

Reflections of Leisure



Plymouth Parks and Recreation
2009 Annual Report

PLYMOUTH PARKS & RECREATION
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Front cover photo by Sheila Langer- Woodland Trails Park

ADMINISTRATION

Eric Blank Director of Parks & Recreation

RECREATION

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Cindy Anderson Recreation Supervisor

Erica Chua Recreation Supervisor

Karol Klint Greupner Recreation Supervisor

Dan Lauer Recreation Supervisor

Jackie Maas Coordinator of Volunteers

Regina Michaud Recreation Manager

Donna Sankey Accounting Clerk

Tara Werneke Office Support Representative

PLYMOUTH CREEK CENTER

Rick Busch Plymouth Creek Manager

Angie Dehn Rental Coordinator

Pennie Gallagher Clerical Assistant

David Gilseth Building Maintenance

Deb Johnson Office Support Representative

Sara Mittelstaedt Seniors' Program Director

John Spiotta Building Maintenance

PLYMOUTH ICE CENTER

Bill Abel Ice Center Manager

Barb Ackerson Office Support Representative

Steve Lewis Ice Arena Operations Supervisor

PARKS MAINTENANCE

Mark Peterson Superintendent of Parks

Paul Buck Forester

Daniel Heitke Parks Supervisor

Kris Hofstedt Office Support Representative

Lowell Luebeck Parks Supervisor

Joan Nelson Office Support Representative



ERIC BLANK

Director of Parks & Recreation



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Plymouth Parks and Recreation

Enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

*Fostering individual and community development in all aspects-
physical, mental, social and environmental.*

from the chair



A highlight in 2009 was watching the local heroes show up at the grand opening ceremony for the Zachary Concessions Building. The heroes I'm talking about were the players' parents, electricians, plumbers, and painters who all volunteered their skills and time to make this great parks project possible. I think the little league kids there may have had a different opinion than me about who the heroes were when Twins players, American League MVP, Joe Mauer and World Series Champion Dan Gladden came out to speak. Nonetheless, it's our community heroes working in so many different ways that make Plymouth a great place to live.

In addition, projects were completed at Legacy Greenway Park, Woodland Trails Park and the Millennium Garden. Each one of these is a great display of our cities' staff dedication and their commitment to "enhance the quality of life for all residents".

While a recent downturn in the nation's economy may change the direction or temporarily delay a few potential Parks and Recreation projects, it won't change the direction of our hearts or the dedication of our community volunteers. As the city of Plymouth continues to grow, so will the Park system, through land acquisitions, trail additions, park enhancements, and program additions.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for 3 years. I hope all of you will continue to be the heroes of our community. Volunteer when you are able and keep making Plymouth a great place to live.

Mike Smith, PRAC Chair

prac members

Each of the seven members of the Commission is appointed for a three-year term by the City Council. The chair is appointed by the members of the Commission and serves for a term of one year. The Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council.

Anderson, Doug	Term Expires 1/31/11
Anderson, Greg	Term Expires 1/31/11
Carroll, Ned	Term Expires 1/31/12
Knight, Patrick	Term Expires 1/31/10
Nelson, J.D.	Term Expires 1/31/12
Smith, Michael (Chair)	Term Expires 1/31/10
Vanderwall, Aaron	Term Expires 1/31/12



meeting attendance

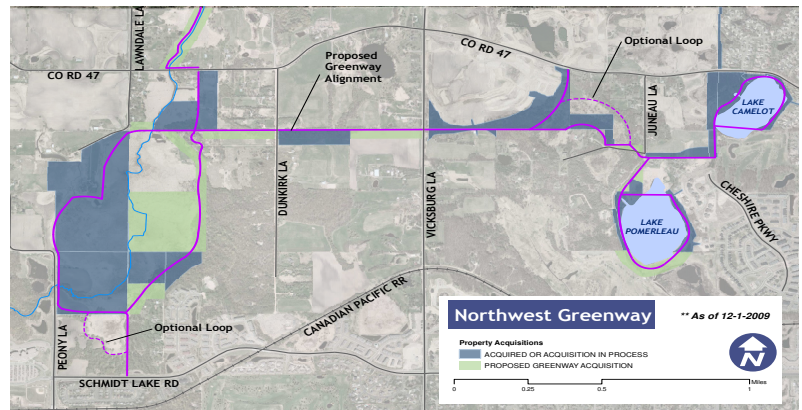
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
D. Anderson	X	X	X		X				X		X	
G. Anderson	X	X	X		X	X			X		X	
N. Carroll	X	X	X		X	X			X		X	
P. Knight	X		X			X			X		X	
J.D. Nelson		X	X		X	X			X		X	
M. Smith	X	X	X			X			X			
A. Vanderwall	X	X	X		X				X		X	

X=Present. All areas filled in gray were after term or prior to term on PRAC.

acquisition of land

The City acquired three parcels of land in the Northwest Greenway. The acquisitions and/or land dedication include:

- **39.95 acres** from the Elm Creek Highlands Development (along Peony Lane; just north of Schmidt Lake Road). Approximately 6 acres of the overall property is considered high/dry land, for which 3.96 of the acres were acquired through park dedication and the remaining 2.09 was purchased for \$316,580. The remaining 34 acres of wetland was given to the City.
- In addition, the City received a trail easement along the eastern portion of the Elm Creek Highlands Development. The 40 foot wide trail easement will provide access to the Northwest Greenway from Schmidt Lake Road.
- **9.8 acres** was purchased from Scherber Companies for \$1,390,000 million. The property is located along Dunkirk, just south of Co. Road 47.
- **5.92 acres** was purchased from the Hamptons for \$410,000. The property is located on Juneau Lane, just to the east of the Taryn Hills Development.



irrigation system

Ridgemount Playfield irrigation system was replaced at a cost of \$140,000. This was the sixth year of a ten-year plan to replace our outdated irrigation systems. Facility irrigation systems remaining in the replacement program include: Bass Lake Playfield (2010), Parkers Lake Park (2011) and Elm Creek Playfield (2016).

other capital projects

Also completed in 2009, were the replacement of the tennis courts at Zachary Playfield for \$175,000, and playgrounds at Gleanloch and Parkers Lake Playfield at a cost of \$125,000. The Parkers Lake playground improvement included the City's first non-traditional electronic component that is aimed at attracting older youth. The electronic game system combines the speed and reflex action of video games with the movement of aerobic exercise.

The beach enhancement capital project was delayed due to the uncertain future of the swimming beach operation.

trail improvements

In 2009, we completed a new trail on Bass Lake Road. The trail runs along the south side of Bass Lake Road from Zachary Lane to Nathan Lane. With the completion of this section of trail, Bass Lake Road now has trails on both the north and south sides of the road. The cost of the trail was \$105,730.

hilde performance center



The City Council authorized plans and specifications for improvements for the Hilde Performance Center, not to exceed \$1.2 million from the Community Improvement Fund. Phase one of a two phase project is scheduled for construction in 2010. Phase one of the project will focus on the interior of the Hilde Performance Center site. Some of the more significant improvements will include: site grading, new asphalt trails, vendor area enhancements and a secondary performance area with additional site seating.

millenium garden improvements

Phase II of the Millennium Garden Master Plan was completed. The \$125,000 project features a covered bridge that connects the ponds, an aggregate trail around the northern pond, and several waterfalls. Additional improvements include a stone staircase leading down to the water's edge and a viewing platform, (\$9,000) donated by the Plymouth Rotarians,



concessions building

In May, the Plymouth/New Hope Little League (PNHLL) and the City celebrated the grand opening of the new concessions building at Zachary Park. The event included all of the PNHLL teams, City Council members, Parks Commission members and many community members. Also in attendance to open the building, from the Minnesota Twins Baseball team, were Dan Gladen (retired) and Joe Mauer.



arts policy

The City Council approved the Public Arts Policy. The Policy has been a work in progress for the last year. The new policy will ensure the integrity of the City's existing art collection (currently 4 pieces) and formalize procedures for future acquisitions. The policy established guidelines for acquisition, the selection process, funding, insurance, maintenance/preservation and relocation or removal. It will also act as an advocate to integrate art into the community and to raise public awareness for the arts.

nrpa accreditation

The Parks & Recreation Department will be completing the standards for agency accreditation from the National Recreation and Parks Association.

acquisition of land

The City will continue its efforts to purchase open space and park land. As development in the northwest quadrant of the City continues, we will work with willing sellers to acquire key parcels for future neighborhood parks and the Northwest Greenway.

capital improvement program

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission will submit their recommendation for a five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Plymouth parks system to the City Council.

new trails

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds are available (\$375,000) for new connections to the Plymouth trail network. The commission will review trail requests and needs.

park tour

The Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a park tour this summer. Members of the City Council, Planning Commission, and other commissions will be invited to join the tour.

review fees & policies

The commission will review fees and charges for Plymouth park buildings & facilities, the Plymouth Creek Center and Millennium Garden.

miscellaneous park projects

The following projects are lined up for 2010;

- Hilde Performance Center Improvements -Phase I (\$1.2 million)
- Trail crossing at Cheshire Lane (\$250,000)
- Playground replacement at Shiloh (\$120,000)
- Skate Park equipment replacement at the water treatment plant (\$135,000)
- Replacement of outdoor hockey rinks at Plymouth Creek Playfield -East Rink (\$160,000)
- New pedestrian bridge at West Medicine Lake Park (\$100,000)
- Begin work on trail concept plans for the Northwest Greenway (\$25,000)

Note: The irrigation replacement project at either Bass Lake or Parkers Lake Playfield (\$135,000) is being re-evaluated as a potential 2011 project.

grand openings/dedications

The City Council, Commission, and community will be celebrating the grand opening of Millennium Garden phase II project.

budgets

Operating Expenditures*

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Administration	511,442	542,426	678,198	708,607
Maintenance	2,567,891	2,740,255	2,876,773	2,954,409
Forestry	676,164	707,560	733,506	816,031
Recreation Programs	1,578,302	1,655,635	1,762,865	1,831,815
Plymouth Creek Center	490,633	535,908	545,612	583,470
Fieldhouse	297,000	306,000	302,000	302,000
Ice Center	1,353,300	1,430,500	1,388,175	1,401,880
Volunteers	91,949	95,879	97,999	97,497
TOTALS	7,566,681	8,014,163	8,385,128	8,695,709



*City allocation costs (i.e. Facility Mgmt., IT Overhead, etc.) were realigned for the 2008 budgets

Revenue Sources

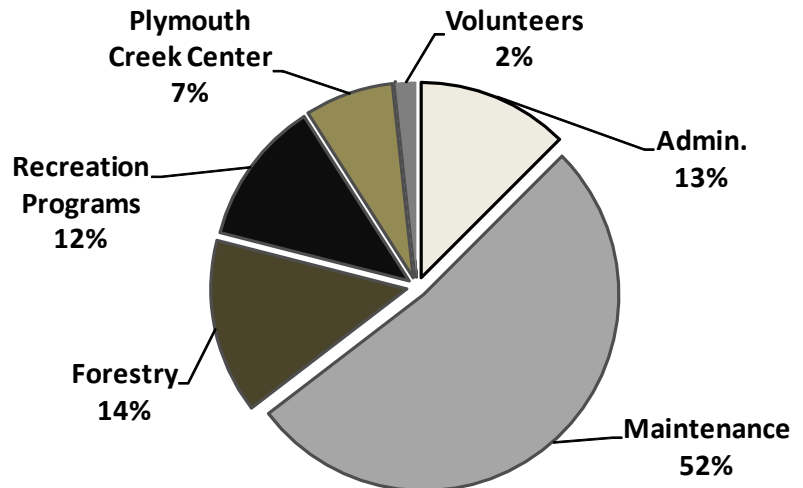
2008	Property Tax	Program Fees	State Grant	Misc.	TOTAL
Administration	678,198				678,198
Maintenance	2,876,773				2,876,773
Forestry	733,506				733,506
Recreation Programs	658,735	1,058,665		45,465	1,762,865
Plymouth Creek Center	378,112	167,500			545,612
Fieldhouse		288,000		14,000	302,000
Ice Center		1,319,175		69,000	1,388,175
Volunteers	97,999				97,999
TOTALS	5,423,323	2,833,340	0	128,465	8,385,128

2009	Property Tax	Program Fees	State Grant	Misc.	TOTAL
Administration	708,607				708,607
Maintenance	2,954,409				2,954,409
Forestry	816,031				816,031
Recreation Programs	678,497	1,102,749		50,569	1,831,815
Plymouth Creek Center	407,670	173,000			583,470
Fieldhouse		288,000		14,000	302,000
Ice Center		1,383,200		18,680	1,401,880
Volunteers	97,497				97,497
TOTALS	5,671,011	2,941,449		83,249	8,695,709



general fund allocations

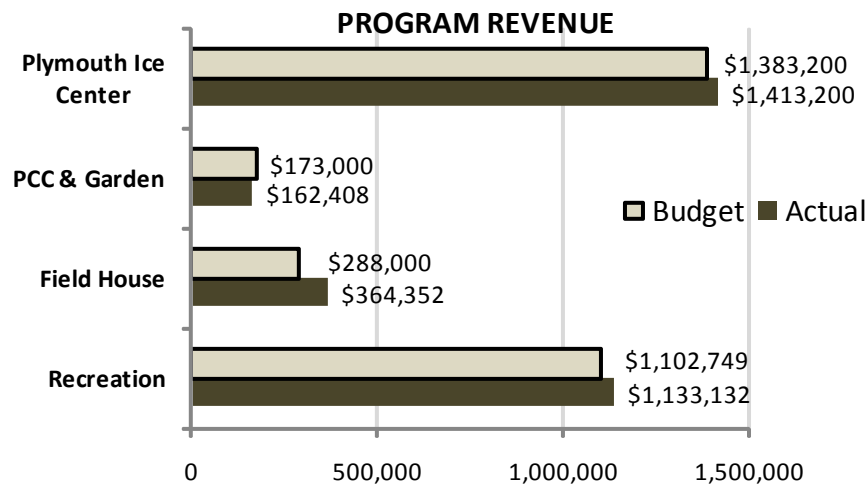
City tax dollars from the general fund are allocated in the amount of \$5,671,011 for the Parks and Recreation Department. The graph below depicts the property tax percentage for each division. As detailed in the revenue source chart on the previous page, the Field House and the Ice Center operations are Enterprise Funds and are not subsidized by the general fund. Both of these facilities rely solely on user/program fees. The Recreation operation is a Special Revenue Fund which is funded with a property tax allocation (37%) and user/program fees (63%).



program fee (revenue)

Several of the Parks and Recreation Division Budgets are expected to generate revenue to off-set operational expenses: the Plymouth Ice Center, Plymouth Creek Center (includes the Millennium Garden), the Field House and Recreation Programs. The graph below highlights the budgeted revenue for programs and rental fees (does not include interest or other revenue) for each of the divisions as compared to the actual revenue that was generated.

The Field House budget did particularly well, exceeding revenue projections by over 27%. Overall, the Plymouth Creek Center (PCC) budget fell below budget expectations, achieving only 93% of projections. It fell short on room rentals, yet exceeded expectations in the Millennium Garden.



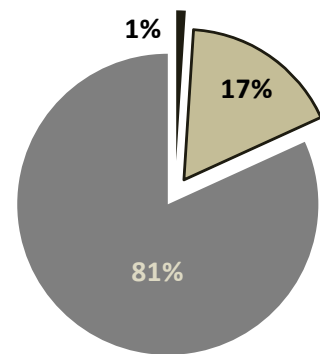
*Unaudited 2009 revenue as of 2/4/2010

survey data

Each year a random number of recreation programs are selected to gather customer data for the department. The data provides valuable insight for the department and helps ensure quality service. The recreation program surveys collect the following information from participants: program satisfaction, registration method and satisfaction inquiry, and miscellaneous demographic information. The charts shown highlight program satisfaction, ethnicity, and registration methodology. The charts provide a few samples of the survey data.

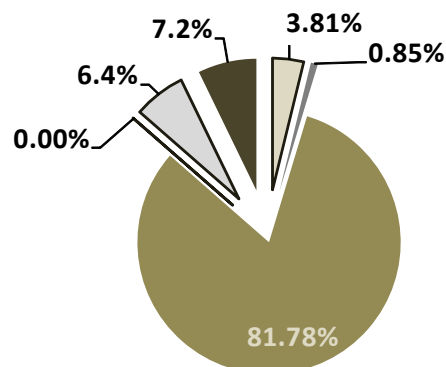
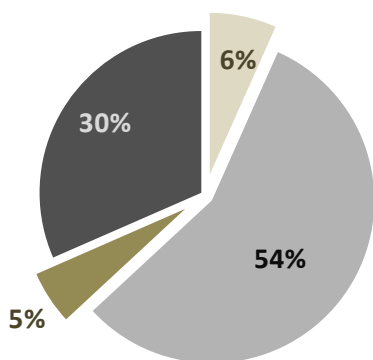
**OVERALL
PROGRAM
SATISFACTION**

■ POOR
■ AVERAGE
■ EXCELLENT



**REGISTRATION
METHOD**

■ TTR
■ ON-LINE
■ MAIL
■ OFFICE



**PARTICIPANT
ETHNICITY**

■ Afr. Am
■ Hisp.
■ White
■ Am. Ind.
■ Other
■ No Resp.

recreation programs

As depicted in the charts below, both recreation participant numbers (85,159) and number of programs offered (1,880) has increased from 2008. Over the last three years, the division has averaged approximately 1850 program offerings and 80,000 program participants yearly. In the future, staff anticipates that programs and program participation will begin to level off.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

	2008	2009
Adaptive	445	370
Pre-school	7,579	9,510
Youth	7,582	7,959
Teens	1,225	1,725
Adults	6,870	7,713
Seniors	8,569	8,696
All Ages	1,112	1,371
TOTALS	33,382	37,344
Special Events	48,318	47,970
OVERALL TOTAL	81,700	85,314

PROGRAMS OFFERED

	2008	2009
Adaptive	97	96
Pre-school	294	288
Youth	629	655
Teens	97	102
Adults	347	335
Seniors	235	286
All Ages	97	74
TOTALS	1,796	1,836
Special Events	66	72
OVERALL TOTAL	1,862	1,908

overview

Plymouth Parks and Recreation prides itself on providing programs for people of all abilities. To accommodate the ever growing range of participant abilities, Plymouth offers inclusion services and adaptive programming. Inclusion services provide program participants with support to enjoy mainstream programs alongside their peers with one-on-one assistance during programs. Adaptive opportunities are available through our partnership with REACH for Resources (REACH). REACH provides people with disabilities and their families with general information, referrals, advocacy, counseling and social and recreational groups.

Beginning in 2010, REACH adaptive support will be funded out of the city's social service fund rather than the Parks and Recreation budget.



adaptive notes

Plymouth was an active member of the REACH consortium again this past year, coordinating and hosting programs for youth, teens and adults with special needs. In 2009 we provided adaptive programs to 77 Plymouth residents (22 youth, 55 adults). The social dances that we host at the Plymouth Creek Center continue to be very popular. We also host the Kid-Fu classes. All other classes are hosted at one of the other seven consortium cities.



inclusion notes

- The number of participants needing inclusion services stayed approximately the same as last year's numbers. In 2008 we served 241 people with special needs, and in 2009 we served 240 people with special needs.
- Allergies are always a safety concern in our recreation programs as we strive to create a comfortable environment for our participants. In 2009, 33% of our special needs participants had basic allergies and 29% had peanut specific allergies.
- The summer months are our busiest season, serving 177 kids with special needs. We hire and train part time inclusion specialists during the summer to meet the high demand.
- Inclusion specialists are kept on staff all year round to provide 1-on-1 assistance for participants who may need program support.
- 18% of our special needs participants for 2009 were children on the autism spectrum, a 6% increase from last year.
- Individuals with special needs participated in 176 different programs throughout the year.

overview

A comprehensive art program contributes to personal well-being, a sense of place and identity, and increased quality of life. We believe that the arts are vital to the lifeblood of our community.

The Plymouth Fine Arts Council (PFAC) receives funding from the city through the Recreation Department budget. This organization then re-grants financial support to community arts.

- In February, all of the city's elementary schools participated in showing over 100 pieces of student artwork at the Plymouth Creek Center.
- For a week in April, the 13th annual Primavera Springtime Celebration of the Arts was held, showcasing artwork by Plymouth area high school students and area adult artists. Highlights of the event were the display of the winning 2009 Art Banner designs and a Literary Night presentation by national award winning author, Charles Baxter.
- With its annual focus on jazz, PFAC produced the "Jazz Impressions" evening in the Black Box Theatre, featuring the Bill Crutcher Quartet. The summer's "Jazz in Plymouth" event at the Hilde Center showed off the talents of the Inside Out Band and Mark Bloom's Marquis.

art programs

- The Music for Everyone program continues to offer private music instruction for piano, guitar, violin/viola, voice, brass, harp and woodwind instruments. Group piano classes for preschoolers continue to be very popular. Group violin and keyboard classes were offered with a mini-recital.
- School year class involvement for youth ballet and tap dance continued to grow and culminated in a spring recital with over 1,600 in attendance. For the first time, youth ballet and tap dance classes continued through the summer with strong participation. Beginner adult dance instruction was expanded to include intermediate ballroom dancing.
- Youth drama programs continued to be very popular with the 5th annual Prairie Fire Children's Theatre Company's workshop. Over 65 youth performed in the musical, "Alice in Wonderland," on the Hilde Performance Stage.
- The Plymouth Fun Mobile traveled throughout the city for eight weeks showing performances of original puppet shows to over 4,400 individuals.
- New visual arts classes included several youth Art Camps and a series of adult Beaded Jewelry Workshops.



highlights

The City Council adopted a Public Art Policy. The Policy will be used in acquiring and maintaining the City's public artwork collection.

For the first time, the City commissioned and installed a piece of public art by artist Foster Willey titled "Winged Iris" in the Millennium Garden.

The Ice Center received a steel sculpture depicting from local artist Judd Nelson.

The 3rd annual Public Art Banner Competition premiered a high school division in addition to the adult division. Students from three city high schools entered their banner designs in the competition. Twenty-four banners were added to the City's collection.

swim lessons

overview

We offer a wide variety of swim lessons and activities, open swim and pool rental opportunities. In 2009, 2,027 community members participated in our Learn to Swim program, of which 167 were for private lessons.



highlights

Our swim program success continues even with the economic swings of the past year.

We have a responsive program that has adjusted to the needs of the community. Our curriculum is regularly updated to increase success in the lower levels, and to build coordination of strokes in the upper levels.

We continue to have a program that is culturally diverse. Adult beginner and adult swim fitness continue to be popular with our diverse community.

We have the ability to provide customized private lessons, which are very popular.

The final renovations at Wayzata East Middle School Pool were completed.

LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Classes	283	290	257	270
Swim Lesson Participants	1639	1769	1834	2027

In the 2009 SUMMER program we had 883 participants, which was much higher than the 823 participants in 2008.

education



overview

We strive to offer quality programming that provides learning opportunities to participants of all ages. Each of our programs, regardless of which section it is listed in, offers opportunities to grow and be challenged.

The wide range of education courses offered through Plymouth Parks and Recreation continues to grow. Our education programs include etiquette, science exploration, Red Cross babysitter training, foreign language classes, dog training, cooking and preschool education.

highlights

New this year, Plymouth Parks and Recreation provided hands-on cooking classes in the Plymouth Creek Center's large kitchen. The classes were taught by a seasoned, local chef who shares his expertise with a small class of students.

Just Paws Puppy Training, with over 15 years of experience, is our new dog obedience partner. A new addition to our course offerings is the puppy hunting classes.

recreation

overview

Plymouth provides extensive recreation opportunities to community members, infant thru senior adults, that allow all individuals to be active, connect, learn and have fun with others. Our programs include Little Adventures Camp (preschool), Park Antics & Escapades (youth), Bike Rodeo (youth), Paintball (teens), Bocce Ball (adults/seniors), Winter Tea Talks (seniors).....and the list goes on. Below are a few of the highlights from our recreation programs.

highlights

Bike Rodeo – a great new program! It's an early summer program where kids have a blast while becoming better, safer bikers. During the program, kids learn safe riding rules, practice safe biking skills, have their bike and helmet checked and participate in a series of fun drills and courses. Participation was great; we filled the class. We will definitely offer this program annually.



programming note

Thanks to the Plymouth Fire Department and Police Department personnel for assisting with the Bike Rodeo program. The Fire Department provided bike helmet safety checks and had new low-cost helmets available for anyone in need of a new helmet. The Police Department provided a bike safety talk for the participants at the event.

fields

overview

In December 2009, the City Council voted to charge youth associations an administrative fee for seasonal use of Plymouth outdoor fields. The administrative fee was set at a rate to recover \$100,000 per year, which will help offset a portion of the field maintenance costs. The City Council reviewed several cost recovery methodologies and determined that the \$10 per participant fee would be the easiest to manage. The fee will be initiated in 2010.

Plymouth has traditionally assigned one staff person to coordinate and manage athletic field rental/permits. As the overall department efficiencies and work product output were reviewed, it was determined that a multi-person approach to field rental management would be more appropriate. Therefore, starting in 2010, all outdoor ball-fields and multi-use fields (soccer, football, lacrosse, etc) will be under the direction of the Plymouth Creek Activity Center Manager. All outdoor rink facilities will be under the direction of the Recreation Supervisor in charge of Winter Warming Houses & Rinks. All tennis court facilities will be under the direction of the Recreation Supervisor in charge of the tennis program. Collaboration among the appointed staff will be needed in 2010 during the transition period.

Greater cooperation between City staff and users groups will be needed as the impact of the economy continues to drive budgets. The demand for the fields will stay the same and even increase, although the money and staff to maintain them will shrink.

beaches

overview

The guarded sites, Parkers Lake and West Medicine Lake, continue to draw the most users. We also maintain an unguarded facility at East Medicine Lake.

highlights

In 2009, the beaches were open from May 23-August 23. After a cool start in June, the weather continued to be mild into July with cooler summer temperatures; the average temperature during life guarded hours was 73 degrees. Plymouth did not have the hot and humid weather that draws people to the beach. When the warm weather arrived, the attendance was up significantly. Parkers water levels were 2 ft below normal levels, and weeds continued to be an issue in June and mid August.



The Water Ski shows continued to draw families and spectators to Parkers Lake. West Medicine Lake water levels were also significantly lower, and vandalism resulted in stolen and damaged equipment

that needed to be replaced for safe operations. The increasing diversity of park visitors shows that Plymouth is a great place to recreate.

BEACH ATTENDANCE

	2007	2008	2009
Parkers Lake	2,099	5,073	3,052
West Medicine Lake	5,230	5,586	4,124
TOTAL	7,329	10,659	7,176

warming houses

overview

For the last few winters, the weather trend has been warmer, so we were lucky this year to open about the same time as we did in 2008. The weather for the 2009 was very good for the season, December 20-February 16 (8 weeks).

WARMING HOUSE SITES USERS				
	2007	2008	2009	09 Hr/Avg.
Bass Lake (1H/2P)	1,191	1,749	1,030	4.46
LaCompte (1H/1P)	933	252		
Oakwood (1H/1P)	1,619	1,847	1,316	5.44
Parkers Lake (1P)	340	955	1,199	7.78
Plymouth Creek (2H/1P)	3,200	2,495	2,024	8.03
Plymouth Playfield (2H/1P)	572	93		
Ridgemount (2H/1P)	1,879	2,326	2,564	10.42
Zachary (2H/1P)	1,017	589	1,103	5.06
Hockey Associations	Included	Included	1,245	
TOTALS	10,751	10,306	10,481	6.87

highlights

The Parkers Lake site, which included the fire pit, was once again enjoyed by skaters in 2009. Several staff were trained to oversee the fire pit for 5 weekend dates from January 16 to February 14. The hours of the fire pit were Fridays and Saturdays from 6-8 pm.

1,245 Hockey Athletic Association players used LaCompte, Oakwood, Plymouth Creek, and Ridgemount. The most heavily used time period was 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

overview

Plymouth offers comprehensive year-round adult fitness programming that provides abundant opportunities for improving general health as well as endurance, strength, flexibility and balance. We offer everything from one-on-one personal training to group fitness classes (i.e., cardio, toning, yoga and pilates). We also offer yoga classes for children to complement the extensive amount of physically active sports and recreation programming. Our health and wellness programs provide a nice balance to our fitness programs. We offer a number of beneficial classes including nutrition, meditation, acupuncture as well as an annual Healthy Living Fair which got off to a great start in 2009 with over 400 attendees.



A sampling of programs offered in 2009 include Made to Move Yoga for Kids, Yoga for Teens, Boot Camp and Nutrition (adults), and Yoga Easy and Tai Chi (senior adults). Below are a few of the highlights for 2009.

highlights

Healthy Living Fair – a new event that is free to the public. The fair was a great success in its first year with over 400 people in attendance. We were able to offer free blood pressure and glucose tests, eye exams, spinal checks, education sessions, program samplers and over 25 exhibitors. Feedback from both exhibitors and attendees was very positive. We intend to continue offering this event annually.

Step To It Challenge / Walk with the Mayor – a free public competition pitting Plymouth against other cities in the northwest metro area to see who is the most active. Organized by Hennepin County, the challenge is a fun, light-hearted four-week competition that recognizes and credits all types of activity. The kick-off event for the competition in Plymouth was a 'Walk with the Mayor'. Plymouth placed second in its first year of competition. We are already planning and looking forward to participating again in 2010!



programming note

We were excited to partner with WestHealth (located in Plymouth) for the Healthy Living Fair. Through that partnership we were able to offer a number of highly beneficial health screenings and education sessions. WestHealth was very pleased with the partnership and the turnout for the event. They intend to continue to partner with us on future events.

overview

City of Plymouth special events help create connections among community organizations, businesses, residents and family units. For parents and children desiring an opportunity to spend more time together, special events help families create bonds through recreation experiences.

highlights

Fire & Ice

In February, our 20th annual Fire & Ice Festival featured many favorite outdoor games and activities. Sven Sungaard, KARE 11 meteorologist, was the guest announcer and presided over the Goofy Hat contest. As a new feature, the Parks Department fabricated a children's "train ride" called Captain Lowell's Kiddy Ride. In lieu of youth skating races, City recycling bins were raced over the finish line by pushing a youth participant seated in the bin. Adults wanted to participate as well! A record attendance of over 4,000 people attended.



Primavera

The 13th annual Primavera arts celebration, co-sponsored by the Plymouth Fine Arts Council, showed an increase in participation by Plymouth artists. Over 80 adult artists and 60 student artists, from five local high schools, had their juried artwork on display. The entries from the 2009 Banner Competition were displayed with the three adult and three high school winners recognized. A favorite family art activity was the Art Scavenger Hunt presented during the family day on Sunday afternoon. Literary night featured Charles Baxter, a local award winning author, who drew a record crowd.



Yard and Garden Expo

The annual Spring event at the Plymouth Creek Center was another huge success with over 1500 participants, which is 200 more than 2008. The event included 122 exhibitors, free workshops, an ECO-learning center, gorgeous flower bouquets, a kids' play area and a huge plant sale. The featured speaker was well-known local garden guru, Bobby Jensen. New this year, we featured a small local farmers' market selling locally produced items.

Entertainment in the Parks

Our Entertainment in the Parks program provides free weekly entertainment at the Parkers Lake stage and the Hilde Performance Center. Events at Parkers Lake Park included 7 family concerts, 3 daytime Kids Konzerts, and a water-ski show. Two water-ski shows and the Children's Carnival were cancelled due to poor water quality and weather. The Hilde Performance Center was the venue for 15 evening music concerts on Monday and Thursday evenings featuring a variety of musical groups and a drama performance of "Alice in Wonderland". Area businesses/organizations continue to provide much-needed financial support for the summer entertainment program.

Autumn Arts Fair

The Autumn Arts Fair was held on Saturday, September 12, at Parkers Lake Park. Eighteen artists displayed and sold original art work. With live musical entertainment and a variety of food vendors, those in attendance enjoyed a sunny day at the scenic venue. The Kids Art Activity Area, under the direction of the City's Recycling Program, provided free projects and services to children attending

the event. In addition, the City's Historic Log Cabin was open for tours and proved to be very popular with art fair attendees.



Plymouth on Parade

The 12th annual event was held on Saturday, September 26. Wonderful weather provided the perfect backdrop for another successful event. We had 93

units participate in the parade representing our community's schools, businesses, organizations and politicians. Post-parade activities took place at the Ice Center, Life Time Fitness facility and the Hilde Performance Center area where the Rotary Club's 9th annual Ducky Derby took place.

Halloween at the Creek

This was our 5th annual event, drawing over 700 participants. The City partners with area churches to host this event which includes carnival games, prizes, entertainment, and so much more.



Old Fashioned Christmas

This annual holiday event is a collaboration with the City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Historical Society. This year we had over 700 participants! The event is held the beginning of December and features sleigh rides, s'mores, storytelling by Bob Gasch, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, crafts, and letters to Santa.



Hundreds of community volunteers supported the activities at these events, with additional involvement coming from businesses who were financial sponsors.

Special Events Participation

New Years Around the World	435
Little Sweetheart Ball & Costume Ball	383
Fire & Ice	4,000
Blizzard Blast	600
Healthy Living Fair	425
Jazz Impressions Night	46
Lower Level Teen Events-Spring & Fall	698
Senior Open House	200
Yard & Garden Expo	1,125
Bridal Expo	148
Kids Garage Sale	350
Primavera Art Show	956
Softball Tournament	650
Plant Swap (2 events)	180
90's Party	120
Senior Volunteer Recognition Event	124
Youth Dance Recital	1,750
Water Ski Shows (2 cancelled)	700
Music in Plymouth	13,800
Evening Concerts in the Park	3,850
Afternoon Kids Konzerts	1,050
Puppet Wagon Shows	4,781
Outdoor Teen Concerts	80
Children's Theater	750
Senior Spring Dance	72
500 Card Party	98
Bridge Party	52
Waffle Breakfast	439
Bike Rodeo	20
Pie Day	260
Battle of the Bands	150
Bike Ride to Midtown	20
Plymouth on Parade	5,600
Art Fair	1,650
Halloween at the Creek	700
Volunteer Recognition Event	276
Old Fashioned Christmas	750
Holiday Events - a Tea & Dance	121
Senior Fall Fashion Show	84
Cookies & Carols	135
Kids Swap Meet	190
Veterans Breakfast	152
TOTAL	47,970

youth highlights

Mite Hockey Program – The Rink Rat Hockey program was very popular last year. As a result, we added a Mite Indoor Hockey program. This program was eight hours of instructional hockey drills and play for the beginner hockey player. It too, was very popular.

QB/RB/WR Football Camp – Staff introduced a more advanced “non contact” football camp exclusively geared towards youth interested in playing quarterback, running back, or wide receiver. These camps focused on the specific tactics and schemes to improve their game. The camps were coached by division II and division III college players.



Fencing Program – After several attempts, a fencing program was established in the fall of 2009. Staff contracted with Minnesota SwordPlay to offer two different levels of fencing lessons (Musketeers ages 6-9 and ages 10 and over).

- **Tiny Hawk Basketball and Soccer** – In order to provide more pre-school sports, we added basketball and soccer programs starting at age 3 ½. Additional programs for this age group will be offered in the future.



future programs

Potential programs include: floor hockey, pickle ball, indoor baseball camps, and wrestling. There are also two areas of demographics to explore and develop: pre-school and middle to high school sports.

adult highlights

Adult Drop-in Badminton – This is an opportunity for adults in the area to come and play pickup badminton on a weekly basis. Currently four badminton courts are being set up and used for either single or doubles play.

Adult Bocce Ball League – A league was started at the six new courts at the Plymouth Creek Center. There were six teams competing on Wednesday nights.

Other Individual Participant Sports – Adult Open Soccer continues to thrive year round with over 400 participants in this program. The Adult Open Volleyball program has an average of 25 – 30 participants weekly.

future programs

Potential programs include; outdoor soccer league, Sunday softball league, and expanded bocce ball leagues.



overview

YOUTH PROGRAMS

The chart below shows the strong participation in youth sports through Plymouth Parks & Recreation, as well as the variety of youth athletic associations. Traditional, recreational-based sport programs will always be prevalent, but we are also looking for new opportunities to keep programs current and fresh.

YOUTH SPORTS PARTICIPANTS	2008	2009
Afterschool Sports		
(Soccer, Baseball, Lacrosse, Flag Football, Golf)	362	309
Basketball - Open	125	220
Basketball Instruction/Camps	192	198
Cheerleading	60	31
Flag Football	172	156
Golf League /Lessons	377	365
Gymnastics	357	522
Hockey League	126	161
Skyhawks Camps		
(Minihawk, Soccer, Basketball, Golf, Flag Football	451	397
Baseball, Ultimate Frisbee, Track & Field)		
Sports Unlimited Camps		
(Lacrosse, Tennis, Inline Hockey, Soccer, T-ball	357	438
Sports Sampler, Sportsbag)		
Soccer Programs/Leagues	996	881
Swim Lessons	1,834	2027
T-Ball/Baseball/Softball	460	514
Tennis League/Lessons	502	537
Volleyball Camps	116	169
TOTALS	6,487	6,925

YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS

Baseball - Summer & Fall (21%)	2,927	2,750
Basketball (14%)	1,825	1,833
Football (9%)	1,057	1,139
Hockey (12%)	1,623	1,563
Lacrosse - Spring & Summer** (4%)	350	480
Rugby (1%)	151	189
Soccer - Summer & Fall (36%)	5,197	4,710
Softball - Summer & Fall (4%)	597	529
Ultimate Frisbee (1%)	76	72
TOTALS	13,803	13,265

ADULT PROGRAMS

The chart on the right shows a 9% increase in adult recreational sport teams. This was primarily in the area of softball (22 softball warm-up tournament and 8 in fall softball). Adult softball, 5-man unofficiated basketball, and adult soccer league continue to be the most consistent in terms of numbers.



ADULT UNOFFICIATED	2007	2008	2009
Fall 3-Man Basketball	10	8	10
Winter 3-Man Basketball	12	10	10
Spring 3-Man Basketball	10	10	10
Summer 5-Man Basketball	16	16	16
Fall 5-Man Basketball	17	16	18
Winter 5-Man Basketball	18	24	18
Spring 5-Man Basketball	16	16	16
Bocce Ball	-	-	6
Fall Volleyball	8	6	6
Winter Volleyball	11	13	12
Spring Volleyball	0	4	4
Summer Beach Volleyball	6	6	8
4-Man Football - outdoor	10	8	10
4-Man Football - indoor	4	0	0
Doubles Team Tennis	3	2	3
Total Unofficiated	141	139	147

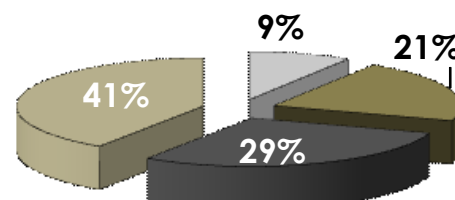
ADULT OFFICIATED	2007	2008	2009
4-Man Football	0	0	0
Winter 5-Man Basketball	16	16	16
Winter Soccer	12	12	12
Spring Soccer	12	12	12
Fall Soccer	12	14	12
Softball Warmup Tourn.	24	0	22
Summer Softball	96	96	96
Fall Softball	52	48	56
Summer Kickball	8	4	0
Fall Kickball	8	0	4
Winter Dodgeball		6	5
Total Officiated	240	208	235
TOTAL TEAMS	381	347	382

overview

The end of the year of 2009 was also the end of our first decade at the Plymouth Creek Center. As predicted, our participation numbers continued to drop slightly due to the stressed economy. We continued to offer a wide range of activities, finding that the main interests for seniors are in education, fitness and recreation.

The Plymouth Creek Center continues to draw seniors with its wonderful facility and staff.

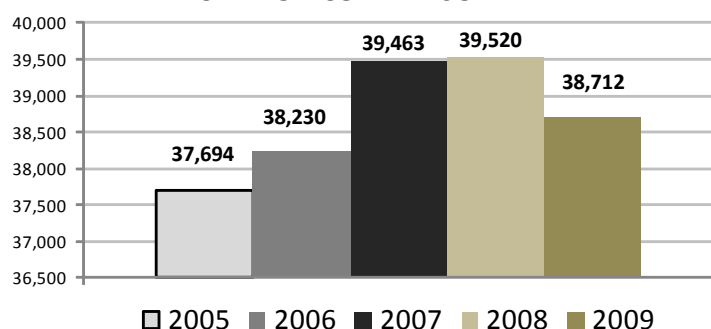
2009 Participants



- Nutrition/Meals
- Health/Fitness
- Education/Creative
- Recreation/Trips



PARTICIPATION COMPARISON BY YEAR



highlights

Our Senior Art classes continue to bring in good numbers primarily due to our excellent teaching staff who cater to the needs of seniors in their teaching style. Close to 100 people took art classes in 2009.

Fitness is another popular genre of classes. Seniors know how being fit helps with their overall quality of life. We offered Chair Yoga, Tai Chi Chih, Low Impact Aerobics and Easy Yoga.

One of the most popular programs in our educational offerings is our Great Decisions. This program is brought to us by the Foreign Policy Association and the Minnesota International Center. It is a series of 8 programs that focus on current events with excellent speakers who cover these topics. This type of program is very appealing to the younger seniors.

We also continue to offer many services through collaboration with outside agencies and organizations. These programs include: blood pressure checks through Clare Bridge Assisted Living, Foot Care Clinics through Happy Feet, Medicare Insurance Help and the Home Chore Program through Senior Community Services, Tax Forms help through AARP, and Mature Driving classes through AAA. Our flu shot clinic was cancelled due to shortage of vaccine.



Special Events are our crowning glory for the senior program. They involve many levels of participation with 8-12 volunteers helping set up for the events that offer a lunch or brunch or dessert buffet. Volunteers create the centerpieces and decorations around a theme, usually with entertainment that fits the mood. Each event draws about 100 or more people who leave with a boost to their spirits.

overview

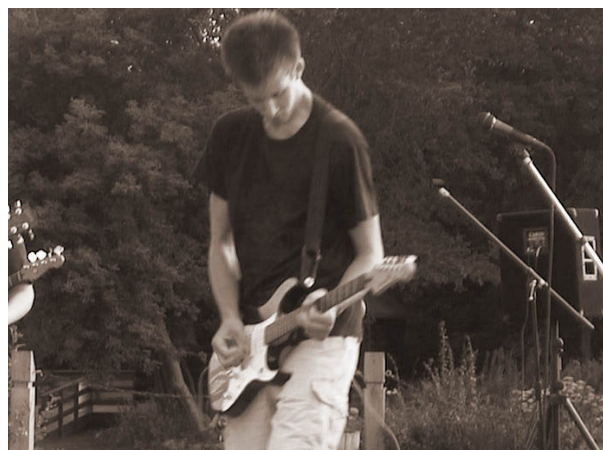


2009 was an exciting year for teen programming as the Teen Advisory Group (TAG), established in 2008, was fully taken over by an elected set of teen officers and an adult advisor (staff person Erica Chua). The TAG group has put on multiple successful programs and continues to meet monthly. A few of the other recreational opportunities provided for teens in Plymouth are paintball trips, indoor pro-karting, rock climbing trips, fitness classes, local band performances, special events and safety courses.

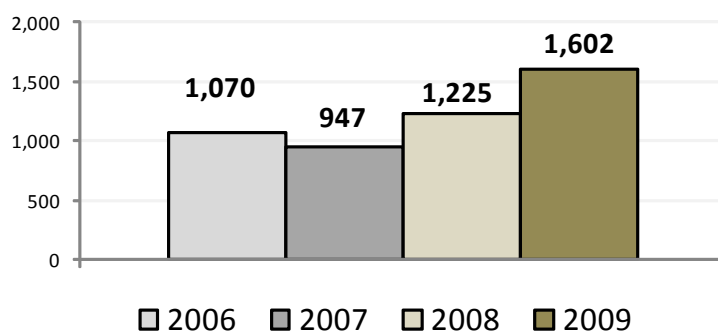
highlights

Skateboarding: Plymouth Parks and Recreation continues to partner with 3rd Lair to provide cutting edge skateboarding classes, workshops and a large Skate Jam competition during the summer.

Extreme Sports: Teens are always attracted to the newest trend and the more on the edge, the better. To fill this demand, Plymouth Parks and Recreation offers paintball, pro-karting and new this year, indoor rock climbing at Vertical Endeavors.



TEEN PARTICIPATION COMPARISON



programming note

Programming for teens constantly needs to be re-evaluated and re-invented to meet new trends. It is exciting to get teens involved in programming, but that also proves to be the challenge. It is challenging because teens are always looking for the next up and coming trend, which can be hard to keep up with. The new teen led TAG program will help to create programs for teens by teens, which will certainly grow our teen programming in the future.



overview

Throughout 2009, volunteers continued to gain in importance as a means of extending City resources through the efforts of those with time and skills to share.

There was an increase seen in people seeking to volunteer who had been laid off or were seeking employment. In 2009, 356 individuals contacted the Volunteer Services office about volunteer opportunities. Subsequently, 141 applications were received and 109 potential candidates were interviewed for regular or short-term positions, an increase of 21% from last year.

Our volunteer program also provides monetary benefits by extending City resources. Using the industry standard from the Independent Sector, the current value of a volunteer hour is \$20.25. With 1,566 volunteers donating 24,615 hours, volunteers donated \$498,454 in contributions in-kind in 2009. These contributions equal 11.8 FTE employees. Additionally, the Police Chaplain volunteers contributed 1,760 on-call hours. It is evident that volunteers add substantial value to the City.

programs and positions

Volunteer positions are divided into three categories. *Ongoing volunteers* provide regular support. *Time-limited volunteers* work on short-term projects. *Special event volunteers* assist at the many City-sponsored events throughout the year. In 2009, there were 757 special event shifts. Special event volunteers display a fierce loyalty to the events that they participate in annually, showing a deep commitment both to the individual program and to providing excellent service to the residents who attend the events.

Staff people have creatively developed new positions and opportunities for volunteer involvement, including those requiring professional skills. In 2009, there were 136 requests for volunteer assistance above and beyond the big annual events and current, ongoing positions. This was an increase of 79% from 2008.

New volunteer opportunities in 2009 including landscaping and interior design consultants; senior computer instructors; the Teen Advisory Group; historical researchers; Blue Thumb environmental presenters; an emergency management assistant; clerical aides for both the Fire department and Ice Center; and a Public Works car washer.



The City's many volunteer coaches also need to be mentioned. Parents and other volunteers coached t-ball, baseball, soccer (nearly 150 coaches), flag football and rink rat hockey. They also chaperoned middle school downhill ski trips.



demographics

City volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds, ages and abilities. While most volunteers reside in Plymouth (78%), volunteers from 36 different communities support the City. A breakdown by age reveals 20% teens, 67% adults and 13% seniors. There are an equal number of men and women volunteer. (Note: There are additional senior volunteers not recorded in these numbers helping out at the Plymouth Creek Center).

Area teens contribute greatly to the success of the City's volunteer program. Through the Summer Teen Volunteer program, high school students age 14 and older provide support to summer recreation programs. In 2009, 49 student volunteers contributed 1,738 hours. Teens also provide friendly and enthusiastic service to those who attend the City's special events.

community partnerships



Many of the teens who assist with special events come to the City through the Wayzata High School Club Y.E.S. (Youth Extending Service) program or Armstrong High School National Honor Society. In addition, four Boy Scouts completed substantial projects for the Parks maintenance program to achieve their Eagle Scout status. Hopefully all these students will remain committed to volunteerism as they move on with their lives.

Other local civic organizations and businesses that supported the City through volunteerism include Community Bank; The Rotary Clubs of Plymouth, Orono and Wayzata; the Association of Medicine Lake Citizens; Plymouth Fine Arts Council; Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission; Prudential Financial; Honeywell; various Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups; Kaposia Inc.; G & F Environmental Club; General Mills; Lifetime Fitness; Heather Ponds neighborhood; Parkview Ridge townhouse owners; Messiah United Methodist Church; Minnesota School of Business; Beautiful Savior Lutheran

Church; Boston Scientific; Vision of Glory Lutheran church; Adams Realty; Armstrong Choral Society; Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church; Funfar Landscaping; Goebel Chiropractic & Family Wellness; the Sarenpa Team – Keller Williams Realty; and Plymouth Fire Department.

volunteer recognition

The City's annual volunteer recognition event is eagerly anticipated by volunteers, staff and Council members alike, and over 275 were in attendance in October at Plymouth Creek Center. Volunteers generously donated 388 pounds of food for a local food shelf that evening.

Despite continued economic uncertainty, 14 area businesses also recognized City volunteer efforts by donating a total of \$2,270 to support the event. In addition, nearly \$2,200 worth of gift items from 42 businesses and organizations was collected to provide 96 door prizes during the event.



summary

Year after year, volunteers provide significant contributions to the City while supporting their community, gaining new skills and enjoying meaningful experiences with other volunteers and City staff members. The City is grateful for all their assistance.

overview

Plymouth Creek Center (PCC) will celebrate its 10th anniversary in May. It's onward and upward as we head into 2010. We're home to the seniors' programs and activities, recreation programs for all ages, homeowners' association meetings, athletic association meetings, boys and girl scouts, wedding events and many other gatherings.

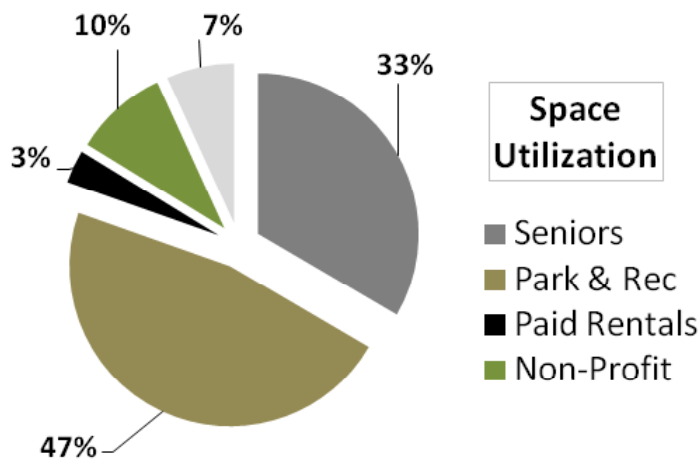


highlights

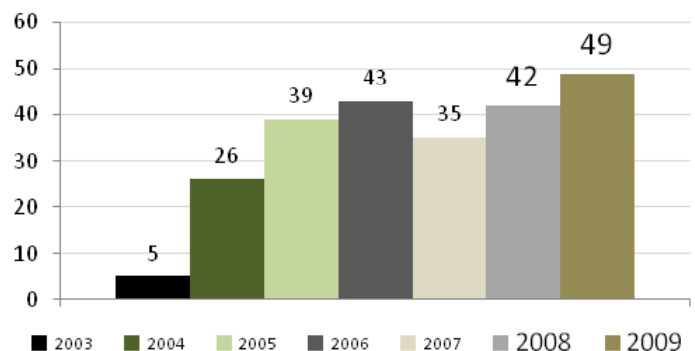
As we age we begin gradual restoration. We've repainted most of the interior, refinished all wood in the Plymouth Room and put new wallpaper in the Plymouth Room. Upcoming projects include new carpet upstairs and replacing the dance floor.

The number of weddings continues to grow. We had 49 Millennium Garden ceremonies and 63 receptions,

The Millennium Garden expansion was completed. We added much landscaping and flowers around the ponds, trails around and between the ponds, observation decks and a covered bridge. It's hard to believe the area could become even more beautiful.



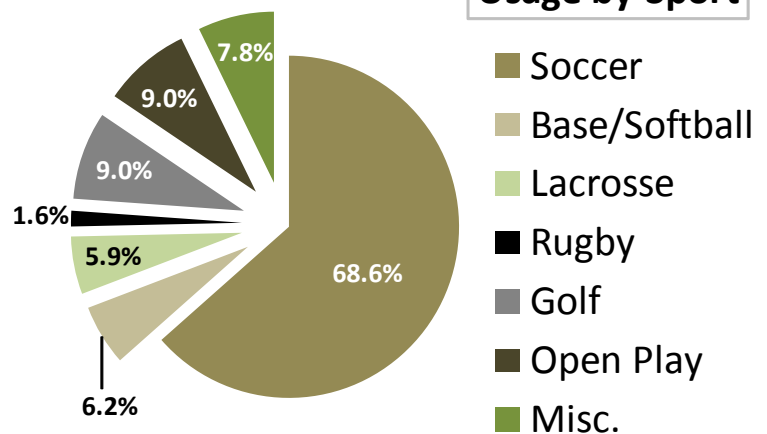
Millennium Garden Weddings



overview

The Field House dome is up from November through April. During the other months, the field is used as an outdoor field site.

2009 was another very successful year for the Fieldhouse. We again took in almost \$370,000 and scheduled over 1700 hours of activities.



highlights

We had over 50 different groups combine to rent over 1700 hours. That included youth athletic associations, high school and college teams, church, corporate and social groups.

We have an eight foot wide track that encircles (5.25 laps=1 mile) the perimeter field lines. Walkers and joggers are protected from flying balls by eight foot high netting that hangs from the lights between the track and the field. The track is normally open for walking and jogging daily from 8am – 10pm. In 2009 we averaged over 216 walkers a day.

The Plymouth Soccer Association was again our biggest user with 387 hours or 22% of the total dome usage and 29% of the total usage fees. The four local soccer clubs: PSA, Wayzata Soccer Club, MN Thunder West (formerly Wings Soccer Club) and Maplebrook Blast used 48% of the total time rented and paid 62% of the total usage fees.



facts

- During a 24 week period, we average about 70 hours/week of full field use.
- The entire artificial turf area is 220 feet by 330 feet. We have permanent lines for a 100 yard by 60 yard full size soccer field and lines for two 60 yard by 45 yard half fields
- We have three large inflatables for our preschool open play. There is a castle, a slide, and an obstacle course. In November and December of this year, we set new attendance records, drawing over 2600 youth to the open play program.
- Each year we use about 50 people to set up and take down the dome. Most are workers from a temporary employment agency. They are supplemented by Park maintenance workers and supervisors from Yeadon domes.
- It takes about 11 hours to set up the dome and 9 to take it down (weather permitting).

overview

The Ice Center plays an important role for the City of Plymouth and its Parks and Recreation department. Located in the hub of downtown Plymouth, the Ice Center takes pride in being a top-notch recreational facility. In 2009, revenues have again exceeded expenses, which means the operation of this facility is totally supported by user fees.

In 2009, the Ice Center hosted 21 tournaments, which included over 400 teams. About 300 were from the metro area and 100 were non-metro teams. Tournaments provide a large social and economic impact on the local community. According to the Twin West Chamber of Commerce, our tournaments brought in an estimated \$170,000 to the various local business establishments.

The Plymouth Ice Center had a banner year and continues to provide a high quality of life to the local residents.



highlights

We added two new operational software programs, New World financial software and Max Ice. The New World software is vital to our operation for the financial bookkeeping of revenue, expenses and purchasing. The Max Ice software will improve efficiencies with rentals and the invoicing of clients.

We added a new video security system with five cameras located in crucial areas of monetary transfers. This system allows us the confidence of daily operation.

Occupancy sensors were added to our main front and rear entrances. These devices will track the number of facility users and spectators who frequent this facility.

Other additions include a new Co-Ray Vac Heating system for Rink B spectator area. This new heat plant was donated by the Wayzata Youth Hockey Association. We also purchased and installed nine vending misers to all refrigerated soft drink vending machines. Each machine uses electricity equivalent of two home refrigerators. The machines only turn on with motion; the payback of this purchase is one year.

Another significant change in operation this year was the removal of the Rink C ice sheet for two months from mid-June to mid-August, because Wayzata Youth Hockey Association reduced their summer ice usage by over 100 hours. As it turned out, the savings on our electric, gas and water bills surpassed any loss of revenue, and the existing two sheets of ice were busier than any previous summer. One would think that with two months of less ice rental, our usage for the year would be down, but not so, we had 189 hours of additional ice use compared to last year.

skating school

The year 2009 was a busy year for the Plymouth Skate School. Skate school classes had approximately 940 participants and generated \$106,620.75.

We had a busy year. In January, we hosted the "Blizzard Blast" with competitors from around the midwest; in March we held an "in-house" skate school competition with

about 60 competitors, and in May we held a "fun party" for skate school families. In the fall, we introduced an "intro to privates class" which we hope will help fill up our contract ice.

PUBLIC ICE USAGE (Ice Related Activities)		
	<u>Paid Attendance</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Open Skating	8,354	\$14,174
Open Hockey	1,241	\$6,035
Parents & Tots	117	\$585
Open Freestyle		\$2,381

ICE CENTER MAJOR USERS

	HOURS	
	2008	2009
Wayzata Youth Hockey Association	2,926	2,834
Plymouth Public Open Skating	606	613
Total of all miscellaneous rentals	433	443
Minnesota Showcase	414	555
Wayzata High School	411	331
Bazzachini Hockey Training	358	358
Minnesota All Star Hockey	254	259
Plymouth Learn To Skate School	178	266
Providence Academy	166	250
Armstrong High School	145	191
Minnesota Hockey	136	145
Joe Klein	131	134
Minnesota Super Series	121	124
Karn Skating Dynamics	109	88
Plymouth Wayzata Speed Skating Club	87	70
JMS Hockey	86	92
Armstrong Youth Hockey Association	51	48
Total Ice Time Hours	6,612	6,801



HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY & JR. VARSITY GAMES

	GAMES	ATTENDANCE
Wayzata High School Boys	13	5,787
Wayzata High School Girls	8	1,396
Armstrong High School Boys	5	1,334
Armstrong High School Girls	4	598
Providence Academy Boys	12	1,709
Total of All High School Games	42	10,824

ICE RELATED & BUILDING USAGE ACTIVITIES

	Number	Revenue
Skate Rentals	3,009	\$6,019
Skate Sharpening	711	\$2,309
Skate Trainers	729	\$729

CONCESSION/VENDING SALES

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Concessions	\$101,075	\$130,223	\$130,223	\$136,546
Vending	\$20,506	\$19,336	\$18,865	\$16,922
TOTALS	\$121,581	\$149,559	\$149,088	\$153,486



overview

Forestry promotes and maintains a healthy and viable urban forest on both public and private property as an integral component of the infrastructure.



reforestation efforts

We again used the Community Planting fund to keep our reforestation efforts to normal levels. Between contractors, volunteers and staff, the City assisted in planting 525 trees, 500 shrubs, 2,600 perennials and 13,000 annuals throughout the City.

The Arbor Day ceremony was hosted at Oakwood elementary school. After the official planting & proclamation on May 22, the students planted 50 trees (34 oaks as namesakes and all in honor of their 50 year anniversary) and 40 shrubs around the school.

On a beautiful spring morning (May 30th), 100 volunteers installed 13,000 annuals at eight sites. Chipotle and Cold Stone Creamery once again supplied all our planting volunteers with nourishment.

shade tree disease program

- Dutch Elm Disease (DED) incidences actually decreased from last year. The City marked 1031 (87% of total) trees this year, a 55% decrease from last year. 60% of the trees marked this year were private trees, which is consistent with previous years. Our compliance rate was high this year. Most of the force cuts were either on vacant properties or at the owners' requests.
- Trees infected with oak wilt remain relatively low. We marked 4 oaks for removal. The City continues to manage oak wilt incidences with public information first and foremost.
- The number of hazardous trees rose to 153 (13% of total). This is attributable to one major storm along with conscientious resident observations and field staff inspections. Parks and trails are continually inspected for dead or structurally weak trees, as are boulevards and right of ways.
- The City spent \$65,350+ on contract removal, while saving another \$37,600 by using in-house resources (Forestry crew and ICWC) for additional removals. A conservative estimate, based on City contract prices, of removals on private property is \$109,550. All totaled, a conservative estimate of \$212,500 was spent in removal of diseased and/or hazardous trees within the City.

tree care programs

- **BUCKTHORN CONTROL:** The City accelerated its efforts in controlling buckthorn in our park system. Twenty seven (27) sites were either broadcast and/or spot sprayed this fall. Included were newly acquired NW Corridor properties as we try to get an early handle on these natural sites.
- **FERTILIZING/AERATING:** This year we again focused on the Hilde Amphitheater as many of the mature maples are showing symptoms of decline.
- **STREET TREE TRIMMING:** Boulevard trees are pruned and thinned to maintain vigor, remove hazardous limbs and provide clearance from vehicles. The bulk of the trees trimmed by S&S Specialists were in the Schmidt Lake area.
- **TREE PRESERVATION:** Another slow year for tree preservation, with WoodCrest being one of the only places building new this year. Elm Creek Highlands and Spring Meadows development began near the end of the year and will continue into 2010.

outreach

Besides answering daily requests from concerned residents, the Forestry division participates in the following education opportunities:

- Environmental Fair: A partnership with Birchview Elementary to present environmental education to students and families.
- Yard & Garden Expo: Presentations and exhibitors with an environmental focus. Guest speaker Bobbi Jensen & Heidi Heiland.
- Earth/Arbor day presentations: Fun environmental presentations (Environmental Jeopardy) to all 3rd graders.
- Volunteer planting day: 100+ volunteers install 15,000 flowers
- Planting Plymouth Proud: Award program recognizing beautification efforts
- Plant Swap: Spring & fall plant exchanges open to all residents
- Bare Root Tree Sales: 500 trees and 1750 shrubs sold, done in partnership with Golden Valley



parks maintenance

overview

The park maintenance division strives to fulfill its role in the overall mission statement of the city; "enhancing quality of life and building community through efficient and effective services and facilities". Everyone on our staff is committed to providing the highest level of service and prides themselves in continuing to make our parks an attractive asset.

Park maintenance responsibilities include: turf work, sports field grooming, playground safety, trails, ice rink maintenance, and special event support. Some of this work is accomplished with the assistance of various groups and organizations. In 2009, the Parks Department worked with several groups including Tree Trust, ICWC, and eagle scouts (rebuilding walkways, assisting with construction at the Millennium Gardens, building decks, tree trimming, and landscaping projects).

highlights

We replaced playgrounds at Gleanloch Park, and Parkers Lake Playfield. The Playground at Parkers Lake was the City's first electronic unit. The electronic component is called the NEOS and is an interactive wall of lights and sounds that engages all ages in a variety of physically challenging games.

The Parks Department completed all of the ground work necessary for the installation of the Winged Iris sculpture at the Millennium Garden.





Phase II of the Millennium Garden project was completed. Park and Forestry crews did the landscape design and installation work. The City also worked with various volunteer groups that provided both the funding and helped with the volunteer labor for the project. As an example, the Plymouth Rotary raised funds and installed the observation deck.

Our maintenance crews did extensive repairs to several docks and bridges.

Park crews worked with the Plymouth New Hope Little League to complete the new Zachary concession building.

Parks staff did most of the work for the Zachary Tennis Courts project, but did work with various contractors as needed. The project also included the replacement of the court lights, installing a much more energy efficient light which will provide an improved light level for users. Due to the efforts of our staff on design and management of the project, the city saved over \$150,000.

Parks crews completed drainage work and installed a new irrigation system at Ridgemount Playfield.

The Park Department aided in the cleanup of the tornado damage this summer, doing tree removal and hauling.

Other Projects & Repairs

- Trail and Parking Lot Maintenance: Seal coating of parking lots at Bass Lake, Plymouth Creek, and Zachary Playfields. Trail repairs were made at: Northwest Blvd, Lancaster Lane, Gleanloch Park, Parkers Lake Playfield, Zachary Lane, Carlson Parkway, and Xenium and Niagara Lane.
- Special Events assistance: Fire & Ice, concerts, Music in Plymouth and Plymouth On Parade
- General: sport field renovations, irrigation maintenance, park amenities repairs, sport court repairs and resurfacing
- Parking lot seal coating and catch basin repairs along with restriping of the lot lines
- Zachary Playfield scoreboard installation
- Catch basins rebuilt at Parkers Lake Playfield



LOCATION	WKLY T'TLI	DAILY AVG
Parkers Lake Cabin	2,638	377
West. Med. Bridge	2,597	371
East Medicine Lake	3,339	477
Timber Shores	NA	NA
Bass Lake	1,168	167
Camelot	816	117
Luce Line	982	140
Hilde Center	484	69
Rolling Hills	408	58
Plymouth Creek	NA	NA
Elm Creek	332	47
Ply. Creek Elementary	NA	NA
TOTALS	12,764	203

Trail Usage

The Parks Department purchased a portable trail counter to collect or quantify actual use of our trail system. For 2009, staff was able to track walking data from nine of the twelve trail locations selected. Based on the data shown to the left, there are an average of 203 daily community members using the trail locations listed on the left.

In the upcoming year, we hope to expand this data to provide a better look at overall trail use in Plymouth.