

WACONIA PARK BOARD MEETING AGENDA



**Thursday, August 20, 2026
6:30 PM**

VISION STATEMENT

A thriving, connected community with deep roots: a great place to live for a lifetime.

MISSION STATEMENT

A city that leads, serves, and governs to enhance the quality of life for all community members.

**CHAIR: LUCAS REINERS
MEMBER: BEN STRASHEIM
MEMBER: ELIZABETH DEMEYERE
MEMBER: LEAH SOLTIS
MEMBER: TAMI PETERSON
ALTERNATE: DAN O'BRIEN**

**NOTE: TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT FOR ITEMS OF INTEREST,
PLEASE BE PRESENT AT 6:30 P.M.**

Those with items on the agenda should reach out to their staff contact. Others who wish to participate in the meeting, please contact the City Administrator, Shane Fineran, at 952-442-3100 or sfineran@waconiamn.gov to make certain that you are called upon during the meeting.

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 1) Approve May 21, 2026 Park Board Meeting Minutes**
- 4. REGULAR BUSINESS**
 - 1) Sudheimer Park Update**
- 5. STAFF PARK ITEMS UPDATE**
- 6. BOARD UPDATES & QUESTIONS**
- 7. ADJOURN**

UPCOMING MEETINGS SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2026



REQUEST FOR PARK BOARD ACTION

Meeting Date: August 20, 2026	
Item Name: 3.1. Approve May 21, 2026 Park Board Meeting Minutes	
Originating Dept:	
Presented By:	
Previous Council Action:	
Item Type:	
RECOMMENDATIONS/COUNCIL ACTION/MOTION REQUESTED:	
EXPLANATION OF AGENDA ITEM:	
ATTACHMENTS: 1. Park Board Minutes 5-21-26	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:	ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:
Funding Sources & Uses:	Planning Commission:
Budget Information:	Park Board:
_____ Budgeted	Personnel Committee:
_____ Non-Budgeted	Other:
_____ Amendment Required	

CITY OF WACONIA
MAY 21, 2026

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Regular Meeting of the Waconia Parks & Recreation Board in the City of Waconia Maple Conference room was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Reiners.

Park Board Members Present: Ben Strasheim, Dan O'Brien, Elizabeth DeMeyere, Leah Soltis, Lucas Reiners, Tami Peterson,

Park Board Members Absent: None

Council Liaison: None

Staff Present: Shane Fineran, Mike Mawdsley

Guests: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) Approve March 19, 2026 Park Board Meeting Minutes

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

1) Park Maintenance Operations Overview

Mike Mawdsley provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Parks Department budget and operations.

The department is currently fully staffed and recently hired a Parks Lead. Staffing includes:

- 5 full-time employees
- 8–10 seasonal employees

The Parks Department is responsible for maintaining:

- 26 parks
- 26 miles of trails
- 20 playgrounds, with a 21st playground coming soon

Staff perform a wide variety of tasks throughout the year, including:

- Mowing and trimming grass

- Watering flowers
- Planting and landscape maintenance
- Pruning and tree removal
- Assisting with community events and activities

One of the department's largest upcoming projects is the renovation of Brooke Peterson Park.

It was also discussed the possibility of implementing a QR code system was also discussed to allow residents to easily report park maintenance issues and concerns.

5. STAFF PARK ITEMS UPDATE

6. BOARD UPDATES & QUESTIONS

7. ADJOURN

Adjourn 7:36

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Lucas Reiners, Chair

ATTEST:

Brenda Jurek, Administrative Specialist



REQUEST FOR PARK BOARD ACTION

Meeting Date:	August 20, 2026
Item Name:	4.1. Sudheimer Park Update
Originating Dept:	Administration
Presented By:	
Previous Council Action:	
Item Type:	Discussion

RECOMMENDATIONS/COUNCIL ACTION/MOTION REQUESTED:

EXPLANATION OF AGENDA ITEM:

In the past month, the City has received exceptional news related to the grant applications submitted on behalf of the Sudheimer Park project. In early July we were notified that our grant application for the Minnesota DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant was awarded in the amount of \$343,000. This grant program has a local match requirement, for a total investment of \$686,000. In early August we were notified that our grant application to the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) was conditionally recommended for approval for \$983,000. This recommendation will go to the state legislature during the 2027 session for final consideration. There is no match requirement for the LCCMR funds, and we are waiting on verification if LCCMR funds can be counted as local match funds.

The DNR grant funds will become available once a grant agreement has been executed between the state and city and funds must be expended by June 30th, 2028. To date, the city has not received a grant agreement from the DNR. LCCMR funds will be made available following approval by the legislature and signed by the governor, so at anytime during the legislative session. In any scenario, the outside funding will allow us to accelerate the development timeline and project scope. Once a grant agreement is in place, design work will commence as project costs can start being applied to the grant funds.

The Sudheimer Park Master plan was developed in 2024 by the park board to develop 35+ acres of park land south of Industrial Blvd. The park plan featured paved, chipped, and natural trail routes, boardwalks, picnic areas, fitness nodes, educational/interpretive engagement areas, a natural play area, signage, benches, etc. Grant applications had to focus on park development within municipally owned land, so a few of the short trail segments across the private property, which easements are in place, of the Otto apartment building will be at local expense.

Once underway, a full design review and touchpoints will be made by the Park Board. Staff have also connected with the Waconia High School Conservation Club about their participation in the design and build phase. They are excited to assist with content creation related to the educational/interactive elements as well as some of the potential needs related to build-out where it makes sense.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2024 07 12_Sudheimer Park Plan

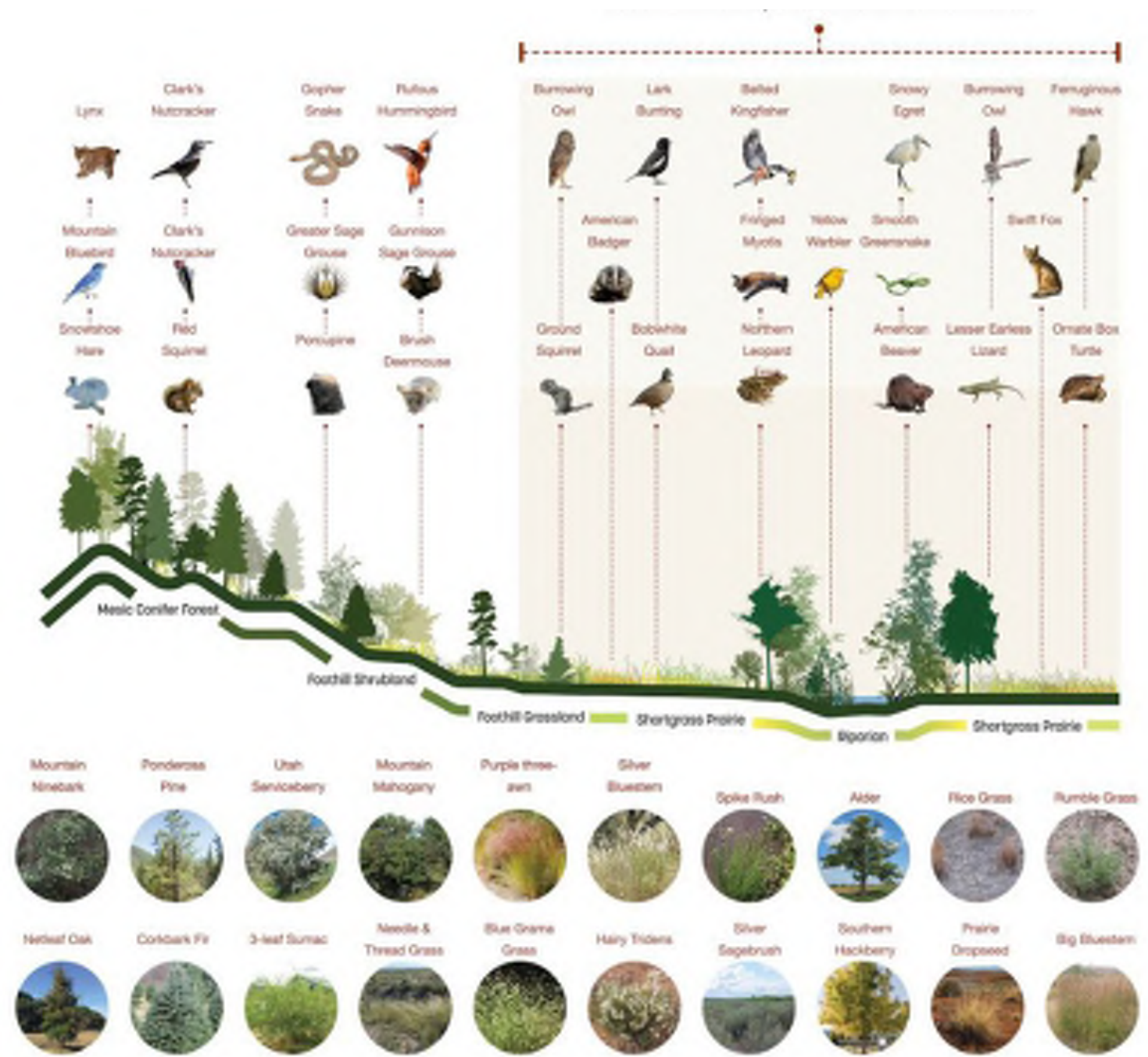
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:	ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:
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THE WEB OF NATURE

Interpretive themes about the native plants and animals in Sudheimer Park



Sasaki, University of Colorado Boulder 2021 Master Plan



Giro d'Ali, Val di Fiemme, Italy

Scavenger hunt to find nodes about the different plant and animals species found within the park



Trail Book, Farrington Nature Linc



Sensory Trail, Pretty Pony Pastures, Michigan



I Spy Nature Scavenger Hunt for Kids



Ten x Ten, Wisdom Woods Vision Plan

STORIES OF WACONIA

Interpretive themes about the history of Waconia and Sudheimer Park



Image Credit: Carver County Historical Society



Image Credit: Minnesota Historical Society



Damon Farber, Vesterheim Museum Outdoor Landscape

Trail experiences and scavenger hunt can tell the stories of Waconia and the people who have called it home.



Schoneberg Nature Park by Tactile Studio



Cannunburgh Castle by Nine



Nature to Play Water Troughs by Kaplan Early Learning

CITY OF WACONIA STANDARD PARK SIGNAGE



INTERPRETIVE + WAYFINDING SIGNAGE



Magstadt Nature Trail



Waymarker by NatureSignDesign



Wald.Berlin.Klima by hochC Landscape Architects



Brodwin Village by Gewerkdesign



Barbara Jordan Post Office by Formation



Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds by C&G Partners

KIOSK STYLE SIGNAGE



The Meadow Garden by Gecko Group



Pavilions by Plant Architect



Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds by C&G Partners



Governor's Island by Pentagram

NATURAL MATERIALS
↑
↓
MANUFACTURED MATERIALS





Minnesota River National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington, MN



Fawn Crossing Play Area, Whitetail Woods Regional Park, Farmington, MN



Minnesota River National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington, MN



MacRae Park, Des Moines, IA



Fit-Trail, Lowes Creek County Park, Eau Claire, WI



Health Trail, Grunewald Forest, Berlin, Germany



Fit-Trail, Lowes Creek County Park, Eau Claire, WI



Outdoor Aventure Centre, Stamford, United Kingdom



Fit-Trail, Lowes Creek County Park, Eau Claire, WI



Health Trail, Grunewald Forest, Berlin, Germany

CITY OF WACONIA STANDARD
BENCHES, PICNIC TABLES,
TRASH RECEPTACLES, AND
BIKE RACKS



PRIMARY TRAIL (PAVED ASPHALT CONSTRUCTION (8’ WIDE))



SECONDARY TRAIL (CRUSHED LIMESTONE CONSTRUCTION (5’ WIDE))



TERTIARY TRAIL (DIRT OR WOOD CHIP CONSTRUCTION (2’ WIDE))



TIMBER BOARDWALK (8’ WIDE) WITH OPTIONAL BUMP-OUTS FOR SEATING/VIEWING