OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMISSION
2021 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2022 WORK PLAN
2021 Open Space & Recreation Commission

Commissioners
John Cornelius, Chair (2022)
Bob Mattison, Vice-Chair, (2024)
Roger Bergman (2022)
Bill Delaney (2023)
Kelly Kuebelbeck (2023)
Matthew Sanders (2022)
Dawn Speltz (2023)
Linden Weiswerda (2024)
Brian Wright (2021)

Note: Terms run May 1-April 30

Council Liaison
Maurice Harris

City Staff
Rick Birno, Parks & Recreation Director
Sheila Van Sloun, Administrative Assistant

Purpose, Mission, and Prescribed Duties
The Open Space and Recreation Commission provides advice and recommendations to the Council regarding recreational programs, parks, and open space in the community, including:

• the portion of the Comprehensive Plan relating to open space needs, parks and recreation programs, and trail systems
• policies and plans for parks, recreation programs, use of open space, and trail systems
• assessment of current programs regarding open space, parks and recreation, and trail systems
• assessment of future needs regarding parks and recreation, open space, and trail systems
• cooperative agreements, policies with other public and private agencies, youth sports organizations, groups or individuals relating to recreational programs and facilities
• budget and capital outlay needs for parks and recreation, Brookview Golf Course, and the park improvement fund
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2021 Overview

- Worked with staff on reviewing and providing insights for the adjustments to recreation programming, park usage, and facility rentals due to COVID.

- Reviewed and recommended the 2022–2031 Parks, Brookview, and Golf Course Capital Improvement Plans.

- Continued to support and provide guidance to staff for the growth of enterprise and revenue funds within the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Reviewed golf course operations and procedures, including fees, leagues, lessons, rules and regulations, schedule, curling, disc golf, and lawn bowling.

- Received update on the new winter recreation amenities at Brookview Golf Course the two 18-hole disc golf courses, league play, organization and private rentals of the four outdoor synthetic curling rinks, and heavy use of the winter recreation groomed trail with lights.

- Reviewed and provided guidance on the annual report and work plan presented to the City Council.

- Worked with staff and joint powers agreement partners to provide guidance and support for trail improvements and the addition of a new bike repair station in the south end of Sochacki Park.

- Participated in the annual Joint City Council/Commission meeting.

- Represented the Open Space & Recreation Commission on the Brookview/City Hall rotational public art selection committee.

- Continued to meet with youth athletic associations for program updates and discussions on present and future facility needs.

- Supported staff on the implementation of the Noah Joynes Youth Recreation Fund.

- Reviewed seasonal recreation programs, leagues, classes, and events.

- Supported the continued partnership with Golden Valley Arts and St Louis Park Friends of the Arts to offer the Artist Showcase at Brookview. The successful event was hosted at Brookview the evening of Jan 14, 2022.

- Reviewed and provided guidance for Brookview room use, rental fees, and operation guidelines.

- Reviewed the annual wildlife removal processes and data. Worked with staff to shift the goose removal process from an annual quantity removal to a limiting flock growth model.
• Provided input to Three Rivers Park District staff for the update of the French Park master plan.

• Monitored staff updates regarding the progress on the 2022 scheduled irrigation replacement project at Brookview Golf Course.

• Reviewed the proposed changes and recommended adjustments to the Golden Valley leash ordinance.

• Provided guidance on new park improvements, including the scoreboards at Schaper Park, new outdoor hockey rink and internal park trail improvements at Wesley Park, infield update at Schaper Park, LED light fixture replacement at Natchez and South Tyrol Parks, and the asphalt pad resurfacing for the community garden at Medley Park.

• Worked with staff to design a new portable toilet distribution plan to better serve Golden Valley park neighborhoods.

• Partnered with the Environmental Commission reviewing proposed plans and providing input for the flood water reduction plan at Wildwood Park.

• Partnered with the Environmental Commission reviewing proposed plans and providing input for the storm water reduction plan at Medley Park.

• Worked with staff on the annual bike & pedestrian improvement recommendations.

• Discussed caterer changes at Brookview, park picnic shelter use issues, alcohol in the parks, the ash tree injection proposal, amplified music in the parks, park dedication opportunities, and the winter warming house staffing plan.

• Reviewed and supported the final plans for the new community garden at Medley Park.

• Hosted with staff the South Tyrol Park neighborhood input process to update and add new park amenities at the neighborhood park.

• Reviewed the heat/cold policy for outdoor recreation programs, events, and leagues, and made recommendations for updates in 2022.

• All commissioners were involved in the 2021 self-guided park tour to see both implemented and future park improvements.
2022 Proposed Work Plan

- Review, provide input, and recommend 2023–2032 Park, Brookview, and Golf Course Capital Improvement Plan.

- Continue to explore possibilities for additional parkland and facilities in high-density areas of the city.

- Work with staff to explore opportunities to increase park dedication funding. Request that staff work with the City Council to make this a legislative priority in 2023.

- Support and provide guidance to staff for the growth of enterprise and revenue funds within the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Continue to evaluate and recommend changes, enhancements, and additions to community and neighborhood parks.

- Review and recommend park shelter accessibility and general building improvements at Wesley Park, including ADA and access improvements; bathroom updates; and replacement of flooring, frames/doors/windows, LED lighting, and furnace.

- Review plan to add off-leash rink area south of Highway 55.

- Continue to provide guidance working with staff, MNDOT, and Three Rivers Park District to add a trail connection from the Schaper Park intersection on Highway 55 to Theodore Wirth Parkway.

- Continue to work with staff and joint powers agreement partners on the development of Sochacki Park.

- Support staff on implementing the new community garden at Medley Park.

- Support staff on implementing park improvements at South Tyrol Park.

Photo by Charlie Poiz, Views Of The Valley 2021
• Continue discussion regarding amplified music and alcohol in Golden Valley parks.

• Begin initial discussions and develop public input process for the proposed park improvements at Scheid Park scheduled for 2023. Proposed improvements include replacing the outdoor hockey rink, expanding the parking lot, updating the park shelter building, replacing tennis courts with pickleball courts, adding outdoor LED light fixtures, and updating both youth ballfields.

• Work with staff to review and make recommendations for proposed 2023 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan improvements.

• Continue to work with staff to expand the sponsorship program for adopting dog bag stations in Golden Valley Parks.

• Provide guidance to staff to develop strategies for improving participation and implementing new programs, events, and opportunities for underserved populations and communities in Golden Valley.

• Continue to review recreation, golf, Three One Six, and Brookview fees, programs, events, leagues, and facility operations.

• Recommend support to continue the partnership for the Artist Showcase event.

• Support staff to continue to develop partnerships with community organizations and local schools for showcasing art at Brookview and City Hall.

• Review and approve Golden Valley recognized youth athletic associations providing programs for the community. Continue work on associations’ program updates and discussion on future facility needs.

• Continue to participate in the annual Joint City Council/Commission meeting, the annual park system tour, and represent the Open Space & Recreation Commission on the Brookview/City Hall rotational public art selection committee.

• Develop a process working with staff and partnering with the DEI Commission to begin discussions regarding a proposal for a potential naming policy for Golden Valley community assets.

• Receive update and review annual nuisance wildlife removal program to provide guidance to staff.

• Support community events, including Run the Valley, ice cream social, Greens Classic, etc.