

April Parks and Recreation Department Updates from Staff

Recreation: Report provided by Bob Furland and Dani Bakken;

- Docks and Gardens – Afton has been extremely busy renting docks and gardens again this year. The City rents 101 gardens and 275 dock spaces. This is an enormous task over a five-week period. We will open up at 6:00 AM on Friday April 14th for the public to rent open dock spaces.
- The City, CVB, and Main Street is sponsoring a pride event June 17th Noon to 4 pm in central park. Albert Lea is holding these events as part of its on-going efforts to celebrate our community's growing diversity.
- Diversity & Inclusion Training Workshop Save the Date: May 3rd more details soon.
- Recreation Summer Fun Guide catalog is getting final touches and will be sent out shortly. Registration for the activities in the fun guide will start on May 1.
- Programs:
 - We held the Easter bunny deliveries on Friday April 7. We had 2 sessions and had a total of 49 kids participate. We heard a lot of positive feedback from the families that did participate
 - Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 8 at Central park we had about 260 kids participate and everyone had fun!
- Staffing for summer:
 - We have staff hired for playparks
- Play Parks:
 - Lakeview, Hawthorne and Academy play parks will be open
 - We are going to partner with community education to hold different activities at the play parks
 - We will be sending a flyer out to schools with the play parks schedule
 - Playparks are scheduled to open June 5
- Head Start Partnership:
 - We will be once again be offering Head Start families free pool passes and swim lessons
 - Dani has attended their Head Start Engagement hours to hand out information
 - We also offered those who came to swim lessons last year from Head Start a free level 1 session to continue their swim lessons.

Parks: Report provided by Ryan Hayek and Mike Westney;

- Aeration was shut off; all signs were picked up and stored
- Lakeview bathroom project - new door installed, plumbing is done, some electrical left to do & cement work out front
- Working on ballfields
- Snyder - working on fields; will start on new volleyball court soon; parking lot is being graded and still working on two quotes for the dugout roofs
- Start taking down rinks
- Changing out banners downtown
- Will be putting preemergent on athletic fields & some parks

- Playground inspections
- Docks to put in
- Start turning on water
- New doors to install at Bancroft & Eberhardt
- Equipment maintenance
- EAB treatments will start in July
- Food truck plaza under way

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

- The City of Albert Lea has contracted with Apex to complete a comprehensive building and energy audit for the City Arena and Albert Lea Aquatic center.
 - Apex is the same company that the county has hired. Apex will perform comprehensive assessments of your facilities. The purpose of the assessments is to provide tools to make accurate decisions involving your facilities. The assessment will provide the City with conditions, useful lives, options and recommendations for the assets in those facilities. This will set up the City to plan for optimal learning environments in the most cost-effective manner. They will look at energy savings of building and mechanical improvements and paybacks for making the improvements. April 25th will be the kick off for this study.
- Albert Lea Figure Skating show was held March 25th and 26th. The show went very well and featured alumni skaters.
- Ice was taken out on the Nystrom arena March 27-30th
- Minnesota Mavericks AAA hockey group had 5 teams practicing at the City arena on March 31, April 1 and 2. Players from Iowa and Minnesota participated.
- The City Arena will host the Ducks Unlimited banquet April 15th.

Aquatic Center: Report provided by Bob Furland/Dani Bakken;

- Warmer weather is here and the recreation staff will start draining and preparing the pool in the next couple of weeks.
- Aquatic center staffing updates –
 - We have hired our managers- we are going to have 4 managers this year
 - We are sitting pretty good with staffing, we could use a few more lifeguards

Senior Center: Report provided by Bob Furland/Cathy Malakowsky;

- The city has hired a contractor to strip and wax the floors. The floors will be worked on the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May.

Marion Ross Theater: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- Auditions for Cinderella will be held April 18th and 19th.

Other: Report provided by Cathy Malakowsky;

- Inclusive Playground: The City has submitted an application to the DNR for \$300,000 and will hear whether the project was chosen for funding by the end of June.
- Union-Pacific rail to trail: By the end of May, the planning team and consultant will have a plan to develop the trail for the City Council and County Board to vote on adopting. I can bring it to the Parks and Rec Board meeting in May for review and recommendation.

- Parks and Rec Departments are supporting the Recharge MN event on May 6 at Design Ready Controls on 14th Street, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Be sure to check out the event. This will be a an EV expo with informational booths on a number of topics plus a bouncy house, Robotics Team demo, 4-H activity and Super Mileage Car demo.
- The Parks and Rec Board project review process and application will be posted this week! Teresa is making some final tweaks and then it will be public.

**** Top 5 Project Updates:**

Restrooms by Splash Pad –

- No update

Develop the Union Pacific rail to trail –

- Cathy plans to present on this at the May meeting

Develop an off-season field house –

- No update

Upgrade Snyder Fields –

- See the Parks department updates for details on current work

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

- See the arena updates regarding the Apex comprehensive building audit