

2023 - 2024 State of the Parks Report

July 2, 2024

Creating Pathways to Employment

2023 Internships	# Hosted
Right Track	6
YAPSCA: Ain Dah Yung	7
Conservation Corps	3
Ampact Climate Corps	2

2024 Internships	# Hosted
Right Track	1
Young Adult Career Academy	7
Conservation Corps	3
Ampact Climate Corps	2
Green Corps	1
Ramsey County Progressive Internship	1

Cultural Liaison

Phoebe McGowan

- New position created in 2024
- Building relationships with racially and ethnically diverse residents and organizations by recognizing the culturally specific interests these communities have with nature.
- Phoebe's role is to connect racially and ethnically diverse community groups to outdoor programming as well as being an advocate for BIPOC communities' values, interests, and needs.



Parks & Trails Division Highlights



Tamarack Nature Center Programming

- St. Paul Public Schools Early Learning Partnership.
 - 70 classes
 - 1,380 students
- Full summer day camp program.
- Adding a 3 days-a-week, all-day class to nature pre-school.

Winter Recreation Area Programming

Sold over 3,300 passes last season

Harding Senior High School - 2 visits

Johnson Senior High School - 2 visits

Wilderness Inquiry assist with lessons.

Battle Creek Elementary School -

80 kids skied, three days each, a total of 240 collective hours on the snow.

- 92% students of color
- 66% free/discounted lunch



Paddleshare Kiosks

Self-serve paddle rental stations

6 Locations:

- Long Lake Regional Park
- Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park
- Vadnais-Grass Lake
- Tony Schmidt Regional Park
- Keller - Spoon Lake
- Lake McCarrons County Park

Equipment Available for Rent:

- Kayaks, paddles, life jackets
- Discount deals available to promote, and drive equitable use



Parks Wins National Innovation in Equity Award

BIPOC-designed art panel

Simple, positive, user-friendly rules

QR Code for information

Avenza to take maps on the go

Mesh to post notices & information



Artists Witt Siasoco, Marlena Myles and CRICE (Artists Xee Reiter and Andrés Guzmán not present) with the five art designs and full sign kiosk

Soil & Water Highlights



260 SITES VISITED

116 DESIGNED

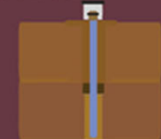
55 INSTALLED

WATER QUALITY PROJECTS



16 OBSERVATION WELLS MONITORED

33
WELLS SEALED



50 ACRES - TURF TO NATIVE PRAIRIE

400 ACRES - OAK WOODLANDS MANAGED

384
CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS



6,200 WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS

19 LAKE SURVEYS - AQUATIC BIOVOLUME, BATHYMETRY

16 WATER BODIES MONITORED FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



AmeriCorp/ClimateCorp trip to Washington



Natural Resource Updates

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects

- Woodland and savanna restoration to preserve old growth oak ecosystems (280 acres in 2024)
- \$1 million in grant funding in the past three years to manage invasive species (over 500 acres)

Increased Wildlife Surveys and Structures

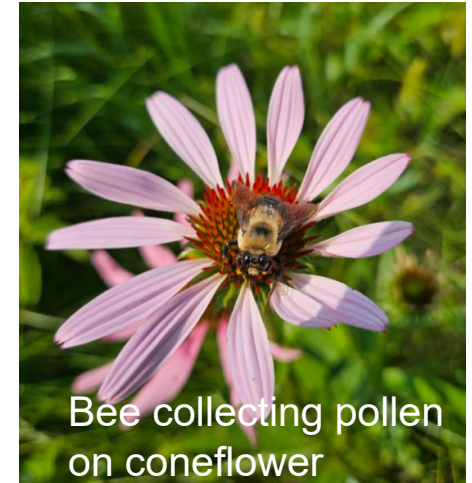
- Monitoring of bluebird & kestrel boxes
- Bird banding & surveys at restored prairie site at Long Lake Regional Park

Increasing Workforce to Assist with Efforts

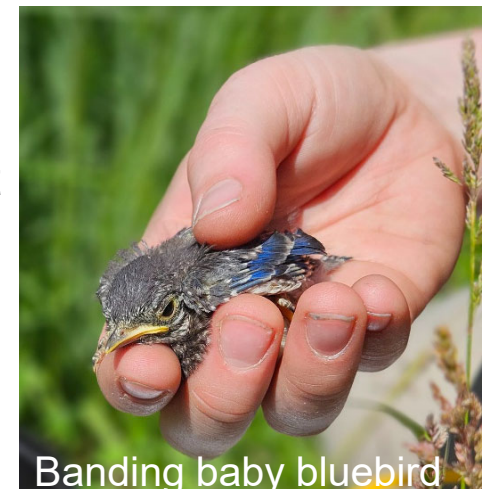
- 4-person Conservation Corp crew for invasive species management
- Partnering with Soil & Water division, city of Saint Paul, city of Maplewood, & Ramsey - Washington Metro Watershed District 5,300 Ash tree to complete shoreline restorations

Ash & Hazardous Tree Removal and Replacement

- 5,271 hazardous trees inventoried in our system
- Projected \$2 million needed to remove diseased trees.



Bee collecting pollen on coneflower



Banding baby bluebird

Arena Operations

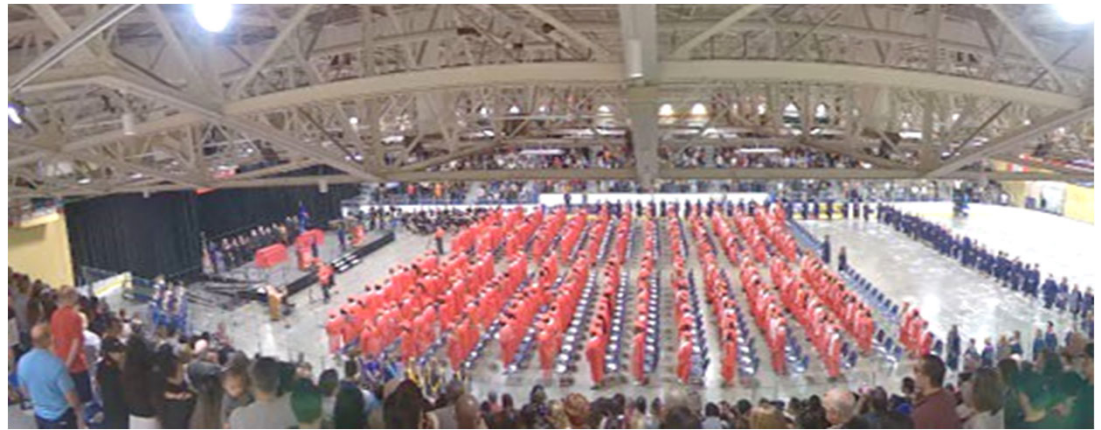
- Infrastructure Needs – Refrigeration upgrades, energy reduction, updates to accommodate multiple uses
- Community engagement for White Bear, OJ and Shoreview arenas with youth hockey associations
- Hosted 2024 Boys Hockey Consolation games for State Tournament at Aldrich Arena
- Total ice rented at all arenas in 2023: **20,413 hours**
- Turf rented at TCO Sports Garden in 2023: **6,600 hours**



Aldrich Arena Community Events and Rentals

Arena Events

- Union Meetings
- Dog Show
- High School Band Concert
- Latinx Concerts
- Quinceañera Celebrations
- Wedding Reception
- High School and College Graduations



Parking Lot Events

- Wednesday Morning Farmer's Market
- Maplewood Spring Household Clean Up
- Bicycle Safety & Learn to Ride
- Hmong Flea Market
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- MN Wild Street Hockey Game
- MN Wild Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway



Golf Operations 2023

Keller

- 34,100 rounds
- Achieved Audubon re-certification
- Cart paths and bunker project
- Renewed operator contract
- Operational Profits \$749,904

Goodrich

- 34,425 rounds
- Renewed operator contract
- New siding and painting of clubhouse
- Operational Profits \$290,058


Island Lake


- 21,096 rounds
- Junior golf program
- New golf operator
- Clubhouse refresh
- Operational Profits \$89,727

Manitou Ridge

- 31,962 rounds
- New golf operator
- Clubhouse refresh
- Operational Profits \$190,858

2024 Golf Bus Bench Advertising

 **Come play a round.**

Check out a  To learn more, scan or visit

Driving Range

 **Venga a dar una vuelta.**

¡Descubra uno de los campos de golf o de práctica  Escanee el código QR o visite ramseycounty.us/Golf

Campos de práctica

 **Tuaj ntaus ua si ib lwmm.**

Mus saib Nroog Ramsey ib lub tshav ntaus golf los sis ib lub chaw xyau ntaus golf kom ya deb!

Yog xav paub ntau tshaj qhov no, xoo (the QR code) los sis mus xyuas ntawm ramseycounty.us/Golf

Cov Chaw Xyau Ntaus Golf Kom Ya Deb	Kev Qhia Cov Neeg Laus thiab Cov Tus Ntxhais Hluas Ntaus Golf	Kev Sib Tw Ntaus Golf Rau Neeg Laus thiab Cov Tus Ntxhais Hluas	Plaub Lub Tshav Ntaus Golf
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Golf Course Projects

2024: Goodrich Golf Course

- Irrigation system replacement
- Bunker replacement
- Ash tree removal
- Cart path replacement

2025: Manitou Ridge Golf Course

- Forward tee boxes
- Irrigation system replacement
- Bunker renovations
- Ash tree removal

Irrigation Replacement Benefits:

- Irrigation last updated in 1995 at Goodrich
- Installed in 1978 at Manitou with upgrades in 2002
- Energy savings – new systems draw less power
- Labor savings – significant annual repairs currently needed
- Environmental benefits – up to 25% reduction of water use

Planning & Development Projects



Bruce Vento Trail Extension

- 2.7-mile Trail Extension (Buerkle Road to Hoffman Road/Highway 61)
- Project Funding: \$10 million

Estimated Project Timeline.

- Construction Start – Late fall 2024
- Completion – Winter 2025

Battle Creek Waterworks Renovation

- Project Funding: \$5 million

Estimated Project Timeline.

- Anticipated Construction Start – Fall 2024
- Anticipated Construction End – June 2025



Tuj Lub Court Renovation

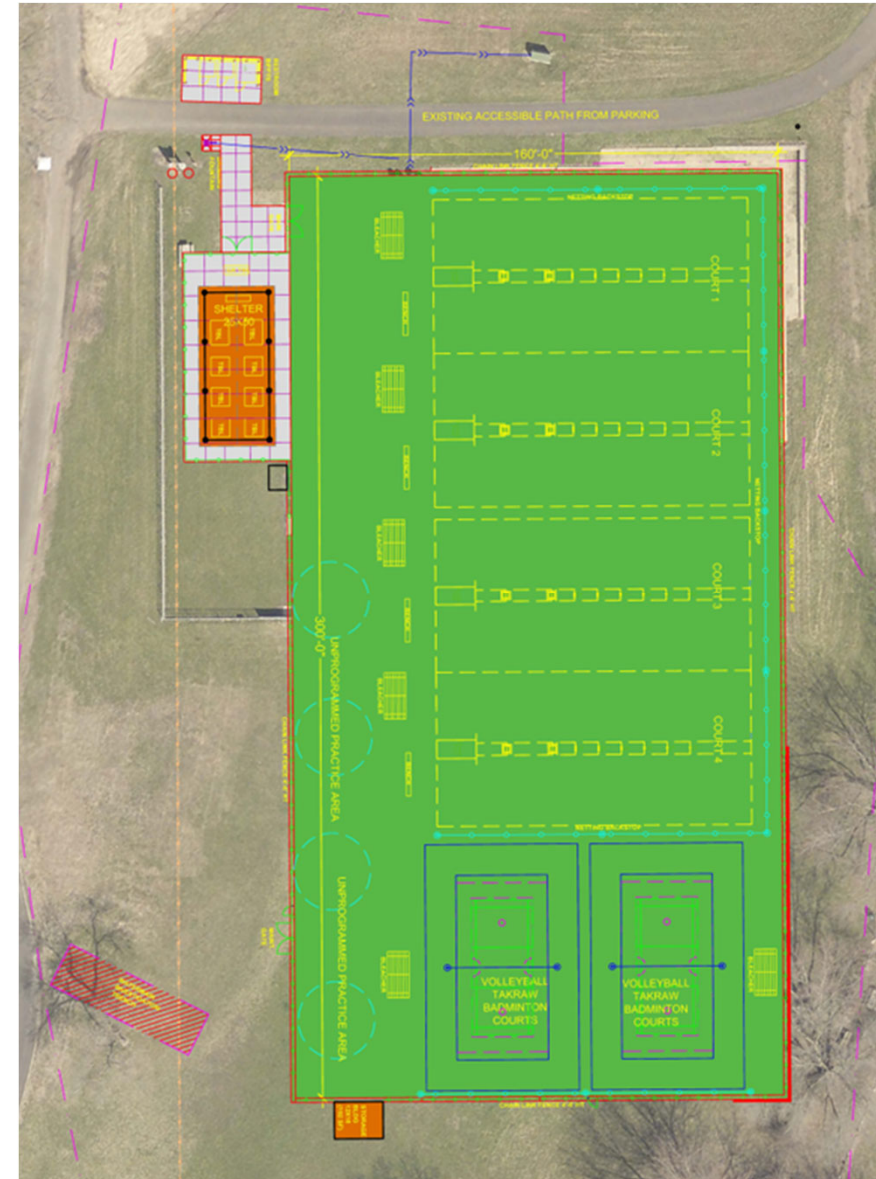
Keller Regional Park

- Reconfigured Court, Artificial Turf, Field Lighting, Shade Shelter, Bleachers, Sepak Takraw Courts, Badminton, Volleyball, Portable Restrooms.

Project Funding: \$2.6 million

Estimated Project Timeline..

- Anticipated Construction Start – Fall 2024
- Anticipated Completion – Spring 2025



Pigs Eye Lake Island Building Project

Construction Update (End of 2023)

- All island bases are constructed.
- Island bank protection installed.
- Underwater berm features installed.
- Topsoil was installed on two islands and seeded.



Park & Recreation Commission Tour – August 2023



Island Construction – November 2023

Construction Activities (2024)

- Topsoil to be installed on remaining islands.
- Remaining island seeding.
- Native seeding and willow plantings.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Members 2023-2024

Thank you
for your service to Ramsey County

Members:

Chair: Gregory Williams

Vice-Chair: Brian Tempas

Jordan Nelson

Dr. Tamara Mattison

Mary Grams Basnight

Mike Sachi

Reier Erickson

Linda Duck

Harold Harvey

***Thank You for Your Support of
Parks & Recreation***