

March Parks and Recreation Department Updates from Staff

Recreation: Report provided by Bob Furland and Afton Wacholz;

- Adult women's and co-ed volleyball will finish the regular season the week of March 17 and the end of the season tournament will be held the week of March 24.
- Community dock and garden renewal applications will be accepted through March 31.
 - Community docks will go open to the public on Friday, April 11 at 6am.
 - Community gardens will go open to the public on Tuesday, April 1 at 8am.
- Summer recreation job opportunities have now been posted on the City's website. Applications are being accepted and interviews will begin the week of March 31 when Dani returns from leave.
 - Aquatic Center lifeguards and attendants
 - Recreation neighborhood park leaders and recreation assistants
- Recreation Office will be moving to its temporary location at the City Garage, 414 Commercial St, by mid-April.
- Easter Bunny deliveries April 18 and Easter Egg Hunt at Central park April 19.

Parks: Report provided by Ryan Hajek and Mike Westney;

- EAB treatment list is done.
- Working on tree take downs & trimming.
- Alex, Ben & Mike V went to shade tree short course for training.
- Ordered new playground equipment for Ginkel & Lakeview Parks.
- Working on breezeway ceiling at Edgewater Bay Pavilion.
- Edgewater Bay Pavilion was shut down for two weeks for annual maintenance.
- Working on equipment maintenance.
- Working on building maintenance.

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

- Facility updates –
 - Lighting is complete at the City Arena. Crew has started work at the Aquatic Center and then they will move on to the Marion Ross Theater.
 - Ice was removed on Colstrup rink on February 26 and Nystrom on March 4 with the help of the Parks department.
 - Nystrom and Colstrup boards were professionally cleaned.
 - Colstrup boards, glass and boxes have been taken down and stored.
 - Staff are clearing out areas to prepare for the remodel of the arena skate office and Recreation office.
 - Staff are refreshing paint on walls in areas that won't be affected by construction.
- Events -
 - Youth Hockey
 - The Arena was host to the District 9 A Bantam Tournament on February 14 – 16. 8 teams participated in the tournament.
 - Waldorf
 - Season is complete

- High School
 - Season is complete
- Figure Skating
 - Annual show “Candyland” was a great success! Season is now complete.
- Other events –
 - The Arena had 21.9 K visits and 7.9 K different visitors.
 - Ducks Unlimited Banquet will be held in the Nystrom rink area on April 5.

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

- No new report

Senior Center: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- Trips -
 - March 18 – Sidekick Theatre Country Concert
- Programs/Events –
 - March 21: Senior driving classes
 - March 26: Art with Emelia

Marion Ross Theater: Report provided by Bob Furland;

- Facility Updates –
 - Nothing new to report
- Upcoming events -
 - The Community Theatre performance of “All My Sons” will be held on March 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 22, 2025.
 - Mayo Clinic Hospice presents: Danger Boat, End of Life unscripted on March 27.

Other: Report provided by Cathy Malakowsky;

For the trail on the former UP rail corridor, the City of Albert Lea has applied for a DNR grant to replace the rail bridge between Fountain Street and Shoff Park while Freeborn County has applied for a DNR grant to replace the bridges between Albert Lea and Manchester. If successful, the City and County will need to provide matching funds. These grants would cover all the bridges along the proposed trail.

Referendum Project

Lighting project – The lighting project at the Arena has been completed, and new lights have been installed above both rinks. All other general area lighting has been retrofitted or replaced. The retrofit company is now working at the pool.

Refrigeration and Arena Floor

March 12th and 13th, all refrigerant and glycol are being removed from the compressor system, and the floor is getting ready to be removed from the mechanical room. Concrete will start being removed sometime during the week of March 17.

Rink Systems of Albert Lea has removed all the Dasher Boards and glass to prepare to remove the Colstrup Arena floor and piping.

Electric System Upgrades

Albert Lea Electric has started disconnecting the electricity from the compressors and motors and will begin switching out the old electrical gear in the mechanical room.

Pool Remodel

Brennan Companies will start at the pool with the remodel in the next few weeks.

**** 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