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Memorandum

TO: City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Adam Huehnergath, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Monthly Directors Report November 2025
CC: Mick Michel, City Administrator
Date: December 15th, 2025

Westside Park Ballfields:

At my end-of-year inspection I have identified a couple of improvements needed for the Westside Park ballfields. The two batting cage nets are in bad shape with numerous holes and tears. Last summer I witnessed a few fans getting hit with balls escaping the cages. Also, the lime base tended to puddle during the wet summer. We are looking into putting in a raised concrete base and add turf on the base. The new batting cage nets will have two sections since our tunnels are long enough. One will be for live batting practice, and the other section will be for tee work or soft toss.

The second fix is for the sod that is between the dugouts and home plate. The three fields are unique as they have grass in between the dugouts and the playing surface. It has been that way for as long as I can remember, but with the increasing number of games the area from the dugout opening to home plate is worn out and probably never will grow grass. The plan is to add a turf or lime area for the on-deck circle and a lime pathway to home plate. That will direct the batters where to warm up and the path to home plate. It will frame the field and keep the remaining grassy areas healthy. Ironically, there is a grant I will apply for through the Minnesota Twins organization for this.

Live Healthy Iowa Kids Track Meet:

The Live Healthy track meet is tentatively scheduled for May 13th next year. In the three years, we have moved our participants from 50 to 130. We ended up the 3rd highest out of 21 other sites for runners, and I think the move to a Wednesday night helped. I am going to work to keep all Dyersville baseball/softball games for that night to be rescheduled in advance to open it up for everyone without missing a baseball/softball game. With over 100 participants I am going to ask for volunteers in advance as I see this continuing to grow and become a nice regional event for years to come.