

# Hiawatha Parks and Recreation



**To:** Park and Recreation Commission  
**CC:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Angie Cole, Park and Recreation Director  
**Date:** May 1, 2012  
**Re:** Park and Recreation Report

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## **Adventure Camp Seasonal Hires**

Lacey Hamlett and Kim Kuda are returning employees from last year. Both did a great job for us last year and I am happy to have them back again. We had 6 applicants for 4 seasonal positions to be filled. Bill Hornett and I interviewed four people and are asking Hope Smile and Rachel Flaherty to turn in background check forms to hire. We are advertising the position again and extending the deadline to May 18<sup>th</sup> since we don't have the six people we need to run the program.

## **Pride in Community Appearance review**

While attending the Tree City Awards ceremony I learned of a group in Fort Dodge, Iowa, that has a group of volunteers that make positive improvements in their community. This group is called, Pride In Community Appearance. PICA has about 50-60 regular volunteers. For each project they average around 20-25 people that show up on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help with the projects they have planned. PICA meets at 9:00 am and works until 11:00 am on the two weekdays in the spring, summer and fall seasons. At 10:00 am there are refreshments available and a brief team meeting. In 2012 PICA volunteers participated in 2,500 activity hours. Since 2002 PICA has logged more than 13,500 hours of landscaping activities in the Fort Dodge area.

PICA has a projects list to make their community aware of completed projects. Including:

- Landscaping (Such as grooming, trimming, and planting)
- Installing Memorials
- Elimination of Graffiti
- Painting barrier pipes
- Painting picnic shelters, restrooms, playground equipment, and shower buildings in the parks

PICA also likes to recognize their volunteers. On their website they have a list of all volunteers who have done 100+ hours. PICA's website also has pictures of completed projects, along with before and after pictures so the community can really see what a difference they have made. [http://web.me.com/thomas\\_hickey/PICA/Home.html](http://web.me.com/thomas_hickey/PICA/Home.html)

PICA recruits their volunteers by letting everyone know it's a free for all. The volunteers tell friends and family members about the program and it has grown over the years. They have also put flyers in their community paper,

along with a calendar stating where they will be at on certain dates, what they will be doing, and an invitation for volunteers.

PICA does not carry insurance. In Fort Dodge, if you are on city property doing city projects you are covered by the city for any property damage, or physical damage. However, PICA has not had any accidents in the 11 years that they have been operating.

Here at the Hiawatha's Park and Recreations department we are looking to establish a similar group and get our community more involved.

Project ideas for this group could include:

- Revamping and structuring volunteers in the adopt-a flower-bed program which currently has 4/18 flower beds adopted
- Working with children in our programs on civic projects

I am requesting your support and ideas for this program.

### **PARK UPDATE:**

Hiawatha Parks are all open in full-force: picnic tables are down, restrooms are open, volleyball and tennis nets are up. Splash pads will be available to open this month. We are mowing, weeding and applying chemical treatment to city owned land. Quinn Becker started as a seasonal and has been in training. Quinn and Taylor Glanz have started working weekends to cover community center rentals and park pavilion rentals, along with park clean up.

The eye-380 planting is in the process of clean up for spring. We have cut down grasses and will be working with the committee to mulch and weed May 16<sup>th</sup> in the morning. The mulch and chemicals for weed spraying are covered by a grant applied for by Eye380.

North Center Point Road Branching Out Grant was awarded to Hughes Nursery. 57 trees were planted on N. Center Point Rd and boy scouts were called in to help with the planting as well as learn about proper tree planting and the positive effects of trees.

Our department and several others helped landscape areas on the west side of city hall.

The splashpad surfaces have been replaced through Surface America. The contractor is coming back to redo a couple spots that bubbled up. We should be ready to open the splash pads later this month.



### **RECREATION UPDATE:**

There are 132 participants signed up for soccer and 130 signed up for Blastball. I am currently in the process of recruiting parent coaches for soccer. The registration deadline for this program is May 21. Adventure Camp also has 15 registered for Tot-lot, 54 in Playground, and 11 Youth in Parks children in both sessions. Online registrations have been very successful with both programs and facilities. Please review the spreadsheet below for revenue generated on the system since it has been active:

<b>Paypal Activity</b>			
	<i>Sales</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Net Revenue</i>
<b>January</b>	\$2,464.00	\$83.62	\$2,380.38
<b>February</b>	\$4,001.00	\$131.51	\$3,869.49
<b>March</b>	\$10,341.00	\$339.54	\$10,001.46
<b>April</b>	\$5,454.00	\$191.48	\$5,262.52
<b>Annual Total</b>			<b>\$21,513.85</b>

The Advanced Adult Volleyball League started on April 25 in Guthridge Park. They will be playing every Wednesday night for the summer and into the fall. Cost to register is \$10/person and there are 17 players registered for the first session. They play in a mad hatter format and there is a facilitator and player of the program that works with us to make sure we have a structured program on Wednesday nights.

The Hiawatha Bike Rodeo and Parade is going to be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 PM. We will receive 50 helmets from the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association and we have 50 left over from last year. We will have the Hawkeye Bike Club, Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation, Hiawatha Fire and Police departments and the Hiawatha Farmers State Bank employees there to volunteer and help with this event. We have been marketing this event heavily in hopes to get all 100 helmets given to children that need them. We have put a flyer in your packet for you to distribute if you have a place to post it. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact Liz or Angie. Our first concert of the summer will be directly following with the Large Midgets playing at 6 PM.

Hiawatha Farmers Market vendor spots are full. Our seasonal vendors and our new monthly option for vendors have filled all the spots in the market area. From this point on those who were day vendors and want to show up to vend will be asked to fill out their paperwork and be put on a waiting list. As we hear from vendors who will be on vacation or not able to attend market for other reasons, we will call the people on the waiting list to fill in their spots.