

**City of Falcon Heights  
Parks & Recreation Commission**

**AGENDA**

**City Hall  
June 4, 2018  
6:30 p.m.**

\_\_\_ Mary Hannon Jacobson  
\_\_\_ Walt Dunlap (Chair)  
\_\_\_ Ron Eischen  
\_\_\_ Olivia Demerath  
\_\_\_ Alyssa Schmeling  
\_\_\_ Council Member Leehy  
\_\_\_ Staff Tim Pittman

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of April 2nd, 2018 Minutes
3. Grant Updates
  - a. Piano in the Park – “Play Your Part”
  - b. Curtiss Signage
  - c. Upcoming Opportunities
4. Comprehensive Plan
5. Special Events
  - a. Ice Cream Social/Hot Dog with a Deputy
6. Updates
  - a. Summer Programming, Staffing
  - b. Infrastructure – Short-term/Long Range Planning, Community Park
7. Other Business
  - a. Council Member Leehy
  - b. Commissioners
8. Adjourn

**City of Falcon Heights Parks & Recreation Commission  
AGENDA**

**City Hall Monday, June 4, 2018  
6:30 p.m.**

X Mary Hannon Jacobson  
X Walt Dunlap  
X Ron Eischen  
X Olivia Demerath  
X Alyssa Schmeling  
X Council Member Leehy  
     Staff Tim Pittman  
X Staff Tim Sandvik

- Call to Order
- Approval of February 5th, 2018 Minutes
  - Walt motioned, Ron 2nded. Motion Passed.
- 1. Commission Chair Person discussion
  - a. Walt nominated and approved.
- Grant Updates
  - a. Piano in the Park – “Play Your Part” – late May, early June
    - Tried to get artist to meeting this evening.
    - Possible partnership with art teacher from Falcon Heights Elementary
    - How does the commission want to market this?
      - Private partnership
      - With Park Program
      - Social media Facebook – Falcon Heights neighbors
      - Social media Next Door
      - Open event but have someone lined up to play
      - Leehy reached out to local piano teacher about participating along with students.
      - Neighborhood liaisons could reach out to neighborhoods.
- - a. Curtiss Signage
    - Discussion on location/ where to place.
    - Walt offered to walk around the park to look for a location or people walk around individually. Other members of the commission were

asked to walk around the park by the end of April and to provide feedback.

- Comprehensive Plan
  - a. Reviewed notes and this will be addressed in greater detail at the June meeting.
  
- Special Events
  - a. Spring Together
    - May 12, 11am – 2pm
    - Hosted by Community Engagement Commission.
    - Potluck event.
    - Possible bounce house for the kids.
    - Opportunity to volunteer for members of the Parks Commission.
    - Possible involvement of radio controlled flyer club.
  
  - b. Ice Cream Social/Hot Dog with a Deputy
    - July 19<sup>th</sup> 5 -7pm
    - Crafts, games, ice cream will be available.
    - Volunteer Opportunity for Parks Commissioners.
  
- Updates
  - a. Winter Updates
    - Rink at Curtis, longest and most consecutive usage thus far.
    - Discussion about next year and the cost of rental of building.
    - Approx. 500 people used the warming house this winter.
  
  - b. Summer Programming
    - Registration opened yesterday.
    - Programming will be at Community Park, CTC and Curtis Field.
    - Rec on the Go will be new addition this year.
      - Consists of 3 sessions.
      - Variety of activities will be included.
  
  - c. Staffing
    - Currently hiring a director/leader that will provide approx. 300 hrs of work time for the summer.
    - Staff will be high school kids, college kids and junior leaders (13 – 15 yr olds)
  
  - d. Potential Grant Opportunities
    - Looking for opportunities from the Commissioners
  
  - e. Infrastructure – Short-term/Long Range Planning
    - Need to do a playground audit.
    - Updating wood chips at Curtis? This doesn't create a safety hazard.

- Potential of installing a half-court basketball court at Curtis field this summer.
- f. Community Park Building
  - It needs to be updated.
  - The land is leased from the University so discussions with the U will need to occur.
- Other Business
  - a. Leehy Council retreat feedback
    - Each department presented accomplishments and goals.
    - The discussion started on how not to raise taxes for the residents and to find other ways to raise money.
- Adjourn

Meeting ended at 7:42pm.

ITEM 3





## Curtiss Northwest Airport and its Fliers



**Curtiss Northwest Airport** - In 1919, Snelling and Larpenteur Avenues were built along improved roads in what was then Rose Township. The southeast corner of the intersection had most recently been a farm field, but now it became home to the first major airport in Minnesota and, for a brief time, the center of aviation in the state. You could buy a plane here, learn to fly, and have it serviced and repaired. Hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people would come here on weekend Sundays to watch air shows.



Photo: *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*

**Photo: Earl Grant and Vernon O'Neil** - One of the first biplanes at Curtiss Northwest Airport in 1919, which was a world's record 12,000-foot plane built by the plane's designer, Earl Grant and Vernon O'Neil. It flew in the early days of aviation because the Earl wanted to see how it would fly. The plane was the first to be built in the state and was the first to be flown in the state.

**Anna Curtis**  
Anna Curtis was the first woman to fly in the state. She was a pioneer in aviation and was the first woman to fly in the state. She was a pioneer in aviation and was the first woman to fly in the state.



Photo: *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*



Photo: *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*

**Bill Walker**  
A former mail carrier who was a pilot for a living, Bill Walker was one of the first to fly in the state. He was a pioneer in aviation and was the first to fly in the state.

Photo: *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*

**Curtiss Northwest Airport**  
The Curtiss Northwest Airport was the first major airport in Minnesota and was the first to fly in the state. It was a pioneer in aviation and was the first to fly in the state.



## Curtiss Northwest Airport - Serving the Area

**Curtiss Northwest Airport** - In 1919, Snelling and Larpenteur avenues were built along improved roads in Rose Township. The airport served many purposes including mail service, hangars, aviation-related sales, and many promotional endeavors. Curtiss Northwest Airport's history includes many aviation firsts to Minnesota and the upper-Midwest.



Photo: *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*



Photo: *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*



**How did Curtiss Northwest Airport serve the Area?**  
Curtiss Northwest Airport was the first major airport in Minnesota and was the first to fly in the state. It was a pioneer in aviation and was the first to fly in the state.

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Photo: *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*

**Curtiss Northwest Airport and The Minnesota Air National Guard**  
The Minnesota Air National Guard was established in 1920 at Curtiss Northwest Airport. It was a pioneer in aviation and was the first to fly in the state.



Photo: *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*



Photo: *Franklin D. Roosevelt Library*

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## IV. Community Systems and Services

### 1. Parks and Open Spaces

The character and function of parks shown on the land use plan are described in greater detail in the 2014 Falcon Heights Parks Improvement Study. The mission of the City’s Parks and Recreation Department is to provide quality parks and recreation programs that promote healthy and active lifestyles to benefit residents and foster a sense of community. Providing convenient **access** to parks and open spaces is considered part of this mission.

#### *Existing Parks and Open Spaces*

Falcon Heights has four developed parks totaling 24.65 acres, equivalent to approximately 4.3 acres per 1,000 population. This is significantly less than the National Park and Recreation Association standard of 25 acres per 1000 residents. The City does, however, embrace the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, the University of Minnesota agricultural fields and the public University Golf Course, none of which are included in the calculation of park needs. (The University recreation areas are, however, counted in the “Parks, Recreation and Preserves” category in Table 5, page 30, and on the Metropolitan Council 2016 Land Use data, Figure 5.)

Of the 24.65 acres, the City owns less than 2.0 acres of park property. The City leases 16.5 acres of land for park use from the University of Minnesota. Falcon Heights Elementary School provides an additional 6.25 acres of park land. Four small open “commons” areas, 2.1 acres in all, are located in the University Grove neighborhood. These are not maintained by the City and are not counted in total park acreage.

Of the four existing parks, one is classified as a community park, two as neighborhood parks and one as a mini-neighborhood park. Curtiss Field, which serves one of the largest neighborhoods, underwent expansion and major renovation during the summer of 2004, when a portion of the former Snelling Drive frontage road was incorporated into the park.

**Table 22: Falcon Heights Parks and Open Spaces**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Size (acres)</b>	<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Park Classification</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Community Park	14.5	20 year lease	Community Park	Community building, ball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, skating, hockey, fitness, course, horseshoes, play equipment, picnic shelter, community garden, trails
Curtiss Field	1.9	City of Falcon Heights	Neighborhood	Hard court, skating/hockey, tennis bang board, warming house, ball field, play equipment
University Grove	2.0	Yearly lease renewal	Neighborhood	Hard court, skating/hockey, tennis bang board, play equipment, picnic tables
Falcon Heights Elementary School	6.25	Roseville School District #623	Neighborhood/School	Play equipment, basketball courts, ball field, skating, hockey, hard court

Draft 05/15/2018



# Falcon Heights City Parks and Open Spaces with University of Minnesota Facilities

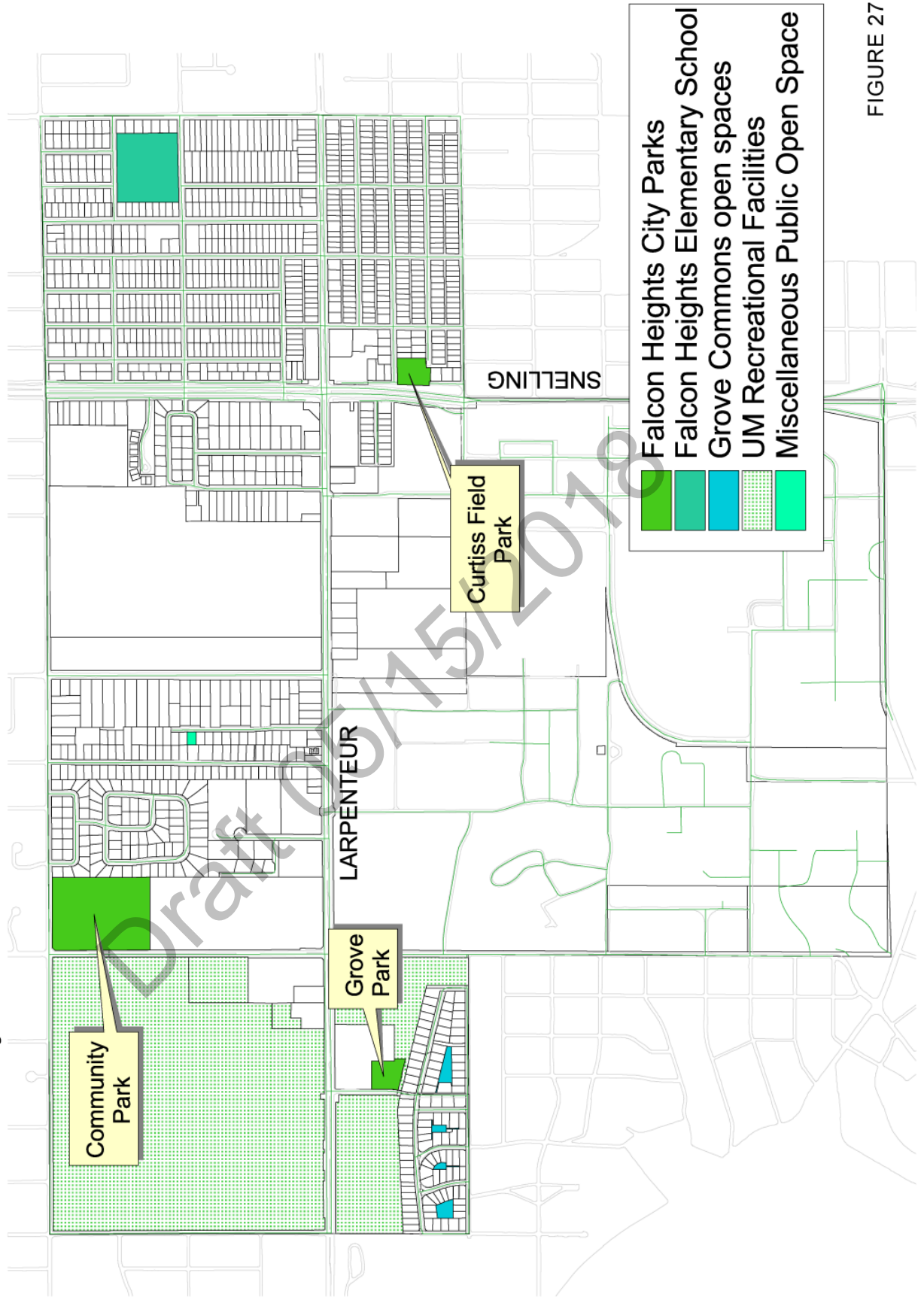


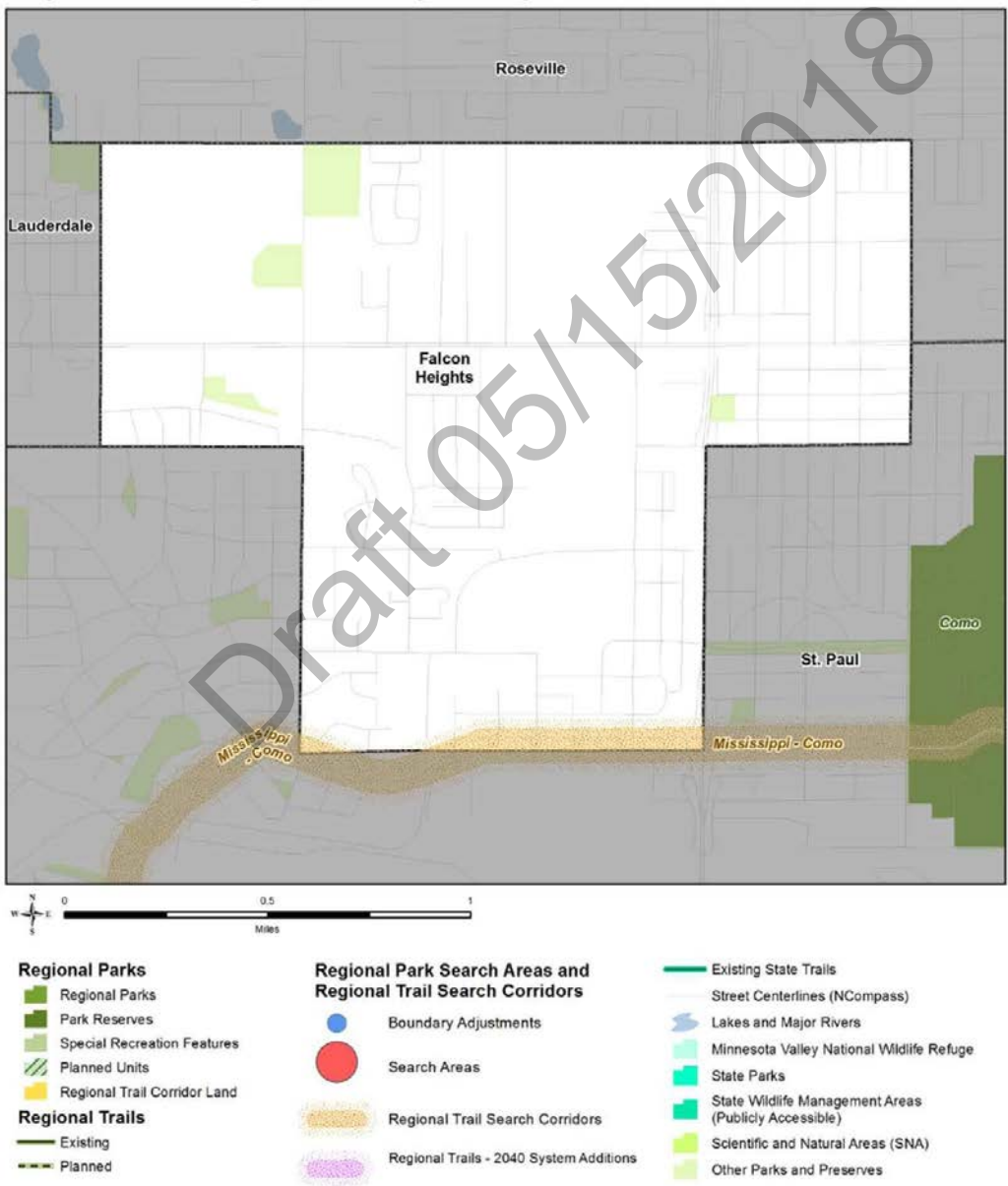
FIGURE 27

### *Future Directions*

The City completed a Falcon Heights Parks Improvement Study in 2014 independent of this Comprehensive Plan.

There are no existing or proposed metropolitan park facilities within Falcon Heights. However, Como Regional Park is less than half a mile from the City’s easternmost neighborhood, and the proposed Mississippi Como Trail will, if constructed, pass near the City’s southern border. Roseville parks are also nearby. Connections among these parks and trails would benefit all communities concerned.

#### **Regional Parks System City of Falcon Heights, Ramsey County**



## ***Parks and Open Spaces: Goals and Policies***

### *Parks and Open Space Goals*

1. To develop a park system to serve both neighborhood and community needs.
2. To provide a variety of recreation programs and events for all ages, abilities and economic groups in a cost-effective manner that best serves the needs of the community.
3. To promote healthy and active lifestyles for residents and visitors through quality leisure programs and well-maintained parks and trails.
4. Provide and maintain convenient access to city parks, businesses, and neighborhoods to encourage people to be mobile and active.

### *Parks and Trails Policies*

1. Upgrade and improve existing parks.
2. Offer park/recreation programs to residents that complement recreation programs available from surrounding cities and the school district, and duplicate programs only when necessary.
3. Cooperate with the University of Minnesota and the State Fairgrounds in shared use of recreation and open space lands.
4. Acquire additional park land through the City's land acquisition and park dedication program if land is sold and developed.
5. Include park accessibility in design of new and upgraded parks.
6. Provide space for community gardens.
7. Pursue opportunities to expand trail and sidewalk facilities throughout the City.