

## Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee (PTRC) 2022-23 Work Plan

### **PTRC Purpose and Mission**

Parks, trails, recreation and natural resources in Arden Hills increase the desirability of the city as a place to live, work, play, enhance the health and well-being of citizens and guests, and improve the value of residents' property.

The Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee (PTRC) represents the interests of Arden Hills citizens in leading the continuing development, expansion, and improvement of those resources.

The PTRC recommends to the City Council actions that support those interests; monitors the use of and the improvements in parks, trails, and recreation; and collaborates with other City committees and commissions in improving parks and trails.

### **Main Duties**

- Review and evaluate city parks, trails, and recreational services
- Advise staff and City Council of ways to maintain and improve these amenities

### **Meetings**

- Third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

### **Ongoing and as Needed**

1. Recommend actions that advance the vision for parks, trails, and recreation.
2. Assist in identifying ongoing parks and trails maintenance/improvement priorities.
3. Recommend and review grant opportunities, sponsorships, and partnerships for parks and trails.
4. Assist, recommend, and monitor plans for parks, trails and recreation within Arden Hills at the appropriate time.
5. Be apprised by staff and Council when plans are budgeted for park, trails, and recreation.
6. Continue to work with Ramsey County on mutually beneficial trail/park projects and activities.
7. Monitor potential road improvements to encourage inclusion of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure whenever possible.
8. Look to enhance/add recreational opportunities in our parks.
9. Recommend future enhancements for the 5-year Capital Improvement Program each year.
10. Sponsor and organize Community events such as special events, garden clean-up day and other volunteer projects.
11. Prepare and submit semi-regular content for the City Newsletter, City Facebook page and City website.

### **2022 - 2023 Goals**

- Work with City Council to identify areas where the PTRC could provide recommendations, research or service to benefit the residents of Arden Hills. PTRC members have various areas of expertise including: volunteer coordination, recreation, grant writing, knowledge of plant species communications and event coordination.

- Ensure that Arden Hills residents and visitors of all ages and physical abilities have recreation opportunities.
- Encourage Arden Hills residents to enjoy the beautiful parks and trails that Arden Hills has to offer.
- Continue to become more of a working committee.
- Actively seek opinions from residents on what they would like and report findings to the PTRC.
- PTRC members volunteer to serve as point-person/champion for each park and each trail and recreation events. All members regularly visit the variety of parks and trails. The champion will visit her/his park(s) and trails(s) on a regular basis to look for safety needs, maintenance needs, etc.
- Follow a calendar throughout the year to ensure that there is a good mix of topics covered at monthly PTRC meetings that become the foundation for next year's work plan.
- Conduct structured meetings so that City Council, staff, and residents of Arden Hills easily learn what was accomplished at meetings by reading minutes.

## **PARKS**

### 1. Park Goals

- a. Park improvements and amenities, including benches
- b. Park clean up
- c. Park maintenance
- d. Park safety

### 2. Park Recommendation List

- a. **Perry Park dog park improvements: shade, obstacle course, subdivided for small and large dog areas, concrete at entrances.**
- b. **Identify areas where trees could be planted (in addition to Ash Tree buddy program if applicable).**
- c. **Invasive Buckthorn, Burdock week removal.**
- d. **Earth Day Cleanup**
- e. **Floral garden Cleanup**
- f. **Swinging bench at Cummings to watch sunrise or sunset.**
- g. **Update park map and information on website with new photos, amenities list and complete street addresses that are needed for navigation apps.**

## **TRAILS**

### 3. Trail Goals

- a. Trail maintenance
- b. Trail improvements
- c. Trail amenities
- d. Trail safety

### 4. Trail Recommendations

- a. **Update trails maps on website**
- b. **Connection gaps throughout Arden Hills**
- c. **From County Road E2 North to Lake Valentine Road (C R "F") and then West to MVHS (Youth+)**

- d. From County Road “D” Northeast on lake Johanna Blvd, past Tony Schmidt Regional Park – Ramsey County/METC (as trail building partner – 2 segments), See G, G1 & G2 on map) to intersection with Snelling Avenue N (Families)
- e. From Hwy 51 North to Snelling Avenue N intersection with County Road E/Lake Johanna Blvd
- f. From County Road E North along Snelling Avenue N/Old Highway 10, under I-694 to Hwy 96 which now has a regional trail on the South side
- g. Bethel University Land Sale: Trail move/redo with senior housing project
- h. Trail along South Shore of Round lake
- i. From County Road E/Lake Johanna Blvd along west side of Hwy 51 to Glenhill Ave
- j. Crepeau nature Preserve Trails upgrade to improve drainage and to replace old surfaces. Add Hamline Ave trail extension.

## RECREATION

### 5. Recreation Goals

- a. Enhance recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages and physical abilities.

### 6. Recreation Recommendation

- a. **Winter activities in the parks**
  - i. Sledding hills at parks where possible, especially Hazelnut and Cummings.
- b. **Add fitness equipment geared toward adults, especially at Cummings Park**
  - i. Six exercise stations will be put in at the senior living facility. The trail will be constructed in 2022 and hopefully the equipment will be in by fall. This may be a good reference for future projects.
- c. **More active adult and senior recreation classes and events.**
  - i. Yoga/Fitness in the park at Cummings
- d. **Multi-generation activities (include some evenings and weekends).**
  - i. Pickleball court at Hazelnut Park or Floral Park
  - ii. Multi-generation yoga
  - iii. Multi-generation dance - Possible location at Perry or Cummings if it is possible to move picnic tables off of the Pavillion.
  - iv. Volleyball/badminton equipment (be aware of irrigation system)
  - v. Geocaching at the parks

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

### 7. Community partnership goals

- a. Outreach
- b. Engagement
- c. Events

### 8. Community partnership recommendation list

- a. **Community engagement**
  - i. Committee members “adopt” an area, park, trail, project
  - ii. Animal ambassadors from Raptor Center (planned) or Minnesota Zoo
  - iii. Concerts in the parks: partner with schools and National Guard
  - iv. Tree placement outreach
- b. **Fill open spots on the committee**
  - i. Recruit (in person, social media, newsletters, local bulletin boards, places of worship)
  - ii. Student committee ambassadors

- iii. Work with communications committee to highlight parks, trails, and recreation on social media, YouTube, the newsletter and the City website
- c. **Arden Hills Foundation**
  - i. Update donation letter business list to include new businesses
  - ii. Bench placement: track money for benches and create a plan to better track status and placement.
- d. **Volunteer recruitment plan proposal**
  - i. Reach out to Bethel University to explore possible partnerships for park cleanups, etc.
  - ii. Identify volunteer opportunities

## **PTRC Calendar**

### **March 2022**

- Work Plan
- Calendar

### **April 2022**

- “Adopt” an area, park, trail, project, event, volunteer requests
- Discuss Clean-ups
- Work Plan: work session with City Council

### **May 2022**

- Engagement plan
- Recruit new members plan

### **June 2022**

- Park tour

### **July 2022**

- Tree recommendations
- Park and trail maintenance, safety, improvement recommendations
- Bench recommendations

### **August 2022**

- No meeting

### **September 2022**

- 2023 Work Plan: Update trail recommendations

### **October 2022**

- 2023 Work Plan: Update park recommendations
- Review membership terms

### **November 2022**

- 2023 Work Plan: Update recreation recommendations

### **December 2022**

- No meeting

**January 2023**

- 2023 Work Plan: Update engagement recommendations

**February 2023**

- 2023 Work Plan: Update calendar

**March 2023**

- 2023 Work Plan

**April 2023**

- Work Plan: work session with City Council