

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Park and Recreation Commission
Thursday, February 10, 2022
6:30 pm
Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Citizen Input**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve the following meeting minutes.
 1. Park and Recreation Commission meeting dated January 13, 2022.
- 5. Commission Business**
 1. 2021 Summer Concert Series Recap
 2. Affirm 2021 Photo Contest Winners
 3. Playground Replacement Policy - Formulate Plan for Rabbit Park
- 6. Commission/Staff Input**
 1. Commission/Staff Input
- 7. Adjournment**

Park and Recreation Commission

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 02/10/2022

Submitted For: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

By: MaryJo Warner, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Approve the following meeting minutes.

1. Park and Recreation Commission meeting dated January 13, 2022.

Purpose/Background:

Purpose: To review and approve meeting minutes.

Background: Attached are the meeting minutes for review.

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

Funding Source:

n/a

Recommendation:

To review and approve meeting minutes dated January 13, 2022.

Action:

Motion to approve meeting minutes dated January 13, 2022.

Attachments

Minutes

Form Review

Inbox

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: MaryJo Warner

Final Approval Date: 02/02/2022

Reviewed By

Grant Riemer

Date

02/02/2022 09:48 AM

Started On: 01/31/2022 01:27 PM

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on January 13, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Vice Chair Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Justin Loss
 Commissioner Dean Olson
 Commissioner Brian Walker

Commission Members Absent:

Also Present: City Council Liaison Ryan Heineman
 Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Walker to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Sis, Walker, Barten, Leistico, Loss, and Olson. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Barten, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to approve the following Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes:

- Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes dated November 18, 2021

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Commissioners Barten, Leistico, Loss, Olson, Sis, and Walker. Voting No: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Chair Bennett.

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Trott Brook Crossing and Community Park Site – Preliminary Development Design and Costs

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that the intent tonight is to continue discussion on the sixth community park that has been in the City's plans for about two decades or longer. He stated that on Tuesday, the City Council approved the Preliminary Plat for the proposed development. He noted that the recommendation of the Commission provided in October was presented to the Council and included in the Preliminary Plat approval. He stated that some of the preliminary costs for renovating the barn have been provided in the staff report. He stated that 23 acres are to be dedicated as part of park dedication, noting that 50 percent credit was provided for the upland area under the power line and no credit was provided for the buildings. He noted that this site had been identified for many years to serve the north part of Ramsey and the residents that do and will ultimately live around this area. He identified some potential uses of the barn buildings for the community. He believed that it could provide a new rental experience for Ramsey residents if developed for that purpose. He displayed the preliminary plat layout for the proposed development including the park space, trails, and connectivity to other developments. He stated that the earlier concept plans for the barn building area were reviewed further in terms of grading and topography. He reviewed details on the updated concept plans and potential uses for the buildings. He noted that the buildings would be available for use April through October in this scenario. He recognized the high cost for renovation of the buildings, noting that full scope may not be pursued to begin with. He noted that staff investigating similar barn event center uses and it was confirmed that this would not compete with the private sector and there would be demand for this type of use. He stated that staff also prepared modest revenue projections using the rates of similar barn type event centers. He also displayed examples of the different barn event centers that staff was able to find in the region.

Chair Bennett thanked Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood for the updated concept and cost estimates.

Commissioner Walker asked about the Aeromotor windmill shown at the pumphouse and asked if they are planning to use wind power for the structure.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that the Aeromotor windmill is the model with V-shaped blades that was historically used in rural areas to power the water well. He stated that it could be a working model noting that it is somewhat economical at a cost of about \$2,500.

Commissioner Walker appreciated the clarification that this would be used for the well.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that it could provide water supply for the garden but would not be practical to use for electrical power generation.

Commissioner Walker referenced the \$730,000 estimated cash value to the City shown. He stated that if the event center does not become feasible, it is his understanding that the City could not sell the buildings/property because it was provided through park dedication.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that the Council could accept the property with the homestead and buildings as fee/title so that it could be resold in the future but noted that would impact the land Park Dedication calculations.

Commissioner Walker stated that from his stance there is not a cash value unless it can be sold for cash. He referenced the projection that the farmhouse could be rented for \$2,400 per month. He believed that the City would be hard pressed to do so with the surrounding construction and renovation. He stated that if he could live on the property with the barns in the existing condition, he is unsure that he would pay that amount to live there. He stated that he does not support this development and believes the residents in that area are getting screwed.

Commissioner Olson asked for details on fire suppression and whether the buildings would be fully sprinkled.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood confirmed that there is a line item to provide a dry fire suppression system. He estimated about \$30,000 or \$40,000 for fire suppression.

Chair Bennett acknowledged that Commissioner Walker does not support the development as a whole. He commented that there some things in the concept that are a best guess at this time which makes it difficult to provide a sound opinion. He appreciated the details and costs shown in the report and believed this was a fair projection. He believed that this would be a nice amenity as the development appears to be moving forward.

Commissioner Sis stated that he did not see the playground equipment or shelter costs included in the plan.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that those estimates were not included as of yet. He stated that he does have rough numbers and will work to bring them to better accuracy. He stated that his focus for this meeting was on the farmhouse and barn renovations, noting that he will bring additional details to the March meeting. He stated that he will look further into the rental estimates. He stated that in early phases the farmhouse would be rented while it would move to public day use in later phases. He believed that the park has considerable value to this area of the community, not only in this development but the surrounding residential areas and properties being developed in this area of Ramsey.

Councilmember Heineman commented that a lot of communities have upscale amenities of this nature that generate a lot of revenue. He stated that it will be nice to have the free park amenity for residents and also have a business proponent in the ability to rent the event center. He stated that the ability to have elective revenue is a great opportunity for the City. He believed that having a connection between the EDA and Parks and Recreation is also a benefit. He believed that this will be a great resource that will generate elective revenue and be an amenity to the community.

Chair Bennett acknowledged that this is something the parks system currently does not have and the ability to generate revenue would be an added benefit.

Commissioner Walker acknowledged that park of this nature would add value to the community. He clarified that it is his opinion that if something cannot be sold, it cannot be shown as having cash value and therefore would like to see real numbers. He commented that if people rent the event center electively it would add value and could increase customer base to related businesses in the community.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that he did hesitate to add that cash value to the sheet and noted that perhaps he will delete that from future planning documents. He also appreciated the comments from Councilmember Heineman. He stated that the existing Ramsey businesses could benefit from the additional people coming into the community and noted that there would also be benefit to ancillary uses for an event center that could come into the community as well.

Commissioner Leistico commented that the concept looks promising with a lot of great potential. She stated that she appreciated the comparison information and locations. She noted that she is leery of the cost of the renovation as the trend for farmhouse weddings could change. She asked if there is a plan B.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that this is a unique concept and unique for the area, which also pays homage to the rural sentiment of Ramsey. He believed that the venue would be popular for many types of events, not just weddings. He stated that meeting space of that size would be in demand. He stated that the building at Elmcrest would cost well over \$1,000,000 to build today, therefore if the barns could be renovated for public use it would provide significant value. He stated that if the buildings are not being used there would not be much of a carrying cost or operational costs to the City as it is not intended to be heated or cooled.

Commissioner Walker stated that he has owned and managed golf courses throughout the country. He stated that at the end of 2031, he would prefer to see the negative number and the worst-case scenario rather than the projections shown. He stated that he did find the information from the other venues very helpful. He noted that perhaps the rental cost is reduced for the first year in order to potentially pull customers from other venues to consider this location.

Councilmember Heineman also suggested showing the worst-case scenario. He stated that almost all the other venues listed showed rates for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. He noted that the projections only showed one event per weekend and the City could be in the position to hold multiple events in a week. He suggested also showing that scenario.

Commissioner Loss asked if there is an estimate of the number of parking stalls that would be at the park to support large events.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that the parking area shown near the event space would not be sufficient for very large events. He noted that the parking for

field use could be used for events as well, providing a shuttle. He stated that they would attempt to find a sweet spot to provide enough parking without providing too much parking.

Chair Bennett noted that he attended a barn wedding similar in nature to what is being discussed. He noted that there was shuttle service from nearby hotels to and from the venue.

Councilmember Heineman again referenced the synergy between the EDA and Parks and Recreation. He noted that recommendations for local Ramsey businesses could be provided to those renting the facility.

Chair Bennett agreed that there could be some great sponsorship opportunities.

Commissioner Olson commented that the key word he heard tonight is amenity. He stated that this is a promising property with an interesting venue and potential. He stated that the facility could be used for many different types of events, and he finds this very exciting.

5.02: Implement Playground Replacement Policy

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented that the Commission worked on the Playground Replacement Policy for a good part of the last year, which has since been adopted by the City Council. He stated that the work would now focus on implementation. He noted that the ranking system was applied, and Rabbit Park continues to be on the top of the list. He stated that the 1,500-foot range has been identified and expanded to include 89 homes to be mailed notice. He stated that if there is not a lot of interest from the neighborhood to replace Rabbit Park, they could look to remove the playground and review alternative options, then moving on to the next park on the list for playground equipment replacement.

Chair Bennett noted that the Commission had a lot of discussion on the policy and now is the time for implementation. He agreed that the Commission should move forward to implement this policy.

Commissioner Walker stated that he would like to have a plan B for Rabbit Park. He stated that he would like to have a plan in place for the scenario that the playground equipment is removed so that could be told to the residents.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated that he would not want the City to provide that answer to residents but would instead ask that question of residents as to what they would desire for the space. He noted that the feedback would then be tabulated and reviewed in order to provide a recommendation of what is desired. He anticipated to get the mailer out and bring this back to the Commission at its February or March meeting.

Chair Bennett confirmed the consensus of the Commission that staff should move forward in implementing the policy.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood confirmed that the mailer would be sent out to the identified residents, providing multiple methods for those residents to provide their input.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood provided details on a bench donation that has been received from a resident in memory of their loved one for Elmcrest Park which will be installed this spring. He provided an update on the Riverstone South development which has received the appropriate approvals and is moving forward with construction this spring. He stated that includes the tree fort park and the Commission will begin planning on that feature. He reviewed the cost data that was gained related to maintenance costs Elmcrest Park this past year.

Commissioner Loss asked if the turf maintenance costs were typical or whether that was impacted by the growth inhibitor.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood confirmed that cost was included in the total.

Commissioner Walker asked the turf area within Elmcrest.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood estimated about 18 to 20 acres. He announced that the new Recreation Specialist began the previous day and is excited to join the team. He believed that she would attend the February meeting to provide a presentation on the Summer Draw Concert Season from 2021 and forecast for the 2022 season.

Commissioner Sis asked for an update on the issue related to the entrance to Elmcrest Park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood replied that the City Council met in worksession to discuss negotiations for the purchase for some of that land and also provided direction in terms of code enforcement.

Commissioner Olson provided an update on the Bluebird Advocacy program. He stated that he would like to see a Bluebird house building event for residents to participate in. He noted that staff has said that there would funds available to provide materials for the birdhouses. He believed that this would be a good community event.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reported that the rinks are open, and he is glad to see them being used. He noted some of the challenges that outdoor rinks have seen related to weather and the trend in decreased use of outdoor skating rinks. He commented that 1,063 people have used the Central Park location while 443 people have used the school location in the past 21 days.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Loss, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Barten, Leistico, Loss, Olson, Sis, and Walker. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

Park and Recreation Commission

5. 1.

Meeting Date: 02/10/2022

By: Marla Martinez-Flynn,
Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

2021 Summer Concert Series Recap

Purpose/Background:

This summer's Concert Series at The Draw was a deemed success. The first concert was on June 16th and the Series concluded on August 26th. We had to cancel the last performance due to weather. The Series had a variety of attendance each week, with the largest crowd being around 900 people.

The purpose of this case is to recap The Draw Summer Concert Series and receive any feedback or comments. Recreation Specialist, Marla Martinez-Flynn will highlight the 2021 concert experience at the meeting, and provide a summary forecast for the 2022 Series.

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

Funding Source:

Funding for the concerts in 2021 was an investment in the community by the City of Ramsey's Lawful Gambling Fund.

Recommendation:

Action:

No Action required/Based upon discussion.

Attachments

No file(s) attached.

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Mark Riverblood	Mark Riverblood	02/02/2022 09:42 AM
Grant Riemer	Grant Riemer	02/02/2022 09:49 AM
Form Started By: Marla Martinez-Flynn		Started On: 02/01/2022 12:47 PM
Final Approval Date: 02/02/2022		

Meeting Date: 02/10/2022

By: Marla Martinez-Flynn,
Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Affirm 2021 Photo Contest Winners

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to affirm and advance the City of Ramsey 2021 Photo Contest winners to City Council.

Entries were submitted in four categories and judged and evaluated based on creativity, quality, composition, and expression of category theme. (Around 40 entries were submitted in 2021, and are featured in the attachment.)

Category themes are outlined as:

- **Nature of Ramsey:** Viewing landscapes, plants, animals, weather, etc.
- **Parks and Trails:** Enjoying parks and trails in Ramsey, highlighting favorite outdoor spaces
- **Industry and Commerce of Ramsey:** Displaying diversity of industrial, commercial, and agricultural operations in Ramsey
- **Life in Ramsey:** Celebrating the community through events, recreation, arts, culture, sports, and gathering places, etc.

All winners will be announced and presented their award at an upcoming City Council meeting.

Attached are all of the submissions (around 40) for the 2021 Photo Contest, separated into categories.

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

Funding Source:

The winners will be awarded gift certificates at a Ramsey retailer in the amounts of: Overall Grand-Prize \$100, first place in each of the four categories will receive \$50, second place in each category \$25, and one runner up in each category will be awarded \$15.

Recommendation:

Winners were selected by the contest judges for affirmation by the Commission—Staff will 'announce' and show the winning photo(s) at the meeting.

Action:

Motion to affirm the 2021 Photo Contest Winners.

Attachments

Photo Contest Entries 2021

Form Review

Inbox

Reviewed By

Date

Mark Riverblood

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: Marla Martinez-Flynn

Final Approval Date: 02/02/2022

Mark Riverblood

Grant Riemer

02/02/2022 09:40 AM

02/02/2022 09:47 AM

Started On: 01/27/2022 11:32 AM

City of
Ramsey
Photo Contest
Entries

Industry and Commerce

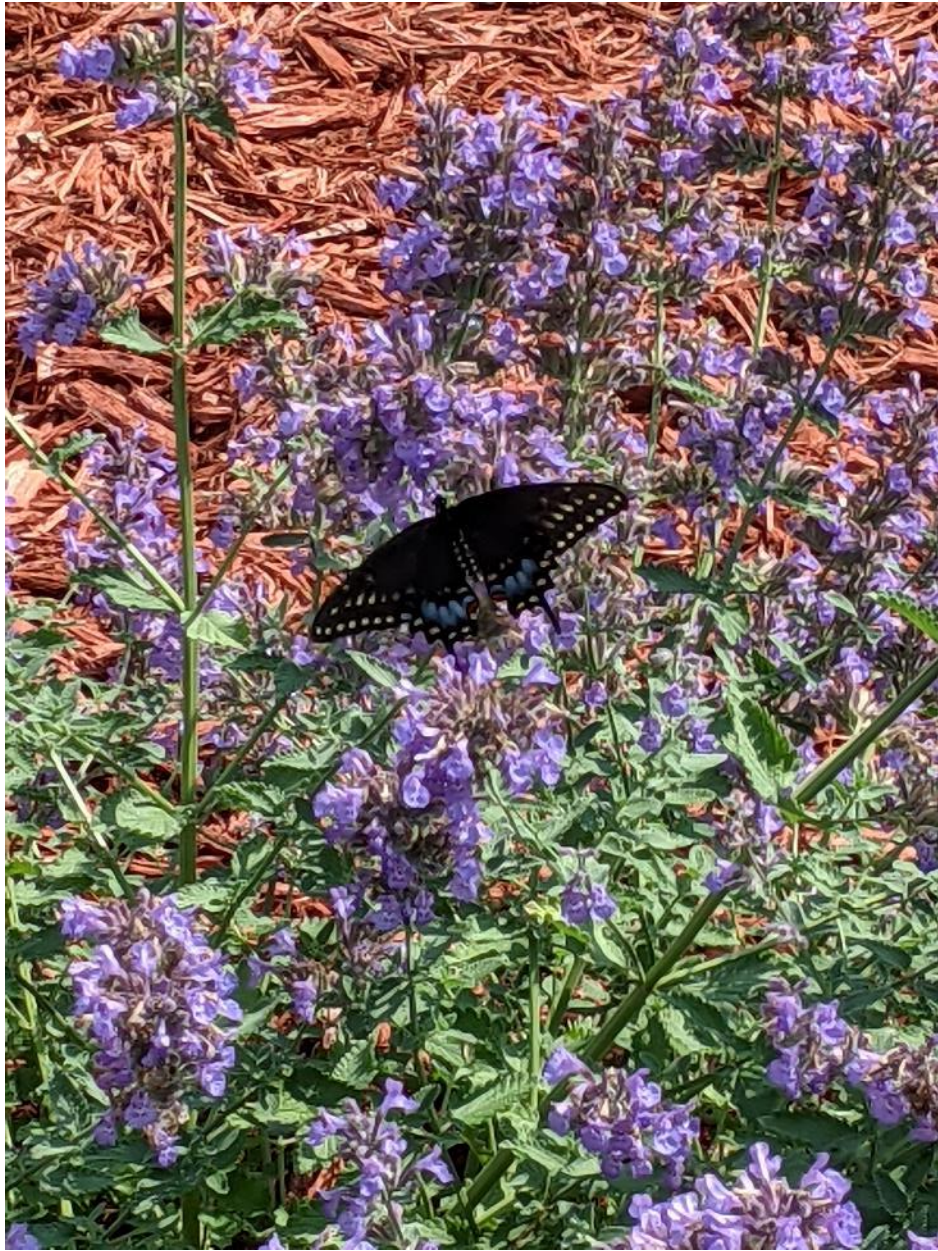


Jon Poepke

Life in Ramsey



Libby Krueger



Jeff Branch



Ruth Becker



Ruth Becker



Jenna Martin



Keith Marks



Linda Schlueter



Linda Schlueter



Linda Schlueter



Libby Krueger



Libby Krueger

Nature of Ramsey



Melissa Knoblauch



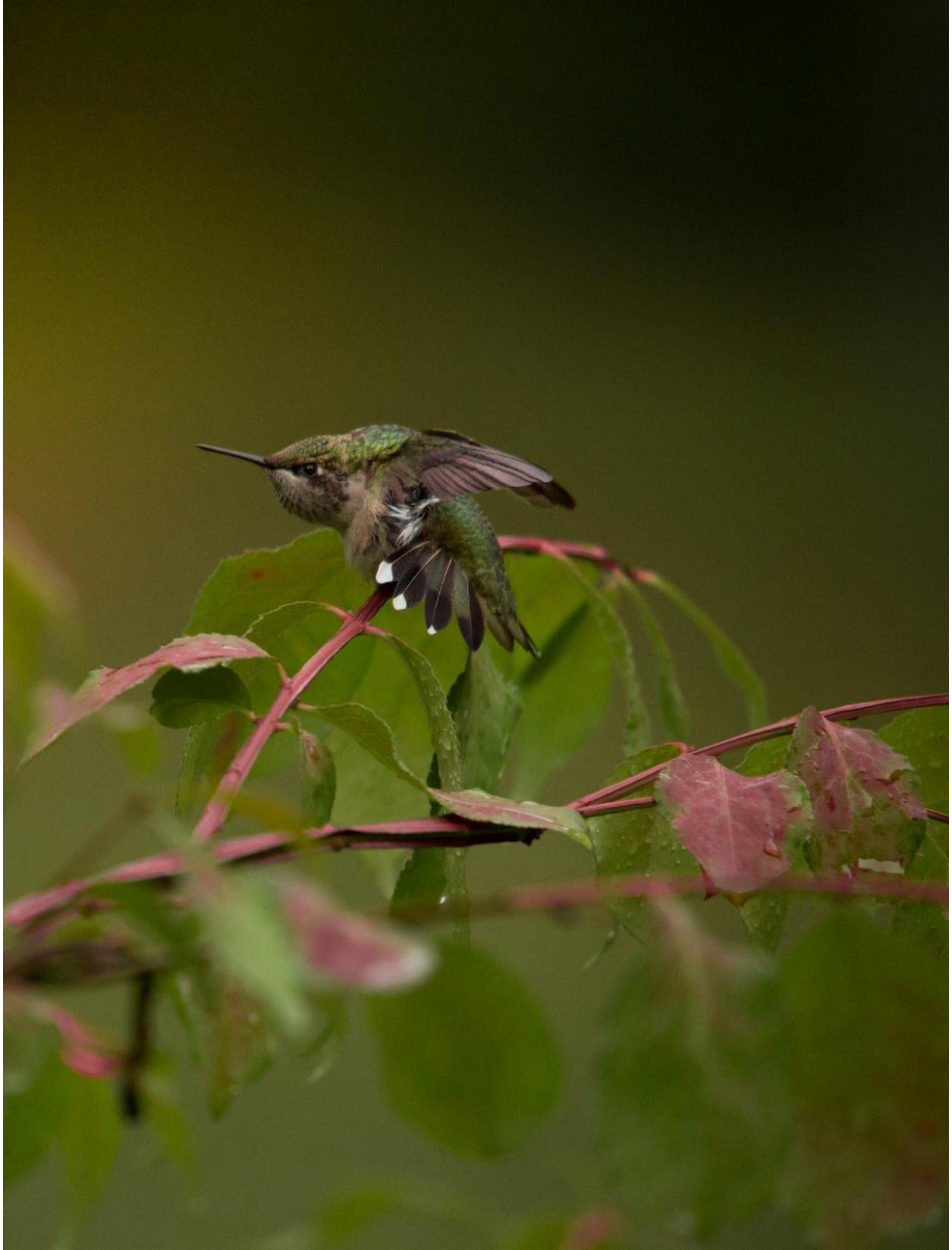
Jenna Martin



David Korzeniowski



Jenna Martin



Jenna Martin



Jenna Martin



Jenna Martin



Jenna Martin



Ruth Becker



Ruth Becker



Ruth Becker



Ruth Becker



Jenna Martin



Linda Schlueter



Linda Schlueter



Linda Schlueter



Linda Schlueter



Melissa Knoblauch



Jenna Martin



Jenna Martin

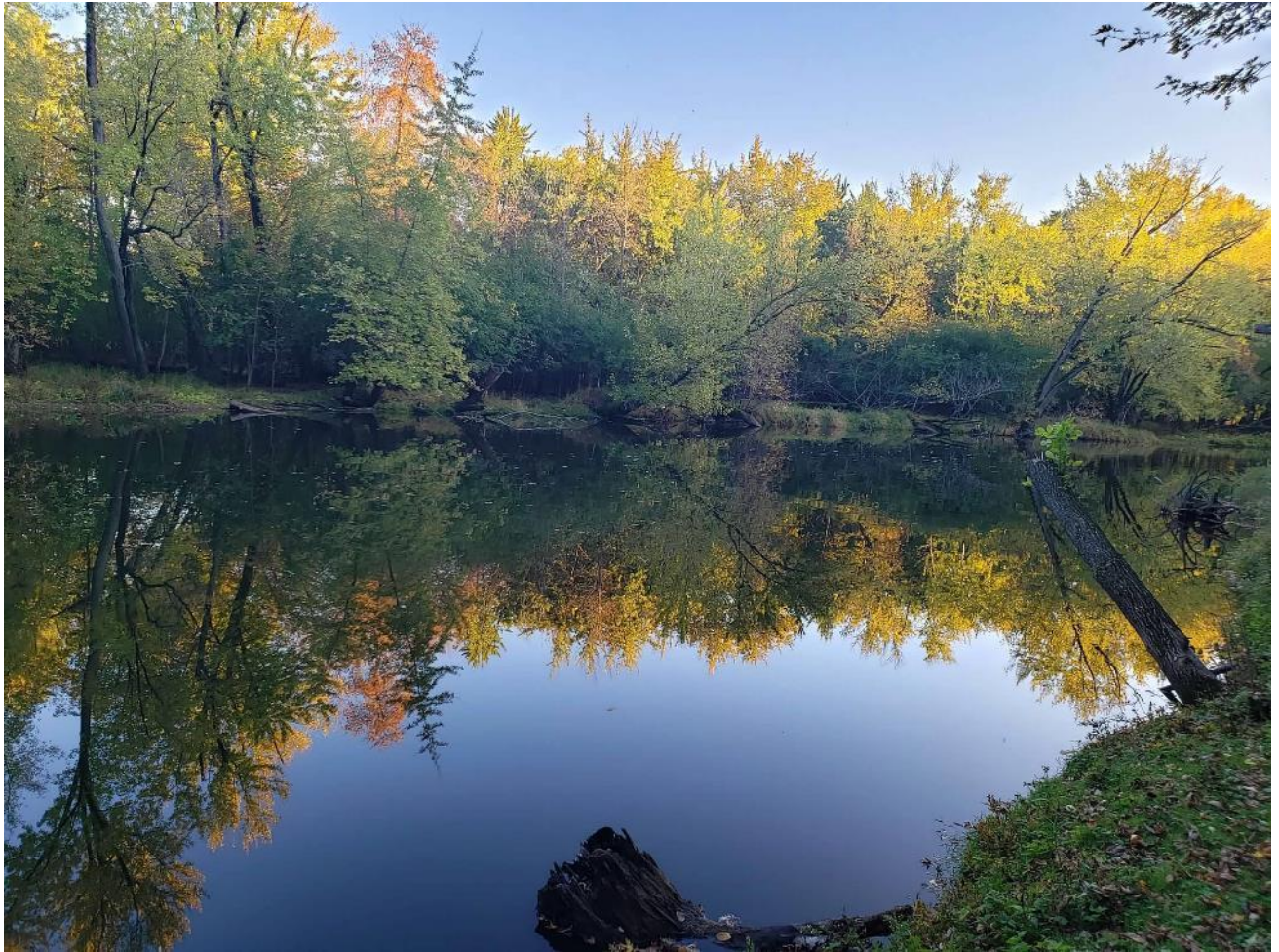


Libby Krueger

Parks & Trails



Linda Schlueter



Linda Schlueter



Keith Marks



Keith Marks



Rebecca Padhy



Kathy Rosenow



Ruth Becker



Dana Smith



Dana Smith



Jenna Martin

Meeting Date: 02/10/2022

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public
Works

Information

Title:

Playground Replacement Policy - Formulate Plan for Rabbit Park

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case, is to develop a plan for the renovation of Rabbit Park, following the request for input from the 91 neighbors of the park. (The letter inviting feedback is the first attachment.)

Notification:

—

Observations/Alternatives:

Observations:

The following is an extract from January's case on implementing the Playground Replacement Policy and plan. *"As Rabbit Park's playground ranked the highest for replacement, staff proposes that the city develop a plan to either replace the play structure in 2022, or remove them and add some sort of landscape improvements or other amenity in their place (consistent with the policy). This planning would begin by inviting the neighbors to the park (within the 1,500' walking distance) to express their interests . If for instance, there is little or no support for the playground's replacement, the Commission can focus on another playground this year that is also due for replacement."*

Alternatives:

The alternatives or ways forward here with respect to Rabbit Park are many and varied. In one view, with only 5 households out of 91 (five percent at the time of this writing) expressing some interest in seeing the play equipment replaced at the park (or at least adding back swings), This represents an apparent, relatively low support for any significant investment in playground replacements for the park. The second attachment to this case is the written correspondence from the 8 households responding, with the following a summary of their sentiments:

- Nice to have a dog park, would like benches considered [for the Lake Itasca Trail]. Nice to be asked to comment [on the park and trail system]
- Thank you for asking for ideas, would love a trail/wildflowers, add swings
- Thank you for the opportunity for input. Would like to see minimal reinvestment in the park or play equipment as possible
- Would love to see a handicapped swing for the park
- Love the large slide at the park, and hope it remains. Would like to see the swing replaced, and supports native habitat landscape improvements. Thank you for opportunity for input.
- Supports maintaining safe play equipment, and appreciates the city communicating on the status of the park
- Park is an eyesore, and never sees people use it—lists various potential capital improvements including trees and benches
- Has young children, loves the large slide—supports a variety of potential play equipment, including climbing opportunities—notes the ballfield is unused

The following are *some* alternatives in responding to resident input, and a playground replacement plan (no priority to the order):

- ~ **Do nothing (not recommended - the play equipment there, aside from the large slide should be removed).**
- ~ **Remove the play equipment and seed the removal area with grass seed, (but leave the slide).**
- ~ **Remove the play equipment (leaving the large slide), and replace with a significant array of new play equipment (including swings).**
- ~ **Remove the play equipment (leaving the large slide), and add back a large four-place swing with a handicap swing seat.**

In any of the above scenarios, staff recommends converting the preponderance of the park to a prairie wildflower ground cover, as the sandy site supports poor turf grass, and mowing the park regularly serves little or no use.

Funding Source:

The funding source identified within the Capital Improvement Plan is the Lawful Gambling Fund.

Recommendation:

Staff may recommend the last alternative above (pending further public comment); 'Remove the play equipment (leaving the large slide), and add back a large four-place swing with a handicap swing seat'—and to proceed by returning to the Commission in March with a detailed budget for Rabbit Park's renovation, including the conversion to a native landscape. These costs should be less than half of what is estimated within the Capital Improvement Plan for 2022, which may allow the Commission to 'move-up' another neighborhood park renovation into this year's work plan.

Action:

By motion or consensus, direct staff to develop a plan and budget to address the playground area and associated grounds at Rabbit Park for consideration at the March 2022 regular meeting.

Attachments

[Invitation to residents](#)

[Resident comments](#)

[Mailer area exhibit](#)

[Presentation adopting policy](#)

[Playground Replacement Policy](#)

[Resolution](#)

Form Review

Inbox

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Final Approval Date: 02/04/2022

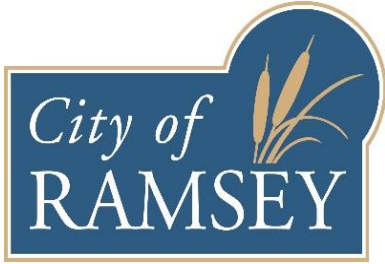
Reviewed By

Grant Riemer

Date

02/04/2022 09:56 AM

Started On: 02/03/2022 08:13 AM



7550 Sunwood Drive NW • Ramsey, MN 55303
City Hall: 763.427.1410 • Public Works: 763.427.8254
www.cityoframsey.com

25 January 2020

Subj: Rabbit Park, 17440 Rabbit Street NW

Dear Resident,

The purpose of this correspondence is to welcome your input on the future of Rabbit Park in your neighborhood. Last Fall, City Council adopted a Playground Replacement Policy (as recommended by the Park & Recreation Commission), which rates the playgrounds in order of their condition and age, and priority for replacement. Rabbit Park's play equipment is at the top of this list, and may receive replacement in some fashion as soon as the Spring/Summer of 2022.

The aforementioned policy also specifies that in the instance of neighborhood parks (in contrast to large community parks), that households within 1,500' feet walking distance are to be asked what they would like to see in terms of the playground's replacement—meaning that some persons may want a particular type of play components; others may want to see creative nature-based play features, some native habitat/landscape in lieu of play equipment, others a different type of recreation opportunity than a playground, and some neighbors may want little or no reinvestment in the park after play equipment removal.

To reiterate, the Park & Recreation Commission wanted to remain open to hearing what your desires or requests may be for Rabbit Park, without making any presumptions on what you envision, nor issuing a 'check list' or menu of possibilities as an example. We want any and all of your ideas for the park! All feedback will be forwarded to the Commission, which is expected to develop a work plan in February/March for Rabbit Park in 2022. Additionally, it may be

noted that the swing was removed this past Fall at the park due to the decay of the wood support posts, and the other play equipment at the park should be removed due to its poor condition—but the separate, very large stainless-steel slide may remain.

The results of the invitation to comment and submit ideas are expected to be on the Park & Recreation Commission's agenda for 6:30 pm on February 10th, 2022. Accordingly, you are asked to submit your comments by February 3rd to Mary Jo Warner at mwarner@cityoframsey.com with 'Rabbit Park' in the subject line.

Your ideas and comments are also welcome in-person at the Commission meeting on the 10th if you desire. This meeting will be held in the Municipal Center's City Council chambers at 7550 Sunwood Drive NW.

If you require additional detail, or have ideas or questions on other aspects of Ramsey's park and trail system, you may contact me at 763 433 9853 or mrivernblood@cityoframsey.com. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Yours in Public Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Riverblood', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Mark Riverblood,
Parks & Asst. Public Works Superintendent

Mary Jo Warner

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 6:00 PM
To: Mary Jo Warner
Subject: Rabbit Park

Hi, We live quite close to the park. We have a dog, it would be so nice to have a fenced dog park there at Rabbit park!! We go walking up the road, park along the small area to park, walk across the wooden bridge bog area across the swamp. It would so,so nice to have a bench right there so sit down, people could use it coming from all the three directions, two benches would be even quite used. It was nice to get this newsletter for our opinions, thank you.

Mary Jo Warner

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 12:14 PM
To: Mary Jo Warner
Subject: Rabbit Park

Mary Jo,

Thank you for taking input regarding ideas for Rabbit Park.

I would love to see a walking trail with benches and wild flowers all around. Flowering trees would be beautiful, also.

A picnic table and garbage can. Add swings by the slide.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Mary Jo Warner

From: [REDACTED] n>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Mary Jo Warner
Subject: RABBIT PARK

Thank you for this welcomed opportunity to provide input regarding the upcoming changes at Rabbit Park.

We are long term residents that have resided across from Rabbit Park for 30+years, before Rabbit Park was established. After the removal of the aged equipment, we would like to see as minimal of a change or reinvestment in the park or play equipment as possible.

Over the years, Rabbit Park has been quite a nuisance, often used for reasons other than intended. It has been a place for motorized vehicles, i.e. 4 wheelers, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, ATVs etc., sometimes traveling at high speeds to create noise, annoyance and a safety issue to an otherwise quite area. When the park virtually became a race track, several times a week, we raised concerns and were advised that a "no motor vehicles" sign would be erected. If the offenses continued, we could notify the police department if we desired. We do not feel that it is our responsibility to monitor the park. Although the racing subsided after the sign was put on place, motorized vehicles still do enter the park past the sign.

Rabbit Park has also been a hangout, at times in the middle of the night, once again using the Park and parking area for mischief and noise creation i.e. fireworks and car stereos, reasons other than the parks intended use.

The slide hill was often used as a jumping ramp for motorized vehicles, the slide often used as an object to bang on. On New Year's Eve, a couple of years ago, the wood frame of the slide was set ablaze at midnight which resulted in an Emergency response from the police and fire departments. The culprits fled the park in a vehicle parked nearby.

Since the park was established 30+ years ago, it has seldom been used as intended. We would prefer to see Rabbit Park disappear after the aged equipment is removed. However, as that is not likely, we would like as little reinvestment as possible.

We sincerely appreciate this opportunity to voice input on a subject that we have a solid interest in.

Thank you.

Mary Jo Warner

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 1:48 PM
To: Mary Jo Warner
Subject: Rabbit Park
Attachments: swing.jpeg

Hello. We received the letter regarding potential park improvements at Rabbit Park. We would LOVE to see some type of handicapped swing. I have attached a photo for reference. Here is the web site where I found it:

https://www.schoolspecialty.com/tfh-swing-seat-with-pommel-adult-1381235?utm_source=google&utm_medium=shopping&utm_campaign=13804448043&product_id=1381235&ad_group_id=125275700300&feed_item_id=&target_id=pla-1367850471069&gclid=Cj0KCQiArt6PBhCoARIsAMF5wag4jKMi RfuysbFHgkCtzvsmbfrf26uRaXd7RCNQOhDXCVtg4 IRmqcaAvcWEALw wcB&keyword=&kxconfid=u7avswvjn&source=ggl&campaignid=WP - PPC - GGL - EE Pillar - Null - RVN - Shopping - Null - Null - PPG - USA - Low&placement=shopping&keyword=&gclid=Cj0KCQiArt6PBhCoARIsAMF5wag4jKMi RfuysbFHgkCtzvsmbfrf26uRaXd7RCNQOhDXCVtg4 IRmqcaAvcWEALw wcB

TFH Swing Seat with Pommel, Adult

Shop the best selection of TFH. Largest selection of Movement products! Early Childhood products to complete your learning space.

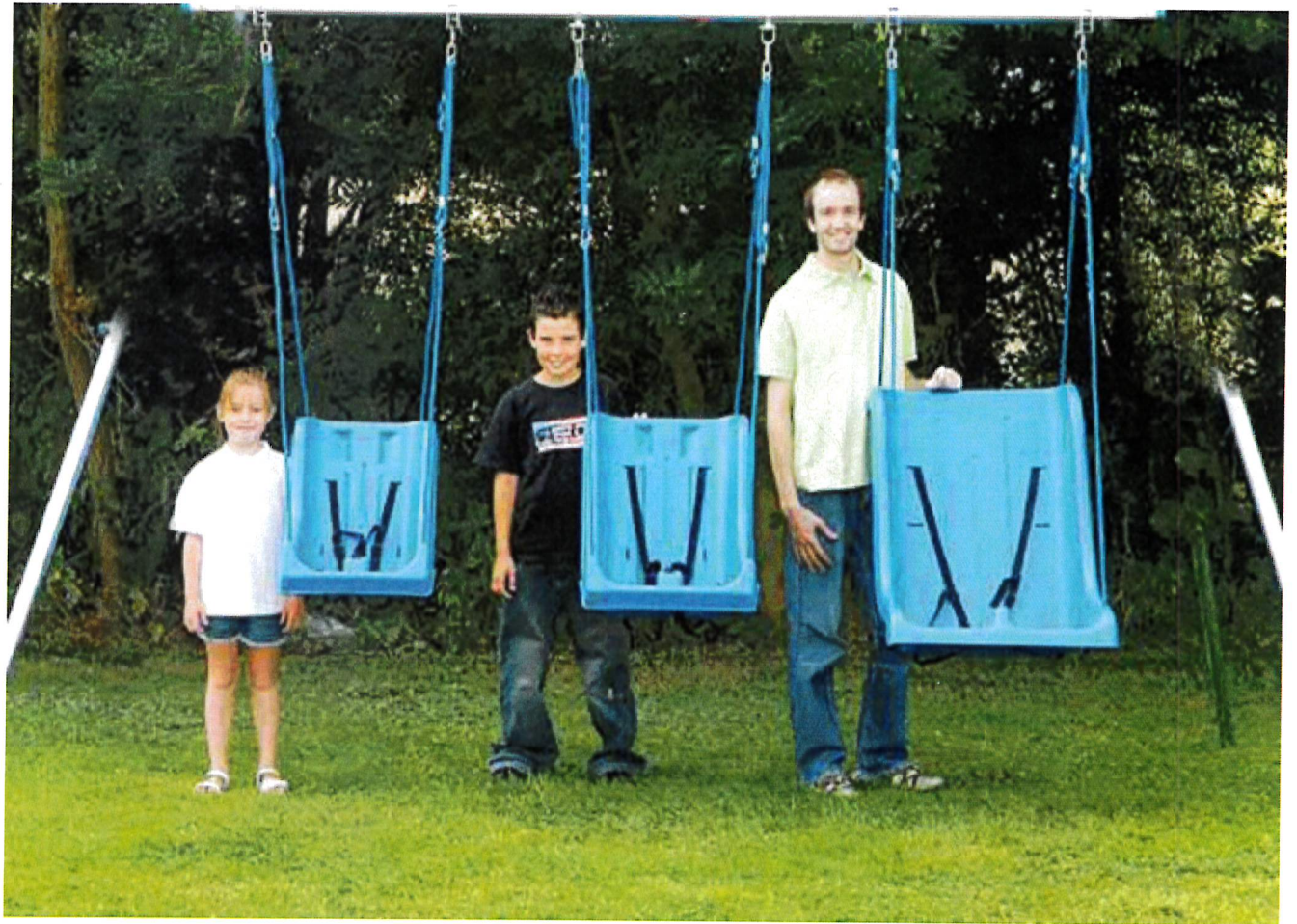
www.schoolspecialty.com

We have a daughter with special needs and she LOVES to swing. Guessing moms of toddlers may appreciate it too.

I would prefer that this is an anonymous suggestion.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

[REDACTED]



Mary Jo Warner

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 8:39 PM
To: Mary Jo Warner
Subject: Rabbit Park

Hi Mary Jo. My name is [REDACTED] - 176th in Ramsey. The upgrades that may be coming to Rabbit Park are good. However, I REALLY would like the very large stainless steel slide to stay! I have several grandkids that love that slide. I would also really like to see the swing set replaced with a new one. They did enjoy the old one while it was there. Beyond that, any other upgrades would be fine. I've lived at my home for 34+ years and I don't recall ever seeing anyone (including my 4 kids) use the baseball field at that park. If anyone wants a "native habitat or landscape improvement" I would support that as long as the playground area remains.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input on the upgrades to this park.

[REDACTED]

Mary Jo Warner

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 6:57 PM
To: Mary Jo Warner
Subject: Rabbit Park

Hi Mary Jo,

We received a letter regarding Rabbit Park as it is across the street from our house. We don't have any additional details, ideas, or questions to add. We just wanted to send an email in support of keeping the park and maintained with new equipment that is safe for kids. As we have just started a family, we would like the continued use of the park in the future. We appreciate the city of Ramsey sending a letter communicating that this park is on the radar for improvement, etc.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] education center

[REDACTED] District

[REDACTED]

E [REDACTED]

Mary Jo Warner

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 11:18 AM
To: Mary Jo Warner
Subject: Rabbit Park

To me this park is an eye sore. I've lived in this neighborhood for 38 years and have never seen any people in it. Maybe you could add a walking path around the out side. Some trees and shrubbery, for shade and looks. Benches, horse shoe pits, skate boarding ramp, a new play ground. Maybe even a fountain and a bathroom.
Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Mary Jo Warner

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 9:37 AM
To: Mary Jo Warner
Subject: Rabbit Park

Hello Mary,

I just wanted to let you know how excited my family is to hear the park is getting some updates and replacement. In 2017 we bought our house and bought it because of park in the neighborhood. I grew up in this neighborhood and loved going to the park and playing on the big slide. Now my 3 kids (ages: 2, 4, and 6) love that same slide I grew up with and it is a place they love to visit too and being that I'm a teacher and have summers off, we visit the park most days.

As for ideas for the park, I think playground equipment would benefit the neighborhood more than a nature-based play just because we all have such big yards to explore nature in. My kids enjoy having slides that are both big and small. They also enjoy the tube slide and the slider they can be pushed along. My 6 year old said some sort of spinning equipment like they have at his school would be fun or a tire swing. My kids are climbers so having climbing equipment or a rock wall would be something to consider. I think having equipment for both toddlers and older kids would benefit many if the young families as the park grows with these kids. As a mom, I appreciate the park bench and picnic tables when we visit.

As for the baseball field, the city never fully finished it when the park was put in when I was a kid. It rarely has been used over the years. I'm not sure if it would ever be used, but I see many young teenagers still venture to the park to chat with friends so exploring ideas to benefit those kids might be something the city considers.

In closing, since moving into the neighborhood, I notice many young families are moving into this older neighborhood as original homeowners are retiring and moving. I think that many kids would be disappointed if the park they loved was no longer a park, so I hope we can continue to make it be a place for kids to play in the neighborhood. Please feel free to connect with me if you'd like to chat. If I can line up childcare I plan to attend the meeting to hear what is discussed.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 174th Ln Nw
Ramsey, MN 55303

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

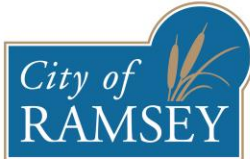
ADOPT RESOLUTION #21-255 ADOPTING INTERIM PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT POLICY AND PLAN



Central Park, Circa 1984



Central Park, Circa 2012



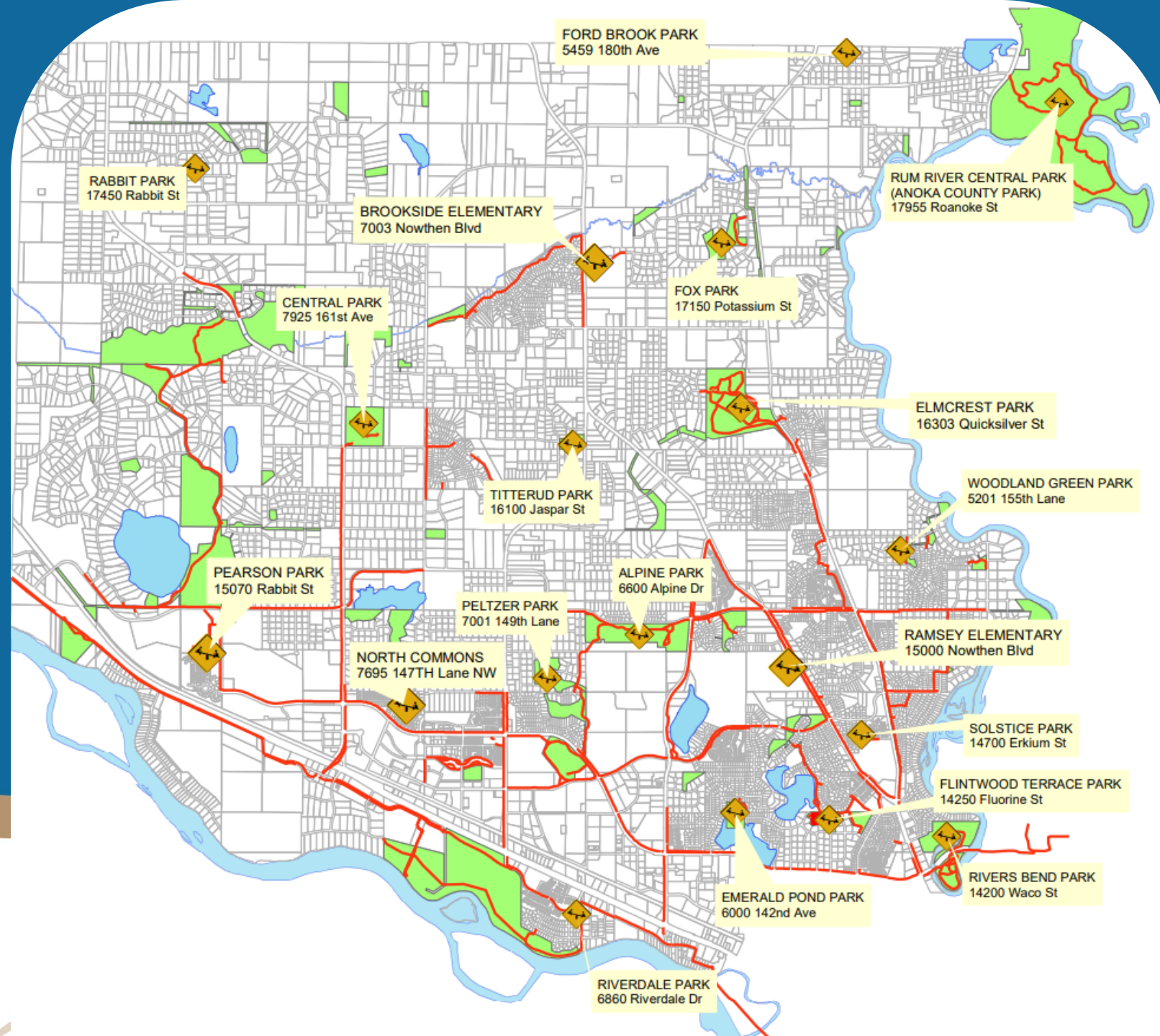


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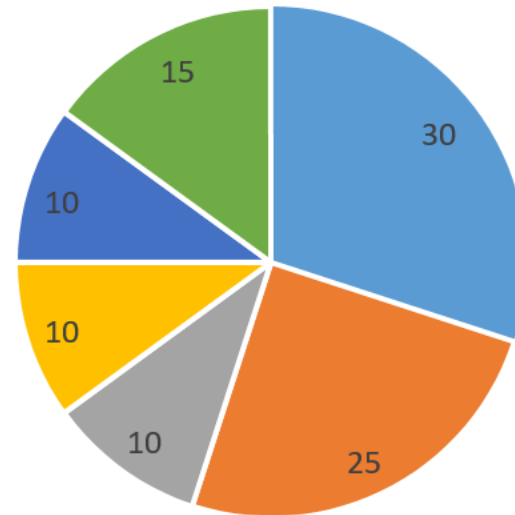
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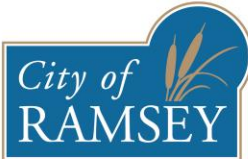
Playground Evaluation Matrix



■ Safety ■ Condition ■ Age ■ ADA ■ Usage Type ■ Trails / Other

SECTION 10. PROPOSED TIMELINE OF PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT

<i>Playground</i>	<i>Year</i>
Rabbit Park	2022
Alpine Park	2023
Solstice Park	2024
Riverdale Park	2025
Central Park	2026
Peltzer Park	2027
Rivers Bend Park	2028
Fox Park	2029
Emerald Pond Park	2030
Woodland Green Park	2031
Titterud Park	2032
Flintwood Terrace Park	2033
Elmcrest Park	2034
Ford Brook Park	2035
North Commons Park	2036
Pearson Park	2037



SECTION 10. PROPOSED TIMELINE OF PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT

Playground

Year



Rabbit Park
Alpine Park
Solstice Park

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

2028

2029

2030

2031

2032

2033

2034

2035

2036

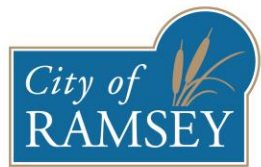
2037



Join the City of Ramsey for a
**Neighborhood
Listening Session**
at Ford Brook Park
Thursday, May 9, 2019
at 6:30 pm
at Ford Brook Park,
5459 180th Avenue in Ramsey

Share what amenities you'd like considered in the renovation.
In the event of inclement weather, this meeting will be moved
to City Hall.

Ford Brook Park Listening Session



Solstice Park's Play Structure – safety inspections, maintenance labor and repair expenses |

Safety inspections, minor labor/repairs in first 15-20 years of playgrounds, approximately \$784 annually.

After useful life period, \$784 + \$2,860 in labor costs annually (approximated).

The above does not include playground 'weeding' or vandalism expenses, nor resilient surfacing replacements.



\$400 (x2)



\$1,500



\$480



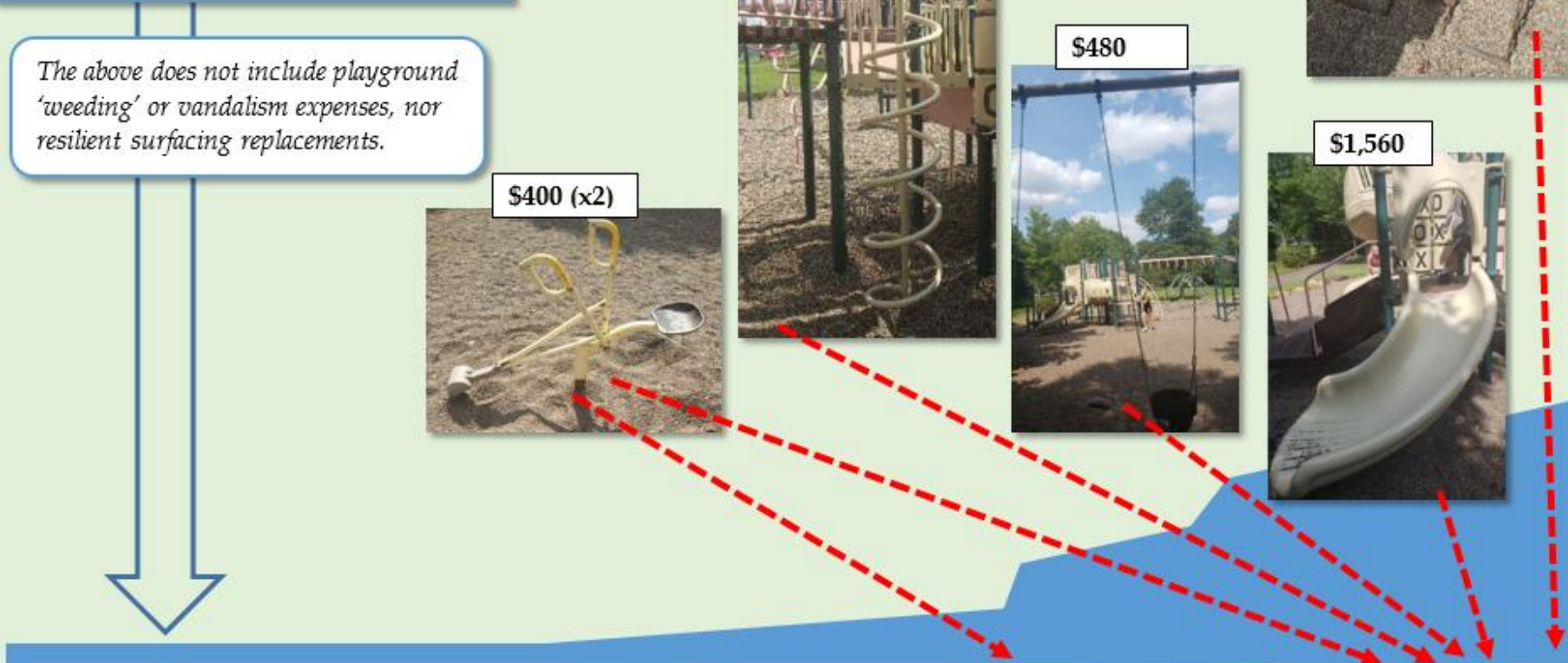
\$1,560



No longer Available

1995 '96 '97 '98 '99 2000 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

-----Assumed Useful Life-----





Shawn Acres equipment to be eliminated



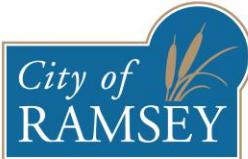


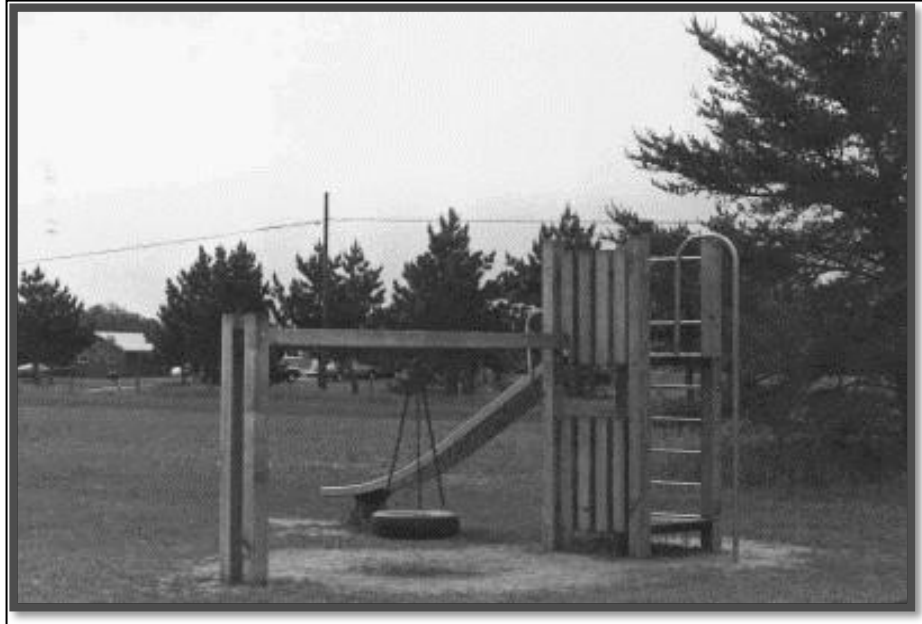
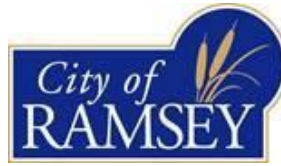




Autumn Heights equipment to be eliminated







Central Park, Circa 1984



Central Park, Circa 2012

***Interim* Playground Replacement Policy**

City of Ramsey, Minnesota

Adopted: x/x/2021

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION.

Playgrounds provide children with a safe and exciting connection to the outdoors during a time when electronic devices increasingly occupy their attention. They are associated with immense physical benefits—upper- and lower-body strength, muscular and cardiovascular endurance, balance, agility, and hand-eye coordination; in the long-run, reduced risk for cardiovascular ailments (e.g. heart disease and stroke), obesity, type-2 diabetes, and certain cancers—as well as boosts to self-confidence and improvements in social skills. Many of children’s fondest memories are formed at parks. Playgrounds help build relationships between parents, grandparents, neighbors, and between children and their peers. Additionally, they provide a community gathering place for young parents and their children who may otherwise experience isolation. It may not be an exaggeration to state that playgrounds metaphorically serve as the backbone of neighborhoods within the community, and as such are a valuable resource that must be properly maintained. Playground equipment and associated improvements unfortunately do not last forever, and so this policy serves as a guide to replacing the city of Ramsey’s playgrounds so that they remain a safe and enjoyable place for the community to gather around.

SECTION 2. GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT.

The city of Ramsey has seventeen playgrounds that will need to be replaced in the future. Due to fiscal and administrative constraints, as well as the varying ages and conditions of the city’s playgrounds, the replacements are to be carried out over the span of more than a decade. As of the writing of this policy, six of the city’s playgrounds have reached the end of their twenty-year useful lifespan and over the next decade, nine more will have reached that point. Consequently, the next capital improvement program (CIP), covering years 2022 through 2031, as well as subsequent CIPs will need to account for the city’s playground replacement needs. This policy will guide the city in determining which playgrounds to replace and program into a given year of the CIP.

SECTION 3. PLAYGROUND EVALUATION MATRIX.

The evaluation matrix considers six factors (and an additional screening factor) when prioritizing playgrounds for replacement and the playgrounds are scored based on their adherence to those categories. A playground can receive a maximum score of 90 points, and the higher a score a playground receives, the greater the need for replacement. Four of the seven factors, accounting for 60% of the points, assess the playground itself, while the remaining two factors, accounting for 40% of the points, consider the context of the playground. The remaining factor, while not accounting for any points, is considered before any of the other six factors, because it serves to screen out playgrounds that are not recommended for replacement. The following is a description of that screening factor:

Home Density Surrounding Playground—Yes/No to pass go:

Housing density may be considered a proxy for the regular frequency of usage of a particular playground. Because community parks are likely to be used significantly by outside visitors in addition to the surrounding neighborhood, home density does not factor into the scoring for community parks. Accordingly, playgrounds in community parks are automatically recommended for replacement scoring. Playgrounds in neighborhood parks however, must meet a threshold of 35 homes within 1,500’ feet of walking distance to the park to be recommended for replacement consideration. In cases where a playground might be removed, alternative actions (described below) are to be considered. In the table below, playgrounds meeting this threshold are scored “Y” for those that have appropriate densities, and those not meeting the threshold are scored “N.” Home density is determined based on how many homes (or townhome/apartment units) are within the 1,500 feet walking distance of a park’s boundary along streets, sidewalks and trails.

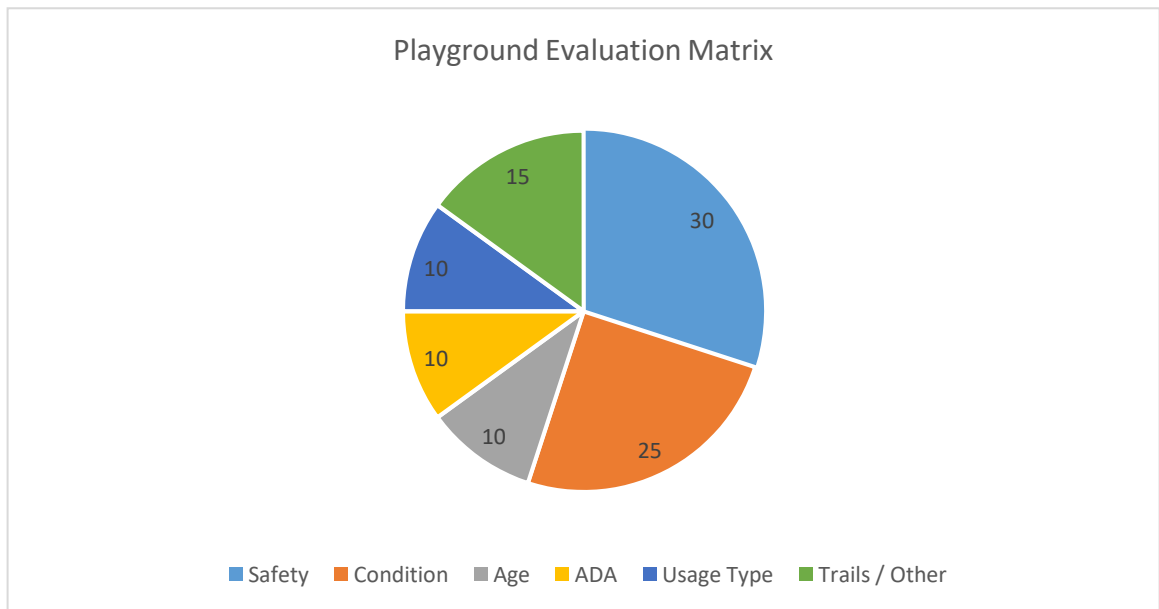
The following are the four scoring factors that consider the playground itself. Combined they account for 60% of the points:

- A. Features Posing Safety Concerns.** A thorough inspection is to be performed on all elements of the playground structures, including but not limited to swings, slides, transfer decks, railings, and surfaces. If one feature is determined to pose a potential safety concern, the playground automatically receives fifteen points in this category, or one half of the total. If more than one feature is found to pose a concern, the playground receives the full thirty points.
- B. Visual Condition of the Playground Set.** The inspection will also determine the visual quality of the playground. The presence of faded or chipped paint, or rusted metal, are indicators of poor condition. Playgrounds in great condition receive zero points; playgrounds in fair condition receive five points; playgrounds in poor condition receive the full ten points.
- C. Age of the Playground Set.** If the playground is less than ten years old, it receives zero points. If it is between ten and twenty years old, it receives two points. If it is between twenty and thirty years old, it receives eight points. If it is greater than thirty years old, it receives the full ten points. The disparity between scores of playgrounds older than twenty years and those younger than twenty years is due to the assumed useful lifespan of a playground being twenty years.
- D. Compliance with ADA Standards.** ADA standards are defined below. Compliance is worth zero points whereas noncompliance is worth ten points.

The matrix additionally considers two factors that encompass the context of the playground. Combined they account for 40% of the points:

- E. Community Park vs. Neighborhood Park.** This distinction refers to the usage of the park containing the playground in question. Neighborhood parks are smaller parks with fewer amenities that primarily serve the immediate neighborhood. They are mostly used by people who live within walking distance of the park. Community parks are larger parks that serve considerably larger constituencies and that feature a greater variety of amenities, particularly athletic fields. They are the sites of athletic tournaments and major gatherings. Playgrounds in community parks are likely to receive much greater usage and wear more quickly, needing replacement sooner than their neighborhood counterparts. Consequently, this category gives priority to playgrounds in community parks over those in neighborhood parks, with the former receiving twenty-five points compared to fifteen points.
- F. Accessibility via Trails and Other Considerations.** Many of Ramsey's older playgrounds are inaccessible via an ADA compliant path which makes them more difficult to access for persons with mobility limitations. Any potential playground replacement would include a paved surface to allow for easier access, thus playgrounds without such a surface are prioritized in this category and may receive the 15 points.

This category also maintains room for other considerations as well, an example would be structures that need frequent repair components. Due to the overall lack of gradience in the scoring metrics, several playgrounds may receive the same score. This category may also be used to break ties.



SECTION 4. PUBLIC INPUT AND DEMONSTRATED NEED.

The evaluation matrix may not be the sole determinant of the order in which playgrounds are replaced. Input by the community with respect to neighborhood parks is crucial to ensure that residents are well served by their city. A playground scoring higher than another does not necessarily mean that it will be replaced first, particularly if public input demonstrates significant justification for another park’s playground to be replaced sooner.

Another tool for assessing the need for playground replacement is actual neighborhood demographics. In some cases, school district data may be obtained that provide the numbers and ages of children within a logical distance of the park under consideration (likely the same 1,500’ foot radius). This may reveal very young children that will be coming into that 6+ age where playgrounds are important features of their lives. In other instances it may be found that the population are older residents, and less likely to have children in the household regularly. In 2012, the City installed a game trail camera to monitor the numbers, frequency and real-time use of a playground. This was found to be an effective way to support retaining this particular play area.

SECTION 5. ALTERNATIVES TO PLAY STRUCTURE COMPONENTS.

In instances where the public may not support the elimination of a playground per se, but full or partial replacement is not feasible, other actions can be taken to preserve space for children to engage in outdoor recreation without entirely new play structure components. Alternative play spaces however are best considered with appropriate public input. Residents may embrace for example, ‘nature based’ play areas made with trees, branches, boulders etc. which *may* be less expensive to install and maintain than traditional playground equipment. Pearson Park has elements like these, which are proven to be popular.



Figures 1-2: Nature-based play features at Pearson Park: (left to right) figure-eight stair stepping logs; sand and artificial turf surfacing, scattered ‘tree cookies’

Another option to traditional playgrounds is converting parkland, including the former playground area, into naturalized landscapes, providing a different type of valued outdoor amenity.

Tree forts are almost a rite of passage for children, like this one in the wooded area of Ford Brook Park, or one below at Pearson Park manufactured from imported branches.



Ford Brook Park



Pearson Park

Natural woods allow for the creation of lean-to’s and stick forts as well as hide-n-seek games or self-guided exploration of these shady enclaves. In other neighborhood parks, it may even be appropriate to simply leave areas open, and available to make bicycle tracks in the soil with shovels and hand tools—another rite of passage for many children.

At parks where the landscape is to be converted from playgrounds (or turf), there should be a plan for both the conversion, but also the appropriate care and management which can be simple and less costly than some maintenance intensive formal playgrounds. Regardless of the type of alternative landscape, these areas are not to be left for weeds and invasive plants to become established—which can result in a degradation of the park or adjoining private lands.

SECTION 6. PLAYGROUND SURFACING.

The city of Ramsey primarily uses two different types of surfaces for its playgrounds—engineered wood fiber (known colloquially as wood chips) and pea gravel (reused seal coating rock). Both surfaces are considered safe as long as kept at a depth of at least twelve inches, though pea gravel may have concerns due to its shape, making it an attractive nuisance for young children to put in their mouth. Additionally, the surfaces—as well as rubber mulch—are desirable due to generally low upfront installation costs (with pea gravel being the cheapest), but require regular maintenance (raking and levelling to maintain a proper depth for cushioning falls but still remaining accessible) and need to be replaced roughly every five years. Funding for the reoccurring surface replacement could be from the Lawful Gambling Fund, instead of the General Fund as has been the case.



Figures 3-4: (left to right) engineered wood fiber (EWF); pea gravel

SECTION 7. FUNDING SOURCES.

The *potential* funding sources for playgrounds and their replacement are many, including the Park Trust Fund, General Fund, the Capital Maintenance Fund, or even bonding—however, the most logical funding source may be the Lawful Gambling Fund, which is proceeds the city receives from a tax on charitable gambling (pull tabs) in Ramsey. Pursuant to MN State Statute Chapter 349, the Lawful Gambling Fund monies may only be used for expenditures that primarily benefit youth in the community. The 2021 present fund balance is approximately \$325,000.

SECTION 8. DEFINITIONS

- **Americans With Disabilities Act** or “ADA” refers to the civil rights legislation passed in 1990 that prohibits discrimination against individuals based on disability. Its provisions were updated in 2008 to include a larger number of people under the umbrella of ‘disabled.’ Pursuant to that law, the Department of Justice developed *Standards for Accessible Design* in 2010. Any playgrounds constructed or modified after March 15, 2012 are subject to the new standards. Examples of these standards include:
 - a) Running slopes may have grades no steeper than 5% with cross slopes no steeper than 2%; slopes with grades larger than 5% must have handrails and landings
 - b) An accessible route 60 inches wide with 80 inches of overhead clearance must be available
 - c) Transfer platforms must be between 11 and 18 inches high with width and depth at least 24 inches and 14 inches, respectively; transfer steps may be no higher than 8 inches and should include handholds; a 30-inch by 48-inch space must be available adjacent to the transfer platform
 - d) Elevated ramps connecting play structures must be no steeper than 8.25%, no longer than 12 feet, and at least 36 inches wide; they must contain handrails with spots for gripping between 20 and 28 inches off the ground; a 60-inch by 60-inch

- landing area must be provided if the elevated ramp changes directions
- e) Manipulative and interactive sensory and communicative components must have reach ranges of 18 to 44 inches for 5- to 12-year old children, and 20 to 36 inches for 2- to 5-year old children
- f) At least 50 percent of elevated play components should be accessible; for play structures with more than 20 elevated play components, at least 25 percent should be accessible

- **Community Park** refers to a park with numerous amenities, such as athletic fields, meant to serve those from around the city as well as from neighboring communities. They are also considerably larger than neighborhood parks, (often 40 acres or more).
- **Neighborhood Park** refers to a park with fewer amenities, typically anchored by a small playground. They draw people mainly from the immediate neighborhood and accordingly, have smaller parking capacities. They are considerably smaller than community parks (generally 1 to 15 acres of developed area).



Figures 5-19: Playground Equipment: (left to right, top to bottom) transfer surface; spring rider; chain ladder; talk tube; spinner; track-ride; sandbox excavator toy; metal ladders; stepping pods; corkscrew climber; clatter bridge; belt bridge; globe spinner; climbing wall with rope; enclosed rope climber.

SECTION 9. SCORING OF PARKS WITH PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

<i>Playground</i>	<i>Aging Score</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Meets Density</i>	<i>Park Type</i>	<i>ADA</i>	<i>Trails /other Considerations</i>	<i>Safety Concerns</i>	<i>Total</i>
Rabbit	10	10	Y	15	10	5	30	80
Alpine	8	10	Y	25	10	0	0	53
Solstice	8	5	Y	15	0	0	15	43
Riverdale	8	5	Y	15	10	2	0	40
Central	8	5	Y	25	0	0	0	38
Peltzer	8	5	Y	15	0	5	0	33
Rivers' Bend	2	5	Y	25	0	0	0	32
Fox	8	5	Y	15	0	2	0	30
Emerald Pond	8	5	Y	15	0	1	0	29
Woodland Green	8	5	Y	15	0	0	0	28
Titterud	2	5	Y	15	0	5	0	27
Flintwood Terrace	2	5	Y	15	0	0	0	22
Ford Brook	0	5	Y	15	0	0	0	20
North Commons	0	0	Y	15	0	0	0	15
Pearson	0	0	Y	15	0	0	0	15
Autumn Heights	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-
Shawn Acres	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION 10. PROPOSED TIMELINE OF PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT

<i>Playground</i>	<i>Year</i>
Rabbit Park	2022
Alpine Park	2023
Solstice Park	2024
Riverdale Park	2025
Central Park	2026
Peltzer Park	2027
Rivers Bend Park	2028
Fox Park	2029
Emerald Pond Park	2030
Woodland Green Park	2031
Titterud Park	2032
Flintwood Terrace Park	2033
Elmcrest Park	2034
Ford Brook Park	2035
North Commons Park	2036
Pearson Park	2037

SECTION 11. PLAYGROUND DESCRIPTIONS

Alpine Park

Alpine is a larger community park located in central Ramsey along the south side of Alpine Drive, approximately 1 mile east of Ramsey Boulevard and 1/3 mile west of Sunfish Lake Boulevard. Park amenities include four baseball diamonds and batting cages, off-leash area, as well as a skate park. Its playground was completed in 2000. The playground uses engineered wood fiber for surfacing.

The playground consists of two components, a wooden swing set and a wooden composite play structure. The swing set has two sections, one section with a single plastic chair swing and the other section with two normal belt swings. The playground structure consists of one plastic slide with parallel ramps. A metal, vertically curved set of six parallel monkey bars is connected to the rest of the set via a low transfer surface. Opposite the monkey bars is a wooden ladder with two steps that connect to the rest of the structure.

There are five means of entry—the aforementioned transfer surface and ladder, a wooden staircase, a chain link ladder (with four parallel chains) with metal footings, a chain link ladder on the interior of the structure which three rubber tires serving as steps, and a wooden climbing wall (sloped roughly 60 degrees with the ground) with six wooden steps and a rope for balance. The bottom of the climbing wall is worn, likely due to use as an additional step. The protective covering on the rope is worn and the metal inside of the rope is exposed in places. The rope has also been stretched considerably.

The entire surface of the structure is wooden with the exception of a bridge, which has a rubber mat for a surface. The bridge is sloped slightly (less than 15 degrees) from one end to the other, however there are four peaks on the rubber surface with thin wooden planks on top. The rubber surface is somewhat worn and there are cross slopes in some places that are unrelated to the design. The chains for both ladders are in fairly good condition. The wood throughout the structure ranges from okay to poor condition visually. The wood on the supports for the tallest portion of the structure (i.e. the area with the wooden climbing wall) is in the poorest condition with several of the planks making up horizontal and diagonal supports being splintered. The playground also has talk tubes (metal megaphone toys through which children may communicate with one another through opposite ends), which are both in good working condition.



Figure 20: Alpine Park Playground



Figures 21-23: (from left to right) Splintered wood on horizontal and diagonal supports; Splintered wood on support for swing set; Worn rope covering on climbing wall

Autumn Heights Park

Autumn Heights is a neighborhood park located in northwestern Ramsey at the intersection of Rabbit Street and Nutria Street, just east of Armstrong Boulevard and south of 173rd Avenue. Its playground was assembled by staff in 1985. Wooden timbers (6" x 6") bound the play area, with the play area not accessible via an ADA access path. The playground uses pea gravel for surfacing.

The playground consists of a single wooden play structure with a tire swing and a metal pull-up bar. The tire itself is in good condition, but the chain it is attached to is rusted and shows wear. The top surface of the play structure consists of five parallel wooden planks, all of which are loose (with the exception of the second-to-rightmost plank). There are two means of entry, neither of which are ADA-compliant. One is a ladder with two metal bars serving as steps. The other is a curved surface with narrow gaps for footholds, comprised of eight wooden planks, all of which are fully attached. The flat surface between this surface and the top surface (which is three inches above this surface) is comprised of six wooden planks (none of which are fully secured) perpendicular to those on the top surface and parallel to those on the curved surface. There is a single straight stainless steel slide, which is in fair condition, (however it is South facing, which is not desirable). *The terms of this Interim Playground Replacement Policy point to the playground components' removal, without replacement.*



Figure 24: Autumn Heights Park Playground

Loral I Armstrong Delaney Central Park

Central Park is a 45-acre community park located at the intersection of Armstrong Boulevard and 161st Avenue. Park amenities include football fields, seven softball/baseball diamonds, two lacrosse/football/soccer fields, four tennis courts, and four horseshoe pits. Its current playground was constructed in 1998 as a community-built project. The playground uses pea gravel for surfacing.

The structure is largely wooden, but there are multiple plastic and metal components as well, such as two plastic slides—one enclosed and one open with three parallel tracks—and a plastic tunnel. The wood is in fair condition, but is exhibiting some wear and tear. There are two track-rides, one straight with a single track and one curved with five parallel tracks. The grip for the first track-ride is metal, with chipped paint, and the grips for the latter are plastic and are in good condition, albeit with slightly faded paint.

Linking the two track-rides is a series of four wooden transfer platforms. The topmost platform is accessible via a metal chain-link ladder as well as two parallel metal bars for climbing. Linking the track-rides and transfer platform between them with the rest of the playground structure is a series of seventeen arched plastic platforms. Additional means of entry include a rope climbing wall, metal ladder, a wooden climbing wall with a rope, a step with handrails for accessing a transfer platform, a corkscrew climber, and a wooden ramp.

Additional playground features include two playground excavator toys, two spinners, and a balance beam. Overall, the playground is in fair condition, but the wooden components are worth monitoring.



Figure 25: Central Park Playground wide shot; Figures 26-27: (left to right) seventeen curved platforms; several means of entry, including a metal ladder, a wooden climbing wall with a rope,

a corkscrew climber, and a step with handrails

Elmcrest Park

Elmcrest is a large community park located in east-central Ramsey, west of State Highway 47 / Saint Francis Boulevard and south of 167th Avenue along Quicksilver Street. Park amenities include twelve soccer fields. Its playground was erected in 2015, the year after the adjacent park building was completed. The playground uses engineered wood fiber for surfacing.

The farm-themed playground features a main playground structure, a swing set with two bucket swings, a play barn, two spinners (one globe spinner), two chicken sculptures and one bee sculpture for climbing. The main play structure contains an obstacle course with a rope ladder, four angled platforms secured into the ground by a chain, a curved metal bar with four ropes crossing one another for balancing, a set of inclined monkey bars comprised of three rings forming six handholds, and five stepping pods. Additionally, the playground has three zigzagging slides and five means of entry—one transfer surface, two platforms forming a quasi-staircase, a ladder consisting of three platforms, an enclosed chain-link ladder with five metal semicircular footholds, and a climbing wall with slots cut out for footholds. All components of the playground are in excellent condition.



Figures 28-31: (clockwise from the top left) main play structure; chicken sculpture, bee and flower sculpture, swing set with bucket swings, and play barn

Emerald Pond Park

Emerald Pond is an approximate 14-acre neighborhood park in southeastern Ramsey, located east of CSAH 57 / Sunfish Lake Boulevard, north of CSAH 116 / Bunker Lake Boulevard, and south of Alpine Drive. Park amenities include a single baseball diamond and a soccer field, a pergola with fountain, as well as a basketball hoop in the parking lot. Its playground was built in 1997. The playground uses pea gravel for surfacing.

Emerald’s playground consists of three components—a seesaw spring rider, a swing set, and a large composite play structure. The seesaw’s surface is well-worn from use, with paint chipped and metal beginning to rust in some places, but it is still functional. The swing set is mostly in good condition, albeit with some of the chains exhibiting rust. The swing set consists of three bays, two with two belt swings each, and the third with two bucket swings.

The play structure consists of eight means of entry—a curved metal ladder with eight semi-rectangular rungs; a pair of transfer platforms next to a clatter bridge; another transfer platform on the opposite side of the clatter bridge; a chain-link ladder with three rungs for footholds and two curved metal bars for handholds; a corkscrew climber; two sets of wide metal ladders with two footholds each and two semicircular bars (opposite one another) each; and a narrow staircase with three steps and two curved metal bars for handholds.

Additionally, it features five slides—one short straight slide with two parallel tracks, one straight slide with a single hump in the middle, one short curved slide rotating 90 degrees, one curved slide rotating 360 degrees, and one enclosed zig-zagging slide. The enclosed slide has drainage issues, with water occasionally pooling at the bottom, but this does not pose a safety issue. All of the slides are in good condition otherwise. The other plastic components—two tunnels, two interactive sensory components with 3 x 3 rotatable blocks with letters on them, most of the guardrails, and a roof—are in good condition.

Adjacent to the clatter bridge is a set of flat monkey bars with a curved path. Two of the metal shafts in adjacent sections of the monkey bar structure are not completely flush, which is not a safety issue in and of itself, but should be repaired outside of a full playground replacement. On the opposite side of the playground structure, there are two sets of monkey bars as well as a track-ride, linked together by a triangular transfer platform. One of the sets has flat bars while the other has six rings suspended by short chains, the latter linking the former as well as the track-ride with the rest of the play structure.



Figure 32: Emerald Pond Park Playground (looking northeast)



Figure 33: Emerald Pond Park Playground (looking west)



Figure 34: Section of monkey bars with minor misalignment



Figure 35: Seesaw spring-rider

Flintwood Terrace Park

Flintwood Terrace is a neighborhood park in southeastern Ramsey, located west of MN 47 / Saint Francis Boulevard, north of CSAH 116 / Bunker Lake Boulevard, and south of CSAH 5 / Nowthen Boulevard. Its playground was completed in 2004. The playground uses pea gravel for surfacing.

The playground consists of three components—a swing set, a small play set, and a large play set. The swing set has three bays—two with two belt swings each, and one with two bucket swings. The small play set has two slides—one straight with two parallel tracks and one curved 90 degrees—as well as a staircase and two opposing handrails for entering the structure.

There are five different ways one can enter the main structure—a staircase, a metal ladder with five alternating semicircular rungs forming ten footholds, a curved metal ladder with four semi-rectangular rungs, a chain-link ladder with six rungs, and a corkscrew climber. The main play set has five slides—a straight slide, a straight slide with a hump, a straight slide with two parallel tracks, a curved slide rotating 90 degrees and a curved slide rotating 360 degrees. Linking the different elements of the structure are two bridges—a clatter bridge and a belt bridge—and a plastic tunnel. Additionally, there is a track-ride and two sets of monkey bars. One set of monkey bars has seven upwardly curving bars, while the other has seven rings suspended by chains. Overall, the playground is in great condition.



Figures 36-37: Flintwood Terrace Park Playground (looking east and west, respectively)

Ford Brook Park

Ford Brook is a neighborhood park in northeastern Ramsey located north of CSAH 27 / 179th Lane, east of MN 47 / Saint Francis Boulevard, and one mile west of the entrance to Rum River Central Regional Park along CSAH 7 / 7th Street. Its playground was constructed on site in 2020, as a ‘gently used’ replacement sourced from the county park to the east, with monies from the Lawful Gambling Fund. The playground uses engineered wood fiber for surfacing.

The playground consists of two distinct play structures, a balance beam, as well as a swing set with two separate bays—one with two belt swings, the other with a bucket swing and a chair swing. The first playset contains two curved plastic tunnels—one with two sections fastened together and the other with six sections; three slides—each straight with two parallel tracks, but one with a hump and a dip on respective track; and three means of entry—a stair case with metal bars for handholds, a chain-link ladder, and a corkscrew climber.

The other playset has three main means of entry—a staircase and two metal ladders—and two slides—one straight, the other enclosed and rotating 360 degrees. It also features an obstacle course consisting of three platforms connected to metal poles, a track-ride, a pull-up bar, and a log roll.



Figures 38-39: Ford Brook Park Playground, facing southeast and southwest, respectively

Fox Park

Fox Park is a small neighborhood park in northeastern Ramsey, with a single tennis court and adjoining wetland boardwalk. It is located along Potassium Street, east of MN 47 / Saint Francis Boulevard, north of 167th Avenue and south of Green Valley Road. Its playground is 1994 in vintage. The playground uses pea gravel for surfacing.

The playground is composed of two components, a swing set and the main playground structure. The swing set is divided into two sections, one with two tot swings and one with two normal sbelt wings.

The main playground has three means of entry—one transfer surface, one chain link ladder with metal steps, and one corkscrew climber—and three slides—one straight slide with two parallel tracks, one straight slide with a hump, and one curved slide that turns 180 degrees. Different components of the structure are connected by one plastic tunnel and one upwardly curving belt bridge. Lastly there is a set of monkey bars with seven bars that curl upwards, as well as a track-ride. All playground components are in good condition.



Figure 40: Fox Park Playground

North Commons

North Commons is a neighborhood park in southern Ramsey, at the northern border of The COR (the city's downtown), located north of CSAH 116 / Bunker Lake Boulevard and between CSAH 83 / Armstrong Boulevard and CSAH 56 / Ramsey Boulevard. Its playground was built in 2012. The playground uses engineered wood fiber for surfacing. Overall, the playground is in excellent condition.

The playground consists of four components—the main playset with an attached climbing wall and monkey bars, a metal swing set, and two spinners (one globe spinner). The swing set has two bays, one for bucket swings and one for belt swing, with each bay containing two swings each. The main play set has three slides—one short and straight near the bottom, two long and winding near the top of the structure. One of the longer slides zig zags while the other turns 360 degrees. There are six points of entry—one transfer surface; one chain-link ladder; one ladder with circular footholds rotated 90 degrees from one another; three stepping platforms; a ladder with two flat platforms directly on top of one another; and the monkey bars.

The monkey bars consist of five triangular bars. The climbing wall is plastic with nine holds on the front side and seven holds on the back side and a hole near the bottom of the wall (on the right side when viewed from the front) that can serve as a hand hold or foot hold. The top portion of the structure is accessible via two separate ladders made from walls with two slots cut out for foot holds. The bottommost of these ladders may have accessibility concerns—although one can use the guardrails as handholds, there is not a lot of room to maneuver through the opening.



Figure 41: North Commons Park Playground wide shot; **Figures 42-44:** (left to right) bridge connecting to upper portion of the playground structure, ladder in the background, climber with five orthogonal rings; monkey bars and climbing wall

Pearson Park

Pearson Park is the city’s smallest neighborhood park in southwestern Ramsey at less than an acre, located along Rabbit Street, north of U.S. 10 and Bunker Lake Boulevard, and south of Alpine Drive. Its playground was built in 2018.

The Pearson Park playground is a nature-based play area. Most of its components are made from minimally-processed naturally occurring materials. The structural supports holding up the main play area are made from Tamarack logs, and the guardrails are logs cut into thin sheets. Another play feature, located on a hill to the north of the main playground structure, consists of short ‘stepper’ logs arranged in a figure-eight shape. Adjacent to the figure-eight feature is a ring of seven rocks with flat surfaces known as the Story-circle. Being Ramsey’s first nature-based playground, it is unique within the city in a number of ways. It utilizes both sand and artificial turf for surfacing, and also has three maple trees planted within the sand the play area for shade. Moreover, it has cut pieces of logs scattered throughout the play surface. All of the logs are from tamarack trees sourced from northwest of Duluth, Minnesota.

The playground includes a \$35,000 long stainless steel slide (enclosed near the top, but open near the bottom) that bends slightly near the middle. The main point of entry is a wooden bridge accessible via a concrete sidewalk. The other three means of entry are a thin wooden climbing wall (background of *Figure 15*) and two rope climbing structures. The larger one lines the southeast corner of the playground structure, while the smaller rope structure is located in the center. An octagonal opening in the wooden deck of the playground structure allows one to enter via the smaller rope structure. The smaller rope structure is enclosed and also has large curved footholds for ease of use. All playground components are in near-new condition.



Figures 45-46: (left) Pearson Park Playground (not pictured: bridge); (right) Bridge

Peltzer Park

Peltzer is a neighborhood park located in southern Ramsey, east of CSAH 56 / Ramsey Boulevard and north of CSAH 116 / Bunker Lake Boulevard. Its playground was built in 1995 and has an ADA accessible by trail. The playground uses pea gravel for surfacing. The playground consists of three main components—the main play structure, a swing set, and a spring rider.

The spring rider is in fair condition, though its paint is faded and some of the metal is in the initial stages of rust formation. The swing set consists of two bays with two swings each; one bay contains belt swings and the other contains bucket swings. The swings are all in good condition.

The play set contains four slides—two straight slides on the east side of the structure (one of which has a hump and the other of which has two tracks) and two slides on the west side (one enclosed and one curved 360 degrees). There are seven points of entry—one transfer surface and staircase on the southern end of the playground; one transfer surface at the end of a track-ride; five stepping platforms; one chain-link ladder with a curved metal handrail; one curved ladder with four semi-rectangular footholds; one straight ladder with five footholds; one corkscrew climber. There are also two plastic tunnels—one with a single 90-degree turn and one with two 90-degree turns.

Overall, the playground is in fair condition. The paint on the plastic components has faded and the wood on the decks and supports is slightly worn but the playground is structurally in working condition.



Figure 47-48: Peltzer Park Playground (facing North and Southeast, respectively)

Rabbit Park

Rabbit is an approximate 5-acre neighborhood park located in northwestern Ramsey along Rabbit Street, roughly 2/3 of a mile east of CSAH 83 / Armstrong Boulevard and 1/5 mile north of 173rd Avenue. The park meets density requirements for replacement consideration, but is not as visited as most parks in the system. Its playground was placed in 1997, however some of the equipment had been previously used elsewhere and is now more than 30 years old. The playground uses pea gravel for surfacing.

The playground consists of four components: a wooden-pole swing set with two belt swings, two separate play structures, and a metal slide atop an artificial mound. On one play structure, there are two slides—one curved and one straight—one transfer surface and one stationary metal ladder for entry, a roof over the top of the play structure, and an interactive sensory component.

The other play structure has two slides (one enclosed), three means of entry—one transfer surface, one chain-link ladder, and one-metal ladder—and a track-ride. The transfer surface steps are narrow and steep, and appear to not be ADA compliant. The chains for both swings are also worn and/or surface rusted. The playground is not accessible via an ADA trail.



Figure 49: Rabbit Park Playground

Riverdale Park

Riverdale is a neighborhood park located in southern Ramsey along Riverdale Drive (just south of U.S. 10) between CSAH 56 / Ramsey Boulevard and CSAH 57 / Sunfish Lake Boulevard. Its playground was built in 1991, and one of the few in Ramsey that was funded by Tax Increment Financing (when that was permitted). The playground uses pea gravel for surfacing. An interesting aspect of this park, is its location along the National Mississippi River Trail, and its connection to the nearby Regional Park

The playground consists of three main components—two distinct play structures and one swing set—as well as four other components—a concrete camel sculpture, an excavator toy, and two spring-riders (one in the shape of a horse, the other in the shape of a bulldozer). The four components are in fair condition (however the concrete sculpture does have small cracks). The swing set has two bays with two swings each (two bucket swings and two belt swings in separate bays). The two talk tubes linking the two main play structures are deteriorating.

The smaller play structure consists of two points of entry—a transfer surface and a staircase, both with handrails—and two slides—one with two parallel tracks and one with a hump. One of the transfer surfaces is connected to a trail via a series of mats laid on top of the pebbles that comprise the playground surface. The top of the structure contains a house-like feature with two walls (each with a window), a bench, and a table. There is also a steering wheel and an interactive sensory component where children can customize animals by rotating nine blocks in a 3 x 3 grid, attached to three parallel bars. A similar sensory component is located at the bottom of the structure.

The larger play structure has a corkscrew climber and two slides—one straight with a single hump and one curved 360 degrees. Additionally, there is a set of monkey bars with eleven straight bars and a track-ride. Both are in good condition, though there is a small area on the grip for the track-ride with chipped paint. The transfer surfaces are in good condition but there are some accessibility concerns. The play set is not accessible via a flat surface and the transfer platforms are spaced vertically from one another by 18 to 24 inches. The six transfer surfaces are triangular and arranged together in a hexagonal shape with the last three being level with one another, forming a trapezoid. This top platform is alternatively accessible via a ladder formed by three slots cut into a wall, which is supplemented by two handholds. Even with the handholds, there are still accessibility concerns.



Figure 50: Riverdale Park Playground



Figures 51-52: Transfer Surfaces on the Larger Playground at Riverdale Park (note that the picture on the left is part of a vertical panorama and is compressed vertically and angularly distorted)

Rivers' Bend Park

Rivers' Bend is a 60-acre community park along the Rum River located in southeastern Ramsey, east of MN 47 / Saint Francis Boulevard and straddling CSAH 116 / Bunker Lake Boulevard, though the playground is to the north. Park amenities include four tennis courts, one softball diamond, one soccer field, and a basketball hoop in the parking lot. Its playground was last replaced in 2001. The playground uses engineered wood fiber for surfacing, which occurred recently in 2020. The playground has seven components—the main play structure, a swingset, a set of four stepping pods (one in the middle and three surrounding the middle 180 degrees from one another), a dolphin-shaped spring rider, two “houses,” and a tic-tac-toe board.

The two play houses are mirror-images of one another, each consisting of two plastic walls held together by three wooden posts. The walls facing each other both have a small window with a 3 x 3 pattern as well as a bench below the window. The other two corners of each of the houses are open. The houses are both in good condition. The swing set has two bays, one with two bucket swings and one with two belt swings. The entire structure is in good condition. The paint on the dolphin spring-rider is chipped and the concrete base is worn, but it is otherwise in good condition.

The main play structure is a mix of plastic (slides, tunnels, roofs, and sensory components), metal (transfer platforms, some guardrails and supports), and wood (most platforms and supports). Visually the playground is in great condition, besides some faded paint and mud on the side of some of the plastic components. The main play structure has six entrances—two transfer surfaces, one chain-link ladder, one metal ladder with four alternating semicircular rings forming eight footholds, one metal ladder with four flat rungs, and one corkscrew climber. The main play structure also consists of five slides—one straight enclosed slide, one curved enclosed slide rotating 360-degrees, one straight slide with two parallel tracks, one straight slide with a hump, and another curved slide rotating 360-degrees. Additionally, there is a set of monkey bars with seven round rings. Tying the structure together are a clatter bridge, a belt bridge, and two tunnels each with two 90-degree turns.

The play structure also has four interactive sensory components—a board with letters on it, an abacus, a tic-tac-toe board (similar to the one outside of the main play structure), and a toy similar to the tic-tac-toe boards but with numbers painted on them.



Figure 53: Rivers' Bend Playground

Shawn Acres Park

Shawn Acres is a neighborhood park located in a low-density area in northern Ramsey along Chameleon Street, 1/5 mile north of 173rd Avenue, and west of Thorn Lake. Its playground was placed there before 1980, and it is believed that it was used components at that time. The playground consists of three separate small elements: a rusted metal-pole swing set with three swings, a stand-alone metal slide, and a parallel set of metal bars akin to monkey bars without rungs. The paint on each of three components is peeling. Two of the three swings are inaccessible to younger children and those with mobility limitations without the help of an adult. The slide is also inaccessible to those with mobility impairments. The playground is not ADA compliant, nor does it have resilient surfacing, and has limited or low ‘play value’. *The terms of this Interim Playground Replacement Policy point to the playground components removal, without replacement.*



Figure 54: Shawn Acres Park Playground

Solstice Park

Solstice is a neighborhood park located in southeastern Ramsey at the end of Erkium Street, 1/5 mile east of CSAH 5 / Nowthen Boulevard and 1/4 west of MN 47 / Saint Francis Boulevard via Sunwood Drive. The park has a grass infield softball field, and misting station adjacent to the play structures. Its playground was built in 1995, following input on the design by the new neighbors. Originally red in color, some of the components have faded to pink, showing their 26 years of service. The playground uses pea gravel for surfacing, within the boulder containment system.

The playground is composed of four components—a composite play structure with monkey bars and track-ride attached to the end, a swing set (containing three bays with two swings each), a climbing structure in the shape of a Stegosaurus dinosaur, and a sandbox excavator toy.

There are two curved slides, the shorter one turning 90 degrees and the longer one turning 360 degrees. There is a third straight slide. All of the slides are in good condition, however there are scratch marks in several places.

There are three main points of entry for the main composite playground structure—one transfer surface / staircase, one metal ladder curving upwards then horizontally, and one chain link ladder. Additionally, a corkscrew climber can be used for entry. Transfer platforms serving the monkey bars can also serve as a means of entry. There is a tunnel linking different parts of the structure that is in fair condition.

The sandbox excavator like many, due to their popularity, is in poor condition with paint chipped and metal rusted in several places. The swing set has three sections, divided by supports with two legs each, with two swings per section. One of the sections has two tot, bucket swings. All of the swings are in good condition. The monkey bars, comprised of nine triangular metal rings, are in good condition, as is the track-ride, though there is chipped paint in one place. There are two miscellaneous interactive sensory components, a tic-tic-toe board and a steering wheel, both of which are in good condition. Finally, there is a pull-up bar and talk tubes, both of which are in fair condition.

The dinosaur-shaped climbing structure has a spine of parallel metal bars with 17 rectangular ‘ribs’ on the underside for climbing, linking the two bars. On the top there are 12 pentagonal scales on alternating sides of the spine for climbing. The structure is held up by four of the Stegosaur’s legs. All components of this structure are in good condition.



Figure 55: Solstice Park Playground

Titterud Park

Titterud is a neighborhood park in central Ramsey along CSAH 56 / Ramsey Boulevard, just south of the intersection of CSAH 5 / Nowthen Boulevard. There is a single softball field at the park, and the playground was replaced in 2005, and located entirely within the pastoral Bur Oak stand. The playground uses engineered wood fiber for surfacing, with two separate boulder borders. One unique element is the porous ADA concrete sidewalk connecting the parking lot, which allows precipitation and air to reach the tree's rooting zone beneath.

There are three areas for playing—one with the main play set, one with a swing set and two pieces of equipment for bouncing, and an empty sandbox (with pea gravel for surfacing). The bouncing equipment is in good condition. One consists of a spiral pole with a singular platform from bouncing and the other is in the shape of a ring, allowing for two children to take turns jumping and launching the other upward.

The swing set is made of wooden posts and a metal crossbar, and has two belt swings. The main structure is largely wooden, but with metal guardrails and a single plastic slide with three parallel tracks and a plastic tunnel. The main means of entry is a transfer platform and staircase. Another entrance is via a gray plastic rock climbing wall attached to a series of twelve green arched climbing platforms arranged in circular patterns. Adjacent to this is a rope climbing ladder with four parallel ropes at the top for handholds. On the opposite end of the playground structure is another means of entry—a ladder consisting of seven rungs and another ladder connected at a 135-degree angle with four rungs. The fifth and sixth means of entry are a narrow ladder with a rope for balancing, and a corkscrew climber. One of the boards on the transfer surface was recently replaced, with the structure in overall in good condition.



Figure 56: Titterud Park Main Play Area



Figure 57: Titterud Park Secondary Play Area

Woodland Green Park

Woodland Green is a neighborhood park in eastern Ramsey located east of MN 47 / Saint Francis Boulevard and north of Alpine Drive. Amenities include a single soccer field, and a hexagonal shelter in proximity to the playground, which was replaced in 1998. The playground uses engineered wood fiber for surfacing, with a timber border.

The playground features four components—the main structure with an attached jungle gym, a swing set, and two spring riders (both of which are in good condition). The swing set, consisting of two bays with two belt swings and two bucket swings in the respective bays, is in fair condition, though the crossbar is beginning to rust.

The main play structure has two curved slides, one with parallel tracks and curving roughly 45 degrees and another slide (longer than the first) zigzagging, but curving roughly 45 degrees as well. There are six means of entry, the main one being a transfer surface and staircase. There are three metal rope-like ladders—one enclosed with a metal ring on top, one with two parallel metal bars on the sides, and one with a single climbing track. A fifth means of entry is a green plastic climbing structure adjacent to the longer slide. A sixth possible method of entry is the jungle gym attached to the main structure. It also consists of a rope climbing wall, a set of monkey bars made up of five rings each attached to the end of a chain, a pull-up bar, and a set of monkey bars with three tilted, rotating, circular handholds. The second set of monkey bars is slanted. The jungle gym and main playground structure are both in good condition.



Figures 58-59: Woodland Green Park Playground (looking east and west, respectively)

Join the City of Ramsey for a
**Neighborhood
Listening Session**
at Ford Brook Park
Thursday, May 9, 2019
at 6:30 pm
at Ford Brook Park,
5459 180th Avenue in Ramsey

Share what amenities you'd like considered in the renovation.
In the event of inclement weather, this meeting will be moved
to City Hall.

Ford Brook Park Listening Session

Example of Public Engagement re 2020 Playground replacement

Solstice Park's Play Structure – safety inspections, maintenance labor and repair expenses

Safety inspections, minor labor/repairs in first 15-20 years of playgrounds, approximately \$784 annually.
 After useful life period, \$784 + \$2,860 in labor costs annually (approximated).

The above does not include playground 'weeding' or vandalism expenses, nor resilient surfacing replacements.

No longer Available



\$1,560



\$480



\$1,500



\$400 (x2)



1995 '96 '97 '98 '99 2000 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

|-----Assumed Useful Life -----|

Councilmember Heineman introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #21-255

RESOLUTION APPROVING INTERIM PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, Ramsey City Council and the Park and Recreation Commission recognizes the importance of Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation to the quality of life for Ramsey residents; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood playgrounds are essential areas for play, creative and cognitive expression, as well as the positive physical development of children; and

WHEREAS, the City has significant investments in play equipment components, and each playstructure ultimately will need to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, renovation and reinvestment in existing parks represents a commitment and service to residents throughout the City, and supports favorable property values and sustaining neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City annually receives proceeds from Lawful Gambling conducted in the community, and these monies are to be invested in benefitting the youth of Ramsey; and

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Commission developed a Playground Replacement Policy, and recommends its implementation to begin a systematic and logical replacement of playgrounds and the associated park's rejuvenation—each of which will have been in service for more than two-decades.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA:

- 1) That, adopting the Interim Playground Replacement Policy sets into motion the programmatic replacement of the City's playgrounds, as well as the evaluation of this process, and that each project, with the associated park renovation will come before the Park and Recreation Commission for an effective recommendation to City Council; and
- 2) That, pursuant to MN State Statute Chapter 349, Lawful Gambling Fund monies may only be used for expenditures that benefit youth in the community, and that accordingly, this funding source be considered for playground replacements as part of the annual General Fund budget, and Capital Improvement Program procedures.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember Musgrove and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Mayor Kuzma
Councilmember Heineman
Councilmember Musgrove
Councilmember Howell
Councilmember Riley
Councilmember Specht
Councilmember Wostehoff

and the following voted against the same:

None

and the following abstained:

None

and the following were absent:

None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 14th day of September, 2021.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Park and Recreation Commission

6. 1.

Meeting Date: 02/10/2022

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Commission/Staff Input

Purpose/Background:

~ Recreation Program Highlights
~ March/April agenda items

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

Funding Source:

.

Recommendation:

Action:

Attachments

The Draw Summer Concert Series Flyer

Elmcrest Art Fair Flyer

Snowshoeing Flyer

Form Review

Inbox

Mark Riverblood (Originator)
Grant Riemer
Form Started By: Mark Riverblood
Final Approval Date: 02/10/2022

Reviewed By

Mark Riverblood
Grant Riemer

Date

02/10/2022 09:34 AM
02/10/2022 10:00 AM
Started On: 02/10/2022 08:30 AM

THE DRAW SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Thursday nights 6:30 - 8:00 pm at The Draw park & amphitheater, 7401 Ramsey Parkway

Presented by Ramsey Parks & Recreation

June 16 - Roadhouse Blue - Enjoy a country-rock band, free Killebrew Root Beer & Cream Soda

June 23 - Holy Rocka Rollaz - Take an authentic trip back to the fantastic 50s

June 30 - Drop Tailgate - Sing along to Country, rock and pop hits

July 7 - Dust N' Bones - Guns N' Roses greatest hits all in one of the best shows

July 14 - Rhino - Don't miss Rhino's jaw dropping drum routine

July 21 - Revved UP! - Enjoy a variety of rock, pop, and country hits from 1990-today

July 28 - Magic 70s Sunshine Band - The ultimate tribute to 70's am radio

August 4 - A Hard Day's Night - An incredible tribute to Buddy Holly

August 11 - Stimulus Package - Hits from classic rock to rockin' country

August 18 - The Crown Jewels - A tribute to one of the greatest rock bands of all time, Queen

August 25 - Mick Sterling Presents: Born to Run - Join Trott Brook Financial for the 18th annual Benefit Bash! Enjoy a tribute to Bruce Springsteen, food trucks, & more!



Rumriver Art Center & The City of Ramsey

ELMCREST ART FAIR

ART

Original Art
From Local &
Visiting Artists

Sunday, July 10, 2022

10:00am-4:00pm

Elmcrest Park

**16303 Quicksilver St NW
Ramsey, MN**

FOOD

Variety of Food
Trucks

FREE ADMISSION

FOOD TRUCKS

RAFFLE DRAWINGS

ARTIST DEMOS

FREE ARTS CLASSES

AND MORE!

FAMILY

FREE Art Classes &
Demonstrations

LEARN MORE AT:

rumriverart.com/calendar/special-events/





Ramsey Parks & Recreation Presents: Family Snowshoeing



Join us for a Night of Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing is an easy-to-learn activity for all ages, and is a great way to explore the winter beauty of Ramsey parks. After a brief introduction and instruction, we will explore Central Park by “floating” on the snow with snowshoes. No previous experience is necessary. Ages 5 and up are welcome. We will meet at the Central Park Warming House.

Registration is required, space is limited to 20 participants. Cost is \$3 per person and includes snowshoes.

Location: Central Park

7925 161st Ave NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

Date: Thursday, February 24th

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

To Register:

CityofRamsey.com/ParkEvents

Contact:

Marla Martinez-Flynn,

Recreation Specialist

mmartinez-flynn@cityoframsey.com

(763) 433-9883

Todd Murawski,

Recreation Coordinator

todd.murawski@co.anoka.mn.us



Anoka County
PARKS & RECREATION

