



PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, August 4, 2025 at 4:30 PM
Park Maintenance Facility (lunch room) 1140 Industrial
Road, Owatonna, MN 55060

Change of location for August 4, 2025 Park Board Meeting

1. Opening Business

- 1.a. Call to Order
- 1.b. Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

- 3.a. June 2, 2025 Park Board Minutes

4. Persons Wishing to Appear

- 4.a. The public forum is intended to afford the public an opportunity to address topics to the Park Board. The public forum will be no longer than 30 minutes in length, and each presenter will have no more than five (5) minutes to speak. Topics of discussion are restricted to local park and recreation topics. The Park Board will only listen and not take action on public forum presentations.

5. New Business

- 5.a. 5.a. Biochar Presentation, Todd Rexine, Conservation Director, Great River Greening
- 5.b. Proposed Fees Manual Update, Eric Anderson

6. Old Business

- 6.a. Born Learning Trail, Annette Duncan, President, Steele County United Way
- 6.b. Community Center Task Force update, Tyler Cochran
- 6.c. Archery Range, Crossbows Prohibited, Eric Anderson

7. Communication

- 7.a. Division Reports
- 7.b. Kris Busse Retirement

8. Adjournment

**MINUTES - UNAPPROVED
OWATONNA PARKS AND RECREATION
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING
June 2, 2025, at 4:30 P.M.**

LOCATION: 540 West Hills Circle, Conference Room 120

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order at 4:33 p.m. by Jon Thiel

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Chair Jon Thiel, Vice-Chair Gina McGuire, Secretary Sara Baird, Tyler Cochran, Nancy Ness, Nan Silkunas

Members Absent: Eileen Wohlenhaus's term expired. She elected not to renew.

Staff Present: TW Dieckmann, Director of Parks and Recreation; Eric Anderson, Recreation Manager; Maureen Lyons, Administrative Coordinator

City Council Member: Don McCann

Guest Presenter: Nick Bancks, Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion by Nancy Ness to retain the same officers for 2025. Second by Nan Silkunas. All members voted aye.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve by Tyler Cochran. Second by Gina McGuire. All members voted aye.

APPROVAL OF MAY 5, 2025 MINUTES

Motion to approve by Nancy Ness. Second by Sara Baird. All members voted aye.

PERSONS WISHING TO APPEAR (none)

The public forum is intended to afford the public an opportunity to address topics to the Park Board. The forum will last no longer than 30 minutes. Each presenter will have no more than five minutes to speak. Topics of discussion are restricted to local park and recreation topics. Park Board will listen and not take action on public forum presentations.

OLD BUSINESS

TW introduced Nick Bancks, Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land (TPL). Nick provided an update on progress toward acquiring the 40-acre property north of 26th Street. TPL anticipates closing on the property June 6, 2025, with subsequent conveyance

(donation paid by TPL to the property owner) to the City of Owatonna the same day. Environmental covenant easement (ECE) has been approved by MPCA. The ECE requires the property to be kept in its natural state in perpetuity, except possible future trails.

Community Center Task Force update

Tyler Cochran provided an update from meetings with ICS, the consultant for the project.

City trail maps have been updated and printed using a \$2000 grant from the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP). Brochure holders will be added throughout the park system. Additional tri-fold brochures will be delivered to the Chamber of Commerce.

NEW BUSINESS (none)

COMMUNICATIONS

Monthly recreation division and park division reports were included in the agenda packet.

Discussion around recurring Yoga events at the beach to clarify whether these events are free. If free, then a park permit is appropriate. If not free, then an event permit would be necessary.

Motion by Tyler Cochran to approve reports and park permits (if Yoga is free) and bring the matter before the Council. Second by Nancy Ness. All members voted aye.

Note: Yoga is free, as confirmed via email to the board by TW Dieckmann after the meeting.

Jon Thiel: Requested Rec on Go schedule be shared in monthly recreation division report.

Sara Baird: Asked if the new trail maps might make a good addition to welcome packets for new residents of Owatonna.

Tyler Cochran: Recognized the dedication and team efforts of staff to facilitate youth soccer programming and open the waterpark for the summer season.

TW Dieckmann: Reminder that July meeting has been canceled due to proximity of the July 4th holiday. He suggested the board consider moving the August meeting to a park venue.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Sara Baird. Second by Gina McGuire. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. Location TBD.

Brooktree Golf Course	Current Approved Fee	Updated Fee	Updated Fee Effective Date	Cost Recovery Model
Season Passes (does not include \$15 surcharge per person or tax)	2025 Season Fee			
All Green Fee Season Passes: Purchase 2025 Season Pass between December 1 - 31, 2024 at 2024 Season Fees	<i>2024 Season Fees Apply</i>		<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4
Adult (Base) Age 33-61	\$975.00	\$1,024.00	<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4
Senior Age 62+	\$876.00	\$920.00	<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4
Senior Age 62-79	<i>Discontinued/ combined with Senior 62+</i>	NA	<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4
Super Senior Age 80+	<i>\$780 (Discontinued/ combined with "Senior Age 62+", except for 2024 Super Senior pass holders renewing)</i>	<i>\$820 (Discontinued/ combined with "Senior Age 62+", except for 2025 Super Senior pass holders renewing)</i>	<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4
Young Adult Age 26-32	\$730.00	\$767.00	<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4
Future Age 18-25	\$487.00	\$511.00	<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4
Junior Age 5-17	\$341.00	\$358.00	<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4
Weekday Monday - Friday only	\$780.00	\$819.00	<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4
Additional Adult - Sr Couple (+1), Weekday (+1), Family (+1 adult, +1 each dependent child to age 25)	<i>Base + \$275.00 each</i>	\$289.00	<i>2026 Season Rates</i>	4

Additional Child 5-17	Base + \$137.00 each	\$144.00	2026 Season Rates	4
Patron Card *25% discount on all green fees (does not apply to cart rentals; non- transferrable/card holder only) *10% discount on merchandise (no special orders)	\$102.00	\$107.00	2026 Season Rates	4
Carts (Does not include tax)	2025 Season Fee			
Annual Trail Fee – Personal Cart	\$385.00			4
Daily Trail Fee - Personal Cart	\$13.00			4
Annual Cart – Single (½ cart)	\$500.00	\$525.00	2026 Season Rates	4
9-Hole Cart Rental	\$13.00			4
18-Hole Cart Rental	\$20.00			4
Pull Cart Rental - 9 Hole	\$5.00			4
Pull Cart Rental - 18 Hole	\$9.00			4
Green Fees (Includes surcharge, does not include tax)	2025 Season Fee			
9-Holes Weekday (M-F)	\$25.00	\$26.00	2026 Season Rates	4
9-Holes Weekend and Federal Holidays	\$30.00	\$31.00	2026 Season Rates	4
18-Holes Weekday (M-F)	\$38.00	\$40.00	2026 Season Rates	4
18-Hole Weekend and Federal Holidays	\$43.00	\$45.00	2026 Season Rates	4
Junior Rate (5-17)	50% of Standard Rate	50% of Standard Rate	2026 Season Rates	4
Senior rate (62+)	90% of Standard Rate	90% of Standard Rate	2026 Season Rates	4
Demand Based Specials - Requires Manager Approval (includes surcharge, does not include tax)	2025 Season Fee			
Discount based on current Tee Time demand and patterns	up to 25% off standard Green Fee and Cart Rates			4
Standard Specials - (includes surcharge, does not include tax)	2025 Season Fee			

Buck-a-Hole Special 9-Holes (<i>Week of Aeriating Greens & October 1 thru end of season end</i>)	\$9.00			4
Buck-a-Hole Special 18-Holes (<i>Week of Aeriating Greens & October 1 - season end</i>)	\$18.00			4
Course Events and Programs	<i>\$0-\$75 on Green Fees and Cart rates</i>			4
Lessons:	2025 Season Fee			
1 hour lesson	\$40.00			4
5 package - 1 hour lesson	\$150.00			4
Tournament: Minimum of 10 teams/40 golfers required to qualify for tournament rates (Prices do not include tax.)	2025 Season Fee			
18-Holes Weekend & Holidays (Thru Labor Day) - Base Rate	\$60.00			4
18-Holes Weekend & Holidays (Post Labor Day)	<i>15% off Base Rate</i>			4
18-Holes Weekday (Thru Labor Day)	<i>15% off Base Rate</i>			4
18-Holes Weekday (Post Labor Day)	<i>30% off Base Rate</i>			4
9-Holes Weekday (Thru Labor Day) - Base Rate	\$35.00			4
9-Holes Weekday (Post Labor Day)	<i>15% off Base Rate</i>			4
18-Holes	<i>Discontinue</i>			4
Carts for Riders/Spectators (40 or less Carts needed)	<i>Standard Cart Rental Rates</i>			4
Carts for Riders/Spectators (41+ Carts needed)	\$48.00			4
Big Cup Event (additional fee)	\$275.00			4
Group Outtings: Minimum of 16 golfers is required to qualify for large group rates (Prices do not include tax.)	2025 Season Fee			
18-Holes w/Cart Weekday (Thru Labor Day)	<i>15% off Standard Green Fees</i>			4

18-Holes w/Cart Weekday (Post Labor Day)	<i>20% off Standard Green Fees</i>			4
18-Holes w/Cart Weekend & Holidays (Thru Labor Day)	<i>10% off Standard Green Fees</i>			4
18-Holes w/Cart Weekend & Holidays (Post Labor Day)	<i>15% off Standard Green Fees</i>			4

welcome to the born learning trail!

Did you know that learning is happening all the time?

For ways to learn together, just look for the Born Learning Trail signs. By playing and exploring you help young children get ready for success in school and in life.

Together, you can turn everyday moments into learning moments.

Happy trails!



UNITED WAY
Steele County

**WOMEN
UNITED**


CITY OF
OWATONNA



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watch learn stop play

Let your child lead the way.

Try this:

Watch what your child likes to do. Is it playing with other children, looking at bugs or heading for the slide?

Do the things your child likes to do.

Is your child staring or pointing at something? Ask, "What do you see?"

Trail tip: When you follow a child's lead, curiosity and confidence grow.



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bienvenido

al camino de
born learning

¿Sabía usted que aprendemos todo el tiempo?

Para encontrar maneras de aprender juntos, busque los letreros de bornlearning. Los juegos y la exploración ayudan a que los niños pequeños estén mejor preparados para su éxito escolar.

Juntos, los momentos cotidianos se convierten en momentos de aprendizaje.

¡Feliz recorrido sobre el camino de bornlearning!



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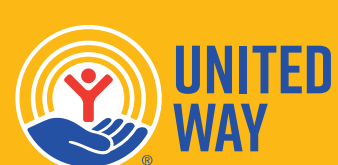
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En asociación con la ciudad de Owatonna Park y Recreation

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mire
aprenda
pare
juegue

Invite a su niño a ser el líder.

Intente lo siguiente:

- * Observe lo que le gusta hacer a su hijo. ¿Prefiere jugar con otros niños, observar insectos o tal vez jugar en el parque?
- * Haga las cosas que su niño disfruta hacer.
- * Si su niño está mirando algo fijamente o esta señalando algún objeto, preguntele ¿Que ves?

Cuando usted permite que su niño tome las riendas, su curiosidad y su confianza en si mismo crecen.



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mire aprenda, sonría

Tome el tiempo para prestarle atención a su niño.

Intente lo siguiente:

- * En un círculo, mírense uno al otro. Traten de hacerse sonreír y reír.
- * Camine de la mano con su niño, déle un abrazo, una sonrisa o una caricia sobre su espalda.
- * Mire, escuche y aprenda. Fíjese en lo que su niño observa, en lo que habla y en lo que hace.

Prestar atención a los niños ayuda a que se sientan especiales y seguros.



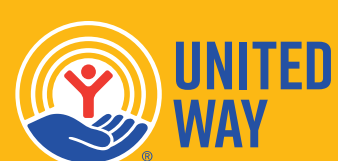
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hable escuche cante

Hablen mientras juegan.

Intente lo siguiente:

- * Escuche a los pájaros y pregúntele a su hijo. ¿Qué dicen los pájaros? ¿Puedes cantar como ellos?
- * Hable con sus hijos. Preglúntele, ¿Que podemos hacer ahora?
- * Invente cuentos o canciones divertidas. Cante Columpio, el columpio, ya me siento en el columpio.

La conversación y el canto ayudan a enseñar palabras que preparan a los niños a leer.



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mire
diga
señale
lea

Comience el camino de leer con su niño.

Intente lo siguiente:

- * Señale las letras pintadas en el suelo. Diga el sonido que hace cada letra.
- * Piense en palabras o nombres que comienzan con una A, B o C.
- * Señale y diga, veo un árbol. ¿Que otras palabras riman con árbol? Tomen turnos.

Jugar con las letras y los sonidos ayudan a preparar a los niños a leer.



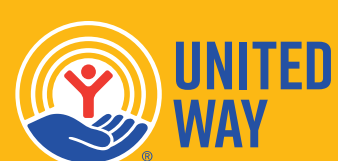
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imagine
cree
finje

Convierta cualquier momento en una hora de cuentos.

Intente lo siguiente:

- * Cuénteles a su hijo anécdotas acerca de usted mismo y su familia. Comience con, “cuando yo era pequeño.”
- * Busque alrededor suyo para encontrar ideas para cuentos. ¿Ves el pajarito? Había una vez un pájaro :que se llamaba...
- * Invite a su niño a participar en el cuento. Pregúntele, ¿Que piensas que el pájaro quiere hacer?

Los cuentos ayudan la capacidad para imaginar y escuchar.



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salte
aplaude
brinque
muévase

Asegure que su niño se mantenga activo.

Intente lo siguiente:

- * Muévase como un animal. Camine como un pato o salte como una rana.
- * Brinque o camine para atrás. Invite a su niño a imitar lo que usted hace.
- * Pídale a su hijo a hacer lo que hace. Aplaudir o agitar las manos. Señale. Sonría.



La actividad física ejercita el cuerpo y la mente de los niños.



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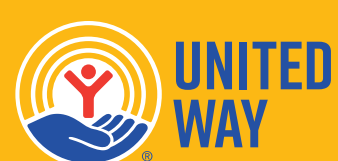
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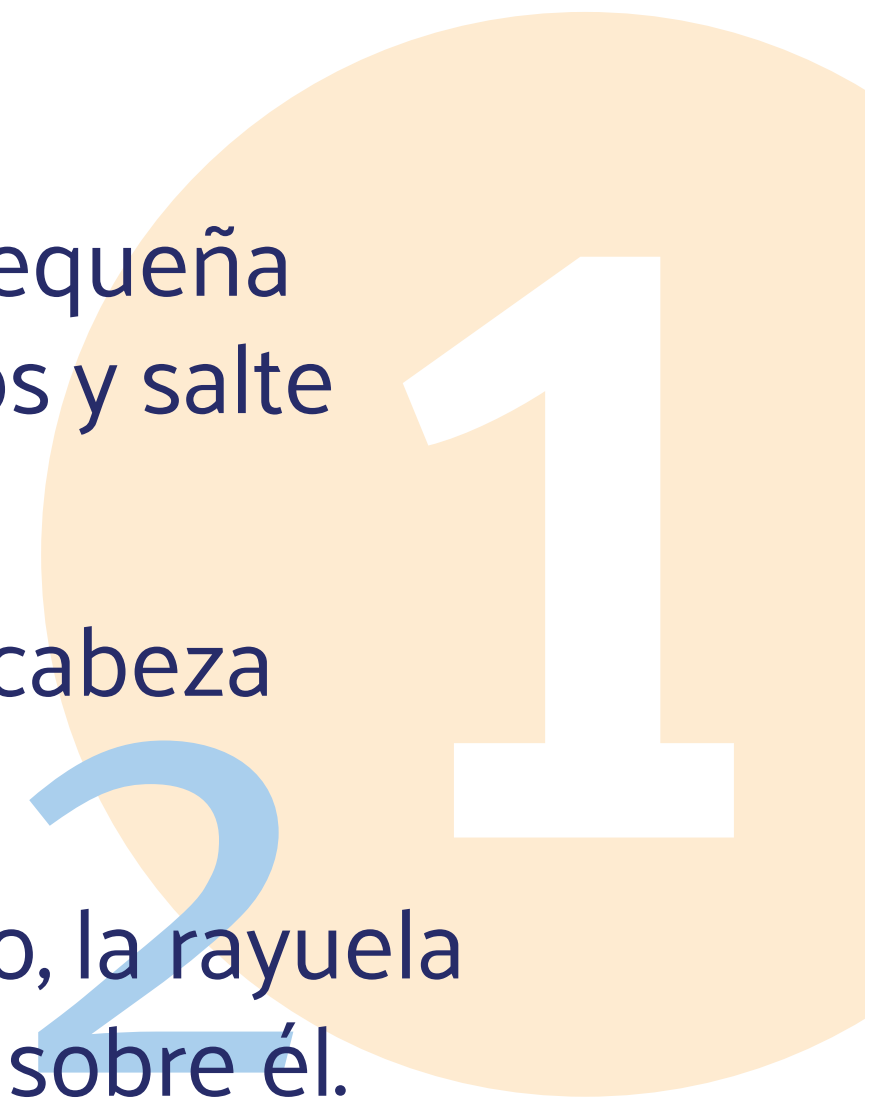
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salte
lance
sacude
menea

Levántese y muévase con su niño.

Intente lo siguiente:

- * Juegue a la rayuela. Tire una pequeña piedra en uno de los cuadrados y salte por encima de ella.
- * Agite sus brazos o tóquese la cabeza mientras salta.
- * Diga un número sobre el juego, la rayuela y pida que su niño se coloque sobre él. Tomen turnos.



Juegos como estos ayudan a estimular el cerebro y el cuerpo.



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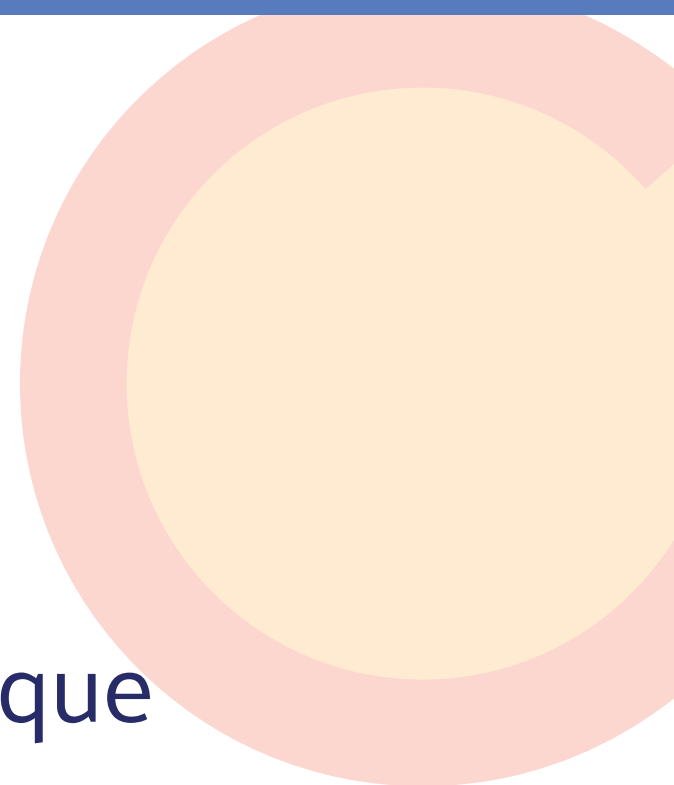
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describa compare aprenda

Convierta las ideas simples en juegos del aprendizaje.

Intente lo siguiente:

- * Mire a las formas sobre el piso.
¿Son parecidas?
¿De que manera son diferentes?
- * Busque con su hijo cosas en el parque
con forma de círculos o rectángulos.
- * Pida que su niño se coloque adentro
del cuadrado.



Mirar al mundo en una manera nueva o distinta
ayuda que los niños estén listos para leer y para
aprender matemáticas.



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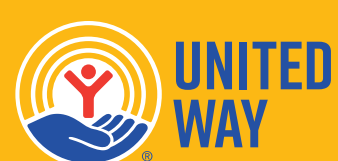
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• mire oiga toque. piense

Aprenda acerca del mundo en su alrededor.

Intente lo siguiente:

- * Busque una flor o un árbol. Tóquelo.
Hable con su niño acerca de ellos.
¿Es duro o suave? ¿Es áspero o liso?
- * Compare cosas como flores u hojas. ¿Cuál es
la más grande? ¿Cuál es la más pequeña?
- * Hable acerca de la naturaleza. ¿Qué cae
de un árbol? ¿Qué crece del suelo?



Explorar el mundo en su alrededor ayuda a que
los niños aprendan a resolver problemas.



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Project Detail & Review
Partnership with United Way of Steele County
Born Learning Trail at Morehouse Park

1. Benefits of the Born Learning Trail:
 - A free, interactive learning activities for young children and families.
 - Creates a sense of community and connectivity.
 - Promotes physical and mental well-being.

2. United Way of Steele County, through Women United Programming and local sponsorships will cover the implementation costs of approximately \$3590. This project is funding in part by the Eagles of Owatonna. United Way of Steele County's Women United and Volunteers United in collaboration with Donor (Eagle's), will also paint the activities on the trail, and maintain ongoing.

3. Parks staff would dig the holes for the sign poles and coordinate with 811, reseed grass if necessary, though minimum disruption to ground anticipated. Park staff will mow and snowplow as they already do for this section of the park.

DATE RECEIVED	JULY 2025						
IS THIS PROJECT ON CITY PROPERTY AND/OR IN CITY'S JURISDICTION?	X	YES					NO
IS THIS PROJECT PART OF THE PARKS & TRAILS SYSTEM MASTER PLAN?		YES		X			NO
SPECIFIC AREA OF PLAN	MOREHOUSE PARK – STRIP FROM PLAYGROUND PARKING LOT TO START OF TRAIL SYSTEM.						
IS THIS PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT?	X	YES					NO
IS THIS PROJECT PART OF THE CIP?		YES		X			NO
DOES THIS PROJECT SERVE ALL RESIDENTS OF THE CITY?	X	YES					NO
PERCENT/NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SERVED	100%						
WHO/WHAT BENEFITS FROM THE PROJECT?	YOUTH & ADULTS						
IS THIS PROJECT ACCESSIBLE TO UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS?	X	YES					NO
IS THIS PROJECT COMPLIANT WITH ADA REQUIREMENTS?	X	YES					NO
PROJECT GOAL / COMMUNITY IMPACT	OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL RESIDENTS, SIGNS ARE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH. MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING (BRAILLE SIGNAGE IS CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE)						
PROJECT USE		EVENT BASED		SEASONAL	X		YEAR-ROUND
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$3590.40 MATERIALS – INITIALLY ESTIMATED – SEE COSTS ON PAGE 2						
DONATED CASH	0						
DONATED LABOR	EAGLES, UNITED WAY – WOMEN UNITED AND VOLUNTEERS UNITED						
DONATED MATERIAL	0						
CITY LABOR COST	UNKNOWN						
CITY MATERIAL COST	0						
CITY OTHER COSTS	0						
COST RECOVERY OR COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS	NEUTRAL						
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COST	MINIMAL – PAINT, LABOR FOR SOME TOUCH-UPS						
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS PERMITS, AGENCIES TO INVOLVE, ETC.	LIFE EXPECTANCY OF SIGNS IS 8-10 YEARS. UNITED WAY OF STEELE COUNTY, THROUGH OUR WOMEN UNITED FUNDED PROGRAMS WILL REPLACE SIGNS AS NEEDED.						
DEPT. PRIORITY (COMPARED TO CURRENT PLANS)		HIGH	X	MEDIUM	X	LOW	
						FUTURE CONSIDERATION	
							REJECTED

REASON FOR PRIORITY	MEDIUM CONSIDERATION FOR MAXIMUM USE IN THE CURRENT YEAR. LOW PRIORITY BASED ON OVERALL PARK MAINTENANCE NEEDS.
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Costs:

\$2,900 per set of signs (English & Spanish = \$1,450 each)

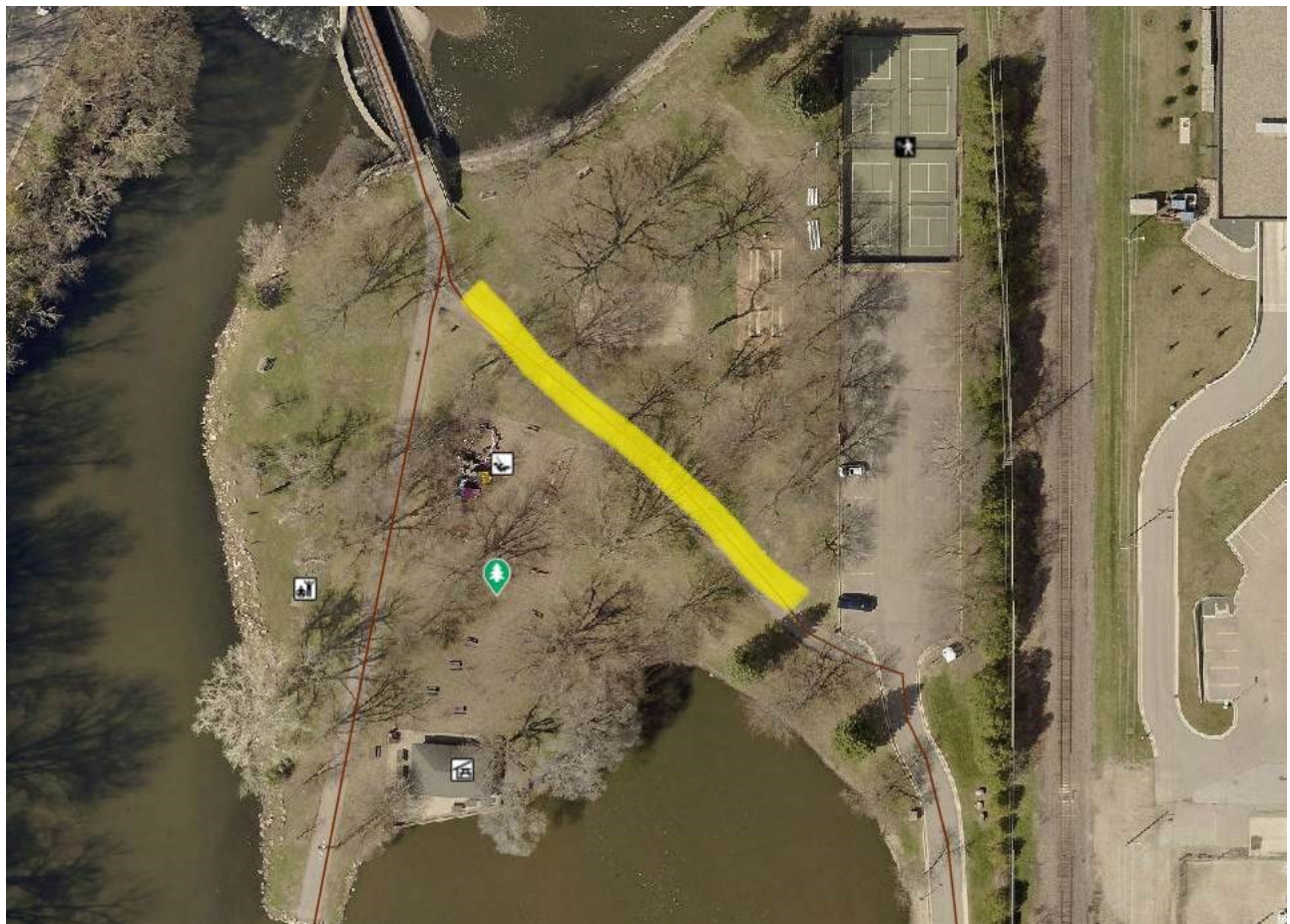
\$140.40 shipping of signs

\$ 300 for 10 posts/parts

\$ 250 for paint

\$3590.40

Location:



Other:

Signs are localized with organization name/logo at no extra cost. Park and Rec, the Eagles (sponsor), United Way and Women United logos on the sign.

Should braille and Somali language become available in the future, signs will be updated in a rotation from oldest to newest trails throughout Steele County.

Summary of why the City of Owatonna prohibits crossbows at our archery range – July 2025

- “Crossbows would need to be prohibited at any city park due to the reasons you listed below. They are a much higher risk to bodily injury and property damage. This would be an uncontrolled environment that would pose a very dangerous risk.” Jeff Hanson, Risk Advisor, North Risk Partners / TPS (insurance provider) in Owatonna
- “Crossbows are much stronger and shoot faster than traditional bows. This increases the risk of backstop penetration or ricochets, especially at shorter ranges or if equipment isn't rated for crossbow use. Unless the archery range is specifically designed to accommodate crossbows, I would not allow them. In this case, where the archery range is close to houses, it does not seem like a good idea to allow crossbows. I'd suggest the city keep its current prohibition against crossbows.” Curtis Felton, Underwriter, League of Municipal Cities (LMC)
- “Crossbows do shoot faster and farther than both "traditional" bows and "compound" bows. However, compound and crossbows both can shoot well over 100 yards if used irresponsibly. So, I'm not sure about your set up and proximity of residence in the area but it does sound like you need to likely not allow crossbows, but both compound and crossbows may need to be not allowed. We do allow crossbows and compound bows at our range but we have a river and a bluff as a back drop and aren't concerned as much about arrows shot over the targets.” Kevin O'Brien, Recreation Superintendent, City of Faribault
- Wright County and Stearns County allow crossbows at their ranges, but they are rural and surrounded by open space. Residences and businesses are not in close proximity to their ranges.
- St. Cloud, Eden Prairie, and Burnsville have it in their rules that crossbows are not allowed.” Julie Jelen, Senior Loss Control Consultant, League of Municipal Cities (LMC)

- It is also my understanding that residents living near our archery range expressed a desire to prohibit crossbows in the past when the range was constructed.
- It is also my understanding that the 20 Rifle & Pistol Club in nearby Medford may offer crossbow targets. I emailed them and their reply is below.

“Thanks for your inquiry about crossbow use at the Owatonna Archery Park. I have firsthand experience with this, including an incident at the Owatonna Archery Park.

First, let me introduce myself. I have been involved in archery, both hunting and competitive target shooting since 1988. I am past Governor for SE Minnesota with the Minnesota State Archery Association and am currently Vice President of the 20 Rifle and Pistol Club and Straight River Archers of Owatonna/Medford. We are involved with the community in the shooting sports, supporting scouts, 4-H, Owatonna and Medford Schools, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other local groups. I also formerly held a level 1 coaches certification with USA archery. I and our club take safety in shooting sports very seriously. These thoughts and experiences are my own.

First, modern crossbows do possess considerably more power and speed than an archery bow. A typical compound hunting bow will propel an arrow up to about 300 feet per second (maximum) usually less depending on a number of factors including an archers strength and build as well as their preferences. Target shooting setups will be much of less than that. Modern crossbows used for hunting commonly propel a bolt (arrow) at speeds over 400 feet per second & there are manufacturers boasting 500 ft a second. Crossbow bolts are typically a larger diameter, combined with the excess power are very hard on archery targets. This is the main reason most archery ranges prohibit them. They can reach farther in the case of a negligent discharge. Furthermore, once the crossbow is made ready to fire, it is "hot" & must be treated like a loaded firearm. Range discipline/safety is much harder to maintain with a weapon that is ready to fire, especially on an unmanned/unsupervised range like our archery park.

As a citizen and user of the archery park, I am opposed to crossbow use in the park. If you are unfamiliar with archery bows and crossbows, first let me explain the differences in how they are used. In a typical archery session, the archer stands on the shooting line facing targets, then places their arrow on the bowstring, draws toward

the target and releases the arrow. Very straightforward and extremely safe with only minimal training and supervision. A crossbow is "cocked", that is the string is drawn back, typically with a mechanical device and locked into place. Then a bolt (arrow) is placed on the string & the weapon is now live, ready to be fired by pulling a trigger, much like firing a gun. The big difference in an archery bow and a crossbow lies in the fact that an archer must draw and hold the bow at full draw until it is fired, all the while pointing it downrange at a backstop. A crossbow on the other hand is live indefinitely and must be kept pointed in a safe direction at all times. In my experience, this does not always happen at public ranges. In the next paragraph, I'll describe what happened at the Owatonna Archery Park.

Three or four years ago, there was a request by a citizen to allow crossbow use in the archery park. A meeting was called by Park and Rec & several members of the Park and Rec department were present as well as several members of the public that live near the park. Myself and others heard about this meeting and decided to sit in. The gentleman who made the request wanted to plead his case and demonstrate his crossbows. He proceeded to set up a target & show the attendees how the weapons functioned and had cocked and loaded an older crossbow. As he was speaking, the weapon was pointed mostly up in the air....not safe with any weapon. He eventually fired the bolt into the target and proceeded to demonstrate a different crossbow; this one was very modern and a high performance model. He again cocked & loaded a bolt. This time while he was speaking, he "swept" (pointed the weapon directly at 3 people sitting at one of the picnic tables). I was one of those people. I was the next to speak at the meeting & shared my thoughts & experiences including a similar incident at a private range where a crossbow shooter was allowed on a trial basis. The outcome was similar and use was denied. In light of this incident, I was a little surprised to see this issue come up again. It seemed to me that everyone in attendance shared the opinion that there were glaring safety concerns. I enjoy shooting at the park and consider it to be a huge asset to the city. I believe strongly that introducing crossbow use will make the range less safe to users and neighbors of the range.

Just to have full disclosure, we do allow limited crossbow use at the 20 Rifle & Pistol Club/Straight River Archers. The reason is that we are a private club and a number of our dues-paying members requested it. Currently we do not allow their use at our indoor range at all due to safety concerns. We allow use on our outdoor archery range with very strict rules: 1. Users may not shoot any club targets, they must bring their own. 2. Crossbows must be cocked and loaded at the shooting line and must

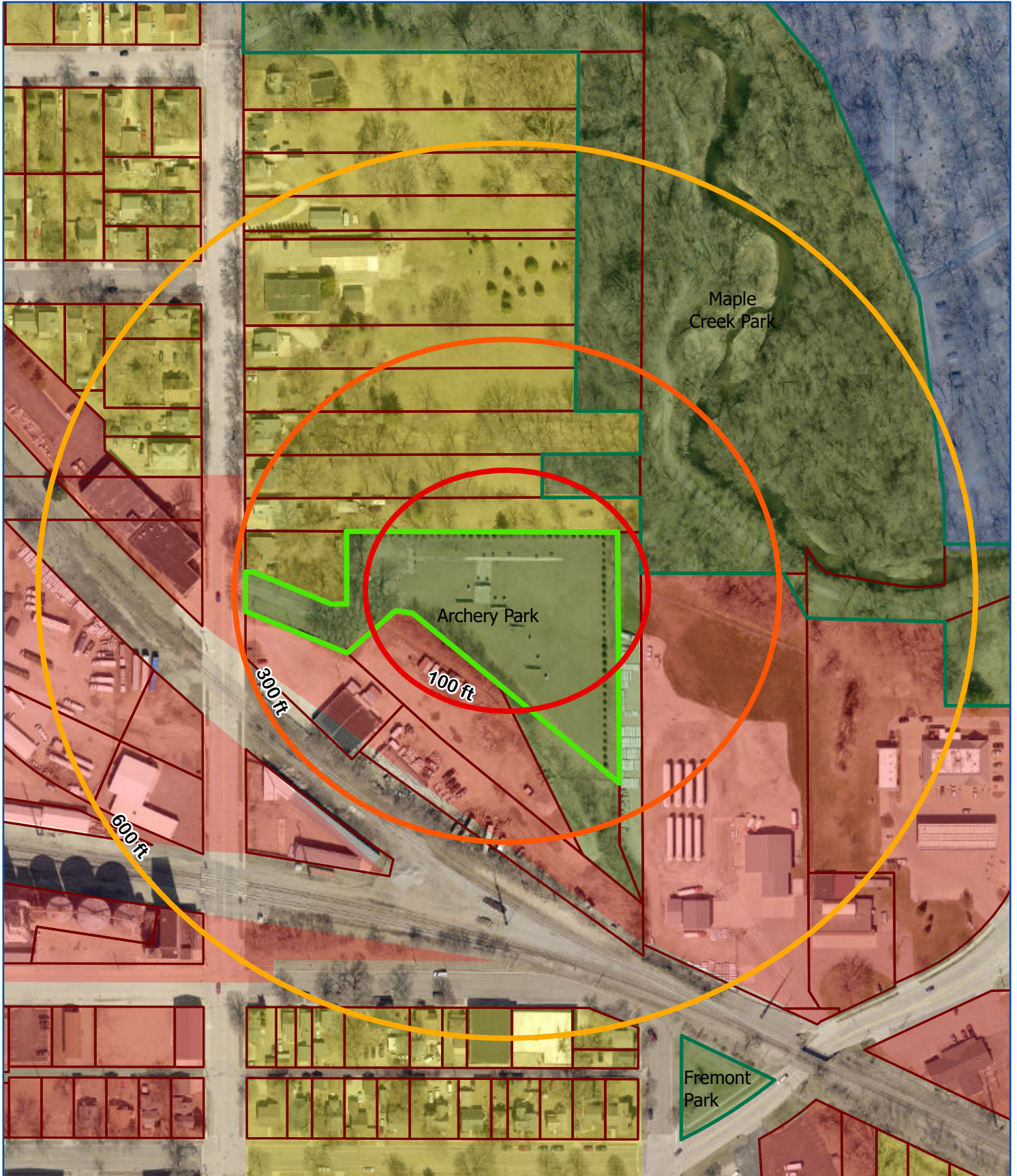
remain there, pointed downrange until fired. 3. Our range is monitored by video surveillance 24/7 and any violation of these rules is grounds for immediate membership termination. It is also important to note that we have no neighbors downrange of our archery range and it is heavily wooded.

Thank you for reaching out. Please contact me if you have any other questions or concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Fierke, Vice President
The 20 Rifle and Pistol Club / Straight River Archers”

Archery Park Proximity City of Owatonna





DATE: August 4, 2025

FROM: Jesse Wilker, Parks Division Manager

Mike Klein, Maintenance Foreman

MJ Knudson, Administrative Coordinator

SUBJECT: Park Maintenance Update (April & May)

Brooktree:

- Routine maintenance
- Planted 121 trees so far
- Ken Bey tournament went well, compliments on the course, a couple more tournaments coming up
- Park Crew is painting Brooktree Clubhouse as available

Park Maintenance:

- Park & Trail information holders & guides are up
- Pavilion rentals are going well, no major issues
- Mosquito spraying July 1 & 2
- Planted 76 trees
- Three tournaments in June went well, two softball & one baseball
- Twelve trees fell along paths in Kaplan's with straight line winds, all were cleaned up within a week. No damage north of Rose Street, the storm's line
- Pour-in-Place repaired at Manthey Park, playground closed for 4 days
- Adding geese deterrent to Lake Kohlmier (sonic & light)
- Model-T event went really well and fit perfectly into Mineral Springs Park

Permits:

- Park Permit – 7/12/2025 – West Hills Campus – Disc Golf tournament
- Event Permit – 7/27, 8/31, 9/28, 10/12 – 1100 Industrial Road – MN Snap Clinic
 - Note – these are to sunset once SCHS building is completed
- Event Permit – 8/2-18 – Steele County Free Fair – Fairgrounds (pavilion blocked)
- Event Permit (internal) – 9/6 – Central Park – Great River Greening tree giveaway and planting
- Event Permit – 8/8 – GEM Days – Central Park – Owatonna Business Partnership
- Park Permit – 8/20 – BB/BS – Central Park – Summer Send Off event
- Park Permit – 8/11 – BB/BS – Mineral Springs Park – Amazing Race Event (no pavilion)
- Event Permit – 7/11/2026 – Rainbowatonna – Central Park – Pride in the Park 2026

Memorials & Donations (listed as they are installed & invoiced):

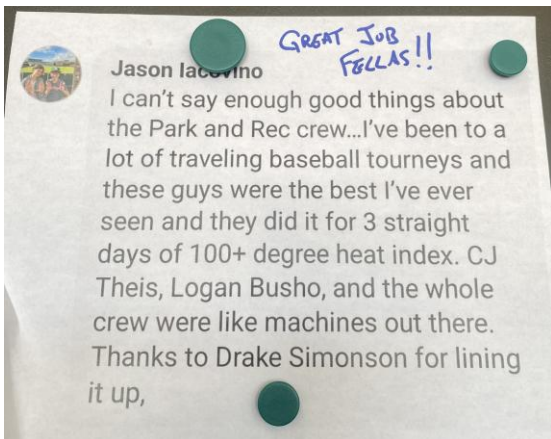
- Oyloe bench – Morehouse Park
- Gladys Wavrin bench – Morehouse Park along river

Projects 2025:

- Pavement Rehab & Replacement
- Golf Course Cart Paths
- Brooktree Pergolas
- 18th Street Trail extension is moving along really well
- Great River Greening Tree Giveaway – September 5 – 3-6:30 p.m., with four trees planted at Central Park and library as a demonstration
- Great River Greening Tree planting with volunteers – Fremont (10a.m.-noon) & Archery Parks (1-3 p.m.) – October 11

Grant projects:

- Local Trail Connection Grant – **AWARDED** – 18th Street Trail from Austin Road to Bixby FY26
 - \$490,729 from TAP, \$214,693 LTC; Total project approximately \$736,093 (at this time)
- Congressionally Directed Spending – Public Safety Center – Finstad, Klobuchar, Smith applied \$2.5M



Jennifer Hansen commented on Parks and Rec Review:

Message: "I would like to give Kevin Nelson a shout out. He was amazing at assisting with stage and keeping the restrooms in proper operating order. Thanks Kevin! "

Type: Events Permit Application

Number: EP-24-59



TO: Park Board

FROM: Eric F. Anderson, Recreation Manager

DATE: August 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Recreation Division Update

1. Staff Updates

- a. New Hire/started 7/27 - Recreation Assistant: Alexis Mastaert
- b. Spring/Summer Seasonal Staff – most wrapping up mid/end of August
- c. Fall/Winter Seasonals – hiring process started for some areas/others starting shortly
 - i. Youth Sports Officials
 - ii. Youth Sports Coordinator
 - iii. Recreation Programs
 - iv. Tennis & Pickleball Center Guest Services
 - v. Lifeguards

2. General

- a. Fall/Winter Community/Activity Guide (programs/operations from the end of August 2025 – end of February 2026)
 - i. July 8 = Mailed out to 55060
 - ii. Registration started July 15, 2025
- b. Spring/Summer Community Activity Guide
 - i. In development

3. Aquatics

- a. Fall Swimming Lessons – Registration begins August 21, 2025
- b. River Springs
 - i. Voted 2025 Best Place to Swim in Southern Minnesota
 - ii. 2025 Water Park Season Pass Sales = 482, as of 7/28/25 (2024 = 476)
 - iii. Season = June 6 – August 17

- iv. Attendance = 25337 (as of 7/27/25)
- v. YTD (7/27/25)/Full year in previous years
 - 1. 2024 = 24059/32598
 - 2. 2023 = 29685/37394 (record year)
 - 3. 2022 = 24373/33492
- vi. Concessions Product Trials (testing for next year)
 - 1. Tried 2 new smoothie products on 3 different days – sold out within an hour of opening (cotton candy, bubble gum and orange cream smoothies)
- vii. Facebook
 - 1. River Springs page has recently surpassed 8000 followers (8074)
 - 2. Increased views: 516,700 views as of 7/27/25 in 2025 (2024 full season = 346,100).
- c. Lake Kohlmier
 - i. Beach Open = May 24 – September 1
 - ii. Equipment Rental/Concessions Operations = May 24 – August 17
 - iii. Rental Usage = 217 rentals (as of 7/28/25)
 - iv. YTD (7/27/25)/Full Year in previous years
 - 1. 2024 = 195/195 (closed end of July)
 - 2. 2023 = 273/385
 - 3. 2022 = 185/227

4. Athletics/Youth and Adult Sports

- a. Fall/Winter Youth programs
 - i. New Fall Programs
 - 1. Cheer
 - a. Registration closed 7/29/25 = 20 (as of 7/28/25)
 - 2. Flag Football
 - a. Registration closes 8/7/25 = 8 (as of 7/28/25)
 - b. Equipment Grant received for program
 - ii. Tackle Football
 - 1. Registration (closes 8/7/25)
 - a. 117 registered (as of 7/28/25)
 - b. 3rd/4th = 60 (anticipating 8 teams)
 - c. 5th/6th = 57 (anticipating 8 teams)
 - d. Huskies 1st/2nd Grade Mini Football Camp = 46 (max 100)
 - iii. Volleyball

1. Registration = (closes 7/29/25 – likely extending the deadline after addition promotion was pushed out)
 - a. 79 registered (as of 7/28/25)
 - b. 3rd/4th = 37
 - c. 5th/6th = 42
 - d. Volleyball 1st/2nd Grade Camp = 20
- b. Tennis and Pickleball
 - i. Hired Beginner Tennis Lessons Instructor as Seasonal Employee
 - ii. Beginner 1 & Beginner 2 Tennis Lessons
 1. Summer Session 1: June 21-31
 2. Summer Session 2: August 4-14
 3. Fall Session 1: September 8 – October 13
 4. Fall Session 2: October 20 – November 24
- c. Fall/Winter Adult programs
 - i. Fall Softball - registration closes 8/12
 - ii. Fall Bags - registration closes 8/12
 - iii. Winter Bags - registration opens October
 - iv. Volleyball - registration closes August 12

5. Brooktree

- a. 2025 Active Season Passes = 332 - (361 total in 2024)
- b. Check-in Rounds Played (through 7/27/25)
 - i. 2025 YTD = 13894 (2024 = 12239)
 - ii. Month of July 2025 = 4228 (2024 = 3662)
- c. Past Events
 - i. July 12 – Ken Bey (152 Participants)
- d. Upcoming Events
 - i. August 2-3: City Open
 - ii. August 5: MN PGA Youth Golf Tournament
 - iii. August 8-9: Club Championship
 - iv. August 16: Steele County Men's Scramble
 - v. August 23: 4-Person Big Cup Scramble
 - vi. August 24: Relay for Life Big Cup Tournament
 - vii. August 25: Elk's Big Cup Tournament
- e. Food & Beverage
 - i. Staying Busy
 - ii. Ongoing Walk-in Freezer Fan Icing over issue – Facilities staff working with John's Appliance to resolve
 - iii. Great Setup for Ken Bey Tournament – positive feedback

6. Recreation Programs - Youth, Family & Senior

- a. Received \$2238 donation from the Knights of Columbus "for your great work with the Developmentally Disabled"
- b. Senior/ALP Memberships
 - i. 2025 Memberships = 265 (as of 7/25/25)
 - 1. Prorated Memberships started in July – with Purchase of 2026 Membership
 - ii. 2026 Memberships = 2 (as of 7/25/25)
- c. Trips (as of 7/25/25)
 - i. Grape Adventures = May 31
 - 1. Excellent feedback from the participants and winery venues
 - 2. Will be a returning trip
 - ii. Mystic lake = June
 - 1. Good turnout although the participants find the casino too big and prefer treasure island In the future.
 - iii. Grease = July 16
 - 1. 42 participants; all good feedback
 - iv. St. Paul Saints game = July 23
 - 1. Only 8 registered – rescheduled to September 14 (10 registered for that date)
 - v. Wine Wonderland = July 26
 - 1. Cancelled – low registration
 - vi. Treasure Island = August 6 (20 registered)
 - vii. Twins game = Aug 10 (28 registered)
 - viii. State Fair = Aug 25 (26 registered)
 - ix. Fall Train Ride = Sep 25 (53 registered)
- d. Staff Update
 - i. Scott Dufus has been recently hired to lead Kayak programs.
 - 1. Competitive paddler with extensive experience in teaching rescue techniques, repairing boats mid-race, and leading paddling trips around the country.
 - 2. Is currently on a vacation where he will be canoeing the Missouri River.
 - 3. Has already lead 2 City kayaking programs
 - a. July 22 - new "Weekly Paddle" program on the Straight River beginning at Morehouse Park.
 - b. July 25 – Sunset Kayaking at Lake Kohlmier
- e. Adaptive Programs
 - i. Adaptive Swimming at RSWP July 23

- ii. Adaptive Baseball = Every Wednesday, July 30 is first responder night
 - iii. Adaptive Ice cream social = July 30
 - iv. Adaptive Frosty Fun = August 1
 - v. Adaptive Goodbye Summer = August 8
 - vi. Adaptive bowling = Every Monday (month of July = 50 registrations)
- f. Youth Summer Camps and Programs
 - i. Overall, a successful summer with good staff.
 - ii. Youth camps had good registration numbers - did not cancel any camps for low registration
 - iii. Recent/Upcoming Camps
 - 1. Dino Camp- July 28-31
 - 2. Weekly Little Tykes Sports camp, last session ends July 31
 - 3. Outdoor Adventures July 28-Aug 1
 - 4. *New* Splash Camp July 28-31 and Aug 11-14
 - 5. *New* Super Hero Camp Aug 18-21
- g. Rec on the Go Schedule
 - i. Central Park: June 13 (pre 'Movie in the Park' activity)
 - ii. Morehouse Park: June 20 (5-7:30pm)
 - iii. Manthey Park: June 28 (10am-12pm)
 - iv. Jaycee Park: July 5 (10am-12pm)
 - v. Brown Park: July 12 (5-7:30pm)
 - vi. River Springs Water Park: July 19 (5-8:30pm)
 - vii. Manthey Park: August 1 (5-7:30pm)
 - viii. Jaycee Park: August 16 (10am-12pm)
 - ix. Mineral Springs Park: August 23 (5-7:30pm)

7. Scholarship Assistance Fund

- a. Balance (City Account and Scholarship checking) = \$40817.68 (\$15609.15 in City Restricted Fund as of 7/25/25 + \$25208.53 in Scholarship checking as of 5/14/25)

8. Tennis & Pickleball Center

- a. No Staffed hours = Memorial Day – August 31
- b. Summer Season = Courts available to season pass holders and guests of season passholders

River Springs Water Aerobics Participation – Popular morning program



River Springs and Brooktree Patron Thank You Messages

