

Parks and Recreation Department

May 2022 Report

Recreation Programs

- Recreational activities which were held in May included: Classes in Yoga, Youth Karate, soccer, adult and youth softball, Esports, dance, Pickleball lessons, Nordic Walking, mature drivers, cooking, Bingo, Card Club and art classes.
- North Metro Outdoor Sand Volleyball League formed with New Brighton and Fridley and had 10 teams registered. Play begins in June at Able Park.
- Pickleball Ladder League started with 9 players on Wednesday nights.
- Seasonal Playground staff interviews were conducted. The three-member staff starts June 13 with a week of training and planning.
- Staff continue to take daily registrations for all programs:
 - Adult and Youth Enrichment and Sports
 - Adult day trips
 - Extended Tours Mackinac Island September 29 – October 2, Stillwater October 21- 22, Kansas City -November 30- December 5, Shades of Ireland – November 2022, Hawaii -Janua

Parks

- Park Building rentals are being taken for the summer months at the Recreation Office.
- Adopt-A-Flower Program volunteers may register to tend the flowers in the parks.
- Adopt-A-Storm Drain Program – new this year, residents may register to adopt a storm drain through a national program.
- Community Garden Raised Beds –Currently all beds have been reserved.
- Staff is working on final cost estimates of remodeling the Able Park Building and will bring to Council by the end of June.
- The Terrace Park shelter delivery date is expected at the end of June.
- Able Park basketball court reconstruction saw the court resurfaced and new hoops added. The court will be painted 30 days after the surface cures.
- Staff is working with service groups requesting projects in the parks. Service groups will assist with weeding, trash pick up and other park projects as needed.
- I met with a consultant from Prairie Restoration to obtain recommendation and estimates on how to better improve Triangle Park. The staff will review the recommendations and seek grant funding for landscaping materials and plants.

Tower Days

- The committee, consisting of 11 community members, meets the last Tuesday of the month. 6:30pm at City Hall. Tower Days 2022 dates June 9-12.
- Staff and committee worked through the month of May to put the finishes touches on the events.
- The Tower Days Committee wishes to thank our numerous sponsors as this event is funded through donations.
- The Tower Days Committee also wishes to thank our many volunteers, especially the SLP Lions Club, in making these events a successful and fun day for our community.
- Special thank you to Public Works for the many hours that they dedicate to both the parade and the weekend events. The Recreation staff certainly appreciates the extra effort on their part to assist with this event all while completing their normal duties.
- Thank you to the Police Department for their work in keeping the parade and events safe.

I personally would like to thank Council Members Lisa Dircks, Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff, and Ken Wendling for volunteering many hours on both Saturday and Sunday. Their time handling the information booth and event set ups allowed the Recreation staff the needed time to coordinate the activities throughout the park.

Department Activity

- Director Okey attended the following meetings during May:
 - Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on May 3.
 - City Council session on May 16
 - Tower Days Committee Meeting on May 31
 - Attended Meet the Parks Event Webinar Meeting – which will be held August 29 in Fridley
 - Prairie Restoration on May 18
- Staff continued to monitor safety recommendations from MDH and CDC.
- Recreation Department is currently hiring for one more summer playground seasonal staff position.

Upcoming Programs

- Summer Playground Programs
- Dance Classes
- Yoga Classes
- Youth Basketball and soccer
- Day trips to Lake Minnetonka – Boat Cruise, Old Log Theater Productions, Mystery Trip, Spam! Tour of Austin, Viking Training Facility