

Grimes Park and Recreation Advisory Board Agenda

Grimes Community Complex
410 SE Main Street, Room 202
Grimes, Iowa 50111
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Mission Statement

The mission of Grimes City Government is to provide excellent/exceptional city services and facilities in a financially responsible and community-friendly manner through a high performing city team that result in adding value to resident's lives.

President | Ross Junge

Park Board | James Abens, April Heitland, Renee Johnson, Shane Smith

Council Liaison | Ryan Burger

Grimes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting September 25, 2024

Grimes Community Complex, 410 SE Main Street, Room 203

MEETING RULES:

Every member of the public and every Board member desiring to speak shall address the presiding officer, and upon recognition by the presiding offices, shall confine comments to the question under debate, avoiding all indecorous language and references to personalities and abiding by the following rules of civil debate.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Previous Minutes

PUBLIC FORUM

PUBLIC AND PARK BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

1. Annual Report
2. Lions Park
3. Trick or Treat Date

BOARD DISCUSSION

1. President's Report
2. City Staff Report
3. Council Liaison Update

ADJOURNMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT





DIRECTOR'S LETTER

2024 Grimes Parks and Recreation Annual Report

The Grimes Parks and Recreation Department is thrilled to present its 2024 Annual Report, highlighting the numerous achievements and successes of the past year. As we continue to strive for excellence in providing high-quality recreational opportunities, great facilities, and community events, we are proud to share our department's impact on the Grimes community.

Capital Improvements and Facility Updates

2024 was a year of significant milestones for our department, with the successful completion and operation of three major projects:

Waterworks Splash Pad: After a year of construction, our splash pad opened its gates to the public in May, offering a fun and interactive way for kids to beat the summer heat. With over 19,000 visitors during its inaugural season, this new amenity has become a staple of summer fun in Grimes.

GrimesPlex: Our state-of-the-art Multi-Sports Complex, GrimesPlex, thrived in its first year of operation. Providing practice, games, tournaments, and community recreation programs, the GrimesPlex has become the hub of community activity, hosting over 500,000 visitors in 2024.

Glenstone Multi-Golf Course: The course was completed this Spring. Course signage is currently being installed. A landscaping and maintenance plan is being developed and will be implemented this Spring.

Arts, Culture, and Special Events

Our department remained committed to enriching the Arts, Culture, and Special Events in Grimes through a variety of programs and events. In 2024, we introduced three new nature-themed programs, Urban Ecology, Wildlife Wonders, and Tree and Plant Adventures, designed to inspire an appreciation for the outdoors and nature.

In addition to these programs, our special events continued to draw large crowds and rave reviews, including Rock Around the Clock Summer Concert Series, Movies at Heritage Park, Fall Fest, and Truck or Treat.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2025, our department is committed to building on the successes of 2024. Key goals and objectives include:



* Expanding our recreational programs and services to meet the growing needs of the Grimes community

* Enhancing our arts, culture, and special events programming to promote the arts, nature, and community events

* Continuing to invest in capital improvements in our parks, trails, and facilities to ensure the highest quality of experience for our residents and visitors

We are proud of the progress we've made in 2024 and look forward to an exciting 2025!

Brian Becker

Grimes Parks and Recreation Director





STRATEGIC GROWTH

Strategic Plan Objectives

Wallace Farm Development

Phase 2 is planned to begin this Spring. It includes updates to grading, trail layout and paving, and tree planting.

Existing Trail Improvements and Maintenance Annual Funding

Autumn Park Trail resurfacing will be completed this Fall.

Lions Park

Improvements to the creek that will reduce the flood plain within the park will begin this fall. The park plan and layout are being developed and are on track to begin construction in the Spring.

GrimesPlex

After a soft opening last Fall, the GrimesPlex was in full operation beginning in March with weekday practices, and parks and recreation programming with soccer, baseball, and softball tournaments every weekend.





PROGRAM GROWTH

Recreation programs offer individuals of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to build healthy habits, socialize with other members of the community, and discover a sense of balance in their daily lives.

We strive to not only increase the number of programs offered but also to diversify our programs so that they appeal to a wide variety of interests.

From youth sports leagues that cultivate teamwork and discipline to adult fitness classes that encourage healthy lifestyles, our recreation programs have evolved to appeal to varying interests.

New Programs

Urban Ecology

Wildlife Wonders

Tree and Plant Adventure

NHL Street Hockey

Men's Softball league

Fall beginner T-Ball

Fall beginner Soccer

Increased Participation

Youth Flag Football

Youth Volleyball

Adult Sand Volleyball

Adult Slow Pitch Softball

Beginner T-Ball

Summer Adventures

Giving Garden



PROGRAM GROWTH

This year, the Parks and Recreation Department focused on increasing the number of nature-based offerings. These classes were designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests and to diversify our program offerings. This will also help kids develop a greater appreciation for the diverse animals around them. Three new nature-based classes were offered this year, including:

Tree and Plants Adventure

Campers learned to identify various species, what plants need to grow, parts of a flower, and more! Creative activities included making leaf rubbings, plant collages, and natural paintings. Kids also enjoyed fun themed games like tree tag, plant Pictionary, and a water relay race.

Wildlife Wonders

Campers embarked on an "Iowa Safari" to observe local wildlife, created pinecone bird feeders, and pollinator hotels. They also made creative projects like animal track stamps and squirrel feeders which kept them engaged.

Urban Ecology

Campers dove into the exciting world of Urban Ecology! Students found rocks and made their own art designs. Along with that, students made their own bubble art with cardstock and bubble solution with food dye in it.

Other Programs

In addition to the nature-based programs, we introduced a new league, NHL Street Hockey, and enhanced three of our current athletics programs.

NHL Street Hockey

Our Grimes NHL Street Hockey League is the first in Iowa and one of the only in the Midwest. We're creating an affordable, neighborhood-based model that gives kids everywhere an opportunity to learn and play.

Grimes Flag League (GFL) – NFL Flag

The Grimes Flag League is now an official NFL Flag League. Participants will wear officially licensed NFL Flag jerseys while playing with better gear at the GrimesPlex.

Jr. NBA & WNBA League

Our youth basketball league is now a Jr. NBA & WNBA League. Similar to flag football, participants will wear officially licensed NBA & WNBA jerseys and gear.

HWY 141 Youth Volleyball League

In 2024, we continued our partnership with Granger and Madrid while upgrading our facilities from the Grimes Community Complex to North Ridge Elementary.

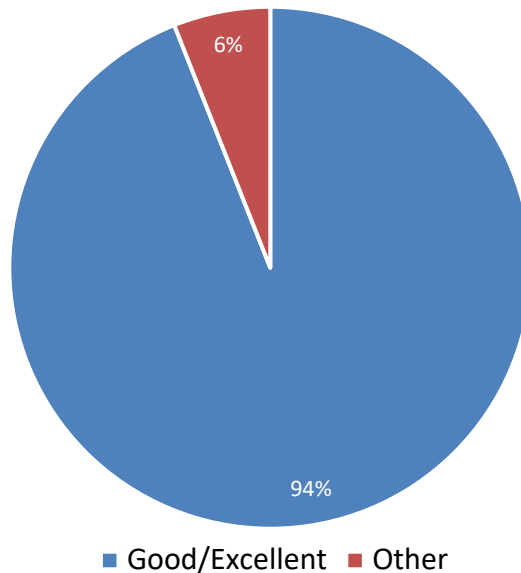


KEY OBJECTIVES

Though a large part of recreation programming is about forming teams, creating schedules, and finding volunteer coaches, it is also about meeting objectives that come from surveying what the community looks for in our programming. These objectives help plan activities that make a difference in participant's lives by creating a great overall experience. The charts below show that we are reaching our measurable objectives of providing programs that are a positive experience that our participants would recommend to others.

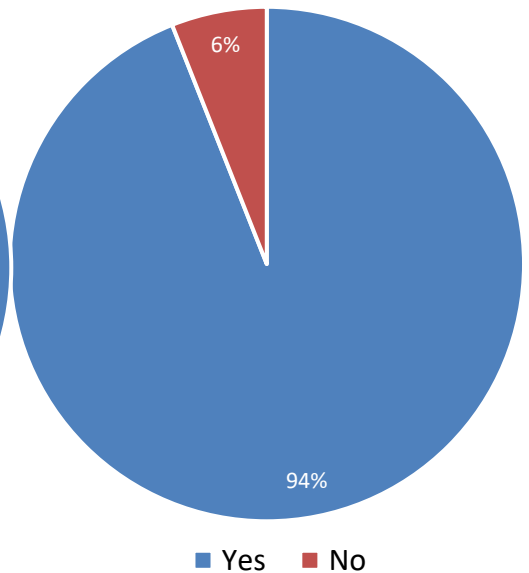
Goal: 80%
Results: 94%

Parks and Recreation
Programs Ratings: Overall
Experience

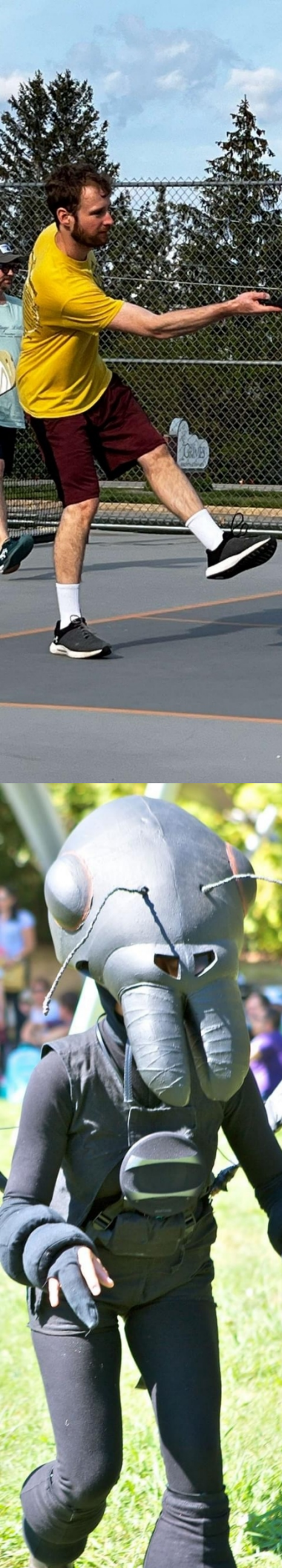


Goal: 85%
Results: 94%

Parks and Recreation Programs
Ratings: Would You
Recommend?



A small percentage of survey participants said they would like to see more competition levels in sports leagues, equal skill levels in youth teams, smaller groups during classes, improve summer camp transportation, and longer camps.



PROGRAM FEEDBACK

Emails & Positive Feedback

“Thank you for the message and heads up on the shirts. Big compliment on the new GrimesPlex. The facility is great, your map of the fields was incredibly helpful, and communication with the coach is working well.

“The new location helps keep the kiddos focused on the game which was a challenge last year at the community center with the playground within plain sight!”

“Thanks for everything you’ve done this year for the rec program! You and your team have certainly outdone previous years and while there are multiple organizations you’ve worked with this season, I feel it has gone smoothly with very few hiccups! Appreciate your hard work.”

“Thank you for all your efforts in organizing the youth programs this fall. Our boys have had really good experiences with flag football, and we are so thankful for the volleyball program. Everything seems to be running smoothly, which means there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work accomplished by you to set that up well. I especially appreciate your vision in welcoming Granger and Madrid to the volleyball league. As Madrid residents, we are excited for this possibility of continued youth volleyball instruction and league play for our girls in 3-6th grades. Thank you for your flexibility in making this happen.”

“Thanks for putting this together. The partnership with Grimes was nice to start last year, but this year has certainly elevated it. Of course, talk to Jenny up here with our Parks and Rec in Granger going forward, but I'm open to helping wherever I can with youth sports as well. Thanks again and I am excited to see our communities (and maybe even a few more) join up to put community-focused programs together in the future.”

“RAVE for “Operation Early Out”, the Wednesday after-school program hosted by Polk County Sheriff’s Department! All the little boys had a blast playing kickball with our local law enforcement today!”

Everybody was awesome! Ben was so great with his communication... Thanks for a great season!