Parks and Natural Resources Commission Meeting
Agenda
April 5, 2022 | 7 p.m.
Ash North/South Conference Rooms
City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road

Please note: Due to COVID-19, the April 5, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Meeting is taking place virtually and at City Hall in the Ash North and South Conference Rooms. Members of the public may attend the meeting, but will be required to comply with social distancing parameters as determined by the City. Members of the public may also join the meeting using a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device.

Public comments will be accepted during the meeting by using the link to the virtual meeting to join the meeting and then submit your questions via the online Q&A feature within the meeting.

* Please note that all agenda times are estimates.

7:00* 1. Call to Order

7:05 2. Open Forum

7:10 3. Approval of the Minutes – March 1, 2022

7:15 4. Environmental Stewardship Statement of Intent – Memorandum No. 22 - 11

8:15 5. Monthly Update – Memorandum No. 22 - 12


8:25 7. Announcements/Miscellaneous

8:30 8. Adjourn

If a Commission member cannot attend this meeting, please contact Belinda Reed at 651-714-3584 by Monday, April 4, 2022. Thank you.

The City of Woodbury is subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities. The City is committed to full implementation of the Act to our services, programs, and activities. Information regarding the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the City Administrator’s office at 651-714-3500. Auxiliary aids for disabled persons are available upon request at least 72 hours in advance of an event. Please call the ADA Coordinator, at 651-714-3500 (TDD 651-714-3568) to make arrangements.
Minutes of
Parks and Natural Resources Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Commission Members Present: Chair Greta Bjerkness, Arin Kurttila (Co-chair), Bruce Montgomery, Rachel Nelson, Wallace Wadd, Brandon Mersch, Emerson Siefken

Commission Member(s) Absent: Deborah Musser

Commission Member Virtual: Timothy Brewington, II

Councilmember In-person: Councilmember Jennifer Santini

Staff Present: Michelle Okada, Parks and Recreation Director
Sarah Alig, Senior Management Analyst
Jennifer McLoughlin, Senior Environmental Resources Coordinator
Belinda Reed, Recording Secretary

Staff Virtual: Jodi Sauro, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Reed Smidt, Recreation Manager

Call to Order
Chair Bjerkness called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Open Forum
Members of the public were in attendance in-person and virtually.

Action Items
A. February 8, 2022, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Meeting Minutes
Chair Bjerkness asked for the approval of the Minutes of the February 8, 2022, meeting of the Parks and Natural Resources Commission.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Montgomery, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the February 8, 2022, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Minutes.

Vote: In favor All in-person and virtual
Against None
Absent Commissioner Musser
B. Environmental Stewardship Context Overview – Memorandum No. 22 – 09

Ms. Okada highlighted the informational items previously provided the Commission noting that at the meeting the Commissioners were being provided recently received email communications, related to environmental stewardship, from three residents.

Ms. Sarah Alig and Ms. Jennifer McLoughlin were introduced. Ms. Alig noted that the presentation at the meeting would be a follow-up to the environmental stewardship conversation and questions posed during the February 8, PNRC meeting, which covered the accomplishments and work produced by the city during the past 20-year period. The takeaways from the February meeting included: celebrating the city’s many accomplishments related to environmental stewardship and recognizing and responding to the increase of emerging issues such as Emerald Ash Borer, drought, flooding and water contamination.

While reviewing community values, Ms. Alig provided examples of risks and immediate threats facing the city, attributed to the unseasonably warmer winter temperatures including: the cancellation of the January Recreation Division’s annual Cold Cat Fish Cup at Carver Lake Park; the decrease in the number of ice skating days at the outdoor refrigerated pleasure rink, the shortening of outdoor ice fishing season; the unprecedented rain events which resulted in flooding, including damage to the outdoor athletic fields and trails; the June, 2021, heatwave, which resulted in empty playgrounds; outdoor air quality affected by wild fire smoke; the blue green algae bloom that closed Carver Lake Beach in July, 2021, and the survival of the southernmost Tamarack stand in the state, which is also being threatened by the warming climate.

A list of Minnesota cities, with published climate action and sustainability plans was reviewed. Ms. Alig noted that a goal for the evening’s discussion would be to begin narrowing down ideas and applying local solutions that make sense for the City of Woodbury in addressing climate change.

Ms. Alig noted that while the issue of global warming is enormous, local solutions don’t have to mean doing everything possible; rather, focusing on and applying resources on the primary contributors, might be where Woodbury can have the biggest impact.

Ms. Alig noted that actions can have compound benefits. For instance, investment in the urban forest can sequester carbon, cools down neighborhoods, provides habitat for wildlife, mitigates stormwater runoff, and increases property values.

It was noted that other actions such as insulating buildings, can reduce heating costs, while more alternative and active modes of transportation can improve health, lower infrastructure costs, and shift consumption from fossil fuels and internal combustion.

Ms. McLoughlin noted that the city recently changed the tree ordinance with respect to incentivizing developers to evaluate and save existing trees that are identified as valuable during the development phase. For instance, if a 30” tree were removed, one-half of the lost 30” tree, or a 15” replacement tree was required. The new ordinance requires a two to one replacement of any removed tree that is identified as a Specimen tree (over 30”).

Ms. McLoughlin noted that since 2013, the City of Woodbury has been a member of the voluntary recognition program “MN GreenStep Cities.” The program, which is geared toward the suburbs, helps cities achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of actions that focus on cost
savings, energy use reduction and innovation. Woodbury, having met the metrics set up in Step 4 of the program, has reached Step 5.

Ms. McLoughlin noted that one example of a metric the city has improved in is the number of electric vehicles in the fleet.

Ms. Alig asked the Commissioners to share why they chose to serve on the PNRC. Responses varied with some reoccurring themes:

- Community garden
- Tree canopy
- Composting
- Phase II planning
- Parks, Trails and Open Space and maintaining green space
- Large city with small town feel, interacting with neighbors
- Environmental stewardship
- Concerns related to climate changes
- Schools
- Safety of children
- Clean air
- Love of nature, flora, and fauna
- Enjoying spending time out of doors
- Experience government at work
- Giving back to the community

Ms. Alig asked the Commissioners what were some event or factors/information that influenced their understanding or impression of environmental stewardship over time and what trends they see emerging? Again, responses varied with some reoccurring themes:

- Air quality after having experienced breathing difficulties with smoke from forest fires
- Balance community values and not lose perspective on what is important
- Understanding climate change and communicating same with the community members
- Fresh and clean air
- Water quality and clean drinking water
- Safety for children
- Crime and worries about trying to achieve things that are not achievable in the community
- Retrofit an already developed community
- City built around car transportation
- Animals becoming extinct due to loss of flora and fauna

Ms. Alig asked the Commissioners how might a changing environmental context affect our community, specifically? Again, responses varied with some reoccurring themes:

- Loss of seasons and the natural cycle. Changes to what were four, distinct seasons in Minnesota: winter, spring, summer and fall.
- Don’t rely on engineering aspects to get us out of this mess
• High density building and number of multiple units being built compounding the issues such as water

Ms. Alig asked the Commissioners to share their key take way and what they would like known?

• With the number of items to be tackled, concerns with whether staff will be in a position to take it to the next level – hire a consultant

• Making sure we can provide water to the new developments

Ms. Alig asked for one thing that the Commissioners would want city staff or City Council to know.

• Massive topic with multiple tracks to tackle, need a clear entry way to chip away at the issues. Beneficial to have an approach that provides information on what community members can do at home and what the city can and will do.
• Clear definition to citizenry as to what they can do. Hire consultant or work with the University of Minnesota. Without a clear laundry list nothing will get done.
• Clearly defining what we want to solve. Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a good first step.
• Tree canopy has a cooling effect. Example: Tamarack Road could have been built with a median with planted trees.
• “Teach a man to fish they will eat for a lifetime.” Teach them how to do the process.

It was noted that staff will summarize the evening’s conversation/discussion and a more formal recommendation will be presented for the PNRC to review and provide formal approval as to what will be presented for City Council consideration.

C. Monthly Update – Memorandum No. 22 – 10

The summer 2022 Recreation brochure will be available on the city’s website March 7. The city is accepting applications for a variety of exciting summer jobs, including golf course and recreation programs. Anyone having an interest is encouraged to visit the city’s website employment section.

Council Report – Councilmember Santini

Councilmember Santini noted that the water treatment plant was discussed during the Council’s last workshop meeting.

Announcements/Miscellaneous

Ms. Okada noted that the rebranding of the “HealthEast Sports Center” to “M Health Fairview Sports Center,” will be communicated during the week. The city’s newsletter and social media accounts will be highlighting the change and the city’s website will be updated. Additionally, signage, including monument signs, will be replaced throughout the coming year.

Ms. Okada noted that Ms. Shelly Schafer, has joined the city team as the Community Engagement and Equity Coordinator.
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

________________________________
Belinda Reed
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Parks and Natural Resources Commission on April 5, 2022.
Environmental Stewardship
Presentation to PNRC
Part II + Discussion
Contents

1. Environmental Stewardship
2. City Examples and Best Practices
3. Woodbury Approach
4. Discussion
Environmental Stewardship
Environmental Stewardship

THINGS TO DO • OUTDOORS

Blue-green algae closes Carver Lake Beach in Woodbury

pioneerpress.com | Pioneer Press
Environmental Stewardship

The worst wildfire smoke event on record in Minnesota is swallowing the evening sun over the Twin Cities. See Updraft for details. #mnwx

The elevated smoke that's given our skies an orange/yellow tint is doing the same to the fresh snow and sleet falling across the area. The snow on the top left in this photo is from Tuesday, bottom right is this morning. #mnwx #mnwx

11:43 AM - Oct 22, 2020

7:32 PM - Jul 20, 2021 - Twitter for Android

1

[Images of a playground, a cloudy sky, and a flooded area]
Together, cities can achieve almost half the necessary emission reductions to meet global targets for a habitable planet.
In Paris, a new ‘quiet zone’ will help reduce noise pollution. The 15-minute city can make urban living more sustainable and inspire the world's cities to follow.

Why 16 Minnesota Cities Joined Together in a Climate Emergency Campaign

How Two Smaller Legacy Cities Are Adopting Green Infrastructure

Climate change has raised temperatures and intensified flooding across New England. Providence and Worcester experiment with strategies to alleviate the worst effects.

Everyone Gets A Seat On The Bus, For Free, As Kansas City Transit Returns To Full Capacity

Painting the rooftops of the Catalan capital could lower temperatures by up to five degrees, climate scientists say.
Local Approaches to Global Issue
Strategic Approach

Transportation

Building Heating & Cooling

Power Consumption
Cities that use a strategic approach targeting 12 opportunities could achieve their 2030 emissions targets.

Emissions in 2030, metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (annual), average of six illustrative city types

High Impact Focus Areas
Strategic Approach

- Set clear goals
- Influence power generation
- Promote energy efficiency

Decarbonizing the electricity grid

- 43 cities have committed to 100 percent clean energy goals by 2035 (5 have achieved it!)
- Community choice power, community solar, rooftop solar assistance
- Aggregate demand for clean energy
- Engage and educate residents
- Offer financial assistance / incentives
- Influence power generation
- Promote energy efficiency
Strategic Approach

New construction standards

- Encourage electrification
- Participate as stakeholders for State codes

Retrofit buildings

- Upgrade HVAC and water heating tech
- Implement lighting, appliance, automation improvements
Strategic Approach

- Narrow roads and add off-street routes for biking, walking, etc.
- Make it easy + appealing to get around by bus, bike or foot.
- Eliminate parking minimums and encourage livable density.

Encourage alternative modes

- Charging stations – public and private.
- Lead by example!

Support EV transition
Examples of Climate-Friendly Policies Adopted by U.S. States, Cities, and Businesses to Address Major Emissions Sources

- Climate change goal formally adopted or in process: 39 cities
- Committed to 100% renewable energy: 41 cities
- Car sharing program: 41 cities
- Bike sharing program: 38 cities
- Sustainable transportation plan: 37 cities
- Fuel efficiency requirement for public fleets: 28 cities
- Codified VMT/transportation-related GHG targets: 16 cities
- Codified travel mode target: 12 cities
- Vehicle infrastructure incentives: 9 cities
- Vehicle purchase incentives: 4 cities
- No minimum parking requirements for new developments: 3 cities
- Efficient freight strategy: 3 cities
- Adopted technologies to help coordinate freight transport: 3 cities
- Energy savings goal formally adopted or in process: 38 cities
- Energy efficient procurement policy: 30 cities
- Adopted the 2015 IECC building code/adopted stretch code: 16 cities
- Green building requirements for some private buildings: 14 cities
- Required building retrofit or retrocommissioning: 11 cities
- Zero-waste goal: 7 cities
- Urban heat island goals: 40 cities

NUMBER OF CITIES (OUT OF 51 LARGEST)
Significant Actions
Minnesota Peer Cities

- Minnesota Cities with Climate Action Plans
  - Minneapolis (2013)
  - St. Louis Park (2018)
  - Grand Marais (2019)
  - Northfield (2019)
  - Saint Paul (2019)
  - Eden Prairie (2020)
  - Red Wing (2020)
  - Richfield (2020)
  - Burnsville (2020)
  - Hennepin County (2020)
  - Albert Lea (2021)
  - Rochester (2021)
  - Edina (2021)
Minnesota Peer Cities

- Minnesota Cities with Energy Plans
  - Shorewood
  - Eden Prairie
  - St. Louis Park
  - St. Paul
  - Rosemount
  - Edina
  - Minnetonka
  - Fridley

- Wayzata
  - Golden Valley
  - Bloomington
  - Shoreview
  - STP Schools
  - Mahtomedi
  - Maplewood
  - Inver Grove Heights
  - Ramsey County Parks
  - Washington County
**St. Louis Park Climate Action Plan**

February 2018

**2040**

*Setting a course toward carbon neutrality*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Building Energy Efficiency** 21.7% | Reduce energy consumption in large commercial buildings 30%  
Reduce energy consumption in small to mid-size commercial buildings  
Design all new construction to be net-zero energy  
Reduce energy consumption in residential buildings by 35% |
| **Renewable Electricity** 23.3%      | Achieve 100% renewable electricity                                  |
| **Travel** 8.4%          | Reduce vehicle emissions 25%                                        |
| **Solid Waste** 1.1%     | Reduce solid waste 50%                                              |
Best Practices – Guiding Resources

- Buildings and Lighting
  1. Efficient Existing Public Buildings
  2. Efficient Existing Private Buildings
  3. New Green Buildings
  4. Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals
  5. Building Redevelopment

- Land Use
  6. Comprehensive, Climate and Energy Plans
  7. Resilient City Growth
  8. Mixed Uses
  9. Efficient Highway- and Auto-Oriented Development
  10. Design for Natural Resource Conservation

- Transportation
  11. Living & Complete Streets
  12. Mobility Options
  13. Efficient City Fleets
  14. Demand-Side Travel Planning

- Environmental Management
  15. Sustainable Purchasing
  16. Community Forests and Soils
  17. Stormwater Management
  18. Parks and Trails
  19. Surface Water
  20. Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems
  21. Septic Systems
  22. Sustainable Consumption and Waste
  23. Local Air Quality

- Resilient Economic and Community Development
  24. Benchmarks and Community Engagement
  25. Green Business Development
  26. Renewable Energy
  27. Local Food
  28. Business Synergies and EcoDistricts
  29. Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience

Minnesota GreenStep Cities
Best Practices – Guiding Resources

Best Practice Actions
1. Enter/update building information into the MN B3 Benchmarking database, and routinely enter monthly usage data for all city-owned buildings/infrastructure that consume energy/water.
2. Make no/low cost indoor lighting and operational changes in city-owned/school buildings to reduce energy costs.
3. Invest in larger energy efficiency projects through performance contracting or other funding or through smaller retro-commissioning/retro projects in city-owned/school buildings.
4. Implement IT efforts and city employee engagement to reduce plug load building energy use and workflow efficiency.
5. Document that the new construction or major remodeling of a public building has met the SB 2030 energy standard or has met or qualified under green building or energy framework.
6. Improve the operations & maintenance of city-owned/school buildings (or leased buildings by using a customized online energy efficiency tool, asset management tool, green building framework or green lease.
7. Install for one or more City-owned/school buildings one of the following efficiency measures:
   a. A ground-source, closed loop geothermal system.
   b. A district energy/microgrid system.
   c. A rainwater harvesting system for building water use.

Benefits
- Operations and maintenance minimum 5-10% efficiency, in virtually any building and no-cost measures. For more, using the State of Minnesota Benchmarks and Beyond database confirm this, and can be used to fund these savings. According to the City of Madison, the efficiency performance can be as much as 5% every year. According to the efficiency of commercial and state agency operations improved by just 10%, Americans would save about $20 billion annually and reduce greenhouse gas emissions equal to the emissions from almost 300,000 vehicles.

Connection to State Policy
- Step 3: Recognition Best Practice for Category A and B cities
  - Category A cities: implement this best practice by completing actions 1 and 2.
  - Category B cities: implement this best practice by completing actions 1 and 2.
  - Category C cities: implement this best practice by completing any one action.

- The energy use per square foot in state buildings is a 30% reduction by 2027 relative to a 2017 baseline. A 3% annual reduction in city operations energy use.
Parallel Priorities in Woodbury

- Water
- Urban Forestry Plan
- Stormwater BMP
- Gold Line

[Diagram with categories: Public Engagement, Transportation and Development, Municipal Fleet, Energy, Misc. and/or administrative, Trees and Vegetation, Drinking Water, Surface Water]
Letter from the Youth of St. Louis Park

Dear Neighbors,

We are St. Louis Park High School students from the Roots Program, in partnership with iMatter, we presented a Youth Climate Resolution to the City Council, which was adopted by the City Council. This resolution calls for the City to adopt a Climate Inheritance Resolution that reflects the need for action on climate change.

The climate crisis will have a significant impact on our future. It will affect our economic and environmental disruptions, and it will result in the loss of lives and resources. By committing to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions, we can contribute to the climate crisis. St. Louis Park has an opportunity to lead on this important issue.

We are proud of St. Louis Park and the City Council for their efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. We believe that the Climate Action Plan is the best way to achieve this goal. We envision St. Louis Park as a resilient and healthy city for generations to come, and for this to happen, all of us need to be involved.

So, St. Louis Park, we challenge you to have the creativity and courage to imagine a future with us. A future with clear, renewable energy, non-polluting forms of transportation, minimized waste, and a renewed appreciation of our reliance on nature.

Signed,

Lukas Wrede, on behalf of the SLPHS High School Roots Program

"The time to act is now... we shouldn’t have to be afraid..."
– Jayne Stevenson, Class of 2017

"We believe in a better future for St. Louis Park..."
– Lukas Wrede, Class of 2018

"The time is now to come together as a united force, to protect our grandchidren, and for the generations to come. The time is now...
– Sophia Skinner, Class of 2017

Letter from the Environment and Sustainability Commission

To Our Neighbors,

The St. Louis Park Climate Action Plan is a critical element in our vision for a sustainable city. It is a tremendous milestone for St. Louis Park and reflects the environmental leadership of our citizens, staff, and elected officials, as well as our commitment to the youth of our community and planet. This plan is in full alignment with, and builds upon, the many years of environmental and conservation leadership of the City of St. Louis Park. Through the Environmental and Sustainability Commission’s four-year existence, we have worked to further build consensus that climate change is a core challenge that we as a city must collectively address. This plan represents many contributions from commission members and the broader community.

Global climate change is one of the most challenging problems we will face in the twenty-first century. The urgency with which we must act decisively on this issue is unprecedented, and cities like ours will be the leaders that can enact meaningful change. The fate of millions of people worldwide as well as an estimated half of the plant and animal species on Earth could be determined by the speed at which governments of all sizes come together to halt and reverse the current global temperature trend. We, as a city, embrace this plan as an important step forward, understanding all the hard work that it will take to fulfill this plan over the next two decades.

The Climate Action Plan acknowledges our city’s contribution to global climate change, the urgency of action, and the steps we intend to take to lead the transition to a carbon-free economy. Equally important is recognizing that the pollution we emit and can control locally is only part of our overall contribution to climate change, with food and goods produced outside of the city also playing a significant part, but much harder to measure.

Finally, while climate change is the most significant risk to global sustainability, there are untold other risk factors to the environment in addition to climate change that we must be mindful of and continue our work toward fully addressing.

We, as the St. Louis Park Environment and Sustainability Commission, fully endorse the Climate Action Plan as a critical first step toward achieving long-term sustainability for our city. We believe that this will become one of many in a holistic sustainability vision and action plan for the city. We also feel that it is important to understand that while the Climate Action Plan represents the best strategies and forecasts that can currently be projected, it must also be a living document, updated as new trends, technologies, and ways of measuring evolve in this ever-evolving field. We must also keep in mind that it is up to us not to rest on our laurels, but to continually stay current on the actions others leading cities around the world are taking to advance sustainability, mitigate climate change, and improve the human condition.

We applaud the efforts of City Staff and City Council to take on this challenge and believe it is our collective responsibility to act with urgency on executing the plans and strategies contained within the St. Louis Park Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

The St. Louis Park Environment and Sustainability Commission
Discussion

What is one reason you choose to serve as a steward of natural resources?

When you think about the future of environmental stewardship in Woodbury, what concerns you most?

What are you most hopeful about?

What is the most important single thing the city can do to serve as responsible environmental stewards?
City Of Woodbury  
Parks and Recreation Department  
Parks and Natural Resources Commission Memorandum 22 - 11  
April 5, 2022  
Parks and Natural Resources Commission Members:  

Subject: Environmental Stewardship Statement of Intent  

As directed by Council, staff will continue to work with the Parks and Natural Resources Commission to seek input on the next phase of Environmental Stewardship in Woodbury.  

At the February Parks and Natural Resources Commission meeting, staff presented a summary of the past twenty years of Environmental Stewardship. In the March meeting, Commissioners discussed the present-day features, elements, and activities of Environmental Stewardship that particularly resonate for them individually, and how they see these things being affected by the changing climate now and in the future. Staff provided some examples of how other cities are responding to this emerging threat.  

This month, staff will present the themes that emerged in the Commissioners’ conversation. The goal of this next meeting will be for Commission members to co-create a statement of intent regarding the next chapter of Environmental Stewardship in Woodbury.  

Staff looks to Parks and Natural Resource Commissioners to provide direction, reflective of their advisory role to Council, on investing in study, strategy, and action to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate in Minnesota to protect our parks and natural resources.  

Respectfully submitted,  

/ s /  
Sarah Alig  
Senior Management Analyst
Eagle Valley Golf Course (EVGC) – Dan Moris

If weather cooperates we look forward to the practice area and golf course officially opening on April 2nd or 3rd for the season. Staff is excited to welcome back our loyal customers for another fun and enjoyable year. Stop by the clubhouse to renew your Eagle Club membership and check out the new merchandise.

New in 2022, Eagle Valley will be implementing AccuRange, a new technology to enhance your practice experience. Download the free app and use your smartphone to receive accurate yardage to any of our nine target flags. More information is available on our website or posted on the range dispensers.

The golf course came through the winter months in great shape with little or no turf damage. Our maintenance crew has mowed the greens, allowing for a smooth roll as you play that first round. In order to protect the golf course until the conditions firm up, all play will be walking only. Staff will continue to monitor the turf and customers will be notified when golf carts are available.

HealthEast Sports Center (MHFV-SC) – Katie Ryden

The annual ice skating show will be held on April 1 and 2. The theme for this year is “A Night at the Museum.” Skaters from the learn-to-skate program and Woodbury Figure Skating Club all perform at this end of season show.

Beginning April 4, the west rink will undergo a major project as the sand floor and old refrigeration piping will be removed and replaced by a concrete floor and new refrigeration piping. Also included in the project is upgraded LED lighting and refurbishing the existing dehumidification unit.

The majority of the summer ice and field schedules have been set. Staff is already working with user groups on forecasting and preparing to schedule for the upcoming 2022-2023 fall and winter seasons.

Recreation Division – Reed Smidt

The Community Garden Pilot Program has sold all 16 garden plots that were available in 2022. City staff will continue to work with Woodbury Thrives and the community garden committee to make sure the program is set up for success during the 2022 pilot year.

An esports ice cream social event was held on Saturday, March 19, at the Ojibway Park building to promote Woodbury’s new esports program. The Recreation Division is partnering up with Minnesota Esports Club to offer esports to residents. There were just over 30 participants in attendance playing video games and enjoying a root beer float.
The Central Bark Pet Expo was held on Saturday, Feb. 26. We hosted 11 vendors and had over 350 people in attendance.

Summer registration for all recreation programs opened on Wednesday, March 16. We had a very good registration turnout through the first week, and hope to continue capturing more participation as the summer program season approaches.

The Recreation Division is in need of seasonal staff for this coming summer. Please help recruit anyone that you believe would be a great fit to help lead a summer recreation program. Positions include youth tennis instructors, Pee Wee sports staff, puppet wagon puppeteers and more. We offer competitive wages and provide staff with an excellent foundation for future career aspirations. Job postings can be found here: [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/woodburymn](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/woodburymn)

**Facility and Project Updates - Josh Kinney**

- Highcroft Park and the park in the Briarcroft Development – Project bidding is complete and within budget. Construction is anticipated to start in late spring/early summer. Project completion is expected in September of 2022.
- Valley Creek Park Phase II Trail – Project bidding is complete and under budget. Pre-construction activities will commence in late February, with completion before March 31, to avoid Oak Wilt and Long-Eared Bat restrictions. Trail completion is anticipated in July 2022.
- Shawnee Park Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project – Project bidding is complete and within budget. Construction is anticipated to start in late spring/early summer. Project completion is expected in October of 2022.
- Bridlewood Farms Park and the park in the Arbor Ridge Development – Project bidding is complete. Construction is anticipated to start in late spring/early summer. Project completion is expected in August of 2022.
- Park Monument and Wayfinding – Planning for additional replacement of old park signs, new wayfinding signage, and installation in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

Michelle Okada
Parks and Recreation Director