

PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

and Meeting of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners**

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.
Bunker Hills Activities Center, Maple Room

Department Updates

Committee Action Items

1. Legislative Platform 2021

Informational Items

2. Bunker Hills Regional Park Trails
3. Chomonix Golf Course Operations Update
4. Bunker Park Stables – New Operators
5. Position Reclassification – Park Supervisor
6. Contracts Processed

Public Comments

Please Limit to Two Minutes

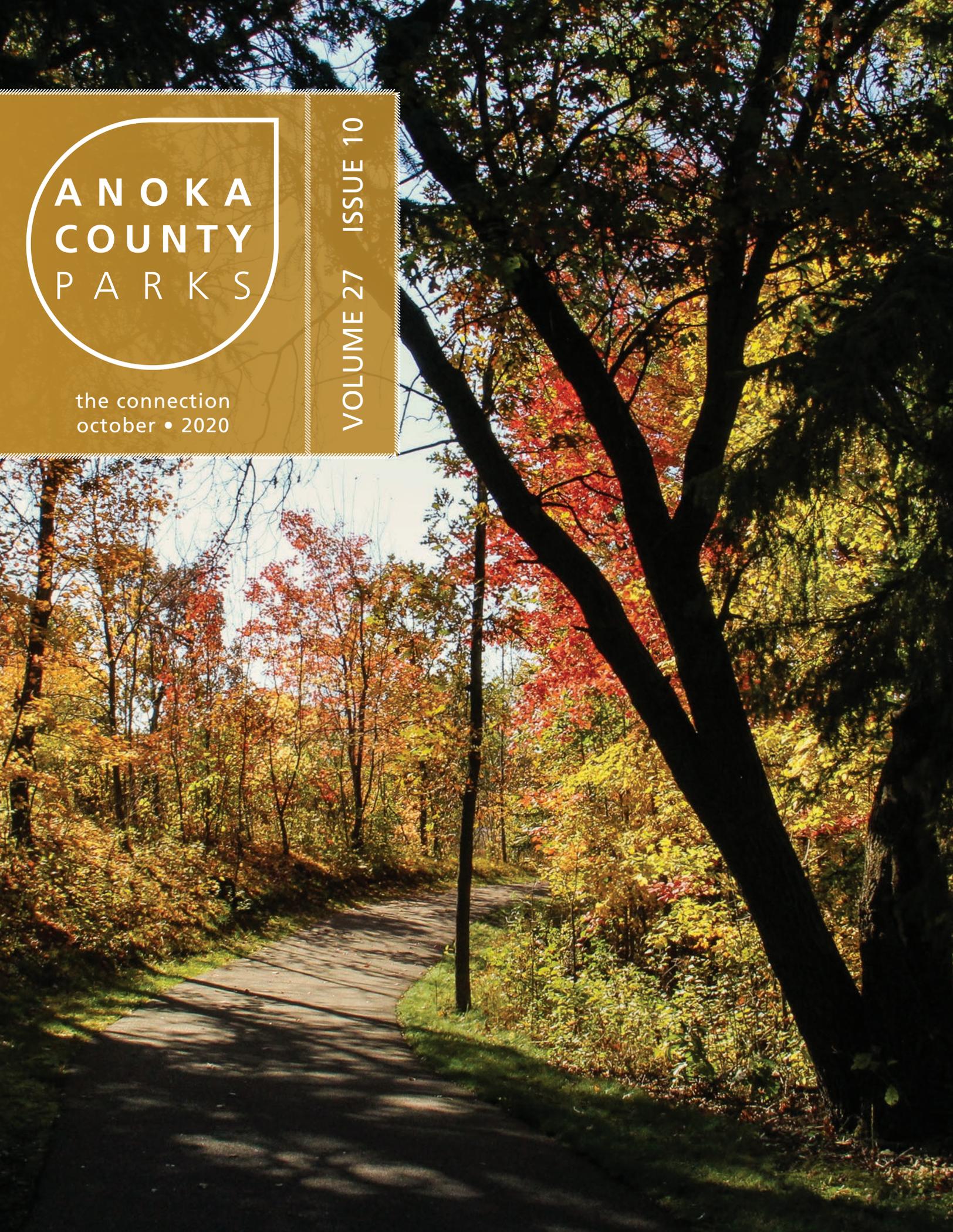
*** Actions taken by this Committee do not bind the County Board. In addition to the County Commissioners appointed to this committee, additional County Commissioners may attend. Non-committee Commissioners may choose to participate in the discussions and/or ask questions, but they will **not** vote 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.*



ANOKA
COUNTY
PARKS

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october • 2020

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 10





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FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Each June since 2016, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Research team has surveyed 1,000 U.S. adults to better understand how people connect with parks. The results of these surveys are the basis for the annual Engagement with Parks Report. This report provides park professionals and advocates, policymakers and other key stakeholders with insights about the impact that parks and recreation facilities have on the lives of people throughout the country.

In 2020, NRPA conducted a shorter-than-typical Engagement survey due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 study focused on a few key questions:

- How frequently do people visit parks, trails and recreation amenities?
- How has the pandemic affected park usage?
- Do adults in the United States see public parks as an essential government service?
- Are people more likely to vote for political leaders who support funding for parks and recreation?

Key findings of the 2020 Engagement with Parks Report include:

- 82 percent of U.S. adults agree that parks and recreation is essential;
- 77 percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space or trails is an important factor in deciding where they want to live;
- U.S. residents visit local park and recreation facilities more than twice a month on average.
- Three in five U.S. residents — more than 190 million people — visited a park, trail, public open space or other recreation facility at least once during the first three months of the pandemic (mid-March through mid-June 2020).
- 72 percent of U.S. adults are more likely to vote for local political leaders who make park funding a priority.

In conclusion, parks are essential – essential for healthy communities and essential for preserving our treasured natural resources. People across Anoka County continue to swarm to their favorite parks, trails and open space areas to remain physically active, decompress and reconnect with the outdoors during these challenging times. The Anoka County Parks Department is truly grateful for the vital role that we play in positively impacting the quality of life in Anoka County.

Jeff Perry



REVIEW: A SEASON IN THE PARKS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

A review of parks operations in 2020, with reactions to COVID-19, reveal a sizable list of adjustments. Some of these will drop way with the passing of the pandemic, while others are likely to remain as improved practices to meet today's higher standards of disinfection and distancing.

In early preparations to meet the pandemic, investments were made to enhance disinfection with new cleaning agents, dispensing equipment, and staff training. Staff and park user distancing was supported by first building in-house, and later purchasing point-of-contact plexi-glass dividers. Signage throughout facilities were posted to explain distancing expectations, and in some areas, fencing ensured the message then was clear. In certain facilities door lock hardware was changed to convert restrooms to single use, allowing for public use while maintaining proper distancing.

Staff were spread out to various work locations and vehicles were assigned to single individuals to enable distancing. With the addition of seasonal staff coming on for the busy summer season, this required strategically distributing vehicles to carry out standard parks operations throughout the system. With some staff moving to remote work in home offices and additional utility vehicles leased for the season, the transportation concerns were reduced. Later, through Federal Cares Act funding, it was possible to purchase additional vehicles to address transportation.

Now, as peak summer activity begins to fade, the Parks Maintenance unit can report zero positive cases of COVID-19 among staff, and this has much to do with protocols in distancing, disinfection, and mask use. The Parks Department is sincerely thankful to the staff who were so diligent in adjusting to and enacting these protocols.

AIS PROGRAM RECEIVES GRANT FOR PILOT PROJECT

The Anoka County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program partnered with the Anoka County Soil and Water Conservation District to receive a pilot project grant that focuses on changing boaters' behavior when it comes to removing plants and animals from boats and trailers upon exiting a body of water. With the help of the grant, 'Aquatic Weed Stick®' weed removal tools will be installed at several accesses in the county. This tool will make it easier for boaters to reach debris under the boat and on the trailer without crawling under them. The tool's head has a scraper and two hooks which allows the boater to push, pull and scrape weeds, algae and muck from the boat and trailer. The tool also includes a 30' retractable tether to secure it while allowing boaters to reach all parts of their boat and trailer. It is hoped that having a weed removal tool in a handy location at boat accesses will result in cleaner boats leaving the access and less chance of the spread of AIS.



CHANGES AHEAD FOR LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL PARK



Lake George Regional Park is well established as a recreational swimming, boating and fishing destination and a portion of the park hosted the Emma B. Howe YMCA's Camp Guy Robinson, which offered various day camps during the summer season. The County was recently notified of the YMCA's decision to close the camp and terminate the use agreement with the County after over 20 years of partnership within the park. This opens up a large portion of the park for reprogramming. Since the most recent master plan for the park is from 1980, the Department plans on developing an entirely new master plan for the park. This new master plan will address the entire park and engage the public and particularly the under served populations for input and ideas to create a regional park that is welcoming for all.



CHOMONIX GOLF COURSE

Chomonix Golf Course is staying busy this season with record breaking months for July and August. July month end revenues indicate the course has a new all-time July golf course revenue record of more than \$200,000. The previous July record was set in 2017. August month end revenues also indicated a new record coming in more than \$14,000 above the previous August record set in 2008. With September more than halfway over, the course is eager to receive final month end numbers. Chomonix has already surpassed the revenue received in September 2019.

BUNKER BEACH WAVE POOL TAKING SHAPE

Construction is moving along at Bunker Beach Water Park. The Wave Pool has started to take shape this month as the first concrete pours completed. Contractors have simultaneously been constructing the two new buildings for the water park including the family restroom building and new maintenance building. The new family restroom building will feature family locker rooms, a tube rental space, new lockers and a lactation room. The new maintenance facility will feature offices for staff, a new maintenance workshop and supply and equipment storage.



COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM 1 – DRAFT 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Parks Committee

Committee Date: October 6, 2020

County Board Date: October 13, 2020

Action Requested

To consider recommending to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee the proposed legislative platform for the Parks Department for the 2021 legislative session.

Previous Committee / County Board Action

Annual review and approval of the Anoka County Parks Legislative Platform.

Background / Analysis

Annually, the Parks Committee is asked to review and approve the Park Department's legislative platform for forwarding to the County's Intergovernmental Relations Committee. The Parks Department is recommending the following legislative request:

- a) \$1,610,852 for Regional Park operations and maintenance financed from the State General Fund and Natural Resources Fund (lottery in lieu of sales tax). Projects include park and facility infrastructure repairs, natural resources conservation, materials and equipment costs, and park amenities.
- b) \$3,152,648 for Regional Park capital improvements and natural resources conservation from the Metro Regional Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program FY22 & 23. Projects include road reconstruction at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes; System-Wide natural resources and maintenance management initiatives; culvert and trail improvements at Coon Rapids Dam; road, trail, and parking lot improvements at Bunker Hills.
- c) To support the request of the Metropolitan Regional Park Implementing Agencies for \$15,000,000 in state bonds, to be matched with \$10,000,000 in Metropolitan Council bonds, for improvements to the Metropolitan Regional Park and Trail System. The amount appropriated to each regional park implementing agency is based on a formula that applies 70% weighting to agency population and 30% weighting the agency's share of non-local regional park visits. This appropriation will fund approximately \$2,460,000 in projects for Anoka County. Project locations are: Central Anoka County Regional Trail Pedestrian Tunnel (reimbursement); Central Anoka County Regional Trail Overpass (reimbursement); two sections of Coon Creek Regional Trail (reimbursements); Mississippi River Regional Trail (reimbursement); and construction of the Riverfront Regional Park Maintenance Facility.

Conclusion / Recommendation

To recommend to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee the proposed legislative platform for the Parks Department for the upcoming 2021 legislative session.

Supporting Documents

2021 Anoka County Legislative Platform Proposal

Lead Staff

Jeff Perry, Park Director

2021 Legislative Proposal for Anoka County

Anoka County employees are encouraged to submit ideas to make government more efficient – such as law-changing proposals to improve services, eliminate outdated State rules, and undo anything else that gets in the way of making government better, faster and smarter.

Each proposal should be submitted to the committee of jurisdiction during the September committee meetings.

Submitted by: Jeff Perry, Park Director

1. Brief proposal description:

Continued support of state funds appropriated to the Metropolitan Council for Regional Park operations and maintenance and capital improvements. These appropriations would fund approximately \$7,223,500 million of investments in the Anoka County Regional Park System in the FY 2022/23 biennium:

- a) *\$1,610,852 for Regional Park operations and maintenance financed from the State General Fund and Natural Resources Fund (lottery in lieu of sales tax). Projects include park and facility infrastructure repairs, natural resources conservation, materials and equipment costs, and park amenities.*
- b) *\$3,152,648 for Regional Park capital improvements and natural resources conservation from the Metro Regional Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program. Projects include road reconstruction at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes; System-Wide natural resources and maintenance management initiatives; culvert and trail improvements at Coon Rapids Dam; road, trail, and parking lot improvements at Bunker Hills.*
- c) *To support the request of the Metropolitan Regional Park Implementing Agencies for \$15,000,000 in state bonds, to be matched with \$10,000,000 in Metropolitan Council bonds, for improvements to the Metropolitan Regional Park and Trail System. The amount appropriated to each regional park implementing agency is based on a formula that applies 70% weighting to agency population and 30% weighting the agency's share of non-local regional park visits. This appropriation will fund approximately \$2,460,000 in projects for Anoka County. Project locations are: Central Anoka County Regional Trail Pedestrian Tunnel (reimbursement); Central Anoka County Regional Trail Overpass (reimbursement); two sections of Coon Creek Regional Trail (reimbursements); Mississippi River Regional Trail (reimbursement); and construction of Riverfront Regional Park Maintenance Facility.*

2. What do you want to accomplish?

Continued support for state funds (General Fund; Natural Resources Fund; and Legacy Fund) appropriated to the Metropolitan Council for Regional Parks operations and maintenance, capital improvements, and natural resources conservation.

Using the Metropolitan Council portion of the bonding match, reimburse local cities for the County's share of the project match (50%). All these reimbursement projects leverage a 50% local match to maximize the use of the Capital funding. In addition, a new maintenance support facility will be constructed at Riverfront Regional Park because the existing facilities are grossly undersized and inefficient.

3. What statute needs to be amended or is impacted.

No statute amendments or impacts anticipated. The following legislation pertains to the three subject funding sources and anticipated appropriations:

*General Fund: 1985 Minn. Stat. 473.351
Natural Resources Fund: 2000 Minn. Stat. 297A.94(e)(3)
Legacy Fund: 2009 Laws of Minn. 2009, ch.172, art.5, Sec.6, subd.3*

4. What is the cost savings/fiscal impact to Anoka County's budget?

The project will save the county \$7,223,500 million in capital improvements and operations & maintenance costs for the regional parks within Anoka County.

5. What would be the time savings/efficiencies for Anoka County?

The majority of the work on the capital projects is focused on rebuilding aging infrastructure. This will reduce the costs of performing ongoing repairs and maintenance. It will also result in facilities that will reduce public risk exposure, enhance visitor experience, and complement efforts to increase public use and revenues.

6. What are the downsides of supporting this issue?

None known.

7. Who, or what organization would oppose this issue?

None known.

8. Is there a county-related/state-related organization which might support this issue?

The State of Minnesota has been funding the regional park system through regular bond appropriations and general fund since 1975.

This bonding bill will be supported by all other nine implementing agencies including Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bloomington, Carver County, Scott County, Dakota County, Washington County, Ramsey County, and Three Rivers park District. In addition, it may be supported by the Metropolitan Council, depending upon the Governor's recommendation.

9. What would be the likelihood of success for this issue in the current legislative environment?

Likely to be successful or partially successful.

10. How else could this issue be addressed?

11. Other information concerning this issue:

COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 2 – BUNKER HILLS REGIONAL PARK TRAILS

Parks Committee

Committee Date: October 6, 2020

County Board Date: October 13, 2020

Action Requested

No action required; this is an informational item only.

Previous Committee / County Board Action

N/A

Background / Analysis

Bunker Hills Regional Park has approximately 11 miles of paved trails within the park, which have been constructed at different times. Most are in good condition; however, 1.3 miles of trail have been recently identified for reconstruction. These trails were in the same bid package with the Bunker Beach Parking Lot reconstruction project (currently under construction) and the bids came in over bid forcing the Department to reduce the scope of the project to only include the Bunker Beach parking lot. Staff has included those old trail segments in a future A-Road reconstruction project in a phased approach in 2023, 24, and 25 through the Park and Trail Legacy grant program. Until the old trail segments are reconstructed, maintenance staff will spot repair the major areas of uneven trail surfaces.

In addition to reconstruction, typical trail maintenance occurs within a 20' corridor and includes:

- Vegetation management such as, removing overhanging branches, pruning trees and addressing weeds in the trail.
- Addressing hazard conditions. Downed trees or potholes are addressed as they occur.
- Patching and crack-sealing has been completed by Parkkeepers and through partnerships with the Transportation Department through sharing contracts and equipment.
- Mowing and clearing of debris from the trails on a regular basis throughout the seasons.
- Assessing and replacing directional and information signage as needed.
- Plowing or packing snow to accommodate winter walking.

Conclusion / Recommendation

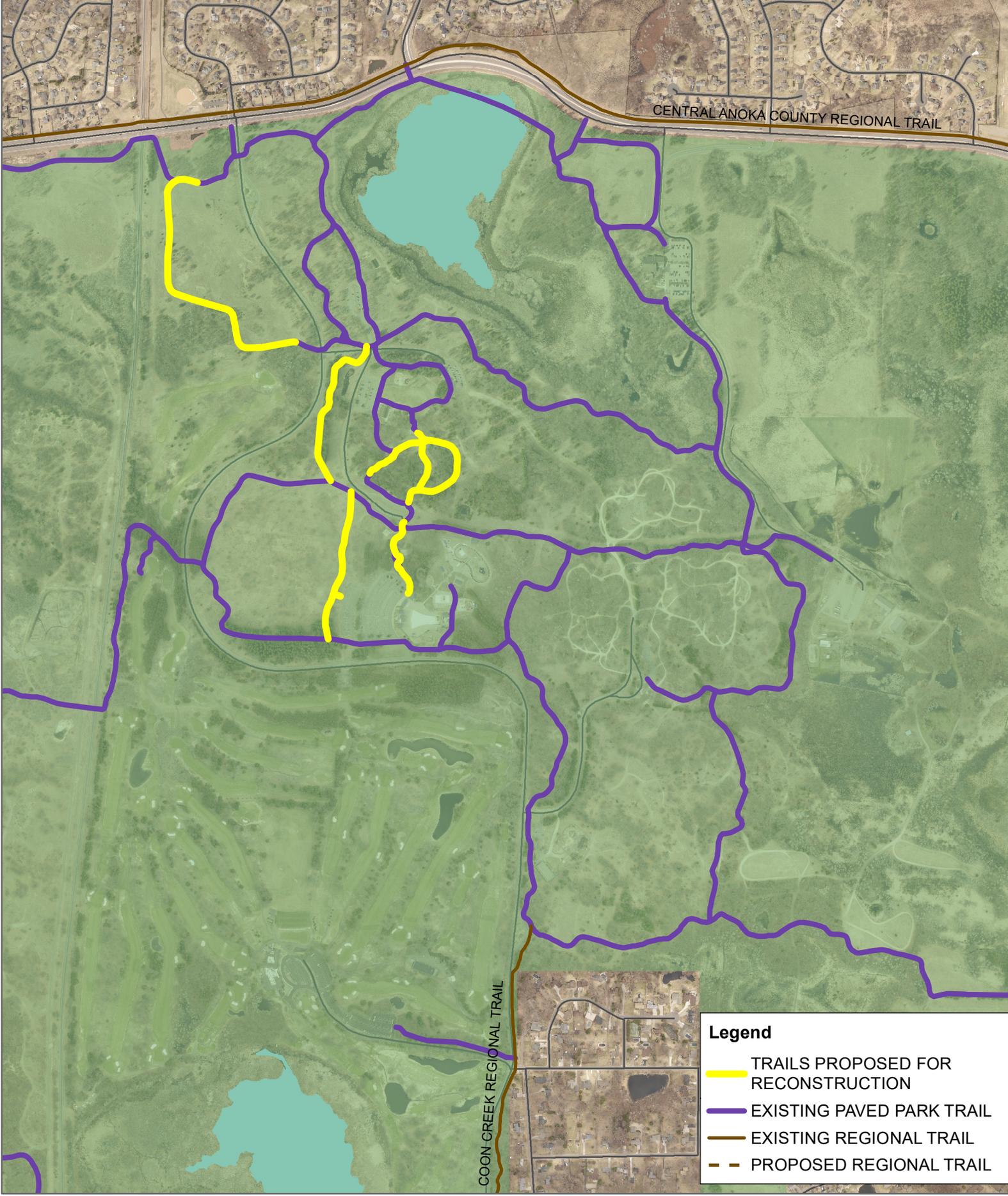
No action required. For informational purposes only.

Supporting Documents

Map of trails to be reconstructed.

Lead Staff

Jeff Perry, Parks Director



CENTRAL ANOKA COUNTY REGIONAL TRAIL

COON CREEK REGIONAL TRAIL

Legend

- TRAILS PROPOSED FOR RECONSTRUCTION
- EXISTING PAVED PARK TRAIL
- EXISTING REGIONAL TRAIL
- - PROPOSED REGIONAL TRAIL

Bunker Hills Regional Park Paved Trails



COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 3 – CHOMONIX GOLF COURSE UPDATE

Parks Committee

Committee Date: October 6, 2020

County Board Date: October 13, 2020

Action Requested

To update the Parks Committee on the status of the 2020 Chomonix Golf Course Operations (Period Ended August 31, 2020 Operating Statement).

Previous Committee / County Board Action

January 2019 - Committee Evaluation and Discussion of Chomonix Golf Course (Informational Item)

February 2019 – Approval to Continue Operations of Chomonix Golf Course

April 2019 – Chomonix Golf Course Transparency Portal

July 2019 – Chomonix Golf Course Update

October 2019 – Chomonix Golf Course Update

February 2020 – Chomonix Golf Course Update

July 2020 – Chomonix Golf Course Update

Background / Analysis

Chomonix Golf Course has had record revenues during the months of July and August this summer. The July revenue totaled \$200,907.30 which exceeded the previous all-time July record of \$193,006.17 in 2017. The previous August revenue of \$185,283.99 in 2008 was also surpassed by a new revenue record of \$199,867.47. The current 2020 golf rounds played have passed the 2019 year-end total golf rounds played of 19,915. Based upon the Chomonix Golf Course Operating Statement Period Ended August 31, 2020, revenues have exceeded expenditures, which is a favorable position to be in entering the final fiscal quarter of the year.

Conclusion / Recommendation

This item is for informational purposes only.

Supporting Documents

Chomonix Golf Course Operating Statement (Period Ended August 31, 2020 Operating Statement).

Lead Staff

Cory Hinz, Recreation Services Manager

**Anoka County Parks
Chomonix Golf Course Operating Statement
Period Ended August 31, 2020**

Category	2019 Actual	2019 Actual as of Aug 31st	2020 Budget	2020 Actual as of Aug 31st
Green Fees	416,698	339,749	461,533	476,319.12
Golf Lessons	0	0	3,500	0.00
Season Passes	39,500	39,500	35,000	27,820.00
Players Club	2,258	2,258	3,500	4,902.50
Golf Cart Rental	117,072	98,663	143,000	121,765.24
Golf Club Rental	191	191	800	0.00
Driving range	23,334	20,701	27,000	30,318.43
Advertising Sales	0	0	3,000	1,300.00
Room Rental	12,418	11,573	15,000	1,470.00
Misc Chg for Svc	3,776	2,406	8,000	2,007.00
Merchandise Sales Taxable	31,187	25,058	45,000	24,098.43
Merchandise Sales NonTaxable	9,030	6,890	11,000	3,223.58
Food Sales	8,035	8,012	24,000	9,055.62
Beer Sales	88,831	77,844	128,467	65,087.50
Pop Sales	13,605	11,512	24,000	14,637.63
Liquor Sales	17,917	15,810	28,000	15,174.68
Gift Certificates	0	0	4,000	
Revenues - Summary	783,851	660,166	964,800	797,179.73
Salary & Benefits	536,612	347,417	612,115	397,096
Departmental Expenses	222,553	163,742	253,322	156,069
Operating Expenditures	55,787	43,770	51,663	32,457
Contracts & Fees	13,568	6,522	9,700	6,375
Capital Outlay				
Debt Service	38,000	30,500	38,000	
Other Financing Uses - Inventory Decrease	9,705			
Expenses - Summary	876,225	591,950	964,800	591,996
Change in Net Position	(92,374)	68,216	0	205,183

COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 4 – SALE OF OWNERSHIP – BUNKER PARK STABLES

Parks Committee

Committee Date: October 6, 2020

County Board Date: October 13, 2020

Action Requested

To provide information to the Committee regarding the upcoming sale of ownership of Bunker Park Stables.

Previous Committee / County Board Action

NA

Background / Analysis

Bunker Park Stables has been the vendor that provides contracted horseback riding, lessons, hayrides and other equestrian services at the stables in Bunker Hills Regional Park. Kris Kelly and Jim Dimmerman have been the owners and operators of Bunker Park Stables and have over a 20-year history with Anoka County Parks. They have been great partners in providing a unique equestrian amenity for the entire Metropolitan Area Regional Parks System and beyond.

Kris and Jim have decided to retire and sell the ownership of the operation to Linda and Brian Quammen. Linda and Brian have worked for the stables for over 10 years in a part time and seasonal capacity. They are looking forward to transitioning the stables operation to their full time commitment.

The sale of the stables should be completed in September. Kris and Jim are planning to stay on for a transition period to help with any questions that may come up for Linda and Brian.

Conclusion / Recommendation

No action requested.

Supporting Documents

N/A

Lead Staff

Andy Soltvedt, Operations and Visitor Services Manager

COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 5 – POSITION RECLASSIFICATION – PARK SUPERVISOR

Parks Committee

Committee Date: October 6, 2020

County Board Date: October 13, 2020

Action Requested

To provide information to the Committee regarding reclassifying the Park Supervisor position to an Assistant Superintendent.

Previous Committee / County Board Action

NA

Background / Analysis

Parks staff is working with Employee Relations to review and reclassifying the Park Supervisor position to an Assistant Superintendent position. Parks Staff are recommending a one grade increase from a grade 12 to grade 13.

The job duties of this position have changed to play a larger leadership role in staff development, project management, purchasing, contract oversight, technology implementation, after hours response, winter/weather monitoring and call outs, and increased administrative roles. In addition, the visitation to the park system has increased significantly over the past 20 years resulting in these positions needing to balance staff assignments, financial and physical resources and customer concerns to provide the best service in a constantly changing environment.

Staff are recommending aligning the Parks Maintenance Unit structure with that of the Transportation Division since they are both union shops and it would provide consistency in the organizational structure between these two County departments.

Conclusion / Recommendation

No action required. For informational purposes only.

Supporting Documents

N/A

Lead Staff

Andy Soltvedt, Operations and Visitor Services Manager

COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 6 – CONTRACTS PROCESSED

Parks Committee

Committee Date: October 6, 2020

County Board Date: October 13, 2020

Action Requested To provide information to the Committee regarding contracts executed by the Parks Department since the last Committee meeting.
Previous Committee / County Board Action Monthly Update
Background / Analysis C0008129 Mickman Bros. BHAC -Peace Garden pond assessment C0008132 Collaborative Design- Rum River North Pavilion
Conclusion / Recommendation No action requested.
Supporting Documents N/A
Lead Staff Andy Soltvedt, Operations and Visitor Services Manager