



Inver Grove Heights Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM

8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Presentations**
 - A. Katelyn Brown, Fitness Program Supervisor - Fitness Programming
4. **Announcements**
 - A. Open House: At Sleepy Hollow Park – Tuesday, October 21, 2025, from 5:00pm - 6:30pm
 - B. November Work Session Meeting — Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:00pm
 - C. November Regular Meeting — Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 7:00pm
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. Approval of Minutes from September 10, 2025, 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. Donation: Simley Island Park — Holiday Lighting Display
 - B. Parks & Veterans Memorial Community Center 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2026 - 2030)
9. **Administrative Presentations**
 - A. Parks Superintendent Update
 - B. Recreation Superintendent Update
 - C. Parks and Recreation Director Update

October 8, 2025 - Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Agenda

- 10. Commission Comments**
- 11. Adjourn**

**Inver Grove Heights
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
City Hall Council Chambers- 8150 Barbara Avenue
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Cook called the September 10, 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Steve Cook; Commissioners: Bill Skar, Luisa Torres, Sandy Christensen, Niki Barker, Lukas Johnson

Absent: Commissioners Kurt Stangler, Tracy Mulcahy, and Abby Heidenreich

Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Adam Lares, Parks Superintendent Brian Swoboda, Recreation Superintendent Julie Dorshak

3. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Al Vandehoef, Recreation Coordinator - Active Older Adult Programming

Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef presented on programs and activities available to adults 55+.

Upcoming events include:

- Active Aging Week – October 6-10
 - Craft project
 - Wisdom and Wellness Sound Bath
 - Mindful Movement Fitness Classes
 - Moments that Matter – Dementia-Friendly Activities and caregiver support
 - Bingo Celebration
- Fall Fest
 - Art, music, and entertainment offerings in collaboration with St. Paul Farmers' Market and Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199)

Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef said that Active Adults programs had over 5,000 participants last year.

Popular offerings last year included:

- Making the Most of Medicare
- Who Will Inherit the Mess? (estate planning class)
- On the Road to Safer Driving
- Dakota County Library anniversary celebration programs
 - How to use library apps class
 - Mosaic art class
 - Paper bag luminaries art class
- Contemporary Line Dancing classes
 - Now offered at both Beginner and Advanced Beginner levels due to popularity
- Hearing Assessments
- Class on identifying early signs of Alzheimer's/serious memory issues
- Healthy Living Fair in April
 - 37 vendors (5 more than last year!)

- 170 participants
- Breakout sessions included gut health, hormone balance, meditation, gardening, neuropathy awareness, and healthy eating

Ongoing programs include:

- Inver Grove Heights Senior Club
 - ~100 members
 - Monthly luncheons at the VMCC are usually attended by around 50 people
 - Sponsors table and provide information – some also help run bingo, serve food, and clean up
 - Occasional offsite luncheons
 - One recently held at new fire hall to showcase South Valley Park
 - Parks and Recreation Director Lares and Parks Maintenance Coordinator Joe helped grill
 - Daily card games
 - 500 – most Mondays
 - Cribbage – Tuesdays
 - Bridge – Wednesdays
 - Euchre – Thursdays
 - Hand & Foot – Fridays (new offering)
- Pickleball
 - New Ladder League (point-based) - very popular
 - Will be offered in the fall at Skyview Park
 - Bronze League – continues to be popular
 - Now 16 teams
- Day trip TIS – Thompson Park- Inver Grove – South St. Paul day trips very popular
 - Mobster trip to Minneapolis – prohibition-era history
- Sleeping Mats for the Homeless Project
 - Meets every other Tuesday
 - Group has created over 400 mats so far
 - Around 40 people usually attend
- 4-hour driving class
 - 10% insurance discount continues to draw attendees
- Happy Feet Foot Services
 - Foot care twice a month
- Monthly book clubs
 - Fiction Book Club has had more attendees recently
 - The club is considering expanding its age range to all adults (currently 55+)

Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef also mentioned collaborations with other departments, including programs such as:

- Coffee with a Cop
- Scam prevention
- Fire safety
 - Provided by the Fire Department at January Senior Club luncheons

Future collaborations may include:

- More technology assistance programs

- Past collaborations with Information Technology department have been popular
- More high school choir performances at Senior Club luncheons
 - Past collaboration with the Inver Grove Heights Schools (ISD 199) was very well-received
- More TriDistrict Community Education offerings
- Larger line dancing event in the fall
 - Collaboration with line dancing class instructor

Commissioner Skar asked about opportunities for teenagers to volunteer with seniors.

Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef suggested that Community Education classes and activities would be a good way to offer more intergenerational programs. He said he would discuss it with the new Director of Community Education, Chad Sexauer.

Chair Cook commended Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef for the variety of programs and asked if there is a core group of participants.

Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef said that each program has a group of regulars, but there's lots of crossover and new participants, too.

Chair Cook asked about how programs are advertised.

Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef said there is a TriDistrict Community Education brochure (a collaboration with South St. Paul Public Schools and West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools) where programs and activities are advertised.

Commissioner Christensen asked if the mat-making group needs more plastic bags.

Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef said the group is not in great need of more, but he can accept limited quantities of plastic bags in his office.

Commissioner Barker thanked Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef and said providing senior offerings is important work.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Annual Commissioner Appreciation Dinner – Tuesday, September 23, 2025 – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at South Valley Park Shelter
- B. Next Regular Meeting - Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
- C. November Work Session – Wednesday, November 12, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of the Minutes from August 13, 2025 Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Barker, second by Commissioner Christensen, to approve the August Minutes and the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Murray, 6852 Bovey Trail, and Adam Erdman, 6881 Bovey Trail, thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for putting a fence around the dumpster at North Valley Park in front of the pickleball courts. They asked for a similar park to also be put around the outhouse, as they find it unsightly.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares commented that there are outhouses throughout the City's parks. He said that adding fences around all the outhouses would represent a considerable expense, so he is hesitant to set that precedent.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda added that the total cost for the dumpster enclosure was \$15,000.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that the costs for no-maintenance fencing can be significant.

Mr. Murray suggested moving the dumpster to another location and putting the outhouse where the dumpster currently is.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Angel of Hope Memorial

Parks and Recreation Director Lares presented on a memorial proposed by a resident at a PRAC meeting in May 2025. PRAC then directed staff to coordinate a work session on the item, which took place in July 2025. In that work session, staff presented PRAC with research on Angel of Hope memorial sites in other communities and potential approaches.

Angel of Hope Memorial Sites Background

The idea for these sites was inspired by the Richard Paul Evans novel *The Christmas Box*, which tells the story of a woman mourning her child at an angel monument. There are now more than 120 Christmas Box Angels at memorial sites in the United States, Canada, and Japan as places for people to mourn. Every year, sites host a candlelight ceremony on December 6 at 7:00 p.m. as a public gathering for anyone who has lost a child.

The Angel of Hope statue stands 4' 3" tall and has a 5' 2" wingspan, with a base diameter of 22". The statue is constructed of ½" thick bronze, with grommets at the bottom for rebar to attach the angel to the pedestal. The price is \$18,000 (including shipping and delivery but excluding the pedestal, base, landscaping, etc.).

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that three memorial sites in Minnesota (Duluth, Maple Grove, Woodbury) started as proposals from residents, who then formed organizations to fundraise. These nonprofit organizations then partnered with the city on a formal agreement to create a public park.

To order the monument, 50% of total cost is required upfront. The foundry usually completes orders within a few months.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares then presented information from memorial sites in other places. In Duluth, people can pay a fee to for a memorial brick engraved with the name of a loved one to be placed at the site.

Commissioner Torres asked whether the memorial bricks were limited to people who are residents of the city where the memorial site is located.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares answered no; anyone who wanted to purchase a memorial brick could do so.

Commissioner Barker asked what changes were made over time to the Duluth memorial site.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares answered that the site's location did not change, but over time, Duluth has updated the landscaping and performed maintenance. Their site is in Leif Erikson Park. The upfront construction costs were covered with private funding (cost estimate for 2025: \$75,000 to \$100,000). The city contributed the land and performs annual maintenance (\$5,000 to \$10,000). The city also manages the sale of the memorial bricks (\$85/brick).

Chair Cook asked about how the upgrades were paid for.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that it would be on the City to make upgrades, but donations could be accepted (with approval from PRAC). He added that a Memorandum of Understanding could be made with a nonprofit to delineate responsibilities.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that Woodbury completed a site in 2022 in the park adjacent to City Hall. A group of individuals formed a nonprofit and raised \$225,000 (including stubbing in utilities.) The city estimated \$5,000 in annual maintenance. Woodbury provided displays for memorial plaques, which Parks and Recreation Director Lares mentioned are much easier to maintain and replace than the memorial bricks are. The nonprofit offers these plaques for a fee of \$200 to \$300 (which is used for capital improvements).

Commissioner Skar asked whether the nonprofit decided on location and landscaping, or whether it was a collaboration with the city of Woodbury.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that in Woodbury, the nonprofit came to the Parks and Recreation Commission there, and the matter ultimately went to Woodbury's City Council. A Woodbury city park planner helped design the space. A MOU was then created with the Woodbury Community Foundation to lay out responsibilities. The nonprofit manages the memorial plaques, not the city.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares added that snow removal and year-round accessibility are another concern.

Chair Cook said that he visited the memorial site in Woodbury, and he liked that it is not immediately visible to people passing by.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares then shared information from Maple Grove. Their upfront construction was \$75,000 in private funding. The city paid for subsequent upgrades totaling \$175,000

in 2017 and pays \$5,000 in annual maintenance. The city manages memorial bricks, which are offered twice a year for \$125 per brick. They are not installed in the ground for ease of maintenance.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares presented the following as options for PRAC to discuss:

Funding

- Upfront and Maintenance
 - Private
 - If the statue is donated to the City, the City's Memorial Monument Policy would apply, which requires the donation to come before PRAC for review and recommendation to the Council
 - City
 - Much of the work could occur in house/in kind, especially at a flat site (Heritage Village or River Heights)
 - Salem Hills would require grading work
 - Combination of Private and City

Design

- Simple to elaborate
 - Size range: 50' square to 100' square
 - For more elaborate designs, may need to bring in Landscape Architect and designer (which would add to the cost)
 - Could start small/simple and make it more elaborate over time
- The base is required to have a plaque mentioning that it is a Christmas Box Angel and that there is a December 6 annual gathering for people who have lost a child.
 - The latter part can be amended/left off with permission from Richard Paul Evans (e.g., Woodbury's does not mention December 6)

Possible Locations

- Heritage Village Park
 - Suggested site is in the northern portion of the park, off the greenway – creating a more intentional feel
 - No electric or irrigation stubbed in yet, but planned in Phase 6
 - St. Paul Gun range is nearby – that noise is a consideration
 - Larger parking lot could accommodate more people for the December 6 gathering
- Salem Hills Park
 - Parking lot is slated for expansion next year
 - Harmon Reserve is located nearby – adjacent to natural area is a plus
 - Suggested site is off a path
 - Water is already available on-site
- River Heights Park
 - Smaller park with many natural paths
 - More secluded option
 - Street parking only
 - No elements for community gathering (benches, etc.)
 - No electric or water available or planned on site

Requested Action

Parks and Recreation Director Lares requested that PRAC provide a recommendation to the City Council on whether to support the installation of an Angel of Hope Memorial within the City's park

system, and, if the Commission recommends proceeding, to advise on preferred park location, general scope and design of the memorial, and potential funding approaches.

Commissioner Skar asked how many community members have expressed interest.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that these projects typically start with one person and expand from there; he has not heard from others in Inver Grove Heights yet.

Commissioner Johnson asked what the process of amending the plaque would look like.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that it would involve contacting Richard Paul Evans and waiting for a response before proceeding.

Commissioner Torres asked whether the City has worked with nonprofits before on similar projects. Parks and Recreation Director Lares said he was not aware of any that the City currently works with. However, he mentioned that having a nonprofit is not a requirement; a private donor could simply donate the money.

Chair Cook shared that if approved, the individual resident who proposed this will begin fundraising.

Commissioner Johnson asked about similar past projects.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares mentioned the donated monument for COVID-19 first responders, which is located at the west entrance to Heritage Village Park. As part of the donation agreement, that statue can be moved or updated by the City.

Commissioner Barker said it was hard to make a recommendation to Council without having more information about funding.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares provided examples of more specific recommendations that PRAC could make if in support (e.g., a specific location, a general size/scope of design, a particular funding approach). He said that it could also be left up to the Council. He asked the commissioners to consider whether they could see a memorial site like this in the City's park system. He added that the individual could also take the idea to City Council and bypass PRAC.

Chair Cook said he was in favor of leaving location, scope, and funding sources up to the Council. He made a motion to that effect.

Commissioner Johnson said he could see the park as part of the City's park system, but he wanted the interested resident to do more fundraising before the City committed any public resources.

Commissioner Barker said she was in support, but she wanted to pay attention to the maintenance work and costs.

Commissioner Skar said that the site at Heritage Village Park lacks trees and has an open feel. He suggested that a site with more privacy would be more appropriate. He suggested that if a park is purchased in the Northwest Area, that could provide a more wooded and private location. He suggested that Salem Hills would also work. He said that a cost estimate similar to those provided by other cities would lead to public concerns, based on the response to the Rock Island Swing Bridge lighting project (which used grant funding).

Commissioner Barker said that the proximity of Heritage Village to the gun range made it unsuitable for a grieving space given the frequency of deaths due to shootings.

Commissioner Torres said that the memorial site is a meaningful idea, but the question of funding is unresolved, so it may be that the memorial site does not make sense right now.

Commissioner Skar suggested tabling the item to allow for time to research other sites that may already have access to water and electricity (to help allay cost concerns).

Commissioner Torres suggested making a motion to recommend the creation of a memorial site as part of a future park.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that the Northwest Area land acquisition negotiations are still in progress, and nothing is guaranteed. It is more likely that land in that area will be acquired based on development. The park will probably be on the smaller side due to topography. Even if a larger plot of land is acquired in the future, it may not contain an appropriate site for this kind of memorial. He said that the Council will ultimately determine the location, scope, and funding; PRAC's scope is recommendations.

Chair Cook said that the resident probably needs to see some kind of support for the idea in order to get potential funders on board.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that the cost for only the statue and base would be \$22,000 to \$25,000.

Commissioner Skar said that if there is a desire in the community to have it, he would support the memorial and would suggest Salem Hills or River Heights for privacy's sake. He asked whether most sites have been privately funded.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said the upfront costs were private, and Duluth and Woodbury then added public funds for improvements.

Commissioner Skar said he would support that model (initial private funding, then City funding for maintenance/upgrades).

Commissioner Barker said she was in favor of Chair Cook's initial motion. She said that the project would come back before the PRAC in later stages of planning if approved.

Commissioner Skar questioned that.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares commented that part of a motion could be requesting that the design comes back before PRAC.

Chair Cook asked about adding a similar request about the memorial site's location.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said if PRAC has a preference on location, it would be good to indicate that as part of the initial recommendation.

Commissioner Skar asked some questions about the VMCC as a potential site.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that the proximity to the skate park was an issue.

Amendment by Commissioner Skar, Second by Commissioner Barker, to include a recommendation that funding for the memorial site consist of a combination of City and private funds.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Amended Motion by Commissioner Barker, Second by Commissioner Torres, to support the installation of an Angel of Hope Memorial within the City's park system and to recommend to the City Council a funding approach consisting of a combination of City and private funding.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Commissioner Skar said that having a sense of the private fundraising capacity for the memorial site would help inform the scope of the site.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said he would ask in his presentation to City Council that the design efforts come before PRAC.

B. Sleepy Hollow Park Playground Replacement – Proposed 2026 Capital Improvements Plan

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that the 2026 CIP has not been approved yet but is expected to be by the end of the year.

Sleepy Hollow Park is a 10-acre neighborhood park with 4,000 feet of trails, a playground container, sand volleyball courts, and basketball courts. The current play structure is 20+ years old with slides, monkey bars, benches, and mature trees surrounding the container.

The plan is to expand the current play container to allow for the addition of swings. This would necessitate removing one mature tree.

Commissioner Barker asked whether it is possible to change the design of the play container expansion to avoid removing trees.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said that regardless of the orientation of the expansion, adding concrete over roots damages trees, so there is no way to expand the play container without tree removal.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares added that the Tree Preservation Fund would be used to plant more trees to replace the removed one.

Commissioner Torres asked whether trees are always replaced (e.g., trees in Oakwood Park that fell in recent storms).

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said that the majority of the Oakwood trees will be replaced (except trees that were too close to the trail). He said that there are additional plantings every year (over 50 so far this year, with an additional 30-40 planned for fall).

Parks and Recreation Director Lares said that the community engagement process includes an on-site open house (Tuesday, October 21, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.), a survey posted on the City's website and social media (open September 2 to 23), and a postcard mailed to 1,000 neighborhood residents.

Timeline

- September 24-29: Meeting with Flagship/LSI (state contract, so avoids RFP process)
- September 30 – October 17: Preliminary designs based on survey results and staff feedback
- October 21: Present preliminary designs at on-site open house
- October 27-31: Revise designs
- November 12: PRAC Work Session to review design options and select final design, then PRAC Regular Meeting to request recommendation for Council approval and authorization to purchase playground equipment
- Early spring 2026: Construction/installation
- Summer 2026: Anticipated opening of playground

Commissioner Johnson asked about creating a satellite container for swings.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said that it is an option, but there would need to be sidewalk connecting the two containers, which would lead to a price increase.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

A. Parks Superintendent Update

Parks Superintendent Swoboda updated the Commission on the following:

- Picnic shelter rentals remain popular
- Baseball tournaments continue
- Crews are busy with event setup and clean up, painting lines for fall sports, and landscaping (shrub trimming, weed pulling, plant replacements, stump grinding, mowing natural trails)
- Replacement planning is underway for about 25 trees downed in recent storms
- Irrigation issues are being worked on ahead of annual blowouts in October
- A prescribed burn is planned for Heritage Village Park
- The poured-in-place rubber for the playground at Heritage Village Park should be complete by mid-September
- Shade structure footings are still needed, but the concrete work is otherwise done
- Restoration work planned for west ballfield at Rich Valley
- A few items remain on the South Valley Park punch list (establish turf, fix erosion problems)
- The invasive-species-control goats are doing well in South Valley
- One full-time employee resigned and will be leaving September 26; that position will be posted shortly

Commissioner Torres asked about the hawk that was exhibiting protective behaviors in South Valley Park.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda said that the hawk's offspring have probably left the area; nobody has been chased down lately.

B. Recreation Superintendent Update

Recreation Superintendent Dorshak updated the Commission on the following:

- The Fall Membership Special (reduced enrollment fee) starts in mid-September and runs to early October
- The Girls Swim Team season has started, which reduces member swim times (part of an established arrangement)
- The fitness offices were remodeled in early September, which has been helpful for newly-hired staff members
- In late September, flooring in the Fitness areas will be replaced; this will lead to a temporary disruption (through early October); staff are finding new spaces for activities and communicating to let people know in advance. The biggest impact will be a reduced number of treadmills available due to electrical limitations.
- 317 programs and 1081 participants registered for Fall!
- September 19: 5th Quarter event (SPARC program collaboration)
 - Over 200 students participated last year
 - Games and activities for ages 11 to 14
- Ongoing tasks:
 - 2026 Budget work is underway
 - Software review continues – hoping for a decision in the next 30-60 days
 - Work on the Winter Brochure has begun

Commissioner Skar asked if guest passes will be electronic in the new software.

Recreation Superintendent Dorshak said that they will. She said that the company being considered seems great. Other customers have not flagged significant issues, so she is optimistic that it will be a big improvement. She said there will be an app with a QR code for checking in.

Commissioner Johnson commented that the City is lucky to have passionate staff like Recreation Coordinator Vandehoef on board.

C. Parks and Recreation Director Update

Parks and Recreation Director Lares did not have any additional updates.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Chair Cook said that it is a pleasure to participate in Recreation programming and that the City's parks are a jewel. He thanked the staff and leadership for their work.

11. ADJOURN:

Motion by Commissioner Torres, second by Commissioner Barker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary Wilfred Clashe



Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: Donation: Simley Island Park — Holiday Lighting Display

MEETING DATE: October 8, 2025

ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda

CONTACT: Adam Lares, Parks & Recreation Director, 651.450.2587

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission is asked to provide a recommendation to City Council to either approve or deny the donation of the light display and installation at Simley Island Park.

BACKGROUND

The City has received a proposal from community members Joe Atkins and Rob Reitberger to donate the service of installing and displaying holiday lights at Simley Island Park. The proposed display would be installed during the week of November 17 and removed the week of December 28 or January 4.

- **Location:** Lights would be placed on the island structure, small trees, and the bridge. There will be no permanent impact to existing structures or trees.
- **Lighting Type:** LED lights will be used. The City would not own or store the lights before or after the display time period.
- **Signage/Sound:** No signage or sound is planned. Staff have confirmed that there will not be any lights spelling out faith-based language, consistent with the City's practice of using inclusive terminology in programming, events, and marketing.
- **Operation:** Lights are proposed to remain on continuously, as the power usage is minimal and avoids the need for daily operation.
- **Maintenance:** Both Mr. Atkins and Mr. Reitberger would serve as contacts for any repairs or replacements during the display period.
- **Public Access:** The intent is for the display to be viewed from a distance; the public will not be encouraged to walk out on the bridge to see the lights up close.

The donation would cover the display and installation only. The City's in-kind contribution would be providing electricity for the lights. Following PRAC's recommendation, the item will be forwarded to City Council for formal acceptance of the donation. If approved, Parks staff will coordinate with the donors to review the installation plan on-site and confirm access to the electrical outlet.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is very little fiscal impact associated with this proposal. The lights are LED and consume minimal electricity. Staff estimates a total electrical cost of approximately \$100.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommend to the City Council acceptance of the donation of the light display and installation at Simley Island Park.

ATTACHMENTS

None

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Staff Report**

**SUBJECT: Parks & Veterans Memorial Community Center 5-Year
Capital Improvement Plan (2026 - 2030)****MEETING DATE:** October 8, 2025**ITEM TYPE:** Regular Agenda**CONTACT:** Brian Swoboda, Parks Superintendent, 651.450.2582
Aaron Fitzloff, Facilities Maintenance Superintendent, (651) 450-2469
Adam Lares, Parks & Recreation Director, 651.450.2587

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission is asked review the attached Parks and Community Center Capital Improvement Plan (2026–2030) and provide a recommendation to the City Council for approval.

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) is being asked to review and consider only the Parks and Community Center components of the City’s proposed 2026–2030 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The attached plan is included in the meeting packet for PRAC’s review and will be presented at the meeting.

Department staff has prepared the proposed 2026–2030 CIP to guide future capital investment decisions for consideration by the City Council as part of the annual budget process. The CIP serves as a planning and budgeting tool that aligns specific goals, policies, and priorities of the City Council with the City’s financial capacity to fund and maintain needed improvements. While inclusion of a project in the CIP does not represent final approval, it provides a framework for project scheduling and funding considerations.

Per Minnesota State Statute 462.356, Subdivision 2, the Planning Commission is required to review the CIP and provide written documentation that it is consistent with the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Although not required by statute, the City also presents the Parks and Community Center components of the CIP to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for review and recommendation prior to City Council consideration.

The 2026–2030 CIP includes the scheduling of park and community center improvements over a five-year period. The plan takes into account the City’s financial capabilities, community needs, and long-term priorities to ensure that Inver Grove Heights continues to provide high-quality infrastructure and services.

FISCAL IMPACT

Parks: The Park Capital Replacement Fund receives an annual tax levy allocation of \$560,000, with a proposed 5% annual increase to address inflation.

Community Center: A dedicated fund (Fund 206), established in 2023, provides \$700,000 annually for Community Center capital projects, funded through transfers from the Host Community Fund.

This consistent funding strategy positions the City to better manage ongoing capital repair and replacement needs, regardless of fluctuating project demands in any given year.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommend approval of the proposed 2026–2030 Capital Improvement Plan for Parks and the Veterans Memorial Community Center to the City Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Center CIP 2026-2030
2. Parks CIP 2026 - 2030

2026 through 2030
Capital Improvement Plan
 Inver Grove Heights, MN
Projects By Department

Department	Project #	Priority	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
Community Center								
AQ-Boiler for Pools Only	VMCC-2030-03	11					300,000	300,000
AQ-Dive Pool 1 Meter Dive Board	VMCC-2028-02	11			7,000			7,000
AQ-Dive Pool 1 Meter Dive Board Stand	VMCC-2028-03	11			14,000			14,000
AQ-Dive Pool 3 Meter Dive Board	VMCC-2028-04	11			8,000			8,000
AQ-Dive Pool 3 Meter Dive Board Stand	VMCC-2028-06	11			37,000			37,000
AQ-Grates Zero Depth Replacement	VMCC-2026-08	11	23,000					23,000
AQ-Lap Pool Lane Lines (16)	VMCC-2028-01	11			7,000			7,000
AQ-Lifeguard Lockers	VMCC-2026-02	11	22,000					22,000
AQ-Life Guard Room-Window/Counter	VMCC-2026-07	11	10,000					10,000
AQ-Replace ADA Lift	VMCC-2026-01	11	7,500					7,500
AQ-Spa Repair	VMCC-2027-04	11		25,000				25,000
AQ-Water Park Slide repair	VMCC-2026-06		40,000					40,000
AR-Armory Link Furnace	VMCC-2028-07	11			15,000			15,000
AR-East Rink Matting	VMCC-2027-02	11		45,000				45,000
AR-Make up Air West rink	VMCC-2027-03	11		57,000				57,000
AR-Purchase Add'l R-22 Reserves	VMCC-2026-03	11	200,000					200,000
AR-Replace East/West Rink Compressors (3)	VMCC-2029-01	11				4,500,000		4,500,000
AR-Replace Make Up Air East Rink	VMCC-2026-05	11	56,000					56,000
AR-Replace RTU's	VMCC-003	11			50,000	52,000	54,000	156,000
AR-Skate Sharpener	VMCC-2030-02	11					5,000	5,000
Common Areas Updates	VMCC-002	11	20,000		20,000			40,000
FIT-Annual Equipment Replacements	VMCC-001	11	40,000		40,000	40,000		120,000
GR- Card Readers	VMCC-004	11	12,000		27,000			39,000
GR-Replace AHU # 8 TRX B-day Room	VMCC-2026-04	11	55,000					55,000
VMCC- Engineering Generator/Boilers	VMCC-2027-05	11		30,000				30,000
VMCC-Fire System	VMCC-2027-01	11		50,000				50,000
VMCC-Generator 1st install	VMCC-2030-01	11					300,000	300,000
Community Center Total			485,500	207,000	225,000	4,592,000	659,000	6,168,500
GRAND TOTAL			485,500	207,000	225,000	4,592,000	659,000	6,168,500

2026 through 2030
Capital Improvement Plan
 Inver Grove Heights, MN
Projects By Department

Department	Project #	Priority	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
Parks								
Ernster Park Playground	PKS-2027-02	11		225,000				225,000
Groveland Park-Fiber	PKS-2026-01		30,000					30,000
Groveland Park Hockey Rink	PKS-2027-01	11		80,000				80,000
Lions Park Playground	PKS-2028-02	11			150,000			150,000
Oakwood Park Hockey Rink	PKS-2027-05	11			100,000			100,000
Parks Cameras	PKS-2026-04	11	15,600					15,600
Rich Valley Parking Lots (mill/overlay)	PKS-2030-02	11					500,000	500,000
Rich Valley Playground Replacement	PKS-2028-05				800,000			800,000
Rich Valley Trails (mill/overlay)	PKS-2029-03					500,000		500,000
Salem Hills Park Parking Lot	PKS-2026-03	11	200,000					200,000
Salem Hills Park Playground	PKS-2027-03	11		150,000				150,000
Sleepy Hollow Playground	PKS-2026-02	11	150,000					150,000
South Valley Park Trail Repairs	PKS-01	11	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000		200,000
VMCC Playground poured-in-place	PKS-2030-01	11					150,000	150,000
Parks Total			445,600	505,000	1,100,000	550,000	650,000	3,250,600
GRAND TOTAL			445,600	505,000	1,100,000	550,000	650,000	3,250,600