



2010 Annual Report

2010 Parks Commissioners:

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission

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2010 Accomplishments of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission completed several major projects in 2010.

This annual report recaps some of their major accomplishments.

The Parks Commission completed three large park development projects. A shelter was built at Hanifl



Irish Avenue Park

Fields Athletic Park. Improvements were made at Lions Park, including construction of Hugo's first skate park. Also, trails and other improvements were

completed at the new Irish Avenue Park.

The Parks Commission also expanded recreation programs and events, started operation of its first

athletic facility and

marketed Hugo parks to residents.

The following report provides more information about these projects and more.

Gravel Pit Property Becomes Hugo's Largest Passive Park

In December 2009, the City of Hugo purchased 125 acres from the estate of Darrel Hansen. Irish Avenue Park, as it now called, is located off of County Road 8 and Irish Avenue. Before the purchase, restoration of the gravel pit and substantial trash removal

and clean up was completed. This summer, two miles of trails were mowed and a small parking lot was built off of Irish Avenue. This winter, the trails were groomed for cross country skiing and snowshoeing with help from the Hugo Snowmobile Club.

Currently, the park is passive but in the next 10-15 years the Parks Commission plans to build active park uses. Irish Avenue Park may one day be home to mountain biking trails, baseball fields, soccer fields, picnic shelters and additional walking trails.

A New Park Shelter is Built



Park shelter at Hanifl Fields Athletic Park

Thanks to a generous donation by the Hanifl Foundation, construction started years before anticipated at the Hanifl Fields Athletic Park. A groundbreaking was held in June of 2010.

The park shelter features a large open air pavilion, concession stand, rest-rooms and a community gathering room. Play-

ground equipment and landscaping will be completed in early 2011.

A sub-committee planned the design of the shelter with a north-woods character and with environmentally friendly features. The shelter has a state-of-the-art water heating system, operable windows and in-floor heat. The park

shelter is a beautiful and successful example of balancing environmental leadership and economic responsibility.



*"I love Hugo!
I love the parks and trails and use them on a regular basis."*

~Hugo Resident

Residents Learn More About Hugo Parks

In January 2010, the results of the resident survey were in! Hugo residents were surveyed to learn more about the future of parks and recreation. 700 surveys were sent out to random residents. 48% of residents responding had used a neighborhood

park in the last 12 months and 66% used a trail. 30% believe they have not received sufficient information about recreation programs. 90% have been to a recreation program offered by White Bear Lake Area Schools or community services and recreation.

Of the programs that those surveyed would like to see more of, respondents stated that they would like additional fitness or wellness classes and performing arts or concerts in the park. For more information about the survey, go to the City's website.

Improvements Are Made At Lions Park

At their August, 2009 meeting, the Parks Commission heard a presentation from Lions Club members about Lions Park and discussed a letter from

Hugo teens asking for a skate park. After collaboration with the Lions Club and , the surrounding neighborhood, a concept plan was put together to install skate equipment and repair the existing tennis courts.

Local youth designed the skate park with professionals. Pickle ball, four square, hopscotch and a basketball court were also added on the re-surfaced tennis courts. The grand opening was held on October 1, 2010.



The first skate park in Hugo is built at Lions Park !

Recreation Programs Continue to Grow



As the City of Hugo continues to grow, so do the recreational opportunities in the community. In 2010, the City of Hugo started to hold

Lions Den Teen Program

new programs including Family Game Nights, Movie Nights in Oneka Gym, the Snow Jam and the Sledding Party. Tot Time was held for the 5th year. Each of the two Movie nights had an audience of approximately 300 people. The Sledding Party in Oak Shore Park brought

out lots of residents to hang out at one of Hugo's newest parks. The City of Hugo also held the Lions Den Teen Program in Lions Park on Monday and Wednesday afternoons for 7 weeks in the summer at Lions Park. By partnering with the 4 school districts that serve Hugo, the City is able to offer additional recreation programs to its residents with minimal costs to tax-payers.

"Better Parks equal better people."

~Hugo Resident

Hanifl Fields Athletic Park Holds Its First Soccer Tournament

One of the largest accomplishments in 2010 for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission was the successful first season of soccer games and tournaments at the Hanifl Fields Athletic Park. The 5 full-sized fields at Hanifl Fields were ready for play for the spring 2010

soccer season. Youth soccer organizations rented the fields for their local teams. The Minnesota Youth Soccer Association East District Girls Championship was held in mid-July at the Hanifl Fields Athletic Park by the White Bear Soccer Club. The

tournament was attended by hundreds of players from around the division. As construction wraps up on the shelter, the Hanifl Fields Athletic Park is likely to become a very popular spot for tournaments, games and practices for our local youth soccer players.

Statewide Health Improvement Program Grant Received

A Health Sub-Committee was formed by the Parks Commission to work with local health businesses to plan a family bike ride and other healthy events. A family bike ride is planned to be held in September of 2011. A \$4,000 grant to increase access to community physi-

cal activity was applied for from Washington County through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). The grant will be used to produce a map and brochure of the trails, walking paths and sidewalks. Other projects in our community have received SHIP

funding: Oneka Elementary School is focused on nutrition. The local food shelves and New Life Church have also been on improving access to nutritious foods in our community with SHIP assistance.



A\$4,000 grant was received to improve access to community physical activity in Hugo.



City of Hugo

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The City of Hugo has an abundance of natural resources and open space areas including a large number of lakes, wetlands, woodlands and other natural amenities that make it a prime location for outdoor activity and recreation. The City has made an effort to preserve many of these spaces as active and passive parks.

As Hugo continues to grow, the City will need to provide additional parks, trails and recreation programs and opportunities that meet the needs of its residents.

The Parks Commission works to provide immediate and long-term strategic guidance and direction for the development of parks for the citizens and City of Hugo. The nine member Commission is made up of volunteers appointed by the Hugo City Council. The Commission meets once a month on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and held at Hugo City Hall.

Looking Ahead... 2011 Park Goals

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission approved 2011 goals at their December 15, 2010 meeting. The following park development projects were included:

- Install playground equipment and landscaping at the Hanifl Fields Athletic Park.
- Install playground equipment at Heritage Ponds Park.
- Do concept planning for Irish Avenue Park and Lions Park.
- Coordinate Hardwood Creek Trail connection between 140th and 145th .

- Continue to look for grants.
- Develop a priority list for trail developments.

The Parks Commission also established goals for expanding existing recreation pro-



Clearwater Creek Preserve Park

grams and creating new programs such as a Family Bike Ride, Soccer Camp and Skate Camp.

The Parks Commission also discussed the continued operation of athletic fields in the city and a concession stand at the Hanifl Fields Athletic Park.

Marketing the parks to Hugo residents will continue in 2011 with the Parks Corners in the Citizen newspaper, using the City of Hugo facebook, the bi-annual City Newsletter and promoting businesses at athletic events.