



## **PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION**

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January 24, 2022

### **Bertram Athletic Park**

Recreation staff is currently working on applying for an Outdoor Recreation Grant in 2022 for parking infrastructure and site access improvements to be completed in 2023.

### **Great River Trail**

Staff is working with Xcel Energy identifying the trail alignment for the west segment of the Great River Trails planned in 2025, in conjunction with Wright County Parks & Recreation.

### **Ellison Park Shelter**

The prefabricated park shelter is scheduled to be delivered after road restrictions are lifted in the spring. Staff is working on obtaining quotes for directional boring under the east parking lot. The electrical pedestals were ordered last fall and they just arrived.

### **Winter Park Operations**

- Plowing snow
- Flooding Ice skating rinks
- Working on gate for Library
- Cemetery work
- Working with Wright-Hennepin at Xcel
- Painting hallway at MCC next week
- Vehicle and snow Equipment maintenance
- Maintaining sledding hills

### **MCC Operations**

Attendance is picking up at the MCC with the new year. With the MLK Holiday on 1/17, the pool was busy with over 150 swimmers! New staff have been hired and are being trained, including climbing wall, ice rink and supervised play attendants.

MCC hosted a Water Safety Instructor class this past weekend. Five students from the class are interested in working as swim instructors. MCC host a Lifeguard Training Certification class on 2/26. Seven have registered at this time which could lead to potential new lifeguard hires. We have experienced a shortage of lifeguards in these challenging times.

We currently have 532 active senior members who use their Medicare supplement for a membership. Their visits to the community center are submitted to insurance and MCC receives reimbursement.

The City of Monticello recently signed up with the MERSC (Minnesota Employee Recreation & Services Council) Program. MERSC offers Minnesota companies memberships that provide discount opportunities to employees and businesses. The original MERSC was founded in 1980 to bring together representatives from corporations, businesses, governmental organizations, and employee recreation associations to exchange knowledge, expertise, and ideas. The new MERSC purchased in 2018 is focused on maintaining, improving, and growing the strong discount program that has been built upon over the past almost three decades. So far, we have 18 MERSC memberships in January and 8 military memberships. The military membership is a new membership program added in 2022.

The next Indoor Farmers Market is Saturday, February 12, 8-11 a.m. Applications are now available for the outdoor Farmers Market. Applications can be found on our the MCC website. The outdoor market opens Thursday, May 19.

Open Skate at the Moose continues to be a popular winter activity with attendance averages of 60-80 people per Sunday.

Rental calls are picking up. Weekends can be tough to book as many as we had in previous years due to shortened hours, but renters are happy to be able to rent for their gatherings. Businesses are loving the recent technology upgrades in all our meeting rooms. Birthday room has been booked every weekend for two parties each day in Nov, Dec, and Jan.

Weddings are slow to book in the Mississippi Room but in talking with caterers they are not booking catering events for indoor events currently.

Our new online reservation program has officially launched for park reservations and birthday party reservations at the MCC. We are utilizing the CivicRec program and excited for this benefit to the public to be able to book and pay for their reservations online. This will increase efficiency immensely. As we work with the new reservation software, our goal is to transition more programs, events, classes, and other offerings online over the next year.

The old skate park on the south side of the building at the MCC has been turned into an outdoor skating rink! **The rink is free to members and public** and there are benches for people to sit. People should bring their own skates as we do not offer skate rentals. People may use the rink after MCC hours.

## MontiArts

Monticello GLOW Parade will be Saturday, February 26 at 6 p.m. Parade begins in the west parking lot at the MCC and concludes at West Bridge Park where there will be festivities including campfires, donuts, and hot cocoa.

The Monticello Lions donated \$500 to the Student Art Club for art supplies. Fleet Farm donated \$50 in merchandise to the Glow parade. Weekly Glow Art Workshops are held on Wednesdays with the High School Art Club from 3-5 p.m., and public workshops from 6-8 p.m. The lead artist is Joel Sisson. He is working with MontiArts thanks to a grant from CMAB (Central Minnesota Arts Board).

New Website Launch for MontiArts will be planned to go live next week. Check it out at [www.montiarts.com](http://www.montiarts.com). Ben Lundquist took the lead on this project and did a fantastic job putting it all together, editing the videos and formatting the site. Ben Lundquist and Sue Seeger put in many months of prep work assembling interviews and taking online marketing and digital marketplace courses with funding received through both the State Arts Board and CMAB grants. Monticello now has a virtual arts center!

Public programming is being held at the WTA building at the corner of Broadway & TH 25. The High School Art Club meets at the Arts Garage for their after-school program supervised by Ben Lundquist. Other art programs include:

- Monday Evenings: Regular Artist Meet Up
- Tuesday Evenings: Writers Group
- Wednesday Evenings: Glow Workshops and Open Studio
- Thursdays: 12-week Artist's Way Workshop
- Second Saturdays: Open Mic Night (e/o month)

The School District is planning to hold their annual Student Art Show at the WTA building in May. There is a volunteer artist planning a Community Art Show for adults this summer.

CMAB wants to partner with MontiArts for their Teaching Artist Roster Training Program. They will hold those training sessions at the MontiArts locations. Furthermore, they intend to funnel high quality workshop opportunities our way.