



City of North St. Paul
Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda

May 27, 2026
6:30 PM

The Park and Recreation Commission Meeting will be conducted on **May 27, 2026** at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 2400 Margaret St., North St. Paul.

You can watch the meeting on our YouTube channel here: [tinyurl.com/NSPYouTube](https://www.youtube.com/NSPYouTube)

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Laura Greenlee-Karp, Chair
Sarah Zahradka, Vice Chair
Lloyd Grachek
Ingrid Koller
Rachel Lucas
William Kealy
Cassidy Schweer, Council Liaison

STAFF

Sara Lang-Noyola

III. Adopt Agenda

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of meeting minutes from April 22nd, 2026.

V. Meeting Open to Public

This Open Forum is an opportunity for persons to address the Parks and Recreation Commission on items not on the agenda. A completed public comment form should be presented to the staff liaison prior to the meeting. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes per person. While the Commission may ask clarifying questions of the speaker, no formal action by the Commission or discussion will be held on these items.

VI. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

- A. CIP Discussion
- B. Feedback Sign
- C. Dorothy Park Signage Discussion

VII. Reports from Staff

VIII. Reports from Commissioners & Park Liaisons

IX. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is June 24, 2026 at Casey Lake Park.



To	Date
Parks & Recreation Commissioners	May 27, 2026

Agenda Placement # IV.A

Approval of Minutes

Subject

Approval of meeting minutes from April 22nd, 2026.

Background/Facts

Recommended Action

Attachments

1. PRC Minutes 4.22.26

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Lang-Noyola, Community Development Administrative Assistant



**Park and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026
6:30 PM**

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers
2400 Margaret Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greenlee-Karp called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Laura Greenlee-Karp, Chair
Sarah Zahradka, Vice-Chair
William Kealy, Commissioner
Lloyd Grachek, Commissioner, excused
Ingrid Koller, Commissioner
Rachel Lucas, Commissioner
Vacant

STAFF/LIAISONS

Cassidy Schweer, City Council Liaison
Ron Ritchie, Public Works Director
Sara Lang-Noyola, Staff Liaison

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Greenlee-Karp called for a motion to adopt the April 22, 2026 meeting agenda.
M/Zahradka, S/Lucas
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2026 PRC Meeting

Chair Greenlee-Karp called for a motion to approve the March 25, 2026 meeting minutes.
M/Koller, S/Lucas
Motion carried 5-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance.

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. McKnight Athletic Complex Updates

Ron Ritchie, the Public Works Director, spoke about the next steps for the McKnight Athletic Complex reconstruction. He noted the storage space that Public Works and Electric will need as well as highlighting the potential areas for parking and recreation and provided a proposal concept for the area. The proposed storage for Public Works and Electric will be used for snow removal, tree removal, electric poles, water main break recycle and other materials. The current storage is between the ballfields at McKnight near the highway as well as the dilapidated tennis courts.

The Commission was also provided with the original Housing and Urban Development documents regarding the land and the removal of any land restrictions.

The Commission was asked to provide feedback on the recreational features they would like to see at the site.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked why this spot was chosen on the site. Ritchie noted there is a drainage ditch nearby for snow storage runoff and would be less noisy for the apartments at night if Public Works are in the area.

Commissioner Koller asked if the ballfield that would be removed with this proposal is rented much. Ritchie responded that it has not been rented much in recent years.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if there is a cost estimate for this project. Ritchie noted there is not an estimate at this stage.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if it is a possibility for the proposed storage to take up the two most southern ballfields in the pinwheel instead of the proposal provided. Ritchie mentioned that this was an idea that was developed but the City is open to exploring all options. It was noted that with the proposal provided, the City would recommend moving the playground and skatepark from the concept plan over and reconfiguring the parking lot.

Commissioner Lucas agrees with moving the storage elsewhere in the park.

Chair Greenlee-Karp stated that moving the storage would present the site as a park rather than a storage space. Chair Greenlee-Karp highlighted that the Parks and Recreation Commission wants a partnership with all parks and Public Works. It was also asked if the City Engineer can mark all potential drainage areas on a proposal.

Commissioner Lucas requested that the City Engineer provide all available options where storage could go on the site.

Commissioner Kealy noted foul balls from the baseball field may be a concern going into the storage area and mentioned the need to keep people out. Ritchie mentioned the storage would include fencing and a locked gate.

The next step is for staff to provide feedback to WSB, the City Engineering firm, who will create a proposal and bring that back to the Commission for review.

B. CIP Review

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that the Commission needs to begin thinking about the CIP and if there are any recommended changes. The suggestion is to come back to the next PRC meeting with recommendations. The CIP template form will be emailed to the Commission separately.

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola acknowledge that the CIP will change with the updates to the McKnight project as well as if the City receives and accepts the grant for the Casey Lake Park outdoor hockey rink.

C. Parks Representatives 2026

Each year, the Parks and Recreation Commission assigns each Commissioner to at least one park to be a representative of and bring back concerns, questions and ideas.

Commissioner Lucas asked if Commission Kealy would take Northwood.

After discussion, Commissioner Kealy will represent Silver Lake, Northwood and Tower parks.

Vice-Chair Zahradka joined to help represent the McKnight Athletic Complex.

The other park representatives remained the same as shown in the packet for 2026.

VII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

A. Upcoming Events

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola presented the Commission with the upcoming events in 2026. If you plan to volunteer, please contact the City Communications Coordinator Ava Griemert.

For the May 16th parks clean-up day, the Commission was asked to divide the parks amongst one another.

The Urban Ecology Center clean-up will have Vice-Chair Zahradka as the lead.

The Postal Credit Union Pond clean-up will have Commissioner Lucas as the lead.

The Commission asked if Commissioner Grachek can take the lead for the McKnight Athletic Complex. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will follow-up.

The Silver Lake clean-up will be hosted by the Silver Lake Improvement Association and Commissioner Koller will take the lead.

Commissioner Lucas asked where to leave full garbage bags and Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that the bags can be left along the busiest street so Public Works can find them.

The Friday before the clean-up, the Commissioners will need to pick up the gloves and bags for their respective parks. Those can be picked up from City Hall at the Community Development desk.

The Commission requested spending up to \$250 on poker sticks for the park clean up.

Chair Greenlee-Karp asked for a motion to purchase poker sticks up to \$250.

M/Zahradka, S/Lucas

Motion carried 5-0.



B. Summer Meetings in the Parks

Commissioner Lucas asked at the last PRC meeting if the Commission could discuss hosting meetings in the parks again in 2026. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that the meetings should be held indoors for recording purposes.

Commissioner Koller likes hosting the meetings at different parks and being able to reach more of the public.

Commissioner Lucas asked if the Commission should host three meetings in the parks, two at Casey Lake Park and one at Hause park. The Commission discussed the idea and decided to host two meetings in the parks. The June meeting will be held at Casey Lake Park, and the July meeting will be held at Hause Park.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if a field trip by the Commission to visit each park would be a good idea. The Commission decided not at this time, but will each visit Colby Hills park before the next meeting for further discussion.

Commissioner Lucas asked to hang a “what do you want to see here” or feedback sign at each park. This conversation will continue at the next meeting.

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola mentioned that Public Works will be working on finalizing Polar Park in the next few weeks so keep an eye out on your emails for information regarding ribbon cutting.

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that a sign for Gaga Ball instructions has been created and given to Public Works for installation at Northwood.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS

Commissioner Koller is concerned about trees coming down at Silver Lake Park and if the trees are replaced. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola confirmed that trees are replaced one for one. Commissioner Koller also asked for information on the tree near beach area being treated and to confirm that it will not be removed. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will follow up with the City Forester.

Commissioner Lucas biked by Tower Park and noted that it looks great.

Vice-Chair Zahradka requested information from the City Finance Director about the payments for Casey Lake Park and to confirm they are up in 2026. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will follow-up. Vice-Chair Zahradka also mentioned she is a certified fitness instructor and will volunteer for events in the park.

Commissioner Kealy mentioned that near the Silver Lake beach, where trees were cut down, there are many small burs that are sharp. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will follow up with Public Works to see if there is anything that can be done about them.

Chair Greenlee-Karp mentioned Commissioner Koller’s concern about the crossing of the Gateway Trail on South Ave and requested that the foliage begin to be maintained now. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola mentioned that it is maintained by Ramsey County but will communicate with them. Commissioner Koller mentioned there was a meeting with a Ramsey County Commissioner regarding that crossing and that there will potentially be solutions for safety.



IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Greenlee-Karp asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

M/Kealy, S/Lucas

Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Commission Meeting will be May 27, 2026.



To	Date
Parks & Recreation Commissioners	May 27, 2026

Agenda Placement # VI.A

Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

Subject

CIP Discussion

Background/Facts

The Commission was asked at the April 22, 2026 meeting to review the CIP for discussion at the May 27, 2026 meeting. The Commission should discuss recommended changes to the CIP.

Recommended Action

Attachments

1. 2026-2035 CIP PRC

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Lang-Noyola, Community Development Administrative Assistant

2026 through 2035 Capital Improvement Plan North St. Paul, MN Projects & Funding Sources By Department

Department	Project #	Priority	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	Total
Parks and Recreation													
Park Fencing at McKnight	<i>PARK-23-012</i>	2	0	60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60,000
063 Park Fund				60,000									60,000
Replace the fencing around the four softball fields at McKnight softball complex.													
McKnight Dugouts - Four Total	<i>PARK-23-013</i>	2	0	60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60,000
063 Park Fund				60,000									60,000
Replace dugouts at the softball fields.													
Casey Lake Fishing Dock	<i>PARK-23-023</i>	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32,900	0	0	32,900
063 Park Fund										32,900			32,900
Plan for the replacement of the fishing dock at Casey Lake by 2040.													
Silver Lake Park Playground	<i>PARK-25-002</i>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	500,000	0	0	0	500,000
063 Park Fund									500,000				500,000
The Silver Lake Park playground equipment will need to be replaced in the next 8-10 years. Currently the 2022 Park Improvement Plan calls for approximately \$941,000 in park improvements. Likely the playground replacement will cost less than that amount.													
Southwood Park Bridge/ Observation Deck Replacement	<i>PARK-25-003</i>	2	0	0	0	0	45,000	0	0	0	0	0	45,000
063 Park Fund							45,000						45,000
The metal bridge over the existing creek should be replaced in the next 5-10 years. Additionally, the observation deck needs to be replaced in the next 5-10 years due to weathering issues.													
Northwood Park Overhaul	<i>PARK-25-004</i>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,430,000	0	0	1,430,000
063 Park Fund										1,430,000			1,430,000
The recommendation is for a complete overhaul of the entire Northwood Park area. Remove the underutilized hockey rink. Replace the aging playground equipment. New park building and other various play structures.													
Casey Lake Park Active Playground	<i>PARK-25-007</i>	2	0	0	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500,000
063 Park Fund					500,000								500,000
Recommendation to construct a new ninja course or other "active" playground area on the east side of the park. Repair existing hockey rink and create a service road for vehicles to access. Also include a new ADA accessible path in the park.													
Colby Hills Sport Field	<i>PARK-25-009</i>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
063 Park Fund									25,000				25,000
Create a new sport field at Colby Hills Park.													
Tower Park 2025 Update	<i>PARK-26-006</i>	3	0	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
063 Park Fund						2,000							2,000

Department	Project #	Priority	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	Total
------------	-----------	----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

1 moveable gaga ball pit w/ swinging ADA door. (Rachael Lucas) RECOMMENDATION IS TO MOVE TO 2029 AFTER THE CITY COMPLETES A NEW WATER TOWER INSTALLATION.

3rd Street Concept Design	PARK-26-007	3	0	0	0	0	1,120,000	0	0	0	0	0	1,120,000
063 Park Fund							1,120,000						1,120,000

Given the site's proximity to numerous homes, the proposed program is designed to serve both families and individuals. Community engagement highlighted strong interest in walking trails, nature play areas, and a community garden. These elements align with the City's initial concept of a low-impact design that preserves the forest character and respects neighboring residences. The walking trails and nature play areas are located in the northern forested section. Existing clearings are utilized for play areas to minimize environmental impact. The site's gentle slopes allow for accessible paths linking internal spaces with a new sidewalk along the road, providing multiple access points. Selective vegetation removal and general cleanup will create space for pathways, improve visibility from the west side, and enhance safety. (Dave Andren)

Downtown Open Space	PARK-26-009	3	0	0	785,867	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	785,867
063 Park Fund					785,867								785,867

This site would be organized into three distinct zones: buffer planting, a flexible plaza, and lawn areas. At the heart of this design is the flexible plaza, which serves as the "front porch." This space is highlighted by a series of brightly colored bench swings, offering playful interaction and drawing attention from passersby. The plaza also features picnic tables for gatherings and a decorative surface finish with a light texture that encourages lingering and slows foot traffic, inviting people to relax and enjoy the space. New pathways connect the central plaza to surrounding sidewalks. Alongside these paths are stacked stone blocks, which frame the space, subtly separate active areas from the street, provide additional seating, and serve as playful climbing features for children. At the park's eastern corner, the primary entry point is marked by a small area of decorative paving located behind the sidewalk. This entry space accommodates park signage and doubles as a performance area for small events, oriented either toward the park or the street. (David Andren)

Flex Field at McKnight	PARK-26-012	3	0	894,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	894,000
034 Park Dedication Fund				450,000									450,000
063 Park Fund				444,000									444,000

Flexible field in place of current t-ball field off of McKnight St. This would be part of the greater McKnight fields redesign and expansion. This flexible field would allow for baseball, mini soccer and other turf sports. This would be an artificial turf with drainage and proper surround detailed out in the HGA Design plan. (Sarah Zahradka)

Playground at McKnight	PARK-26-013	3	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300,000
063 Park Fund				300,000									300,000

New playground at McKnight fields complex. Estimate is provided by HGA. This would be part of the greater McKnight fields redesign and expansion. This would go hand in hand with the parking lot redesign at McKnight. (Sarah Zahradka)

Plaza at McKnight	PARK-26-014	3	0	0	0	0	0	484,000	0	0	0	0	484,000
063 Park Fund								484,000					484,000

Creating a plaza that connects all central units of the new McKnight field. This concrete plaza would have permanent shade structures and moveable picnic tables that can be moved out to create a larger space for events like art in the park, food truck night, etc. This plaza becomes the heart of the complex connecting legion field to the playgrounds, skate park and softball fields as well as the parking lot. (Sarah Zahradka)

Skate Park at McKnight	PARK-26-015	3	0	0	0	250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	250,000
063 Park Fund						250,000							250,000

New skate and BMX park at the new McKnight complex. Details of exact objects in this park would have to be completed with help from community experts in the skate and BMX field. Estimate is provided by HGA. This would be part of the greater McKnight fields redesign and expansion. (Sarah Zahradka)

Department	Project #	Priority	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	Total
Design Plans and Specifications for the McKnight Athletic Complex	PARK-26-017	2	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300,000
063 Park Fund			300,000										300,000

Working with a professional design firm to develop complete plans and specifications to include grading, drainage, proposed phasing, etc. for potential improvements to the McKnight Athletic Complex. The plans would include designs for the entire complex.

Parks and Recreation Total	300,000	1,314,000	1,285,867	252,000	1,165,000	484,000	525,000	1,462,900	0	0	6,788,767
GRAND TOTAL	300,000	1,314,000	1,285,867	252,000	1,165,000	484,000	525,000	1,462,900	0	0	6,788,767



To	Date
Parks & Recreation Commissioners	May 27, 2026
Agenda Placement # VI.B	
Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations	
Subject	
Feedback Sign	
Background/Facts	
The Commission requests to discuss creating signs for feedback at each park.	
Recommended Action	
Attachments	
None	

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Lang-Noyola, Community Development Administrative Assistant



To	Date
Parks & Recreation Commissioners	May 27, 2026

Agenda Placement # VI.C

Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

Subject

Dorothy Park Signage Discussion

Background/Facts

An email was sent to Commissioner Koller in regard to signage at Dorothy Park. Commissioner Koller requested a discussion.

Recommended Action

Attachments

1. Email in Regards to Dorothy Park

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Lang-Noyola, Community Development Administrative Assistant

Dear Parks and Recreation Commission and Commissioner Koller,

As a resident who values our local green spaces, I am writing to respectfully request a review of the signage and enforcement at **Dorothy Park**. My goal is to help preserve the park's specific intended use as a "quiet" neighborhood retreat for families with young children and to ensure the safety of our youngest residents.

While Dorothy Park is a beautiful residential asset, it is frequently impacted by activities that conflict with North St. Paul city ordinances and the park's primary purpose. Specifically, we routinely see dogs off-leash training within the park as well as entering and exiting the lake with retrieval training activity and whistles. In addition, we have seen increasing shore fishing activity that leaves hazardous debris near the canoe launch, water's edge and playground intended for small children.

To protect the "quiet play and relaxation" atmosphere the city promises for this 1-acre site, I request that the city install clear, prohibitive signage reflecting the following:

- **Dog Control and Water Entry:** Despite the existing signs regarding cleanup & leashed pets, the leach law is frequently ignored. Furthermore, **Ordinance § 92.06(B)** explicitly prohibits allowing any animal "in or upon any public waters." Having dogs running into and out of the lake is highly disruptive to families and boaters. Off-leash activity occurs year round and increases significantly as the temperature warms.
- **Shore Fishing and Safety:** Dorothy Park is designated for families and canoe enthusiasts. Shore fishing here creates a direct conflict with the **canoe launch** and **poses a safety risk to visitors and toddlers** due to discarded hooks and lures (we even found a knife recently). Given that the city already utilizes "No Fishing" signage at the Silver Lake swimming beach to protect public safety, I propose a similar "No Shore Fishing" sign here, directing anglers to the **official fishing pier at Silver Lake Park or even fishing areas at Joy Park where there is another Fishing pier and non-resident adjacent areas**. Anglers often aim their casts directly into adjacent properties on this small bay, snagging hooks into neighboring docks. For a narrow shoreline with mixed use, primarily a canoe launch this does not feel like it should be used for fishing.
- **Ordinance Compliance:** Clearer signage would help residents follow **Ordinance § 92.06 (Animals in Parks)** and **§ 92.02 (Litter/Refuse)**, ensuring that this small residential space remains a safe, clean environment.
- As an **additional consideration** for the future, I would encourage the City to review and update existing "Tobacco-Free" park signage to clearly reflect a broader

smoke-free policy that includes vaping and marijuana use in addition to tobacco products. This is particularly important at Dorothy Park which is intended for spaces used by families with young children.

I am grateful for the work the City of North St. Paul and the Parks and Recreation Commission do to maintain our parks. I believe these small adjustments would go a long way in making the intended use of Dorothy Park clear to all visitors while prioritizing the safety of the children who play there.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please reach out if you'd like to discuss or need any additional context or examples of what we have seen occurring in the park.





Hello again, Parks and Rec Commissioner,

I'm following up on my note from last week requesting signage and enforcement at Dorothy Park. Since I wrote, we've witnessed additional examples of what was initially noted, specifically: Vaping and marijuana use, large groups assembling for multi hour fishing sessions, folks casting directly into adjacent property. Sunday, a fisherman waded several feet over to stand in front of our riprap and continued casting directly toward our dock. While I initially wrote about the mixed use concerns from a park safety perspective

(which remains high concern and where I believe signage could enforce the City's intent for the park- helping avoid dangerous fishing debris where children approach the shoreline and canoe, kayak, and paddleboard enthusiasts launch), I want to amend concern to the increasing threat to adjacent property. While signage indicates no fishing from the beach, people are fishing right next to the sand on either side- casting toward the swimming area. This mirrors the concern I have as an adjacent property owner to Dorothy park. People are fishing too close to areas where people walk in the sand and swim. With so much ample shoreline that isn't adjacent to the beach or neighboring property, and with two designated fishing piers, I ask for your support in signage and enforcement.

The unleashed dogs situation also needs remedy. Particularly retrieval off leash in park and into lake - with upcoming holiday weekend, I expect to see more concerning activity in Dorothy park misaligned to the city's intent. Perhaps temporary signage installed before the weekend could preempt this.