



PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 1, 2026 at 4:30 PM
West Hills Social Commons, 500 Dunnell Dr.
Multipurpose Room

The meeting location has been updated.

1. Opening Business

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

3.a. May 4, 2026 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. Park Permit: Prairie Forge Initiative

6. Old Business

6.a. Mosquito Control Discussion

6.b. Park Board Annual Work Plan

6.c. Event and Park Permit Process

7. Communication

7.a. Park Maintenance Report

7.b. Recreation Division Updates

7.c. Biochar Demonstration from April

7.d. Regional Park Designation Update

7.e. Park Board Seat Vacancy

8. Adjournment



PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 4, 2026, at 4:30 PM
West Hills Social Commons, 500 Dunnell Dr, Owatonna, MN 55060

1. OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order at 4:33 p.m. by John Theil

Executive Members Present: Chair, Jon Thiel, Secretary, Sara Baird

Board Members Present: Tyler Cochran, Nancy Ness

Members Absent: Vice-Chair: Gina McGuire, Carter Klecker

Staff Present: Eric Anderson, Maureen Lyons

Guests Present: Leanne T Alt, Deb Arlt, Dan Boeke, Jenni Brittain, Rose Cotter-Lyfud, Aaron Ebeling, Zella Ebeling, Cindy Fowler, Theresa Harsma, Gary W Johnson, Debra Kamholz, Don McCann, Naomi Nagel, Doug Voss, Melissa Zimmerman

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Nancy Ness to approve the agenda. Second by Tyler Cochran. All members voted aye.

3. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Tyler Cochran to approve the Park Board meeting minutes and bring them before the Council. Second by Sara Baird. All members voted aye.

4. PERSONS WISHING TO APPEAR

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.

4.a. Theresa Harsma shared opinions regarding mosquito control for the protection of pollinators.

4.b. Cindy Fowler shared opinions regarding mosquito control against the broad application of chemicals.

4.c. Zella Ebeling shared opinions regarding mosquito control to provide habitat for insects.

4.d. Rose Cotter shared opinions regarding mosquito control to protect human health.

4.e. Debra Kamholz shared opinions regarding mosquito control to protect the food chain in the future.

4.f. Aaron Ebeling shared opinions regarding mosquito control to protect fireflies.

4.g. Melissa Zimmerman shared opinions regarding the use of chemicals that may impact

human health.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.a. Presentation Leanne Alt of the Bee Friendly Environmental Alliance presented on the potential impact of mosquito spraying

5.b. Park Permit - Horseshoe League

5.c. Park Permit - Disc Golf League

5.d. Park Permit - Mineral Springs Park wedding

Motion by Nancy Ness to approve Park Permits as presented. Second by Tyler Cochran. All members voted aye.

5.e. Election of Officers

Nomination by Tyler Cochran for the Executive Committee to remain in their current roles for another year with Jon Theil as Chair, Gina McGuire as Vice-Chair and Sara Baird as Secretary. Second by Nancy Ness. Having no other nominations, all members voted aye.

Nan Silkunas has chosen not to renew her position, leaving an opening on the Park Board.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.a. Annual Work Plan

A preliminary annual work plan for the Park Advisory Board was emailed to members. The plan may help with agenda planning and reports throughout the year, building continuity for both new and existing board members. Comments and feedback may be shared with Jon and Eric prior to the June meeting. The plan will be added to the June Agenda as an action item.

7. COMMUNICATION

7.a. Park Maintenance Update

7.b. Recreation Division Update

7.c. Regional Park Designation Update – Three items were completed in April

7.d. Emergency Disaster Reimbursement Update: Reimbursement for replacement of the funbrellas will come from the state after invoices are paid. Reimbursement for parks labor and equipment for clean-up is being processed from the state now. Replacement funbrellas for River Springs Water Park will not arrive in time for the start of the season. In the meantime, existing pieces and parts will be used to create a couple of functional units to provide as much shade as possible. Park Board requested that communication be planned to alert the public to the lack of shade.

7.e. Communication from Park Board Members:

Nancy Ness has questions and would like to better understand the mosquito control process.

Tyler Cochran is interested in the cost and history of mosquito control measures.

Jon Theil requested the product/s used, frequency/timing, and cost of mosquito control.

Sara Baird shared that the parks look beautiful. Regarding Mosquito control, she is curious about who decided on the products used and the timing and coordination of communication to alert citizens.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: Tyler Cochran, Second: Nancy Ness, All Members voted Aye at 5:46 p.m.



DATE: June 1, 2026
FROM: Jesse Wilker, Maintenance Manager
Mike Klein, Park Maintenance Foreman
Mary Jo Knudson, Administrative Coordinator
SUBJECT: Park Maintenance Update

Brooktree:

- Daily maintenance
- Summer staff is all onboard, one short

Park Maintenance:

- Assisted GRG with tree planting May 13
- Lake Kohlmier was treated May 20/21 – public notice in OPP 5/16, 5/19, 5/20
- Summer staff is finishing up onboarding, one short
- Ballfield maintenance, mowing and weed control are in full swing

Permits:

- Event Permit – June 20 – Central Park – P&R Movie in the Park
- Park Permit – July 25 – Morehouse Park – Prairie Forge Initiative

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

- Early Morning Rotary – three flowering crab apple trees along Muckle Trail - \$389.97

Projects 2026:

- MN DNR dock – installed 5/19/2026

Grant projects:

- MN DNR ReLeaf – proceeding through final contract execution
- MN DNR Outdoor Recreation – Brown Park project submitted 3/26, will find out June 30



TO: Park Board
FROM: Eric F. Anderson, Recreation Manager
DATE: June 1, 2026
SUBJECT: Recreation Division Update

1. General

- a. Scholarship Assistance Fund
 - i. Balance = \$64988.02
 - 1. \$10234.91 in City restricted fund as of 5/27/26
 - 2. \$54753.11 in Scholarship checking as of 5/27/26
- b. Fall/Winter 2026-2027 Community Activity Guide
 - i. In editing phase – has been sent to the printer with first round of edits
 - ii. Planned to be mailed early-July

2. Aquatics

- a. Lake Kohlmier
 - i. Lake Kohlmier is open for swimming as of May 23rd.
 - ii. On the Lake Kohlmier page of the City of Owatonna website, you can now view the most current water quality test result. There is also a QR code at Lake Kohlmier that you can scan to go directly to the website.
 - iii. Reminder that the Lake Kohlmier Boat Rental Operation has been discontinued due to low use.
- b. Fitness Pool Closure Update
 - i. The City of Owatonna is in the process of rescheduling the replacement of the main drain cover repairs.
- c. River Springs Water Park
 - i. River Springs Water Park opening day is June 4 at 4:00 p.m.
 - ii. Large Group Reservations: 54
 - 1. 12 summer dates have been maxed out on our allowed capacity of 200 large group attendees
 - iii. Birthday Party Reservations: 6
 - iv. Season Pass Sales
 - 1. 2026 Pass Sales: 172 passes as of 5/29/2026
 - v. Funbrella Status
 - 1. Funbrellas were ordered but have a 6-8 week lead time for arrival. We expect to receive the Funbrellas the first week of July. Parks crew will install them upon arrival.
 - 2. Two Funbrellas were partially repaired, they were unable to be moved from the location they are in due to damage to the base. The remaining Funbrella frames have been disposed of.

3. Communication about the lack of shade for the first half of the season has begun.

3. Athletics/Youth and Adult Sports

Adult Programs

<u>Program</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Participant Numbers</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Season Starting</u>	<u>Additional Notes</u>
Adult Summer Softball	2 Division	16 Teams Lower 7 Teams Upper		Apr 23	Season off to a good start
Adult Summer Bags	2 Divisions	15 Teams Rec 10 Teams Competitive		May 20	Season off and running

Youth Programs

<u>Program</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Participant Numbers</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Season Starting</u>	<u>Additional Notes</u>
Soccer					Season Ended May 30. A few practices rained out all season. Game days were good. One overlap conflict when OSA schedule a game during Parks and Rec practices on May 28. Worked with their scheduler and our coaches to adapt and find an open field for practices to move to. No major issue.
T-Ball	PreK-4 - K	121		June 8	Using Brown, Dartts & Jaycee Utility fields. 23 more players vs 2025
Coach Pitch 1	K-1 st Grade	57		June 10	Using Brown, Dartts & Jaycee Utility fields.
Coach Pitch 2	1 st -2nd	47		June 9	Using Brown, Dartts & Jaycee Utility fields.
Numbers for coach pitch increased overall but look low due to one program was split into two. Coaches meeting for T-Ball & Coach Pitch 1 & 2 was May 28 for the 64 coaches.					

4. Brooktree Golf Course

	Season Pass	Patron Pass	Rounds YTD: 5/26
2026 YTD	293	27	5373
2025	323	21	4923
2024	342	30	5093

- a. 2026 Season
 - i. As of May 26, tee times are 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- b. Chill-Aqui
 - i. Adjusting hours
 - 1. Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 - 2. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
 - ii. New menu items coming soon.
- c. New events and tournaments
 - i. Spring and Fall Scrambles (we had only 1 last year)
 - 1. Canceled Spring Scramble due to low numbers
 - ii. Couples golf
 - 1. Once a month. May-August
 - 2. 12 participants for May 8, couples golf.
 - iii. Monthly scramble challenge
 - 1. May-August
 - iv. Match play tournament
 - 1. Found old trophy in storage, last played in 2010.
 - 2. 15 signed up. Matches underway.
 - v. Superintendent's Revenge
- d. Updated Brooktree webpage to be more user friendly
 - i. Easy access to tee times and rates from mobile
 - ii. FAQs
 - iii. Added rules and maintenance updates pages
 - iv. Events and Tournaments being added to calendar.
- e. Newsletter
 - i. Added a monthly Brooktree newsletter that golfers can sign up for with information and updates
 - ii. Still playing around with formatting and information put into the newsletter.
 - iii. Positive feedback on the first newsletter

5. Recreation Programs - Youth, Family & Senior

- a. Senior Programming
 - i. Legends 2026 memberships = 263
 - ii. Trips/Program

<u>Program</u>	<u>Participant Numbers</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Trip Date</u>	<u>Additional Notes</u>
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Diners, Drive-Ins, & Dives: Pizzaria Lola	10/27	June 15	June 23	New Program
Great Gatsby	15/26	April 9	June 7	Canceled
Amish Tour and Market	23/26	May 1	May 9	
UofM Arboretum	8/27	May 12	May 28	Canceled
Wicked	27/27	July 31	August 9	

b. Adaptive Programs

- i. Bowling League Mondays
 1. 50 Participants registered for May
 2. 31 Participants registered for June
- ii. New adaptive hangout June 4 Table Tennis & Puzzles, 9/20 Registered
- iii. New adaptive adventures June 18 Sensory Swim, 11/16 Registered
- iv. Adaptive Baseball, 18 registered begins June 10

c. Rec on the Go Schedule

- i. 2026 planning 8 dates (dates for Summer & Fall) 10am-12pm
- ii. June 6- Colonial Manor
- iii. June 27- Heather Court Apartments
- iv. July 25- Colonial Manor
- v. August 22- Skyline Gardens
- vi. September 12- Heather Court Apartments
- vii. October 10- Skyline Gardens

d. Family Programs

- i. Kayak Birdwatching April 28, 4/6 registered
- ii. Kayak Birdwatching May 12 Canceled due to weather
- iii. Kayak Birdwatching May 26, 6/6 registered
- iv. Family Archery July 7, 3 registered
- v. Family Archery Aug 5, 7 registered
- vi. Messy Camp June 6, 9 registered
- vii. Playground Passport July
 1. Will be similar to the Fall Park Passport
 2. Specifically for kids to explore our playgrounds

e. Youth Camps begin June 15 (details as of 5/29/2026)

Camp Name	Age	Dates	Registered	Notes
Backyard Adventures	7-12 yrs	June 15-19	9 out of 16 spots	
	7-12 yrs	July 20-23	16 out of 16 spots	
Dino Camp	5-7 yrs	July 6-9	6 out of 16 spots	
	5-7 yrs	Aug 3-6	10 out of 16 spots	
Kayak Camp	7-12 yrs	July 27-30	13 out of 13 spots	5 on wait list
Little Anglers	5-7 yrs	July 6-9	7 out of 16 spots	
	5-7 yrs	Aug 3-6	11 out of 16 spots	

Little Engineers	5-7 yrs	July 13-16	10 out of 16 spots	
	5-7 yrs	Aug 10-13	6 out of 16 spots	
Nature Investigators	5-7 yrs	Aug 10-13	14 out of 16 spots	
Nature Skills Camp	7-12 yrs	July 15-18	8 out of 16 spots	
	7-12 yrs	July 20-23	16 out of 16 spots	2 on wait list
Splash Camp	7-12 yrs	July 13-16	16 out of 16 spots	6 on wait list
	7-12 yrs	Aug 18-20	14 out of 16 spots	
Superheroes Camp	5-7 yrs	July 13-16	12 out of 16 spots	
Wild Inventors Camp	7-12 yrs	June 22-25	12 out of 16 spots	
	7-12 yrs	July 27-30	16 out of 16 spots	
Little Tykes Sports	3-5 yrs	June 15-18, 1	16 out of 16 spots	3 on wait list
	3-5 yrs	June 15-18, 2	16 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	June 22-25, 1	16 out of 16 spots	2 on wait list
	3-5 yrs	June 22-25, 2	15 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	July 6-9, 1	8 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	July 6-9, 2	2 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	July 13-16, 1	6 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	July 13-16, 2	1 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	July 20-23, 1	9 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	July 20-23, 2	11 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	July 27-30, 1	15 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	July 27-30, 2	1 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	Aug 3-6, 1	11 out of 16 spots	
	3-5 yrs	Aug 3-6, 2	4 out of 16 spots	

6. Tennis & Pickleball Center

- a. Staffed hours ended on May 24 for this season.
 - i. Overall good season
 - ii. Working to get card scanning/check-ins going for the 2026/2027 season for more accurate tracking of court usage
 - iii. Colleges are starting to confirm and pay for 2027 dates
- b. 2026/2027 season will offer a 7-month and 12-month season passes
- c. Tennis/Pickleball Season Passes and Walking Program Passes are available (season starts September 1 for 12-month pass, October 1 for staffing, and October 15 for 7-month pass)
 - i. Season Pass sales for the 2026-2027 begin August 1, 2026.
 - ii. 7-Month (October 15-May 15) Junior, Individual, Couple, & Family
 - iii. 12-Month (September 1-August 31) Junior, Individual, Couple, & Family
 - iv. Individual Month
 - v. Walking
- d. New for Fall 2026

- i. Beginning September 1: season pass holders no longer pay \$5 for drop-in programs. Non-pass holders will continue to pay \$10 drop-in rate.
 - ii. Adding staffed hours from 9:00-11:00 a.m. for Tennis & Pickleball open play, indoor play space and drop-in basketball
- e. Noon Basketball: Season pass will be one year from the date of purchase. Introducing a 30-day guest pass, which does not include keycard access.