



Agenda

Minnetonka Park Board

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Virtual Meeting on WebEx

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

_____ Elliot Berman

_____ Korey Beyersdorf

_____ James Durbin

_____ Chris Gabler

_____ David Ingraham

_____ Ben Jacobs

_____ Katie Semersky

_____ Chris Walick

3. Reports from Staff

4. Approval of Minutes

A) January 6, 2021

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

A) Emailed Comments

6. Business Items

A) Route recommendation for the Eagle to Bryant Lake Regional Trail

B) Consideration of the 2021 Park Board Strategic Plan

C) Recommend Park Board Member to Sustainability Commission

7. Park Board Member Reports

8. Information Items

9. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

10. Adjournment

Board Vision:

A city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a valued natural environment.

Board Mission:

The mission of the Minnetonka Parks & Recreation Board is to proactively advise the city council, in ways that will:

- Protect & enhance Minnetonka's natural environment
- Promote quality recreation opportunities and facilities
- Provide a forum for citizens interested in our parks, trails, athletic fields and open space.

Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, the park board's regular meeting place is not available. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, park board members will participate in the meeting remotely via WebEx. Members of the public who desire to monitor the meeting remotely or to give input or testimony during the meeting can find instructions at <https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/government/virtual-meeting-information>.



**Minutes
Minnetonka Park Board
Wednesday, January 6, 2021**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park Board Members Present: Elliot Berman, James Durbin, Nelson Evenrud, Chris Gabler, Elena Imaretska, David Ingraham, Ben Jacobs and Chris Walick.

Staff members in attendance: Carol HejlStone, Kathy Kline, Kelly O'Dea, Sara Woeste and Leslie Yetka.

Evenrud called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

3. Reports from Staff

Recreation Director, Kelly O'Dea had no reports.

4. Approval of Minutes

Walick moved, Ingraham seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 2, 2020 as submitted. Imaretska abstained. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

There were none.

6. Business Items

A. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

O'Dea gave the report.

Gabler indicated that he would like to be considered for the chair.

Jacobs moved, Ingraham seconded a motion to appoint Chris Gabler as park board chair for a term beginning Feb. 1, 2021 and running through Jan. 31, 2022. All voted "yes". Motion carried.

Jacobs nominated Walick for vice chair.

Jacobs moved and Ingraham seconded a motion to appoint Chris Walick as park board vice chair for a term beginning Feb. 1, 2021 and running through Jan. 31, 2022. All voted "yes". Motion carried.

O'Dea mentioned that the city has established a new sustainability commission that they are wanting one park board member to serve on. The February meeting might be when it will be decided which park board member would be assigned to the sustainability commission.

Ingraham watched the city council meeting on Monday and thought it was confusing when the selection for the commissions committees was discussed. He asked if O'Dea has gotten guidance since then. He was looking for clarity on if they were allowed to nominate or select their representative. If so, would they have to interview for it?

O'Dea responded that City Manager, GERALYN BARONE said that we should have a nominee from the park board. The city council will then have to approve that position. O'Dea wasn't sure if they would have to go through the interview process. He assumes that if the park board has a unanimous vote as to who the representative should be that the city council will approve them.

B. Natural Resources Master Plan Update

Natural Resources Manager, Leslie Yetka gave the report.

C. POST Plan Update Process and Timeline

Park and Trail Planner, Carol HejlStone gave the report.

Evenrud thanked HejlStone and Yetka and said their reports covered both areas well. He noted that what people love about Minnetonka is our natural spaces, trails and places to get away. While this is extensive and really does cover everything, city staff can't do it on their own. People in the community are needed to help out with this. He was glad they have all those opportunities in the process to do that.

Walick thought it was very thorough and incorporated public feedback. He was excited to see it and felt like there was nothing he could add to it. Walick would be happy to be the park board representative with the POST part of it.

Ingraham commented that there was a reference to different opinions on uses of parks. He asked Yetka to share more about that.

Yetka responded that when we think about how we manage the habitat, back in the 1990's and early 2000's it was common to think about our habitats as natural areas. That we are restoring the plant communities because we want it to reflect what was originally here. It didn't always necessarily take into account how humans play a role in that. For instance, if there was an oak woodland, you would have to ask yourself whether to preserve this area by keeping people out and keeping it pristine natural or allow people to come in. Yetka sees that as an important component to focusing on the restoration of natural areas.

Ingraham wondered if there was more of a difference of opinion now about whether people should be in the open spaces or not.

Yetka responded that there is a tension between those people who think we should keep natural areas pristine versus people that think we should include humans in the

equation. That is a tension that exists and a tension that is a question that should be posed to the public, park board members, and the city council.

Ingraham thanked Yetka and added that these are very ambitious plans and complimented her on the development of pursuing them.

Imaretska thanked Yetka for her presentation. She loved how staff was thinking about this in a holistic way and are collaborating with updating this. When thinking about climate change and resilience, we think about what is going to happen to our trees, plants and animals. Part of this could also be built environment such as flooding. There have been issues and problems with flooding in our city for various homeowners. This might be an opportunity to think about that too; in terms of how the built environment is effected by potential climate changes and warmer environment. Maybe using the natural environment as a way to mitigate some of these risks.

Durbin commented that these plans are probably the two most important things that the park board talks about. He believes that planning 20 years out is too long. He believes that 90 percent of energy should be focused on 10 years out and only 10 percent of energy should be focused on 11-20 years out. So much is going to change with the dynamics of the outdoor spaces and climate stressors. There are a lot of things that are unknown. If you look back at the past 20 years, things have drastically changed. Durbin thinks that staff is giving it their best efforts on trails, parks and outdoor spaces but none of this is going to be potentially valid that far in advance. Given that, he suggests that a revision checkpoint happens at the 10 year mark to reevaluate and make major adjustments if required.

Imaretska added that this might be a similar situation that we have with our Trail Improvement Plan. There are all these trails that need to get done but there is only so much that we can really do. She has a feeling that might be similar just because of how many parks and how many invasive species there are. It will be interesting as part of this process to determine the criteria. There is criteria for our trails in terms of ranking, what needs to be done and when it will be done. It is a clear, transparent criteria informed by the community. She loves seeing the robust community engagement process you are planning so that you can make decisions for the next 10 to 20 years moving forth. Imaretska also hopes staff will devise some strategies to engage more volunteers in restoration activities and thinking more creatively around that. As people are out enjoying our great natural resources they can also be more substantially engaged and involved to preserve and restore them.

Gabler asked Yetka to educate him on how earthworms are stressors.

Yetka responded that there are a few species of earthworms but the typical earthworm is not native to North America. They eat a lot of the debris such as the leaves that fall off the trees in the fall, which depletes a lot of the organic material in the soil. In addition, they churn up the soil, which allows seeds to germinate. With buckthorn, there are a lot of seeds in the soil that you don't even know are there. If you churn up that soil, that is how things like buckthorn and garlic mustard start sprouting and growing. Earthworms are not thought of as being a problem but they actually are pretty destructive. Earthworms also prevent a lot of seedlings from growing specifically oak woodlands or oak seedlings. They will take out the roots and basically keep the seeds from germinating in some cases. Deer will also take out young seedlings. When you think of

oak regeneration or forest regeneration, earthworms and deer can have a big impact on that.

Imaretska loved the fact that private property and the private land is being thought of. It was really interesting to see the maps with the turf. She loves thinking about the ways that we can engage and educate landowners on best practices. Turf is so resource intensive and can have pretty big impacts.

Evenrud asked if white tail deer are not native to this area.

Yetka answered that white tail deer are native to North America.

Evenrud enjoys the historical perspective as somebody who uses one of the Minnetonka parks almost daily. The parks look great right now and a lot of thought has gone into everything about them.

7. Park Board Member Reports

Imaretska thanked staff for the Yeti Challenge that is happening right now in our parks. If you are not familiar with it, there is a challenge every week in a different park for residents to find Yeti toys that are hidden within the parks. They hold the key to various riddles which then can be solved. She did that with her son and they had a lot of fun. She added that it is such a great example of creative thinking and is a great tactic and strategy to get residents out enjoying our parks and exploring them and having fun along the way.

Evenrud added it is a great COVID activity.

Ingraham said he is not sure how COVID friendly it is considering how crowded Big Willow Park was this past weekend. He thanked staff for the really creative use of the parks and to get people out. It's a pretty fun thing and it gets people to multiple parks which he thinks is great. He also shared that he took advantage of the snowshoeing at Lone Lake Park. He was a little curious how snowshoeing would coexist with mountain biking. He said it actually worked out really well. He didn't have any issues and thought it was good coexistence. He asked if the vandalism in Big Willow Park has been resolved.

O'Dea responded that it has been reported to the Minnetonka police but it doesn't know if it has been resolved. He believes some person has been out with a machete type of tool or instrument kind of taking chunks from trees. The police are aware of it and they are working on catching that person.

Durbin commented that the parks are awesome. Kids are out there playing hockey and skating on the outdoor rinks. There are a lot of people walking their dogs at Gro Tonka Park. The sledding hill at Gro Tonka Park is very busy, maybe more busy than Civic Center this year. It is really cool to see that there are so many free things to do. The activities cost nothing, are nearby and they are fun and mostly safe.

8. Information Items

Outdoor Rinks

O'Dea gave the report.

Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail

O'Dea gave the report.

City of Minnetonka named "Monarch Champion"

Yetka gave the report.

Evenrud commented that it is always great when something that's kind of sad can be turned into something positive at least into our backyard, if not the rest of the country. He suggested putting in a rain garden if you want more monarch butterflies. He has seen an increase of them ever since he put in his rain garden.

9. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

O'Dea reported. Next meeting is Feb. 3, 2021 and it will be virtual. The Park Board tour, which was originally scheduled for May 12, is going to be postponed due to COVID and because the weather in May can be uncertain. There are no dates in mind but we are hoping to do that in either June or July.

O'Dea reminded everyone that tonight's meeting is the last one for Evenrud and Imaretska. He added that the park board is a relaxed environment, which he appreciates and thinks that they made it that way. The work we do is really important when you think about the projects that we have done such as pickleball courts, mountain bike trails and trails. O'Dea thanked both of them for their service to the city and he appreciated how dedicated both of them were. They always put things in perspective no matter what was going on in the world. We appreciated you being respectful to the members of the community who came and expressed their opinion whether you agree or disagree. You are here every month and are involved in other tasks that we ask for help with. O'Dea thanked them again and asked for other comments from park board members.

Ingraham expressed that Evenrud runs a great meeting and that he has done a great job. He also added that Imarestka did really well stepping in for Evenrud when he was having technology issues during a meeting. Both of you are going to be missed.

Evenrud said he is looking forward to watching Gabler and Walick run the meetings.

Imaretska thanked staff and the park board and council members. It was really fun and great. It is important work and she really believes in the importance of all of us being engaged with the local community and making it better. She thanked everyone for being such a fun group, she has learned a lot and will certainly be staying in touch. She wished Gabler and Walick luck.

Evenrud appreciated the chance to say thank you and said it was fun. As O'Dea said, it is casual but it is also important. What he has enjoyed most is as a volunteer you can have such an impact on helping create new parks, new amenities and new bike paths. He has learned a lot. This is a great way to see that a lot of work goes into our parks and it really takes everybody to make them the way they are. He is going to miss the personal relationships that he has made and also the meetings. He will miss the pre-meeting dinner,

but most of all the fellowship during the hour before the meeting. The coolest thing he thinks about recreation is that everybody finds something that they like within the field of recreation. It could be sitting on a bench, being in a sport at any part of your life, everybody has something that they do and it usually spans their whole life. It is a rare chance that you can make connections with people especially now days with technology. He has met and talked to more people at the parks. He has learned more from people and none of that would be possible if it wasn't for the Minnetonka Park Board making it such a great place. It has been awesome and he just wanted to say thank you and that it was great to meet all of everyone.

10. Adjournment

Gabler moved, Walick seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kline

Kathy Kline
Recreation Administrative Coordinator

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 5
Meeting of February 3, 2021**

Subject:	Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda
Park Board related goal:	N/A
Park Board related objective:	N/A
Brief Description:	The following are emailed comments that were submitted prior to the park board packet distribution.

Name

Elliot Jones

Full Address

5045 kings ct
ExcelsiorMN55331
US

Phone

Email

Meeting date

February 3rd 2021

Agenda item

Minnetonka Skatepark

Comment

Minnetonka needs a quality skatepark. The glen lake skatepark, with it's pre-fabricated metal ramps slowly sinking into the asphalt, cannot provide for the needs of a city of Minnetonka's size. We need a high-quality, concrete skatepark. If you can afford to build and maintain countless tennis, pickle ball and basketball courts, a quality skatepark is definitely within your budget.

Name

Joseph Kim

Full Address

16418 Pine Street
MinnetonkaMinnesota55345
United States of America

Phone

Email

Meeting date

February 3rd 2021

Agenda item

Quality skatepark in Minnetonka

Comment

I believe that we should have a quality skatepark in Minnetonka. I started skating last year and it has changed my life. It let me meet new and interesting people and connect with other friends. It has helped me connect to people that i wouldn't have met without it and i enjoy skating with my friends. It would bring lots of people together (safely) and help everyone reconnect in these hard times and help us stay together. That is also why i believe it should be built soon. We are currently in some challenging times and we need something to enjoy. Even if we couldn't use it during the winter. It could be done by spring/summer and we could enjoy it then. So please consider it seriously.

Name

Noah Stockham

Full Address

7300 Butterscotch Road
Eden PrairieMinnesota55346
United States

Phone

Email

Meeting date

Feb 3rd, 7pm

Agenda item

Skatepark to be built

Comment

Hi I'm Noah Stockham, a 14 year old Student at Minnetonka Middle School East. Although I live in Eden Prairie I spend most of my time with my friends skateboarding in the Minnetonka area. We usually skateboard in the streets and outside/behind local stores. We are hoping to have a skatepark built in the Minnetonka area. We would way rather skate in a park with all the features we need than skateboarding in the streets trying for hours to find spots. Then getting kicked out by business owners. A skatepark would allow my friends, myself, and hundreds of other people to be able to skateboard safely in the Minnetonka area. Most of the time myself and my friends especially in the summer can't get a ride from a parent to a skatepark further away. Most skateparks are way to far to bike to in the Minnetonka area too. It would be ideal to have the park be built as soon as the funds are Available. Having it being built ASAP will allow kids like me to do what they love without being criticized for it. Also skateboarding has a big impact on mental health. Being with friends and having a good time at a local skatepark is something that really boost our mental health. We love skateboarding and hanging out with each other. Skating at a skatepark helps a ton with not having to move place to place. At a skatepark we have everything in one place. Also as Coronavirus fades away big gatherings of friends could be held at the skatepark too. We are happy to also be working with city of skate about getting a Minnetonka skatepark. Thank you for your time, Noah Stockham 8th grade

Name

Elliana Wanless

Full Address

16921 Hampton Court
MinnetonkaMinnesota55345
Minnesota

Phone

Email

Meeting date

2/3/21

Agenda item

Building a Local Skatepark

Comment

Hello, my name is Elliana Wanless and I am a student at Minnetonka Middle School East. I have been skateboarding for four years. Skateboarding has impacted my life in many ways. It acts as a creative outlet for me and many other skateboarders across the United States. The lack of skateparks in Minnetonka has made me resourceful, because I am constantly seeking an opportunity to preform a stunt such as a seemingly insignificant curb, or an ignored bank. However, as impressive or fun as this resourcefulness may seem, I would much rather skateboard in a skatepark. Skateparks are not only plazas with concrete obstacles, but rendezvous for the skateboarding community. Skateparks provide a safe, experimental area where skaters can freely express themselves without being judged. Having a skatepark would mean to me, that I would be able to try new tricks that I've been wanting to attempt, but haven't due to lack of obstacles, fear people judging me based on stereotypes, and other similar issues. On behalf of me, the members of the Minnetonka Middle School East Skateboard Club, and other skateboarders residing in this city, please consider building a skatepark in Minnetonka.

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 6A
Meeting of February 3, 2021**

Subject:	Eagle to Bryant Lake Regional Trail Route Recommendations and Master Plan Production
Park Board related goal:	Enhance long term park board development
Park Board related objective:	Identify areas of the city that are deficient of adequate park or trail amenities
Brief Description:	Eagle to Bryant Lake Regional Trail Route Recommendations and Master Plan Production

Background

In June of 2020, Three Rivers Park District kicked off the master planning process for the Eagle to Bryant Lake Regional Trail. Park District staff have completed the existing conditions, evaluation phase and public engagement for work to produce a trail master plan. Public outreach included collecting comments and feedback through a project website and interactive map, as well as direct engagement with residents along Baker Road and other areas of the proposed trail corridor via virtual meetings.

Park District staff would like to present an update the Park Board on the project, share what they learned through community engagement and talk about the recommendations for the route that will be incorporated into the trail master plan. A technical memorandum outlining route recommendations is attached to this report.

Next Steps

Three Rivers Park District staff will share project updates and route recommendations with city council at their February 22, 2021 meeting.

Recommended Park Board Action:

The park board is requested to review the presentation and provide feedback to Three Rivers Park District staff and city council.

Attachments:

1. Baker Road Trail Alignment Recommendation Technical Memo

MEMORANDUM

December 18, 2020

To: Maggie Heurung, Danny McCullough

Organization: Three Rivers Park District

From: Connor Cox, Toole Design

Project: Eagle to Bryant Lake Regional Trail Master Plan

Re: Baker Road Trail Alignment – Technical Recommendation

The purpose of this memorandum is to describe the trail alignment recommendation for the 2.4 mile trail segment along Baker Road (Rd) based on technical analysis and field review. The trail along Baker Rd is proposed between Minnetonka Blvd and Rowland Rd (*Figure 1*). This recommendation is based purely on the perspective of technical feasibility and trail user safety and does not incorporate input received from the public engagement process (ongoing). The final trail alignment recommendation in the *Eagle to Bryant Lake Regional Trail Master Plan* will consider input received from community members as well as technical feasibility and trail user safety.



Figure 1: The proposed trail route along Baker Rd between Minnetonka Blvd and Rowland Rd.

Baker Road Trail Alignment Recommendation

The recommended trail alignment along Baker Rd is the:

- West side of Baker Rd between Minnetonka Blvd and Excelsior Blvd
- East side of Baker Rd between Excelsior Blvd and Rowland Rd

Rationale for Recommendation

The following sections describe the rationale for the trail alignment recommendation along Baker Rd.

Information contained in this document is for planning purposes and should not be used for final design of any project. All results, recommendations, concept drawings and commentary contained herein are based on limited data and information and on existing conditions that are subject to change. Further analysis and engineering design are necessary prior to implementing any of the recommendations contained herein.

North of Excelsior Blvd – West side of Baker Rd

- The western side of Baker Rd/ Minnetonka Blvd intersection has an existing marked crosswalk that connects to Minnetonka Mills Park (Figure 2)

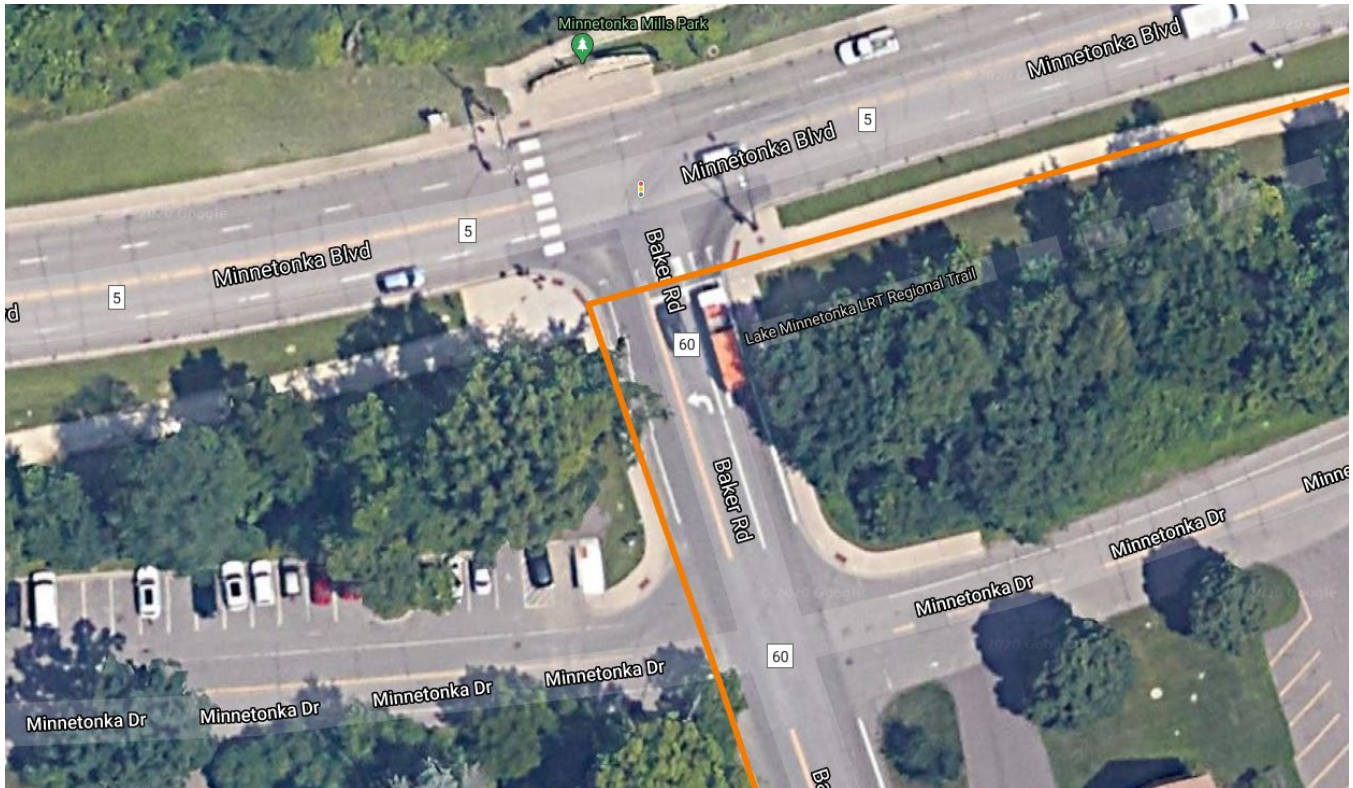


Figure 2: Recommended trail alignment (orange line) at the intersection of Minnetonka Blvd and Baker Rd.

- Provides a direct connection to Hopkins West Junior High School (located on west side of Baker Rd)
- There are **EIGHT** fewer street crossings or on/off ramp crossings on the west side of Baker Rd between Minnetonka Blvd and Excelsior Blvd
 - 15 crossings on the east side
 - Includes **THREE** on/off ramps to Highway 7 on the east side (Figure 3)
 - One off ramp, one on/off ramp, and one slip lane to get on Highway
 - 7 crossings on the west side (this count considers the middle school driveway entry as a street crossing)

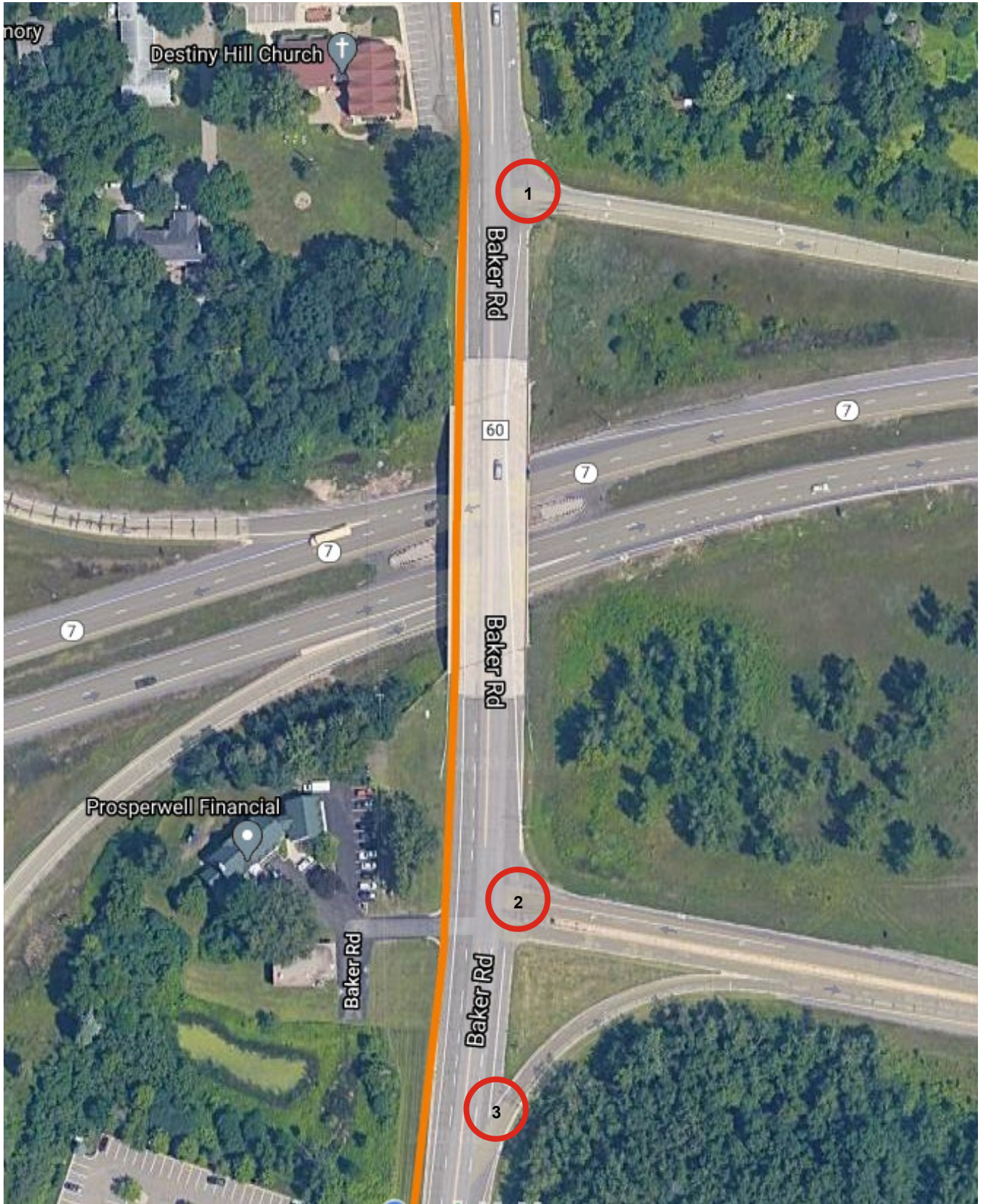


Figure 3: Recommended trail alignment (orange line) over Highway 7 avoids three on/off ramps on the east side.

Excelsior Blvd Intersection Recommendation

- The trail is recommended to cross Excelsior Blvd on the west side to the porkchop island, then cross east over Baker Rd on the south side of the intersection (*Figure 4*)
 - Safest possible scenario for crossing Excelsior Drive
 - It avoids crossing both slip lanes, where drivers are moving fast and likely not looking for trail users
 - There is an existing marked crosswalk on the west side of Baker Rd crossing Excelsior Blvd, but no marked crossing on the east side



Figure 4: *Recommended trail alignment (orange line) at the intersection of Excelsior Blvd and Baker Rd.

**Note – Recommendation assumes that the existing intersection design and configuration will remain when the trail is constructed. If the Excelsior Blvd / Baker Rd intersection is reconstructed in the future, there is an opportunity to make significant safety enhancements for trail users by redesigning the intersection.*

South of Excelsior Blvd – East side of Baker Rd

- The recommended trail on the east side of Baker Rd would connect directly to the proposed regional trail on the north side of Rowland Rd (*Figure 5*)
 - Avoids crossing Baker Rd at Rowland Rd intersection, which would have poor visibility and sight lines due to the crown of the hill on Baker Rd



Figure 5: Recommended trail alignment (orange line) at the intersection of Baker Rd and Rowland Rd. The proposed trail is recommended to continue to the east along the north side of Rowland Rd.

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 6B
Meeting of February 3, 2021**

Subject:	Consideration of the 2021 Park Board Strategic Plan
Park Board related goal:	Enhance Long-Term Park Board Development
Park Board related objective:	Annually assess the park board strategic plan
Brief Description:	The park board will review park board strategic plan mission, vision, goals and objectives in place for 2020 and implement desired changes for 2021.

Background

In 2001, the park board worked with an independent consultant to establish a process for developing and annually refining a strategic plan. As a result of this endeavor, board members developed goals, objectives and specific action steps designed to meet the board's mission and vision developed earlier in the process.

Attached is a draft of the 2021 Park Board Strategic Plan. The park board will review this document and provide direction to staff regarding any desired changes. Staff will take recommendations and present the final plan at the March meeting for approval.

Discussion Points

- Does the park board desire any additional changes to the 2021 Vision or Mission statements?
- Does the park board desire any changes to the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives for 2021?

Recommended Park Board Action: Review the attached strategic plan and provide staff with any desired changes for 2021.

Attachments

1. 2021 Strategic Plan – Draft
2. 2020 Strategic Plan
3. City of Minnetonka's Strategic Priorities and Key Strategies

**Minnetonka Park & Recreation Board
2021 Strategic Plan - DRAFT**

Vision for Minnetonka Park and Recreational Facilities

A **An inclusive** city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a **valued healthy** natural environment.

The Mission of the Minnetonka Park & Recreation Board is to proactively advise the City Council, in ways that will:

- Protect and enhance Minnetonka's natural environment
- Promote quality **inclusive** recreation opportunities and facilities **to meet the needs of all residents**
- Provide a forum for citizen engagement regarding our parks, trails, athletic facilities and open space

Goals and Objectives (order does not reflect priority)

Goal To protect natural resources and open space

- Objective 1: Provide feedback to assist staff in ~~managing the~~ **decision-making regarding** open space process
- Objective 2: ~~Continue to review and comment on the implementation of the natural resources stewardship plan~~ **Review and provide feedback on natural resources planning efforts**
- Objective 3: Review and **provide feedback on strategies** ~~options~~ to enhance natural resources & open space
- Objective 4: Promote the city's efforts of protecting and enhancing the community's natural resources by creating awareness and supporting educational ~~strategies~~ **opportunities**
- Objective 5: Provide guidance in balancing the protection of natural resources with providing quality recreational opportunities and facilities

Goal To renew and maintain parks and trails

- Objective 1: Participate in the park & trail projects process and make recommendations to the city council
- Objective 2: Conduct an annual review of park dedication fees
- Objective 3: Identify areas of the city that are deficient of adequate park or trail amenities
- Objective 4: Review the city's Trail Improvement Plan and consider trail projects that will encourage outdoor recreation and improve mobility in the community
- Objective 5: ~~Review placemaking projects and public realm improvements for the Opus area and make recommendations to the city council~~ **Review conditions of park facilities, fields and amenities to inform park investment plan projects and priorities**
- Objective 6: ~~Review design for a new park in the Ridgedale area and make recommendations to the city council~~ **Review and provide feedback on updated wayfinding and park signage**
- Objective 7: ~~Review rules, metrics and indicators for the Lone Lake Park multi-use mountain bike trail~~ **Review annual metrics report of Lone Lake Park Mountain Bike Trail and make recommendations to staff and city council**
- Objective 8: **Review conditions of city trails to inform trail rehabilitation and priorities**

Goal To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs

- Objective 1: Perform an annual review of the Gray's Bay Marina operations plan
- Objective 2: Anticipate, review and respond to community needs not previously identified
- Objective 3: Review policies related to the operation and management of park facilities to determine if changes are needed
- Objective 4: Ensure that park amenities, recreational facilities and programs address future community needs and changing demographics

- Objective 5: Conduct a review of the athletic field fee schedule developed for ~~2020~~ 2021 and make recommended adjustments for ~~2024~~ 2022
- Objective 6: Offer a full range of programs for people of all ages, ability levels, and economic and cultural backgrounds ensuring all have the opportunity to participate
- Objective 7: Responsibly maintain our parks, trails and recreational facilities, while fairly balancing user fees with general community support

Goal Enhance long-term Park Board development

- Objective 1: Review and recommend Capital Improvements Program for ~~2021-2025~~ 2022-2026 related to parks, trails & open space
- Objective 2: Increase community and city council awareness of park board projects through the online project page and community outreach
- Objective 3: Encourage board member involvement in annual park board and city related activities such as the farmers market
- Objective 4: ~~Review chapters of the Parks Open Space and Trails (POST) plan in preparation for an update to the document~~ Participate in, review and provide feedback on the updated Parks Open Space and Trails (POST) plan
- Objective 5: Continue to explore new ideas and strive to build community for those who work, live and play in Minnetonka
- Objective 6: Actively explore and enhance partnerships/engagement opportunities with other agencies including the City of Hopkins
- Objective 7: Annually assess the park board strategic plan

**Minnetonka Park & Recreation Board
2020 Strategic Plan**

Vision for Minnetonka Park and Recreational Facilities

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- Protect and enhance Minnetonka's natural environment.
- Promote quality recreation opportunities and facilities
- Provide a forum for citizen engagement regarding our parks, trails, athletic facilities and open space

Goals and Objectives (order does not reflect priority)

Goal To protect natural resources and open space

- Objective 1: Provide feedback to assist staff in managing the open space process
- Objective 2: Continue to review and comment on the implementation of the natural resources stewardship plan
- Objective 3: Review options to enhance natural resources & open space
- Objective 4: Promote the city's efforts of protecting and enhancing the community's natural resources by creating awareness and supporting educational strategies
- Objective 5: Provide guidance in balancing the protection of natural resources with providing quality recreational opportunities and facilities

Goal To renew and maintain parks and trails

- Objective 1: Participate in the park & trail projects process and make recommendations to the city council
- Objective 2: Conduct an annual review of park dedication fees
- Objective 3: Identify areas of the city that are deficient of adequate park or trail amenities
- Objective 4: Review the city's Trail Improvement Plan and consider trail projects that will encourage outdoor recreation and improve mobility in the community
- Objective 5: Review placemaking projects and public realm improvements for the Opus area and make recommendations to the city council
- Objective 6: Review design for a new park in the Ridgedale area and make recommendations to the city council
- Objective 7: Review rules, metrics and indicators for the Lone Lake Park multi-use mountain bike trail

Goal To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs

- Objective 1: Perform an annual review of the Gray's Bay Marina operations plan
- Objective 2: Anticipate, review and respond to community needs not previously identified
- Objective 3: Review policies related to the operation and management of park facilities to determine if changes are needed
- Objective 4: Ensure that park amenities, recreational facilities and programs address future community needs and changing demographics
- Objective 5: Conduct a review of the athletic field fee schedule developed for 2020 and make recommended adjustments for 2021
- Objective 6: Offer a full range of programs for people of all ages, ability levels, and economic and cultural backgrounds ensuring all have the opportunity to participate
- Objective 7: Responsibly maintain our parks, trails and recreational facilities, while fairly balancing user fees with general community support

Goal Enhance long-term Park Board development

- Objective 1: Review and recommend Capital Improvements Program for 2021-2025 related to parks, trails & open space
- Objective 2: Increase community and city council awareness of park board projects through the online project page and community outreach
- Objective 3: Encourage board member involvement in annual park board and city related activities such as the farmers market
- Objective 4: Review chapters of the Parks Open Space and Trails (POST) plan in preparation for an update to the document
- Objective 5: Continue to explore new ideas and strive to build community for those who work, live and play in Minnetonka
- Objective 6: Actively explore and enhance partnerships/engagement opportunities with other agencies including the City of Hopkins
- Objective 7: Annually assess the park board strategic plan

Who we are



VISION STATEMENT

Minnetonka is an inclusive community committed to excellence where all residents, workers and visitors are welcome in a beautiful, sustainable place, supported by quality, dependable city services.

MISSION STATEMENT

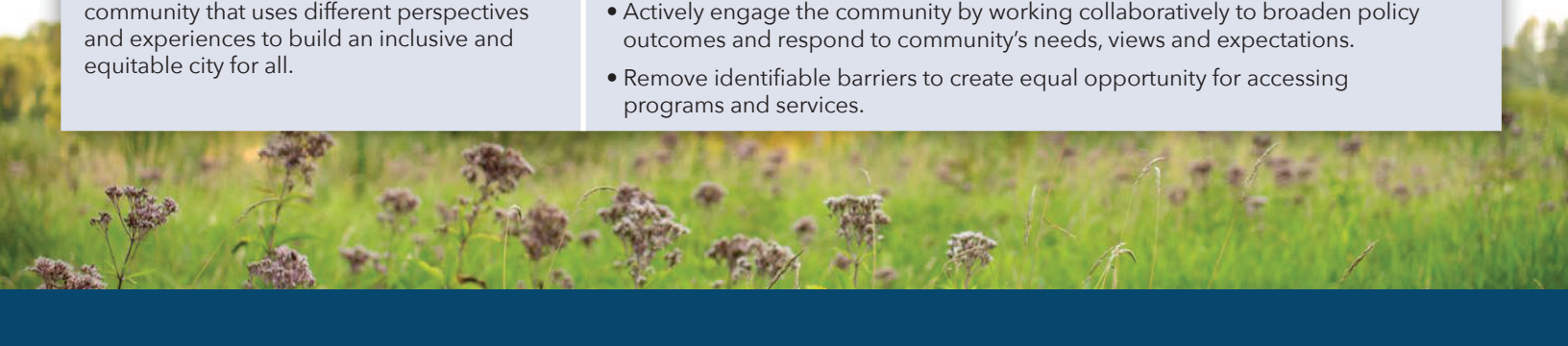
Provide **quality public services**, while striving to preserve and enhance the distinctive character to make Minnetonka a **special place for everyone**.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We earnestly commit to a **beautiful, sustainable and healthy environment** as a vital part of a stable, prosperous and thriving community.
- We responsibly deliver **excellent public services** and **provide affordable opportunities** to ensure access to all we serve.
- We ethically uphold **community trust** through proactive, inclusive public engagement, transparent communications, and the careful stewardship of our financial, natural, and capital assets.
- We nimbly **lead our city into the future** by anticipating community needs, pursuing service innovation and adoption of new technologies, and forging collaborative partnerships with all sectors of society.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	KEY STRATEGIES
<p>Financial Strength and Operational Excellence</p> <p>Maintain a long-term positive financial position by balancing revenues and expenditures for operations, debt management and capital investments. Provide innovative, responsive, quality city services at a level that reflects community values and is supported by available resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the city's AAA bond rating. • Develop an annual budget that meets community needs and is in alignment with the strategic plan and financial policies. • Provide excellent, meaningful programs and amenities to serve and enhance our community.
<p>Safe and Healthy Community</p> <p>Develop programs, policies and procedures that enhance the community's well-being and partner with the community to provide engagement opportunities and build trust. Sustain focus on prevention programs, education, hazard mitigation and rapid emergency response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and adapt to public safety service models that support evolving changes in service delivery expectations. • Identify safety strategies and practices that promote positive quality of life for all. • Collaboratively review current integrated police and fire policy and training protocols and implement appropriate changes. • Provide a full range of recreational programs, services and amenities.
<p>Sustainability and Natural Environment</p> <p>Support long-term and short-term initiatives that lead to the protection and enhancement of our unique and natural environment while mitigating climate change impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully balance growth and development with preservation efforts that protect the highly valued water and woodland resources of our community. • Develop and implement long-term plans to mitigate threats to water quality, ecosystems, urban forests and the unique natural character of Minnetonka. • Take an active role in promoting energy and water conservation, sustainable operations and infrastructure, recycling and environmental stewardship.
<p>Livable and Well-Planned Development</p> <p>Balance community-wide interests and respect Minnetonka's unique neighborhoods while continuing community reinvestment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement programs and policies to diversify housing and increase affordable housing options. • Support business retention and expansion and attract new businesses. • Manage and promote the Opus area as a unique mix of uses and increased development reinvestment.
<p>Infrastructure and Asset Management</p> <p>Provide safe, efficient, sustainable, cost-effective and well-maintained infrastructure and transportation systems. Build, maintain and manage capital assets to preserve long-term investment and ensure reliable services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and preserve a quality local street and trail system. • Ensure connectivity through increased access to local and regional means of transportation (new mobility options). • Develop an annual capital improvement plan that supports the sustainable maintenance and replacement of assets. • Expand and maintain a trail system to improve safe connectivity and walkability throughout the community.
<p>Community Inclusiveness</p> <p>Create a community that is engaged, tolerant and compassionate about everyone. Embrace and respect diversity, and create a community that uses different perspectives and experiences to build an inclusive and equitable city for all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement inclusive recruiting, application, hiring and retention practices to attract excellent, qualified and diverse candidates from all backgrounds. • Foster an inclusive boards and commissions recruitment and appointment process to increase diversity. • Actively engage the community by working collaboratively to broaden policy outcomes and respond to community's needs, views and expectations. • Remove identifiable barriers to create equal opportunity for accessing programs and services.



**Minnetonka Park Board Item 6C
Meeting of February 3, 2021**

Subject:	Recommendation of member to Sustainability Commission
Park Board related goal:	Enhance long-term park board development
Park Board related objective:	N/A
Brief Description:	Recommend one member of the Park Board to serve on the Sustainability Commission

Background

On June 29, 2020, at the city council study session, the city council indicated continued interest in creating a sustainability commission. With this interest expressed, staff has drafted an ordinance that would establish a sustainability commission.

On September 21, 2020 the city council voted to introduce the ordinance and on October 12, 2020, the ordinance was adopted. The make-up of the Sustainability Commission includes 9 total members, which includes one member from the Park Board (member to serve on both).

Recommended Park Board Action: Recommend one member of the Park Board to serve on the Sustainability Commission.

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 8
Meeting of February 3, 2021**

Subject:	Information Items
Park Board related goal:	N/A
Park Board related objective:	N/A
Brief Description:	The following are informational items and developments that have occurred since the last park board meeting.

2020 Gray's Bay Marina Summary

The Gray's Bay Marina facility opened to slip holders and boat launchers on March 30. The site was staffed beginning May 16 for gas sales and waste pump-out service was offered beginning June 22.

Due to COVID-19, the marina operated a little differently than usual, most notably:

- Attendants were not on site until mid-May, approximately three weeks later than normal
- COVID-19 safety plan which included staff wearing masks and gloves when providing services
- Hours of operation at the gas dock were reduced for the season
- Permanent restrooms were closed to the public and biffies were added on site for the public.
- Only credit card payments were accepted (no cash)

In 2020 the marina sold 30,588 gallons, approximately ~17% more than average. This was the fourth time since the marina opened in 2003 that the marina has sold more than 30,000 gallons, all in the last four years.

The marina was closed for the season October 31. The boat launch remained open until December 2 when ice formed on the bay. At that time the entrance gates to the parking lot were closed for the winter season. Winter access to Gray's Bay (ice fishing, snowmobiles, etc.) is available from the causeway directly north of the county road 101 bridge.

In October, renewal leases for the 2021 season were sent to existing slip holders. The slip fee is \$4,000 which includes the Park Board approved increase of \$100. There were three slip vacancies at the end of 2020 - two were lease term expirations and one chose not to renew. Staff filled these vacancies using the wait list which currently stands at 84.

With nearly all expenses accounted for, revenues (\$271,078) have exceeded estimated expenses (\$197,330) by \$73,748. This estimated balance will remain in the escrow fund which has an estimated 2020 year-end overall balance of \$754,128 (see attached).

2020 Athletic Field Use

The city of Minnetonka provides athletic fields for a variety of community and city sponsored programs. Field fees were originally established in 2010 by the park board to streamline field reservations, process fees, and generate funds for operational maintenance and future capital projects (67% of revenue assigned to general operations and 33% to a capital fund for future upgrades to fields).

In 2020, field hours reserved totaled 2,861 compared to 4,067 in 2019. The lower number of hours is attributable to COVID-19 - fields were idle until late June due to state restrictions and many soccer,

lacrosse and softball organizations either cancelled or greatly reduced their field use. All organizations complied with the requirement to submit to the city a COVID-19 safety plan and procedures in order to reserve fields.

Field revenue was higher than anticipated considering:

- Reduced hours of use
- Staff reduced the annual field fee for organizations with priority use on city fields to 50% or less. These organizations are Big Willow Baseball (Big Willow youth fields), Glen Lake Mighty Mites (Glen Lake Park fields 1 & 2), GAL Softball (Glen Lake Park field 3) and Hopkins Baseball Association (Guilliams baseball field).

Field fee revenues totaled \$25,134 compared to \$31,165 in 2019 (Attachment - 2020 field use summary). Sales tax accounted for \$866 of total revenue leaving net revenue at \$24,268. The amount allocated to the capital fund for future field upgrades was \$8,008.

Recreation Services 2021 Summer Brochure

The Recreation Services summer brochure will be posted online and mailed to Hopkins and Minnetonka residents in early March. Registration begins at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 16. Recreation staff have been busy planning for as many summer programs as possible taking COVID precautions into account.

This brochure is the largest publication of the year for the recreation department and the only one that is mailed to residents. The summer brochure features registration for health & fitness classes, tennis programs, the Park Adventures playground program, day camps, golf, ice skating lessons, youth and teen programs, aquatics programs, ice skating lessons, adult activities and leagues, facility reservations, senior programs, Inclusion Services and registration for youth fall soccer to name a few. Staff are tentatively planning for events such as Music in the Park, Theater in the Park and Summer Fest.

Ridgedale Commons and Crane Lake Preserve

At their regular meeting on Monday, January 25, city council adopted a resolution to formally name the new park at Ridgedale as 'Ridgedale Commons'. The city council also adopted a resolution to accept plans for Ridgedale Area Park Improvements and authorize advertisement for bids. Ridgedale Area Park Improvements includes: site and building improvements at Ridgedale Commons and shelter improvements at Crane Lake Preserve. Staff will advertise for bids on February 1, 2021 and request council will award the contract in March. Construction is expected to begin in the spring and be substantially complete by fall 2021.

2020 Gray's Bay Marina Operations Summary - Estimated

	Actual 2019		Budget 2020		Estimated 2020
Total Revenues	\$288,995		\$254,700		\$271,078
Expenses	(\$201,959)		(\$202,000)		(\$160,480)
Capital Outlay	\$0		\$0		\$0
LMCD	(\$36,000)		(\$36,000)		(\$36,850)
Escrow*	(\$51,036)		(\$16,700)		(\$73,748)
Total Expenses	<u>(\$288,995)</u>		<u>(\$254,700)</u>		<u>(\$271,078)</u>
Balance	\$0		\$0		\$0

* Total 2003-2020 amount budgeted in escrow account = \$345,800; estimated amount escrowed through 2020 = \$754,128.

2020 Athletic Field Use City of Minnetonka

Dedicated Field Complex	Non-city Programs			City-sponsored Programs			Revenue		
	2018 Actual Use Hours	2019 Actual Use Hours	2020 Actual Use Hours	2018 Actual Use Hours	2019 Actual Use Hours	2020 Actual Use Hours	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual
Big Willow Baseball - Reg	552	550	579	0	0	0	\$12,024	\$12,856	\$10,784
Big Willow Baseball - Yth	0	0	64	0	0	60	\$0	\$0	\$2,804
Big Willow Soccer	170	111	0	185	130	74	\$3,070	\$2,423	\$0
Guilliams Softball	274	282	202	0	0	0	\$1,890	\$1,992	\$1,686
Glen Lake Softball #3	0	0	57	0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$440
Lone Lake Soccer	204	153	69	286	254	228	\$4,229	\$3,218	\$2,072
Civic Center	1004	505	470	861	326	227	\$6,078	\$5,638	\$5,137
Big Willow Softball	0	0	0	1127	1347	627	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	2204	1601	1441	2459	2057	1216	\$27,291	\$26,127	\$22,923

Non-Dedicated Field Complex	Non-city Programs			City-sponsored Programs			Revenue		
	2018 Actual Use Hours	2019 Actual Use Hours	2020 Actual Use Hours	2018 Actual Use Hours	2019 Actual Use Hours	2020 Actual Use Hours	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual
Gro Tonka Field	144	164	72	70	70	68	\$672	\$932	\$396
Oberlin Field	0	6	0	148	169	64	\$0	\$36	\$0
TOTAL	144	170	72	218	239	132	\$672	\$968	\$396

Designated Field Complex	Non-city Programs Est. Use Hours (2020)	Revenue		
		2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual
Big Willow - Youth BB	1560 (700)	\$1,500	\$1,650	\$825
Glen Lake Youth BB	1200 (500)	\$700	\$770	\$385
Guilliams Youth BB	700 (350)	\$1,100	\$1,210	\$605
Glen Lake Youth SB	325 (0)	\$400	\$440	\$0
TOTAL	0	\$3,700	\$4,070	\$1,815

TOTAL REVENUE ALL FIELDS	\$31,663	\$31,165	\$25,134
		Sales Tax	(\$866)
		Net Revenue	\$24,268

Capital/Operations Revenue Allocation

Revenue Allocated to Operations (67%) \$16,260

Revenue Allocated to Capital (33%) \$8,008

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 9
Meeting of February 3, 2021**

Upcoming 6-Month Meeting Schedule				
Day	Date	Meeting Type	Agenda Business Items	Special Notes
Wed	3/3/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Signage 	
Wed	4/7/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resources Education and Outreach Plan • Review of 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan 	
Wed	5/12/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meeting 	Tour to be rescheduled
Wed	6/2/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Wed	7/7/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Wed	8/4/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	

Other meetings and activities to note:

Day	Date	Description	Special Notes
Sat	2/13/2021	Winter Farmer's Market	Drive Thru
Sat	6/26/2021	Summer Festival	

Items to be scheduled:

Park Board Tour