



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	WORK SESSION
MEETING DATE	MAY 4TH, 2026

ITEM:	Parks and Recreation Updates (30 Minutes)		
<i>Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager</i>			
DEPARTMENT: Park and Recreation	BY/DATE: John W. Stutzman & David Cullen / April 30th, 2026		
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Quality Public Spaces		<input type="checkbox"/> Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		<input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

In January 2026, Recreation Director Keith Windschitl retired. Following a recruitment process, John was hired as the City’s Parks and Recreation Director and began his role on April 27, 2026. He brings 19 years of experience in parks and recreation, including work in programming, facility management, staff development, and strategic planning in both large and small communities. He also holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the field, along with relevant professional certifications and volunteer experience.

As John begins in this role, leadership of several active park projects and planning efforts are being transitioned to the Parks and Recreation Department for ongoing coordination and implementation. These efforts, initiated over the past two years through prior Council direction and staff work, include improvements at Sullivan Lake Park, including replacement of the existing lift station and development of a new playground, development of a soccer field at Huset Park, and the creation of a Parks System Master Plan.

PROJECT UPDATES

Sullivan Lake Park: Playground and Lift Station

The City is continuing to work on improvement projects at Sullivan Lake Park, including replacement of the existing lift station and installation of a new playground. ISG is providing design and engineering support for both components.

The lift station work will continue under the leadership of Public Works and Engineering and will be completed in phases to accommodate equipment lead times, while allowing the playground project to proceed independently.

John has a meeting scheduled with ISG and has been working with City staff to get up to speed on the playground project, confirm the intended outcomes, and ensure the design direction aligns with available resources and priorities. This also includes reviewing how the playground equipment selection process will be handled and identifying the appropriate timing and approach for community input.

Currently, he is working to ensure project goals are clearly defined and that the design is feasible before moving further into the design phase and community input on proposed structures. At the same time, staff's immediate focus is to develop a clear update for residents so they understand the project status, next steps, and when they can expect to be engaged.

Huset Park: Soccer Field Development

In 2025, at the direction of the City Council, staff evaluated potential locations and gathered community input for a future soccer field, resulting in the selection of Huset West as the preferred site. A preliminary layout was developed, along with an estimated project cost of \$590,000.

The City is now moving into project delivery. Engineering is currently preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering, design, and construction oversight services, with John supporting the Engineering Department in this effort. Once a consultant is selected and design work is completed, the project will move into contractor bidding and construction planning.

Parks System Master Plan

The City recently began work with MEND Collaborative to develop a comprehensive Parks System Master Plan. The plan will include system-wide assessment, community engagement, visioning, and an inventory and review of existing parks and facilities.

The project is in the early stages, focused on data collection and coordination with City staff. Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff are participating in bi-weekly check-in meetings with MEND Collaborative to ensure ongoing coordination throughout the process.

Public engagement is scheduled to begin in June and will include approximately three to four in-person events between June and October, along with additional pop-up engagement opportunities and online feedback options to broaden participation.

A draft plan is anticipated to be presented to the City for review toward the end of 2026, with final review and adoption expected in the spring of 2027.

Requested Council Action/ Discussion Topics / Key Questions
No action needed. For City Council review and discussion only.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None