

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Park and Recreation Commission
Thursday, January 8, 2026
6:30 pm
Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

Remote Attendance available at www.cityoframsey.com/meetings.
Those joining remotely and requesting to speak are asked to use a webcam when speaking.

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 November 13, 2025.
5. **Commission Business**
 1. Community Development Block Grant Funding for The Waterfront
 2. Playground Replacement Program 2026 — Riverdale Park
 3. 2025 Program Review + 2026 Upcoming Programs
6. **Commission/Staff Input**
7. **Adjournment**

Park and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: 01/08/2026

Primary Strategic Plan Initiative: Connect the community through Parks, Trails and Recreational Programming.

Information

Title:

Approve the following meeting minutes.
1. Park and Recreation Commission meeting dated November 13, 2025.

Purpose/Background:

To review and approve meeting minutes.

Notification:

N/A

Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:

Staff anticipates this case will take less than 5 minutes.

Funding Source:

N/A

Recommendation:

To review and approve meeting minutes dated November 13, 2025.

Outcome/Action:

Motion to approve meeting minutes dated November 13, 2025.

Attachments

P & R November 2025 Minutes

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Brian Hagen	Mariah Albrecht	01/02/2026 10:24 AM
Form Started By: Mariah Albrecht		Started On: 12/30/2025 11:16 AM
Final Approval Date: 01/02/2026		

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on November 13, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Megan Ealain
 Vice Chair Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Garth Anderson
 Commissioner Todd Arts
 Commissioner Shane Bennett

Commission Members Absent: Commissioner Dean Olson

Also Present: City Council Liaison Kirsten Buscher
 Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Ealain; Commissioners Bennett, Barten, Anderson, and Arts.
Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner Olson.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated September 11, 2025

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Ealain; Commissioners Barten, Arts, Anderson, and Bennett. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner Olson.

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Recommend the 2026 - 2035 Parks Capital Improvement Plan

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided background information on the ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He explained that the projects in the coming years are more certain, where things further out in the plan are often more flexible and may even be more of a placeholder. He presented the park projects included in the CIP for 2026, including trail connections, The Waterfront waterplay project and related amenities, Lake Itasca trail extension, amphitheater lighting, aeration of Sunfish Lake, River's Bend shelter replacement, playground replacement, park building stabilization, outdoor hockey rinks, and reroof of park shelter/warming house. He noted that each of those projects would still come before the Commission for review and recommendation.

Councilmember Buscher referenced the outdoor hockey rink and asked if there would be interest in doing refrigeration under to create a new rink with a nicer warming house that could include skate rental. She noted that would extend the skating season and not make it dependent upon the weather.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood noted that type of project was originally planned for Alpine Park with other features such as snowshoe rental, but acknowledged the high cost that project would have. He stated that since that time, they have reduced the number of areas where outdoor skating has been offered and have not received any complaints from residents, which leads them to believe the trend is declining towards outdoor skating and more people are using indoor sheets of ice for skating. He noted that the project could be added back into the CIP, but the cost for a refrigerated sheet of ice may be over \$1,000,000.

Councilmember Buscher stated that, as someone who has played hockey, she would appreciate that type of amenity in the community and stated that perhaps that would increase the interest from the community in outdoor skating.

Commissioner Bennett recognized that the outdoor skating numbers have continued to decrease, but perhaps that project would be something they could think about for the future. He stated that he does like the idea of an asphalt layer under the ice, as that could also provide a smoother opportunity under the ice and an opportunity for summer use with rollerblades, or even overflow parking.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that the project could be added to the CIP for a future year as more of a placeholder concept. He stated that they will be looking to pave one or both rinks as the paving would assist in the creation of the ice and provide an additional use in the summer months. He noted that the warmer falls and earlier springs have shortened the outdoor rink usability, as have occasionally warm days that have happened, which have melted the ice in January. He commented that refrigeration of a sheet of ice would assist in a full season of outdoor ice.

Commissioner Barten commented that he would not be interested in adding the Alpine Park facility back to the list at this time because of the significant drop in skaters they have seen in the seven years he has been on the Commission. He stated that there would be valid points in exploring some options that could extend the outdoor skating season, such as the use of asphalt and perhaps gaining more information on the potential cost for refrigeration of a sheet of ice.

Commissioner Bennett asked for more information on the year the hockey rinks were earmarked for within the CIP.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that the project is identified for 2026, but recognized that would not necessarily mean the project would be completed in time for the 2026-27 season. He stated that a statement could be added to the project already within the CIP to state that there will be an exploration of the cost for refrigeration of a sheet of ice.

Commissioner Bennett agreed with that approach, noting that the Commission can then discuss the feasibility and cost at a future time, which will help guide that project.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to recommend adoption of the 2026 – 2035 Parks Capital Improvement Plan with the additional language as discussed relating to the outdoor sheet of ice project.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Ealain; Commissioners Bennett, Barten, Anderson, and Arts. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner Olson.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

6.01: Recreation Update

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood encouraged residents and Commission members to sign up for the parks and recreation monthly newsletter. He highlighted the upcoming community tree lighting event and noted other events and programming opportunities can be found within the newsletter.

Commissioner Arts asked if there was a recap available from the Happy Days event. He noted that he participated in the 5K, which was well attended, and volunteered at other events during the day.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that staff provided that update to the City Council earlier this week, and the recording from that meeting can be found on the website. He confirmed that there had been increased participation in the event.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Arts, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Ealain; Commissioners Bennett, Arts, Anderson, and Barten.
Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioner Olson.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

Park and Recreation Commission**Meeting Date:** 01/08/2026**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Identify and implement operational efficiencies, cost savings and additional funding sources.**Information****Title:**

Community Development Block Grant Funding for The Waterfront

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to acknowledge the intent to apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for The Waterfront in January 2026. CDBG funds are allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG program public facility and neighborhood infrastructure funds are made available for physical improvements in Anoka County—and the county distributes funds annually to local communities and non-profits through a competitive application process. **The attached 2026 Program Year Application Guide provides 13 pages of additional detail** that is not repeated within this case text.

Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:

The proposed project for the CDBG funding would be for a 'T'-dock at The Waterfront, together with two paddle boats, at an estimated value of \$102k for the floating dock, and another \$15k for the boats. The match for the grant may be approximately \$17k for two kayaks, life vests, paddles, basic fishing equipment, lockers and an ADA compliant path down the bank to the T-dock. These items may be funded by the Park Trust Fund.

One of the stipulations in applying for the competitive CDBG program is a Resolution from the local unit of government assuring that the project, if awarded, would meet the terms of the Federal funding. This Resolution is expected to be approved by City Council at their January 13th regular meeting. This project's parameters and costs are under development and more information will be available for the meeting.

Funding Source:

This case acknowledges the intent to apply for CDBG funding, which would include an identified match of in-kind dollars and *approximately* 15% of the project's hard-costs from the Park Trust Fund.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends supporting the CDBG application for funding.

Outcome/Action:

Motion to recommend City Council approve the application to Anoka County for Community Development Block Grant Public Service funding, for improvements at The Waterfront.

Attachments

CDBG application guide
proposed dock dimensions

Form Review

Inbox
Bruce Westby

Reviewed By
Mariah Albrecht

Date
01/02/2026 01:30 PM

Brian Hagen

Mariah Albrecht

01/02/2026 01:32 PM

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Started On: 12/31/2025 10:11 AM

Final Approval Date: 01/02/2026



2026 Program Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facility and Neighborhood Infrastructure Application Guide

About this Application Guide:

This Application Guide is designed to assist eligible organizations in completing the CDBG/HOME Project Application. Included in the guide is an outline of the application process along with instructions on completion of the application.

Anoka County Community Development Department
www.anokacounty.us/cd

General Information:

Introduction

CDBG funds are allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This Application Guide will guide you through the process of applying for CDBG public facility and neighborhood infrastructure funds.

The CDBG program public facility and neighborhood infrastructure funds are made available for physical improvements in Anoka County. As an entitlement county, Anoka County distributes funds annually to local communities and non-profits through a competitive application process.

The annual application process begins with the completion of the application. Applications are then reviewed by Community Development staff for project and applicant eligibility. The Community Development staff provides a funding recommendation to the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board of Trustees for final approval.

If awarded a contract, all reimbursement requests **MUST** be submitted to Anoka County Community Development no later than contract end date or the balance of funds will be recaptured.

Submitting an Application

Applications will be submitted thru the County's application portal Neighborly. Applications must be 100% completed as well as provide all supporting documentation to be considered. Anoka County Community Development will NOT allow paper submissions or submissions via fax or email.

Applications are used to determine project eligibility and, if awarded funds, ~~it~~ will also be used for HUD reporting, performance measurement requirements, and monitoring.

The application must be submitted by 3 pm on Thursday, January 29, 2026. Applicant shall submit thru the Neighborly portal, which is accessible via the Anoka County Community Development website at www.AnokaCounty.us/cd.

Timeline

Applications must be completed and submitted no later than 3 PM on Thursday, January 29, 2026.
Submit ONE completed application per project/activity thru the Neighborly Portal.

Application Schedule

****Schedule subject to change as needed****

December 12, 2025	Application portal (Neighborly Online Application Portal) opens for submissions at 8:00am.
December 17, 2025	In-person Application meeting 10:30am to 12:00pm at the Anoka County Rum River Library. 4201 6 th Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303
Jan. 29, 2026	Application portal (Neighborly Online Application Portal) closes for submissions at 3:00 pm.
March 10, 2026	Anoka County HRA Management Committee review of projects/activities.
April 10, 2026 – May 11, 2026	30-day public comment period on recommended CDBG projects/activities – to be published in <i>Anoka County Union</i> .
April 28, 2026	Anoka County HRA public hearing.
May 12, 2026	County Board approval of 2026 Action Plan.
May 2025	Applicants receiving funding need to submit a copy of their financial audit, management and compliance report, current certificate of liability insurance, waiver of subrogation, and UEI number to the Community Development Department.
May/June 2026	Funding Agreements are circulated to all parties for signing. Agreements will not be sent until the financial and insurance documents noted above have been received by the Community Development Department. Environmental Review completed.
July 1, 2026	Program year begins. Project expenses cannot be incurred or reimbursed until HUD approves the Anoka County Action Plan and releases the funds historically sometime between July and October.

Application Instructions

Read instructions carefully. If you have questions that cannot be answered in this Application Guide, contact Josh Beck at 763-324-4603 or email josh.beck@anokacountymn.gov ; or Tonja West-Hafner at 763-324-4615, tonja.west-hafner@anokacountymn.gov .

Space has been provided for your answers to questions in the fillable application. Note the character limits, you will not be allowed exceed the space provided. Answers should be brief and to the point, the use of bullet points is encouraged. If Anoka County Community Development staff has additional questions, the contact person listed will be notified.

Organization Summary

Provide basic details on the organization. All questions must be completed, or your application will not be reviewed. If the question is not applicable to your organization, list N/A for your response.

Project Description

Please provide a summary of the proposed activity, including the specific work it will accomplish. Describe the identified need within the community that makes this project necessary. Be sure to address the following:

- **Target Population:** Who will benefit from this project?
- **Activities and Expenses:** What specific activities will be carried out, and how will the funding be used?
- **Timeline:** What is the anticipated timeline for implementation and completion?

Please ensure that all components of the question are thoroughly addressed in your response.

Budget

This section provides a comprehensive overview of the program's budget, detailing anticipated revenues and expenditures necessary to support successful implementation. It outlines key funding sources, allocation of resources across program components, and identifies any gaps or areas requiring additional support. All questions have been thoroughly addressed to ensure transparency, fiscal responsibility, and alignment with program goals.

Budget Narrative

Applicants must complete and submit the Budget section as part of the funding application. This worksheet should clearly outline all projected expenses associated with the proposed project. If the project includes leveraged funds, please ensure that the source of each contribution is identified in the designated section of the worksheet. All budget calculations must be accurate and clearly presented, as they will be reviewed for completeness and correctness during the evaluation process.

Please use the Budget Narrative section to provide a detailed explanation of your proposed project budget and all associated funding sources. Each line item listed in the Budget Worksheet must be clearly described, including the purpose of the expense, how the cost was determined, and its relevance to the overall project goals. Your narrative should demonstrate that all proposed expenditures are reasonable, necessary, and eligible under the funding guidelines.

Additionally, for any leveraged funding, please specify the source, amount, and current status (e.g., secured,

pending, or in-kind). This information is essential to assess the financial viability and sustainability of your project.

Use of Contractors and Consultants

In compliance with federal regulations, all contracts associated with this project are subject to review against the Federal Debarment and Suspension Lists, as well as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Limited Denial of Participation (LDP) List. To ensure timely compliance with these requirements, Anoka County offers assistance in conducting these reviews on behalf of the proposed project. Applicants must provide the name of each contractor and the legal name of the business owner to facilitate this process. Prompt submission of this information will help ensure that all federal eligibility standards are met without delay, allowing the project to proceed on schedule.

Federal Wage Law Compliance

All construction and rehabilitation activities funded through this project are subject to federal prevailing wage requirements. In accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, laborers and mechanics employed on these projects must be compensated at rates no less than the prevailing wages and fringe benefits established by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The applicable wage rates are outlined in the most current Davis-Bacon Wage Decision, which includes minimum base wages and required fringe benefits for various trade classifications. Compliance with these wage determinations is mandatory and will be monitored throughout the duration of the project to ensure adherence to federal labor standards.

Benefit to Low- and Moderate-Income People (National Objective)

If applying for CDBG funding, complete this section and fully answer all questions.

A CDBG-funded activity meeting the Low/Mod National Objective must qualify under one of HUD's Low/Mod populations. L/M income is defined as a family or individual whose income is not more than 80% of the median income of an area as defined by HUD:

L/M Income Limited Clientele (LMC) - An activity that meets the L/M income national objective on a limited clientele basis must provide benefits to a specific population of whom at least 51% are L/M income persons.

L/M Income Area Benefit (LMA) - An activity that meets the L/M area basis must demonstrate that it is available to all the residents in a primary residential area. At least 51% of the residents in the area must be L/M income persons. The area served by an activity must be clearly defined by survey or by census information that documents compliance with the 51% requirement. All surveys are required to be HUD approved. Examples of typical Area Benefit activities are street improvements, water and sewer lines, and neighborhood facilities. **(Current Maps are attached.)**

L/M Income Housing (LMH) - An activity that meets L/M housing must demonstrate that the housing is occupied by L/M income persons. If more than a single unit structure, at least 51% of the households must be L/M income persons (the single unit household must be L/M income). Note: CDBG funds cannot be used for new construction.

Slum/Blight Removal (National Objective)

Verification must be made to assure that Slum/Blight activities meet the national objective within the following categories:

1. **Elimination of Slums and Blight Area Basis (SBA)** - an activity considered to address the prevention or elimination of slums or blight under the following (all inclusive) conditions:
 - a. The delineated area must meet the definition of slum, blighted, deteriorated or deteriorating under state or local law. This can be met if the area is defined as “redevelopment” or “renewal” under Minnesota’s tax increment statutes as the use of property condition surveys under current TIF laws will work well for this purpose.
 - b. Documentation must demonstrate that a substantial number of the area’s structures or public improvements are in a general state of deterioration.
 - c. Documentation must be maintained by the recipient on the boundaries of the area and the condition which qualified the area at the time of its designation.
 - d. The CDBG-funded activity must address one or more of the conditions that contributed to the deterioration of the area.

2. **Elimination of Slums and Blight Spot Basis (SBS)** - Acquisition, clearance, relocation, historic preservation and building rehabilitation activities, all of which eliminate a specific condition of blight or physical decay, can be considered to meet this objective under Spot Basis. Rehabilitation is limited to the extent necessary to eliminate specific conditions detrimental to public health and safety. The recipient should undertake the following steps to meet this objective:
 - a. Determine what specific conditions of a building contribute to a detriment to public health and safety. Typically, this includes a building official’s written report identifying a building code violation.
 - b. Connect the CDBG funds directly to the work necessary to correct the building code violation. If the total rehabilitation project goes beyond the specific code violations, then other funds must be used for that construction work.
 - c. It is possible to use CDBG funds for building rehabilitation work that is part of historic preservation rather than public health and safety. The building must either be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or located within a certified Historic District.

If the project application is requesting assistance for Slum/Blight Removal, complete this section and fully answer all questions.

Conflict of Interest

No person may financially benefit from a CDBG program/activity that has exercised any function or responsibility within. This includes any person who participates in decision-making or obtains inside information with regard to such activities, or has an interest in any contract, subcontract, or agreement. A person who obtains proceeds, either for themselves or those with whom they have family or business ties, is considered a conflict of interest. HUD’s regulations regarding conflict of interest are found in 24 CFR Part 570.611 and 2 CFR Part 200.

Each applicant must disclose if there are Anoka County Commissioners, Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Trustees, or Anoka County staff on the applicant’s decision-making board.

The applicant must also disclose board members that may benefit or participate in the services you provide with possible financial gain. If the applicant answers, “yes” to any of the questions in this section, the information needs to be identified and any necessary steps will be taken to satisfy federal requirements.

Documentation

Documents listed in the application as “required to be attached” must be attached with the submission of the application. If they are not attached, your application is not complete and will not be considered for funding.

Certification / UEI Number

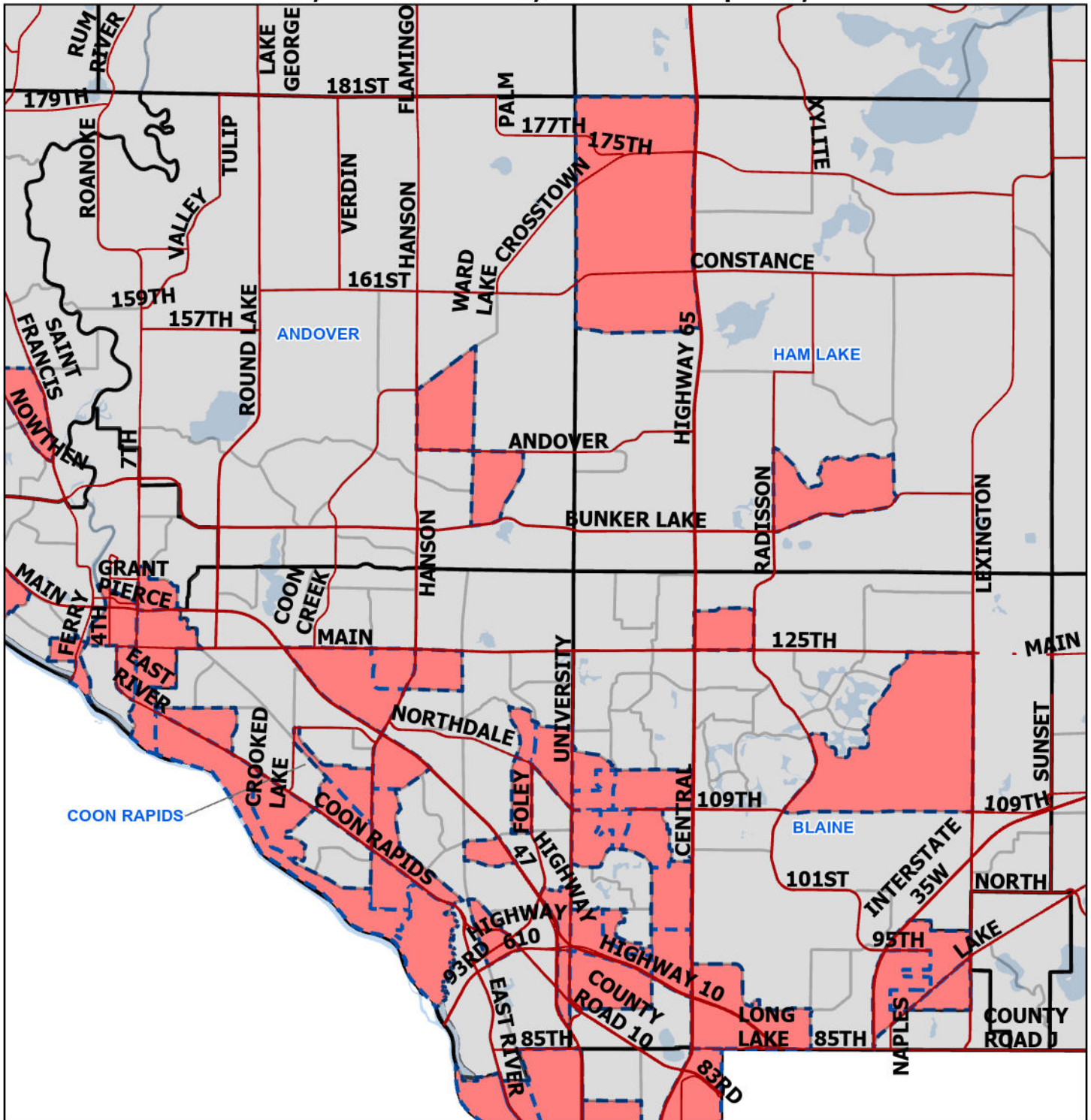
All sections of the application must be completed and submitted with an original signature as the certifying authority. The UEI number is required upon the finalization of the sub-recipient agreement if your program/activity is selected for funding. If your organization/agency already has a UEI number, please provide it in the application. The UEI numbers need to be renewed annually and be checked for public view. To obtain or looking up a UEI number, visit www.Sam.gov .


Attachment #1


**Anoka County
Low- to Moderate Income
Census Block Groups**

Low to Moderate Income Block Groups

- Andover, Ham Lake, Coon Rapids, Blaine



 Groups More Than 51% Low to Moderate Income

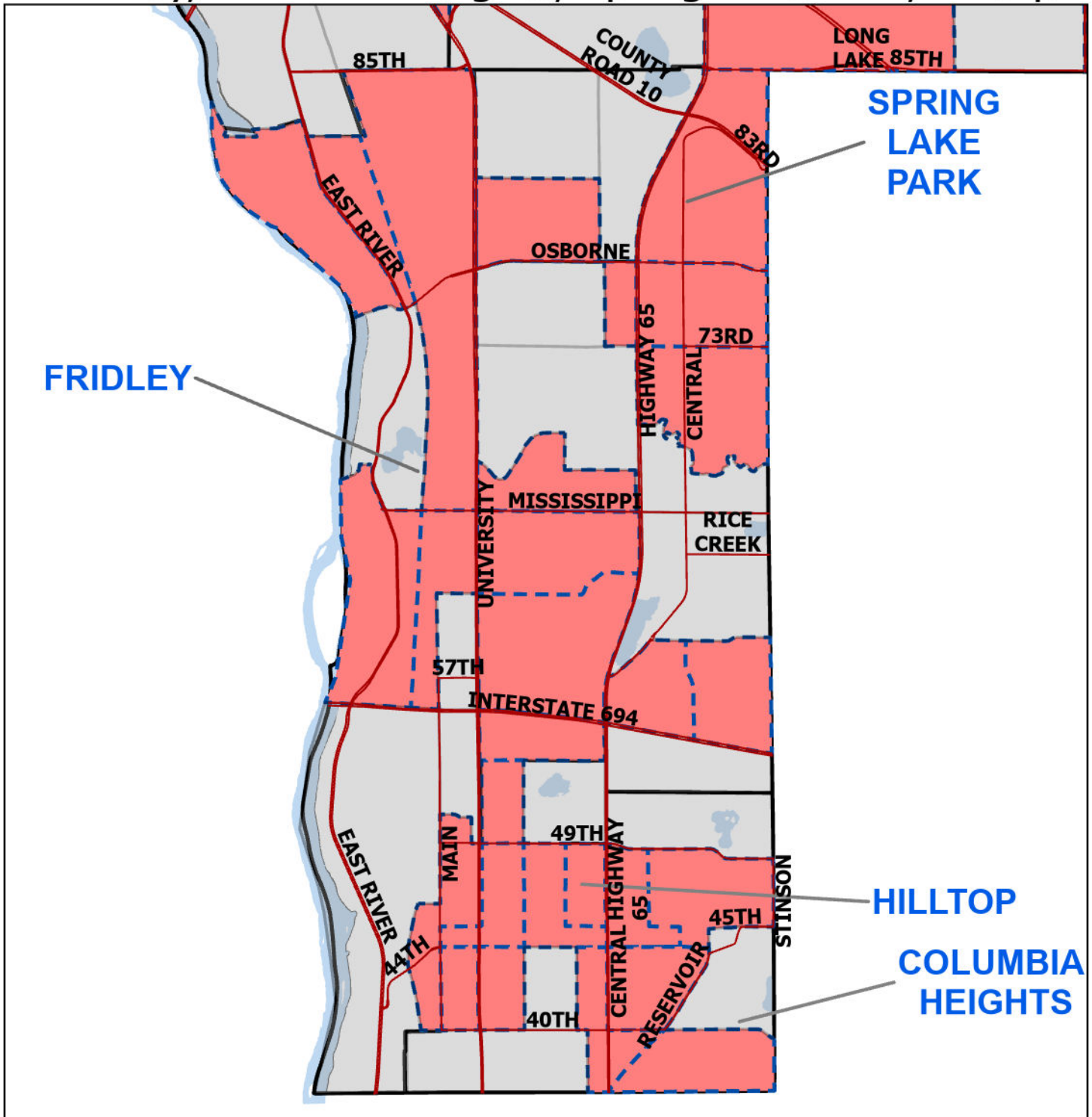
 Groups Less Than 51% Low to Moderate Income

 Community Boundaries



Low to Moderate Income Block Groups

- Fridley, Columbia Heights, Spring Lake Park, Hilltop



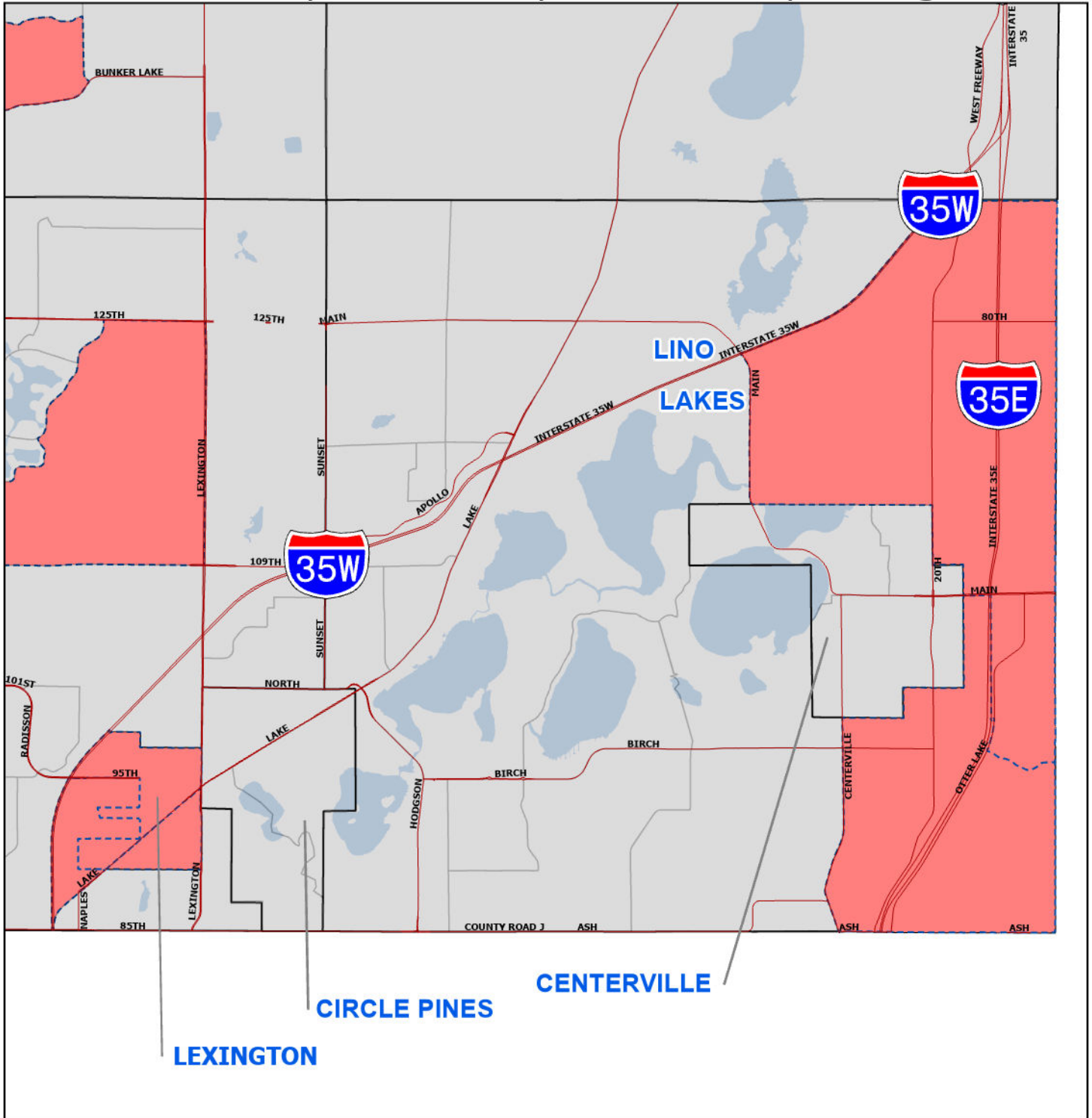
- Groups More Than 51% Low to Moderate Income
- Groups Less Than 51% Low to Moderate Income
- Community Boundaries






Anoka County GIS Department Disclaimer:
 This is a compilation of records as they appear in the Anoka County Offices affecting the area shown. This drawing is to be used for reference purposes only and the County is not responsible for any inaccuracies contained herein.

Low to Moderate Income Block Groups

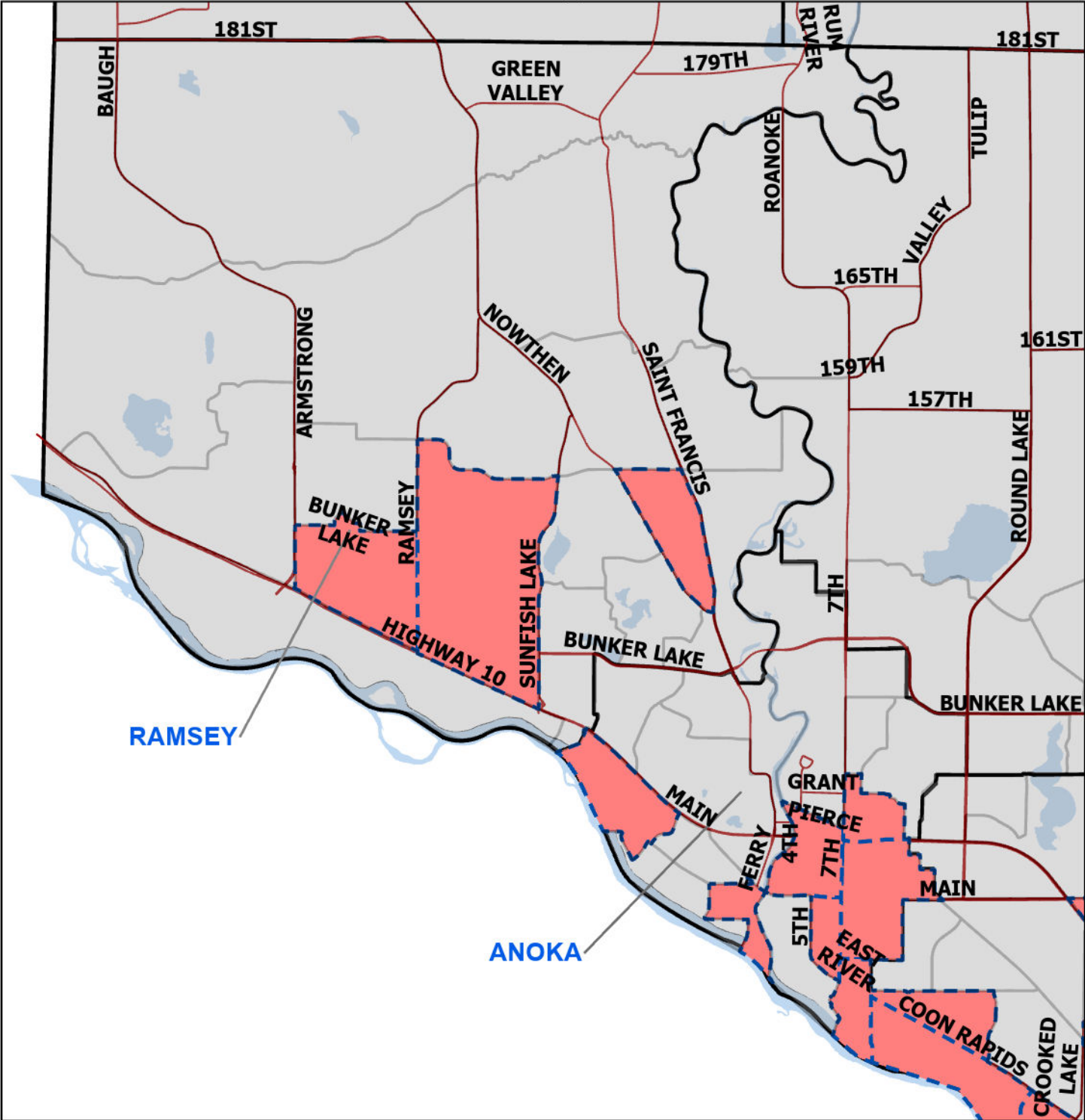
- Lino Lakes, Centerville, Circle Pines, Lexington



-  Groups More Than 51% Low to Moderate Income
-  Groups Less Than 51% Low to Moderate Income
-  Community Boundaries



Low to Moderate Income Block Groups - Ramsey, Anoka



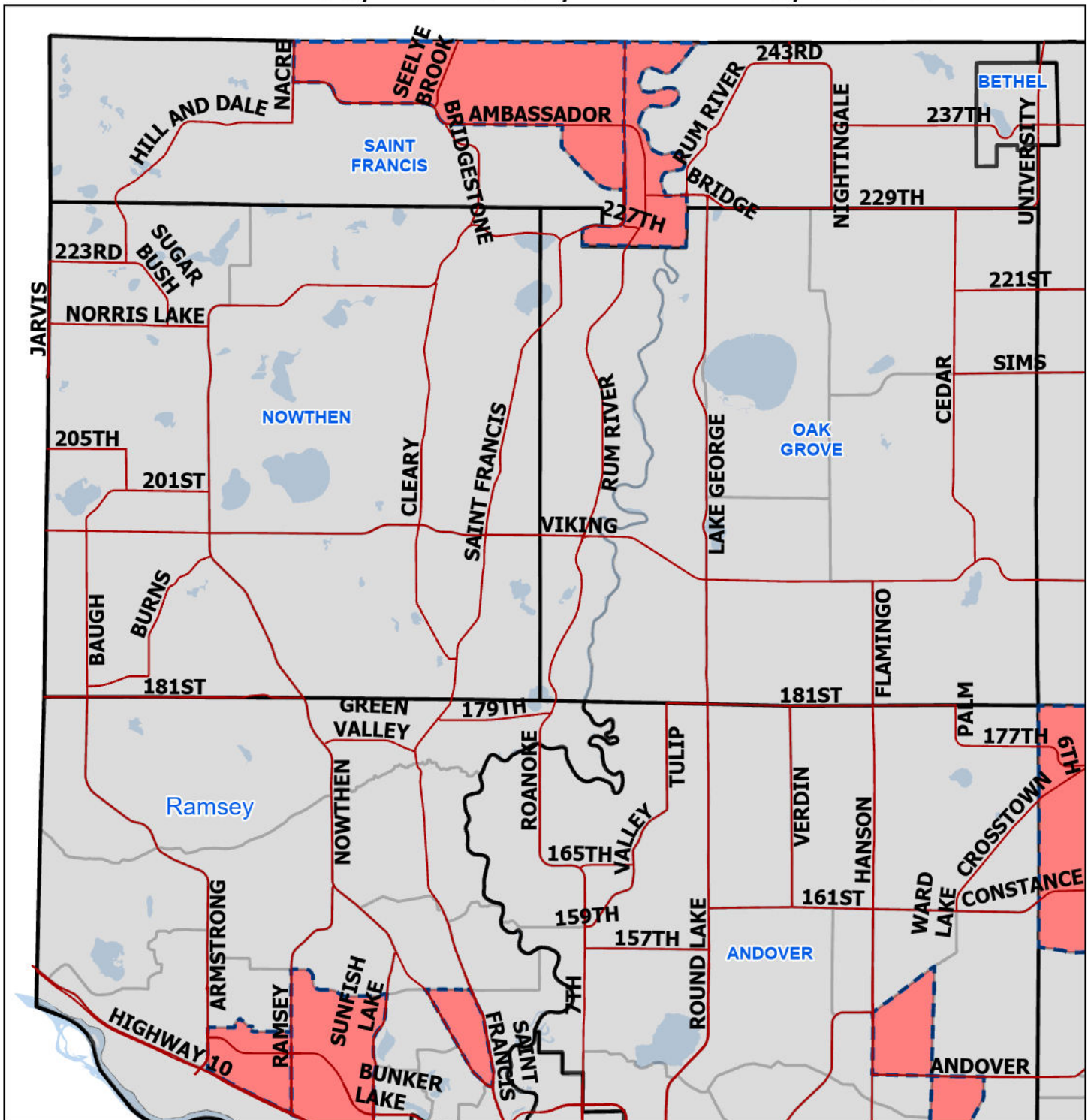
- Groups More Than 51% Low to Moderate Income
- Groups Less Than 51% Low to Moderate Income
- Community Boundaries



Anoka County
MINNESOTA
Respectful. Innovative. Fiscally Responsible.

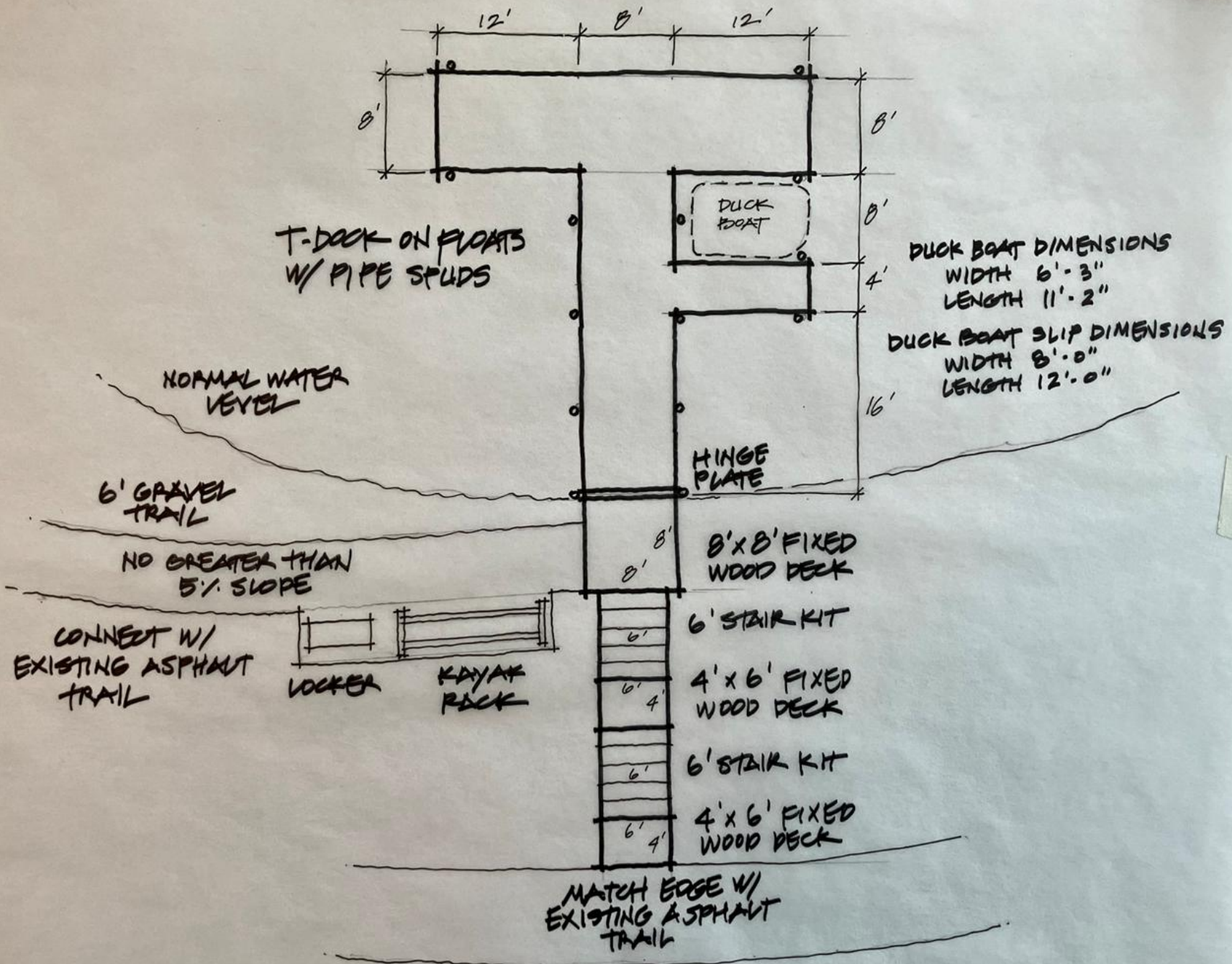
This is a compilation of records as they appear in the Geographic Information Systems affecting the area shown. This drawing is to be used only for reference and the County is not responsible for any inaccuracies contained herein.

Low to Moderate Income Block Groups - St. Francis, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Bethel



- Groups More Than 51% Low to Moderate Income
- Groups Less Than 51% Low to Moderate Income
- Community Boundaries





Park and Recreation Commission**Meeting Date:** 01/08/2026**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Address infrastructure needs.**Information****Title:**

Playground Replacement Program 2026 — Riverdale Park

Purpose/Background:

Late in 2021, City Council approved the Playground Replacement Policy which informs the city on which playgrounds are to be replaced and when. In 2022, the city removed two small antiquated play structures that did not merit replacement, and refurbished the playgrounds at both Peltzer and Rabbit Park's pursuant to the policy and plan. Between 2023 and 2024 the playground at River's Bend was refurbished and Alpine Park's was replaced and greatly expanded. In 2025 Central Park was also replaced with a significant expansion in scope and play components.

In summary, the city remains on track in replacing one playground each year, consistent with the policy. As part of the approval of the 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Plan, the *estimated* cost of the annual playground replacements rose from \$100k to an estimated \$125k. This target amount may be enough for the 2026 replacement of the playground at Riverdale Park.

Notification:

The Public Hearing on the 2026-2035 city-wide Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) conducted in December 2025, included the 2026 playground replacement this case discusses.

Time Frame/Observations/Alternatives:

As the 2026 CIP project pages outlines, each of the playgrounds at Solstice, Flintwood Terrace and Riverdale Parks are 'due' for replacement. Staff conducted an analysis and comparisons of all three, and found that Flintwood Terrace and Riverdale Park merit replacement more so than Solstice Park. Based upon a significant number of playground patrons at Riverdale Park over Flintwood Terrace, staff is recommending focusing on Riverdale Park this year, with Flintwood Terrace likely the replacement subject for 2027.

If the Commission supports the above, staff will continue with the development of a Request for Proposals, with the goal of bringing back options for consideration.

Funding Source:

Pursuant to the Playground Replacement Policy, funding for playground refurbishment and replacements would be from the Lawful Gambling Fund.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends proceeding with the replacement of Riverdale Park's playground in 2026.

Outcome/Action:

By motion or consensus, acknowledge that Riverdale Park is the subject of the 2026 playground replacement project.

Attachments

2026 CIP

Playground finder map

Form Review

Inbox

Bruce Westby

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Final Approval Date: 01/02/2026

Reviewed By

Mariah Albrecht

Mariah Albrecht

Date

01/02/2026 01:31 PM

01/02/2026 01:32 PM

Started On: 12/22/2025 11:07 AM

2026 thru 2035

Capital Improvement Plan Ramsey, MN

Project # 22-PARK-001
Project Name Playground Replacement Program

Total Project Cost	\$1,025,000	Department	Park Improvements
Type	Equipment	Category	Park Improvement
Priority	1-Existing Obligation (High)	Status	Active
Useful Life	20 years		

Description

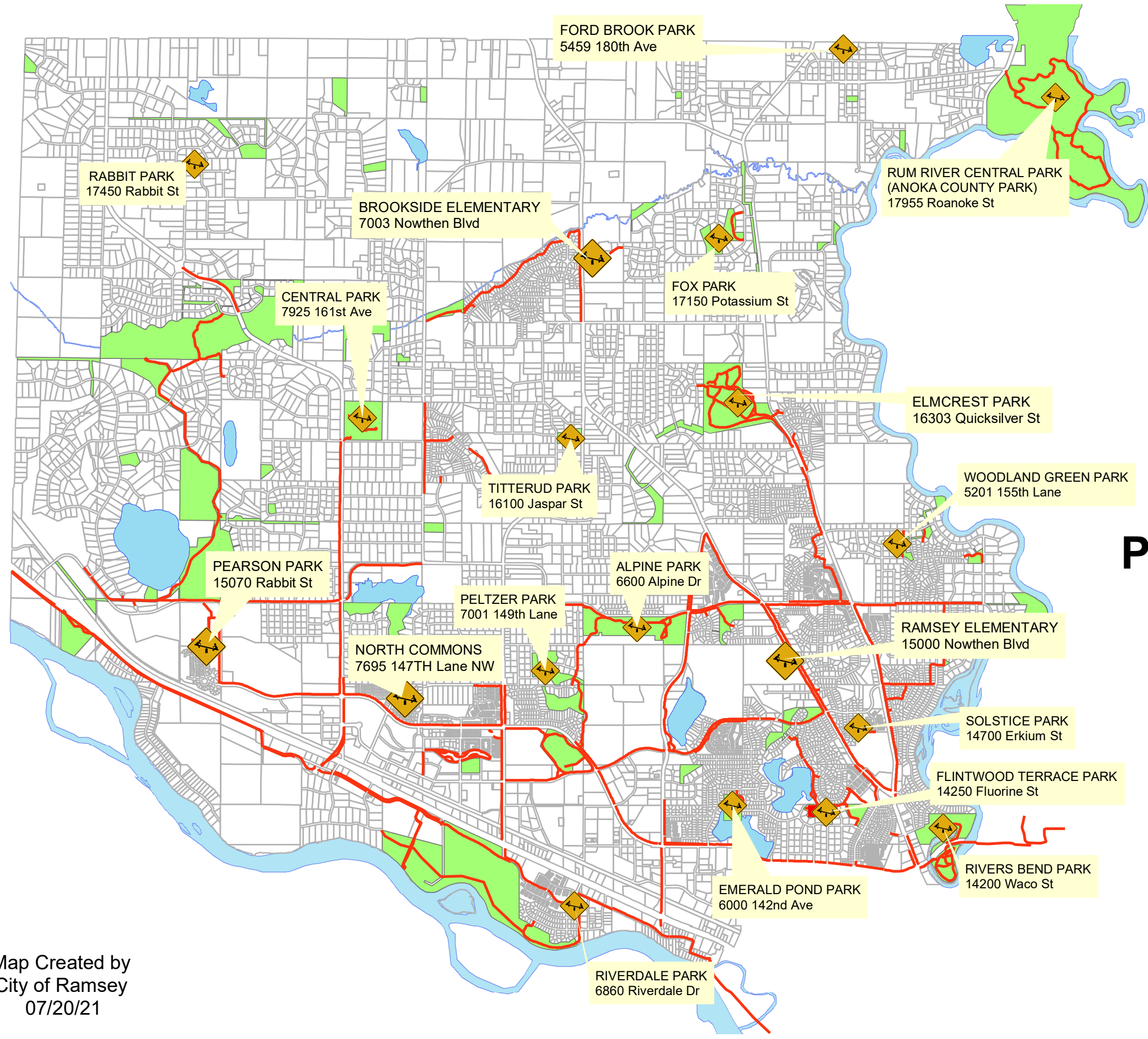
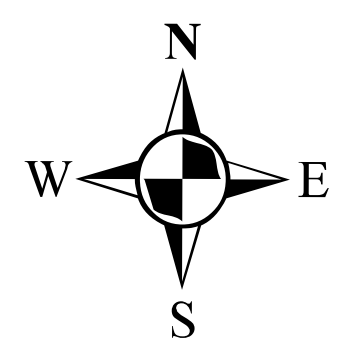
Consistent with the Playground Replacement Policy, this project worksheet reflects the anticipated replacement of a playground and associated park rejuvenation each year of the CIP. The aforementioned policy document forecasts the next three playgrounds for consideration as: Flintwood Terrace, Solstice Park and Riverdale.

Justification

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, subsequent CIP's can be expected to 'pick-up' where this plan ends.

Prior	Expenditures	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	Total
400,000	Improvements Other than Building Cost	125,000	125,000	125,000	0	0	0	125,000	0	125,000	0	625,000
	Total	125,000	125,000	125,000	0	0	0	125,000	0	125,000	0	625,000

Prior	Funding Sources	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	Total
400,000	Lawful Gambling Fund	125,000	125,000	125,000	0	0	0	125,000	0	125,000	0	625,000
	Total	125,000	125,000	125,000	0	0	0	125,000	0	125,000	0	625,000



Playground Finder Map

Legend

Play Equipment



Trails

Parks

Lakes & Ponds

Ideas? Questions?
CITY OF RAMSEY
763-433-9883

Map Created by
City of Ramsey
07/20/21

Park and Recreation Commission**Meeting Date:** 01/08/2026**Primary Strategic Plan Initiative:** Connect the community through Parks, Trails and Recreational Programming.**Information****Title:**

2025 Program Review + 2026 Upcoming Programs

Purpose/Background:

Ramsey Parks and Recreation has expanded and strengthened its recreation program offerings over the past several years. The purpose of this agenda item is for staff to provide the Commission with an update on program growth, participation trends, and key highlights, as well as a preview of what is planned for 2026. Staff will present this update during the meeting.

In addition, staff launched an informal Recreation e-Newsletter in late 2023 to improve communication and connection with residents. Subscriber numbers have steadily increased since its creation. As of the end of 2025, the newsletter has just over 425 subscribers.

The most recent E-Newsletter can be viewed below:

Hello all,

Happy New Year! Ramsey Parks and Recreation had so much fun in the community this year. In 2025, we offered **126 sessions across 37 unique programs, welcoming more than 12,000 participants.**

We also like to understand the total impact of recreation in the community instead of just the total number of programs we offer. Recreation Experience Hours reflect the total time residents spend participating in our programs. By that measure, **for every one hour we programmed, it created about 103 hours of recreation experiences in the community.** We are so proud of the impact we have had and hope to continue connecting the community through parks through 2026! With that, we have a **BIG ANNOUNCEMENT** for next year – **we're getting a Farmer's Market!** See below for more information.

On a personal note, I would like to sincerely thank you for allowing me to have one of the best jobs in the world. Over the past year, I have been able to witness so many meaningful moments in our community, from people running their very first race ever at the Dash and Dine 5K or Happy Days 5K, to friends making time to reconnect each week at the Concert Series, to kids of all abilities playing at the new Central Park playground, talented youth artists selling their work for the very first time at the art fair, and all of the new friendships made throughout programs. Moments like these are exactly why I came into parks and recreation. Parks and Recreation create space and opportunities for people to try something new, build healthy habits, express creativity, and connect with others in meaningful ways. I am incredibly grateful to do this work near where I grew up and to be part of the Ramsey Community! Cheers to another year of fun ahead!

This newsletter provides an overview of some of our upcoming programs and events. Use the links below to explore additional offerings:

- [View our full current program listings on our registration page here.](#)
- [Learn more about parks, rentals, and general Parks and Recreation information here.](#)

Upcoming Programs:

[Annual Photo Contest](#) – deadline TONIGHT at midnight!

Did you know the City of Ramsey hosts an annual Photo Contest as a way to celebrate what our community members love most about our city? This contest is a great chance to showcase your photography skills, get creative, and explore three different adult categories, along with a youth category. Prizes are awarded to the top entries in each category. For full [details on entry, visit our website here](#).

- **Registration:** Contest closes on Wednesday, December 31 at 11:59 p.m.
- **You do NOT have to be a progression photographer to enter! Ramsey Parks and Recreation staff LOVE seeing how you all capture Ramsey. We love to highlight these photos as much as we can from City publications, to kiosks, and even in our Puzzle Competition!**

[Line Dancing](#)

Line Dancing is back! Each week you'll learn a new dance and do a quick review of previous ones. All ages and experience levels are welcome—no partner required. Two four-week sessions will be offered this winter.

- **Dates:**
 - Session 1: Wednesdays, Jan. 14 – Feb. 4 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Central Park
 - Session 2: Wednesdays, Feb. 18 – March 11 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Central Park
- **Cost:** \$35/session
- **Registration:** Pre-registration is required. Registration is open until full.

NEW: [Once Upon a Parenting: Stories for kids, insights for parents](#)

Join us for a parent-child storytime with Anoka-Hennepin ECFE (PreK–Grade 3). Kids enjoy books and crafts while parents learn practical strategies to support growth, emotional well-being, and problem-solving with a parenting educator.

- **Date:** Thursday, January 22 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Ramsey City Hall
- **Cost:** FREE
- **Registration:** Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to reserve your spot. Only one registration needed per family. Capacity is limited to 15 families.
- **Ages:** Geared toward ages 3-8 with their caregivers, but all ages are welcome. Parents may also attend without children.

[Puzzle Competition](#)

Join us for a family-friendly speed puzzling challenge. Teams of up to four compete to complete a 500-piece puzzle featuring Ramsey photo contest images.

- **Date:** Thursday, January 29 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Ramsey City Hall
- **Cost:** \$40/team
- **Registration:** Pre-register by Tuesday, Jan. 20 to guarantee your spot (only one registration needed per team).

[Frost Fest](#)

Experience the magic of winter at our third annual Frost Fest! This family-friendly event features snow activities (weather pending) and a luminary skate when the sun sets. This year, the Rumriver Art Center is hosting the Chili Cook-off inside the warming house. Attendees can sample all of the chilis for \$5 and vote for their favorite. Half of the proceeds will go to the winning chef(s), and the remaining half will be donated to the Rumriver Art Center.

- **Date:** Saturday, February 7 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Central Park
- **Cost:** FREE to attend, FREE to enter the Chili Cook-off, \$5 to sample Chili.
- **Registration:** Pre-registration is required for the Chili Cook-off and limited to 15 entrants.
 - **Sign up today!** We are looking for more Chili Competitors!

[Wednesday Evening Yoga](#)

Weekly Yoga is back at the Public Works building in 2026!

- **Dates:** Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Public Works
- **Cost:** \$5/session
- **Registration:** Pre-register prior to arrival at the class.

- **Ages:** 13+

[Qigong Meditation for Health](#)

Qigong (chee gong) is a holistic system of exercise that aims to strengthen, stretch, balance, and coordinate the body. It is deceptively simple yet can be profoundly healing. Instructor Peggy Brown leads a free weekly practice at City Hall.

- **Dates:** Thursdays from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Alexander Ramsey Room at City Hall
- **Cost:** FREE
- **Ages:** Youth under 16 must be accompanied by an adult in the class.

[Save the Date:](#)

Mark your calendars for some community favorites returning in 2026! Additional details will be released as the events approach.

[Egg-Paw-Looza](#)

Our annual “Easter Egg” hunt for dogs is back and better than ever! We’ll have plenty of colorful tennis balls scattered around the park for your dog to sniff out and play. This year we are opening up applications for dog-related vendors to attend the event.

- **Date:** Saturday, April 4 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Alpine Dog Park
- **Cost:** FREE
- **New this year:** Dog-related vendors are invited to attend!

Garage Sale Trail

Meet your neighbors, find bargains, and rummage through miscellaneous treasures at the second annual City-wide Garage Sale! To participate and have your house listed, please sign up here. A final map and list of all registered garage sales will be published the week of the garage sale.

- **Dates:** Thursday, May 14 – Saturday, May 16
- **Cost:** FREE

NW Food Truck Fests

Ramsey Parks and Recreation is excited to host a NW Food Truck Fest again this year!

- **Dates:** Saturday, June 20 from noon – 7 p.m. at Central Park
- **Cost:** FREE to attend

Dash and Dine 5K

The Dash and Dine 5k is returning for a second year! We are excited to add some additional partnerships and elements to the race.

- **Date:** Saturday, May 30 at Elmcrest Park.
- **Cost:** Varies; watch for an early bird special in early 2026!

[Two Rivers Art Fair](#)

After a record-breaking year with a full booth lineup and waitlist, Two Rivers Art Fair returns to The Draw with live performances, food trucks, hands-on art, local vendors, and more!

- **Date:** Saturday, July 18 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at The Draw.
- **Cost:** FREE to attend. Vendor costs and updated application process TBA.

[Happy Days](#)

Join us for the fun. There is something for everyone. The day starts with the 5K and a fun run at Elmcrest Park. The parade, expo, food trucks, kids' activities, musical entertainment, fireworks, and more

- **Date:** Saturday, September 12 from 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- **Cost:** FREE to attend. Some events have a fee.
- **Vendor Applications will begin to open on Jan 1.** Check our website for more details or [go directly to registration here.](#)

NEW: [Ramsey Farmer’s Market](#)

That’s right! We are officially getting a Farmer’s Market back in Ramsey! This new Market will be hosted in partnership with the Ramsey Foundation and will kick off this summer on **Tuesdays from 3–6:30 p.m., June 23 through October 6, at The Draw.**

Our goal is to be a “producer-first” market that prioritizes supports our small farmers, and promotes healthy, local eating. We also know how important our small business community is, so we will also include limited artisan and craft vendors and have a Ramsey Business Partnership program to support the market and showcase all that we have going on right here in Ramsey. At the end of the day, we want this market to both be a place to get healthy produce as well as a spot to run into neighbors, support local, and spend time together in the heart of Ramsey.

For the market to be a success, we need YOU! Keep an eye on the City website and social media as we begin looking for growers, limited artisans, and local business and community partners for our first season. Share the news, come out with friends and family, and help us build something in Ramsey, for Ramsey.

I hope you have had a wonderful Holiday season and are off for a great New Year's! As always, my inbox is open for your feedback or ideas to best serve Ramsey.

Best,

Abby Proulx
Recreation Coordinator
 763-433-9883 | Office
 763-219-5895 | Cell
AProulx@cityoframsey.com
www.cityoframsey.com
 14199 Jasper St. | Ramsey, MN 55303

Recommendation:

Review 2025 recreation program outcomes and the preliminary 2026 program outlook.

Outcome/Action:

Review 2025 recreation program outcomes and the preliminary 2026 program outlook.

Attachments

- Yoga
- Once Upon a Parenting
- Puzzle Competition
- Frost Fest

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
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Mark Riverblood

Bruce Westby

Brian Hagen

Form Started By: Abby Proulx

Final Approval Date: 01/02/2026

Mark Riverblood

Mariah Albrecht

Mariah Albrecht

12/31/2025 11:14 AM

01/02/2026 01:30 PM

01/02/2026 01:32 PM

Started On: 12/31/2025 09:57 AM



WEEKLY GENTLE YOGA



Immerse yourself in mindful movement and connect to your breath in an hour-long Gentle Movement session. Christina, our yoga instructor, will guide you through a series of poses and breath-work that revitalize both the mind and body.

All levels are welcome. No experience is necessary. Bring your own yoga mat, water bottle and small towel. Dress comfortably and be prepared to practice barefoot.

Preregistration is required.

Join for just one or all sessions, registration is due prior to arrival to class. Those wishing to withdraw or transfer must do so by noon the day of for a full refund.

In case of inclement weather, a decision will be made around noon the day of via email. Full refunds will be issued upon cancellation by the City.



Wednesdays | 6:00 p.m.

Ramsey Public Works Facility
14199 Jasper Street NW

Ages 13+: Youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult

Cost: \$5 per session



CONTACT

parks@cityoframsey.com or
763-433-9883

REGISTER

cityoframsey.com/parksregister



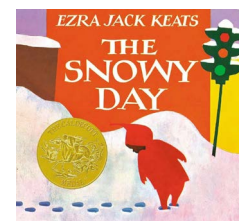
PARKS & RECREATION

ONCE UPON A PARENTING: STORIES FOR KIDS, INSIGHTS FOR PARENTS



Join us for a unique parent-child experience where storytime meets thoughtful discussion with Anoka Hennepin's Early Childhood Family Education's (ECFE) PreK-Grade 3 program. While children enjoy listening to engaging books and creating fun crafts, parents explore practical strategies and insights for nurturing their child's growth and emotional well-being with a focus on teaching and practicing problem solving skills with a parenting educator. Learn, reflect, and leave inspired!

This session features *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats and a winter-themed craft for children.



Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to reserve your spot. Capacity is limited to 15 families.

REGISTER

cityoframsey.com/parksregister

CONTACT

parks@cityoframsey.com
763-433-9883



Thursday, January 22
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

City Hall
7550 Sunwood Dr. NW.

Geared towards ages 3-8 and their caregivers, but all ages welcome. Parents pay also attend without children.

FREE



WINTER PUZZLE COMPETITION



Join us for a family-friendly speed puzzling competition!

Teams of up to four will work together to assemble a picturesque puzzle featuring scenery from one of Ramsey's Photo Contest entries. Participants are given a two-hour time frame to complete their puzzle. The winning teams will receive a prize.

Each team will work on the same 500-piece puzzle they can take home after the event. You are welcome to bring your own snacks to enjoy throughout the event.

Thursday, January 29
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Ramsey Municipal Center
7550 Sunwood Drive NW

\$40 per team

All ages welcome

REGISTER

cityoframsey.com/parksregister

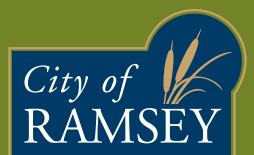
CONTACT

parks@cityoframsey.com
763-433-9883



Pre-registration is required, only one registration per team is needed. Registration requested by Jan. 20 to guarantee your spot.

PARKS AND RECREATION





FROST FEST



Experience the magic of winter at our third annual Frost Fest! This family-friendly event features fun winter activities such as a snow maze, sledding hill, ice skating, and a luminary skate on our skating trail at sunset (all snow and ice activities are weather dependent). Warm up with free hot chocolate with the Ramsey Lions and join the fun as a Chili Cook-Off taster!

For just \$5 from 3:00–6:00 p.m. (or while quantities last), you can sample up to 15 homemade chili recipes and cast your vote. The top recipes will receive cash prizes. New this year, the Chili Cook-Off is partnered with the Rumriver Art Center—half of all tasting fees will be awarded to the winning cooks, and the other half will be donated to support Rumriver Art Center’s programs. Winners will be announced shortly after 6:00 p.m.

DO YOU HAVE A WINNING CHILI RECIPE? ENTER THE CONTEST!

Compete with your favorite 8-quart crockpot chili recipe for a chance to win a cash prize while supporting a great cause.

Registration is free but limited to 15 contestants. Registration is open until midnight on Sunday, February 1 or until full. Contestants are encouraged to stay and enjoy Frost Fest, but are only required for set up from 2-3 p.m. and awards/clean-up from 6-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 7
3:00-7:00 p.m.

Central Park
161st Avenue NW

FREE to attend
\$5 to sample at Chili Cook-Off

Registration required for Chili Cook-off. Must be 18+ years to enter. Entries are limited to 15, register by Sunday, Feb 1.

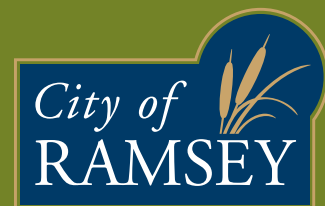
REGISTER



Scan the QR code or visit
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763-433-9883



PARKS AND RECREATION