

1. 6:30 P.M. Regular Meeting Of Anoka Parks And Recreation Advisory Board Agenda

The February meeting will be held in the Community Room, lower level, Anoka City Hall

Documents:

[AGENDA FEBURARY 17 2026.PDF](#)

2. 6:30 P.M. Regular Meeting Of Anoka Parks And Recreation Advisory Board Packet

Documents:

[FEBURARY 16 2026 PACKET \(REDUCED\).PDF](#)



Public Services

Cemetery, Engineering, Parks and Public Works

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: Tuesday, February 17, 2026
TIME: **6:30 PM**
PLACE: Anoka City Hall – **Lower Level, Community Room**
2015 First Avenue, Anoka

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVE MINUTES
3. OPEN FORUM
4. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Green Haven Report & Golf Committee
 - b. 2025 Archery Hunting Report
 - c. Review Councils Goals for 2026
 - d. Establish Park Board Goals/Accomplishments
5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Rum River Regional Trail Rail Crossing Update
6. COMMUNICATIONS
 - a. Ice Rinks
 - b. 2026 Rockin' on the Rum Schedule
 - c. Farmers Market on the Rum Applications
 - d. America 250th Celebration
7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
8. ADJOURNMENT

Some members maybe attending the meeting remotely via Zoom per the City Policy. If unable to attend, please call the Parks Department at 763-576-2980. Zoom link will be available on the meeting calendar on the city website and will be emailed to all advisory board members.

Auxiliary aids for handicapped persons are available upon request at least 96 hours in advance. Please call the Administration Office at 763-576-2740 to make arrangements.



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ANOKA

REAL. CLASSIC.

Public Services – Parks & Recreation

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026
COUNCIL WORK SESSION ROOM OF ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 FIRST AVENUE, ANOKA MN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Nelson, Mark Bechenbach, Vice Chairperson Derek Sebesta, Kiel Jenkin, Kirk Schnitker, Anna Hauglie, Bob Erickson, Jeanne Wilkinson

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA MS TEAMS: Mary Blankenship

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa LaCasse, Public Services Administrator and Jon Holmes, Public Services Supervisor

GUESTS: Don and Stephanie Rowell

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Chair S. Nelson at 6:34pm

OATH OF OFFICE: Chair Nelson asked A. Hauglie, J. Wilkinson, and K. Jenkin to stand and led them through the oath of office.

APPROVE MINUTES

There being no changes or corrections to the regular meeting minutes, a motion **was made by K. Schnitker, seconded by J. Wilkinson to APPROVE THE DECEMBER 16, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AS PRINTED. 9 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried**

OPEN FORUM

None

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

J. Wilkinson made a motion to nominate S. Nelson to continue as Chair for 2026. K. Schnitker seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote called. 9 Ayes. 0 Opposed. Motion Carried.

B. Erickson made a motion to nominate D. Sebesta to continue as Vice Chair for 2026. A. Hauglie seconded the motion. No discussion. Vote called. 9 Ayes. 0 Opposed. Motion carried.



Regulations for use for E-Bikes, etc.

LaCasse introduced the topic referring to the materials that were provided in the packet. The board has been asked to discuss shared trail use by pedestrians and e-bikes, e-scooters, etc regarding safety concerns; determine whether regulation or signage is needed along the trails, or if an information campaign through city resources such as the newsletter, community guide, and social media would be sufficient. One of the council's goals is to make Anoka more pedestrian friendly. There are state statutes that regulate the use of E-bikes. The city has received a few complaints about 'motorized' bikes and golf carts on the trails and clashing with pedestrians.

Information provided in the packet includes summary information on E-bikes, E-scooters, etc compiled from the additional information provided (MN DNR, League of MN Cities), copy of the article printed in the summer edition of the city newsletter, and regulations and information from other cities and Anoka County.

Discussion included the following:

- whether or not regulating speed on the trails was necessary; how to implement
- pedestrians and dogs, pedestrians wearing headphones, and pedestrian etiquette regarding sharing the trail
- kids vs adults on e-bikes, there is a difference between rider etiquette
- e-bike rider etiquette and sharing the trail; announcing your pass with bell or words
- bicycles riding on sidewalks in the downtown business areas
- the difference between class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes, standing e-scooters, e-boards (mono, hover, one wheels)
- rules for the pedestrian bridge and the main street tunnel

Staff shared 2 images of signage that M. Blankenship provided from other communities. One of the signs was more of a warning message about strict enforcement and the other was more of an educational sign. Discussion included whether signage should be placed at key locations like trail heads and not along the trails. Some of the trails have multiple access points and signs would have to be placed so they could be viewed from both directions. Most of the board members were not in favor of adding signage to the trails, mentioning costs of producing signs and sign pollution. Staff indicated that we have a problem with vandalism and theft of signage on the trails and supported not adding signage.

The City has 2 regional trails, therefore, the board felt our approach should be consistent with Anoka County and surrounding communities. Anoka County trail rules within their parks specify that riders must follow MN Statutes Chapter 169, follow speed limit of 15mph or at a speed necessary to avoid collision, not ride carelessly, and on designated trails or right side of road with traffic. Riders should wear helmets if not required by law per age. Enforcement of the statutes is the police departments. Staff informed the board that the police department does have at least 2 e-bikes for bike patrol unit and they have a UTV. Staff has seen the officers on bikes at the Rockin' on the Rum concerts and city events but is not sure if or how often they ride the trails.

Multiple members indicated that they liked the flyers and information presented from Chanhassen and Hastings stating that it was easy to read while being informative and suggested that staff pursue a multifaceted approach for dissemination of information – newsletter, social media, and city website. There was concern expressed that the information should not be focused on riders of E-bikes or E-scooters alone... we should not call out E-bike riders insinuated that they are the ‘issue, as all users are responsible for sharing the trails. People walking on the trails need to understand that bikes/e-bikes are allowed, and they shouldn’t be walking 4 abreast or letting their dog out on 20’ of leash across the trail, were examples given.

Multiple board members suggested a ‘share the trail’ focused informational campaign that would be comprehensive of e-bike types, rules, and regulations as well as proper trail etiquette for all users. The board does not want to call out any specific user group. Staff will work with our communications manager and other department staff to write an article for the April Cityview Newsletter and create messaging for social media. More comprehensive information can be included on the City’s website.

Motion made by K. Schnitker, seconded by D. Sebesta, to have staff create a social media campaign and information flyer for the newsletter/website focused on educating the public (pedestrians, dogwalkers, E-bikers, etc.) regarding sharing the trail and trail etiquette, including guidelines for e-bikes and other electric powered personal vehicles as defined in the MN State Statutes. Enforcement is the responsibility of the Anoka Police Department. 9 ayes, 0 Opposed. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Wilinson, Erickson and Schnitker wanted to congratulate Nickie Jenks, Rec Manager, on a great job with the Winterfest activities. The luminary walk and skating events were well attended.

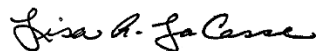
ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- a. 2025 Archery Hunting Report
- b. Golf Report / Golf Committee
- c. Review Councils Goals for 2026
- d. Establish Park Board Goals/Accomplishments

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, **a motion was made by K. Jenkin, seconded by M. Beckenbach, to ADJOURN THIS REGULAR MEETING. 9 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa LaCasse
Public Services Administrator

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic feel.

2026 GOLF PRESENTATION TO THE PARK BOARD

February 17th, 2026

GREEN HAVEN GOLF AND EVENT CENTER



INTRODUCTIONS

- ▶ KEVIN MORELLI, ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
- ▶ RYAN WAGNER, HEAD GOLF PRO AT GREEN HAVEN
- ▶ MIKE BRUAL, GOLF COURSE SUPERITENDENT AT GREEN HAVEN
- ▶ BRANDON HOWARD ASSISTANT GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

GREEN HAVEN GOLF & EVENT CENTER

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement

Green Haven Golf Course and Event Center is committed to providing an affordable, welcoming and well-maintained public golf and clubhouse experience for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities while serving as a community asset that promotes recreation, inclusivity, environmental stewardship and responsible use of city resources.

Vision Statement

Our Vision is for Green Haven to be a premier municipal golf and community gathering destination that is recognized for exceptional course conditions, friendly and accessible service, sustainable operations and a clubhouse that strengthens community connection and civic pride.

LOOKING BACK 2023 SEASON

- ▶ Opening Date: April 20th, 2023
- ▶ Closing Date: November 21st, 2023
- ▶ Reported Rounds: 27,187 (this is likely understated to a transition to a new POS system during the season)

▶ 2023 Rates:

18 Hole weekday walking, \$32

9 Hole walking, \$22

18 Hole weekend, \$40

18 hole riding cart, \$20

9 Hole riding cart, \$11

Anytime Pass, \$1300

Weekday Pass, \$925

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,671,576.68

LOOKING BACK 2024 SEASON

- ▶ Opening Date: March 1st, 2024
- ▶ Closing Date: November 17th, 2024
- ▶ Total Rounds: 43,032
- ▶ 2024 Rates:

18 Hole weekday walking, \$35

9 Hole weekday walking, \$24

18 Hole weekend, \$42

18 Hole riding cart, \$22

9 Hole riding cart, \$12

Anytime Pass, \$1400

Weekday Pass, \$995

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,876,303.68

LOOKING BACK 2025 SEASON

- ▶ Opening Date: April 9th, 2025
 - ▶ Closing Date: November 15th, 2025
 - ▶ Total Rounds: 34,121
 - ▶ 2025 Rates:
 - 18 Hole weekday, \$39
 - 9 Hole weekday, \$26
 - 18 Hole weekend, \$46
 - 18 Hole riding cart, \$24 **Brand new carts
 - 9 Hole riding cart, \$14
 - Anytime Pass, \$1600
 - Weekday Pass, \$1,100
- TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,819,717.26

LOOKING AHEAD 2026 SEASON

18 Hole weekday \$40

9 Hole weekday \$27

18 Hole weekend \$47

18 Hole riding cart \$24

9 Hole riding cart \$14

Anytime Pass \$1,700

Weekday Pass \$1,150

All but one Monday from April 20th-September 7th are booked with tournaments.

Currently, there are 26 outside events not including the men's/women's clubs.

Green Haven Golf Course is now a part of Youth on Course program.

GREEN HAVEN COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

- ▶ Back at the November 24th, 2025 worksession, the city council gave direction to move forward with renovating the bunkers, tee boxes, cart paths and irrigation. The cost for this project will be \$4,121,220.00.
- ▶ The city council also gave direction to get a project cost for building two new holes on the former Buldoc property that the city purchased. We will be presenting this at the February 23rd worksession.
- ▶ Also, at the November 23rd, 2025 worksession, the city council gave direction to wait on a proposed driving range that was to be built on current holes #5 and #6. The proposed cost at that time to construct two new holes and proposed driving range was \$4,502,344.

GREEN HAVEN COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

Driving Range Development Plan New Holes



Green Haven Golf Course
Anoka, MN



Draw: July 18, 2024
Jon Schwab Design, LLC
River Falls, Wisconsin
P: 761.616.0289
W: jonschwabdesign.com
E: jonschwab@jdsd.com

Graphic is conceptual only, not to be used for construction

GREEN HAVEN COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

Driving Range Development Plan 32-Station Range



Green Haven Golf Course
Anoka, MN

Pros:

- New holes 16 & 17 can be constructed without impact to the golf course
- New range is full-length at over 300 yards deep.
- New range tee allows for 32 stations on tee line (a38 on turf).
- New range tee includes and 4 station covered & heated building.
- New range plays downhill creating high visibility of targets.
- New putting green at 12,000 sf.
- New chipping green at 4,500 sf.
- New routing has hole 1 playing northwest away from the rising sun.
- New routing maintains par 71 from back tees.
- Use of Halloween shaped bunkers for marketing and connection to the City.
- New short-game practice area at far end of the range.
- New lesson tee at far end of the range.
- Good visibility & control of range from pro shop.
- Opportunity to create a larger outdoor patio overlooking the golf course.
- New holes can be constructed without impact to golf course operations.
- New irrigation pond, pump house, and pump station.
- Removes Garfield St. from bisecting the golf course.

Cons:

- Range hits south-east into the rising sun.
- Relationship with hole 18 green and cart path to range is a safety concern
- New holes require burying or relocation of power lines.
- Replacing existing holes with new ones reduces overall course length.

Card of the Course

Hole	Black	Green	Yellow	Par	Red	Red Par	Hole	Black	Green	Yellow	Par	Red	Red Par
1	362	347	335	4	325	4	10	431	422	362	4	361	5
2	189	179	162	3	158	3	11	381	356	322	4	319	4
3	309	301	298	4	231	4	12	179	165	154	3	150	3
4	505	470	402	5	401	5	13	540	522	416	5	416	5
5	159	150	145	3	142	3	14	493	486	418	5	416	5
6	378	363	332	4	321	4	15	171	158	145	3	136	3
7	520	480	476	5	419	5	16	390	315	295	4	215	4
8	196	180	158	3	137	3	17	350	335	315	4	225	4
9	344	334	330	4	242	4	18	381	345	340	4	335	4
OUT	2,964	2,813	2,638	35	2,596	35	IN	3,256	3,104	2,767	36	2,573	37
							TOTAL	6,220	5,917	5,405	71	4,969	72



Date: July 12, 2024

Jay Fishermark Design, LLC
River Falls, Wisconsin
P: 317.616.8289
W: jayfishermarkdesign.com
E: jayfishermarkdesign@gmail.com

Graphics is conceptual only, not to be used for construction

POTENTIAL SCHEDULE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

- ▶ Fall/Winter 2025: remove structures from former Buldoc property
- ▶ Spring 2026: Grade and seed former Buldoc and North Star Fence company property.
- ▶ Spring/Summer 2026: Construct new public trail along the train tracks and Green Haven property line.
- ▶ Spring/Summer 2026: Begin construction of pump station, irrigation ponds and new nursery green.
- ▶ Late Summer 2027: Begin construction of new bunkers, new tee boxes and new cart paths

QUESTIONS?

At this time, we would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOLF OPERATIONS OVERSIGHT

1-2 members of Park and Recreation Advisory Board to serve on a committee with the Finance Director, Golf Operations Manager and other designated city staff.

This will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and compare rates, services and facilities of other metro area golf courses.
2. Review and recommend fees/rates for the master fee schedule
3. Review and recommend Golf course improvements.
4. Review and recommend rules & regulations for use of the facilities
5. Review and recommend policies to be established by City Council
6. Public relations and community pride of Green Haven operations and facilities.

Park Board would review recommendations of the oversight committee and advance those items to City Council for approval.

2025 Season October 25 - November 16		2024 Season Second Saturday Sept. - December 31		2023 Season Second Saturday Sept. - December 31		2022 Season Second Saturday Sept. - December 31		2021 Season Second Saturday Sept. - December 31		2020 Season Second Saturday Sept. - December 31		2019 Season Second Saturday Sept. - December 31		2018 Season Second Saturday Sept. - December 31		2017 Season Second Saturday Sept. - December 31		2016 Season Second Saturday Sept. - December 31	
ANP	Sunny Acres	ANP	Sunny Acres	ANP	Sunny Acres	ANP	Kings Island	ANP	Kings Island	ANP	Kings Island	ANP	Kings Island	ANP	Kings Island	ANP	Kings Island	ANP	Kings Island
175# 6pt Buck	150# 5pt Buck	170# 7pt Buck		120# Doe	75# Doe/Fawn	130# Doe		120 # Doe	100# Fawn	12pt 230lbs Buck	150 lb Doe	120# Doe	120# Fork Buck	130# Doe		120# Doe	80# Buck Fawn	200# Buck 4pt	180# Buck 9 pt
70# Fawn	150# 5pt Buck	150# Doe		130# Doe	185# 11pt Buck	110# Doe		80# Button Buck		130# Doe	130 lb Doe	130# Doe	150# Doe	150# buck 8pt		160# Adult Buck 6pt		180# Buck 8pt	
130# Doe	150# 5pt Buck	130# Doe		200# 11pt Buck	120# Doe	150# Doe		150# Doe		4 pt Adult Buck	100# Buck & Fawn	180# Buck 3 pt		120# Doe				170# Adult Buck 6pt	
70# Fawn		150# 6pt Buck		120# Doe		125# Doe													
				170# 10pt Buck		70# Fawn		100# Doe		6 pt Adult Buck				150# Doe					
						115# Doe		130# Doe		6 pt Adult Buck				130# Doe					
Sunny		Kings Island		Kings Island		Sunny Acres		Sunny Acres		4pt 160lbs Buck				140# Doe					
150# Doe				170# Doe		None		None		150lb Doe									
8 Deer Total		4 Deer Total		9 Deer Total		6 Deer Total		6 Deer Total		10 Deer Total		5 Deer Total		6 Deer Total		3 Deer Total		4 Deer Total	

Hunting Program Participant Information									
2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
11 Applicants 4 ANP, 4 KI, 2 SA 9 Adults 2 Youth	15 Applicants 9 ANP, 2 KI, 4 SA 15 Adults 13 Residents 2 Non-Resident (City Employees)	17 Applicants 12 ANP, 2 KI, 3 SA 17 Adults 14 Residents 3 Non-Residents (City Employees)	16 Applicants 12 ANP, 2 KI, 2 SA 16 Adults 13 Residents 3 Non-Residents (City Employees)	17 Applicants 12 ANP, 3 KI, 2 SA 17 adults 15 residents 2 Non-Resident (City Employees)	23 Applicants 16 ANP 23 adults 22 residents 1 Non- Resident (City Employee)	19 Applicants 0 youth 19 adults 18 residents 1 Non- Resident (employee ACFD)	17 Applicants 0 youth 17 adults 17 residents	17 Applicants 0 youth 17 adults All Residents	18 Applicants 0 youth, 18 adults (1 female) All residents

2025 - 2016 Year End Summaries

[Print](#)**2025 Archery Hunt Participants Feedback Form - Submission #7410****Date Submitted: 2/5/2026**

The 2025 season changes have raised questions about how the program can best balance hunter access, public use of the park, and overall program goals. The purpose of this form is to better understand how the shortened season affected hunters and to gather thoughtful input that can help guide future discussions and decisions. If there are questions you would not like to answer or skip, please write "N/A" in the line.

Your responses will help inform conversations with staff and city officials as they evaluate potential adjustments to the program in future years. Honest, constructive feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Thank you for contributing your perspective and helping shape the future of the archery program.

First Name***Last Name**

Gary

Grogan

Would you like to remain anonymous?

*

☐ Yes☒ No

1. How did the shortened archery season affect your ability to participate in the program this year? (e.g., access, scheduling, success, overall experience)*

Although I harvested a nice doe, it was really difficult because I travel for work and missed many good hunting days.

2. What challenges did the reduced season length create for you personally?*

Again, because I travel for work, it caused me to miss a lot of days in the woods.

3. Do you feel the change impacted the effectiveness of the archery program's goals (such as population management or conservation)? Why or why not?*

Not sure. With only four hunters in the Anoka Nature Preserve and a limited season, it doesn't sound like much population management to me.

4. How comfortable have you felt sharing park space with the public during this or past seasons? Did you run into any issues or the public while you were hunting?*

It was no issue for me. Everyone I talked with was happy we were "controlling" the deer population. I actually had several nice visits with people.

5. What measures, if any, do you believe could improve public comfort and safety while still allowing a full or longer archery season? (signage, education, time-of-day restrictions, designated zones, etc.)*

Not sure about this one. Signage, I guess, is a good thing.

6. If the city were to reconsider the season length, what compromise solutions would you support or suggest?*

Sorry, I don't understand this question.

7. If the program ran the same way for the 2026 season, would you participate? Why or Why Not?*

Yes, I would, thank you. It was a great experience, other than when a truck came in to change out the porta-potty, right when a deer was coming into my stand. Do the duck/goose hunters really use them?

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Your input is greatly appreciated. This information will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to be present, you are more than welcome.

[Print](#)**2025 Archery Hunt Participants Feedback Form - Submission #7418****Date Submitted: 2/9/2026**

The 2025 season changes have raised questions about how the program can best balance hunter access, public use of the park, and overall program goals. The purpose of this form is to better understand how the shortened season affected hunters and to gather thoughtful input that can help guide future discussions and decisions. If there are questions you would not like to answer or skip, please write "N/A" in the line.

Your responses will help inform conversations with staff and city officials as they evaluate potential adjustments to the program in future years. Honest, constructive feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Thank you for contributing your perspective and helping shape the future of the archery program.

First Name***Last Name**

keegan	melton
--------	--------

Would you like to remain anonymous?*

*

☐ Yes☒ No

1. How did the shortened archery season affect your ability to participate in the program this year? (e.g., access, scheduling, success, overall experience)*

I think it would have been easier to schedule hunting time, also it would be nice to hunt further into the winter.

2. What challenges did the reduced season length create for you personally?*

Hunting in warm weather makes processing a harvest much more urgent, leading to possible waste.

3. Do you feel the change impacted the effectiveness of the archery program's goals (such as population management or conservation)? Why or why not?*

It absolutely affected the harvest numbers. More time in the stand=more harvests

4. How comfortable have you felt sharing park space with the public during this or past seasons? Did you run into any issues or the public while you were hunting?*

I didn't run into any issues at all. In fact one couple out walking their dog were very encouraging, as they had a garden destroyed by deer!

5. What measures, if any, do you believe could improve public comfort and safety while still allowing a full or longer archery season? (signage, education, time-of-day restrictions, designated zones, etc.)*

Increased signage to keep public away from hunting area would help a lot! Especially in the sunny acres area

6. If the city were to reconsider the season length, what compromise solutions would you support or suggest?*

I think extending the season further into the winter in some areas vs others if those areas aren't used by public as much after snow falls.

7. If the program ran the same way for the 2026 season, would you participate? Why or Why Not?*

Absolutely! It was a great experience! A longer season would be preferable to give more hunters a better chance of harvest, but I'll take what I can get.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Your input is greatly appreciated. This information will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to be present, you are more than welcome.

[Print](#)**2025 Archery Hunt Participants Feedback Form - Submission #7405****Date Submitted: 2/4/2026**

The 2025 season changes have raised questions about how the program can best balance hunter access, public use of the park, and overall program goals. The purpose of this form is to better understand how the shortened season affected hunters and to gather thoughtful input that can help guide future discussions and decisions. If there are questions you would not like to answer or skip, please write "N/A" in the line.

Your responses will help inform conversations with staff and city officials as they evaluate potential adjustments to the program in future years. Honest, constructive feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Thank you for contributing your perspective and helping shape the future of the archery program.

First Name*	Last Name	Would you like to remain anonymous?*
Hunter	Smith	☐ Yes ☒ No

1. How did the shortened archery season affect your ability to participate in the program this year? (e.g., access, scheduling, success, overall experience)*

I was still able to sit in the stand quite a bit but definitely less than I did last year. I do feel though that the dates that were picked for this years hunt were pretty good because of the timing of the rut and most deer action. It did feel a bit rushed though, I would have liked to see a couple more weeks of availability just to continue to learn the area and deer patterns on how they are moving and attempt to learn more about where they travel, where they like to be, etc.

2. What challenges did the reduced season length create for you personally?*

Just less time in the stand with the shortened window of hunting, if you want to take big mature deer out of the woods you have to sit and sit and sit. I also think that because of the short window, there is more pressure to shoot deer so you may run in to hunters taking not as ethical shots at deer because they want to make sure they are attempting to shoot deer before there time runs out in the hunt. Also some people may not have access to other land with decent deer population so this could be the only spot they have a chance at harvesting a deer.

3. Do you feel the change impacted the effectiveness of the archery program's goals (such as population management or conservation)? Why or why not?*

I don't feel like the change impacted the effectiveness of population management, if you hunted hard enough you should have been able to take a deer. Though if people have busy lives and can't commit to sitting 8-10 times per week than I could absolutely see how it would be tougher to get a good shot on a deer.

4. How comfortable have you felt sharing park space with the public during this or past seasons? Did you run into any issues or the public while you were hunting?*

I have always felt good sharing space with the public during this and previous seasons. I did have one interaction this year where a guy walked by me and could see I was wearing camo and had my bow with me and he said "I am not a deer" while pointing to himself and had a smirk on his face. I just kept walking but obviously wanted to say I am aware you are not a deer sir lol. I have had great conversations with people about the hunt, most people actually go out of their way to tell me where they are seeing deer and at what times which is awesome that they have that mindset about the hunt.

5. What measures, if any, do you believe could improve public comfort and safety while still allowing a full or longer archery season? (signage, education, time-of-day restrictions, designated zones, etc.)*

I honestly do not have any recommendations at this point, I think that most everyone in the program has hunted for the majority of their life and actually respect the animals and nature more than any non hunters do. I never once felt like anyone was unsafe at all.

6. If the city were to reconsider the season length, what compromise solutions would you support or suggest?*

The only solution I would offer is just a week added on to either end of the season, this way people can get that extra week of scouting, sitting, and harvesting deer without really putting too much stress or change to the program. I think giving guys the last 7-10 days in October into the middle of November will allow everyone a great chance at harvesting deer in the program. I think if too many people join or if some people get stuck with dates that are outside of those weeks I listed then they are getting a bit of the short end of the stick and may not be interested in participating as much.

7. If the program ran the same way for the 2026 season, would you participate? Why or Why Not?*

I would absolutely participate, the dates selected were great, I made great memories back there and I feel like year after year I am learning more about the property, plus I get to strategize with my dad and enjoy the hunting program and process with him which is everything to me. Thanks for the survey!!

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Your input is greatly appreciated. This information will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to be present, you are more than welcome.

Print

2025 Archery Hunt Participants Feedback Form - Submission #7409

Date Submitted: 2/5/2026



The 2025 season changes have raised questions about how the program can best balance hunter access, public use of the park, and overall program goals. The purpose of this form is to better understand how the shortened season affected hunters and to gather thoughtful input that can help guide future discussions and decisions. If there are questions you would not like to answer or skip, please write "N/A" in the line.

Your responses will help inform conversations with staff and city officials as they evaluate potential adjustments to the program in future years. Honest, constructive feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Thank you for contributing your perspective and helping shape the future of the archery program.

First Name*	Last Name	Would you like to remain anonymous?*
Adam	Steadland	☐ Yes ☒ No

1. How did the shortened archery season affect your ability to participate in the program this year? (e.g., access, scheduling, success, overall experience)*

The shortened season created significant difficulty on my ability to hunt this year for two reasons. Firstly, my son was also a hunter in the program and he is in the mentored hunting program due to his age, thus when he was hunting I was unable to hunt as I was in the stand with him. With the season being shortened it created limited opportunities to hunt.

2. What challenges did the reduced season length create for you personally?*

I was not able to have as many opportunities.

3. Do you feel the change impacted the effectiveness of the archery program's goals (such as population management or conservation)? Why or why not?*

Yes the shortened season created significant impact minimizing the ability to select harvest of deer. In a normal season we can monitor multiple deer and selectively target individual bucks and does. With shorter season we had to select whichever deer came in range.

4. How comfortable have you felt sharing park space with the public during this or past seasons? Did you run into any issues or the public while you were hunting?*

I was in a portion of the park that was not supposed to be accessed by the public during the hunting season, and I only had one issue that was reported to the city and it was an individual trying to waterfowl hunt in the area I was hunting which is not a waterfowl hunting approved area.

5. What measures, if any, do you believe could improve public comfort and safety while still allowing a full or longer archery season? (signage, education, time-of-day restrictions, designated zones, etc.)*

I have hunted King Island for multiple years and have never had a problem with the public, I believe education can help improve public comfort. Also designated zones could also help and signage to keep people out of those areas during hunting. I think that we have opportunities to work with the public to use the parks as well as hunt.

6. If the city were to reconsider the season length, what compromise solutions would you support or suggest?*

I would support a number of compromises. I think everyone should be able to use the preserves while managing our parks deer population. I think specific hunting zones would work, as the deer typically avoid the areas people are in thus the hunters will not interact with the public outside of walking in and out. Also specific hours would also work. Deer move most at dawn and dusk and we target those hours most.

7. If the program ran the same way for the 2026 season, would you participate? Why or Why Not?*

I would participate as it is a great way to manage the deer and offer hunters access. But it does create scheduling issues and work/school issues for hunters.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Your input is greatly appreciated. This information will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to be present, you are more than welcome.

[Print](#)**2025 Archery Hunt Participants Feedback Form - Submission #7432****Date Submitted: 2/11/2026**

The 2025 season changes have raised questions about how the program can best balance hunter access, public use of the park, and overall program goals. The purpose of this form is to better understand how the shortened season affected hunters and to gather thoughtful input that can help guide future discussions and decisions. If there are questions you would not like to answer or skip, please write "N/A" in the line.

Your responses will help inform conversations with staff and city officials as they evaluate potential adjustments to the program in future years. Honest, constructive feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Thank you for contributing your perspective and helping shape the future of the archery program.

First Name***Last Name**

Paul

Westlund

Would you like to remain anonymous?*

*

☐ Yes☒ No

1. How did the shortened archery season affect your ability to participate in the program this year? (e.g., access, scheduling, success, overall experience)*

Didn't affect it.

2. What challenges did the reduced season length create for you personally?*

Didn't create any challenges

3. Do you feel the change impacted the effectiveness of the archery program's goals (such as population management or conservation)? Why or why not?*

I think the chances for a larger deer harvest would be possible with a longer season and more people involved. I think many didn't apply because of the shorter season and the overlap with the states rifle season.

4. How comfortable have you felt sharing park space with the public during this or past seasons? Did you run into any issues or the public while you were hunting?*

Not as bad as in the past. I only had 2 people walk off of the gravel path and walk in front of my stand.

5. What measures, if any, do you believe could improve public comfort and safety while still allowing a full or longer archery season? (signage, education, time-of-day restrictions, designated zones, etc.)*

Larger sign on the gate during the season saying that the hunt is going on and to stay on the gravel path.

6. If the city were to reconsider the season length, what compromise solutions would you support or suggest?*

I don't know.

7. If the program ran the same way for the 2026 season, would you participate? Why or Why Not?*

Yes. I really enjoy having a place so close to home that I can enjoy hunting in.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Your input is greatly appreciated. This information will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to be present, you are more than welcome.

Print

2025 Archery Hunt Participants Feedback Form - Submission #7438

Date Submitted: 2/11/2026



The 2025 season changes have raised questions about how the program can best balance hunter access, public use of the park, and overall program goals. The purpose of this form is to better understand how the shortened season affected hunters and to gather thoughtful input that can help guide future discussions and decisions. If there are questions you would not like to answer or skip, please write "N/A" in the line.

Your responses will help inform conversations with staff and city officials as they evaluate potential adjustments to the program in future years. Honest, constructive feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Thank you for contributing your perspective and helping shape the future of the archery program.

First Name*	Last Name	Would you like to remain anonymous? *
		☒ Yes ☐ No

1. How did the shortened archery season affect your ability to participate in the program this year? (e.g., access, scheduling, success, overall experience)*

It was fine, would like it to start earlier for MEA week
2. What challenges did the reduced season length create for you personally?*

None
3. Do you feel the change impacted the effectiveness of the archery program’s goals (such as population management or conservation)? Why or why not?*

No
4. How comfortable have you felt sharing park space with the public during this or past seasons? Did you run into any issues or the public while you were hunting?*

No issues, everyone was nice.

5. What measures, if any, do you believe could improve public comfort and safety while still allowing a full or longer archery season? (signage, education, time-of-day restrictions, designated zones, etc.)*

Don't know

6. If the city were to reconsider the season length, what compromise solutions would you support or suggest?*

Non sure

7. If the program ran the same way for the 2026 season, would you participate? Why or Why Not?*

Yes, was great!

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Your input is greatly appreciated. This information will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to be present, you are more than welcome.

[Print](#)**2025 Archery Hunt Participants Feedback Form - Submission #7437****Date Submitted: 2/11/2026**

The 2025 season changes have raised questions about how the program can best balance hunter access, public use of the park, and overall program goals. The purpose of this form is to better understand how the shortened season affected hunters and to gather thoughtful input that can help guide future discussions and decisions. If there are questions you would not like to answer or skip, please write "N/A" in the line.

Your responses will help inform conversations with staff and city officials as they evaluate potential adjustments to the program in future years. Honest, constructive feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Thank you for contributing your perspective and helping shape the future of the archery program.

First Name***Last Name**

Donald	Rowell
--------	--------

Would you like to remain anonymous?*

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

1. How did the shortened archery season affect your ability to participate in the program this year? (e.g., access, scheduling, success, overall experience)*

By shortening the season, especially at Sunny Acres, the time was really restricted to when a hunter could get out. At the other 2 locations there was a little more room, but with as many hunters that could be out at a time it puts a strain on available resources. I thought it was an absolute horrible season.

2. What challenges did the reduced season length create for you personally?*

Trying to figure out how 2 of us were somehow going to hunt in an area smaller than 5 acres in the time we were given.

3. Do you feel the change impacted the effectiveness of the archery program's goals (such as population management or conservation)? Why or why not?*

I think that the changes truly hurt the experience and had no effect on the population. Granted there were a couple deer harvested, but no where near the numbers that could have been.

4. How comfortable have you felt sharing park space with the public during this or past seasons? Did you run into any issues or the public while you were hunting?*

I have no issues sharing the parks.with the other residents. I am curious what people are doing walking on the east side of the tree dump, because you do have to walk through the swamp to get there. I have never had any issues.

5. What measures, if any, do you believe could improve public comfort and safety while still allowing a full or longer archery season? (signage, education, time-of-day restrictions, designated zones, etc.)*

There is only a few people, the city council and mayor, that seem to have a problem with the hunt. There were signs up and someone complained about them so they were taken down. Then the same person complained that there should be signs up during the hunting season. People are going to do what they want with or without signs. Just look at all the signs about leasing your dog.

6. If the city were to reconsider the season length, what compromise solutions would you support or suggest?*

Seeing that the high school doesn't even go over there, ANP, and hasn't for years I don't see why it doesn't go back to the way it was. If the couple bird watchers are going to complain about that run it from Nov 1st-Dec 31st. Most of all the songbirds are gone by then and that allows a little ore space to spread out the hunters times.

7. If the program ran the same way for the 2026 season, would you participate? Why or Why Not?*

I would but I still won't like it. A big thing with sunny acres is the timing of tree trimming and the grinding of those trees. Once they started grinding this last season I went from 3-6 deer a day on my trail camera to 1-3 a week. I think that right now the program is being destroyed for the needs of the few instead of the general population.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this form. Your input is greatly appreciated. This information will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to be present, you are more than welcome.



2026 City Council Goals



Center: Mayor Erik Skogquist

Councilmembers: Heather Rostad, Brent Campbell, Jeff Weaver, and Sam Scott



2026 Goals Session
February 9, 2026

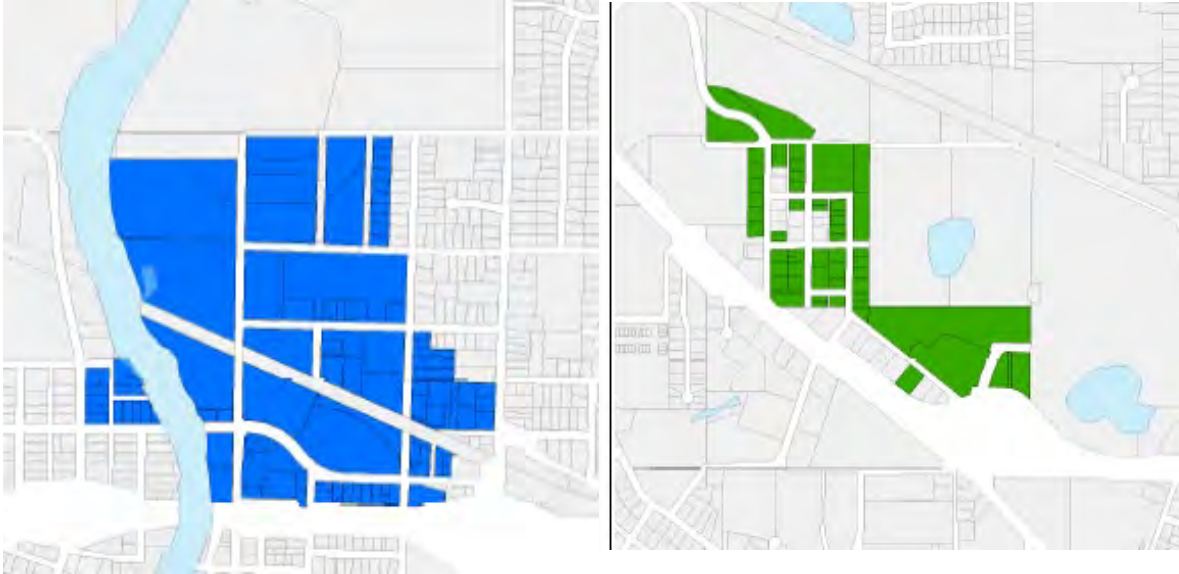


Mayor Erik Skogquist | *2026 Goals*



Goal 1: Reduce financial burden on Anoka Taxpayers

- Find efficiencies within city departments and charge reasonable user fees for some non-core services.



Tax Increment Financing Districts



Goal 1: Reduce financial burden on Anoka Taxpayers

➤ Grow the tax base via vacant land sales and through redevelopment.



Goal 1: Reduce financial burden on Anoka Taxpayers

- Open municipal dispensary location while exploring additional options.



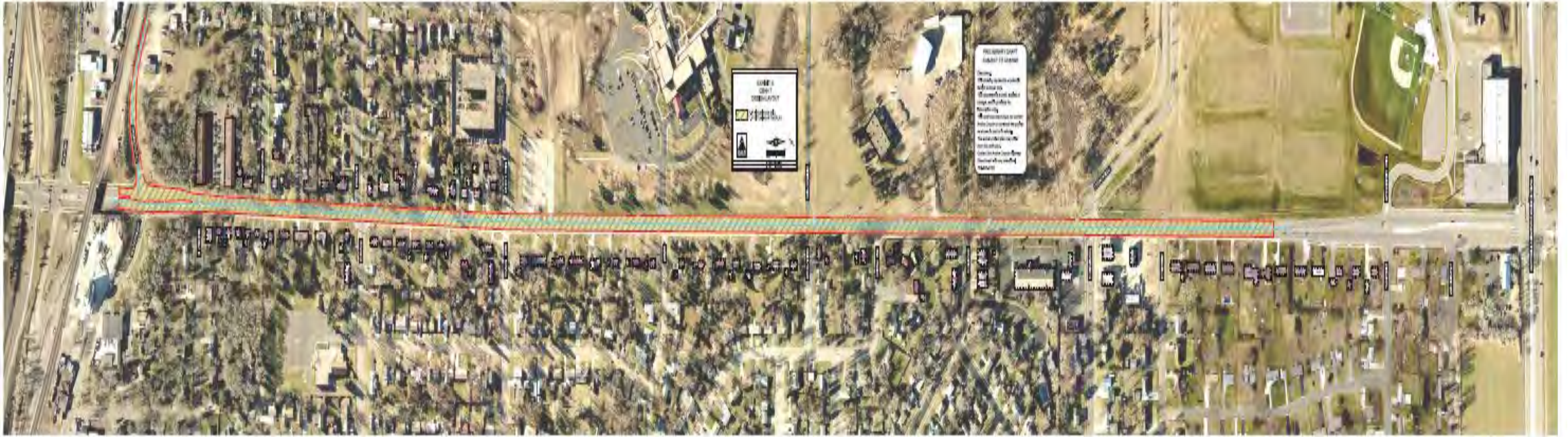
Goal 2: Address public safety and health issues with the introduction of a city-based social worker

- Address issues of homelessness, mental health, and addiction proactively.
- Free up Anoka Police to focus on their core mission and training.
- Pay for the position with new revenue other than property taxes.



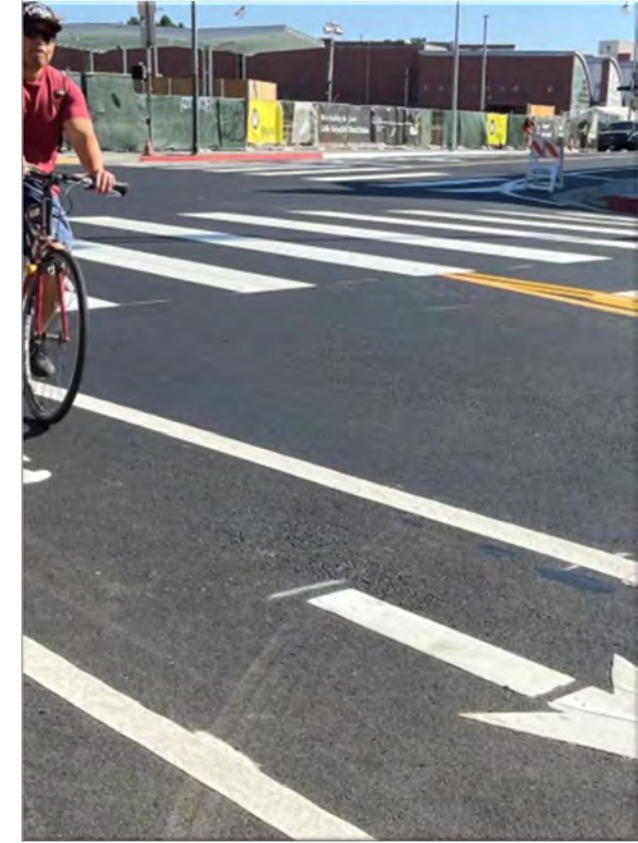
Goal 3: Work with Anoka County on a mutually agreeable solution for an upgraded jail.

- Address issues with releasing inmates in downtown Anoka.
- The scale and scope of a facility in any location that is agreed to should fit with its surroundings.



Goal 4: Adopt a plan to increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation.

- Plan for a trail between Garfield and Bunker Lake Blvd on west side of 7th Ave.

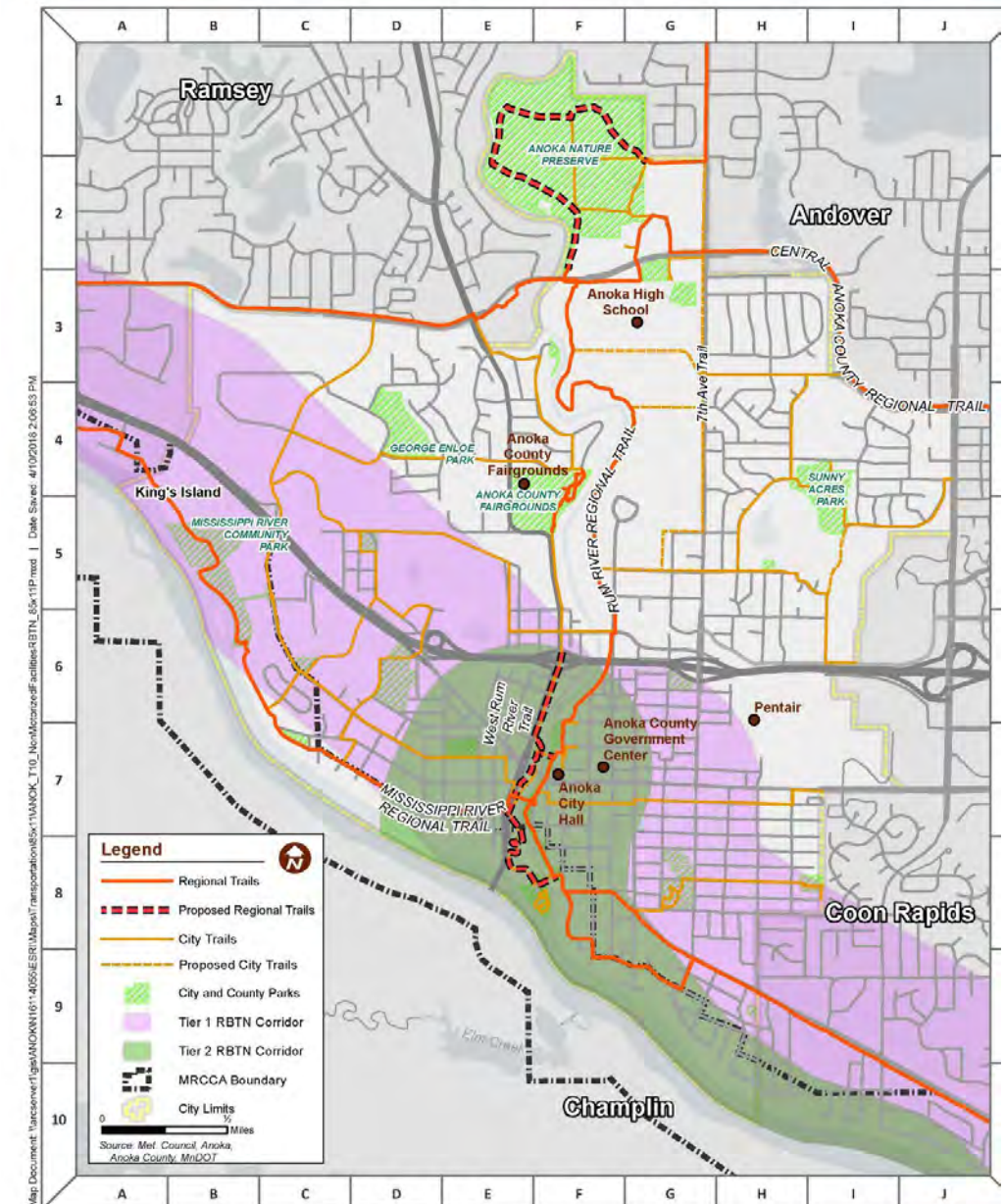


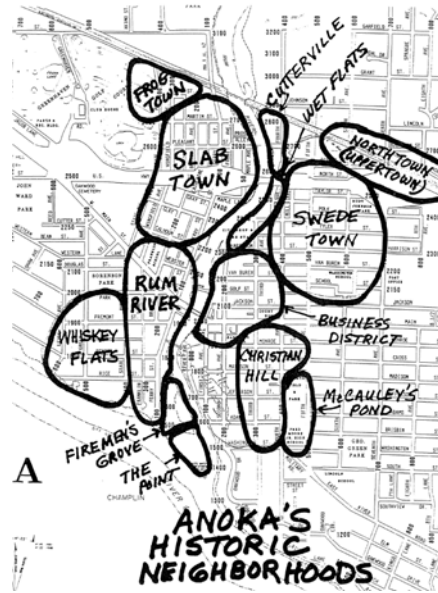
Goal 4: Adopt a plan to increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation

- Stripe on-street bike lanes where practicable (e.g. Garfield, 4th Ave).

Goal 4: Adopt a plan to increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation.

- Increase sidewalk and trail connections on primary and secondary roads and to parks and schools.





Goal 5: Finally implement infill standards so new construction blends with neighborhoods not redefines them.

- Single family areas should be protected and complimentary home and uses should be the focus.
- Certain development types and styles (townhouses, modern style like split levels) should be limited in the core historic neighborhoods (Christian Hills, Slab Town, Swede Town, Whiskey Flats).
- Have HPC and Planning Commission continue to identify zones to focus on first, then create overlay standards based on criteria in our existing ordinances or other cities.



2026 Goals Session
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Councilmember Brent Campbell | *2026 Goals*

Goal 1: Continued focus on the sale and development of City-owned properties including: 7th & Main St., 7th & Bunker, 2nd & VanBuren, and the sale or lease of the Miller Building parcel/property.





Goal 2: A Second Canine for the Police Department

Goal 3: Establish a “Community Center Task Force” made up of community members, business and corporate reps, city reps, and ARAA reps to explore the possibility of a future community center/indoor athletic center similar to the new Community Center in Rogers. This task force would report back in 12-18 months with possible location(s), partners, and scope of a new community center, and ideas for funding sources.



Goal 4: Promote an Amtrak Empire Builder stop and Borealis line stop in Anoka.



Goal 5: Finalize improvements/renovations at Green Haven and plans for the Driving Range.



Goal 6:

Improvements to the Municipal Liquor Store; i.e. signage to change the name to “Anoka Wine & Spirits” indicating that it is a City-owned store and spruce up the exterior with new paint, etc.



Goal 7: Highlight Anoka's "Hidden History" with story boards along the West Rum River Trail for important figures from Anoka's History, such as: Anna Arnold Hedgeman, Thaddeus Giddings, J.W. Wells, and several others.



THADDEUS P. GIDDINGS

Anoka County in the Civil War 1861-1865



Aaron Greenwald
First Minnesota Infantry



Nathan Canfield
Eight Minnesota Infantry



John Brown
Eight Minnesota Infantry



George Woodbury
Eight Minnesota Infantry

Anoka County's involvement in the Civil War began when Aaron Greenwald volunteered to defend the Union, but he was not the only soldier from the county. At least 305 men registered Anoka County as their home when they enlisted in the Union Army. Of these 305, 40 served in the First Minnesota Infantry or Battalion. The soldiers of Company A of the 8th Minnesota Infantry, with at least 72 men, were primarily from Anoka County. This unit patrolled the frontier before going south, their enlistment coming at the time of the Dakota Conflict of 1862.

The Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery was recruited heavily from Anoka County as its lieutenant, Albert Woodbury, was one of the first investors in both St. Francis and Anoka. More men from Anoka County served in this unit than from any other county in the state. Woodbury lost his life from wounds received at Chickamauga. Two cavalry units, the First Regiment of Mounted Rangers and Hatch's Battalion, had significant representation from Anoka County as well.

The one heavy artillery unit Minnesota offered to the Union had 27 Anoka County men serving in it.

As the war went on, a military draft was instituted. Anoka County communities were assigned specific numbers of men to provide to the army or face the "unpleasantness" of a draft. Every time the call went out for more troops, men stepped forward to volunteer. There was no draft in Anoka County as the quotas were met with volunteers - "and three over" according to an 1864 newspaper article.

The Homestead Act made it easier for a veteran to obtain government land. Anoka County became home to some 400 former soldiers as the war ended, and they settled down to tame the county. These men organized into Grand Army of the Republic posts, opened the only Minnesota home for the wives, mothers, and sisters of veterans on West Main Street in Anoka, and became active in the foundation of the communities found on Anoka County maps today.



John Green
First Minnesota Infantry



Albert Woodbury
Second Minnesota Battery of Artillery



George Woodbury
Second Minnesota Battery of Artillery



Copyright © of the Eight Minnesota Infantry, depicting the home of the unit's first and second lieutenants, Aaron Green and Nathan Canfield. The design of the house is the Greenwald design used by the Green family.





Goal 8: Fiscal responsibility and budgeting for 2027 that includes needed capital improvements and projects.





2026 Goals Session
February 9, 2026



Councilmember Heather Rostad | *2026 Goals*

➤ *Goal 1:* Public Safety

Feasible Jail Solution for City/County Collaborate with State/County leaders to either:



- Reduce current proposed option size
- Find alternate site in the county



Goal 1: Public Safety

1.2 Invest in staff, resources, training and infrastructure that maintains Anoka's commitment to citizen safety

Goal 2: Fiscal

2.1 Continue City Fiscal Responsibility by:

- Prioritizing TIF property sales
- Create a new vision and/or revised comprehensive plan for TOD
- Lease Miller Manufacturing Building





Goal 2: Fiscal
2.2 Support and Invest in
Enterprise Endeavors

- Municipal Liquor Store
- Cannabis Dispensary
- Green Haven Golf Course
- Anoka Aquatic Center

Goal 3: Citizen Engagement

- Youth connections on City Boards & Commissions
- Partnership with local high school student leaders to give voice and experience in city government





Goal 3: Citizen Engagement

- Amplify Social District
Family / Parks /
Community Impact /
Accessibility



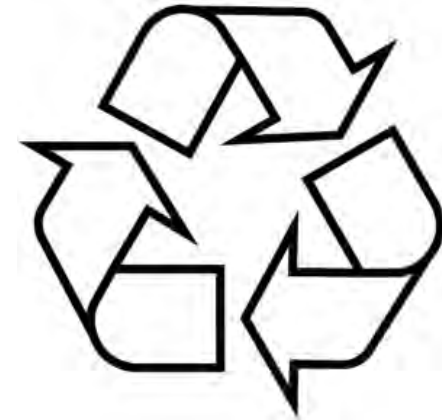
Goal 3: Citizen Engagement

- Identify additional “Third Places” growth and development-bring to community and determine what ideas they may want to see explored (Trinity Episcopal Church, Senior Center)?



Goal 3: Citizen Engagement

- Explore reusable cups for Anoka Social District
- Encourage innovative thinking around city waste reduction (recycling cigarette butts, organics).



Goal 4: City Institutions

- Identify Measurement Strategies (population accountability or performance accountability)
- What are current issues that the city would like to analyze/measure?
- Are there current metrics/data that is of concern to city staff/public?
- How can we increase communicating successes to city residents? Elevate and highlight the great work that the city staff does?





2026 Goals Session
February 9, 2026



Councilmember Sam Scott | *2026 Goals*



Goal 1: Develop a responsible City budget

- a. Budget and plan for opportunities that extend lifespan and maintain/improve city infrastructure.
 - Encourage multi-modal transport options by adding more bike racks, striping for bicycles where appropriate, and adding charging capabilities for e-bikes and e-scooters where appropriate.
 - Reserve dedicated monies for the eventual replacement of city assets (playgrounds, buildings, roads, etc.)
 - Accounts for minimum service requirements for citizens of Anoka

Goal 1: Develop a responsible City budget

b. Explore meaningful opportunities to diversify revenue streams that lifts the collective weight off our neighbors' shoulders by easing the tax burden

- Cannabis delivery, expansion
- Better Values Liquor store



Goal 2: Develop city protocols that promote local development and growth of citizenry and business development, and non-profit development.

- When considering business proposals, ensure consideration for local growth (incubation of our small businesses) when possible.
- Adding a non-voting youth representative on our city boards and commissions to encourage youth citizenry and engagement.



Goal 3: Continue to evaluate security and redundancy of susceptible city assets and operations and create action plans to ensure stable services.

- Work with our police, public works, and technology partners to develop actionable recommendations to ensure our power, water, and buildings have adequate security and redundancies in place to prevent potential sabotage, breakdown of equipment, and security breakdowns where feasible and appropriate.



Goal 4: Work with Anoka County counterparts to find a solution that works for both parties on the jail facility, where a downtown solution is not acceptable in its current plan from the county.





Goal 5: Enhance public amenities/infrastructure that encourage stronger community spirit.

- Continue to support and develop the Riverwalk Plan.
- Develop plans to enhance the Anoka Social District (ex. pedestrian plaza, entertainment nodes).
- Develop local parks to have a minimum amenities to accommodate local celebrations and gatherings (water fountains, shelter, waste receptacles, benches, etc.).



2026 Goals Session
February 9, 2026



Councilmember Jeff Weaver | *2026 Goals*

Goal 1: Make sure to have a responsible budget. Finding new sources of revenue generating enterprise funds, like the golf course, to reduce the levy.



Goal 2: Creating new development opportunities by selling non-tax generating city-owned properties, especially the Miller building, the corner of 7th & Main St., and 2nd Ave, which will increase the tax base.



Goal 3: The agricultural area must be preserved if there is a façade easement in place, and a Letter of Intent with a potential long-term buyer.





Goal 4: The Rum River Dam project "**must**" include a navigational lock. The automated gates and walkway will be a safety feature extremely beneficial to our Public Works and Anoka's overall trail system. The fish passage will help the matching funding requirement, and the river surfing, if possible, will put this use in Anoka "on the map"!

Goal 5:
Responsible
Anoka County Jail
expansion in the
City of Anoka.



Goal 6: River recreation, public safety accessibility on the water, trails and access to stone house, and a riverboat or water taxi should be a top priority! The *two* rivers are Anoka's biggest park system!



Goal 7: Continue to move forward with the golf course reconfiguration and multi-season driving range at Green Haven, if the financial analysis shows a pay back to the Anoka taxpayers.



Goal 8: Only using bonding if there is a revenue generating component which does not affect the levy.



Goal 9: Supporting the transition of the Northstar train station to an Amtrak/Borealis train station in 2026. This will bring new interest and energy to the City of Anoka TOD development area.



Park Board 2026 GOALS

2026 Goals

DRAFT

1. Complete budgeted projects:
 - a. Rum River Trail 4th Ave Rail Crossing construction
 - b. Aquatic Center Mechanical Room - Valve/VFD equipment \$30,000
 - c. PR26-01 Trail Replacement Pen Point \$80,000
 - d. PR25-01 Elm Street Playground \$50,000
 - e. PR24-10 Misc Park Rehab \$45,000
 - f. PR26-03 Castle Field \$25,000
 - g. George Green (south) Tennis Court Rehab \$25,000
 - h. PR26-02 Stout Pond Trail \$10,000
2. Continue to work with City Council to commit funding for future park redevelopment and enhancement projects; identify long term funding strategies for park capital funds to support park system needs in the future.
3. Support Parks Maintenance and Safety by reviewing the condition of parks and facilities and provide annual recommendations to staff and elected officials on maintenance priorities, safety improvements, and capital needs.
- 4.

Accomplishments for 2025

1. Completed easement acquisition and pre-planning/engineering for Rum River Trail 4th Ave Rail Crossing
2. Completed West Rum River Trail Phase 1 construction
3. Senior Center flooring replacement
4. Completed evaluation and assessment of park system

GOALS & PROJECTS

GOAL PRO-I

Invest in Anoka's existing park properties to improve functionality, increase recreational opportunities with upgraded and/or highly maintained amenities, and anticipate and embrace innovative and trending recreational activities

Objective:

To be proactive in the implementation of recreation trends, adapting to community needs, and responding to changes in community demographics

Strategies:

- Stay current in regional and national recreation trends.
- Foster partnerships with neighboring communities to increase service capability.
- Coordinate with school district to share implementation costs for updated facilities/amenities used for physical education curriculum and afterschool athletics.

PROJECT I.1: *Revitalization of George Green Park*

Objective:

To improve the overall functionality by upgrading/relocating park amenities.

Strategies:

- Parking: Create additional off-street parking adjacent to the Senior Center on the site of the current pavilion.
- Site Structures:



George Green Park contains many Anoka staples include the Band Shell, Aquatic Center, and Pavilion.

- » Pavilion: Remove the existing picnic pavilion. Construct a new shelter with restrooms, which will create a focal point and increased functionality for the park. The existing picnic shelter lacks the utilities to serve as a quality rental space and the location to function as the park's main identifier.
- » Band shell: Replace and improve overhead lighting. Remove the ag-lime area in front of the stage. Consider converting band shell into a picnic shelter.
- » Aquatic Center: Regular maintenance and introduction of new features will enhance the facility, help sustain aesthetics, and make it a main stay in the community for many years to come.
- Access and Circulation: Address access to and from park at each of the corners.
 - » An interior park trail connects all of the major park elements and provides a nice walking path through the park.

- » Access to the elementary school to the south and to the middle school to the west requires improvement.
- » Add sidewalk on the south side of Brisbin Street with midblock crosswalk connection from George Green Park and Bonnell Fields with street renewal project.
- Playground:
 - » Installation of playground apparatus for 2 – 5 year olds to help serve a broader cross-section of park users.
 - » Regular maintenance of the net playground structure (installed in 1998) will ensure many years of safe, imaginative play in the park for youth 5 – 12 years of age.
- Play fields and Courts:
 - » In 2015, the city Bonnell Fields underwent reconstruction for storm water drainage; field sizes and layouts modified.
 - Full size football, lacrosse, and/or soccer field fits without obstruction.
 - North ag-lime field converted to a little league grass baseball field with 200' outfield
 - South skinned ag-lime infield resized for baseball/ girls fast pitch with 200' outfield
 - » Currently there are five tennis courts located in George Green Park (2 courts/3 courts with lights). Consider reconstruct the north tennis courts as pickle ball courts.

- Vegetation:
 - » Mature Bur Oak trees enhance George Green Park's character and charm. Consider planting a variety of tree species in the future as a lack of diversity in the park creates a monoculture that could be devastated by disease.
 - » Careful placement of boulevard trees should occur at Bonnell to increase connectivity of these parks.

PROJECT 1.2: *Refurbishment of Rudy Johnson Park*

Objective:

To improve the overall functionality of the park for the neighborhood, Anoka Middle School – Washington campus, and overall community use.

Strategies:

- Parking: Address parking issues with creation of improved parking lot sized appropriately for park amenities.



The ice rink at Rudy Johnson Park.

- Site Structures:
 - » Four Season Building: Repair exterior façade and replace broken windows; paint the building.
 - » Hockey Rink: Evaluate the relocation of the paved hockey rink within the park to help create a large open play field free of obstructions to better serve middle school physical education classes.



John Ward Park hosts Anoka's iconic rocketship play area.

- Access and Circulation:
 - » Address issues with accessibility from parking lot to amenities
 - » Implement Safe Routes to Parks for neighborhood

activities associated with the Highway 10 solution will eliminate on street parking on Church Street and access to the dirt overflow parking lot.

- Playground:
 - » Installation of playground apparatus for 2 – 5 year olds and 5 – 12 year old with appropriate fall surfacing that meets standards for ADA compliance
- Play fields and Courts:
 - » Evaluate needs for play fields or courts within this park.

- Site Structures:
 - » Relocate/reconstruct Restroom Building: Existing restroom facility is substandard; no interior lighting, does not meet ADA regulations
 - » Shelter 2: Evaluate existing location and need for small wooden shelter; primarily serves as an enclosure for the field lighting controls.

PROJECT 1.3: *Renewal of John Ward Park*

Objective:

- To improve the overall functionality of this community park.

Strategies:

- Parking:
 - » Reconfiguration or construction of new parking area for Field 1. Construction

- Access and Circulation:
 - » There are currently no internal trails or sidewalks that provide connection between park amenities.

- Play fields and Courts:
 - » Replace equipment or fully reconstruct the existing skate park to suit the changing trends in skate park design; determine if this is the best location for an upgraded facility
 - » Reconfiguration of the softball field

1 and 3 maybe required following the Highway 10 construction and redevelopment of properties adjacent to the park.

PROJECT 1.4: *Creation of Disc Golf Course within City park system*

Objectives:

- To enhance the recreation amenities offered to citizens
- To stay current with recreation trends

Strategies:

- Incorporate industry standards for optimal course design
- Insure a high quality design by working with local user groups
- Park location should include natural features that enhance course design (i.e. woods, elevation changes, water)



A disc golf course would include natural features to challenge players and enhance contact with nature.

- Minimize implementation cost by utilizing park with existing parking and restroom facilities

PROJECT 1.5: *Construct restroom facility at Anoka Nature Preserve trailhead.*

Objective:

- To provide multi-seasonal restroom facility for this popular park location and users of the Rum River Regional Trail.

Strategies:

- Sewer and water stubs installed with Rum River Shores development
- Explore funding opportunities for amenity located on a regional trail



Project 1.5 initiates planning for a restroom facility at the trail head of the Anoka Nature Preserve.

GOAL PRO-2

Improve connectivity, accessibility, and interaction with the Rum River and Mississippi River natural environment while preserving and improving the natural character/beauty

Objective:

- To provide residents and visitors to Anoka multiple opportunities to access and interact with the Rum and Mississippi Rivers.

Strategies:

- Preserve the natural landscape features to ensure environmental protection while simultaneously providing access for public use and enjoyment.
- Provide a diversified open space system that preserves and enhances significant environmental resources and features to preserve habitat and protect water resources.
- Create river access points, interpretive areas and overlooks.

PROJECT 2.1: *Continue to implement Anoka Nature Preserve management plan.*

Objective:

- Create passive recreation areas, which include paved trails for hiking, grass trails for running, hunting, wildlife watching, fishing, picnicking and interpretive areas.

Strategy:

- Work with Anoka Conservation District to rehabilitate the Oak Savanna with on-going treatment/harvest of Buckthorn, non-native and invasive species.

- Work with Anoka County to pave the interior trail designated for future extension of the Rum River Regional Trail.

PROJECT 2.2: *Complete construction of Riverfront Park.*

Objectives:

- To create a prominent park and public gathering place that celebrates Anoka's rich history and connection to the Rum River.

Strategies:

- To complete construction of future phases of Riverfront Park as planned.
 - » Construction of the performance stage and Veterans Memorial in 2018
- Preserve the natural landscape features to ensure environmental protection while simultaneously providing access for public use and enjoyment.
- Apply for grants and identify potential funding sources



The completed walkway leading along the Rum River from City Hall to the Veteran's Memorial.

PROJECT 2.3: Develop Anoka Station Park

Objective:

- To provide increased access to the Rum River and a high degree of interaction with the environment in natural areas while preserving the beauty of the natural landscape.

Strategies:

- Creation of a trailhead and accessible canoe/kayak launch area in an existing backwater area of the Rum River

- Improve interaction with nature by constructing trails with innovative/low impact construction techniques such as boardwalks and natural surface trails.
- Create an active play environment for the community and neighborhood currently served by the Garfield Tot Lot
- Celebrate Anoka's unique history by creating access to interact with the rock wall, river and natural landscape.



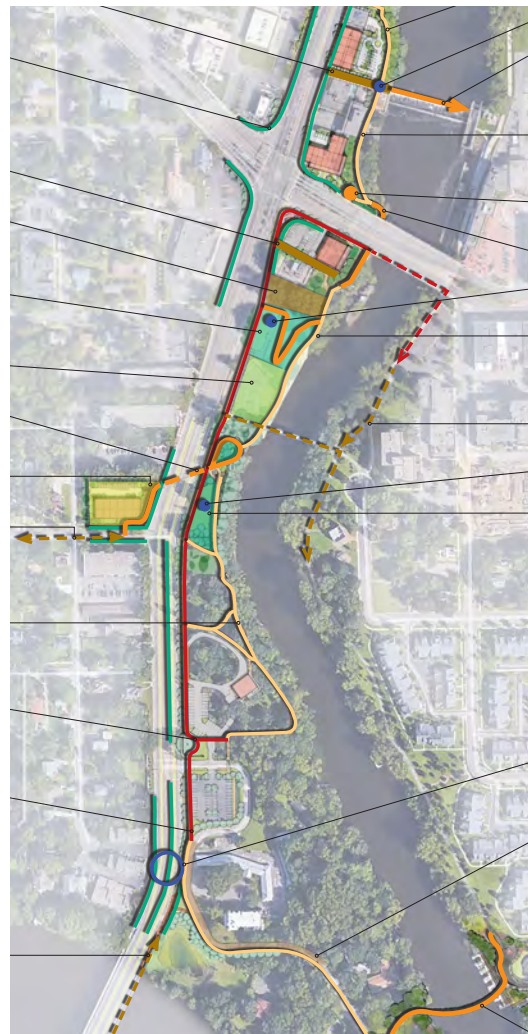
PROJECT 2.4: *West Rum River Trail & River Walk*

Objectives:

- Improve the Ferry Street Corridor as a Gateway to the City
- Preserve and Maintain Historical Assets
- Improve the Natural Character of the River
- Improve Connectivity and Accessibility to the Rum River
- Improve the corridor as a recreational and economic development amenity to attract tourism, residents, and businesses.

Strategy:

- Complete master planning process and begin implementation of the master plan.
- Create a safe pedestrian corridor along Ferry Street
- Establish a rehabilitation/stabilization plan for the historic Windego Park Auditorium
- Construct a pedestrian bridge from Peninsula Point Park to Akin Riverside Park connecting to the Rum River Regional Trail and Mississippi River Trail.
- Complete the Rum River Walk trail loop with multiple river crossing points that extends on both sides of the Rum River from the dam to the confluence of the Mississippi & Rum Rivers.
- Balance the desire for public river access and interaction with the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and sites within the MRRCA and Wild and Scenic designations.



GOAL PRO-3

Provide a system of accessible multi-use trails and corridors that offer pedestrians access to significant environmental features, public facilities, neighborhoods and business districts.

Objective:

- To provide a comprehensive system of sidewalks, multi-modal trails and on-road designated bicycle routes/share-right of ways (ROW)

Strategies:

- Link neighborhoods to community facilities like parks, special use areas, the riverfront, downtown and other unique or special destinations.
- Promote links to the Regional Trail System and neighboring communities.
- Provide adequate funding to maintain existing and build new trails.
- Implement the Safe Routes to Parks within neighborhoods

PROJECT 3.1: *Construction of the 4th Avenue Rail Crossing for Rum River Trail*

Objective:

- To provide safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing on the west side of 4th Avenue

Strategies:

- Acquire easements from adjacent properties (2727 4th Ave, 2701 4th Ave, 2665 4th Ave)
- Coordinate construction with BNSF to install pedestrian crossing arm

- Seek grant funding to assist with improvement costs

PROJECT 3.2: *Regional Trail connection to 7th Avenue through the Anoka Nature Preserve*

Objective:

- To extend the Rum River Regional Trail through the Anoka Nature Preserve providing river views and a scenic experience

Strategies:

- Coordinate with Anoka County Parks for funding options as regional trail improvement
- Seek grant funding for trail construction

PROJECT 3.3: *Construct 11th Avenue Trail Connection*

Objective:

- To provide a 10' bituminous trail connection from Sunny Acres Park/Cleveland Street to the North Street Corridor Trail

Strategies:

- Gravel trail currently in place from Cleveland St to Grant St.
- Construct trail on 11th Ave with future street renewal project

PROJECT 3.4: *Construct trail on west side of 7th Avenue from Garfield Street to Castle Field Blvd*

Objective:

- Construct a 10' bituminous trail on the west side of 7th Avenue creating safe pedestrian and bicycle route for the 7th Avenue Trail Corridor

Strategies:

- Coordinate trail construction with the Anoka County CSAH 7 road reconstruction project
-

PROJECT 3.5: *Construct trail on west side of 7th Avenue from Bunker Lake Boulevard to northern City limits*

Objective:

- Construct a 10' bituminous trail on the west side of 7th Avenue creating safe pedestrian and bicycle route for 7th Avenue Trail Corridor

Strategies:

- Coordinate with future commercial development of city owned property at 7th/Bunker
- Trail bed was graded as part of Rum River Shores 2nd edition

GOAL PRO-4

Continue collaboration with Anoka Hennepin Schools regarding shared recreational programming and playfield usage.

Objective:

- To coordinate City and school district park facilities and recreation programming for more effective utilization of existing athletic facilities, to ensure quality programming, and avoid duplication of services.



Anoka Tornados lacrosse game in 2015.

Strategies:

- Active participation on the Community Education Advisory Board
- Continued financial support of the Community Schools Programming
- Reconstruct park facilities/amenities to complement school programming and curriculum
- Supplement Community Education programming with unduplicated and/or coordinated recreational programs

GOAL PRO-5

Enhance the city's historic, cultural and artistic assets

Objective:

- Incorporate art, sculptures, and interpretive elements into future park design and redevelopment
- Restore, improve and recognize Anoka's historic landmarks

Strategy:

- Collaborate with the Anoka History Center and Heritage Preservation Committee to identify and research Anoka's landmarks, significant people and accomplishments.
- Celebrate Anoka's history through the incorporation of interpretive markers
- Work with local and regional artists and Young Artists of Anoka to enhance and beautify Anoka



Young Artists of Anoka transformed the Anoka Pedestrian Tunnel in 2015.

GOAL PRO-6

Facilitate community involvement and stewardship of Anoka's parks and public open spaces.

Objective:

- To foster stewardship, ownership, and pride as a means to increase use of Anoka's park system and trails; and as a means to deter vandalism and destruction of public property.

Strategies:

- Continue with and expand the implementation of community service projects within the parks and trails.
- Promote the Adopt-a-Park program.



Anoka County bluebird coordinator Jeanne Wilkinson cares for 39 bluebird houses across the City of Anoka. (Photo by Richard Sennott)

DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Anoka Park and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) has existed since 1919. Policies and principles of the City Code guide the Board. The Board has many functions including overseeing the parks, recreation, facility users, performing arts, urban forestry, trails, and the aquatic center.

The Public Services Department at the City of Anoka administer the following policies:

DESIGN

- Identify high quality natural, scenic and historical areas to preserve and enhance them for public use and enjoyment.
 - Develop and build our trail corridors, parkways and linear parks to maximize recreational opportunities, interconnect neighborhoods and promote community distinction and regional facilities.
 - Meet the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and federal safety standards at all municipal owned facilities, including parks and trails.
 - Integrate the historical significance of the community through interpretive elements integrated into the park and recreation areas.
 - Maintain existing and plant new boulevard trees on the rights-of-ways for neighborhood beautification and vitality
- Develop a recreational capital improvement plan and provide for an annual update.
 - Provide the highest quality of park maintenance services and routinely review service needs.
 - Make efforts to provide the appropriate level of staff, equipment and facilities.
 - Routinely review park and trail dedication requirements when modifications are needed.
 - Routinely evaluate athletic field needs of local athletic organizations.
 - Annually review and coordinate all Parks and Recreation goals as directed by the Anoka City Council and as advised by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Inform and educate the public about recreational opportunities in and around the City.
- Create the opportunity for citizens to participate in recreation activities that focus on the Rum and Mississippi Rivers.
- Develop a sense of stewardship and responsibility to preserve natural resources for recreational opportunities for current users and future generations.
- Actively encourage the support of civic organizations and corporate/business community and education systems through funding, developing, volunteering and maintaining the recreation system.

PROCESS

- Develop conservation planning techniques that identify the importance of preservation of natural resources and open space.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Continue Joint Powers Agreements, amended in 2005, with Anoka-Hennepin Schools to share recreational facilities, programs and services where feasible.
- Coordinate with school district to consolidate programmed sports into specialized play fields.
- Routinely meet with school district to discuss coordination of facility needs and programming.

FUNDING

Develop a funding resource that meets the needs for maintenance and replacement of the City's parks and recreation program.

FINANCING

Understanding the resources and tools available for implementation of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan will aid in the decision making process for future development. Routinely analyze the financial resources to determine the availability of funding for recreational facilities and programs:

1. Park Dedication Fees
2. User Fees
3. Donations
4. General Tax Levy
5. Grants
6. Partnerships with other governmental agencies and/or private corporations

FINANCING POLICIES

Adhere to the following City policies regarding park and trail facility financing:

- Apply park dedication standards to all new subdivision and redevelopment projects to address the growing need for recreation associated with community growth.
- Establish fees to cover costs associated with the development, maintenance and operation of community recreational facilities and programs where appropriate.
- Work with Anoka Hennepin Schools and local athletic groups to provide equitable use of available facilities and fair distribution of program costs.
- Budget park and trail maintenance operations and capital outlay into the City annual financial budget.
- Establish a five-year capital improvement plan for system improvements, renovations and maintenance.
- Pursue applicable grants to supplement local financing.
- Investigate corporate partnerships with other government agencies and /or private organizations when the objectives are consistent with City goals.
- Unsolicited gifts or donations will be accepted if they are free of obligations which may limit the use of a facility, do not offend other segments of community and do not come with a hidden or later cost for development, maintenance, or operation, which is outside the City's best interest.

2026 Rockin' on the Rum Schedule

Date	Time	Name of Group
17-Jun	6-9p	Shane Martin
24-Jun	6-8p	The Cyclones
1-Jul	6-8p	Axel & Betty
8-Jul	6-8p	The Bill Koncar Band
15-Jul	6-8p	Sam Licari and the Sweet Tease
22-Jul	6-8p	Power of 10
29-Jul	6-8p	Revved Up!
5-Aug	6-8p	Lookin' Back
12-Aug	6-8p	The Cellar Kings
19-Aug	6-8p	Trent Romens Band
26-Aug	6-8p	Shirts and Skins
2-Sep	6-8p	Best of 7
9-Sep	6-8p	Salsa Del Soul
16-Sep	6-8p	Hitchville
23-Sep	6-8p	Top Shelf
30-Sep	6-8p	Southern Express Band