

PARKS REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

2025

MT Pockets Performs in Lions Volunteer Park

On Wednesday, September 24, residents were treated to a free concert in Lions Volunteer Park, featuring M.T. Pockets and Loose Change. The park was packed with people young and old enjoying the multiple instruments playing music spanning the decades. It was a beautiful night for the inaugural concert.



North Overhang of the Peder Pedersen Pavilion Sets the Stage

Commissioners:

- Meredith St. Pierre,
Chair
- Cathy Moore-Arcand,
Vice Chair
- Mat Rauschendorfer
- Ranell Tennyson
- Valerie Boyd
- Andrew Reding
- Jim Compton Sr.,
Alternate

Prairie Park

At the August 20 meeting, the Commission named the new park in Oneka Prairie "Prairie Park". The small neighborhood park includes a playground and benches and was constructed by the developer.

Clearwater Creek Preserve

The Commission scheduled a tour of Clearwater Creek Preserve and the Bernin property at their May meeting, which was cancelled due to the weather. At the meeting of June 18, the Commission toured the parks to see the wood chip trail restoration work. The Commission agreed to postpone trail improvement planning.

HCRT

The City was notified in August that Washington County was awarded funding for construction of the remaining portion of the Hardwood Creek Regional trail. The City has plans to build trails on 130th and 140th Street and reconstruct the trail on Fenway Avenue. Staff continues to work with Washington County to move completion of the missing trail connections along.



Bright Blues and Yellows of the New Playground at Oneka Lake Park

Oneka Lake Park Reconstructed

At the meeting of March 3, Council authorized Flagship Recreation to prepare designs for reconstruction of Oneka Lake Park. The Parks Commission held a neighborhood meeting on April 16 which was well attended. Residents selected their preferred design, which was a more traditional play structure. The playground features a large structure for 2-5 year olds as there are multiple young families and daycares in the neighborhood. A cozy dome, teeter-totter, and independent play features are also included. Residents also voted on their preferred color scheme and voiced support for use of pour-in-place surfacing. The Commission requested expansion of the swing area to provide more options. Pour-in-place surfacing was preferred to address drainage issues in the park and to reduce maintenance at this high-use playground. Council approved the playground replacement at their April 22 meeting as recommended by the Commission.

Removals started in mid-August. The playground was installed in September. New drain tile was installed and the entry trail was graded to reduce the slope by Public Works. The asphalt looped trail was replaced in November. Staff cleaned up the site and hydroseeded following the trail pavement. Concrete work and shelter painting will be completed in spring 2026.



Construction Progress of Oneka Lake Park

Veterans Memorial Committee Established

At their August 20 meeting, the Commission authorized the establishment of a committee to work on a Veterans Memorial in Lions Volunteer Park. The project was initiated by members of Hugo's Legion and Auxiliary. The committee is charged with designing the monument and planning for its fundraising and long-term operation. Commissioners Reding and Moore-Arcand volunteered to serve on the committee. Other members include Councilmember Ben Krull, Dave Flemming, Marcy Brake, Carly Brake, Paul Christianson and Barb Connolly.

The committee has had two meetings and set a mission statement for the memorial:

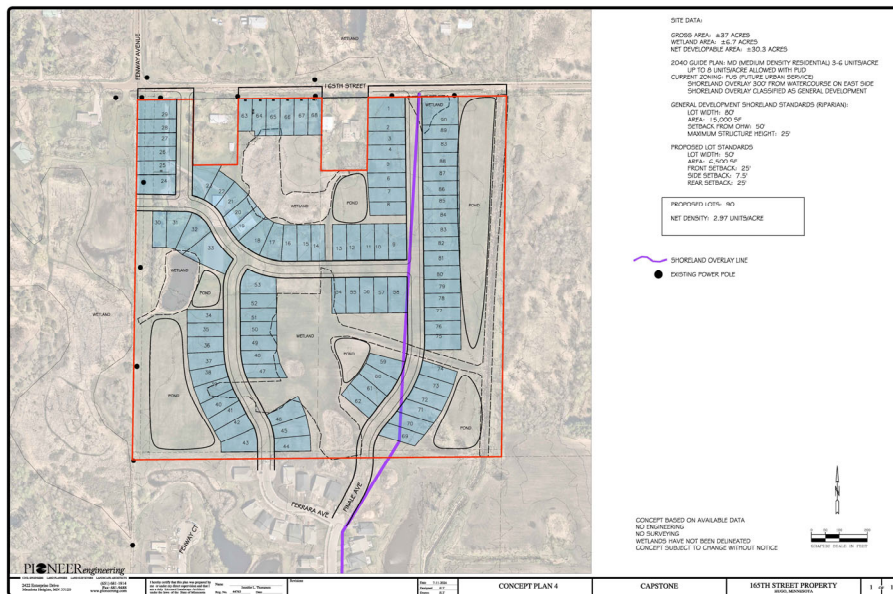
This memorial honors the service of military veterans, acknowledges their commitment to preserving our freedom, unites the community in a shared expression of gratitude, and advocates for the continued support and recognition of our veterans.



Notice to Trail Users



Farnham Avenue



Munger Property Sketch Plan

Munger Property Sketch Plan Reviewed

The Parks Commission reviewed one residential development proposal in 2025. It was for the Munger Property and proposed by Capstone Homes. The proposal included construction of 90 units on 38 acres south of 165th Street. The developer did not provide a park dedication proposal or a trail plan. Informal comments were provided by the Commission at their February 19 meeting which included laying out the requirements and encouraging off road trails.

Willows Treated

Several of Hugo's trails border stormwater ponds or wetlands where willow trees are common. Willow tree roots grow up through the trail surface causing damage.

In July, a company was hired to apply herbicide to willow trees along the trail corridors. The willow trees were allowed to brown to ensure success of the treatment. The corridors were then mowed following the recommended 30 day period. Additional trees were identified for removal with Public Works' winter tree trimming efforts.

Recreation Programs

Washington County Library Storytimes

Washington County Library has held two Storytimes in the Peder Pedersen Pavilion. Wednesday, June 25 at 10:00 am and Wednesday, September 24 at 10:00 am. Both programs were free to attend and appreciated by the young families in attendance.

R.O.C.K. Concert

Funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Washington County hosted local indie-rocker Aric Bieganeck of the Royal Order of Chords and Keys (R.O.C.K.). The show was held indoors on Friday, July 11 at 6:00 pm. It was a warm night and the concert was well attended.

New Park Signs

At the Commission meeting of August 21, 2024, the purchase of tan colored high-density polyethylene park signs was approved. Four park monument signs were purchased. The signs were installed in summer 2025. At the meeting of September 15, 2025, the Commission approved the purchase of new entrance monument signs for all of the remaining parks in Hugo. The signs will be installed in the spring of 2026 to replace existing deteriorating signs and in new locations where they are needed.



R.O.C.K. Concert



R.O.C.K. Concert



Storytime



New Entrance Sign at Diamond Point Park

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