



AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
CITY OF BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
OCTOBER 24, 2023
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A. September 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes* (p. 3-5)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - REGULAR AGENDA

B. New Discussion Items

a. Overgrown Arborvitaes at the Hockey Rink

C. Discussion Items Carried Over from Previous Meeting(s)

a. Conservation Initiatives

b. Planning for Tighe-Schmitz Park* (p. 6)

c. City Code Review

d. Public Signs on City Beaches

e. General Maintenance

f. Update on Hall's Marsh MOA

D. Confirm Next Month's Meeting and Identify Agenda Topics

ADJOURN

* denotes an attachment in the agenda packet

ATTACHMENTS

PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING September 26, 2023
MINUTES

The September 26, 2023, meeting of the Parks and Natural Resources Committee was called to order in city hall at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: Council Member Justin McCarthy, Council Member Kathy Weier, Committee Members Zachary Michalk, Mary Sue Simmons, Jennifer Arsenault, and Alan Mitchell.

Bloomquist Park Inspection. The Committee walked to Bloomquist Park and conducted an inspection of the facilities. The tour lasted about twenty minutes and the members returned to city hall.

Agenda. Simmons asked that two items be added to the agenda: a discussion of maintenance of the parks in general and a discussion of the city's role in addressing climate change impacts. The committee unanimously added both items to the agenda.

Bloomquist Park Discussion. The committee identified a few items that needed attention at the Park. A garbage can should be provided near the tennis courts. An abandoned cement footing of some type should be removed. The tennis court is one tile longer on one side of the net but the committee did not think it was necessary to rectify the difference since only recreational tennis was being played on the courts. A couple of tiles near the net are raised and should be repaired, however. The committee thought that the playground equipment was in good shape.

Committee Vacancy. McCarthy and Weier advised that there were two applicants for the open position on the committee and that a new member would be appointed by the Council in October.

Climate Change Issues. Simmons reported that Vadnais Heights has hired a new natural resources person to advise the city about what measures it might implement to address concerns over climate change. Simmons suggested that the committee might want to begin discussing how Birchwood might reduce its environmental impacts. Committee members raised a number of ways in which the city might act to protect the environment, including conserving water, planting trees, installing solar panels, and minimizing runoff. The committee focused on the fact that a lot of trees have been lost recently, some to storm damage and others to disease. The

committee discussed that there might be grant opportunities to assist financially with some programs. The committee recognized that perhaps new ordinances might be helpful to promote certain practices that would reduce environmental impacts. The committee determined to continue this discussion at further meetings.

General Maintenance. This was the other new item added to the agenda. Simmons provided committee members with documentation and photos that the Birchwood Dock Association had provided her, identifying certain issues that needed attention on the beaches, such as low-hanging tree limbs and rocks on the beach paths. The committee discussed how the city might get these matters resolved and determined that it should be possible to arrange some kind of cleanup day and rely on volunteers to take care of these maintenance-type issues. The committee thought it would be helpful if the city developed a list of maintenance items needing attention so volunteers knew what maintenance was necessary. The committee discussed the possibility of establishing a cleanup day and asking for volunteers, probably early in the spring.

Tighe-Schmitz Park. Weier reported that the city has begun to replace some boards on the hockey rink. Weier said that she would check with the city of Hopkins regarding their practices for flooding outdoor hockey rinks. Weier also reported that the city has seen some vandalism lately, with stop signs and other signs being torn down. Simmons handed out a schematic proposal for managing Tighe-Schmitz Park that was developed by Lori Tell with the Washington County District. Tell has indicated that she would be happy to meet with the Parks Committee. The committee thought that it would invite Tell to one of its meetings early next year and to the next public forum to be held next spring. A copy of the schematic is included with the Minutes.

City Code Revision. McCarthy informed the committee that the proposed amendments were considered by the City Council in September and that a public hearing will be held at the October meeting. The new ordinance amendments could be adopted in October.

Owl Street Handrail. Weier and McCarthy stated that the handrail is under construction and should be completed soon.

Signs on Public Beaches. The committee agreed that once the ordinance amendments are adopted, the committee can finalize what it thinks should be stated on the signs. Arsenault and Simmons will prepare proposed signs for committee

consideration at the October meeting. The committee determined that once the content of the signs is determined, the city can arrange for the preparation and installation of the signs.

Playground Maintenance. No further discussion occurred since it was covered earlier under other agenda items.

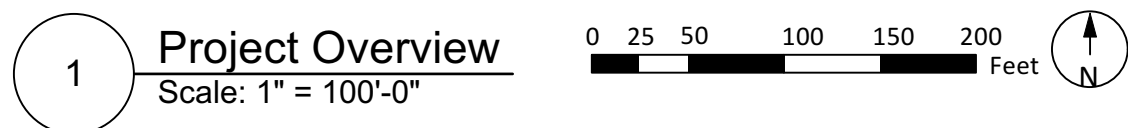
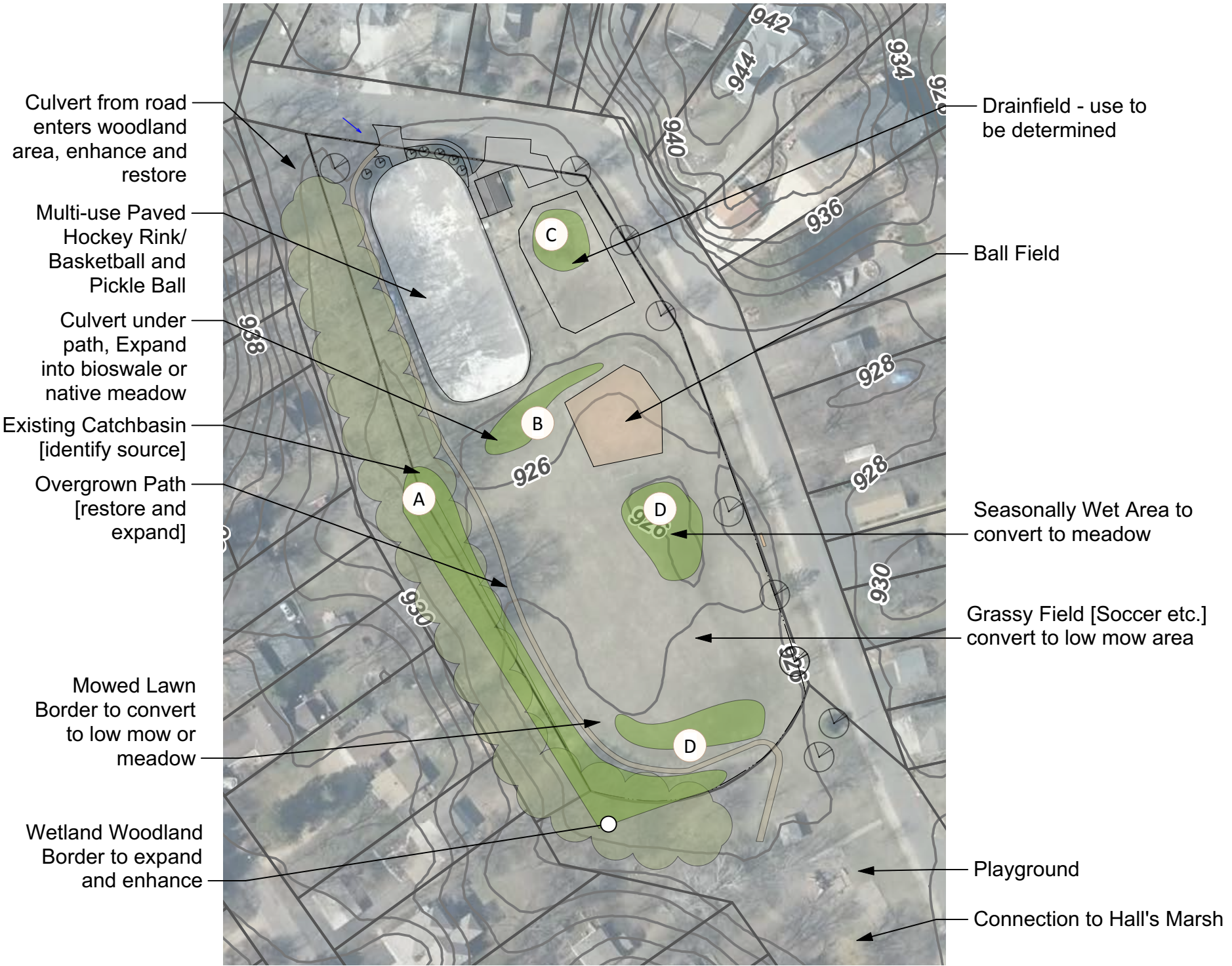
Update on Hall's Marsh. McCarthy reported that the city was waiting for a response from the Rice Creek Watershed District regarding the conditions under which the city would agree to the draining of Priebe Lake. The RCWD is anxious to drain the water from the lake so it is anticipated that a Memorandum of Agreement will be finalized.

Next Meeting October 24. Several members will be unavailable on the Third Thursday of October – October 19, its regular meeting date – so the committee decided to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, October 24 instead.

Adjourn. 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Mitchell
Secretary



PROJECT OVERVIEW:
Goals for this project include reducing maintenance, provide native habitat, filter stormwater runoff, and increase public enjoyment of the space. Challenges to this park are the tendency for saturated soils, uneven establishment of grass, underutilized park features. This project proposal intends to convert areas that tend to hold water to native plantings and propose additional amenities that may enhance use.

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Washington Conservation District
455 Hayward Ave N
Oakdale, MN 55128
(651) 330-8220
www.mnwcd.org

plan created by:

Project Address 410 Lake Avenue, Birchwood, MN	Drawn	Reviewed	Revision
Project Manager Lori Tella	Washington Conservation District		

RCWD
RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive, Suite 611 - Blaine, MN 55449
(763) 398-3070
www.ricecreek.org

Project Title
Tighe-Schmitz Park

Sheet Title
Project Overview

CAO File Name: P:\A\Tighe-Schmitz WIP.mxd

Date
9/25/23

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