



Date: April 30, 2020
To: Hermantown Park Board and Hermantown User Groups
From: Eric Johnson, Community Development Director
RE: 2020 Spring Walk Through

Thank you everyone for taking the time to visit our parks and provide comments on our City's park system. The following comments have been received by the Park Board members and user groups and will serve as a basis for park projects and further discussion by the Park Board.

I look forward to seeing everyone in person in the future.

2020 Park Tour Comments – Fichtner Field Park

Field #1 Comments:

- Top rail of fence near Ugstad and Maple Grove Road needs to be repaired
- Helmet cabinets on both dugouts are broken and in need of repair
- Bullpen pitcher's mound and home plate need repair and upkeep.
- Right field has large uneven sink holes (may be a result of frost, but need to monitor).
- Dugouts need repair to concrete.
- Drinking fountain on back of scores booth has crack/busted drain.
- Fence along third base line by home dugout needs straightening (Tips in towards field of play).

Field #2 Comments:

- East side dugout blocks are broken in the middle.
- Dugouts need to be replaced with fence dugouts. The crack is getting bigger on the 3rd baseline dugout and now developing on the 1st baseline dugout.
- This field does not have foul poles installed.

Field #3 Comments:

- Infield dirt placed in the middle of the spectators walking/sitting area. Needs to be moved.
- In the warmup areas new Ag Lime should be put down. Baseball has extra so it would just be a matter of skid steer or plenty of hands to bring the Ag Lime over and spread it out. See picture.

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Field #4 Comments:

- Concrete blocks are broken by the door of the south dugout.
- Infield work done last fall looks good.
- Currently on Field 4 the new infield looks great. Thank you again to Paul Senst for his help on that. We will have to install bases but there is a plan for a small group of baseball board members to install the new bases on 5/9
- The 3rd baseline dugout has a hole that looks to have been broken out. See picture.



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- Because of the extension to the infield, we will have to bring in some topsoil to make the first base infield edge even with the outfield. This can be done by the baseball board.
- In the warmup areas new Ag Lime should be put down. We do have extra so it would just be a matter of skid steer or plenty of hands to bring the Ag Lime over and spread it out. See picture.



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Basketball Court Comments:

- Crack sealing in blacktop is needed.

Skate Park Comments:

- Plywood is rotting, the rubber surfaces are broken and lifting off ramps, general repairs needed

General Park Comments:

- The concession stand protective shield needs to be replaced. There was an attempt to fix it but you still cannot lock it and the tabs are jagged and can cut your hands. See pictures.



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Future Plans, Thoughts:

- Baseball looking to start season on June 1. Covid protocol is being discussed by the board and Quad City Northland Big League.

Staff Notes:

- New fabric basketball nets have been ordered.
- One new batting cage and net has been ordered and will be installed in 2020.

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2020 Park Tour Comments – Rose Road

Field #1 Comments:

- Bottom of fence by 3rd base line is high. Frost has lifted posts.

Field #2 Comments:

- The bottom of the bleachers – structure is bent
- Replace nails with hooks for players to hand bags and coats.

Field #3 Comments: NONE RECIEVED

General Park Comments:

- New electronic locks at the storage buildings – HSSA willing to partner
- Timeline of scoreboard installation
- Timeline of flagpole installation
- Timeline of batting cage installation
- Pitching area in back of fields – fence is curled and needs repair
- Very nice softball complex.
- Need to continue to work on upgrading the bullpen pitching area, especially the fence behind home plate.

Future Plans, Thoughts:

- HSSA is waiting on decision from Arrowhead Fastpitch League as to the status of play for this season.

Staff Notes:

- One new batting cage and net has been ordered and will be installed in 2020.
- A new scoreboard for Field 2 is being provided by the school district.
- The City will provide the concrete and uprights for the scoreboard.
- Softball Association will provide electric to the scoreboard. Staff will coordinate with school and softball on the installation.
- A flagpole for Field 2 has been requested by the school district. Staff is looking into this.
- City staff will continue to monitor Field 3 to determine playability for the 2020 season.

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2020 Park Tour Comments – Stebner Park

Field #1 Comments:

Field #2 Comments:

Field #3 Comments:

Field #4 Comments:

Field 5 Comments:

General Park Comments:

- Concrete blocks are separating in corner of concession building.
- Picnic tables along trail should be bolted down to prevent people from dragging them along of stealing them.
- Metal post in the middle of paved trail instead of concrete barrier. Metal post needed at paved entrance to concessions too (car could enter the field here)
- Swings all need to be lowered 3-4 inches (kid height)
- Boulders are in place, lined up along the parking lot. After the city trunk sanitary sewer project is finished, can the gate be left open during the day from day 8am-8pm? And what about the weekends too?
- Whoever did the blacktop walkway needs to repair the drainage issue to the walkway close the parking lot right behind the concession stand. The water sits on the walkway and does not have adequate drainage. When you look at the walkway you can see the brown stains where water sits.
- Like the direction this park is taking. Very nice soccer complex.

HYSA Comments:

- HYSA has not walked the fields yet to determine if anything there needs attention.
- We will have Ross schedule time with Paul and his crew to test out the irrigation system once the water is turned on.
- HYSA is in the process of getting quotes/bids for installing lights on the rear two fields which would allow play later into the fall season when we generally lose light by 7:00pm> We are working with MN Power to obtain and install the poles, the electrical work would need to be done by a qualified electrical contractor. We have started talks with Northland Constructors who installed the path as they work closely with Hunt Electric. We would propose installing parking lot lights at the same time to reduce the installation costs.

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- If the stay at home ordinance lasts much longer the Spring Soccer Season may need to be cancelled. If this happens HYSA is planning to do some major turf maintenance on all fields (aeration and overseeding)

HYSA Thoughts:

- Fixing the masonry cracks in the two front buildings would prolong the use of these two buildings (this has been on the to do list for a couple of years now)
- Fixing the drainage issues in the two locations noted on the new paved trail
- Installing a seasonal drinking fountain or water fill station
- Install general parking lot lights in rear lot and along driveway for evening use
- Upgrade No Parking signs on driveway, do we have signs stating that dogs must be on a leash? Also, signs stating No Smoking/Vaping at both ends of the trail would be helpful

Staff Notes:

- HYSA has contacted City staff to start the discussion of installing lights at the 2 back fields (4 and 5).
- The general contractor for the City's trunk sanitary sewer has located their field office trailer in the SE corner of the rear parking lot. The location of this trailer means that the park gate will be open during the daytime hours during the week. It is my understanding that the gate will be closed and locked at the end of each day and on weekends, assuming there is no weekend work occurring. The HYSA is still able to unlock and open the gate if it is locked but the gate will need to remain open if it's already been opened for the day. This information has been shared with HYSA who have provided their concurrence.
- The drainage issues adjacent to the trail are proposed to be done late spring. The adjacent sod will be cut, excess soil will be removed and the sod relayed. The current grade is acting as a dam and holding water on the trail.
- Staff to install handicap signage at ADA marked spaces.
- The roof at the building near fields 4 and 5 was replaced this spring.

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2020 Park Tour Comments – Keene Creek Park

Field Comments:

- Lower 20” of backstop is missing
- Frost has lifted up fence posts
- Fence along 1st and 3rd base line should be higher

General Park Comments:

- The crushed black top should be removed. Pieces are too large and are a trip hazard.
- More gravel in the parking lot, muddy
- The “you are here” sticker on the trail head sign by the baseball field is completely faded away
- Fallen tree across trail by baseball field
- Bags of dog poop sitting beneath the pick up your dog waste sign next to the road coming in
- Both sides of road eroding at the big culvert, needs fill or vegetation to anchor it.
- First(big) bridge to the south of the parking lot has a lot of bounce and is sagging significantly
- Trail that goes straight towards Getchell after the second bridge by the fork needs to have brush cleared to widen the path
- A map/sign is needed at 5pt crossing
- Another garbage can is needed by the boulders at the entrance to the parking lot
- Small culverts are needed in many places across the trails to divert water instead of carving out a muddy stream to go over it. Or laying a series of logs across the muddy patches.
- There are a lot of existing open straight aways, I think a disk golf course would be a really neat addition there.
- The need for drainage management on the trails was painfully obvious. It was extremely challenging to traverse the trails with little kids as well as a jogging stroller. And this has been a relatively dry spring. It should be relatively easy for someone with a mini excavator to drag some small culvert in there dig down, and cover the up again.

Future Plans, Thoughts:

- Hermantown Youth baseball has expressed desire to use field for their league. Staff to continue discussions with group.

Staff Notes:

- Councilor Geissler received a letter on 4/6 regarding pet owners not picking up the pet waste. Paul Senst has verified that waste bags are available and the City is looking into providing additional signage.
- Eric Johnson has contacted the snowmobile club about working with them to provide pet waste signage as well.

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- City staff is continuing discussions with the MN Trout Unlimited organization regarding their proposed streambank restoration project along Keene Creek. There has not been a formal request to date, however staff will keep the Board apprised as information becomes available.

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