



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose

The Maplewood Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) is a seven-member, volunteer advisory board consisting of Maplewood residents committed to promoting parks and recreation issues. The commission provides recommendations to the City Council on all issues of park acquisition, development, open space, trails and leisure programs. The Parks and Recreation Commission works closely with City staff to implement the mission of the department:

“The mission of Maplewood Parks and Recreation is to provide diverse recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, enhance and preserve our parks, facilities, and open spaces while promoting environmental stewardship through education and outreach”

2019 Project Highlights

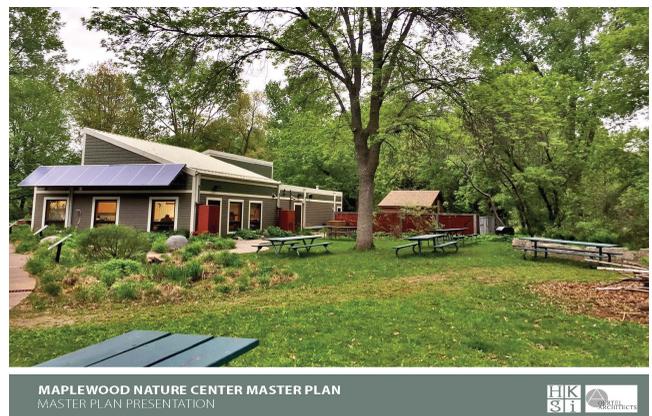
New playground with accessible elements at Wakefield Park



New tennis court resurfacing at Sherwood Park



Nature Center Master Plan



MAPLEWOOD NATURE CENTER MASTER PLAN
MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION





2019 PRC - (left to right) Craig Brannon, Kimii Porter, Nikki Villavicencio, Bruce Roman, Terri Mallet, Dorothy Molstad, Karen Poppa.

The Parks and Recreation Commission consists of seven members appointed by the City Council. 2019 commissioners are:

Craig Brannon - Member

Member Since 01/01/97; Term Expires 4/30/20

Terri Mallet - Member

Member Since 02/11/13; Term Expires 4/30/20

Dorothy Molstad - Chair

Member Since 09/14/15; Term Expires 4/30/21

Karen Poppa - Member

Member Since 10/28/19; Term Expires 4/30/22

Kimii Porter - Member

Member Since 11/14/16; Term Expires 4/30/22

Bruce Roman - Vice Chair

Member Since 11/27/17; Term Expires 4/30/21

Nikki Villavicencio - Member

Member Since 10/14/13; Term Expires 4/30/20

Jack Kuchenmeister - Student Member

Member From 9/19/18-7/17/19

Sylvia Neblett - City Council Liason

Audra Robbins - Staff Liason

Wakefield Park Improvements

Multi-purpose Community Building:

- Outdoor patio space
- Community gathering space
- Warming house/programming space
- Accessible restrooms
- Meets International Green Construction Code requirements

Site Improvements:

- New hockey rink and pleasure skating rink
- Updated parking lot
- New picnic shelter
- New accessible playground
- New paths connecting park features
- Additional stormwater raingardens
- Interpretive signage



Wakefield Park Community Building
Ribbon Cutting



2019 Goals and Accomplishments

2019 Goals

1. Continue to implement the outcomes of the Parks & Recreation System Master Plan
2. Continue to find new ways to engage the residents of Maplewood in community processes
3. Offer special events at a variety of parks and make arts & culture a priority
4. Ensure we meet the programming needs of the actively aging community and offer inclusive, wellness-based activities in our parks
5. Bus tour with commissioners of Maplewood parks and preserves to showcase projects/improvements
6. Stay on top of park improvement plans
7. Value the youth perspective and recruit/appoint a student PRC member
8. Maintain a playground prioritization list that includes funding
9. Semi-annual updates to review the YMCA/City of Maplewood Partnership
10. Be inclusive of populations who underutilize Parks & Rec facilities with creative and diverse programming/outreach through focus groups
11. Have one meeting dedicated to connectivity and trails



2019 Accomplishments

1. New accessible playground at Wakefield Park
2. Wakefield Community Building Grand Opening
3. Replacement of the tennis courts at Sherwood Park
4. Successful community events such as Celebrate Summer events, 4th of July, movie nights, Community Outreach with Public Safety
5. Hosted Parks & Recreation Booth at the Touch A Truck Event serving as ambassadors for Maplewood
6. Annual Parks Tour
7. Urban Roots Collaboration at Harvest Park
8. Completion of the Nature Center Master Plan
9. Began the Harvest Park Master Planning Process
10. Recruited and appointed a student PRC member
11. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission weighed in on:
 1. General open space updates
 2. Maplewood Nature Center updates
 3. Recreation programming updates





2020 Parks and Recreation Goals

It was an exciting year for projects and programming in the Parks and Recreation Department. The Commission feels that the progress made through park facility replacement and maintenance, the new accessible playground at Wakefield, completing the Nature Center Master plan and innovative programming and community events offered all accomplish significant goals identified in the Parks System Master Plan.

In 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission identified the following goals and made a point to tie them to the Strategic Priorities created by the City Council:

1. Continue to implement the outcomes of the Parks & Recreation System Master Plan and stay on top of park improvement plans
2. Continue to find new ways to engage the residents of Maplewood in community processes
3. Offer special events and programming at a variety of parks and make arts & culture a priority
4. Ensure we meet the programming needs of the actively aging community and offer inclusive, wellness-based activities in our parks
5. Bus tour with commissioners of Maplewood parks and preserves to showcase projects/improvements
6. Value the youth perspective and recruit/appoint a student PRC member
7. Receive annual updates from the MCC/YMCA, community groups and partners and look for ways that we can work together.
8. Have one meeting dedicated to connectivity and trails
9. Explore the idea of consistent signage that utilizes technology in our parks

