

Update: Moore Lake Park and Beach

The City of Fridley has started work on the first stages of a parks master plan to determine what our residents would like to see implemented and improved within Fridley's parks, trails and recreation programming. Our newly launched *Finding Your Fun in Fridley!* campaign focuses on gathering public input by way of public planning meetings, surveys, interactive parks and trails tools, and planning meetings. All of which will help guide the development of a parks improvement plan that can be used for many years to come.

Moore Lake Park is a very important city feature and will be an equally important part of this parks master planning process. In 2016, City staff and Parks Commission surveyed residents and had reviewed conceptual plans to redevelop the park with the help of a professional architectural firm. At that time, the ten-year plan was estimated to cost more than \$4.3 million.

Before moving ahead with Council action, some of the elements of the plan needed further review; such as studying environment impacts, identifying funding sources, gathering input from the affected watershed districts and Minnesota DNR, as well as safety and roadway considerations on Old Central (an Anoka County roadway). Given the additional work and no immediate funding established for the project, as well as its potential for impact on other parks' improvement plans, it was decided that the city should step back and look at the entire parks and trails system and seek input from the public.

In the interim, the City will be making some modifications to improve aspects of the parks aesthetics this summer, including cleaning up the beach and grounds, removing the fencing, providing weekend garbage service and installing updated signage.

In 2018, the Park and Recreation Commission made the difficult decision to not open the swimming beach. Survey results from the 2016 study showed that most residents (56 percent) would not swim there given the water conditions, abundance of waterfowl and overall condition of the beach. Attendance of swimmers was tracked for several years and found the swimming beach to be used very little, except on extremely hot days or on the Fourth of July. The cost

for staffing the beach house to monitor the beach, conduct water quality testing and to keep the facility open also came into consideration.

The fishing pier, volleyball courts, sand area, walking paths, picnic tables, shelters, playground and park will still be available for use and open to residents and visitors. If you remember one of our articles from last July's newsletter, East Moore Lake was named one of the top 50 "Mom-Approved" Places to Fish and Boat" by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation!