

**AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**City Hall Council Chambers – 515 Clark Avenue**  
**Thursday, November 21, 2024**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:** The Parks and Recreation Commission welcomes comments from the public during discussion. The Standards of Decorum, posted at the door and available on the City website, define respectful conduct for public participation. If you wish to speak, please complete a green card and hand it to City staff prior to the meeting. When your name is called, please step to the microphone, state your name and address for the record, and limit the time used to present your remarks to three minutes so others have the opportunity to speak. The normal process on an agenda item is staff may first give a report on the item, Commissioners may ask questions for clarification, public input is received, a motion is placed on the floor, the Commission discusses the issue or responds to the audience concerns, and the vote is taken. In consideration of all, if you have a cell phone, please turn it off or put it on silent.

1. Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from October 17, 2024
3. Public Forum (For items not on the agenda)
4. Staff introductions
5. Staff Report on Homewood Golf Course 2024 season
6. Motion approving the agreement with the Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club to use the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center from May 26, 2025, until August 1, 2025, for practices.
7. Discussion Regarding Updating Park Rules
8. Project Updates
  - a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center
  - b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza
  - c. Mini-Pitch (November 12 Council Action Form Attached)
9. Monthly Report
10. Commission Member Comments
11. Next Meetings:
  - a. December 5, 2024, at 4:00 PM at Homewood Golf Course (CIP Workshop)
  - b. December 19, 2024, at 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)
12. Adjournment

**CITY OF AMES  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE** October 17, 2024  
**COMMISSION PRESENT** Sarah Cady, Jeff Iles, Janet Rathe, Duane Reeves, Nathan Shimanek, Debra Tapp, Jeff White  
**ABSENT** None  
**STAFF** Keith Abraham, LeAnn Hawk, Nate Pietz, Joshua Thompson

**1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 PM**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: (Reeves/Iles) to approve the September 17, 2024, meeting minutes.

MOTION PASSED: (7-0)

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

None

**4. STORY COUNTY WATER & LAND LEGACY BOND**

Mike Cox, Story County Conservation Director, outlined the Story County Water & Land Legacy Bond and potential projects it may fund. In the November general election, Story County voters will have an opportunity to support a \$25 million, 20-year-obligation bond to dedicate funding for county-wide conservation and recreational projects. If passed, the bond would be repaid via property tax increases averaging \$32 annually for the median residential household. Story County intends to issue bonds as projects are set to begin, thereby lowering principal plus debt service, decreasing the amount levied to taxpayers. Cox noted a track record of successful fundraising via private donors, grants, and partnerships. Story County Conservation (SCC) intends to leverage these funds to maximize the bond investment impact, with bond funding accounting for perhaps half the cost of the proposed conservation and recreational projects. Cox reported that since 2016, SCC completed over 70 projects worth nearly \$21 million, with only \$8 million in Story County tax dollars.

In April, the Story County Water & Land Legacy Bond Committee commissioned a telephone survey of 300 Story County residents to gather feedback regarding potential projects. Water quality protection, flood reduction, outdoor recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat protection, and additional biking and walking trail connectivity topped respondents' priorities. Cox indicated these insights supported a list of projects, roughly equally funded, grouped into three categories:

[1] *Preservation* projects focus on land and water preservation to maintain wildlife habitat, protect water sources, mitigate flood damage, and preserve property value. Projects include greenbelt buffer acquisition and restoration, South Skunk River streambank stabilization, Hickory Grove Park beach improvements, Wicks Wildlife area oxbow restoration, and Hannum's Mill dam renovation.

[2] *Recreation* projects address quality of life enhancements, livability, and attracting new residents and visitors. Projects include R38 recreational trail alternative; Ames to McFarland Park trail connection; Heart of Iowa Nature Trail paving from Collins to Marshall County; Deppe Family Wildlife Area development; Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor improvements; Hickory Grove accessibility improvements; year-round, family-style rental cabin at Dakins Lake Cabin; and Anderson and C.J. Shreck water trail access improvements.

[3] *Education* projects include improving McFarland Park education and nature center, and an outdoor recreation initiative to promote more opportunities for residents to enjoy being in nature while developing skills and confidence to carry it on for their lives.

Cox reviewed Story County Water & Land Legacy Committee membership, noting it includes a broad spectrum of conservationists, recreation enthusiasts, economic leaders, and others. Committee members raised funds to support the bond campaign and serve as coordinators.

Cady inquired about acquiring easements along the Skunk River between Ada Hayden Heritage Park and Peterson Park and McFarland Park. Cox indicated the proposed bond projects do not include a trail along the river because of property acquisition/easement challenges, and that a soft river trail that does not serve as an arterial connection is preferred. Instead, SCC will look at developing a concrete trail – location to be determined – connecting with the rest of the system.

Cady commented on the R38 trail connection to the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor, noting some portions of the trail are very nice while other portions have issues with odor and dust. Cox acknowledged these concerns and discussed potential future improvements.

White asked for comment on access to the Skunk River at the 265<sup>th</sup> Street bridge. Cox noted challenges with river access at that location, indicating SCC is unable to include improvements with all accesses in the bond projects but know further improvements are needed.

Abraham asked what would happen if the bond measure does not pass and how would SCC prioritize projects. Cox indicated the R38 trail alternative and Ames/McFarland Park connections are big priorities, as is the visitor center. He noted securing matching money would be easier if SCC has bond funding. Without the bond, the projects would still be goals, but the forecast would change from 10-12 years to 20 or more years to accomplish these priorities. Without the bond funding, Cox said, things will take much longer, and some projects may not happen at all.

Rathe commended the efforts made to promote Story County Water & Land Legacy Bond.

## **5. IOWAY CREEK PROJECT IN BROOKSIDE PARK UPDATE**

Liz Calhoun, Public Works Stormwater Resource Analyst, provided project background and a summary of upcoming work activities. The initial concept, presented in several public meetings in 2021, was reworked, with a second concept presented at several 2022 meetings with property owners, stakeholders, and the public. Since then, full design work was undertaken, including: a landscaping plan produced by Confluence, an establishment and maintenance plan from Prairie Rivers of Iowa, and engineering drawings prepared by WHKS. Other work items during the last two years include: mussel relocation upstream; permitting with Army Corps of Engineers and Iowa DNR, including project timing considerations related to bat and bee habitat; property owner easements; and consideration of park usage and contractor access to minimize disturbances in the busiest portions of Brookside Park.

Upcoming project milestones include City Council approval of plans and specifications on November 12; construction bid letting on December 4; and four to six months of construction set to begin April 1, 2025, at the earliest. Project updates will be available via social media and a project website.

Calhoun presented a map showing construction access from southeast 6<sup>th</sup> Street, along with several stream crossings allowing east/west movement. Abraham noted earlier discussions involved potential staging along 13<sup>th</sup> Street and closure of the trail through the park for the project's duration. The current access plan represents a best-case scenario, with a lot of work done to develop a plan allowing the trail to remain open and usable by the public. Calhoun noted there may still be brief periods where trail closure will be needed to complete some work. Landscaping work will include stabilization and in-stream features to address erosion; varied seeding; creek rerouting enabling work to flatten and effectively vegetate a steep embankment; and adding stream features, such as large rocks to use as stepping stones. Primary clearing will occur between the two pedestrian bridges, with care to minimize width and overall disturbance.

Lori Biederman, 1239 Orchard Drive, indicated Friends of Brookside Park supports the project.

Reeves asked if moving the work from winter to spring presented new challenges or increased costs. Calhoun replied that is a big part of why the work will be done in phases to minimize the amount of open ground at any time. The construction plans include temporary stabilized stone crossings to avoid vehicles and equipment carrying mud into the creek, as well as matting placed after grading work. The project may proceed more during summer/fall when water levels drop. One of the challenges is how to manage the creek while work is being done.

Cady asked if similar large stones placed within Munn Woods reduced stream flow rates and erosion. Calhoun stated she noticed some water pooling behind stones that otherwise would drain out. Some in-stream features are designed to create habitat, especially during dry times, she explained.

## **6. APPROVAL OF 2025 DOG PARK FEES**

Thompson explained that the Commission approves most Parks and Recreation fees and charges each January. Dog Park fees are an exception because permits are valid for the calendar year, with sales beginning in December to enable permit usage on January 1. The proposed 2025 fee schedule includes minimal price increases, about 3.5% for each rate.

Dog Park permit/pass sales for 2024 total 575 annual passes and 58 daily/weekly passes, a decline from 2023 staff attributes to people making purchase decisions in a broader context of increased costs in other areas of their lives. Thompson noted the access control system, added in 2023, reduced service calls to Animal Control, from 70-80 calls per year to 10-15. The service calls are now both fewer in number and less serious in nature.

*MOTION:* (Shimanek/White) to recommend Alternative 1, which states:

Approve the proposed Dog Park fees for 2025 as stated [in the Commission Action Form].

*MOTION PASSED:* (7-0)

## **7. FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER END-OF-YEAR REPORT**

Hawk reviewed Furman Aquatic Center (FAC) facility goals of safety and quality, along with staff goals related to values, culture, and service. She noted numerous off-season maintenance and facility improvement items. The FAC season spanned 101 days. Inclement weather resulted in

12 facility closures. The splash pool closed 12 times for Tot Time due to low temperatures. Amenity and/or basin closures, most due to lifeguard staffing shortages, totaled 23.

Pietz reviewed admissions and concession staffing.

Hawk reported on two new recruitment efforts: (1) speaking to the Ames High School lifeguard class and providing interview/application opportunities during the class, and (2) speaking to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students about water safety and how to prepare for aquatic work opportunities, along with promoting swim camp opportunities.

Prior to opening day, Hawk reported, all lifeguards received extensive training according to new Red Cross guidelines.

Various staff retention initiatives proved to be popular and successful, e.g., Badge of Honor Awards demonstrating values related to service, safety, etc. These incentives align with core City of Ames employee values.

Total season attendance of 84,916 aligned with the four-year average of 84,305, Pietz reported. Daily Admission payments decreased 5 percent in 2024, while both Punch Card and Season Pass admissions increased over 2023 totals. Season Pass sales aligned with the four-year average total. Punch Card sales increased in 2024. End of Season Pass sales were successful and will continue as a promotion in 2025.

Pietz reported above average daily concession sales totaling \$90,571 for the 2024 season.

Hawk noted a decline in private rentals.

Special events were varied and successful. Hawk singled out Christmas in July as a new and particularly successful program.

Swimming lessons spanned June 10 to August 2, along with a couple of weather-related makeup dates. A total of 931 participants registered for swimming lessons. A majority of FAC swim instructors are certified as American Red Cross Water Safety Instructors, Hawk added.

Hawk noted improved water depth signage installed by the diving board and drop slide. Rescues in these areas were considerably reduced in 2024. Future safety initiatives will focus on educating participants about areas in the pool with greater water depth.

Sales of 588 ducks for the second annual Scholarship Duck Derby raised \$4,065 for the scholarship fund, Hawk reported.

User survey responses included many positive comments about FAC and staff, Hawk noted.

Cady commended staff for its follow-up to address rescues in deep water areas.

Shimanek shared his observations about how busy FAC is during daytime lap swimming, a good problem, in his view. He also complimented staff service and facility cleanliness.

Rathe noted water walking is also very popular.

Iles asked if 16 hours is an average work week for lifeguards. The number seemed low. Hawk confirmed that average is accurate. She sees a balance between high school age employees, who often have many other obligations during the summer months, and college student employees, who tend to want as many hours as they can get. With high school employees, many working at FAC as a first job, Hawk encourages planning ahead and making a commitment. Abraham added that high school staff are subject to work restrictions related to age and whether school is in session, and that some FAC jobs are age restricted. Hawk shared that some employees may wish to work more but face these sorts of limitations.

## **8. PROJECT UPDATES**

### **a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center**

Abraham reported concrete removal/reconstruction work resolved issues with required vapor barrier installation under the pump pit and backwash basin. Contractors are working on completing shop drawings and submittals, with around 80 percent approved. Precast panels are expected to arrive on or around November 11, with installation to start shortly thereafter. A lot of steel is already on site. Initial building priorities are the natatorium walls and roof. Other walls are scheduled to be up mid-January. Numerous change orders total \$224,000, or 1.2 percent of the construction budget. The project contingency totals \$2.1 million. About one-third of the change orders relate to underground and unknowns from demolition and utilities connections. Another million dollars is available for site contamination – none found so far.

The aquatic center is part of a downtown reinvestment district, Abraham explained. The City received a preliminary program award of \$10 million from the State to be rebated from receipts generated from approved district development. Changes with The Linc along Lincoln Way may affect the program award, depending on how The Linc project redesign/reductions impact scoring. In early October, the City Council directed staff to submit a final application to maintain eligibility for the Reinvestment District award.

### **b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza**

Abraham listed numerous recent project site changes, e.g., redone/bonded concrete along the spray pad, spray pad colored concrete, pavers installed underneath the building overhang, and pouring the stage on the south end of the project. Landscaping will begin in October, with more to be completed in the spring. Dormant seeding will be done this fall. Most of the work inside the building is done. Staff continues to work through ice ribbon options from Henkel Construction – additional information needed. Tapp asked if the City has a timeline for answers about the ice ribbon – Abraham said no. The City wants to be certain whatever solution is selected is good. Rathe said noticeable progress helps with public concerns about project delays and completion.

## **9. MONTHLY REPORT**

Abraham reported the following:

- Mid-October staff began shutting off and winterizing drinking fountains due to freezing temperatures. Restrooms will remain open as long as possible.
- Leadership Ames, The Bridge Home, and area businesses partnered to dismantle the decommissioned Stuart Smith Park playground to be reinstalled at The Bridge Home. New playground equipment will be installed at Stuart Smith Park, then Bandshell Park.

- The Parks and Facilities Supervisor position has been open for nearly a year. One recruitment failed. The application deadline for the second recruitment is October 23. Staff believes it will fill the position from this candidate pool.
- Abby Nelson will begin as Ice Arena Coordinator the week of October 28, working a 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM, Wednesday through Sunday schedule, to provide user groups with more consistent, full-time leadership at the Ice Arena.
- Three candidates for the Recreation Coordinator position declined employment offers. Further interviews with other candidates are scheduled.
- Parks and Recreation Department Secretary Katie Kole retired on September 27.
- Homewood Golf Course will remain open into November to take advantage of warm weather. Rounds played in 2023 shattered records. This year will set another record.

Abraham thanked all Parks and Recreation staff for their work, noting the department employs 29 full-time employees and 400 temporary staff. Cady commented the full-time staffing is very lean relative to the number of facilities the department operates and maintains.

#### **10. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Reeves inquired about City Council discussions surrounding homelessness. Abraham explained a committee formed, led by Assistant City Manager Pa Goldbeck. City Council and Story County appropriated funding to hire a consultant to gather feedback from the homeless population and service providers and ultimately produce a community action plan. Initial conversations identified three top issues: substance abuse, mental health, and lack of housing. Abraham indicated the November Commission meeting will include discussion about park rules and policy adjustments to allow for enforcement of rules. Abraham stressed the issues are complex, difficult, and extend beyond Parks and Recreation. Balancing the needs and preferences of residents who want services, amenities, and a safe experience with issues caused by 30-50 individuals is difficult. Abraham encouraged Commissioners to consider possible park rule adjustments and how to gather feedback to prepare for future discussion(s).

Rathe asked for comment on the October 16 neighborhood meeting regarding the Carr Park Agility Course. Abraham indicated approximately 15 attendees discussed with Thompson how issues from previous meetings will be addressed. Options for surface color were presented, with green on green preferred by attendees. Plans and specifications will go before City Council for approval on October 22, with bids due November 27 and contract award on December 10. Project construction would begin in Spring 2025, weather dependent, with a flexible completion window intended to reduce construction costs.

**11. NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, November 21, 2024, 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION (Shimanek) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.

## STAFF REPORT

### HOMEWOOD GOLF COURSE 2024 SEASON REVIEW

November 21, 2024

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Homewood Golf Course is a 9-hole, par 34 course featuring 2,283 yards of golf from the longest tees. The course first opened in 1932, and in 1967 the City of Ames passed a bond issue to purchase the course from the Gunder Family for \$192,000. Course operations were leased until 1971 until the city took over management of the course, which continues to date.

Nate Pietz, Recreation Manager, oversees clubhouse administration, and Pat Wynja, Turf Maintenance Supervisor, is responsible for the course maintenance operations. Staff places an emphasis on high quality service while providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all at Homewood.

#### **CLUBHOUSE ADMINISTRATION SEASON SUMMARY**

The 2024 Homewood golf season spanned 243 days from March 11 - November 8. Of the 243-day season, eight full days were affected by inclement weather.

The Clubhouse was staffed with a total of 18 part-time and seasonal staff members throughout the season. Of the 18, four were new to the team in 2024. The facility was able to remain fully staffed throughout the golf season.

#### **GOLF ROUNDS**

A total of 25,959 rounds were played in the 2024 season, resulting in a 12% increase from 2023. The table below provides a detailed history of rounds played the last five seasons at Homewood Golf Course.

<b>Season</b>	<b>Rounds Played</b>
2020	15,205
2021	18,151
2022	18,769
2023	23,189
2024	25,959
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,273</b>
<b>Annual 5-year Average</b>	<b>20,255</b>



The table below outlines the amount of season passes sold annually. Within these numbers, a family season pass is counted as one pass. The family pass covers up to four family members, with the option to add more family members for an additional fee.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Season Passes</b>
2020	134
2021	180
2022	159
2023	180
2024	204
<b>Total</b>	<b>857</b>
<b>Annual 5-year Average</b>	<b>171</b>

**CLUBHOUSE RENTALS**

With year-round operations in the Clubhouse, there are a variety of organizations and groups renting the Community Room and Pro Shop. Rentals include class reunions, graduations, baby showers, bridal showers, holiday parties, wedding rehearsals, birthday parties, celebrations of life, and meetings. There were 169.25 hours of paid rentals and 229 non-paid rentals in 2023-2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). Non-paid rentals are traditionally from Parks and Recreation meetings or classes and use by other City of Ames departments for meetings and trainings. Through November of the current fiscal year (July 1, 2024-November 2025) there are 52.75 paid rental hours reserved, which will continue to increase.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Paid Rental Hours</b>
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	122.5
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	199.25
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	169.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>491</b>
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>163.67</b>
July 1, 2024 – Present	52.75

**GOLF SPECIALS**

Homewood offered “Parents/Grandparents and Children” (17 and under) discounted golf each Tuesday, 12:00-3:00 PM, and Sunday, 4:00 PM-close throughout the season. The discounted greens fee rate per person was \$10. Attendance of Parent/Grandparent and Children pairs varied throughout the season, with a total of 139 discounts given. July had the highest number of pairs playing with a total of 43. The table below shows the number of participants per month. Feedback for the discounted days was positive, describing it as a fun and inexpensive way to spend time with each other.

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
<b>Parent/Child Participants</b>	0	7	39	43	24	19	7

There were three “Free Days” throughout the 2024 season including Mother’s Day (May 12), Father’s Day (June 16), and Youth Day (August 4). On those dates’ mothers, fathers, and youth under 17, respectively, play for free if they were accompanied by a paying family member or adult between 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. A total of 33 free rounds were played, with the bulk of free play occurring on Father’s Day with a total of 20 participants.

Homewood Golf Course implemented a new Youth Rate for ages 17 and under. They pay an adjusted green fee of \$12.00. A total of 489 youth took advantage of this special. Staff plans to continue this rate in 2025.

## **LEAGUES**

### **Men’s League**

Homewood Golf Course organized a Men’s League on Monday nights, April 29 - August 19. This league was open to golfers of all levels, as handicaps are assigned. Weekly contests were held with prizes to create a fun and competitive environment. A total of 18 teams, or 36 players, participated this season. Feedback was very positive. Participants enjoyed the league and are excited for the 2025 season.

### **Couples League**

Homewood Golf Course also organized a Couples League on Tuesday nights, April 30 - August 13. This league was open to golfers of all levels. Couples League is intended for socialization, improving golf skills, and having fun! A total of 14 couples participated this season. Participants enjoyed the social aspect and had fun with the variety of games.

### **City League**

Homewood Golf Course hosted City League on Wednesday afternoons, April 24 - August 7. City League is composed of City of Ames employees from various departments as well as family and friends of city employees. Various city staff organized the league and handled match assignments, designated handicaps, and tracked scores. This serves as an opportunity for City staff and families and promotes socialization outside the workplace.

### **Homewood Ladies League**

Homewood Golf Course hosted Homewood Ladies League on Thursday mornings from May 2 - August 29. Homewood Ladies League is composed mainly of senior and retired women who golf for socialization and improving their golf game. This year the league saw a range of 20-30 women participate weekly. League organizers handle all match

assignments, designate handicaps, and track scores. After teams complete the match, participants return to the Clubhouse to socialize on the patio and enjoy food and beverages. On the final day of play, the league organizes a luncheon and hosts their annual meeting at the Clubhouse.

### **Youth Golf League**

Homewood Golf Course hosted a Youth Golf League on Wednesdays in June and July. Youth League is for youth aged 8 to 18 and open to all skill levels. Youth League offers an end of year party and awards ceremony with prizes and food. Participants pay a reduced green fee of \$12 each week. The Youth Golf League had 19 participants in 2024. Staff also instructed participants on basic golf etiquette (i.e., safety on the course, no running on greens, how to fix a ball mark, how to fix a divot, etc.).

### **GOLF LESSONS**

Parks and Recreation partnered with Nichole Hollinger to offer youth golf lessons at the end of the 2024 summer. These lessons are instructed at Veenker Golf Course on the driving range for ages 6–9-year-olds and 10–14-year-olds. There was a total of 11 participants. Staff is currently working with her to continue offering golf lessons in 2025.

### **SURVEY RESULTS**

A survey was sent directly to 236 Homewood season pass holders, punch card pass holders, and league participants. The survey was also available through the Parks and Recreation weekly newsletter and posted on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. A total of 77 people completed the survey. Of the responses, 54, or 70% of the respondents, were passholders. Attachment A provides detailed results from the survey.

### **WINTER PROGRAMS**

During the winter season, the Homewood Clubhouse hosts sessions of Euchre, morning Cribbage, and evening Cribbage **Card Leagues**. Session 1 takes place November – December and session 2 will be January – March 2025. Session 1 Euchre has 26 people registered, morning Cribbage has 8, and evening Cribbage has 12.

Santa will also be visiting the Homewood Clubhouse on Saturday, December 7 as part of the **Homewood for the Holidays** event. Children will have the opportunity to take a picture with Santa, complete a holiday craft, and enjoy donuts and juice.

**Paint with a Twist** will be offering an instructor led painting class on December 7 and February 15. Participants will create their own masterpiece to take home.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Attracting New Users Groups**

Group outings for businesses and organizations have been increasing in the past year. Homewood Golf Course hosted golf outings for Automatic Systems, Ames Home Builders, WesTech, ISU Alumni Band, ISU Athletic Training, a fraternity event, and Pivot Bio. These outings are a great way to attract first time or infrequent users. To reach more new users, staff will be working on marketing strategies to ensure information about the Clubhouse and Course offerings are known throughout the community.

### **Communication**

Face to face communication, e-mails, social media, information posted at the facility, and phone calls have been the primary communication tools used by staff to communicate information to users about the course. Staff continues to investigate the best and most effective communication tools to reach users. As shown in the survey results, users indicated their appreciation for the ability to book tee times online and check-in over the phone, which simplifies the process for the customer. The process to check-in over the phone was implemented due to the pandemic and has continued to be a positive customer service practice.

## **THINGS TO CONTINUE**

### **Non-Traditional Staffing**

The 2024 season staff consisted of twelve non-traditional staff members (i.e.: retired or working professionals). This has been a staff trend at Homewood since the pandemic.

### **Pre-Season Meeting with Leagues**

Management met with each league prior to the first day of official play (March 11) to discuss the season's expectations and rules. These meetings present the opportunity for league participants to express their ideas and individual league desires to management. This resulted in increased communication and clear understanding of goals and expectations.

### **Communication with Leagues**

Men's and Couples League received weekly email communication from management regarding updated scores and handicaps as well as general information related to upcoming matches. Scorecards were available when players checked in with matchups, starting hole, handicaps, and weekly format. Management will continue to focus on improving effective communication for the 2025 season.

### **Online Reservations**

Survey results indicated that people enjoyed the option of being able to reserve their tee time on the City of Ames website. There is an ongoing opportunity to educate golfers that

the online reservation system is available. Management will investigate options for increasing awareness of our online booking option.

## **COURSE MAINTENANCE SEASON SUMMARY**

The 2024 season was a great year for turf conditions at Homewood. There was pretty good moisture for most of the season, besides the month of October. This season, 3.5 million gallons of water was pumped for course operations, which is well below average.

This season over 20 tons of sand was used to fill divots on tee boxes. With the high volume of play experienced, filling divots is one of the most important things we do. This helps keep grass playing surfaces available all season long. The high volume of play is also the reason hole 9 tee box was renovated late last fall. The new area of tee surface came in well and after some tree work this coming winter there will be close to double the amount of tee space for customers to use on this hole.

## **STAFFING**

Three seasonal employees work with the Turf Maintenance Supervisor along with full-time Maintenance Workers to complete all specialized work on the course, including but not limited to large irrigation repairs, aerification, equipment repairs, and chemical applications. The Homewood seasonal staff also takes care of all turf maintenance at Inis Grove Park, Carr Park, and the River Valley parks.

This season was one of the most successful seasons with hiring of seasonal staff. A couple of teachers were on staff to help during their summers off, and we hope to retain them for future summers. Staff was also able to find a person that wanted to work only weekends this summer. This was a huge benefit for the Turf Maintenance Supervisor and crew not having to work as many weekends this season. Recruiting success was also found with Iowa State students to work this fall, so the Turf Maintenance Supervisor could focus efforts on other areas around town.

## **MAINTENANCE PRACTICES**

Daily maintenance activities at the course include mowing, tee service (trash removal, filling divots, moving tee blocks), sand bunker raking, turf trimming, and cutting new pin locations.

The following table outlines mowing practices for the course.

<b>Mowing Practices</b>			
<b>Location</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Turf Height</b>	<b>Total Area</b>
Tees	3x/week	0.7"	0.57 acres
Fairways	3x/week	0.7"	7 acres
Greens	6-7x/week	0.125"	1.04 acres

Rough	1-2x/week	2.5"	29 acres
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## **Cultural Practices**

To maintain excellent turf suitable for daily golf activities, core maintenance practices are implemented. This practice includes aerification and chemical applications for the prevention of diseases, pests, and weeds.

Aerification includes making holes in the turf to alleviate compaction and thatch, two major components of poor turf health. Sand is incorporated into the holes as part of the aerification process to allow water to penetrate the root system. Greens and tees are aerified twice per year, and the fairways and rough once per season. This season a service was used to slice the greens surface during the hot stretch of the summer. This allowed oxygen and water to move through the top layer to the root zone to create healthier growing conditions for the turf.

The chemical spray program consists of utilizing chemicals during certain times of the growing season to prevent diseases, pests, and weeds from damaging the turf. In 2024, the greens were sprayed every 14 days starting in mid-May and ending in September. Fairways were sprayed once for crabgrass prevention, grub control, and post emergent weeds (dandelions, clover, and other broadleaves). The fairways usually receive three applications for disease prevention and two fertilizer applications. The chemical program conducted for the tees is the same as the fairways, except the tees receive an additional fertilizer application. All fertilizer applications at Homewood do not contain Phosphorous.

## **Irrigation**

Homewood has an irrigation system with approximately 260 irrigation heads dispersed around the greens, tees, and fairways. The water used for irrigation is supplied by a well located northeast of the clubhouse. Last fall it was noticed the pump check valve was failing and allowing water pumped into the system to leak back out and into the well. This caused our pump to run more than needed and was also causing more wear and tear on the system. This spring the check valve was replaced and in turn saved water and electricity. This repair also was a big part in having less irrigation breaks throughout the season. Irrigation fixes overall were down drastically from the previous years. As mentioned, an overall total of 3.5 million gallons of water was released from the irrigation system this season.

## **Equipment**

Homewood has many pieces of specialized equipment to maintain the turf for golf activities. The equipment for mowing rough areas were new this season and ran well. This off season the fairway mower will be replaced. The prices of turf equipment have risen drastically over the past few years, and will require the use of reserve funds to cover the shortfall in the escrow account for this mower.

## **Course Damage and Stealing**

Major damage to the golf course was avoided this season, although staff still deal with many minor occurrences of damage done to the turf. Theft was down drastically this year compared to previous years

## ATTACHMENT A

### Homewood Golf Course

#### 2024 User Survey Summary At-A-Glance

<b>General Operations</b>	<i>Always or Regularly</i>	<i>No Response</i>
The facility is professionally operated.	95%	0

<b>Course Conditions</b>	<i>Excellent or Good</i>	<i>No Response</i>
Rate the overall condition of the golf course	97%	0

<b>Rate the quality and cleanliness of the following areas</b>	<i>Excellent or Good</i>	<i>No Response</i>
Clubhouse	100%	0
Golf Carts	40%	56%
Golf Course	100%	0

<b>Staff Members were friendly and helpful</b>	<i>Always or Regularly</i>	<i>No Response</i>
Clubhouse	96%	0
Maintenance	99%	0

#### **Patron quotes from survey when asked “What did you like most about the facility and want to see continued in 2025?”**

- Course is always in excellent condition and I’m sure that will continue with the staff you have
- Couples league was a great way to meet new people
- For the amount of play the course receives, the course is in great condition. Trash is always at a minimum and greens and fairways well maintained
- Maintenance is superb
- Lots of leagues, rates are good, pass are convenient and good price and most staff friendly and helpful
- Culture of professionalism, fun and so helpful
- Online scheduling is appreciated
- Very happy with youth league
- Course maintenance staff and clubhouse staff are excellent





# Homewood Golf Course & Clubhouse

## 2024 Season Recap

# 2024 Season Overview

- March 11 – November 8
  - Open 243 days
- Eight full days affected by inclement weather





Rounds  
Played

Year	Rounds Played
2020	15,205
2021	18,151
2022	18,769
2023	23,189
2024	25,959
<b>Total</b>	101,273
<b>Annual 5-year Average</b>	20,255



Passes Sold

Year	Season Passes
2020	134
2021	180
2022	159
2023	180
2024	204
<b>Total</b>	<b>857</b>
<b>Annual 5-year Average</b>	<b>171</b>



# Clubhouse Staffing

# Golf Specials

- Discount Days – Tuesdays and Sundays throughout season
- Free Days – Mother's Day, Father's Day, Youth Day
- Youth Rate (New) – 17 and younger pay \$12.00 for green fees
  - 489 participated



## Golf Leagues:

- Men's League
- Couples League
- City League
- ISU Ladies League
- Homewood Ladies League
- Youth Golf League
- New 2025 League,  
Sixty Forward Golf League





## Youth Golf Lessons

- Hosted at Veenker Driving Range
- Instructed by Nichole Hollinger
- 11 total participants
- Plan to offer more in 2025







# Clubhouse Rentals

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# Winter Programs

- Euchre – Monday evening
- Cribbage – Wednesday mid-morning and evening
- Paint with a Twist
  - December 7
  - February 15
- Homewood for the Holidays
  - December 7
  - Santa and Craft





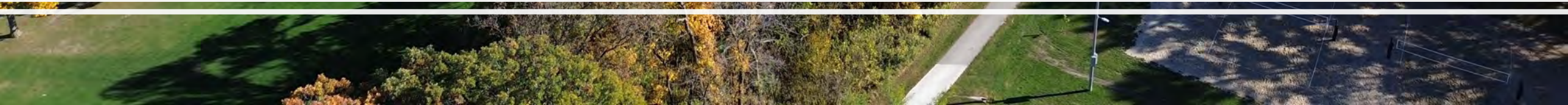
# Roots after Aerification



Photo provided by : Kevin Buck



Conditions Going Into Winter





Conditions Going Into Winter



# #9 Tee Area Project





**Great Conditions All Season**

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Questions?



## COMMISSION ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: AGREEMENT WITH AMES CYCLONE AQUATICS CLUB (ACAC) FOR USE OF THE 50 METER BASIN AT THE FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER (FAC) FOR PRACTICES**

**BACKGROUND:**

A proposed Use Agreement for the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center between the City and Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club (ACAC) is attached. This agreement stipulates the terms ACAC shall comply with while using the Furman Aquatic Center (FAC) for its practices.

This agreement allows ACAC use of the 50-meter basin at FAC from May 26, 2025, until August 1, 2025, for practices. In 2024, the transition to a flat rate rental cost for ACAC was established, per ACAC's request. In prior years, each ACAC practice participant was required to purchase a season swim pass. The purchase of the season swim pass was considered a form of payment for ACAC pool use. In 2024, City staff and ACAC representatives discussed options and developed the following flat rates to be implemented for the 2024 season (\$75.00 per hour) and seasons thereafter. The flat fee for 2025 follows the same structure outline, with the only difference being the anticipated hours of use going from 98 to 100 due to ACAC hosting their Rock the Blocks Swim Meet at the Ames High School Pool on Saturday and Sunday only in 2025, allowing them to practice one additional Friday then in years past. See the table below describing the rental rate per year, rain or shine.

ACAC Rental Rate			
Year	Rate Per Hour	*Anticipated Hours of Use	Total Payment
2025	\$ 78.00	100	\$ 7,800
2026	\$ 82.00	100	\$ 8,200
2027	40% of rental rate	100	TBD based on rental rate

\*Anticipated hours of use will be discussed annually when developing the annual agreement and Furman Aquatic Center schedule.

The change from the season passes payment method to a flat rate worked well in 2024, and both the City and ACAC agreed to continue.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the agreement with the Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club to use the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center from May 26, 2025, until August 1, 2025, for practices in the amount of \$7,800.

2. Do not approve the agreement.
3. Refer the agreement back to staff.

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Over the years, City and ACAC staff have spent many hours reconciling which ACAC members have bought passes, and which have not. Going to a flat rate was an easy to administer process that provided both entities with the known cost of renting the 50-meter basin before the season started. Additionally, both parties agreed this structure worked well in 2024 and have the desire to continue as outlined for 2025 and seasons thereafter. Therefore, staff recommends Alternative #1, approving the agreement granting the Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club use of the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center from May 26, 2025, until August 1, 2025, for practices.

**CITY OF AMES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
AGREEMENT WITH AMES CYCLONE AQUATICS CLUB (ACAC)  
REGARDING USE OF THE FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER**

Agreement made this 21 day of November 2024, between the Ames Cyclone Aquatics Club (ACAC) and the City of Ames Department of Parks and Recreation (Department), 515 Clark Ave., Ames, Iowa.

The parties agree that the following rules apply to the use of eight lanes of the 50-meter basin at the Furman Aquatic Center (Facility) by ACAC:

1. No smoking, vaping, tobacco, alcohol, or narcotics are allowed at the facility.
2. During practices at Furman Aquatic Center, other than water, food and drink is not permitted on deck. On Fridays or days when swim lessons are not being conducted, ACAC is permitted to bring in food and/or snacks for ACAC participants. No glass will be permitted inside the facility gates.
3. ACAC must leave the facility in a clean, useable condition. Additionally, coaches are required to walk through the locker rooms at the end of each practice to assure they are left in an acceptable manner.
4. All lane lines must be placed by ACAC, per the City's direction, at the end of practice.
5. ACAC must provide a first aid kit containing at minimum the requirements set forth in Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Rule 15.4(4) f (4): Band-Aids, sterile 4"x4" bandages compress, self-adhering gauze bandages, disposable gloves, chemical cold press. All coaches and/or staff acting in a lifeguard capacity must carry Adult CPR mask with valve, infant CPR mask with valve, two pairs of nitrile gloves. Acting lifeguard shall be identifiable.
6. ACAC coach or assistant coach is responsible for ACAC activity at all practices. ACAC shall provide the City a list of responsible coach/coaches that will be onsite.
7. In accordance with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Rule 15.4(4) d.4, ACAC shall have on duty during all practices a supervisor who has current certification in American Red Cross Lifeguarding or equivalent, as recognized by IDPH. This supervisor(s) serving as the lifeguard(s) cannot be a swimmer who is practicing or participating in a meet. There must be at least one designated lifeguard always guarding practice in the 50-meter for up to 30 swimmers in the water; for over 30 swimmers in the water, there must be at least 2 lifeguards on duty. Copies of valid American Red Cross Lifeguard certifications shall be provided to the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Aquatics Manager prior to the first facility use and must be current for the duration of the contract.
8. The Parks and Recreation Department staff will provide access to the Furman Aquatic Center and remain on site during all scheduled usage. The facility will open 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Swimmers must not enter the water until the designated rental time and a coach and/or supervisor is on duty as outlined in item #7. ACAC swimmers and coaches must entry the facility through the front main gates. Access through the west emergency access gate will not be permitted.

9. ACAC covenants and agrees to hold the City of Ames, its officers and employees harmless and to indemnify them against each and every claim and demand of whatever nature made by or on behalf of any person or persons resulting from or arising out of any activities or omission arising out of the use of the Furman Aquatic Center on the part of ACAC, its agents, servants, invitees and employees, and for such purpose ACAC agrees to carry liability insurance naming the City of Ames, its officers and employees as Additional Named Insured, such insurance to have limits of not less than \$500,000 combined single limit per occurrence.

ACAC further agrees to file a Certificate of Insurance with the City Manager’s Office, City of Ames, evidencing that such insurance has been furnished, and that the same will not be cancelled without ten (10) days’ notice to the City of Ames. This Certificate of Insurance must be filed prior to the first day of practices.

10. ACAC shall be responsible to and shall reimburse the City of Ames for any damage to the facility or equipment occurring during use of such by ACAC.
11. The table below describes the flat rate fee for ACAC Practice Use of Furman Aquatic Center (50-meter basin) for 2025 and seasons thereafter. The flat rate will be paid in full, rain or shine. Rates will gradually get ACAC to achieve the rental rate of 40% of the total per basin rental fee per hour for the facility. It should be noted that the cost of a basin rental for the 2025 at Furman Aquatic Center is projected at \$205.00/hour.

<b>ACAC Rental Rate</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Rate Per Hour</b>	<b>Requested Hours</b>	<b>Total Payment</b>
2025	\$ 78.00	100	\$7,800.00

The rental rates for future seasons are described below.

<b>ACAC Rental Rate</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Rental Rate Per Hour</b>
2026	\$82.00
2027 and beyond	40% of the facility rental rate per basin per hour.

12. ACAC agrees to abide by all other swimming rules and regulations, as established by the State of Iowa Department of Public Health, Story County Environmental Health, City of Ames Department of Parks and Recreation, and US Swimming Association.
13. Failure to abide by any of the terms of this agreement, as determined by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, shall result in the loss of the use of the facility by the individual member(s) or ACAC for a period of one week from the date of noncompliance. Any subsequent noncompliance shall result in the loss of the use of the facility by the individual member(s) or ACAC for the rest of the season.

14. This agreement allows the use of eight lanes of the 50-meter pool of the Furman Aquatic Center from May 26, 2025, to August 1, 2025, Monday-Friday. ACAC will provide the two outside lanes (1 & 8) from 9am-9:30am for City use. Other arrangements will be discussed on a case-by-case basis with ACAC and City representatives. The Lazy River, Splash Pool, and the grassy hill are not available for use by ACAC. It is understood that the City of Ames may hold other programming and/or activities in other areas of the facility during ACAC's practice times, as described below. ACAC will be responsible for the hours requested, rain or shine. ACAC is to notify the City in advance if they intend to not utilize the facility on one of the days outlined below.

<b>FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER (subject to weather)</b>		
<b>Season</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>ACAC Times</b>
Summer 2025	Monday-Friday Monday, May 26, 2025 – Friday, August 1, 2025	7:30am-9:30am
<b>Notes:</b> -From 9:00am-9:30am Monday-Friday, two outside lanes (1 & 8) must be available for City of Ames swim lessons and/or trainings.		

**City of Ames Contact**

Name: LeAnn Hawk  
 Title: Aquatics Manager  
 Email: leann.hawk@cityofames.org  
 Phone: 515-239-5352

**ACAC Contact**

Name: Mike Petersen  
 Title: Head Coach  
 Email: coachmike@swimacac.com  
 Phone: 515-450-8432

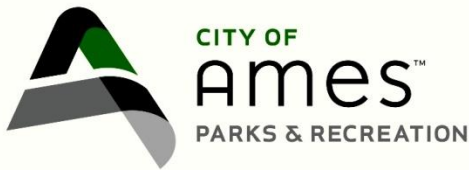
DATED AND EXECUTED AT AMES, IOWA, THIS 21st day of November 2024.

The City of Ames, Iowa  
Parks and Recreation Commission

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Grantee: Ames Cyclone Aquatic Club

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Doug McCorkle, Board President



## **Park Policies**

**Park hours** -- 6:00AM to 10:30PM daily.

**Alcoholic Beverage Use** -- Keg beer is NOT allowed in any park. Beer and wine are allowed in Brookside, Inis Grove, McCarthy Lee, North & South River Valley and Moore Memorial Parks. Alcohol beverages of any kind are not allowed in any other park areas.

**Pets** -- Pets must be leashed at all times.

**Pet Waste** -- Pet owners need to be responsible and are required to clean up after their pets.

**Fires** -- Allowed in grills only.

**Horses** -- Not Allowed

**Snowmobiles** -- Not Allowed

**Trapping/Hunting** -- Not Allowed

**Bikes** -- Not allowed in Munn Woods, East River Valley, Audubon Trail, Skate Park and on the five foot walkway in Brookside Park

**Park Structures/Bridges/Equipment** -- It is unlawful to utilize any structure and equipment for any purpose or in any manner other than for its intended use.

**Vehicles** -- Limited to roadways.

**Skating/Skateboarding** -- Not allowed on the tennis courts.

**Tobacco** -- There are no tobacco products allowed in any of our facilities, including the park system. (Iowa Code Chapter 142D Smokefree Air Act)

**Electronic Smoking Devices** -- The use of electronic smoking devices in all areas and facilities within the park system is prohibited. This includes parking areas.

*Enriching lives by providing excellent parks, facilities and programs to current and future generations.*

## City of Ames Park Policies

### Park Hours:

- 6:00 AM – 10:30 PM Daily (**Sec. 19.11. City of Ames Municipal Code**)

### Alcoholic Beverage Use:

- Keg Beer is prohibited in all parks (**Sec. 17.17. City of Ames Municipal Code**)
- Beer and wine are only allowed in Brookside, Inis Grove, Emma McCarthy Lee, North & South River Valley, and Moore Memorial Parks. (**Sec. 17.17. City of Ames Municipal Code**)

### Bicycles:

- Not allowed in Munn Woods, East River Valley, Audubon Trail in Brookside Park, and Skate Park (**Sec. 19.12. City of Ames Municipal Code**)

### Damaging Plants:

- It is unlawful to willfully cut, rake, damage, destroy, or interfere with any trees, shrubs, flowers, bush or other planting, or building, structure of other facility within the public park or recreational facility. Interfering with park structures or facilities is specifically defined to include persons being on top of park shelters; placing picnic tables in water, using them as sleds, or placing them on top of shelter; and jumping or diving off pedestrian bridges. (**Sec. 19.8. City of Ames Municipal Code**)

### Fires:

- Allowed in grills only

### Firearms

- It is unlawful for any person to have in their possession or under their control in any public park, pleasure ground or recreational facility or the city a BB gun, pellet gun, bow and arrow, sling shot, or any other device for throwing a projectile of any kind. (**Sec. 19.10. City of Ames Municipal Code**)

### Fishing:

- State of Iowa Fishing Regulations apply
- No gas boat motors on the lake or on the premises at Ada Hayden Heritage Park (**Sec. 19.19. City of Ames Municipal Code**)
- Anglers assume sole responsibility for their safety related to ice fishing
- Any equipment/tool powered by petroleum (augers, generators, etc.) is not allowed.
- Equipment/tool powered by liquid propane is allowed.
- Ice fishing huts may not be left in the park overnight
- Fishing from bridge at Ada Hayden Heritage Park is prohibited (**Sec. 19.20. City of Ames Municipal Code**)
- No person shall dump live fish bait into the water of the lake at Ada Hayden Heritage Park (**Sec. 19.18. City of Ames Municipal Code**)



**Horses:**

- Not Allowed

**Motorized Vehicles:**

- Limited to roadways and parking lots **(Sec. 19.9 City of Ames Municipal Code)**
- Vehicles shall be parked on hard surfaces only
- Overnight parking is prohibited in all parks

**Park Structures/Bridges/Equipment:**

- It is unlawful to utilize any structure and equipment for any purposes or in any manner other than for its intended use

**Pets:**

- Pets must always be on a leash unless at the City of Ames Dog Park **(Sec. 3.103. City of Ames Municipal Code)**
- Pet owners are responsible and are required to clean up after their pets **(Sec. 3.119. City of Ames Municipal Code)**
- Dogs are prohibited at Homewood Golf Course while the course is open for play **(Sec. 19.13. City of Ames Municipal Code)**

**Skatepark:**

- No person shall use or have in or on the City Skate Park any type of bicycle, scooter, coaster, unicycle, sled, vehicle or other device except for skateboards and in-line roller skates **(Sec. 19.14. City of Ames Municipal Code)**

**Skating/Skateboarding:**

- Not allowed on tennis and pickleball courts

**Snowmobiles:**

- Not allowed **(Sec. 17.29. City of Ames Municipal Code)**

**Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices**

- Parks are tobacco and vape free.

**Trapping/Hunting:**

- Not allowed unless approved through the Urban Deer Hunting Program

ITEM #: 36  
DATE: 11-12-24  
DEPT: P&R

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:** MINI-PITCH COURT AT LLOYD KURTZ PARK (3710 HYDE AVE)

**BACKGROUND:**

City Council has directed staff to construct one Mini-Pitch Soccer Court at Lloyd Kurtz Park (3710 Hyde Ave.). This mini-pitch project is classified as a public improvement due to the anticipated dollar amount of the project and requires engineered stamped drawings and review from the City's Development Review Committee (DRC). City staff contracted with Clapsaddle-Garber Associates, Inc. (CGA) for survey work, which was completed in April 2024. After the survey was completed, City staff worked with CGA to develop a scope of engineering services to provide plans and specifications for the Mini Pitch Court and a contract with CGA was executed in July 2024. DRC reviewed 90% drawings on August 7, 2024 and provided minor comments regarding the plans.

At its September 24, 2024, City Council approved plans and specifications for the Mini-Pitch Court at Lloyd Kurtz Park (3710 Hyde Ave) and set October 23, 2024 as bid due date and November 12, 2024, as date of public hearing and award at the September 24, 2024 City Council Meeting. The work to complete the project was divided into four separate bid packages, described in further detail below.

**BID RESULTS:**

On October 23, 2024, bids for the project were received and are described below along with the bid amounts.

**Bid Package 1:**

The base bid for Bid Package 1 includes concrete and grading for the mini-pitch pad with a sidewalk connection to Bloomington Road. Add Alternate 1 is for adding a sidewalk from the mini-pitch court to the existing north shelter and pathway. Add Alternate 2 includes concrete for a new water drinking fountain to the south of the mini pitch. Add Alternate 3 is for installing a sidewalk from the mini-pitch to the Stonebrook Community Church existing parking lot.

<b>Bid Package #1 - Concrete and Grading</b>				
<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Base Bid Amount</b>	<b>Add Alternate 1 Bid</b>	<b>Add Alternate 2 Bid</b>	<b>Add Alternate 3 Bid</b>
Caliber Concrete	\$149,213.12	\$29,574.15	\$3,675.00	\$ 3,675.00
Woodruff Construction	\$205,700.00	\$43,700.00	\$ 500.00	\$21,700.00

**Bid Package 2:**

Bid Package #2 includes the modular system for the mini-pitch court (fencing, goals, benches, gates), Musco lighting, and acrylic surfacing. The engineer's cost opinion (ECO) for this package was \$150,000. Staff has contacted potential bidders and heard from one company that there was a

miscommunication and a bid was not submitted. The company told staff that they would submit a bid if this package is reissued. **Staff recommends reissuing this bid package.**

<b>Bid Package #2 - Mini-Pitch System, Lights, and Acrylic Surfacing</b>	
<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Base Bid Amount</b>
No Bids Received	\$ -

**Bid Package 3:**

Bid Package 3 is for work to bring electrical wiring to the mini-pitch light system from Bloomington Road. Bid Option 1 is to integrate Musco lighting poles, lights and controls with a Musco mini-pitch modular system. Bid Option 2 is to integrate Musco lighting poles, lights and controls with a non-Musco mini-pitch modular system, as the enclosures and spacing for lighting may be different based on the modular system selected.

<b>Bid Package #3 - Electrical</b>		
<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Bid Option 1</b>	<b>Bid Option 2</b>
Van Maanen Electric Inc	\$ 7,610.00	\$32,695.00
Klein Construction	\$ 7,648.00	\$13,265.00
NAI Electrical Contractors	\$10,400.00	\$14,122.00

**Bid Package 4:**

Bid Package 4 includes water service to be pulled from Hyde Ave to the location of the proposed drinking fountain location on the south side of the mini-pitch court. There is the possibility of securing a grant for this cost, but funds have already been allocated for 2024. Information for funding in 2025 will be made available in late January.

<b>Bid Package #4 - Water Service</b>	
<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Add Alternate 4</b>
Ames Trenching	\$11,080.00

**BID RESULTS COMPARED TO ENGINEER'S COST OPINION (ECO):**

Below is a breakdown of the total project cost based on bid results in comparison with the ECO. The base bid includes the grading and concrete for the mini-pitch pad and sidewalk connection to Bloomington Road, modular mini-pitch system, lights, and acrylic surfacing, and pulling electric to the site from Bloomington Road.

<b>Engineer's Cost Opinion and Bid Results Comparison</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>ECO</b>	<b>Bid Result</b>	<b>Amount (\$) Difference</b>
Base Bid	\$287,746.00*	\$306,823.12*	\$19,077.12
Contingency (10%)	\$ 28,775.00	\$ 30,682.31	\$1,907.31
Site Survey	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -
Engineering	\$ 20,080.00	\$ 20,080.00	\$ -
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$338,401</b>	<b>\$359,385.43</b>	<b>\$20,984.43</b>

\*ECO and Bid Result costs for the Base Bid include the ECO for the Mini-Pitch Modular System at \$150,000.

**Current funding available is \$260,960. If Bid Package 2 comes in at \$150,000, as included above, there is a funding shortfall of \$98,425.43. Staff will present funding options to cover any shortfall at the December 10, 2024 City Council Meeting.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The City Council can do the following:
  - a. Accept the report of bids for bid packages 1, 3, 4 and delay awarding contracts at this time.
  - b. Direct staff to reissue Bid Package 2 - Mini-Pitch System, Lights, and Acrylic Surfacing.
  - c. Approve preliminary plans and specifications for Mini-Pitch Project at Lloyd Kurtz Park (3710 Hyde Ave) for Bid Package 2 - Mini-Pitch System; setting December 4, 2024, as the bid due date and December 10, 2024, as date of public hearing and award of all Bid Packages (1-4).
2. Do not proceed with this project.
3. Refer back to staff with direction as to how to proceed.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**The addition of a Mini-Pitch Court at Lloyd Kurtz Park will be a new, unique amenity within the park system and offer a new diverse recreational opportunity. Based on public outreach, the neighborhood is favorable to this project. Reissuing Bid Package 2 will allow staff to report to City Council on December 10, 2024 a comprehensive total project cost along with funding options.** Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative 1, as described above.



*Caring People ♦ Quality Programs ♦ Exceptional Service*

**TO: Keith Abraham, Director of Parks and Recreation**

**FROM: Staff**

**RE: Monthly Report November 2024**

### **PARKS AND FACILITIES:**

1. Staff completed winterizing all park bathrooms, water fountains, and irrigation systems.
2. The Iowa DNR stocked approximately 2,000 trout into the north lake at Ada Hayden Heritage Park as part of the Urban Trout Stocking Program.
3. Staff erected two outdoor ice rinks in South River Valley Park for the winter season. Like last year, one rink is set for hockey and the larger rink is only for free skating. Staff will fill the rinks when temperatures are low enough for ice making. Staff will provide updates of when the rinks are open on the Parks and Recreation website and Facebook.
4. Staff completed removal of the fishing dock and accessible canoe/kayak launch at Ada Hayden Heritage Park in preparation for winter.
5. Staff completed the installation of a concrete grill slab adjacent the main shelter at Ada Hayden Heritage Park. The goal for each shelter in the park system is to have all grills and trash cans on a concrete slab to continue the goal of making all parks trim free.
6. Staff visited Munn Woods to conduct the annual Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Monitoring Audit. The walk includes reviewing the woodland to ensure compliance with the conservation easement that is applied to the property.

### **RECREATION PROGRAMS:**

1. In October, the Ames/ISU Arena held 23 Public Skating sessions with 522 skaters participating and 326 skate rentals. A total of 123 skaters attended 17 Figure Freestyle sessions and 87 skaters attended 17 Stick and Helmet sessions.
2. In October, the Ames/ISU Ice Arena sharpened 58 pairs of public skates and hosted 3 birthday parties.
3. Homewood Golf Course had 2,391 rounds played in October, and 314 rounds played in the additional 8 days of operation in November. The final day of Homewood Golf Course was November 8, 2024.

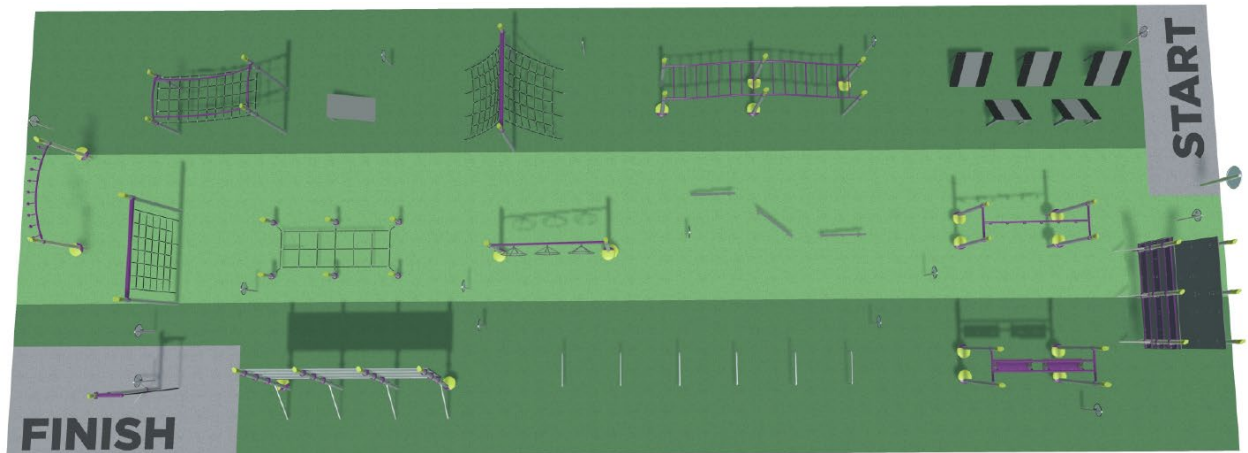
4. A Fitness session began on September 30 with 510 registrations.
5. A new session of TKD began Tuesday, October 15 with 130 registrations.
6. A new session Balance & Strength began on Monday, October 30 at Vintage Cooperative and had 9 registrations.
7. In the Auditorium:
  - a. Lutheran Church of Hope held four services in the month of October.
  - b. ISU Campus and Concert bands held a concert on October 13.
  - c. Central Iowa Symphony presented its first concert of the season on October 5.
  - d. Parks and Recreation offered 2 “Fifth and Clark” concerts as part of the fall concert series.
  - e. Story Theater Company held rehearsals for “Cinderella” throughout the month of October.
  - f. The Auditorium completed a video recording session with “Rhythmic Rewind Band” on October 8.
  - g. Cameron Grey hosted a film showing as part of the “We Glow in the Dark” series on October 29.
8. Registrations for youth basketball for this winter are shown below:

<b>Program</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball (Boys and Girls)	80 Participants	89 Participants	91 Participants

9. Tennis Lessons continue at the Ames Fitness Center Tennis Bubble with the most recent session having 28 youth and 7 adult participants.
10. A fall session of swim lessons was held at ISU State Pool on Sundays from September 29-November 17. A total of 155 registered for group lessons, and 4 private lessons were also held. The next session of winter swim lessons will begin January 19, 2025.

**PROJECT UPDATE:**

1. Staff held a final public input meeting with the neighbors of Carr Park in mid-October to present final plans for the project along with color options for the playground equipment and safety surfacing. The presentation included responses to concerns that were expressed by the neighbors at previous meetings. The neighbors that attended the meeting were excited for the project and appreciated that changes were made to the project (e.g. demolition of the bath house, removal of a mid-block crossing, utilize colors that will mesh with the surrounding landscape, and parking lot efficiency). Project specifications were distributed for bid on October 24, 2024, with bids due on November 27. Staff will present bids to City Council on December 10. The project is expected to be completed in 2025. The pictures below depict the color of the surfacing that was determined by the neighbors.



2. Bids for the Ames/ISU Ice Arena Radiant Heating Replacement Project are due on November 20. The project consists of replacing the radiant heating system over the stands and in the lobby of the facility. Project is to be completed by May 31, 2025.
3. Staff sent out a request for proposals for engineering services for the Ada Hayden Heritage Park Walking Path Replacement Project. A consulting firm will design a new path twelve-foot-wide path and install any necessary drainage. One of the goals during construction is to ensure to keep a walking loop open during the entirety of the project. The project is expected to take place in 2025.
4. City Council recently awarded a contract for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Parks and Recreation Parks Maintenance Shop Expansion Project to SVPA Architects Inc., West Des Moines, Iowa. This project includes the addition of a new cold storage facility and the renovation of portions of the current Parks Maintenance Shop.
5. Staff recently completed the renovation of two mini shelters at Ada Hayden Heritage Park. The renovations included new metal roofs, new picnic table boards, and new concrete slabs and walkways to make them ADA accessible. Pictured below are the two shelters. The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park have pledged to fund the renovation of two more mini shelters in 2025.

