



Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 8, 2025
Wayzata City Hall - Community Room

Attendees: Chair Tory Schalkle, Sarah Showalter, Sarah Randolph, Bianca Jensen, Blake Cameron, and Christian Erard.

Staff: Parks and Environment Planner Nick Kieser, Parks Member Robert Savage, and City Forester Bennett Myhran.

A site visit of Klapprich Park was conducted from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM prior to the regular Parks and Trails Board meeting.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Schalkle.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda by Chair Schalkle, seconded by Showalter. Motion approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes by Chair Schalkle, seconded by Cameron. Motion approved unanimously.
4. **Public Comments:** No public comments were provided.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **City Hall Park Improvements Discussion:** Staff provided an overview of the proposed 2026 CIP project to construct a pathway on the east side of the library, connecting the Children's Garden to the stairway. A total of \$13,000 is currently allocated for this project in the CIP.

Parks Members, Robert Savage, introduced himself as new to Wayzata's Parks Department, bringing 35 years of experience in landscape work. He highlighted his previous contributions to Heritage Park, Mill Street, and local

cemetery enhancements. Savage expressed a personal commitment to enhancing the library area.

The Board discussed options for improvements to the City Hall park with staff.

Pathway Options:

- Flagstone: Aesthetic match to current park elements; more expensive.
- Aggregate Path Mix: ADA-compliant and cost-effective, similar to the 9/11 Memorial material.
- Design Note: Pathway may wrap around to connect with the existing bench area with less than 2% slope to meet ADA compliance.

Edible Garden Concept:

- Proposed edible and fruit-bearing plantings on both east and west sides of the path.
- Two 50' x 11' beds including raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, asparagus, sunflowers, herbs, and low-height fruit trees.
- Raised herb planters proposed outside library windows to integrate with educational programming.
- Emphasis on a layered, zone-appropriate design for sun exposure.

Soil and Irrigation:

- Savage recommended excavating and replacing ~12" of soil to ensure safe conditions for edible plants.
- Area is already irrigated; minor expansion of irrigation lines would be needed.
- Suggested organic maintenance to avoid contamination risks.

Containment Strategies for Invasive Species:

- Copper-impregnated fabric, buried metal flashing, and strategic placement to prevent spread of raspberries.

Gate Proposal:

- Gate installation proposed at one end of the path.

- The Wayzata Garden Club expressed interest in funding the gate, potentially using existing posts to reduce costs.

Board Discussion & Feedback:

- Strong support for the garden concept and educational tie-in with the library.
- Staff will return with refined cost estimates and proposed materials for pathway and garden design at a future meeting.

b. Klapprich Park Update: The Board discussed various aspects of the Klapprich Park project.

Fire Suppression System at Warming House

- Staff noted that a fire suppression system is required due to city ordinance for buildings over 2,000 sq ft; Warming House expanded from 1,600 to 2,300 sq ft.
- Estimated cost: ~\$100,000.
- Alternative systems (e.g., tank-based) did not meet code requirements.
- Building permit process is ongoing with the contractor and architect.
- Construction expected to begin mid-August, with the goal to meet the December completion deadline.

Zip Line Discussion

- The zip line has been removed from the current scope but could be reconsidered via CIP or a future phase.
- Estimated cost: ~\$40,000.
- The area for the zip line is just east of the approved play container which does not require any additional tree removal.
- The Board expressed general interest in reconsidering in a future master plan revision.

Construction and Site Work Update

- Site grading, retaining wall installation, Minnetonka Avenue sidewalk installation, and utility work are ongoing.
- Hockey rink boards were removed for drain tile installation and were put back.

- The Board discussed and suggested adding fencing or portable backstops for hockey puck control.

City Council Workshop – Klapprich Park Discussion Preparation

- Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6 at 5:45 PM.
- Noted as a regular Council workshop open to the public.
- Plan to prepare a presentation to:
 - Recontextualize the project goals and history for the council and the neighborhood.
 - Emphasize original intent: not a regional Disneyland, but a thoughtfully designed natural park.
 - Acknowledge trade-offs (e.g., loss of zip line, additional fire system cost).

Project Philosophy:

- Klapprich Park’s full renovation was clearly directed by the City Council.
- The site is classified as a community/city park (not purely neighborhood or regional), per the Master Plan.

Intended Users:

- The park is designed for more than just the adjacent or nearby homes; it’s intended to serve ~4,000+ city residents.
- Acknowledged that neighbor concerns are important, but they must be balanced against broader community needs.

ADA Compliance & Playground Relocation:

- One key reason for relocating the playground is ADA accessibility. The old location did not meet current requirements.
- Despite a few neighbors wishing it had stayed in the same spot, ADA compliance and tree impact considerations necessitated the move.
- Not a discretionary change — this is a regulatory requirement.
- Slide and stair configuration options discussed:
 1. Maintain current placement.
 2. Modify design (e.g., screen hedges, zig-zag stairs).
 3. Move east (more costly).
 4. Remove entirely.
- Noted: Slide is already custom-manufactured and cannot be returned or repurposed.

Parking Concerns

- Primary sentiment:
 - No immediate action is recommended — wait and observe.
 - Avoid reacting to projected issues that haven't materialized yet.
- Neighbors worry about increased traffic and school-related parking overflow.
- However, removing parking (e.g., "No Parking" zones) may cause greater problems, including for school pickup/drop-off and neighborhood use.

Long-term suggestion:

- If traffic becomes a proven issue post-opening, revisit with data.
- Mayor is already planning to address school parking conflicts with school district leaders.

Trees & Slope Screening

- There was a general agreement that more trees are a positive solution, especially larger coniferous trees to provide immediate screening.
- The idea of spading in mature trees was discussed as a practical and visually effective way to address concerns from nearby homeowners.
- Some concerns exist about costs and grading needed to support the plantings. A retaining wall might be necessary to stabilize the slope and improve tree health.
- There is uncertainty around what specific type of grading solution is required and what the cost implications are. WSB will be consulted to help assess feasibility.
- There is a subjective conversation around security – whether added trees improve or worsen perceived safety. This remains unresolved, as perceptions vary greatly

Slide & Stairs Debate

- Four options were proposed for the slide and stairs configuration:
 - Keep as is (slide and stairs in current location, long and straight).

- Keep the location, but modify (e.g., hedge screening, zig-zag stairs, shorten slide).
- Move stairway and play equipment east (revisit old concept — more isolated, but more expensive).
- Remove stairs and possibly the slide (which affects accessibility and connectivity).
- Important context: The slide has already been manufactured as a custom piece. It cannot be returned, changed, or repurposed. This limits flexibility and creates a sunk cost if not used.
- The underlying neighborhood concerns were discussed significantly with each of these options.
- While neighborhood concerns are framed as trees/traffic/safety, the core issue may be discomfort with increased usage and visibility.
- Group agreed that:
 - It's essential to acknowledge neighborhood input, but City parks are meant to serve the whole community, and that purpose must remain central.

Cost and Feasibility

- Moving the slide/stairs to the east would cost approximately \$200,000 more, due to grading, sidewalk, and landscape changes.
- Original move away from the east side was driven by:
 - Cost savings
 - Limited functional connectivity (not useful for playground traffic)
 - Desire to keep sight lines between play areas for safety reasons
 - Reduced tree removal
 - Reduced impervious surface

Final Discussion Summary

- Motion passed: The Parks and Trails Board officially recommends that City Council:
 - Proceed with the current plan as designed and already underway.
 - Add more trees where feasible, but without needing significantly more grading.
- Motion by Cameron, seconded by Erard. Motion passed 4-1 (Schalkle). Schalkle noted the opposing vote was not opposing the recommended option, but wanted more options teed up for Council.

c. Wayzata Beach and Little Beach Master Plan Discussion: This item was tabled to a future Board meeting.

d. Maple Tree Tapping: Staff noted that the same agreement that was created for the Maple Tree Tapping Program in 2025 will be planned for in 2026 with former Board Member Babcock. The cost associated with this program will also be included in the upcoming budget discussions with Council.

6. New Business

7. Other Business

a. Staff Updates: Staff noted that items for Sunday Music in the Park have been finalized so everything is set for the first concert on August 3.

8. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Chair Schalkle, seconded by Showalter. Motion passed unanimously.