

# ARDEN HILLS

## notes

The Official City Newsletter for Arden Hills Residents

June 2015

### Plans outlined for restoration of Middle Rice Creek and Long Lake

by Jessica Bromelkamp, Rice Creek Watershed District

The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) was awarded a Clean Water Fund Grant from the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, in the amount of \$3,000,000, to complete a series of projects designed to clean up Long Lake. One of these projects, the Middle Rice Creek Meander Restoration Project, is currently in the design phase. Nearly 2,000 feet of new stream will be created as a result of this project.

Middle Rice Creek is located between Baldwin Lake in Circle Pines and Long Lake in New Brighton. The segment of Rice Creek between County Road I and I-35W in Arden Hills—formerly part of the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant, and currently being redeveloped as Rice Creek Commons—is being targeted as a restoration area. Additional restoration and stabilization work may occur on up-or-downstream segments, depending on budget. It is also worth noting that a similar project was successfully completed by the RCWD just north of this area in Shoreview.

Middle Rice Creek has been altered dramatically over the years. The creek was straightened in the early 1900s, presumably for agricultural purposes, and since that time, development has begun crowding the stream. The two photos at right show Middle Rice Creek before and after it was straightened. You can see the natural winding path of the stream in the 1938 image. Before being straightened, Rice Creek had many twists and turns which kept water moving slowly. Slower moving water means less erosion of the stream bank and bed.

The goals of this project are first to restore a more natural, meandering path, and then to stabilize stream banks with native plants and trees. Past studies and experience have shown that these steps will lead to improved habitat for aquatic life in Middle Rice Creek.

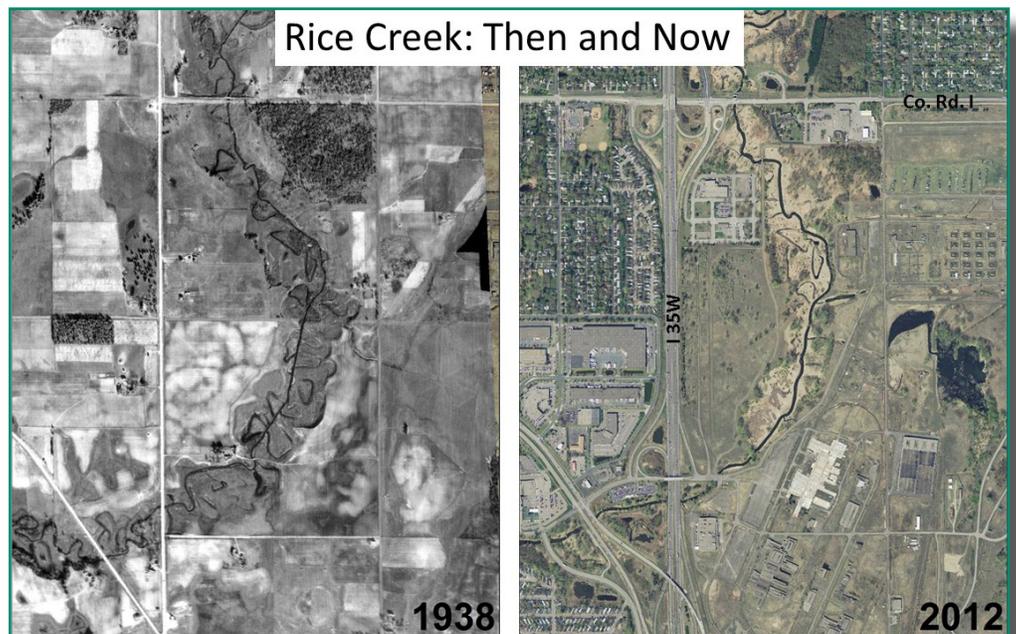
Middle Rice Creek flows into Long Lake, and estimates suggest that about 107 tons of sediment are washing into the lake each year as a result of erosion. As sediment moves downstream, it carries phosphorous with it. Phosphorous fuels algae growth, which, in high amounts, gives lakes an unpleasant green color and smell during the heat of summer. Recreation, aesthetics, and habitat are all expected to improve in Rice Creek and Long Lake as a result of this project.

Construction of the new channel is expected to occur in the winter of 2015-2016.

Once complete, the new channel will be offline (or without water) for one year to allow plants to become established. In the winter of 2016-2017, the old channel will be filled, and water will begin flowing through the new channel. The new channel will provide deep, slow-moving pools and shallow riffles for aquatic life to thrive.

The RCWD is working closely with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation staff to keep residents informed about the project. Short and long-term signage will be posted at key trail entrances, and a canoe trip is planned in partnership with Friends of the Mississippi River once the project has been completed.

Please visit RCWD's website ([www.ricecreek.org](http://www.ricecreek.org)) or consider following us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ricecreekwd>) to monitor progress on this and other exciting projects.



## Arden Hills Service Directory

1245 West Highway 96  
Arden Hills, MN 55112-5734

Summer Office Hours  
Monday through Thursday  
7:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Friday  
7:30-11:30 a.m.  
City Contact Information  
651-792-7800  
[www.cityofardenhills.org](http://www.cityofardenhills.org)

Sheriff and Fire  
911

Water and Sewer Problems  
(During non-business hours)  
651-767-0640

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Council meetings are held at City Hall on the second and last Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Meetings are televised live on Cable Channel 16. Meetings of the Planning Commission are televised as well. Visit [www.cityofardenhills.org](http://www.cityofardenhills.org) for information about taped meeting playbacks.

Arden Hills Notes is the official newsletter of the City of Arden Hills, an equal-opportunity employer.

## City Park Profiles--a series

### Perry Park

3700 New Brighton Road

by Tina Kulzer

On any given day, there are numerous reasons for City residents to pay a visit to Perry Park. This “Level One” park is the largest City park in Arden Hills, occupying 20 acres (equal to that of Floral Park) on the east side of New Brighton Road at Thom Drive. It was developed over the decades to accommodate a wide range of organized sports, social events, neighborhood activities, and recreational pursuits.

Situated in the midst of the beautiful and expansive Tony Schmidt Regional Park space, Perry Park boasts high-quality athletic facilities, connectivity to a scenic county trail system, and a heritage that dates back to the founding days of our now-vibrant metropolitan community.



#### The first major park development

Perry Park began as 20 acres of undeveloped, largely wetland property purchased by the City in 1966 from Ralph Perry (1914-1999). It was the City’s first major park development project and was not completed until 1972. During this time, a permanent shelter, hockey boards and lights, two ball fields on the south side of the park (referred to at the time as “upper” Perry), roadway, and parking were installed.

A Park Committee headed the project and – together with the City Council – spent a large amount of effort planning, coordinating, and completing this first stage of development. As a result of the time required and breadth of such a large project, the City’s first full-time Director of Parks and Recreation was hired to assume the responsibility for future park developments.

Arden Hills made a significant financial investment in Perry Park, and \$95,042 was spent to complete the project. However, very few of the City’s expenditures were on labor costs. Park Committee members, neighbors, teen youth, and volunteers provided most of the labor that built Perry Park – as was the case with most of the City park development and beautification efforts of this time.

During the City’s major period of park improvement in the 1970s, a second phase of construction was completed at Perry Park: a park sign was installed, two more ball fields

were constructed on the north (“lower”) side (which was swamp land and was originally planned to be left undeveloped as natural park area), and the hockey rink was relocated to the north side by the new ball fields – where it still is today. The play structure area was graded and equipment added by 1981.



#### A hub for athletics and events

City Council minutes from 1969 regarding Perry Park stated, “Necessity for getting the ball fields in playing condition is urgent.” Resident access to ball fields was a priority for Perry Park during its early development, and it accounts for a significant portion of the park’s usage today. The park features three adult ball fields and one youth ball field, all fully equipped with sideline and outfield fencing, bleachers for spectators, and field irrigation. Considered by some to be more of an athletic complex than a park because of the scope of the ball fields and related amenities, Perry Park is home to the City’s adult softball leagues and is also heavily utilized by other sports groups and leagues in the community.

## Benchmarks: a review of recent City Council action

### April 27, 2015

- Approved text amendments to the Arden Hills Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, and Subdivision Ordinance. These text amendments are required in order to align City ordinances with the Federal Clean Water Act and the State General Stormwater Discharge Permit requirements. (5-0)
- Approved Planning Case 15-006–Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Permit for the Welsch’s Big Ten Tavern to build an outdoor patio. (5-0)

- Approved a proclamation declaring National Police Week as May 10–16, 2015. (5-0)
- Adopted the assessment roll for the 2015 Venus-Crystal neighborhood pavement management project. (5-0)

### May 4, 2015

- Approved the Valentine Bluff Development Contract, based on the March 30, 2015, City Council approval of Planning Case 15-004. (5-0)
- Approved the assessment roll for the Grant-Noble-Lake Lane pavement management project. (5-0)

- Approved a construction services contract with Elfering and Associates for pavement management services. (5-0)
- Approved the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) policy for sign retro reflectivity as the City sign retro reflectivity policy. Federal law requires all cities to manage street sign inventory to meet federal reflectivity requirements. Adopting the LMC policy brings City policy into conformity with Federal law. (5-0)

## Follow the rules for recreational fires and have a safe summer!

by Lois Rem

With the beginning of warmer weather, many winter indoor activities move outside. One of these is the favorite outdoor fire. Not everyone realizes that a simple backyard fire can have catastrophic results. Not so many years ago, a home in Arden Hills was completely destroyed by a fire that began with the outdoor grill.

So what are the cautions and preparations you must know before you start a campfire in your yard? Although no permit is required, the Lake Johanna Fire Department website (<http://www.ljfd.org/data/pdf/rec-fire-rules.pdf>) warns that “all residents who intend to have a recreational fire are responsible for abiding by the following rules and regulations.”

Before you strike a match, visit the website to review that page. The rules are there to protect you, others, and your property.



### Here are some of the Fire Department’s main rules regarding recreational fires:

- 🔥 Any person planning to have a recreational fire must be aware of any local burning bans that are in effect. If a burning ban is in effect, all recreational fires are prohibited.
- 🔥 The wind speed must be below 10 miles per hour.
- 🔥 The fire must be constructed in a fire “ring” or pit at least 25 feet away from any combustible material or structure.
- 🔥 The fire can be no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet, and no higher than 3 feet.
- 🔥 Any open burning is restricted to vegetative, non-polluting material, which cannot be practically composted or chipped. Only clean natural wood can be burned. Treated or painted wood, plastic, rubber, leaves and grass are not allowed. Also, State law prohibits the burning of trash.
- 🔥 Flammable liquids or accelerants cannot be used to start any recreational fire.
- 🔥 Buckets, shovels, garden hoses, or a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating shall be readily available for use at a recreational fires.
- 🔥 A person knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment shall constantly attend the fire. An attendant shall supervise a recreational fire until such fire has been completely extinguished.
- 🔥 The Department may extinguish a fire if it “determines that smoke emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding property or if the fire is determined to constitute a hazardous condition.”

Be aware that this list is NOT complete. See the Fire Department site for the complete list of current regulations. And have a safe summer!

**Caution! Danger! Warning! Poison!** Common household products stored in the kitchen, bathroom, garage or shed might be labeled with these signal words and must be disposed of properly. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, every year the average U.S. household accumulates 100 pounds of hazardous waste items like paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides which contain potentially hazardous ingredients that require special care for disposal.

Household hazardous waste products are potentially harmful to people, pets, and the environment and should never be poured down the drain. If unsure of how to properly dispose of the product, start by taking a close look at the product's labeling.

### Hazardous waste materials and products: What's in a label?

Protect yourself and your family. Read the label before you buy and use a product. Many injuries and unsafe exposures can be avoided by reading the label to learn such things as:

### What the product is for?

- Does it do just one job, or can I use it for several tasks?
- Look for restrictions, such as "avoid using product on plastic, metal or fabric."

### How it is used?

- Is the product ready-to-use, or do I mix it with water?
- How can I mix the product safely?
- How much will I need?

### How hazardous is the product?

- Can the product burn your skin?
- Can it catch on fire?
- Should you use it outside?
- Should you wear protective gloves, goggles, a breathing mask or other equipment to prevent being exposed?

### What should I do in case of an accident?

- Does the label say what to do if the product contacts skin, or is inhaled or swallowed?
- Does the label give enough information to prepare for and respond to these accidents?

### County drop-off locations

Got hazardous waste to dispose of? No problem, your county has drop-off locations to assist you. For more information, including drop-off locations, visit [ramseyrecycles.com](http://ramseyrecycles.com) or call 651-633-easy (651-633-3279).



*Perry Park continued from page 2*

The park also has a large picnic pavilion that is available for event rental. It features indoor plumbing and bathrooms, a small kitchenette with refrigerator, and a covered dining/picnic area with tables. The pavilion amenities, combined with one of the most prized of all park amenities – ample parking – make Perry Park a frequent choice for hosting community and family gatherings and City-sponsored events and celebrations.

Other park amenities include: playground equipment; open field space for soccer and other summer youth sports camps; and a hockey rink with boards, lights, and warming house for use in winter months. A critical amenity added in 2010-2011 is trail connectivity to Tony Schmidt Regional Park.

### A tribute to a founding family

Jewell Perry Martin is the niece of Ralph Perry and still lives next door to Perry Park in a house that he built. The pride in

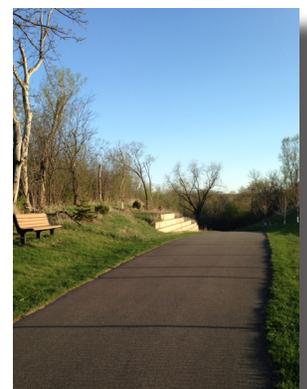
her family's accomplishments and their role in local history is strong. "It's a pleasure to have the Perry name recognized in such a way in Arden Hills," Ms. Martin said.

According to Perry family genealogical records provided to *Arden Hills Notes* by Ms. Martin, Ralph Perry was the son of William Joseph Perry (1869-1932), who managed and operated the Perry family's popular bathing and picnic beach resort on the northern shore of Lake Johanna in the early 1900s. He was also the grandson of Charles Louis Perry (1816-1904), who is widely regarded as the first resident of Mounds View Township (modern-day Arden Hills) and one of the first settlers of Ramsey County.

Charles Perry and his family were forced to leave their farm near the military reservation of Fort Snelling in 1840. Charles struck out on his own and eventually

settled upon the quiet shores of Lake Johanna where he purchased an 89-acre homestead in 1849. Here he farmed, lived in harmony with neighboring indigenous tribes, became engaged in local politics, raised his family, and lived out the remainder of his life.

In a Perry family historical retrospective written for the Ramsey County Historical Society, Jewell Perry Martin's son, Patrick Martin, concludes: "Charles Perry Park, established on the site of his original homestead, honors him."



## Road construction presents challenges and opportunities for Now Bikes-Tri-Fitness

by Susan Cathey

The County Road E Improvement project is underway with a completion target of mid-August. This summer's construction inevitably affects the businesses located along the stretch of road between the Snelling overpass and Lexington Avenue. We will highlight some of those businesses in our summer issues to encourage patronage despite the obstacles in getting to them.

For Now Bikes-Tri-Fitness, May and June are very busy months. Although it is more a destination business than a drive-by stop, the road work has a significant effect on its program participants, many of whom come after work or on weekends for group rides and workshops. Manager Jeff Hagen, who maintains the business website, tries to keep current information about road conditions and closures posted but says it is difficult because things change so frequently.

Now Bikes has been in Arden Hills since 1999 and at 1201 County Road E since 2013. The store's motto is "Helping people become better cyclists". To that end, it carries and services many brands of high

quality bicycles as well as clothing and accessories. One of the unique things about the business is the Guru-Fit, a computer-based dynamic fitting device designed to help cyclists find the bike that will give them their most comfortable, powerful, and aerodynamic ride. Hagen says he believes Now Bikes is the only bike retailer in Minnesota to have the Guru-Fit available.

Although there is some concern about getting people to the shop this summer, Hagen is excited about the new bike lane on the bridge over Snelling Avenue. Group rides have typically departed only heading east on County Road E because of the danger in crossing the bridge. New routes can be planned once the bridge is completed and open.

For information on events and equipment, go to [Nowbikes-fitness.com](http://Nowbikes-fitness.com).



Now Bikes-Tri-Fitness Manager Jeff Hagen

### More about that road construction progress

Amid the dust of demolition and construction and the confusion of ramp and road closings and detours, the installation of the new bridge over Highway 51 and the County Road E Improvement Project are scheduled to be completed by mid-August. County Road E medians are being rebuilt, beginning in mid-May, followed by the bulk of the construction work taking place at Lexington Avenue, where County Road E is being widened for dual left-turn lanes and a new signal system is being installed. Businesses along this road should have received notices from the contractor and inspector, informing them of schedules and contact information.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation's construction of a new bridge on Lake Valentine Road (Old County Road F) over I-35W was delayed due to issues with the bids. That project should start in July. The bridge itself should be finished by the end of the construction season in November, although some of the final clean-up work may have to be carried over until next year. The Mounds View Schools and the First Student School Bus Company were informed about the change as they will be impacted by the bridge work and closures.

### Summer events to note

#### Penny Carnival at Perry Park

Friday, July 24  
1-3 p.m.

Gather up your pennies and come celebrate the end of the Park and Recreation Department's 2015 playground program.

#### Bark & Rec Day at Hazelnut Park

Saturday, July 25  
1-3 p.m.

Dog owners: mark your calendars! On Saturday, July 25, from 1-3 p.m., the Arden Hills Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee are co-sponsoring a "Bark & Rec" Day at the off-leash dog area in Hazelnut Park.

Residents will have an opportunity to get to know more about the dog park and explore the trail system surrounding Hazelnut Park. There will also be refreshments and a dog-themed make-and-take craft project for the kids. This event is free to all Arden Hills residents.



Look for a flyer with event details in the July utilities mailing from the City.

The off-leash dog park at Hazelnut Park is now open.



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*Middle Rice Creek Restoration Plans Outlined*  
*Perry Park, Arden Hills' First*  
*Road Construction and Local Businesses*  
*A Bark & Rec Day – What's That?*

## Postal Customer

### News from the Mayor

As your mayor, from time to time I surf the internet to see what is new or updated about our City. It is one of many ways to keep in touch with what is going on. Sometimes I find news that is surprising, and other times it is simply updated figures on a variety of items. This month I would like to share some of the things that I have discovered recently.

A few months ago Kate Brown became the Governor of Oregon. What you may not know is that Governor Brown is a 1978 graduate of Mounds View High School. It speaks well of the education she received from the Mounds View School District. She still has family in the area and returns to the Twin Cities to enjoy our many amenities.

Arden Hills is the home of a semi-pro football team, the Titans of the Northern Elite Football League (NEFL). The team's home field is University of Northwestern. The University is actually half in Roseville and half in Arden Hills. Our two cities share master planning approval for the University campus. Technically, I believe the new athletic field is in Roseville, but the internet says the team is based in Arden Hills. See <http://www.northernelitefootball.com> for more information.

Sperlings ([http://www.bestplaces.net/city/minnesota/arden\\_hills](http://www.bestplaces.net/city/minnesota/arden_hills)) indicates that our median home cost is \$283,700 and increased 8.9 percent last year. The City certainly keeps track of the median home values; however, the increase this year

is very strong from a historical perspective. Unemployment in Arden Hills is 4.1 percent versus the national average of 6.3 percent (at the time of reporting). In terms of school funding, we spend more than the national average per student per year. There are 19.1 students per teacher, which can vary from year to year. The graduation rate is 97 percent, which is 8 percent above the state average.

In terms of median family income we rank in the 94<sup>th</sup> percentile in the state with a median family income of \$84,757. Only one other Ramsey County city ranks higher, that being North Oaks.

According to <http://www.areavibes.com/arden+hills-mn/livability/> our City ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the state in terms of an overall livability score. We are given high marks for amenities, education, housing, employment, and a low crime rate. We receive low scores for cost of living, which is 17 percent above the state average, and weather, due mainly to air quality.

Based on the 2010 census, there were 9,552 people, 2,957 households, and 2,019 families residing in Arden Hills. The racial makeup of our City was 90.3 percent White, 1.7 percent African American, 0.2 percent Native American, 4.9 percent Asian, 1.0 percent from other races, and 1.9 percent from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 2.8 percent of the population. Of the City's housing units, 1,065 were developed during the period of 1970-1979, representing one-third

of the homes in our community.

Many people know the TCAAP facility was built initially to supply ammo for World War II, which for the U.S. started after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. What is not commonly known is that TCAAP was started in August of 1941, well before the attack. This fact is commonly overlooked since both occurred in 1941. At its height in 1945, TCAAP employed 26,000 people, more than half of them women. Our "Rosie the Riveter" made bullets.

In terms of history, the name Arden Hills comes from two sources. The word Arden came from the name of a large farm in the area called Arden Farms, which was built by millionaire Joseph Hackey in 1906. The name Hills came from the topography of the area. Mounds View got its name from its view of the mounds of sand and gravel, including the glacial kame (hill) on TCAAP. One of the former roads on TCAAP was named after Mounds View.

I hope you have found these items of interest. If you have other interesting facts, please send me an e-mail at [dgrant@cityofardenhills.org](mailto:dgrant@cityofardenhills.org)

Sincerely

David Grant  
 Mayor