

Park & Recreation Commission Item

May 27, 2025



Item	2025 Lake Ann Park Summer Programs
Item No:	G.1
Agenda Section	<u>GENERAL BUSINESS</u>
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SUGGESTED ACTION

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The summer of 2025 is approaching, bringing with it a renewed sense of energy and anticipation. Lake Ann Park continues to serve as a central hub for seasonal activities and community engagement.

The concession/watercraft rental building will be open daily from Saturday, May 24 through Sunday, August 17, operating between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Concessions and watercraft rentals will be available between 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays as part of the Summer Concert Series events. The Concert Series (sponsored by Old National Bank) offers free musical performances on Thursdays June 12 - July 31, and will be held at Lake Ann Park while its standard location at City Center Park is under construction as part of the Civic Campus Project. Staff will also evaluate the popularity of Thursday evening rentals on non-Concert Series days, to see if later evening service should continue in future years.

We are pleased to announce that JT Rathbun will serve as the Concessions Manager for the upcoming summer season. JT brings valuable experience to the role, having worked at the Lake Ann concession stand during the 2024 season and served as a rink attendant during the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 winter seasons. Known for his reliability, strong communication skills, and work ethic, JT will be a tremendous asset to our team. In his role, he will be responsible for coordinating staff schedules, managing supply orders, and overseeing day-to-day operations.

Staff is pleased to announce that paddleboards will once again be available for rent at Lake Ann this summer. The City will continue its partnership with Grey Duck Outdoor to provide eight paddleboards for public use. All rentals will be managed by City staff, with revenue shared between the City and Grey Duck as part of the existing agreement.

Staff is excited to introduce Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) Yoga classes, offered Thursday mornings on July 17, 24, and August 7, 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The class fee is \$25, or \$35 with a paddleboard rental. Participation is

limited to eight individuals per session to maintain a quality, small-group experience. Certified yoga instructor Tracey Souvignier will lead the classes, combining traditional yoga with the unique balance and movement of paddleboarding.

Staff continues to actively process picnic shelter reservations, with many weekends already fully booked. Limited availability remains, and it is anticipated that over 100 picnics will be scheduled this season, generating more than \$15,000 in revenue. Lake Ann Park features two reservable covered shelters, Klingelhutz Pavilion and Lakeside Pavilion—while Lake Susan Park offers one reservable shelter.

The swimming beach at Lake Ann Park will not be staffed with lifeguards this summer. The beach will remain open to the public during standard park hours, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., but will operate as an unguarded facility.

In October 2023, the Minnetonka School District notified city staff that they would no longer be able to provide contracted lifeguard services due to limitations in their professional liability coverage, resulting in the termination of the existing agreement. In response, staff explored alternative options—including new contractors and the development of an in-house lifeguard program—per the direction of the Park & Recreation Commission and City Council. However, due to ongoing challenges with insurance requirements and staffing shortages, neither option proved feasible. As a result, the 2024 season at Lake Ann Beach was operated without lifeguards. Despite this change, the City received minimal public concern regarding the unstaffed beach. Based on this experience, the City plans to continue operating Lake Ann Beach without lifeguards for the upcoming season.

Lake Ann Park is expected to be a hub of activity once again this summer. With its wide range of amenities, staff is committed to delivering a high-quality experience for all park users. We welcome any feedback or suggestions to enhance our current services and offerings.

DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS