

To: Parks and Trails Advisory Board

Date: May 14, 2025

From: Rochelle Anderholm-Parsch, Parks and Recreation Director

Subject: Farewell and Heartfelt Thanks!

Attachments: None

Dear Parks and Trails Advisory Board Members,

As previously announced, my last day with the City of Sandy will be June 4, 2025. This decision was not made lightly, as I've developed deep and meaningful relationships with many of you, the dedicated Parks and Recreation staff, and our incredible community. Ultimately, the opportunity to return to Minnesota to be closer to my extended family, while accepting a position as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Faribault, has aligned with a long-term personal and professional goal.

I want to take a moment to celebrate all that we've accomplished together, as none of it would have been possible without our incredible staff, and the Advisory Board's passion, advocacy, and support.

Together, we built a traditional Parks and Recreation Department from the ground up. We brought Parks under the department's umbrella, which positioned us to advocate for new funding and system-wide support. During this transformative time, we:

- Reopened the Community Center post-pandemic and reinvigorated programs and services.
- Successfully advocated for a senior services county rate reimbursement adjustment to support our growing population and need for important life changing services.
- Completed the Parks and Trails Master Plan.
- Updated our System Development Charges and Fee-in-Lieu program and adopted a department-wide Cost Recovery and Financial Sustainability Policy.
- Worked together to champion fee increases that made it possible to construct Cedar Creek Trail, build Cedar Park and Base Camp, and prepare for Deer Pointe Park and Meinig Park improvements.

The vision and values of this board helped shape the Cedar Park master plan into what is now an award-winning park. We've celebrated the completion of Cedar Creek Trail, which connects our newest park to Sandy River Park, creating miles of accessible pathways.

The team took a dream of Council and created a widely popular annual event in December, Winterfest. This community event has turned it into a cherished community tradition. Staff have continued to expand programs that support our growing community, including the aging population, not just through essential services, but by cultivating the social connections that are critical to healthy aging.

Currently, we are in the midst of the budget process. I'm thrilled to share that the proposed draft includes a new facility lead position housed in Parks. This role will focus on asset management and facility maintenance, allowing Parks staff to focus more deeply on our park and trail system.

Looking ahead, we'll be breaking ground on Deer Pointe Park this June, and we've signed the contract to move Meinig Park Phase 2 forward, scheduled to begin in January 2026.

You are in incredibly capable hands during this transition:

- Tiana Rundell will lead Parks and Facilities with focus and care including spearheading construction projects, and all things related parks, trails, and facilities.
- John Wallace will lead and bring energy and expertise to Senior Services and Recreation, enhancing events, sports, and community programs with creativity and dedication.
- Chelsea Jarvis will continue the vital role of being the organizational glue, managing accounting, scheduling, and team alignment.

Together, with support from the City Manager, they will carry this momentum forward and bring our major park projects to life as they work on a replacement.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank you for your support, insight, and dedication. Saying goodbye to this board is bittersweet, but I leave with full confidence in the team and trust in the vision we've set in motion. I've learned so much from each of you, and I will carry those lessons, and these memories, with me into the next chapter.

With gratitude,
Rochelle Anderholm-Parsch

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