

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

Date: **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

Written by: Stuart Brown, Parks and Recreation Director
Warren Boling, Parks Manager
Katrina Kelly, Recreation Manager
Douglas Gebhart, Recreation Supervisor
Mark Bell, Program and Facilities Coordinator

The monthly Parks and Recreation Department Report includes news and updates from the department, along with achievements and action related to the strategies, goals and tasks identified in the 2022 Strategic Workplan.

- A. Department News, Updates & Facility Status
- B. Maintain and Enhance the Town's Recreation Infrastructure
- C. Deliver High-Quality, Innovative, and Affordable Recreation Programming
- D. Strengthen Organizational Systems, Structures and Operations
- E. Advance Team Capacity and Organizational Culture

DEPARTMENT NEWS AND UPDATES

Facility Status:

Whitmore Pool

- CLOSED

Whitmore Recreation Area

- Whitmore Ball Fields – CLOSED
- Whitmore Track – OPEN
- Whitmore Synthetic Turf – OPEN
- Restrooms – CLOSED (Portable restrooms available)

Community Center

- OPEN for programming and private rentals.

Community Tennis Courts and Playground

- Tennis Courts – CLOSED for the season
- Pickleball Court (Court 1) – CLOSED for the season
- Restrooms – CLOSED for the season
- Playground – CLOSED for the season

Shady Rest Park

- Soccer/ball fields – CLOSED for the season
- Restrooms – CLOSED for the season (Portable restrooms available)

- Playground – CLOSED for the season
- Shady Rest DiscGolfPark® - CLOSED for the season
- Shady Rest Winter Trails – OPEN and groomed
- Shady Rest OSV Trails – OPEN and groomed

Mammoth RecZone

- CLOSED

Mammoth Ice Rink

- OPEN for the season.
- Closing Day is Sunday, March 6, 2022.

Mammoth Creek Park - West

- Restrooms, playground, and parking lot CLOSED for CRC construction

Mammoth Creek Park – East

- Restrooms – CLOSED for the season

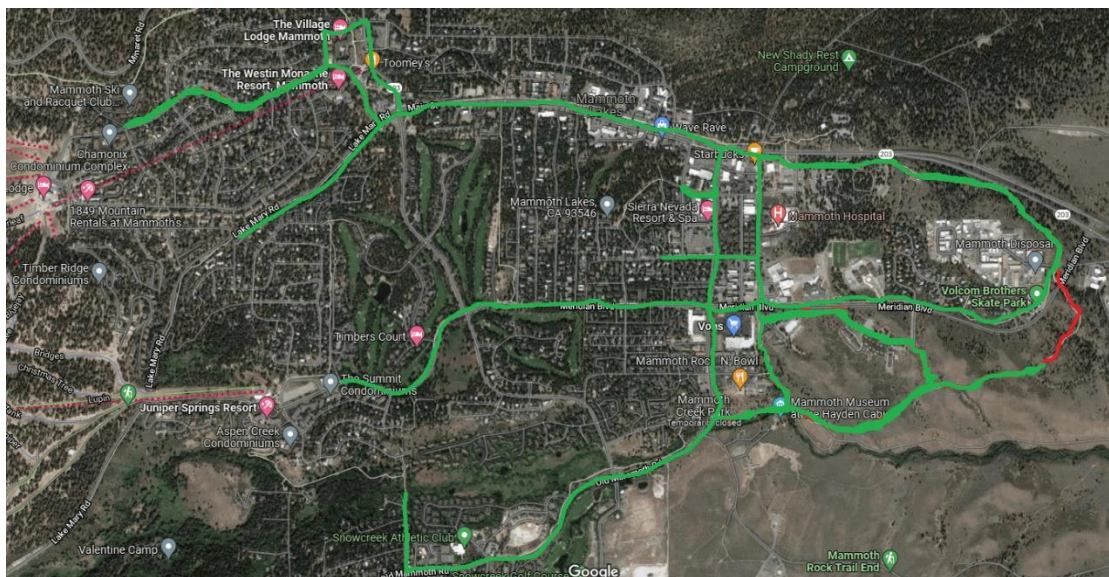
Trails End Park/Volcom Brothers Skate Park

- Skateparks – CLOSED for the season
- Restrooms – OPEN WEATHER PERMITTING
- Playground – CLOSED for the season

Town-wide MUPs and Sidewalks

- Please see map below for the status of sidewalks and MUP's in town. The Lakes Basin paths are CLOSED for the season. Users are reminded to comply with municipal codes requiring all dogs to be on leash and pet waste to be disposed of by owners.

Town Sidewalk/MUP Status (as of 2/23/2022)



MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE TOWN'S RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL: Launch, program and operate the Community Recreation Center (CRC)

Community Recreation Center (CRC) – PR 1 & PR 2

- Operations and Management Plan
- Fundraising and Communication
- Facility Launch
- See monthly detailed Recreation Commission staff report.

GOAL: Lead and/or support efforts to provide multi-purpose, year-round, indoor and outdoor recreation amenities in Mammoth Lakes.

Whitmore Track and Sports Field Improvements – GRANT DEPENDENT

- Regional Park Program grant submitted
- Expected award announcement: Spring 2022
- Website: <https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/regional-park-program-prop-68/>

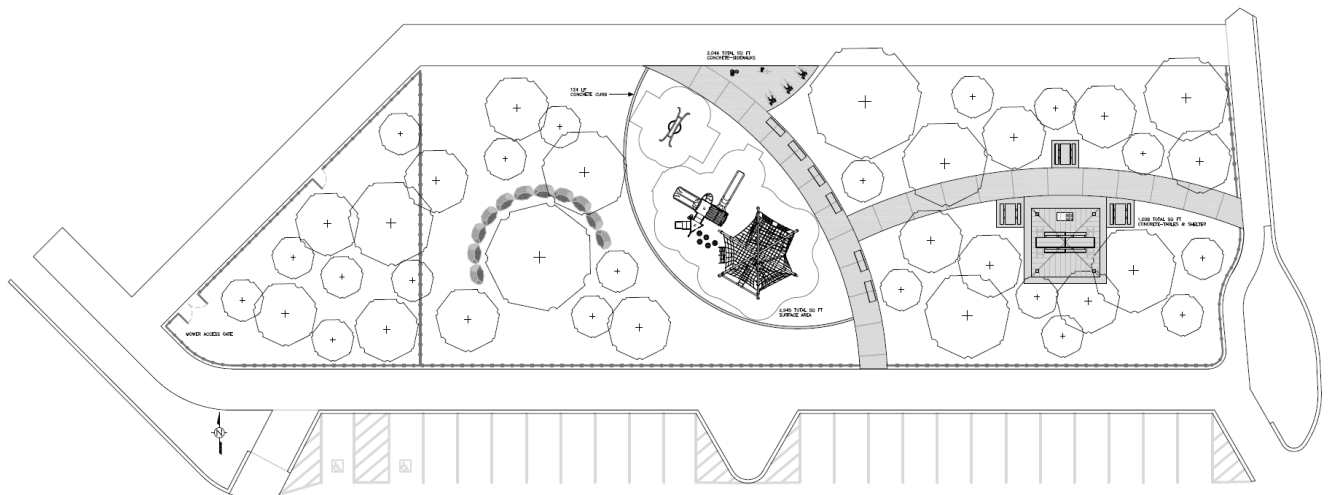
Mammoth Lakes Community Dog Park - PR 7

- The Town is in discussion with multiple agencies to secure a visible, accessible, and sustainable site for a community dog park.
- The Town has submitted a Use Permit Modification with Mono County to permit the construction and operation of a dog park at the Whitmore Recreation Area.
- Parks and Recreation has prepared a site plan and cost estimate for the construction and operation of a dog park.

Park at the Parcel – PR 12

- Parks and Recreation is working with a vendor on a conceptual site plan for the Park at the Parcel. Once finalized cost estimates will be developed for the site. A tentative site plan is attached.
- Staff are working with CED on a potential grant for the park.

Park at the Parcel Conceptual Site Plan



Mammoth Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) – GF 9

- In collaboration with the Mammoth Lake Foundation, the Town is engaged with AMS Consulting on the development of an Operating Forecast for the proposed MACC.
- The timeline for completion is April/May, 2022
- Scope of work includes:
 - Project Mobilization – done
 - User and Stakeholder Engagement – Underway
 - Activity Projection
 - Facility Concept and Program Review
 - Exemplars and Scenarios
 - Management and Operating Structure Recommendations
 - Financial Projections
- The project deliverable is an executive summary report.

Shady Rest DiscGolfPark®

- The Shady Rest DiscGolfPark® Adopt-a-Hole program: As of January 25, one hole remains available for sponsorship.
- The installation of the recreational tee signs and sponsor stickers will be completed in spring 2022. Staff are scheduling a recognition event at the course to coincide with the completion of the course.

Whitmore Recreation Area Planning

- The long-term goal of the Town is to enhance and expand the Whitmore Recreation Area for Town/County residents and expanded sports tourism uses.
- **LADWP Lease Extension:** On November 30, staff received correspondence from LADWP affirming that they intend to recommend the issuance of a new 50-year lease for the operation of the track and sports complex, subject to approval by its Board of Water and Power Commissioners and the Los Angeles City Council. In addition to expanding the acreage, the proposed lease expansion would be combined with the lease for Whitmore Pool (BL-1093) for a total of 112.75 acres. LADWP also intend to issue a separate business lease to Mono County for the operation of the animal shelter. LADWP indicated that resources are currently very limited, and this proposed expansion will be prioritized along with other projects at LADWP's discretion.

Outdoor Multi-use Courts (Tennis/Pickleball)

- Staff are evaluating the scope of work for this project.

Bike Park/Pump Track Concept – PR 9

- The bike park concept/pump track is identified in the Town of Mammoth Lakes 2021/22 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- This amenity is identified in FY2022/23, however, funding is not secured for this project.

Mammoth Lakes Bouldering Park – PR 10

- The Bouldering Park is a complementary amenity to the Bike Park/Pump Track concept and to the CRC and recreation destination concept.
- This amenity is identified in FY2022/23, however, funding is not secured for this project.

GOAL: Enhance recreation infrastructure utilizing a variety of funding sources to improve the safety, operations and guest experience of the amenities.

Deferred Maintenance Program

Town Council allocated an additional \$300,000 in parks maintenance funds this past May. Combined with existing funds from fiscal year 2020/21, a balance of \$341,000 is available for the deferred maintenance program. Based on input and direction from the Commission, staff have developed the following priority list for deferred maintenance items to be conducted during 2021-22. Based on the consensus of the Recreation Commission, staff have prioritized the following projects:

- Whitmore Recreation Area Softball/Baseball Field Maintenance – PR 8
- Whitmore Recreation Area bleacher replacement - PR 8
- Community Tennis Courts crack repair - PR 3
- Shady Rest Park irrigation system - PR 3
- Whitmore Pool - PR 3

Parks and Recreation Amenities Enhancement Program

- Staff, in collaboration with MLTS, identified additional amenity locations adjacent to the MUPs. Staff will finalize an inventory of amenities, locations, and costs this winter, and are also working with Mono County IT to develop a platform within the Town of Mammoth Lakes website that allows for the administration and coordination of the program by department staff. Members of the public who have expressed interest in the program are provided bi-monthly updates.

Asset Management

- Staff continue to update the GIS inventory of all amenities across all facilities, and coordinate with Mono County IT on the integration of the data into digital maps.

Signage and Wayfinding – SS 3

- Staff are working with PW/Engineering on signage and wayfinding alternatives for Main Street and additional signage in the Lakes Basin.

GOAL: Develop and Implement sustainable best practices to enhance Town owned or managed pools, parks, fields, and facilities.

Maintenance Best Practices

- Identify NEXT practices
- No action on this item

Winter Snow Removal

- Development of digital map
- Analyzing existing snow removal routes/prioritization

DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY, INNOVATIVE, AND AFFORDABLE RECREATION PROGRAMMING

GOAL: Provide recreation users with high-quality, innovative, and affordable programming in the specified NEW age groups that can lead to an improved quality of life.

NEW RECREATION PROGRAM AGE GROUPS	
Toddler	<u>2 years</u>
Preschool	<u>3-4 years</u>
Grade TK-2	<u>5-7 years</u>
Grade 3-5	<u>8-11 years</u>
Middle School	<u>12-14 years</u>
High School	<u>15-18 years</u>
Adult	<u>16+ years</u>
Active Adult	<u>55+ years</u>
Senior	<u>65+ years</u>

- Staff are currently focusing on identifying programming options for Toddler and Preschool age groups.
- The first-ever Winter Camp took place from February 21-25. Open to Grades 3-5, participants enjoyed snowshoeing, sledding, ice skating, baking, swimming, and a host of other activities during the MUSD February Break.



GOAL: Provide enhanced community programming by partnering with local organizations, youth sporting groups, individuals, or jurisdictions.

Additional/Enhanced Recreation Programs

Intro to Cheer and Tumbling Programs at the Community Center

- Intro to Cheer and Tumbling programs are underway at the Community Center with Coach Lauren. Classes are offered for Grades TK-2, Grades 3-5, and High School, and take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. There are currently waitlists for Grades TK-2 and Grades 3-5 Tumbling classes.

Gymnastics Program at the Community Center

- Due to the current demand, staff are working with Coach Jackie to develop a year-round Gymnastics Program at the Community Center. The program is expected to commence in late March on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

Youth and Adult Dance Programs at the Community Center

- Join Coach Ally for a variety of dance and fitness classes at the Community Center, commencing in March. Classes include Youth Hip Hop and Adult Dance Fitness.

Mono Arts Council partnership for Summer Art Camps

- Staff, in collaboration with Mono Arts Council (MAC), have finalized a number of all-day art camps to include in our summer offerings. Camps include ‘Exploring with Photography’ (Grades 2-5) and ‘Adventures in Art (Grades 2-5). Camps will consist of a morning art session instructed by MAC staff (assisted by TOML camp counselors) and an afternoon session composed of more traditional summer camp activities.

Mammoth Youth Hockey

- February saw Mammoth Youth Hockey successfully host both the PeeWee Tournament Jam (February 4-6) and the Presidents’ Weekend Mites Tournament (February 19-21). Congratulations to all players and the Tournament Champions (PeeWee – Tri-Valley Bulls, Mites – Tri-Valley Lady Blue Devils.). Congratulations also to the Mammoth Stars travel teams, who competed in the LA Junior Kings President’s Day Challenge in El Segundo from February 18-21. Our Squirts Stars placed 4th and our PeeWee Stars placed 2nd.

Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association

- The Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association program consists of a competition team (12 participants), a development team (11 participants) and the entry-level Gliders program (67 participants). Six athletes have been invited to be on the Far West Junior National team, and will compete at the Junior Nationals in Minnesota, from March 6-12. In addition, the Mammoth High School and Middle School teams, supported by ESNSA, had fantastic results at the recent California/Nevada Interscholastic Ski and Snowboard Federation (CNISSF) State Championships. Both the Mammoth Middle School Boys and Girls teams placed 3rd in the overall team ranking, the Mammoth High School Girls team placed 2nd, and the Mammoth High School Boys team landed on top of the podium, winning the school’s first ever CNISSF State Championship.



DSES Ski PE

- DSES continues to host up to 14 children each week from MUSD, as well as providing weekly lessons to students from LVES, Bishop, Round Valley and Owens Valley schools.

MMS and MHS Skate PE

- Although warm February weather meant the postponement of some of their sessions, Mammoth High School PE classes have been enjoying their weekly skating lessons on Wednesdays at the Mammoth Ice Rink.

MHS Athletic Program

- MHS continue to use Whitmore Recreation Area for soccer, baseball, softball and track team training sessions. Both the MHS Boys and Girls Soccer teams are playing in the CIF Championships on Saturday, February 26. Both games will be played at Whitmore Synthetic Turf – girls (12pm) and boys (3pm).

Mono County Little League

- Staff is working with Mono County Little League to finalize their 2022 Facility Use Agreement.

GOAL: Create and deliver scalable and sustainable signature summer camps, programs and community events aligned with the core program areas and the resource capacity and capabilities of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Core Program Areas:

Summer Youth Camps and Programs

- Staff are currently finalizing camp products and itineraries for Summer 2022, in addition to completing the Yosemite Special Use permit.
- The USFS Special Use permit has been completed and submitted.

Youth After-School Programs

- Youth Skating lessons wrapped up last week at the Mammoth Ice Rink. The January-February sessions had 24 skaters – a record number of participants.
- Chowhounds Cooking Series: ‘Baked’ continues at the Mammoth Community Center on February 2. This program currently has a significant waitlist and staff are working on developing the next series classes.
- Hot Shots Basketball continues at the Mammoth Middle School Gym. Due to a lack of volunteer coaches, the program is being conducted with drill sessions and scrimmages, rather than as a traditional league format.
- Intro to Cheer and Tumbling continues at the Community Center (see above for details).
- Dance Programs to commence in March at the Community Center (see above for details).

Adult Activities

- Adult Skating Lessons wrapped up last week at the Mammoth Ice Rink.
- The Adult Hockey League Champions were decided in late February – congratulations to the Moose Knuckles, 2022 Champions!
- The Adult Curling League continues at the Mammoth Ice Rink. Championship games are scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 1 (weather dependent).
- The 100 Mile Winter Fitness Challenge continues. Participants pledge to complete 100 miles of activity (skiing, snowboarding, XC skiing, ice skating, walking/running/snowshoeing, biking) before March 31. Results are updated weekly, and prizes will be awarded in all categories, with a \$100 gift card awarded for the most cumulative ‘winter’ miles. Every participant who completes 100 miles will have their name entered into the draw for a ‘lucky finisher’ prize.

Community Events/Activities

Summer Recreation Expo – March 29

- The Summer Recreation Expo will take place on Tuesday, March 29 at the Mammoth High School Gymnasium from 5-7pm. This FREE event is a one-stop-shop for all things recreation in the Eastern Sierra. Information is available to the community on Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation programs, in addition to multiple recreation providers and their offerings.

Upcoming Events:

- Spring Egg Hunt at Shady Rest Park – April 15
- Parks and Recreation Month – July

- Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular
- Haunted Rink and Skate Party at CRC
- Community Tree Lighting Ceremony at MCP – December 2
- Skate with Santa at CRC – December 15

Diverse, Inclusive and Equitable Programs

- Staff are reviewing registration platforms, forms, and waivers to ensure inclusive language is used.

STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND OPERATIONS

GOAL: Develop and implement a standardized department-wide system that describes what operational excellence is, how it will be implemented, who will implement it, and how it will be measured.

Top 3 Core Standards of Excellence

- Staff are currently standards of excellence for the Whitmore Pool and summer camps.

GOAL: Continually improve the delivery of community events, camps, activities, programs, facility operations and parks maintenance efforts by constantly measuring, evaluating and improving performance.

Recreation Program Evaluation and Improvement

- The Customer Satisfaction survey has been reset for 2021/22 programming and is being sent to all program participants.

Park/Facility Evaluation and Improvement

- The Customer Satisfaction survey has been reset for 2021/22 facility rentals and is being sent to all facility renters.

Enhanced Reservation Platform

- Staff continue to conduct research on web-based registration and facility reservation software that meets and/or exceeds the current and future needs of the department.

GOAL: Update program/facility policies and procedures, promote social equity throughout our facilities, and deploy sufficient staffing levels and standards to maintain a safe, clean, accessible and welcoming environment.

Parks and Recreation Department Manual

- Staff are currently reviewing the Parks and Recreation Department Manual and providing annual edits and updates. Staff are also prioritizing the inclusion of additional sections and creating an annual workplan for such additions.

Social Equity

- The Tony Colasardo Scholarship Fund continues to remain open for donations.
- The Tony Colasardo Scholarship Fund has provided full and partial scholarships in the following winter programs:
Skating Lessons - 1

Hot Shots Basketball – 3

Chowhound Cooking Series: ‘Baked’ – 3

Winter Camp – 5

- Staff is working with Sylvia Escobar, MES English Learner Technician, to help promote programs and scholarship opportunities within our Spanish-speaking community. Sylvia has been instrumental in enrolling a number of students into winter programs and helping them with scholarship applications.
- Staff met with MES staff in December to discuss scholarship opportunities and promotion through MUSD. MES staff are excited to partner with the Parks and Recreation Department on this program and are currently reviewing concepts internally. Staff also discussed partnering with MES during our registration period and MES has committed to providing technological (access to computer lab) and language (Spanish translators) assistance.
- Staff are working with MUSD staff to learn more about Husky Club subsidies, the application process and how similar practices could be implemented in Tony Colasardo Scholarship application, review, and award procedures.

GOAL: Implement a fully integrated communication plan that effectively and in a cost-effective manner, disseminates information and encourages engagement about ‘core’ community parks and recreation programs, services and facilities.

Recreation This Week

- Current users: 898 (-12)

Communication Plan

- Staff will finalize in the spring for summer implementation.

Social Media

- Staff are focusing on a weekly 100 Miles Winter Challenge results update post, in addition to a weekly participating athlete profile post.

Accessible and Informative Outreach

- Staff have sourced a reliable translation service and are reviewing best practices for disseminating information on our programs and events.

ADVANCE TEAM CAPACITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

GOAL: Integrate the Town’s culture into the Parks and Recreation Department where both year-round and seasonal staff are valued, recognized and appreciated for their efforts.

Strengthen Organizational Culture

- Celebrate our High Achievement
- Develop Efficient and Effective Teams
- Communicate and Promote Respect
- Culture ‘Integration’ Evaluation

GOAL: Integrate a TEAM culture aligned with a single vision and unifying purpose by integrating the 5 C’s into daily operations to achieve extraordinary results.

Integrate the 5 C's into daily operations

- Staff continue to integrate the 5C's into our daily operations.

GOAL: Provide valuable and relevant job-specific education, training and certification opportunities for employees to improve productivity, efficiency and job satisfaction.

Professional Development Plans

- Staff are working to schedule professional development courses/events for staff.

Education and Networking

- Staff will be attending the upcoming CPRS Conference in Sacramento from March 8-11.

Customer Service Training

- Staff continue to explore customer service training opportunities for staff

GOAL: Strategically recruit, retain, and recognize our employees to sustain recreation programs

Build Team Capacity

- Staff are evaluating staff templates for the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year.
- Staff are studying for their class B license exam.

Recruitment Plan

- Staff have begun recruitment for summer seasonal staff and hope to hold some information evenings with MMSA staff in March.

Recognition Plan

- Staff are reviewing recognition opportunities for seasonal staff.

GOAL: The department will embrace emerging recreation trends, including product, program, amenity and facility innovations within the Parks and Recreation industry and broader Outdoor Recreation Industry.

Trend Implementation

Trends in Parks & Recreation

<https://recmanagement.com/feature/202106FE03>

The most commonly planned additions for park respondents were:

- Outdoor fitness areas and fitness trails (planned by 26% of park respondents who will be adding features)
- Splash play areas (24.9%)
- Walking and hiking trails (21.7%)
- Dog parks (20.6%)
- Playgrounds (19.9%)
- Park shelters (18.4%)

- Disc golf courses (18.4%)
- Bike trails (18.4%)
- Park restroom structures (16.6%)
- Open spaces and natural areas (13.7%)

The most commonly planned program additions in 2021 for parks include:

- Group exercise programs (up from No. 4)
- Teen programming (no change)
- Fitness programs (no change)
- Mind-body balance programs such as yoga (up from No. 6)
- Programs for active older adults (up from No. 7)
- Educational programs (did not appear in the top 10 for parks in 2020)
- Environmental education programs (down from No. 1)
- Holidays and other special events (did not appear in 2020)
- Adult sports teams (did not appear in 2020)
- Special needs programs (down from No. 9)