



AGENDA
PARKS, RECREATION & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING

February 4, 2026 - 6:00 PM
Lake Marion Conference Room. North Side of City Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. January 7, 2026 Meeting Minutes
3. Citizen Comments
4. Discussion Items
 - a. Environmental Resources Update on Ritter Farm Park
5. Staff Report
6. Adjourn

CITY OF LAKEVILLE
PARKS, RECREATION & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2026

Committee Chair Weberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Lake Marion Conference Room.

Members Present: Holly Weberg, Steve Henneberry, Vicki Schwartz, Pat Sauer, Dan Volkosh, Shahid Nadeem

Members Absent: Renee Brekken, Saima Ali, Mark Engler

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Masiarchin

1. Approval of November 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Henneberry made a motion, seconded by Volkosh, to approve the November 19, 2025, minutes as written.

Ayes: unanimous

2. Citizen comments

Tim Gillitzer, 18898 Ivorra Lane Avenue

Moved to Lakeville within the last year and expressed the need for a neighborhood park that is walkable to the residents of his and other close neighborhoods. The closest, walkable amenity is Eastview Elementary. Other parks in the area aren't as accessible because crossing major roadways would be required. This is not ideal for neighborhood residents who would like to access the City's park system.

Park development is based on community growth, strategic planning, and ensuring that the City is at least meeting the national standard for park construction as well as the needs of the residents. Staff confirmed that this area has been identified as a gap in the Parks System Master Plan Needs Assessment. With the Preserve Fourth Addition Plat, planning for a park in this area will occur, which will require a land acquisition. Staff will provide more details as they become available.

Committee Comments:

Committee Member Henneberry shared a brief overview of the "dead spot" map that was presented at the most recent Parks System Master Plan meeting. The map identified neighborhoods without a 15-minute, easily navigable path to a park within the park system.

Committee Member Sauer shared where she lives and it is also in an area located in a park gap area identified in the Needs Assessment. She shared that her neighbors have expressed an interest in a more passive park space.

Committee Member Volkosh asked what the remedy was for crossing major roadways like Kenwood Trail, which also pose an obstacle for his neighborhood's access to the park system. These heavily trafficked areas are being reviewed for possible pedestrian crossing solutions. These could include safer crossing points, pedestrian tunnels, and additional trail access.

3. 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan

An overview of the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan recently approved by the Mayor & City Council was presented to the committee. Funding for the projects included in the CIP is provided through a variety of sources, including the 2021 Park Bond Referendum, Park Improvement Fund, Trail Improvement Fund and Park Dedication Fund; operating budgets are not included in the CIP. Park Dedication funding will stay in the fund year over year until used, while operating and maintenance budgets must be used within the budget year. Currently, the Park Dedication fund is well funded, given Lakeville's growth, but it does fluctuate from year to year.

Items of note included in the 2026-2030 CIP include:

- Completion of Grand Prairie Park
- East Community Park Phase II Construction
- Klamath Trail Retaining Wall
- Ritter Meadows Park
- Voyageur Park
- Parks System Master Plan Completion
- Park Maintenance Equipment Acquisitions and Replacement
- Heritage Center Improvements
- Arts Center Improvements
- Fine Arts Building Improvements
- Parks Major Maintenance
- King Park Miracle Field Surface Replacement
- Park Land Acquisition
- One Rink Reconstruction Each Year
- Pioneer Plaza Water Fountain Repairs
- Playground Replacements Following the Standard Replacement Schedule
- Parking Lot Improvements

Projects included in the CIP are a result of long-term planning and community need as identified in the Parks System Master Plan, City Comp Plan, and other mechanisms. Long-term goals can change depending on the current trends within the community.

4. Parks System Master Plan Progress Update

Weberg and Henneberry gave an overview of the most recent Parks System Master Plan meeting. The Existing Conditions portion of the project is partially complete, with the community-wide survey completed, and will continue into spring. The Needs Assessment portion is underway through a series of meetings with stakeholders, staff, and advisory board committee members, as well as public open houses. Next steps include launching a Social Pinpoint Map to collect additional public input and a State of the Parks Joint Work Session with the Mayor and City Council

5. Staff Report

Online shelter and park building reservations for Lakeville residents opened on January 2. The process went well, and weekends in May-June are already filling.

Staff is anticipating an early June ribbon-cutting for Grand Prairie Park. Some of the amenities will be in use by Lakeville Baseball Association, but this is when the entire park will be open to residents. This is a tentative timeline, and staff will provide updates as the park nears completion.

6. Other Business

Committee Member Weberg reminded committee members of the upcoming volunteer opportunities for winter Recreation events, including Santa’s Secret Store, Illumination Walk, and Ritter Fest.

Sauer made a motion, seconded by Volkosh, to adjourn the January 7, 2026 meeting.

Ayes: unanimous

7. Adjourn

Meeting 7:46 p.m.

DRAFT



Memorandum

To: Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee
From: Joe Masiarchin, Parks and Recreation Director
Date: January 30, 2026
Subject: Environmental Resources Update on Ritter Farm Park

Ann Messerschmidt, Environmental Resources Specialist II will attend the meeting to present an update on prairie restoration and other ongoing environmental projects underway at Ritter Farm Park. The initiative began in 2021 with prairie and woodland seeding, expanded mowing operations, bee monitoring events, controlled burns, invasive species mitigation and more. T

The primary goals of the projects are to enhance the habitat for local pollinators and wildlife, remove invasive species from woodland and open areas and establish native flowers, grasses and trees. You can check out a comprehensive timeline with details project information by visiting the project [Story Map](#).