



Cancelled Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 5:30 pm

There will be no meeting for the month of March due to no agenda items to be approved. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023 at 5:30pm in the Hiawatha Council Chambers.

1. Business

No items to approve for the month of March.

Attachments:

- **March Reports** (March_2023_Reports.pdf)
- **February Analytics** (02.23_Analytics_Snapshot__1_.pdf)

MEMORANDUM

Parks and Recreation Department

To: Park Commission, City Council and City Manager

From: Kelly Willadsen, Parks and Recreation Director

Date: 3/14/2023

Subject: March Park Reports



Parks:

Spring is approaching which means we are preparing for park opening, hiring seasonal staff, and turf management. Park Technician's Jeff White and Anna Tindal attended the Kirkwood Horticulture Job Fair in February to meet with Kirkwood students on potential internship opportunities for the upcoming season. We met with 6 students and secured Mallory Kaminski. Mallory has a great background of work experience related to Parks and Conservation. We are excited to bring her on board and help her fulfill her summer internship. Ron DeWitt has been a seasonal for us the last two seasons and will be returning for his third summer. Ron is a resident of Hiawatha and assists us with weekend reservations and daily operations. We have one more spot to fill for a full crew this summer. I have two more interviews lined up this week.

Three Adventure Camp Counselors will be returning for their second and third summers. I am so grateful for their efforts in managing a great youth program for the community. Emily Finn, Lola White and Megan Kjar will be starting mid May in preparation for camp in June. We have one more vacant opening available with interviews scheduled over the next couple weeks.

Over the next month, staff will be preparing for park openings. This consists of turning water on, making sure plumbing and water fountains operate efficiently from the winter months, dispersing picnic tables, checking playground equipment for safety standards, chipping trees and flower beds, fertilizing and treatment of park grounds, and getting nets up on courts. It takes a village to accomplish everything and we can't thank Water and Public Works Departments for their assistance.

Ice Rink: The ice rink has been drained in preparation for tennis and pickleball. Once the weather turns we will have pickleball users itching to get out and play!

Trees: Public Works and Parks will be offering the Adopt a Street Tree Program for the third year. This program is for Hiawatha Residents that would like to plant a tree in their right-of-way. This is a free opportunity for anyone willing to assist the City with relieving our community. There are 6 different tree species to select from. We ask each resident to submit a locate and right of way permit before planting. Trees will be available for pick up April 22nd, the same day we celebrate Earth Day as a City. The program opens April 1st for registration. There are 60 trees available this spring.

Branching Out Tree Grant: The City has been awarded \$4,000.00 through the Branching Out Tree Grant provided by Trees Forever and Alliant Energy. The \$4,000.00 will help cover the cost of the Adopt a Street Tree Program.

IDNR Community Forestry Grant: The City Applied for an additional \$5,000.00 through the Iowa DNR to assist the City in derecho recovery and the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Per the City's tree inventory, if awarded, 20 trees will be planted along Boyson Road to help rebuild the trees we lost in the 2020 derecho, some of which consisted of ash trees. We will continue applying for tree grants to help replenish the 200's of trees we lost.

Prairie Initiative: Prairie restoration has been a large topic of conversation in Linn County for the last 5 years. Clark McCloud started the 1,000 acre Pollinator Initiative with Linn County in 2017. This initiative uses pollinator habitat restoration to leverage broader environmental health, community aesthetics, recreational opportunities, nature-based educational opportunities, and ultimately human health. The 1,000 Acres Initiative has evolved into an educational effort to build a model public/private partnership, scalable to any size for other communities and agencies to use across the country. Hiawatha will be starting on a small scale by incorporating educational Prairie areas throughout Clark and Tucker Park. This not only is an educational element, it is good to our environment and decreases mowing time. The seed mixture we will use will incorporate colorful native plants and flowers. We will add educational signage for our residents to better understand the environmental effects. Anna Tindal, Parks Technician is very interested in this project and looks forward to leading it.

Recreation:

Iowa Parks and Recreation Spring Conference: Ambyr and I will be attending this year's spring conference in Davenport during the last week in March. We look forward to this week each year as it allows us to network with our state peers, listen to educational sessions and meet with our local agencies that we work with throughout the year. We are able to learn from one another, share our victories and challenges and come away refreshed for the upcoming season!

Pound Fitness: Who's ready to make some noise?! Join us for a FREE Pound Fitness class in the Hiawatha Community Center at 6:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month during the 2023 year!

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training: We ended up with 17 participants in the Red Cross Babysitting Clinic. The next opportunity to experience this class is Monday, October 23, 2023.

Wine and Design: Join Nichol from Designs on Willow and make a fresh floral centerpiece just in time for Easter! Thursday, April 6 at 6pm in the Hiawatha Community Center. Find additional information at <https://designsonwillow-ia.square.site/>

Easter Egg Hunt: Save the date for the annual Hiawatha Easter Egg Hunt in Guthridge Park on Saturday, April 8th at 9:00am. We need help to disburse 5,000 eggs around the park. If you are available, please let us know! We will meet at Guthridge Park's Red Pavilion at 7:30am.

Bingo: Sherry Brewer is our Bingo volunteer and she was excited to announce that we had our highest number of bingo-ers ever in February of 2023 at 50 people!

Snapology After School Club: Snapology provides fun, hands-on STEM experiences for students in grades kindergarten through 5th grade. From Robotics to Engineering to Animation, there's

something for everyone. Your child will use LEGO® bricks, K'Nex and technology to make learning fun. Snacks provided! \$35/week. Register at www.Hiawatha.ActivityReg.com

Egg my Yard: Wake up on Easter morning to find fun filled eggs spread throughout your yard! Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation will plan on distributing eggs on to registered houses between 5am-6am. 24 eggs - \$15 48 eggs - \$25 100 eggs - \$40 Register today at <https://2023eggmyyard.eventbrite.com>

Farmers Market: We have 34+ applicants for the Hiawatha Farmers Market. We will be reviewing them the first week of April and let those accepted know as soon as possible. The market starts May 7 and will take place every Sunday from 10am - 1pm through October 29.

Numbers as of March 6, 2023

Hiawatha Soccer

- M/W - 19
- T/TH - 17

Rec United Soccer - 8

Blastball - 30

Tennis #1 - 5

Tennis #2 - 3

Family Formal - 12

Letters from Santa - 0

Adventure Camp

- Week 1 - 5
- Week 2 - 2
- Week 3 - 4
- Week 4 - 2
- Week 5 - 2
- Week 6 - 2
- Week 7 - 2
- Week 8 - 2

Snapology After School - 2

Yoga with Wendy

Feb - 3

June - 0

Sept - 0

Nov - 0

Garage Sales - 3

Egg My Yard - 22

Tiny Tots Tri - 2

HiBRAI - 9

Reindeer Run - 0

Ride to Wrigley - 27/54

Iowa State Fair - 0/54

Babysitting - 1

ANALYTICS SNAPSHOT

February 2023





PAGE REACH	9,541	PAGE VISITS	781
FOLLOWERS	3,998	NEW LIKES	27

TOP 5 MOST VISITED PAGES ON THE WEBSITE

- #1 - HOMEPAGE
- #2 - JOB OPPORTUNITIES
- #3 - PAY WATER BILL
- #4 - CALENDAR
- #5 - PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS

TOP PERFORMING POSTS

HIGHEST REACH & MOST SHARES



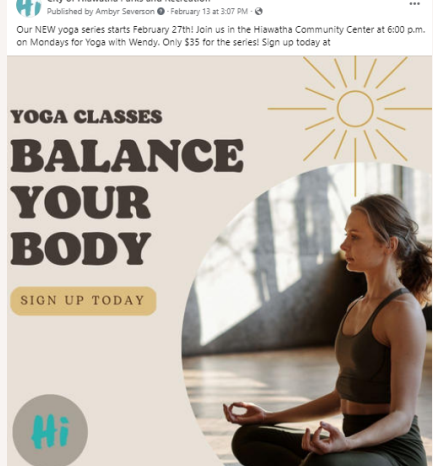
2,776	Reached
76	Reactions
N/A	Links clicked
8	Comments
14	Shares

MOST REACTIONS & COMMENTS




1,725	Reached
112	Reactions
40	Links clicked
9	Comments
1	Shares

MOST CLICKED LINKS

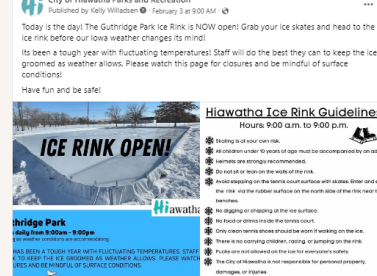


1,833	Reached
5	Reactions
99	Links clicked
0	Comments
3	Shares

OTHER NOTABLE POSTS



2,424	Reached
59	Reactions
N/A	Links clicked
7	Comments
11	Shares



2,161	Reached
36	Reactions
7	Comments
11	Shares