



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Hastings  
Parks and Recreation Department



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## City of Hastings Parks and Recreation Department

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## PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF

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Chris Jenkins – Parks & Recreation Director  
Cory Likes – Operations & Maintenance Supervisor  
Jeff Elliott – Arena Manager  
Cory Onken – Arena Supervisor  
Theresa Faustini – Aquatics Manager  
Phil Vargas – Sports & 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

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## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

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Chelsea Piskor – Commission Chair  
Ben Spader – Commissioner  
Bruce Karnick – Commissioner  
Dave Pemble – Commissioner  
Nicole DePalma – Commissioner  
Craig Santelman – Commissioner



## HASTINGS FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

The Hastings Family Aquatic Center did not operate during the 2020 Season. Staff contemplated many scenarios in an effort to come to an informed decision. For the following reasons, staff made the decision to cancel the 2020 season at HFAC, with City Council approval.

- Staff Training: both pre-season and routine in-season trainings are rigorous and require staff to be in contact with one another and instructors. We cannot deliver the necessary training for our staff to be effective in their duties.
- Staff Safety: out staff execute 50+ active rescues each season. Rescues require staff to enter the water, come face to face with a distressed patron, physically take control of that patron and return them to safety out of the water. There is no ability to protect staff from COVID-19 while they would perform these job duties.
- Use of locker rooms and restrooms: could require a “one in – one out” operation with staff sanitizing between each use. This is not practical/feasible.
- Inability for patrons to shower prior to entering pool: this is a requirement from Minnesota Department of Health, and would not be feasible.
- Social distancing requirements: while it is possible the standard may change, current requirements of 6ft. between individuals will impact HFAC’s operations drastically. Staff would be required to enforce social distancing, likely requiring additional staff so lifeguards are not distracted. The capacity of the facility would fall from approximately 800 people to just over 100 people. This severely impacts revenue potential. It is anticipated that social distancing requirements will be in effect in MN throughout summer.
- Pool slides, play structures, climbing wall, lily pads, diving board: these amenities would not be available as they would require sanitation between individual uses, which as noted earlier, is not practical or feasible.
- Financial feasibility: with severely limited occupancy it is not realistic to propose that HFAC would be able to operate in a fiscally responsible manner.
- Employee experience: we take great pride in providing a safe, fun and fulfilling environment for our many employees each season. With the many variables, requirements, added risks and unknowns, we cannot confidently provide our employees with the experience they deserve or the experience we want them to have.



## HASTINGS CIVIC ARENA

### 2020 Highlights

- 5 weeks of summer Hockey Camp and 5 weekends of Winter Hockey Tournaments
- 11 high school games
- 16 weeks of Skating Lessons, over 150 youth participated.
- Annual Glo-Skate Event was cancelled.
- The Annual Skate with Santa in partnership Riverblades Skating School was cancelled.
- All spring ice and turf time was cancelled due to Covid 19 shutdown.
- The last two weeks of November and all of December ice time was cancelled due to Covid 19.

Ice Rentals			
Event/Account	Hours	Revenue	Notes
Hastings High School	139	\$27,800	11 Games and 3333 paid admissions
Hastings Hockey Boosters	980	\$171,000	5 tournaments and 450 youth registered
Adult Hockey	42	\$6,300	4 times a week
Rosemount, Farmington & Red Wing Hockey Assoc.	63	\$12,550	
Spring Clinics	0		All spring ice was cancelled due to Covid 19
Fall Clinics	141	\$24,000	September and October ice
Summer Camps	92	\$13,800	Boys and girls hockey camps
Skating Lessons	27	\$5,400	We were not able to have the spring or summer sessions due to Covid 19
Birthday Parties	12	\$1,200	Parties scheduled
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>\$262,050</b>	Data from Max Galaxy



## HASTINGS CIVIC ARENA

Public Skating			
Event	Hours	Participants	Revenue
Open Skating	130	968	\$4,015
Open Hockey	40	75	\$450
Freestyle	155	1171	\$10,900
<b>Totals</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>\$15,365</b>
Turf Rentals			
Event/Account	Hours	Revenue	
Hastings Lacrosse	0	0	
Hastings Soccer	0	0	
Adult Lacrosse	0	0	
Summer Camps	0	0	
HYAA Baseball	0	0	
Other	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

Pro Shop		
Item	Amount	Revenue
Pro shop supplies		\$1,025
Sharpening	1,001	\$5,005
Skate Rental	245	\$615
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,930</b>	<b>\$6,642</b>

Other	
Type	Revenue
Concessions	\$22,740
Vending	\$1,000
Advertising	\$16,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,990</b>



## FORESTRY

### 2020 Highlights

- In February 2020 City Forester T.J. Lucas was hired full time to replace veteran Forester Paul Mahoney
- 2 Hybrid Elm, 1 Red Maple and Honey locust tree were planted at Cannon Park with leftover trees from the street reconstruction projects on Cannon and 15<sup>th</sup> streets.
- Forestry Staff treated 158 city ash trees against Emerald Ash Borer.
- Rainbow Tree Care Treated 442 private trees for Emerald Ash Borer in 2020.
- Attached water bags on 18 trees planted in 2019 at city hall and Lions park
- Planned replacements for the many trees that were removed in the parks over the last few years but were unable to plant due to Covid-19.
- Removed 8 Colorado Blue Spruce Trees and pruned 19 trees At Jaycee Park to improve the view of the Mississippi river from the trail and the street and the overall appearance of the park.
- Throughout The year City forester took many calls with questions from homeowners and Visited 29 properties to inspect trees for disease and Hazard situations.
- Due to Covid-19 Pandemic City Staff planned Arbor day Events and had the support from Catholic United Financial, Modern Woodsman of America, Hoffman & McNamara Nursery and Landscape and Dakota Electric Association but we were unable to implement them to make the Arbor day events possible.
- 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. Some 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 24 years.
- Forester assessed recently planted trees and corrected the planting depth of 51 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. We also removed many advantageous surface roots out of the excess soil and stem girdling roots that would have killed the tree if it was not removed.



#### Correcting the Planting Depth of Hybrid Elm Trees at Levee Park

- 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 on public properties 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 once there is more snow.





Removal of Buckthorn and other exotic species near Vermillion River from Bauer Trail



## PARKS AND TRAILS

### 2020 Highlights

- 8 memorial benches were installed and 2 memorial trees were planted
- ¾ of a mile of fencing was set up and taken down this spring around playgrounds due to COVID-19
- The Lake Isabel Fishing Pier was rebuilt in the summer. New floats and decking were installed
- Two segments of trails were redone in fall. Trails included General Sieben Trail, 15<sup>th</sup> St. to HWY 55 and the Riverfront trail near Jaycee Park.
- The Locks of Love on Vermillion River Bridge has grown to 875+ locks, compared to 450 in 2019
- 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 30, 2020 through February.



## RECREATION

### 2020 Highlights

#### Adult Softball

- 32 teams participated
- 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

#### Adult Sand Volleyball Leagues

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



Adult Volleyball League



# RECREATION

## 2020 Highlights

### Outdoor Rinks and Warming Houses

- Open: December 21 – February 29
- Weekdays 4-9 PM, Saturday 12-9PM & Sundays 12-8PM
- 14 seasonal staff

Locations and Participation		
Hastings Civic Arena	Warming House Closed	Rink maintained
Lake Isabel Park	Warming house closed	Rink maintained
Lions Park	1,090 participants	16 average per day
Pioneer Park	1,162 participants	19 average per day
Wallin Park	874 participants	12 average per day
Total Participants	3,126 participants	3 warming houses



Pioneer Rink



## RECREATION

### 2020 Highlights

#### Athletic Field & Court Reservations

- Field and Court Users
  - Hastings Futbol Club
  - Hastings Youth Athletic Association
  - Hastings YMCA
  - Hastings Tennis Association
  - Hastings High School
  - Hastings Hawks
  - SEAS
  - Hastings Community Education
  - Private Groups

Field and Court Reservations	
April	0 hours
May	0 hours
June	3,320 hours
July	3,008 hours
August	1,846 hours
September	1,786 hours
October	706 hours
Total	10,684 hours



## RECREATION

- Event Cancellations due to COVID-19 include the following:

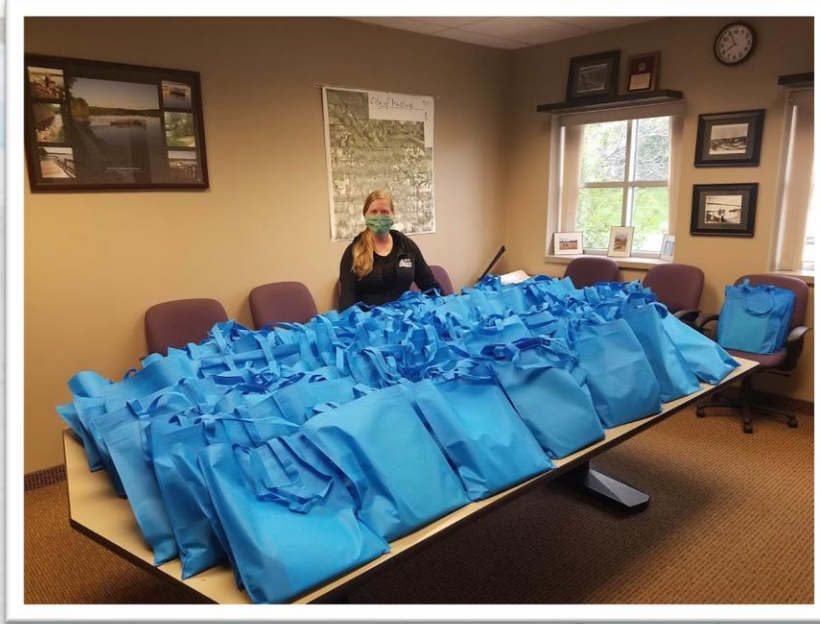
- Alternative Spring Break Camp
- Birding Day Festival
- Spring Clean Up
- Parks and Trails Clean Up
- Arbor Day
- Levee Park programs: Month of June
- Safety Camp
- Fish with a Ranger
- National Night Out
- Rivertown Days Sand Volleyball Tournament
- Paws in the Park
- Community Halloween Party
- Santa and S'mores
- Letters from Santa
- Youth Impact Council Coin Drive

- 12 Alternative Programs Coordinated:

- Virtual Birding Day Festival
- DIY Parks & Trails Clean-Up
- Rec to go bags
- Rec Bingo
- Chalk your Walk
- Livestream Make Music Day
- Follow the Vermillion River
- Alternative Fall Clean-Up
- Virtual Recreation Resources
- PAWsitive Photo Contest
- Halloween Virtual Costume Contest
- Candy Cane Hunt

- 17 groups participated in DIY Parks and Trails Clean Up
- 101 families received Rec to Go bags
- 75 families picked up the 'to go' bags for Chalk your Walk

- 2,168 people engaged in the livestream Make Music Day
- 164 people submitted photos of their pet & 788 people voted in the PAWsitive photo contest
- 26 people submitted photos for the contest & 718 voted in the Halloween Virtual Costume Contest
- 74 families participated in the Candy Cane Hunt



Rec to Go Bags



Candy Cane Hunt



## RECREATION

### 2020 Highlights

#### Winter Events

- Ice Fishing Adventures
  - 78 participants attended the event at Lake Rebecca, Saturday, January 11th and 123 attended the event on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - Instruction, equipment, bait and tackle were provided by NPS and CNC. The
  - This event was in partnership with the National Park Service, Carpenter Nature Center, DNR and youth fishing teams. This was a free event
- After Hours Skate Night
  - After hours skate night Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 10:00 p.m. was cancelled due to 20 below temperatures. The event was unable to be rescheduled due to quality of ice weeks after.
- Family Skate Night
  - 27 families attended Family Skate night, Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Lions Park
  - Activities included: bonfire, smores, music, games and hot cocoa. Free & open to all ages.
- Snowshoe Guided Hike
  - 32 people attended the Snowshoe Guided Hike at Jaycee Park and Lake Rebecca Park on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.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
  - 20-25 High Schoolers attend monthly meetings at the Hastings High School
  - High schoolers volunteer at Community Events including: Community Halloween Party, Santa and S'mores, Letters from Santa, Coin Drive, Alternative Spring Break, Reality Check, and a year-end banquet. Parks staff, YMCA and Community Education coordinate youth and meetings at the Hastings high school monthly.
  - The majority of meetings were held via Zoom due to COVID-19.





Ice Fishing Adventures



Snowshoe Guided Hike



## RECREATION

### 2020 Highlights

- Levee Park Rotary Pavilion Programming
  - July 9 – September 30
  - 25 programs and events
  - 8 series of programs
  - Over 3,000 attendees
  - 49 partners for programming
  - \$20,200 in Sponsorships & Donations
  - 20 days of rental booked at Levee Park and 52 inquiries.

### Modification & Adaptions Due to COVID-19

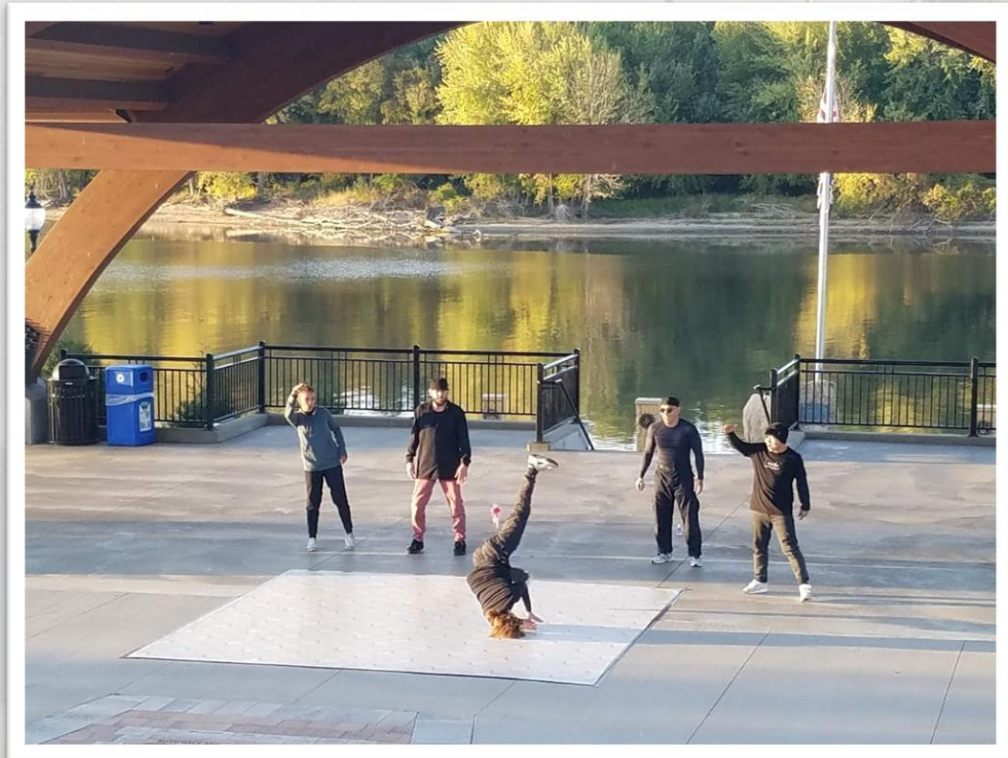
- Outreach
  - Re-coordinated calendar of events
  - Re-designed promotional graphics
  - Guidance language on outreach platforms
  - On-site communication
- Event Space
  - Guidance Signage
  - Defined Event Space
  - Sanitation Stations
  - High Touch surfaces – Sanitation
  - Cancellation of high-risk activities
- Partners
  - Re-coordination of agreements
  - Separate Microphones, restructure set-ups
  - Sanitize equipment

### Overview of Changes in 2020:

- No June Events
  - Uncertain restrictions weeks leading up to Calendar of Events
  - Virtual Make Music Day
- Music in the Park – scheduled weekly vs. twice a month
  - Result of community feedback
- Discontinuation of Fee-based programs: result of low attendance (Art & Fitness)



Music in the Park



Performance in the Park



## RECYCLING

### 2020 Highlights

- Recycling Program Efforts
  - The Residential Organics Drop Site opened June 2020, currently with 592 households signed up averaging 1,850 lbs. of food waste collected each week.
  - GreenCorps member, Lindsay Anderson served an 11-month term on waste reduction through educational activities and initiatives.
  - Staff Implemented the required activities in partnership with Dakota County Environmental Department as a part of City Recycling Coordinator role and Community Waste Abatement 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.
  - Bi-monthly posts on social media platforms were created and posted following County Standardized messaging.
  - Articles in Quarterly Rivertown Newsletters distributed to 11,000+ Hastings Residents.
  - Organics collection at the Hastings Civic Arena for the past six years, which was implemented originally through a Dakota County Grant. Collection is on an on-call basis.
  - Six – 66-Quart Bins full of CFL light bulbs were collected from the resident drop-off bin at City Hall.
  - 11 – 66-quart bins of Holiday lights collected from resident drop-off bin at the Joint Maintenance Facility.
  - 10,900+ Solid Waste Guides sent to Hastings Residents in partnership with Tennis Sanitation.
  - 625 Gallons of oil and 42.77 tons of construction debris and 1,208 yards of compost collected at Seasonal Drop-Off site provided by Tennis Sanitation in Coaches parking lot in Hastings.
- Youth Green Teams
  - 84.86 tons of cardboard (January – September) at the drop-off container 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.
- Alternative Fall Clean Up

Staff coordinated with vendors for drop off or curbside pick-up of items in place of our Annual Fall Clean Up one day event. Services provided over two-week timeframe September 14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> with extension of shredding service for three additional days due to high volume of calls.

- Tennis Sanitation Curbside Pick Up: 111 residents
- Certified Recycling Drop-Off/Curbside Pick-up: 54 Residents
- Shred-It Drop-Off: 240+ residents over two weeks

Type of Item	Quantity
Shredding	12,870 pounds
Appliances	42 items
Metal	18 items
Furniture	49 items
Mattresses/Box springs	146 items
Misc. trash	45 items

- Pumpkin Drop-Off
  - 2,340 pounds of pumpkins were collected at our drop off event, November 6<sup>th</sup> – November 8<sup>th</sup> free for Hastings residents. This was a change from our Pumpkin Toss event held in 2019 for the first time. The collection is a requirement within our Community Waste Abatement Grant program.



Pumpkin Drop Off



## CONTACT INFORMATION

City of Hastings  
Parks and Recreation Department

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920 10<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Hastings MN 55033

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Joint Maintenance Facility