

AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
City Hall Council Chambers – 515 Clark Avenue
Thursday, February 20, 2025

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 PM
2. Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2025
3. Public Forum (For items not on the agenda)
4. Motion Approving the Agreement with Mid-Iowa Lacrosse Organization, Inc.
5. Motion Approving the Agreement with Ames Youth Baseball.
6. Project Updates
 - a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center
 - b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza
 - c. Daley Park Splash Pad
7. Monthly Report
8. Commission Member Comments
9. Next Meeting:
 - a. March 27, 2025, at 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)
10. Adjournment

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

DATE January 16, 2025

COMMISSION PRESENT Sarah Cady, Jeff Iles, Janet Rathe, Duane Reeves, Nathan Shimanek, Debra Tapp, Jeff White

ABSENT None

STAFF Keith Abraham, Casandra Eames, Joshua Thompson

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:01 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: (Reeves/Iles) to approve the November 21, 2024, and December 5, 2024, minutes.

MOTION PASSED: (7-0)

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comments.

Cady noted the passing of Richard Deyo with an appreciation of his input during Commission meeting public forum, commitment to Ames, and concern for residents.

4. FY 2025/26 OPERATIONAL BUDGET

a. Budget Overview

Abraham gave an overview of department funding along with projected revenues and expenses. City Council approves the budget, he noted, and the Commission approves fees and charges. Staff's budget presentation to City Council occurs on February 5, 2025. Abraham reviewed department funding sources, noting most department activities are supported via General Fund. Enterprise Funds include Ames/ISU Ice Arena and Homewood Golf Course. Right of Way activities are supported by Road Use Tax Funds. Projected FY 25/26 expenses of \$5,521,011 against \$2,449,421 in revenue shows projected \$3,071,590 subsidy, or 56 percent, for the department, with 33 and 95 percent subsidy for Recreation and Parks, respectively. Forty-four percent cost recovery in Ames is better than the national cost recovery average of 21-22 percent. Abraham reviewed projected expenses, revenue, fund support, minimum fund balances, and unreserved fund balances for Ames/ISU Ice Arena and Homewood Golf Course. Both Enterprise Funds are healthy. Fees and charges will increase across 42 percent of activities and programs, down from 65 percent the previous year.

Parks and Recreation Admin priorities include Daley Park Splash Pad, Mini Pitch, and Agility Course projects; Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center; Ontario Park Master Plan; and conceptual design for a Rec Center. Instructional programming highlights include youth golf lessons, new camp partnerships, Sixty Forward opportunities, and partnerships for additional adaptive programming. Athletic highlights include Disc Golf, Sixty Forward partnership, and pickleball leagues. For Aquatics, Abraham highlighted increases in Water Safety Instructors, swimming lessons partnership with ISU, Fitch

Family Indoor Aquatic Center, Schainker Plaza and Daley Park Splash Pads, and additional Furman Aquatic Center programming. Wellness highlights include new classes, optional virtual classes, Sixty Forward Center classes, and new strength equipment at the Community Center weight room. For Homewood Golf Course, Abraham highlighted record rounds played, Sixty Forward golf league, Hole #9 bridge renovations, and Best of Story County recognition in 2024 for the course. Ames/ISU Ice Arena notable items include fee increases, third-party pro shop vending machine, live stream services, and a full-time Ice Arena Coordinator.

Thompson's overview of Park maintenance items included renovated mini shelters at Ada Hayden Heritage Park (AHHP), park shelter metal roof installations, a new utility task vehicle for AHHP, and LED lighting in restrooms and shelters.

Abraham thanked The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park group for its expertise and significant financial contributions benefitting users of the park. Iles spoke about numerous inquiries regarding establishing a friends group for Ontario Park. Abraham said inquiries should be directed to him, preferably soon, so staff could provide opportunities for the public to express interest in a friends group during public input sessions for Ontario Park, or via surveys, etc. Cady asked if a new friends group would form its own 501(c)(3) to take donations. Abraham said it could but would not have to form a 501(c)(3).

Reeves asked if the department budget includes cemetery, right-of-way, and other items that do not fall within Commission jurisdiction. Abraham said all items will be reviewed at the February 5, 2025, City Council meeting. The total budget is just over \$7 million.

b. Fees and Charges

Abraham reviewed current FY 24/25 and proposed FY 25/26 fees and charges, noting some take effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year, on July 1, while others take effect with the next session of a particular program or activity. [For the Auditorium, Community Center, and Bandshell, the Commission is approving the FY 26/27 fees.]

MOTION: (Shimanek/Iles) to adopt the revised fee schedule as listed for FY 25/26.

MOTION PASSED: (7-0)

5. STAFF REPORT – PARK POLICIES

Noting inquiries about what is allowed plus increased issues encountered in the parks system, Abraham spoke about a goal of working with the Commission and public to develop a more comprehensive list of park policies. These policies take the form of either ordinances (City Council approved, enforceable by Police, municipal infraction punishable by penalty) or rules (Commission approved, unenforceable by Police, not a municipal infraction carrying penalty). Rule violations may be reported to Police for support with the situation, he added.

Following the November 21, 2024, Commission meeting, staff gathered park policy information from other Parks and Recreation departments in Iowa and Kansas, finding most policies with similar categories along with other items not currently included in Ames Park Policies. Abraham highlighted several categories – Prohibited Acts, Parental Responsibility, Special Use Permits, Camping, Environmental Protection Concerns – and reiterated staff's focus on developing a clearly-formatted park policy document including both rules and ordinances.

Cassandra Eames, Engagement Coordinator, will lead public outreach on park rules and other feedback initiatives, including Ontario Park Master Plan and a recreation center. Additionally, other City departments, including Legal, Fire, Police, City Manager, will provide input on Park Policies. Abraham reviewed a timeline for gathering input (January-March), policy revisions (March-April), Commission (April-May) and City Council (May-June) presentations/review, and implementing new policies (July).

Iles asked if the Ames/ISU Ice Arena has its own policies. Abraham indicated most Parks and Recreation facilities have specific rules, with overlap. Staff does not wish to wrap facility rules into the broader park rules discussion. Tapp asked about children needing supervision in City parks. Abraham said there are no age restrictions or adult supervision requirements – it is not something staff can monitor or enforce. Rathe asked about children at Furman Aquatic Center. There, Abraham said, children under 10 years old need adult supervision in the facility, and adults must remain within arm's reach of children in the splash pool. Reeves asked about cross-checking to determine if policies are already covered by other laws or ordinances. Abraham said Legal will be involved to check. Shimanek appreciated the concise timeline and effort to bring stakeholders together. White complimented staff's policy research and to-do list.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center

On January 28, 2025, Story Construction and RDG Planning and Design will provide a quarterly in-person construction update to City Council, Abraham reported. City Council also receives monthly written updates. On December 10, 2024, City Council reviewed and approved in concept the items the Commission approved at its December 5, 2024, meeting, i.e., budget, proposed facility schedule, survey, and fee schedule.

b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza

Abraham indicated Terracon recently performed Ground Penetrating Radar evaluation of the ice ribbon. Test results may be available by January 24, 2025. Topographical survey work is still needed. The City's contracted concrete expert will use this information to evaluate Henkel Construction's four proposed solutions for correcting the unacceptable concrete surface. Staff hopes to bring this information to City Council in the next couple of months. That, along with exterior punch list review, will enable decisions about the facility's potential opening date.

c. Agility Course

Thompson reported contracts are signed with Caliber Concrete, general contractor for the project, and Outdoor Recreation Products, who furnished equipment installed at Miracle Park at Inis Grove. City staff will erect a shelter and install benches, grills, garbage cans, etc. Staff will meet with the contractor in the coming weeks to develop a project timeline, with a goal of completing construction by fall 2025.

d. Mini-Pitch

Abraham reported several bids came in for the mini pitch component, with low bid at just over \$100,000 against a \$150,000 budget. On January 14, 2025, City Council approved awarding project contracts to Caliber Concrete for concrete and mini pitch installation, and to Van Maanen Electric for electrical work. Staff hopes City of Ames Public Works will do concrete testing. The project timeline will resemble the Agility Course project.

7. MONTHLY REPORT

Thompson reported:

- Two outdoor ice rinks in South River Valley Park, one for hockey and another for open skating, are open and available for use.
- The Christmas tree drop off site at 700 E 13th ST is available until the end of January.
- Park and right-of-way tree trimming work is progressing during the winter months.

Abraham reported:

- Ames/ISU Ice Arena held a New Year's Eve public skate with 120 participants.
- Homewood Clubhouse events included Painting with a Twist painting class, Homewood for the Holidays visits with Santa, and Euchre and Cribbage Leagues.

8. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Cady noted varied indoor and outdoor activity opportunities during January. She also provided information about boards and commission service, eligibility, and application submittal. Three Parks and Recreation commissioner terms expire in 2025, Abraham added. Iles and Tapp are eligible and wish to return for three-year terms, likely leaving only the single one-year term to fill.

Reeves thanked Cady for her earlier comments about Richard Deyo. Cady noted the community outpouring of support and affection following his death.

9. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 20, 2025, 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Shimanek) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

COMMISSION ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT WITH MID-IOWA LACROSSE ORGANIZATION, INC

BACKGROUND:

Parks and Recreation (P&R) staff was contacted by Mid-Iowa Lacrosse Organization, Inc. (MILO) in 2022 about an opportunity to offer Flex6 Lacrosse programs. In June of 2023, a Flex6 Lacrosse Clinic was offered consisting of two classes per week for three weeks. The clinic had a total of 8 registered youth participants in 2nd-8th grade. In 2024, the program had 14 registrations.

MILO and P&R are wanting to continue to partner to offer Flex6 Lacrosse Clinics in 2025. To increase participation, staff/MILO will increase marketing efforts and coordinate clinic dates with other activities to minimize conflicts and maximize participation opportunities.

Highlights of the agreement, Attachment A, are shown below.

- MILO provides the equipment and instruction for the program.
- City conducts registration and collects all fees.
- City retains 40% of all program fees paid, with 60% paid to MILO.
- Lacrosse programs to be held at Emma McCarthy Lee Park, or other City parks as agreed upon by the City and MILO.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the agreement with the Mid-Iowa Lacrosse Organization to offer a Flex6 Lacrosse program in 2025.
2. Do not approve the agreement with the Mid-Iowa Lacrosse Organization to offer Flex6 Lacrosse in 2025.
3. Refer back to staff.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

P&R staff are always looking for new activities. Flex6 is a great opportunity to offer an affordable, inclusive, and fun version of lacrosse to fuel the sport's growth, make it more accessible, and enrich the participant's experience. Flex6 utilizes a smaller field, less equipment, and is for mixed genders. This version teaches lacrosse fundamentals while remaining fast and exciting for the participants.

Therefore, staff recommends Alternative #1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT A

Ames Parks & Recreation Department Mid-Iowa Lacrosse Organization, Inc. Agreement 2025

Purpose:	The City of Ames ("City") will provide a quality lacrosse program by contracting with Mid-Iowa Lacrosse Organization, Inc. ("MILO") to provide instruction.
Leadership:	MILO will provide a minimum of one professional staff member to lead, supervise, and deliver lacrosse instruction. The City's Recreation Manager will also visit the program site periodically to offer feedback to the MILO.
Registration:	City will accept all program registrations and fees.
Registration Fees:	City will retain 40% of all program fees paid, with the balance of 60% being paid to MILO. Payments will be made to MILO after completion of each session.
Refunds:	If refunds are awarded, partially or in full, City or MILO will not retain or receive a balance percentage of the refunded amount. Refunds will be approved by City and follow City refund practices.
Fee Determination:	The City and MILO will discuss lacrosse program fees annually. Fees must be approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission prior to implementation.
Lesson Plan:	MILO will be responsible for creating and implementing all lesson plans each session held. Sessions will consist of 2 classes per week, for three weeks. Each class will be a duration of minimally one hour each.
Partnership Roles:	City will be responsible for handling all registration, providing fields and storage, if necessary. MILO will be responsible for providing instructor(s), necessary equipment, and developing class curriculum. Both organizations will coordinate to market each program prior to registration and develop marketing material.
Equipment:	MILO will supply all necessary equipment to play Flex6 lacrosse.
Location:	This program will be held at Emma McCarthy Lee Park (3400 Ross Rd) at the open field east of the tennis courts. Alternate City Park location may be determined if agreed upon by City and MILO.

Inclement Weather:	If a class needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, a decision will be made between the City and MILO at least 60 minutes prior to classes beginning. The City's hotline and Facebook page will be updated immediately upon a decision being made. In the event the weather becomes inclement during class, class will be stopped, and participants moved to shelter. If any classes are cancelled due to inclement weather, City and MILO will discuss date and time options to reschedule. City and MILO will coordinate make up class dates within the session schedule in advance, pending staff availability.
Contracted Employees:	MILO will provide and be responsible for all staff members, and coaches must have completed background checks through USA Lacrosse.
Storage:	Storage at City Parks will be accessible by MILO staff, upon request by the Recreation Manager.
Insurance:	<p>The City and MILO will both carry liability insurance. MILO 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 MILO or City facilities and parks on the part of the MILO, its agents, servants, invitees, and employees, and for such purpose MILO 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.</p> <p>MILO 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 execution of this agreement.</p> <p>MILO staff is responsible for personal medical expenses.</p>
Private Organizations:	City will not administer private lacrosse programs or work with other outside lacrosse organization. Rather, all inquiries will be forwarded to MILO.
Program Evaluations:	City and MILO will conduct a joint program evaluation following each program.
Agreement Terms:	This Agreement shall become effective on the date this Agreement is signed by both parties and can be terminated by either party upon (60) day prior written notice. Terms of the agreement will expire December 31, 2025.

Contacts:

City of Ames
Ben Flaherty
Recreation Manager
515 Gateway Hills Park Dr.
Ames, IA 50014
ben.flaherty@cityofames.org
515-239-5367

Ames Lacrosse Club

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____

Email: _____
Phone: _____

DATED AND EXECUTED AT AMES, IOWA, THIS _____ day of _____, _____.

The City of Ames, Iowa
Parks and Recreation Commission

By: _____
Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Grantee: Mid-Iowa Lacrosse Organization, Inc

By: _____
Mid-Iowa Lacrosse Organization, Inc

Its: _____

COMMISSION ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT WITH AMES YOUTH BASEBALL FOR USE OF THREE FIELDS (7, 8, & 9) IN BROOKSIDE PARK

BACKGROUND:

For many years, Ames Parks and Recreation Department (APR) and Ames Youth Baseball (AYB), formerly Ames Little League, have had a good working relationship regarding AYB using baseball fields in the parks. In 2014, AYB and APR developed an agreement governing responsibilities related to the maintenance and upkeep of the fields and it is updated and approved annually.

This is the eleventh year AYB will be using all three fields in Brookside Park. This agreement, shown as Attachment A, allows Ames Youth Baseball priority use of fields 8 & 9 (no charge) and field 7 (rental fee required) from April 1, 2025, until November 1, 2025.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the agreement with Ames Youth Baseball regarding use of fields 7, 8, & 9 in Brookside Park from April 1, 2025, to November 1, 2025.
2. Do not approve the agreement.
3. Refer the agreement back to staff.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There has been a long-standing relationship with Ames Youth Baseball regarding use of baseball fields in the parks. This document clarifies and documents each party's responsibilities for 2025.

Therefore, it is recommended the Parks and Recreation Commission adopt Alternative #1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT A

CITY OF AMES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AGREEMENT WITH AMES YOUTH BASEBALL CONCERNING USE OF THREE FIELDS (7, 8 & 9) IN BROOKSIDE PARK.

THIS AGREEMENT is being entered into between the City of Ames (hereinafter referred to as "City") and Ames Youth Baseball (hereinafter referred to as "Grantee") for the use of three fields (7, 8 & 9) in Brookside Park.

Both parties agree to comply with all City of Ames Park Policies. The parties further agree to the terms below concerning the use and the space of Fields (7, 8, & 9) at Brookside Park as follows:

1. The City hereby grants to the Grantee the privilege and rights for use of Fields 7, 8, & 9, located at Brookside Park in the City of Ames, for the period from April 1, 2025, to November 1, 2025.
2. The City will mow the infield, outfield, and surrounding turf beyond the fences on Fields 7, 8, & 9 used by Grantee at 3.5 inches. Grantee personnel has permission to mow the infield turf on fields 8 & 9 inside the fences below 3.5 inches, but not less than a minimum height of 2 inches, using a walk behind mower not furnished by or property of the City. City staff will trim around all fences, dugouts, and batting cages.
3. In the event of damage incurred by the City or outside parties, excluding Grantee, the City will provide all necessary means to repair the facility to its original design.
4. In the event of damage, above normal wear and tear, incurred by Grantee and or affiliates, Grantee shall be responsible for and shall reimburse the City for any damage to property of the City.
5. It is the responsibility of the Grantee that Fields 8 & 9 are groomed and safe for Ames Youth Baseball affiliated events (games, practices, tryouts, etc.)
6. The Grantee shall keep Fields 7, 8, & 9 and surrounding grounds for fifty (50) feet around all sides of the Fields free of debris, papers, and trash at all times. The City is responsible for removal of trash from receptacles placed in the parks.
7. If and when the City and Grantee agree improvements are necessary to Fields 8 & 9, the City and Grantee will agree in regard to cost sharing between both parties.
8. The Grantee covenants and agrees to hold the City, 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 Fields of the Grantee, its agents, servants, invitees and employees. For such purposes, the Grantee agrees to carry liability insurance naming the City, its officers and employees as Additional Named Insured, such insurance to have limits of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence. The Grantee 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 canceled without ten (10) days' notice to the City. This Certificate of Insurance must be filed prior to the execution of this agreement.

9. All equipment necessary to host an event shall be furnished by Grantee or affiliated parties. Equipment to be furnished includes, but is not limited to, bats, balls, gloves, uniforms, and protective equipment. On fields 8 & 9, equipment also includes bases, pitching rubber, homeplate, etc.
10. The City will place one portable toilet in the western part of Brookside Park, accessible for individuals using the park. No charges will be issued to the Grantee for use of the portable toilet. (Please refer to attachment A.)
11. The Grantee shall not make permanent changes or improvements to the premises without the express written consent of the City. Any such improvement shall become the property of the City without compensation to the Grantee.
12. The City will furnish all structures and in-place equipment to the Grantee from April 1, 2025, to November 1, 2025. For Fields 8 & 9, material costs pertaining to maintenance and/or construction of player dugouts or structures of necessity to Grantee will be sole responsibility of Grantee. All material costs pertaining to maintenance and/or construction of player dugouts or structures on Field 7 will be sole responsibility of City.
13. All playing surface material (ag-lime, Turface, field dry, etc.) necessary for field renovation may be kept in piles at a City approved location near the playing fields off of hard surface and turf areas for a maximum of seven days. After the seven days, playing surface material must be spread by Grantee or Designated Contractor with Certificate of Liability Insurance on file with the City Clerk's office. All playing surface material necessary for daily field upkeep must be stored at an offsite location. The City will set aside a location on City property for a stockpile of field aggregate at a maximum stockpiled amount of 10 tons. The City will deliver playing surface material a maximum of twice per month on request from Grantee.

- 14.** The City shall be responsible for applying two applications of granular fertilizer per year on Fields 7, 8, & 9 used by Grantee. One application will be done before June 1 and one application will take place after September 1.
- 15.** The City shall be responsible for all foliar chemical applications (weed control, fungicide, etc.). Applications will only be done on an as needed basis.
- 16.** Field maintenance equipment owned and operated by Grantee at Fields 8 & 9 must be housed at an offsite location not on City property.
- 17. Field Use:**
 - a.** First priority shall be given to Grantee regarding Fields 8 & 9 reservations. Fields 7 reservations for the upcoming year will be based on field use from the previous season. The Grantee has priority for dates and times of scheduling for Grantee affiliated events. To guarantee all Field reservations, Grantee must submit requests to the City by April 1 of each calendar year. All Field reservations shall be reserved through the City by contacting the Community Center at 515-239-5350.
 - b.** For all other events, priority is given to the City to reserve for groups or organizations not affiliated with Grantee.
 - c.** If and when Fields 8 & 9 are not reserved, any individual or group outside of Grantee may use Fields 8 & 9 free of charge and in accordance to City Park Policies.
- 18.** The Grantee shall not assign this agreement or sublet the premises without the express written consent of the City.
- 19.** Failure to abide by any or all the terms and conditions addressed in this agreement, as determined by the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, shall result in loss of the use of fields 7, 8, & 9 by Grantee, up to and including termination of this agreement.
- 20.** Grantee is required to pay all associated rental fees for use of Field 7. City will provide all field maintenance, including grooming, chalking and/or painting of base lines, batter's boxes, bases, and pitching rubber.

The City or Grantee may terminate this agreement by providing written notice of said termination to the other at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of termination. The City reserves the right to terminate this agreement within seven (7) calendar days of written notice if the Grantee does not perform the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Dated and executed at Ames, Iowa, this 20th day of February, 2025.

The City of Ames, Iowa
Parks and Recreation Commission

By: _____
Chairperson

Ames Little League
Grantee

By: _____
President



Caring People ♦ Quality Programs ♦ Exceptional Service

TO: Keith Abraham, Director of Parks and Recreation

FROM: Staff

RE: Monthly Report February 2025

PARKS AND FACILITIES:

1. Staff cleared snow on park trails and shared use paths in early February. Residents are reminded limited maintenance is performed on trails and should use caution when using trails throughout the year.
2. With the recent snowfall, staff was able to roll the trails at East River Valley for cross country skiing. Unfortunately, the snowfall wasn't significant enough to lay down "classic" tracks for skiers. In the event there is more snow accumulation, there will be enough snow base to groom tracks on the trails.
3. The Iowa DNR stocked the north lake at Ada Hayden Heritage Park in late January with approximately 2,000 rainbow trout. The stocking was not publicized as there were concerns with the stability of the ice.
4. Staff has been cutting woody vegetation around the lake at Ada Hayden Heritage Park over the past few weeks to open up views of the lake from the path, but most importantly to control the invasive nature of the vegetation in the park. Staff will continue cutting woody vegetation in other areas of the park system during February and March.

RECREATION PROGRAMS:

1. In January Ames/ISU Ice Arena held 16 public skating sessions drawing 1,823 skaters. Figure freestyle sessions saw 110 skaters across 17 sessions, while 98 skaters participated in 16 stick-and-helmet sessions. The arena also hosted seven birthday parties and sharpened 60 pairs of skates.
2. A new session of fitness classes kicked off on January 6 at the Community Center with 492 in-person and 28 virtual registrations.
3. Sixty Forward welcomed 131 fitness class registrations for the session beginning in January.
4. A new fitness class at Vintage Co-operative began with nine participants.

5. Yoga Basics began on January 12 with eight participants. Tae Kwon Do classes saw strong interest with 108 registrations. West Coast Swing kicked off on January 22 with 16 dancers, and Beginner Line Dance followed on January 27 with 11 participants.
6. The winter session of swim lessons at State Gym Pool started with 220 participants.
7. Homewood clubhouse hosted three rentals in January—two for birthday parties and one for the Cross-Country Ski Clinic.
8. The Winter session of Euchre and Cribbage launched, with 28 individuals playing Euchre, 13 joining morning Cribbage, and 12 participating in evening Cribbage.
9. The Youth Dance and Gymnastics Recital Session began with 46 dancers and 74 gymnasts preparing for their April recital at the City Auditorium.
10. K-2 Basketball started on January 21 at Kate Mitchell Elementary, bringing 35 young players together for skill-building and fun.
11. Smart Start Basketball started on January 18 at the Community Center with 33 participants eager to learn the game.
12. Four Duckpin Bowling Clinics were held at Sixty Forward drawing a total of 31 participants
13. The following were held in the Ames City Auditorium:
 - a. Hope Lutheran Church held four worship services.
 - b. Competition teams from Performance Dance, Motivate Dance, and Dancenter Dancer rehearsed.
 - c. Parks and Recreation hosted Munk Rivers & Kensett as part of the winter concert series.
 - d. The City assisted with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on January 20.

PROJECT UPDATE:

1. Play-Pro Recreation, Clive, Iowa, recently completed installing new playgrounds and two-bay swings at Bandshell and Stuart Smith Parks. Staff installed a pea gravel base and Engineered Wood Fibers for the safety surfacing. When weather allows, staff will install a concrete border and connecting paths to ensure accessibility to the new playgrounds. Projects will be completed sometime this spring.
2. The City of Ames has contracted with WHKS, Inc., Ames, Iowa, to complete the design and engineering specifications for the Ada Hayden Heritage Park Path Replacement Project. Staff met and discussed project goals including keeping a portion of the path open during construction as well as ways to ensure the park areas outside of the

construction zone will not be disturbed during construction. WHKS will complete the design process later this spring and plan to send out bid documents sometime in May/June. Depending on the bids received, the project may be completed later this year or in 2026.