



Inver Grove Heights Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM

8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Elections**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Presentations**
 - A. Olivia Skelton, Communications Specialist - Communication & Marketing Update & Finnly Sports Preview
5. **Announcements**
 - A. Next Meeting September 9, 2026 at 7:00pm
6. **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 June 10, 2026 Meeting
7. **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.
8. **Unfinished Business**

Items that are brought back to the Commission for action from a previous meeting
9. **Regular Agenda**
 - A. Park Dedication — Hillcrest Ridge Development
10. **Administrative Presentations**
 - A. Park Superintendent Update
 - B. Recreation Superintendent Update
 - C. Parks and Recreation Director Update
11. **Commission Comments**
12. **Adjourn**

August 12, 2026 - Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Agenda

**Inver Grove Heights
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
City Hall Council Chambers - 8150 Barbara Avenue
Wednesday, June 10, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Cook called the May 13, 2026, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. SWEARING IN – COMMISSIONERS

Parks and Recreation Director Lares conducted the swearing-in ceremony for newly appointed and reappointed Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioners. Following the administration of the Oath of Office, he congratulated the commissioners and indicated that the swearing-in process was complete

3. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Steve Cook; Commissioners: Niki Barker, Kurt Stangler, Rachel Clevenger, Lukas Johnson, Tracy Mulcahy, Sandy Christensen, Luisa Torres, William Skar,
Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Adam Lares, Parks Superintendent Brian Swoboda, Recreation Superintendent Julie Dorshak

4. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Community Center Memberships – Jamie Muscha, Community Center Manager

Community Center Manager Muscha provided an overview of 2025 membership and admission totals at the Veterans Memorial Community Center and how those figures relate to facility revenue, budget performance, and overall operations. Membership categories include annual memberships paid in full for a 12-month period, monthly memberships billed on the first day of each month, military memberships, insurance-based memberships, and additional membership options introduced in 2025. Current membership totals include 212 annual memberships and 735 monthly memberships. Discounted membership options are available for veterans, including a disabled veteran membership category added in 2025. A student summer membership was also introduced in 2025, with 38 memberships sold during its first year. No memberships of that type were offered in the previous year.

Insurance-based memberships make up a significant portion of the Community Center's membership base. These memberships include programs such as SilverSneakers, Active & Fit, and other insurance-sponsored fitness benefits that provide participating individuals with access to the facility while generating reimbursement revenue based on member participation.

Commissioner Skar asked about the cost of the student summer membership.

Community Center Manager Muscha stated that the student summer membership costs approximately \$130 to \$140, depending on the package selected. She noted that the membership covers the period from June through August 3 and is offered in two different options.

The primary paid membership categories are single, dual, household, and senior memberships, which represent the most commonly purchased membership types at the facility. Overall membership levels remained consistent from year to year, averaging approximately 3,800 total members annually across paid and insurance-based categories. Single memberships have remained relatively stable, dual memberships have declined slightly, and senior memberships have remained largely unchanged, while household memberships have continued to increase annually. Some shifts in membership categories may reflect members transitioning to insurance-based programs or other membership options.

Increasing household memberships remains a key objective for the Community Center. Efforts are focused on attracting more families while maintaining a diverse membership base. Growth in household memberships supports greater participation in swimming lessons and other youth and family activities, and recent trends indicate continued progress toward that goal.

Approximately 1,050 members participate through annual or monthly paid memberships, representing about 27% of the VMCC's total membership base. These memberships generate a little over \$1.0 million in annual revenue. Insurance-based memberships account for approximately 2,800 members annually, or about 73% of the membership base, and generate roughly \$250,000 in annual revenue through reimbursement programs tied to member visits. Because these programs depend on insurance providers, changes in insurance offerings can impact both membership totals and revenue.

Among the insurance-based programs, SilverSneakers membership increased from approximately 1,600 members in January 2025 to about 1,715 members by year-end. Renew Active membership declined slightly, likely due to insurance-related changes, while Silver&Fit remained relatively stable. Membership growth has continued into 2026, with SilverSneakers adding more than 200 members between December 31, 2025, and May 31, 2026. Much of this increase resulted from neighboring facilities no longer offering the program, allowing the VMCC to welcome a significant number of new members in a short period of time.

Membership revenue continues to show steady growth and remains an important component of the VMCC's overall financial performance. For 2025, the budget anticipated approximately \$1.2 million in membership revenue, while actual revenue exceeded expectations at approximately \$1.27 million from all membership sources. Revenue performance in 2025 was slightly higher than in 2024 and surpassed the annual budget goal. For 2026, the membership revenue budget was increased to approximately \$1.35 million, reflecting a modest membership fee increase. Year-to-date revenue is tracking on target to meet that goal, continuing the trend of annual membership revenue growth.

Commissioner Mulcahy asked whether annual memberships can be purchased at any time during the year and if the purchase date, then becomes the member's annual renewal date.

Community Center Manager Muscha confirmed that memberships may be purchased at any time and renew based on the anniversary of the purchase date. She explained that annual memberships require payment for the full year in advance and do not include a cancellation

option. Monthly memberships, however, may be temporarily placed on hold or canceled in accordance with established membership policies.

Chair Cook asked whether individuals who regularly purchase day passes or participate in programs receive any benefit or credit when converting to a membership.

Community Center Manager Muscha stated that no discounts or credits are provided for previous guest or day-pass purchases. However, staff regularly promote membership options to frequent visitors and explain how the cost of a membership can often be offset after only a few visits each month.

Chair Cook asked whether there are plans to encourage additional community-wide membership growth and further expand participation at the VMCC.

Community Center Manager Muscha emphasized that all VMCC members are highly valued and play an important role in supporting the facility's operations and continued success. To recognize that support, the membership team organized a week-long membership appreciation event in 2025, featuring different activities and member recognition opportunities throughout the week. She added that community engagement and outreach remain important priorities, including partnerships with local schools, promotion of student memberships, and expanded membership options. In 2026, the VMCC introduced a year-round monthly student membership option, while continued marketing, outreach efforts, and participation in community events are intended to increase awareness and encourage membership growth throughout the community.

Admission activity at the VMCC includes point-of-sale day passes for use of the fitness center and aquatic facilities, with separate resident and non-resident rates for adults and for youth, seniors, and veterans. Additional admissions include arena activities such as open skate, stick-and-puck hockey, developmental ice, as well as open gym and pickleball. Admission volumes have remained relatively consistent year over year, with non-residents representing the largest share of admissions. While visitors use a variety of facility amenities, staff have observed that many day-pass users primarily utilize the aquatic center, although some also use the fitness facilities. Overall, admission activity has remained stable and continues to attract a diverse mix of users from both within and outside the community.

Chair Cook noted that the pickleball participation numbers appeared to have changed and asked about the decline.

Community Center Manager Muscha explained that paid pickleball admissions have decreased somewhat because many participants now access open pickleball through SilverSneakers memberships rather than purchasing individual admissions. She added that a similar trend has been observed with open gym activities, where participation remains strong but fewer users are paying individual admission fees. Staff will continue to monitor usage patterns for both activities.

Admission revenue exceeded budget expectations in 2025. The budget anticipated approximately \$307,000 in admission revenue, while actual revenue totaled approximately \$314,000, surpassing the annual goal. Year-over-year comparisons also show continued growth

in admission revenue. For 2026, the admission revenue budget was increased, reflecting a non-resident daily admission rate increase and continued efforts to attract more visitors to the facility.

Year-to-date admission revenue through June 9 is tracking slightly below budget; however, admission revenue tends to fluctuate seasonally and is not directly comparable to membership revenue, much of which is collected at the beginning of each month. Summer activity at the aquatic center and increased arena usage during hockey season typically generate additional admission revenue later in the year. Staff will continue monitoring performance throughout the year and can implement additional strategies to increase admissions if needed.

Commissioner Mulcahy asked whether admissions to the Bright Side Room would be included within an existing admissions category or tracked separately once the space opens.

Community Center Manager Muscha explained that the Bright Side Room has been established as its own admissions category, allowing usage and revenue to be tracked separately. It will appear as an additional line item in future reports.

Looking ahead, membership and admissions trends indicate the VMCC is in a strong position, with continued membership growth and stable admission activity. Future goals include increasing paid memberships by 5%, with a continued emphasis on growing household memberships, which represent the largest source of paid membership revenue. Additional priorities include retaining existing members through strong customer service, building relationships with members, responding to community needs, and adjusting programs and activities to enhance the overall member experience. Staff will also continue pursuing new membership growth through a variety of outreach and recruitment initiatives.

Chair Cook commented that staff members who build relationships with patrons and take time to greet them and learn their names help create a welcoming environment that encourages people to remain involved with the facility and its programs.

Community Center Manager Muscha agreed that personal connections are an important part of member retention and customer satisfaction. She stated that staff listen to members, respond to feedback, and adapt programs, class schedules, and facility offerings to meet changing interests and needs. This includes evaluating attendance patterns and adjusting activities such as open skate, stick-and-puck sessions, and other programs to better serve users. She added that increased hours for the marketing and communications specialist have provided additional opportunities to promote programs and memberships through social media, marketing materials, and other outreach efforts to support continued membership growth.

Chair Cook asked whether the Membership Specialist position is currently full-time and how the role is expected to function moving forward, noting that the specialist is often visible at the front desk and frequently serves as an introduction point for new members and prospective users.

Community Center Manager Muscha explained that the Membership Specialist currently serves in a 0.8 full-time equivalent position and also assists with front desk responsibilities while supporting membership recruitment, retention, and member engagement efforts.

Recreation Superintendent Dorshak explained that the Marketing and Communications Specialist currently works 32 hours per week and that a request has been submitted to convert the position to full-time next year. She stated that the position is based in the Recreation Office and is responsible for marketing and communication efforts across the department, including the golf course, parks, community center, and recreation programming.

B. Recreation Programs and Events – Rachel Longfellow, Recreation Coordinator and Lucita Zoya, Parks and Recreation Intern

Recreation Coordinator Longfellow oversees a variety of youth and adult sports leagues, programs, camps, field trips, recreation activities, community events, and the scheduling and rental of city baseball fields and the Rich Valley Athletic Complex. She provided an overview of 2025 program activity, upcoming 2026 events, and new summer and fall programming opportunities.

In 2025, the department hosted more than 32 special events, attracted over 10,000 participants, generated \$30,462 in sponsorship revenue, and utilized 206 volunteers. Events included Touch-A-Truck, the Princess Dance, the Egg Hunt, Fifth Quarter, and the Healthy Living Fair. Volunteers play an important role in supporting events through activity coordination, setup and teardown, food service, and preparing materials for participants.

Commissioner ?? asked how volunteers are recruited for City events and programs.

Recreation Coordinator Longfellow explained that the department works with a Volunteer Coordinator and also provides a volunteer interest form on the City's website where individuals can submit their information and indicate areas in which they would like to volunteer.

Upcoming summer events include Inver Grove Music in the Park, held on Tuesday mornings at South Valley Park featuring a variety of musical and educational performances. The event location provides a natural amphitheater setting with shaded seating areas. The department will also host two Food Truck Festival events at Rich Valley Athletic Complex, one in July and one in August, featuring more than ten food vendors, live music, a beverage vendor, dirty soda vendors, face painting, bounce houses, games, and other family activities.

Movie in the Park will return to Oakwood Park with a showing of *Bad Guys 2*. Activities before the movie will include a magician, bounce houses, face painting, and games. Summer recreation programming includes three field trips coordinated in partnership with West St. Paul, South St. Paul, and Mendota Heights. Destinations include Lebanon Hills for canoeing, hiking, and fishing; the Edina Aquatic Center; and visits to Sidekick Theatre and Elite Gymnastics. The youth archery program continues to operate at the South Valley Archery Range, where adjustments were made to better accommodate younger participants. The outdoor setting has been well received by participants and provides a more natural archery experience than the program's previous indoor location. Grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and SPARK through the school district provided additional equipment for the program.

Recreation Coordinator Longfellow also reviewed athletic field scheduling and tournament activity. She coordinates scheduling and rentals for baseball and softball fields throughout the City and at Rich Valley Athletic Complex, working closely with youth associations, club teams, community organizations, and Parks staff to ensure fields are properly prepared for practices, games, and tournaments. Eight summer tournaments are scheduled at Rich Valley Athletic Complex this year, with additional tournaments planned for the fall. Soccer field scheduling is coordinated separately by Recreation Coordinator Al Vanderhoef, while the department also manages reservations for pickleball, tennis, lacrosse, football, and other outdoor recreation facilities.

A new adaptive tennis program will be offered this summer in partnership with USTA Northern. The free program will provide interactive tennis instruction for youth and adults with disabilities, with racquets available for participants who need them. Three age-group options will be offered, and the program is intended to introduce participants to the sport while evaluating interest in future adaptive tennis programming. Adult archery lessons will also be added this fall, providing adults with an opportunity to learn a new sport or further develop existing archery skills. The lessons are scheduled to begin in September and will expand the department's archery programming beyond its current youth offerings.

Commissioner Torres asked when registration for the adult archery program would open. Recreation Coordinator Longfellow stated that the program is scheduled to begin on September 9 and that registration would likely open in late August, approximately one week before the start date.

Commissioner Skar asked whether power is available at the Swing Bridge and suggested that it could be a unique community event venue for a live band, combined with food trucks and a gathering area.

Recreation Coordinator Longfellow responded that it was a good idea and expressed interest in the concept.

Commissioner Skar asked whether there are plans to continue programs that were launched through the SPARK grant after the grant expires.

Recreation Coordinator Longfellow explained that the grant will end at the end of the month, but the City intends to continue working with the school district and other community partners. She noted that discussions have already taken place regarding the continuation of the Fifth Quarter program and that future collaboration may involve parent-teacher organizations as well. Maintaining the partnership with the school district and continuing the program's messaging remain priorities.

Commissioner Skar commented that Fifth Quarter is a valuable program that provides middle school students with a safe and enjoyable environment and expressed appreciation that the program is expected to continue.

Recreation Coordinator Longfellow added that coalition members are also committed to continuing the program's messaging and partnerships with the school district and other community resources. She concluded by inviting Commissioners to attend upcoming special events and community programs.

Parks and Recreation Intern Zoya shared that she is attending the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse, majoring in Recreation Management with an emphasis in Tourism and Events, and is expected to graduate at the end of the summer. She began her internship with the City on May 20 and has enjoyed gaining experience in a variety of recreation programs and events.

She highlighted several projects completed so far, including creating a National Trails Day scavenger hunt, assisting with the fishing derby, and designing Safety Camp T-shirts while coordinating sponsor recognition. She noted that the internship has provided valuable opportunities to learn from staff across the department and explore different career paths within recreation.

In the coming weeks, she will assist with Music in the Park, Movie in the Park, Safety Camp, Food Fest, and summer field trips. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity and looks forward to continuing to learn and contribute throughout the summer.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares commended department staff and their teams for the work they do throughout the year, noting that the presentation highlighted only a small portion of the programs, events, and services provided. He stated that the department's success depends on a dedicated team that invests significant time, energy, and effort behind the scenes to make those activities possible. He also recognized the positive culture staff help create within the department and expressed appreciation for their continued contributions.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Heritage Village Park Grand Opening – Inclusive Playground and Splash Pad, Wednesday, June 17, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- B. No Commission meeting in July. Park Tour, July 8, 2026, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2026

Motion by Commissioner ??, Second by Barker to approve the May 13 Minutes and the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

9. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Park Dedication – Blackstone Vista 4th Addition

Parks and Recreation Director Lares provided background on the park dedication process, noting that under City ordinance, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission is responsible for making recommendations to the City Council regarding the acceptance of park dedication in the form of land, cash, or a combination of both. He explained that recommendations are based on an evaluation of park and open space availability in the area of a proposed development.

Park dedication requirements are determined by the type of development. Current cash-in-lieu rates are \$3,850 (Director Lares said he needed to confirm this number) per single-family home, \$4,000 per townhome unit, and \$4,900 per apartment unit. When cash dedication is accepted, the funds are deposited into the Park Acquisition and Development Fund, which is used for acquiring new parkland and developing new park amenities, trails, and related infrastructure. He emphasized that park dedication funds are intended for new park development and acquisition and cannot be used for park redevelopment projects.

Chair Cook asked how the City determines the varying park dedication rates for single-family homes, townhomes, and apartment units.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares explained that the rates were evaluated in coordination with the City Attorney's Office and included a review of market-rate adjustments, neighboring communities' park dedication fees, and the amount of undeveloped land remaining within the City. He noted that communities with limited remaining development opportunities often have lower dedication fees, while Inver Grove Heights considered its future growth potential and the need to ensure adequate funding would be available to develop new parks if cash dedication were accepted. The evaluation also included a comparison of fees across the metropolitan area, resulting in rates that generally fall within the upper-middle range of comparable communities rather than at the highest or lowest end of the spectrum.

Park dedication funds are intended to support the development of new parks and new park amenities. For example, the funds could be used to add a new amenity, such as pickleball courts, to an existing park. However, the funds cannot be used to replace or expand an existing amenity because that would be considered redevelopment rather than new development.

The proposed Blackstone Vista 4th Addition development is located near Argenta Trail and adjacent to Vista Pines Park. The proposal includes 54 single-family homes and does not include a park within the development. Vista Pines Park, which opened in 2023, includes amenities such as an off-road bicycle course, youth pump track, basketball court, playground equipment for multiple age groups, nature play features, walking paths, and a zip line feature. Additional parks serving the area include Argenta Hills Park and Overlook Ridge Park.

Given the proximity of existing park facilities to the proposed development, staff recommended that park dedication be accepted in the form of cash rather than land. Based on the current single-family park dedication rate of \$3,850 per lot, the total dedication amount would be \$207,900.

Staff requested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommend to the City Council acceptance of cash park dedication in the amount of \$207,900 for the Blackstone Vista 4th Addition development.

Chair Cook asked whether park dedication fees are paid upfront rather than as development occurs.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares explained that park dedication fees are generally required as part of the development approval process and must be paid before construction can proceed. Once all approvals have been obtained, the fees are deposited into the Park Acquisition and Development Fund.

He noted that the City is currently seeking land for a 4th park in the northwest area, and future park dedication revenues will likely support those efforts as well as additional park amenities in that part of the community. Park dedication fees are not required to be spent in the same area where they are collected, and historically, fees generated from development in one part of the City have sometimes been used to support park projects in other areas. However, most future park dedication funding will likely be focused on acquiring and developing new parkland in the northwest area of the City.

Motion by Commissioner Skar, Second by Commissioner Christensen to recommend that the City Council accept park dedication in the form of cash in the amount of \$207,900 for the Blackstone Vista 4th Addition development.

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

A. Parks Superintendent Update

Parks Superintendent Swoboda updated the Commission on the following:

- Parks maintenance operations have been very busy throughout the spring and early summer, with seasonal staffing nearing full capacity and only two seasonal employees remaining to be hired.
- Crews have supported a busy tournament schedule at Rich Valley Athletic Complex, including the fourth tournament of the season, requiring significant field preparation and maintenance across nine ballfields.
- Routine maintenance activities have included mowing, irrigation system startup throughout the City, field dragging and lining, soccer field painting, landscape bed maintenance, tree replacement, and daily restroom cleaning at South Valley Park.
- Picnic shelter usage has been high at South Valley Park, Rock Island Swing Bridge, Lions Park, and Rich Valley Athletic Complex, often with multiple rentals scheduled each weekend, requiring additional cleanup and maintenance between events.
- Staff have been completing final preparations for the Heritage Village Park grand opening, including landscaping, restroom preparation, signage installation, and site cleanup.
- The Salem Hills parking lot and trail rehabilitation project remains the primary active service project. Tree removal and curb work have begun, with major reconstruction activities expected to start soon.
- 60 goats returned to South Valley Park approximately ten days ago and are currently working in paddocks one and two as part of the City's invasive species management efforts. Public response to their return has been positive.

- A Minnesota Conservation Corps crew began work this week and will assist with invasive species removal that cannot be addressed by the goats, including larger buckthorn vegetation.
- A Tree Trust crew is scheduled to begin work next week and will assist with projects at the disc golf course and other park locations.
- Meetings have been held with playground vendors regarding the planned 2027 playground replacements at Ernster Park and Salem Hills Park. Playground concepts are expected to be presented for review in the near future.
- Contractors are expected to begin aquatic weed harvesting at Lions Park and Simley Pond by the end of the month due to increasing weed growth.

Commissioner Mulcahy stated that she had heard a number of negative comments regarding the tree removals at Salem Hills and asked whether additional information could be provided.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda explained that the trees removed from the island area at Salem Hills are part of the parking lot rehabilitation project. He stated that the island will be reconstructed in a slightly different configuration and that new trees will be planted as part of the project.

Commissioner Christensen commented that residents have expressed interest in having benches installed at Sleepy Hollow Park.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda reported that new concrete pads are being installed to accommodate benches and picnic tables. He indicated that the contractor anticipated beginning that work the following week and that the amenities should be installed in the near future.

B. Recreation Superintendent Update

Recreation Superintendent Dorshak welcomed Commissioner Clevenger to the Commission and updated the Commission on the following:

- She commended Recreation Coordinator Longfellow's presentation, noting that it represented just one part of the many programs and services offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Recreation Coordinator Chelsea Swenhaugen oversees the Kids Rock program, which currently has 153 participants and began for the season earlier in the week.
- Numerous summer programs have recently started, and that more than 347 summer programs are currently open for registration, reflecting a very busy season for staff.
- The Farmers Market will begin Sunday and will operate from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each Sunday through the end of October.
- 2027 budget requests have been completed and will be reviewed with Finance Director Hove and Interim City Administrator Hiniker before being presented to the City Council.
- Preparations continue for the Heritage Village Park grand opening and expressed optimism about the event and anticipated weather conditions.
- Staff are preparing for the opening of the Bright Side Play Zone on June 23 and are looking forward to welcoming the public and evaluating community response to the new amenity.

C. Parks and Recreation Director Update

Parks and Recreation Director Lares reported that nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, along with subcommittee assignments, will be considered at the August meeting. He explained that the discussion is being deferred because the July meeting will be replaced by the annual park tour.

Additional information regarding the park tour will be distributed in the coming weeks, including RSVP confirmations, tour logistics, and lunch selections. The tour is expected to begin at City Hall.

He also reminded Commissioners that the new indoor playground is scheduled to open on June 23 and invited members of the Commission to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony and photo opportunity, currently planned for 4:00 p.m., subject to any necessary scheduling adjustments.

Commissioner Mulcahy asked for an update on the Swing Bridge lighting policy and whether any changes had been made to the lighting displays in the absence of a formal policy.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares explained that the lighting system is currently programmed year-round and features a variety of rotating light displays. The schedule adjusts seasonally, with displays beginning later during the summer months due to longer daylight hours. Decorative light shows operate from approximately 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., after which the bridge transitions to safety lighting.

Commissioner Mulcahy noted that she visited the bridge on Memorial Day and had expected a red, white, and blue display, but instead observed other colors. She asked whether holidays are currently considered when selecting lighting displays.

Parks and Recreation Director Lares stated that holiday-specific lighting has not been incorporated because a formal lighting policy has not yet been adopted. He noted that staff intends to bring a draft lighting policy back for discussion in the fall after further review with the City Attorney's Office. A work session with the Commission is planned to review the draft, discuss potential revisions, and gather feedback before moving forward. Commissioners will receive the draft proposal in advance to allow time for review and questions.

11. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

All welcomed Commissioner Clevenger to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and expressed their support as she begins her service.

Commissioner Barker encouraged Commissioners to attend the Heritage Village Park opening and stated that any Commissioner interested in serving as Vice Chair should feel comfortable seeking the position when nominations are considered.

Chair Cook noted that Commissioner Barker would be providing remarks at the Heritage Village Park grand opening in recognition of her significant involvement in the development of the inclusive playground area and encouraged Commissioners to attend the event.

Commissioner Skar stated that he would be unable to attend the July park tour due to a prior commitment.

12. ADJOURN:

Motion by Commissioner Johnson second by Mulcahy to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary Tammy Greenlee.



Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: Park Dedication — Hillcrest Ridge Development

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2026
ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda
CONTACT: Kevin Shay, Planning Manager, 651-450-2554

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

No action is required with this item. The goal is to introduce the proposed Hillcrest Ridge project with action happening at the September meeting. Hillcrest Ridge is proposed on 1401 70th Street and is located off 70th Street across from Angus Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The applicant is requesting a Preliminary Plat for 164 single family homes. This would result in the evaluation of the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission to recommend park dedication in the form of land, cash, or a combination of both. This development will have a combination of both. The proposed park is approximately 2.3 acres in total size.

FISCAL IMPACT

Per the City's ordinance, and by way of creating new single-family homes, the owner is required to pay a park dedication fee. 6.22 acres of land dedication is required based on the size of the property. With a 2.3 acre park amounting to 37% of the required dedication the remaining 63% would be fee in lieu. The fee for a single-family home is \$3,850 per unit. A cash fee of \$3,850 per unit would be required for this plat (164 single-family x \$3,850 = \$631,400). The fee in lieu would be approximately \$392,782 for the cash in-lieu portion.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission provide feedback on the proposed park and cash-in-lieu.

ATTACHMENTS

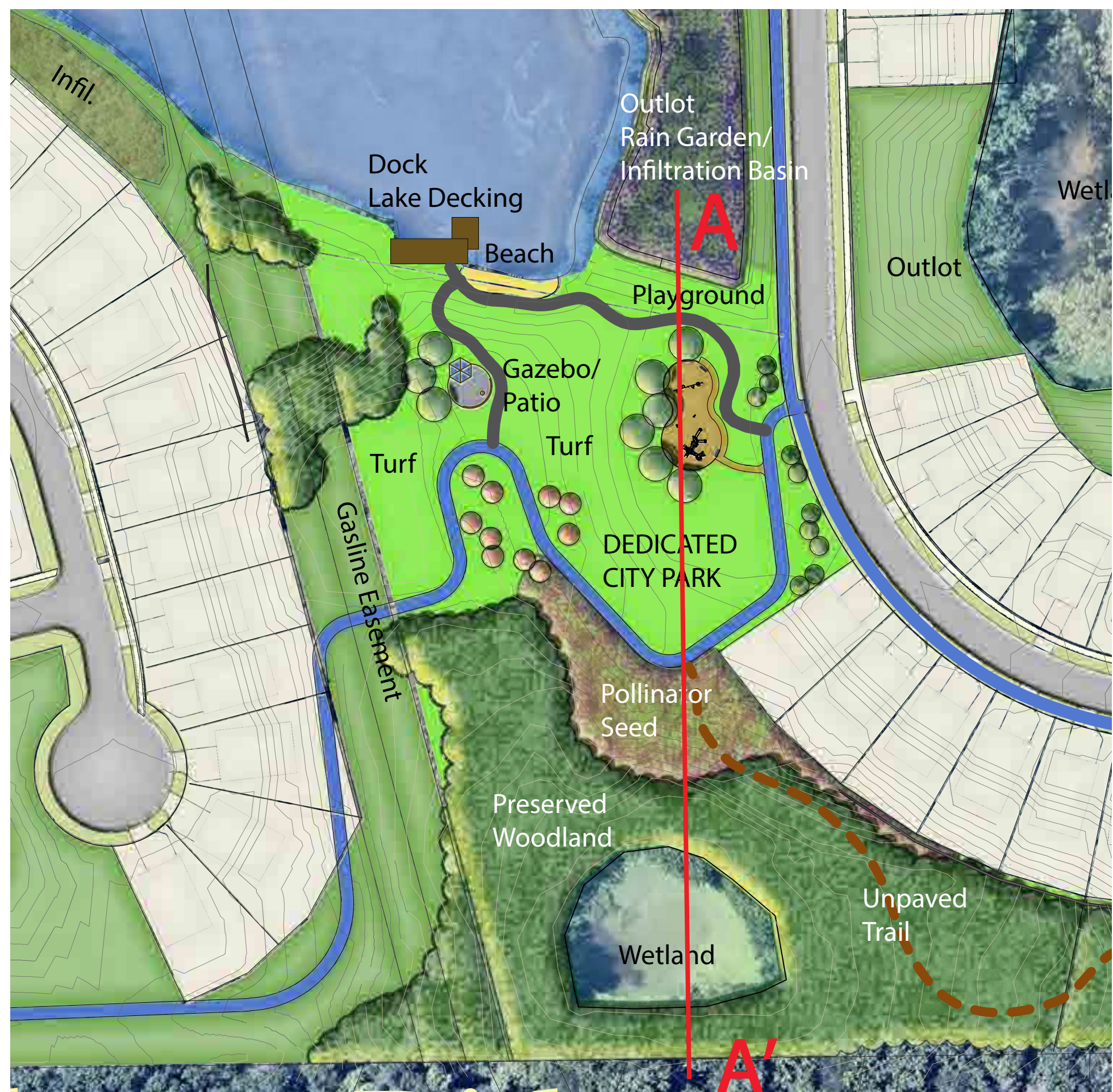
1. Park Cross-Sections



Hillcrest Ridge Park Concept

Park concept is for illustration purposes only
Dedicated City Park to be designed, installed, and maintained by the City of Inver Grove Heights





Playground



Unpaved Trail Through Preserved Woodland

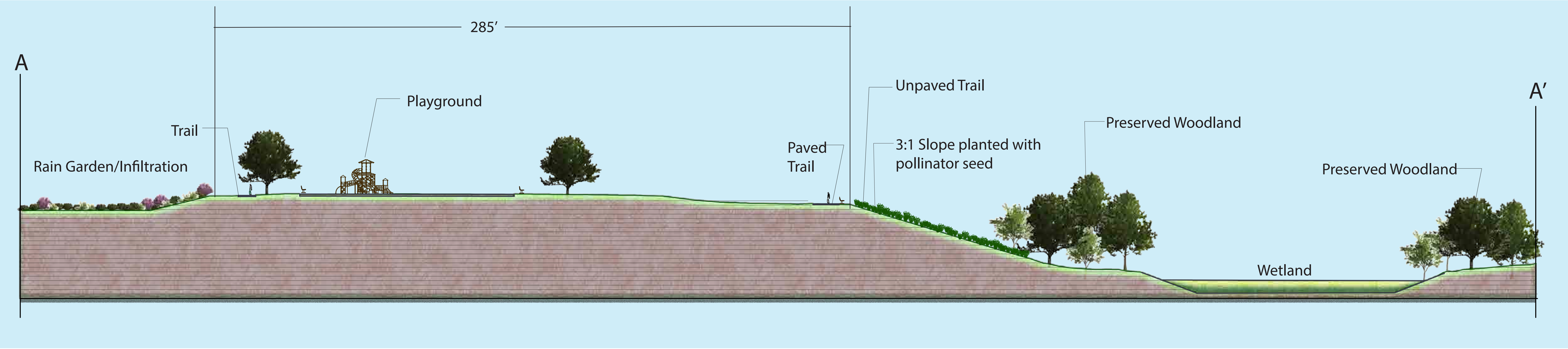


Unpaved Trail and Bench



Pollinator Slope

Cross Section A-A' Park Concept Hillcrest Ridge



Park concept is for illustration only
 City Park will be designed, installed, and maintained by the City of Inver Grove Heights



Gazebo

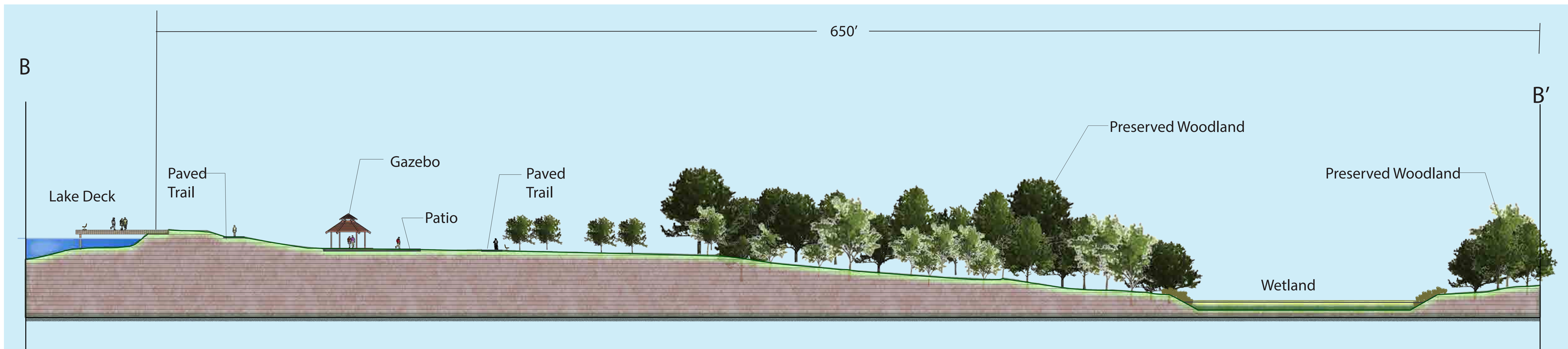


Lake Deck

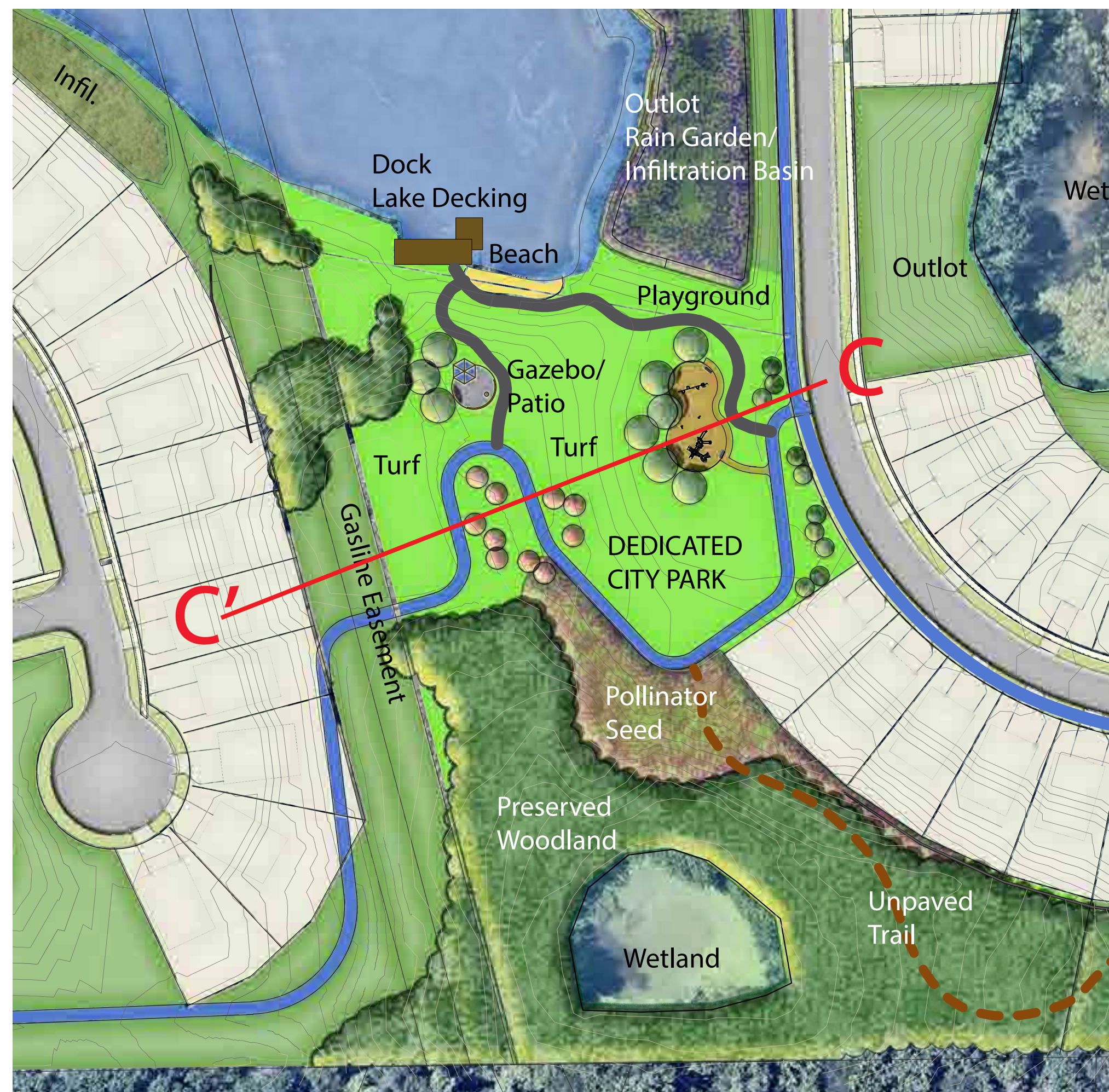


Cross Section B-B'

Park Concept Hillcrest Ridge



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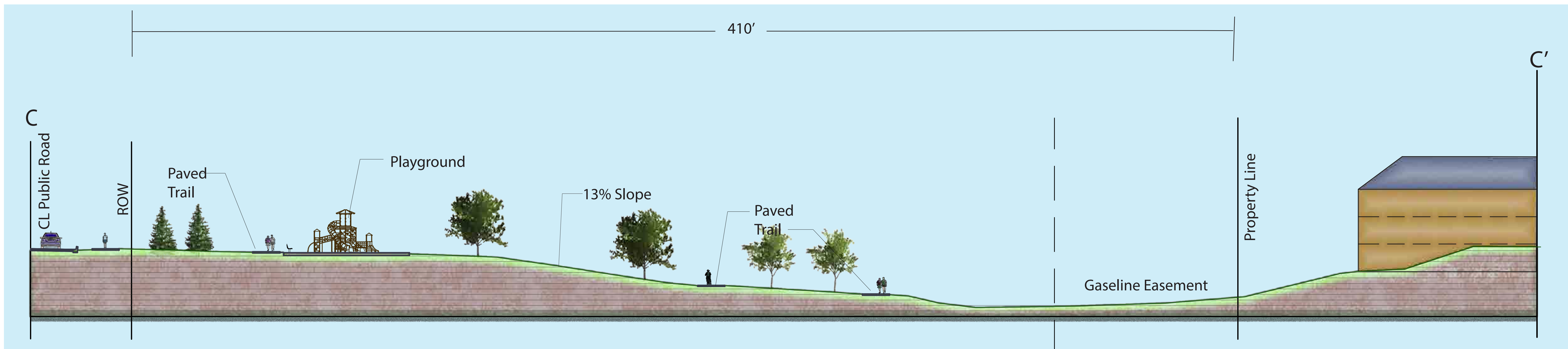


Cross Section C-C'

Park Concept
Hillcrest Ridge



Playground



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