



Inver Grove Heights Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM

8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Presentations**
 - A. Al Vandehoef, Recreation Coordinator - Active Older Adult Programming
4. **Announcements**
 - A. October Meeting – Wednesday, October 16. 2024 at 7:00 pm
5. **Consent Agenda**

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and have been made available to the Commission at least two days prior to the meeting; the items will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commission member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from this Agenda and considered in normal sequence.

 - A. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Approve Minutes from August 14, 2024, Meeting
6. **Public Comment**

Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
7. **Unfinished Business**

Items that are brought back to the Commission for action from a previous meeting
8. **Regular Agenda**
 - A. South Valley Archery Range Design
9. **Administrative Presentations**
 - A. Department Happenings
 1. Parks Superintendent Update
 2. Recreation Superintendent Update
 3. Parks and Recreation Director Update
10. **Commission Comments**
11. **Adjourn**

September 11, 2024 - Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Agenda

**Inver Grove Heights
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
City Hall Police Conference Room - 8150 Barbara Avenue
Wednesday, August 14, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Cook called the August 14, 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Steve Cook; Vice Chair Niki Barker; Commissioners: Kurt Stangler, Sandy Christensen, Ben Stone, Tracy Mulcahy, Willie Krech, Abby Heidenreich

Absent: Commissioner Bill Skar

Others Present: Recreation Superintendent Julie Dorshak, Parks Superintendent Brian Swoboda

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- South Valley Park dedication/reopening is Tuesday, August 27th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Chair Cook encouraged Commissioners to attend and wear their badge.
- Next PRAC meeting is scheduled for September 11th at 7:00 p.m. Vice Chair Barker will be leading that meeting.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of the Minutes from June 12, 2024 Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Krech, second by Commissioner Barker, to approve the June Minutes and the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

7. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Natural Resource Management Plan - South Valley Park

Parks Superintendent Swoboda presented a staff recommendation to shift the focus of the Natural Resource Management Plan for Heritage Village Park to South Valley Park, due to the presence of oriental bittersweet at South Valley.

Background on Natural Resource Management Plans

2023, City Council approved collaboration with Dakota County through Conservation Collaboration to develop three Natural Resource Management Plans in city parks. The Seidls Lake plan is complete, as is the Harmon/Salem Hills Park plan. Work on the Heritage Village plan is not

complete, but staff recommend shifting focus to South Valley, due to recent detection of oriental bittersweet, an invasive plant species.

Background on oriental bittersweet

Oriental bittersweet is an extremely aggressive vining plant that reproduces through seeds spread by birds eating the fruit and roots sprouting new shoots. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to a couple of years. Cutting the vine does not kill the plant. The plant needs to be cut and treated at the root; regrowth then needs to be treated with basal spray.

Challenges at South Valley

- Topography
- Funding/resources
- Spread (40-50 acres out of 94 acres are affected)

Proposed Change

Staff are proposing to switch out the uncompleted Heritage Village Park plan to prioritize South Valley Park. The Natural Resource Management Plan will provide comprehensive action steps to address the park's needs, with a focus on controlling the invasive plant and minimizing threat to the forest.

Action Requested

The PRAC is asked to consider recommending the substitution of South Valley Park for Heritage Village in the Natural Resource Management Plan.

Staff recommend that the PRAC make a recommendation to City Council to substitute South Valley Park for Heritage Village Park in the Natural Resource Management Plan collaboration.

Commissioner Krech asked about cost.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said that it will be a five-year plan, possibly involving goats. The cost to get goats (which would also address the buckthorn) is \$500 an acre, but it's not yet known how long this would take.

Chair Cook asked whether five years would be needed.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said the management plans for other parks are five-year plans. The hilly topography and the spread of the plant present a significant challenge, so a five-year makes sense as a starting point.

Chair Cook asked about the tradeoffs of focusing on South Valley Park versus Heritage Village.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda answered that the efforts at Heritage Village were focused on prairie management (including burning, floodplain management, and removal of invasive species). He said that some of that work can continue in-house (not using conservation funding).

Commissioner Christenson asked if oriental bittersweet had been seen in other parks.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda answered no; this is the first time he's seen it in 28 years.

Commissioner Krech asked about funding.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said that he doesn't know yet. He estimated that it would probably take at least five years of continuous effort to get the oriental bittersweet under control.

Chair Cook asked whether other companies will be involved.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said yes; the County collaboration apportions funding for these kinds of projects. There is some in-kind labor/funding supplied to match the 85-15 percent funding structure. Usually, Friends of the Mississippi River write the plan and hire the contractors to do the work.

Chair Cook asked if in-house work could continue at Heritage Village.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said yes, as time allows. He added that another round of the Dakota County collaboration opens in 2026, so Heritage Village could come back into the collaboration in the future.

Chair Cook confirmed that the recommendation is to recommend to City Council shifting the Natural Resource Management Plan work from Heritage Village to South Valley to address the area of concern, and he asked Parks Superintendent Swoboda to keep work on Heritage Village going as much as possible.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said staff would do what they could.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, second by Commissioner Stangler, to recommend substituting South Valley Park for Heritage Village Park in the Natural Resource Management Plan collaboration.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happenings

1. Recreation Superintendent Update

Recreation Superintendent Dorshak updated the Commission on the following:

- The fall brochure is now out.
- VMCC has been very busy.
 - April Membership Survey results are being analyzed and will be shared next month (500 responses!)
 - Painting of fitness center and lobby is now complete.
 - Aquatic center painting is in progress (also deep cleaning of the pool).
 - The water park, locker rooms, and hallways will be painted next week.

- East Rink ice will be rebuilt and school logos repainted starting August 23rd. A new condensing unit will also be added. The estimated reopen date for the rink is September 19th.
- Seal coating on the VMCC parking lot starts September 9th.
- Lots of positive feedback so far on facility improvements; more projects planned (e.g., new furniture)
- Kids Rock will end Friday, August 23; other summer programs also winding down
- 356 programs were offered overall this summer.
- 2024 summer program registration: 2,400 participants (seniors, youth, fitness, swimming)
- South Valley Grand Opening Tuesday August 27th, 6:00 to 7:30. Over 1,500 people indicated interest in attending, and there are only 60 parking spots, so walking, biking, and/or parking at North Valley is being encouraged. (Shuttle rides will be available via van and golf carts.) The event will have food trucks and music, with a ribbon cutting at 6:30.
- Fall soccer: 88 participants!
- IGH Days planning is underway (parade, disc golf tournament, etc.)

Chair Cook complimented the beautiful brochure and the number of offerings.

2. Parks Superintendent Update

Parks Superintendent Swoboda updated the Commission on the following:

- The Council approved the Rock Island Swing Bridge project. Vinco Incorporated came in with the lowest bid at \$467,248, with alternate for white and color-changing archway lighting for \$21,000 and contingencies totaling \$498,000. The completion date is estimated for May 2025, but they are hoping to wrap up sooner – potentially this fall.
- South Valley and Heritage Village – only minor punch list items remain at both parks
- Court projects at Oakwood and Skyview continue -- color-coating is next, then fence work, then standards and nets can be put up.
- The trail between Overlook and Argenta Hills was paved recently. Trail restoration will commence soon, then chain link fence and signage will be added.
- The trail at Seidls Lake Park is mostly paved; the last portion will be finished within a few weeks.
- The archery range consultant is creating design concepts for South Valley; plans should be available for comment soon.
- Crews have been busy with mowing and weed whipping, especially with equipment outages and wet weather.
- Baseball fields are being converted to fall soccer and football. Teams have started practices.
- Fields prepared for tournaments at Rich Valley (fertilizer applied)
- Lots of field work at Rich Valley – cutting edges, lips, ensuring drainage.
- 12-18 seasonal staff will be leaving by end of month

Chair Cook complimented the crew on their work.

Commissioner Krech asked if ash trees are still being removed.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said that most roadway trees have been removed; now, the challenge is private properties, where many ash trees still remain. A round of removals will commence in next couple of weeks. Removal sometimes involves cranes and can be expensive.

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Barker said she and her kids have been enjoying South Valley Park. She encouraged people to walk or bike to the grand opening.

Chair Cook said he was blown away by the park and that it was nice to see people using it.

Commissioner Mulcahy echoed Commissioner Barker's excitement for the grand opening.

13. ADJOURN:

Motion by Commissioner Krech, second by Commissioner Christenson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary Wilfred Clashe



Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: South Valley Archery Range Design

MEETING DATE: September 11, 2024

ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda

CONTACT: Brian Swoboda, Parks Superintendent, 651.450.2582
Adam Lares, Parks & Recreation Director, 651.450.2587

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission is asked to provide feedback on the Phase 2 archery design.

BACKGROUND

On June 12, 2024, staff introduced the potential advancement of Phase 2 of the South Valley Park redevelopment, specifically the Archery Range. Following the successful completion of Phase 1, park maintenance staff were able to clear the future archery area ahead of schedule due to the mild winter, without incurring additional capital costs for the city.

Interest in recreational archery has grown significantly in Inver Grove Heights over the past few years. Spring, summer, and fall youth archery programs have been offered at Groveland Park, utilizing the outdoor hockey boards with added safety netting. However, staff recognized the need for improvements, particularly in safety and the overall experience.

The South Valley Park Master Plan, approved by the Council in March 2020, includes an archery range in the park's northeast area as part of Phase 2. Staff plan to present these plans to the Parks, Recreation, and Advisory Commission (PRAC) and discuss potential next steps before bringing recommendations to the Council.

As a result of the June meeting, staff contracted Richard Cockrell to design a public recreation archery range at South Valley Park. Richard is a highly qualified USA Archery Level 5 coach and has significant experience in the field. He has prepared a full design, including regulations and signage (see attached), which staff will present to the PRAC for feedback. The goal is to finalize the design and seek Council approval in 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

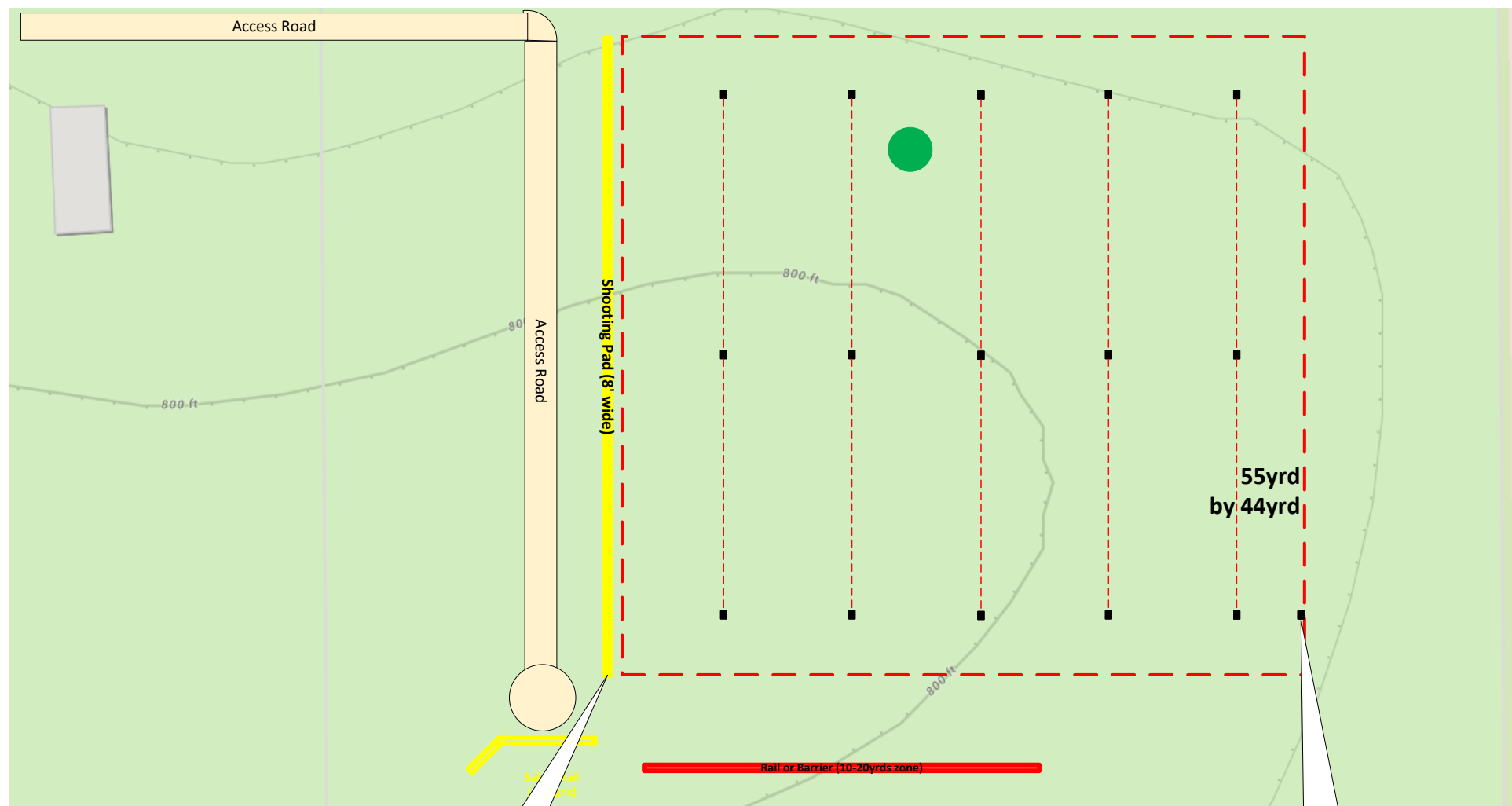
1. SouthValleyPark

Perimeter Controls

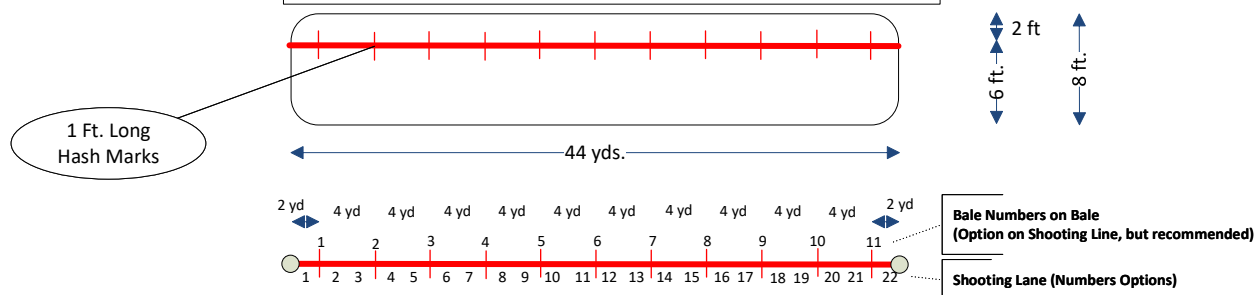
1" = 23 yds



South Valley Park Archery Range - Target Range Layout



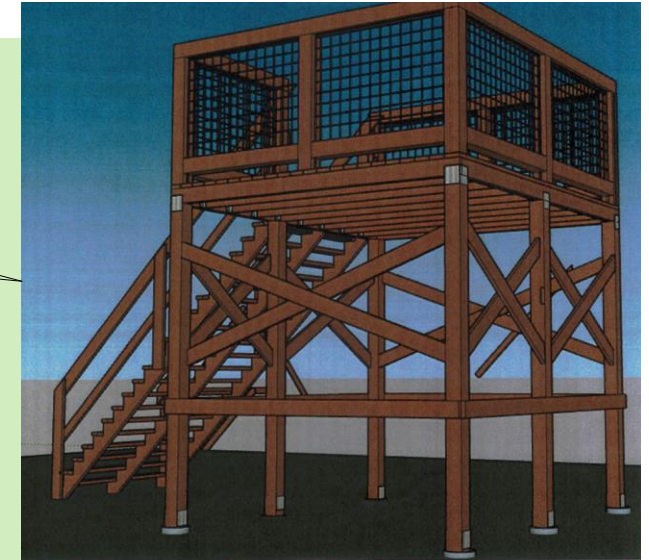
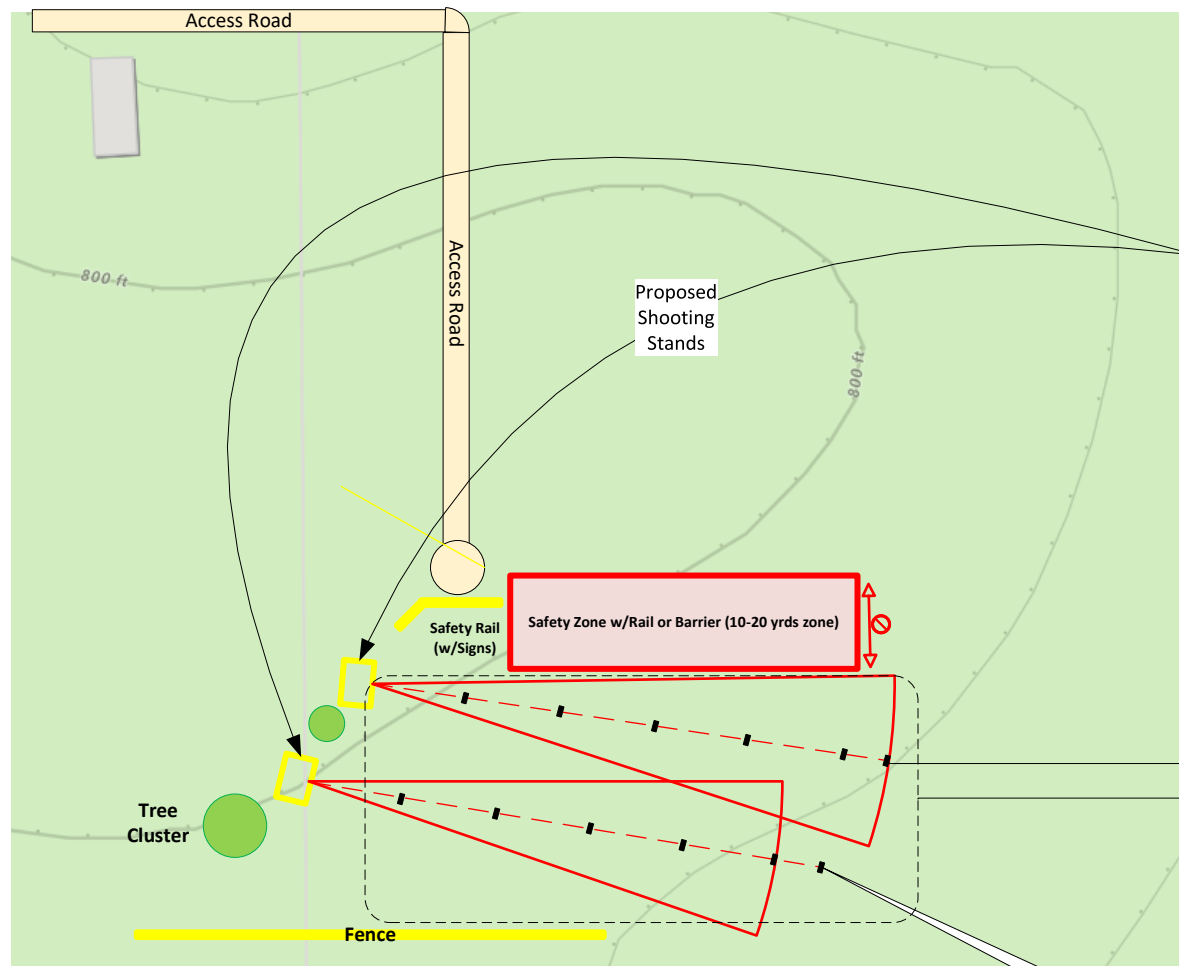
Shooting Pad: 8 ft Wide, 44 yds long



- (16) Buried 8"x 8"x 1' Pressure Treated or Rail Timber flush with ground and Distance Printed on top
- Shooting Line to back of Block is yardage mark
- Yardage Marks: 10,20,30,40,50 & 55.
- Note – Only one 55yd. Block on right side of field (A 2nd is optional in middle)
- 55 yards can server as 50 Meters

South Valley Park Archery Range

Field Platform Range layout



Platform Range Direction

Actual Available
Shooting Area

- (12) Buried 8"x 8"x 1' Pressure Treated or Rail Timber flush with ground and Distance Printed on top
- Shooting Line to back of Block is yardage mark
- Yardage Marks: 10,20,30,40,50 & 55.

Archery Ranges Rules

Welcome to the South Valley Park Target and Field Ranges

(Each range runs independently)

- Range Hours are from Sunrise to Sunset Daily
- Broadhead Arrow tips and Crossbows are not allowed on ranges
- Absolutely NO Sky drawing. Bows are only to be drawn at the shooting line and in the direction of the targets when no one is down range.
- Drinking and Smoking are not allowed on Archery Ranges
- "Always Walk" on the Ranges and "Horse Play" is not allow
- Always follow "Shooting Line Safety" when the ranges are in use

Shooting Line Safety

Open Shooting Line Controls

1. Always stand completely behind the shooting line when not shooting
2. Check the range and ensure no one is down range before straddling the shooting line
3. If the range is vacant, in a loud, clear voice holler "CLEAR" and confirm "All CLEAR" with other Archers
4. Straddle the Shooting line and begin shooting (a maximum of 6 arrows is allowed)
5. When all your arrows are shot and other archers are still shooting, step completely behind the shooting line
6. When All arrows are shot by All Archers, in a loud clear voice holler "CLEAR" and confirm "All CLEAR" with other Archers
7. Proceed down range to retrieve all arrows

Keep these simple safety rules in mind

- ALWAYS keep your bow pointed in a safe direction.
- ALWAYS keep your finger off the bow string until ready to shoot
- ALWAYS keep your arrow off the string until ready to use

1" = 1' (Color, Fonts and Sizing are up to your degression)

Perimeter Signs

