



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
Dave Perrault, City Administrator

FROM: Joe Vaughan, Recreation Programmer
David Swearingen, Interim Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Spring and Summer Recreations Programs

Budgeted Amount:	Actual Amount:	Funding Sources:
\$116,680 2021 Revenue Budget	TBD	General Fund - Recreation

Council Should Consider

City Council direction is requested regarding the City’s spring and summer recreation programs.

Background

Last year, the City Council made the decision to cancel all spring and summer recreation programs due to COVID-19. Staff is seeking direction on whether or not Council would like to offer classes this summer as it normally would, in a reduced or modified capacity, or no classes at all. If there is an appetite to offer classes, Staff will need to begin the development of a Recreation Guide and start the recruitment process for seasonal personnel. All youth and adult programs would be modified to fit within the current guidelines set forth by the state of Minnesota. Staff has organized spring and summer recreational activities into the following four categories. The Council may have questions or request additional information regarding these programs. Some information may not be available at this time due to uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

1. SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

The City’s summer playground programs are held at Hazelnut and Cummings Park. They are held Monday-Thursday in the mornings and afternoons. The ages of the playground program range from 3-12. The City partners with Shoreview and Roseville to offer six field trips in the summer. These trips are for ages 6-12 and take place at venues around the metro area or within an hour’s drive.

The City typically hires 15 playground leaders for the programs and field trips. Hiring of staff typically takes place in March and April.

Ability to socially distance: Although these classes are generally held outside, given the ages of the children and the activities, it may be difficult to accommodate social distancing or other guidelines unless the programs were modified. Social distancing can be achieved once the program is changed to fit within current Minnesota guidelines.

Requested Council Direction

- A. Should the City offer the playground program this summer?
- B. Should the City offer the field trips this summer?

2. YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES

The City offers four t-ball/baseball leagues and four soccer leagues. The ages of t-ball/baseball range from three years old to fourth grade. The ages of the soccer leagues range from four years old to sixth grade. These leagues are run in cooperation with Mounds View, New Brighton and Shoreview. The seasons run from June to July.

Ability to socially distance: Although these leagues are generally held outside, given the ages of the children and the activities it may be difficult accommodate social distancing or other guidelines unless the programs were modified. Social distancing can be achieved once the program is changed to fit within current Minnesota guidelines.

Requested Council Direction

- A. Should the City offer the youth sports leagues this summer?

3. CAMPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The City typically offers numerous camps and classes in the spring and summer seasons. Some of these camps include: drama and theater, tennis lessons, and preschool sports classes. All of these programs are held outdoors with the exception of the drama camps (the drama camps can be held outdoors).

In the spring, the City offers its annual Spring Egg Hunt. This is a popular event held at Cummings Park for children ages 1-12. The egg hunt is the largest special event offered by the City and usually has a participation of over 100 children.

Ability to socially distance: Although these camps and events are generally held outside, given the ages of the children and the activities it may be difficult to accommodate social distancing or other guidelines unless the programs were modified. Social distancing can be achieved once the program is changed to fit within current Minnesota guidelines.

Requested Council Direction

- A. Should the City offer youth camps this summer?
- B. Should the City offer the Spring Egg Hunt this spring?

4. ADULT PROGRAMS

Spring and summer adult programs typically include Yoga, Tai Chi, Foot Care clinic, and AARP Driver safety programs. AARP is hoping to offer classes again in the summer. Yoga and tai chi classes are typically conducted in the lower level of City Hall with class sizes of approximately 6-10 participants. Yoga can be held outdoors.

Ability to socially distance: Some of these classes may be held indoors, but the smaller class sizes and age of the participants would likely result in an ability to properly socially distance and follow recommended guidelines.

Requested Council Direction

- A. Should the City take registrations for adult classes this spring and summer?
- B. Are there any adult spring and summer programs the City Council would not support?

Budget Impacts

The 2021 Budget for Recreation Programs was prepared under the assumption that it would be a 'normal' year and data from 2018 and 2019 was utilized in forming the projections for 2021. In the past, program revenues have usually been able to cover direct program costs. From 2015-2019, the average coverage ratio of direct costs by program revenues was 106%. It is not known if participation rates will drop once classes are offered again. The hope is that program revenues will continue to cover direct program costs, with the coverage ratio possibly increasing by not offering some of the programs that cost the City money to operate.