

**CITY OF LAKEVILLE
PARKS, RECREATION & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2026**

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

Members Present: Holly Weberg, Vicki Schwartz, Pat Sauer, Dan Volkosh, Mark Engler, Rachel Bland

Members Absent: Angie Lueschen

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Masiarchin, Environmental Resources Manager Mac Cafferty

1. Call to Order

a. Election of Officers

Committee Members appointed Weberg as Committee Chair, Volkosh as Committee Vice Chair, and Sauer as Committee Secretary; each will serve a one-year term.

2. Approval of April 1, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Sauer, to approve the April 1, 2026, minutes as written.

Ayes: unanimous

3. Citizen Comments

Monica Joubert: 20034 Italy Avenue, Lakeville, MN. Expressed her appreciation for Country Joe's revisions to the Haven at Lake Marion Preliminary Plat based on resident feedback.

4. Discussion Items

a. Haven at Lake Marion Preliminary Plat

The proposed subdivision is located south of and adjacent to Kenwood Trail (CSAH 50) and west of and adjacent to Ipava Avenue. The plat consists of 51 townhome lots, two common lots and three outlots on 20.64 acres. Two of the outlots are to be utilized for stormwater management, totaling three stormwater management basins that will be deeded to the City.

A wetland delineation was completed, and two wetlands were identified adjacent to the plat; there will be no impact to wetlands by the development. A tree preservation plan was submitted, of the 5,944 significant diameter trees identified onsite, 2,897 will be removed and replaced under the recently updated replacement ordinance. A park has not been designated with this plat, the Park Dedication fee will be satisfied through a cash contribution with the final plat.

Committee discussion:

Will stormwater runoff be discharged into Lark Marion, and will phosphorus removal be needed? The stormwater will drain into Lake Marion, and staff are not particularly concerned about phosphorus, as

fertilizer containing phosphorus has been banned in Minnesota, and Lake Marion's water quality significantly improved after the ban. Staff will continue to monitor water quality and provide resident education as needed.

Could the water quality of the stormwater from a residential neighborhood be better than that of runoff from agricultural land? Potentially, staff indicated that this would likely be the case but would not necessarily contribute to a significant increase in the overall water quality.

Would there be an opportunity for the developer to construct trail connections rather than make a cash contribution to the Park Dedication Fund? There are already trail segments planned from Italy Avenue and long-term planning for an additional trail loop connectivity to Kenwood Trail.

Is the railway that runs adjacent to the property still proposed to be acquired as part of the Rails to Trails initiative through Dakota County? This is still a long-term initiative for Dakota County but nothing has been solidified with the property owner.

Are there concerns with parking constraints with Antlers Park? The parking issue at Antlers Park is an ongoing discussion, as the newness of the park wears off, parking is anticipated to improve. Residents have shared that, overall, parking has improved with the park's expansion. New signage and trail connection to overflow parking will hopefully encourage park visitors to utilize the additional space. Staff will continue to monitor the parking issues at the park but no significant impact from the development is anticipated at this time.

Motion was made by Volkosh, seconded by Engler to recommend to City Council approval of the Haven at Lake Marion Preliminary Plat as presented in the April 8 Planning and Engineering reports.
Ayes: Unanimous

b. Ordinance Amending Title 7, Chapter 1 of the Lakeville City Code Concerning Park Hours

Staff is proposing an ordinance change to allow the grandstand and fields at Grand Prairie Park to be open until 11 p.m. Aronson Park, which is utilized for games, tournaments, and other association events, is programmed the same way. The extended operating hours would not apply to other amenities in the park like pickleball and the splash pad. Both of these amenities are signed with their operating hours. The lights would begin to shut down in phases with a hard out of 11 p.m. for the associations. There are still motion-activated lights on the trails and other safety amenities in the park. The athletic associations that use the park are already familiar with how Aronson Park operates and understand that their use must be scheduled during standard operating hours. The draft ordinance has been posted on the City's website for public review.

Motion was made by Schwartz, seconded by Engler to approve the ordinance amending Title 7, Chapter 1 of the Lakeville City Code Concerning Park Hours are presented by City staff.
Ayes: Unanimous

c. Casperson Park Parking Lot Improvements

Improvements to the gravel parking lot located at Casperson Park were identified in the 2026-2035 CIP. The upper gravel lot is heavily utilized for soccer, large special events and Live at the Lake. Paving the upper gravel lot has become a necessity given the increased seasonal usage. Included in this project will

be the construction of a bike plaza and improvements to the West Lake Marion Mountain Bike Trail trailhead. The bike plaza would include seating areas, a bike fix-it station, landscaping and picnic areas.

Committee discussion:

Are the athletic decks off the upper lot scheduled for improvements? Not at this time.

Can the rumble strips be used for bikes? The intention of the rumble strips is to discourage riders from biking into the plaza and parking area at high speeds. There will also be signage posted to assist with directing traffic.

Will the Lakeville Cycling Association be providing support/funding for the improvements? No, while they were a part of the design process, these improvements will be fully funded by the City. The City budgets for bike trail improvements annually.

How long is the paving expected to take and when will the project occur? Paving will not begin before September to avoid interfering with peak seasonal usage.

Motion was made by Volkosh, seconded by Schwartz to approve the Casperson Park parking lot improvements as presented by City staff.

Ayes: Unanimous

5. Staff Report

a. Pioneer Plaza Improvements

The water feature and pavers located at Pioneer Plaza continue to cause ongoing issues for Park Maintenance staff. The water feature often experiences mechanical failure, and the pavers get clogged, necessitating complete removal to remedy. Staff proposed installing an upgraded water feature and replacing the existing pavers with low-maintenance surfacing and drainage. Upgrades to the plaza would include picnic seating and bike rack storage.

Committee discussion:

Is it worth it to replace the water feature given the lower profile of this park space? Staff does receive complaints when the water feature is not working, this would indicate that the space is being utilized regularly.

When is the water feature operating? It operates on the same seasonal schedule as our indoor buildings, May-October.

How is the project being funded? \$15,000 was included in the 2026 budget and the difference will be funded through savings from the Arts Center's playground replacement project.

Other comments:

- More aesthetic picnic tables
- Opportunity to survey the downtown area on amenities
- Art instead of a water feature
- More pioneer-themed features recommended

After considerable discussion, the committee thought that a water feature would be the best idea with upgrades to seating planned for a future project.

Motion was made by Schwartz, seconded by Sauer to approve the Pioneer Plaza improvements as presented by City staff.

Ayes: Unanimous

The next few weeks are scheduled to be very busy at Grand Prairie Park as the grandstand construction is anticipated to be complete over the coming month. The splash pad is scheduled for a final inspection by the MN Department of Health and is on track to open the week of Memorial Day.

A bid opening for East Community Park Phase II was held on April 3. Ebert Companies submitted the low bid of \$3,378,525.55 which was under the Engineer's estimate. A construction contract will be going to the April 20 City Council meeting. A groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for the end of May, with construction complete by December. A grand opening for the park will be held in 2027. This will be the first community park to include custom play features centered around Dakota County's agricultural history.

6. Other Business

No other business.

Sauer made a motion, seconded by Engler, to adjourn the April 15, 2026 meeting.

Ayes: unanimous

7. Adjourn

Meeting 7:29 p.m.