

# **RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

***MEETING: November 12, 2014 ~ 6:00 p.m.***

**LOCATION: Parks and Recreation Building**  
2015 N. Van Dyke Street ~ Maplewood, MN 55109

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2014 (Attached)
- 4) RYAN O'CONNOR OF THE COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE – DISCUSSION ON REDUCING CONCENTRATED AREAS OF POVERTY AND INCREASING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
- 5) GO APE: <http://goape.com>
- 6) WORK PLANS
- 7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- 8) REPORT FROM CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS
- 9) ADJOURNMENT

**NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> AT 6:00PM – PARKS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Please contact Kara Coustry at [kara.coustry@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:kara.coustry@co.ramsey.mn.us) or by calling 651-748-2500 extension 307 if you are unable to attend.

# **RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2014 WORK PROGRAM**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Commission is three-fold:

- 1) To assist the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation Department in reviewing and evaluating policy matters, budgets and specific projects relating to parks, open space, trails and recreation areas;
- 2) To provide a channel for presentation of the interests, needs, desires and concerns of Ramsey County residents to the Parks and Recreation Department and the County board with respect to parks and recreation services;
- 3) To raise issues and concerns relating to parks and recreation services for discussion with the Parks and Recreation Department and to follow such issues to conclusion through policy and/or project recommendations and reviews or through Commission-implemented projects or reviews.

By actively pursuing these objectives, the Commission seeks to add the voices of informed, interested citizens to the arena of parks and recreation issues. The Commission will undertake activities in accordance with its mission, both on a regular and ongoing basis, as well as focus on a smaller number of issues, projects or concerns each year in order to gain a greater understanding of those issues, projects or concerns and provide more responsiveness to and interaction with the Parks and Recreation Department and the County Board.

## **PHILOSOPHY/STRATEGY**

The Commission needs to work closely with the Parks and Recreation Department staff, serving as a sounding board for staff plans and strategies. Acting as the "Planning Commission" for the County Board on parks, trails and recreational facilities, the Commission will do the job that the County Board gives it to do.

While it is important for the Commission to monitor day-to-day activities of the Parks and Recreation Department, it is even more important that the Commission look long term. It is the Commission's responsibility to try to anticipate issues that are likely to arise, get them on the radar screen, but not necessarily expect a direct outcome in the current year.

The Commission is more effective when members interact with, talk to, and listen to city, township, county parks and recreation officials, and the general public. The Commission will strive to communicate with local governments and the general public on an ongoing basis, looking for partnering opportunities whenever and wherever they arise.

## **2014 OBJECTIVES**

### **Planning and Development Projects**

- ◆ Monitor construction of the Manitou Ridge Golf Course maintenance facility.
- ◆ Review of the plan for the Department's Maintenance Service Center outdoor improvements.
- ◆ Review master plan for the Trout Brook Regional Trail North Extension from Lake McCarron's County Park to the Vadnais/Snail Lakes Regional Park.
- ◆ Review master plan amendment to the Highway 96 Regional Trail that incorporates the Snail Lake Marsh.
- ◆ Review the plan for Rice Creek North Regional Trail south extension that will connect the existing Rice Creek North Regional Trail to the Highway 96 Regional Trail to the Highway 96 Regional Trail along the east side of the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP).
- ◆ Review plans for a cross country ski wayfinding trail system for Ramsey County Regional parks.
- ◆ Review the plan for the trail development on the east side of Vadnais Lake within the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park.
- ◆ Review plans for the Highway 96 Regional Trail crossings at I-35W and I-35W.
- ◆ Review the plan for the Rice Creek Regional Trail crossings of Highway 10, I-35W with the County Road H corridor.
- ◆ Review the preliminary alignment plan for the Bruce Vento Regional Trail between Buerkle Road and County Road 96.
- ◆ Review the plan for the early childhood learning center within Tamarack Nature Center.
- ◆ Review plans for interior and exterior remodeling improvements to the existing Tamarack Nature Center Building.
- ◆ Subject to State Bond appropriations, review plans for site and trail improvements throughout Keller Regional Park.
- ◆ Subject to State Bond appropriations, review plans for the Central Picnic Facility at Long Lake Regional Park.
- ◆ Subject to State Bond appropriations, review plans for the Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area.

### **Natural Resources Management**

- ◆ Review habitat restoration projects implemented under the Natural Resources Management Plan.
- ◆ Review natural resource management projects that receive appropriations under the Legacy Amendment and other grant programs.
- ◆ Review findings of the annual deer herd census and management recommendations in accordance with the Cooperative Deer Management Plan.
- ◆ Review work accomplishments of the Conservation Corps.

### Special Projects

- ◆ Present 2012-2013 State of the Parks and Trails report to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners.
- ◆ Maintain communication with the County Board on critical issues pertaining to parks, trails and recreation services.
- ◆ Continue to establish positive working relationships with municipal parks and recreation commissions, citizen advocacy groups (e.g. Friends of the St. Paul and Ramsey County Parks and Trails), and elected officials.
- ◆ Participate in the Active Living Ramsey Communities; including participation in Comprehensive County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- ◆ Participate in the grand opening ceremonies for Keller Golf Course and Keller Regional Park.
- ◆ Participate in CAPRA visitation teams reception to share Commission perspectives.
- ◆ Work with staff in a retreat setting to discuss current trends, emerging issues and opportunities that impact the parks, trails and recreation system.

### Regional Recreation Open Space

- ◆ Participate in efforts to secure State bond appropriation of \$11 million for Regional Park and Trail capital improvements. The Metropolitan Council has pledged a match of \$7.33 million.
- ◆ Participate in efforts to secure a State bond appropriation of \$2 million for the Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area.