



OWATONNA PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

**Monday, September 11, 2023 at 4:30 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall at 540 West Hills Circle**

- 1. Opening Business**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes**
 - 3.a. Park Board Minutes August 14, 2023
- 4. Persons Wishing to Appear**
- 5. New Business**
 - 5.a. Park Board vacancy
 - 5.b. Inviting guests to Park Board meetings
 - 5.c. Park Board Member Scholarship Committee vacancy
 - 5.d. North Straight River Parkway Maintenance
 - 5.e. ReLeaf Community Forestry Grant
- 6. Old Business**
 - 6.a. Deer Management Update
- 7. Park Permits, Memorials and Donations**
- 8. Senior Update**
- 9. Communication**
 - 9.a. River Springs Water Park 2023 Season Overview
 - 9.b. Lake Kohlmier 2023 Season Overview
 - 9.c. Maintenance Update
- 10. Adjournment**

**MINUTES - UNAPPROVED
OWATONNA PARK AND RECREATION
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2023
4:30 PM**

Members Present:

Chair: Jon Thiel

Vice Chair:

Board Members: Tyler Cochran, Jonathan Douglas, Sara Baird

Members Absent: Nan Silkunas, Gina McGuire

Staff Present:

Jenna Tuma, Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Director

Eric Anderson: Recreation Manager

MJ Knudson: Administrative Specialist

Drake Simonson: Recreation Supervisor

City Council Member:

LOCATION: West Hills Social Commons

OPENING BUSINESS

A. Call to Order at 4:30 pm

B. Roll Call:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Jonathan Douglas to approve the August 14, 2023, Park Board Meeting Agenda and second by Tyler Cochran. All members voted aye.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 10, 2023, MINUTES

Motion by Tyler Cochran to approve the July 10, 2023, Park Board Meeting Minutes and second by Sara Baird. All members voted aye.

PERSONS WISHING TO APPEAR

The public forum is intended to afford the public an opportunity to address topics to the Park Board Council. 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 rather than private or political agendas. The Park Board will only listen but will not take action on public forum presentations.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Comprehensive Plan presentation

OLD BUSINESS

PARK PERMITS

Park Permit October 21, Tillman Wedding Morehouse Chalet
Park Permit September 16, Internal watershed clean-up Morehouse Chalet
Event Permit October 13-15, Governor's Pheasant Opener Central Park
Park Permit August 13, Birthday Party Brown Park
Event Permit October 14 From the Heart 5K Lake Kohlmier
Park Permit September 10 Neighborhood picnic (bounce house) North Bluff Park

Motion by Jonathan Douglas, and second by Tyler Cochran to approve the Park Permits. All members voted aye.

MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

Flowering Crabapple Tree at Manthey Park – DeMaio-Heerema

SENIOR UPDATE

- a. No update

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Director's Report:
- b. Staff report:
- c. Board Member Report

Announcements

- In the News
 1. Weekly Owatonna People's Press articles:
<http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/Blog.aspx?CID=3>
 2. Owatonna Live Straight Talk [Straight Talk \(owatonnalive.com\)](http://owatonnalive.com)
- Actions Requested from past meetings

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Sara Baird, and second by Jonathan Douglas to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 6:10 p.m. All members present voted aye.

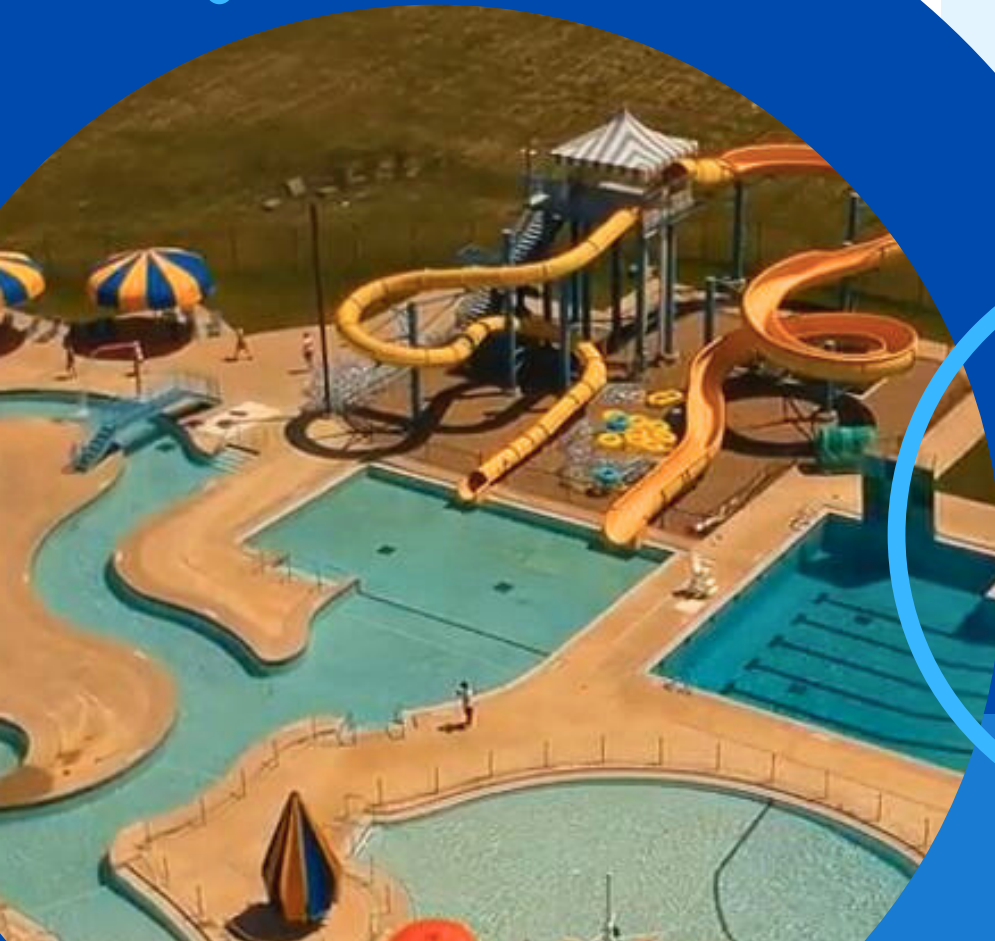
The next board meeting is September 11, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the West Hills Social Commons multi-purpose room.



SEASON
OVERVIEW

RIVER SPRINGS WATER PARK

20
23



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Mechanical upgrades executed in Capital Improvement Plan
- New chemical feeder with web access feature
- Record admission totals: 37,394
- Record season pass sales: 1,352 season pass holders
- Only 1 water rescue all season
- Identified leak in Zero Depth Entry resulting in substantial water use savings
- Less chemical used due to less water lost through leaks
- Increased concessions, admissions, and season pass revenue
- Increased Water Aerobics and Water Walking participation



2023 CHALLENGES

- Leak under the Zero Depth Entry
 - Tippy bucket closed all season
- Low number of lifeguard applicants
- Increased negative patron behaviors
- Aging pool infrastructure
- Lack of shade space available to patrons
- Limited deck space for patrons and parties



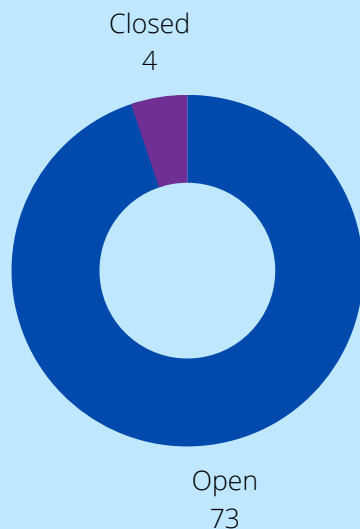
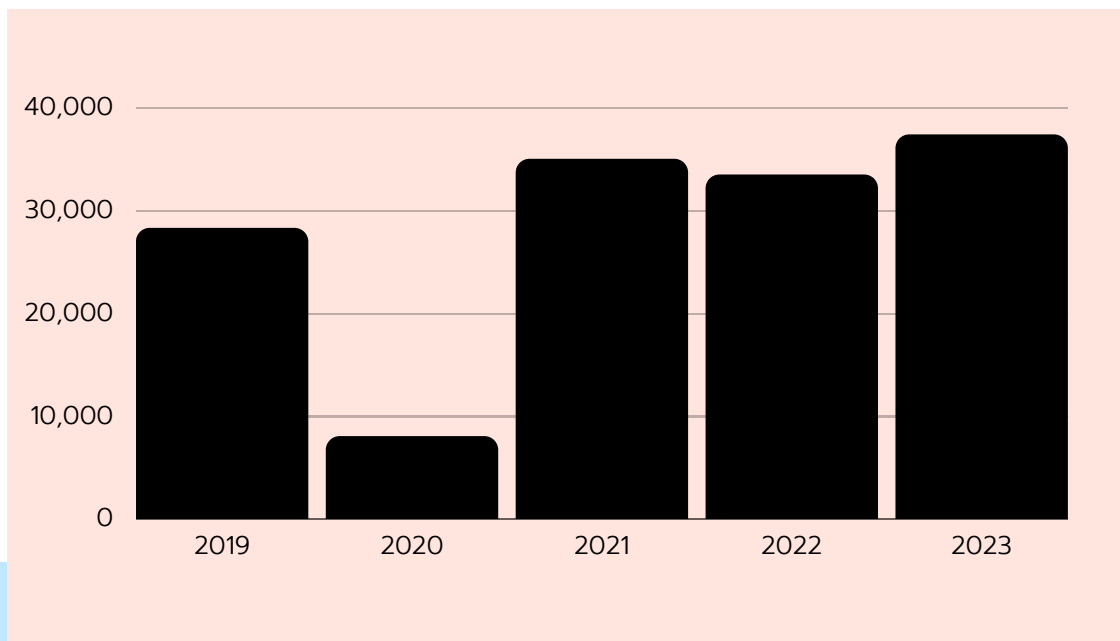


FACILITY ATTENDANCE

2009: 18,719
2010: 25,999
2011: 24,393
2012: 28,392
2013: 26,807

2014: 26,455
2015: 30,724
2016: 23,414
2017: 23,639
2018: 25,837

2019: 28,300
2020: 8,040
2021: 35,021
2022: 33,492
2023: 37,394



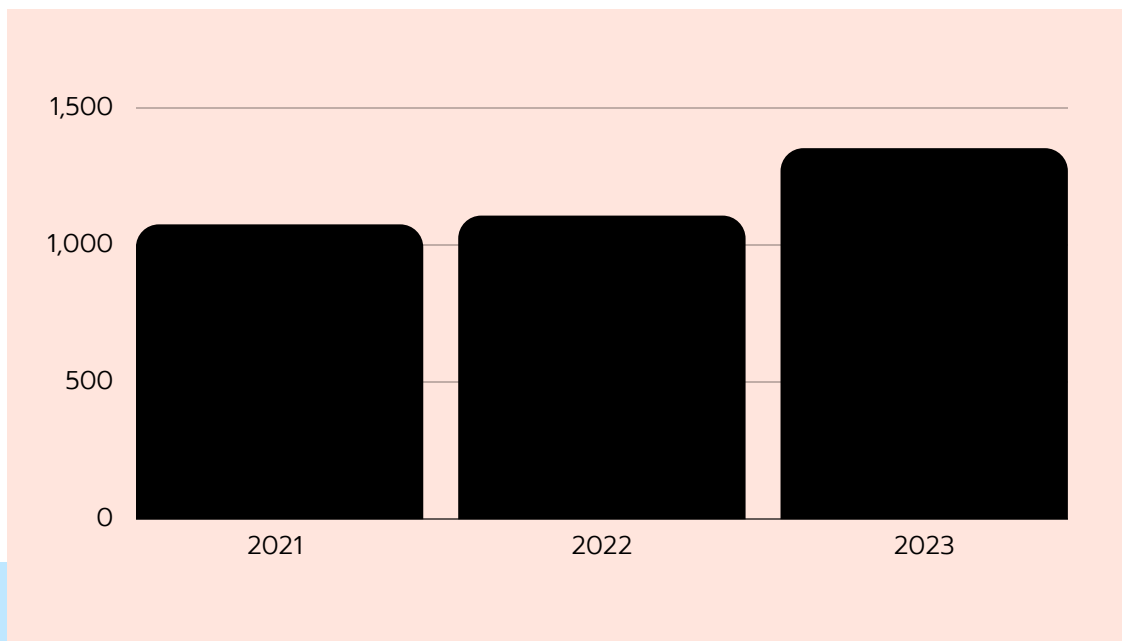
OPEN VS. CLOSED

River Springs Water Park had an 81 day season for the 2023 year. The water park was open for 95% of those days with 73 days fully open, 4 days closed for a portion of the day and 4 days closed all day.



SEASON PASS SALES

During the 2023 season River Springs sold a total of 220 Individual season passes and 271 Family Season Pass Packages totaling 1,352 season pass holders. Season Passes Packages ranged anywhere from families of 3 to families of 8.



FAMILY PACKAGE SALES

2021 Family Packages: 209
2022 Family Packages: 221
2023 Family Packages: 271

INDIVIDUAL PACKAGE SALES

2021 Individual Packages: 190
2022 Individual Packages: 201
2023 Individual Packages: 220

FUTURE POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENTS

- Consider option of Nanny pass option
- Upgrade RSWP Season Pass to include Lake Kohlmier
- Season Pass sales procedure efficiencies
- Upgraded group reservation process
- New Saturday Programming and Events
- Junior Lifeguard Program
- Summer WSI Training Class



SEASON
OVERVIEW

LAKE KOHLMIER

20
23



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased rental totals compared to 2022
 - 385 Rentals
- Increase in facility marketing on social media
- One kayak rack was installed at the end of the season.

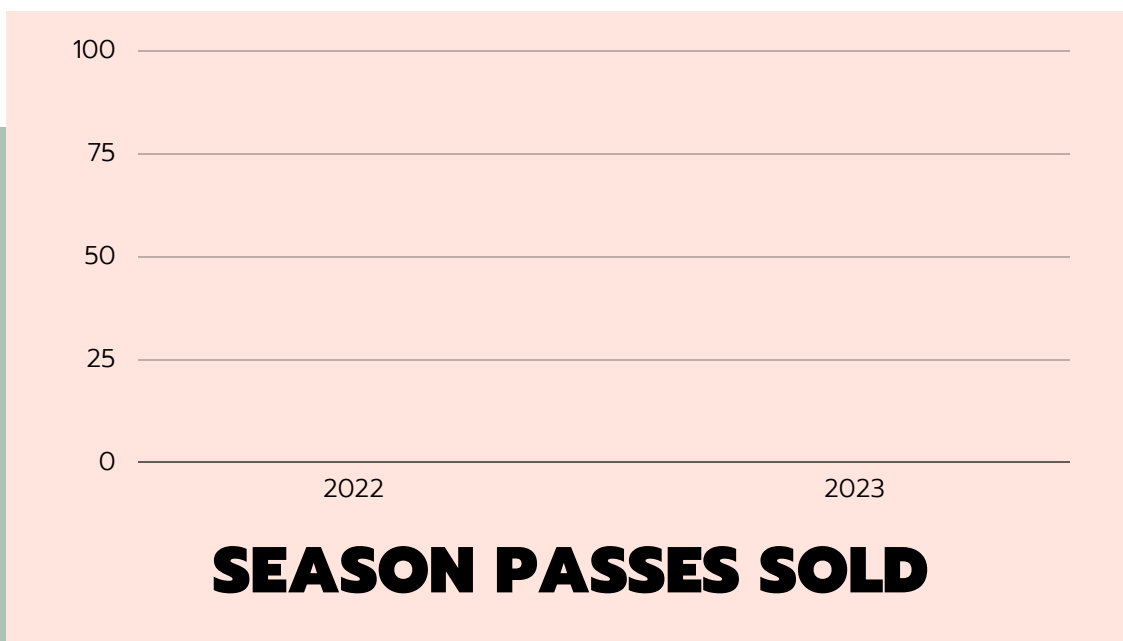
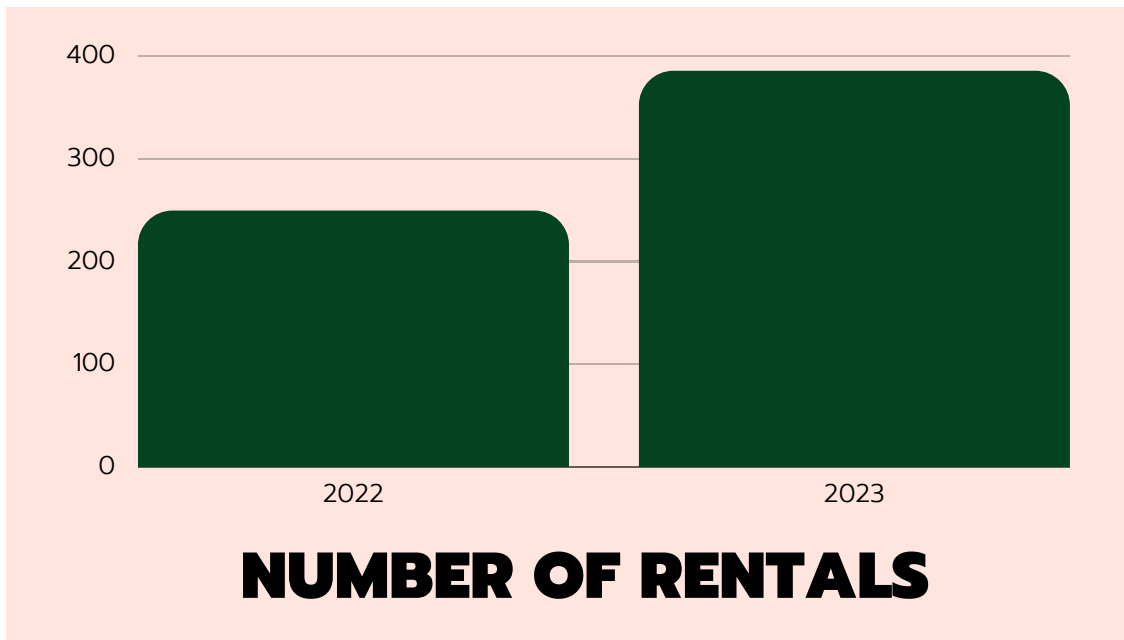
CHALLENGES

- Enforcement of beach/park rules (example: no dogs and use of alcohol)
- Limited storage for equipment
- Low equipment use
- Challenge to safely move equipment
- Limited staff on shoulder season
- Community not aware of operation





FACILITY ATTENDANCE



Zero Season Passes sold during the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

FUTURE POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENTS

- Increase community awareness of facility and facility season passes
- Upgraded River Springs Water Park season pass that adds Lake Kohlmier option
- Additional storage rack
- Additional equipment





Parks, Trails, Recreation & Facilities Department

DATE: September 11, 2023
TO: Park Board Members
FROM: Jesse Wilker, Maintenance Manager
Aaron Fitzloff, Facility Manager
Mary Jo Knudson, Administrative Specialist
SUBJECT: Maintenance Update

Brooktree:

- Greens aerated and healing

Facility Maintenance:

- Completed small office remodel at the airport
- Working on repairs at River Springs pool area
- Completed biff enclosure at Morehouse
- Replaced exterior doors at City Hall, Fire Hall and Tennis Center

Grant projects:

- MNDNR – ReLeaf Grant application due September 17

Memorials & Donations:

- Girl Scout Tree & Plaque – Buecksler Park

Park Maintenance:

- *"I have two daughters who play for the Prior Lake soccer team. We had a game with the Owatonna girls last night. I wanted to send a quick message to compliment you and your team on the field conditions at Lincoln Elementary. We have traveled extensively with our girls playing at venues all over the country. I can't remember our girls playing on any field as nice as the one you provided. Please know this didn't go unnoticed. Please pass this message along. We truly appreciated the hospitality."*
- North Straight River Parkway asphalt repair and fog seal applied to begin September 19. The trail will be closed through September 21
- Fall recreation fields are prepared
- Kaplan's Woods Parking Lot and Boat Landing repair/paving is coming this fall and will be done in-house with the Street Department, and funds from 2020 CIP.

Permits:

- [Park Permit] September 13 – Mineral Springs Park – Wedding Rehearsal Dinner – Food Truck Catering
- [Park Permit] September 16 – Sid Kinyon Courts – Owatonna Human Rights Commission Welcome Week pickleball event
- [Park Permit] August 10, 2024 – Brown Park – Skala Reunion – use of SB field

Projects:

- City Council Chambers
 - The project is currently scheduled to be completed in mid-October