



City of Hugo

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Thank you to the Hugo Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Commission, who works to provide immediate and long-term strategic guidance and direction for the development of parks and recreation programming for the citizens of the 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:

As residential development picked up in 2014, so did proposals for park dedication. Developers are required to dedicate park land or pay a fee so that the Commission can provide adequate parks for its growing population. The park system continues to grow.

In October, 2014; land was dedicated that increased the size of Lions Park by 2.11 acres. Master planning of the park is underway and is likely to be completed in 2015. Lions Park

is significant in the Hugo parks system as it is adjacent to City Hall, connects regional trails, and will be a unique community gathering place.

Planning, construction, and fundraising will take time and are likely to gain momentum in 2015.



2014 Annual Report

F.1.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission



Commission Members:

Tom Windisch,
Chair

Rachel Berger,
Vice Chair

Nicole Schmid

Mathew
Rauschendorfer

David Strub

Joan Benner

Ranell Tennyson

A Year in Review

In 2014, the Commission set strong policies that set the course for their future. This included the Trail Development Policy and Recreation Program Policy.

A workshop, in partnership with the City Council, was held on April 9 to discuss what role the City of Hugo shall play in the future of recreation programs. Hugo is in a unique situation with four school districts as well as local busi-

nesses, organizations and clubs each offering recreational options.. At the workshop, it was ultimately decided to continue to partner with others to ensure that Hugo resident's recreation needs were being met. The City shall continue to offer programming that doesn't duplicate what is already offered but supplements what is available for residents.

The Commission also discussed hiring a staff member to operate the concession stand at Hanifl Fields Athletic Fields. Ultimately, the City Council did not support the hiring of staff. They believe that field users are not interested in a concession stand enough to provide volunteers, they will not support it when it is open.

The City received a grant for an Active Living

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Recreation Program Report

The City of Hugo continues to partner with several organizations to provide additional recreation programs for residents.

It takes several volunteers and a team to plan and run large events such as Kidz 'N Biz and the Tour de Hugo. Staff continue to assist with these community events.

In partnership with the White Bear Lake School District, these programs were offered in Hugo:

- Tot Time/ Family Time
- Volleyball & Basketball Open Gym at Oneka Elementary School
- Teen Movie Matinees

Other recreation programs continued in 2014 include:

- Snow Jam
- Park Play Days
- Geocaching Adventure
- Movie Nights at Oneka Elementary School
- Outdoor Movie Night at Hanifl Fields Athletic Park
- Skyhawks Sports Camps
- Sledding Party
- Nature Camp
- Sponsorship of the Golden Spike Contest

In 2014, the City of Hugo solidified two new partnerships. Washington County Library programs and services were expanded in the City. In a special partner-

ship with White Bear Lake Area Schools, Story Hour will now be offered in the library at Hugo Elementary in. Also, events such as the StoryWalk, Big Fun Show, and Sing.Play.Learn, are now being held in Hugo by Washington County Library.

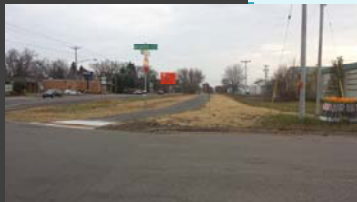
The City also began a partnership with BearPower to support residents in leading healthier lives. The City is in a position to make changes in the built environment, offer recreation, and support healthy lifestyle choices.

Hardwood Creek Trail Extended

After several years of planning and negotiations, Washington County was able to extend the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail from the exiting stopping point at 145th Street south to 140th Street. The trail includes the paved portion and a parallel turf trail which accommodates snowmobilers and equestrians. The property was aban-

doned by the BNSF and purchased by the Washington County Regional Rail Authority. The corridor is preserved for future transit use. The County applied for and received federal funding which necessitated that the trail plans be reviewed by several organizations including the State Historical Preservation Office and

Minnesota Department of Transportation. The Hardwood Creek Regional Trail Master Plan was reviewed by the Commission in April, 2013. As shown in the plan, the extension provides connections between Hugo neighborhoods, commercial areas, the existing 9.5 mile County trail, and other important regional trails.



Trail Development Policy

The Commission has ongoing discussions about missing trail connections. A Trail policy was discussed and recommended by the Parks Commission before it was approved by the City Council on May 5. Typically, improvements identified in the Trail and Sidewalk Plan are

constructed with development or road projects. There can be unique circumstances that would justify construction outside of the normal means. In order to determine which improvement shall take priority for limited funding, criteria were established in the Trail Development

Policy. It includes providing connections, enhancing safety, giving priority when requested by Hugo residents, economical, and feasible. Trails and sidewalks that are identified using the criteria could be included in the Parks CIP and constructed by the City.

Review Continued

Partner Project through Washington County and the Statewide Health Improvement Program. The grant will be matched by White Bear Lake Area Schools and used to install lit speed

zone signage along Heritage Parkway. Programming and evaluation will also be apart of the project as per the guidelines from the County. The City's geocaching

program is now in its third year. There were several caches required upgrades and/or replacements in 2014 so the popular program could continue.

Public Works Update

The City of Hugo Public Works Department maintains all of Hugo's parks, trails, and open spaces. This includes:

- 384 acres of parkland
- 10 play structures
- 22 miles of sidewalks
- 7 picnic shelters
- 1 sledding hill
- 2 outdoor pavilions
- 3 community rooms
- 4 ball fields
- 6 irrigated athletic fields
- 10+ open spaces
- 11 miles of trails

and pavilion at Diamond Point Park. Repairs were needed.

The spring toys were replaced with spinners at Diamond Point Park and Oneka Lake Park.

Engineered wood fiber was added to Frog Hollow, Oak Shore, and Heritage Ponds Parks. The surfacing is designed for aesthetics, child safety, and ADA wheelchair accessibility. It compacts over time and needs to be topped off.

Soccer nets were replaced at Oneka Lake Park. Lacrosse goals were purchased for Heritage Ponds Park and Val Jean Park.

The shelter at Hanifl Fields Athletic Park was painted. The open air pavilion was re-stained.

The Commission directed park maintenance staff to upgrade the screening of the portable restrooms in all neighborhood parks.

The Public Works Department consists of 9 full-time workers and 6 seasonal staff overseen by Public Works Director Scott Anderson. Two of the full-time staff specialize in park maintenance, but all contribute. The seasonal staff primarily spend their time maintaining parks. The Public Works building is located at 6900 137th Street adjacent to Hanifl Fields Athletic Park.

The Public Works Department conducted several parks project in 2014 in addition to their regular park maintenance.

Vandals started a fire that burned the trash receptacles

ACTIVE PARKS
Active parks have playgrounds, athletic fields and/or other similar facilities and activity areas.

Lions Park
5524 Upper 146th Street North

Beaver Ponds Park
12710 Fondant Avenue

Frog Hollow Park
5945 159th Street North

Victor Square Park
14650 Victor Hugo Blvd.

Arbre Park
14180 Arbre Lane

Oneka Lake Park
15369 Goodview Avenue

Heritage Ponds Park
15541 Empress Avenue

Val Jean Park
14270 Val Jean Blvd.

Diamond Point East
6355 145th Street North

Oak Shore Park
12790 Exhall Avenue

Hanifl Fields Athletic Park
7032 137th Street North

PASSIVE PARKS
Passive parks are large natural areas or small green spaces without formal activity areas.

Clearwater Creek Preserve Park
4826 Fable Hill Circle

Rice Lake Park
6900 137th Street North

Future Park
14420 Irish Avenue North