



CITYSIDE

MAY 2024

PARK ENHANCEMENTS PLANNED & PROJECT UPDATES PROVIDED

Maintaining and improving the community's 40 parks adds to the quality of life for all Ames residents. Parks and Recreation Department employees stay busy year-round to keep parks open and accessible in every season. They also look for ways to bring new experiences to visitors.

There are several park projects planned for this year, and many others slated for the future. At Brookside Park, a tree initially designated for removal was transformed into a whimsical sculpture through the talents of a wood carver.

Woodland creatures are featured around the trunk of the walnut tree while an owl watches from the top. Visitors can enjoy the sculpture, which is located north of the Sixth Street park entrance.

Several parks have had upgrades recently including new pickleball courts at Emma McCarthy Lee Park, renovations to the stairs and tennis court resurfacing at Inis Grove Park, and shelter improvements at Country Gables Park. A new mini-pitch court will be installed in Lloyd Kurtz Park this year as



well. Playground equipment will also be replaced at Country Gables, Christopher Gartner, Lloyd Kurtz, Bandshell, Stuart Smith, Christofferson, and Patio Homes West Parks.

In the coming years, watch for the addition of a new agility course at Carr Park. For those interested in increasing their physical fitness or pushing themselves with a "ninja inspired" workout, the agility course will add some new challenges. The asphalt paths around Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake will be replaced with concrete and widened. Plans are underway to phase the project so parts of the path system are always available. The new trails will be 12-foot wide to accommodate those who walk, bike, or roll.

JOIN THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL BIKE RIDE PLANNED FOR MAY 18

If warmer weather means getting out on your bicycle, you'll want to put these dates on your calendar.

Ames Mayor John Haila and the Ames City Council are hosting two biking events suitable for all ages.

The annual Mayor and City Council Bike Ride will begin at Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 18. Bikers should gather in the west parking lot. Bicyclists of all ages and experience levels are



welcome to join the ride. There is no pre-registration necessary or cost to participate. Bike helmets are strongly encouraged. Watch the City of Ames website (www.CityOfAmes.org) for more information, a route map, and how to get involved!

"I look forward to this annual bike ride every year," said Mayor Haila. "It's a terrific way to celebrate the many benefits of bicycling and enjoying the sights of our city. We vary the route each year so we can explore different parts of Ames."

Additionally, Ames City Hall will serve as the kick-off location for the Bike To Work Week breakfast as part of National Bike Month. Join the Ames City Council and City staff for a free light breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. on Monday, May 13.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Sewer Rate Increase
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- Energy Q&A

MEMORIAL DAY (MONDAY, MAY 27):

A Memorial Day parade is planned at 10:30 a.m., followed by a presentation at the Ames Municipal Cemetery at 11 a.m. In case of rain, the parade will be canceled, and the program will move indoors. Also, City Hall and most City offices will be closed. Details will be posted at www.CityOfAmes.org.



SEWER RATES TO INCREASE IN JULY

The Ames City Council will give final approval soon to a 7 percent increase in sewer rates, effective for bills due on and after July 1, 2024.



The need for the proposed rate adjustment is a reflection of increased operating costs as well as a planned improvement at the Water Pollution Control Facility to achieve higher nutrient removal rates in support of Iowa’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Remember that when you reduce your water use, you not only save on the cost of water but on sewer as well. That is because for most customers, your sewer bill is based on your water usage. Regularly inspect your property and repair any leaks quickly.

Water use outdoors can be a great place to save. Inspect irrigation systems for frozen or broken lines and make sure heads are only delivering water to plantings that truly need to be watered. Consider investing in a rain barrel to help with your outdoor watering and converting traditional turf into low impact, native plantings that need less water. Rebates are available to reduce some of the initial investment at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.

HOLUB GREENHOUSE KEEPS DONATING

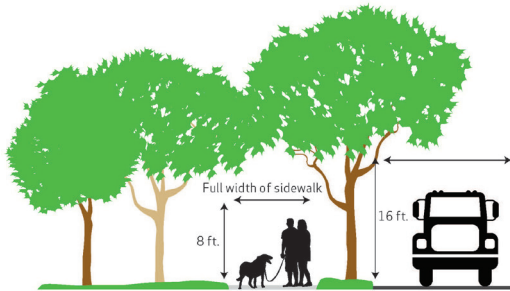
For nearly 25 years, the flowers surrounding Ames park signs have brought beauty and color to life. Volunteer gardeners plant and maintain approximately 50 gardens throughout Ames with flowers donated by Holub Garden & Greenhouses.



NEW ORDINANCE REQUIRES SIDEWALKS AND STREET CLEARANCE

As we transition from spring to summer, remember to keep sidewalks clear of debris and vegetation to ensure pedestrian safety. The recently adopted Public Nuisance Ordinance requires a minimum clearance of 8 feet

between the sidewalk and bottom limb of any vegetation. Vegetation is also prohibited from encroaching into the width of the walkway.



Additionally, vegetation hanging over the street should have a minimum clearance of 16 feet between the street

and the bottom limb of any branch. Curb areas adjacent to on-street parking must have a 12-inch buffer where vegetation cannot exceed 12 inches in height. This allows space for passengers to safely exit a vehicle when parked at the curb.

Other vegetation standards to keep in mind include:

- Noxious weeds, as identified by the State of Iowa, are prohibited on any property
- Turf grasses cannot exceed 12 inches on any property
- Dangerous trees presenting an imminent threat are prohibited from remaining on a property

For questions regarding these standards, please contact our Community Codes Liaison, Sheryl Reynolds, at 515.239.5154 or Sheryl.Reynolds@cityofames.org.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and streamed via the City website, Facebook, and YouTube.

Meetings: 6 p.m. May 14
6 p.m. May 21 (Workshop)
6 p.m. May 28

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

OPENING DAY IS MAY 25! Purchase your season pass by May 1 to receive a 10% discount. Passes are sold at the Community Center or by calling 515.239.5350.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER IS HIRING!!!! Become a Lifeguard or Swim Lesson Instructor! Apply today at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs and join the team!

UPCOMING CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

TAE KWON DO (ALL AGES): New Session begins May 7!

WEST COAST SWING DANCE: New session, May 13-June 17. No partner required! Beginner and intermediate classes on Monday evenings.

ADULT PICKLEBALL LEAGUE: Begins May 7 for all skill levels. Tuesday and Thursday evenings or Wednesday morning leagues. Register your team of two by May 1.

8v8 Co-Ed Soccer League (17+): Games on Wednesdays and Sundays beginning May 29.

Competitive and recreational divisions are offered. Register your team by May 12.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE (16+): Games on Monday evenings beginning May 13. Register individually by April 29.

SUMMER FITNESS SESSION DATES: May 13-June 23; June 24-August 4. Sign up today! View all classes at www.AmesParkRec.org



Co-Ed Sand Volleyball League (4v4 & 6v6):

League play begins May 13. Register teams by April 28.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

WE'RE OPEN! BOOK YOUR TEE TIMES AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE: Host your next special event, meeting, group outing, and more at the year-round Homewood Clubhouse! Contact Nate Pietz, 515.239.5363, nate.pietz@cityofames.org for more information.



FLORAL SPRING WREATH WORKSHOP: Instructor led artificial wreath decorating class, April 8, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Homewood Clubhouse. Space is limited, register today!

FLORAL WORKSHOP FOR KIDS: Instructor led workshop where children will decorate a vase and use dried flowers to fill it. Class is May 7, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Homewood Clubhouse. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

COUPLES/PAIRS GOLF LEAGUE: Tuesday nights, April 30-July 30. Register by April 27.

MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE: Monday nights, April 29 to August 19. Limited spots available. If you are interested in joining the sub list, contact Nate Pietz at nate.pietz@cityofames.org.

HOMWOOD MOTHER'S DAY OUTING: Moms play FREE on May 12 with a paid family member from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Did you know Parks & Recreation offers scholarships for recreation programs and season swimming passes? Contact or visit the Community Center, 515.239.5350, or go online to AmesParkRec.org for more information.

**AMES/ISU ICE ARENA: CLOSED FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE MAY 1-31.
CHECK WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG/PRCALENDARS FOR UPDATES!**

ENERGY Q&A

Q: Where does Ames get its electricity? Is the Power Plant able to produce all the electricity that Ames needs? How much of our electricity comes from wind and solar, or other renewable sources?

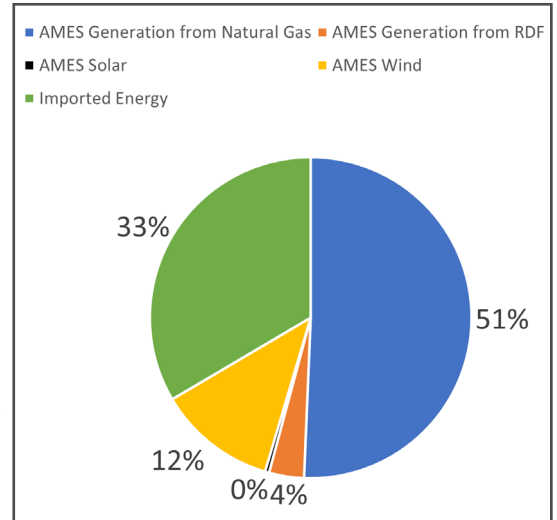
Ames Electric Services has a diverse mix of generation resources to meet 100% of the needs of Ames Electric customers. In addition to our own generation, Ames Electric has long-term contracts for wind and solar energy, and purchases energy from the regional power grid. The pie chart shows where Ames received or generated the electricity needed to power its customers in 2023.

The Ames Power Plant produced about 55% of the energy Ames Electric customers used in 2023. Most of the energy at the Power Plant comes from natural gas and is supplemented by the burning of refuse derived fuel (RDF) produced from Story County garbage. The Power Plant operates under a permit from the State of Iowa that limits the ratio of gas to RDF by weight, up to 30% RDF. The amount of energy attributed to RDF at the Power Plant, which is 4%, is considered renewable energy.

Wind energy from a 30 MW project in Story County supplies about 12% of Ames' annual electric sales.

Ames Electric has a 2 MW SunSmart community solar program called SunSmart. Ames Electric also buys back energy from more than 200 customers who have installed solar at their home or business. Within the Ames Electric utility territory,

there are more than 1.5 MW of distributed solar systems, almost as much as there is at the SunSmart solar farm. Combined, these solar resources make up a bit less than 0.5% of Ames Electric's annual electric usage.



In addition to our own generation, Ames Electric buys electricity from the greater regional grid. It is sometimes cheaper to import energy than to produce it ourselves. Being able to schedule the Power Plant to ramp up production can help insulate Ames from periods of high power costs, but having the ability to import energy at lower cost periods allows us to keep costs low for our customers. In 2023, 16% of Ames Electric's overall generation mix was from renewable sources, including wind, solar, and energy from RDF.

Joel Zook, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | Joel.Zook@cityofames.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

52 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **6,154**

32,160 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

250,049 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

• REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **2,076 TONS**

RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **19 TONS**
- METALS: **112 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **4.75 TONS**
- CARDBOARD: **4 TONS**
- MIXED PAPER: **2 TONS**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Power Out	515.239.5240
Street Light Out.....	515.239.5500
Utility Bills.....	515.239.5120
Energy Questions	515.239.5177
Tree Too Close to Electric Line?	515.239.5500
Digging? Contact Iowa One Call.....	811
Storm Water Concern.....	515.239.5160
Rusty Water.....	515.239.5551

CitySide is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa.
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