

Parks and Recreation Department

August 2025

Parks

- Music in the Park: We completed the 2025 season, and are already looking forward to 2026.
- Terrace Park – Construction has begun on the new Pickleball courts at Terrace Park. They will also be filling in the cracks on the Basketball Courts.
- Able Park – We have begun marketing rentals at Able Park, along with other facilities in the city. After reviewing several years of warming house usage and noting the increased demand for building rentals, we have decided not to offer the warming house this year. Free skate and snowshoe checkouts will continue to be available through the Parks and Recreation office.

Department Activity

- Summer playground programs wrapped up a successful summer on August 8.
- Program staff and summer playground staff participated in Night to Unite in early August. All reported it was a great opportunity to be in the community.
- We completed Music in the Park with no rain outs in August. 😊
- Recreation programs served over 2,000 participants this summer from Youth to Adult.
- We completed a short-extended trip to the Iron Range, participants got up and close with bears, and wolves. Participants had a great time and really enjoyed seeing the wolves and bears up close.
- Staff participated in the following Community based events: Night to Unite and Princess Party in the Park.
- Seniors Clubs are growing: Hand and Foot which launched last year has been seeing regular participation of 18+, we will also be adding on the 3rd Monday of the month Up and Down the River card game.
- Demand remains strong for Able Park Rentals. Staff dedicated a whole page in the Fall 2026 recreation catalog to rentals, and we have seen an increase in calls for both Able Park and the City Hall.
- A decision was made to discontinue warming house hours at Able Park in order to better meet community needs for rental space and programming at the facility. Inconsistent ice and weather conditions, along with very low usage (fewer than 15 participants during the 2024–2025 season), guided this change. Free skate and snowshoe check-outs will continue to be available through the Parks & Recreation office at City Hall.
- Director Scanlon attended the following meetings and events during June:
 - Department Head Meeting
 - City Council Session
 - Weekly Park and Rec Staff Mtg
 - Mtg with SHIP of Anoka County
 - Safety Committee
 - SLP Terrace Park Construction Mtg

Park and Recreation Commission

- We are actively recruiting for candidates to participate on the Park and Recreation Commission.
- Director Scanlon has reached out to the students that signed up on the interest list during her visit at SLP High School Leadership Camp in June.

Tower Days 2026 June 4-6, 2026

- We are actively recruiting for candidates to participate on the Tower Days Committee.
- Director Scanlon has been working with the SLP Lions on changes for the 2026 celebration, these changes include a more concise weekend format.
- Our kick-off Mtg is schedule for September 30 at 6:00 pm

Grants

- Director Scanlon has secured a SHIP Grant with Anoka County to rebuild the 14 raised community garden beds.
- This project will work in collaboration with SLP High School Trades program for the building of the beds.