



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Hastings, MN
Parks and Recreation Department



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City of Hastings, MN Parks and Recreation Department

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PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF

Chris Jenkins – Parks and Recreation Director
Cory Likes – Operations and Maintenance Supervisor
Jeff Elliott – Arena Manager
Cory Onken – Arena Supervisor
Theresa Faustini – Aquatics Manager
Phil Vargas – Sports and Recreation Coordinator
Paige Marschall Bigler – Recreation Program Specialist
TJ Lucas – City Forester/Parks Keeper
Terry Meier – Parks Keeper
Tim Tessier – Parks Keeper
Jesse Viall – Parks Keeper
Brady Endres – Parks Keeper
David Truax – Parks Keeper

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Chelsea Piskor – Commission Chair
Ben Spader – Commissioner
Bruce Karnick – Commissioner
Carl Bower – Commissioner
Craig Santelman – Commissioner
Dave Pemble – Commissioner
Scott Zuzek – Commissioner



HASTINGS FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

2021 Highlights

Staff

- 65 seasonal staff including: supervisors, lifeguards, guest services and swim instructors.

Service & Sales

- 65 active rescues
- Top selling Concession Items
 - 6,298 pretzels with cheese
 - 4,423 slushies

Operations

- 19,528 General Admissions (2019: 14,089)
- 41 group reservations (2019: 33)
- 11 birthday parties
- Most Frequent Group: River Valley YMCA with 12 visits
- 924 Swim lesson Participants (2019: 820)
- 230 water fitness participants (2019: 126)



HFAC Staff



HASTINGS FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

Item	2021 Budget	2021 Revenue	2019 Revenue	2018 Revenue	2017 Revenue
After Hours Rental (tax/non-tax)	\$5,100	\$7,927	\$7,938.43	\$6301.52	\$6,535.67
Season Passes	\$25,000	\$35,657	\$23,406	\$22,817.25	\$20,934.88
Punch Cards	\$23,000	\$26,253	\$21,888.26	\$21,421.32	\$17,985
Daily Admission	\$90,000	\$130,153	\$102,211.46	\$91,266.28	\$71,617.23
Concessions	\$45,000	\$63,556	\$52,198.13	\$43,969.32	\$36,815
Birthday Parties	\$1,800	\$1,597	\$1,487.84	\$1,872.36	\$1,857
Swimming Lessons	\$30,000	\$42,078	\$37,749.98	\$33,655.75	\$33,202.5

Financials (Based on MAX Reports)



Hastings Family Aquatic Center



HASTINGS CIVIC ARENA

2021 Highlights

- 2 invitational hockey tournaments and 3 playoff tournaments
- 24 home high school hockey games
- Skate with Santa event in December
- Ice rentals were less than previous years due to covid restrictions in Spring and Summer.
- Adult hockey, spring hockey and summer camp rentals were all affected by COVID restrictions.
- Our Summer camp purchased half the ice time they normally use and did not rent turf hours in 2021.
- Public Skating revenue increased from previous years due to a big jump in freestyle skating. We also added stick and puck sessions to our public skating.
- Turf rentals were down significantly in 2021. This is because of the shortened turf season and summer camps did not use turf time. The turf went in 3 weeks later in 2021 because the high school schedule and youth hockey schedules ran later into winter to try to recover their season because of the Covid shut down in November and December of 2020.

Ice & Turf Rentals	
Taxable Ice Rentals	\$31,178
Non-Taxable Ice Rentals	\$305,000
Turf Rentals	\$12,874

Item	Revenue
Pro Shop: Tape/Mouth Guards/Sock Tape/Skate Rental/Laces	\$1,537
Skate Sharpening	\$8,200
Concessions	\$20,852
Public Skating	\$20,227



Zamboni replacement



Painting the ice



FORESTRY

2021 Highlights

- Forestry Staff treated 120 ash trees on city property against Emerald Ash Borer.
- Rainbow Tree Care Treated 420 private trees including 115 boulevard trees the City of Hastings contracted them to treat for our 2021 Emerald Ash Borer program.
- Through our Emerald Ash Borer program, we had 58 ash trees removed due to complications from an EAB infestation.
- 38 trees were planted on many of the properties where the ash trees were removed.
- Attached water bags on 30 trees planted in 2019 at city hall, Lions park and on the trees planted at C.P. Adams disc gulf course this spring.
- Throughout the year city forester took many calls with questions from homeowners and Visited 41 properties to inspect trees for disease and Hazard situations.
- City Staff planned Arbor day Events and had the support from Hoffman & McNamara Nursery and Landscape and Dakota Electric Association.
- Planted 4 Kentucky Coffee, 4 Ginkgo Biloba and 4 Swamp White Oak balled and burlap trees in the disk Golf Course at C.P. Adams park for our annual Arbor day event.
- 50 bare root bur oak trees were planted in Wallin Park in the natural areas from an Arbor day tree donation.
- City Forester was unable to attend the Minnesota Shade tree Short Course to keep up to date on current research in the urban forestry field due to Covid-19. The seminars in the Field of Arboriculture were attended on-line in the safety of the office to receive continuing education.
- Tree City USA status awarded by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 25 years.
- Forester assessed recently planted trees and corrected the planting depth of 22 trees to date. Many trees were planted too deep and had to have three to four 5-gallon buckets of soil removed from the top of the root ball giving them a better chance at becoming a large shade tree. Many advantageous surface roots were removed and stem girdling roots were removed out of the excess soil that would have killed the tree if it was not removed.

- Pruned many trees along the trails and in the parks and other city properties to raise the canopies for better access for park users and maintenance vehicles. Also, to improve the trees structure and to remove deadwood to make the trees safer and more aesthetically pleasing.
- Removed over 200 trees in the parks throughout the City of Hastings.
- Removed the exotic and invasive species of European buckthorn, Amur Maple and Bush Honeysuckle from the farm field to the Vermillion river off of Baur trail and treated the stumps with herbicide to reduce the chances of the plants sprouting off the cut stumps. Also, we piled up the debris and will burn it.



Tree Trust planting



FORESTRY

- Arbor Day was held on Friday, May 14th at C.P. Adams Park
- 14 volunteers helped plant, mulch and water trees – even though it began to rain!
- Mayor Mary read the Arbor Day Proclamation
- Hoffman & McNamara Nursery and Landscape and Dakota Electric Association provided trees and monetary donations to make the event possible.
- Tree City USA status awarded by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 25 years.



Arbor Day Volunteers



PARKS AND TRAILS

2021 Highlights

- Sections of trail along 31st street and Wallin park had major crack repair done in Fall.
- Over 200 yards of mulch was installed in Levee park, Depot park and City hall in Spring.
- A new style porta potty enclosure has been constructed at Roadside Park.
- Two new solar lights were installed at the dog park to bring the total number of lights to three.
- General maintenance throughout the year includes:
 - Garbage collection 3 days a week, April through October at all parks. Collection on weekends at high use parks and shelter reservations.
 - Veteran’s Athletic Complex maintenance: including dragging, and chalking of fields May through September, three to five times a week depending on usage.
 - 30+ miles of trails maintained: including snowplowing, trimming of trees and general upkeep.
 - Two 16-foot mowers mowed 5 days a week totaling 400+ acres of turf.
 - Two small 5-foot mowers mowed 5 days a week.
 - Machinery maintenance done in house as needed.
 - 8 recreational and hockey rinks flooded as needed, December through February.
 - Maintenance of pool throughout the season; opening and closing procedures.
 - 80+ hours of service provided annually in support of Rivertown Days.



RECREATION

2021 Highlights

Annual Safety Camp

- 42 youth participated in the Annual Safety Camp, Wednesday, June 23rd
- Camp included: Farm & animal Safety, water safety, internet safety, fire safety, bike safety, K-9 demo, and personal safety.
- Partners included: Hastings Fire, Hasting Police, YMCA, Community Education, Dakota County Farm Bureau, and National Karate.

Annual Community Halloween Party

- 1,600 youth and adults attended at the Annual Halloween Party, Friday, October 29th
- 64 Volunteers contributed their time, including Council members, Commissioners, the Youth Impact Council group, Hastings Volleyball and Football teams.
- \$2,725 in monetary donations from 24 Hastings businesses and organizations.
- 1,122 pounds of food collected and donated for Hastings Family Service.
- \$568 collected for the YIC Scholarship
- The Party included carnival style games, candy, pizza, and 12 activity booths from local organizations.



Community Halloween Party



Safety Camp



RECREATION

2021 Highlights

Adult Softball

- Summer league offerings: men’s recreation, men’s competitive, women’s, co-rec
- Fall league offerings: men’s, co-rec
- All games played at Veteran’s Park
- 33 teams participated

Adult Sand Volleyball Leagues

- Summer league offerings: co-rec recreation, co-rec competitive, women’s
- Fall league offerings: co-rec
- All games played at Pioneer Park
- 30 teams participated



Adult Volleyball League



RECREATION

2021 Highlights

Outdoor Rinks and Warming Houses

- Our warming houses were closed in December and part of January due to COVID related restrictions, we were finally able to open on January 20th. Participation numbers were also not recorded in 2021 but will be recorded again in 2022.
- January 20 – February 28
- Weekdays 4-9 PM, Saturday 12-9 PM & Sundays 12-8 PM
- 10 seasonal staff



Lions Hockey Rink



RECREATION

2021 Highlights

Athletic Field & Court Reservations

- Field and Court Users
 - Hastings Futbol Club
 - Hastings Youth Athletic Association
 - Raider Nation Baseball
 - Hastings Hawks
 - Hastings YMCA
 - Hastings Lacrosse
 - Hastings Tennis Association
 - Hastings High School
 - SEAS
 - Hastings Community Education
 - Private Groups
- Field and Court Reservation Hours
 - April – 1,650 hours
 - May – 3,000 hours
 - June – 3,200 hours
 - July – 2,700 hours
 - August – 1,800 hours
 - September – 1,850 hours
 - October – 800 hours
 - Total – 15,000 hours



RECREATION

2021 Highlights

Winter Events

- Ice Fishing Adventures
 - 151 participants attended the event in 10-degree weather at Lake Rebecca, Saturday, January 9th and 106 attended the event on Saturday, February 27th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (postponed date)
 - Instruction, equipment, bait and tackle were provided by NPS and CNC. This event was in partnership with the National Park Service, Carpenter Nature Center, DNR and local volunteers. This was a free event, open to the public.
- Snowshoe Guided Hikes
 - 15 attended the Snowshoe Guided Hike at Jaycee Park and Lake Rebecca Park on Saturday, February 27th 9:00 a.m. and 14 attended on Sunday, March 7th 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
 - This event was in partnership with Dakota County Parks and lead by a park naturalist. Dakota County Parks provided snowshoes and poles free of charge to attendees.
- Youth Impact Council Events
 - 20+ High Schoolers attend monthly meetings at the Hastings High School
 - High schoolers volunteer at Community Events including; Community Halloween Party, Coin Drive, Alternative Spring Break, Reality Check, and a year-end banquet. Parks staff and Community Education coordinate youth and meetings at the Hastings high school monthly.
- Candy Cane Hunt
 - 81 groups participated in the candy cane hunt.
 - Groups used the provided clues to locate 5 parks in Hastings, found the candy cane and submitted their answers and photos. Each group received skittles or m&m candy canes for their prizes picked up at our office.



Ice Fishing Adventures



Snowshoe Guided Hikes



Youth Impact Council – Coin Drive



Candy Cane Hunt



RECREATION

2021 Highlights

Spring Events

- **Alternative Spring Break**
 - 37 teens registered for Alternative Spring Break March 29-31st at the Hastings Middle School. Service projects and field trips are planned for the week. This program is in partnership with Community Education
- **Story Walk**
 - In celebration of Earth Day, a self-guided story walk was set-up along the Mississippi River Trail from Levee Park to Jaycee Park on Thursday, April 22nd through Monday, April 26th. 150+ estimated in participation.
 - In partnership with Dakota County Pleasant Hill Library and free to the public.
- **Birding Day Festival**
 - 42 groups attended the festival on Saturday, April 24th. To celebrate earth day and Hastings as a 'Bird City USA' Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center hosts the Annual Birding Day Festival. The City of Hastings helps promote, program and attend the event.
 - Various activities, a youth competition and field trips are coordinated.
- **Parks and Trails Clean Up**
 - 24 groups participated in the month of May for our Parks and Trails Clean Up and cleaned 27 of 37 parks. We provide garbage/recycling bags, pickers, and gloves. The additional parks have been cared for by Adopt a Park groups.
- **Eagle Watch Bike Tour**
 - 30 groups registered for the Eagle Watch Bike Tour. This program was led by the Hastings Chamber and Tourism Bureau in partnership with our Parks Dept. the Prescott Tourism Bureau, Freedom Park, and Carpenter Nature Center (CNC) to promote the connection from Hastings to Prescott, highlight both downtown's and encourage trail usage. The event also included birds of prey on-site with CNC and refreshment stops.



RECREATION

2021 Highlights

- Levee Park Programming
 - June 8 – September 28th included 37 programs and events.
 - 6 series of programs and 2 special events
 - Over 5,400 attendees
 - 84 partners for programming
 - \$18,200 in Sponsorships & Donations
 - 49 days of rental booked at Levee Park and 97 inquiries.





RECREATION

2021 Highlights

- National Night Out
 - 347+ attended NNO at Lions Park on Tuesday, August 3rd at Lions Park
 - Hastings Parks assisted with National Night Out through site preparation and activities, in partnership with the Hastings Police Department, Hastings Fire Department, Public Safety Advisory Committee and various local businesses and organizations. This event was free and open to the public.

- Paws in the Park
 - 120+ attended the 5th Annual Paws in the Park event at Rivertown Dog Park, Thursday, October 7th for dog friendly booths, costume contest, give-a-ways, agility course and hot dogs from the Rivertown Lions Club!
 - In partnership with 12 local dog friendly businesses and free to attend.





RECYCLING

2021 Highlights

- Recycling Program Efforts
 - Staff Implemented the required activities in partnership with Dakota County Environmental Department as a part of City Recycling Coordinator role and Local Solid Waste Staff.
 - Placement of bins in City Parks, following recycling best management practices were inventoried and recorded on the Municipal Tracking Tool developed by Dakota County.
 - Monthly posts on social media platforms were created and posted following County Standardized messaging.
 - Required articles in Quarterly Rivertown Newsletters distributed to 11,000 Hastings Residents.
 - Organics collection at the Hastings Civic Arena for the past seven years, which was implemented originally through a Dakota County Grant. Collection is on an on-call basis.
 - Nine 66 Quart Bins full of CFL light bulbs were collected from resident drop-off bin at City Hall.
 - 500+ lbs. of Holiday lights collected from resident drop-off bin at our Joint Maintenance Facility
 - Organization of volunteers at Community events to educate public on recycling efforts in Parks and Public Spaces.
 - 675 lbs. of recycling collected at Levee Park and Jaycee Park throughout the Rivertown Days festival and 3,780 lbs. of trash
 - 10,800 Solid Waste Guides sent to Hastings Residents in partnership with Tennis Sanitation.
 - 45.9 tons of construction debris collected at Seasonal Drop-Off site provided by Tennis Sanitation in Coaches parking lot in Hastings.
- Youth Green Teams
 - 112.79 tons of mixed-paper collected at the drop-off box located at Terry's Hardware. This service has been available since 2002.
 - Youth Green Teams include local groups that apply with Tennis to share profit.

- Pumpkin Drop Off
 - 13.52 yards of pumpkins and gourds were collected (3.5 tons) at our Pumpkin Drop off Friday, November 5th through Sunday, November 7th. Our pumpkin drop off is in place of our pumpkin toss one-day event to provide a longer timeframe for residents to get rid of their gourds and pumpkins after the holiday.
 - An opportunity to properly dispose of organics, like pumpkins, is a requirement within our Community Waste Abatement Grant program and funded by Dakota County.



Pumpkin Drop off



CONTACT INFORMATION

City of Hastings
Parks and Recreation Department

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Hastings MN 55033

Phone:
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Joint Maintenance Facility