



4646 Dakota St. SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

A message from our Mayor:

Prior Lake 'Springs' Into Action

After the deluge of late snow this winter, it's nice to see the many signs of spring popping up in Prior Lake. Our City is a wonderful place to call home because it comes to life like no other, and I always love to see residents anticipating heading out together onto our many beautiful golf courses, parks, trails and lakes to share in the wonderful quality of life we enjoy in Prior Lake.

Maybe it's the recreational history of our community, or the small-town atmosphere that brings people together this time of year.

While spring brings residents together, it also marks a time when the City continues its focus on maintaining and enhancing our lakes, parks and other natural resources for their effective use by the community. As a City, we have always been committed to getting things accomplished as a team, as partners in the preservation of the quality of life in our community and enhancing it for the enjoyment of future generations. That is the rationale for virtually all of the work we do.

This same rationale fuels the work of our Planning Commission, Lake Advisory Committee (LAC) and Park Advisory Committee (PAC). These committees, along with City staff, work together to research, study, and make recommendations to the City Council about issues surrounding development, lake usage, park facilities, recreation programs and trail systems. As a result, they play a key role in how we as a community preserve and enhance our own quality of life.

The Planning Commission will undertake a robust effort to amend the City's zoning ordinance so that it is consistent with our newly adopted 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

The zoning ordinance is a daily tool that defines how our community will develop including how many parks we have, their location and their purpose.

The LAC is considering options to assure access to the lake while protecting the property rights of those who live nearby after a 150-foot winter no parking zone proposal was rejected by the DNR. The LAC will also be placing a webcam at Watzl's Beach at Lakefront Park that will be accessible from the City's website at cityofpriorlake.com. Using it, the public and City can monitor boat slips, swimming area and lake conditions for safety and planning purposes.

The PAC is devoting a great deal of time and effort to the preparation of a Master Park Plan for City Council consideration. This plan will inventory the city's largest parks and identify what types of recreational facilities should be constructed to meet the City's 10-year needs as defined by the Parks, Athletics and Recreation (PAR) Task Force. When complete, this plan will help meet our growing recreation facility needs, both active and passive.

The PAC will also assist City staff in oversight of the construction of field lighting at the baseball/softball fields at Thomas Ryan Memorial Park. This \$550,000 project was made possible because of contributions from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Prior Lake Athletics for Youth. The addition of these lights will allow us to add multiple games each night, meeting our baseball/softball facility needs.

I am confident that the committees will effectively blend all of these wants and needs into clear and concise recommendations for our community for the future. Am certainly proud of the work they have done to this point. This time of year, residents celebrate Prior Lake by going out and enjoying our three-fold recreation system of lakes and natural areas, community parks and trails, and leisure opportunities. Through the work of our residents, volunteers, the City Council and its Planning Commission, LAC and PAC partners, this yearly spring ritual will continue for generations to come.

Mayor Jack Haugen