

Olson shared the Farmers Market vendors are still hit or miss on satisfaction. Olson noted the new vendors are doing very well, whereas some of the returning vendors have not done as well this year, especially the ones selling soaps, jams/jellies and salsas. Specialty products and produce appear to be doing the best onsite. Olson shared the goal is to move the Farmers Market to the new liquor store location and she will be looking at the feasibility of that and those options in the coming months. Johnson suggested bringing food trucks onsite to which Olson noted that is an option she has looked at and will be looking to incorporate next year.

Holiday Lights event options will be presented to the City Council during Septembers COW meeting. Olson described briefly the 4 tiers of options that will be presented, from a free open festival to enclosed ticketed events. Suggestions to include local businesses and sponsors in the event were noted and Olson confirmed that each option would include sponsorship opportunities. HinnenKamp suggested that we pave our own path with a new event to eliminate some comparisons to other events. Gahm noted disliking the standard drive-thru option, which the Board agreed was not the ideal direction. He also mentioned people aren't likely going to want to attend if it's just a 5-minute drive-thru with nothing to do afterwards. HinnenKamp shared his hesitation to charge for a Christmas event, but that fees do hinder unfavorable attendees and offer opportunities to take cost burden off of taxpayers.

Olson shared that Family Day plans are underway. Zdon noted that two years ago attendance was good. Olson noted she has assumed the same from signup lists, but doesn't have any recorded attendance. Olson will work with the schools to give flyers to students as the event gets closer.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Johnson, second by Gahm to adjourn the August 24, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 4-0, meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Alyssa Olson  
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** September 28, 2021  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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The September Curious Creatures was cancelled as it did not meet the attendance requirements (need 5 kids). There is still another week left to register for October, but with only 1 child signed up currently, it is likely that will be cancelled as well. School activities are likely conflicting with the program schedule as 3-5 year olds would be in pre-k or kindergarten programs.

The last Street Dance took place September 11 and included a special tribute for the anniversary of 9/11. Attendance was approx.. 2,500 people, a little less than the first event, but higher than the others. 11 vendors were onsite, including a registration table for the VFW and an informational booth for Sheep Dog Impact Assistance, and all were satisfied with the attendance. The tribute included a flag ceremony by the VFW Post 2735 Color Guard and the National Anthem, and the band concluded the event with a group sing-along to Proud to Be An American. There were a few unfavorable moments during the event with teenagers getting rowdy, unapproved vendor activities, and obscenity. In the coming months, staff will be discussing procedures to ensure the events remain safe and inclusive for all members of our community, but overall, attendees appeared to enjoy the event.

Friday was the last day of the Isanti Family Farmers' Market. September was a slow month for attendees – the first two weekends rained, so low attendance was expected, but even the sunny weather days were light. Some vendors noted this was normal for September, others noted previous years had seen much better attendance, so the views continue to be mixed. Multiple vendors did mention having their own timing issues with kids getting back to school and over-scheduling after being dormant last year, which may be impacting attendance as well. 4 vendors pulled out of the event permanently this month due to product shortages and time constraints and on average throughout the season, at least 5 vendors per week were no call no shows. Alyssa is working on options to move the Market with the Liquor Store and will be developing new guidelines for vendors as the layout will be very different from the current space.

Ideas for the holiday light event were presented to COW last week. Those options included different levels of events with different price points. The committee did not make a decision on the event in its entirety, but it will move to Council in October for a vote to move forward. The committee did motion that any option would take place in Bluebird Park and use the bandshell space. The committee also limited the event options down to the two lower cost options – the free market event and the ticketed 1-sided display walkthrough. These options will be presented to Council for direction on which to move forward with.

Construction for the bandshell is ongoing after some shipping delays. At COW, the committee was presented with some options for naming the bandshell, including some contributions from area schools. Staff was notified by the Isanti Lions Club that they are interested in contributing to the project and would like to enter a name for consideration. The committee opted to hold off on further discussion and to connect with the Lions on that potential support. The committee did wish to proceed with a grand opening celebration that includes vendors, name reveal, and potential performances by local school groups. Alyssa is working on that event plan with a target date of Saturday, October 23.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the December Movie Night has been moved to December 10 and will be combined with the Santa event. Alyssa is looking to create an event that includes photos with Santa, a craft activity and concludes with the movie.

Finally, staff has closed the restrooms at the BMX until further notice. Vandals have destroyed the bathrooms throughout the summer, so they will be kept closed until staff can determine best steps for limiting vandalism. Staff is looking into security camera options for Bluebird Park that would make access points visible, and also for the bandshell to limit vandalism once it is complete.

Upcoming events:

- September 26 – Family Day at Legacy Park from 3-5pm
- October 23 (TBD) – Bandshell Grand Opening Celebration



## PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, October 26, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
3. Little Free Library / Sports Library
4. Department Updates
5. Open Discussion
6. Adjournment

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 28, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Aaron Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: Aaron Zdon, Zachary Gahm, Dan HinnenKamp, Tressa Hunting, and Mayor Jeff Johnson

Staff Present: Matt Sylvester, Public Services Director

**Agenda/Modifications:** None

**3. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Johnson; second by Gahm to approve meeting Minutes from August 24, 2021. Motion passed 5-0.

**4. Department Updates:** Sylvester shared updates on September events. Curious Creatures was cancelled in September and will likely be cancelled in October due to low attendance. Events are likely conflicting with the preschool schedules.

Final Street Dance was well-attended and included a tribute for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. There were some unfavorable events that took place during, from garbage to youth fights and graffiti that will be addressed in the future. The Mayor noted that many people stayed until the very end of the event. A conversation about moving the event to the park will need to be had in the future to determine if it will deter some of the poor behavior and if it's the right move for the event. Sylvester shared some insight into some of the vandalism occurring throughout the City, including at the BMX bathrooms at Bluebird Park. Hunting shared a desire to create a more inclusive environment at these events and include some songs that may recognize our Native American and non-American residents. An item to discuss inclusivity and equity at future events will be added to the October Board agenda.

The Farmers Market continued to be slow in September with a number of vendors pulling out or not showing. Ms. Olson is looking into options and new guidelines for vendors if the event location moves to the new liquor store site. Gahm mentioned moving the date to a Sunday instead of a Friday and/or changing the timing. Sylvester mentioned competing markets and noted that vendors at our market also attend nearby markets on other days. HinnenKamp noted Coborn's may have objections to moving the market next to their store.

The holiday lights event will be moving to Council for a vote on an option to move forward. The location will be at Bluebird Park at the bandshell. The Mayor suggested the conversation may be geared around whether or not to ticket the event and how much cost the City is willing to take on.

Bandshell construction is ongoing and should be completed in October. Isanti Lions Club are looking to submit a name for the feature along with a monetary contribution. Zdon asked if October 23 is a reasonable date for a grand opening celebration to which Sylvester noted we are hopeful the unit will be completed by then.

December Movie Night was moved due to a scheduling conflict and will now be combined with the Santa event. Gahm mentioned making sure that the schools get flyers with dates for the Movie Nights.

HinnenKamp suggested next year it may be a good kickoff event for the holiday lights event.

Sylvester addressed the closing of the BMX restrooms due to vandalism. Ms. Olson is looking into security options to deter future vandalism. Zdon asked if the bathrooms were available still from the inside for the BMX use and Sylvester confirmed they are still open on that end. Although one of the vandals was caught, there have been 4-6 different incidents this year. Incidents are also occurring throughout Bluebird Park so any potential cameras or security measures would need to capture the broad area.

Sylvester also discussed Family Day at Legacy Park. Roughly 40 people attended throughout the day – and increase from previous years - and families were able to make s'mores, crafts and take photos. The event unexpectedly conflicted with the Vikings home opener, which will be taken into consideration for next year. The grand opening celebration will tentatively take place on October 23 with food trucks, local school performers and entertainment. The Board noted that the date is over MEA weekend, which may impact schedules, but pushing back to Halloween weekend or into November are also not preferable.

HinnenKamp shared additional research on the Eagle Park railroad viewing options. HinnenKamp is interested in reaching out to BNSF and seeing if they would offer any community support for a project like this, as well as the Isanti Historical Society and Isanti County. Zdon suggested HinnenKamp continue to

gather some research and submit to Ms. Olson a week prior to the October meeting to add to the next agenda. Zdon suggested adding a mural on the side of the buildings bordering the tracks.

**Adjournment:** Motion by HinnenKamp, second by Johnson to adjourn the September 28, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 5-0, meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Alyssa Olson  
Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** October 26, 2021  
**Subject:** Little Free Library / Sports Library

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### **Background**

The 2022 budget includes plans to create a Little Free Sports Library in one of the parks. The unit would look like a small shed and allows area residents to keep recreational equipment, such as basketballs or tennis rackets, at the park for community use.

Additionally, a local Boy Scout approached City staff about a desire to add a Little Free Library to one or more of our parks as his final service project.

Both of these projects would be incorporated in early Spring 2022.

### **Request**

Staff would like to know which parks the Board would consider viable for these projects.

### **Attachments**

- Garden Shed Example





## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** October 26, 2021  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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The October Curious Creatures took place at the Community Garden and had 7 kids in attendance. The November 9<sup>th</sup> program will focus on the zoo. Alyssa will be looking to incorporate more toddler-friendly activities based on registrations.

The holiday lighting event was approved by Council for December 2022. Council approved Concept 2, which is a ticketed walk-through experience with 1-sided light displays. The event will also include vendors and feature Santa photo appearances and some market-style activities. Alyssa will be working on the formal event plan in the coming months and will begin working on sponsor opportunities this winter. The next step for Council will be deciding on a name for the event.

Eagle Park construction has been completed. The parking lot has been painted and new grass is down. Plans for the spring will include minimal landscaping and the addition of new seating areas, pending discussions on the Railroad Park or future options.

Construction of the amphitheater is nearly complete and is just waiting the arrival of doors and trim (which are expected this week). At the Oct. 19 Council Meeting, the Council decided to name the feature Bluebird Amphitheater. The Lions Club had offered a \$10,000 donation for naming rights; the Council suggested that the Lions use that contribution towards amphitheater seating and that area would include recognition for the group.

A Ribbon Cutting ceremony took place on Saturday, Oct. 23 and featured live music by Roger Allen Band. A larger grand opening celebration will be planned for the spring.

Council has also decided to adjust the schedule and location of the Street Dances for 2022. The number of dances will be cut down to 3 taking place downtown. The 4<sup>th</sup> event will be moved to Bluebird Park and will be a slightly adjusted event that will act as a test for moving the Street Dances to the Park permanently.

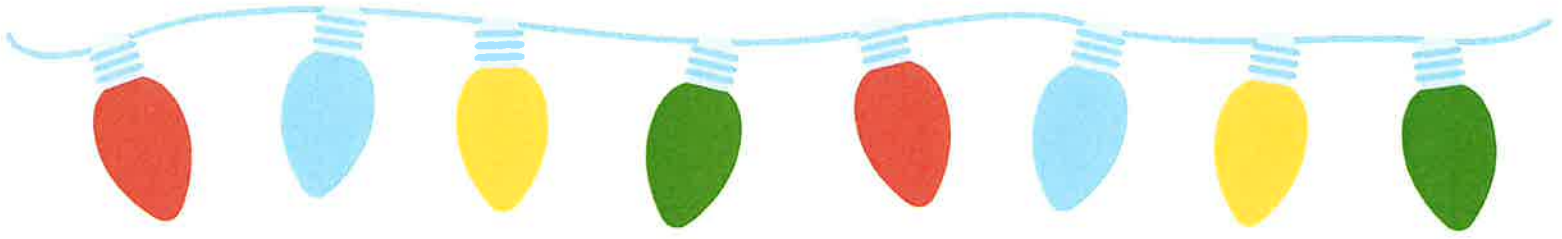
Residents near Mattson Park have requested the use of a small parcel of the park to plant a flower garden. Through Council discussions, an option for this will be added to the Adopt-A-Park policy. The policy adjustment will be reviewed at the November COW meeting.

### Upcoming events:

- November 12: Curious Creatures: Zoo
- November 19: Movie Night (Raya and the Last Dragon)
- December 7: Curious Creatures: Elves
- December 10: Santa w/Movie Night (Jingle All the Way)
- December 12: Candy Cane Flashlight Hunt

### Attachments:

- Isanti Lights Event Concept



**Isanti  
Lights  
Event  
Concepts**

# Concept #2

Walk-through ticketed light experience designed to appeal to a broader County-wide audience.

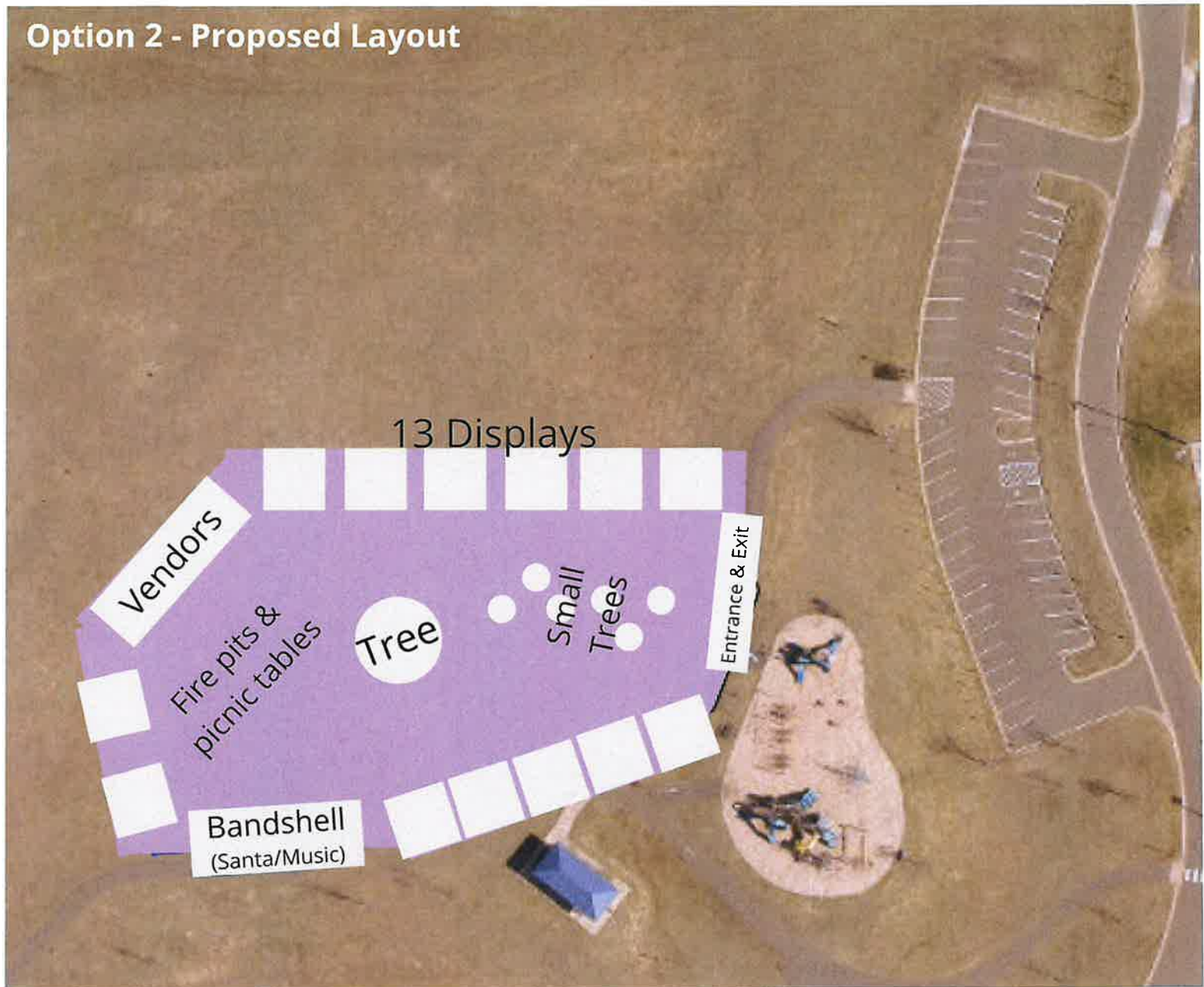
Would include food & product vendors from across the state, local business partners, heavy focus on light displays and interactive activities (such as photos with Santa, photo stations, and fire pits).

**Proposed Timeline:** 1 Week (Sat-Sat)

**Price:** Fee to Attend  
Paid Parking

**Est. Cost:** \$107,000  
**Est. Revenue:** \$84,000

## Option 2 - Proposed Layout



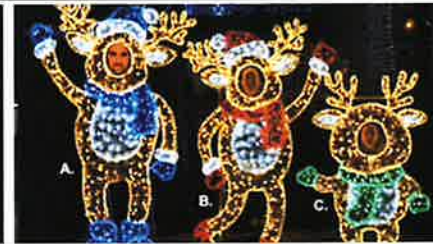
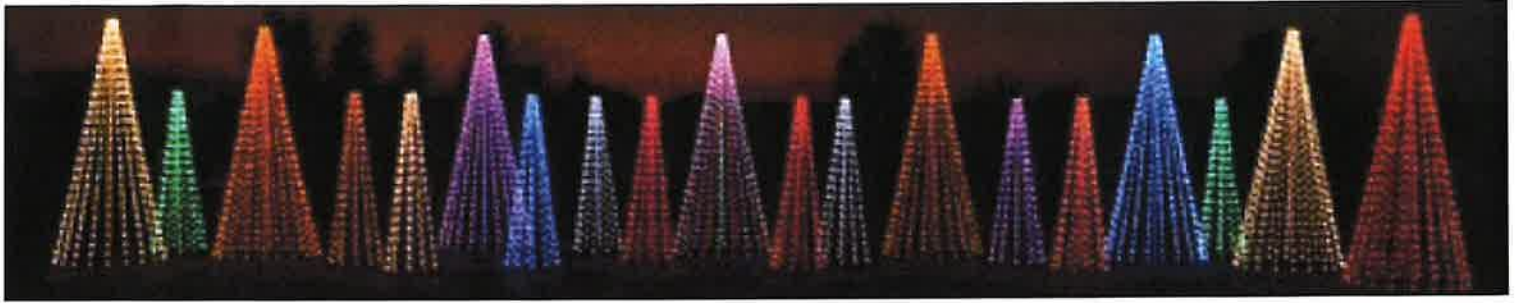
### Event Highlights:

- Ticketed event
- Displays are 2D (1-sided) structures - Maximum of 13 displays along perimeter (would need to increase each year to fill space or decrease footprint) plus large tree centerpiece
- Vendor opportunities include food and non-food products

### Additional Considerations:

- Security would need to be hired for after hours
- Need paid staff or volunteers for ticket taking & customer service
- Fencing or a barrier around perimeter would be needed to prevent free access
- Potential for county-wide audience and corporate sponsor involvement, but won't likely attract major sponsors

# Option 2 - Display Aesthetic





## PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA

**Council Chambers**

*Tuesday, November 23, 2021*

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
2. Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting.
3. Eagle Park Railroad Project
4. Department Updates
5. Open Discussion
6. Adjournment

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
October 26, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Aaron Zdon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members Present: Aaron Zdon, Zachary Gahm, Dan HinnenKamp, Tressa Hunting, and Mayor Jeff Johnson

Staff Present: Alyssa Olson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator

**Agenda/Modifications:** None; Motion by Gahm, second by HinnenKamp

**3. Meeting Minutes:** Motion by HinnenKamp; second by Johnson to approve meeting Minutes from September 28, 2021. Motion passed 5-0.

**4. Little Free Library / Sports Library:** Ms. Olson shared plans for adding a Little Free Sports Library to one of the parks in 2022 and requested the Board's insights on which park. The Board recommended either Bluebird Park or Mattson Park. Olson also shared that a local Eagle Scout is interested in adding a Little Free Library to one or more of our parks as part of his final service project. The Board recommended Bluebird Park, Mattson Park or Eagle Park for the standard library. Mr. Zdon noted that any unit placed should be anchored and/or placed on a concrete slab to secure the item for wind or vandalism. Olson will provide the recommendations to the Eagle Scout and report back to the Board with an update on timeline and location(s) associated with the project.

**4. Department Updates:** Olson shared an update on Curious Creatures and an intent to begin finding more toddler-friendly activities as most of the attendees this fall appear to be 2-3 year olds.

The holiday lighting event in December 2022 will be concept #2 from the event concept packet, which a ticketed walk-through experience. Olson is working on building out the event plan and sponsor opportunities. She requested the Board think about names for the event. Gahm wondered if the name is being over-considered, to which Olson noted that choosing a flashy name may give the appearance that the event is more than just a community festival and, thus, draw in more sponsors and attendees from outside of the County.

Eagle Park plan is to add some bushes and landscaping, and add a few more seating areas in the Spring while we wait for more information on the railroad park idea.

Bluebird Amphitheater has been named by the City Council and the build is nearly complete with doors and trim arriving earlier that day. The donation from the Lions Club is pending their decision on whether or not they want to provide a seating area. The ribbon cutting ceremony went well and the band sounded great with the amphitheater's acoustics.

Council has opted to have three of the Street Dances remain at Main Street in 2022 and one will move over to Bluebird Park. It may take on a different form in order to shift mentality on the event itself and to create a bigger show at the park. Olson is looking at the September 2022 dance moving over to Bluebird and being amplified with a carnival or expanded event. HinnenKamp asked if the events would still be called a 'street dance' if moved to the park and Olson noted that will be part of the Council's discussion next year on if they should take a new shape. It was also noted that the Street Dances do not necessarily have a long history in the city, but they are beloved and known as is.

Olson is working to update the Adopt-A-Park Policy to allow residents to request an addition or modification to an adopted park. The request was made by two local residents to utilize an area of Mattson Park that borders their properties as a flower garden. The application and agreement would designate the process for request approval and maintenance.

Olson shared that Northern Elements All Stars have selected to host the November and December movie nights. They will retain the profits from concession sales for both of those events. Olson is working on adding crafts and activities for the Santa event ahead of the December movie night. She is also working on the Candy Cane Flashlight Hunt on December 12.

**5. Open Discussion:** Johnson mentioned security camera plans for Bluebird Park. Olson is working on getting quotes for adding cameras to the amphitheater, as well as at the warming house at the BMX Arena. Johnson requested thoughts on adding cameras throughout the park to have a visual on the full area. The

Board was in agreement that we will need additional security as we continue adding to Bluebird and it would make some sense to cover the full park for liability. Olson will be reviewing quotes and options and moving to Council with potential options, as needed.

Johnson also mentioned he was approached by the Redbirds about the City painting the backside of the fence around Sportsman's Field, which is visible to Bluebird Park. It was noted that the City owns that property, but the Redbirds lease the field and maintain their own revenue, in addition to maintaining the field. Olson mentioned arts grants that are available that could be sought out for painting a mural on the back of the fence to make it more appealing and add some art to the park. Gahm mentioned using the County corrections services to paint the fence for us, using paint supplied by the City. Johnson will share the Sherriff's contact information with Olson so she can get insight into that process. Hunting mentioned that both of these options could fall under Arts & Culture and be applicable for a number of different grant programs.

Hunting circled back to discussions from the September Board meeting about inclusivity in City events. As part of those initiatives, Hunting found a handful of grants and organizations that can help and finance future events and programs that can assist in creating a more culturally diverse community. Olson summarized that we should consider looking to 2022 and beyond through a multi-cultural lens that will help us ensure our events and programs are appealing to the full community. Hunting also recommended including groups like United Nations from the local high school or Play Inc. and other community organizations that do build culturally diverse programs. Olson noted that it could look like turning Celebrate Isanti into a vendor fair that includes and showcases cultural groups from the region and truly celebrates all of the diversity in the area. Gahm mentioned using a similar event layout to the holiday lights event for future beer or food festivals. HinnenKamp noted the Farmers Market potentially moving to Bluebird as well. Olson noted that visibility is difficult at Bluebird due to its topography and the current plan is still to look at the new liquor store. Johnson mentioned bringing back a tree lighting ceremony with the new holiday event as something to consider with future planning.

Zdon confirmed that we will not have a December meeting, so the November meeting will be the final meeting of the year.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Johnson, second by HinnenKamp to adjourn the October 26, 2021 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion passed 5-0, meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Alyssa Olson

Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** November 23, 2021  
**Subject:** Eagle Park Railroad Project

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### Background

Board member Hinnenkamp will provide an update on the Eagle Park railroad project and ideas to incorporate into the space.



## MEMO

**To:** Members of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Board  
**From:** Alyssa Olson - Parks, Recreation and Events Coordinator  
**Date:** November 23, 2021  
**Subject:** Department Updates

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The November Curious Creatures took place at the Community Center and had 3 registered kids in attendance (plus 2 siblings). The December 7<sup>th</sup> program will focus on Elves. Alyssa is drafting the schedule and topics for 2022, and is also considering a couple shifts regarding timing and age limits.

The first Movie Night took place Friday night. The Northern Elements All Star Cheer Team hosted the concessions.

The December Movie Night will take place December 10 following the Santa event. The Santa appearance will include free craft activities, hot cocoa & cookies, goody bags to the first 50 kids, and photos with Santa.

Plans for the Candy Cane Flashlight Hunt have also been finalized. The hunt will take place on Sunday, December 12 from 5-6:30pm. Prizes for the golden candy canes will be an assortment of gift cards for winners to choose from.

Construction of the amphitheater has been completed. The Lions Club is currently looking into seating options and will be working with Alyssa on a potential plan in the coming months. This seating would be incorporated into the landscaping plan for the spring. At the November COW meeting, the Council approved of the pricing structure at \$350 full day, \$150 half day, and \$100 half day nonprofit rates. The rental application will be ready to launch at the beginning of the year.

Cameras for the amphitheater and for the BMX bathrooms have been approved. Cameras will be placed this week and service will be connected in December. A quote for 5 cameras was able to fit into the amphitheater budget, so those units have been accepted and can be added to with a larger Park plan as we add structures to Bluebird.

Sledding hill lighting will be completed this week. Signs for the hill will go up in the next couple weeks and we'll start making snow when we get below freezing temps. The pleasure rink will be setup around the same time as well.

The Council has approved an update to the Adopt-A-Park policy that would allow for residents who select to adopt a park to make recommendations for park additions. This option was developed to allow residents near Mattson Park to develop a flower garden on park grounds, which they will have the option to do in 2022 under this policy.

The general Park season has closed and all restrooms/waste containers and seasonal amenities have been removed from the parks until the spring.

Isanti Family Farmers Market will be moving in 2022 as the current lot has been sold. The preferred location is the new liquor store. Adjustments will need to be made to the guidelines, which may deter some existing vendors, but the location should see increased traffic. The application should be ready to launch after the New Year.

Alyssa and Matt are also working on plans to revamp the Community Garden ahead of the 2022 season. This would include tilling the entire garden, recreating the plots, adding more raised plots to the Northeast corner, splitting the City plot in the Northwest corner, and adding more seating/rest options throughout the garden.

Upcoming events:

- December 7: Curious Creatures: Elves – 9-10am @ ICC
- December 10: Santa w/Movie Night (Jingle All the Way) - 4:30-9pm @ ICC
- December 12: Candy Cane Flashlight Hunt – 5-6:30pm @ Legacy Park



## **PARK, RECREATION & CULTURE BOARD AGENDA**

**Council Chambers**

***Tuesday, February 23, 2021***

**6:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting Opening
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Roll Call
  - D. Agenda Modifications
  
2. Organization of Advisory Bodies as per Chapter 8 of the Isanti City Code.
  - A. Oath of Office for new Parks, Recreation & Culture Board Members
  - B. Chair of Parks, Recreation and Culture Board
  - C. Vice-Chair of Parks Recreation and Culture Board
  - D. Secretary of Parks, Recreation & Culture Board
  - E. Annual Review of Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form
  
3. Approval of Minutes from November 24, 2020 Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Meeting
  
4. Review Parks, Recreation & Culture Board Meeting Dates
  
5. Overview of 2021 Projects
  
6. Adjournment