

Park & Recreation Commission Item

August 26, 2025



Item	Park Renovation Fund & Chanhassen Estates Mini Park Discussion
Item No:	G.1
Agenda Section	<u>GENERAL BUSINESS</u>
Prepared By	Jerry Ruegemer, Park and Recreation Director

SUGGESTED ACTION

Discussion

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The City of Chanhassen maintains a Park Renovation Fund, which is used for the replacement or repair of major park equipment and infrastructure (e.g., playgrounds, picnic shelters, hockey rinks, bridges, fences, court resurfacing, etc.). This fund is now supported by a dedicated property tax levy, which began in 2025 at \$100,000 per year, with the intent to accumulate funds for ongoing maintenance and replacement of park amenities. Prior to this, the fund relied on transfers from the General Fund as available and that generally totaled \$180,000 to \$250,000 annually.

DISCUSSION

The Chanhassen Estates mini park has been in our park system for more than 40 years and became a park because of a remnant water and sewer utility parcel. It's classified as a neighborhood park and is located at 55 Lake Drive East. This 1.78-acre park is located in Chanhassen Estates south of McDonald's. The park contains an open field, playground, and a half-court basketball pad. This is one of the few parks we have within our park system that doesn't have a dedicated parking lot, and "No Parking" signs are posted along Lake Drive, making it illegal to park on the street. The current playground was installed in 1994 and was scheduled for replacement in 2019. The replacement has been postponed due to other more pressing priorities, and to step back and ask some questions and analyze the reinvestment back into the park.

Analysis

- Condition of Facilities: Playground equipment/border require reinvestment
- Usage Trends: Park counts and observations indicate lower usage compared to nearby parks
- Proximity to Other Amenities: Rice Marsh Lake Park 1/2 mile away and provides alternative recreational opportunities for residents
- Financial Considerations: Estimated renovation costs \$80,000 - \$100,000 new playground/concrete border

Discussion

At this time, staff is not seeking formal action but is requesting Park and Recreation Commission feedback on the following questions:

- Should the city continue to maintain Chan Estates Park despite replacement costs and limited use?
- Should the city explore partial or full decommissioning, including removal of aging amenities and transition to open green space?
- Should alternative long-term uses for the site be studied?
- What level of additional community engagement would the Park and Recreation Commission like staff to pursue before bringing back a recommendation?

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS