

Parks and Recreation Report for the Month of May

The Adopt-A-Flower Garden Program started in May with all the parks having at least one volunteer working in the flower beds and there is a Girl Scout Troop volunteering at Terrace Park. We wish to thank all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the parks. I picked up plant donations from the Minnesota Green Project on May 25 and the volunteers along with Public Works staff planted the flowers.

Recreation Staff was busy preparing for Tower Days, youth summer playground program, summer music program, and fall program planning during the month of May. The staff finished their training on the new registration system which will go live in July.

The Park Master planning is proceeding with the WSB project team receiving the surveys from the citizens that were distributed in their water bill during the month of April. There were 224 surveys returned, over a 10% return. In addition, 46 residents filled out the survey online. We wish to thank the citizens for their interest in their city parks.

The summer playground staff was finalized in May. Mason is returning from last year and our new employees Rachel and Loren are both education majors. The children should have a great time this summer with our fun-loving, energetic staff.

I attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on May 4th. During the summer months the commission meets at a city park where they may see activities taking place and review park amenities. The May meeting was held at Triangle Memorial Park. Plans were made for the commission's involvement in Tower Days. At the end of May, one Park Commissioner, resigned her position because she is moving out of the city. If any citizen is interested in serving on the committee please fill out the application form located on our website.

Wesley and I attended the Tower Days meeting on May 25th. All plans were finalized.

I also attended Department Head Meetings, City Council and Workshop meetings.

Recreation Activities which were offered in May included: Yoga, Youth Softball, Adult Softball, Nordic Pole Walking, Book Club, Music in the Park with the High School Jazz Bands, Zoom Driver's Class, in-person driver's class, Permit to Carry Classes and four different pickleball courses.

I would like to remind every one of the summer music concerts at Lakeside Lions Park. The Castaways playing 50's favorites, will play on Wed. June 23, 6:30pm at Lakeside Lions Park. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon will be selling hot dogs and brats with all proceeds going to support veterans and their families.

Finally, I would like to express our thanks to the Tower Days Committee, Recreation Staff, our volunteers and our community for supporting our annual celebration.

This concludes the Recreation Report for May.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kay Okey

Parks and Recreation Director