

AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
City Hall Council Chambers – 515 Clark Avenue
Thursday, August 21, 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 July 17, 2025
3. Public Forum (For items not on the agenda)
4. Iowa Multisport Request to Host the Ames Triathlon on June 28, 2026, at Ada Hayden Heritage Park
5. Deer Hunting in Munn Woods Update
6. Park Policies Update
7. Capital Improvement Plan Timeline (Attached)
8. Project Updates
 - a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center
 - b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza
 - c. Ada Hayden Heritage Park Trail Replacement
 - d. Daley Park Splash Pad
 - e. Park Maintenance Facility Expansion
9. Monthly Report
10. Commission Member Comments
11. Next Meeting:
 - a. September 18, 2025, at 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)
12. Adjournment

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

DATE July 17, 2025

COMMISSION PRESENT Jeff Iles, Duane Reeves, Hannah Sappenfield, Nathan Shimanek

ABSENT Janet Rathe, Debra Tapp, Jeff White

STAFF Keith Abraham, Courtney Kort, Joshua Thompson, Katie Todd

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:01 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: (Reeves/Iles) to approve the May 15, 2025, and June 19, 2025, meeting minutes.

MOTION PASSED: (4-0)

3. PUBLIC FORUM

None

4. INTRODUCTION OF KATIE TODD, RECREATION MANAGER

On June 23, 2025, Todd joined the Parks and Recreation Department as Recreation Manager - Youth & Adult Activities. Todd spoke about her interest in recreation activities and background at Iowa State University, where she served for three years as Senior Coordinator of Aquatics and Youth Programs. She previously worked as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Ankeny.

5. MOTION RECOMMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE FRIENDS OF ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK REQUEST TO WAIVE ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITION OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES IN ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK

Abraham reviewed previous requests regarding use of golf carts to provide rides around Ada Hayden Heritage Park for mobility impaired individuals. He clarified that the Commission does not have authority to waive an ordinance but can recommend City Council do so. The planned tour schedule includes a special tour for the Commission and City Council. Due to shared use path replacement construction activities underway at the same time, the golf cart tours will focus on areas along the Upland Trail portion of the park, which will remain open.

Shimanek stated he has heard nothing but positive comments over years tours have occurred.

MOTION: (Iles/Sappenfield) to recommend Alternative 1, which states:

Recommend City Council waive enforcement of Ordinance 19.9 on Wednesday, September 10 (9:00 AM - 8:00 PM) and Thursday, September 11 (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM) at Ada Hayden Heritage Park to allow the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park to provide golf cart tours to mobility impaired individuals.

MOTION PASSED: (4-0)

6. DEER HUNTING IN MUNN WOODS AND EMMA McCARTHY LEE PARK

Abraham provided background on concerns about heightened deer population and the impact on residents and property. Issues include: damage to trees/plants/gardens; fencing, some unattractive and/or non-code compliant; potential increase in vehicle/deer crashes; and greater disease risk. A City Council request was referred to Police, who manage urban deer hunting. Chief of Police Huff indicated the matter should go to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review and to recommend City Council action. Abraham encouraged commissioners to receive initial public input but not make conclusions from a small sample. He suggested staff could take Commission direction to solicit more public input through the weekly email newsletter distributed to 12,000 park users and/or written information sent specifically to residents near or adjacent to Munn Woods. These efforts would help inform the Commission's decision at its August meeting.

Iles asked if deer roundup occurred before. Abraham indicated retired Chief of Police Cychosz started the urban deer hunting program 15-20 years ago. Deer hunting is allowed in certain areas of the park system and other public property during the established Iowa DNR hunting season and during specified hours. Abraham reported only 30 percent of available deer hunting permits are issued and, of those, only 30 percent are successful, which does not make a dent in the growing deer population. The problem is addressed in other ways elsewhere—e.g., snipers, immunocontraception—and sometimes Chronic Wasting Disease affects the deer population.

Sappenfield asked if information about alternative solutions would be included in public outreach efforts. Abraham said if the Commission directs staff to conduct a survey, staff would ask for specific questions commissioners want answered to help with its decision.

Reeves and Abraham discussed how deer hunting in the Munn Woods area would be different than other established hunting areas because of homes adjacent to one or more sides of the hunting area. Abraham said no real delineation of property lines could also be a concern.

Shimanek wondered if it would be useful to ask the Iowa DNR for help measuring deer population densities. He also pointed out with Jax Outdoor Gear closing, a resource for hunting proficiency testing would be gone. Abraham replied that perhaps Izaak Walton League would be interested in taking on proficiency testing. Chief of Police Huff supports a wintertime flyover to calculate deer population density, he added, as this has not been done recently.

Reeves asked if the deer problems open the question of needing a broader plan to manage urban wildlife. He cited complaints about geese, as an example. Abraham noted Ames has a great resource in Iowa State University wildlife experts. Staff could reach out to other Iowa communities to learn if others do wildlife management planning, Thompson added.

Max Rothschild, 511 Oliver Circle, a 45-year Ames resident, believes the deer population has increased "ten thousand-fold" over the 30-plus years he has lived on Oliver Circle. Where before one deer would be seen in a month, now deer are present daily – the Rothschilds observe herds of 15-25 deer in winter months – and have become "a terrible, costly, problem that ruins the neighborhood." The Rothschilds gave up planting their backyard. Some neighbors responded to deer damaging plants with "ugly, ineffective fences." He proposed bow hunting, a solution he views as considerably safer, as part of a two-step process: reduce deer numbers and then use some means to control reproduction. He commented on gathering survey data, noting the large survey area and advising if responses are not weighted it would be unfair to residents living closest to the deer. In contrast to the geese problem, he said, there are no natural enemies to deer in the area and nothing to control the population besides vehicles.

James Bernau, 3511 Oakland Street, spoke about the expense and frustration of being unable to protect property from damage. He suggested using White Buffalo, a professional deer culling service who would bring advantages of experience and liability insurance, benefits that may make neighbors more receptive to hunting as a solution. He encouraged including information about professional hunting in the public survey under consideration to help educate residents. Bernau indicated a willingness to contribute to the cost of hiring professional hunters to come in and help manage the deer population. Coming home in the evening to ten deer in a yard is not what Bernau expects living in an urban environment.

Kathy Schnable, 3629 Woodland Street, stated that the deer population is not only unpleasant for property owners but harmful to Munn Woods because deer damage new trees. She believes the City is responsible as the land manager to protect the forest ecosystem from an uncontrolled deer population, a threat to the forest perhaps as great as climate change, or even greater.

Iles stated he sensed urgency and a need to work quickly. He expressed worry about statistics and surveys, counting respondents equally, slow process, and perhaps giving disproportionate weight to those who happen to like deer in the landscape. Abraham indicated the goal would be to develop a survey and have it open for approximately two weeks. He agreed with Iles that it can be a challenge to find the right answer, to balance opposing views.

Reeves spoke about living west of Munn Woods and how the deer may simply move to his area. He mentioned neighbors with beautiful landscaping who bought their homes liking the idea of deer in the woods. He suggested taking a pragmatic approach and supported the idea of using skilled hunters. He added that he is nervous about rushing to action and “stepping on a balloon” – i.e., solving a problem in one area but moving the problem elsewhere.

Bernau stated he could construct a fence around his property but does not wish to be isolated. Reeves stressed compromise and perspective, with everyone having one vote. He reiterated support for professional hunters. Bernau stated underutilized deer hunting permits shows people do not want to jump through hoops to do the deer management offered in Ames, that the program is not working as intended. Abraham clarified the City’s urban deer management plan is bow hunting only.

Rothschild stated they love to see deer but not every day on their property. Front fences in Ames may be no more than four feet high and are easily jumped by deer. A rear fence may be six feet tall, which protects property but also obstructs the enjoyable view of the woods. Rothschild does not wish to get rid of deer. He seeks a pragmatic approach aimed at the middle ground—reduction, not elimination.

Sappenfield expressed concern about rushing a survey or other communication, hoping to avoid entrenchment in one position or another, making sure the context is spelled out thoroughly, and that alternatives are communicated and understood. She encouraged staff to do research and provide context in public outreach efforts.

MOTION (Sappenfield, with friendly amendment by Reeves; seconded by Iles):

Direct staff to gather more information from the public and professional stakeholders, and to look for alternatives for deer population management.

MOTION PASSED: (4-0)

7. DISCUSS PARK POLICIES SURVEY RESULTS

Abraham provided background on a recent park policies survey intended to gather feedback on park user experiences, needs, and public safety. Staff will use Commission direction and data from nearly 1,400 respondents to guide policy recommendations staff will prepare for a future Commission meeting. Abraham said the survey yielded a lot of information to help with policies, procedures, and work practices. Staff found the number of positive comments encouraging. He highlighted data on household park utilization, park visit frequency, knowledge of park rules, and bicycle and e-bike usage. Park walking was the number one reported activity. Safety concerns correspond with e-device usage. Eighty percent of respondents favor a speed limit, with 10 MPH suggested most often. Abraham discussed speed limit signs and reliance on self-policing.

Commissioner feedback on the survey results will be incorporated with staff recommendations. Abraham encouraged reflection on the problems to solve while using as a guide the mission of improving quality of life through safe park activities and experiences. He asked for comments on items commissioners would like to see staff address by changing, adding, or deleting park rules.

Sappenfield found it helpful to get the breadth of comments and a recognition that bike riders are not *the* problem. Instead, she observed, the issue is about trail etiquette for walkers, joggers, mobility device users – everyone – rather than banning or restricting one group. Abraham asked if commissioners wished to ban certain mobility devices – they did not.

Iles spoke about park signage, noting confusion about what ‘bicycles’ means and whether e-bikes are allowed. Abraham said sign updates are needed, in general, a huge, expensive undertaking that may need to be a Capital Improvement Plan line item. Funding sign updates through annual operating budgets would require phased replacement spanning years. Reeves noted the challenge of keeping signs current with rapidly evolving technology and devices. Shimanek discussed responsibilities as park stewards to maximize opportunities for people to safely enjoy the parks, and to deploy common sense to address emerging technology and emerging recreation, not having a sign every 10 feet, limiting things, or shutting people out.

Abraham suggested QR codes may be better for signage because up-to-date information would be managed on the backend with no need to physically change signs. Sappenfield supported an “all are welcome” approach that avoids banning specific personal devices and relieves the park user from parsing out what is allowed. She liked the QR code idea and suggested installing signs with etiquette basics, speed limits, and QR codes directing users to detailed park rules.

Shimanek expressed appreciation for the thoughtful public comments. He observed people want to use the parks and feel safe, which sounds perfect.

Sappenfield noted comments suggesting specific rules for certain locations. She favors consistency across parks for overall clarity and ease of management yet wondered about prioritizing sign installation and/or density at Ada Hayden. Abraham indicated the plan is for new signs to be installed at Ada Hayden by the time the trail replacement project is done. These signs would identify new policies and would be supported by an educational campaign.

Questions about dogs were removed from the survey to align with other staff recommendations. Abraham explained the Animal Control Supervisor advised that unleashed dogs should not be allowed in parks, that all dogs should be leashed with maximum six-foot leash length.

Abraham thanked everyone who took time to provide feedback by completing the survey.

8. PROJECT UPDATES

a. Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center

Since the Commission and City Council toured the site in June, wall framing is up, a very noticeable change, Abraham reported. Other updates: wellness and lap pool work is progressing well, and rec pool work will likely begin soon; diaper changing tables were relocated from the two universal locker rooms to lobby restrooms; a roll-in shower will be available in one universal locker room; non-natatorium window installation is underway; job trailers moved to the west to allow for stormwater control and lighting basin digging on the east side of the parking lot, creating an opportunity for more soil samples and testing. No contaminated soil or ground water has been found so far.

b. Steven L. Schainker Plaza

Staff continues to work through a potential resolution for the ice surface, with a few items left to resolve. Abraham indicated more information is forthcoming. Staff awaits a report on identified issues with the spray pad and proposed solutions. Abraham said staff is aware of dead trees and plants. Replacements and soil amendments will be done in the fall, Thompson said, when cooler weather better suits planting trees and reseeding turf.

c. Mini-Pitch

Kort submitted and was awarded a \$20,000 grant from Delta Dental to install a drinking fountain. Abraham indicated the Mini-Pitch ribbon cutting is scheduled for August 7 at 4:00 PM. Kort spoke about a few items yet to complete, including donor signage and some electrical and water line work. Push button light activation with an adjustable timer was recently installed. The facility is open and being used often, she added. Thompson commented on evergreen trees planted on the south end to address balls going over the fencing and onto Bloomington Road. Abraham pointed out the trees will serve as both a natural barrier to errant balls and a backdrop to The Friedrich Pitch sign. Kort noted the recommended ball to be used on the court is a futsal ball, not a soccer ball.

9. MONTHLY REPORT

Kort reported the third annual Scholarship Duck Derby event at Furman Aquatic Center will be held Saturday, August 2, an earlier calendar date intended to improve already good attendance. The fundraising event benefits the department scholarship fund to assist youth and families with program registration and swim pass fees. Rubber ducks are released into the lazy river and prizes donated by local businesses are awarded for ducks crossing the finish line fastest.

Thompson discussed: (1) installation of a new radiant heat system at Ames/ISU Ice Arena, and (2) contracts awarded at the June 24 City Council meeting for the Daley Park Splash Pad, Parks Maintenance Facility Expansion, and Ada Hayden Heritage Park Path Replacement projects.

Kort provided a Furman Aquatic Center staffing update. This season no adjustments to facility hours or amenities have been made due to lack of staffing. The staffing improvement compared with recent years is a result of successful additional recruitment and retention efforts.

10. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Reeves thanked Shimanek for his comments at the recent Agility Course ribbon cutting event and staff for its work to make the project happen.

Sappenfield spoke about her family's participation in recreational activities and thanked staff for the recreational opportunities available to residents.

11. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 21, 2025, 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Reeves) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM.

COMMISSION ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **WAIVER OF ENFORCEMENT OF NO SWIMMING RULE AND THE PROHIBITION OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES ON TRAILS AT ADA HAYDEN HERITAGE PARK FOR THE AMES TRIATHLON ON JUNE 28, 2026.**

BACKGROUND:

Iowa Multisport (IM) is requesting to use Ada Hayden Heritage Park (AHHP) to host its Ames Triathlon on June 28, 2026. The event consists of a 500M swim in the north lake, a 12-mile bike ride that starts in the park and travels through north Ames, northwestern portions of Story County and finishes in the park, and a 5K run that uses the hard surface path in the park. The north parking lot is used for staging bikes and safety vehicles for the event. The shelter area is used for registration and the finish line for the event. Over the last couple of years, event organizers have not allowed participants to park in the main parking lot. IM worked with adjacent businesses and utilized their lots for parking. This year, almost 400 individuals participated in the event.

When the event was initially proposed in 2019, a concern Staff had regarding the event was allowing swimming to take place in the lake. Since the park opened in 2004, swimming has been prohibited due to the steep drop-offs in the lake. However, staff met with IM prior to each Ames Triathlon event to ensure they had a firm safety plan in place. All the events have gone well, and safety plans were executed. Another concern staff had was potential damage to the park, but no damage was observed after each event.

Since 2022, staff has given permission for IM to set up bike racks and fencing in the parking lot from 7:00 – 10:30 PM the day prior to the event. Staff did not receive any negative feedback from allowing this. IM is requesting (Attachment A) to setup for the event in the morning the day prior to the event. The reason for the requested change is due to patrons not clearing the parking lot until 10:00 PM sometimes, which leaves the team and volunteers short on sleep for Sunday's early arrival. Also, for this year's setup, the temperatures were in the nineties, which was very hot for the volunteers. Staff will approve this change administratively unless directed otherwise from the Commission.

Additionally, IM is requesting the following for its June 28, 2026, event:

1. IM requests a **waiver of the enforcement of the “No Swimming” rule at Ada Hayden Heritage Park** for the event on June 28, 2026. Swimming would occur 7:00 - 10:00 AM.

Since this is a park rule, the Parks and Recreation Commission can grant this waiver. There have been no issues with the triathlon conducting the swimming portion of the event in the lake and staff recommends waiving enforcement of the no swimming rule as requested.

2. IM is requesting the **use of two motorized golf carts or similar type vehicles to use for the duration of the event** to set up water stations as well as assist volunteers in the event of an emergency. In previous years, golf carts were the requested method. IM is requesting flexibility on the type of vehicle (side by side, UTV, etc.) In past years, golf carts were only approved.

Since the operation of motorized vehicles on trails is prohibited by ordinance, City Council will need to approve waiving the enforcement of this ordinance. However, the Commission can make a recommendation on this topic to Council. Staff do not take issue with the use of a golf cart, UTV, or similar vehicle.

3. IM is requesting to **get into the park on Sunday, June 28, 2026, for set up as early as 2:30 AM**, which is prior to regular park hours (6:00 AM – 10:30 PM). In previous years, the Commission approved entry into the park at 5:00 AM, however, IM is requesting approval to be allowed entry into the park as early as 2:30 AM to set up in the event of unexpected weather conditions (wind, rain, etc.)

City Ordinance delegates this authority to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff take no issue with this request but recommends allowing them into the park beginning at 3:30 AM.

New Requests for 2026:

1. **IM is requesting approval to have a qualified and experienced lifeguard with a personal watercraft (jet ski) in the water during the swimming portion of the event to respond efficiently in the event of a swimming participant emergency.**

The City’s Risk Manager reviewed this request and does not recommend approving the use of a private individual’s gas-powered personal watercraft based on the additional risk to the City.

2. **IM is requesting the option to host a youth triathlon at the park on the evening of Saturday, June 27, 2026,** to introduce youth to the sport.

Staff is in favor of this request as long IM provides the same level of organization and have in place the safety protocol as it would for the Sunday triathlon. If the Commission is in favor of this request, it will need to suspend the no swimming rule for the swimming event, 5:00-7:00 PM. Also, if IM uses a motorized vehicle on the paths, City Council will need to approve waiving the use of motorized vehicles on the paths for this event.

3. **IM would like to start a youth triathlon course/clinic that would be hosted by the City of Ames and taught by IM. The course would provide teaching and training for youth interested in participating in a triathlon.**

Staff is in favor of this request and will work with IM to develop, advertise, and implement the course. No Commission action is needed for this matter.

4. **If the youth event is approved, IM is also requesting approval for participants of the Sunday event, the ability to practice swimming in the lake on the Saturday evening prior to acclimate themselves to the lake.**

Since this is a rule, Parks and Recreation Commission can grant this waiver. However, staff doesn't feel this is necessary as the opportunity is given for individuals to acclimate themselves to the lake prior to the start of the event on June 28, 2026.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Parks and Recreation Commission can:
 - a. Waive the enforcement of the No Swimming Rule in the north lake at Ada Hayden Heritage Park, 7:00 – 10:00 AM, on Sunday, June 28, 2026, to allow Iowa Multisport to host the Ames Triathlon.
 - b. Approve Iowa Multisport to enter Ada Hayden Heritage Park as early as 3:30 AM on Sunday, June 28, 2026, for event preparation.
 - c. Recommend City Council waive enforcement of Ordinance 19.9 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM on Saturday, June 27, 2026, and from 3:30 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 28, 2026, to allow Iowa Multisport to utilize two motorized golf carts or similar type vehicles on the AHHP trails.
 - d. Deny the request to use a jet ski on the lake during the event.
 - e. Waive the enforcement of the No Swimming Rule at Ada Hayden Heritage Park North Lake for the Ames Triathlon Youth Event from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on June 27, 2026 and direct staff to work with IM to develop the details for the event.

- f. Deny the request to allow Sunday Triathlon participants the ability to swim in AHHP Lake on Saturday, June 27, 2026.
2. Parks and Recreation Commission can:
- a. Waive the enforcement of the No Swimming Rule in the north lake at Ada Hayden Heritage Park, 7:00 – 10:00 AM, on Sunday, June 28, 2026, to allow Iowa Multisport to host the Ames Triathlon.
 - b. Approve Iowa Multisport to enter Ada Hayden Heritage Park as early as 3:30 AM on Sunday June 28, 2026, for event preparation.
 - c. Recommend City Council waive enforcement of Ordinance 19.9 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM on Saturday, June 27, 2026, and from 3:30 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 28, 2026, to allow Iowa Multisport to utilize two motorized golf carts or similar type vehicle on the AHHP trails.
 - d. Deny the request to use a jet ski on the lake during the event.
 - e. Waive the enforcement of the No Swimming Rule at Ada Hayden Heritage Park North Lake for the Ames Triathlon Youth Event from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on June 27, 2026, and direct staff to work with IM to develop the details for the event.
 - f. Waive enforcement of the No Swimming Rule at Ada Hayden Heritage Park North Lake, for a short period of time on June 27, 2026, to allow participants to practice swimming and acclimate to the north lake of Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
3. Deny the request from Iowa Multisport to allow swimming in Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake to host the Ames Triathlon.
4. Refer back to staff.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The No Swimming Rule was put in place for the safety of all users. Since the park has opened, staff has consistently enforced this rule. However, staff observed the swimming portion of the triathlon and feels the emphasis that has been placed on water safety is very high. Also, staff has observed portions of the event that took place in the park from setup to final cleanup and the care IM took ensuring the park was better than it was prior to the events was encouraging. Also, the use of golf carts or similar type vehicles to move volunteers and or participants for emergencies at the past triathlon events has been very beneficial. Therefore, waiving enforcement of Ordinance 19.9 for the duration of the event is an important component for the success of the Ames Triathlon. Lastly, staff doesn't recommend waiving the no swimming rule for the opportunity for swimmers to practice swimming in the north lake on June 27, 2026, to acclimate themselves to the lake. There is already a time slot available for individuals to acclimate themselves to the lake prior to

the start of the event on June 28, 2026. Therefore, it is the staff's recommendation to approve Alternative 1, as stated above.

ATTACHMENT A

Hey Joshua!

Just checking in with you for the Ames Triathlon 2026 and following up from our meeting a couple weeks ago.

Here are some of the things we would like to do for 2026. We appreciate your consideration and support in trying to make the Ames Triathlon as great as it can be!

1) Date: June 28, 2026

2) Transition setup: We would like to request a transition setup on Saturday morning instead of the evening. We feel we can set up the transition area and still leave ample parking for people using the park on Saturday based on the number of cars we see there throughout the day prior to setting up. See the attached map which shows the area that we would set up in and also shows the parking area(s) left for people using the park on Saturday. We are always struggling waiting for people to leave at sunset so we can set up, which leaves the team and volunteers short on sleep with Sunday's early arrival. Also, it is nice to have flexibility when we set up due to mother nature, for instance, this year was brutally hot during the allowed setup period which took a toll on our team and volunteers. Other years it has been raining and it would be nice to beat the storm and set up before it starts raining etc... As a reference point Ames Tri is the only race statewide that has had the restriction of setting up the evening/night prior and not allowing Saturday AM setup the day prior to the event.

3) We would like to have the flexibility to arrive Sunday AM (race day) when it is best based on the conditions. For instance, this year there were 20-25 mph sustained winds with gusts higher. When this happens it is beneficial to have some extra setup time. Having the flexibility to arrive when the conditions (heat, wind, storms, etc...) dictate is best for everyone. If you need a specific time, I would propose 2:30am. Of all the races we have done (approx 200 per year for several years) that is the earliest I recall arriving at a triathlon. We would likely keep the same arrival at 4am in good weather/normal conditions.

4) This one seemed like a non-issue when we talked but we were under the impression we had to have a battery powered golf cart to use on race day. We would prefer to use a gas powered cart, atv, mule, side by side to transport supplies, volunteers, etc... on race day. One of the battery powered golf carts we used this year lost power on the trail this past year. It seemed like maybe we misunderstood the restriction here and that any golf cart type vehicle would be ok no matter how it was powered. Just mentioning here in case specific approval is needed.

5) If we have a qualified and experienced life guard with a jet ski we would like to have them as part of the safety team. Like we discussed during the meeting this person is a highly qualified lifeguard with over a decade of experience as a guard and triathlete. We aren't asking to just let anyone with a jetski and no training show up, we don't want that either. We can provide any needed insurance documentation if allowed. Maybe we do this on a case by case basis with your approval?

6) In an effort to get youth excited about triathlon we would love the opportunity to host a youth triathlon on Saturday evening before the adult event on Sunday. High level/general bullet points if you and the commission are open to it. We can drill down on the specifics if everyone is good with the main bullet points.

- Entire youth event contained in the park
- Use the shallow part of the lake with super short distances and loads of safety

- Would love to have a 2-3 week youth triathlon clinic/course hosted by Parks and Rec that leads up to race day.
- Kecia offered to instruct or help lead the course (Kecia correct me if I am wrong here)
- We make this super available and affordable so we can introduce youth to the sport and get them excited about it

7) If the youth event is permitted we would also like to allow the adults racing the next day a 30-45 minute window to get in the water on Saturday evening and get acclimated while we have lifeguards there either just before or just after the youth triathlon. Several of them will be the parents of the kiddos others might be first timers looking to relieve some first time jitters.

We appreciate your support of the event and your openness to these requests. Let us know if you need additional details to take this to the parks commission.

Thank you!



- Race Timing • Event Management
- Event Fencing • Race Equipment

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**Urban Deer Management
2025 Approved Hunting Locations**

NON-PARK / PUBLIC AREA

Wooded City property south of the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex:

Weekdays: One-half hour before sunrise and ending at 11:00 AM,
September 20 to November 14

Weekends: No hunting until November 15

Daily beginning November 10, DNR legal hunting hours (following the
conclusion of the youth sport season)

City property north of the landfill in east Ames off Watt Street:

DNR legal hunting hours beginning September 20

PARKLAND AREAS

South River Valley Park:

Weekdays: One-half hour before sunrise ending by 4 PM September 20 to
October 24 (hours not used by sport leagues)

Weekends: One-half hour before sunrise ending by 8 AM, September 20
to October 26 (hours not used by sport leagues)

Daily beginning October 27: DNR legal hunting hours (following the
conclusion of sport leagues)

Gateway Park: Restricted to the west timber

Daily beginning September 20: DNR legal hunting hours

Homewood Golf Course:

Daily following course closure for the season (anticipated closure
October 31)

Inis Grove Park:

Daily beginning after the close of Homewood Golf Course-limited locations
designated by Parks and Recreation staff.

All dates subject to adjustment by the Ames Police Department for safety related
issues. Hunting may be temporarily suspended by the Ames Police Department
in any location for safety-related reasons.

**CITY OF AMES PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
2026-2031 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)
TIMELINE**

Aug 2025	CIP instructions and last year's CIP sheets sent to departments
Aug 21, 2025	Discuss Process with Parks and Recreation Commission
Sept 10, 2025	Public Input meeting
Sept 18, 2025	Share public input with Parks and Recreation Commission
Oct 2025	City Manager tours CIP projects with departments
Oct 16, 2025	Parks and Recreation Commission provides final directions to staff
Nov 17, 2024	Deadline for completing edits/uploading documents
Dec 4, 2025	Parks and Recreation Commission meet with City Manager
Early Jan 2026	Final decisions/CIP to Print Shop
Jan 20, 2026	Initial CIP review by City Council
Jan 27, 2026	CIP public hearing by City Council
Feb 10, 2026	Approval of CIP by City Council
Spring 2026	Final CIP printed and distributed



Caring People ♦ Quality Programs ♦ Exceptional Service

TO: Keith Abraham, Director of Parks and Recreation

FROM: Staff

RE: Monthly Report August 2025

PARKS AND FACILITIES:

1. Staff prepared softball fields, sand volleyball courts, and soccer fields for the final time to complete the summer season. The fall season for adult softball and sand volleyball will start in late August.
2. Staff started mosquito fogging in mid-July and have been fogging on a weekly basis in various parks throughout Ames. Staff will continue fogging until the end of September or when the mosquito pressure has declined.
3. Staff poured the concrete foundations, slab, and connecting sidewalk for a new shelter to be constructed adjacent the pickleball/tennis courts at Emma McCarthy Lee Park. The Ames Pickleball Club donated over \$16,000 to have the shelter constructed for pickleball activities and park patrons. The wet weather has delayed the project, but the project is expected to be completed by the end of August.

RECREATION PROGRAMS:

1. In June, there were 11 public skating sessions held at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena with a total attendance of 239 skaters. A total of 122 skaters attended 23 figure freestyle sessions, and 239 skaters attended 30 stick and helmet sessions. Staff sharpened 15 pairs of skates from the public.
2. Homewood Golf Course had 3,831 rounds played in July.
3. Couples/Pairs League at Homewood Golf Course ended August 5, with 18 couples/pairs participating
4. Men's Golf League ends August 25 at Homewood Golf Course, with 20 teams/40 players participating.
5. The Youth Golf League at Homewood Golf Course ended August 13, with a total of 26 registered participants.

6. Youth Day at Homewood Golf Course was held August 3. On this day, youth play for free with a paid family member. A total of 15 youth took advantage of the free golf on this day.
7. Furman Aquatic Center hosted a Christmas in July event on July 25. A total of 85 people attended.
8. The fall season of Miracle League began August 16. A total of 71 players are registered.
9. Registrations for fall adult programs are shown below.

Program	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Sand Volleyball	22 teams	28 teams	32 teams	30 teams	35 teams
Softball	22 teams	23 teams	31 teams	31teams	29 teams
Pickleball	19 teams	28 teams	40 teams	9 teams	26 teams

10. The Community Center was closed for maintenance August 4-10. The gym floor received a refinish which is recommended one year after the new floor has been installed. The refinishing included coatings of a premium water-based finish to protect the floor and continue to provide a quality playing surface.
11. A six-week session of virtual and in-person fitness classes ended August 10 with 20 and 319 participants, respectively. A six-week session of fitness classes at Sixty Forward also ended August 10 with 93 participants.
12. Total Aqua Conditioning classes at Furman Aquatic Center ended in August with 75 registrations.
13. Onboardings continue at Sixty Forward for the EGYM Equipment, with a total of 26 people receiving onboarding in July.
14. Furman Aquatic Center hosted the 3rd Annual Scholarship Duck Derby on Saturday, August 2. A total of 444 rubber ducks were sold, raising \$3,520 for the Ames Parks and Recreation Scholarship Fund. This year's event featured 50 prizes, valued at more than \$1,600 in total. The Mucky Duck Pub contributed as a Mighty Duck Sponsor and First National Bank continued their support as a Community Sponsor.
15. In July, the Ames City Auditorium hosted four Lutheran Church of Hope services, one Friends of Ames Strings Rehearsal and Recital, four Co'Motion Dance rehearsals and one recital, one movie showing, and two rehearsals for the Central Iowa Symphony.

PROJECT UPDATE:

1. Staff met with representatives from TK Concrete and Commercial Recreation Specialties (CRS) to discuss a timeline of how the Daley Park Splash Pad project will be completed. TK is looking

to start grading and installation of utilities in September. CRS will follow with the installation of the piping for the splash pad equipment. The work is expected to be completed by June 1, 2026.

2. Caliber Concrete, Adair, Iowa, started the Ada Hayden Heritage Park Path Replacement Project on August 11. The project includes replacing the ten-foot-wide asphalt path with a twelve-foot-wide concrete path. The project also includes replacing the path extensions to Edgewater Circle, Fletcher/Stonebrooke Road, and the Harrison Road parking lot. The project is expected to be completed by late October.
3. Staff held a preconstruction meeting with King Construction for the Park Maintenance Shop Expansion Project. The project is expected to start in September and is expected to be completed by the end of January. The project includes the construction of a new cold storage building, renovation of the breakroom of the primary maintenance building, and relocation of the bulk water station. The Water and Pollution Control Department is funding the relocation of the bulk water station.
4. Staff started removing the playground adjacent hickory shelter on the north side of Brookside Park in preparation for a new fire station/truck themed playground. The playground will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Brookside Park, with the celebration taking place on September 13, 2025. The Ames Noon Kiwanis donated \$75,000 to the purchase of the playground.
5. The drinking fountains at the Community Center are being replaced with ADA compliant bottle fillers. This project is made possible through the generous memorial donation in honor of the late Dawn McDonald who was a champion for women's sports and the founder of the drop-in badminton program held at the Community Center. The project is anticipated to be completed by late August.