



**New Brighton Parks, Recreation, and Environmental Commission
Agenda
Upper Level | Conference Room
New Brighton City Hall 803 Old Hwy 8 NW, New Brighton , MN
6:30 PM May 7, 2025**

Members of the Parks, Recreation, and Environmental Commission will attend the meeting in person unless eligible to attend remotely per MN Stat. 13D.02.

To participate in this meeting, members of the public may:

- **Attend the meeting in person.**
- **Watch the meeting electronically.** Tune into CTV Channel 8023 (CenturyLink) or Channel 16 (Comcast). To observe the meeting as a livestream or a webcast, visit www.newbrightonmn.gov and click on “I Want To View a Public Meeting.”

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Chair Julia O’Rourke

Vice-Chair Abe McEathron

Commissioner Pauline Alfors

Commissioner Gary Bank

Commissioner Sebastian Fallas

Commissioner Kristin Hicks

Commissioner Becky Slabiak

Commissioner Laura Sokol-Kraft

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of Past Minutes

A. April 2, 2025

V. Business Items

A. Park Maintenance and Forestry Update

VI. Informational Items

A. Hansen Park West Update

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment



MINUTES

Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission

April 2, 2025 City Hall

Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Commissioners Pauline Alfors, Gary Bank, Sebastian Fallas, Kristin Hicks, Abe McEathron, Julia O'Rourke (Chair), Becky Slabiak, and Laura Sokol-Kraft.

Members Absent: Commissioner Maren Hawkins.

Also Present: Director Jennifer Fink.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bank, seconded by Slabiak to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Sokol-Kraft, seconded by Hicks to approve the March 5, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1 (Commissioner Fallas abstained).

V. Business Items

A. PREC Workplan Review and Brainstorming for Upcoming Year

Director Fink stated each year the Commission creates a work plan which helps to guide the work of the Commission. She reviewed the topics that were covered over the last 12 months, reviewed new strategic priorities, and asked that the Commission brainstorm ideas for the work plan for the next 12 months.

Discussion included:

- The Commission asked if the zoning for the golf course would have to be changed to allow for housing in the future. Staff responded that the new zoning update allows for housing at the golf course.
- The Commission supported receiving a Climate Action Plan update, along with a green building policy presentation.
- The Commission requested a conversation be held regarding public art.
- The Commission requested the 2040 Park Plan be reviewed in the coming year.

- Director Fink indicated she would like to have a forestry, tree, and park maintenance presentation for the Commission.
- Further discussion ensued regarding the future development of Jones Lake and the Commission supported discussing a master plan for this area.
- The Commission discussed the need for walking paths or trails around Irondale High School to improve pedestrian safety.
- The Commission supported each of the City's parks having more signage and maps. Staff noted this would be coming as each park is renovated/improved.
- The Commission supported completing a community project as a group.
- The Commission discussed working with Irondale's Earth Club on a volunteer project and to pursue a Student Commissioner.
- The Commission requested the disc golf group be brought in for a presentation.
- Staff commented on the City's adopt-a-park program. The Commission suggested local businesses be encouraged to adopt-a-park.

VI. Informational Items

A. Construction Updates

Director Fink stated Silver Oaks would be completed soon and grass will need to be planted. She reported Hansen West was out for bid and the splash pad would be opening this spring.

VII. Announcements

Chair O'Rourke thanked the Commission members for their service to the community on the Parks, Recreation and Environment Commission. She invited the Commissioners to attend the Tots N Tires event on Friday, April 18 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Community Center. She reported the community-wide garage sale would be held Thursday, May 1 through Sunday, May 4.

Director Fink explained the City Council has held a discussion regarding the changing role of the Council liaisons. She stated she believed Councilmember Allen would be serving as the Council liaison for PREC, but reported Council liaisons would no longer be attending every meeting. She indicated the Council kicked off the 2026 budget discussions at their worksession meeting on Tuesday, April 1.

Director Fink commented on the three different groups that celebrated the end of Ramadan at the Community Center on Sunday, March 30. She indicated one of the groups has grown so large, they would need to find another location.

Director Fink explained the golf course has been very busy already this spring.

Director Fink discussed the Youth Connectors Program that was being started by the City. She indicated the goal of this program was to create connections between youth in the community with the City of New Brighton.

Director Fink reported the City has partnered with the Conservation Corp of Minnesota to remove buckthorn at Creekview Park. She stated ash trees within this park will also be removed by the City.

Director Fink explained the City was approached by the watershed district about doing public art in Hansen Park.

Director Fink reviewed the concert series that would be hosted by the City this summer.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Bank, seconded by Sokol-Kraft to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Fink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Fink
Director of Parks and Recreation



Agenda Section:	Business Items
Report Date:	05/01/2025
Meeting Date:	May 7, 2025

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Park Maintenance and Forestry Update

Action Requested:	
Public Hearing	Motion
Discussion	<u>Informational: X</u>
Form of Action:	
Resolution	Ordinance
Contract/Agreement	<u>N/A or Other: X</u>
Votes Needed:	
3 Votes	4 Votes
5 Votes	<u>N/A: X</u>

Summary Statement:	Presentation from staff
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Recommendations:	Staff recommends that the Commissioners engage with staff and learn about operations in the parks maintenance and forestry areas.
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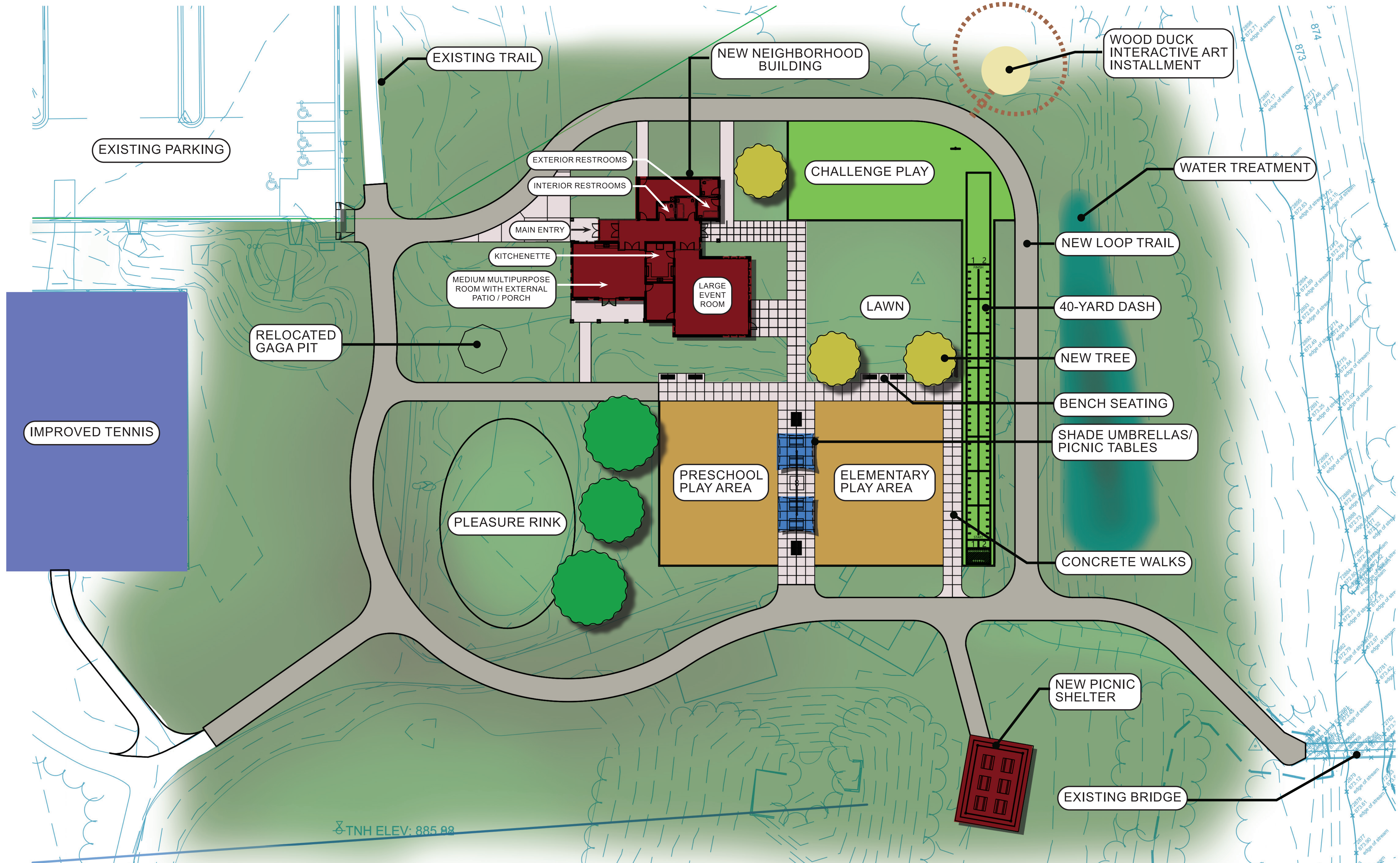
Applicable Deadlines:	N/A
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Community Impact:	
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Legislative History:	Commission adopts a workplan each year, and updates from various department staff were included in that workplan.
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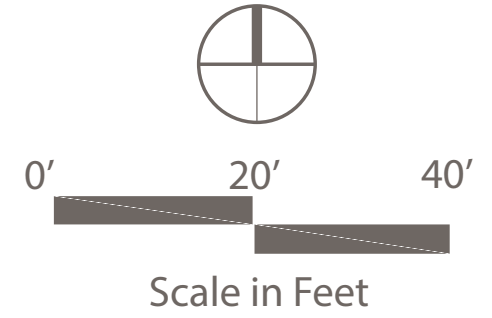
Strategic Priority:	Financial Sustainability	Staff Capabilities
	Economic Development	Community Engagement & Belonging
	City Assets	Operational Effectiveness
		<u>N/A: X</u>

Fiscal Impact:	Financial Impact: Is there a financial consideration?		<u>No: X</u>	Yes \$
	Financing Sources:	Budgeted	Budget Modification	
	New Revenue	Use of Reserves	Other	



Hansen Park West | Layout Plan

New Brighton, MN
 May 2025 | WSB Project number: 024009-000



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