

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the City Council
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

MINUTES
March 26, 2014

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM
- B. ROLL CALL: LINDSTROM HARRIS GOSLINE
LONG MERCER-TAYLOR AB
- STAFF PRESENT: FISCHER TESSER
- C. PRESENTATIONS:
1. Geocache Interpretive Trail by Eagle Scout Marc Lowenthal
-Marc Lowenthal presented information on his Eagle Scout Project on the Geocaching Interpretive Trail in three Falcon Heights Parks.

 2. DRAFT-Park Improvement Study by Candace Amberg, WSB & Associates, Inc.
-Candace Amberg provided an update and presentation on the DRAFT Park Improvement Study. She also answered questions from Council. See attached PowerPoint presentation.
-Ginny Allen (1490 Idaho Ave W) - discussed buffer areas in the park.
-Deb Wiswell (1543 Iowa Ave W) - discussed Curtiss Field improvements in regards to both park amenities and flooding improvements.
-Mary Zubriscki (1536 Idaho Ave W) - discussed accessibility issues and the paving of hockey arenas.
-Gary Lowenthal (audience member) - commented on how much he enjoys the parks.
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 12, 2014 APPROVED
- E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:
- F. CONSENT AGENDA: Keith Gosline Moved, Approval 4-0
1. General Disbursements through 3/20/2014: \$34,036.59
Payroll through 3/15/2014: \$16,056.86
 2. Approval of City Licenses
- G: POLICY ITEMS: Pam Harris Moved, Approval 4-0
1. Resolution Proclaiming National Donate Life Month
-Mayor Lindstrom presented the proclamation in support of National Donate Life Month to Council.
- H. INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-Craig Allen (1490 Idaho Ave W) discussed the recent water main break at Idaho and Arona.

Council Member Chuck Long

-Updated Council on the March 24th Human Rights Commission meeting.
-Announced the upcoming Spring Together Event to be held at Curtiss Field on Saturday, May 31st from 12-2pm.

Council Member Keith Gosline

-Updated Council on recent NYFS activities.
-Announced the upcoming NYFS Annual Leadership Luncheon to be held at Midland Hills on May 7th from 11:30am-1pm.

Mayor Peter Lindstorm

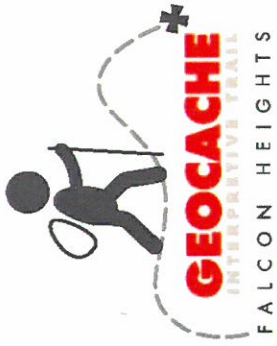
-Updated Council on the recent community event and presentation by Jerry Hammer of the Minnesota State Fair.

City Administrator Bart Fischer

-Announced the upcoming Friday deadline for the annual Neal Kwong Award nominations.

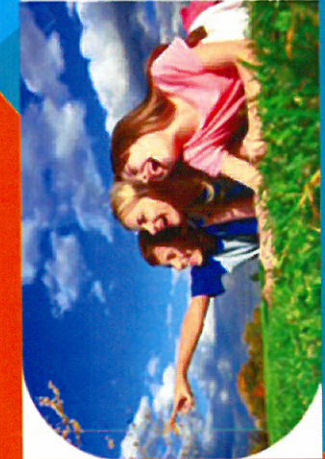
I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

J. ADJOURNMENT: 7:55PM



CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS




BY MARG LOWENTHAL - EAGLE SCOUT
GEOCACHE INTERPRETIVE TRAIL





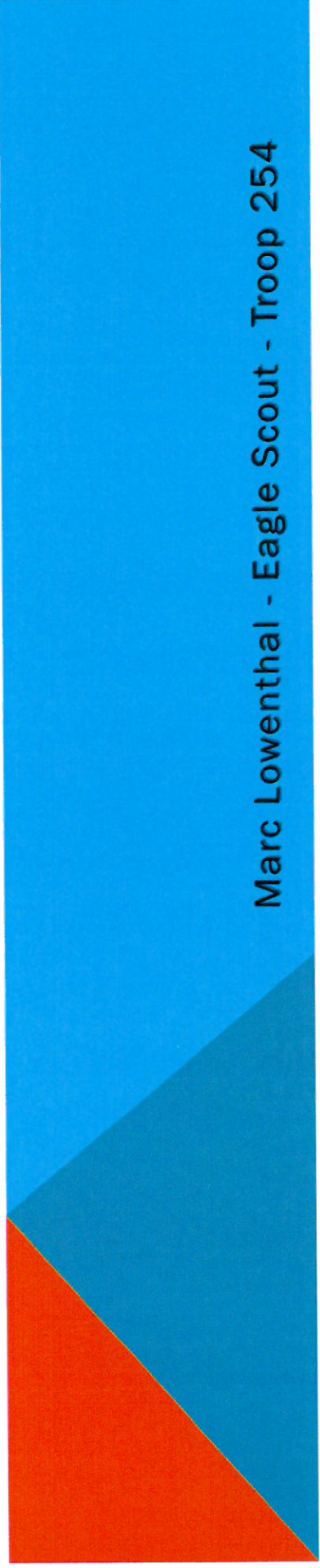
EAGLE PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT DETAILS

-  195 Volunteer Hours
-  10 Caches
3 Parks
-  Geocache Passport

CONSERVATION CARDS

- 1** Emerald Ash Borer
- 2** Buckthorn Hedges
- 3** Oak Wilt
- 4** Tips for Yard Waste
- 5** Community Gardens
- 6** Adopt-a-Park
- 7** Practice Sustainability





GEOCACHE INTERPRETIVE TRAIL PHOTOS



Scouts Placement Team



Fake Rock:
“Harness the Power”
Cache



Official Geocache Container w/Code

Marc Lowenthal - Eagle Scout - Troop 254

Geocache Interpretive Trail Photos

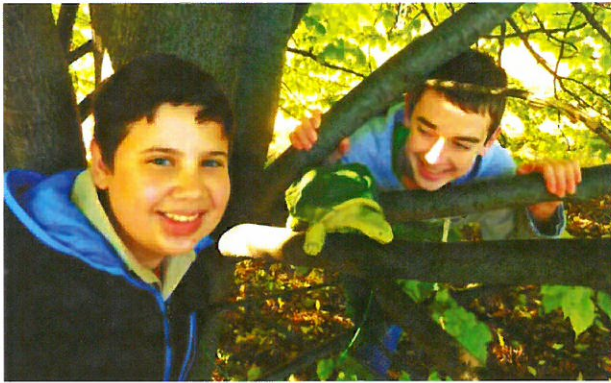
Marc Lowenthal



Start of Project at Community Park



Reviewing the Passport Trail



Alphonzo the Turtle Cache (inside)



Community Garden



Bird House with "Fly Like a Bird" Cache Inside



End of the Project at the Entrance to City of Falcon Heights by Curtiss Field

Geocache Interpretive Trail Photos

Marc Lowenthal



Official Geocache Container w/Code



Fake Rock: "Harness the Power" Cache



Placing a cache container w/Cable



Hollowed Out Log Cache



Placement inside Bird House



District Photographer Mike Bagstad

COMMUNITY PARK

2050 ROSELAWN AVE W, FALCON HEIGHTS, MN 55113

1 **HARNESSING THE ENERGY: ROCK ON!**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.924' W 093° 11.064'

2 **WHERE'S MY SOCCER TREE?**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.835' W 093° 11.077'

3 **CORNERED**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.790' W 093° 11.076'

4 **HOLY BAT COVE BATMAN!**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.805' W 093° 11.147'

5 **FLY LIKE A BIRD**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.783' W 093° 11.190'

6 **LETTUCE FIND A CACHE**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.877' W 093° 11.193'

UNIVERSITY GROVE PARK

COFFMAN STREET, FALCON HEIGHTS, MN 55108

7 **EAGLES NEST**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.432' W 093° 11.467'

8 **OH DEER! STORMWATER RUNOFF**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.407' W 093° 11.464'

CURTISS FIELD

1551 W IOWA AVENUE, FALCON HEIGHTS, MN 55108

9 **NORWAY IS CALLING...**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.391' W 093° 09.930'

10 **FALCON HEIGHTS SOARS!**
Coordinates: N 44° 59.321' W 093° 10.001'

GOOD LUCK!



GEOCACHE
INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

FALCON HEIGHTS

HOW TO GEOCACHE THE TRAIL!

Geocaching is a fun, family-friendly hide-and-seek activity with GPS coordinates. Geocaching combines the high-tech feel of online games with the old-fashioned fun of a treasure hunt. Caches can be of all shapes and sizes but are typically small plastic containers or a secret container (hollowed out log, fake rock or an amphibian creature). Each cache contains a log book, a conservation information card (not to be removed) and a unique secret cache code.

1. Enter the coordinates of the caches in this passport into your hand-held GPS unit.
2. Using your GPS, hike until your location matches the coordinates and then search for the cache. All of the caches are sealed in plastic containers or secret containers and hidden above ground in safe locations away from water.
3. When you find the cache, log your name (and commentary) in the logbook inside the cache. Write down the unique cache code in your passport as proof of discovering the cache. The cache code can be found on the outside of the cache container and the cover of the yellow log book. Also, enjoy reading the information on the conservation card inside some of the caches. Please leave the conservation card inside the cache and do not take it with you.
4. Carefully replace the contents into the cache and put it back in the spot you found it. Do not move it!
5. Always remember to be stealthy in your search. We do not want to alert non-participants to the presence of these hidden treasures!
6. Be sure to leave-no-trace of your presence and please pick-up and dispose of any litter you find in the parks during your hunt. Most importantly -- have lots of fun!
7. After discovering all 10 caches, participants are eligible to receive a completion certificate located at City Hall located at: 2077 Larpenteur Avenue West. For more information, call 651-792-7600.

Created by Marc R Lowenthal
EAGLE PROJECT - BOY SCOUTS TROOP 254

Thanks for Caching!

Please report any issues, suggestions, complaints or praise to:
michelle.tessier@falconheights.org

TRAIL PASSPORT



Welcome!

Welcome to the City of Falcon Heights Geocaching Interpretive Trail! The course will take you on an adventurous journey throughout the park system in Falcon Heights.

If you've Geocached before, the course starts at Community Park 2050 Roselawn Ave W and your first cache is inside this document. If you are new to the game, check out the back cover to get started.

Have fun and always use safety when proceeding to find a hidden cache!



Falcon Heights Parks Improvement Study

March 26, 2014 City Council Meeting




Consultant Tasks:

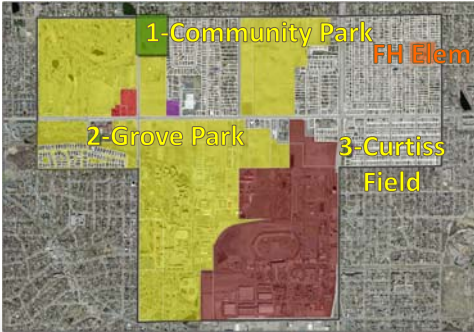
- Review & Evaluation of Existing Parks (uses, conditions, accessibility, overall design)
- Review Recreation Programming (city run programs & events)
- Undertake Community Engagement (open houses, community survey, interviews)
- Prepare Project Summary & Recommendations
 - Guide future improvements
 - Set priorities
 - Funding options

Findings:

- The residents are very passionate about their community and parks!
- Parks are praised, though there were specific areas of concern
 - Undesirable Uses
 - Flooding (being addressed)
 - Safe / Easy Access
 - Aging Amenities
- Residents are open to changes that will improve use among parks in a more complementary manner



Falcon Heights Land Uses:



Overall Goals:

- Improve and balance use among the park spaces
- Reduce the amount of duplicated amenities
- Improve safe and easy pedestrian access to the parks and across major roadways
- Create uniform character or theme to build from to enhance the "Sense of Place" within the community
- Utilize materials and methods of construction that will reduce ongoing maintenance

Complementary System:

- **Community Park:** will continue to serve as the main gathering area with the types and amount of amenities it offers
- **Grove & Curtiss Field:** will be supplementary parks that will have some of the same basic amenities but then offer a varying or unique activity
- Theming can tie the parks together. Some ideas could include:
 - Environmental (alternative materials, solar energy, water improvements, native plant or animal information)
 - Scientific Research (park focused on pollen producers, plant exhibits)
 - Historical (history of Falcon Heights, U of M, State Fair)

1-Community Park:

- To remain as the key gathering space of the community with a broad range of active and passive recreational amenities
- Has a nice layout, but an updated master plan can improve relationships among the amenities
- Improve accessibility
- Update amenities as needed
- Potentially locate winter rink at this site and pave for multi-season use (take place of bb court)
- Tennis court improvements are new & very appreciated
- Trails are HIGHLY valued!



2-Grove Park:

- Underutilized park site – many residents didn't know it even existed
- Needs an overall master plan design to correctly guide future improvements
- Focus on providing/retaining a "Great Lawn" space that will provide a more multi-functional space
- Consider moving or removing skating rink from this site if appropriate
- Loop trail system
- New accessible recreational amenities



3-Curtiss Field:

- Small park space that is highly used as it services a very large neighborhood.
- An updated master plan could improve new relationships among amenities
- Potentially pave rink surface for multi-season use while freeing up park space
- Improve accessibility
- Update amenities as needed
- Improve buffers
- Flooding issues being resolved



Falcon Heights Elementary:

- The City can potentially work out a more formal cooperative agreement with the School District to outline a mutually beneficial plan for improvements and maintenance in order to adequately provide recreational amenities for the surrounding neighborhood, which is currently lacking a park.
- Improved ballfields would better support programmed activities and rentals



Cooperative Agreements

- Cooperative agreements are critical to providing adequate recreational amenities to the community. Maintaining the existing agreements and looking for new opportunities will be important, but should also be done with great consideration to ensure they are mutually beneficial.
 - School District
 - University of Minnesota
 - Adjoining Communities
 - State of MN



Trails:

- The biggest factor to achieve a balanced use among the parks is to create proper access to them at a pedestrian level
- Traffic feasibility study should undertaken to look at options for crossing major roadways
- Look for potential connections as new development/redevelopment occurs



Approvals

- Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed, discussed and approved the Draft Report on March 4, 2014
- City Council meeting March 26, 2014

