



AGENDA
BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MARCH 18, 2026

5:00 p.m.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) ROLL CALL**
- 3) PROPOSED AGENDA**
- 4) BUSINESS**
 - 4A. Emergency Response Unit Partnership Discussion
 - 4B. Lawful Gambling 75% Trade Area Reporting Update
 - 4C. Discuss Park Design Options and Grant Update
 - 4D. Recommended Alternative Approach for the Current GRRL/Police Department Building
 - 4E. Code Enforcement Update
- 5) OTHER**
- 6) ADJOURN**

Disclaimer: This agenda has been prepared to provide information regarding an upcoming work session of the Big Lake City Council. This document does not claim to be complete and is subject to change.



WORKSHOP ITEM

Big Lake City Council

Prepared By: Sam Olson, Chief of Police	Meeting Date: 3/18/2026	Item No. 4A
Item Description: Emergency Response Unit Partnership Discussion	Reviewed By: Hanna Klimmek, City Administrator	
	Reviewed By: N/A	

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

Discuss and provide direction on the Big Lake Police Department joining the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Unit.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Since last year, there has been numerous staff meetings with the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office on adding one team member each from Big Lake and Becker's Police Departments to the County's existing Emergency Response Unit (ERU), thus making it a Multi-Agency ERU. The Multi-Agency ERU would be a designated unit of law enforcement officers and specialized support personnel, including a multi-jurisdictional team, whose members are specifically recruited, selected, trained, equipped, and assigned to resolve critical incidents involving a threat to public safety, or otherwise are so hazardous, complex, or unusual that they may exceed the capabilities of traditional law enforcement first responders or investigative units. The mission of the ERU is to save human life by supporting the jurisdictions within Sherburne County with a tactical response to critical incidents, and to aid other agencies outside of Sherburne County requesting mutual aid assistance from the ERU. Critical incidents include, but are not limited to, hostage situations, barricade situations, active shooters, hostile event response, terrorism style attacks, high-risk apprehension, high-risk warrant service, VIP or personal protection, and other special assignments or operations.

The attached draft Multi-Agency Agreement covers procedural practices, structure, activation procedures, selection/retention, training standards, uniform/equipment standards, budget, and wages/benefits/insurance of its membership. The selected BLPD officer would train with the team and be subject to emergency call outs. Interested officers will submit an application to Chief Olson. They will then go through the process at Sherburne County and they will select the team member.

We currently do not have any CN (Crisis Negotiators) with BLPD. In the future, discussions will occur to include our CN to be added to Sherburne County's CNT team.

Commander Ben Zawacki will be in attendance at the March 18 workshop to discuss the ERU and answer any questions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Big Lake Police Department received a \$10,000 donation from Luther Brookdale Mazda that was dedicated towards purchasing equipment for the ERU team member if we choose to go that direction. The attached "New Operator" information shows start-up costs for equipment which totals \$10,459.

Per the agreement, the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office will provide a budget for the basic operations of the ERU, and will assess each party an annual, non-refundable, per member fee to cover training and other operational expenses related to the Multi-Agency ERU Agreement. Parties will provide and maintain basic uniforms and equipment for their members according to the standard issue equipment list. Specialty equipment supplied by a party for use with ERU will be the responsibility of that party and remain property of that party. Operational costs, maintenance, and other expenses related to specialty equipment will be covered by the party having ownership.

All members are considered on duty by their respective agencies for all ERU training, actual operations, or other ERU related functions. Wages and benefits will be covered by the respective agencies at all times.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council discuss entering into a Multi-Agency ERU Agreement with Sherburne County.

Upon direction from Council, the Agreement will be placed on an upcoming Council Consent Agenda for final consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - New Operator Start-up Cost Information

Attachment B - Draft Sherburne County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Unit Multi-Agency Agreement

Attachment A

New Operator Start-up Cost Information

New operator

	Operator	
Uniforms	\$300	
Rain Gear	\$210	Truspec rain gear. The same we currently have.
Helmet	\$453	
Vest	\$2,514	
Holster	\$250	Complete thigh rig and holster
Pouches	\$225	
Gas Mask	\$1,000	c50 vs fm54 - waiting for key differences from Avon rep. Need to make sure comms are compatible
VPU	\$575	
Mask		
comms	\$200	
Peltor	\$762	
PTT	\$300	
Rifle	\$2,000	
Med Kit	\$60	
Suppressor	\$1,000	
Duty mags	\$45	20 rd Pmags
Sim mags	\$60	20 rd Pmags
Sim pistol	\$505	
TOTAL	\$10,459	0

Attachment B

Draft Sherburne County Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Unit Multi-Agency Agreement

Sherburne County Sheriff's Office

Emergency Response Unit

Multi-Agency Agreement

The parties to this agreement are the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), Big Lake Police Department (BLPD), and the Becker Police Department (BPD).

Additional parties may join this existing agreement by amendment, memoranda of understanding, annex, resolution, or other method as required by the parties governing authority to become member to and agree to the provisions contained herein.

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14. WAGES, BENEFITS AND INSURANCE
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16. AGREEMENT

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1. MISSION STATEMENT:

Recognizing that the presence of a highly trained, highly skilled law enforcement tactical unit has been shown to substantially reduce the risk of injury or loss of life to citizens, police officers and suspects; and recognizing that a well-managed "team" response to critical incidents usually results in successful resolution of critical incidents, it is the intent of the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), Big Lake Police Department (BLPD), Becker Police Department (BPD) and all other parties to this agreement to work together to provide a highly trained and skilled tactical team, as a resource for those law enforcement agencies included in this inter-local agreement who need assistance with critical incidents.

The purpose of this agreement is to establish the governing provisions in the selection, training, equipping, activating, and use of the Sherburne County Multi Jurisdiction Emergency Response Unit (ERU). This Agreement will also provide governing provisions to the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) who may be working directly with the ERU.

2. DEFINITION, EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT (ERU):

The Emergency Response Unit (ERU) is a designated unit of law enforcement officers and specialized support personnel, including a multi-jurisdictional team, whose members are specifically recruited, selected, trained, equipped, and assigned to resolve critical incidents involving a threat to public safety, or otherwise are so hazardous, complex, or unusual that they may exceed the capabilities of traditional law enforcement first responders or investigative units.

3. MISSION:

The mission of the ERU is to save human life by supporting the jurisdictions within Sherburne County with a tactical response to critical incidents, and to aid other agencies outside of Sherburne County requesting mutual aid assistance from the ERU. Critical incidents include, but not limited to, hostage situations, barricade situations, active shooters, hostile event response, terrorism style attacks, high risk apprehension, high risk warrant service, VIP or personal protection, and other special assignments or operations.

4. COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE:

Composition of ERU

The ERU is composed of the following elements:

Sheriff's Office Commander of Operations (Administrative oversight)

Team Leader

Assistant Team Leaders

Operators (*to include Entry Team, Reaction Team, Containment or Perimeter*)

Snipers

Team Medics or Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) (*when available*)

Structure of ERU

The ranking team member of the ERU is the Commander of Operations, followed by the Team Leader. These positions constitute the primary leadership positions within the ERU and will be held by Sherburne County Sheriff's Office staff. The Sherburne County Sheriff will appoint the Commander of Operations. The Team Leader will be appointed by the Commander of Operations.

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All other positions may be held by parties that are part of this agreement. Selection will be made according to ERU policy and standard operating procedures (SOP). Final selection will be approved by the Commander of Operations.

5. CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS TEAM (CNT); ASSISTANCE TO ERU:

A Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) responds to high-risk, high-profile cases of hostage-taking, suicide where the means of suicide represents a risk to the public or public order, barricaded criminals, as part of a pre-planned operation for large-scale civil unrest where the actors are open to a negotiated surrender or when there is a likelihood for a barricade or hostage situation as in a high-risk warrant service.

The officers, deputies, and others (medical or mental health professionals, etc.) assigned to the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) are not members of the ERU. The CNT is composed of sworn law enforcement personnel or others trained in the tactics, techniques, procedures, tools, and equipment of crisis negotiations or support the CNT with specialized knowledge and professional expertise to support the CNT mission and collectively help with the mitigation of critical incidents.

Recognizing the unique and at times specialized knowledge, experience, training, and professional expertise found to be advantageous to successfully resolve a critical incident, ultimately to save lives, the CNT (and ERU) may assign, integrate and/or seek consultation from non-sworn law enforcement personnel into the CNT to support its mission and the mission of the ERU (mental health professionals, crisis intervention teams, etc.). Others supporting the CNT may become member to this agreement and during activation will fall under the control of the CNT command as established in this Agreement. All licensed and non-licensed members of the CNT should periodically train with the CNT and ERU as well as attend specialized training to support the CNT Mission within the scope of their professional duties, responsibilities, and home agency (organization) protocols as detailed in *Section 7 (Policy; Policy Conflict)*.

When the CNT is working with the ERU regarding a critical incident as defined in this agreement or to provide mutual aid assistance with the ERU, they will be governed by this agreement and the provisions contained herein.

Due to the special nature of the CNT mission, members of this agreement assigned to the CNT will follow uniform and equipment protocols as determined by the CNT command. They will not be subject to the provisions of *Section 12 (Uniform and Equipment Standards)* of this agreement, however, will ensure proper PPE and equipment is appropriately assigned and utilized during activations.

6. COMMAND AND CONTROL STRUCTURE:

The ERU is managed by the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office. When activated for an operation, the Commander of Operations, Team Leader, or Assistant Team Leader (when the ranking member is absent) reports directly to the on-scene supervisor. The Commander of Operations is responsible for deployment of the ERU and its assets, all tactical decision-making, and the tactical resolution of the incident.

The Commander of Operations or designee will control all aspects of an operation including how it will be performed. During the incident, the Commander of Operations will maintain open communication with the scene

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supervisor of the respective agency where the incident is occurring. Unless the Commander of Operations relinquishes his control to another person outside the ERU, no other person, who is not in a leadership position within the ERU, will attempt to direct, supervise, or control any element or member of the ERU.

The CNT will work in cooperation with the ERU command element to bring a resolution to the incident.

Team members from the various agencies assigned to the ERU become subordinate to the Commander of Operations, Team Leader, and Assistant Team Leaders until the ERU's ranking team member determines that the activation is over. In the absence of ranking members during operations, the most senior member present will assume control to ensure continuity of command during operations until relieved by a more ranking ERU member.

7. POLICY; POLICY CONFLICT:

Policy

Team members will comply with the provisions of the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office ERU policy and SOP, as well as their respective agency's policy and procedural manual.

Policy Conflict

In the event of a direct conflict, the policies and procedures of the member's home agency shall govern. However, the Commander of Operations or designee shall work with the member's governing authority (CLEO, executive management, etc.) to resolve any known conflicts that exist between policies and procedures.

8. ACTIVATION PROCEDURE:

The supervisor in charge at the scene of a particular event will assess whether the ERU should respond. Upon final determination the Commander of Operations, or available command staff personnel if the Commander of Operations is unavailable, shall be notified.

If the decision is made to not activate, the Commander of Operations or designee will notify the requesting individual of the decision.

The Commander of Operations or Team Leader will keep a current list of ERU members in the Sherburne County Dispatch Center. This list will be updated when changes occur so members, Chief Law Enforcement Officers, and all other necessary personnel are placed on the call-out list.

Requests for assistance from agencies outside Sherburne County will be sent to the Commander of Operations or available command staff personnel if the Commander of Operations is unavailable.

9. SELECTION AND RETENTION:

Interested licensed personnel who have at least one year of licensed peace officer experience shall submit a letter of interest to the ERU Team Leader. Qualifying applicants will then be invited to participate in the testing process. The order of the test will be given at the discretion of the Team Leader. The testing process will consist of a handgun qualification, rifle qualification, fitness test, interview, and team evaluation in accordance with ERU Policy and SOP's. The Team Leader will present the team's recommendation for new team members to the Commander of Operations or designee of the Sheriff for final approval.

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Once accepted and assigned to the ERU, all team members (except Commander of Operations), regardless of rank or position, must maintain acceptable standards of performance. This includes passing firearms and fitness qualifications per ERU SOP. Continual evaluation of a team member's performance and efficiency as it relates to the positive operation of the unit shall be conducted by the Team Leader. Any member not meeting the required standards is subject to removal from the team and this agreement.

A team member may voluntarily withdraw from the team at any time, for any reason. A team member may be removed from the team, without cause, when requested by his/her department's administration, or when deemed necessary for the good of the team by a consensus of the team leadership and approval by the Sheriff.

10. TRAINING STANDARDS:

The ERU will conduct training an average of one, eight (8) hour day per-month. Two months of each calendar year will involve a forty (40) hour training event in lieu of the standard eight (8) hour day. Annual total of 160 training hours. All jurisdictions of this multi-agency agreement will make every effort to ensure participation of their team members in training and team operations. However, it is recognized that at times all team members may not be able to respond to an operation or training due to manpower issues within their respective departments.

The ERU will train on appropriate subjects related to the mission of the team. Training will be performance oriented and ERU task specific. All training will be documented, and training records will be maintained on file with the Team Leader. Training records will be available to all parties of this agreement upon request to the Commander of Operations.

It is the sole responsibility of each party in the agreement to maintain and document POST required training for their members. Training records will be available to all Parties of this Agreement upon request of the Commander of Operations.

Training Attendance Requirements.

In general, attendance will be required by all ERU members to be a member in good standing per this agreement. Under certain circumstances, ERU members may be excused from training by the Team Leader. ERU members are required to attend at minimum 80% (128 hrs.) of the annual training hours. Any member unable to meet minimum training standards is subject to removal from the ERU and this agreement. Members assigned to CNT are not expected to participate in the training set forth in this paragraph. Members assigned to CNT will participate in training coordinated by the Lead Negotiator.

11. DOCUMENTATION:

Mission Planning:

The ERU will utilize a written planning and risk assessment process for all operations that are proactive or anticipatory in nature, such as high-risk warrant service.

The Team Leader or Assistant Team Leader will log all events and record them in a call-out summary for all ERU operations and will also cause all planning or decision-making documents to be recorded. These documents will be stored in a file maintained by the Commander of Operations or designee. A radio operations

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log will be maintained during ERU operations when applicable or possible.

Activation:

The Commander of Operations and Team Leader will ensure documentation of all activations and use of the team. The Commander of Operations or designee will establish and maintain a system of documentation to include a post-incident report as well as supplemental documentation to include pre-operation planning (Operation Plan) and scouting, briefings, threat assessments, use of force reports, supplemental narratives, etc. Documentation will provide details of the operation to include any use of force, property damage, justification for the use of the ERU and pertinent information required for follow up investigators, prosecutors, etc. All members part of an activation are required to complete a supplemental report documenting their actions.

Incident Debrief:

At the completion of all operations and significant training events the Team Leader will conduct a review with members. The purpose of this review will be to create a forum for team members to offer information for the improvement of the team. The review will be formatted to develop the following information: Positive Factors, Negative Factors, and Solutions for the Negative Factors.

Training:

Following all training events, the Team Leader or designee will complete a training summary to document training topics, equipment usage and attendance.

12. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS:

Standard Issue Equipment:

All members of this multi-agency agreement establishing the ERU, upon initial assignment to the ERU, will ensure their member is equipped with at minimum the following approved personal protective equipment (PPE) and individually assigned equipment; or as otherwise required as part of this agreement to support the ERU mission. Equipment must be approved by the Commander of Operations or designee.

- *Ballistic helmet meeting current NIJ standards.
- *Entry vest complete with wrap around ballistic protection meeting current NIJ standards.
- *Front and rear plates for entry vest to increase effectiveness of base protection.
- *Belt and pistol holster that accepts a tac light.
- *Pouches, magazine holders, cuff holder, flashlight holder, and other tactical accessories.
- *Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK) with recommended contents (chest seal x2, tourniquet, combat gauze, airway).
- *CBRN rated Air Purifying Respirator (APR) with voice projection unit (VPU) and comms capability.
- *Ballistic protective eyewear (spectacles or goggles) with impact protection equal to or exceeding ANSI Z87.1.
- *Hearing protection meeting or exceeding current NIJ standards.
- *Portable radio and communication accessories (headsets, batteries, mics, Push-To-Talk, APR adapter, etc.).
- *Individually assigned short barrel rifle with the following approved accessories:
 - Red dot sight or other approved optic (recommended)
 - Tactical light
 - Weapon sling
 - Suppressor

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Laser sight (recommended)

IR light source (recommended)

*Individually assigned handgun:

Red dot sight (recommended)

Tactical light

*Simunition pistol with 3 blue training magazines.

*Simunition bolt for rifle and 3 translucent training magazines.

*Ammunition for duty and training.

*Tactical Response Uniform x2 (combat shirt and pants).

*Rain/inclement weather gear (coat and pants).

Other equipment and accessories determined necessary to maintain mission readiness as approved by the Commander of Operations or designee, required by current ERU protocols and mission requirements.

TEMS members will supply sufficient medical supplies and equipment necessary to support the ERU's mission (medical supplies, bags, headlamps, medical tools, etc.).

ERU members will utilize appropriate utility type uniforms, of an approved color/pattern, and footwear. Uniforms will utilize clearly visible and identifiable placards, patches, badges, or lettering that identifies the wearer of the uniform as a law enforcement officer. All other items of personal wear or equipment must be approved by the Commander of Operations or designee.

ERU members and their agency are responsible for the care, security, maintenance, serviceability, replacement, and readiness of their individually assigned weapons and equipment.

Specialty Equipment:

Recognizing that the missions of the ERU are performed in a hazardous environment, and recognizing that the safety of innocent citizens, officers, and suspects is often jeopardized by the hazardous conditions, it shall be the intent of the ERU to utilize special equipment, as listed below, in an attempt to lessen the risk of injury or death to all involved during the performance of ERU operations. Specialty equipment may be shared by parties as they are able. The ERU recognizes, however, that the use of special equipment in no way implies or guarantees that injury or death will not occur during ERU operations and training. Specialty equipment includes but is not limited to the following: entry firearms, sniper rifles, less lethal devices and chemical munitions, distraction devices, breaching tools, bunkers, armored vehicles, thermal imagers, night vision equipment, and lasers devices.

Due to the nature of critical incidents and tactical operations, the ERU may also train with and utilize other special equipment as authorized by the Commander of Operations or other authority. This special equipment may include, electronic surveillance equipment, tactical robots, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) or drones, All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) or Off Highway Vehicles (OHV), throw phones and other tactical tools, equipment, and options available to the team during critical incidents.

The Commander of Operations or designee will ensure that ERU members are properly familiarized and trained in the use of equipment. The Commander of Operations or designee will be responsible for establishing the certification standards and criteria for the team.

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TEMS may receive training and familiarization in special equipment that is *applicable* to their tactical emergency medicine support role to the ERU and/or on a basis to ensure the safety of themselves, team members, innocents or suspects encountered during operations. Further, TEMS may utilize special equipment during training and operations in which they are trained, as it is applicable and necessary to facilitate their tactical emergency medicine support role.

Equipment Damages; General Responsibility and Liability

Regarding property that is owned by a party to this agreement and used during ERU training or operations, each party shall be responsible for damages to or loss of its own equipment. Each party waives the right to sue any other member for damages to or loss of its equipment, even if the damage or losses were caused wholly or partially by the negligence of any other party or its officers, employees, or volunteers.

Equipment - Agreement Termination; Member Separation; Possession

While this agreement remains in effect, equipment purchased by each party will remain the property of that party. If this agreement is terminated, or a party withdraws from this agreement, the property of the withdrawing party remains the property of that party, i.e. entry vests, individual member equipment, weapons and munitions, specialty equipment, etc.

13. BUDGET AND FINANCE:

The Sherburne County Sheriff's Office shall provide a budget for the basic operations of the ERU. The Sherburne County Sheriff's Office shall provide budgeting and accounting services as necessary or convenient for the ERU. Such services shall include but are not limited to management of funds, payment for contracted services, and other financial obligations set forth in this Agreement.

Other costs incurred by Sherburne County include fees associated with required training conferences, events, range and facility rental, memberships, Simunition rounds, chemical and impact munitions for deployment and training, and activation/deployment software.

Parties acknowledge and agree that Sherburne County will assess each party an annual, non-refundable, per member fee to cover training and other operational expenses related to this agreement. Sherburne County will establish the fee and notify each party of the fee by December 1 of the preceding year. The fee is to be paid in January of each calendar year. If a party fails to pay the fee by February 1 of the applicable year the unpaid member is subject to removal from the ERU.

Parties will provide and maintain basic uniforms and equipment for their members according to the standard issue equipment list. Specialty equipment supplied by a party for use with ERU will be the responsibility of that party and remain property of that party. Operational costs, maintenance, and other expenses related to specialty equipment will be covered by the party having ownership.

If a substantial group expense is sought or parties in this agreement apply as a group and/or accepts gifts, grants, or loans of money or other property (excluding real property), or assistance from the United States Government, the State of Minnesota, any political subdivision or the State of Minnesota, or any person, association, or agency for any of its purposes; enter into any agreement in connection therewith; and hold, use, and dispose of such

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money or property and assistance in accordance with the terms of the gift, grant, or loan relating thereto.

ERU does not have the authority to seize property for purposes of Minn. Statute 609.531-609.5318.

All property and cash monies obtained through forfeiture that are derived from ERU operations shall remain the property of the law enforcement agency of record wherein the operation occurred.

14. WAGES, BENEFITS AND INSURANCE:

All ERU members and CNT members are considered on-duty by their respective agencies for all ERU training, actual operations, or other ERU related functions. ERU and CNT member's wages and benefits, such as insurance, will be covered by their respective agencies at all times.

Each ERU and CNT member's agency will maintain workers' compensation insurance or self-insurance coverage at all times while members are training, taking part in operations, or other ERU related functions pursuant to this agreement. Each agency who is a party to this agreement shall provide its own liability insurance for their ERU member(s) and CNT member(s) while they are performing all ERU functions in or outside of their jurisdiction, pursuant to this agreement. Each party waives the right to sue any other party for workers' compensation benefits paid to its own employee or volunteer or their dependents, even if the injuries were caused wholly or partially by the negligence of any other party or its officers, employees, or volunteers.

If assistance provided pursuant to this agreement is reimbursable by an outside source, any party whose officers provided assistance may submit itemized bills for the actual cost of any assistance provided, including salaries, overtime, materials and supplies, to the Commander of Operations. The Commander of Operations shall submit the invoices to the reimbursing entity. The reimbursing entity shall reimburse Sherburne County for the actual cost, and Sherburne County shall forward the reimbursement to the appropriate party.

15. LIABILITY:

Definitions

"Requesting Party" means a party to this agreement that requests assistance from other parties.

"Responding Party" means a party to this agreement that provides assistance to a requesting party.

Damage to equipment

Each party shall be responsible for damages to or loss of its own equipment. Each party waives the right to sue any other party for any damages to or loss of its equipment, even if the damages or losses were caused wholly or partially by the negligence of any other party or its officers, employees, or volunteers.

Municipal tort liability

For purposes of determining total liability for damages, the parties are considered a single governmental unit and the total liability for all parties shall not exceed the limits on governmental liability for a single governmental unit, subject to the limits of liability under *Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466* and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including common law. Under no circumstances shall a party be required to pay on behalf of itself and other parties, any amounts in excess of the limits on liability established in *Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466* applicable to any one party. The statutory limits of liability for some or all of the parties may not be added together or stacked to increase the maximum amount of liability for any one party pursuant to *Minnesota Statutes*

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§ 471.59, subd. 1a.

The requesting party agrees to defend and indemnify the responding party against any claims brought or actions filed against the responding party or any officer, employee, or volunteer of the responding party for injury to, death of, or damage to the property of any third person or persons, arising from the performance and provision of assistance in responding to a request for assistance by the requesting party pursuant to this agreement.

The intent of this paragraph is to impose on each requesting party a limited duty to defend and indemnify a responding party for claims arising within the requesting party's jurisdiction subject to the limits of liability under *Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466*. The purpose of creating this duty to defend and indemnify is to simplify the defense of claims by eliminating conflicts among defendants, and to permit liability claims against multiple defendants from a single occurrence to be defended by a single attorney.

For the purposes of the *Minnesota Municipal Tort Liability Act (Minn. Stat. 466)*, the employees and officers of the responding party are deemed employees (as defined in *Minn. Stat. 466.01, subdivision (6)* of the requesting party.

No party to this agreement nor any officer of any party shall be liable to any other party or to any other person for failure of any party to furnish assistance to any other party, or for recalling assistance, both as described in this agreement.

Charges to the Requesting Party

No charges will be levied by a responding party to this agreement for assistance rendered to a requesting party under the terms of this agreement unless that assistance continues for a period of more than 24 hours. If assistance provided under this agreement continues for more than 24 hours, the responding party may submit to the requesting party an itemized bill for the actual cost of any assistance provided after the initial 24 hour period, including salaries, overtime, materials and supplies and other necessary expenses; and the requesting party will reimburse the party providing the assistance for that amount.

16. AGREEMENT:

Periodic review:

The Commander of Operations will periodically review and, when necessary, update this agreement. The Commander of Operations will then cause this agreement to be reviewed and approved, by signature, by the agencies participating in the multi-agency agreement.

Modification to the Agreement:

All amendments or modifications to this agreement must be in writing and approved by all parties. Any such amendment shall be in writing and will be attached to this agreement.

Minnesota Law:

This Agreement shall be governed by, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota.

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Severability:

The provisions of this agreement shall be severable, and if any provision, or any portion thereof, contained in this agreement is held unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable, the remainder of the agreement or portion thereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Entire Agreement:

This agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties hereto. Except as stated in this agreement, no party has relied on any statement, promise inducement, or representation of the other. This agreement supersedes any and all other prior statements and agreements between the parties relating to the subject matter contained herein.

DRAFT

Sherburne County Sheriff's Office
Emergency Response Unit
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EFFECTIVE DATE:
Supersedes:

SHERBURNE COUNTY

BOARD CHAIR

DATE: _____

ATTEST:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: _____

ATTEST:

SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF

DATE: _____

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EFFECTIVE DATE:
Supersedes:

CITY OF BECKER

BOARD CHAIR

DATE: _____

ATTEST:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: _____

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE: _____

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EFFECTIVE DATE:
Supersedes:

CITY OF BIG LAKE

BOARD CHAIR

DATE: _____

ATTEST:

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: _____

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE: _____



WORKSHOP ITEM

Big Lake City Council

Prepared By: Gina Wolbeck, City Clerk	Meeting Date: 3/18/2026	Item No. 4B
Item Description: Lawful Gambling Trade Area Non-Compliance Update	Reviewed By: Hanna Klimmek, City Administrator	
	Reviewed By: N/A	

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

Council direction on addressing non-compliance with Lawful Gambling Trade Area requirement.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Big Lake City Code Chapter 370 regulates lawful gambling activity in the City of Big Lake. Sections 370.06 through 370.08, regulate the 75% Trade Area requirement, which was enacted by the City Council in 2008:

§ 370.06 Restrictions.

Subd. 3. Trade Area. Each organization conducting lawful gambling within the city must expend 75% of its lawful purpose expenditures on lawful purposes conducted or located within the trade area of the city, which shall include the corporate limits of the city and Big Lake Township. This section applies only to lawful purpose expenditures of gross profits derived from lawful gambling conducted at premises within the city. Annually, each organization must file with the city a report prepared by an independent certified public accountant documenting compliance with this section. In addition, each organization shall submit a report to the city each January listing all lawful purpose expenditures from January 1 through December 31 of the preceding year. The report shall identify the name of the entity to which the check was written, the city location of the recipient, and the amount of the donation.

§ 370.07 Reports.

Each licensee shall quarterly, within 30 days after the close of a quarter of a year, file a report with the City Clerk, if such form is prescribed by the city.

§ 370.08 Suspension, Revocation, Non-Renewal of Licenses.

If any person or organization shall fail to make the payments required by this section, fail to provide the City Clerk with reports as required by this section, or violate this section in any other manner, such violation shall be grounds for the city to recommend to the Charitable Gambling Control Board that the gambling license for such organization be suspended, revoked, or not renewed.

Currently, there are five charitable organizations that operate full lawful gambling activities at establishments located in the City limits:

- Becker/Big Lake Ice Association (Third Rail Bar and Grill and Lupulin Brewing, and e-tabs at Trail's)
- Becker/Big Lake Knights of Columbus (McPete's Sports Bar and Lanes and Trails Grill and Sports Bar)
- Big Lake American Legion Post 147 (Thirsty Bison)
- Big Lake Spud Fest (Tootsies Lakeside Pub, Willy's on the Water and the Big Lake Smoke Shop)
- CharitAbleMN dba: Competition Cheer Spirit Booster Club (Vitta's Mexican Bar and Grill)

Each of these organizations are required to submit annual reporting to the Clerk's Office. These are generally submitted during the first quarter of the year, which reflects the previous year's lawful purpose expenditures. Reports must be prepared by an independent certified public account certifying compliance with section 370.06. Historically, organizations have met the 75% trade area requirement.

Reporting for years 2024 and 2025 were recently submitted to the City. The delay in submittal of the 2024 reporting was due to a miscommunication between the accounting firm (Rose Accounting) and representatives from the charitable organizations. Upon a request from the City Clerk's Office, Rose Accounting immediately prepared reporting for both 2024 and 2025 for four of the five organizations. The fifth organization, CharitAbleMN, was issued a gambling permit in April 2025 and reported a loss for 2025, so no lawful purpose expenditures were made last year.

Becker/Big Lake Ice Association and Big Lake Spud Fest both met the 75% trade area requirement. For the first time since the ordinance was enacted, two of the charitable organizations did not meet the 75% trade area requirement:

- Big Lake American Legion Post 147
 - 2024 Reporting – Met 69.48% of total lawful purpose expenditure requirement
 - 2025 Reporting – Met 70.00% of total lawful purpose expenditure requirement
- Becker/Big Lake Knights of Columbus
 - 2024 Reporting – Complied with the 75% trade area requirement
 - 2025 Reporting – Met 71.38% of total lawful purpose expenditure requirement

Upon receipt of the 2024/2025 reporting, staff contacted representatives from the Big Lake American Legion and the Becker/Big Lake Knights of Columbus to discuss non-compliance with the trade area requirement. Both organizations indicated they were not aware they would fall below the 75% requirement, and expressed concern with not meeting the requirement.

It is important to acknowledge the contributions both charitable organizations have made to the Big Lake community over the years. These organizations have been providing substantial support to area needs, as well as city events/programs for many years. While recognizing their long-standing contributions, the City must also hold all organizations to the same standard, and all are required to meet the 75% Trade Area requirement annually as required per City Code. This ensures gambling dollars spent in Big Lake, contribute back to the needs in Big Lake. Both organizations have a strong history of meeting this requirement, and staff feels confident they can adjust allocation of their lawful purpose expenditures to meet the requirement in 2026 and well beyond.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation is to monitor quarterly expenditures made by the Big Lake American Legion and the Becker/Big Lake Knights of Columbus for the remainder of the year to ensure the 75% Trade Area requirement will be met for year 2026. This would require their accounting firm to submit quarterly reports for the remainder of 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

Correspondence from the Big Lake American Legion and the Becker/Big Lake Knights of Columbus



Big Lake American Legion Post #147, 29 Lake St S, Big Lake, MN 55309

The Big Lake American Legion is committed to fulfilling the 75% Trade Area requirement by closely monitoring and managing its donation activities throughout the year. To ensure compliance, the Legion will collaborate with Rose Accounting to prepare and submit quarterly reports, which will track progress toward meeting donation goals and provide transparency in financial operations.

If a shortfall remains at the end of the year in meeting the 75% Trade Area requirement, the Big Lake American Legion has established a clear plan of action to address this gap. The Legion will allocate additional funds during its largest annual event, Santa Day. This event is specifically designed to benefit children in Big Lake and will act as a proactive measure to support compliance with city regulations and to mitigate any future discrepancies.

Furthermore, should it become necessary to resolve the shortfall and ensure compliance at year end, the Legion will make a one-time donation. This donation will be strategically targeted to increase the proportion of local contributions, thereby fulfilling the city's requirement and maintaining the integrity of the Legion's charitable activities within the community.

In addition to Santa Day, the Legion will explore other opportunities for donations based on the findings of the quarterly reports. These may include increased support for graduating Big Lake students through scholarships, contributions to Big Lake area schools' sports teams, donations to the Big Lake food shelf, and assistance for The Wave youth center. These initiatives are designed to maximize the positive impact of the Legion's charitable activities within the Trade Area and ensure continued compliance with the city's requirements.

Bill Hannay
Commander

Cori Anselment
Assistant Gambling Manager

DAVID QUINN
Gambling Manager

763-656-8134
DDQUINN7012@GMAIL.COM

Big Lake Knights of Columbus

Big Lake City Council

I am writing to explain why our organization did not meet the 75% trade requirement for the year 2025. In the past I have always projected the trade requirement percentages from donations approved by the organization. Unfortunately, my numbers were off due to scholarship checks that were not written due to recipients not giving us their information in a timely manner. This resulted in a difference of about 4% of the required amount.

I am correcting the problem by calculating the numbers by actual checks that have been written. I have also started using an excel file that will keep a better running total of donations. I am also having our accountant double check our donation percentages.

We have never been under the required percentages since this ordinance went in to effect until this incident, and it will not happen again.

If you have any questions, or you want me to attend your meeting, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Dave Quinn



WORKSHOP ITEM

Big Lake City Council

Prepared By: <i>Norman Michels, Streets/Parks/Fleet Superintendent and Hanna Klimmek, City Administrator</i>	Meeting Date: <i>3/18/2026</i>	Item No. 4C
Item Description: <i>Discuss Park Design Options and Grant Update</i>	Reviewed By: <i>Deb Wegeleben, Finance Director</i>	
	Reviewed By: <i>N/A</i>	

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

Council is asked to review proposed park design options for the Big Lake Skate Park and to review survey results from the Mitchell Farms Park survey. Council is also asked to provide direction on future park equipment plans at the Skate Park and Mitchell Farms Park (see staff recommendation section).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

BIG LAKE SKATE PARK EQUIPMENT - At the May 14, 2025 workshop, Council directed Staff to remove the existing skate park equipment and fencing from Lakeside Park, and to obtain soft quotes for the possible replacement of the skate park. Council requested quotes on both an above ground modular design as well as a full concrete above ground design. Council also directed staff to research grant opportunities.

Staff reached out to American Ramp Co. and Primary Concrete for soft quotes on both designs. American Ramp provided quotes for both design styles, and Primary Concrete only does full concrete design skate parks so they submitted one quote. American Ramp Company offers State Bid pricing; Primary Concrete does not. As we may need to go through a formal bid process, staff is not including cost estimates in this memo.

MITCHELL FARMS PARK IMPROVEMENTS – At the September 10, 2025 workshop, Council directed staff to remove the playground equipment at Mitchell Farms Park and not immediately replace the equipment. At the same time, Council also directed staff to pursue grants for park equipment replacement.

Following removal of the playground equipment, and feedback received from residents in the Mitchell Farms neighborhood, the Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) requested a survey be conducted on the replacement of park equipment at Mitchell Farms Park. The survey was conducted during the month of December 2025, with 259 individuals completing the survey, with 249 of those being confirmed Big Lake residents. The PAC reviewed the results at their meeting on January 26, 2026. The PAC unanimously voted to approve a recommendation to Council requesting further discussion and to determine a timeline to replace playground equipment at Mitchell Farms Park.

GRANT UPDATE - Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) recently completed research on potential grant opportunities to support park projects in the City of Big Lake. After evaluating timelines and competitiveness, two grant opportunities were identified as the best fit.

CEDA is currently preparing an application for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Grant, which is due March 31, 2026. The proposed request will support the replacement of the City's skate park. This grant program requires a 50 percent local match, meaning the city can request up to 50 percent of the total project cost through the grant. If awarded, the anticipated project start date would be spring 2027.

The City Council discussion scheduled for March 18 will help provide additional direction to CEDA regarding the skate park project and associated costs. Specifically, staff will gain a better understanding of whether the City Council prefers a concrete skate park model or a modular system, which will help refine the overall project scope and funding request included in the grant application.

The second opportunity is through the Blandin Foundation, which will open for statewide applications in April. CEDA plans to request \$80,000 to support improvements at parks where the city has recently invested in new playground equipment, including Lakeside Park, Shores of Lake Mitchell, and Lake Ridge Park. If successful, grant funds would be used for related improvements such as sidewalks, mulch, irrigation, and other supporting park infrastructure.

Any grant funds successfully secured will help leverage the City's existing parks budget and allow the City to complete more park improvements than would otherwise be possible using local funds alone.

Once the City has determined the future for Mitchell Farms Park, staff will work with CEDA to identify and pursue additional grant opportunities related to that project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Successful grant awards will be presented to Council upon award. Any park equipment costs over grant proceeds would be funded from Park Dedication Fund 120 and Park Maintenance CIP Fund 195. While the City cannot solicit donations for park improvements, we can solicit/accept sponsorships. Finance Director Deb Wegeleben can provide guidance on this upon request.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

If Council wishes to replace the Big Lake Skate Park equipment, Staff recommends the replacement be the full concrete above ground design, which would more than likely require a bid process. Staff would be looking for Council direction to move forward with a formal bid process for a full concrete above ground Skate Park design.

Staff also recommends Council provide direction on moving forward, or not, with park equipment replacement at Mitchell Farms Park. If the direction is to research types of park equipment options available, information collected will be presented to the PAC and their recommendation would be brought forward to Council for consideration at a future meeting.

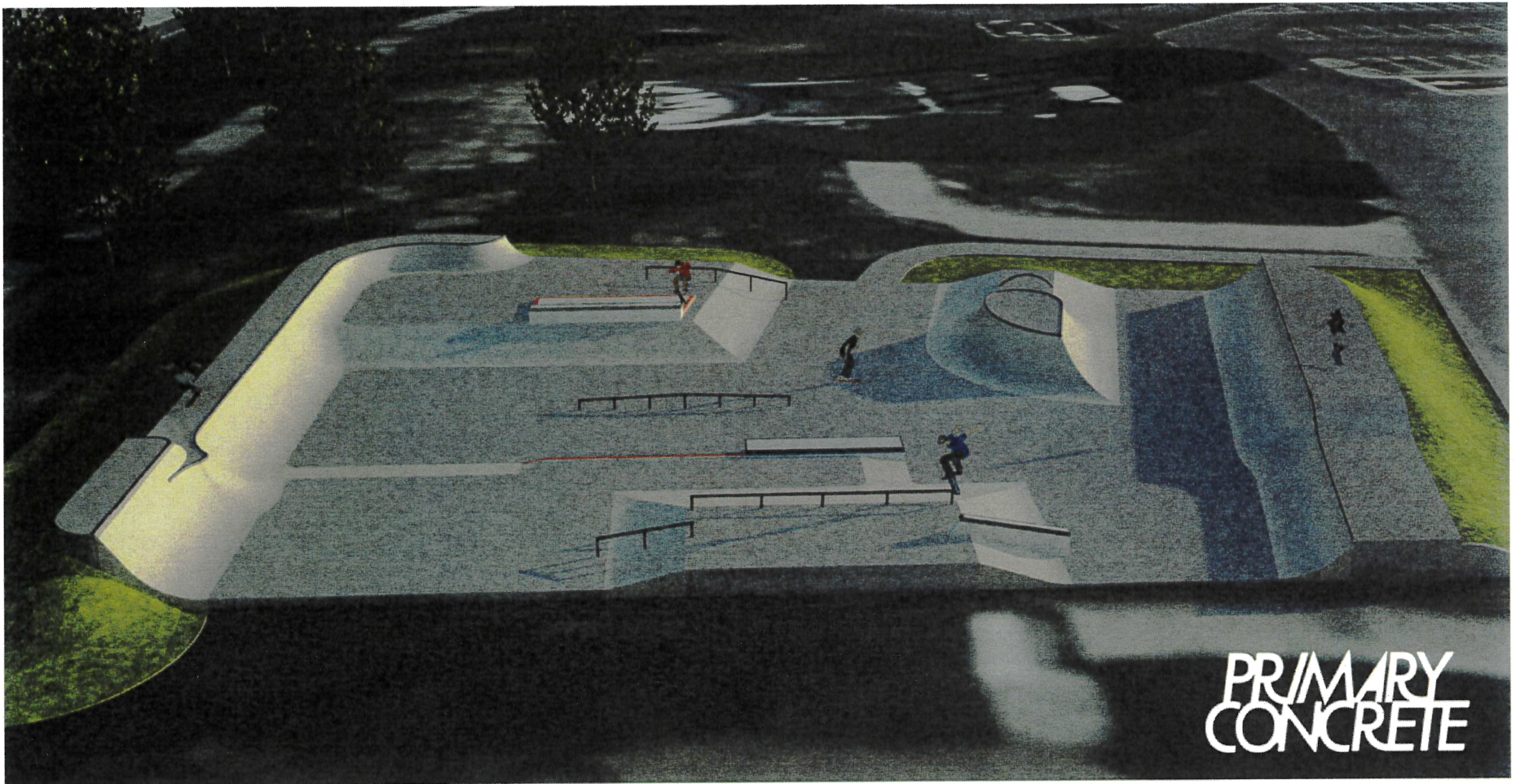
ATTACHMENTS

Skate Park Equipment Designs
Mitchell Farms Survey Results



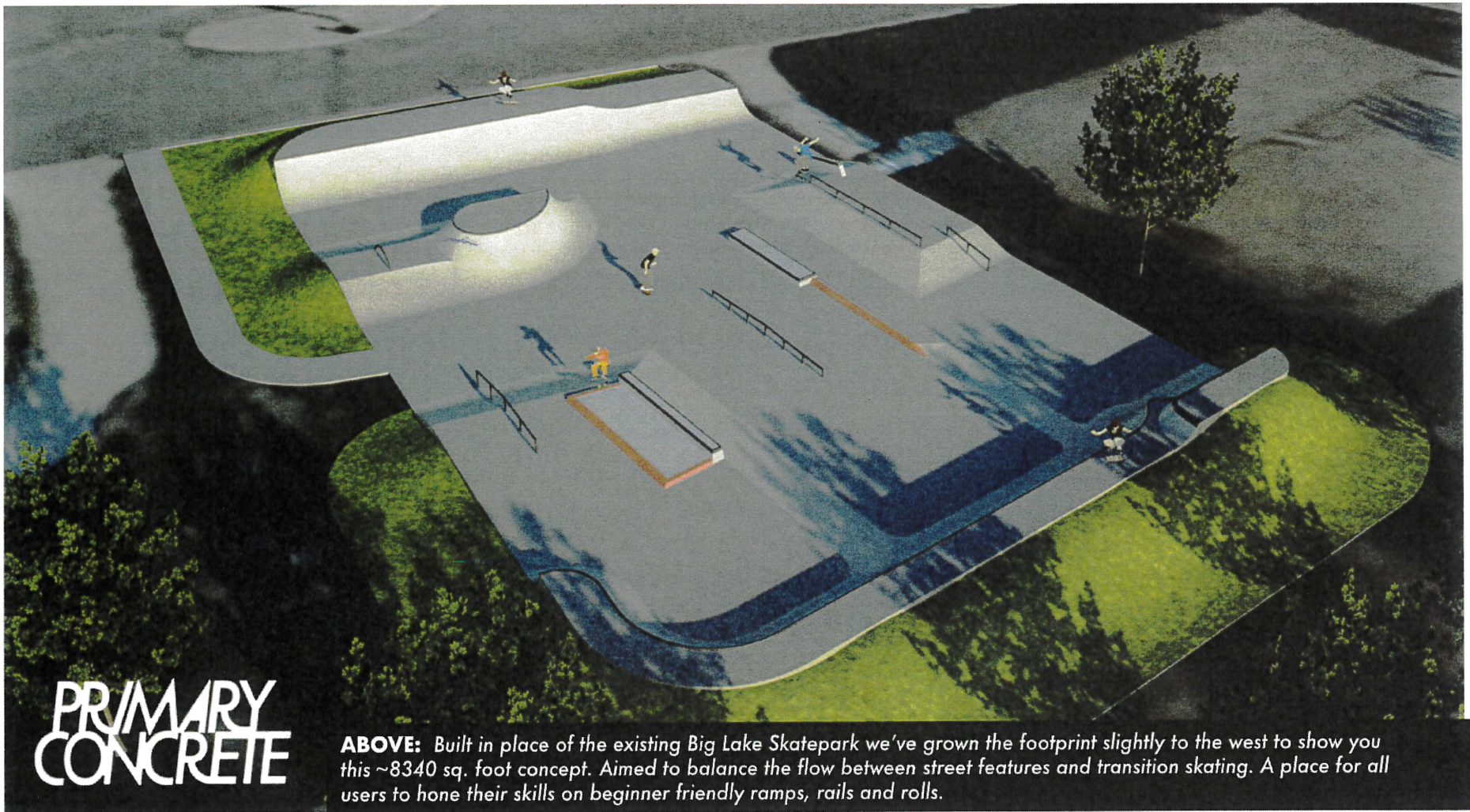
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN:

BELOW: Looking to the west towards the water tower you can see the elevation changes between all of our proposed ramps, banks and curbs. Every grade change is an opportunity for tricks and features. Shown here a variety of flat rails, down rails, curbs, ledges and pyramids. All bolstered between two quarter pipes ensuring endless flow and speed.





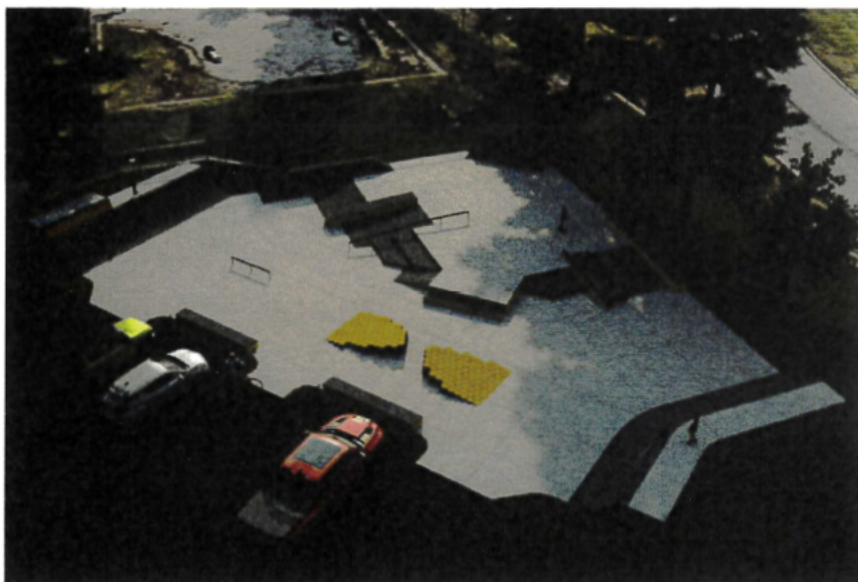
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN:



**PRIMARY
CONCRETE**

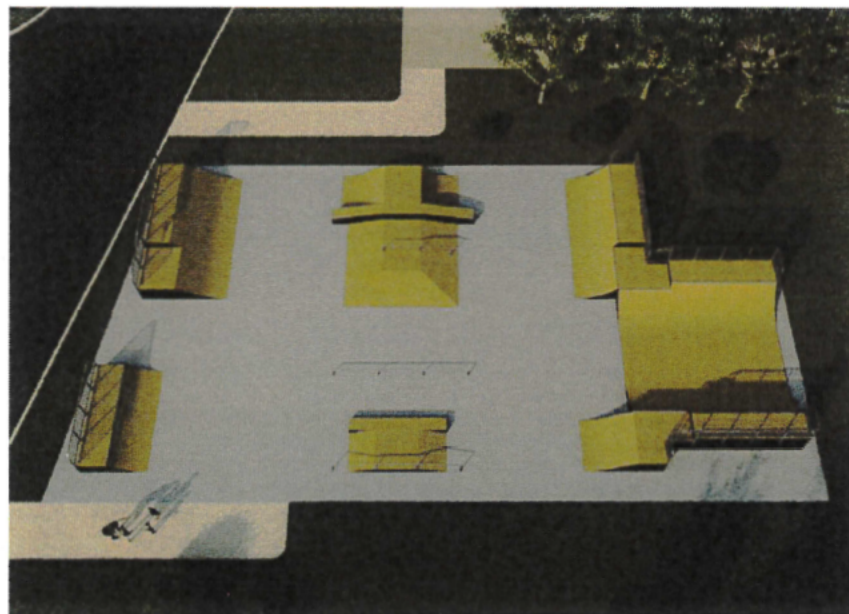
ABOVE: Built in place of the existing Big Lake Skatepark we've grown the footprint slightly to the west to show you this ~8340 sq. foot concept. Aimed to balance the flow between street features and transition skating. A place for all users to hone their skills on beginner friendly ramps, rails and rolls.

Build Method: Concrete
Estimated Budget: [REDACTED]
Building Footprint: 5,500–6,000 sq. ft.



Disclaimer: The attached sample design was not created specifically for Big Lake, Minnesota and is being provided for preliminary planning and budgeting purposes only. It does not represent a proposed final design. A site-specific process would be required prior to final budgeting and construction.

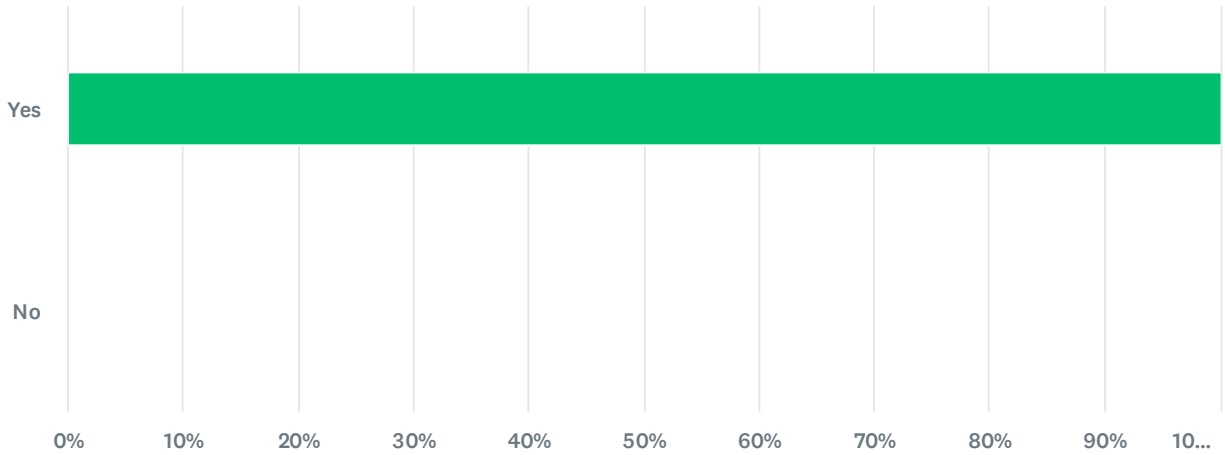
Build Method: Modular
Estimated Budget: [REDACTED]
Building Footprint: 5,500–6,000 sq. ft.



Disclaimer: This design was created specifically for the community of Big Lake, Minnesota. The estimated budget reflects realistic planning and budgeting. The design may be adjusted as needed based on feedback, approvals, or final project requirements.

Q1 Are you a current Big Lake resident?

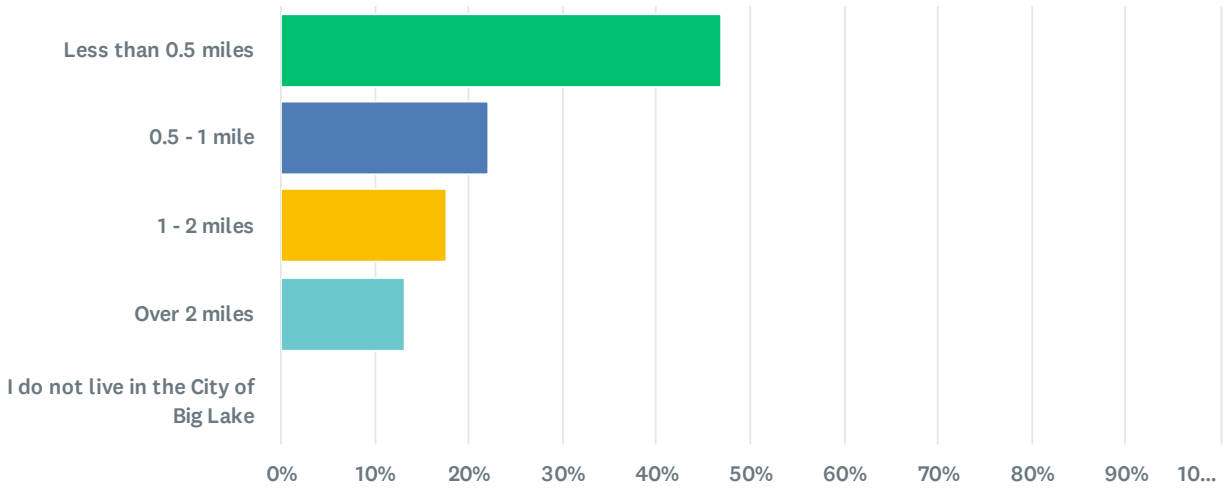
Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Yes	100.00%	249	...
● No	0%	0	...
Total		249	

Q2 How far do you live from Mitchell Farms Park?

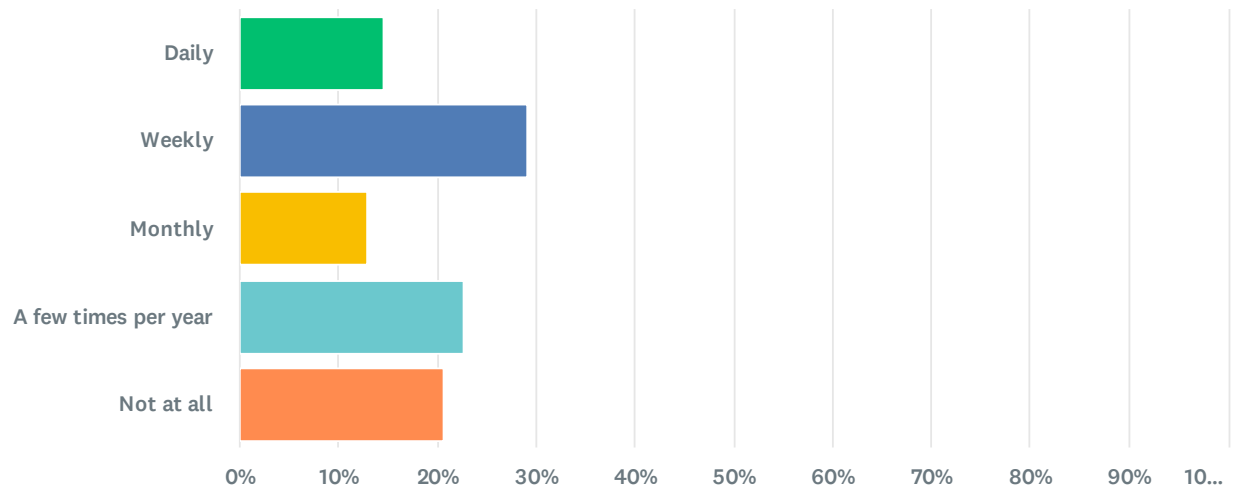
Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Less than 0.5 miles	46.99%	117	...
● 0.5 - 1 mile	22.09%	55	...
● 1 - 2 miles	17.67%	44	...
● Over 2 miles	13.25%	33	...
● I do not live in the City of Big Lake	0%	0	...
Total		249	

Q3 How often did you visit Mitchell Farms Park in 2025?

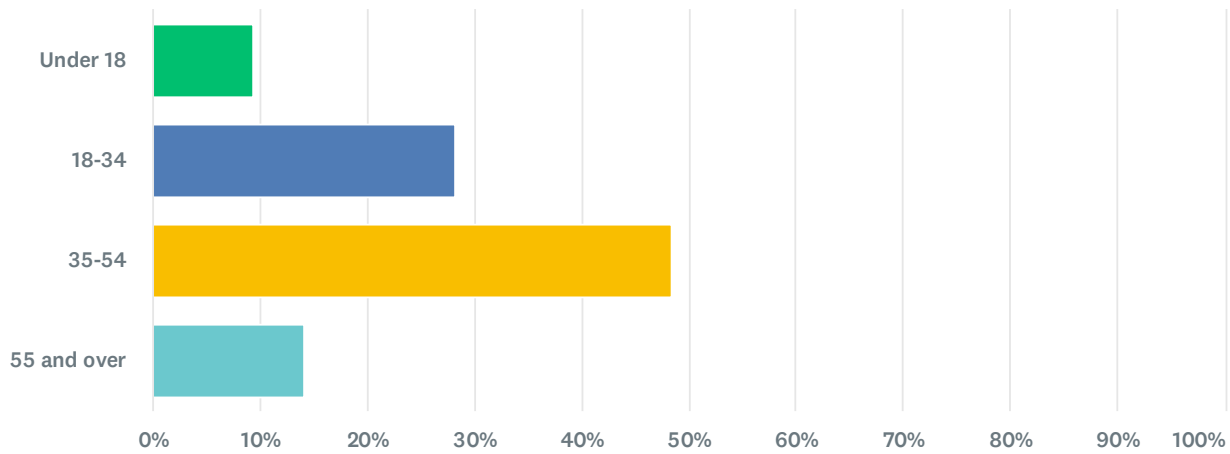
Answered: 247 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
Daily	14.57%	36	...
Weekly	29.15%	72	...
Monthly	12.96%	32	...
A few times per year	22.67%	56	...
Not at all	20.65%	51	...
Total		247	

Q4 What is your age group?

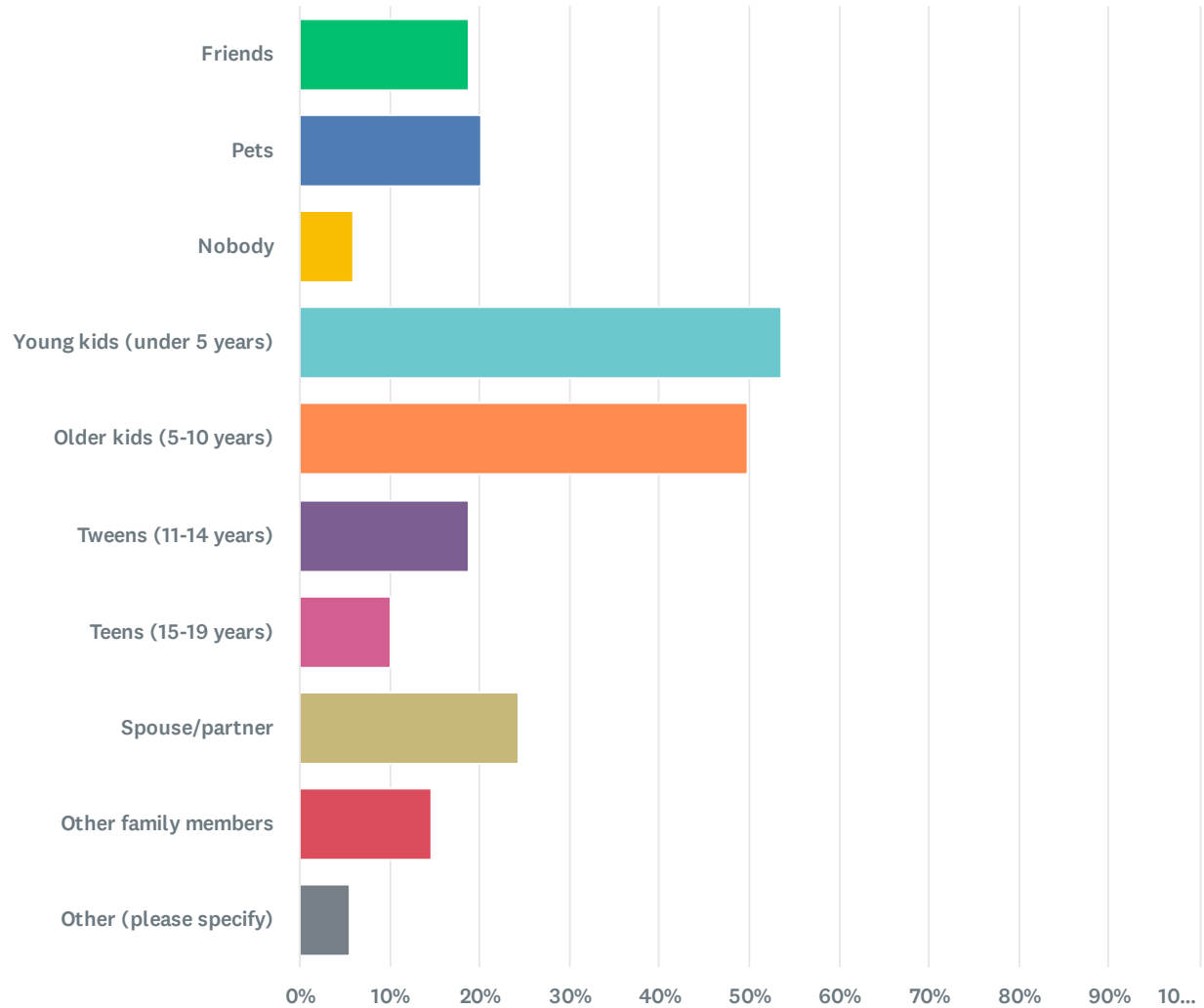
Answered: 248 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Under 18	9.27%	23	...
● 18-34	28.23%	70	...
● 35-54	48.39%	120	...
● 55 and over	14.11%	35	...
Total		248	

Q5 On a usual visit to Mitchell Farms Park, who are you with? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 239 Skipped: 10



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Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Friends	18.83%	45	...
● Pets	20.08%	48	...
Total		239	

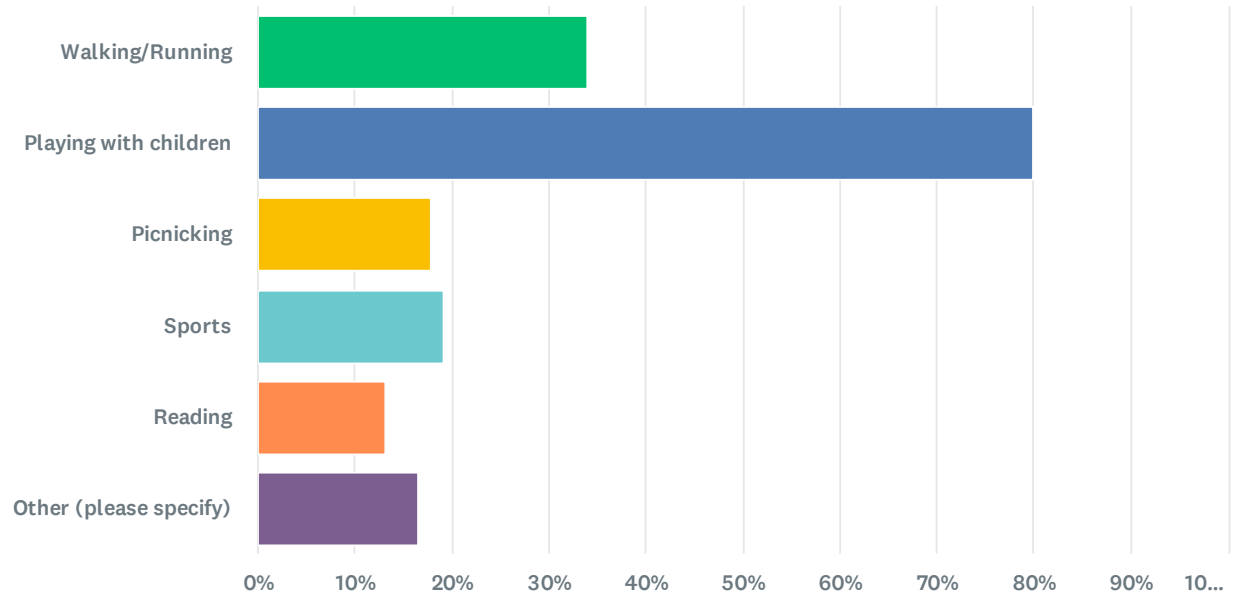
Mitchell Farms Park Survey

Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
 Nobody	5.86%	14	...
 Young kids (under 5 years)	53.56%	128	...
 Older kids (5-10 years)	49.79%	119	...
 Tweens (11-14 years)	18.83%	45	...
 Teens (15-19 years)	10.04%	24	...
 Spouse/partner	24.27%	58	...
 Other family members	14.64%	35	...
 Other (please specify) Show responses	5.44%	13	...
Total		239	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I bring my grandchildren to the park	12/3/2025 10:44 AM
2	I never visit the park and DO NOT plan to pay for it	11/30/2025 7:01 PM
3	I've never been there.	11/30/2025 12:05 PM
4	Not applicable	11/26/2025 5:49 PM
5	I was there once	11/26/2025 3:16 PM
6	I have not visited this park.	11/26/2025 1:55 PM
7	never go	11/26/2025 1:44 PM
8	I didn't know this park existed	11/26/2025 1:12 PM
9	Never go there	11/25/2025 11:34 AM
10	Friends children that played with children in the neighborhood ages 6, 7, 9 11 & 12 was my age group	11/23/2025 3:29 PM
11	I do not visit the park. I believe in making things better for our children in the community.	11/22/2025 8:49 AM
12	Neighbors	11/21/2025 5:09 PM
13	My daycare children. Usually 8+ kids at once	11/21/2025 7:09 AM

Q6 What activities do you typically engage in at Mitchell Farms Park? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 230 Skipped: 19



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Walking/Running	33.91%	78	...
● Playing with children	80.00%	184	...
● Picnicking	17.83%	41	...
● Sports	19.13%	44	...
● Reading	13.04%	30	...
● Other (please specify) Show responses	16.52%	38	...
Total		230	

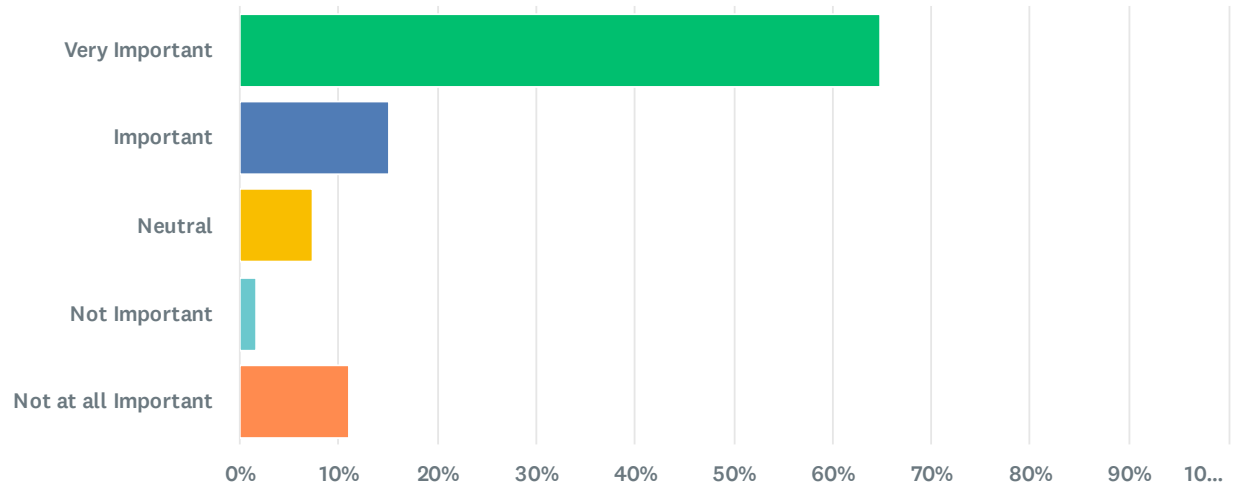
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Cleaning up the area as needed	12/8/2025 8:46 PM
2	taking our cats out on a leash	12/3/2025 3:02 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

3	None	11/30/2025 7:01 PM
4	Having fun on the swings and the playground with my friends, nieces, nephews and friends children.	11/30/2025 5:22 PM
5	Sitting children	11/30/2025 5:00 PM
6	None	11/30/2025 12:05 PM
7	None	11/29/2025 12:13 PM
8	visiting friends with kids	11/27/2025 8:02 PM
9	Not applicable	11/26/2025 5:49 PM
10	I wasn't aware of the park	11/26/2025 4:23 PM
11	Nothing	11/26/2025 3:16 PM
12	Walking my dog and sitting enjoying	11/26/2025 3:08 PM
13	I have not visited this park.	11/26/2025 1:55 PM
14	never go	11/26/2025 1:44 PM
15	Swinging, climbing, sliding	11/26/2025 1:09 PM
16	Playground!!!	11/26/2025 12:16 PM
17	Walk around with the dog	11/26/2025 12:10 PM
18	I didn't know this park existed	11/26/2025 12:04 PM
19	Playing with pet	11/26/2025 11:40 AM
20	Watching Grandchildren	11/25/2025 6:16 PM
21	Never go there	11/25/2025 11:34 AM
22	RELAXING	11/24/2025 6:13 PM
23	Football	11/23/2025 4:45 PM
24	Just sitting on the bench	11/23/2025 4:36 PM
25	Playing games on playground really enjoying the kids in the neighborhood who kids are simular ages as our.	11/23/2025 3:29 PM
26	Playing on the playground	11/21/2025 6:44 PM
27	Play with dogs	11/21/2025 6:04 PM
28	Playing tag on the equipment with kids	11/21/2025 11:40 AM
29	Swinging and jungle gym	11/21/2025 10:42 AM
30	Playing with my kids on the park pushing them on swings	11/21/2025 10:34 AM
31	Playground - playing tag, workouts.	11/21/2025 9:55 AM
32	A visit to the area	11/21/2025 8:25 AM
33	Playground	11/21/2025 8:11 AM
34	Playground	11/21/2025 7:53 AM
35	monkey bars, swings, literally anything that comes with a park.	11/21/2025 7:37 AM
36	Geo games	11/21/2025 7:23 AM
37	Watching kids enjoy being kids	11/21/2025 7:21 AM
38	Playing on the playground before you tore it down	11/21/2025 7:12 AM

Q7 How important is it to you to have playground equipment in Mitchell Farms Park?

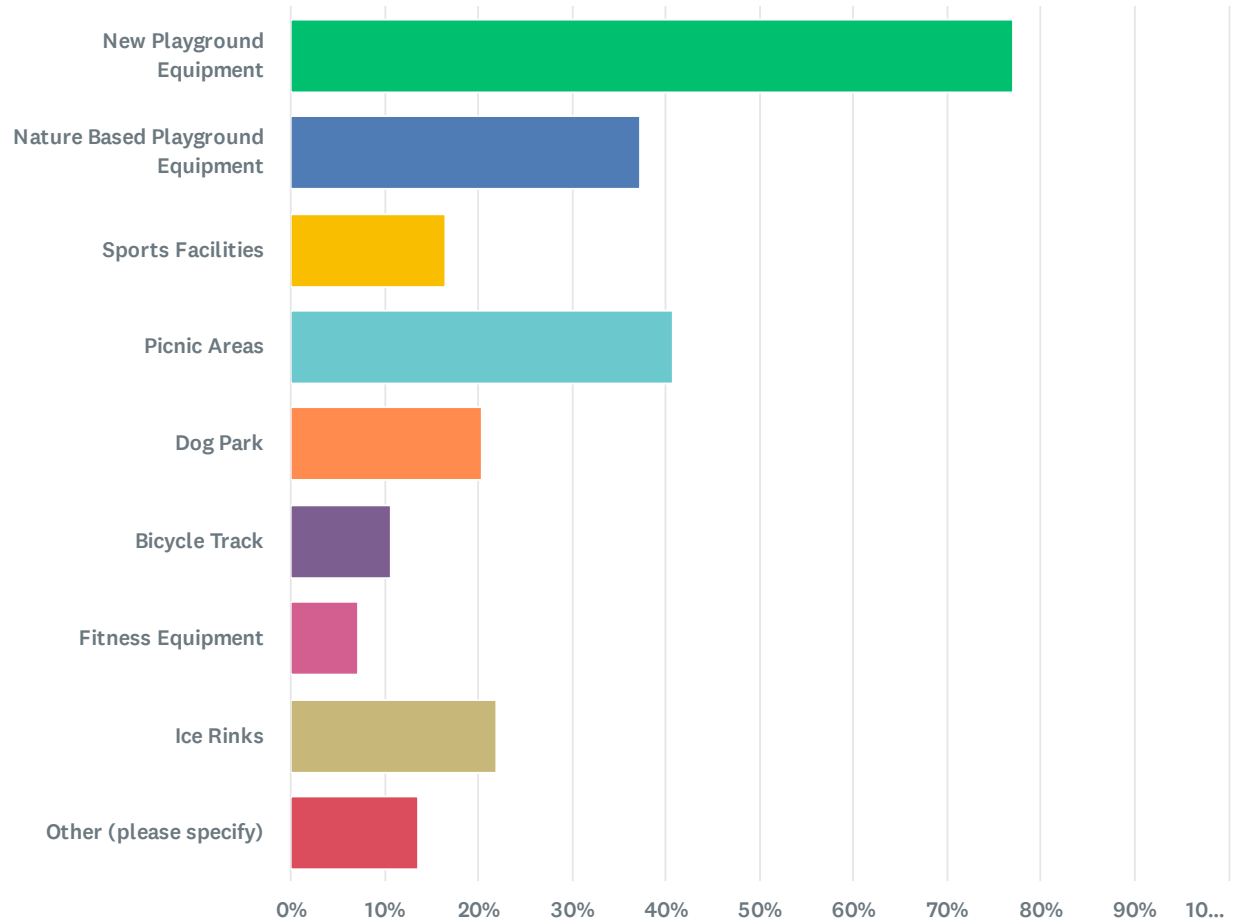
Answered: 245 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Very Important	64.90%	159	...
● Important	15.10%	37	...
● Neutral	7.35%	18	...
● Not Important	1.63%	4	...
● Not at all Important	11.02%	27	...
Total		245	

Q8 What new amenities would you like to see added to Mitchell Farms Park, considering a limited budget? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 236 Skipped: 13



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Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● New Playground Equipment	77.12%	182	...
● Nature Based Playground Equipment	37.29%	88	...
● Sports Facilities	16.53%	39	...
Total		236	

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
 Picnic Areas	40.68%	96	...
 Dog Park	20.34%	48	...
 Bicycle Track	10.59%	25	...
 Fitness Equipment	7.20%	17	...
 Ice Rinks	22.03%	52	...
 Other (please specify) Show responses	13.56%	32	...
Total		236	

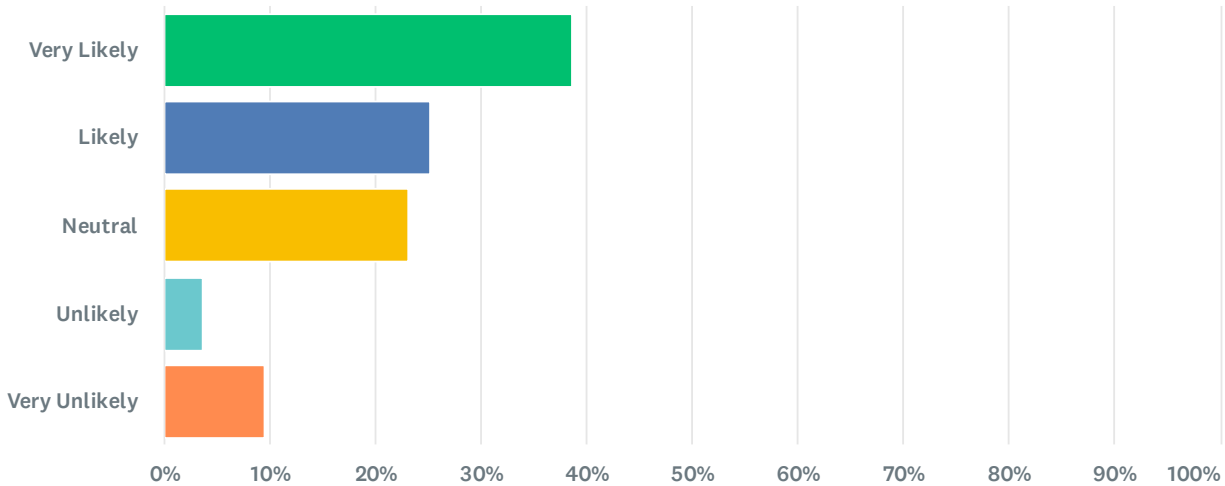
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Make sure the new park is safe & no high up openings	12/12/2025 11:03 PM
2	Before the equipment was torn out there were people there daily. After the equipment was torn out it is nearly unused. Now we are in winter and in the past there were still some kids that would be there. Sadly this space is now unused.	12/8/2025 8:46 PM
3	NOT a bicycle track (unless it's just connecting the path to Kenabec Street)	12/3/2025 2:58 PM
4	Nothing, I think Big Lake has a lot of other Parks	11/30/2025 7:01 PM
5	Pickle ball	11/30/2025 6:38 PM
6	Pickle Ball courts, Canopy	11/30/2025 5:22 PM
7	Pickle Ball Court	11/30/2025 5:00 PM
8	Nothing. Leave it empty.	11/30/2025 12:05 PM
9	None	11/29/2025 12:13 PM
10	Basketball court and soccer field nets	11/26/2025 9:36 PM
11	pickle ball court!!	11/26/2025 2:37 PM
12	none	11/26/2025 1:44 PM
13	A infant/ toddler swing would've been nice when my kids were little.. one of the reasons we chose our house 14 years ago was the closeness to the park. Also plenty of benches for moms to sit on to watch kids.	11/26/2025 1:09 PM
14	Pickleball	11/26/2025 11:54 AM
15	None. A lot of us do not want this town to grow.	11/25/2025 4:06 PM
16	None	11/25/2025 11:34 AM
17	It was a nice medium size playground that oddly enough always seemed to have a couple kids to play with even though there was not much for parking. My group of kids seemed always like that playground because of the lack of drama.	11/23/2025 3:29 PM
18	Equipment that suits school age Kids!	11/22/2025 5:06 PM
19	My two boys will be of age soon to ride bikes and we have no side walks in the neighborhood.	11/21/2025 9:40 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

	Bike track would be lovely for safety reasons!	
20	Basketball	11/21/2025 6:34 PM
21	If get new equipment please look at some equipment that could be accessible for all kids. Especially those with mobility issues	11/21/2025 2:57 PM
22	Baby swings please!	11/21/2025 2:38 PM
23	Skate park!!	11/21/2025 1:39 PM
24	Rubber ground	11/21/2025 1:37 PM
25	Anything there would be better than nothing	11/21/2025 1:03 PM
26	Indoor bathroom	11/21/2025 11:44 AM
27	A lot of kids played on the equipment there but there are a lot of kids in the neighborhood who would benefit from having a basketball to play on in addition to having equipment. With all of the parks in this town there is only one out door basketball court and thats at the lake.	11/21/2025 11:06 AM
28	A basketball court would be used by so many!	11/21/2025 10:14 AM
29	Budget was supposed to include equipment replacement. Fitness equipment would be nice for parents who come with children.	11/21/2025 9:55 AM
30	Baby swings	11/21/2025 9:00 AM
31	Splash pad	11/21/2025 7:15 AM
32	More than 1 infant/toddler bucket swing. Toddler play area	11/21/2025 7:06 AM

Q9 How likely are you to support funding for new amenities at Mitchell Farms Park?

Answered: 243 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Very Likely	38.68%	94	...
● Likely	25.10%	61	...
● Neutral	23.05%	56	...
● Unlikely	3.70%	9	...
● Very Unlikely	9.47%	23	...
Total		243	

Q10 Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the City of Big Lake's Parks and Trails system?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 135

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	12/10/2025 12:02 PM
2	Taking this community amenity out without a plan was terrible and based on false information. You could have knocked on my door and asked if the space was used or not. The time for this survey was in 2024. The planning for eventual replacement of the equipment should have started 25 years ago when the developers complied with city requirements and funded the build. The city council vote to deny funding failed the mitchell farms community, especially when we are told the funds are available. If the funds are marked for parks, thats what it must be used for. The parks committee already had a plan so fund it and get the equipment replaced. Charlie West	12/8/2025 8:46 PM
3	This park should have been maintained 17 yrs ago when we moved in, but the city decided to nothing and now removed the equipment that should have been upgraded in 2008. Shame on you! Now fix it. It's a neighborhood park.	12/6/2025 10:34 PM
4	Most of the parks are very outdated, equipment has been either broken or vandalized. Trails could use attention.	12/4/2025 7:00 PM
5	Why did you wait until after you ripped out the playground to survey residents.	12/4/2025 5:14 PM
6	I used this park when I was a kid, now I have a one year old we were looking forward to play on it more as she gets the skills needed to use it	12/4/2025 8:49 AM
7	I have been living at this location since 1999 and am very pissed that there was never any discussion with the property-owners before tearing out the playground equipment. Also, the condescending comments by the city leaders in the local paper after the fact just show the total distain they have for their constituents.	12/4/2025 8:41 AM
8	It is disappointing that a 30-year-old neighborhood park is being looked at as a burden. It is not the high profile high use lakeside Park by the water, but it being dismissed represents a shift by two council members in the mayor to prioritize publicity and visibility over daily enjoyment in a neighborhood park by the local youth. Next year in the elections, I'm sure this will come up that two council members and the mayor thought a vacant lot was better than a functioning park.	12/4/2025 4:59 AM
9	Since we live right next to the park we see how often it is used. I would say approximately one or less set of kids/family come per day and about 25% of the time it is a group of tween/teenagers who scream, play loud music, and graffiti the play equipment surfaces. There has been a small child on a dirt bike that rides in circles in the summers wrecking the grass. The soccer nets are used heavily in the spring. Basketball hoops used maybe 2 times per month? Horseshoe pit never used. The swing set area is lightly used until the pit area is filled with thorny weeds each year, then no one ventures in there. There is at least one or two people who throw a disc golf disc from one end of the park to the other a couple times per week in nice weather (I'm sure they might appreciate 1 or 2 disc golf "goals" to aim for). Since there is no formal parking lot for this park, families have to park on side streets or walk/bike in to reach the park. Despite the fact we live right next to the park, we did not receive this survey in the mail. Fortunately another Big Lake resident received it and informed us.	12/3/2025 3:02 PM
10	I live next to the park, so I get to see and hear what's going on most days. The playground is really well used, so it would be sad to not have anything. I think the typical ages are infant-PreK with parents and groups of 6-12 year olds on their own. Maybe you could cut costs by focusing on equipment for younger kids and a swing set for older kids? The soccer nets are used almost every day during the summer, so please keep them! There are also frisbee golf players there often. Please DON'T encourage kids to ride dirt bikes in the park by adding a track or trail loop. They are very noisy, and I've seen them nearly run into children before.	12/3/2025 2:58 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

11	Accommodation for electric scooters. The reality is that they are in common use and will only become more prevalent. They get kids outside and exploring and are a legitimate means of transportation.	12/2/2025 4:43 PM
12	I feel the city isn't responsible for providing playground equipment to any development. People can buy their own equipment for their children	11/30/2025 10:24 PM
13	I do not think Big Lake needs another park, and I do not plan to pay for it.	11/30/2025 7:01 PM
14	Would like a splash pad somewhere! An ice rink would be great too.	11/30/2025 6:24 PM
15	See about ways to keep the paved trails cleaner to avoid injuries	11/30/2025 5:22 PM
16	We still see the neighborhood kids showing up at the park to throw a ball around or hang out. We know that they miss the equipment.	11/30/2025 5:00 PM
17	I don't NOT want to fund this park at all!!!!!! Our taxes are to high already!!!!	11/30/2025 12:05 PM
18	Stop overspending of residents hard earned tax paying dollars. Find ways to cut our city's spending	11/30/2025 8:24 AM
19	I love this park so much!!	11/28/2025 6:12 PM
20	All skaters in Big lake have to commute to other cities to support their figure skaters and hockey players.	11/27/2025 10:58 PM
21	You should have known this was going to cause upset residence.	11/27/2025 8:02 PM
22	Don't randomly take a playground away from a whole neighborhood of kids who regularly use it without replacing it! You don't live in the neighborhood and don't know how often it's used. Maybe talk to the damn people who do live in the neighborhood before you do some dumb shit like that.	11/27/2025 4:09 PM
23	The city gets plenty of tax money to budget for new equipment. You don't just tear down the old with no plan to replace it. What a joke. The city should be ashamed of itself.	11/27/2025 11:06 AM
24	More soccer nets please and basketball hoops	11/26/2025 9:36 PM
25	Dog park unless you put up crosswalks with flashing lights. Otherwise that spot sucks for a park.	11/26/2025 6:31 PM
26	Please figure out how to use the taxes the city already has for this park. I dont speak for all residents, but definitely a few, myself included, we are getting irritated with a new tax being asked of us every year. I am happy though the last few have been voted on, but I suspect the city will get its money whether we vote yes or no.	11/26/2025 5:34 PM
27	This is the dumbest thing I have seen the city do in all my years living here.	11/26/2025 5:34 PM
28	Do not replace with dog park.	11/26/2025 5:32 PM
29	It looks to be strictly a small neighborhood park with limited access.	11/26/2025 4:23 PM
30	We pay taxes out the ass. Build a new park.	11/26/2025 3:29 PM
31	There are many parks in big Lake. Some are not that far from Michell Farms Park. It would be nice to have some variety in our parks.	11/26/2025 3:16 PM
32	If we get a dog park that would be amazing and I would be willing to contribute for that.	11/26/2025 3:08 PM
33	As a 25 year resident of Big Lake, I find these playgrounds to be very important for young families. Having raised three sons here, we utilized many of the community parks.	11/26/2025 1:55 PM
34	just make lakeside park bigger and better they are literally minutes apart. as for an ice rink just put on one either of the two lakes in town and maintain that	11/26/2025 1:44 PM
35	Do NOT raise our taxes!!! It's kind of a crap small town with high fancy city taxes already. Total rip off to live here just to be near family & friends. But every park needs kids activities...duh, no brainer.	11/26/2025 1:11 PM
36	As long as the park funding isn't crazy exorbitant I am willing to vote for it. Splash pads would be nice if we had one available. (With adequate parking) Also the one park across town has the hang glider was popular with my kids having one close to home would be amazing.	11/26/2025 1:09 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

37	Have more things to do for kids and families, a splash pad in big lake would be nice too as not all kids can swim in the lake .	11/26/2025 12:29 PM
38	To take away a park that has been there for YEARS is extremely sad. Kids in the neighborhood are there DAILY!! The kids do not attend city meetings so imagine how they felt to get off the bus that day and rush to their favorite spot w/ friends to see an empty lot of dirt - their playground GONE!!! If we want kids to be outside and not on screens, they need a place to go! Extremely disappointing that it even has to have gone this far as a new park would be a no brainer - our neighborhood/community children deserve a replacement park of some sort!!! With some struggling for basic needs let alone extra 'fun', these kids need a place to play FREE of charge, for some this may be their only 'fun' thing to look forward to!	11/26/2025 12:16 PM
39	Personally I've never seen a kid at this park. My kids and their friends don't play there due to the little kids peeing on everything. I'd like to see this park turn into a dog park	11/26/2025 12:10 PM
40	We pay enough taxes. All these parks and trails should be maintained...	11/26/2025 12:04 PM
41	Need to add access to play sports. Baseball field and basketball courts	11/26/2025 11:43 AM
42	No	11/25/2025 11:14 PM
43	I understood that playgrounds were required in developments. Has there been a change to that stipulation. I presume that the equipment was unsafe or that the local area development wanted something else there. // There are several area playgrounds that I routinely took my grandchildren to during good weather. As far as suggestions I have seen a large, enclosed building set up for skate boarding and sections for a playground (think huge barn) however, personnel were required during daylight hours so fights, drugs, and other improper things didn't take place.	11/25/2025 6:16 PM
44	Yes, how about make handicapped accessible as well. No wood chips, you need the rubber ground and things for wheelchair bound kids. Sensory	11/25/2025 5:04 PM
45	Taxes have doubled since I moved here in 2003. The larger the town grows the more my neighbors and I dislike it.	11/25/2025 4:06 PM
46	should have never taken the park down in the first place.	11/24/2025 8:43 PM
47	It's about time the council asked the residents their opinion about our city, the parks, SIDEWALKS, and areas in our city. The council is supposed to be the voice of the people, NOT the Dictator of the city.	11/24/2025 6:13 PM
48	It does seem like we have numerous parks in Big Lake for a city of this size.	11/24/2025 3:00 PM
49	A survey or notice at the very least would have been better BEFORE the playground was taken down. I was there 3 weeks beforehand and the only thing wrong with the park was the picnic table needing refinishing.	11/23/2025 4:25 PM
50	I'm curious about question nine as why it's asking for me to fund on top of what I normally am paying for taxes in my town. I was also concerned with how sudden it was gone. If it was a safety concern, I understand it being removed but why was there nothing at the park posting that it was a safety concern? It's not like it was deemed hazardous and removed that same day. For me, it makes it seem suspicious. Why the mayor removed it in the first place without telling us, and then on top of that, not wanting to replace it or even get an estimate to tell us what it would cost. From what I'm understanding, the park originally planned to put here the council determined to relocate, leaving kids in this area without an option. And because you chose to relocate this playground set. These kids will only be in this age group for a short time. It seems wrong to make them have to wait multiple years for a new playground when the funds have been collected and should have been allocated to replace existing equipment rather than trying to expand a different park.	11/23/2025 3:29 PM
51	The Playground at the beach is also very important to us, as well as the one on County road 73. Thank you for your kind consideration.	11/23/2025 12:49 PM
52	Cancel the new city hall and use the funds to upgrade all the parks in Big Lake	11/23/2025 9:19 AM
53	I hope that the park can be replaced equal or better to what was originally there.	11/22/2025 9:07 PM
54	This playground was used a lot by me and the neighborhood kids. We should make some ADA friendly as well.	11/22/2025 8:56 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

55	These local neighborhood parks are a huge reason we chose to move here years ago. Kids use them constantly.	11/22/2025 5:06 PM
56	FYI, the thistles were terrible around the swing-set area. We loved the big yellow toddler swing that was shaped like an egg!!! Anything that resembles what was already there would be lovely! Thank you for listening!	11/22/2025 11:56 AM
57	Quit wasting money and deliver on the promise of a park being there with equipment.	11/22/2025 7:16 AM
58	Install a camera and make it known.	11/22/2025 5:54 AM
59	Add Natural Butterfly attracting plants ex: Milkweed. Bench's for reading, make playground area shaded or shaded spots. Porta potty present. Free Little Library	11/22/2025 3:06 AM
60	Bring my younger siblings here all the time to play with friends and let them run around and have fun. It's either play at the park or sit at home on the tablets. Being outside is way better! Bring back our park!	11/21/2025 10:10 PM
61	When it comes to playground equipment, I would love to see baby/toddler swings. There are none of these in this location of big lake. And I have to drive to the park near where cambo flare was or monticello to have access to these swings. Families have children of all ages and there should be something geared to the younger children too.	11/21/2025 9:40 PM
62	Quit tearing down all parks that keep kiddos out of trouble, I understand that vandalism happens but not everything needs to be torn down all at once and make your citizens feel like they have to go to other towns to enjoy a place where kids can play in nature.	11/21/2025 8:43 PM
63	Where is all the money going? Why isn't maintenance being done to prevent complete failure?	11/21/2025 8:26 PM
64	Our kids love going to all the different parks in Big Lake!	11/21/2025 6:53 PM
65	Mitchell farms park should be replaced equal or better. A dog park wouldn't make sense because it's right next to other houses and the chaos between dogs would be overwhelming. Nobody's going to go to a natural park.	11/21/2025 6:49 PM
66	I hope we can have a playground that is equal or better than what we had originally.	11/21/2025 6:44 PM
67	My kids were VERY upset the park is gone and I 100% support putting one back in. There are a ton of families within a mile of the park with young kids.	11/21/2025 6:34 PM
68	Rock wall, zip line, swings are top pick items at a park. Also would be nice for a few picnic benches, and a tree or two	11/21/2025 6:04 PM
69	Hoping for a splash pad and handicap accessible park!	11/21/2025 5:55 PM
70	I do not currently use this park as my kids are adults now. But we have lived just down the block from this park their whole life. We used this park daily when they were young. Sad that the families in this neighborhood could potentially not have this.	11/21/2025 5:50 PM
71	My kids live going to the park in our development. Stupid idea to remove it when we have so many younger children here. They all love playing at the park with their friends. Please bring it back!	11/21/2025 5:40 PM
72	If they will be replacing the playground equipment. Having shade structures is also very important to me.	11/21/2025 5:02 PM
73	We need our park back for the kids.	11/21/2025 2:52 PM
74	we need a couple nice ball fields in our community. the school is holding our fields hostage and we need more available for our kids to use.	11/21/2025 2:44 PM
75	This is a small park but is the only one in this part of the neighborhood. Kids need a safe place to play outside. This park has been well loved and used.	11/21/2025 2:19 PM
76	Love the bike track idea. We are very sad the skate park is gone and have no where to ride our BMX or mountain bikes together. However just a playset would be awesome for the little ones. Thanks big lake!	11/21/2025 1:54 PM
77	We are still very disappointed that there is no talk of replacing the skate park!! Big Lake prides themselves on their parks and trail systems. Removing structures doesn't make sense in the midst of all the current and growing neighborhoods we have. How about a splash park?!?!	11/21/2025 1:39 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

Dreaming I know, but It would be great if we could have a City Dog Park since the current space at Lions Park is not a priority of the township at all. It's embarrassing compared to all the neighboring town dog parks. I'm sure there are grants and other things that could be re-prioritized to make these improvements happen. Thank you for taking these ideas into consideration!

78	We utilize many of the parks and playgrounds in the area. If there was something set up to donate to so a playground would be put in/help in the future, id be more than happy to contribute	11/21/2025 1:03 PM
79	Thank you for caring! Love all our parks.	11/21/2025 1:00 PM
80	Im all for improving the local community but put the money towards school referendums that we can't pass, or improve big lake back that everyone pays an ungodly amount of money to park the truck and trailers there, have seen no upgrades to that park, only took away the skate park. There are plenty of other parks in the area.	11/21/2025 11:52 AM
81	Wrights crossing park has had broken playground equipment for 3+ years. That park needs to be redone. I live 3 houses down from it and go to it every day with my kids in the summer.	11/21/2025 11:44 AM
82	We have lots of kids in this development that play at this park. It needs to be replaced and soon. These kids miss it. We have 9 kids between 3 houses that played here daily when the weather is nice.	11/21/2025 11:40 AM
83	We moved in to Mitchell Farms over 5 years ago and were very excited that there was a park a few houses away that we could take our granddaughter to. Now I have another granddaughter and we went there several times with them and their moms, my daughters. My granddaughter was very sad when it was taken down with no notice, and so were many others!	11/21/2025 11:37 AM
84	I'm curious if residents near the other parks that are going to be replaced have been asked to fund the parks in their neighborhoods??? If funding is needed to replace all the parks, that should be distributed among all the residents equally.	11/21/2025 11:11 AM
85	Our city is lacking the funding and resources needed to truly invest in our youth. This community has so much potential, yet time and again opportunities for our kids are taken away or denied, while other initiatives slip through without question. I believe it's time we prioritize our future not just your wallets. I fully support raising taxes and dedicating funding to amenities that strengthen opportunities for our youth, because investing in them is investing in the long-term health and success of our city.	11/21/2025 11:06 AM
86	I have lived near this park for 25 years and was very sad it was removed. I can see the park from my house and I know it is heavily used by children in this neighborhood. I'm sure they are all very sad that the park is gone. I served on the park committee in the early 2000s and they did a great job of establishing a fantastic park system for our community. I hope they keep it up.	11/21/2025 10:42 AM
87	I don't understand we are just going to rip down all the parks and possibly not rebuild them? Our kids need somewhere to play. Maybe don't make a new city council that none of us want and build awesome parks for our children.	11/21/2025 10:34 AM
88	Please start building the parks that we vote for and also continue to funding for repairs to the parks. It's the biggest black eye that even baseball fields and etc are unplayable. Also make these sports facilities playable for the associations to use.	11/21/2025 10:25 AM
89	I really hope it gets figured out before next summer. The kids in our development were beyond crushed. Many came home from school in tears after seeing it tore down while riding on the school bus. My son told me that so many kids on the bus were crying and so sad about it.	11/21/2025 10:14 AM
90	Buy it now! Must get a discount when you are buying for several playgrounds and the cost will only go up !	11/21/2025 10:12 AM
91	The neighborhood needs a park. My kids are older and don't use it much but have used it a ton over the past years. It would be very sad for other kids to not have that opportunity.	11/21/2025 10:05 AM
92	Build nice icerinks there to replace the crap ones the city doesn't maintain	11/21/2025 10:05 AM
93	This park specifically is tucked into the backyards of several neighboring properties. Dog park would bring issues with more barking, fleas, and poop smell. Bike park would be bad as we have neighborhood kids with motorized bikes and 4 wheelers that would be tearing up the park.	11/21/2025 9:55 AM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

Concrete tube like snuffy's is asking for a cracked skull... There are daycares and many children who utilized the previous equipment heavily, so that makes the most sense.

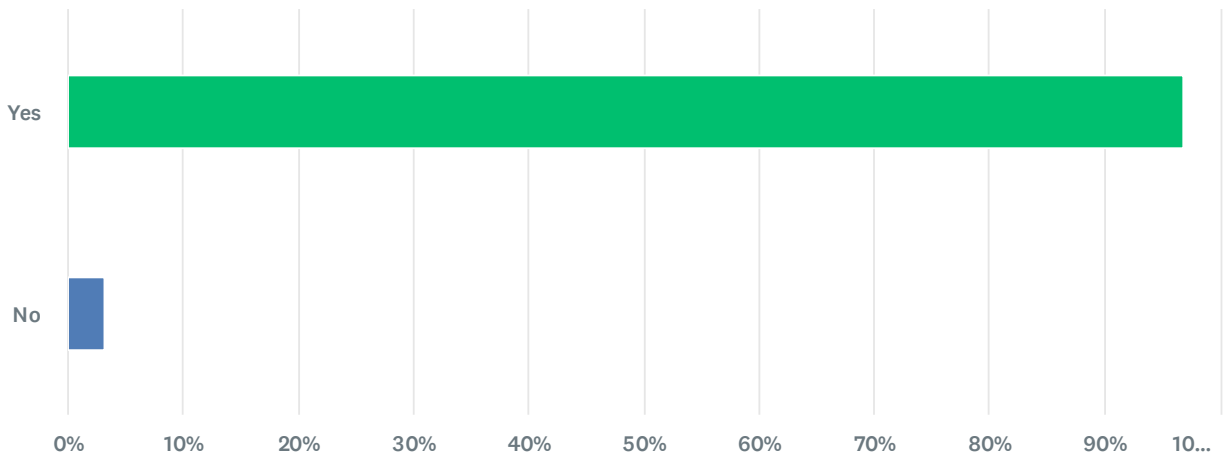
94	Some equipment for younger kids, around a year, with small obstacles to climb or slide down. Baby swings. Benches/ stroller stations. No wood chips as they cause slivers and poke when they get into shoes	11/21/2025 9:31 AM
95	Funding should be included with the taxes we already pay, not to mention the money that is set aside in the designated fund as well as money that is collected for the parks dedication fee form developers. We pay taxes to pay up keep and upkeep should be done at not extra expenses.	11/21/2025 9:00 AM
96	I really enjoy the bike trails/sidewalks around town for running and biking. I would like to have free parking at lakeside park, metered parking deters a lot of local users. Would be great to see more youth programming using our park spaces.	11/21/2025 8:52 AM
97	We Loved this park. It was my son's favorite park and we were there daily (if not multiple times a day). It is within walking distance of our home and just ideal. My son was very sad to see the old park go but hopefully it will be replaced.	11/21/2025 8:49 AM
98	Take a trip to west bridge monti park big and made for multiple age groups Zip line	11/21/2025 8:40 AM
99	I would suggest long term budgets for replacing worn and aging equipment. These playgrounds don't become unsafe overnight, I realize they have a life expectancy but during that time there should be a plan/budget in place so that 15year down the road when they need replacement funds are available. Instead now we keep ripping playgrounds out with no plans or budget to replace. Someone is not doing their job.	11/21/2025 8:30 AM
100	Just hope yall replace these playgrounds. Its bad enough kids dont have much to do other then being on their tablets and stuff. Taking away these places just adds to that.	11/21/2025 8:29 AM
101	I would like money be spent on connecting bike trails around the city.	11/21/2025 8:11 AM
102	Not even putting playground as an option in what do you do at the park is ridiculous and completely leading question. This survey design is absolutely horrible and follows no survey standards. The city needs to be accountable and fix the mistake they made instead of putting it on the residents.	11/21/2025 7:53 AM
103	This park is a huge part of our neighborhood— I can't stress enough how valuable it is to the children in our neighborhood.	11/21/2025 7:43 AM
104	There are many playgrounds on this side of the city, one of which is only 4 blocks from Mitchell Farms.	11/21/2025 7:42 AM
105	perhaps a better research option than too late surveys and "thinking" nobody uses the equipment. a great way to show the community that you don't live in it, and if you do, you don't pay enough attention as council members.	11/21/2025 7:37 AM
106	Fence around the park for those that have children that have special needs and elope	11/21/2025 7:32 AM
107	Parks are so kids can be outside and have fun. Don't take that away and force them to be inside on a screen.	11/21/2025 7:21 AM
108	Honestly I bring my child to Monticello and Becker because they have better playgrounds. Very excited to have newer playgrounds in our own town we can go to instead	11/21/2025 7:16 AM
109	NO skate park!!!!!!! Put money towards splash pad.	11/21/2025 7:15 AM
110	While I don't take my kids to this park often, it's the only park within walking distance of their dad's house. I hate to see them lose that walkability to a park.	11/21/2025 7:10 AM
111	I think Mitchell farms park would be a great spot for a younger child playground. There are no spaces for preschoolers and toddlers to play on equipment that is appropriate for them. Including infant swings would be great as well. Adding more than 1 picnic table. But overall, I think not taking all the parks away would be great! GET THE SKATE PARK BACK!!!! You can't complain because kids are getting into trouble when you are taking away the things they use for entertainment. We have the space and population to make the city an amazing place for all families and children, but we don't. We don't need a new city hall. That money could be spent much more wisely. I've lived here for 13 years and never set foot in the city hall. It seems like a waste of resources. Do better!	11/21/2025 7:09 AM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

112	More baby swings at parks.	11/21/2025 7:07 AM
113	Pretty sure you could use the excess funds from the Parks Upgrade Grant you received. Instead of hanging onto it and maybe replacing a different park that doesn't really need it.	11/21/2025 7:07 AM
114	More playgrounds need to be friendly for younger kids, and/or not have as many openings in the rails for something like fire poles etc. platforms leading to slides or near somewhere with an opening need to be a little bigger so children have ample space to move their body into the appropriate standing or sliding position.	11/21/2025 7:06 AM

Q1 Are you a current Big Lake resident?

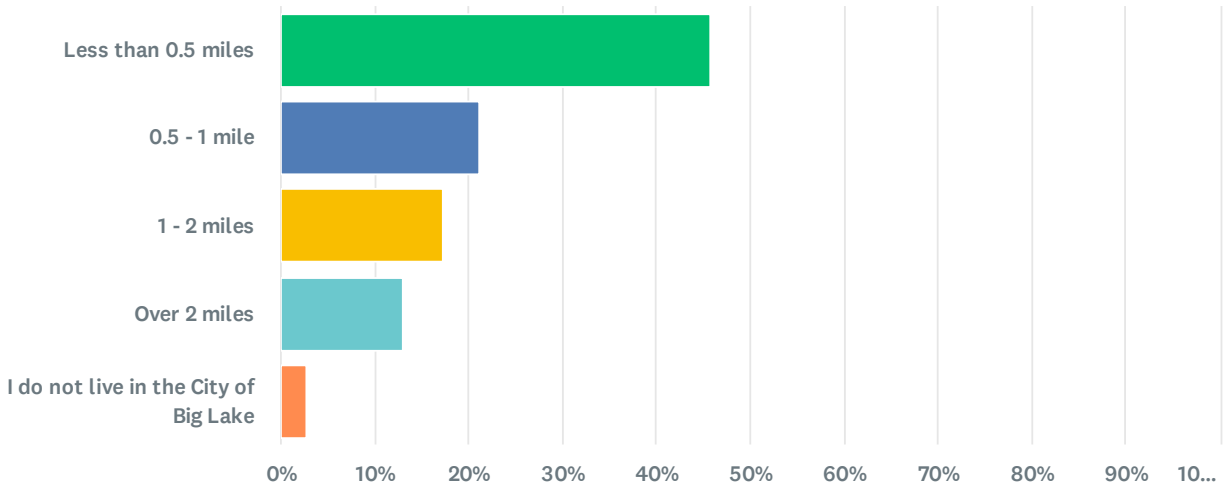
Answered: 259 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Yes	96.91%	251	...
● No	3.09%	8	...
Total		259	

Q2 How far do you live from Mitchell Farms Park?

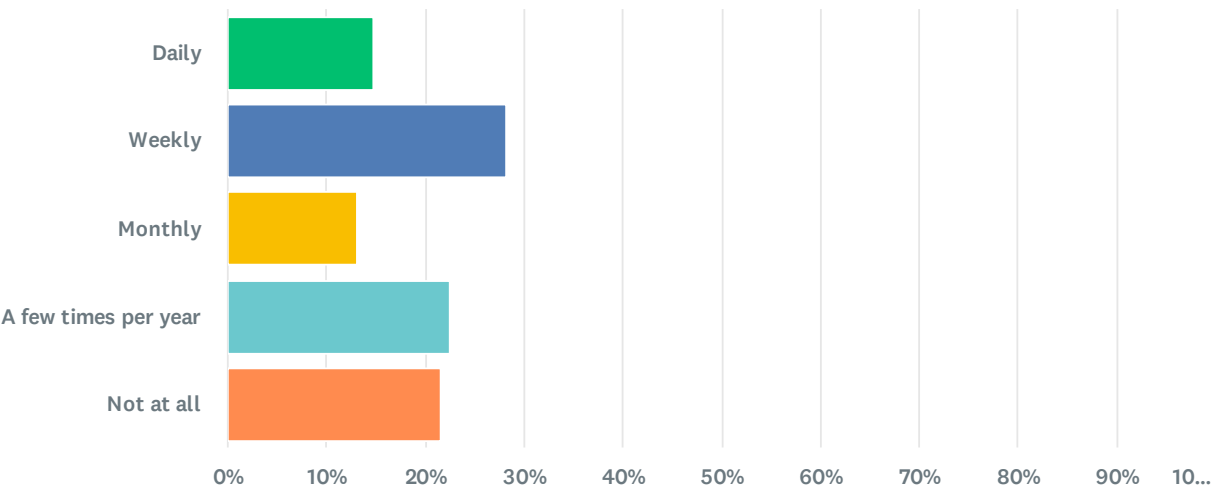
Answered: 260 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Less than 0.5 miles	45.77%	119	...
● 0.5 - 1 mile	21.15%	55	...
● 1 - 2 miles	17.31%	45	...
● Over 2 miles	13.08%	34	...
● I do not live in the City of Big Lake	2.69%	7	...
Total		260	

Q3 How often did you visit Mitchell Farms Park in 2025?

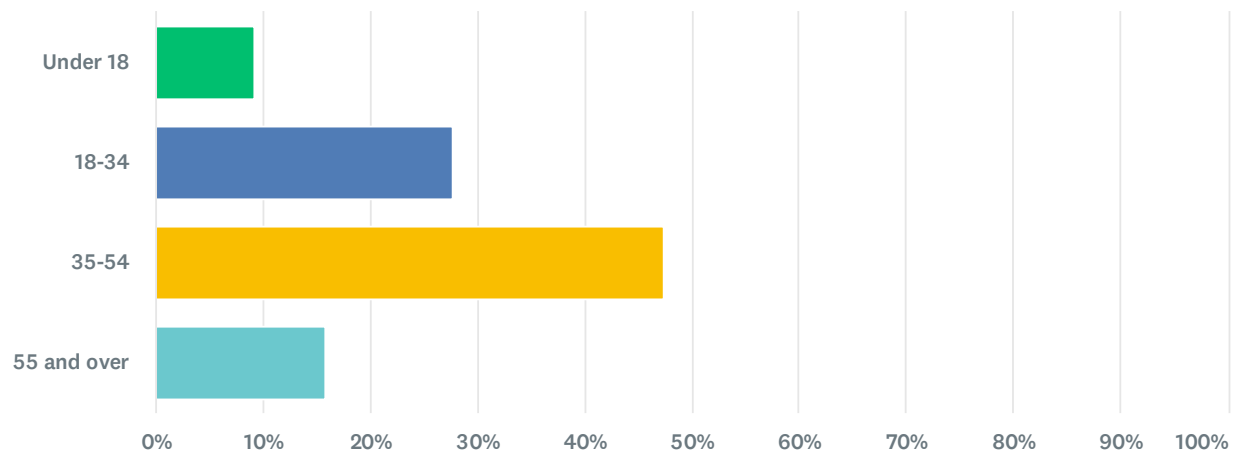
Answered: 259 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
Daily	14.67%	38	...
Weekly	28.19%	73	...
Monthly	13.13%	34	...
A few times per year	22.39%	58	...
Not at all	21.62%	56	...
Total		259	

Q4 What is your age group?

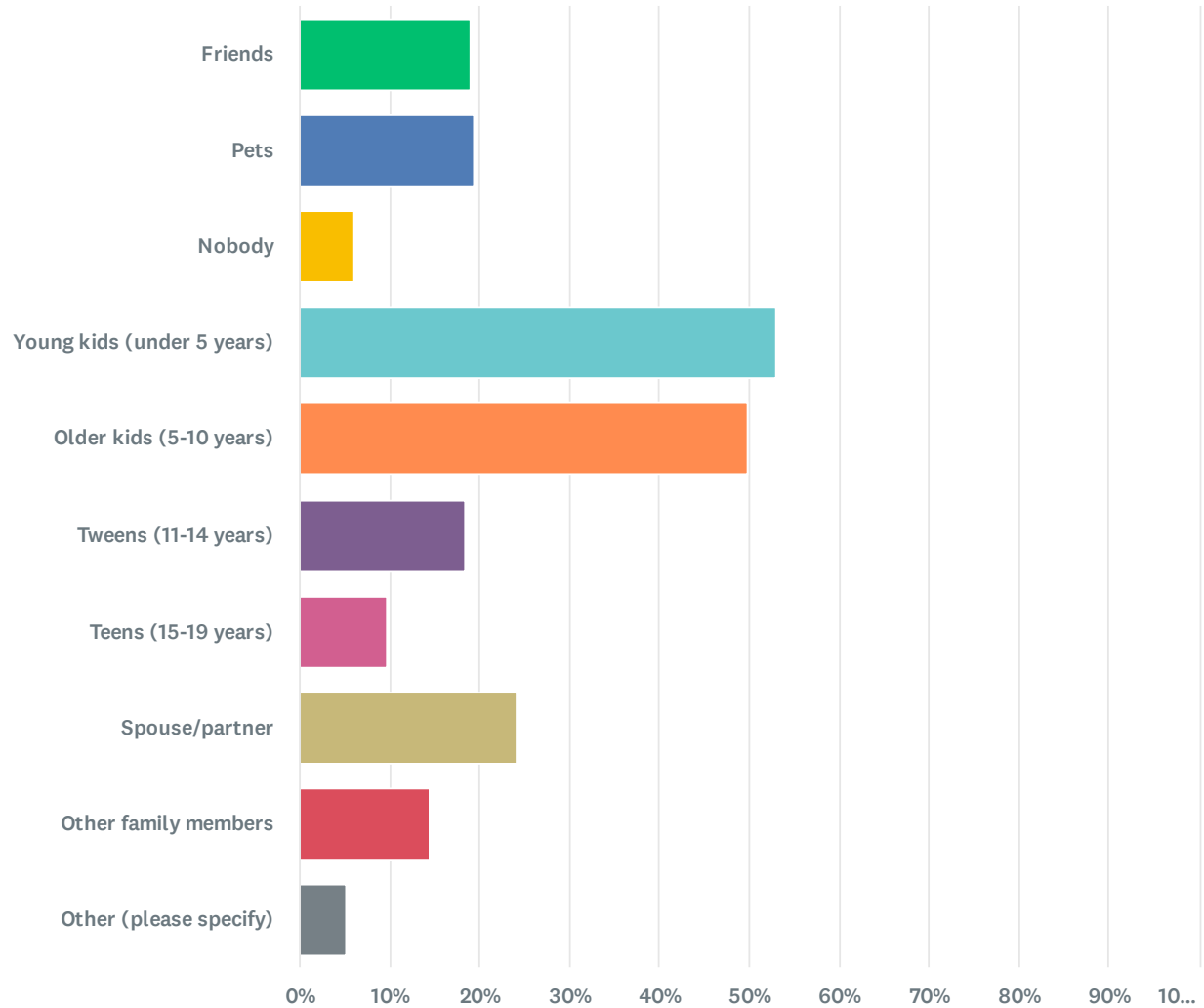
Answered: 260 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Under 18	9.23%	24	...
● 18-34	27.69%	72	...
● 35-54	47.31%	123	...
● 55 and over	15.77%	41	...
Total		260	

Q5 On a usual visit to Mitchell Farms Park, who are you with? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 249 Skipped: 14



^ Collapse

Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Friends	18.88%	47	...
● Pets	19.28%	48	...
Total		249	

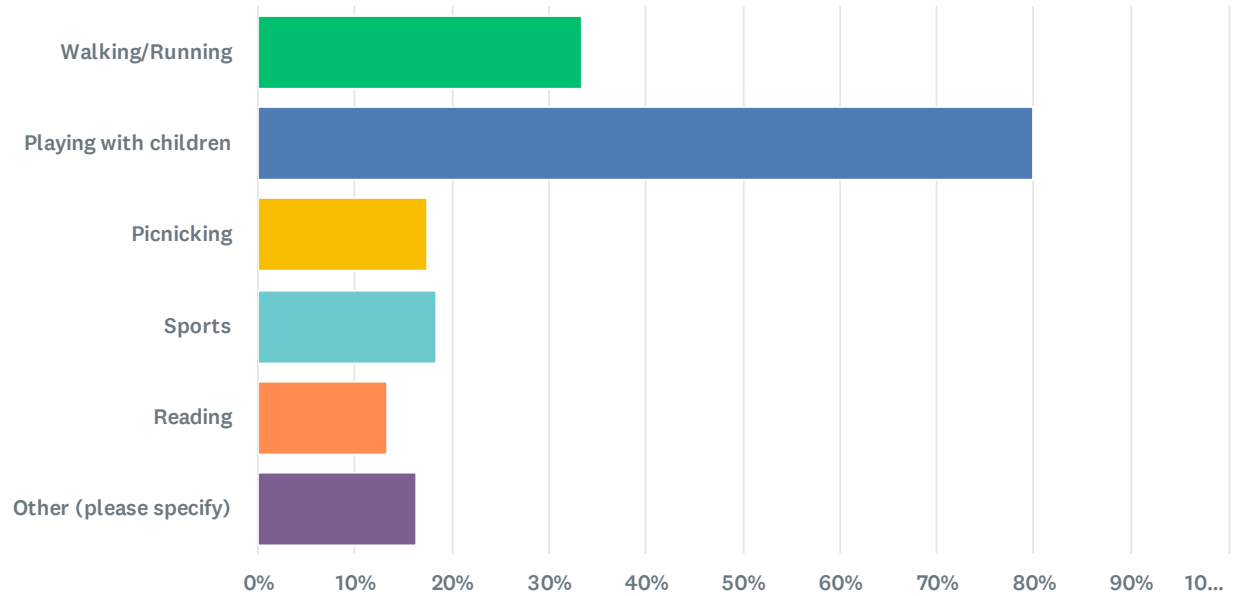
Mitchell Farms Park Survey

Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
 Nobody	6.02%	15	...
 Young kids (under 5 years)	53.01%	132	...
 Older kids (5-10 years)	49.80%	124	...
 Tweens (11-14 years)	18.47%	46	...
 Teens (15-19 years)	9.64%	24	...
 Spouse/partner	24.10%	60	...
 Other family members	14.46%	36	...
 Other (please specify) Show responses	5.22%	13	...
Total		249	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I bring my grandchildren to the park	12/3/2025 10:44 AM
2	I never visit the park and DO NOT plan to pay for it	11/30/2025 7:01 PM
3	I've never been there.	11/30/2025 12:05 PM
4	Not applicable	11/26/2025 5:49 PM
5	I was there once	11/26/2025 3:16 PM
6	I have not visited this park.	11/26/2025 1:55 PM
7	never go	11/26/2025 1:44 PM
8	I didn't know this park existed	11/26/2025 1:12 PM
9	Never go there	11/25/2025 11:34 AM
10	Friends children that played with children in the neighborhood ages 6, 7, 9 11 & 12 was my age group	11/23/2025 3:29 PM
11	I do not visit the park. I believe in making things better for our children in the community.	11/22/2025 8:49 AM
12	Neighbors	11/21/2025 5:09 PM
13	My daycare children. Usually 8+ kids at once	11/21/2025 7:09 AM

Q6 What activities do you typically engage in at Mitchell Farms Park? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 240 Skipped: 23



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Walking/Running	33.33%	80	...
● Playing with children	80.00%	192	...
● Picnicking	17.50%	42	...
● Sports	18.33%	44	...
● Reading	13.33%	32	...
● Other (please specify) Show responses	16.25%	39	...
Total		240	

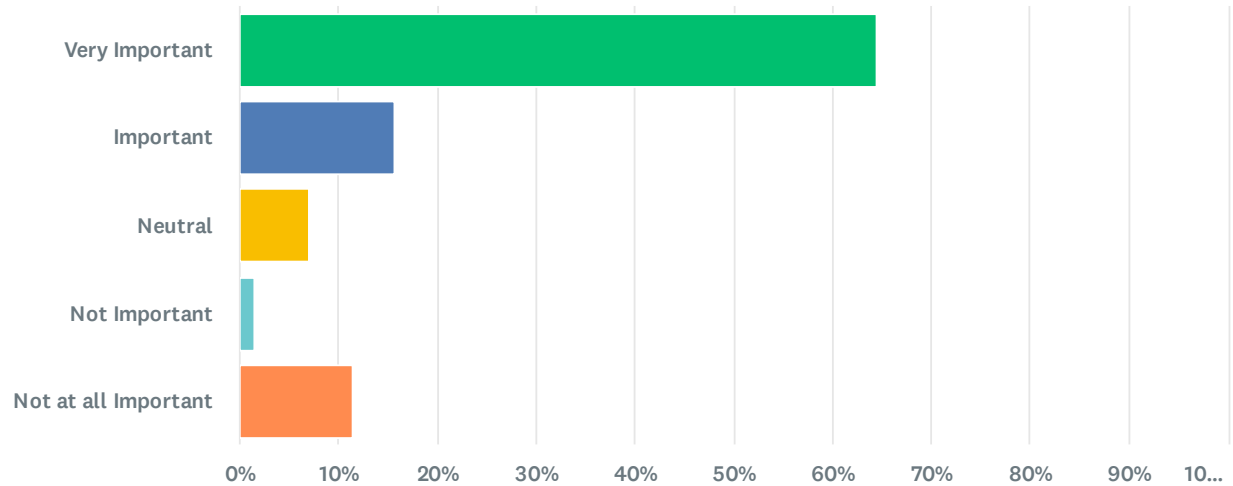
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Cleaning up the area as needed	12/8/2025 8:46 PM
2	taking our cats out on a leash	12/3/2025 3:02 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

3	None	11/30/2025 7:01 PM
4	Having fun on the swings and the playground with my friends, nieces, nephews and friends children.	11/30/2025 5:22 PM
5	Sitting children	11/30/2025 5:00 PM
6	None	11/30/2025 12:05 PM
7	None	11/29/2025 12:13 PM
8	visiting friends with kids	11/27/2025 8:02 PM
9	Not applicable	11/26/2025 5:49 PM
10	I wasn't aware of the park	11/26/2025 4:23 PM
11	Nothing	11/26/2025 3:16 PM
12	Walking my dog and sitting enjoying	11/26/2025 3:08 PM
13	Playground	11/26/2025 2:30 PM
14	I have not visited this park.	11/26/2025 1:55 PM
15	never go	11/26/2025 1:44 PM
16	Swinging, climbing, sliding	11/26/2025 1:09 PM
17	Playground!!!	11/26/2025 12:16 PM
18	Walk around with the dog	11/26/2025 12:10 PM
19	I didn't know this park existed	11/26/2025 12:04 PM
20	Playing with pet	11/26/2025 11:40 AM
21	Watching Grandchildren	11/25/2025 6:16 PM
22	Never go there	11/25/2025 11:34 AM
23	RELAXING	11/24/2025 6:13 PM
24	Football	11/23/2025 4:45 PM
25	Just sitting on the bench	11/23/2025 4:36 PM
26	Playing games on playground really enjoying the kids in the neighborhood who kids are similar ages as our.	11/23/2025 3:29 PM
27	Playing on the playground	11/21/2025 6:44 PM
28	Play with dogs	11/21/2025 6:04 PM
29	Playing tag on the equipment with kids	11/21/2025 11:40 AM
30	Swinging and jungle gym	11/21/2025 10:42 AM
31	Playing with my kids on the park pushing them on swings	11/21/2025 10:34 AM
32	Playground - playing tag, workouts.	11/21/2025 9:55 AM
33	A visit to the area	11/21/2025 8:25 AM
34	Playground	11/21/2025 8:11 AM
35	Playground	11/21/2025 7:53 AM
36	monkey bars, swings, literally anything that comes with a park.	11/21/2025 7:37 AM
37	Geo games	11/21/2025 7:23 AM
38	Watching kids enjoy being kids	11/21/2025 7:21 AM
39	Playing on the playground before you tore it down	11/21/2025 7:12 AM

Q7 How important is it to you to have playground equipment in Mitchell Farms Park?

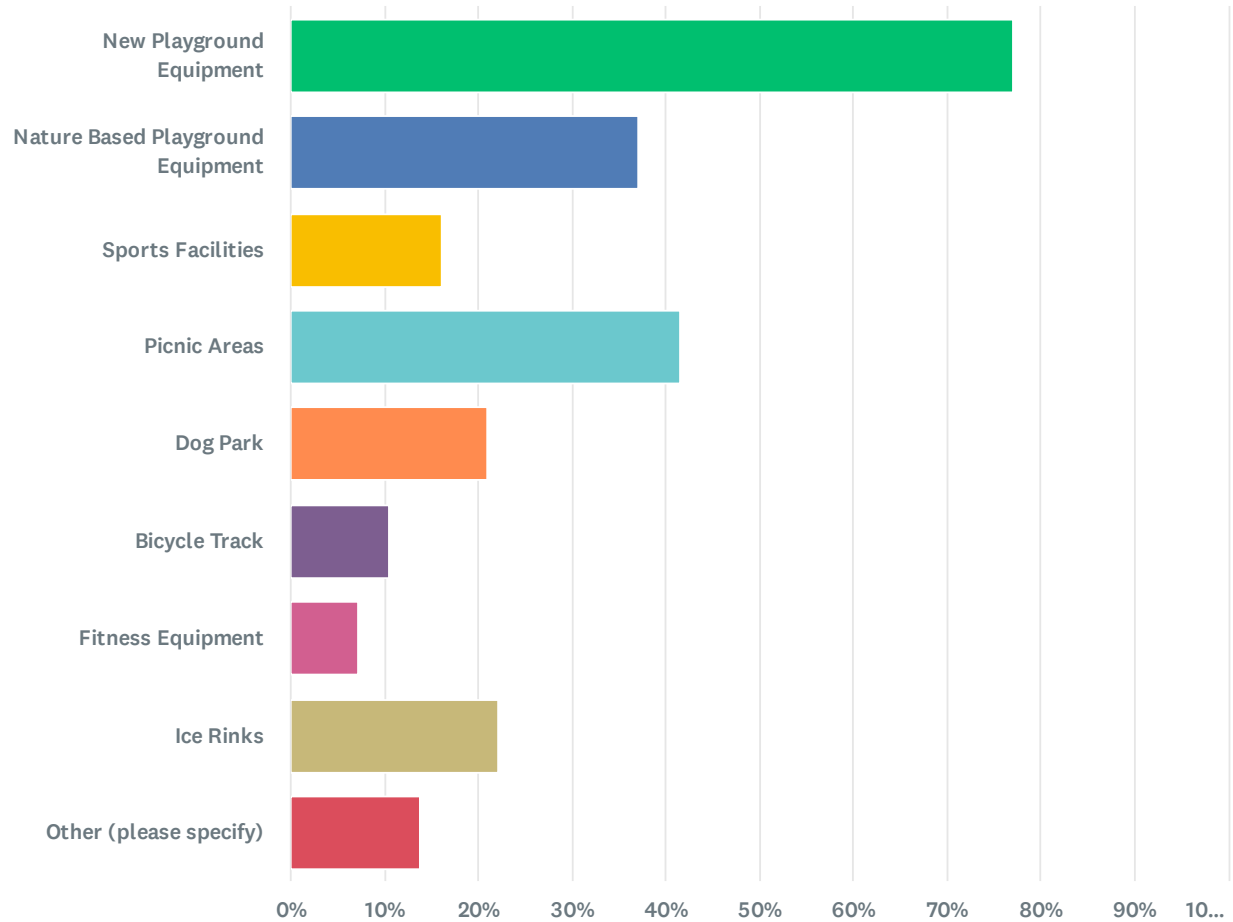
Answered: 256 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Very Important	64.45%	165	...
● Important	15.63%	40	...
● Neutral	7.03%	18	...
● Not Important	1.56%	4	...
● Not at all Important	11.33%	29	...
Total		256	

Q8 What new amenities would you like to see added to Mitchell Farms Park, considering a limited budget? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 248 Skipped: 15



^ Collapse

Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● New Playground Equipment	77.02%	191	...
● Nature Based Playground Equipment	37.10%	92	...
● Sports Facilities	16.13%	40	...
Total		248	

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
 Picnic Areas	41.53%	103	...
 Dog Park	20.97%	52	...
 Bicycle Track	10.48%	26	...
 Fitness Equipment	7.26%	18	...
 Ice Rinks	22.18%	55	...
 Other (please specify) Show responses	13.71%	34	...
Total		248	

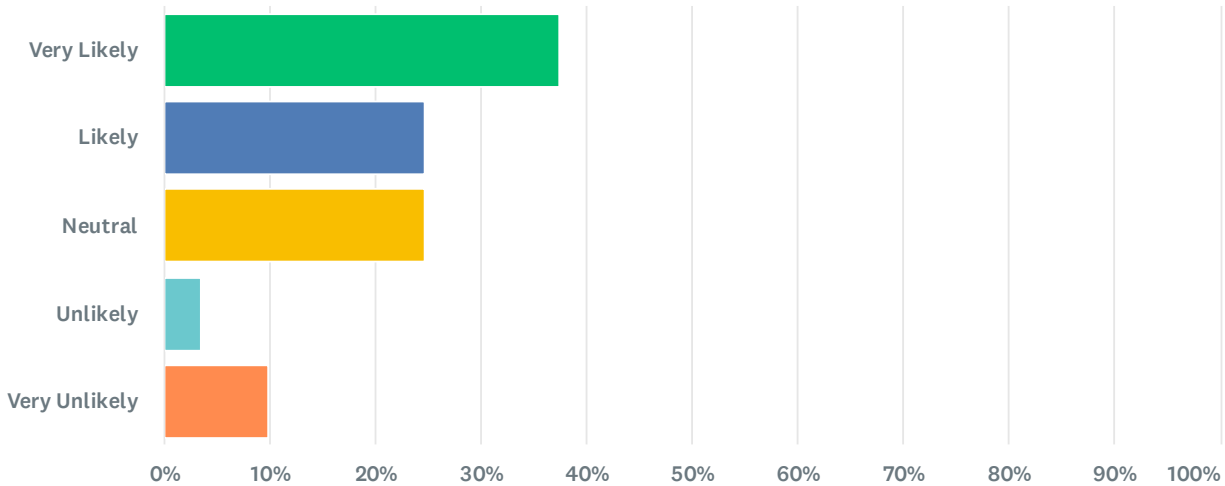
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Make sure the new park is safe & no high up openings	12/12/2025 11:03 PM
2	Before the equipment was torn out there were people there daily. After the equipment was torn out it is nearly unused. Now we are in winter and in the past there were still some kids that would be there. Sadly this space is now unused.	12/8/2025 8:46 PM
3	NOT a bicycle track (unless it's just connecting the path to Kenabec Street)	12/3/2025 2:58 PM
4	Nothing, I think Big Lake has a lot of other Parks	11/30/2025 7:01 PM
5	Pickle ball	11/30/2025 6:38 PM
6	Pickle Ball courts, Canopy	11/30/2025 5:22 PM
7	Pickle Ball Court	11/30/2025 5:00 PM
8	Nothing. Leave it empty.	11/30/2025 12:05 PM
9	None	11/29/2025 12:13 PM
10	Basketball court and soccer field nets	11/26/2025 9:36 PM
11	pickle ball court!!	11/26/2025 2:37 PM
12	More swings and handicap accessible	11/26/2025 2:30 PM
13	none	11/26/2025 1:44 PM
14	A infant/ toddler swing would've been nice when my kids were little.. one of the reasons we chose our house 14 years ago was the closeness to the park. Also plenty of benches for moms to sit on to watch kids.	11/26/2025 1:09 PM
15	Pickleball	11/26/2025 11:54 AM
16	None. A lot of us do not want this town to grow.	11/25/2025 4:06 PM
17	None	11/25/2025 11:34 AM
18	It was a nice medium size playground that oddly enough always seemed to have a couple kids to play with even though there was not much for parking. My group of kids seemed always like that playground because of the lack of drama.	11/23/2025 3:29 PM
19	Equipment that suits school age Kids!	11/22/2025 5:06 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

20	My two boys will be of age soon to ride bikes and we have no side walks in the neighborhood. Bike track would be lovely for safety reasons!	11/21/2025 9:40 PM
21	Basketball	11/21/2025 6:34 PM
22	If get new equipment please look at some equipment that could be accessible for all kids. Especially those with mobility issues	11/21/2025 2:57 PM
23	Baby swings please!	11/21/2025 2:38 PM
24	Skate park!!	11/21/2025 1:39 PM
25	Rubber ground	11/21/2025 1:37 PM
26	Anything there would be better than nothing	11/21/2025 1:03 PM
27	Advocating for children's with disabilities the importance of an INCLUSIVE playground for children with disabilities and not just an ADA accessible	11/21/2025 11:45 AM
28	Indoor bathroom	11/21/2025 11:44 AM
29	A lot of kids played on the equipment there but there are a lot of kids in the neighborhood who would benefit from having a basketball to play on in addition to having equipment. With all of the parks in this town there is only one out door basketball court and thats at the lake.	11/21/2025 11:06 AM
30	A basketball court would be used by so many!	11/21/2025 10:14 AM
31	Budget was supposed to include equipment replacement. Fitness equipment would be nice for parents who come with children.	11/21/2025 9:55 AM
32	Baby swings	11/21/2025 9:00 AM
33	Splash pad	11/21/2025 7:15 AM
34	More than 1 infant/toddler bucket swing. Toddler play area	11/21/2025 7:06 AM

Q9 How likely are you to support funding for new amenities at Mitchell Farms Park?

Answered: 256 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices ↓	Percentage ↓	Responses ↓	
● Very Likely	37.50%	96	...
● Likely	24.61%	63	...
● Neutral	24.61%	63	...
● Unlikely	3.52%	9	...
● Very Unlikely	9.77%	25	...
Total		256	

Q10 Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the City of Big Lake's Parks and Trails system?

Answered: 120 Skipped: 143

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	12/10/2025 12:02 PM
2	Taking this community amenity out without a plan was terrible and based on false information. You could have knocked on my door and asked if the space was used or not. The time for this survey was in 2024. The planning for eventual replacement of the equipment should have started 25 years ago when the developers complied with city requirements and funded the build. The city council vote to deny funding failed the mitchell farms community, especially when we are told the funds are available. If the funds are marked for parks, thats what it must be used for. The parks committee already had a plan so fund it and get the equipment replaced. Charlie West	12/8/2025 8:46 PM
3	This park should have been maintained 17 yrs ago when we moved in, but the city decided to nothing and now removed the equipment that should have been upgraded in 2008. Shame on you! Now fix it. It's a neighborhood park.	12/6/2025 10:34 PM
4	Most of the parks are very outdated, equipment has been either broken or vandalized. Trails could use attention.	12/4/2025 7:00 PM
5	Why did you wait until after you ripped out the playground to survey residents.	12/4/2025 5:14 PM
6	I used this park when I was a kid, now I have a one year old we were looking forward to play on it more as she gets the skills needed to use it	12/4/2025 8:49 AM
7	I have been living at this location since 1999 and am very pissed that there was never any discussion with the property-owners before tearing out the playground equipment. Also, the condescending comments by the city leaders in the local paper after the fact just show the total distain they have for their constituents.	12/4/2025 8:41 AM
8	It is disappointing that a 30-year-old neighborhood park is being looked at as a burden. It is not the high profile high use lakeside Park by the water, but it being dismissed represents a shift by two council members in the mayor to prioritize publicity and visibility over daily enjoyment in a neighborhood park by the local youth. Next year in the elections, I'm sure this will come up that two council members and the mayor thought a vacant lot was better than a functioning park.	12/4/2025 4:59 AM
9	Since we live right next to the park we see how often it is used. I would say approximately one or less set of kids/family come per day and about 25% of the time it is a group of tween/teenagers who scream, play loud music, and graffiti the play equipment surfaces. There has been a small child on a dirt bike that rides in circles in the summers wrecking the grass. The soccer nets are used heavily in the spring. Basketball hoops used maybe 2 times per month? Horseshoe pit never used. The swing set area is lightly used until the pit area is filled with thorny weeds each year, then no one ventures in there. There is at least one or two people who throw a disc golf disc from one end of the park to the other a couple times per week in nice weather (I'm sure they might appreciate 1 or 2 disc golf "goals" to aim for). Since there is no formal parking lot for this park, families have to park on side streets or walk/bike in to reach the park. Despite the fact we live right next to the park, we did not receive this survey in the mail. Fortunately another Big Lake resident received it and informed us.	12/3/2025 3:02 PM
10	I live next to the park, so I get to see and hear what's going on most days. The playground is really well used, so it would be sad to not have anything. I think the typical ages are infant-PreK with parents and groups of 6-12 year olds on their own. Maybe you could cut costs by focusing on equipment for younger kids and a swing set for older kids? The soccer nets are used almost every day during the summer, so please keep them! There are also frisbee golf players there often. Please DON'T encourage kids to ride dirt bikes in the park by adding a track or trail loop. They are very noisy, and I've seen them nearly run into children before.	12/3/2025 2:58 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

11	Accommodation for electric scooters. The reality is that they are in common use and will only become more prevalent. They get kids outside and exploring and are a legitimate means of transportation.	12/2/2025 4:43 PM
12	What is the cost?	12/1/2025 10:14 AM
13	I feel the city isn't responsible for providing playground equipment to any development. People can buy their own equipment for their children	11/30/2025 10:24 PM
14	I do not think Big Lake needs another park, and I do not plan to pay for it.	11/30/2025 7:01 PM
15	Would like a splash pad somewhere! An ice rink would be great too.	11/30/2025 6:24 PM
16	See about ways to keep the paved trails cleaner to avoid injuries	11/30/2025 5:22 PM
17	We still see the neighborhood kids showing up at the park to throw a ball around or hang out. We know that they miss the equipment.	11/30/2025 5:00 PM
18	I don't NOT want to fund this park at all!!!! Our taxes are to high already!!!!	11/30/2025 12:05 PM
19	Stop overspending of residents hard earned tax paying dollars. Find ways to cut our city's spending	11/30/2025 8:24 AM
20	I love this park so much!!	11/28/2025 6:12 PM
21	All skaters in Big lake have to commute to other cities to support their figure skaters and hockey players.	11/27/2025 10:58 PM
22	You should have known this was going to cause upset residence.	11/27/2025 8:02 PM
23	Don't randomly take a playground away from a whole neighborhood of kids who regularly use it without replacing it! You don't live in the neighborhood and don't know how often it's used. Maybe talk to the damn people who do live in the neighborhood before you do some dumb shit like that.	11/27/2025 4:09 PM
24	The city gets plenty of tax money to budget for new equipment. You don't just tear down the old with no plan to replace it. What a joke. The city should be ashamed of itself.	11/27/2025 11:06 AM
25	More soccer nets please and basketball hoops	11/26/2025 9:36 PM
26	Dog park unless you put up crosswalks with flashing lights. Otherwise that spot sucks for a park.	11/26/2025 6:31 PM
27	Please figure out how to use the taxes the city already has for this park. I dont speak for all residents, but definitely a few, myself included, we are getting irritated with a new tax being asked of us every year. I am happy though the last few have been voted on, but I suspect the city will get its money whether we vote yes or no.	11/26/2025 5:34 PM
28	This is the dumbest thing I have seen the city do in all my years living here.	11/26/2025 5:34 PM
29	Do not replace with dog park.	11/26/2025 5:32 PM
30	It looks to be strictly a small neighborhood park with limited access.	11/26/2025 4:23 PM
31	We pay taxes out the ass. Build a new park.	11/26/2025 3:29 PM
32	There are many parks in big Lake. Some are not that far from Michell Farms Park. It would be nice to have some variety in our parks.	11/26/2025 3:16 PM
33	If we get a dog park that would be amazing and I would be willing to contribute for that.	11/26/2025 3:08 PM
34	Was very sad to see Mitchell farms playground gone when I went there with grandkids.	11/26/2025 2:30 PM
35	As a 25 year resident of Big Lake, I find these playgrounds to be very important for young families. Having raised three sons here, we utilized many of the community parks.	11/26/2025 1:55 PM
36	just make lakeside park bigger and better they are literally minutes apart. as for an ice rink just put on one either of the two lakes in town and maintain that	11/26/2025 1:44 PM
37	Do NOT raise our taxes!!! It's kind of a crap small town with high fancy city taxes already. Total rip off to live here just to be near family & friends. But every park needs kids activities...duh, no brainer.	11/26/2025 1:11 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

38	As long as the park funding isn't crazy exorbitant I am willing to vote for it. Splash pads would be nice if we had one available. (With adequate parking) Also the one park across town has the hang glider was popular with my kids having one close to home would be amazing.	11/26/2025 1:09 PM
39	Have more things to do for kids and families, a splash pad in big lake would be nice too as not all kids can swim in the lake .	11/26/2025 12:29 PM
40	To take away a park that has been there for YEARS is extremely sad. Kids in the neighborhood are there DAILY!! The kids do not attend city meetings so image how they felt to get off the bus that day and rush to their favorite spot w/ friends to see an empty lot of dirt - their playground GONE!!! If we want kids to be outside and not on screens, they need a place to go! Extremely disappointing that it even has to have gone this far as a new park would be a no brainer - our neighborhood/community children deserve a replacement park of some sort!!! With some struggling for basic needs let alone extra 'fun', these kids need a place to play FREE of charge, for some this may be their only 'fun' thing to look forward to!	11/26/2025 12:16 PM
41	Personally I've never seen a kid at this park. My kids and their friends don't play there due to the little kids peeing on everything. I'd like to see this park turn into a dog park	11/26/2025 12:10 PM
42	We pay enough taxes. All these parks and trails should be maintained...	11/26/2025 12:04 PM
43	Need to add access to play sports. Baseball field and basketball courts	11/26/2025 11:43 AM
44	No	11/25/2025 11:14 PM
45	I have lived in Big Lake since 1977, does the park have another name or be specific as to the location. I couldn't tell you where it is.	11/25/2025 8:39 PM
46	Who gives a shit about your park	11/25/2025 7:45 PM
47	I understood that playgrounds were required in developments. Has there been a change to that stipulation. I presume that the equipment was unsafe or that the local area development wanted something else there. // There are several area playgrounds that I routinely took my grandchildren to during good weather. As far as suggestions I have seen a large, enclosed building set up for skate boarding and sections for a playground (think huge barn) however, personnel were required during daylight hours so fights, drugs, and other improper things didn't take place.	11/25/2025 6:16 PM
48	Yes, how about make handicapped accessible as well. No wood chips, you need the rubber ground and things for wheelchair bound kids. Sensory	11/25/2025 5:04 PM
49	Taxes have doubled since I moved here in 2003. The larger the town grows the more my neighbors and I dislike it.	11/25/2025 4:06 PM
50	should have never taken the park down in the first place.	11/24/2025 8:43 PM
51	It's about time the council asked the residents their opinion about our city, the parks, SIDEWALKS, and areas in our city. The council is supposed to be the voice of the people, NOT the Dictator of the city.	11/24/2025 6:13 PM
52	It does seem like we have numerous parks in Big Lake for a city of this size.	11/24/2025 3:00 PM
53	A survey or notice at the very least would have been better BEFORE the playground was taken down. I was there 3 weeks beforehand and the only thing wrong with the park was the picnic table needing refinishing.	11/23/2025 4:25 PM
54	I'm curious about question nine as why it's asking for me to fund on top of what I normally am paying for taxes in my town. I was also concerned with how sudden it was gone. If it was a safety concern, I understand it being removed but why was there nothing at the park posting that it was a safety concern? it's not like it was deemed hazardous and removed that same day. For me, it makes it seem suspicious. Why the mayor removed it in the first place without telling us, and then on top of that, not wanting to replace it or even get an estimate to tell us what it would cost. From what I'm understanding, the park originally planned to put here the council determined to relocate, leaving kids in this area without an option. And because you chose to relocate this playground set. These kids will only be in this age group for a short time. It seems wrong to make them have to wait multiple years for a new playground when the funds have been collected and should have been allocated to replace existing equipment rather than trying to expand a different park.	11/23/2025 3:29 PM
55	The Playground at the beach is also very important to us, as well as the one on County road	11/23/2025 12:49 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

	73. Thank you for your kind consideration.	
56	Cancel the new city hall and use the funds to upgrade all the parks in Big Lake	11/23/2025 9:19 AM
57	I hope that the park can be replaced equal or better to what was originally there.	11/22/2025 9:07 PM
58	This playground was used a lot by me and the neighborhood kids. We should make some ADA friendly as well.	11/22/2025 8:56 PM
59	These local neighborhood parks are a huge reason we chose to move here years ago. Kids use them constantly.	11/22/2025 5:06 PM
60	FYI, the thistles were terrible around the swing-set area. We loved the big yellow toddler swing that was shaped like an egg!!! Anything that resembles what was already there would be lovely! Thank you for listening!	11/22/2025 11:56 AM
61	Quit wasting money and deliver on the promise of a park being there with equipment.	11/22/2025 7:16 AM
62	Install a camera and make it known.	11/22/2025 5:54 AM
63	Add Natural Butterfly attracting plants ex: Milkweed. Bench's for reading, make playground area shaded or shaded spots. Porta potty present. Free Little Library	11/22/2025 3:06 AM
64	Really think it's a big thing to keep parks in the town & updated safety stuff. Also give something for bigger kids to do. Instead of finding trouble.	11/21/2025 11:16 PM
65	Bring my younger siblings here all the time to play with friends and let them run around and have fun. It's either play at the park or sit at home on the tablets. Being outside is way better! Bring back our park!	11/21/2025 10:10 PM
66	When it comes to playground equipment, I would love to see baby/toddler swings. There are none of these in this location of big lake. And I have to drive to the park near where cambo flare was or monticello to have access to these swings. Families have children of all ages and there should be something geared to the younger children too.	11/21/2025 9:40 PM
67	Quit tearing down all parks that keep kiddos out of trouble, I understand that vandalism happens but not everything needs to be torn down all at once and make your citizens feel like they have to go to other towns to enjoy a place where kids can play in nature.	11/21/2025 8:43 PM
68	Where is all the money going? Why isn't maintenance being done to prevent complete failure?	11/21/2025 8:26 PM
69	Our kids love going to all the different parks in Big Lake!	11/21/2025 6:53 PM
70	Mitchell farms park should be replaced equal or better. A dog park wouldn't make sense because it's right next to other houses and the chaos between dogs would be overwhelming. Nobody's going to go to a natural park.	11/21/2025 6:49 PM
71	I hope we can have a playground that is equal or better than what we had originally.	11/21/2025 6:44 PM
72	My kids were VERY upset the park is gone and I 100% support putting one back in. There are a ton of families within a mile of the park with young kids.	11/21/2025 6:34 PM
73	Rock wall, zip line, swings are top pick items at a park. Also would be nice for a few picnic benches, and a tree or two	11/21/2025 6:04 PM
74	Hoping for a splash pad and handicap accessible park!	11/21/2025 5:55 PM
75	I do not currently use this park as my kids are adults now. But we have lived just down the block from this park their whole life. We used this park daily when they were young. Sad that the families in this neighborhood could potentially not have this.	11/21/2025 5:50 PM
76	My kids live going to the park in our development. Stupid idea to remove it when we have so many younger children here. They all love playing at the park with their friends. Please bring it back!	11/21/2025 5:40 PM
77	If they will be replacing the playground equipment. Having shade structures is also very important to me.	11/21/2025 5:02 PM
78	We need our park back for the kids.	11/21/2025 2:52 PM
79	we need a couple nice ball fields in our community. the school is holding our fields hostage and we need more available for our kids to use.	11/21/2025 2:44 PM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

80	This is a small park but is the only one in this part of the neighborhood. Kids need a safe place to play outside. This park has been well loved and used.	11/21/2025 2:19 PM
81	Love the bike track idea. We are very sad the skate park is gone and have no where to ride our BMX or mountain bikes together. However just a playset would be awesome for the little ones. Thanks big lake!	11/21/2025 1:54 PM
82	We are still very disappointed that there is no talk of replacing the skate park!! Big Lake prides themselves on their parks and trail systems. Removing structures doesn't make sense in the midst of all the current and growing neighborhoods we have. How about a splash park?!?! Dreaming I know, but It would be great if we could have a City Dog Park since the current space at Lions Park is not a priority of the township at all. It's embarrassing compared to all the neighboring town dog parks. I'm sure there are grants and other things that could be re-prioritized to make these improvements happen. Thank you for taking these ideas into consideration!	11/21/2025 1:39 PM
83	We utilize many of the parks and playgrounds in the area. If there was something set up to donate to so a playground would be put in/help in the future, id be more than happy to contribute	11/21/2025 1:03 PM
84	Thank you for caring! Love all our parks.	11/21/2025 1:00 PM
85	Im all for improving the local community but put the money towards school referendums that we can't pass, or improve big lake back that everyone pays an ungodly amount of money to park the truck and trailers there, have seen no upgrades to that park, only took away the skate park. There are plenty of other parks in the area.	11/21/2025 11:52 AM
86	Wrights crossing park has had broken playground equipment for 3+ years. That park needs to be redone. I live 3 houses down from it and go to it every day with my kids in the summer.	11/21/2025 11:44 AM
87	We have lots of kids in this development that play at this park. It needs to be replaced and soon. These kids miss it. We have 9 kids between 3 houses that played here daily when the weather is nice.	11/21/2025 11:40 AM
88	We moved in to Mitchell Farms over 5 years ago and were very excited that there was a park a few houses away that we could take our granddaughter to. Now I have another granddaughter and we went there several times with them and their moms, my daughters. My granddaughter was very sad when it was taken down with no notice, and so were many others!	11/21/2025 11:37 AM
89	I'm curious if residents near the other parks that are going to be replaced have been asked to fund the parks in their neighborhoods??? If funding is needed to replace all the parks, that should be distributed among all the residents equally.	11/21/2025 11:11 AM
90	Our city is lacking the funding and resources needed to truly invest in our youth. This community has so much potential, yet time and again opportunities for our kids are taken away or denied, while other initiatives slip through without question. I believe it's time we prioritize our future not just your wallets. I fully support raising taxes and dedicating funding to amenities that strengthen opportunities for our youth, because investing in them is investing in the long-term health and success of our city.	11/21/2025 11:06 AM
91	I have lived near this park for 25 years and was very sad it was removed. I can see the park from my house and I know it is heavily used by children in this neighborhood. I'm sure they are all very sad that the park is gone. I served on the park committee in the early 2000s and they did a great job of establishing a fantastic park system for our community. I hope they keep it up.	11/21/2025 10:42 AM
92	I don't understand we are just going to rip down all the parks and possibly not rebuild them? Our kids need somewhere to play. Maybe don't make a new city council that none of us want and build awesome parks for our children.	11/21/2025 10:34 AM
93	Please start building the parks that we vote for and also continue to funding for repairs to the parks. It's the biggest black eye that even baseball fields and etc are unplayable. Also make these sports facilities playable for the associations to use.	11/21/2025 10:25 AM
94	I really hope it gets figured out before next summer. The kids in our development were beyond crushed. Many came home from school in tears after seeing it tore down while riding on the school bus. My son told me that so many kids on the bus were crying and so sad about it.	11/21/2025 10:14 AM
95	Buy it now! Must get a discount when you are buying for several playgrounds and the cost will	11/21/2025 10:12 AM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

	only go up !	
96	The neighborhood needs a park. My kids are older and don't use it much but have used it a ton over the past years. It would be very sad for other kids to not have that opportunity.	11/21/2025 10:05 AM
97	Build nice icerinks there to replace the crap ones the city doesn't maintain	11/21/2025 10:05 AM
98	This park specifically is tucked into the backyards of several neighboring properties. Dog park would bring issues with more barking, fleas, and poop smell. Bike park would be bad as we have neighborhood kids with motorized bikes and 4 wheelers that would be tearing up the park. Concrete tube like snuffy's is asking for a cracked skull... There are daycares and many children who utilized the previous equipment heavily, so that makes the most sense.	11/21/2025 9:55 AM
99	It is a designated park so should be maintained. If nit - stop taking park fees.	11/21/2025 9:44 AM
100	Some equipment for younger kids, around a year, with small obstacles to climb or slide down. Baby swings. Benches/ stroller stations. No wood chips as they cause slivers and poke when they get into shoes	11/21/2025 9:31 AM
101	Funding should be included with the taxes we already pay, not to mention the money that is set aside in the designated fund as well as money that is collected for the parks dedication fee form developers. We pay taxes to pay up keep and upkeep should be done at not extra expenses.	11/21/2025 9:00 AM
102	I really enjoy the bike trails/sidewalks around town for running and biking. I would like to have free parking at lakeside park, metered parking deters a lot of local users. Would be great to see more youth programming using our park spaces.	11/21/2025 8:52 AM
103	We Loved this park. It was my son's favorite park and we were there daily (if not multiple times a day). It is within walking distance of our home and just ideal. My son was very sad to see the old park go but hopefully it will be replaced.	11/21/2025 8:49 AM
104	Take a trip to west bridge monti park big and made for multiple age groups Zip line	11/21/2025 8:40 AM
105	I would suggest long term budgets for replacing worn and aging equipment. These playgrounds don't become unsafe overnight, I realize they have a life expectancy but during that time there should be a plan/budget in place so that 15year down the road when they need replacement funds are available. Instead now we keep ripping playgrounds out with no plans or budget to replace. Someone is not doing their job.	11/21/2025 8:30 AM
106	Just hope yall replace these playgrounds. Its bad enough kids dont have much to do other then being on their tablets and stuff. Taking away these places just adds to that.	11/21/2025 8:29 AM
107	I would like money be spent on connecting bike trails around the city.	11/21/2025 8:11 AM
108	Not even putting playground as an option in what do you do at the park is ridiculous and completely leading question. This survey design is absolutely horrible and follows no survey standards. The city needs to be accountable and fix the mistake they made instead of putting it on the residents.	11/21/2025 7:53 AM
109	This park is a huge part of our neighborhood— I can't stress enough how valuable it is to the children in our neighborhood.	11/21/2025 7:43 AM
110	There are many playgrounds on this side of the city, one of which is only 4 blocks from Mitchell Farms.	11/21/2025 7:42 AM
111	perhaps a better research option than too late surveys and "thinking" nobody uses the equipment. a great way to show the community that you don't live in it, and if you do, you don't pay enough attention as council members.	11/21/2025 7:37 AM
112	Fence around the park for those that have children that have special needs and elope	11/21/2025 7:32 AM
113	Parks are so kids can be outside and have fun. Don't take that away and force them to be inside on a screen.	11/21/2025 7:21 AM
114	Honestly I bring my child to Monticello and Becker because they have better playgrounds. Very excited to have newer playgrounds in our own town we can go to instead	11/21/2025 7:16 AM
115	NO skate park!!!!!!!!! Put money towards splash pad.	11/21/2025 7:15 AM
116	While I don't take my kids to this park often, it's the only park within walking distance of their	11/21/2025 7:10 AM

Mitchell Farms Park Survey

dad's house. I hate to see them lose that walkability to a park.

117	I think Mitchell farms park would be a great spot for a younger child playground. There are no spaces for preschoolers and toddlers to play on equipment that is appropriate for them. Including infant swings would be great as well. Adding more than 1 picnic table. But overall, I think not taking all the parks away would be great! GET THE SKATE PARK BACK!!!! You can't complain because kids are getting into trouble when you are taking away the things they use for entertainment. We have the space and population to make the city an amazing place for all families and children, but we don't. We don't need a new city hall. That money could be spent much more wisely. I've lived here for 13 years and never set foot in the city hall. It seems like a waste of resources. Do better!	11/21/2025 7:09 AM
118	More baby swings at parks.	11/21/2025 7:07 AM
119	Pretty sure you could use the excess funds from the Parks Upgrade Grant you received. Instead of hanging onto it and maybe replacing a different park that doesn't really need it.	11/21/2025 7:07 AM
120	More playgrounds need to be friendly for younger kids, and/or not have as many openings in the rails for something like fire poles etc. platforms leading to slides or near somewhere with an opening need to be a little bigger so children have ample space to move their body into the appropriate standing or sliding position.	11/21/2025 7:06 AM



WORKSHOP ITEM

Big Lake City Council

Prepared By: <i>Public Building Planning Committee (Mayor Paul Knier & Councilmember Ken Geroux)</i>	Meeting Date: <i>3/18/2026</i>	Item No. 4D
Item Description: <i>Recommended Alternative Approach for the Current GRRL/Police Department Building Discussion</i>	Reviewed By: <i>Hanna Klimmek, City Administrator and Deb Wegeleben, Finance/HR Director</i>	
	Reviewed By: <i>Sam Olson, Chief of Police, and Marie Popp, Community Development Director</i>	

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

Discuss the Public Building Planning Committee's recommended alternative approach for the current GRRL/Police Department building and provide direction.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

At the January 21, 2026 City Council meeting, the Council approved a resolution requesting that the Great River Regional Library initiate a space needs assessment to evaluate the potential relocation of the library into the proposed Public Safety Facility.

The original recommendation to move the library into the Public Safety Facility project was predicated on the understanding that doing so would create a vacant public building that could be sold for private redevelopment, thereby expanding the City's tax base.

Since that time, the Public Building Planning Committee has revisited this direction and is requesting Council discussion on a potential alternative approach.

The Committee is now evaluating the possibility of:

- Retaining the current library building as a city asset; and
- Exploring opportunities to accommodate additional community service (non-city) organizations within that facility.

Several community service organizations have expressed a need for space within the community. If the existing library building were retained, the city could consider offering space to these organizations while maintaining ownership and long-term control of the asset.

Additionally, prior to formally engaging in a space needs assessment, library representatives indicated that the city's preliminary space programming may not adequately meet their operational needs. For planning and estimation purposes, the city included approximately 2,100 square feet of library space within the Public Safety Facility project, with an estimated construction cost of \$644,978.

Once the Police Department is relocated to the new Public Safety Facility, the vacated space could be utilized by other community organizations. Renovating and reconfiguring the existing structure may present a more cost-effective option than constructing new library space within the Public Safety Facility.

It is also important to note that the Public Safety Facility project has a defined maximum total project cost threshold that cannot be exceeded. Expanding the scope to include additional library square footage would directly impact the financial limitations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Discuss the Public Building Planning Committee's recommended alternative approach for the current GRRL/Police Department building and provide direction.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution No. 2026-05 – Requesting the GRRL to Conduct a Space Needs Assessment for the Newly Constructed Space within the Big Lake Public Safety Facility

**CITY OF BIG LAKE
MINNESOTA**

A general meeting of the City Council of the City of Big Lake, Minnesota was called to order by Mayor Paul Knier at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Big Lake, Minnesota, on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. The following Council Members were present: Ken Geroux, Ken Halverson, Paul Knier, Kim Noding, and Paul Seefeld. A motion to adopt the following resolution was made by Council Member Seefeld and seconded by Council Member Halverson.

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-05**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY TO CONDUCT A SPACE
NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SPACE WITHIN THE
BIG LAKE PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY**

WHEREAS, the City of Big Lake has invested in the construction of a new Public Safety Facility to meet current and future community needs; and

WHEREAS, the facility includes newly constructed space that may present opportunities for relocation of the Big Lake Great River Regional Library (GRRL); and

WHEREAS, the GRRL serves the residents of Big Lake and plays an important role in providing access to educational, informational, and community resources; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to thoughtfully evaluate potential uses of the newly constructed space to ensure that any future programming or services align with demonstrated community needs and responsible stewardship of public resources; and

WHEREAS, a needs assessment conducted by GRRL would provide valuable data and analysis to inform City Council decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the City Council emphasizes the importance of a needs-based approach that carefully considers operational sustainability and the impact on taxpayers.

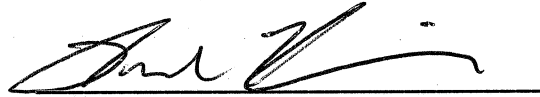
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Big Lake, Minnesota, that the City Council formally requests the Great River Regional Library to conduct a needs assessment for newly constructed space within the Big Lake Public Safety Facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests the needs assessment:

1. Be grounded in demonstrated community need and service demand; and
2. Consider potential operational, staffing, and long-term cost implications; and
3. Remain mindful of the prudent use of taxpayer dollars and overall fiscal responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the needs assessment be presented to the Public Facility Planning Committee for review and consideration by **May 1, 2026**, prior to any decisions regarding the future use of space.

Adopted by the Big Lake City Council this 21st day of January, 2026.


Paul Knier, Mayor

Attest: 
Gina Wolbeck, City Clerk

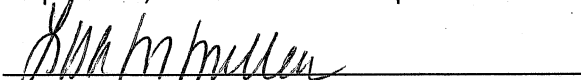
The following Council Members voted in favor: Geroux, Halverson, Knier, Noding and Seefeld.
The following Council Members voted against or abstained: None.

Whereupon the motion was duly passed and executed.

DRAFTED BY:
City of Big Lake
160 Lake Street North
Big Lake, MN 55309

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
SS.
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 21st day of January, 2026 by Paul Knier and Gina Wolbeck, the Mayor and City Clerk respectively, of the City of Big Lake, a Minnesota municipal corporation, on behalf of the corporation.


Notary Public





WORKSHOP ITEM

Big Lake City Council

Prepared By: Marie Popp, Community Development Director	Meeting Date: 3/18/2026	Item No. 4E
Item Description: Code Enforcement Procedure	Reviewed By: Hanna Klimmek, City Administrator	
	Reviewed By: N/A	

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

No Council Direction Requested. This is an update for educational purposes.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

As spring approaches and outdoor activity increases, this is a good time to remind Council and staff of our standard code enforcement procedures for planning and zoning-related items, so that when questions arise from the public, you know where to direct them.

Enforcement approach is a complaint-driven process.

Cases begin with a written complaint submitted through our online portal, email, or in person. Each complaint is reviewed and then routed to the appropriate department/staff member.

Initial Inspection — Staff conduct a site visit to verify the concern. If no violation is found, the case is closed. If a violation exists, we proceed with a mailed notice of violation.

Notice of Violation — Property owners receive written notice outlining the issue, the relevant ordinance, and a reasonable timeline for correction. Voluntary Compliance is our goal. Our priority is education and cooperation. Most cases resolve at this stage without further action.

Re-Inspection and Escalation — Staff conducts a reinspection to see if the issue has been corrected. If the issue has not been resolved, a second letter is issued with a new deadline. Following the second deadline, continued non-compliance may result in administrative citations, abatement, or referral for further action, depending on the type of violation, severity, and risk to public safety.

Complaints for items within the street right-of-way and tall grass/weeds are handled differently due to different state statutes governing the enforcement procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

No impacts

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No Council Action Needed.

ATTACHMENTS

None