

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Thursday, July 17, 2025; 12:00 AM

City Hall | 226 West 4th Street | Council Chambers

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - 05.2025 Meeting Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
- VI. Staff Reports
  - A. Riverfront Improvement Commission Report
  - B. Park Operations
  - C. Recreation
  - D. Revenue Facilities
  - E. Director's Report
  - 07.2025 Staff Report
- VII. Advisory Time/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
- VIII. Next Meeting Date and Location
  - A. August 21, 2025 at 4:30pm in City Hall Council Chambers
- IX. Adjournment



**Parks and Recreation Advisory  
May 15, 2025  
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Coiner, Dasso, Hu, Kefauver, Meyer, Peterson, Powell, Powers, Schertz, Powell, Powers, and Wittenmeyer

Staff Present: Chad Dyson, Jessica Rhoads, and William Fisher

Location: Council Chambers, City Hall 226 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1ldQmyM0rM>

Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the April 2025 meeting minutes. Motion Passes 7-0

Public with Comment:

- None

Old Business:

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Bylaws Pass 9-0

New Business:

- None

Staff Report:

- See written staff report
- Director Report-Verbal
- RIC Report- Verbal

Park Advisory Board Time: See Video

Adjournment: 5:10 pm Motion to adjourn. Motion Passes 9-0

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**7/17/2025**

Subject:

Riverfront Improvement Commission Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**7/17/2025**

Subject:

Park Operations

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**7/17/2025**

Subject:

Recreation

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**7/17/2025**

Subject:

Revenue Facilities

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**7/17/2025**

Subject:

Director's Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation  
Contact Info: Chad Dyson | 563-328-7275

**Action / Date**  
**7/17/2025**

Subject:  
07.2025 Staff Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

1. 07.2025 Staff Report

# Park and Recreation Advisory Board

July 2025

## Staff Report

### Notable updates from Staff

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

##### AmeriCorps

- Program staff received confirmation of approval for the 25-26 Continuance Application. Funding distribution is pending with the Office of Management and Budget at the Federal level.
- Program staff are meeting with host sites to review position descriptions and host site member needs for the coming year.
- The Grant Year 25-26 will begin on September 1, 2025.

##### Customer Service & Outreach

- Staff are working in collaboration with community members, Davenport Public Library, and community organizations on “Back to School Block Party”, a family friendly resource event at Fairmount Community Center and the adjacent parking lot for Saturday, August 2.
- With programming plans finalizing for the fall/winter season, Davenport Junior Theatre moving into the new location, and programming throughout the city growing, staff will get back to development of the bi-annual Recreation Guide to be published late December/early January for the Spring/Summer 2026.
- July is National Parks and Recreation Month. The Davenport Parks and Recreation social media accounts are highlighting various facets of the industry and our department. In addition, at the June 25 City Council meeting, the City Council and Mayor Matson officially proclaimed July as Park and Recreation Month. Chad accepted the proclamation on behalf of the department.

##### Business Functions

- Amy Soliz, the department’s new Senior Clerk, began on Monday, July 7. Amy replaced Alyssa Steward who resigned in April. Amy will be attending Park Advisory Board meetings to train with Jessica in addition to training in financial and hiring processes to support the business functions of the department.

## **PARK OPERATIONS**

### Park Projects

- Staff were busy setting up and tearing down tents, power supplies, cleaning restrooms, prepping the grounds and other various forms of support for Party in the Park at Goose Creek Park and Cork Hill Park along with Red, White, and Boom.
- The Cork Hill Splash Pad project has officially been closed out with the final work being completed by the contractor. It has been operational since mid-June but had a few punch list items that have been completed.
- The Emeis Playground has not had much movement since last month. The contractor is waiting for the delivery of a few play pieces for installation.
- The west loop of the recreational trail is still moving along as it is nearly through Emeis Park and ready for construction along Locust St.
- The Whalen Park walking trail is nearly complete. The trail itself is complete, and the sidewalk repairs have been made. There are a few punch list items to complete such as backfilling and smoothing the soil.

### Horticulture

- The horticulture team has been busy mulching flower beds, tree trimming around Vander Veer Botanical Park and weeding flower beds in our various parks.
- Staff have been busy maintaining flowering plants in the conservatory with watering and dead heading.
- Staff is mourning the loss of an over 100-year-old American Linden tree on the west side of Vander Veer Botanical Park due to being hollowed out by critters and a large limb breaking off. The tree was cut down and removed for the safety of our visitors.

### General Operations & Maintenance

- Staff remain busy maintaining park grounds with each park on a 10-day maintenance cycle for mowing and trimming.
- Staff installed playground mulch at Goose Creek Park, Fejervary Park, the Fejervary Learning Center, Garfield Park, Green Acres Park, the Credit Island Nature Play, North Gayman Park, Sunderbruch Park, Harrington Park, Gabe's Playground, Tyler Park and the playground at Annie Wittenmyer.

- Staff have been repairing water lines as we have had multiple breaks at Northwest Park, Emeis Park, and Vanderveer park affecting services there such as the drinking fountains, restrooms, and the Vanderveer Fountain.
- Staff have trimmed low hanging branches from the Duck Creek Recreational Trail between Marquette Park and Hobart Prairie (north of Duck Creek Golf Course).

## **RECREATION**

### Events & Aquatics

- Learn-to-Swim is doing exceptionally well. It is at a 6-year high and expects that number to continue to go up and be at a 10-year high by the time the summer is over. With the help of the evening classes at Fejervary, numbers are looking great and families are happy. Out of the 351 classes offered, 109 were sold out with possible waiting lists because they have reached max capacity. Staff could have easily added another hour or two of Learn-to-Swim if there was available time.
- Staff are evaluating the August schedule for both pool locations based on the availability of aquatics staff. Many lifeguards are headed to sports or band camps. Others will be leaving for college early. This is a challenge management are attempting to address with an ongoing new August schedule.
- In a wonderful collaboration between Recreation and Operations, the department is offering the “Go Wild” scavenger hunt for pollinators in our parks. This event will occur July 10 – August 31. Participants are encouraged to explore our parks based on clues they receive from maps they can download. Prizes are available.
- The summer dog events do not bring in the number of participants staff had hoped. High heat of this summer is playing a large role in the lower attendance numbers. Staff are evaluating hosting these events in the summer next year. With that, staff anticipate the Howl-o-Ween event will be a big hit.
- Red, White and Boom went extremely well. Some highlights were a great face painter, balloon maker, and Taylor Schneider (Horticulture and Environmental Educator) gave away 200 sheets of handmade paper with native prairie seed mixed into it plus hosted live demonstrations.

### Adaptive & Inclusive

- Special Olympics Softball practices are ongoing Saturdays at Lindsay Park from 9am-11:30am with a developmental and competitive team this summer.
- Unified Bowling fills Leisure Lanes bowling alley each Friday night as athletes with and without disabilities spend the evening bowling and having fun.
- Water Exercise has been popular this summer with a consistent number of attendees in each class.
- AdventureCamp is having a fun and busy summer at the Annie Wittenmyer Gymnasium.
- The Minnie Fridge, overseen by the Roosevelt Community Partnership, Inc. (RCP, Inc.), hosted the last food giveaway on Saturday, June 21. Unfortunately, RCP Inc. is not able to sustain the pantry due to donations decreasing and not being able to receive donations from River Bend Food Pantry. A sign has been posted on the Minnie Fridge door with a map of other area food banks near Roosevelt Community Center.

### Youth & Adult Sports

- T-ball and Coach Pitch have 142 kids participating and all has gone well to date.
- The free track and field program, in partnership with Cornbelt Running Club, has 250 kids and concluded on 7/16.
- Adult soccer (16 teams) and softball (25 teams) leagues are both going well. With registrations active for the fall leagues that begin early August.

### Davenport Junior Theatre Performing Arts

- Camps have been going very well. Surveys for the camps have mostly been positive. Three of our six camps finished in June.
- Construction at the Davenport Learning Center continues and the Foreman believes the project is on or slightly ahead of schedule.
- Fall classes have been finalized and are being sent out. A tentative registration date is scheduled to start July 28 at 5pm.
- Ballet and Books in the Parks, the partnership program with Davenport Public Library, has been a success with having between 3 and 19 kids at each of the sessions.

## The River's Edge

- Staff are chipping away at summer repairs and routine maintenance check lists.
- Staff are finalizing the facility staffing plan and hiring for the fall/winter season.
- Staff are planning the US Arena ice installation in August, to be open Sept 1.

## **GOLF OPERATIONS**

### General Golf Course Updates

- Golf has been having an outstanding summer season and high use of courses and practice areas.
- Recent storm and flooding on 7/10-7/11 has all staff and managers on extra cleanup efforts over past weekend, getting the courses in playing condition.

### Red Hawk Golf Course

- Red Hawk course was able to withstand over 5 inches of rain on 7/11 and still be open for walking the next day.

### Duck Creek Golf Course

- The re-direction project of holes #3 and #4 for flash flooding of Duck Creek waterway, had its first good test on 7/11. Course has minimal damage expect less recovery time from the extreme water-logged turf.

### Emeis Golf Course

- Crews have been working to clean up tree debris from 7/11 storm that drenched Emeis area with heavy winds and rain.
- Emeis clubhouse fundraiser golf outing is planned for Friday, Sept 5. Staff is recruiting sponsors and players from local businesses.

## **COMMUNICATION UPDATES**

### Community Events

- Go Wild! | Every Day, 7/10-8/31 | Parks and trails throughout Davenport
- Party in the Park | Thursday, 7/17 | Fejervary Park
- Concert in the Park | Saturday, 7/19 | Vander Veer Botanical Park
- Barks and Rec | Saturday, 7/19 | Centennial Dog Park
- CANCELLED: Urban Scramble | Saturday, 7/19 | QC Recreation Trails (QC Parks & Recreation Departments Collaboration)
- Picnic in the Park | Friday, 8/1 | Vander Veer Botanical Park
- Puppy Cool Down | Saturday, 8/2 | Centennial Dog Park

- Itty Bitty Beach Party | Friday, 8/8 | Fejervary Aquatic Center
- Back 2 School | Saturday, 8/29 | Fejervary Learning Center
- City of Davenport River Bandits Night | Friday, 8/22 | Modern Woodmen Park
- Back to School Skate | Saturday, 8/23 | The River's Edge
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### Community Outreach Events

Outreach opportunities for staff to be on hand to give out program and hiring information, play games with booth visitors, and hand out prizes for attendees.

- Back to School Block Party | Saturday, 8/2 (1-3PM) | Fairmount Community Center and Parking Lot
- Quad Cities Success Fair | Wednesday, 8/13 | North Park Mall Food Court area
- End of Summer Bash for Caregivers and Family | Saturday, 8/30 | LeClaire Park

### Notable Dates

- National Parks and Recreation Professionals Day 7/18
- Independence Day 7/4
  - Davenport Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices
  - Vander Veer Conservatory
  - The River's Edge
  - Roosevelt Community Center
  - Fairmount Community Center