



CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 5:30 PM
Council Chambers Charles S. Crandall Center
at City Hall 540 West Hills Circle
STUDY SESSION

1. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

- 1.1. 5:30 p.m. - Main Street and Convention & Tourism Update (Lisa Cochran & Glenda Smith)
- 1.2. 6:15 p.m. - Recreation: Lake Kohlmier Boat Rental



DATE: March 17, 2026
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Eric Anderson, Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: 6:15 p.m. - Recreation: Lake Kohlmier Boat Rental

Purpose:

Informational Session on the Lake Kohlmier Boat Rental program. Requesting feedback and recommendation from City Council regarding continuing the program in Summer 2026 and beyond.

Background:

The Lake Kohlmier Boat Rental program started in 2019, with funding support from the City Council. Included in the program is drop-in hourly rentals of various water vessels (such as kayaks, canoes and paddle boards), and sales of bottled beverages and packaged concessions items. The program is under the Aquatics operation and utilizes seasonal staff who work at other summer operations. Over the past 7 years in operation, there have been several adjustments to the program, including days and times of operation, length of season, changing the offered rental vessels and marketing initiatives. Despite adjustments in operations and marketing efforts, the trend of minimal rented vessels and low concessions sales have continued each year.

Staff will provide an overview of the Lake Kohlmier Boat Rental program at the Study Session. A powerpoint with key points is attached and will be used as part of the overview discussion.

Budget Impact:

2026 approved budget has a \$15436 subsidy. Previous fiscal year budgets also had an approved subsidy.

Staff Recommendation:

Requesting feedback and recommendation from City Council.

Attachments:

1. 2026-03-17 Lake Kohlmier Work Study Session Powerpoint



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Lake Kohlmier

Boat Rentals

Over the years...

2019

- Total days of operation: 101
- Average Rentals Per Day: 7.8

2020

- Total days of operation: 59
- Average Rentals Per Day: ?

2021

- Total days of operation: 53
- Average Rentals Per Day: 11.2

2022

- Total days of operation: 62
- Average Rentals Per Day: 3.7

2023

- Total days of operation: 60
- Average Rentals Per Day: 6.4

2024

- Total days of operation: 20
- Average Rentals Per Day: 9.6

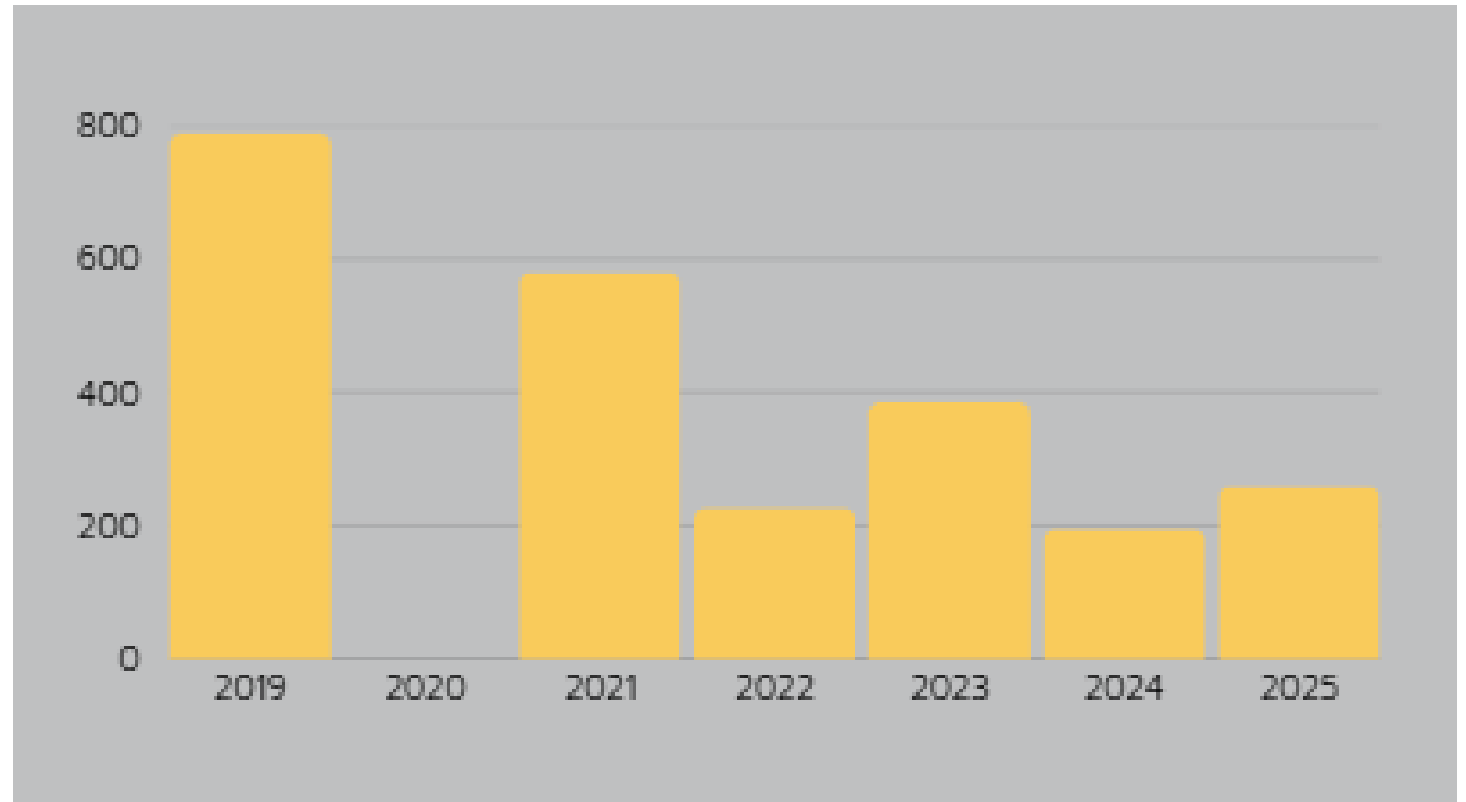
2025

- Total days of operation: 52
- Average Rentals Per Day: 4.98



Yearly Rentals

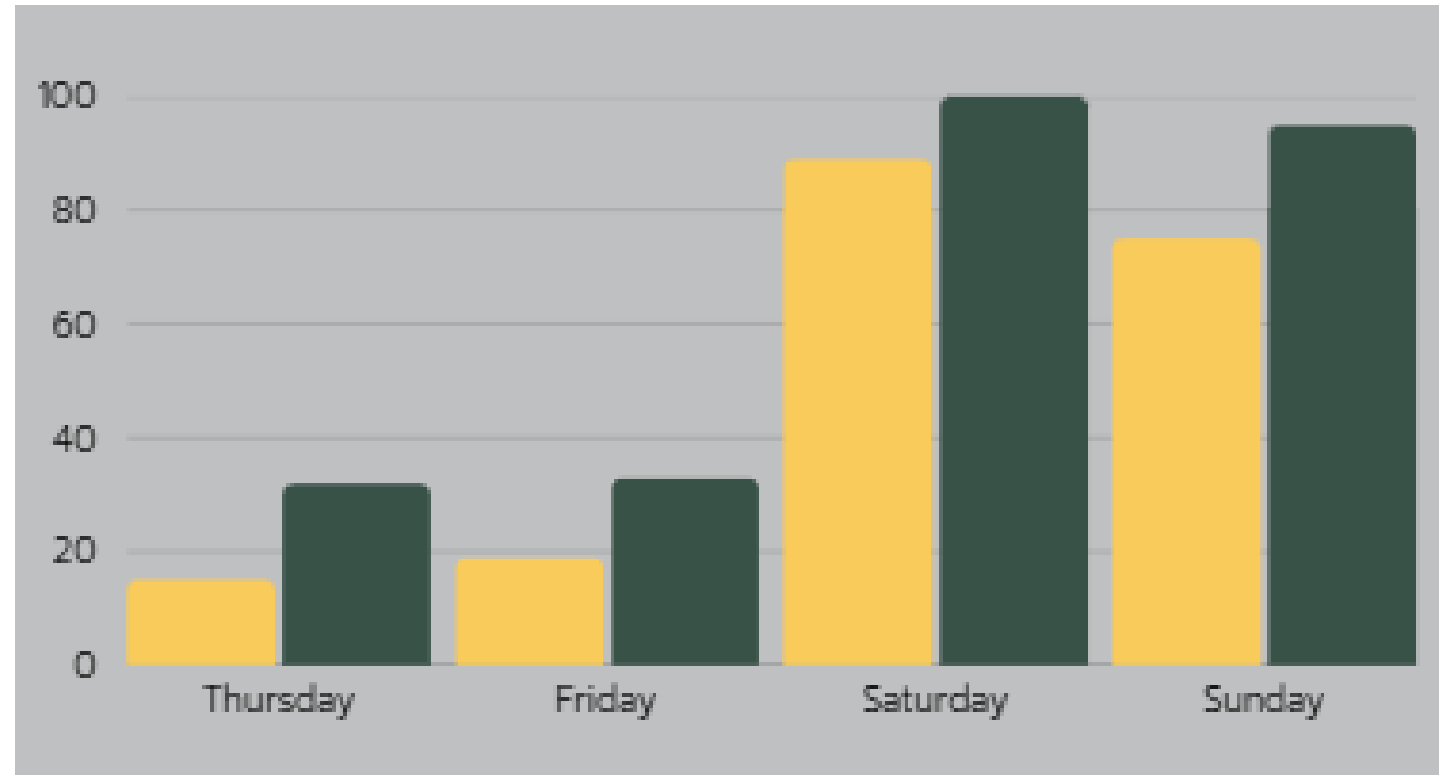
- 2019: 788
- 2020: Unknown
- 2021: 580
- 2022: 227
- 2023: 385
- 2024: 195
- 2025: 259



2025 reached a 7.6% utilization rate

Rentals by Day

- 2024
 - Thursday: 15
 - Friday: 19
 - Saturday: 86
 - Sunday: 75
- 2025
 - Thursday: 32
 - Friday: 33
 - Saturday: 100
 - Sunday: 94



By the Numbers

2026

Revenues	Budgeted
Concessions	\$2,000
Rentals	\$2,500
Total	\$4,500
Expense	Budgeted
Wages-Seasonal	\$13,209
FICA	\$1,014
Workers Comp	\$810
MN Paid Leave	\$103
Minor Equipment	\$2,000
Concessions	\$1,200
E Coli. Testing	\$500
Phone	\$500
Licenses	\$600
Total	\$19,936
Subsidy	\$15,436

2025

Revenue	Budgeted	Actual
Concessions	\$2,000	\$531.28
Rentals	\$2,500	\$1,519.99
Total	\$4,500	\$2,051.27



Challenges

- Low rental utilization and concessions sales.
- Staff safety concerns due to negative public behavior.
- Perception of lake being “dirty”.
- E coli. concerns and closures.

Researched Alternatives

- Rent.Fun

- \$34,000 Start Up
- Recommended Rental Fee: \$20-\$25 per hour
- City Receives: 30% Revenue
- City pays for lost, stolen or broken equipment
- 24/7 Customer Service, biweekly maintenance, No renewal cost but Rent.Fun can choose not to renew.

- iPaddlePort

- \$40,000 Start Up
- iPaddle port takes \$6 per rental or 30% whichever is greater.
- City owns equipment, responsible for maintenance and loss of equipment.
- No Customer Service for ipaddle reservation system, public calls city to resolve any and all issues.
- Poor Company References from area agencies.

- Instapaddle

- \$8,000 Start up
- City Receives: 10% of Revenue
- City pays for lost, stolen or broken equipment
- 24/7 Customer Service, monthly maintenance, yearly renewal cost of \$2,200.
- Very minimal security for equipment, all open faced enclosure.

Rent.Fun



iPaddlePort



Instapaddle



Ways Equipment is Currently Used

- Boat Rental Operation
- Large Group Rentals
- Kayaking Programs
 - Youth Kayak Camp
 - Kayak Birdwatching
 - Kayak Skills & Rescue
 - Sunset Kayak
 - Straight River Kayak



Use of Allocated Funds if Discontinued

- Continuation of water testing
- **Potential Reallocation of Funds**
 - Not use allocated funds
 - Beach Party & Bonfire
 - Spike Ball
 - Bags on the Beach
 - Water Safety Event
 - Yoga on the Beach
 - Movies on the Beach
 - Beach Fitness Series
 - Community Picnic
 - Lake Kohlmier Mini Triathlon





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West Hills Pool Update

West Hills Pool Update

- Repairs to the HVAC Unit
 - Blowers, belts and motor replaced.
- Replacement of Main Drain cover to bring to compliance.
- Closure timeline 4-12 weeks
 - 30 business days to review and approve permit through MDH.
 - Scheduled repairs
 - Fill and balance pool 1 week.
- Identified alternative temporary use site for Water Aerobics programming.





Thank you