

Parks and Recreation Department

April 2026

Parks

- The parks are getting busier with the warm weather – and green grass. Fields are looking good for sports.
- Adopt-a-Flower Garden – each year residents/organizations can volunteer to maintain a flower garden in one of our parks. We will be actively reaching out to local organizations and businesses for this community project.
- Community Raised Garden Beds at Sanburnol – Gardeners have started to plant and are loving the new boxes.
- We are working on putting together a sub-committee for Lakeside Lions along with the City of Mounds View. This committee will provide feedback for the future of this park.

Department Activity

- The Recreation Department has just completed 2 amazing partnerships with SLP High School students.
 - The first one is our Sanburnol Raised Community Garden boxes that the Trades program built. They are built to last with cedar and 4x4 supports.
 - Second, we have the Business Students who completed a review of our marketing and impact in the community especially youth. They presented their findings on May 7.
- We have our final line up for Music in the Park – as you will see in the council packet.
- The Recreation Department has been working steadily for Tower Days the last few months. We are seeing changes in participation with community business – we will review after this year what changes need to happen.
- The Recreation Department offered 32 classes/programs that started in April. Highlights include: Mandala Rock Painting, DASH Sports, Cooking with Jeff, North Metro Volleyball and Babysitting class.
- Clare has been busy getting summer programs up and running. Softball has been a huge part of her summer prep, both for youth and adult. We have a variety of new summer programs that we are excited about – including our in-house Able Park Adventurers Camp, Rec on the Go, Park Pals and much more.
- Clare and Anne attended the SLP Lions Pancake Breakfast on April 19. Our booth was busy – we were able to make a variety of connections with community members and youth.
- Patrice attended Circle Wisconsin April 19 -21, Tour operators & planners come together with group friendly suppliers from the vibrant Midwest.
- Patrice and Anne hosted Earth Day on April 25th. Attendance was sub-par. After event discussion and revamping for the 2027 Earth Day are in process. We plan to move it to the actual Earth Day.
- Director Scanlon attended the following meetings and events during March:
 - Department Head Meeting
 - City Council Session
 - Tower Days Mtg
 - Park and Recreation Commission
 - Weekly Park and Rec Staff Mtg
 - Adaptive Programs Mtg (Anoka County)
 - SLP High School Pathways Meeting for Marketing Project
 - SLP High School Trades Mtgs for Community Garden

Grants and other funding

- CDBG Grant for Terrace Park has been submitted. I will update the council when we hear.
- I am looking at a Grant with Anoka County for Waste Prevention and Recycling. This grant would be used to update receptacles in our parks if we qualify. I will update the council more when I have completed my research.
- I reached out to Coon Creek Watershed District regarding dog waste stations and availability of grants for those. They don't currently have any grants running. (Grant was used for station at Sanburnol) However, in conversations with CCWD they offered us 3 new dog waste stations for Terrace, Able and Triangle Parks at no charge – we just have to empty and stock them. Parks maintenance will be adding this to their schedule and installing the stations in the next few weeks. I want to Thank CCWD for this great partnership and look forward to continuing with other opportunities as they come up.

Park and Recreation Commission

- Park and Recreation Commission met in April and continues to look at ways to grow and improve.
 - Currently putting together, a subcommittee for Lakeside Lions

Tower Days 2026 June 4-6, 2026

- Planning is underway – we are looking forward to the new format and events for 2026
- We have secured some great acts this year including Transit Authority, Good for Gary, as well as fireworks and new this year Ninja Anywhere.
- Buttons are in, please stop by the Park and Rec office to purchase your button.
- **We are actively looking for Sponsorships.**
- See included schedule

New and Upcoming

- We are looking forward to a great summer with a variety of new community-based programming.
 - Music in the Park
 - Princess Parties
 - Popsicle with the Police
 - Ice Cream Social
 - Cops and Bobbers
 - Summer Star Party
 - Rec on the Go
 - Park Pal