



2016 Annual Report

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission

Commission Members:

- Dave Strub, Chair
- Cathy Moore-Arcand
- John Pontrelli
- Mathew Rauschendorfer
- Nicole Schmid
- Ranell Tennyson
- Vacancy
- Rachel Berger, Alternate

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New McCollar Park Opened

At a Grand Opening held on September 10, McCollar Park, a community collaboration was celebrated. McCollar Park resulted from a variety of contributions. Several years ago, Pratt Homes dedicated the land to the City of Hugo as part of their park dedication requirements. The property remained passive until the additional homes in the neighborhood and a request from residents generated interest in a playground.

To satisfy the park dedication requirements of the 4th Addition, Pratt Homes installed the park shelter, planted trees, installed irrigation, and graded the property. The HOA approached the Parks Commission and offered to make a financial contribution of \$20,000 towards purchase of play equipment. The Parks Commission included the remaining \$50,000 needed for the playground in their

Capital Improvement Plan. At a neighborhood meeting held on April 13, Burke equipment from St. Croix Recreation was selected. Shortly following, the playground design was finalized and construction

young and old. The main feature is a spinning net structure. McCollar Park is the first Hugo park to include fitness equipment-an airstrider and recumbent bike from Xccent Recreation.



The Park is named in honor of Mac McCollar and the McCollar family whom were the former owners of the property on which the Fable Hill neighborhood now sits.

On a beautiful fall day, a large crowd gathered to celebrate the completion of the park. Claudette McCollar was honored. Many thanks were given to all of the contributors including the Parks Commission, City Council, Len Pratt and Pratt Homes, and the Fable Hill Homeowners Association.

began. Hugo Public Works did concrete and grading work, put in sod, and made irrigation adjustments.

The play equipment is neutral in color scheme with a youthful splash of lime green. There is a play house, swings, nucleus climbing structures for

Focus on Trails Continues



Oneka Lake Boulevard
(road reconstruction project)



Elmcrest Avenue
(residential development)

Trails were a big part of the 2016 goals of the Parks Commission. This included constructing a trail with the annual street reconstruction project selected by the Council—Oneka Lake Boulevard. The other goal was to identify trails that would

not be built with development or road projects. This discussion took place over three meetings. It included a review of the trails plan and a close study of the existing and planned trail network. The Trail Development Policy which helps establish priority of trails that are not likely to be built by normal means (a road reconstruction pro-

ject or property development). Examples of the partnerships and planning that went into the construction of existing trails were discussed. An exercise was conducted to identify missing links in the trail system. Existing and planned trails will be reviewed again with the comprehensive planning process.

Lions Park Workshop Held

On April 28, a joint workshop with the City Council was held to discuss the next steps of Lions Park. The workshop was one of the 2016 goals of the Commission. A tour of the park started off the discussion. The Develop-

ment Guidelines approved in 2011 and the concept plan approved in 2015 were reviewed. Discussion included infrastructure needs and financing options. A feasibility study by WSB and Associates not to exceed

a cost of \$17,000 was approved following the workshop. The study will include how redevelopment of the park may be phased and a cost breakdown.

Goodview Avenue Property Neighborhood Meeting Held

The Parks Commission has long valued working with residents and responding to their input. Complaints have been received regarding the 2.34 acre city-owned property off of Goodview Avenue. Pedal bike jumps have been built at the property, youth have

been known to hang out there, and some bad behavior has been reported. The neighbors have asked that the Commission do something to stop the problem. Over 300 notices were sent out to the adjacent properties inviting residents to participate in a discussion

about the short and long term future of the property at a meeting on November 9. Residents shared mixed opinions of what should be done with the property from selling it to continuing to allow youth to use the property.

“Kids need to go wild in a more managed place.”

~Goodview Avenue Property Neighbor

Tour de Hugo Expands



Over 400 riders participated in the 2016 Tour de Hugo held on Saturday, September 24. The sixth annual community bike ride attendance

nearly doubled from 2015. Changes included adding a new 70 mile route and adjusting some of the other routes based on rider input. Sponsorships increased which helps cover everything from the t-shirts to the lunch that riders receive. The 6 mile family ride was led by elementary school Principals Dahlem and Healy. Wanting to support a healthier Hugo,

the planning team decided to make the family ride free to participate in. Medallions were awarded at the finish line outside City Hall. Riders reported that they loved the beautiful scenery, were grateful for the goodie bag, and enjoyed the fun energy stops. The Tour de Hugo is becoming famous for its cake break which was again greatly enjoyed.

Public Works Update

The City of Hugo Public Works Department maintains 435 acres of parks, 33.5 miles of sidewalks & trails, and over 10 open spaces.

Construction continued in Clearwater Cove and Fable Hills. Both of these developments built a new parks this summer as well as trail and sidewalk connections. A new access to Clearwater Creek Preserve was added to the Fable Hill neighborhood.

A trail was built along Elmcrest Avenue by Kettler Construction with Victor Gardens North Village 7th Addition. Park Dental completed another local to regional trail connection in that area.

After receiving a request from a youth resident, additional lacrosse nets were made available in Hugo parks at Lions Park and Diamond Point.

In conjunction with regularly scheduled road maintenance, bituminous repairs and seal coating was completed on the trails in the Heritage Ponds, Waters Edge and Beaver Ponds neighborhoods.

Engineered wood fiber was added to play structures at Val Jean, Arbore and Diamond Point Parks. The surfacing is designed for aesthetics, child safety, and ADA wheelchair accessibility. It compacts over time and needs to be topped off.





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 seven 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.

Recreation Recap:

In 2016, the City of Hugo continued their partnerships with a variety of organizations to provide Hugo residents with additional recreation options.

The year started with 3 well-attended movie nights in the gymnasium at Oneka Elementary School. Assistance was given to the Hugo Business Association as they held Kidz 'N Biz again this year on April 30.

Over the summer, Tech Tac Toe was brought in for the second year to host fun STEM camps for a variety of ages. These included Droids & RC Vehicles Lego Star Wars, Extreme Movie Making Fun- Minecraft and Star Wars, and Amazing Lego Robotics. The City's collaboration with the Washington County Library system expanded to include WBLAS Extended Day program at the Story Strolls. The Big Fun Show was held at Hanifl Fields Athletic Park and received rave reviews. MacPhail Center for Music's Animals Make Music pre-school program was held at City Hall.

After 6 years, a new twist was added to the summer's highlight: Park Play Days. The program was offered once a week, but the fun and games traveled to each of

the parks in Hugo. The new bounce castle was enjoyed by many Hugo kids.

The fall brought the annual Tour de Hugo bike ride. Visitors checking out the geocaches placed in Hugo parks also picks up in the fall. A Matter of Balance and other programs for active seniors were attempted but did not have much participation.

