



Meeting Announcement and Agenda

City Council Workshop
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Time: 5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Workshop Items

2.A. Dog Park Discussion.

Staff is requesting City Council direction on possible locations for a dog park.

2.B. Weed Ordinance Discussion.

Staff has been working to update the City Code to clarify and update sections related weeds and pollinator landscapes.

3. Adjournment

Accommodations for signing interpreter, Braille, large print, etc. can be made. Call City Hall at 385.3600 seven days prior to the need. Hearing assistance devices are available during meetings.



City of
RED WING[®]
CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

To: City Council Members and Mayor
From: Patrick Ramaker, Deputy Director of Buildings & Grounds
Meeting Date: May 26, 2026
Agenda Item Number: 2.A.

Title and Purpose

Dog Park Discussion.

Staff is requesting City Council direction on possible locations for a dog park.

Attachments

1. Location Options
2. Dog Park Slide Presentation 2026

Background

As far back as 2000, Red Wing's community began talking about an off-leash dog park. A committee was formed, and a site was chosen at the east end of Upper A.P. Anderson Park. By November of 2009, this citizen committee had raised enough funds to purchase and install the fencing, gates, and signage. Soon after, materials were installed by the STS workforce, who donated their time for the project. For years, the space served as a dog park for both large and small-breed dogs.

This space was created to give dogs a legal space to run off-leash. Per City Code Chapter 10, Section 10.06. Subd. 2 Running at large is prohibited. It is unlawful for the owner of any dog or cat to permit such an animal to run at large. Any dog or cat shall be deemed to be running at large with the permission of the owner unless it is on a durable leash or chain secured to an object which it cannot move and on the premises of the owner, or on such leash or chain and under the control of an accompanying person of suitable age and discretion, or confined within a motor vehicle, or confined within a building, fence (electronic wireless fences are not allowed), or other enclosure of construction sufficient to prevent the dog or cat from escaping. Dogs must be leashed at all times within the Red Wing Parks system, with the exclusions of Soldiers Memorial Park Prairie Restoration Area, Levee Park (east of Pottery Pond, west of the old boat storage area, and south of Levee Road), and Billings/Tomfohr (coon Hill) Recreation Area per Chapter 10, Section 10.18. Sub. 6G, G.

In late summer of 2023, City Staff met with representatives from PIIC to discuss the removal and replacement of deficient playground equipment near the dog park. At this meeting, PIIC staff indicated their desire to have the dog park removed because it is located atop burial mounds. Through internal discussions, it was decided to remove the dog park as soon as

feasible. On November 17, 2023, staff removed fencing, gates, and signage from the space. The post was left in place until approval is given from the Minnesota Bureau of Indian Affairs. During the 2023-2024 winter months, there was no space for a dog park. Since the spring of 2024, the Athletic Field ice rinks have been used as a temporary space for a large- and small-breed dog park.

Community Engagement: During the summer and fall of 2025, staff conducted community surveys to gauge residents' interest in this topic and identify which aspects of a dog park would be most important to users. Residents submitted 471 surveys; 363 were online responses, and 108 were hard-copy survey responses handed out during River City Days. This is considered a very high-interest topic, based on the number of responses.

Of those who responded, 428 supported a dog park. Security features such as a double-gate entry and tall fences (305 votes) and shade (304 votes) were the top two amenities that respondents desired in a dog park. The next highest features were separate areas for large- and small-breed dogs (248 votes) and water stations for dogs (207 votes). Residents were willing to travel a bit for a dog park: 283 said they would travel up to 5 miles or more to attend. Regarding funding a dog park, the vast majority of respondents said they wanted the park funded through a mix of local fundraising and tax dollars (288 votes). Only 32 people said it should be funded solely by tax dollars, and 147 said it should be funded strictly through local grassroots fundraising.

Site Relocation: Since the original dog park was a donated amenity to provide an accessible location for pets and owners to exercise, it's important to find a permanent location for the dog park. When identifying possible relocation sites, the following factors were considered.

Primary Factors

- Accessible location for all users throughout the year
- On public property in a larger community setting (not located within a residential neighborhood)
- Out of the 100-year flood plain
- Space not within **Native American Artifact Locality Sites**
- Underutilized space that is not used for other park activities
- Accessible terrain: no slopes over 30% on more than one side, not overly wooded, no high vertical drops
- Off-street parking available or buildable
- Space large enough for a 115 ft x 190 ft dog park at a minimum. An ideal space would allow for both large- and small-breed dogs
- The site is not part of any improvement plans or future construction projects

Secondary Factors

- Regarding water availability, it's possible to add a drinking fountain for the dogs.
- With power availability, it's possible to add lighting to illuminate some or all of the space.
- The site is accessible for servicing if bathroom units are provided.
- The site can be easily accessed by City staff and equipment for regular maintenance.

Site Selection – Staff used these factors to select the listed locations. Other sites could be analyzed and considered if they are identified by staff.

Note: Large area parks like Colvill Park, Bay Point Park, and others do not meet the above criteria, so those locations are not included as possibilities.

Discussion

Next Steps

Option 1: Proceed with Identifying a Permanent Location

1. Choose a site in which to build a dog park
2. Authorize **further evaluation of the top candidate site** (feasibility, cost, impacts)
3. Direct staff to return with a **site development plan**
4. Consider **funding strategy and project timeline**

Option 2: Pause / Defer Project

1. Acknowledge the temporary dog park solution as sufficient for current needs
2. Direct staff to **revisit the project at a later date** based on priorities and resources
3. Consider the minimum time period before bringing this topic back for consideration
4. No immediate action on permanent site selection

Option 3: Discontinue Dog Park Relocation Effort

1. Determine that a permanent dog park is **not a current City priority**
2. Direct staff to **remove the project from active planning efforts**
3. Maintain existing park regulations and current temporary arrangements
4. Keep the ice rinks as a seasonal dog park

Financial Plan and Impact

Alternatives

Recommended Action

Identified Sites

Preferred Site - Bench Street South City Owned Vacant Property

Description – Acquired in 2012 from S.B. Foot Tanning Company, this 9.73-acre parcel is currently vacant and contains two defunct storage tanks along the west property line. Vegetation on the site consists primarily of buckthorn, dead or dying trees, and other low-value scrub growth. The parcel is zoned I-2 General Industrial, which allows for a range of industrial uses. The site is not shovel-ready, as water and sanitary sewer service are only located near the property and some site preparation would be required prior to development. With appropriate site preparation and cleanup, the property could provide an opportunity for community-focused activities use, such as a dog park, community gardening, or archery range.



Pros

- Vacant Property
- No identified Areas of Concern
- Room for Expansion
- Room for large and small breed spaces
- Space of other activities if desired
- No impact on development

Cons

- Parking lot and driveway construction costs
- Water and Power not readily available
- Lots of clearing to install fencing

Additional Sites Previously Discussed

Option #1 -Spring Creek Park

Description – This park is located in Burnside off of Spring Creek Road. The potential site is currently designated a baseball field however it is not used by any organized teams and staff believed the space to be underutilized by the community due to drainage issues.



Pros

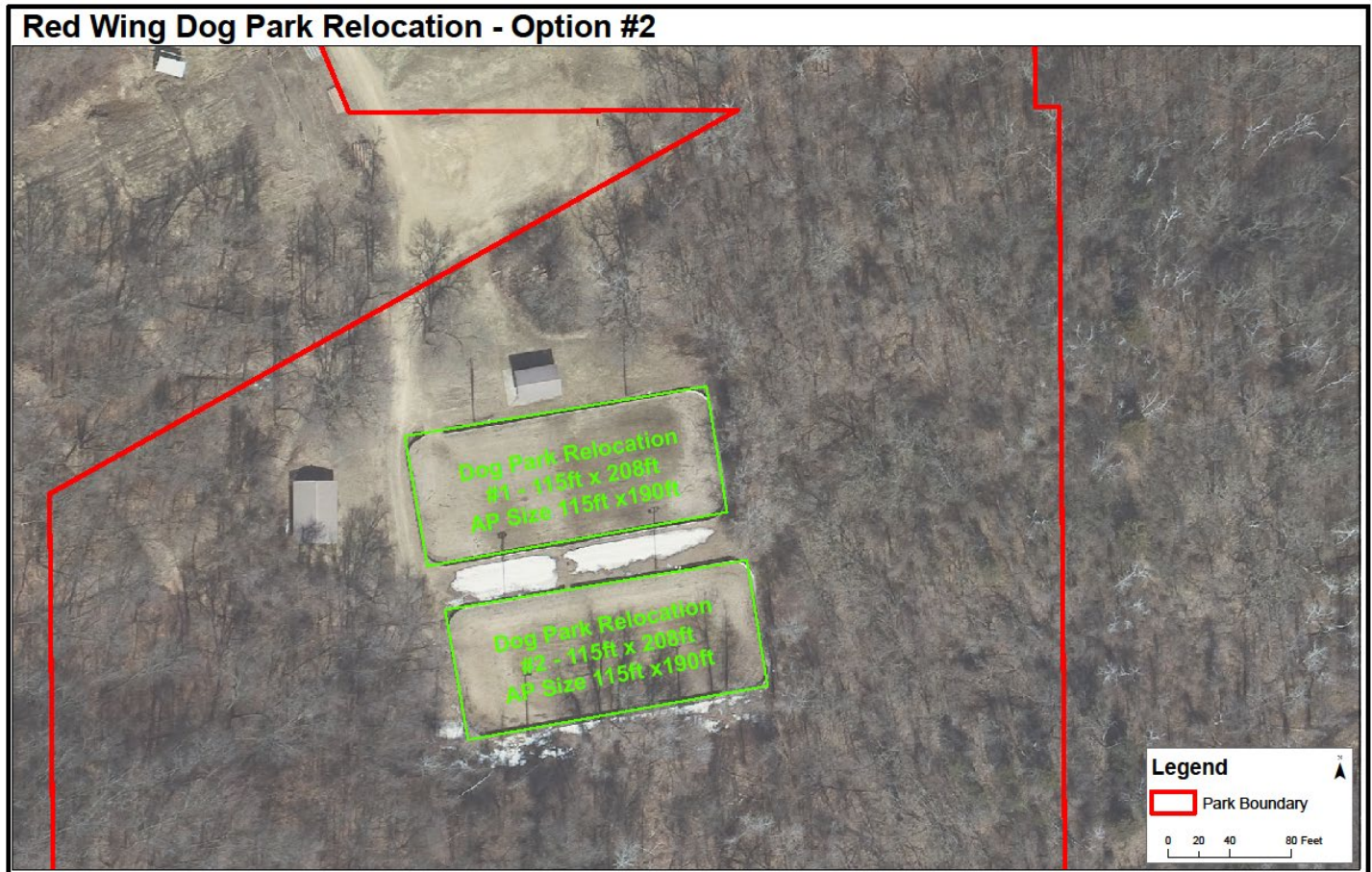
- Underutilized Space with plenty of sq. footage
- Clear of historical artifacts
- Water and Electricity on site
- Relatively Flat
- Room for expansion
- Room for large and small breed spaces

Cons

- Poor Drainage, wet conditions SW of BB Field
- Parking lot and sidewalk construction costs
- Access from parking lot should be accessible to adjacent community garden. Storm channel splits park.
- Not located in central location
- Little or no shade

Option #2 – Athletic Field Ice Rinks

Description – The ice rinks at the Upper Ath are used for approximately 2 ½ winter month per year depending on weather conditions. The rest of the year the rinks are largely not used. Vehicle access to the site is limited in the off season is currently due to the shared ownership of part of the access road with the Indianhead Motorcycle Club.



Pros

- Underutilized Space in the off season
- Clear of historical artifacts
- Water and Electricity on site
- Each Rink can be used for specified breed size
- Gates at entrances would be the only materials needed.
- Clear of historical artifacts

Cons

- Parking lot is on private property
- Gate would need to be open year round
- Closure is needed during hill climb events
- Not available during winter seasons

Option # 3 – Pottery Pond

Description – Pottery Pond is home to fishing opportunities, a skate park, looped walking trail and historical information. The west lawn is a mowed open space that is unused by the community.

Red Wing Dog Park Relocation - Option #3



Pros

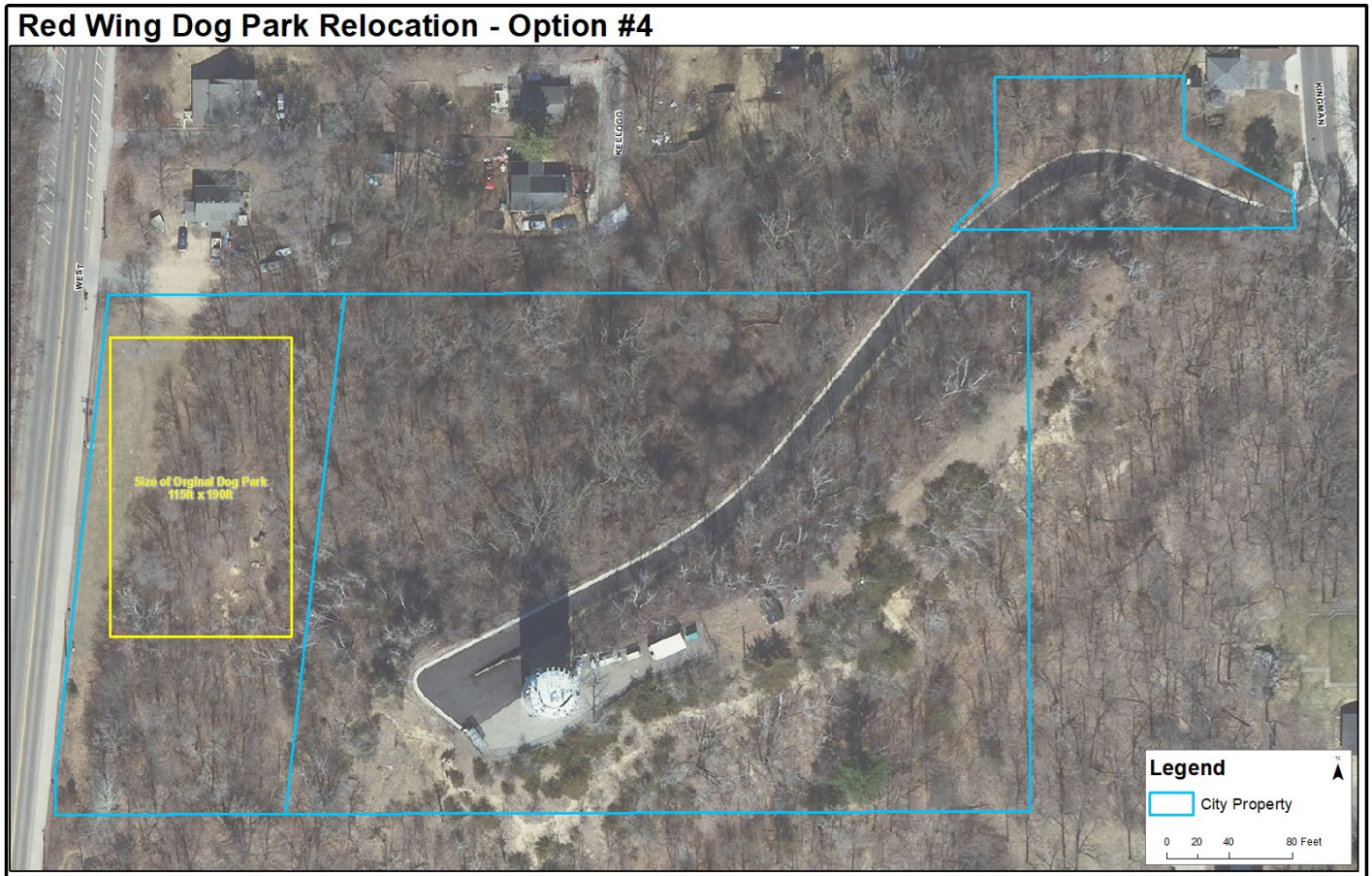
- Open lawn space
- Centrally located in community park
- Separate breed size spaces could be made
- Paved Parking Lot
- Paved trail access to site
- Some terrain structure for dogs
- Water and Electricity on site
- Many adjacent amenities
- Clear of historical artifacts

Cons

- Somewhat limited space
- Boat storage fence cannot be shared due to security monitoring
- No Shade

Option #4 – Sand Hill

Description – This is the site of our Sand Hill Water Reservoir but the west end of the site is on a separate parcel from the tank infrastructure. This is mostly wooded but has maintained turf on the west side of the parcel. At this time the parcel is not used for anything.



Pros

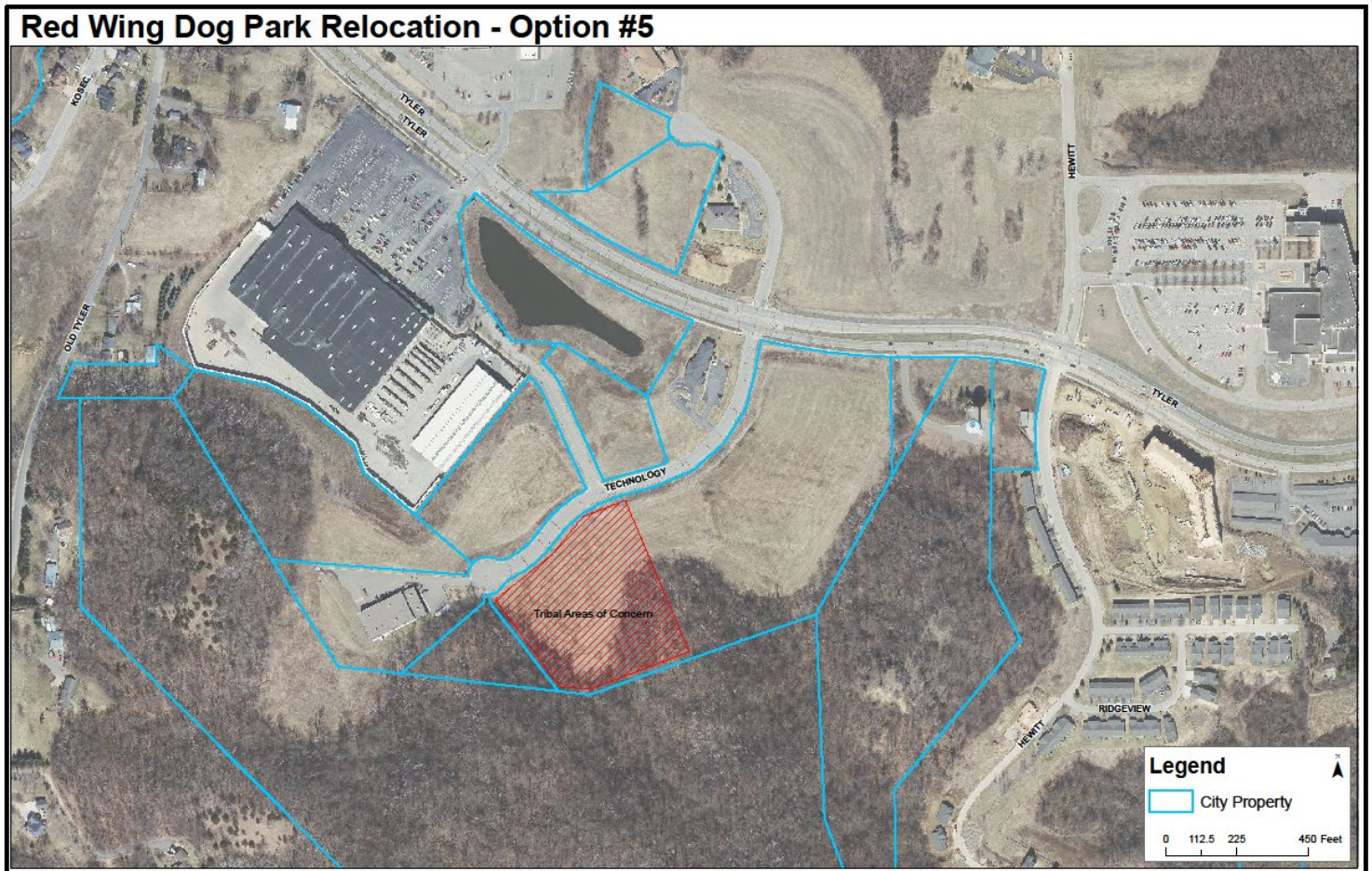
- Underutilized Space
- Centrally located
- Electricity located on site, water in road
- Lots of shade
- Terrian structure for dogs to explore
- Clear of historical artifacts

Cons

- Lots of clearing to install fencing
- Driveway apron and parking lot would need to be constructed
- Sightline issues and traffic concerns when entering or exiting the parking lot

Option #5 – Med Tech Park

Description – These parcels were identified because they fit many of the criteria staff was using search for locations. These parcels would be a temporary location if a business was to purchase a parcel to develop.



Pros

- Underutilized Space
- Space for expansion
- Separate large/small breed parks could be constructed
- Water and Electricity adjacent to properties
- Clear of historic artifacts excluding the area highlighted in red.

Cons

- Probable temporary location
- On Street Parking only
- No Shade depending on location

City of Red Wing Dog Park

Relocation and Future Site Planning

Key Facts

◆ Background

- ◆ Community discussions for an off-leash dog park began **as early as 2000**
- ◆ Citizen committee selected site at **Upper A.P. Anderson Park (east side of the park)**
- ◆ Park constructed in **2009**
- ◆ Funded through **community fundraising**
- ◆ Fencing, gates, and signage installed with donated labor from **STS workforce**

◆ Original Configuration

- ◆ Single shared space for **large and small breed dogs**
- ◆ Served Red Wing residents for approximately **14 years**

Dog Park Closure

- ◆ In **late summer 2023**, discussions with **PIIC representatives** identified the site's location on **Burial Mounds**
- ◆ Based on cultural and site preservation concerns, it was determined relocation was necessary
- ◆ Dog park fencing, gates, and signage removed **November 17, 2023**

Interim Solution

- ◆ Temporary dog park moved to **Athletic Field Ice Rinks** in Spring 2024.
- ◆ Each Ice Rink is designated for:
 - ◆ Large breed dogs
 - ◆ Small breed dogs

Permanent Relocation Criteria

◆ New site must be:

- ✓ Accessible year-round
- ✓ On public property
- ✓ Outside 100-year floodplain
- ✓ Outside Native American artifact/locality sites
- ✓ Large enough for minimum **115' x 190' footprint**
- ✓ Compatible with parking access
- ✓ Not planned for future development
- ✓ Suitable terrain and maintenance access

Community Engagement: Dog Park 2025 Survey Results

◆ 471 total responses from community members

- 363 online survey responses
- 108 hard-copy River City Days responses

This is considered a high-interest topic, based on the number of responses.

***Not every respondent answered every question, and respondents could pick multiple choices on question #3.*

◆ **Q1: Do you support a permanent dog park in Red Wing?**

Yes: 428 No: 35

◆ **Q2: Do you currently use the temporary dog park located at the upper Athletic Field?**

No: 318 Yes, occasionally: 117 Yes, regularly: 30

◆ **Q3: Which dog park features/amenities are most important to you?**

--Security (double-gate entry, tall fences): 305

--Trees/shades: 304

--Separate areas for large and small breeds: 248

--Water stations for dogs: 207

--Benches: 172

--Other: 57

--None of the above: 23

--Communal toys: 11

- ◆ **Q4: How far you are willing to travel to visit a dog park?**
 - ❖ NA / I do not visit dog parks: 67
 - ❖ 1 mile or less: 26
 - ❖ Up to 3 miles: 92
 - ❖ **Up to 5 miles: 153**
 - ❖ **More than 5 miles: 130**

- ◆ **Q5: How do you suggest Red Wing pays for a new dog park?**
 - ❖ Tax dollars only: 32
 - ❖ **Fundraising and tax dollars: 288**
 - ❖ Fundraising only: 147

Summary of Survey Comments

◆ **Strong support for a permanent dog park**

- ❖ A dog park is considered a “third space” that fosters community, supports tourism, and improves quality of life.
- ❖ Frequent comparisons were made to successful parks in Hastings, Lake City, and Apple Valley, which offer wooded trails, water stations, and separate areas for different dog sizes.

◆ **Safety & responsibility are highly important**

- ❖ Enforcing leash laws outside the park
- ❖ Ensuring dogs are vaccinated and non-aggressive
- ❖ Providing waste bags and trash bins
- ❖ Avoiding communal toys and water stations due to disease concerns

Summary of Survey Comments (cont.)

◆ **A few voices of opposition**

- ◆ Concerns about government spending
- ◆ Belief that pet ownership is a personal responsibility

◆ **Funding**

- ◆ A majority supported a mix of tax dollars and local grassroots fundraising.

◆ **Communication**

- ◆ Several respondents were unaware of the temporary dog park, highlighting a need for better public outreach.

Bench Street South

Pros

- Vacant property
- No identified Areas of Concern
- Room for expansion
- Room for large and small breed spaces
- Space of other activities if desired
- No impact on development

Cons

- Parking lot and driveway construction costs
- Water and power not readily available
- Lots of clearing to install fencing

Red Wing Dog Park Relocation 2026 Option



Spring Creek Park

Pros

- Underutilized space with plenty of square footage
- Water and electricity on site
- Relatively flat
- Room for expansion
- Room for large & small breeds

Cons

- Poor drainage, wet conditions SW of BB Field
- Parking lot & sidewalk construction costs
- Access from the parking lot should be accessible to the adjacent community garden. Storm channel splits park.
- Not located in a central location
- Little or no shade
- Area of Tribal Concern adjacent

Red Wing Dog Park Relocation - Option #1



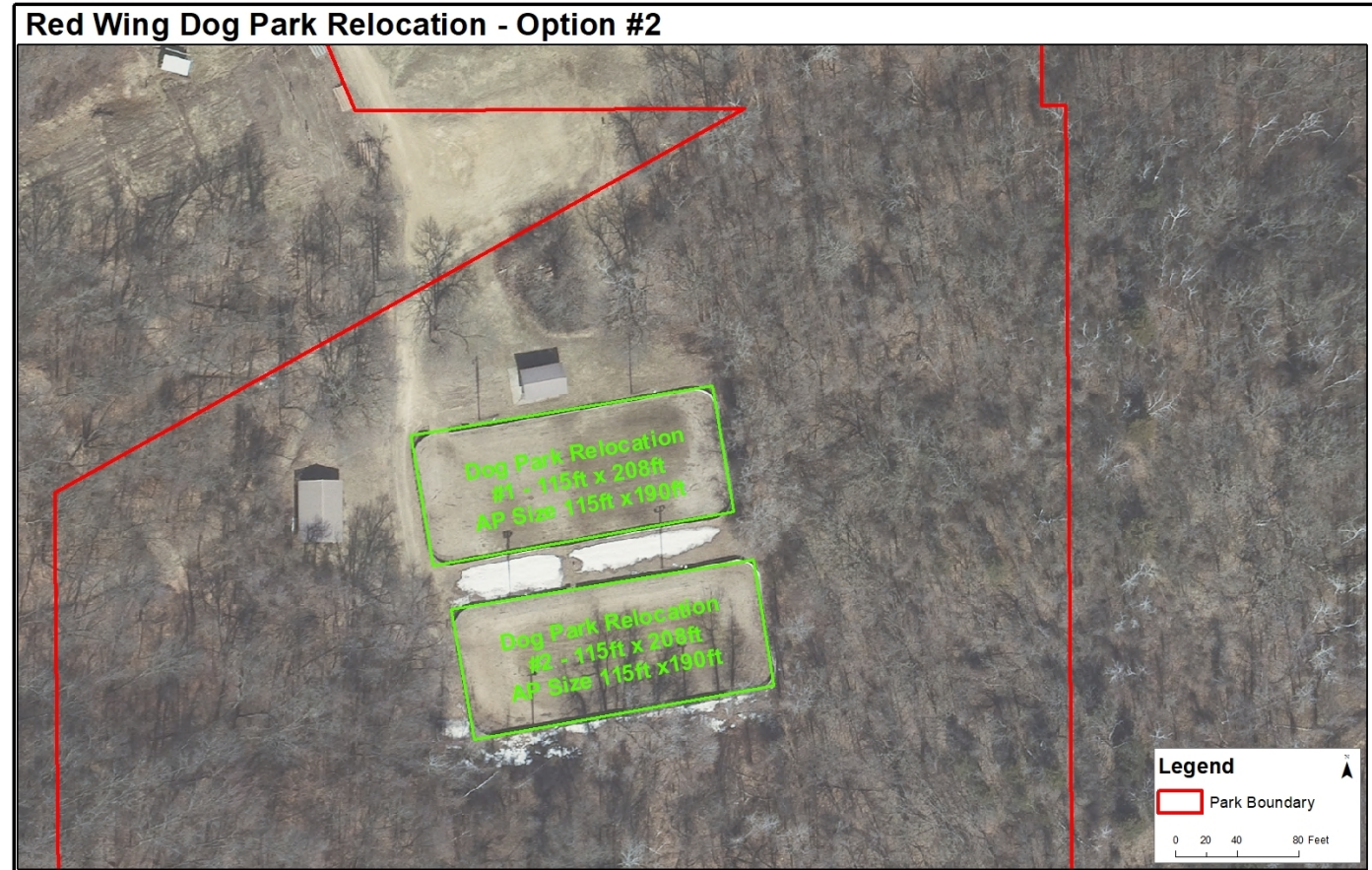
Athletic Field Ice Rinks

Pros

- Underutilized space in the off-season
- Clear of historical artifacts
- Water and electricity on site
- Each rink can be used for a specific breed size
- Gates at entrances would be the only materials needed
- Clear of historical artifacts

Cons

- Parking lot is on private property
- Gate would need to be open year round
- Closure is needed during hill climb events
- Not available during winter seasons



Pottery Pond

Pros

- Open lawn space
- Centrally located in a community park
- Separate breed size spaces could be made
- Paved parking lot available
- Paved trail access to site
- Some terrain for dogs
- Water and electricity on site
- Many adjacent amenities
- Clear of historical artifacts

Cons

- Somewhat limited space
- Boat storage fence cannot be shared due to security monitoring
- No shade



Sand Hill

Pros

- Underutilized space
- Centrally located
- Electricity located on site, water in road
- Lots of shade
- Terrian structure for dogs to explore
- Clear of historical artifacts

Cons

- Lots of clearing to install fencing
- Driveway apron and parking lot would need to be constructed
- Sightline issues and traffic concerns when entering or exiting the parking lot

Red Wing Dog Park Relocation - Option #4



Med Tech Park

Pros

- Underutilized space
- Space for expansion
- Separate large/small breed parks could be constructed
- Water and electricity adjacent to properties
- Clear of historic artifacts, excluding the area highlighted in red.

Cons

- Probably a temporary location due to development
- On-street parking only
- No shade depending on location

Red Wing Dog Park Relocation - Option #5



Next Steps

◆ Option 1: Proceed with Identifying a Permanent Location

- Choose a site to build a dog park
- Authorize **further evaluation of the top candidate site** (feasibility, cost, impacts)
- Direct staff to return with a **site development plan**
- Consider **funding strategy and project timeline**

◆ Option 2: Pause / Defer Project

- Acknowledge temporary dog park solution as sufficient for current needs
- Direct staff to **revisit the project at a later date** based on priorities and resources
(Consider what minimum time period before bringing this topic back for consideration)
- No immediate action on permanent site selection

◆ Option 3: Discontinue Dog Park Relocation Effort

- Determine that a permanent dog park is **not a current City priority**
- Direct staff to **remove the project from active planning efforts**
- Maintain existing park regulations and current temporary dog park arrangements



City of
RED WING[®]
CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

To: City Council Members and Mayor
From: Shawn Blaney, Public Works Director
Meeting Date: May 26, 2026
Agenda Item Number: 2.B.

Title and Purpose

Weed Ordinance Discussion.

Staff has been working to update the City Code to clarify and update sections related weeds and pollinator landscapes.

Attachments

1. DRAFT - Weed Ordinance (Attorney revisions) - 5.20.26

Background

The City's existing vegetation regulations are distributed across multiple sections of City Code and include overlapping responsibilities involving Public Works and property maintenance standards. Over time, these provisions have become difficult to administer and have created uncertainty regarding the City's role in regulating landscaping and vegetation conditions. The current ordinance also relies heavily on direct City abatement and cost recovery processes. While those tools remain available in limited circumstances, staff has identified a need for a more flexible enforcement framework that provides graduated responses to violations while continuing to protect public health and safety. The proposed ordinance reorganizes and modernizes these regulations by separating vegetation standards into distinct code sections addressing public spaces and private property.

Discussion

The following is a summary of key changes in the proposed ordinance.

- 1. Repeal and replace the existing Urban Landscape Regulations in Chapter 7.**

The existing Urban Landscape Regulations include standards related to both public rights-of-way and private property vegetation. However, Chapter 7 of City Code otherwise focuses on public property, streets, sidewalks, and rights-of-way. The proposed amendment reorganizes these provisions so Chapter 7 is limited to vegetation affecting public rights-of-way and public infrastructure, while private property vegetation standards are relocated to Chapter 10. This creates a clearer code structure and better aligns the chapter with its intended purpose.

2. **Remove weed and grass regulations from Section 10.24.**Section 10.24 currently combines vegetation standards with unrelated property maintenance requirements. The proposed amendment removes weed and grass provisions while retaining health, safety, and property maintenance issues.
3. **Create Section 10.32 – Vegetation Management.** A new Section 10.32 is proposed to consolidate vegetation standards applicable to private property into a single location. Chapter 10 currently functions largely as a broad collection of nuisance and public protection regulations. Creating a dedicated vegetation management section within Chapter 10 places these standards in a more appropriate location for vegetation maintenance and enforcement on private property.
4. **Establish an eight-inch vegetation standard.**The ordinance increases the allowable height of grass and vegetation from six inches to eight inches and applies that standard consistently throughout the affected code sections. Establishing a uniform standard eliminates inconsistencies between sections of City Code and establishes reasonable maintenance expectations.
5. **Recognize managed natural landscapes.**The proposed ordinance recognizes managed natural landscapes and pollinator plantings consistent with Minnesota Statutes. The amendment acknowledges that alternative landscaping practices may provide environmental and ecological benefits when properly maintained.
6. **Update enforcement procedures.**The ordinance replaces the current enforcement process with a revised approach that includes notice requirements, administrative fines, repeat violation provisions, and continued authority for City abatement where authorized by law. The changes are intended to provide additional enforcement tools and a more graduated response to violations.

Financial Plan and Impact

Alternatives

Recommended Action

Direct staff to introduce an ordinance to amend the City Code related to vegetation management.

ORDINANCE NO. ###, FOURTH SERIES

***AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE***

THE CITY COUNCIL OF RED WING DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Repeal Section 7.10 Urban Landscapes and replace with the following underlined text:

SECTION 7.10 VEGETATION IN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Subd. 1. Authority and Intent.

This Section is adopted pursuant to the City's police powers and authority to regulate nuisances in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare, including the protection of safe passage and the operability of the public right-of-way. The intent of this Section is to:

- A) Protect safe pedestrian and vehicular travel;
- B) Maintain visibility at intersections and along public corridors;
- C) Prevent obstruction of public infrastructure; and
- D) Clarify that the City's role is limited to conditions affecting public spaces.

This Section is not intended to regulate aesthetics on private property.

Subd. 2. Applicability

This section applies to all public property within the City, including property located within public right of way. Vegetation on private property is regulated under Chapter 10, Section 10.32.

Subd. 3. General Standard

- A) Vegetation located within the public right-of-way shall not exceed eight (8) inches in height, except for:
 - 1) Trees lawfully planted pursuant to City authorization;
 - 2) Boulevard plantings specifically approved by the City; and
 - 3) Plantings installed pursuant to an approved streetscape or public improvement plan.
- B) Vegetation within the public right-of-way shall not:
 - 1) Obstruct pedestrian travel;
 - 2) Interfere with vehicular travel;
 - 3) Block traffic control devices;
 - 4) Obstruct required sight lines at intersections; or
 - 5) Interfere with drainage systems or utilities.

Vegetation maintained in violation of this section is declared to be a public nuisance and may be enforced in accordance with Subdivision 5.

Subd. 4. Maintenance Responsibility

Property owners adjacent to public rights-of-way are responsible for maintaining vegetation within adjacent boulevards and for preventing encroachment into sidewalks and streets.

Subd. 5. Enforcement

- A) If any such owner fails to assume the primary responsibility described in Subdivisions 3 and 4 of this Section, and after notice given by the Public Works Director has not within 14 days of such notice complied, the City may cause such work to be done and the expenses thus incurred shall be a lien upon such real estate.
- B) After an initial notice of noncompliance has been provided to the owner, any subsequent noncompliance for the same or similar condition on the same property during the proceeding 12 months may result in immediate action without additional notice. The City Clerk shall certify to the County Auditor of Goodhue County a statement of the amount of the cost incurred by the City. Such amount together with interest shall be entered as a special assessment against such lot or parcel of land and be collected in the same manner as real estate taxes. The City shall set a fee for each out-of-compliance parcel by Ordinance, and said fee shall cover administrative costs in addition to any costs incurred in the cleanup and maintenance work that the City causes to be completed.

SECTION 2. Section 10.24 is hereby amended by adding underlined text and removing the ~~struck through~~ text as shown below:

SECTION 10.24. MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Subd. 1. It is the primary responsibility of any owner ~~or occupant~~ of any lot or parcel of ~~land to maintain any weeds or grass growing thereon at a height of not more than six inches;~~ to remove all public health or safety hazards therefrom; to install or repair water service lines thereon; and to treat or remove insect-infested or diseased trees thereon.

Subd. 2. If any such owner ~~or occupant~~ fails to assume the primary responsibility described in Subdivision 1 of this Section, and after notice given by the Public Works Director has not within ~~seven~~ **14** days of such notice complied, the City may cause such work to be done and the expenses thus incurred shall be a lien upon such real estate. After an initial citing for non-compliance, property becoming non-compliant, after the first notice, shall be cause for immediate action without notice to bring the property into compliance. The City Clerk shall certify to the County Auditor of Goodhue County a statement of the amount of the cost incurred by the City. Such amount together with interest shall be entered as a special assessment against such lot or parcel of land and be collected in the same manner as real estate taxes. The City shall set a fee for each out-of-compliance parcel by Ordinance, and said fee shall cover administrative costs in addition to any costs incurred in the cleanup and maintenance work that the City causes to be completed.

SECTION 3. Section 10.32 is hereby created as shown below:

SECTION 10.32 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Subd. 1. Purpose and Intent

The City Council finds that:

- A) Diverse landscapes support biodiversity and enhance the quality of life of residents. This includes landscapes designed to manage stormwater, support pollinators, or provide ecological benefits.
- B) Once land has been disturbed, landscaped, or otherwise altered, it is expected to be maintained in a consistent and managed manner. Failure to maintain vegetation may:
 - 1) Become visually incompatible with surrounding properties
 - 2) Allow the spread of noxious weeds or invasive species
 - 3) Negatively impact adjacent properties
- C) Additionally, improperly maintained vegetation may:
 - 1) Harbor noxious weeds such as buckthorn, garlic mustard, and Canada thistle
 - 2) Produce allergens such as ragweed
 - 3) Obstruct visibility along streets and intersections
- D) Managed natural landscapes and pollinator plantings are acceptable when properly established and maintained.
- E) It is in the public interest to balance flexibility in landscaping with reasonable maintenance standards.

Therefore, this section establishes standards for vegetation management on private property.

Subd. 2. Applicability

This section applies to all private property within the City. Vegetation on public property and within public rights of way is regulated under Chapter 7.

Subd. 3. General Standard

All vegetation shall be maintained in a controlled and managed condition.

- A) All vegetation, except as otherwise permitted in this section, must not exceed a height of 8 inches, measured from the base at ground level to the tip of each stalk, stem, blade, or leaf.
- B) This requirement does not apply to the following:
 - 1) A wetland or floodplain;
 - 2) A drainage pond or ditch that stores or conveys stormwater;
 - 3) An area identified as a natural area in an approved planned unit development;
 - 4) A natural woodland preserved during development;
 - 5) An area in which the land and vegetation appear not to have previously been graded, landscaped, mowed, or otherwise disturbed by human or mechanical means at any recent time; or

- 6) A managed natural landscape permitted under Minnesota Statutes, section 412.925.

Subd. 4. Nuisance Vegetation

- A) The following conditions are declared a public nuisance:
 - 1) Vegetation exceeding eight (8) inches in height, measured from the base at ground level to the tip of each stalk, stem, blade, or leaf, except as permitted under Subdivision 5.
 - 2) Vegetation that obstructs visibility at intersections or encroaches into the public right-of-way.
 - 3) Growth or noxious weeds as defined by state law.
 - 4) Vegetation that creates harborage for pests or poses a health hazard.

Subd. 5. Managed Natural Landscapes

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 412.925, managed natural landscapes may include plants and grasses in excess of 8 inches in height and which have gone to seed, but may not include any noxious weeds and must be maintained so as to not include unintended vegetation. Managed natural landscapes may not include any plantings which due to location and manner of growth constitute a hazard to the public or may cause injury or damage to persons or property when such growth is in violation of clearance and sight line requirements. During the establishment of a managed natural landscape that is in a location likely to be seen by the public, a sign must be posted on the property that advises a managed natural landscape is being established. The sign must remain posted until the planting is established, as determined by the City.

Subd. 6. Enforcement

- A) Notice of Violation. If an owner fails to perform the responsibilities described in Subdivision 3 of this Section, the City shall provide written notice of noncompliance to the owner. The notice shall describe the violation and provide not less than 14 days to correct the violation.
- B) Administrative Fines. If the violation is not corrected within the time specified in the notice, the City may impose an administrative fine in an amount established by the City's fee schedule. Each 14-day period that a violation continues after the compliance deadline constitutes a separate violation.
- C) Repeated Violations. After an initial notice of noncompliance has been provided to the owner, any subsequent noncompliance on the same parcel during the proceeding 12 months shall require no additional notice period. Administrative fines under Subdivision 5(B) shall begin accruing immediately upon the City's determination of noncompliance.
- D) Enforcement Authority. A violation of this Section constitutes a public nuisance and is subject to enforcement through administrative fines and any other remedies authorized by law.

SECTION 4. Section 4.03(9)(E) of the Housing Maintenance Code is hereby amended by removing the ~~struck through~~ text and adding the underlined text as shown below:

Yard Cover. Exposed areas surrounding (or within) a principal or Accessory Structure, including street boulevards which are not devoted to parking, drives, sidewalks, patios or other such uses, must be landscaped with grass, shrubs, trees, or other ornamented landscape material. Such landscaping shall be maintained in good condition and free of noxious weeds. Weeds, including tall grass, may not exceed **eight six** inches in height.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect 14 days after its adoption and publication in accordance with the City Charter.

Introduced the ___ day of _____, 2026.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Janie Farrar, Council President

ATTEST:

Melissa Kay Hill, MCMC
City Clerk

(seal)

Presented to the Mayor at _____ p.m. on this _____ day of _____, 2026.
Approved this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Gary James Iocco, Mayor