

May Parks and Recreation Department Updates from Staff

Recreation: Report provided by Bob Furland and Dani Bakken;

- Registration opened for summer programming on May 5
 - We currently have 251 participants registered for swim lessons.
- Recreation helped at Cinco De Mayo on May 2
- Our next event will be Wind Down Wednesday on June 11
- Adult sand volleyball started on May 12, and we have 12 Co-Ed teams signed up
- The pool will open for the season on June 6
- Neighborhood Parks will open on June 2
 - We will have seven parks open this year
 - Monday and Wednesday- Academy, Hawthorne, Hayek, and Lakeview
 - Tuesday and Thursday- Sondergaard, Valley, Troy-Hammer, and Lakeview

Parks: Report provided by Ryan Hajek and Mike Westney;

- Working on tree trimming and takedowns.
- Spraying tree rings and fence lines.
- Summer help has started mowing.
- Water is all turned on and bathrooms are open.
- Started work on new Ginkel playground.
- Lakeview playground has been delivered.
- Downtown pots have been planted & hanging baskets are up.
- Work has started on the Splash Pad bathroom.
- The inclusive playground sidewalk and curb are in. Grading of topsoil and parking lot going on currently. Lights and electrical have been installed. Ground breaking event is planned for June 5 at the site.
- Plans are still out for structural review for the Frank Hall Park Bike Shelter. We needed to move the building due to sewer location.
- The red building at the North Lot has been moved to prepare for the new bathrooms. Electrical that ran under building has been moved. Power to the panel that was behind the red building has been disconnected. Water and Sewer Dept. is planning to run water and sewer from Washington this week.
- There will be a meeting next week to review progress of the Bridge Ave Dock. Have new quotes from Minncor but need to tie a kayak launcher to the dock for completion of the project.

City Arena: Report provided by Bob Furland/Josh Heilman;

- Facility updates –
 - See Facilities Project Update below
- Events -
 - None
- Other events –
 - None

Aquatic Center: Report provided by Bob Furland/Josh Heilman;

- Pool managers have started cleaning and getting the pool ready to be filled.
- Josh and Emma are preparing the pool for the season.

Senior Center: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- Trips -
 - May 22nd Wild Rose Casino trip
 - June 17th Stillwater Bus and Boat trip
- Programs/Events –
 - Health and Wellness Fair was held on April 28
 - June 2 – BBQ Picnic

Marion Ross Theater: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- Facility Updates –
 - Working on controls for heating and air conditioning.
- Upcoming events -
 - The Theatre is busy preparing for the performance - Roald Dahl's Matilda – The Musical June 19 – 22 and 25 – 28.

Other: Report provided by Cathy Malakowsky;

- The Recreation Department held a **groundbreaking ceremony for the City Arena remodeling** on May 1. Amy Leach of the Parks and Recreation attended, along with representatives of the Albert Lea Hockey Association, Waldorf University, InBylt, Brennan Construction, City of Albert Lea staff, and Mayor Rich Murray and Councilor Larry Baker. The Albert Lea Tribune, KIMT TV 3, KTTC TV 10 and KAAL TV 6 all covered the event.
- The Shell Rock River **Watershed District treated parts of Fountain Lake May 7-9 with an herbicide to suppress curly-leaf pondweed**, an invasive plant species. The district asked people to stay out of the water for 24 hours after the application out of an abundance of caution.
- **Freeborn County recently announced its first \$1 million grant developing the Song Bird Trail on the abandoned Union Pacific Railroad line from Albert Lea to Hartland.** The grant is from MnDOT's Active Transportation Program and will fund the first portion of the trail from Fountain Street to Manchester, except for the crossing at Minnesota Highway 13 — estimated at \$3.8 million. The total estimate to build the trail from Albert Lea to Austin, including a bridge or tunnel to cross Highway 13, is about \$8 million.
- The Albert Lea **Senior Center Board voted May 14 to recommend the City of Albert Lea seek proposals to improve access to the current Senior Center facility in the Skyline Plaza or move it to a new location.** The Recreation Department oversees the Senior Center, renting space at Skyline Plaza and contracting the Albert Lea Family Y to operate the center. While the Center offers excellent programming, access is challenging due to the poor condition of the parking lot and lack of automatic doors. The Center has 270 members with 165 checking in at least once in the last month. The age range is from 55 to 100 years, with 81 years young being the median age. Members come from all over with 39 or 14% coming from outside the City of Albert Lea,

including Alden, Blooming Prairie, Brice lyn, Clarks Grove, Conger, Ellendale, Emmons, Glenville, Hartland, New Richland, Owatonna, Wells, Northwood and even Mason City.

Referendum Project Updates

Pool

- New pool and domestic boilers installed.
- New slab on concrete poured near the family bathhouse.
- Electrical updates will be finished next week.

Ice Arena

- The lobby footings and knee wall are complete, and the contractor will start the steel erection by the end of May.
- Masons are working on doorways and block work for the new lobby, office area, and small conference room.
- Albert Lea Electric is working on updating all panels and wiring.
- INBYLT is working on a new schedule for the refrigeration and arena floor.
- Fine grading is complete on the north side of the Colstrup rink.

**** Top 5 Project Updates:**

Restrooms by Splash Pad –

- No new update

Develop the Union Pacific rail to trail –

- See update under Cathy's report

Develop an off-season field house –

- Status of the non-city group working on this idea?

Upgrade Snyder Fields –

- No new update

Update aging facilities, including the City Arena and Aquatic Center –

- See staff updates