



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... 2012 Park Goals

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission approved 2012 goals at their December 14, 2011 meeting. The following were included:

- Develop vision for short-term and long-term uses at Irish Avenue Park.
- Plan Lions Park.
- Coordinate Hardwood Creek Trail connection between 140th and 145th.
- Continue to look for grants.
- Develop a priority list for trail developments review Trails Plan.
- Develop a landscaping plan for Heritage Ponds Park.
- Continue Movie Nights, Snow Jam, Volunteer Day, Skate Camp, Tour de Hugo and Soccer Camp.
- Start a Roving Recreation Program.
- Hold nature programs in the Hanifl shelter.
- Start a geocaching program.
- Hold the Health Up and GO Wellness Challenge in 2012.
- Hold a Silver Sneakers program.
- Ensure the operation of the Hanifl Concession Stand.
- Coordinate additional tournaments at the Hanifl Fields Athletic Park.
- Monitor the use of the ball fields.
- Continue to promote parks and programs.



Continue to explore additional uses of Irish Avenue Park.



2011 Parks Commissioners:

Jim Taylor,
Chair

Rachel Berger,
Vice Chair

Derek Larsen

Roger Clarke

Noel Schmidt

Tom Windisch

Kris Birch

Mathew Rauschendorfer

David Strub

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2011 Annual Report

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission

2011 Accomplishments of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission completed several major projects in 2011. This annual report recaps some of their major accomplishments.



Soccer Players

The Parks Commission completed several park development projects in 2012. Improvements were made at Hanifl Fields Athletic Park and Heritage Ponds Park. The Commission worked on concept

planning of both Lions Park and what has become known as Irish Avenue Park. The Parks Commission expanded recreation programming to include a

skate camp, soccer camp, a pickleball program, walking club and family bike ride. Use of athletic facilities are expanding with tournaments and operation of a concession stand at Hanifl Fields

Athletic Park. The Parks Commission continues to find new ways to promote and expand the parks and recreation opportunities throughout Hugo for residents.

Residents Plan for the Future of Lions Park

The Parks Commission held two public workshops to put together development guidelines for Lions Park. Residents, including members of the Hugo Lions Club and elected officials discussed how the park could be used and designed in the long-term. Development Guidelines

were approved by the Parks Commission and Hugo City Council that ensure that changes are in keeping with the long-term vision of the park.

Guidelines include:

- Ensure Lions Park is safe and functional.
- Emphasize Hugo's country charm and char-

acter through design.

- Offer unique recreation facilities and attractions to support a variety of ages, interests and seasons, fitting a community park.
- Build community spirit. The guidelines will be used to direct all future changes at Lions Park.

Hanifl Shelter Grand Opening



Playground Equipment Installation

Thanks to a generous donation by the Hanifl Foundation, construction started years before anticipated at the Hanifl Fields Athletic Park. A grand opening was held on June 19, 2011.

A sub-committee planned the design of the shelter which includes a gathering room which is available to the public to

rent, concession stand, and restrooms. Outside, the shelter features an open air pavilion overlooking the 5+ soccer fields and playground. The third phase of development, which was completed in 2011, included the installation of the playground and landscaping of the area surrounding the shelter.

The playground features slides, swings, spinners and a climbing series. Additional development of the park may be planned in the future.



"I loved getting together with other people who loved to walk!"

~Hugo Resident and Wellness Challenge Participant

Health Up and GO Wellness Challenge Commences

On April 30, 2011 a kickoff was held for the Health Up and GO Wellness Challenge. The kickoff event included speakers, free health screenings, and many resources and health connections. The Wellness Challenge continued for 147 days throughout

the summer. A walking club met every Monday at City Hall. There were free health lectures, ongoing health screenings and other opportunities for participants. Two new fitness classes were offered including Tai Chi and Nia. Several local health businesses part-

nered to make the Wellness Challenge possible including Hugo Chiropractic, Boyd's Promos, Fairview Lakes Medical Center, Mary Silvaroli Daul, and Health East. The Wellness Challenge was funded by the State-wide Health Improvement Program.

First Annual Tour de Hugo Family Bike Ride Held

On September 17, 2011 the City of Hugo hosted the first annual Tour de Hugo! The family bike ride featured 5 1/2, 18, and 23 mile ride options. Some routes

were supported and included rest stops. The rides started and finished at the Hanifl Fields Athletic Park and rode through beautiful Hugo. Following the ride, participants enjoyed a picnic lunch, bonfire, bike deco-

rating contest and other activities at the park shelter. With over 50 bike riders participating in the first Tour de Hugo, the French themed family bike ride is sure to continue to be a success in future years.



Heritage Ponds Park Gets a Playground



Construction of a playground at Heritage Ponds Park was a goal of the Parks Commission in 2011 and capital improvement project that was anticipated for many years. Heritage Ponds Park fea-

Playground Installed in July 2011

tured a picnic shelter and paved walking path. According to the Parks Plan, the neighborhood is also served by recreation facilities at Oneka Elementary School and Frog Hollow Park. As residential development continued in the area and the number of families with young children grew, the need for a playground

emerged. The Parks Commission invited the public to participate in selecting the playground equipment at their February 9 and April 14 meetings. Feedback from residents included a desire to have a playground that was natural in color scheme and low to the ground. The playground is very popular and features unique elements such as a stand-up seesaw, omni spinner and oodle swing. Trees were planted near the playground thanks to a generous donation.

"Better Parks equal better people."

~Hugo Resident

Irish Avenue Park Planning

At their April 13, 2011 meeting, the Parks Commission heard a presentation by Gary Wilson and Dave Percival proposing to construct cross country running trails at Irish Avenue. They recommended to and the Council approved the formation of a sub-committee to work with Wilson and Percival. After appointments of representa-

tives of the neighborhood, Planning Commission, City Council and Parks Commission to the sub-committee, the group met on October 5, 2011 to discuss a plan for a multi-use facility that included running trails suitable for college and high school meets and practices. Additional uses included winter ski, snowshoeing and horse

trails. Before the scheduled second meeting, Percival and Wilson chose to no longer pursue construction of the trails.

The sub-committee continues to meet and will be planning the future of the park and providing additional recreational uses of the recently-purchased property.

First Soccer Camp and Movie Night in the Park are Hugo Successes

Two of the largest recreation program successes of the Parks Commission of 2011 included hosting the first soccer camp and outdoor movie night at Hanifl Fields Athletic Park.

The Soccer Camp was held July 25th-28th. The City of

Hugo partnered with the White Bear Soccer Club. Over 90 youth signed up through the City of Hugo.

Winter family movie nights at the Oneka Elementary gymnasium, have always been popular. In 2011, the Parks Commission wanted to

also show a movie in a park. On September 23, "Tangled" was shown at Hanifl Fields Athletic Park. A screen was constructed by Hugo Public Works which means more family movie nights in the park will continue to grow and be a huge success.



2011 Soccer Camp Participants at Hanifl Fields Athletic Park