Scott County
Park Advisory Commission
September 4, 2019
6:00 PM

Cleary Lake Maintenance Facility
6246 190th Street East
Prior Lake, MN
SCOTT COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
PRELIMINARY AGENDA

6:00 P.M. – September 4, 2019

*****Note Meeting Location Change*****

Cleary Lake Maintenance Facility
6246 190th Street East Credit River Township

1) Roll Call – Pat Stieg, Chair

Kristin French, At Large
Kathy Gerlach, District 3
Barb Hedstrom, District 1
Jerry Hennen, At Large
Eric Spieler, District 2
Patrick Stieg, District 5
Mark Ewert, District 4
Commissioner Jon Ulrich, Scott County Board Liaison

2) Pledge of Allegiance
3) Approve Agenda
4) Approve meeting minutes for July 24, 2019
5) Recognition of Interested Citizens for Items Not on the Agenda (No action will be taken.)
6) Tour of Cleary Lake Maintenance Shop (6:10 PM to 6:45 PM)
7) Administration, Planning and Development (6:45 PM to 7:15 PM)
   a. Proposed Dog Policy Change
8) Informational Items (7:15 PM - 7:30 PM)
   a. Projects/Other Update (Verbal)
      i) Cleary Maintenance Building Update
      ii) Equity Grant Applications
   b. Upcoming Events, Programs, Camps (Verbal)
      i) Recreation and Education Opportunities (Fliers and information included in packet)
         (1) Trailgate – Spring Lake Regional Park; September 28; 11AM to 3PM
         (2) Fall Programs (handouts available at meeting)
   c. Advisory Commissioner Reports (Verbal) (7:30 PM – 7:45 PM)
9) Upcoming Meetings - Tentative (7:45PM to 7:50 PM)
   a. October 2
      i) Scott County – 2018 TRPD Resident and Park Visitor Survey Presentation on Results
      ii) 2020 Budget Update
   b. November 6
      i) 2020-2022 Work Plan
      ii) Operational analysis for future developments
10) Adjourn
SCOTT COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 2019

The Scott County Parks Advisory Commission held their July meeting on July 24, 2019 at the Scott County Government Center, 200 Fourth Avenue West, Shakopee, MN 55379. Staff members present were Patty Freeman, General Manager of Scott County Parks and Trails, Nathan Moe, Parks Planner, and Alysa Delgado, Parks and Natural Resources Coordinator.

1) Roll Call: Chair Patrick Stieg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and proceeded with roll call.
   Members present: Kristin French, Kathy Gerlach, Barb Hedstrom, Jerry Hennen, Eric Spieler, and Patrick Stieg

   Members Absent: Mark Ewert and Commissioner Jon Ulrich

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Approval of Agenda

   Motion by Commissioner French; second by Commissioner Hedstrom to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

   Patty Freeman requested the following amendments to the Agenda:
   - Remove Approval of Minutes
   - Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance
   - Item 3: Approve agenda
   - Item 5: Administration Planning and Development (add)
     - 5.d Blakeley Bluffs Acquisition Update and Boundary Refinement
     - Consideration of Resolution of support from Parks Advisory Commission

4) Recognition of Interested Citizens for Items Not on Agenda

   No citizen comment

5) Administration, Planning and Development

   a. Welcome Alysa Delgado: New Parks and Natural Resources Coordinator
   A very warm welcome to Alysa Delgado we are excited to have her join the Parks Team in the capacity of Parks and Natural Resources Coordinator

   b. Work Plan 2019 – 2022
   Staff and Commissioners reviewed and discussed the 2019 to 2022 work plan of projects and initiatives

   c. Metropolitan Council Equity Grant Program and Proposed Scott County Grant Projects
   Connecting people to the outdoors
2019 grant program to fund **capital projects** that will "strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails."

Focus for this grant cycle includes:
- Investments in welcoming underserved populations
- Accessibility to persons living with disabilities
- Racial equity
- Equitable use of regional trails

Grants term of (2) years (with a one-year extension possible at the discretion of MC)

**Timeline**
- Applications due September 1, 2019
- Approvals in December, 2019
- Grant funds available January 2020

<table>
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<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Impact on equitable use</td>
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<td>Community partnerships</td>
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<td>Community engagement</td>
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<td>Capacity building</td>
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<td>Geographic impact</td>
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<td>Local match and other leveraged funds</td>
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<td>Innovation</td>
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<td>Replicability</td>
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<td><strong>Total Possible Points</strong></td>
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Evaluation criteria

To be awarded, grants must meet all categories to be considered and must score at least 50 points

Recommended Grant Applications:

- Community engagement to support:
  - Spring Lake Regional Lakefront Development
  - Cleary Lake Regional Park Master Plan
- Brown sign enhancement and Universal Messaging

MnDOT Approved Signs
Future Year Opportunities:
  o Outreach van
  o Archery facilities
  o Art installations
  o Holmes Street bridge enhancements
  o Adapted equipment
  o ADA improvements
  o Pop up parks

d. Blakeley Bluffs Acquisition Update and Boundary Refinement
  o July 16th County Board approved entering into purchase agreement for approximately 38 acre O’Reilly property, boundary refinement, applying for PAOF grant, and utilizing transportation dollars for source of local match to grant.
  o Approved project in 2018 Parks Improvement Program
  o O’Reilly acquisition opportunity
    ▪ 2017 and 2018
    ▪ Originally 78 acres
      ➢ Home
      ➢ 7 acres outside park boundary
      ➢ Options for structures
        ❖ Mothball, Home Rental (early 2018)
        ❖ Deconstruct, Demolish (April 2018)
    ▪ Verbal agreement to purchase; donation; placed on hold May 2018
    ▪ One of the owners passed away
    ▪ O’Reilly acquisition opportunity June 2019, 38 acres
    ▪ County and seller agreement
      ▪ May, 2019 Workshop + Tour
        ➢ Multiple benefits of acquisition
        ➢ Park Reserve
        ➢ County and Township in discussions about future of roadway
        ➢ Significant expense in maintaining; erosion, flooding
        ➢ Very low traffic road
        ➢ Removes a driveway
    ▪ Boundary Clean Up
      ➢ Add 7 acres, unintentionally left out; 1/40 area; small unusable lot
      ➢ Remove ~ 145 acres
        ❖ ~2013 MnDNR Purchase for Ney WMA (approximately 121 acres)
        ❖ 14 acre parcel
        ❖ 10 acre parcel
        ❖ Configuration not conducive to park reserve use
        ❖ Township feedback on park reserve size
        ❖ County is committed to 2,440 or fewer acres
Blakeley Bluffs Acquisition and Boundary Refinement Resolution consideration of support from Parks Advisory Commission

Recommendation for Resolution to Support Blakeley Bluffs Acquisition and Boundary Refinement

- Acquisition of 38 acre O’Reilly parcel
- Boundary refinement
  - Add 7 acres to the Park Reserve Boundary
  - Remove 145 acres from the Park Reserve Boundary
  - Total acres in new proposed boundary would be 2,407

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Commissioner Hedstrom moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerlach to adopt Resolution of Blakeley Bluffs Acquisition and Boundary Refinement; Approving the Acquisition Purchase. A copy of the resolution is available in the office of the County Administrator and is made a part of this record by reference. The motion carried unanimously.
6) Informational Items / Other

a. Advisory Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Spieler commented on the success of a 100 mile bike ride around Scott County that included passage through Cleary Lake and Spring lake Regional Parks.

Chair Stieg announced there is an upcoming opportunity for Scott County Parks Commissioners and staff to volunteer at the MN DNR building during the State Fair, to communicate with fair goers about the Parks and Trails Legacy Funds.

b. 2020 Budget Update

   - Next steps:
     - July 30th, proposal to Board
     - September 3rd, Budget and CIP Work Session

   - Operating
     - Parks operating budget request
       - General wage and benefits
       - Address revenue issue
       - Custodian position
       - Total increase ~ $127,901.00
       - 2019 Operating = $2,464,635.00
       - Proposed 2020 = $2,592,536.00

   - Capital
     - Parks capital budget

c. State Bonding Project Request for 2020 – Merriam Junction / MN River Bluffs Extension and Scott County Connection Regional Trail (verbal)

   - Scott County applied for 2020 State Bonding for (6) projects
   - One of which one is Merriam Junction Regional Trail
     - MN River Bluffs Extension and Scott County Connection Regional Trail
   - Master Plan approved 2011
   - Vision is a multi-use trail over the Minnesota River connecting the Scott and Carver County trail systems
   - Acquired the corridor in 20xx; preserved for future trail / transportation and can be used for recreational trails
   - Scott County submitted (6) applications for 2020 state bonding funds
     - Merriam Junction Trail was ranked 3 of 6 by the county
     - $17,300,000

d. Project Updates

   i. Cleary Maintenance Facility Project

      - At 60% design stage and is within budget of $2,281,845.00

   ii. Regional Trail Kiosk and Wayfinding Project Update (verbal)

e. Programming Update

   Summer Camps
   - (6) summer camps are filled to capacity
   - All four summer camps at Cedar Lake Farm ran with good enrollment
   - A partner camp is being planned with The Landing in August
Up and Coming
  o Public paddling programs analysis to determine enhancements for increased enrollment
  o Tyler is working with Shakopee Parks and Rec on new senior programming for fall
  o ORS will attend Heimatfest in Jordan on September 7th with the climbing wall for Outreach
  o Piloting fall and winter public programs at The Landing in Shakopee
  o Visit from Tyler to the PAC in October

7) Upcoming Tentative Meeting Topics
   a. September 4: 2018 Park District Survey Results – Scott County
   b. October 2: Blakeley Acquisitions update
   c. 10 year proposed parks improvement plan for discussion

8) Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner French; second by Commissioner Spieler to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

• The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm

Patrick Stieg, Chair ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Beverly Cox-Alexander, Secretary
PARKS COMMISSION WORKSHOP
AGENDA ITEM: 7.a. Proposed Dog Policy Change
MEETING DATE: July 24, 2019
PREPARED BY: Patricia Freeman
REQUESTED ACTION: Discuss and Provide Feedback

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The policy on where dogs on leash are allowed within Three Rivers Park District properties was updated by the Park District Board of Commissioners in June of this year. The change included two updates; dogs on leashes are now allowed on all turf trails and in picnic areas. This is in addition to paved trails, regional trails, campgrounds and group camps. Dogs are still not allowed in the following areas: buildings, beaches, play areas, golf and disc golf courses, archery ranges, winter downhill areas, cross-country ski trails, and singletrack trails.

This change was made (for Park District facilities) as a result of public and staff feedback. Public input from engagement during the Park District’s system planning efforts indicated a strong desire for more canine-friendly opportunities. A staff project team was charged with reviewing dog use and the need for an update this past spring, and this team recommended the policy be amended to allow dogs on turf trails and in picnic areas, in addition to the other areas they are currently allowed. Dario DePaz from the Scott County-Three Rivers Park District team participated on the project team. Attached is a document addressing frequently asked questions to guide Park District staff in implementing the new policy. It provides a nice succinct overview of the changes.

How does this change affect the Scott County facilities?
This change brings the Park District dog policy closer in alignment to the policy currently implemented in the Scott County owned facilities. At Cedar Lake Farm dogs are already allowed on turf trails and in picnic areas. Spring Lake Regional Park currently does not have turf trails or formal picnic areas.

While there are no immediate plans to add turf trails to additional parks within the Scott County Park facilities, the addition of picnic areas to the Spring Lake lakefront area is likely within the next 3 years, and therefore the Parks Commission is asked to discuss the dog policy changes made by Three Rivers and to consider making a recommendation that the list of park and trail areas designated allowable for dogs on leash be expanded to picnic areas and turf trails generally in the Scott County facilities.

Partnership staff including the Park Service team and the Operations team is very supportive of the policy change. It would bring the rules governing dogs in parks in alignment between the County and Park District properties and is easier for the public to understand and to follow.
Is a Park Ordinance Change needed?
The current County Park Ordinance allows for pets on leash in designated areas. The method in which we have been implementing the policy within Scott County facilities is actually in line with the new policy direction taken by Three Rivers. If the PAC supports this direction, the only change needed is the recognition that all turf trails and picnic areas would be added to the designated areas (unless otherwise not allowed, for example mountain bike trails).

Staff from the Park Service and Operations team will be available to answer questions.

**ATTACHMENTS:**
Park District – Dog Policy Updates Frequently asked Questions
Dog Policy Updates
Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the dog policy change in 2019?

Visitors asked — and we listened! Feedback from park users indicated an increasing desire for more canine-friendly opportunities. The Board of Commissioners approved the updated policy on Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Aren’t dogs on turf trails going to be a detriment to natural areas and wildlife habitats?

Nope, a dog on leash on a trail has minimal impact on natural resources, similar to that of a person walking or running.

Why a six-foot, non-retractable leash?

Even if walking on the edge of the trail, a six-foot leash helps ensure that dogs do not impact the natural resources we are working to protect. A shorter leash is also safer, as it reduces the chances that a dog will get tangled with other trail users or around bushes, trees or signs.

Non-retractable leashes are less likely to break should the dog pull too hard and more likely to prevent dogs from crossing to the other side of the trail which creates a tripping hazard for other trail users on foot or bicycle.

- A leash protects natural resources. When dogs go off trail, they can disrupt sensitive wildlife and habitats, some that have taken years and significant resources to reintroduce and restore.
- A leash protects other park users. While they are likely friendly, some people are afraid, allergic, or just not comfortable around dogs. Horses can be spooked, as they view dogs as predators, and other dogs who are leashed can feel threatened by an unleashed dog approaching them.
- A leash protects the dog. Off-leash dogs are more likely to get into dangerous plants or get injured by other animals.

Dogs are allowed at campgrounds but not on beaches or play areas. What do guests do with their dog when they want to go to one of these areas while camping?

If no one is able to watch the dog at the campsite, dogs on leashes are allowed in picnic areas around beaches and play areas. The dog must be attended to at all times, and leashes cannot be attached to trees, signs, picnic tables or other fixed structures.

Are dogs on leashes allowed on nature center trails?

Yes, because nature center trails are turf trails, dogs on leashes are allowed now.

Please be mindful that there are frequently field trips and other programs at nature centers that involve groups, especially groups of children. Because of this, we encourage using nature center trails during non-peak times before 9 AM or in the evenings.

This FAQ is for staff reference only. Similar information will be posted on the website for the public.
Are dogs on leashes allowed on horse trails?

Yes, because horse trails are turf trails, dogs on leashes are allowed now. It is extremely important to keep dogs under control and on a six-foot, non-retractable leash at all times while on horse trails.

Read [this blog post](#) for more information about sharing the trail with horseback riders.

Why do horseback riders need a pass and people walking their dogs do not?

A dog on leash has minimal impact on a turf trail, similar to that of a person walking or running. Horses have a greater impact on turf trails (especially in muddy conditions) and more maintenance is required to maintain the trail.

Why aren't dogs allowed at Gale Woods Farm, Kingswood Park or Noerenberg Gardens?

**Gale Woods Farm** - Domestic dogs cause undue stress to the sheep, cattle, pigs, chickens and other animals that live at on the Farm. These animals cannot distinguish between a domestic dog and an actual threat like a coyote.

**Kingswood Park** - Due to the easement arrangements with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, dogs are not allowed at Kingswood Park.

**Noerenberg Gardens** - The terms of the land donation to Three Rivers prohibit pets within the gardens in order to maintain them as one of the finest formal gardens in Minnesota.

Where can people go if they do not want to be around dogs?

We recognize that some people do not want to be around dogs.

Gale Woods Farm, Kingswood Park and Noerenberg Gardens are parks where dogs are not allowed. Dogs are not allowed in buildings, on beaches or at play areas. Additionally, cross-country ski and singletrack trails, golf and disc golf courses, and winter downhill areas are recreational opportunities where dogs are not allowed.

While dogs are allowed in more areas now, visiting during times when there are fewer people reduces the chances of crossing paths with a dog. Non-peak times are mornings before 9 AM and on weekdays.

*If you have any commonly asked questions to add or would like help with an answer to a dog policy question, please email* [marketing@threeriversparks.org](mailto:marketing@threeriversparks.org)

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*This FAQ is for staff reference only. Similar information will be posted on the website for the public.*
Informal Items / Other
Spring Lake Trailgate

A FREE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
Saturday, September 28, 11 AM–3PM

Spring Lake Regional Park, 15851 Howard Lake Road NW, Prior Lake

- Explore the paved trails and stunning fall forests.
- Try out rock climbing, slacklining, geocaching and more.
- Learn about pollinators, meet live raptors, and sample apple cider.
- Barbeque lunch at noon (while supplies last).

It is all free – bring your family and friends.

UNA CELEBRACIÓN GRATIS PARA LA COMUNIDAD
El Sábado, 28 de septiembre, de 11 AM-3 PM
- Explore los senderos pavimentados y los impresionantes bosques en el Otoño.
- Trate el deslizamiento en rocas, caminar sobre la cuerda(slackline), seconder y encontrar tesoros(geocaching) y más.
- Aprender acerca de los polinizadores, conozca aves de rapiña vivas, y pruebe la sidra de manzana.
- Almuerzo a la barbaca sera ofrecido al mediodía (mientras haya).

Todo es gratis – traiga a su familia y amigos.

DABAALDAG BULSHO OO LACAG LA’AAN AH
Sabtida, Sibteembar 28, 11 AM-3 PM
- Fiiri tareelayaasha lasimay iyo kanyaha biyo dhaca leh.
- Iskuday dhagax fuulka, wareejinta, dhalalinta iyo waxyaabo kale.
- Waxbadan kabo xawayaanda ubaxa qaada, arag baqal nool, bahalka tufaaxda u eg.
- Qadaa baabarkuuga (Barbeque) oo galabkii lacuno (inta badeecadu taalo).
- Dhamaanteed waa lacag la’aan - keen qoyiskaaga iyo saaxiibadaa.

Общественное празднование бесплатно
Saturday/суббота, September 28, 11 AM-3PM
- исследовать проложенные тропы и потрясающие лесные леса
- попробовать скалолазание, геокэшиинг и другие мероприятия на свежем воздухе
- Узнайте о опытных, познакомьтесь с живыми хищниками и попробуйте яблочный сидр
- бесплатный обед в полдень (во время еды)
- это все бесплатно - привези свою семью и друзей

Scott County in partnership with ThreeRivers PARK DISTRICT

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