

The Parks Committee will hold their regularly scheduled meeting in Room #705 of the Anoka County Government Center. All members of the committee will be present. However, due to the applicable Governor's Emergency Executive Orders, and a determination by the county board chair that public attendance is not feasible due to the health pandemic, members of the public will not be allowed to attend this meeting in person. Public members may monitor this meeting through the internet at <https://www.anokacounty.us/1430/Watch-Board-Meetings-Online> or by calling 763-324-4704, 24 hours in advance of the meeting time to arrange for telephonic access. Public monitoring in this manner is done pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021.

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

and Meeting of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners**

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.
Anoka County Government Center, Room #705

Department Updates

County Board Items

1. Award of Bid – Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center Improvements
2. Award of Bid – Manomin County Park Restroom Improvements
3. Resolution of Support – Coon Creek Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment

Informational Items

4. 2021 Budget Presentations
5. Summer Program Adjustments
6. Park Facilities and Operations Update
7. Contracts Processed

Public Comments

Due to the Governor's Emergency Executive Orders, and determination by the county board chair that public attendance is not feasible due to the health pandemic, members of the public will not be allowed to attend this meeting in person, so for persons who wish to submit public comment they may do so by sending an email to anokacountyparks@co.anoka.mn.us or mailing a letter to: Anoka County Parks, 550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304.

*** Actions taken by this Committee do not bind the County Board. In addition to the County Commissioners appointed to this committee, additional County Commissioners may attend. Non-committee Commissioners may choose to participate in the discussions and/or ask questions, but they will **not** vote on any item, nor will they agree to take a specific action on business conducted by the committee. If their attendance and limited participation in the committee meeting is considered a meeting of the County Board, this shall serve as notice of a County Board meeting. This shall also serve as notice of a County Board Meeting for any committee comprised of four or more members of the board.*



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ANOKA
COUNTY
PARKS

the connection
june • 2020



EVENTS AND UPDATES

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FROM THE DIRECTOR:

The Anoka County Parks System is busier than ever these days considering that parks are essentially the only game in town for people to spend their leisure time. Anecdotally, daily park use numbers have more than doubled relative to normal times. In theory, if we continue at this pace, we could be looking at serving a monumental 10 million park visitors in 2020!

Our approach to service delivery has dramatically changed while adhering to new social distancing requirements and sanitary measures to keep park staff and the public as safe as possible. The Anoka County Parks Department along with guidance from Risk Management, Public Health, Emergency Management, Employee Relations, Attorney's Office and Facilities Management have prepared and implemented multiple best practices and operational procedures to effectively adapt to our new way of business to meet and exceed public demand.

The Programming Unit at Wargo Nature Center has adapted by delivering Facebook live videos, weekly themed activities, e-learning programs, virtual programs, podcasts, and digital field trip packets that can be downloaded.

Chomonix Golf Course business has been booming with on-line tee-time registration and payment, guest capacity limit in the clubhouse, curb-side packaged food and beverage (no-alcohol), and 1 person per cart.

All trails are open and continue to experience heavy use including the regional trail network, in-park hiking and biking trails, horse trails, and water trails along the Mississippi and Rum Rivers. As of May 18, the Governor's Executive Order authorized opening remote camp sites which include all of Anoka County's canoe camp sites.

Some of the other popular park facilities and activities that continue to be available for the public include disc golf courses, dog parks, playgrounds, boat launches, outdoor archery ranges, fishing piers, picnic areas, and conservation areas.

The show continues to go on in the parks business, and let me say, business is very good! My hat is off to our tremendous team of park staff that have shown remarkable innovation, commitment to our mission, and continued resilience in upholding our high standards in parks excellence to those that we serve.

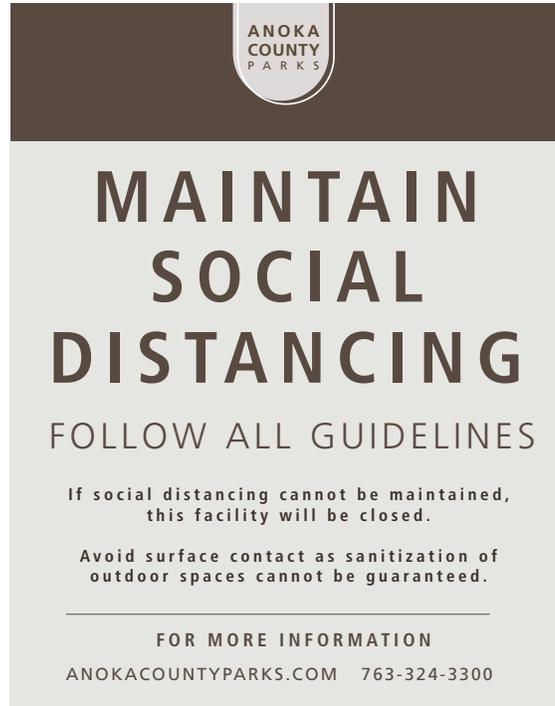
Jeff Perry

BUSY SPRING DUE TO STAY AT HOME ORDER

The Maintenance Unit has been especially busy this spring with the increased park use due to many other recreational activities being closed for the Stay at Home order, along with an unusually cooperative early thaw and pleasant spring weather. Water systems are being pressurized and tested, bathroom buildings prepared, seasonal workers recruited, and equipment distributed to each regional park operation. Typically, there is a date on the calendar that is the targeted opening day – this year that date has been moving but the facilities will be ready when they can open.

Some changes have already happened and more are underway to help alleviate some of the extra Park use. Portable restrooms have been added and existing portables saw the frequency of servicing increased. Sanitation practices and plans have been changed to use an EPA registered viricide – in addition to increased cleaning frequency. Sneeze shields have been made or ordered for reception desks at the two campground visitor centers, Coon Rapids Dam visitor center, Wargo Nature Center and Chomonix Golf Course. Social distancing stickers are ordered for placement around key facilities and park areas.

Maintenance staff have been instrumental in adapting to the increased Park usage and changes to procedures. When the day comes to open, the parks will be ready.



NATURAL RESOURCES MOVES TREES

The recent improvements to the access road in Mississippi West Regional Park has made the park more inviting to the public. But it has also had some unexpected results. Road construction required removal of trees and regrading of the ditches to meet industry standards. Unfortunately some have been pursuing off-road vehicle activity in the park. The natural resource staff is using a tree spade to move trees selected from within the park to provide screening and to block popular access points. Since the trees are moved with a large portion of their roots intact the likelihood of survival is high. This tree work, along with the added eyes in the park due to COVID-19, will hopefully put a halt to this destructive off-road activity.



FULLTIME CAMPERS

When the snow melts and flowers start to grow, changes happen everywhere throughout the parks system. One of those changes is the addition of familiar smiling faces in the Anoka County Parks Campgrounds. Every spring, camp hosts make the trip from their winter homes to Minnesota to help with a vital part of campground operation. Their tasks include welcoming campers, assisting guests after hours, helping with light maintenance in the campgrounds, and much more. This year Harriet and Ted Johanson are once again making the trek of over 2,000 miles from Yuma Arizona to the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes campground. Harriet and Ted were camp hosts at Rice Creek for three years until 2016. Keith and Mary Anderson are in their sixth year as camp hosts at Bunker Hills Campground. They spend their winter in Texas over 1,200 miles away. Keith, Mary, Harriet, and Ted all agree on what makes so many miles worth it: the people. Whether our guests are visiting from across the country or down the block, a helpful host is waiting to meet them.

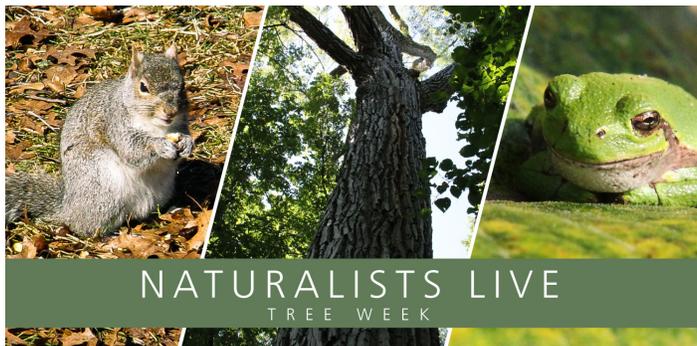


WARGO NATURE CENTER ENTRANCE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

The County received a Metropolitan Council Capital Improvement Program grant to reconstruct the entrance road and parking lot at Wargo Nature Center. Wargo Nature Center served more than 40,000 people last year through programs and activities. Staff have been busy working on the project design and construction documents are anticipated to be ready for bidding in May or June of this year. A majority of the work will occur during the busy season, so be careful upon entering and exiting the area. Construction is anticipated to start in 2020 and be completed in 2021.



VIRTUAL EARNING AT WARGO



Welcome to virtual eLearning! Programming staff have been working extremely hard to switch from teaching and interacting with people face to face to an eLearning format utilizing technology. For staff who are used to being with people all the time, it has been a change but they are rising to the occasion. To provide accessible and relevant programming, weekly themes are being established and a corresponding

curriculum packet for teachers, homeschoolers, and other interested people are developed. In addition Facebook live videos, pre-recorded videos, and puppet shows are created, geared toward the weekly event. Videos have focused on Animal Superpowers, live program animals, a Your Anoka County Parks segment, and in-depth teaching for preschoolers to seniors. Wargo has also moved their Earth Day and Kids Fishing Clinic events online. A virtual eARTh week was planned with daily activities and educational segments, as well as highlights from partnering Eco Fair organizations.

A Virtual Parks page (<https://www.anokacounty.us/3863/Virtual-Parks>) is now an integral part of the Anoka County Parks web page that serves as a landing page for all of the content that has been developed. In the future, look for segments on recreational activities such as birding and fishing as well as some of the regular programming done in a virtual format. While programming staff would rather be meeting with park visitors in person, interacting with them virtually is the next best thing.

2020 CHOMONIX GOLF COURSE OPENING

Under Governor Tim Walz emergency executive order 20-38 update on April 17, golf courses throughout the State of Minnesota were allowed to open on Saturday, April 18 at 5:00 am. Chomonix Golf Course driving range opened at 8:00 am with the first tee time at 10:00 am on the 18. It was a busy opening weekend with 163 tee times on Saturday and 156 tee times on Sunday. The golf course opened eight days earlier than the April 25, 2019 start date and rounds have double in 2020 due to golfers wanting to get out and play. The golf course is in great condition and staff are taking preventive measures to provide a contact free experience.



COUNTY BOARD ACTION ITEM 1 – BID AWARD - COON RAPIDS DAM VISITOR CENTER WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Parks Committee

Committee Date: June 2, 2020

County Board Date: June 9, 2020

Action Requested

For the Committee to recommend to the County Board to award a bid for the Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center Windows Replacement project to the lowest responsible bidder.

Previous Committee / County Board Action

March 2020 – Informational Item – Project Status Update
February 2020 – Information Item – 10- year Capital Project Forecast
August 2019 – Informational Item – Project Status Update
June 2019 – Grant Authorization

Background / Analysis

The County worked with Wold Architects to on bid documents to replace the south portion of windows at Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center. Bids were issued and will be opened on May 29th. Actual bidder information will be shared at the Committee meeting.

Once awarded and contracts are executed, construction is anticipated to occur in September and be completed by November 2020. This project is being funded through a Met Council’s Regional Parks Capital Improvement Bonding Grant Program.

Conclusion / Recommendation

For the Parks Committee to recommend to the County Board to award a bid for the Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center Windows Replacement project to the lowest responsible bidder.

Supporting Documents

Bid Tabulation will be shared at the Committee Meeting.

Lead Staff

Jake Thompson, Landscape Planner

COUNTY BOARD ACTION ITEM 2 – BID AWARD – MANOMIN RESTROOM RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Parks Committee

Committee Date: June 2, 2020

County Board Date: June 9, 2020

Action Requested

For the Committee to recommend to the County Board to award a bid for the Manomin Restroom Reconstruction Project to the lowest responsible bidder.

Previous Committee / County Board Action

March 2020 – Informational Item – Project Status Update
February 2020 – Information Item – 10- year Capital Project Forecast
August 2019 – Informational Item – Project Status Update
June 2019 – Grant Authorization

Background / Analysis

The County worked with Wold Architects to on bid documents to reconstruct the restroom at Manomin Park. Bids were issued and opened on May 29th. Actual bidder information will be shared at the Committee meeting.

Once awarded and contracts are executed, construction could be implemented immediately and be completed by November 2020. This project is being funded through a Met Council Regional Parks Capital Improvement Bonding Grant.

Conclusion / Recommendation

For the Parks Committee to recommend to the County Board to award a bid for the Manomin Restroom Reconstruction project to the lowest responsible bidder.

Supporting Documents

Bid Tabulation Summary will be shared at the Committee Meeting.

Lead Staff

Jake Thompson, Landscape Planner

COUNTY BOARD ACTION ITEM 3 – RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT – COON CREEK REGIONAL TRAIL MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

Parks Committee

Committee Date: June 2, 2020

County Board Date: June 9, 2020

Action Requested

For the Committee to review and recommend to the County Board to adopt Resolution 2020-PRK07 relating to the approval and adoption of an amendment to the Coon Creek Regional Trail Master Plan.

Previous Committee / County Board Action

July 2019 – Committee Action – No financial participation in pedestrian bridge

Background / Analysis

The City of Coon Rapids has proposed a pedestrian bridge over Coon Rapids Boulevard. Last year the City requested the County financially participate as it was along a portion of the Coon Creek Regional Trail. Opting not to financially participate, the County did agree to amend the Coon Creek Regional Trail Master Plan to include the city proposed pedestrian bridge but reaffirmed the County would not participate financially.

Parks staff have drafted an amendment to the master plan that includes the proposed pedestrian bridge and received a Resolution of Support from the City on the amendment. To complete the approval process, the County is required to submit a Resolution of Support for the amendment. Once the Resolution is approved, the Amendment will be forwarded on to the Met Council for their review and approval.

Conclusion / Recommendation

For the Committee to review and recommend to the County Board to adopt Resolution 2020-PRK07 relating to the approval and adoption of an amendment to the Coon Creek Regional Trail Master Plan.

Supporting Documents

Coon Creek Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment

Lead Staff

Karen Blaska, Park Planner

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Anoka County, Minnesota

DATE: JUNE 9, 2020

RESOLUTION #2020-PRK07

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE COON CREEK REGIONAL TRAIL MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest for the County of Anoka to provide open space recreational facilities within the county; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Anoka has through studies and evaluations developed a park and trail development program which has been approved by the Metropolitan Council; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Anoka and the Metropolitan Council have designated a regional trail corridor through the City of Coon Rapids; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council requires an accurate master plan for this regional trail corridor; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Anoka has worked with the City of Coon Rapids in a cooperative effort to locate and develop a pedestrian bridge along the regional trail corridor route through the city; and,

WHEREAS, the local city representatives have reviewed and commented on the master plan amendment and provided their own resolution of support:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Coon Creek Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Anoka County administrator, and authorizes its submission to the Metropolitan Council for its approval so that the trail facilities will be eligible for future Metropolitan Council grant funding.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Metropolitan Council, Anoka County Parks Department and the local jurisdiction, a copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the Metropolitan Council and to Anoka County Parks.

COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 4 – 2021 PROPOSED PARK BUDGET PRESENTATION

Parks Committee

Committee Date: June 2, 2020

County Board Date: June 9, 2020

Action Requested

To review and comment on the proposed 2021 Parks Department budget and 5-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Previous Committee / County Board Action

Annual committee review process.

Background / Analysis

As part of the 2021 budget process, all Anoka County departments have been asked to review their 2021 proposed budget highlights with their committees of jurisdiction.

The Park Department's proposed budget is divided into three major areas including Park Operations, Chomonix Golf Course, and Bunker Beach. In addition, there is a proposed 5-year Capital Improvement Plan and Capital Equipment Plan.

Additional summary information on these budget areas is illustrated in the attached powerpoint presentation, spreadsheet, and map.

Conclusion / Recommendation

To review and comment on the proposed 2021 Parks Department budget and 5-year CIP.

Supporting Documents

PowerPoint Presentation
5-Year CIP Spreadsheet and Map

Lead Staff

Jeff Perry, Park Director



Anoka County
MINNESOTA



BUDGET PRESENTATION

2021 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Parks Committee

Parks/Bunker Beach/Chomonix

Jeff Perry, Director

June 2, 2020





PARKS DEPARTMENT

	2020 Adopted Budget	Increases	Decreases	2021 Requested Budget
Gross Budget	\$8,443,480	\$29,719		\$8,473,199
Net County Share	\$3,326,459	\$11,391*		\$3,337,850
Target	\$3,326,459	\$11,391*		\$3,337,850
FTE	49.125	0	0	49.125

* Technology & Cellphone Expense Reallocated – Countywide Impact is Net Zero



BUNKER BEACH WATER PARK

	2020 Adopted Budget	Increases	Decreases	2021 Requested Budget
Gross Budget	\$1,649,378	\$115,938	\$0	\$1,765,316
Net County Share	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Target	\$1,649,378	\$115,938	\$0	\$1,765,316
FTE	3.5	0	0	3.5



CHOMONIX GOLF COURSE

	2020 Adopted Budget	Increases	Decreases	2021 Requested Budget
Gross Budget	\$964,800	\$0	\$51,302	\$913,498
Net County Share	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Target	\$964,800	\$0	\$51,302	\$913,498
FTE	4.725	0	0	4.725

“2021 MAP”

- Service levels will be maintained at current levels.
- Collaboration with other County departments for addressing an aging park system and equipment is ongoing.
- Staff continues to look at innovative ways to serve the public while being fiscally responsible.

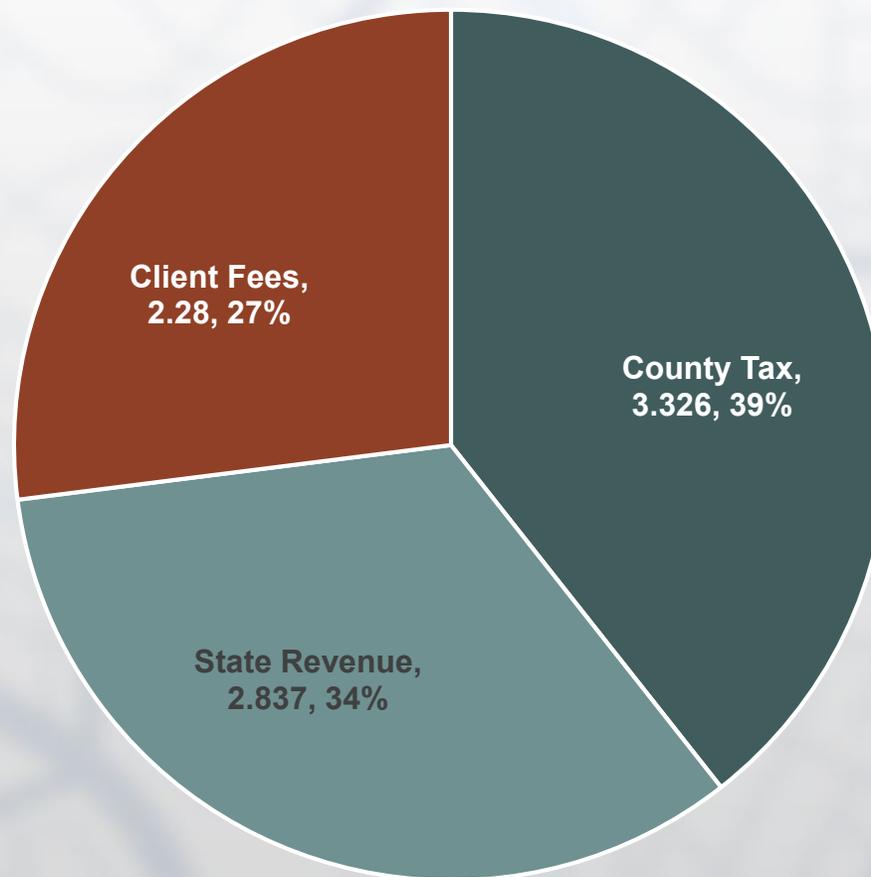


PERSONNEL STRATEGIC PLAN

- Positions Remain At 2020 Levels
- Overtime Adjustment for Operations:
 - Adjustment to reflect actual overtime for summer weekend coverage and snow removal operations.



FUNDING SOURCES



In Millions

■ County Tax ■ State Revenue ■ Client Fees



PARKS DEPARTMENT

One Time Request

An extraordinary item, not part of a CEP or CIP

- Emerald Ash Borer management to be maintained at \$50,000



PARKS DEPARTMENT

CEP Items

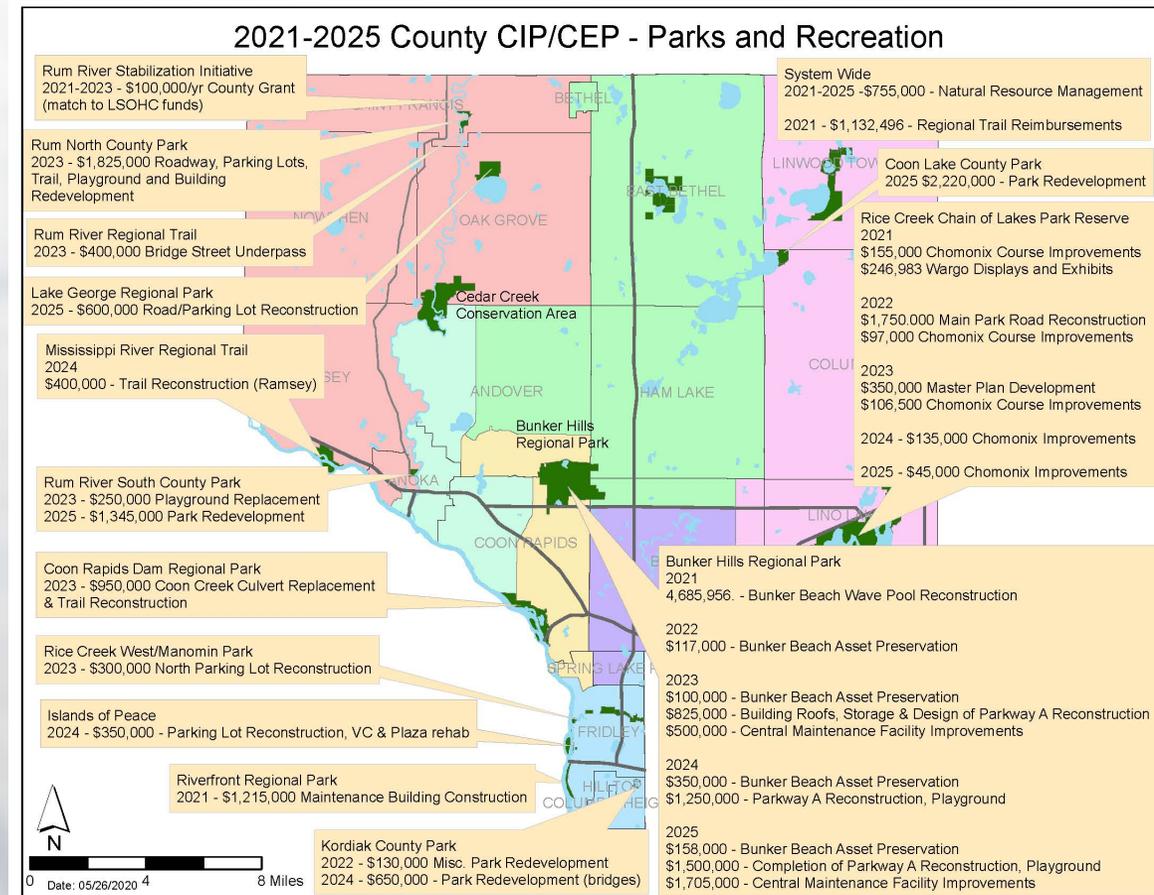
Capital Equipment Plan

- Detailed Spreadsheet Provided



PARKS DEPARTMENT

CIP Items Capital Improvement Plan



[Link to CIP OpenGov Story](#)



PARKS DEPARTMENT

Potential Budget Risks

- Funding levels of State bonding, Legacy, and O&M
- Pandemic Recovery
- Asset preservation of County parks



Thank You!



2021-2025 County CIP/CEP - Parks and Recreation

Rum River Stabilization Initiative
2021-2023 - \$100,000/yr County Grant
(match to LSOHC funds)

Rum North County Park
2023 - \$1,825,000 Roadway, Parking Lots,
Trail, Playground and Building
Redevelopment

Rum River Regional Trail
2023 - \$400,000 Bridge Street Underpass

Lake George Regional Park
2025 - \$600,000 Road/Parking Lot Reconstruction

Mississippi River Regional Trail
2024
\$400,000 - Trail Reconstruction (Ramsey)

Rum River South County Park
2023 - \$250,000 Playground Replacement
2025 - \$1,345,000 Park Redevelopment

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park
2023 - \$950,000 Coon Creek Culvert Replacement
& Trail Reconstruction

Rice Creek West/Manomin Park
2023 - \$300,000 North Parking Lot Reconstruction

Islands of Peace
2024 - \$350,000 - Parking Lot Reconstruction, VC & Plaza rehab

Riverfront Regional Park
2021 - \$1,215,000 Maintenance Building Construction

Kordiak County Park
2022 - \$130,000 Misc. Park Redevelopment
2024 - \$650,000 - Park Redevelopment (bridges)

System Wide
2021-2025 -\$755,000 - Natural Resource Management

2021 - \$1,132,496 - Regional Trail Reimbursements

Coon Lake County Park
2025 \$2,220,000 - Park Redevelopment

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve
2021
\$155,000 Chomonix Course Improvements
\$246,983 Wargo Displays and Exhibits

2022
\$1,750,000 Main Park Road Reconstruction
\$97,000 Chomonix Course Improvements

2023
\$350,000 Master Plan Development
\$106,500 Chomonix Course Improvements

2024 - \$135,000 Chomonix Improvements

2025 - \$45,000 Chomonix Improvements

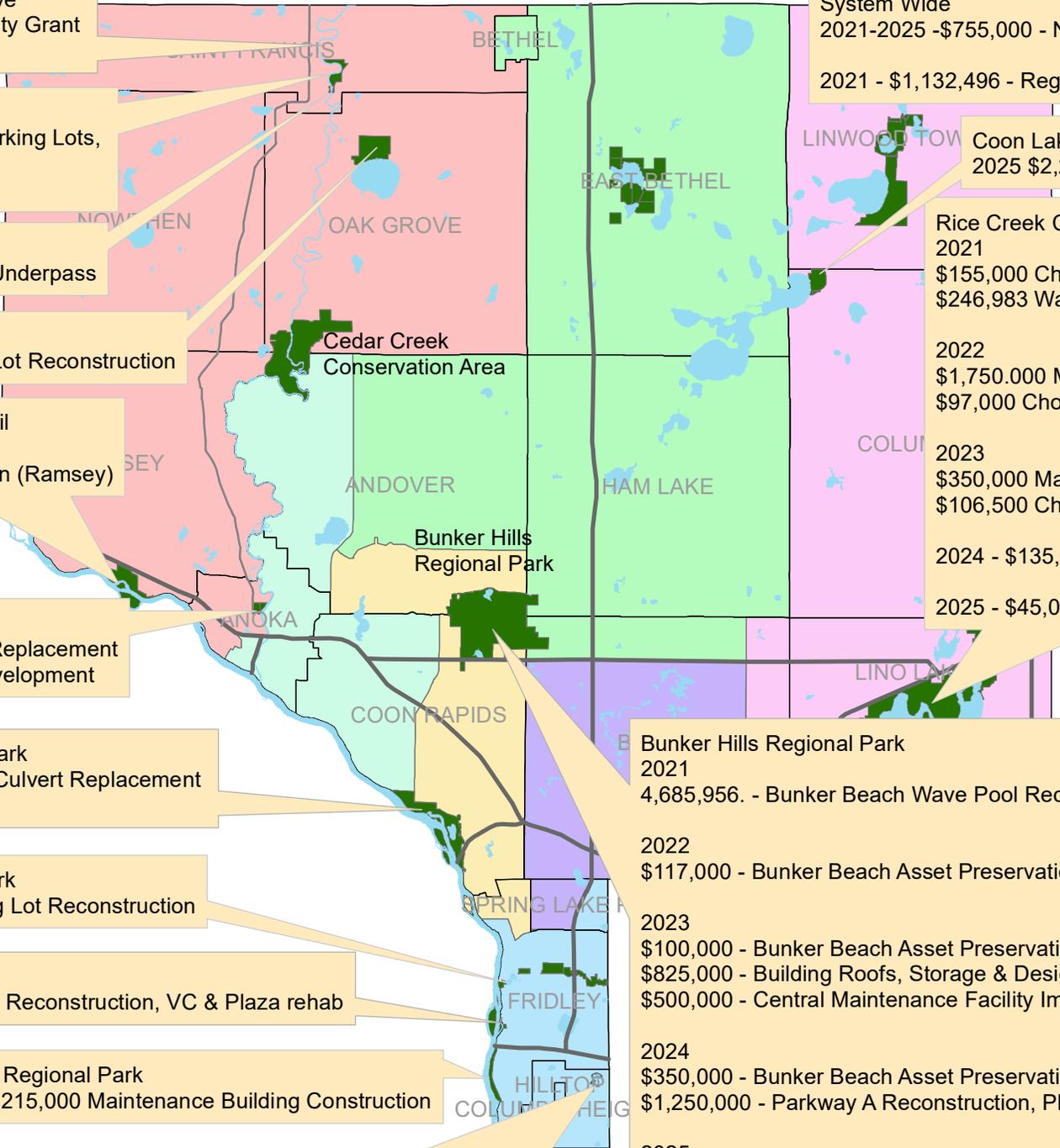
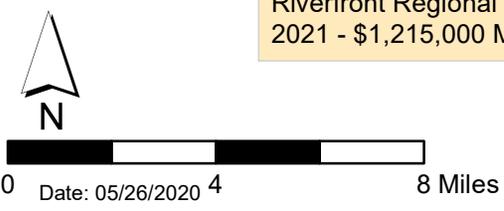
Bunker Hills Regional Park
2021
4,685,956. - Bunker Beach Wave Pool Reconstruction

2022
\$117,000 - Bunker Beach Asset Preservation

2023
\$100,000 - Bunker Beach Asset Preservation
\$825,000 - Building Roofs, Storage & Design of Parkway A Reconstruction
\$500,000 - Central Maintenance Facility Improvements

2024
\$350,000 - Bunker Beach Asset Preservation
\$1,250,000 - Parkway A Reconstruction, Playground

2025
\$158,000 - Bunker Beach Asset Preservation
\$1,500,000 - Completion of Parkway A Reconstruction, Playground
\$1,705,000 - Central Maintenance Facility Improvements



10 Year Capital Project Forecast

Park/Trail	Funding Source	Project	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Bunker	Metro P&T	Reconstruct Parkway A (reclaim/repave, replace bit curb with concrete gutter/ribbon curb), trail reconstruction, boardwalk reconstruction, expand #2 lot			500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,500,000
Bunker	Metro P&T	Bunker Destination Playground				250,000	500,000	750,000
Bunker	Metro CIP	Activity Center Storage Building and Roof Improvements at Act Center and Archery			325,000			325,000
Bunker	Metro CIP	Central Maintenance Facility Improvements (86.53%) Renovation & Remodeling			500,000		1,500,000	2,000,000
Bunker	County CIB	Renovation & Remodeling (13.47% - county match to MC funds)					205,000	205,000
Bunker	Metro P&T	Asset Management Plan/Wave Pool Rehab/improvements	1,545,928					1,545,928
Bunker	County CIP/CEP	Asset Management Plan/Wave Pool Rehab/Improvements	2,985,500	117,000	100,000	350,000	158,000	3,710,500
Coon Rapids Dam	Metro P&T	Trail improvements - Replace 4 culverts at Coon Creek with ped bridge or 1 large box culvert, reconstruct trail to 610.			950,000			950,000
IOP	Metro P&T	Parking Lot Reconstruction, Visitor Center and Plaza rehab				350,000		350,000
Lake George	Metro P&T	Trail & Road Reconstruction					600,000	600,000
MRRT	Metro P&T	Rivenwick MRT reconstruction				400,000		400,000
RCCOL	Metro P&T	Main Park Road reconstruction		1,750,000				1,750,000
RCCOL	Metro P&T	Wargo - Master Plan Development			350,000			350,000
RCCOL	Metro P&T	Wargo - 2021: Displays & Exhibits	246,983					246,983
RCW - Manomin	Metro CIP	North Parking Lot, Trail Reconstruction			300,000			300,000
RCW - Manomin	Other	Banfill - Exterior Replacement/Insulation/ADA improvements (Andy)						-
Riverfront	Metro CIP	2020 Maintenance bldg. construction and site work, gatehouse construction	1,215,000					1,215,000
Rum River	County CIB	Rum River Stabilization Initiative (matching county grant)	100,000	100,000	100,000			300,000
RRRT	Metro CIP	Bridge Street Trail Underpass			400,000			400,000
Chomonix	County CEP	Course Improvements	155,000	97,000	106,500	135,000	45,000	538,500
System-wide	Metro P&T	Natural Resource Management	160,000	170,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	855,000

10 Year Capital Project Forecast

Park/Trail	Funding Source	Project	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
System-wide	Metro CIP & I	Reimbursements for Regional Trail Construction	1,630,000					1,630,000
Coon Lake	County CIB	Park Redevelopment (Roads/parking, pavilion rehab)					2,220,000	2,220,000
Kordiak	County CIB	Park Redevelopment		130,000		650,000		780,000
Rum River North	County CIB	Park Redevelopment			1,825,000			1,825,000
Rum River South	County CIB	Park Redevelopment			250,000		1,345,000	1,595,000
		Sub-total Metro P&T Legacy	1,705,928	1,920,000	1,975,000	2,175,000	2,275,000	10,050,928
		Sub-total Metro CIP	3,431,983	-	1,525,000	-	1,500,000	6,456,983
		Sub-Total County CIB	3,240,500	444,000	2,381,500	1,135,000	3,973,000	11,174,000
		Sub-total Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total FY	8,378,411	2,364,000	5,881,500	3,310,000	7,748,000	27,681,911

COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 5 – SUMMER PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS

Parks Committee

Committee Date: June 2, 2020

County Board Date: June 9, 2020

Action Requested

To update the Parks Committee on summer program delivery.

Previous Committee / County Board Action

NA

Background / Analysis

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Parks Department staff have been closely following industry trends, Center for Disease Control Youth Programs and Camps During the Covid-19 Pandemic Guidelines, Minnesota Department of Health Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs, and the American Camp Association Covid-19 Resources for Camps Guidelines. Parks staff are making the following adjustments in the delivery of Environmental Education Programs, Summer Day Camps, Recreation Programs and Equipment Rental:

Environmental Education Programs

Wargo Nature Center provides a variety of environmental education programs during the summer, primarily to YMCA Day Camp Heritage, public and campground programs, and various other groups. To safely provide environmental education programs the following procedures will be implemented:

- Limit all program numbers to 10 or the maximum allowed by CDC/MDH standards or the maximum normal program amount – whichever is lowest.
- Limit handling of supplies or props by participants. Any handled items will be sanitized to CDC/MDH standards.
- Practice social distancing in programs and encourage the use of face masks.
- Continue to offer online programs and seek options for revenue (ie. pay-what-you-can option).

Summer Day Camps

Wargo Nature Center typically offers 14 different week-long day camp programs. However, based on CDC, MDH, and ACA guidelines, continuing with in-person day camps would be difficult. As an alternative, a Virtual Day Camp Program will be offered. Most nature centers in the Twin Cities (Springbrook, Wood Lake, Wolf Ridge, U of M, Sally Manzara) and across the country are taking this same or similar approach.

- The programs would take place between July 6 and August 21.
- It would be a free program but offered with a donation/pay what you can option.
- Eight campers per session for a maximum of 10 individuals.
- Wargo staff are developing themes based on past successful day camp sessions which would translate successfully to a virtual format.
- Two staff would work with each group of campers. Studies have shown that children are missing the community that they had at school. The virtual community has been a successful way to help. Two staff would ensure safety policies and procedures are followed.
- There would be a virtual session in the morning and a virtual closing session at the end of the day. Campers would receive activities that they would do at their own schedule during the rest of the day. Staff would use various digital formats (Zoom, Flipgrid, etc) to engage campers.
- For campers who did not have access to technology, there would be a paper copy which includes all the activities so that they can still participate at home.
- There would be a Camp in a Box option – potentially funded via Connexus Energy. Supplies would include items such as a camp t-shirt, water bottle, essential camp supplies (arts and crafts, magnifying lens,

paracord, etc.). Wargo staff would deliver these Camp in a Box supplies to each registered camper. There would also be the option to purchase the Camp in a Box (\$25-30) for those people who did not want to join the virtual program

- Programming staff are looking at offering several one-day camp experiences later in the summer to add to the summer camp experience.

Summer Recreation Programs and Equipment Rental Equipment

With the proper safety and disinfecting procedures in place, limited in-person recreation programs and boat rental will take place this summer. The following are proposed procedures:

- Follow all CDC/MDH/DNR disinfecting guidelines for equipment and social distancing.
- Reduce class size to 6 participants per class.
- Spread participants out during instruction and while on the water to maintain social distancing
- Eliminate the use of the Voyageur canoe as proper distancing cannot be achieved
- On-line pre-pay reservation only policy for rental equipment to reduce staff-public contact.
- Only household members in tandem kayaks and when there is more than two people in canoes.

Parks Department staff are committed to carrying out the Anoka County's mission of serving citizens in a respectful, innovative, and fiscally responsible manner with the goal of Wargo Nature Center to continue to safely provide environmental education, recreation programs, summer day camps, and equipment rentals during the summer of 2020.

Conclusion / Recommendation

This item is for informational purposes only - no action required.

Supporting Documents

N/A

Lead Staff

Cory Hinz, Recreation Services Manager

COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 6 – PARK FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS UPDATE

Parks Department

Committee Date: June 2, 2020

County Board Date: June 9, 2020

<p>Action Requested To provide a general overview and update on park facilities and operations as a result of COVID-19.</p>
<p>Previous Committee / County Board Action None</p>
<p>Background / Analysis Staff will provide a general overview and update on park facilities and operations as a result of COVID-19.</p>
<p>Conclusion / Recommendation To review and comment on the general overview and update on park facilities and operations as a result of COVID-19. This item is for informational purposes only.</p>
<p>Supporting Documents None</p>
<p>Lead Staff Jeff Perry, Park Director</p>

COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 7 – CONTRACTS PROCESSED

Parks Committee

Committee Date: June 2, 2020

County Board Date: June 9, 2020

<p>Action Requested To provide information to the Committee regarding contracts executed by the Parks Department since the last Committee meeting.</p>
<p>Previous Committee / County Board Action Monthly Update</p>
<p>Background / Analysis C0007966 Happy Hibachi- Food Truck at Chomonix C0007961 Pharaohs Gyros- Food Truck at Chomonix C0007959 The Big Red Wagon- Food Truck at Chomonix C0007940 Minnesota Potluck LLC- Food Truck at Chomonix C0007941 Ten Thirty Environmental- Large Subsurface LSTS permitting services at BHRP C0007183A Chronogolf – Online Tee Times</p>
<p>Conclusion / Recommendation No action requested.</p>
<p>Supporting Documents N/A</p>
<p>Lead Staff Andy Soltvedt, Operations and Visitor Services Manager</p>