

**AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**City Hall Council Chambers – 515 Clark Avenue**  
**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:** The Parks and Recreation Commission welcomes comments from the public during discussion. The Standards of Decorum, posted at the door and available on the City website, define respectful conduct for public participation. 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 April 18, 2024
3. Public Forum (For items not on the agenda)
4. Motion approving the agreement with the Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club to use the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center from May 27, 2024, until August 2, 2024, for practices, Monday-Friday, excluding May 31, 2024.
5. Motion approving the Ames Jaycees request to enter Ada Hayden Heritage Park on September 8, 2024 at 5:30 AM, prior to regular park hours to set up for the GAAR event.
6. Motion approving JAX Outdoor Gear request to rent canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards at Ada Hayden Heritage Park from May 25 to September 2, 2024 and waive the 10% of gross sales.
7. Discussion regarding potential tour sites for June meeting.
8. Project Updates
  - a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center
  - b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza
9. Monthly Report
10. Commission Member Comments
11. Next Meeting:
  - a. June 20, 2024, at 4:00 PM (Parks and Facilities Tour)
12. Adjournment

## **AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** April 18, 2024

### **COMMISSION**

**PRESENT:** Sarah Cady, Rachel Cramer, Jeff Iles, Janet Rathe, Duane Reeves, Nathan Shimanek

**ABSENT:** Jeff White

**STAFF PRESENT:** Keith Abraham, Joshua Thompson

**CALL TO ORDER:** 4:01 PM by Keith Abraham, Parks and Recreation Director

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**

Jeff Iles was introduced to the rest of the Commission. He informed everyone he is looking forward to the next year. He works for the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State. His involvement in the park system, tree planting, and Miracle Park prompted him to join the Commission.

Janet Rathe was also introduced. She stated that she grew up and raised her kids in Ames, where lots of things are happening and great things are coming up.

The other commissioners introduced themselves to the new members.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

a. Chairperson

Abraham asked for Chairperson nominations. Reeves moved to nominate Cady as Chairperson. Shimanek seconded this nomination, stating that Cady has done a wonderful job. There were no additional nominations from the floor. No discussion. No opposition. Motion approved.

Abraham then passed the gavel to Cady as the new Chairperson.

b. Vice-Chairperson

Cady asked for nominations for the Vice-Chairperson. Reeves moved to nominate Shimanek, with a second by Iles. Shimanek nominated Reeves; there was no second. The motion on the table is to appoint Shimanek as Vice-Chairperson. No discussion. No opposition. Motion approved.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 21, 2024**

Shimanek moved, with a second by Reeves, to approve the March 21, 2024, meeting minutes. No discussion. No opposition. Motion approved.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

None

### **MOTION APPROVING THE AMES FOUNDATION REQUEST TO HOST ITS ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT IN INIS GROVE PARK ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024**

Abraham gave some history of Parks and Recreation and The Ames Foundation (TAF) working together on projects that included renovations at the Durham Bandshell and Bandshell Park, tree plantings, and fundraising for the Miracle Park. TAF would like to focus on raising funds to endow the scholarship fund, build a new animal shelter, and install a second miracle playground.

TAF would like to hold its annual fundraiser in Inis Grove Park, which includes food, live music, and alcohol. This would be atypical for the park system but could be allowed. The City Council would have to approve a temporary liquor license for the caterer, and TAF would need to carry DRAM Shop insurance.

This event would have to be cleared through the Ames Police Department and the Fire Inspector as well.

TAF has contacted the neighbors on 24<sup>th</sup> Street and done everything else they have been asked to do. Staff recommends Alternative #1.

**Chris Anderson**, 2603 Kingston Dr, Ames, Chair of **The Ames Foundation Board**.

Anderson has been on the Foundation Board since 2020. He first would like to invite everyone to the Ames Foundation open house on Arbor Day at Homewood from 4 to 7 p.m.

The second item he would like to add is that Sheila Lundt has worked with a Renewable Energy Group to provide funds for planting trees in Inis Grove.

Shimanek asked Anderson about the neighborhood's concerns. Anderson stated that the neighborhood did not seem concerned about this event.

When Iles asked about parking, Anderson said there was enough space between the two lots for everyone.

Cramer moved to approve Alternative #1, which is to approve the Ames Foundation request to host its annual fundraising event in Inis Grove Park on Sunday, September 29, 2024, provided it meets all requirements specified by Ames Police Department, Ames Fire Department, and the Ames Parks and Recreation Department. Second by Reeves. No discussion. No opposition. Motion approved.

### **UPDATE ON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROJECT PLAN (FROM MARCH 26 CITY COUNCIL MEETING)**

Abraham reviewed the project plan and explained that it does not include any of the staff's day-to-day activities. This plan is to give the Council an understanding of the projects. The staff is trying to adhere to the schedule as much as possible.

The Carr Park shelter and restrooms, the Parks Maintenance Facility, the Daley Park Splash Pad, and the paths at Ada Hayden will all go to bid this fall.

Reeves asked about the Loway Creek Restoration (Project #16), which Public Works is doing. Abraham informed Reeves that one property owner was holding off on giving the city an easement to do this project. Staff hopes this will be resolved and go to bid this fall. It is a cooperative effort between the two departments.

Cady stated that the project plan document was a great way to display and understand.

Reeves asked about the Carr Park project. Thompson informed him that the agility equipment Request for Proposal (RFP) is out now. Abraham added that the RFP includes proposals on the equipment and how the course would be laid out in the area.

Shimanek wanted to highlight that the Department has so much going on. He feels that one thing Staff does well is the small projects and maintenance items, such as the steps at Inis Grove being fixed, have not been pushed off because Staff is busy. He is happy that the project is completed and is "very, very nice." He feels that those small things are what makes our park system "really, really good because that's not lost."

Abraham commended the maintenance staff for accomplishing those projects in-house. He also informed the Commission that out of our 29 full-time staff positions, there are eight vacancies.

#### **MOTION APPROVING THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING DATES FOR APRIL 2024 THROUGH MARCH 2025**

Abraham reviewed the schedule changes with the Commission members, including moving the March 2025 meeting one week later due to spring break and the special meeting scheduled for December 5.

Iles moves to approve Alternative #1. Approve the Parks and Recreation Commission 2024-25 meeting dates as shown in Attachment A. Second by Shimanek. No discussion. No opposition. Motion approved.

#### **PROJECT UPDATES**

##### **a) Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center**

Groundbreaking is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24. Staff hopes for a good turnout, and several speakers will be featured. City staff has heard from several donors who plan to attend. Over 11 million dollars have been raised from donations and grants.

The demolition has been moving along. Most of the demolition debris has been removed, and the job trailer has been placed on the site. Iles asked if the project was fully funded.

Abraham stated that it is fully funded. With all of this, we will issue a good portion of the bonds in September 2024, with a final issuance in September 2025. Because of the donations and the bids coming in \$3 million less than the cost opinion, we have been able to lower the amount of bonds issued.

b) Steven L. Schinker Plaza

The project is moving forward. The condenser, part of the ice-making system, has been installed. The building's interior has been painted. The prep work will be finished, and concrete will be poured around the spray pad. Then, landscaping will happen.

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

Thompson informed the Commission that the water has been turned on to all the restrooms, daily sanitation rounds have begun, and three new playgrounds are being installed.

A contractor is painting the basins at Furman Aquatic Center in preparation for the 2024 summer season.

New compressor controllers have been ordered for the Ames/ISU Ice Arena. One of the compressors needed a complete overhaul. This overhaul was supposed to have been completed last December, but there were delays in getting the parts.

The arena received a \$1,500 grant from the Ames Noon Kiwanis Club to purchase skate helpers.

The tribute band series at the Ames City Auditorium went well.

LeAnn Hawk, Aquatics Manager, has developed a partnership with ISU Rec Services to provide lifeguard training for ISU and City of Ames employees. She has also spoken to the Ames High School lifeguard class and recruited some lifeguards.

Iles asked about the pay rate for lifeguards. Abraham informed him that the starting pay is around \$14/hour.

## **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Cady commented that she had feedback from a community member regarding the number of downed trees in Brookside and the general maintenance of the wooded areas. Abraham stated that all of the wooded areas have downed trees. The Regional Forester for the Department of Natural Resources will work with staff on a management plan for these areas.

Cady asked about the significant forestry grant that the department received. Abraham stated there were some delays; therefore, grant approval had not been taken to the Council.

Abraham stated that touring the 60 Forward Center will be the first thing on the June parks and facilities tour. Shimanek wanted to know if the duckpin bowling would be ready.

**Rathe asked if there** was a website or email to report maintenance items to the city. Thompson explained the app is See Click Fix or Ames on the Go. Thompson said the app is a big help to staff. Abraham said if the public sees any safety issues, etc., please let us know.

There will be a ribbon cutting on Saturday, April 27, for the pickleball courts at Inis Grove. The event will include pickleball lessons, prizes, and food.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, May 16, at 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)

**ADJOURNMENT:** Shimanek moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 PM.

**COMMISSION ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: Agreement with Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club (ACAC) for use of the 50 Meter Basin at the Furman Aquatic Center (FAC) for practices**

**BACKGROUND:**

A proposed Use Agreement (Attachment A) for the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center between the City and Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club (ACAC). This agreement stipulates the terms ACAC shall comply with while using the Furman Aquatic Center (FAC) for its practices.

This agreement allows ACAC use of the 50-meter basin at FAC from May 27, 2024, until August 2, 2024, for practices, Monday-Friday, excluding May 31, 2024. In prior years, each ACAC practice participant was required to purchase a season swim pass. The purchase of the season swim pass was considered a form of payment for ACAC pool use. ACAC requested for the payment method to be changed from the purchase of season passes to a flat rate. City staff and ACAC representatives discussed possible options and developed the following flat rate to be implemented for the 2024 season and seasons thereafter. See the table below describing the rental rate per year, rain or shine.

<b>ACAC Rental Rate</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Rate Per Hour</b>	<b>*Anticipated Hours of Use</b>	<b>Total Payment</b>
2024	\$ 75.00	98	\$7,350.00
2025	\$ 78.00	98	\$7,644.00
2026	\$ 82.00	98	\$8,036.00
2027	40% of rental rate	98	TBD based on rental rate

\*Anticipated hours of use will be discussed annually when developing the annual agreement and Furman Aquatic Center schedule.

The change from the season pass payment method to a flat rate has been agreed upon by ACAC and City. The flat rate payment method will eliminate administrative obstacles for ACAC and City and allow each party to budget accordingly each year.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the agreement with the Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club to use the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center from May 27, 2024, until August 2, 2024, for practices, Monday-Friday, excluding May 31, 2024.

2. Do not approve the agreement.
3. Refer the agreement back to staff.

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Over the years, City and ACAC staff have spent many hours reconciling which ACAC members have bought passes, and which have not. Going to a flat rate is an easy to administer process that will provide both entities with the known cost of renting the 50-meter basin before the season starts. Additionally, both parties agree to this new method. Therefore, it is recommended the Parks and Recreation Commission adopt Alternative #1, approving the agreement granting the Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club use of the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center from May 27, 2024, until August 2, 2024, for practices, excluding May 31, 2024.



**CITY OF AMES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
AGREEMENT WITH AMES CYCLONE AQUATICS CLUB (ACAC)  
REGARDING USE OF THE FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER**

Agreement made this 16 day of May 2024, between the Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club (ACAC) and the City of Ames Department of Parks and Recreation (Department), 515 Clark Ave., Ames, Iowa.

The parties agree that the following rules apply to the use of eight lanes of the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center (Facility) by ACAC:

1. No smoking, tobacco, alcohol, or narcotics are allowed at the facility.
2. During practices at Furman Aquatic Center, other than water, food and drink is limited to the concession seating area.
3. ACAC must leave the facility in a clean, useable condition. Additionally, coaches are required to walk through the locker rooms at the end of each practice to assure they are left in an acceptable manner.
4. All lane lines must be placed by ACAC, per the City's direction, at the end of practice.
5. ACAC must provide a first aid kit containing at minimum the requirements set forth in Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Rule 15.4(4) f (4): Band-Aids, sterile 4"x4" bandages compress, self-adhering gauze bandages, disposable gloves, chemical cold press. All coaches and/or staff acting in a lifeguard capacity must carry Adult CPR mask with valve, infant CPR mask with valve, two pairs of nitrile gloves. Acting lifeguard shall be identifiable. ACAC representative and City of Ames Aquatic Manager shall discuss appropriate lifeguard positioning per facility operations.
6. ACAC coach or assistant coach is responsible for ACAC activity at all practices. ACAC shall provide the City contact information of the responsible coach/coaches that will be onsite.
7. In accordance with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Rule 15.4(4) d.4, ACAC shall have on duty during all practices a supervisor who has current certification in American Red Cross Lifeguarding or equivalent, as recognized by IDPH. This supervisor(s) serving as the lifeguard(s) cannot be a swimmer who is practicing or participating in a meet. There must be at least one designated lifeguard always guarding practice in the 50-meter for up to 30 swimmers in the water; for over 30 swimmers in the water, there must be at least 2 lifeguards on duty. Copies of valid American Red Cross Lifeguard certifications shall be provided to the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Aquatics Manager prior to the first facility use and must be current for the duration of the contract.
8. The Parks and Recreation Department staff will provide access to the Furman Aquatic Center and remain on site during all scheduled usage. The facility will open 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Swimmers must not enter the water until the designated rental time, a lifeguard is on duty, and a coach. ACAC swimmers and coaches must entry the facility through the front main gates. Access through the west emergency access gate will not be permitted.

9. ACAC covenants and agrees to hold the City of Ames, its officers and employees harmless and to indemnify them against each and every claim and demand of whatever nature made by or on behalf of any person or persons resulting from or arising out of any activities or omission arising out of the use of the Furman Aquatic Center on the part of ACAC, its agents, servants, invitees and employees, and for such purpose ACAC agrees to carry liability insurance naming the City of Ames, its officers and employees as Additional Named Insured, such insurance to have limits of not less than \$500,000 combined single limit per occurrence.

ACAC further agrees to file a Certificate of Insurance with the City Manager's Office, City of Ames, evidencing that such insurance has been furnished, and that the same will not be cancelled without ten (10) days' notice to the City of Ames. This Certificate of Insurance must be filed prior to the execution of this agreement.

10. ACAC shall be responsible to and shall reimburse the City of Ames for any damage to the facility or equipment occurring during use of such by ACAC.
11. The table below describes the flat rate fee for ACAC Practice Use of Furman Aquatic Center (50-meter basin) for 2024 and seasons thereafter. The flat rate will be paid in full, rain or shine. Rates in 2024-2026 will be used to gradually get ACAC to achieve the rental rate of 40% of the total per basin rental fee per hour for the facility. It should be noted that the cost of a basin rental for the 2024 season at Furman Aquatic Center is \$205.00/hour.

ACAC Rental Rate			
Year	Rate Per Hour	Requested Hours	Total Payment
2024	\$ 75.00	98	\$7,350.00

The rental rates for future seasons are described below.

ACAC Rental Rate	
Year	Rental Rate Per Hour
2025	\$78.00
2026	\$82.00
2027	\$82.00 or 40% of the facility rental rate per basin per hour.

12. ACAC agrees to abide by all other swimming rules and regulations, as established by the State of Iowa Department of Public Health, Story County Environmental Health, City of Ames Department of Parks and Recreation, and US Swimming Association.
13. Failure to abide by any of the terms of this agreement, as determined by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, shall result in the loss of the use of the facility by the individual member(s) or ACAC for a period of one week from the date of

noncompliance. Any subsequent noncompliance shall result in the loss of the use of the facility by the individual member(s) or ACAC for the rest of the season.

14. This agreement allows the use of eight lanes of the 50-meter pool of the Furman Aquatic Center from May 27, 2024, to August 2, 2024, Monday-Friday, excluding Friday, May 31, 2024. ACAC will provide two outside lanes from 9am-9:30am for City use. Other arrangements will be discussed on a case-by-case basis with ACAC and City representatives. The Lazy River, Splash Pool, and the grassy hill are not available for use by ACAC. It is understood that the City of Ames may hold other programming and/or activities in other areas of the facility during ACAC's practice times, as described below. ACAC will be responsible for the hours requested, rain or shine.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER (subject to weather)		
Season	Days	ACAC Times
Summer 2024	Monday-Friday Monday, May 27, 2024 – Friday, August 2, 2024 *Excluding Friday, May 31, 2024	7:30am-9:30am
Notes: -From 9:00am-9:30am Monday-Friday, two outside lanes must be available for City of Ames swim lessons and/or trainings.		

**City of Ames Contact**

Name: LeAnn Hawk  
 Title: Aquatics Manager  
 Email: leann.hawk@cityofames.org  
 Phone: 515-239-5352

**ACAC Contact**


Name: Mike Peterson  
 Title: Head Coach  
 Email: coachmike@swimacac.com  
 Phone: 515-450-8432

DATED AND EXECUTED AT AMES, IOWA, THIS 16th day of May 2024.

The City of Ames, Iowa  
Parks and Recreation Commission

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Grantee: Ames Cyclone Aquatic Club

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Horras, President

## COMMISSION ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: AMES JAYCESS REQUEST TO ACCESS ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK OUTSIDE OF NORMAL PARK HOURS FOR THE GREAT AMES ADVENTURE RACE (GAAR)**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Ames Jaycees, who oversee the administration of the GAAR event, have requested the use of Ada Hayden Heritage Park on Sunday, September 8, 2024, for its event. GAAR has been taking place in Ames since 2007 and consists of a 2.5-mile canoe/kayak paddle, 15-mile bike ride, and a 3.1-mile run. The paddle and running portion take place in the park while the bike ride starts in the park and travels through north Ames, northwestern portions of Story County and finishes in the park. The race starts at 7:30 AM and is typically finished by 11:00 AM. In preparation for the event, the Jaycees are requesting early entry into the park on Sunday, September 8 for set up beginning at 5:30 AM which is prior to regular park hours (6:00 AM – 10:30 PM). The Jaycees intend to be cleaned up and out of the park no later than 1:30 PM.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the Ames Jaycees request to enter Ada Hayden Heritage Park on September 8, 2024, at 5:30 AM, prior to regular park hours to set up for the GAAR event.
2. Deny the Ames Jaycees request to enter Ada Hayden Heritage Park on September 8, 2024, at 5:30 AM, prior to regular park hours for set up for the GAAR event.
3. Refer back to staff.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Commission has granted similar access to the park in the past for other events like the Ames Triathlon. The GAAR event has taken place for many years and has been very successful. Allowing access to the park earlier than regular park hours will assist the Jaycees in keeping the event on schedule. Therefore, it is staff's recommendation to approve Alternative 1, as stated above.

## COMMISSION ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM JAX OUTDOOR GEAR TO RENT CANOES AND KAYAKS AT ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK AND TO WAIVE 10% OF GROSS SALES**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Due to the popularity of Ada Hayden Heritage Park, JAX Outdoor Gear in Ames would like to rent canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boards to the public on Saturdays and Sundays (11:00 AM – 5:00 PM), weather permitting. No storage of equipment would occur at the site as JAX would transport equipment to the site each day.

Because stand up paddle boards (SUPS) have the greater potential of users going into the water, it is important to educate users that safety is a priority and swimming is prohibited. To this end, the following conditions will be enforced:

- All paddle board renters must wear a personal floatation device (pfd).
- JAX rental staff will provide signage informing renters that swimming is not allowed at Ada Hayden.
- SUPS would come with an ankle leash that attaches to the paddler and board and is designed to keep the board close to the paddler if they were to fall off.

JAX has provided this service to park users since 2005 and following is the number of rentals and total income for the past five years:

2019:	801 rentals	=	\$ 7,198
2020:	1,342 rentals	=	\$12,054
2021:	810 rentals	=	\$ 7,278
2022:	665 rentals	=	\$ 5,980
2023:	800 rentals	=	\$ 7,199

Rental rates for 2024 would be for 30 and/or 60 minutes as follows:

Canoes	\$13 / \$20
Kayaks	\$13 / \$20
Stand Up Paddle Board	N/A / \$20

With the initial capital costs that JAX has incurred with purchasing equipment and with the uncertainty, due to weather, of how many additional rentals will occur in 2024, JAX is requesting the 10% of gross sales payable to the City for 2024 be waived.

At the end of each season staff meets with JAX' employees and evaluates the success of this venture. Our assessment during each of the past years is that the City's partnership with JAX in this effort works well. The public appreciates rental equipment being made available at the site and the City does not have to invest in the capital cost of purchasing equipment nor the ongoing operating expenses of staffing the operation.

The City requires JAX to provide a Certificate of Insurance. It should also be noted that JAX provides and requires life jackets to be worn at all times and that the minimum age to rent equipment is 18 years old.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the request from JAX Outdoor Gear to rent canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boards at Ada Hayden Heritage Park from May 25 to September 2, 2024 and waive the 10% fee of gross sales.
2. Approve the request from JAX Outdoor Gear to rent canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boards at Ada Hayden Heritage Park from May 25 to September 2, 2024 but deny the request to waive the 10% of gross sales.
3. Deny the request from JAX Outdoor Gear to rent equipment at Ada Hayden Heritage Park during 2024.
4. Refer back to staff

**STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

As noted above, this is a win-win proposition between JAX and the City. Park users have the opportunity to rent a variety of equipment at the site, yet no tax dollars are required to purchase the necessary capital equipment or to staff the operation. It is also evident by looking at the number of rentals that people enjoy this service.

Therefore, staff recommends Alternative 1; to approve the request from JAX Outdoor Gear to rent canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boards at Ada Hayden Heritage Park from May 25 to September 2, 2024 and waive the 10% fee of gross sales.



*Caring People ♦ Quality Programs ♦ Exceptional Service*

**TO: Keith Abraham, Director of Parks and Recreation**

**FROM: Staff**

**RE: Monthly Report May 2024**

**PARKS AND FACILITIES:**

1. Staff started filling and circulating the basins at the Furman Aquatic Center for the summer season. The facility opens to the public on May 25.
2. Staff mowed the parks for the first time in late April. All parks are mowed every seven to ten days throughout the season, weather dependent.
3. Staff prepared softball fields and sand volleyball courts for adult softball and volleyball leagues at North and South River Valley and Inis Grove Park, respectively.
4. Staff completed tilling over 40 flower beds for the Adopt A Flower Program and volunteers started planting the week of May 13. For over 25 years, Holub's Garden and Greenhouse has donated all the flowers for the Adopt A Flower program.

**RECREATION PROGRAMS:**

1. The Ames/ISU Ice Arena hosted 17 public skate sessions with a total attendance of 386 skaters. A total of 86 skaters attended 15 figure freestyle sessions and 152 skaters attended 15 stick and helmet sessions.
2. The Ames Figure Skating Club hosted their annual spring skating show, Tales from the Toepick, April 26-28 at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena.
3. The Ames/ISU Ice Arena is closed May 1-31 for annual maintenance. Summer ice rentals and activities are scheduled to begin on June 1.
4. Homewood Golf Course has a total of 2,667 rounds played in April.
5. A six-week session of virtual and in-person fitness classes began April 1 with 27 virtual participants and 490 in-person participants.
6. A new session of Line Dance began Monday, April 1 with 18 registrations.



7. Adult Sand Volleyball begins in May at Inis Grove Park and has 53 teams registered.
8. Adult Pickleball Leagues have 41 teams registered for the summer season, with a high of 22 teams registered for the recreation league on Tuesday evenings. Matches began May 7 on the new pickleball courts at Emma McCarthy Lee Park.
9. The 2023 Adult Softball season has begun at North/South River Valley Park and team participation numbers are shown below:

Adult Softball Team Registration Numbers					
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Men's Softball	17	20	22	24	23
Coed Softball	14	18	21	19	13
<b>Total Softball Teams</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>54</b>

10. Youth Indoor Volleyball Camp, instructed by Ames High School Volleyball Coach Meg Williams and Ames High School Volleyball players, concluded in May, and had a total of 35 participants in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade.
11. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Carroll Marty Disc Golf Open Tournament took place on May 4 with 14 teams competing. This is an increase from 9 teams in the tournament's inaugural year. Participants were able to be some of the first to play on the new course layout.
12. April Auditorium Events:
  - a) Hope Lutheran Church held 4 worship services.
  - b) ISU Hip Hop (Dub H) held one rehearsal and one performance of its spring show.
  - c) Parks and Recreation Youth Dance/Gymnastics held its rehearsal and recital.
  - d) The Barbershop Quartet Nationals took place April 19-20.
  - e) India Cultural Association held a play.
  - f) Parks and Recreation held a Tribute Band Concert, featuring Thrash of the Titans - A Tribute to the Big 4 of Thrash Metal.
  - g) ISU Music held their last campus and concert band concert of the season.
  - h) Central Iowa Symphony held five rehearsals for their May concert.
  - i) Motion Sickness Dance Team hosted a recital for the second year in a row.
  - j) Cameron Gray hosted a film showing as part of his "We Glow in the Dark" film series.

**PROJECT UPDATE:**

1. Amusement Recreation Companies, Burnet, Texas, completed the Furman Aquatic Center Pool Basin Repainting Project in late April. All three basins were sand blasted, pressure washed with trisodium phosphate (TSP), cracks routed and filled, and uneven surfaces leveled. It was estimated that over 550 gallons of paint was used to repaint the pools. With this recent repainting project, the lifespan of the paint is estimated to

last seven to ten years. Water's Edge Aquatics Design, Kansas City, Kansas, was contracted to develop specifications and oversee the project.

2. Johnson Controls, Urbandale, Iowa has completed a compressor overhaul at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena. The overhaul included replacing all bearings, rings, seals, and gaskets in one of the two compressors. Another project that is taking place is the replacement of the controllers that operate the compressors. One of the controllers is installed and the other is in the process of being installed. Controller replacement is expected to be completed by the end of May.