



Minnesota's Opportunity Community®

**Meeting Announcement and Agenda of the Cambridge
Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission**

Regular Meeting

Monday, July 8, 2024, 7:00 pm

City Hall Council Chambers

300 Third Avenue Northeast, Cambridge, MN 55008

www.ci.cambridge.mn.us

(763) 689-3211

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (verbal)
- 2) Approval of Agenda (p. 1)
- 3) Approval of Minutes
 - A. April 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes (p. 2)
- 4) Public Comment: For items not on the agenda; speakers may not exceed 3 minutes each. When addressing the Commission, please state your name and address for the official record.
- 5) New Business
 - A. Lighting courts at Central Green Park (p. 6)
 - B. Amphitheater reconstruction completed (p. 12)
 - C. 2024 Summer Parks Programming Update (p. 14)
 - D. Parks update from Public Works Director, Todd Schwab (p. 20)
 - E. Preliminary 'Cambridge Shores' Concept Plan (p. 21)
 - F. Central Drive parking lot (verbal)
- 6) Other Business/Miscellaneous
 - A. City Council Update (verbal)
 - B. Isanti County Parks Board Update (verbal)
 - C. Commissioner Updates and/or Concerns (verbal)
- 7) Adjourn (Next meeting: Monday, October 8, 2024)

Notice to the hearing impaired: Upon request to City staff, assisted hearing devices are available for public use. Accommodations for wheelchair access, Braille, large print, etc. can be made by calling City Hall at 763-689-3211 at least three days prior to the meeting.

Cambridge Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Cambridge Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission was held at Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, Minnesota.

Members Present: Commissioners Jeff Andres (Chair), Jeff Soderquist (Vice Chair), Kriste Ericsson, Adam Schorer, Christina Thayer-Anderson (Community Education Representative), Eva Anderson (Youth Representative), and Susan Blom (Isanti County Parks Board Representative)

Members Absent: Bob Shogren (Council Representative)

Staff Present: Community Development Specialist Amy Norling

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Andres called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Organizational Meeting

Andres welcomed Eva Anderson as the Youth Representative for 2024, Susan Blom as Isanti County Parks Board Representative, Adam Schorer who was not present at that time, and Bob Shogren as Council Representative for 2024 who was also absent.

Jeff Andres was reappointed Chair by unanimous vote, and Jeff Soderquist was reappointed Vice Chair by unanimous vote. Kriste Ericsson was nominated for Vice Chair but declined.

Approval of Agenda

Blom moved, seconded by Soderquist, to approve the agenda. All voted aye, no nays. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Blom moved, seconded by Ericsson, to approve the January 8, 2024 meeting minutes. All voted aye, no nays. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Peter Losch, 433 29th Court SE, addressed the Commission regarding the pickleball courts at Central Green. He presented a schedule that is posted at the courts for the Cambridge Area Pickleball Association (CAPA), who reserve the courts Monday through Saturday from 8 am to Noon, and Monday through Friday from 5 to 8 pm. Often there are no scheduled activities during these times. Losch wanted to know if they have the authority to ask non-members to leave. He had joined CAPA last summer and participated in their free lessons, but found no structure beyond that such as tournaments or scheduled play time. He does not want to have to pay for a membership to play pickleball. When he approached CAPA regarding this he stated he was ignored and ridiculed.

Norling replied the matter has been brought up with Assistant Public Works Director Milz and the parks department, the association has an agreement to reserve the times as stated that is negotiated at the start of each year.

Soderquist motioned, seconded by Ericsson, to have staff and City Council review the CAPA agreement at Central Green Courts. All voted aye, no nays, motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Losch was present for the incident and stated the confrontation felt threatening. If the courts are reserved there needs to be a neutral presence due to the aggressive nature of the association members. There are eight courts and none of them can be used unless you are a member of CAPA, which does not encourage growth and fellowship. Often times the courts are empty yet they are still told they cannot play during reserved times.

Organizational Meeting Continued

Andres noted new member Adam Schorer was now present. Schorer introduced himself as a resident of Cambridge for 10 years, and lived in Isanti prior. He uses the parks often and is looking forward to learning and helping the system grow.

New Business

A 2024 Winter Fest Review

Norling said the second annual Winter Fest was held in February this year instead of January, to allow more time for snowman competition entries. The snowman competition had 11 entries, most of which were very small snowmen due to the lack of snow. The Cambridge Ambassadors helped guide 175 people through the voting process. There were 4 winners, none of whom were present during Winter Fest, so they came to pick up their prize baskets the following week. City staff received a thank you card from one of the winners thanking us for hosting the event.

Norling continued, the event was held on Saturday, February 24th. It featured open skate, bonfires and warming houses, cornhole, a DJ, craft and food vendors, and a horse drawn wagon. Hot cocoa and s'mores were provided for free while supplies lasted. Attendance was approximately 400 people, which was an increase from last year. The team running the event felt that it was about an hour too long. The vendors started packing up an hour early, and that pretty much ended the event. Next year, we plan to shorten the event by one hour, so that it will go from noon-4 pm. Vendors will be instructed that they are not to pack up until the event ends.

Norling noted the dog sled could not run at the event due to the lack of snow, but they did attend with some of the sled dogs to interact and answer questions.

It was asked why the event was switched to February, Norling said to allow for more time for the snowman competition in hopes to get more entries. Though this year the lack of snow affected entries as well. The event occurred on the same day as Cambridge-Isanti High School's Snow Days Dance, students that purchased a ticket to the dance received a free choice of mini donuts, cotton candy, or kettle corn.

Andres suggested charging vendors a fee that was refundable if they stay until the end of the event. Norling said the event is difficult to find vendors for since it is outdoors in the winter. This year there was an indoor craft event on the same day and so Winter Fest only had ten vendors in attendance. She worried there would be fewer vendors if there were additional fees charged. Commissioners felt that shortening the event might help, and the lack of snow may have had negative impacts. Norling said the wind was very strong and vendors were struggling to keep their merchandise in their booths.

B 2024 Summer Parks Programming Update

Norling said in 2024 there will be 12 events: Winter Fest; three Downtown Music, Food and Fun Events; three kids' events; three concerts in the park; and the annual Art Fair.

Good for Gary will play a variety of cover songs at the first Downtown Music, Food and Fun event. The first kids' event will feature a petting zoo and Snake Discovery. A hand washing station has been rented. And the first concert in the park will feature Girls Night Out, a women in country tribute band.

5 Minute Major will play a variety of cover songs the second Downtown Music, Food and Fun event. At the second kids' event, Bob the Beachcomber will perform popular hits for kids. And the second concert in the park will be A Hard Day's Night, a Beatle's tribute band.

The third Downtown Music, Food and Fun will be a bluegrass band, The High 48's. On Saturday, August 17 the city will host the Annual Arts & Crafts Fair. The last concert in park is a Queen tribute band, The Crown Jewels. And the last kids' event will be bounce houses in the park with five bounce houses rented.

Noling said she has been working with staff from the Anoka Ramsey Community College who want to become involved in the city events. They will bring small water bottles with their logo on them, which is greatly needed since vandals destroyed the water fountains last year.

Norling said the concerts in the park have been scheduled for an hour earlier than the previous years in hopes of attracting the parents that take their kids to the park after work. This will hopefully increase the attendance, which has been on average around 100 people. The bad weather backup location has yet to be determined.

C Parks update from Public Works Director, Todd Schwab

Norling read Public Works Director Schwab's report. Work on the City Park shelter replacement will be starting soon. The department is seeking grant opportunities for buckthorn removal in Brown Park. They have finished clearing trees so the trail can be extended north from Parkwood Park, ultimately to 2nd Avenue SE. And they are working on preparations for the spring ball season at Sandquist Park, staff installed lights in the NW parking lot.

Norling gave an update on the Cambridge Bike-Walk trail. Isanti Township needs to sign a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), and plans are to pave Central Drive with the 2024 Street Project.

Commissioners reported Purple Loosestrife growing in Cambridge City Park along the river, which is invasive and can spread quickly. Once it blooms the seeds are airborne, so removal before it blooms is important. Norling said she would inform Public Works.

D Potential Munkberg Property Acquisition

Norling stated this project is contingent on finding a developer interested in the land around the proposed park. Administration is working with developers, the City has until November to make a decision to buy the property, or it can be extended for 6 months for further research. The vision is a larger park, to be the 'jewel of the city,' with walking trails, a playground, a beach off Lake Fannie, and potentially an amphitheater.

Other Business/Miscellaneous

A City Council Update

No update was given due to Council Representative Shogren absence.

B Commissioner Updates and/or Concerns

A Commissioner questioned the tree removal at Parkwood Park, Norling noted that was for the trail expansion as noted in Schwab's update earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment of Council Meeting

Being no further business before the Commission, Ericsson moved, seconded by Soderquist, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:52 pm. Upon roll call, all voted aye, no nays. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Andres, Chair

ATTEST:

Amy Norling
Community Development Specialist

Core Strategies

- #1 - Encourage and facilitate the revitalization and restoration of a vibrant downtown
- #2 - Deliver Exceptional Public Services
- #3 - Connect opportunities to facilitate thriving commercial and industrial sectors
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- #8 - Highlight and capitalize on natural resources

Background

There is a tennis, pickleball, and basketball court, located at Central Green Park, that are not lit. The park closes at 10pm, but the sun sets at approximately 7:50pm on the 1st of September. This leaves potentially 2 hours where the courts are too dark to use during the early spring and late fall months. City staff have solicited a bid to see how much it would be to light the courts at the four corners with the standard equipment/fixtures used at city parks.

Fiscal Note:

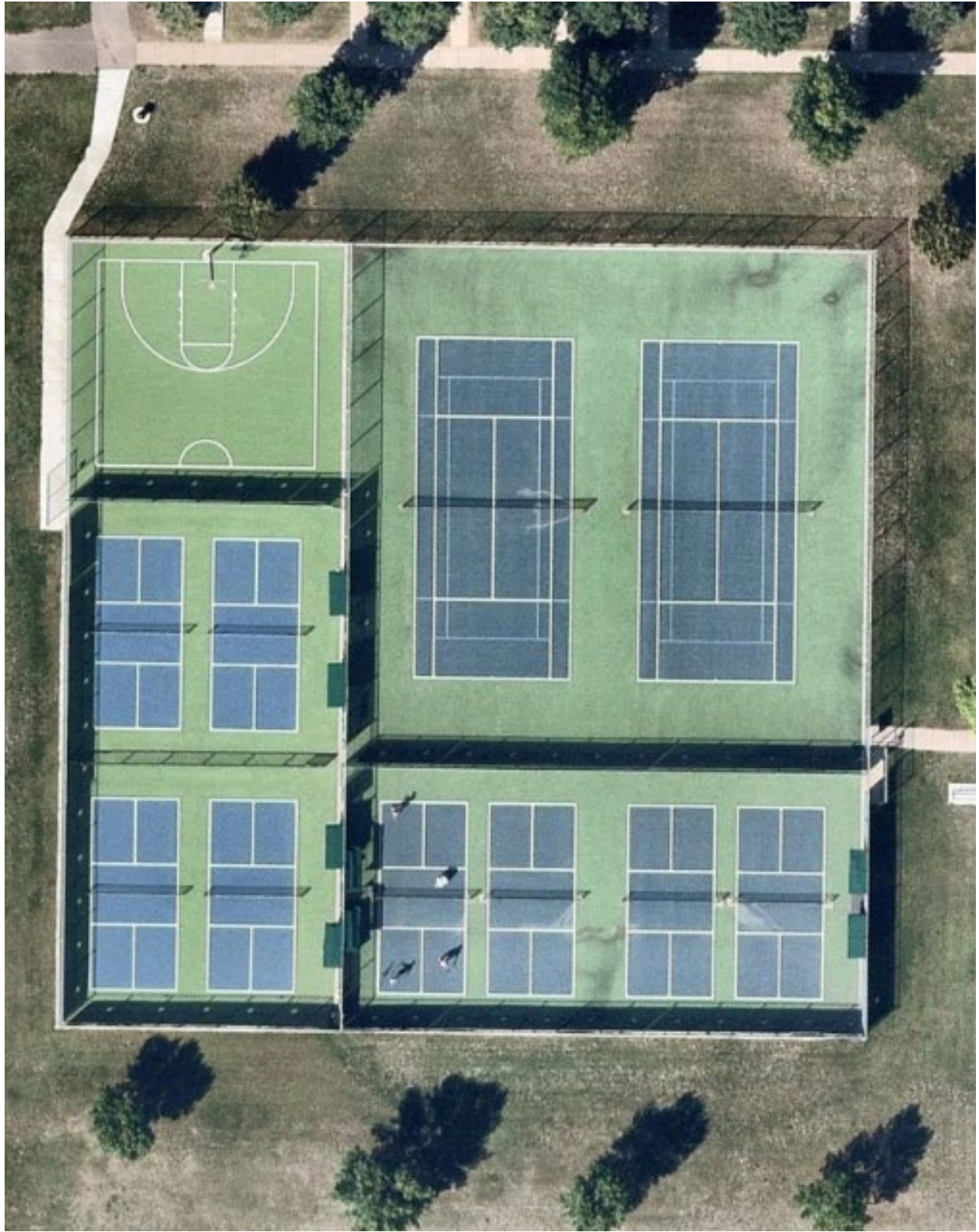
A bid dated 6/28/2024 from Starry Electric, Inc shows \$68,000 to light the tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts. Each push button control on pole at court location is an additional \$850. Cambridge Area Pickleball Association (CAPA) has expressed interest in donating a portion of the fees.

Staff Recommended Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission Action:

Consider adding Central Green Park Court Lighting to the Parks Priority List

Attachments

1. Court aerial
2. Bid from Starry Electric
3. Parks Priority List with potential addition of "Central Green Park Court Lighting"



Starry Electric, Inc

11999 105th Ave. NE
Foley, MN 56329
Phone:(320) 387-3023
Fax: (320) 387-3563
Starryelectricinc@gmail.com

Revised Bid

To: City of Cambridge

June 28, 2024

Project: Tennis/Pickleball/Basketball Court Lighting
Scope of Work:

Provide labor and equipment to include the following:

1 mobe, install 4 used Musco 40' HID poles, fixtures with new lamps and bases, remove spoil piles, adjust fixtures after dark.

Install 2-50 amp circuit in conduit for poles from control link cabinet in main building to include trenching boring and restoration.

Price: \$68,000.00

NOTE: 1 year warranty parts and labor.

Extra: Push button control on pole at court location- \$850.00

NOTE: System can be operated through control link for on/off operation and required dark times.

Continued on next page

1. The pole location shall be clear of all utilities both underground and overhead, Starry Electric Inc will call locates. Starry Electric Inc is not responsible for the location and marking of any privately owned underground infrastructure. Starry Electric Inc is not responsible for damaging any infrastructure that is not marked (painted and flagged)
- 2, All auger quotes are based on free-boring techniques and assumes the site to be augurable with a digger derrick. Any casing (permanent or temporary) is excluded unless noted.
3. It is assumed that all the drilling can be completed under standard soil conditions unless otherwise noted. Therefore, any excessively rock conditions or hidden obstructions may be subject to an additional charge.
4. Starry Electric Inc is not responsible for access to pole location including fence removal to allow equipment to reach pole locations. It shall be the owner's responsibility for complete access to site.

It is understood and agreed that Starry Electric, Inc. shall not be held liable for any loss, damage or delays occasioned by fire, strikes, or material stolen after delivery upon premises, lockouts, acts of God, or the public enemy, accidents, boycotts, material shortages, disturbed labor conditions, delayed delivery of materials from Starry Electric, Inc.'s suppliers, force majeure, inclement weather, floods, freight embargoes, causes incident to national emergencies, war, or other causes beyond the reasonable control of Starry Electric, Inc., whether of like or different character, or other causes beyond Starry Electric, Inc.'s control. Price quoted is based upon present prices and upon the condition that the quoted price will be accepted within thirty (30) days and subject to the general conditions which are standard for specialty contractors in the construction industry. **Terms:** Payment to be made as follows: 50 % of the quoted price paid no later than ten (10) days after 50% of the work is completed and an invoice is submitted, and the remaining 50% of the quoted price paid no later than fifteen (15) days after 100 % of the work is completed and an invoice is submitted. Interest at the rate of 12 % will accrue on any balance not paid by pursuant to these terms. In addition, _____ will be responsible for all of Starry Electric, Inc.'s costs of collecting any balance that is not paid pursuant these terms, which costs of collection include but are not limited to attorneys' fees.

THIS AGREEMENT IS SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE. YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW SHALL CONSTITUTE AN ACCEPTANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT.

Dated: _____

By: _____

PARKS PRIORITY LIST

July 8th, 2024 PRC packet

Budget	Location	Improvement	Approximate Cost	Notes
Annually	Summer Parks Programming	Summer Concert Series Movies in the Park Activities in the Park	\$30,000/year as of 2022-2024	
Local Option Sales Tax	Sandquist Park	Multi-Use Field (Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, etc.) 200' x 300'	\$24,000 grading \$9,000 irrigation \$50,000 lighting (optional) Trees	
Local Option Sales Tax	C-I Bike/Walk Trail Connection	Pave Central Dr NE	\$475,000 – paving, gravel, grading, clearing, drainage \$100,000 – easements \$125,000 – engineering, legal, fiscal, permits \$200.00	Started in 2022
Future Improvements	Spirit River Nature Area	Fat Tire Bike Trail Signage	\$200,000 – Softball field \$230,000 – Baseball field	
Future Improvements	Sandquist Park	Softball and baseball fields	Small Play Equipment \$20,000	
Future Improvements	Pioneer Park	Small Play equipment	Cost Unknown.	
Future Improvements	Boiling Springs Trail	River bank restoration and snowmobile trail/bridge restoration	Potential funding/grant needed.	
Future Improvements	Joe's Lake Preserve	Develop trails	Cost Unknown	
Future Improvements	City Park	Park improvement	\$270,000 – Parking Lot – 60 stall lot (concept B) \$100,000 Acquisition of additional property on Fern Street \$40,000 – Expanded play w/shade canopies \$8,000 – New picnic w/shelter \$20,000 – Tot lot	
Future Improvements	Library	Splash park	Splash Park (60 x 90) Restroom/Shower/Changing Facility Total Cost – Approximately \$660,000	
Future Improvements	Central Green	Ice Rinks	Dome cover (220' x 105') \$585,000	
Future Improvements	Central Green	Restrooms	Cost Unknown	
Future Improvements	Dog Park	Small Dog Area	Approximately \$8,200 for 350 ft of chain link fence, 2 gates, and 1 double wide gate from bid received in 2021.	
Future Improvements	Central Green Park	Solo tennis backboard	Approximately \$6,620 for 8'x16' Slimline Bakko Backboard.	
Future Improvements	6 th Lane SE	Bench	If a bench is donated without a specific location in mind	We have a certain type of bench we install
Potential	Central Green Park	Court lighting	\$68,850 for labor and equipment: 1 mohe, install 4 used Musco 40' HID poles, fixtures with new lamps and bases, remove spoil piles, adjust fixtures after dark. Install two 50 amp circuit in conduit for poles from control link cabinet in main building to include trenching boring and restoration. Push button control on pole at court location.	Cambridge Area Pickleball Association may be interested in donating a portion of these costs.

PARKS MAINTENANCE BUDGETING

Budget	Location	Improvement	Approximate Cost	Notes
As needed	City Park North	Maintenance of Swing	\$2,000 Date installed – 2004	
As needed	City Park North Age range: 5 – 12	Playground Maintenance	\$80,000 Date installed – 2014	
As needed	City Park South Age range: All	Maintenance of Swing	\$10,000 Date installed – 2004	
As needed	City Park South Age range: All	Playground Maintenance	\$75,000 Date installed – 2007	
As needed	Honeysuckle Park Age range: All	Maintenance of Swing	\$5,000 Date installed – 2001	
As needed	Honeysuckle Park Age range: 5 – 12	Playground Maintenance	\$18,000 Date installed – 2001	
As needed	Pioneer Park Age range: 5 – 12	Playground Maintenance	\$18,000 Date installed – 2003	
As needed	Pioneer Park Age range: All	Maintenance of Swing	\$2,000 Date installed – 2003	
As needed	Brown Park Age range: 5 – 12	Playground Maintenance	\$5,000 Date installed – 2004	
As needed	Brown Park Age range: All	Bankshot Court Resurfacing	\$15,000	
As needed	Peterson Park Age range: 5 – 12	Playground Maintenance	\$5,000 Date installed – 2004	
As needed	Sandquist Park Age range: All	Maintenance of Softball Field	\$15,000 Date installed – age unknown	
As needed	Sandquist Park Age range: All	Maintenance of Baseball Field	\$2,000 Date installed – 2010	
As needed	Central Green Park Age range: All	Maintenance of Swing	\$5,000 Date installed – 2016	
As needed	Central Green Park Age range: 2 – 5	Playground Maintenance	\$5,000 Date installed – 2006	
As needed	Water Tower Park Age range: 2 – 5	Playground Maintenance	\$30,000 Date installed – 2007	
As needed	Water Tower Park Age range: All	Maintenance of Swing	\$5,000 Date installed – 2016	
As needed	Any location	Basketball Court Resurfacing	\$25,000	
As needed	Any location	Pickleball Court Resurfacing	\$30,000	
As needed	Any location	Tennis Court Resurfacing	\$20,000	

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Background

The amphitheater in Cambridge City Park partially collapsed due to snow load on March 24th, 2023. During the August 7th, 2023 City Council meeting, council authorized the replacement the amphitheater with a similar structure, just more substantial so that similar issues do not happen in the future. The new amphitheater was completed on June 26th, one day before our first Summer Parks Programming event in the park. We have begun using it for our Concert in the Park series.

Fiscal Note:

None.

PTRC Action:

None.

Attachments:

Photos of the amphitheater before and after.





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Background

We are already a third of the way through our 2024 Summer Parks Programming! In June, we held our first Discover Downtown Third Thursday Street Dance, Kids’ Event, and Concert in the Park. Each event had great attendance.

Upcoming events:

Thursday, July 18, 2024 6pm-8:30pm Downtown Cambridge	Downtown Music, Food & Fun (Street Dance) 2 5 MINUTE MAJOR Variety cover songs
Thursday, July 25, 2024 10am-2pm Cambridge City Park	Kids Event 2 – BOB THE BEACHCOMBER Kids musical performer
Friday, July 26, 2024 5pm-7pm Cambridge City Park	Concert in Park 2 – A HARD DAY’S NIGHT Beatle’s tribute
Thursday, August 15, 2024 6pm-8:30pm Downtown Cambridge	Downtown Music, Food & Fun (Street Dance) 3 THE HIGH 48’S Bluegrass music
Saturday, August 17, 2024 10am-3pm Downtown Cambridge	Annual Arts & Crafts Fair and Sidewalk Chalk Contest Sidewalk Chalk Contest winner announced at 2pm
Friday, August 30, 2024 5pm-7pm Cambridge City Park	Concert in Park 3 – THE CROWN JEWELS Queen tribute
Thursday, August 22, 2024 10am-2pm Cambridge City Park	Bounce Houses in the Park 5 bounce houses rented

Fiscal Note

Parks Programming is budgeted \$30,000 annually to run approximately 10 events each year. The Annual Arts & Craft Fair is budgeted \$1,000 annually to run.

PTRC Action:

If able, attend events and provide feedback and input.
Help spread information about the events to your community.

Attachments

1. Photos from the June events
2. Upcoming July and August events
July 8th, 2024 PTRC packet

June 20th – Discover Downtown Concert (Street Dance), Good for Gary



June 27th – Kids' Summer Events, Little Blue's Traveling Zoo and Snake Discovery





June 28th – Concert in the Park, Girls Night Out (Women in country music tribute)



JULY 2024 SUMMER ACTIVITIES






FUN & FREE

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN CONCERTS (STREET DANCE)	KIDS' SUMMER EVENT	CONCERT IN THE PARK
<p>July 18th 6pm-8:30pm</p> <p>Downtown Cambridge: Intersection of 2nd Ave S and Main St S</p> <p>5 MINUTE MAJOR</p> 	<p>July 25th 10am-2pm</p> <p>Cambridge City Park 810 2nd Ave SW</p> <p>Bob the Beachcomber (Kid's musical performer)</p> 	<p>July 26th 5pm-7pm</p> <p>Cambridge City Park 810 2nd Ave SW</p> <p>A Hard Day's Night (Beatle's Tribute Band)</p> 
<p>Food trucks, business booths, activities, and specials!</p>	<p>Food trucks: Addie's and Midwest Mini Donuts</p>	<p>Food trucks: Addie's and Midwest Mini Donuts</p>

AUGUST 2024 SUMMER ACTIVITIES



FUN & FREE

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN CONCERTS (STREET DANCE)	KIDS' SUMMER EVENT	CONCERT IN THE PARK
<p>August 15th 6pm-8:30pm</p> <p>Downtown Cambridge: Intersection of 2nd Ave S and Main St S</p>	<p>August 22nd 10am-2pm</p> <p>Cambridge City Park 810 2nd Ave SW</p>	<p>August 30th 5pm-7pm</p> <p>Cambridge City Park 810 2nd Ave SW</p>
<p>THE HIGH 48'S (Bluegrass)</p> 	<p>Bounce Houses in the Park</p> 	<p>The Crown Jewels (Queen Tribute Band)</p> 
<p>Food trucks, business booths, activities, and specials!</p>	<p>Food trucks: Swede's Smokin' Grill and Quashi Cuisine</p>	<p>Food truck: Great Grand Food Stand</p>

CAMBRIDGE

Arts & Crafts Fair



Saturday
August 17th, 2024
10am-3pm

Food Trucks • Vendors
Chalk Art Contest

Downtown Cambridge
2nd Ave SW & Ashland St SW



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Background

- Park shelter has been completed
- Trying to repair some erosion issues in City Park
- Trying to get prices for signs. I am having trouble getting anyone to respond to my requests.
- Trying to get caught up with mowing in between rain days.
- There are two benches and a picnic table in Parkwood Park.



Fiscal Note:

No notes provided.

Staff Recommended Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission Action:

None

Attachments

None

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Background

During the June 17th City Council meeting, the Preliminary ‘Cambridge Shores’ Concept Plan and probable costs were presented to the public.

Munkberg Farms is 123 acres that the City has entered into a ‘land option agreement’ allowing the city exclusive purchasing rights for 12 to 18 months, starting in November of 2023. The city is seeking to find developers to develop the surrounding land, and reserve 35 acres for a park along the beach. This potential park is called ‘Cambridge Shores,’ and would consist of a swimming beach, trails, event center, playground, and an amphitheater.

Fiscal Note:

See Attachment 2 for Preliminary Probable Cost Opinion.

Staff Recommended Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission Action:

None.

Attachments

1. Preliminary Concept Plan
2. Preliminary Probable Cost Opinion
3. Newspaper article

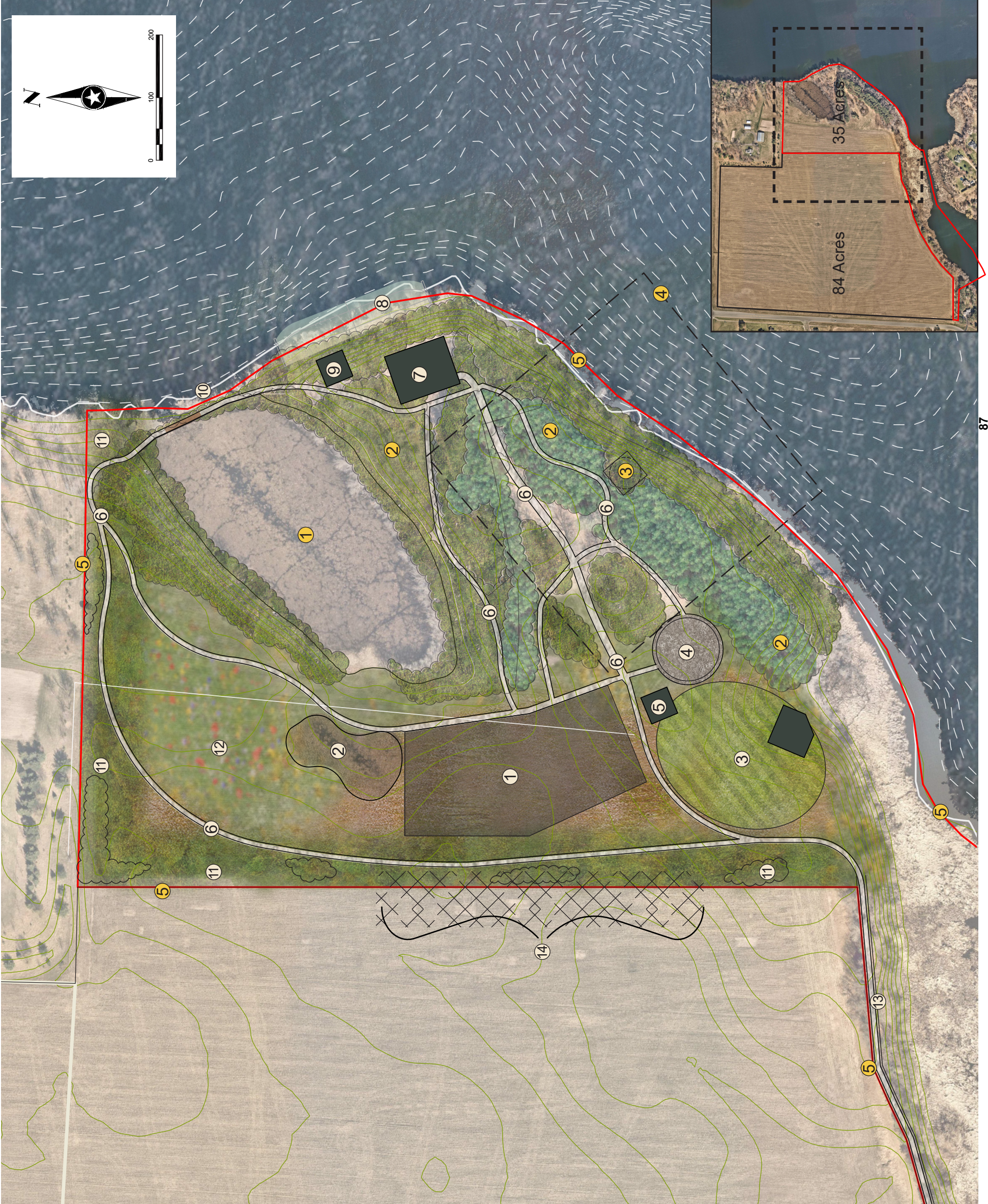
Final Concept

Existing Site Features

- ① Wetland
- ② Established trees to be preserved and protected
- ③ Native American burial mound
- ④ 200' Buffer from burial mound
- ⑤ Property Limits

Concept Features

- ① 200 Car parking lot 65,000 sqft
- ② Detention Pond
- ③ Open space with future amphitheater stage
- ④ 8,000 sqft playground
- ⑤ Playground restroom
- ⑥ Trail system- utilize existing pathways to preserve mature trees
- ⑦ 500 Person event center 8,000 sqft with views towards lake
- ⑧ Swimming beach
- ⑨ Beach bathroom and kayak rental booth 2,000 sqft
- ⑩ Bridge over wetland
- ⑪ 50' Vegetation screening from adjacent uses
- ⑫ Native plantings
- ⑬ Trail to Opportunity Blvd
- ⑭ Preferred area for access drive connection



https://www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com/news/preliminary-cambridge-shores-concept-plan-complete/article_ac51b976-2f52-11ef-965c-cbbb5ac5ceb9.html

FEATURED

Preliminary Cambridge Shores concept plan complete

Bill Stickels III
Jun 20, 2024



The intentionally fuzzy picture of what a new recreational area on the shores of Lake Fannie might look like is becoming a little clearer with the release of a preliminary concept plan completed by SEH Inc.

Dubbed “Cambridge Shores,” the area is part of the city of Cambridge’s long-range goals of constructing an outdoor multipurpose amenity that could include an event center, swimming beach, and more. The inception of the plan came out of discussions regarding the sale of land along the southwestern side of Lake Fannie commonly known as the Munkberg farm. After an extended period

of time up for sale with little interest from buyers, the city entered into a land option agreement with the Munkberg family in November 2023 that gives the city exclusive purchasing rights for 12 to 18 months (see article in the Nov. 22, 2023 edition of the Star).

While the city has been searching for a housing developer to partner with on a majority of the 123 acres, it commissioned SEH to draw up a preliminary site plan for the recreational area, plus provide a rough estimate of the costs to construct it.

According to Karl Weissenborn, Senior Landscape Architect for SEH, the goal of their site plan is to maximize the number of different activities visitors can participate in, but with minimal disruption of the current natural landscape.

“We started with a field walk (of the land) and we were impressed with the mature canopy of pine and oaks on the site,” Weissenborn said, “and a real significant mix of wetland and fields.”

“What you see is a plan, with the exception of the beach, a low-impact use park,” City Administrator Evan Vogel added. “Something that is supposed to be peaceful and enjoyable. There’s only about 300 feet of lakeshore that would be disturbed, which leaves an overwhelming majority of the lakeshore undisturbed.”

Based on that, Weissenborn said the 35-acre park could easily house a number of features for a large number of people at any one given time. The plan includes a 200-space parking lot at the entrance to the park. To the right of the parking lot, there is an open space that would work as a natural amphitheater much like at Cambridge City Park. Lake Fannie would be a backdrop to the stage. Right next to that area would be an 8,000-square-foot playground, plus a small restroom.

Weissenborn explained the amphitheater could be pushed back to a second phase of construction if ample funding wasn’t available at the start of construction.

Interwoven throughout the area will be a trail system that Weissenborn said could be created utilizing existing natural paths to preserve as many mature trees as possible.

The “showcase” of the area would be a 500-person four-season event center that could be used for weddings, reunions, prom, or any other large social gathering. The event center would be on a bluff, with large picture windows overlooking the lake.

The swimming beach would be along the shoreline below the event center. Weissenborn said there is a clearing among the vegetation in that area, however, sand would still have to be brought in to create the beach. Vogel noted that during initial conversations with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the DNR seemed amiable to that idea. There would be another restroom near the beach, with that building also serving as a kayak or other aquatic toy rental booth.

Weissenborn said they discovered one obstacle in the area that limits some of the development. Along the southern side, they discovered a Native American burial mound, which requires a 200-foot buffer surrounding it to ensure it won't get disturbed. However, they were able to work around that area without much problem.

One feature that has for now been nixed is a boat ramp. According to Vogel, based on this design, there are only two locations where a boat ramp might fit. The first is along the southern edge of the area. However, that area features a steep slope down to the shoreline. In addition, a cattail grove would be disrupted and Vogel said the DNR probably would not be agreeable with that.

The other is along the northern property line, however, that would require an additional parking lot and holding pond. Additionally, the water is only about five feet deep extending out 50 feet from shore, which means they would have to dredge that area.

POTENTIAL COST

Broken down, the obviously most expensive part of the project would be the event center. That cost is estimated at \$4 million, with an additional \$2.4 million if they include a basement. All told, the buildings are estimated to be just short of \$8 million.

The next largest cost would be for general development, which includes site grading, beach development, paved trails, and the parking lot, which sits at just over \$3 million.

The estimate for the entire area comes in at just short of \$12 million, which increases to \$14.5 million after surveying, engineering, and a 10% contingency.

Vogel noted that amount can easily be adjusted, and in fact, it already has by about \$2 million by switching out some high-end features for lower-end ones. For example, this plan calls for a full commercial kitchen when a simpler prep kitchen would do. Additionally, if they took out all features labeled as "phase B," that would save over \$2 million.

As for how this would be paid for, Vogel said the city would investigate all possibilities outside of increasing the levy.

“There are significant grant opportunities including legacy programs,” Vogel said. “There is a program through the League of Minnesota Cities called the grant navigator program in which they help you find grants that you might not know about.”

In conclusion, Vogel reiterated nothing has been set in stone at this time.

“For the most part, this is an informational piece for council at this time,” Vogel said. “There’s going to be a lot of further discussion as additional information is discovered. This is a high-profile project, so it is good to have information out there.”

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Editor