



City of East Grand Rapids
Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Agenda

YouTube Livestream:
<https://bit.ly/3s8WgQY>

February 23, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
(EGR Community Center – 750 Lakeside Drive)

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment by persons in attendance.
3. Report of Commissioners.
4. Minutes of the regular meeting held January 26, 2026 (enclosed – approval requested).
5. Special Event Calendar (enclosed – information only)
6. Consider request to approve Special Event Permits (enclosed – action requested)
 - a. 2026 Reeds Lake Run
 - b. 2026 Rhoades McKee Reeds Lake Triathlon
7. Middle School Athletics Registration Fee Discussion (enclosed- feedback requested)
8. Report of Director
9. Communications

* * *

The City will provide reasonable auxiliary aids for individuals requiring them for effective communication in programs and services of the City. Notice must be made to the City five (5) days prior to the program or service requesting the specific auxiliary aid.

EAST GRAND RAPIDS
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
EGR COMMUNITY CENTER
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
6:00 PM
Monday, January 26, 2026

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held in the City Commission Chambers in the East Grand Rapids Community Center.

Patrick Parkes called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Present in Person: Paul Bratt, Michelle Brown, Ryan Burdick, Lauren Jacoby, Steve Krogman, Ben Smith, Lan Le and Patrick Parkes

Absent: Larry Fisher

Also Present: Parks and Recreation Director, Derek Melville and Sara Coffey

Guests: None.

Public Comment:

None

Report of Commissioners:

Ben Smith – Is the new representative from the School Board, replacing Layla Kuhl. He is excited to be here and is excited that the school construction project will begin this year.

Paul Bratt – Participated in the Resolution Run for the first time. Traffic control should be addressed, especially during the kids' run.

Director Melville – Will make this a point of emphasis with the organization in the post event meeting.

Ryan Burdick – Applauded the DPW, EGR roads are the best around!

Lauren Jacoby, Patrick Parkes, Michelle Brown, Steve Krogman and Lan Le – Nothing.

Review of minutes:

Minutes of November 24, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION to approve: Jacoby

SUPPORT: Burdick

YES: Bratt, Brown, Burdick, Jacoby, Krogman, Le, Parkes and Smith (8)

NO: (0)

MINUTES APPROVED

Special Event Calendar – FYI

Consider request to approve Special Events Permits:

a. 2026 Gobble Wobble 5K:

Director Melville presented this Special Event request. This is the 21st annual event that uses an out and back course which starts and finishes at the Middle School. This run benefits the Kids Food Basket. This is a well-run event. Volunteers are stationed at roads and event coordinators are required to connect with residents impacted by the event.

No questions or comments.

MOTION to approve: Jacoby

SUPPORT: Bratt

YES: Bratt, Brown, Burdick, Jacoby, Krogman, Le, Parkes and Smith (8)

NO: (0)

2026 Gobble Wobble 5K Approved

b. 2026 Revive 5K

Revive and Thrive is a local non-profit that provides free meals to individuals who have certain illnesses. Through this event they are hoping to raise funds to help more people. The current Special Event policy allows 2 events (with road closures) each month, there are currently 6 events with road closures outside of Gaslight Village.

Director Melville has suggested they use the same out and back as the Reeds Lake Run and the Gobble Wobble, which starts and ends at the Community Center. Spring is very busy in EGR, with events such as soccer at Manhattan Park and the Middle School. The pools are always busy as well. Coordination between School events and Parks and Recreation to lessen the impact on the community.

Jacoby – Noted that parking and bussing can be even more of a challenge.

Burdick: Voiced concerns about lack of graphics submitted with the application. Asked how confident Director Melville is that this organization will follow through with the event.

Melville: They have had a slow start with the application. This is just the beginning stages and Director Melville is willing to work with them. They will be meeting with the Public Safety team. Efforts are being

made to help this event be successful. Residents on the racecourse will be notified by door hangers and/or postcards.

Burdick: Requested best practices regarding recycling and portable restrooms will be shared with them.

Jacoby: Asked Commissioner Burdick if he had an idea of how the residents in the racecourse felt?

Burdick: Good communication and flexibility is important; neighbors understand that road closures for races are part of the community.

Parkes: Noted that this is a first-time event.

Bratt: Stated that the date of the event is the week after the River Bank Run, so that might hurt attendance.

Parkes: How many attendees are anticipated?

Melville: The goal for their first year is 400.

Smith: Their lack of experience is noted, maybe they can get connected with the Kids Food Basket for guidance.

MOTION to approve: Brown

SUPPORT: Le

YES: Bratt, Brown, Burdick, Jacoby, Krogman, Le, Parkes and Smith (8)

NO: (0)

2026 Revive 5K Approved

Fred Bunn Trails Maintenance and Improvement Projects: The multi-use trails were added to Manhattan Park in 2023/24 in collaboration with West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance (WMMBA), where they provide maintenance and expertise to the city. This group has extensive experience and provides a high level of support. During the 2025 water main project, Manhattan Park the upper loop near Manhattan Park was disrupted. While the area was restored well, they are not trail experts. Because of this the trail needs a more detailed level of restoration by the original trail builder. The cost of the restoration will be covered by money set aside for the water main project.

Trailside enhancements, the area west of the sledding hill are on a steep grade, segments of the trail are susceptible to erosion. This area is not used as much as the outer loop, suggested amenities are rock armor for the steep slopes, which are stones covering parts of the trail to reduce washouts. Adding small jumps, basic jumps, not like a skills course and tabletops, rollers are intended to be built into the side of the trail. These can be bypassed by bikers, walkers and hikers. These amenities provide more variety of use for the trails. The contractor could do the restoration and amenities at the same time.

Brown: What is the timeline for this?

Melville: Not sure yet but hoping to get on the schedule late spring or early summer. The timeline is also dependent on the vote of the Commission. The restoration project should only take a few days. The current fix is not sustainable.

Burdick: Many invasive species were removed, which is great, but can more be removed with the trail maintenance?

Melville: There is not a specific plan of attack and will coordinate with Kent County Conservations District.

Brown: Rock armoring can get mossy, personally would like to see gritty stones be used, not smooth. The tabletop features already out there are great. The main trail should be the straight shot, and someone should veer off for any special biking experiences. Voiced concerns about jumps, young people might not use them properly.

Smith: The Interurban Trails have jumps that are on the side. Noted that quite a bit of visibility is needed.

Brown: Feels that jumps don't fit the appetite for the multi-use trails.

Parke: Asked if adding rock armoring could cause more injury from falls?

Melville: The rock armoring is intended only for the steeper areas. Injury can happen. Algae will make it slippery, clay is the same. Trails should be avoided when they are wet and slippery.

Le: Is this a win-win with WMMBA doing the improvements?

Melville: Rock armoring is a preventive measure, which might be needed in the future. WMMBA is willing to cover the cost of the extras. The restoration from the water main is being paid for by the city.

Brown: Would like to avoid any wooden features because they rot, Suggests the use of stones and natural materials.

Melville: Believes these amenities are dirt but will clarify.

Waterfront Park Phase II Grant Award: Director Melville applied for 3 DNR Grants and East Grand Rapids was awarded the biggest grant of \$500,000. The conceptual design is approximately 15 years old. A Request for Proposal "RFP" is needed for a landscape architect. Similar to the Manhattan Park construction, the architect will help coordinate and hold community engagement and collect feedback.

The former owner of the property clearcut and filled in some wetlands with the intent to build condos. The city purchased the property with a DNR Acquisition Grant and would like to return the property to what it was before.

Some areas of interest include:

- Potential parking lot expansion
- Native tree planning
- Restoring wetlands
- Construct sustainable trails and boardwalks
- Overlook decks
- Possible fishing opportunities
- Possible outdoor learning area
- Educational signage for species and wetland information
- Bike racks and trash cans

There is quite a bit of paperwork required. The DNR should send the project agreement around July. The Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy “EGLE” will need to issue a permit because wetlands are protected, before the grant is finalized. Contact has already been made with EGLE. The final design is estimated to be completed later this summer. Timeline to go out for bid is late 2026 or early 2027, which is subject to change. Hopefully 2027 will be the construction year. Parks and Recreation Commission will have approval opportunities as they arise.

Parkes: Which comes first, the architectural firm or the community engagement?

Melville: Community engagement is the first step. Based on what the community wants will determine if the EGLE permits are needed. Preliminary designs from the consultant will be obtained and EGLE will be involved in that process.

Steps:

1. Community engagement
2. Conceptual Designs redone
3. Updated wetland delineations
4. Final designs (Where are trails and wetlands located? How long are boardwalks?)

Bratt: EGLE Like to see restoration of wetlands. Congratulations on receiving this grant!

Burdick: Stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission made a hard decision to allow this grant to happen. Thank you for the hard work done here and thank you to the commission for the hard decisions.

Brown: Thank you! This was an investment to submit the application.

Melville: Our grant scored in the top 10 of all the awards this year.

Brown: Is this grant strictly Waterfront Park or is Remington Park included?

Melville: Property deeds were submitted as part of the application. This property parcel was already designated as parkland and perpetuity. The east part of the park received a grant in the past. Work cannot extend into Hodenpyl.

Brown: Could some of these grants help deal with invasive species at Waterfront Park?

Melville: A map was provided and nothing on the east side was proposed, but we can look into it.

Brown: Previously a playground at Waterfront Park was proposed, is this off the table?

Melville: It's not off the table. The playground was part of the other two grants we applied for. If the community wants a playground for younger children at that park, it could be added at the city's expense. No grant money (or match) can be used for a playground.

Smith: Is excited for the outdoor classroom, it would be the closest wetland learning area to several schools.

Report of Director:

- There is a Middle Schol basketball game this evening and a cashless option is being piloted. Fees for services such as GoFan were high, so we are using Square. This will give another, much needed, option to pay and reduces the need for cash and change.
- Parks and Recreation have been granted permission to use the gym at Woodcliff, which is great for the younger kids.
- The East Basketball Tournament was this past weekend and 3 of the teams from East won! The club was started as part of vertical alignment and has 12 teams, 5 girls and 7 boys.

Burdick: Could middle school students get in for free to games? Kids just want to see their friends play.

Melville: We can look into that.

Smith: A student's season ticket could be a shirt purchased for \$10, they could be students only and be a fun color.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm

Next Meeting: February 23, 2026

East Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation 2026 Special Event Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Participants	Approval	Closure	Ins.
3/14/26	Corewell Health Irish Jig	6:00am-11:30am	2500	9/22/25	x	
5/16/26	Revive & Thrive 5K	8:00am-12:00pm	400	1/26/26	x	
6/5-6/7/2026	EGR Fine Art Fair*	All weekend	4000	11/24/25	x	
	Reeds Lake Run	8:00am-11:30am	2500		x	
	Trailblazer Run/Walk*	8:30am-11:00am	500		x	
	Taste of East*	5:00pm - 8:30pm	2500		x	
8/2/26	EGR Gaslight Criterium	9:00am-5:00pm	200	11/24/25	x	
	Reeds Lake Triathlon	7:30am - 12:45pm	900		x	
9/25/26	East Grand Rapids MS Regatta	6:30am - 4:00pm	700	11/24/25		
	EGR Harvest & Beer Festival*	10am - 3pm	1000		x	
	Kisscross Cyclocross (Sunday)	8:00am-4:00pm	70			
11/26/26	Gobble Wobble Run	8:00am - 11:00am	1400	1/26/26	x	
	GVBA Tree Lighting*	4pm-8:30pm	1500		x	
	BCBS Resolution Run	3:30-4:45pm	800		x	
* events denoted with a * do not count towards the 8 road closures allowed each year.						
Non-Special Event Permit Applications						
<u>KDL Parties in the Park</u>		<u>TIME</u>	<u>TABLES*</u>			
		9:30am-12:00pm				
	6/16 Park Party	"	2			
	6/23 Park Party	"	6			
	6/30 Park Party	"	6			
	7/7 Park Party	"	2			
	7/14 Park Party	"	2			
	7/21 Park Party	"	2			
	7/28 Park Party	"	6			
	8/4 Park Party	"	6			
	* Grounds crew provides tables					

Print

Special Event Permit Application - Submission #16890

Date Submitted: 2/19/2026

Permit Fee

Applicant must call the Parks & Recreation Department at 616-949-1750 to pay the permit fee before the application will be processed. Your event date will not be secure until payment is received. We accept AMEX, Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Office hours are M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

This permit must be completed and submitted at least 60 days before the scheduled event. The Parks and Recreation Commission will review permit applications and are responsible for final approval.

Name of Event*

Date of Event*

Reeds Lake Run

6/27/2026

Organization Sponsoring Event*

City of East Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department

Event Start & End Time*

Event Website Address

08:00 AM

—

12:00 PM

www.eastgrmi.gov

Purpose and description of the event to be placed on City website for the general public to view.*

47th Reeds Lake Run

Event Contact Email Address*

bgranstra@eastgrmi.gov

Representative First Name*

Last Name*

Betsy

Granstra

Address1*

750 Lakeside Dr SE

City*

East Grand Rapids

State*

MI

Zip*

49506

Daytime Phone*

6169491750

Cell Phone*

616-949-1750

Email Address*

bgranstra@eastgrmi.gov

Alternative Representative First Name*

Derek

Last Name*

Melville

Daytime Phone*

6169491750

Cell Phone

111-222-3333

Email Address*

dmelville@eastgr.org

Will you have a medical service provider onsite?*

- Yes
- No

Running and other competitive events MUST have medical personnel onsite during the event.

Life EMS, University of Michigan West

Name of medical service provider?

Estimated Number of Participants*

2000

Estimated Number of Spectators*

750

Number of staff onsite during the event?*

25

Estimated Number of adult volunteers on duty?*

400

Event Location*

750 lakeside Dr SE

Describe the location of the event and/or start and finish area if it is a race.

Does this event require road closures?*

- Yes
- No

Will you require Public Safety Officer involvement for your event?*

- Yes
- No

Special Event Permit Guidelines

[Click Here](#)

1. Map or layout of the event must be submitted before the application will be considered for approval.

Highlight the course, route or location of the event on a map and upload using the link below.

File Upload

No file chosen

2. All runs must have a lead and trail vehicle. Lead vehicle must have roof top signal with lights and a trail vehicle behind last participant.

3. All events requiring road closures must alert residents along the route or race course at least one week in advance of the event.

The information can be conveyed by going door to door, mailer, postcard, flier etc... The information should include name of event, contact person, date, start and end time, location, course map and a short description of the event. A copy of the information must be submitted to the Parks & Recreation Department for our records.

3. Applicant must submit proof of insurance in the following amounts at least 10 days prior to the event:

Automobile public liability and property damage for owner and non-owner vehicles in the amount of (\$300,000) per occurrence for personal injury and (\$500,000) per occurrence for property damage. b. Public liability insurance with a minimum combined single limit of personal injury and property damage liability coverage: (\$1,000,000). c. All insurance must name the City of East Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids Public Schools as an additional insured.

4. The permit holder shall agree to clean the route or event site of any litter and trash caused by the event. If the permit holder fails or refuses to properly clean the site or course, thus requiring City Staff to perform further clean up; additional charges will be billed to the permit holder for services.

5. If additional Public Safety or E-Unit personnel have to be called in to cover the event, charges will be billed to the permit holder for these services.

6. If additional equipment or services are requested from one of the City Departments, a separate charge will be billed to the organizer. Permit holder should contact the specific department for individual department charges.

Items may include barricades, road closed signs, cones, etc...

7. When submitting a Special Event Permit application, a fee of \$250 payable to the City of East Grand Rapids, must be paid before your date will be secured and your request placed on the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda. In the event this application is not approved the permit fee will NOT be refunded.

8. A disclaimer statement is required on your registration/application form. Releasing the City of East Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids Public Schools from all liability. Either by special reference to the City of East Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids Public Schools or by a general disclaimer statement that would exclude the City as a host organization. A copy of your registration/application form, which contains the disclaimer statement, must be provided at least 10 days prior to your event.

Agreement*

Signature Box

Permit applicant hereby releases the City of East Grand Rapids, its officers, agents, and employees from all liability and waives any and all rights and claims for any and all injuries or damage to person or property, possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases including but not limited to MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19 and accidents which may occur as a result of the use of City facilities. While particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of injury, serious illness and death does exist. In addition, applicant agrees to indemnify the city, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, judgments, losses, damages, demands, and legal proceedings arising out of or resulting from the use of City facilities. I understand that all information submitted to the City of East Grand Rapids is considered public information and subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. I, as the permit applicant, have read and agree to the above regulations and the Special Event Permit Guidelines. I understand that all information submitted to the City of East Grand Rapids is considered public information and subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. The City of East Grand Rapids reserves the right to cancel Special Events due to weather, unforeseen conditions or other valid reasons including COVID-19 Executive Order restrictions. Permit holders would be notified promptly if issues arise concerning the event.

Date Application Received

2/19/2026

Reviewed By

Derek Melville

Date Reviewed

2/19/2026

Permit Approval

- Approved
- Denied
- Pending

Approved By

Date Action Taken

mm/dd/yyyy

Reason

Comments

Copies sent to

- City Manager
- Public Safety

Items

- Permit Fee Paid
- Permit Fee Waived
- Insurance Received
- Confirmation Letter Sent
- Map Submitted or Verified
- Calendar Listing

Print

Special Event Permit Application - Submission #16891

Date Submitted: 2/19/2026

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Name of Event*

Date of Event*

Rhoades McKee Reeds Lake Triathlon

9/12/2026

Organization Sponsoring Event*

City of East Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department

Event Start & End Time*

08:00 AM

—

12:00 PM

Event Website Address

eastgrmi.gov

Purpose and description of the event to be placed on City website for the general public to view.*

72nd Rhoades McKee Reeds Lake Triathlon

Event Contact Email Address*

bgranstra@eastgrmi.gov

Representative First Name*

Betsy

Last Name*

Granstra

Address1*

750 lakeside Dr SE

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CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

750 LAKESIDE DRIVE SE • EAST GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506
(616) 949-2110 www.eastgrmi.gov

DEREK MELVILLE
PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission
FROM: Derek Melville, Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: February 19, 2026

RE: Middle School Athletics Registration Fee Options

Background

Since the City fully assumed management of the Middle School Athletic program in 2011, registration fees for each program have been based on the actual cost to operate the program from the previous year, inclusive of coaching stipends, equipment and officials' fees, etc. Setting fees based on actual participation numbers has resulted in some sports having a lower registration fee as compared to others, and at times the same sport for the opposite gender could have a different cost based on participation levels for that specific program.

In recent years, the City and East Grand Rapids Public Schools have engaged in intentional vertical alignment efforts to better connect middle school athletics with high school programs in philosophy, structure, and overall student-athlete experience. At the high school level, school-funded athletic programs operate under a set participation fee, regardless of sport, while non-school-funded or club-based programs charge higher participation fees that more directly reflect the full cost of operating those programs independently.

A main factor in the cost of athletic programs is the seasonal stipend for our coaches. City staff recently conducted a Middle School coaching salary study that indicated an increase in pay is suggested for our coaching staff. Current seasonal coaching stipend rates range from \$1,000 to \$1,800 depending on the length of season and time required to manage each respective program, which factors out to roughly \$12-\$15/hour. A review of nearby school districts indicates that our stipend rates are below the local average for Middle School Coaches.

School District	Middle School Coaching Stipend Range
East Grand Rapids	\$1,000 – \$1,800
Byron Center	\$2,500 – \$3,500 (based on sport & years of service)
Forest Hills	\$2,100 – \$3,200 (based on sport & years of service)
Kelloggsville	\$1,300 – \$3,500 (based on sport & years of service)

To remain competitive and attract high-quality candidates, the range for Middle School coaching stipends are recommended to increase from \$1,000–\$1,800 to \$2,000–\$2,800 for all middle school sports.

This increase would bring the stipend more in line with other districts' pay and is closer to the compensation for our hourly program instructors. Middle School Athletics records indicate that coaching stipends have not been adjusted since at least 2000.

As middle school sports continue to align more closely with the high school athletic model, combined with the recommended increase in coaching stipends, staff believe it is appropriate to evaluate whether a flat rate pricing philosophy should be considered at the Middle School level, or if the existing fee model should continue.

The two pricing options outlined below reflect different approaches to cost-sharing and program funding within this evolving vertical alignment framework. Each option includes a \$32,300 "Admin/AD Fees" column which is a cost recovery line to help offset the administrative costs (credit card fees and registration software fees, a portion of the MS Athletic Director salary, etc.) of running the program which we implement for all Parks and Recreation programs.

Option 1: Fees Based on Actual Operating Costs (Current Format)

Under Option 2, registration fees would be calculated individually for each sport and gender based on the actual cost to operate that specific program, divided by anticipated participation.

Key Considerations:

- Fees would vary by sport and by gender where costs differ.
- Sports with higher participation and lower operating costs could have registration fees as low as approximately \$144.
- Sports with higher costs or lower participation could have fees upwards of \$500.

Potential Benefits:

- **Cost transparency:** Fees directly reflect the true operational cost of each sport.
- **Financial accuracy:** Each program is largely self-sustaining without cross-subsidization.
- **Lower fees for some participants:** Families in high-participation, lower-cost sports benefit from reduced registration costs.

Potential Challenges:

- **Significant fee variation:** Wide differences in registration fees across sports may raise equity and access concerns.
- **Participation barriers:** Higher-cost sports may experience reduced enrollment due to increased fees. Some of these sports are already experiencing lower participation, so increased fees may further reduce enrollment or eliminate teams or programs entirely.
- **Administrative complexity:** Variable pricing requires more detailed communication and financial oversight.
- **Perception considerations:** Differences in fees between boys' and girls' programs, even when cost-based, may require careful explanation.

Option 2: Flat Registration Fee Across All Sports Teams

Under Option 2, the registration fee for all 2026-2027 middle school sports would be set at a uniform rate of \$250 per participant, regardless of sport or gender. A flat rate of \$250 per participant would cover all program including the "Admin/AD Fees" as outlined earlier in the memo.

Key Considerations:

- All middle school sports would carry the same registration fee.
- Boys' and girls' programs would be priced equally.
- Fees would not fluctuate based on participation levels or sport-specific operating costs.

Potential Benefits:

- **Alignment with high school athletics:** A flat \$250 registration fee would mirror the pricing structure used for High School-funded high school sports, reinforcing the City’s vertical alignment efforts and creating consistency for families as students’ progress through programs.
- **Simplicity and predictability:** Families would clearly understand costs without needing to compare fees across sports.
- **Perceived equity:** All student-athletes are charged the same fee regardless of sport selection.
- **Administrative efficiency:** A single price point simplifies registration, budgeting, and communication.
- **Cost stability across programs:** Higher-cost or lower-participation sports are supported by lower-cost, higher-participation sports.

Potential Challenges:

- Families participating in lower-cost sports may perceive the fee as higher than the actual cost to operate that program.
- Programs with higher participation may subsidize sports with higher operational costs or lower enrollment.

Attached to this memo are two separate budget summaries, one for each option described above that illustrate the impact of continuing our current methodology for setting annual participation fees as outlined in Option 1 or moving each sport to a flat rate model as shown in Option 2. The chart below is a comparison of 2025-2026 school year registration fees for each sport and the corresponding registration fee associated with pursuing either Option 1 or Option 2 as outlined in this memo.

Fee Comparison	2025 Actual	2026 Option 1	2026 Option 2
Interscholastic Sports	Reg. Fee	Reg. Fee	Reg. Fee
Spring Coed Track (6-8)	160.00	144.00	250.00
Spring Coed Water Polo (6-8)	200.00	387.00	250.00
Spring Girls Soccer	120.00	360.00	250.00
Spring Girls Tennis (6-8)	140.00	221.00	250.00
Winter 2 Girls Basketball	202.00	315.00	250.00
Winter 2 Boys Swim/Dive (6-8)	217.00	530.00	250.00
Winter 1 Boys Basketball	195.00	287.00	250.00
Winter 1 Girls Swim/Dive (6-8)	187.00	253.00	250.00
Fall Boys Soccer	120.00	360.00	250.00
Fall Boys Tennis (6-8)	140.00	197.00	250.00
Fall Coed Cross Country (6-8)	111.00	162.00	250.00
Fall Girls Volleyball	218.00	313.00	250.00

City staff are seeking feedback from the Parks & Recreation Commission on the following questions:

- Which pricing approach best aligns with the City’s goals for equity, access, and participation in middle school athletics?
- How should the City weigh vertical alignment with high school athletics against cost transparency and sport-specific pricing?
- Are there concerns about participation or accessibility under either model?

The Middle School 2026-2027 budget development can advance prior to this discussion being settled, and guidance will help inform next steps and ensure that any future registration fee structure supports both the City's values and the long-term sustainability of middle school athletic programs.

Option 1: Registration fee based on operating costs of each program

<u>Interscholastic Sports</u>		Fees	Participation	Revenue-registrations	Revenue- Gate Fee and rentals	Expenses	Admin/AD Fees	Revenue breakdown per sport
Spring Coed Track	(6-8)	\$ 144.00	80	\$ 11,520.00		\$ 8,781.00	\$ 2,692.40	\$ 46.60
Spring Coed Water Polo	(6-8)	\$ 387.00	15	\$ 5,805.00		\$ 3,097.70	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 15.70
Spring Girls Soccer	(7-8)	\$ 360.00	19	\$ 6,840.00		\$ 4,135.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 13.40
Spring Girls Tennis	(6-8)	\$ 221.00	35	\$ 7,735.00		\$ 5,019.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 24.40
Winter 2 Girls Basketball	(7-8)	\$ 315.00	40	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 11,064.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 44.40
Winter 2 Boys Swim/Dive	(6-8)	\$ 530.00	20	\$ 10,600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 8,488.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 20.40
Winter 1 Boys Basketball	(7-8)	\$ 287.00	48	\$ 13,776.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 14,049.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 35.40
Winter 1 Girls Swim/Dive	(6-8)	\$ 253.00	53	\$ 13,409.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 11,296.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 21.40
Fall Boys Soccer	(7-8)	\$ 360.00	19	\$ 6,840.00		\$ 4,135.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 13.40
Fall Boys Tennis	(6-8)	\$ 197.00	38	\$ 7,486.00		\$ 4,789.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 5.40
Fall Coed Cross Country	(6-8)	\$ 162.00	80	\$ 12,960.00		\$ 10,189.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 79.40
Fall Girls Volleyball	(7-8)	\$ 313.00	48	\$ 15,024.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 14,290.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 42.40

495	MHSAA CPR Head Coaches \$32.79 budget for 6 a year	\$ 196.44
	WMMSC League Dues	\$ 400.00

\$ 124,595.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 99,929.14	\$ 32,300.00	Total net revenue
				\$ 362.30

$32,300.00/12 = 2,691.60$

Option 2: Flat Registration fee

<u>Interscholastic Sports</u>		Fees	Participation	Revenue-registrations	Revenue- Gate Fee and rentals	Expenses	Admin/AD Fees	Revenue breakdown per sport
Spring Coed Track	(6-8)	\$ 250.00	80	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 8,681.00	\$ 2,692.40	\$ 8,626.60
Spring Coed Water Polo	(6-8)	\$ 250.00	15	\$ 3,750.00		\$ 3,097.70	\$ 2,691.60	\$ (2,039.30)
Spring Girls Soccer	(7-8)	\$ 250.00	19	\$ 4,750.00		\$ 4,135.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ (2,076.60)
Spring Girls Tennis	(6-8)	\$ 250.00	35	\$ 8,750.00		\$ 5,019.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 1,039.40
Winter 2 Girls Basketball	(7-8)	\$ 250.00	40	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 11,064.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ (2,555.60)
Winter 2 Boys Swim/Dive	(6-8)	\$ 250.00	20	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 8,488.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ (5,579.60)
Winter 1 Boys Basketball	(7-8)	\$ 250.00	48	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 14,049.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ (1,740.60)
Winter 1 Girls Swim/Dive	(6-8)	\$ 250.00	53	\$ 13,250.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 11,296.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ (137.60)
Fall Boys Soccer	(7-8)	\$ 250.00	19	\$ 4,750.00		\$ 4,135.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ (2,076.60)
Fall Boys Tennis	(6-8)	\$ 250.00	38	\$ 9,500.00		\$ 4,789.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 2,019.40
Fall Coed Cross Country	(6-8)	\$ 250.00	80	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 10,189.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ 7,119.40
Fall Girls Volleyball	(7-8)	\$ 250.00	48	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 14,290.00	\$ 2,691.60	\$ (2,981.60)

495	MHSAA CPR Head Coaches \$32.79 budget for 6 a year		
	WMMSC League Dues		\$ 196.44
			\$ 400.00

\$ 123,750.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 99,829.14	\$ 32,300.00	Total net revenue
				\$ (382.70)

32,300.00/12 =2,691.60



CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

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DEREK MELVILLE
PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Commissioners
FROM: Derek Melville, Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: February 19, 2026

RE: Director's Report

Dog Park Lighting

The DPW team recently installed motion activated LED lighting at the Dog Park in both the small and large dog areas to enhance viewing and safety, especially in the months with early sunset times.



East Basketball Night @ GR Gold

The Grand Rapids Gold Basketball team has partnered with area entities to host a youth sports night at their February 21st home game at 7pm at the Van Andel Arena and the East Basketball program is participating. The event includes a free youth ticket with every adult ticket purchased and other fun events and discounts. <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Westmichigan78>

Middle School Basketball

Earlier this month the EGRPS middle school girls' basketball teams had the opportunity to attend the girls Varsity game as a team, which includes a pre-game pizza party and conversation with Head Coach Hengesback and the Varsity players, an initiative that was added this year to assist with vertical alignment efforts.

2026 Pavilion Rental Season

Each year the pavilion at Manhattan Park and the three elementary schools become available for reservation for the upcoming season on a first-come, first-served basis, on February 1st at 9am. Reservation requests are processed on the following business day, in the order in which they are received. The link to the pavilion rental portion of the website can be found here:

<https://www.eastgrmi.gov/166/Pavilion-Rental>. For the 2026 season we've already processed 20 pavilion rentals with new inquiries coming in daily.

Waterfront Park Improvement Project

Staff have issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the Waterfront Park Improvement project to solicit proposals from qualified Landscape Architect firms. The requested proposals include community engagement requirements, conceptual design refinement, final design work and construction oversight. Proposals are due February 26th and staff will review them and provide a recommendation to the City Commission of the selected consultant.