

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Thursday, April 16, 2026; 4:30 PM

City Hall | 226 West 4th Street | Council Chambers

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - March 2026 Meeting Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
 - A. Presentation: Recreation Division
- VI. Reports
 - A. Director's Report
 - B. Staff Report
 - C. Riverfront Improvement Commission Report
- VII. Advisory Time/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
- VIII. Next Meeting Date and Location
 - A. May 21, 2026 in City Hall Council Chambers at 4:30 pm
- IX. Adjournment



**Parks and Recreation Advisory
March 2026
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Coiner, Dasso, Kefauver, Peterson, Schertz, Shareef, and Witenmeyer

Staff Present: Becca Niles, William Fisher, Theresa Hauman, and Amy Soliz

Location: Council Chambers, City Hall 226 W 4th Street

Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COveyi63I0E>

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Schertz to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes, 2nd by Kefauver.
Motion Passes 6-0

Public with Comment:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Presentation: Who Takes Care of That?

Reports:

- Director Report-Verbal
- Staff Report-Written
- RIC Report- Verbal

Park Advisory Board Time: See Video

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn presented by Coiner, 2nd by Witenmeyer. Motion passed 6-0 at 5:35pm

City of Davenport

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

Action / Date
4/16/2026

Subject:
Presentation: Recreation Division

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:
None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

4/16/2026

Subject:

Director's Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

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

Action / Date
4/16/2026

Subject:
Staff Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

1. 04.2026 Staff Report

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

April 2026

Staff Report

Notable updates from Staff

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

AmeriCorps

- Program staff are attending the annual Americas Service Commission – National Service Training from 4/13-4/18 in Dallas, Tx.
- In collaboration with Sherrie Fischer, the new Youth Mental Health Corps (YMHC) initiative will be pilot tested this summer as part of a new teen summer camp. The YMHC will be a separate activity during the camp week for 2 hours each day, Tuesday-Thursday. AmeriCorps members serving in the YMHC will work with camp participants to explore and learn about mental health topics, emotional regulation techniques, and communication.
- If the new 3-year grant application is approved, the AmeriCorps program will shift to focus on youth mental health with the summer pilot program becoming an 8-week class offered three times a year for Davenport youth ages 12–15 and run by AmeriCorps-Youth Mental Health Corps members.

Customer Service & Outreach

- Customer Service staff are transitioning from the busy ice arena season to the busy spring and summer reservation season. Graduations and weddings are the primary bookings.

Business Functions

- Administrative staff are developing finance trainings and additional resources for the department.

PARK OPERATIONS

Park Projects

- Slattery Park Playground has been installed. The operations team installed French drains on the interior of the play area and put down mulch. As of 4/13 the new playground is open to the public!

- Green Acres Playground is moving forward with the recommendation from PAB and the public. This will need to be reviewed by City Council then the official purchase can be made.

Horticulture

- The horticulture team has been busy clearing old vegetation from plant beds and propagating new plants for the summer.
- The team remains busy planning and preparing for the summer theme at the Vander Veer Botanical Park. This year's theme will be *Out of This World* and will include fun activities based on the idea that aliens have crash landed on earth and we need to help them find fuel to get back home.
 - Staff are planning a small prize for people that complete all of the activity sheets. The completed activity sheets can be turned into the greeters at the Conservatory to redeem their prize (while supplies last).

General Operations & Maintenance

- Operations crews have been working with Iowa American Water to install water meters at the 81 different locations around our parks.
- Operations crews have been busy hauling and spreading the infield materials for the 27 baseball fields.
- Operations crews have been busy setting up our two rugby pitches and 13 soccer fields.
- Operations crews have been busy mulching leaves around area parks in preparation for the mowing season.
- Operations have been busy training new staff for the Parks and Recreation Department.

RECREATION

Events & Aquatics

- Hiring for aquatics is going well, with many returners. Staff are struggling with getting an indoor pool to train the lifeguards until weather allows for being outside to use the department's pools. West High pool was booked but is currently not working. Central High pool is being used by the Metro Swim Team. North High is scheduled by the YMCA, but staff are struggling to get in contact with appropriate staff at that location.

Adaptive & Inclusive

- Special Olympics East Area Track Meet took place on Saturday, April 11 at North Scott. The team had 73 athletes competing. All athletes that

received a blue-ribbon advance to the State Summer Games May 21-23 in Ames.

- Special Olympics Unified Play Day was held at the Bett Plex on Tues March 24. Staff were excited to have athletes and volunteers participate in the event. Over 300 area athletes with disabilities and their partners participated in the sports experiences.
- Summer AdventureCamp has an average of 34/50 slots filled each week of camp.

Youth & Adult Sports

- Spring soccer has 970 registrants; this is a significant increase from last year.
- Staff are waiting for final approval from Davenport Community Schools for use of Brady Street Stadium for the free summer track and field youth program hosted in partnership with Cornbelt Running Club.

Davenport Junior Theatre Performing Arts

- Spring theatre showcases went very well. Over 1,000 people went through the theatre and staff received 30+ survey responses with the majority being positive.
- All 4 summer performing arts theatre camps are full and minicamp is over half full. Dance camp has 10 registrations out of 60 but usually they come in after the spring recital.

The River's Edge

- QCHA successfully held the first Goalie Camp in over 10 years on April 5-6. There will be another held in the fall; if it is successful the facility will get onto the national providers' rotation.
- Bunny Skate saw nearly 100 people come out to enjoy skating and crafts during public skate.
- Mae Hansen was promoted to the new part-time Assistant Supervisor of River's Edge position on March 30. Staff look forward to this position to help improve customer experience and communication for both stakeholders and patrons.
- The facility executed a change from Pepsi Co. to Coca-Cola family products on April 1.

GOLF OPERATIONS

General Golf Course Updates

- All three Davenport golf facilities are now OPEN for the season.
- All golf facilities executed a change from Pepsi Co. to Coca-Cola family products on April 1.

- The department renewed contracts with all three Golf Professionals for the near future. All three Golf Professionals have a long history with Davenport Golf.

Duck Creek Golf Course

- The Chili Golf Open was held on March 21 at Duck Creek Golf Course. It was over 80 degrees and had another full slate of patrons enjoying the event.

Emeis Golf Course

- Emeis is now open for play this season with much needed tree maintenance completed, removing dead trees and pruning. Stumps will be removed in summer and fall.

Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center

- Red Hawk is open for play with exceptional turf conditions and large practice range, to serve the community with the most affordable golf value in the area.

COMMUNICATION UPDATES

Community Events

- Scott County Thunder Basketball Fundraiser | Sunday, 4/19 | Lee Lohman Arena - St. Ambrose University Wellness Center
- Family Fun Nights | Every 4th Friday, 4/23-10/22 | Fairmount Community Center
- Kites on the River | Saturday, 4/26 | Centennial Park
- Friends of Vander Veer – Spring Plant Sale | Vander Veer Botanical Park
 - Friday, May 1 | 1PM-6PM
 - Saturday, May 2 | 10AM-3PM
 - Sunday, May 3 | 10AM-2PM
- Movie in the Park | Friday, 5/8 | Sunderbruch Park
- Tails and Trails Walk | Saturday, 5/16 | Riverfront Recreation Trails
- Giddy-Up Bike & Hike | Sunday, 5/17 | Davenport Recreation Trails

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.

- None scheduled for the next 30 days

Notable Dates

- None for the next 30 days.

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

4/16/2026

Subject:

Riverfront Improvement Commission Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None