

City of Ramsey
Agenda
City Council Work Session
Tuesday June 28, 2011
5:30 pm
Lake Itasca Room 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Topics for Discussion**
 1. Identify City Maintenance Costs for The Draw
 2. Discuss Mowing and Maintenance Policy for Boulevards, Vacant City-owned Lands, and ‘Open Space’
- 3. Future Topics for Discussion - *See Attached Calendar***
 1. Review Future Topics/Calendar
- 4. Mayor/Council/Staff Input**
- 5. Adjournment**

CC Work Session

2. 1.

Meeting Date: 06/28/2011

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Title:

Identify City Maintenance Costs for The Draw

Background:

At the City Council work session of June 7th, 2011, consensus was to issue an RFP for mowing and related services for The Draw. An outcome of the discussion was the agreement to bring back the city's existing cost to maintain the park in advance of receiving quotes for the contracted work - such that there could be agreement as to the true cost of performing the work in-house.

Staff will carefully review each element of the park's present maintenance costs (within the scope of the RFP) in a detailed accounting at the meeting.

Funding Source:

None required relating to this case.

Council Action:

Consensus on the method and manner of the cost accounting for the in-house maintenance, based on discussion.

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Brian Olson	Brian Olson	06/23/2011 08:31 AM
Kurt Ulrich	Kurt Ulrich	06/23/2011 11:13 AM
Form Started By: Mark Riverblood		Started On: 06/13/2011 01:28 PM
Final Approval Date: 06/23/2011		

CC Work Session

2. 2.

Meeting Date: 06/28/2011**By:** Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Title:

Discuss Mowing and Maintenance Policy for Boulevards, Vacant City-owned Lands, and 'Open Space'

Background:

Beginning with the General Fund budget contractions in 2008, city departments identified services that could be reduced with least negative impact to residents. For parks, this included reduced mow zones (within active parks) or complete elimination of the mowing of several parks with the reduction of trail mowing from 7 + intervals, to a couple times per year.

The attached 'mowing reduction map' shows a somewhat even distribution of those parks and trails within the city. The accompanying narrative details the minutes and hours for the first full year of these reductions.

For the most part, residents have understood the reductions in service - however in other cases, some have expressed concern for the perceived negative impact to their neighborhoods that the unmowed parks represent.

Therefore, the purpose of this case is to both inform (for those newer members) Council of the recent history on this issue, and also to receive consensus on the the policy and practice of mowing/not mowing not just underutilized parks and open space - but also other city owned properties.

Observations:

The following is a partial list of the various areas streets and park departments presently mow:

- Maintained/active parks
- Off roadway trails (E.g. Lake Itasca Trail)
- Boulevard Trails (E.g. Sunwood Drive)
- Open space parks (E.g. Riverwood Hills as of June 2011 twice per year)
- Boulevards in urban areas (E.g. 'vacant' boulevard areas like Town Center Gardens 2nd Addition)
- ROW in rural areas (twice per year)
- Sed ponds, swales and around drainage structures
- Low maint. city owned property (varies: everything from RALF property to lift stations to the COR)
- Developed city owned property (E.g. City Hall to Old Town Hall)
- T.H.#47 obligations

As there is so many differing levels of mowing maintenance within the above categories, staff will attempt to summarize the level of mowing being performed for each, such that Council can discuss generally whether staff should either 'stay the course' or modify how these properties are addressed (or organize additional detail for a subsequent discussion).

Specifically however, staff requests park by park consensus on the parks' level of mowing identified in the attachment (which will be presented verbally at the meeting).

Additionally, staff requests consensus that, in any case, staff would have the liberty to adjust our practices to what is perceived to be in the best interest of the City (cost containment, versus public service at the neighborhood level) - *or* consensus as to what circumstances Council wishes to influence operations of this magnitude and cost.

Funding Source:

None required.

Council Action:

Consensus on the continued practice of not mowing certain parks/open space and continued reduced mowing levels for trails and low maintenance city properties/based upon discussion.

Attachments

[mowing reduction map](#)

[2009 mowing reduction hrs saved](#)

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Brian Olson	Brian Olson	06/23/2011 08:36 AM
Kurt Ulrich	Kurt Ulrich	06/23/2011 11:14 AM
Form Started By: Mark Riverblood		Started On: 06/15/2011 09:20 AM
	Final Approval Date: 06/23/2011	

CC Work Session

3. 1.

Meeting Date: 06/28/2011

By: Jo Thieling, Administrative Services

Title:

Review Future Topics/Calendar

Background:

Attached for Council review is a list of future work session topics.

Funding Source:

N/A

Council Action:

For review purposes. No formal action necessary.

Form Review

Inbox

Kurt Ulrich

Reviewed By

Jo Thieling

Date

06/23/2011 03:50 PM

Form Started By: Jo Thieling

Started On: 06/23/2011 03:46 PM

Final Approval Date: 06/23/2011