Park & Recreation Commission Item

December 9, 2025

Item	Tree Lighting Ceremony Review
Item No:	H.3
Agenda Section	**REPORTS**
Prepared By	Priya Wall, Recreation Manager

SUGGESTED ACTION

SUMMARY

Staff will provide a review and evaluation of the 2025 Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 6 from 5-6 p.m. at the Chanhassen Recreation Center. City Council Member Haley Schubert will flip the ceremonial switch, illuminating the holiday lights at the Rec Center. December 6 shows a high temperature of 20 degrees, and staff expect a turnout of approximately 300 people. The Tree Lighting Ceremony is a popular holiday celebration that many people enjoy each year.

BACKGROUND

DISCUSSION

Refreshments
Local community group BuyChanhassen will coordinate food and beverage donations from the local business community. Thank you to Cub Foods and Lunds & Byerlys Chanhassen for donating cookies and hot cocoa for the event!

S'mores
The SouthWest Metro Chamber of Commerce will coordinate and provide s'mores for attendees to roast over small bonfires. This is always a very popular aspect of the tree lighting ceremony.

Bonfires
The Park Maintenance staff set up warm bonfires for all to enjoy. The fires are an excellent component

of the event and provide an option for attendees to warm up.

Santa Claus
The Mustard Seed Landscaping and Garden Center will arrange for a special visit by Santa Claus. Santa will appear out of his workshop, which was built by the Park Maintenance department. He will visit with the crowd, pass out candy canes, and pose for photos.

Live Reindeer
Two live reindeer from Kendallville Farm in Excelsior will make their appearance at the Tree Lighting. There will be a photo station for attendees to visit the reindeer and get family photos. Each year, many families enjoy the live reindeer at the event.

Carolers
Thank you to Living Christ Lutheran Church in Chanhassen for providing a group of 20 carolers for the tree lighting.

Bountiful Basket Food Shelf Donation Trolley
SouthWest Transit will bring its festive trolley to the event, which will serve as a station for Bountiful Basket Food Shelf donations. Thank you to SouthWest Transit for coordinating these donations.

Tour of Lights
Thirteen homes registered for this year's Tour of Lights. The interactive map will be live on the City website beginning December 6, allowing residents to tour the light displays on their schedule throughout the holiday season.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS
Expense Report 2025