

AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
City Hall Council Chambers – 515 Clark Avenue
Thursday, September 21, 2023

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: The Parks and Recreation Commission welcomes comments from the public during discussion. If you wish to speak, please complete a green card and hand it to City staff prior to the meeting. When your name is called, please step to the microphone, state your name and address for the record, and limit the time used to present your remarks to three minutes so others have the opportunity to speak. The normal process on an agenda item is staff may first give a report on the item, Commissioners may ask questions for clarification, public input is received, a motion is placed on the floor, the Commission discusses the issue or responds to the audience concerns, and the vote is taken. In consideration of all, if you have a cell phone, please turn it off or put it on silent.

1. Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from August 17, 2023
3. Public Forum (For items not on the agenda)
4. 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan Discussion
5. Update regarding the donation of the property at 1000 Jarrett Circle (Attachment)
6. Project Updates
 - a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center
 - b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza
 - c. Sands-McDorman Property
7. Monthly Report
8. Commission Member Comments
9. Next Meeting:
 - a. Thursday, October 19 at 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)
10. Adjournment

AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 17, 2023

COMMISSION

PRESENT: Jeremy Bristow, Sarah Cady, Thyra Cox, Rachel Cramer, Duane Reeves, Jeff White

ABSENT: Nathan Shimanek

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Abraham, Joshua Thompson, Courtney Kort

CALL TO ORDER: 4:02 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bristow moved, with a second by Reeves, to approve the June 15, 2023, meeting minutes. No discussion. No opposition. Motion Approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum

MOTION RECOMMENDING CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE DONATION OF THE PROPERTY AT 1000 JARRETT CIRCLE.

The property owners of 1000 Jarrett Circle have proposed donating this parcel to the City with two stipulations. First, the lot in question would become part of the Emma McCarthy Lee Park and Munn Woods greenbelt and remain in its undeveloped natural state. Second, the City will not install or develop any formal entrance on the property at 1000 Jarrett Circle for twenty years or until the owners have vacated their residence at 1002 Jarrett Circle, whichever date comes first.

Abraham explained the Commission does not have the authority to accept land. Staff is looking for the Commission to make a recommendation to the City Council to accept this donation. Staff recommends Alternative #1.

Herman Quirnbach (1002 Jarrett Circle) was present for the discussion.

Bristow thanked Quirnbach for this very generous offer. Bristow asked Abraham if there would need to be a set of stairs built for safety. Abraham asked Quirnbach if installing stairs would be going against his stipulation for the land. Quirnbach indicated that their intention is that there would be no building placed upon this lot, that stairs would be acceptable, and he is open to altering the agreement.

Reeves asked questions regarding the co-owners' expectations regarding the maintenance of the property, such as invasive species, what the co-owners felt was the property's natural state, and other items that the maintenance staff would need to know. Quirnbach informed Reeves that once the land becomes City property, it would be the City's responsibility to maintain the property similarly to the adjacent woodland.

Cady informed the Commission that it was her opinion that only neighborhood people would access the woods in that location. Abraham said that the benefit of this property would be the future access to the corridor and that the access would be added to the park master plan.

Cramer favors adding to the greenspace and natural spaces and feels this land would give another access point about halfway through the trail.

Abraham informed the Commission they could recommend Alternative #1, with additional wording regarding restricting buildings and defining more specifically how the property would be maintained.

Cox moved, with a second by Reeves, to approve Alternative #1 with the following modifications: Clearer language regarding the stipulation that no buildings be placed on the property, and clear expectations on the owners' request regarding natural state and property maintenance, including the area down to the main parkway
No discussion. No opposition. Motion Approved

MOTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING FOR THE 2024 AMES TRIATHLON AT ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK (AHHP):

- a. Waive the enforcement of the No Swimming Rule at AHHP North Lake, 7:00 – 10:00 AM, on Sunday, June 23, 2024, to allow Iowa Multisport to host the Ames Triathlon.
- b. Approve Iowa Multisport to enter Ada Hayden Heritage Park at 5:00 AM on Sunday, June 23, 2024, for event preparation.
- c. Recommend City Council waive enforcement of Ordinance 19.9 from 5:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 23, 2024, to allow Iowa Multisport to utilize two motorized golf carts on the AHHP trails.

Thompson informed the Commission that the event staff are requesting the same items as they have in previous years. Staff recommends Alternative #1. Cady stated that she feels this event is very well run.

Bristow moved, with a second by Cox to approve Alternative #1.
No discussion. No opposition. Motion Approved

2024-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) DISCUSSION

Abraham gave an overview and timeline of the process to develop the CIP, as there are new members who have not gone through this process. He also asked the Commission if they had any items or suggestions from the public to share.

PROJECT UPDATES

- a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center (July 27 City Council Staff Report Attached)
Abraham went over the staff report presented to the City Council and informed the Commission of any changes that have taken place in the design of the project.
- b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza
Abraham informed the Commission the permit has come through for the spray pad portion of this project. The chiller for the ice portion of the project was ordered in May and is not scheduled for delivery until mid-January. Crews will get as much done this fall as possible. The spray pad could open at the end of May or early June, with the ice season starting in November 2024.

c. Sands-McDorman Property

Staff will present a purchase agreement to the Council at an upcoming meeting. If Council approves the agreement, the property will be deeded to the City in September. There could be some work in the park this fall, such as removing fencing and hazardous trees. A plan will need to be developed.

d. RAGBRAI

Thompson had a follow-up meeting with staff from Discover Ames and RAGBRAI staff. Brookside Park was filled with tents, showers, medical personnel, and food. Abraham gave kudos to Department staff for their efforts. Rider feedback was positive, and the park was open by 10 the next morning. Abraham stated that he wanted to publicly thank Thompson as the meetings and coordination mainly fell on him. Abraham noted that it was an excellent event for the community.

e. Ames/ISU Ice Arena Sand Releveling Project

The Ames/ISU Ice Arena closed in June to begin the project of leveling the sand beneath the ice. Problems occurred as the ice was being reinstalled, and staff had to remove and restart the ice portion of the project. Opening in early September is the best-case scenario.

Bristow asked if there were any ideas of what the problem was. Abraham said they are inspecting the 15 miles of pipe under the sand base for leaks.

Reeves asked if there was any discussion regarding ISU hockey having a team this year. Abraham informed the Commission that the indication from the University is yes.

Bristow asked about the maintenance plan from now on. Abraham said this process will be performed every seven to ten years.

MONTHLY REPORT

Inis Grove Park restroom repair is to begin in the next two weeks. The restroom will be open next spring.

The pickleball contractor has been held up on other jobs but will be coming. The Inis Grove court resurfacing project includes repairs to the tennis courts and repainting lines for pickleball and tennis.

Staff held several activities for Parks and Recreation Month.

Homewood reports that rounds of golf are up almost 4,000 compared to last season.

The theater technical classes offered through the Ames City Auditorium were a great addition to our programs.

Fall program guides have been released, with swimming lessons coming soon.

Abraham informed everyone that we are entering the lack-of-staff season for the pool. Staff is quickly dwindling, and there may be some adjusted hours. We are working through this week and moving to school-in-session hours next week. Abraham reminded the Commission that many facilities around the state are already closed or will be closing this weekend. Staff will continue to keep as much of the facility open as much as possible through Labor Day.

Cox said she visits the pool regularly and has been impressed with things this season. The training the pool staff received has been serving them well.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Bristow moved to adjourn. The meeting concluded at 5:17 PM.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 21 at 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)

To: Keith Abraham, Director, Ames Parks & Recreation Department
Members, Ames Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Herman Quirnbach
Leigh Tesfatsion
William Gutowski

Re: Donation of lot at 1000 Jarrett Circle, Ames

Date: August 19, 2023

Thank you all for your support of the above project. We appreciated the discussion on Thursday. The questions raised helped to clarify some issues which we address here.

On Thursday we indicated that we would like two stipulations on our gift. The first is that the lot in question would become part of the city-owned greenbelt between Emma McCarthy Lee Park and Munn Woods and would remain in its undeveloped natural state in perpetuity. As indicated during the commission discussion, “undeveloped” would preclude any permanent buildings or paving. Our intention, however, is that the types of safety improvements and conservation policies that the City typically pursues in other areas of the greenbelt and Munn Woods would not be precluded. An example of the first would be stairs on steep walking paths. An example of the second would be activities to respond to invasive species.

The second stipulation is that the City would agree not to install or develop at 1000 Jarrett Circle any formal entrance to the greenbelt area (e.g., through signage, creation of a marked path, or similar) for a period of twenty years or until the date at which both Quirnbach and Tesfatsion have vacated their residence at 1002 Jarrett Circle, whichever date comes first. At the date at which the property becomes public land, members of the public would of course have access. We would anticipate that the City would eventually provide signage to indicate an entrance, perhaps similar to the signage at the entrance to Munn Woods near the corner of Mesa Verde and Phoenix Streets. We simply ask that such signage be delayed until after we vacate.

As we indicated previously, although we bought the lot for over \$100,000, we are asking no compensation for our gift to the City. The two stipulations are all we ask.

The next step would appear to be to bring the proposal forward to the City Council. If they approve the concept, then we would direct our attorney to work with the City Attorney to craft the appropriate formal transfer document. We would also need at that point to arrange for an appraisal to be done at our expense for our tax purposes. Finally, with Council approval of the transfer document, the City and the three owners would sign and complete the transaction. We would hope that all these steps could be concluded before the end of calendar year 2023.

Please let us know if you need any further information or if you have any concerns to discuss. One or more of us would be happy to appear before the Council if that would be helpful. Just let us know.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
2024-29 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
EMAIL COMMENTS (RESPONSES IN BOLD)

I have mentioned the following to you before and at that time it wasn't in the current plan. Unfortunately I can't make the future planning meeting.

I would like to suggest a couple of seats or benches on the paved walking path north from the Carr pool parking lot that leads to the steps going up to Inis Grove Park.

That walk offers quite a lot of shade so doesn't get too hot.

I use this walk a lot but my husband with Parkinson's disease needs resting places.

We love Ada Hayden but would like a shady option close to home (Northwood Drive).

Thank you for considering this.

Helen Graham

Helen,

Thank you for the suggestions!

I will share your comments with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or comments.

Good day, Keith,

I am very sorry to not be able to attend the meeting where the plans for city growth will be discussed.

What I do have on my mind follows a summer of incredible swimming and enjoyment at the Furman Aquatic Center once again. I can't say enough good things about my experience and that of others who attended many times. One of our water walkers achieved 100 days of consistent attendance. She should get some kind of medal!

Aside from this, my complaint is just to echo what you must be hearing from many others. In fact, this summer I heard from out of state people incredulous at the idea that a city this size and caliber doesn't have its own indoor pool.

I didn't see any options on your future plans for such an indoor pool. It bothers me (I was an early supporter for that bond issue that failed) that we are not having any kind of consistent healthy water options for the public that spans 12 months of the year. If the city is to prepare for the future, it should include all ages, and especially the elderly. This summer I saw more folks in their 80's water walking than ever before. That 2 hour window, twice a day, has become a vital part of many recoveries from major surgeries and physician prescribed in some cases. It is a unique feature unavailable to cities across the country.

Without a doubt, there is fatigue over this issue. The idea of just building a pool on tainted land that must be rehabilitated is understandable for such fatigue.

But I do ask that a reconsideration for a pool that can be recreational with a lazy river similar to Furman, that can be used for many ages through winter be reconsidered for the years ahead. We now have a high school for meet functions so we do not need that. But we still need something for people to enjoy themselves here in Ames without such competitive feelings surrounding it. Call it the Ames Mental Health Water Park if you want, and seriously, I thank you for listening.

Sue Stanton

Sue Stanton author/freelance journalist

2021 McCarthy Road
Ames, Iowa 50014

Sue,

Thank you for your comments!

The City is moving forward with plans for the Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center on the old DOT site located at 122 N. Oak Avenue. The center will include a six-lane 25 yard lap pool, a zero-depth entry pool with a current channel (i.e. lazy river), and a wellness pool. We are also hoping to have two multi-purpose rooms and a walking path included in the building. Consultants are currently working on finalizing Construction Documents so we can have City Council approve on November 14 and they can go out to bid on November 15. If enough funding is available based on the bids we receive, construction can start in April 2024 with a tentative grand opening in November 2025.

Hope this answers your questions and eases your concerns. Please contact me if you have any further questions or comments.

Hi, my name is Alex and I just had a question about the skatepark, since I use it pretty regularly. In the past year or so, I've noticed that some of the concrete along the top of certain ramps has chunks missing, or big cracks forming. There are also a lot of small chunks broken out of the flat area at the bottom of the park. I was wondering if anyone was aware of this, and if it might be possible to have these things fixed/filled in. I'd imagine it wouldn't be terribly expensive or difficult to fix with some concrete epoxy. It's a great park, and I'd really like to see it stay maintained. If it would be helpful for me to point out areas more specifically, take photos, etc, I'd be glad to help. Thanks

Alex,

Thank you for your comments!

We did \$154,000 worth of repairs in 2016 but it sounds like we need to do more. Via this email, I am asking Joshua Thompson, Parks and Facilities Superintendent, to set up a time for you two to meet at the skate park so you can point out the issues.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or comments.

Good morning, Keith,

Thanks for offering these opportunities for review and public input. I had to leave for another meeting but had several questions and comments about your presentation.

You shared that the parking area near the Cottonwood Shelter will be renovated in 24/25 and the shelter replaced in 25/26. And I saw in the CIP that a design for the area will be developed this year, in 23/24. I think you mentioned last year that staff had imagined swapping the shelter and parking areas, so I'm wondering if there may still be intentions to shuffle things around. I suppose a restroom/changing room at that location is beyond the budget (and that'd be a lot of restrooms in the area up to Carr Park), but an outdoor shower might be a nice amenity for those using the river and whitewater features. It could be a free-standing rinse station as I've seen at some beaches. (I could share a photo from Lake Darling State Park.)

Also at River Valley Park, the old concrete access is in need of more immediate attention, before 27/28. You may be aware that the river has undercut the concrete slab, but unaware that when this happened previously, a citizen claimed that he had suffered injuries from a fall when the concrete broke underneath him. I heard of this at the time from Kevin Shawgo but I don't know if there was a settlement.

That concrete there was poured by the ISU Student Chapter of Associated General Contractors after Public Works established the base. There was no design or engineering and the riprap was (is) inadequate. I'm only commenting about that to alert you to the fact that [DNR Water Trail Enhancement Grants](#) can be used for design/engineering as well as construction, and in fact applicants are encouraged to apply for design/engineering funds separately, before applying for construction funds. Pat Shehan (Story County Conservation) has had great success with these grants and that's how he funded improvements at the Soper's Mill Access, currently under construction. I'm sure he would share from his experiences, if asked.

There are also plans for access improvements within the South Skunk River Water Trail Plan (https://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/riverprograms/plans/wtplan_south_skunk.pdf), and John Wenck (DNR Water Trails Coordinator) can probably share more detailed information that came from Mimi Wagner's work on that plan.

And I don't know that the old access at River Valley needs to be rebuilt as a canoe/kayak access, if the concrete portage path were completed around the dam mitigation project. (That needs to be done, too.) I've imagined a series of steps built from large limestone blocks, providing both canoe/kayak and fishing access at that location. But, having had some experience putting boats in the river as a volunteer member of the Sheriff's Dive Team, I also see the value in having ramp-style access.

Regarding the new bridge at Moore Park, I hope that you can include discussions about the removal or mitigation of the concrete ford while communicating with ISU. The portage there is difficult (as you might imagine if you've seen it), so please let us know if, when or how we can help make that happen. It's very possible that a DNR Dam Mitigation Grant could be used, though I wouldn't expect the cost to be great.

And regarding the Sands-McDorman property, I've read that there are remnant prairie species there and would expect that more would be visible after a couple well-timed prescribed burns. I hope you'll consider inviting some of the local prairie experts for a self-guided tour!

Lots of cool things in your CIP! Thanks for your many efforts!

Rick Dietz

Rick,

As always, thank you for your insight regarding park items!

You are correct in regard to shifting things around at Cottonwood shelter. As we work on the site plan, we will have conversation about a shower, but we are not planning on a restroom. Please send pictures of Lake Darling so we can see what they have.

We'll take a look at the River Valley Park access based on your comments. We are also planning on submitting grant applications to the DNR for both access projects as additional funding is always welcome. I do have Mimi's plan related to the Skunk River Water Trail as I was on her Committee when that was developed and it will be a good reference.

We will continue to have conversations about what to do with the concrete ford where the Moore Memorial Park Bridge is slated to go.

Please send me names of prairie experts in the area as we welcome their assessment of the Sands-McDorman property when that time comes.

Thanks again and please let me know if you have any further questions!

Hi Keith,

I hope you are well. I have a couple of questions I would like to point in your direction ... if they need to go elsewhere please let me know, just not sure who to ask:

I understand there was a project to prioritize bike trail projects to create more of a master plan of the direction for the overall trail system. My understanding was that the input session ended in May and some projects may start this Fall. My question(s) boils down to: is there a list of projects; a prioritized list of projects; and potentially a timeline for them?

Other question: did the agility course get moved from Carr Park to River Valley Park or elsewhere; still plans for the pavilion in Carr Park?

Thanks for your time,

John Sogandares

John,

The City is working on a Walk, Bike, Roll initiative to gather input for our Bike Ped Master Plan and I am guessing this is what you are referring to. Damion Pregitzer, Traffic Engineer, is leading that project so I have copied him on this email so he can provide more information regarding the timeline for this plan and projects.

We are still planning on installing an agility course in Carr Park. We are currently working with a consultant to develop a site plan and will be presenting that to the neighbors this fall. Once the plan is finalized, it will be put out for bid with construction happening in 2024.

Thanks for the questions and please contact me if you have any further questions!

**2024-29 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Public Input**

September 13, 2023

Notes

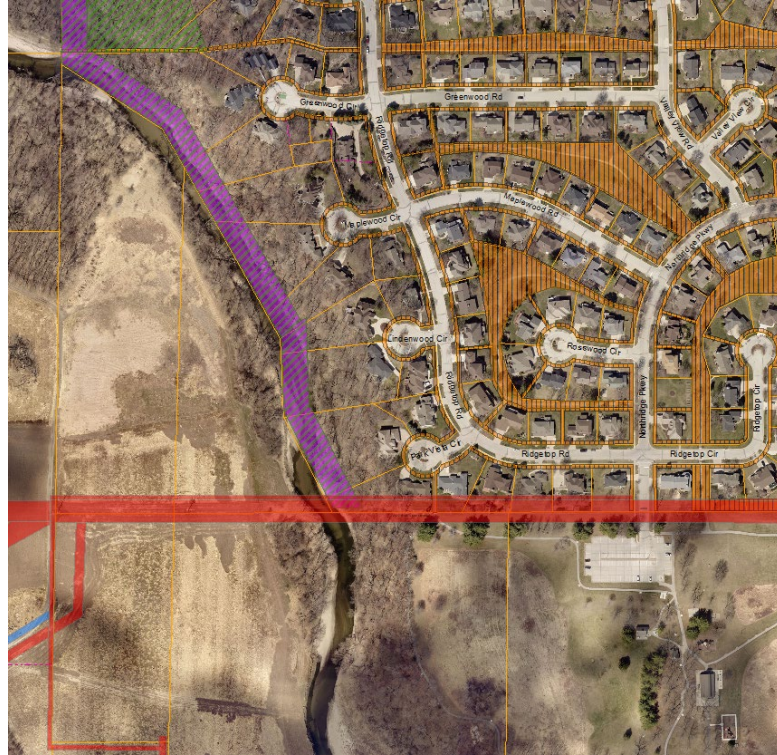
CIP Related Comments/Questions/Responses:

- Several suggestions were made related to East River Valley Park
 - Perform work on the prairie as this doesn't look much like a prairie anymore
 - Replace trees that have been damaged (derecho) or removed (Water Line Project)
 - Repair damage (tire ruts, etc.) caused by equipment coming in and out of the park
 - Stop ripping out the underbrush in the park
 - Response: There are times each year that Parks and Recreation will address issues in the park. The first is if we have a report of a homeless camp that needs to be addressed. At times, lean-tos or make shift structures are constructed which requires staff to go in with a skidsteer to dismantle the structure. The second is when staff goes in with the forestry mower to remove vegetation along the cross country ski trails so the trail groomer and skiers can get through the area safely.
- Was there a communication breakdown between WPC and P&R regarding the water line project in East River Valley Park and the number of trees removed?
 - Response: Water Pollution Control is leading the project to install three new water wells and interconnecting water lines in North and East River Valley Park. This project has been in the works for almost 10 years, and our Park and Facilities Superintendent has been involved with it from the start of design. He has completed many site visits with the consulting engineers as well as Water & Pollution Control staff to ensure to minimize the impact of the project to the park. With this project there were trees that were going to be removed as needed to provide a 40' wide corridor for a 24" water line; pipe for fiber optic line; pipe for dewatering the trench during water pipe installation; space for the piles of dirt that would be excavated to install the pipe; and space for the large excavation equipment. Also, one of the well locations was located in a forested section of East River Valley Park that was going to be cleared of trees as it was determined as an excellent location for a well. Another obstacle that the contractor has to avoid is the overhead electric transmission lines that run north and south through North and East River Valley Park. With the large excavating equipment needed to complete this project, there needs to be separation in order to prevent any damage to the overhead power lines and poles. Once the project is

completed, a rural seed mix (brome, seed oats, tall fescue) will be planted that will be mowed on a monthly basis in order to keep the woody plants under control. Tree removal is not a decision we take lightly. However, for the betterment of the community and in order to provide excellent services (water, electric, sewer, etc.) at the best price to the residents of Ames, the decision was made to remove the trees. One thing that fell through the cracks was to educate and communicate this project to our residents which has been discussed with staff so this doesn't happen on future projects.

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- Is Christopher Gartner Park getting new playground equipment? Also, can you add more swings?
 - Response: A Request For Proposals (RFP) was sent to playground manufacturers and multiple proposals were received. Staff is scoring the proposals and will ask City Council to award a contract this fall with the new playground being installed in the 2024 calendar year. Two swing bays (four swings total) are included in the design. Two additional playgrounds, Country Gables Park and Lloyd Kurtz Park, were included in this RFP.
- What is the update for the Agility Course that was proposed for Carr Park and is there going to be a shelter as well?
 - Response: A consultant has been hired and a preliminary design has been developed. The design includes the agility course, shelter, and permanent restroom. The restroom may be open year-round due to the cross country skiing available in East River Valley Park. Once the design is further developed, a meeting will be scheduled with the neighbors to get their feedback.
- Need bike racks at Carr Park
- What is the process used to get input from the community on the various projects?
 - Response: It varies with each project but may involve working with a friends group, homeowners association, program users, or a public input meeting. Many times there are meetings to gather feedback and then follow-up meetings to continue dialogue with specific groups. If a project is small in scope or non-controversial, no input meetings are held.
- Several comments were made related to the installing a bridge over loway Creek in Moore Memorial Park and eventually having a shared use path from the bridge through the park, along Scholl Road, and connect to Ontario Street.
 - Scholl Road is in poor condition and needs to be repaired
 - Response: Scholl Road is the responsibility of Iowa State University
 - Because of the condition of Scholl Road and having to cross railroad tracks, bicyclists use Kingman to Minnesota to Ontario instead.
 - CyRide comes into the neighborhood on Minnesota to Kingman but there are no sidewalks.
 - Since path lighting was installed on Scholl Road, there has been an increase in vandalism on the west side.

- Is there an easement east of Ioway Creek to provide access through Northridge?
 - Response: There are two easements in this area and are shown in purple (pedestrian) and red (electric) on the map below:



- Are there plans for where the shared use path will be going?
 - Response: There is a conceptual plan as to where the path will go as the City and ISU are developing easement agreements which will be presented to the Board of Regents and City Council in 2024.
- Has funding been identified for the bridge and shared use path?
 - Response: The bridge and a path from Moore Memorial Park to the bridge are included in FY 2025/26 CIP. The path from the bridge to Ontario Street is in the City's Bike Ped Master Plan as an illustrative concept but is not included in the CIP.
- What is the estimated completion time for this project?
 - Response: The bridge and the path from Moore Memorial Park to the bridge is included in FY 2025/26 of the CIP.
- There will be a lot more use on Peggy's Trail and more people coming from the Moore Memorial Park area.
- Why is there a traffic counter on Minnesota south of the bridge?
 - Response: The Traffic Engineer received safety concerns from neighbors as drivers were observed driving at high speeds and trying to jump the bridge on Minnesota. A speed study was initiated to

- determine if vehicles are traveling at excessive speeds which. Additionally, rumble strips were placed to reduce vehicle speed.
 - What are the plans for the current structure in the creek where the bridge is going to be installed?
 - Response: There has been discussion about what to do with this structure but no decision has been made. Options include leaving it in place, adding a fish ladder to the area, or removing it.
 - Consider taking out that structure and putting a kayak launch in its place.
 - Roosevelt Park – Need to add shade for the port-a-potti and bike rack
 - Ada Hayden Heritage Park
 - Need a bike rack at the south restroom
 - Consider a shelter/restroom near the Harrison Avenue parking lot
 - Need way-finding signage on the shared use paths
 - Response: The City is working with a consultant on a Walk, Bike, Roll initiative which includes signage. More information can be found at <https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/public-works/traffic/walk-bike-roll-ames>. Information from this initiative will be incorporated into the City's Bike Ped Master Plan.
 - Airport Road shared use path is in need of repairs as tree roots have caused damage to the paths
 - Response: The paths from University Boulevard to S. Riverside Drive is the responsibility of ISU.

General Comments/Questions/Responses:

- Continue to improve education and communication with the community regarding projects
- It would be nice to have one phone number that someone could call to report maintenance items in the park system
 - Response: The Ames of the Go app (See, Click, Fix) is a good way to report maintenance issues. Individuals can also call the Police non-emergency number at 515-239-5133 to report an issue that needs immediate attention and they will contact Parks and Recreation staff.
- Ames on The Go seems to be good for vehicle drivers but not good for bikers and walkers. Improvements should be developed to make this app more applicable for all users.
 - Response: Ames on the Go has been a good tool for identifying maintenance issues on roads, trails, and in the parks. It is not a good tool for addressing policy issues which are most times approved by City Council. If there are specific areas of this app that residents feel need improved, they are encouraged to contact City staff for direction as to how best to address the issue.



Caring People ♦ Quality Programs ♦ Exceptional Service

TO: Keith Abraham, Director of Parks and Recreation
FROM: Staff
RE: Monthly Report September 2023

PARKS AND FACILITIES:

1. Staff prepared softball and soccer fields for fall sports leagues at North and South River Valley Park.
2. Staff received notice from ISU Department of Entomology in July that two samples of mosquitoes, one from Emma McCarthy Lee Park and one from Country Gables Park, tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). With the dry weather conditions staff hasn't needed to fog, however, WNV is more prevalent during dry conditions. Staff has been fogging in those two park locations where WNV was identified.
3. Staff has been working to complete improvements to the shelter area at Country Gables Park. Improvements include a new shelter roof, concrete walkway and grill slab in order to make the shelter ADA accessible. The shelter improvements will be completed in early October.
4. Volunteers from the annual We Heart Ames volunteer event completed planting and mulching of trees along with installing tree guards at Tahira and Labh Hira Park in late August.

RECREATION PROGRAMS:

1. The Public Art Commission (PAC) teamed up with the Ames/ISU Ice Arena to install a mural in the facility. The mural celebrates and represents the diverse people and activities at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena. Artists Josh Eller and Emma Gottschalk from St. Paul, Minn., completed the installation of the mural in August.
2. Homewood Golf Course had 3,685 rounds played in August, compared to 3,639 rounds played in August 2022.
3. A six-week session of virtual, outdoor and in-person fitness classes began in August with 39, 21, and 394 participants, respectively.
4. Fall Aqua classes began August 21 on the ISU Campus at Forker Pool with 86 participants.

5. A new session of Tae Kwon Do began at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices Activity Room on Tuesday, August 22 with 145 participants.
6. Furman Aquatic Center saw 21,588 swimmers during the month of August, compared to 17,993 swimmers in August 2022. Rental bookings totaled 14.5 hours.
7. Furman Aquatic Center ended the 2023 season on Monday, September 4. Total season attendance totals are shown below.

Furman Aquatic Center Total Season Attendance		
2021	2022	2023
84,256	78,918	89,129

8. End of Season Pool Passes, valid August 1-September 4, were offered again this year with 67 passes sold with a total of 163 people taking advantage of the promotion.
9. In the Auditorium:
 - a. The Central Iowa Symphony held two rehearsals for their concert in October.
 - b. The Satin Dollz provided a USO style performance with over 200 people in attendance.
 - c. The Senior Variety Show returned, holding five rehearsals and two performances.
 - d. Lutheran Church of Hope held 4 services.
10. At the Bandshell:
 - a. The Central Iowa Symphony Performed their 2023 Pops Concert.
 - b. An Overdose Awareness event was held on August 26.
 - c. Calvary Chapel held an open worship service on August 13.
 - d. Parks and Recreation presented its annual movie night event on September 1, with the showing E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial.

11. Registrations for youth programs for this fall are shown below:

Program	2023	2022	2021
Kiddie Kickers	37	43	39
Dance	30	44	30
Gymnastics	79	81	87
Soccer (Grades 1-6)	162	133	114
Miracle League	38	26	23

12. Registrations for fall adult programs, as of September 9, are shown below.

Program	2023	2022	2021
Indoor Volleyball	48 Teams	39 Teams	41 Teams
Pickleball	36 Teams	9 Teams	26 Teams

PROJECT UPDATE:

1. Upper Midwest Athletic Construction, Andover, Minnesota, has been delayed in starting the Emma McCarthy Lee Pickleball project. Staff spoke with Upper Midwest Athletic representatives and its portion of the project will start the week of September 25. The project includes converting two tennis courts to six pickleball courts, installation of new posts and anchors, crack repair, resurfacing the entire surface, and new boundary markings. The project is to be completed by September 30.
2. HPC, LLC, Ames, Iowa, is in the process of completing renovations to Inis Grove Park restroom that was damaged by fire in July of 2022. Work completed up to this point includes installation of the metal roof, electrical has been roughed in, and the mechanical room door has been replaced. Yet to be completed includes the interior renovations and the fixtures reinstalled. The project will be completed later this fall.
3. The Water & Pollution Control Department is leading a project in North and East River Valley Park to install three new water wells, interconnected piping, fiber optic communication for well controls, and electrical connections to the standby generator located at the Water Treatment Plant, East 13th Street. The project is expected to be completed December of 2024.
4. Staff has been working with Snyder & Associates, Ankeny, Iowa, to develop plans and specifications for the Agility Course at Carr Park. Staff is in the process of reviewing design documents with a goal of having bid documents go out later this fall with development in summer 2024.