Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda

July 10, 2023
5:30 PM – Regular Meeting
Council Chambers
400 N. Douty St.

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

FLAG SALUTE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

This is the time for citizens to comment on subject matters not on the agenda and that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. This is also the public's opportunity to request an item from the Consent Calendar be pulled for discussion purposes or to comment on any item on the agenda. A maximum of three minutes is allowed for each speaker. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your city of residence.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Consent Calendar items are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these matters unless a request is made and then the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar to be discussed and voted upon by a separate motion.

A. Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting held May 8, 2023

DIVISION UPDATES:

A. Parks Division Updates

B. Recreation Division Updates

C. Director's Updates

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. Approval of the City's formal response to the 2022-23 Grand Jury Report on City of Hanford Parks

B. Longfield Center activity age restrictions

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the City Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available to public inspection in the City Clerk's Office located at 319 N. Douty Street, Hanford, California 93230, during normal business hours. Such agendas are also available at the city's website, www.cityofhanfordca.com subject to staff's ability to post the agenda before the meeting.

If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office, 559-585-2515, 319 N. Douty Street, Hanford, California 93230, at least 2 days prior to the meeting {28 CFR 35.102.35.104 ADA Title II}

AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 7/10/2023	**AGENDA SECTION:** CONSENT CALENDAR

SUBJECT:
Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting held May 8, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation:

Recommended Motion: Review and Approve May 8, 2023 minutes.

BACKGROUND:

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Parks and Recreation Commission May 8, 2023 Minutes

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Minutes
May 8, 2023 5:30 PM
Council Chambers
400 N. Douty St.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Commissioner Kelley called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Joseph Castaneda		Present	
Gregory Kelley		Present	
Carolyn Hudgins		Present	
Jim Castleman		Present	
Sheldon Blackwell		Present	
Judy Scott		Present	

FLAG SALUTE:

Chair Kelley led the flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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Council Member Lou Martinez, City of Hanford resident, commented on a lack of lighting at parks and reaching out to the community for outreach events.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Consent Calendar items are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these matters unless a request is made and then the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar to be discussed and voted upon by a separate motion.

A. Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting held March 13, 2023

Motion to approve

RESULT:	**Passed (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Castleman
SECONDER:	Castaneda
AYES:	Castaneda, Castleman, Hudgins, Kelley, Blackwell

DIVISION UPDATES :

A. Parks Division Updates

The parks division updates were presented by Parks Supervisor Willie Johnson.

Seasonal Projects

- Installation of Bollards at Civic Park entrances
- Splash Pads start up for the summer
- Flags up and on display with solar lighting at Lacey, Civic and Longfield
- Gateway Fence Repair

All questions were addressed by Parks Supervisor Willie Johnson.

B. Recreation Division Updates

Recreation updates were provided by Recreation Coordinator Kaitlyn Lusk.

April Recap

- Mother & Son Date Night - 262 attendees
- Daddy & Daughter Date Night - 300 Attendees

May

- 4th - Thursday Night Market Started
- 5th - Cinco De Mayo Zumbathon
- 6th - Food Truck Takeover
- 5, 6, 7 - Lifeguard Certification
- 9, 16, 20, 23 - Food Truck Event on Tuesdays

June

- 4th - The Plunge opens
- 5th - Summer Camp at Longfield starts
- 6th - Swim Lessons start
- 16th & 30th - Movies at the park
- 23rd - Movie at the Plunge
- 3, 10, 17, 24 - Yoga classes at Longfield

Recreation Coordinator Kaitlyn Lusk answered all questions.

C. Director Updates

- City budget
- City’s adopted Media Policy
- Heroes Park
- Clean California grant application

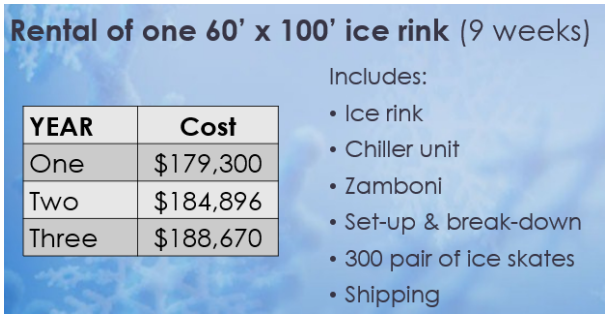
- Prop 64 Boys and Girls Club grant
- Hidden Valley Park Community Engagement Event
- May 27th HVP @ 9 am
- June 1st Civic Auditorium @ 6 pm
- June 3rd HVP @ 9 am
- Funded CIP Projects:
  - Earl F Johnson Park Renovation
  - YAC Concession Building Renovation
- Walk with a Doc: May 20th 9 am @ Freedom Park
- USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Grant
- June 6th Council meeting on rates and fees. Longfield Fitness Center fees.

Director Albert presented the updates and addressed all questions.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. Ice Rink Financing Options

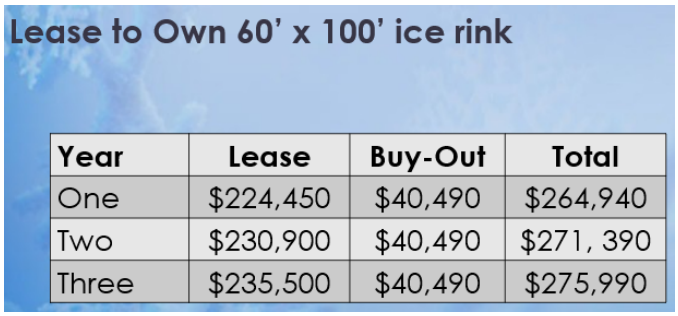
Director Albert presented the ice rink financing options.



Rental of one 60' x 100' ice rink (9 weeks)

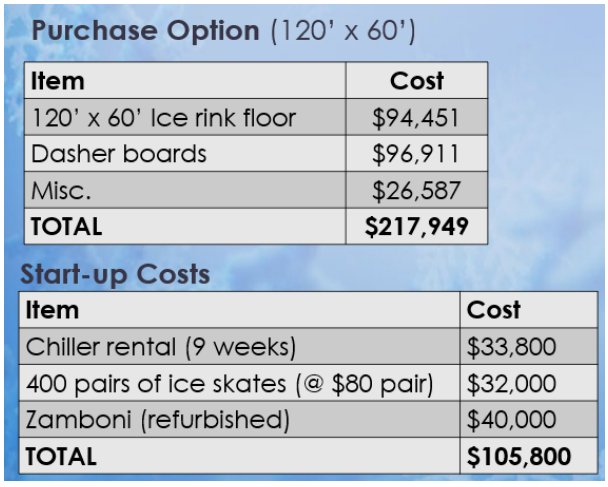
YEAR	Cost
One	$179,300
Two	$184,896
Three	$188,670

Includes:
- Ice rink
- Chiller unit
- Zamboni
- Set-up & break-down
- 300 pair of ice skates
- Shipping



Lease to Own 60' x 100' ice rink

Year	Lease	Buy-Out	Total
One	$224,450	$40,490	$264,940
Two	$230,900	$40,490	$271, 390
Three	$235,500	$40,490	$275,990



Purchase Option (120' x 60')

Item	Cost
120' x 60' Ice rink floor	$94,451
Dasher boards	$96,911
Misc.	$26,587
TOTAL	**$217,949**

Start-up Costs

Item	Cost
Chiller rental (9 weeks)	$33,800
400 pairs of ice skates (@ $80 pair)	$32,000
Zamboni (refurbished)	$40,000
TOTAL	**$105,800**

Summary:

- Due to the City's current budget forecast, continue to rent the ice rink.
- Locate 1,000 sq. ft. of indoor storage to save $40,000 in shipping costs each year.
- Increase revenue (sponsorships & ticket sales)and reduce expenses (staffing & supplies) over the next 2-3 years to create a reserve.

Passed (CONSENSUS)

There was some discussion. Director Albert addressed all questions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Castleman requested park impact fees be added as a future agenda item.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Kelley adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tasheenia Lawag
Administrative Technician

AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 7/10/2023	**AGENDA SECTION:** DIVISION UPDATES

SUBJECT:
Parks Division Updates

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation: That the commission receives the update.

Recommended Motion:

BACKGROUND:

- Ongoing services
- Rotary Park renovations. Rotary Park renovations are in partnership with the Rebels football group. The project is to help level out the playing surface with new dirt fill and work it into the lower spots while shaving down the high spots.

FISCAL IMPACT:

F/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Parks Updates July 2023

Parks Monthly Updates

Parks and Recreation Commission July 10, 2023

Seasonal and Special Projects

- Ongoing median and park work
- Rotary Field renovation

Questions?

AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 7/10/2023	**AGENDA SECTION:** DIVISION UPDATES

SUBJECT:
Director's Updates

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation:

Recommended Motion:

BACKGROUND:

1. Field Sports Advisory Committee (FSAC)

Several items were discussed during the June 25th FSAC meeting (see attached agenda). Each field sports organization has been asked to complete a field permit request form detailing the dates, times, and number of fields requested for the Fall season. A beginning fee of $5.00 per field (without lights) and $10.00 (with lights) per hour was presented as a good place to start.

2. Heroes Park

On June 30th, the City received six proposals for Heroes Park's professional architectural and engineering services. Over the next two weeks, an evaluation team will independently score each proposal based on the established scoring criteria. Each of the evaluations will be totaled. The top 2-3 firms will be invited to present their proposal and answer questions. Once a consulting firm is selected, a request to award a contract will b presented to the City Council for approval.

3. Reimagining Hidden Valley Park

On July 18th, staff will provide a study session item to the City Council. The presentation will cover:

- The timeline and process to rezone the vacant 18-acre parcel from a residential to a public facility.
- Explanation of the RENA requirements
- Results of the community engagement activities
- Discussion on phasing and probable costs
- Development of concept drawings and cost estimates

4. Hanford Boys & Girls Club

- Renovations of the Coe Park Building will commence shortly.
- City staff and Boys& Girls Club staff will visit InovEd (a private STEM school) in Fresno next week.
- The selection and procurement of furniture, computers, and technology will happen in July
- Outreach and marketing materials will be designed in August
- Staff will be hired by the Boys and Girls Club in August
- Student recruitment will happen in August and September
- An open house/ribbon-cutting event is scheduled for late September
- The target date to open the club is in late September/early October

5. The Intent to Levy Landscape Assessment Districts (LADs) is on the July 18th City Council Agenda

6. Walk with a Doc is scheduled for July 18th at Freedom Park at 9 am

7. Our Administrative Analyst, Adam Ramos will start on July 24th

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FSAC Agenda 6.26.23

Hanford Field Sports Advisory Committee (FSAC) Meeting

AGENDA

June 26, 2023

Introductions

1. **Review of the cost-recovery goals**
   a. Fair and equitable
   b. City Council's direction on cost-recovery
   c. Goal: 25% cost-recovery within three years

Year	%
1	5%
2	15%
3	25%

2. **Review of the comparable field permit fee analysis**

3. **Current operating expenses of Hanford's sports complexes**

4. **Field Permit Request Form**
   a. Field Request Form Deadline Calendar
   b. Field Request Form
   c. Due back on July 7, 2023 Email: balbert@hanford.city

5. **Where do we start?**
   a. $5.00 per field/ hour?
   b. $10.00 per field/ hour with lights?
   c. Fee reduction for sweat equity?

6. **Selection process for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions**
   a. Chair: Manage the meetings and agenda. Speak on behalf of FSAC
   b. Vice-Chair: Assist Chair when needed

7. **Updates**
   a. YAC Concession/Restroom Building
   b. Rotary Field renovation
   c. Sub-permitting of fields

8. **Next meeting date/time**

AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 7/10/2023	**AGENDA SECTION:** GENERAL BUSINESS

SUBJECT:
Approval of the City's formal response to the 2022-23 Grand Jury Report on City of Hanford Parks

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RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Council approve, by motion: (i) the attached response to the 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury Report regarding City parks; and (ii) the Mayor's and Councilmembers' signature of a transmittal letter under which the response will be sent to the Presiding Judge of the Kings County Superior Court.

Recommended Motion: Staff recommends that the City Council approve, by motion: (i) the attached response to the 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury Report regarding City parks; and (ii) the Mayor's and Councilmembers' signature of a transmittal letter under which the response will be sent to the Presiding Judge of the Kings County Superior Court.

BACKGROUND:

The 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury issued the attached report regarding City operated basketball courts and portable basketball hoops used by the public.

The California Penal Code establishes requirements for the City's response to a Grand Jury Report, and the Parks & Community Services Department worked with the City Attorneys' Office to write a response that covers those requirements.
Highlights of the Response:

- The City's ten (10) basketball courts exceed the National Recreation and Parks Association's median for jurisdictions of similar size.

- The City's Capital Improvement Plan includes Earl F. Johnson Park improvements, including a new basketball court.

- The City encourages schools to open their outdoor recreation facilities for public use during off hours since those improvements are owned by the public.

- The City will consider a permit program that would allow portable basketball hoops to be used within rights-of-way. As part of the process, the City will evaluate public safety, accessibility, impact to City services, and potential liability issues.
-

The California Penal Code requires the City Council and the Mayor to respond to all Grand Jury reports involving City matters. As a result, the City's response will be sent to the Presiding Judge of the Kings County Superior Court under a cover letter signed by the Mayor and Councilmembers.

The Grand Jury also invited the City Manager and the Parks & Community Services Department to respond to the Grand Jury's report. Accordingly, the cover letter says that the attached response also represents the response of the City Manager and the Parks & Community Services Director.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The response indicates that a new basketball court is planned for Earl F. Johnson Park. The FY24-28 Capital Improvement Program reflects $252,200 budgeted for FY24 for Earl F. Johnson park renovation and proposes an additional $229,800 in FY25 and $430,500 for FY26 for additional renovation of that facility.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2023.06.12 Ltr to Judge Burns re City's Response to Parks GJ Report (1)
2. 2023.06.07 Response to GJ Report re Basketball Courts and Hoops (1)
3. Grand Jury Report - Deficiency in the CIty of Hanford Parks

City of HANFORD
CALIFORNIA 93230
CITY OFFICES 319 NORTH DOUTY STREET

MAYOR
TRAVIS PADEN
VICE-MAYOR
MARK KAIRIS
COUNCIL MEMBERS
KALISH MORROW
DIANE SHARP
LOU MARTINEZ
CITY MANAGER
MARIO CIFUENTEZ

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Shane Burns
Presiding Judge
Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings County Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

RE: City of Hanford Response to Grand Jury Report Regarding Hanford Parks

Dear Judge Burns:

The City of Hanford ("City") hereby responds to the Kings County Grand Jury's 2022-2023 Report regarding City of Hanford Parks. The enclosure represents the response of the Hanford City Council, Hanford's Mayor, Hanford's City Manager, and Hanford's Parks & Community Services Director.

The City appreciates the Grand Jury's diligence and trusts that the enclosure addresses the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

Sincerely,

HANFORD CITY COUNCIL

By: _____
TRAVIS PADEN
Mayor

By: _____
MARK KAIRIS
Vice Mayor

By: _____
LOU MARTINEZ
Council Member

By: _____
KALISH MORROW
Council Member

By: _____
DIANE SHARP
Council Member

cc: Grand Jury

CITY OF HANFORD'S RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT 2022-2023

CITY OF HANFORD PARKS

* * * * *

The following is the response of the Hanford City Council, Hanford's Mayor, Hanford's City Manager, and Hanford's Parks & Community Services Director (collectively "the City") to the Grand Jury Report for the 2022-2023 session ("the Report") that relates to City of Hanford parks.

Grand Jury Finding 1: "The Grand Jury has found a need for more basketball courts in Hanford. Three of Hanford's major parks, Freedom Park, Hidden Valley Park, and Earl F. Johnson Park do not contain basketball courts. The four major parks that do offer basketball courts are all on the south side of Grangeville Boulevard leaving the north side of Hanford in a deficit."

City's Response to Finding 1:

The City agrees with Finding 1 to the extent that Freedom Park, Hidden Valley Park, and Earl F. Johnson Park do not contain basketball courts and that four parks that offer basketball courts are located south of Grangeville Boulevard.

The City disagrees with the statement that it needs more basketball courts due to a deficiency. Whether a deficiency exists should be determined utilizing an objective standard.

A comparison to other jurisdictions of similar size results in an objective conclusion that Hanford does not suffer from a basketball court deficiency. According to the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) Agency Performance Review, which is available at: https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/f6baf1e9c3354aeca52dc548251bc4f4/2023-agency-performance-review.pdf, the median number of residents per basketball court in jurisdictions with populations between fifty thousand (50,000) and ninety-nine thousand (99,000) is eight thousand, seven hundred ninety (8,790). With a population of approximately sixty thousand (60,000) and eight (8) outdoor basketball courts, Hanford has a ratio of one (1) outdoor basketball court per seven thousand, five hundred (7,500) people, and, if Hanford's two (2) indoor courts are considered, the ratio is one basketball court per six thousand (6,000) people, which greatly exceeds the NRPA median. NRPA is an industry-recognized organization that holds itself out as "the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation."

The City is not suffering from a basketball court deficiency because many residents prefer to play basketball at home regardless of the availability of public courts.

The City also takes exception to the Report's title because the City does not suffer from a deficiency in its parks. The City operates numerous high-quality parks that offer a multitude of amenities to approximately sixty thousand (60,000) residents.

Recommendation 1: "The Grand Jury believes that the City of Hanford should make it a priority to invest in the development of quality parks and sports facilities in each quarter section of the City of Hanford. The Grand Jury concludes that there is a need for more basketball courts in the north side of Hanford. A full court is needed in Freedom Park, and Hidden Valley Park. The Grand Jury recommends that in the future, plans be made to add a basketball court to other parks that do not currently have one, such as Earl F. Johnson Park."

City's Response to Recommendation 1:

The City's Capital Improvement Plan budget for fiscal year 2024 includes the addition of an outdoor basketball court at Earl F. Johnson Park.

The City may also consider the addition of one (1) or more basketball courts at Hidden Valley Park, depending on the current engagement efforts to identify the features and amenities that the public desires for a potential Hidden Valley Park expansion.

The City has not planned for the addition of a basketball court at Freedom Park, but the City may consider changing the Earl F. Johnson Park basketball court project so that the court is constructed at Freedom Park since Earl F. Johnson Park is located south of Grangeville Boulevard.

Funding of construction of new basketball courts at existing parks is a challenge. Impact fees collected from residential developers are legally limited to the creation of new park acreage, and, as a result, impact fees may not be utilized to improve existing parks, including Freedom Park. As a result, the construction of new basketball courts at existing parks must be funded with General Fund monies. Since the City's General Fund monies are limited, the City is forced to prioritize parks projects that will be funded by that source. For example, priority is given to parks that require renovation, like Earl F. Johnson Park.

Grand Jury Finding 2: "While there are many basketball courts located in Hanford schools, they are unavailable for use to the public due to insurance and vandalism concerns. The lack of access to school basketball courts has contributed to the need for additional courts in the City of Hanford Parks."

City's Response to Finding 2:

With respect to Finding 2's statement as to why school-controlled basketball courts are closed to the public, Hanford Elementary School District (HESD) previously informed the City that it is unwilling to open its outdoor basketball courts to the public due to concern over vandalism, graffiti, and theft.

The City concurs with Finding 2 to the extent that the lack of access to school-controlled basketball courts deprives the public of use of those facilities. If school-controlled outdoor basketball courts were open to the public during non-school hours, the public would have many more options to play basketball at locations closer to their homes and would allow the City to utilize public funds on other parks and recreation opportunities.

Recommendation 2: "The Grand Jury believes that a discussion should take place between the City of Hanford and its schools. An analysis should be done by the City of Hanford to see if it might be more cost effective to cover some of the insurance costs in lieu of adding basketball courts in multiple City parks. The City of Hanford should consider working with school districts to make the basketball courts that have been fenced off available to Hanford residents."

City's Response to Recommendation 2:

The City concurs with the Grand Jury Report's observation that Education Code Section 38131 announces the State Legislature's intent that "there is a civic center at each and every public school facility and grounds. . . ."

The City has approached HESD on multiple occasions about allowing the public to utilize the district's outdoor recreational facilities in the spirit of Education Code Section 38131, but the district has not been receptive.

Elementary schools should follow the lead of Hanford Joint Union High School District, which allows the public to utilize outdoor sports facilities during off hours.

HESD voiced concerns over costs associated with vandalism, graffiti, and theft, but they are costs that the district should bear. Every public agency should pay its fair share of costs so residents may utilize publicly owned facilities. For such reasons, the City is not inclined to "cover" a portion of a school district's insurance costs as the City is already paying its fair share of costs associated with City facilities that are available to the public. It is time for elementary schools to step up and bear their share of costs to allow the public to utilize outdoor recreational facilities that the public owns.

Grand Jury Finding 3: "The Grand Jury found that there are many portable basketball hoops in residential neighborhoods of Hanford. The City of Hanford is currently issuing warnings and citations to homeowners that have the portable courts on the street and sidewalks in front of their homes."

City's Response to Finding 3:

The City concurs with Finding 3 to the extent that there are basketball hoops in residential neighborhoods and that the City issues warnings and citations for right-of-way obstructions, including, but not limited to, basketball hoops.

Recommendation 3: "The Grand Jury recommends that the City of Hanford consider relaxing its enforcement of its encroachment code dealing with the City's Right of Way, specifically Title 12 of the City's Municipal Code, Chapter 12.04. The residents that have basketball hoops should move them on garbage days/street sweeping days but be allowed to keep them by their curb the rest of the week."

City's Response to Recommendation 3:

The City is considering options, including a permit system, that would allow residents to erect portable basketball hoops within public rights-of-way.

There are three possibilities with respect to basketball hoops in rights-of-way: (i) within roadways; (ii) on parking strips (area between the curb and sidewalk) in neighborhoods where parking strips exist; and (iii) on sidewalks in neighborhoods that do not have parking strips.

When considering a permit program, the City will consider numerous factors, including, without limitation:

- *Public safety and convenience.*
    - Children playing in a roadway give rise to a safety issue because it increases the risk that a child will be hit by a vehicle.
    - Basketball hoops within rights-of-way and parties utilizing them will serve as additional obstacles that vehicles must avoid. The City will consider the safety of drivers of vehicles, including large delivery trucks, fire trucks, refuse collection trucks, and streetsweepers; pedestrians; bicyclists; and parties who will play basketball within roadways. A basketball hoop in the roadway may be difficult to see at night, resulting in a heighted collision risk.
    - A basketball hoop located close to a street corner may create a hazard for drivers who turn onto a residential street and unexpectedly encounter basketball players in the road.
    - A falling basketball hoop may create a hazard. A hoop could, during windy conditions, fall into a travel lane causing a vehicular collision, or it could fall on a passing vehicle or pedestrian.
    - Portable basketball hoops are often found on cul-de-sacs. On-street parking in such areas is limited, and basketball hoops in the roadway will further reduce on-street parking opportunities.
- *Accessibility*.
    - The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will serve as a limiting factor with respect to the placement of portable basketball hoops. Per page 8 of the March 2018 edition of the California Department of Transportation's *Permanent Pedestrian Facilities ADA Compliance Handbook,* a minimum clearance of forty-eight inches (48") is required for sidewalks; provided however, clearance may be reduced to thirty-two inches (32") for a length of twenty-four inches (24") as long as reduced access segments are

separated by full-access segments that are forty-eight inches (48") long and forty-eight inches (48") wide. In many of the City's residential subdivisions, no parking strip exists and the distance between curb face and back of sidewalk is only sixty inches (60"). Unless a basketball hoop can be placed within a sixty inch (60") wide space that leaves sufficient clearance for pedestrian access, it cannot be placed on a sidewalk without violating the ADA.

- *Impacts to City Services*

    - Portable basketball hoops found on cul-de-sacs affect the placement of refuse cans due to the limited street frontage of each residence. Refuse containers are often placed very close to basketball hoops without adequately accommodating the width of the backboard. Refuse truck drivers attempt to account for such circumstances, but, occasionally during the refuse collection process, a refuse container contacts a basketball hoop's backboard causing damage to the backboard and/or the refuse truck's arm.

    - Portable basketball hoops in rights-of-way also impact the City's street sweeping efforts. Due to the height of the City's street sweepers and portable basketball hoops, a street sweeper operator must swing wide around a hoop within a roadway to avoid contract. This practice leaves a wide section of the street un-swept and results in complaints by residents.

    - If the City allows basketball hoops within rights-of-way, the City may require that hoops be temporarily moved on days that refuse is collected and streets are swept, but it is foreseeable that some residents will not observe the requirement, which may create a larger number of code violations than those existing today.

- *Liability*

    - Potential liability to the City will be another important factor for the City to consider. The City could be exposed to liability, or at least additional claims, if it sanctions the use of its roadways for basketball activities and injuries arise from such activities.

    - Defense of claims will result in the City's use of public funds that may otherwise be dedicated to the enhancement of the City's parks and recreational facilities.

In Opinion No. 92-1004, the California Attorney General (AG) rendered an opinion that:

> "A city may authorize its residents to install basketball standards in the public right-of-way between the sidewalks and street curbs of residential neighborhoods so that

the backboards face the streets and extend beyond the curbs, provided that the safety and convenience of the traveling public are protected."

The AG evaluated a matter in which a city adopted a permit system for portable basketball hoops under which the city considered the following factors and implemented the following limitations and requirements:

- Location restrictions – cul-de-sacs and short residential streets.
- Minimum specified distance from property lines.
- Adequate visibility for motorists.
- Adequate sidewalk and roadway clearances.
- Consent from residents of neighboring homes.
- Limitation on hours of use.
- Evidence that a permit recipient possesses public liability and property damage insurance.

The City will, per Penal Code Section 933.05(b)(3), further assess a basketball hoop permit program within six (6) months of the publication of the Report.

DEFICIENCY IN THE CITY OF HANFORD PARKS
April 18, 2023

SUMMARY

The 2022-2023 Kings County Grand Jury found that Hanford has a deficiency in the number of basketball courts in its parks system. Out of seventeen parks only four parks have basketball courts, and all are on the south side of Grangeville Boulevard. We believe that several more basketball courts are needed so that all residents have equal access to them.

While there are many basketball courts located in Hanford schools, they are unavailable for use to the public due to insurance and vandalism concerns (long before the COVID Pandemic). The Civic Center Act is codified in California Education Code 38130. The spirit of the law was to ensure that structures and facilities built with public dollars were allowed to benefit the public for other purposes beyond just schooling. Schools interpret the Civic Center Act Education Code 38130 to determine whether their school will be an open or closed campus to residents outside of regular school hours.

The lack of basketball courts would not be an issue if the City of Hanford worked with school districts to make these courts available to Hanford residents.

The Grand Jury found that many portable basketball hoops can be found in residential neighborhoods. The City of Hanford is currently issuing warnings and citations to homeowners that have the portable courts in the streets and sidewalks in front of their homes. Hanford Municipal Code 12.04 Chapter 120 deems the hoop to be a public nuisance. We believe that the number of portable hoops is due in part to the lack of available access to school courts and the lack of courts in Hanford Parks. The City of Hanford should consider making an exception to the city code so that hoops may be allowed to remain and be enjoyed by the city's youth.

BACKGROUND

Local city parks provide access to recreational opportunities. All provide different activities and amenities. City parks should offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities that reflect the community's desires. While parks encourage active lifestyles and improve health, they also improve property values, improve the environment, and in some cases, they provide a way to manage stormwater and lessen flooding.

Green spaces are seen to be the center of equitable and resilient cities. When the public is engaged in and has a say in designing city parks, it provides a sense of community and helps ensure that the park reflects the needs of the community.

Some parks in Hanford have play structures, dog areas, water activities, basketball courts, frisbee golf, work out spaces, ponds, picnic areas and jogging paths, etc. *Please see Exhibit A.* Not all residents have a desire for and a use for every amenity that is offered.

In the past, as the parks were initially being developed, Hanford schools would allow public access to their grounds for sports such as basketball and soccer. Now that the school grounds are closed to

public access, due to vandalism and insurance concerns (long before the COVID Pandemic), the loss of a once widely used amenity should be accounted for in the development of future Hanford Parks. This development also left Hanford Parks with a current need for more basketball courts.

Sociologists believe that the game of basketball provides valuable skill sets, such as communication skills and encourages a sense of community and team work as well as providing key social development for children and adults alike. Residents interact with people from different backgrounds which broadens their perspective. For this reason, the Kings County Grand Jury believes it should be a priority to invest in the development of quality parks and sports facilities in each quarter section of the City of Hanford. Basketball specifically is a sport which is not offered in most of the parks around the City of Hanford. Of the eight major parks in the city of Hanford (17 parks in total) only four parks offer basketball courts, and they are all on the south side of Grangeville Boulevard (Lacey Park being the Northern most park with a basketball court). There are no parks on the north side of Grangeville Boulevard that contain basketball courts. Hidden Valley and Freedom Park, being two of the larger parks in the city, do not offer basketball courts.

METHODOLOGY

The Hanford Parks Director was interviewed on August 4, 2022. The Hanford City Parks and Community Development Department provided statistics on the number of basketball courts in Hanford Parks, the area needed for basketball courts and the cost involved for installing the courts.

Hanford City Council Meetings were attended where the Parks and Community Development Department talked about Hanford Parks.

The Superintendent of Hanford Elementary School District provided the campus policy regarding outside use of school grounds.

Grand Jury members personally toured Hanford Parks and neighborhoods to view basketball courts and residential hoops.

The Grand Jury was given a tour of five Hanford parks on December 22, 2022. The parks visited were Freedom Park, Hidden Valley Park, Centennial Park, Coe Park and Longfield Center.

Hanford's City Manager provided the Grand Jury with information regarding the encroachment into the City's Right of Way specifically, Hanford Municipal Code Section 12.04 Chapter 120.

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury was made aware that the City of Hanford has seventeen parks in its system. *Please see Exhibit A.* Eight of these are large enough to be considered major parks. They include Centennial, Coe, Freedom, Hidden Valley, Earl F. Johnson, Lacey, and Longfield Center. Three of the major parks have no basketball courts, one park has indoor courts, and three parks have outdoor courts. *Please see Exhibit B for amenities.*

Parks with basketball courts are as follows:

1) Centennial Park has 2 outdoor courts.
2) Coe Park has 2 outdoor courts.
3) Lacey Park has 4 outdoor courts (one court was just added).
4) Longfield Center has 2 indoor courts.

Parks without basketball courts are:

1) Freedom Park
2) Hidden Valley Park
3) Earl F. Johnson Park

When built, the new Hero's Park is slated to have several outdoor basketball courts.

Exhibit A: Google Maps "Hanford Parks"

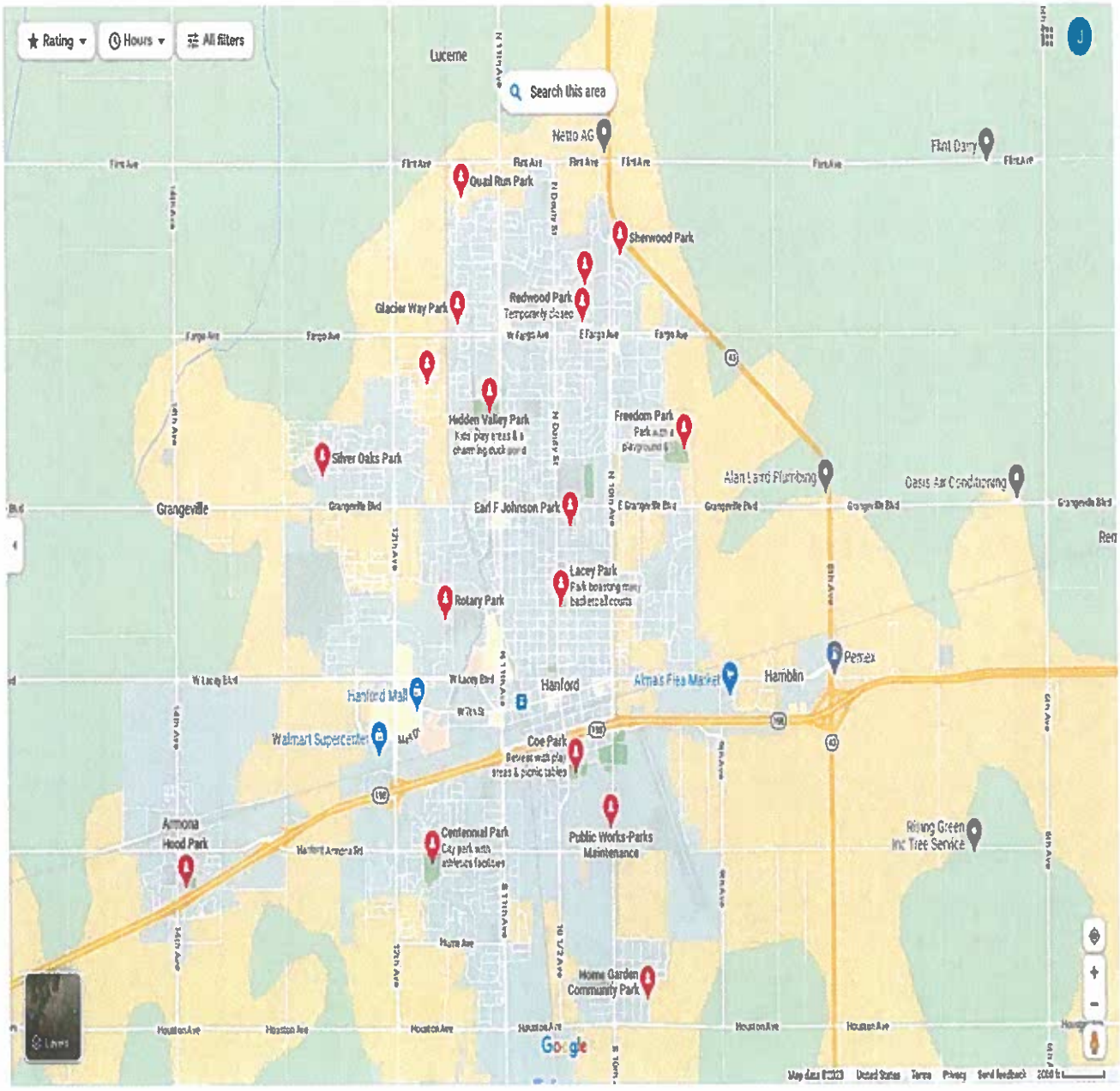

Exhibit B Hanford City Parks-Amenities

	Basketball Courts	Ball Field	Dog Park	Frisbee Golf	Jogging Path	Covered Picnic	Play Ground	Pond	Restroom	Soccer	Splash Pad	Tennis
1 Centennial Park 11731 Hanford Armona R	x	x	x	x	x		x		x			
2 Coe Park 543 S Douty St	x					x	x		x		x	
3 Earl F. Johnson Park 1321 – 1325 N Brown St							x		N			
4 Encore Park 465 E Encore #391							x					
5 Freedom Park 2009 91/4 Ave		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
6 Glacier Way Park 2406 N Glacier Way							x					
8 Hidden Valley Park 2150 N 11th Ave					x	x	x	x	x		x	
9 Hood Park 13922 Hood Ave						x	x					
10 Home Garden Comm Park 11899 Show Place						x	x		x		x	
11 Lacey Park 112 Florinda St	x						x		x		x	
12 Longfield Center 560 S Douty	x											
12 Quail Run Park 3199 N Glacier Way												
13 Redwood Park 410 E Redwood St (temporarily closed)												
14 Rotary Park Campus Dr & North Dr		x								x		
15 Sherwood Park 700 Sherwood Dr							x					
16 Silver Oaks Park 2106 Bryman St							x		N			
17 Vineyards Peoples Park 1415 Vineyard Pl					x		x					

The following figures were provided by the City of Hanford Parks and Community Services Department.

The total area needed for a full basketball court including any regulated needs like surrounding landscaping, sidewalks, safety needs, etc. is 7,200 square feet. The court itself is 100 feet by 50 feet equaling 5,000 square feet leaving 2,200 square feet for ancillary surfacing. The area around the court should be free from trees or other obstructions.

The total cost for one full basketball court is as follows:

1. Building costs $100,000 or more
   i. Depending on the location, irrigation modifications can cost $0 – $1,500
   ii. Cement is $15-$25 per square foot
   iii. Lighting is $2,000 – $7,500 per pole with a minimum of two poles.
2. Ongoing maintenance $1,750
   i. Staff time $1,500
   ii. Material and supplies $250
   Annualized cost per court, not including original construction, $2,500-$5,000
3. Repainting of lines happens every 5-7 years, $8,000-$10,000
   Annualized cost $2,000

While there are many basketball courts located in Hanford schools, they are fenced off and locked up, thus making them unavailable for use by the public. Liability and vandalism have been big concerns. Schools rely on their interpretation of the Civic Center Act- Education Code Section 38130 to determine if their school will be an open or closed campus.

The Civic Center Act-Education Code Section 38130 reads as follows:

"*Every public-school facility is considered a civic center where citizens, school-community councils, and clubs as well as senior, recreation, education, political, artistic, and other organizations may meet. The school district may grant the use of school facilities and grounds upon certain terms and conditions deemed proper by the governing board and subject to specified limitation, requirement, and restrictions set forth within the law.*"

The City of Hanford should consider working with school districts to lessen insurance costs and make these courts available to Hanford residents. Fences may be moved around to isolate the school buildings, leaving the courts available to be used by residents.

The Grand Jury found that many portable basketball hoops can be found in residential neighborhoods. While The City of Hanford is currently issuing warnings and citations to homeowners that have the portable courts in the street and sidewalks in front of their homes, there is currently not a city ordinance that specifically prohibits basketball hoops. The prohibition applies to any items that would be deemed an encroachment into the City's Right of Way. Those provisions are included in Title 12 of the City's Municipal Code, Chapter 12.04.
https://library.qcode.us/lib/hanford_ca/pub/municipal_code/item/title_12

FINDINGS

F1. The Grand Jury has found a need for more basketball courts in Hanford. Three of Hanford's major parks, Freedom Park, Hidden Valley Park, and Earl F. Johnson Park do not contain basketball courts. The four major parks that do offer basketball courts are all on the south side of Grangeville Boulevard leaving the north side of Hanford in a deficit.

F2. While there are many basketball courts located in Hanford schools, they are unavailable for use to the public due to insurance and vandalism concerns. The lack of access to school basketball courts has contributed to the need for additional courts in the City of Hanford Parks.

F3. The Grand Jury found that there are many portable basketball hoops in residential neighborhoods of Hanford. The City of Hanford is currently issuing warnings and citations to homeowners that have the portable courts on the street and sidewalks in front of their homes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Grand Jury believes that the City of Hanford should make it a priority to invest in the development of quality parks and sports facilities in each quarter section of the City of Hanford. The Grand Jury concludes that there is a need for more basketball courts in the north side of Hanford. A full court is needed in Freedom Park, and Hidden Valley Park. The Grand Jury recommends that in the future, plans be made to add a basketball court to other parks that do not currently have one, such as Earl F. Johnson Park.

R2. The Grand Jury believes that a discussion should take place between the City of Hanford and its schools. An analysis should be done by the City of Hanford to see if it might be more cost effective to cover some of the insurance costs in lieu of adding basketball courts in multiple City parks. The City of Hanford should consider working with school districts to make the basketball courts that have been fenced off available to Hanford residents.

R3. The Grand Jury recommends that the City of Hanford consider relaxing its enforcement of its encroachment code dealing with the City's Right of Way, specifically Title 12 of the City's Municipal Code, Chapter 12.04. The residents that have basketball hoops should move them on garbage days/street sweeping days but be allowed to keep them by their curb the rest of the week.

One member of the Local Government Committee recused themselves from this report due to possible conflict of interest.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

City of Hanford Parks and Recreation Department
321 N Douty Street, #B
Hanford, Ca 93230

Hanford City Council
319 N. Douty Street
Hanford, Ca 93230

Hanford City Manager
319 N Douty Street
Hanford, Ca 93230

INVITED RESPONSES

Hanford Joint Union High School District
823 W. Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, Ca 93230

Hanford Elementary School District
P. O. Box 1067
714 North White Street
Hanford, Ca 93232

Pioneer Union Elementary School District
1888 Mustang Drive
Hanford, Ca 93230

SEND FINAL REPORT RESPONSES TO:

Original to:
Shane Burns, Presiding Judge
Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings Court Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

Copy to:
Kings County Grand Jury
P. O. Box 1562
Hanford, Ca 93232

Appendix A

The following figures were provided by the City of Hanford Parks and Community Services Department.

Classifications of Parks are as follows:

1) Mini/Pocket Parks
   The Mini/Pocket Park is a small outdoor space, usually from .25 acres to three acres usually located in an urban area surrounded by houses or commercial buildings.
   They usually function as a small event space, play area for children, or a space for relaxing/socializing, etc.
   Pocket Parks offer minimal amenities on site and are not designed to support programmed activities. They are for users within a close walking distance.

2) Neighborhood/School Park
   The Neighborhood/School Park is usually between three and ten acres but may be larger or smaller depending on the use and facilities offered.
   A neighborhood park is usually within one mile of those that it is intended to serve and should have safe pedestrian access for surrounding residents. Parking is typically not provided.
   Neighborhood parks serve the recreational and social need of the adjoining neighborhood.
   a. Situated on a local street near an arterial street and where possible, next to a school.
   b. Length of stay is usually one hour or less.
   c. Contains one signature amenity such as a playground, spray park, sport court, or gazebo. No restrooms are provided unless deemed necessary by the signature amenity. May include one non-programmed sports field, playgrounds for ages 2-5, one type of sports field or sports court, benches, and a small picnic shelter next to the play area.
   d. Non-revenue facilities and usage is 85 percent active, 15 percent passive.
   e. Maintenance standards: to provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding.
   f. Signage would be directional and include amenity regulations.
   g. Parking would include on-street parking area adjacent to park, usually 5-10 spaces including ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible spaces.
   h. Lighting would be for security purposes only.

3) Community Park
   A Community Park is intended to be accessible to multiple neighborhoods and should focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are generally larger than neighborhood parks but smaller than regional parks and are designed for residents who live within a three-mile radius.
   When possible, they are located next to a school.
   Community parks provide recreational opportunities for the entire family and often include specific recreational purposes such as athletic fields, tennis courts, loop trails, picnic areas, reservable picnic shelters, sports courts, restrooms, drinking fountains, large turfed/landscaped areas and a playground or spray ground. Passive activities include meditation and wildlife watching.

Community parks are usually 10 to 75 acres and are within the radius of one to three miles of typical users.

a. Situated on two collector streets with the preference of being surrounded by four streets or three streets with the fourth being a school.
b. The length of stay is usually two to three hours.
c. Amenities include four signature amenities at a minimum. Trails, sports fields, large shelters/pavilions, community playground for ages 2-5, and 5-12, with shaded elements, recreation center, pool or family aquatic center, sports courts, water feature, public restrooms, drinking fountains, ample parking and security lighting.
d. These contain revenue facilities such as a pool, sports complex, or pavilion.
e. Land usage is 65 percent active and 35 percent passive.
f. These parks are provided with the highest-level of maintenance with the funding that is available.
g. Parking provided is sufficient to support the amenities but occupies no more than 10 percent of the park.
h. Lighting includes sport field light standards.
i. Signage is direction signage and facility/amenity regulation and may include kiosks.
j. The landscape is designed to enhance the park theme/use/experience.
k. Strong appeal to surrounding neighborhoods, loop trail connectivity, linked to regional park, trail or recreation facility.

4) Regional Park

A Regional parks function is as a destination location that serves a large area of several communities, residents within a city, county, or across multiple counties. They include recreational opportunities such as soccer, softball, golf, boating, camping, conservation-wildlife viewing and fishing. While sometimes including active facilities, they are predominantly natural resource-based parks.

Regional parks are usually 75 to 1,000 acres in size but can be 2,000 to 5,000 acres. Facilities could include those of a community park and include specialized amenities such as an art center, amphitheater, boating facility, golf course, or natural area with trails. Regional parks should promote tourism and economic development of a region.

a. Preferred location is one which has wetlands, streams and other geographic features or sites with significant cultural or historic features.
b. Length of stay is assumed to be all day or multiple day experience.
c. Amenities usually include 10 to 12 preferred amenities to create a signature facility – golf course, tennis complex, sprots complex, lake, regional playground, 3 plus reservable picnic shelters, camping, outdoor recreation/extreme sports, recreation center, pool, gardens, trails, zoo, specialty facilities, restrooms, drinking fountains, concessions, restaurant, ample parking, and special event sites.
d. Typically, this park is designed to produce revenue to offset operation costs.
e. Land usage is typically 50 percent active/50 percent passive.
f. These parks provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding.
g. Parking is sufficient for all amenities.
h. Lightning includes sports field light standards.
i. Signage includes directional signage and facility/amenity regulations.

j. Landscape design is appropriate to enhance the park theme/use/experience.
k. These parks are linked to major trail systems, public transportation, concessions, food and retail sales are available, Wi-Fi/telephone/cable TV conduit and have dedicated site managers on duty.

Sports Complex

Sports complexes at community parks, regional parks, and stand-alone sports complexes are developed to provide 4 to 16 plus fields/courts in one setting. They may also support extreme sports facilities, such as BMX or skateboarding. They may be single focused or multi-focused and can include indoor or outdoor facilities to serve both youth and adults. Outdoor fields should be lighted to maximize value and productivity of the complex. They focus on meeting the needs of residents while also attracting sport tournaments for economic purposes.
Sports fields have appropriate field distances for each sport's governing body and support amenities designed to produce revenue to offset operation costs.
Signature sports complexes include enhanced amenities such as artificial turf, multipurpose field benches/bleachers, scoreboards, amplified sound, scorer's booth, etc.

a. The service radius is determined by community demand.
b. The site is usually located on or near arterial streets (on all four sides).
c. The length of stay is usually two to three hours for single activities or all day for tournaments or special events.
d. Amenities would include four to sixteen or more fields or sports courts, restrooms, ample parking, turf types appropriate for the facility and anticipated usage, and field lighting.
e. Revenue facilities would be four or more fields, concession stand, picnic pavilion etc.
f. The land usage would be 95 percent active and 5 percent passive.
g. The focus is on active programming of all amenities.
h. Parking would be sufficient to support all the amenities.
i. Lighting would include amenity lighting sport field light standards.
j. Signage would be direction signage and facility/amenity regulations and may include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility.
k. Landscape design would be appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience.
l. The site is usually 20 or more acres.

Recreation/Special use areas

Recreation/special use areas are those that do not fall within the typical park classification. A major difference is that they usually serve a single purpose not multiple recreation opportunities like a typical park does.
It is possible for a special use facility to be located inside another park.
They fall into five categories.

1) Cemeteries.
   Burial-ground that is generally seen as a large public park or ground laid out expressly for the interment of the dead. May be viewed as a historic site.

2) Historic/Cultural/Social Site.
   Unique local site offering historical education, and cultural opportunities. Including historic downtown areas, plaza parks, performing arts parks, arboretums, display gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, churches, and amphitheaters. Usually located in a community or regional park.
3) Golf Course.
   Nine and 18-hole complexes with ancillary facilities such as club houses driving ranges, program space and learning centers. The facilities are highly maintained and support a wide age level of males and females. The programs are for daily use, tournaments, leagues, clinics, and special events. Operational costs are covered by revenue from daily play, season pass holders, concession stands, driving range fees, and sale of pro shop items.
4) Indoor Recreation Facilities
   These are single purpose or specialized facilities such as community centers, senior centers and community theaters usually located in a community or regional Park.
5) Outdoor Recreation Facilities
   These include baseball stadiums, aquatic parks, disc gold, skateboard, BMX or dog parks. These are usually located in a park. Amenities, revenue, land size, parking, maintenance, and programing varies.

AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 7/10/2023	**AGENDA SECTION:** GENERAL BUSINESS

SUBJECT:
Longfield Center activity age restrictions

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation: The Parks and Recreation Commission receives the presentation

Recommended Motion:

BACKGROUND:

During the June 20th City Council meeting, a question was asked regarding the age restrictions at the Longfield Center for various activities. The following age restrictions are currently in place:

Fitness Center:	Age 18 and above and requires a membership, daily admission, or five-day pass.
Pool Tables:	Age 16 and above
Air hockey, foosball, and ping pong:	Any age
Drop-in basketball:	Any age

The age restriction for the fitness center is based on the City's liability for the type of equipment and the liability of risk.
The age restriction on the pool tables is based on the equipment (pool cues and pool balls) and the risk of irresponsible play and damage to the pool table felt covering.

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:
None