



MCHENRY PARK

Activities Guide

FALL/WINTER 2024-2025

Facility Rental Deadline

Ten days - before the event date.

Refund/Cancellation/Transfer Policy

Refunds will not be made on any cancellation unless notice has been given to the Parks & Recreation Call Center at 237-1386 AT LEAST 10 days prior to the date of the reservation or start of the program. No refunds/rescheduling for inclement weather on the day of a facility rental. There is a \$10 processing fee for transfers or cancellation (rentals under \$100) and a \$30 processing fee for transfers or cancellations (rentals over \$100). If less than 10-day notice, you forfeit all fees.

Program Cancellation

Events and programs in this guide may change due to availability, interest, date conflicts, unforeseen circumstances, and public health concerns. For the latest updates, please check online.

Registration Reminders

Participants' age must fall within age requirements by the program's beginning date. Participants are not registered until payment is received.

Accommodations

If you need special accommodations to participate, please contact our office by phone or in writing. We are waiting to serve you.

Please Note

Participants in any program assume full responsibility for any risk, implicit or direct, by participation in said activity or utilizing facilities. You are advised that the City does not provide medical insurance covering injuries to participants.

Photographs

Photographs taken during programs, events, or at facilities could be used for future communications, marketing and public relations efforts, including social media.

Weather Cancellations

There will be no Parks & Recreation youth activities when Des Moines Public schools are (1) dismissed early or (2) canceled for the day due to heat or winter storms. All efforts will be made to make an announcement as soon as possible.

Parks and Recreation Information



Des Moines Parks and Recreation Office

1551 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy
Des Moines, Iowa 50317

515-237-1386
parks@dmgov.org

Hours

M - F: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Text Message Notifications

Text any of the following
keywords to 84483 to sign up
for updates.

DSMEvents	DSMPopUp
DSMPools	DSMVolunteers
DSMSports	BrentonSkating
DSMTrails	

**EXPLORE OUR PROGRAMS AND REGISTER
ONLINE AT [DMPARKS.ORG](https://dmparks.org)**



About Us

The Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department was established in 1892 and is responsible for the management of 77 parks, 4,000+ acres of land, 88 miles of trails, 8 cemeteries, 2 Community Recreation Centers, and much more! Des Moines Parks and Recreation is committed to providing opportunities for people of all races, genders, and abilities across our community.

Parks and Recreation Board

George Davis	William Thompson
Cynde Fanter	Barb Bremner
Loyd W. Ogle	James Bollard
Joel Potter	Brooke Avila
Sarah Lohmeier	Brent Millis
R. Stephen Vilmain	Deb Chiodo
Jack Daugherty	Maria Alonzo-Diaz
Andrea Woodard (Chair)	

Our Mission

Helping Des Moines live well, play hard and protect the earth.



Message from the Director: Ben Page

We take great pride in offering a wide array of activities and events that cater to the diverse interests and abilities of our community. From sports enthusiasts and art lovers to nature adventurers and wellness seekers, our dedicated team has thoughtfully designed programs for all ages and skill levels. Whether you're looking to skate at Brenton Skating Plaza, participate in adaptive programming, or explore our upcoming equity initiatives, we have something for everyone.

Our parks and facilities are more than just places for recreation—they are vibrant spaces where connections are made and friendships grow. This season, I invite you to explore the abundant opportunities Des Moines Parks and Recreation has to offer. Join us in making the most of our programs and events, and experience the joy and camaraderie that come with being part of our community.

On behalf of our entire Parks and Recreation team, I want to express our heartfelt appreciation for your continued support and participation.



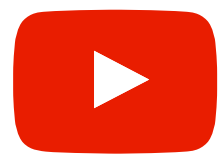
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andRecreation](#)

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Rentals

Rental Instructions



Planning a special event? Check out the wide variety of facilities available from Des Moines Parks and Recreation. No matter what you are planning, we offer multiple sizes of venues to meet your needs.

Available Facilities:

- Amphitheaters
- Aquatic Centers, Swimming Pools, and Wading Pools
- Brenton Skating Plaza
- Christine Hensley Terrace at Gray's Lake
- Community Recreation Center Multi-Purpose Rooms and Gyms
- Enclosed and Open Air Shelters
- Floral Gardens
- Hub Spot - Newly Renovated!
- Open Spaces
- Prairie Meadows Riviera Amphitheater at Riverview Park
- Sports Courts
- Sports Parks
- Trails

Plan ahead for the best opportunity to reserve your preferred location and date. Facility reservations are available one year in advance. Review pricing and options online at dmparks.org.



How To Register



Scholarship Programs

Des Moines Parks and Recreation offers two different scholarships.

Greater Des Moines Recreational Activity Scholarship Program (GRASP)

Discount program for families to receive 50–75% off recreational activities offered through Des Moines Parks and Recreation.

Youth Recreational Scholarship Program (YRSP)

Offered in partnership with Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) and allows students to receive \$5 swim lessons and/or youth sport experiences.

Qualification Criteria

Des Moines residents with a qualifying household income. Total income based on number in household. For family sizes exceeding 8, add \$12,850 for each additional person.

Family Size	Income
1	\$36,450
2	\$49,300
3	\$62,150
4	\$75,000
5	\$87,850
6	\$100,700
7	\$113,550
8	\$126,400

Students enrolled in Des Moines Public Schools who qualify for free and reduced fees based on their household income.

Eligibility Verification

Verification of total income through IMPACT Community Action Partnership using approved list of documents (i.e. paycheck, taxes, etc.).

Call (515) 518-4770 to set up an appointment with IMPACT at one of their two locations.

Opt-in for Des Moines scholarship program via DMPS website. Promoted during annual enrollment. Available anytime on DMPS website.

Registration

After obtaining a GRASP card from IMPACT Community Action Partnership, community members can activate registration discounts through CivicRec by contacting the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Administration Office.

To confirm the child's eligibility on the approved DMPS list (opt-in required first), please reach out to Des Moines Parks and Recreation Office. Once verified, participant accounts will be updated, enabling electronic registration via CivicRec.

Discounts & Benefits

- Both GRASP and YRSP:** \$5 Youth Sports Registrations for grades K-7 Including all sports except Tennis
- Both GRASP and YRSP:** \$5 Swim Lessons for grades K-12
- GRASP Only:** \$5 PeeWee Sports Registrations for ages 3-5
- GRASP Only:** \$5 Swim Lessons for baby-5yrs
- GRASP Only:** 50% off open-air shelters and boat or bike rentals at Gray's Lake
- GRASP Only:** 75% or more off season swim passes and community garden plot
- GRASP Only:** (1) FREE child admission with a paid adult admission to Brenton Skating Plaza, Science Center and Blank Park Zoo

After-School Program

Register



Locations and General Info

This free fall after-school program includes arts and craft projects, STEM activities, and outdoor athletic activities every Monday through Thursday from 4 - 6:30 p.m. This program is for kids grades K-8. Pre-registration for each daily session is required. Parents are responsible for transportation.

Limit of 25 kids per day. Session 1 begins September 23.



Hours: M - TH, 4 - 6:30 p.m.



**Pioneer Columbus Community
Recreation Center**

2100 SE 5th St



**MLK Park
(Enclosed Shelter)**

1650 Garfield Ave



**Fourmile Community
Recreation Center**

3711 Easton Blvd



Aquatics

Class	Registration Period	Location	Cost
Lifeguard Certification Class	TBD	Drake University	\$195

Lifeguard Certification Class Offered by the American Red Cross, participants will become certified Red Cross Lifeguards upon successful completion of the course. Participants who go on to lifeguard with the Des Moines Parks and Recreation department will have the cost of their class refunded. Participants must be 15 years of age by the final day of the course.



Athletics

PeeWee Sports (Pre-K - Kindergarten)

Sport	Registration Period
Basketball	11/01/24 - 01/01/25
Soccer	01/01/25 - 03/01/25

Register for Sports



Adapted Youth Sports (Grades K-12)

Sport	Registration Period
Adapted Basketball	08/10/24 - 09/22/24
Adapted Baseball	02/01/25 - 03/23/25

Volunteer to Coach



Youth Sports (Grades 1 - 7)

Sport	Registration Period
Basketball	07/01/24 - 10/01/24
Soccer	01/01/25 - 03/01/25
Volleyball	01/01/25 - 03/01/25

Adult Sports (Team Registration)

Sport	Registration Period
Bags - Winter WonderBags	11/01/24 - 01/01/25
Basketball	09/01/24 - 11/01/24
Flag Football Tournament	08/01/24 - 10/01/24
Kickball - Coed - Summer	02/01/25 - 04/15/25
Pickleball - Spring Tournament	02/01/25 - 04/15/25
Pickleball - Spring	02/01/25 - 04/01/25
Softball - Blarney Blast Tournament	01/01/25 - 03/01/25
Softball - Fastpitch	02/01/25 - 04/15/25
Softball - Spring	01/01/25 - 03/15/25
Softball - Summer Session 1	02/01/25 - 04/01/25
Softball - Summer Session 2	02/01/25 - 06/01/25
Volleyball - Coed - Session 1	08/01/24 - 10/01/24
Volleyball - Coed - Session 2	08/01/24 - 12/15/24
Wiffle Ball	10/15/24 - 12/15/24

PeeWee Sports (Pre-K - Kindergarten)

Our PeeWee programs introduce children to team sports, teammates, and game situations while learning the basics in a fun atmosphere. Each team has a volunteer coach and will meet for six weeks. The first two weeks will be practice only, followed by four weeks of scrimmaging. All equipment, including a personal team jersey, will be provided.

PeeWee Basketball

Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Tues and/or Thurs February - March	Evening	Pioneer Columbus Rec Center	\$40/person

PeeWee Soccer

Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Tues and/or Thurs April - May	Evening	James W. Cownie Soccer Park	\$40/person

Adapted Youth Sports (Grades K - 12)

Adapted Basketball

This inclusive and supportive environment offers individuals with disabilities a chance to enjoy the sport of basketball. This program runs in October/January and ensures kids of all abilities can participate.

Ages	Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
7-10	Tuesday Evening	5:30 - 6:15 p.m.	Pioneer Columbus Rec Center	FREE
11-18		6:30 - 7:15 p.m.		

Adapted Baseball

This inclusive and supportive environment offers individuals with disabilities a chance to enjoy the sport of baseball. This program runs in May and ensures kids of all abilities can participate.

Ages	Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
7-10	Monday Evening	5:30 - 6:15 p.m.	Coming Soon!	FREE
11-18		6:30 - 7:15 p.m.		

Youth Sports (Grades 1 - 7)

All Youth Sports are scholarship eligible.

Our Youth programs introduce children to team sports, teammates, and game situations while learning the basics in a fun atmosphere. Each team will have a volunteer coach to lead practices and/or games. All equipment, including a personal team jersey, will be provided unless otherwise noted.

Basketball

First grade will be coed and will play for 1 hour/week. Teams will practice for the first half hour followed by a half hour scrimmage against an opponent. Grades 2-7 will be divided into separate leagues for boys and girls and divisions will be separated into individual grades, as numbers allow.

Grade(s)	Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
1	Games/Practice Tues	Evening	Pioneer Columbus or Fourmile Rec Centers, and various DMPS	\$50/person or \$475/team
2 - 7	Practice Weekdays Games Weekends	Evening Morning/Afternoon		

Soccer

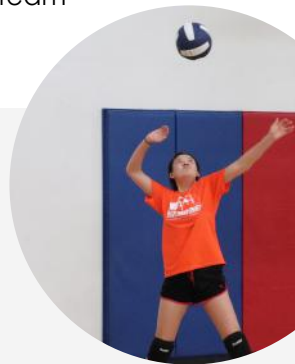
First grade will be coed and will play for 1 hour/week. Teams will practice for the first half hour followed by a half hour scrimmage against an opponent. Grades 2-7 will be divided into separate leagues for boys and girls and divisions will be separated into individual grades, as numbers allow.

Grade(s)	Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
1	Saturday	Morning/Afternoon	Practice at Various DMPS and Rec Centers; Games at Cownie Soccer or Ashfield Park	\$50/person or \$475/team
2 - 7	Practice Weekdays Games Weekends	Evening Morning/Afternoon		

Volleyball

This is a coed program. Grades 1-3 will be combined and will play for one hour each week. Teams will practice for the first half hour followed by a half hour scrimmage against an opponent. Grades 4-7 will be divided by grades as numbers allow.

Grade(s)	Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
1 - 3	Saturdays April - May	Afternoon	Practice at Various DMPS and Rec Centers; Games at Pioneer Columbus or Fourmile Rec Centers	\$50/person or \$475/team
4 - 7	Practice Weekdays Games Weekends April - May	Evening Morning/Afternoon		



Adult Sports (Ages 18 and Older)

We offer both leagues and single day tournaments for our adult sports. All schedules will be posted on www.teamsideline.com/sites/desmoinesia/home for teams to view once the season has started.

Bags - Winter WonderBags

Only one team member needs to register. Teams may bring their own bags, but we will also have sets on site.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Cost
Sat	01/11/2025	12 p.m.	Captain Roy's	\$20/team

Basketball - Men's and Women's

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Mon	November - March	Evening	Pioneer Columbus Rec Center	\$375/team

Flag Football Tournament

Each team must provide their own equipment, including balls and flags.

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Sat - Sun	10/26/24 - 10/27/24	8 a.m.	TBD	\$160/team

Kickball League - Summer

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Thurs	May - June	Evening	George Davis Softball Park	\$195/team

Pickleball League - Spring

Only one team member needs to register. Participants must provide their own paddles and balls.

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Tues and/or Thurs	May - July	Evening	Waveland Tennis Courts	\$35/team

Adult Sports (Ages 18 and Older)

(continued)



Pickleball - Spring Tournament

Men's, women's, and coed divisions available and will be divided by age/skill level as registration numbers allow.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Cost
Sat	05/10/25	8 a.m. or 12 p.m.	McCullum-Waveland Tennis Courts	\$20/team

Softball - Blarney Blast Tournament

Call it the 'Luck of the Irish'; Break out your shillelaghs and green attire, it's time to play softball!

Day(s)	Date	Time	Location	Cost
Sat	03/15/25	9 a.m.	George Davis Softball Park	\$105/team
Sun	03/16/25			

Softball - Fastpitch

Day	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Tues	May - July	Evening	George Davis Softball Park	\$390/team

Softball - Spring

The early birds that get the hits! This season includes four weeks of games.

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Thurs	April	Evening	George Davis Softball Park	\$100/team

Softball - Summer Session 1

Coed and men's slow-pitch teams have the option of 14-week single leagues or seven-week double-header leagues.

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Sun - Fri	May - June	Afternoon/Evening	George Davis Softball Park	\$390/team

Softball - Summer Session 2

Coed and men's slow-pitch teams have the option of 14-week single leagues or 7-week double-header leagues.

Day(s)	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Sun - Fri	July - August	Afternoon/Evening	George Davis Softball Park	\$390/team

Volleyball - Coed - Session 1

Coed requires a minimum of three women on the court at all times. All games will be officiated by one referee.

Day	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Sun	Late October - December	Evening	Pioneer Columbus/Fourmile CRC	\$195/team

Volleyball - Coed - Session 2

Coed requires a minimum of three women on the court at all times. All games will be officiated by one referee.

Day	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Sun	January - March	Evening	Pioneer Columbus/Fourmile CRC	\$195/team

Wiffle Ball

Teams may be composed of all men, all women, or a combination of both.

Day	Date(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Sun	January - March	Evening	Pioneer Columbus/Fourmile CRC	\$60/team



Brenton Skating Plaza



520 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, IA 50309

Learn More



Before You Go

Set up your account and sign the waiver for all participants at DSM.city/BrentonSkatingPlaza

Please check online for up-to-date hours as the schedule is weather dependent. Walk-up only - wavier required, no registration needed for Open Skate. Zamboni intermissions every 2 hours - or as needed.

Admission

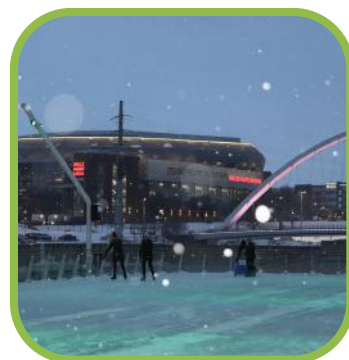
Age	Cost
Child Under 5	FREE
Child 6 - 12 or Senior 60+	\$6.00
Teen/Adult 13+	\$10.00
Skate Rental	\$5.00
Punch Pass Includes 10 Admissions + Skate Rentals	\$95.00



Opening Night

Make plans to attend Opening Night on November 22. All ages are welcome, join us as we greet the season and enjoy a visit from Santa Claus!

Day	Date	Time	Location	Cost
Fri	11/22	5 - 11 p.m.	Brenton Skating Plaza	see admission chart above





Brenton Skating Plaza Special Events & Programs

Event/Program	Date(s) / Availability	Time	Cost
Adapted Skating	12/21/24, 1/4/25, 2/1/25, 2/22/25, 3/8/25, 3/22/25	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	\$5 Includes Admission + Skate Rental
Broomball	Sundays; Dec - Feb	Evening	\$400 per team
Family Skate Date	1/11/25	12:30 - 2:30 p.m.	\$5 Includes Admission + Skate Rental + A Treat *Registration Required
First Responder Appreciation Skate	1/25/25 - 1/26/25	Normal Hours	Free Admission + Skate Rental for all Police and Fire (+3 Family Members)
Princess Skate	Coming Soon!		Regular Admission + Skate Rental
Iowa Wild Take Over	Coming Soon!		\$5 Admission + Skate Rental
Learn To Skate Clinics	12/7/24, 12/14/24, 1/11/25, 1/25/25, 2/1/25, 2/15/25	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Free Admission + Skate Rental *Registration Required
Military Appreciation Skate	2/1/25 - 2/2/25	Normal Hours	Free Admission + Skate Rental for all Military (+3 Family Members)
MLK Jr. Donate & Skate Day	1/20/25	12 - 9 p.m.	Free Admission + Skate Rental with donation. See website for details.



Brenton Skating Plaza Special Events & Programs

Events Page



Event/Program	Date(s) / Availability	Time	Cost
Principal Charity Classic Take Over	2/21/25	5 - 7 p.m.	Regular Admission + Skate Rental + FREE hot chocolate
Senior Skate	Wednesdays 12/4/24-2/26/25, no sessions 12/25/24 & 1/1/25	2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	\$6 Admission
Sensory Skate	12/28/24, 1/18/25, 2/8/25, 3/1/25, 3/15/25	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	\$5 Admission
Student Night	Thursdays; Jan & Feb	5 - 9 p.m.	\$5 Admission
Super Hero Skate	Coming Soon!		Regular Admission + Skate Rental *Registration Required
Teacher Appreciation Skate	2/8/25 - 2/9/25	Normal Hours	Free Admission + Skate Rental for all Teachers
Turnback the Clock Night	1/27/25 - '70s Night 2/3/25 - '80s Night 2/10/25 - '90s Night	Normal Hours	Regular Admission + Skate Rental + FREE hot chocolate
Valentine's Day & Whoops! I Forgot Valentine's Day Skate	2/14/25 & 2/15/25	Normal Hours	Regular Admission + Skate Rental + FREE hot chocolate and cookie
Zumba	Wednesdays & Sundays; Aug. through Oct.	6 - 7 p.m. Wed. 5 - 6 p.m. Sun.	\$5 Admission





Cemeteries

Wreaths Across America

Help us honor our fallen U.S. Veterans and those currently serving, by sponsoring or volunteering to lay 1,000 wreaths in Woodland Cemetery. Learn more about this international effort online at dsm.city/wreaths.

Sponsor a Wreath



2019 Woodland Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312



Date	More Info
12/14/24	dsm.city/wreaths

Community Gardens



Pollinator Palooza

Get ready for a day of buzzing excitement! This celebration will have engaging presentations designed to enlighten people about the incredible world of pollinators as well as educational booths from local businesses and organizations. If the weather is on our side, there'll be activities for the little ones to be busy bees in the garden. We hope that after experiencing the buzz about pollinators you will be inspired to make a difference in your community, one flower at a time.

Learn More



Date	Time	Location	Cost
9/28/24	12 - 4:30 p.m.	Franklin Ave Library & Community Garden	FREE

Community Recreation Centers

Rec Center Info



Pioneer Columbus
2100 SE 5th St.
515-248-6316

Open:
M-F 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Fourmile
3711 Easton Blvd.
515-248-6315

Open:
M-F 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Open Recreation

Open Recreation is available for ages 10 and up. Basketball, volleyball, game tables, weights, cardio and public computers available during regular business hours.

Gym Walking

All ages are welcome to use the gym for walking Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Fourmile Recreation Center.

Polk Co. Meal Site (Seniors 60+)

Free lunch offered to seniors Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at both recreation centers.

Admission

Age	Cost
Youth (10 - 18)	FREE
Adult (19 - 59)	\$1/day or \$12/month
Senior 60 +	FREE

Yearly memberships available.
Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Certification Classes

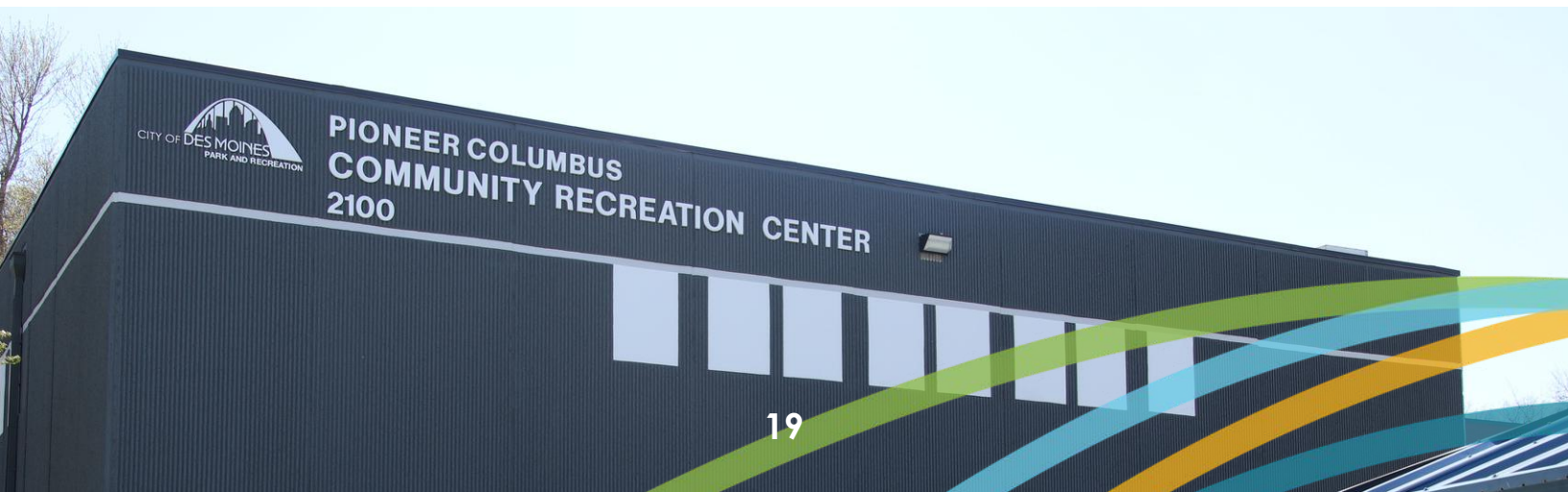
Program	Program Period
Babysitting Certification	Winter 2024
CPR Certification	Winter 2024

Children (Ages 1 - 7)

Activity	Program Period
Imagination Playground	November - March

All Ages (Ages 10+)

Activity / Program	Availability
Des Moines Table Tennis Club	Year-round
Indoor Pickleball	Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Teq Ball	Year-round



Certification Classes

Babysitting Certification

This interactive online course will prepare youth ages 11+ to be better babysitters. Learn how to provide care for infants and children, stay safe, choose age-appropriate activities, recognize and handle a variety of behaviors, what to do in emergency situations, basics of starting a baby sitting business and CPR training.

Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
TBD	TBD	Des Moines CRC's	\$50

CPR Certification

Adult, Child and Baby First Aid/CPR/AED course equips students to recognize and care for a variety of first aid breathing and cardiac emergencies involving adults, children, and babies

Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
TBD	TBD	Des Moines CRC's	\$75

Children (Ages 1 - 7)

Imagination Playschool

An indoor play area offering playhouses, big wheel bikes, safety mats, foam building blocks and more during the cold weather months.

Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Mon, Wed & Fri	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Pioneer Columbus Rec Center	\$1.50/child



All Ages (Ages 10+)

Des Moines Table Tennis Club

Everyone age 15 and older is welcome participate in table tennis with the Des Moines Table Tennis Club (DMTTC).

Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Tues & Thurs	5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Fourmile Rec Center	\$5/visit or \$240/year

Indoor Pickleball

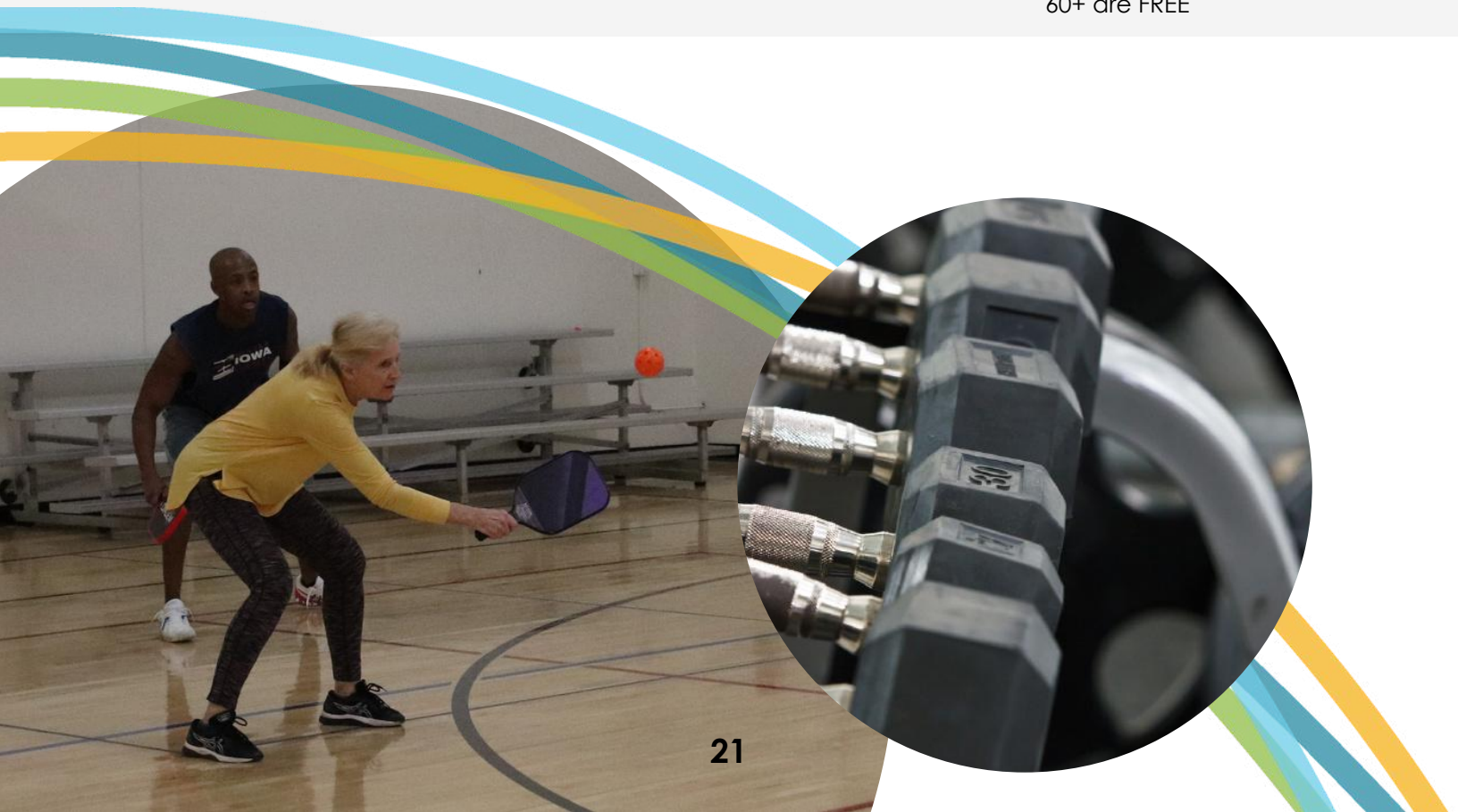
Pickleball is available on three indoor courts. Play a quick and fast paced game played as doubles or singles.

Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Mon - Fri	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Pioneer Columbus Rec Center	\$2/person
Tues & Thurs	12 - 3 p.m.	Fourmile Rec Center	\$2/person
Mon & Wed	3 - 8 p.m.		

Teq Ball

A new and exciting game that combines the skills of soccer and table tennis.

Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Call for Availability	3 - 8 p.m.	Fourmile & Pioneer Columbus Rec Centers	\$1/day Ages 10 -18 or 60+ are FREE





Dog Parks

Locations and General Info

There are three dog parks in Des Moines – Ewing, Reno Memorial and Riverwalk. Permits are required for entry and the annual cost is \$20. The permits can be purchased online or in-person at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall (400 Robert D. Ray Drive) and used at all three parks and are good January 1 - December 31.

Hours: All parks open year-round, daily, 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.



Ewing Dog Park
4660 Indianola Ave



Reno Memorial Dog Park
3325 Hubbell Ave



Riverwalk Dog Park
1111 Illinois St



Rules & Requirements:

- Current dog license from the City of Des Moines or home jurisdiction
- Current dog rabies vaccination certification
- Dog must be at least four months old
- Permits and tags pertain to specific dogs, not the dog park and cannot be transferred to other dogs or dog owners

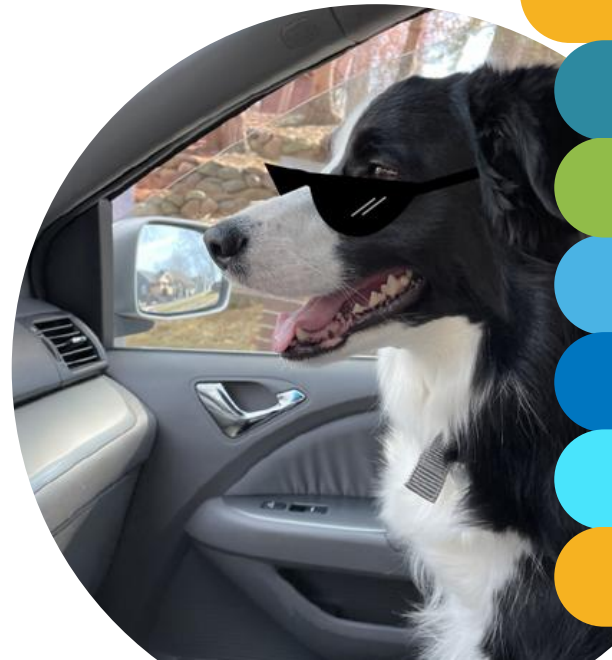
Dog Park Ambassador Program

Join our team of grrrr-eat dog-loving volunteers and help welcome dogs and owners to the park. **BONUS...**earn a FREE dog park permit for the following year!

Learn More



Apply



Mobile Recreation Park-N-Play

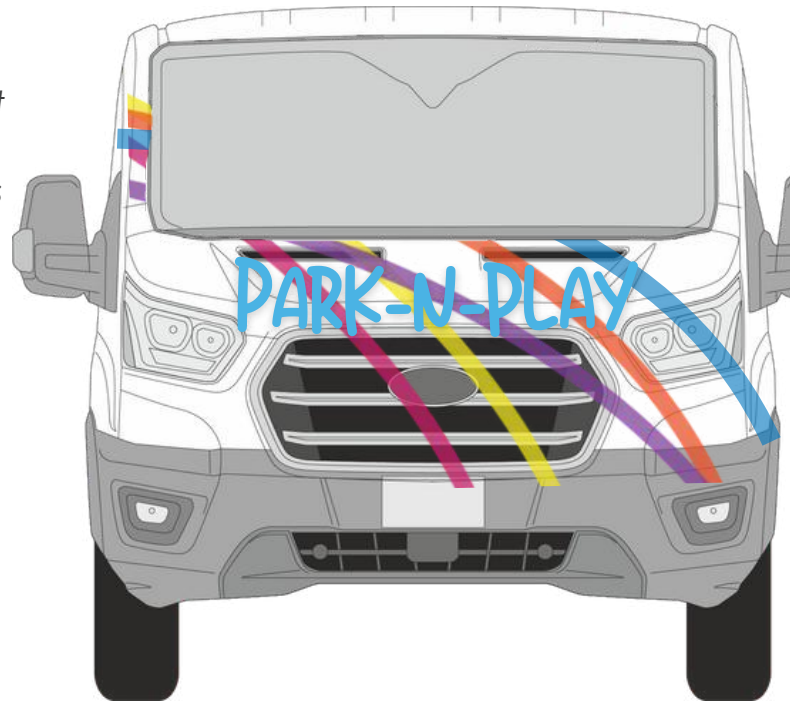
Learn More



Program Overview

Park-N-Play, Des Moines' new mobile recreation vehicle, is a traveling program that brings the fun to you! This van is jam-packed with different games, sports equipment, crafts and so much more to increase your year of fun for the whole family.

Not every park has programs or activities planned, so instead of traveling further to a park that has those programs, Park-N-Play is bringing the fun to your neighborhood. Look for a schedule of Park-N-Play stops coming SOON!



Summer Schedule

Day(s)	Time(s)	Location	Cost
Mon - Sat	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ; 1:30 - 3 p.m.	Check dmparks.org for schedule	FREE

Fall and Spring Schedule

Day(s)	Time(s)	Location	Cost
Mon - Fri	4 - 5:30 p.m.	Check dmparks.org for schedule	FREE
Sat	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ; 1:30 - 3 p.m.		

Learn More



Nature Programs

All ages welcome. Participants 16 and under must have an adult/guardian present.

Bald Eagle Day

Enjoy and learn about the Bald Eagles in downtown Des Moines.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
02/08/25	10 a.m.	South East 6th Street Bridge	FREE

Bat Boxes

Learn about the bats that live in Iowa and build a bat box to take home with you. Pre-registration is required.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
10/04/24	5:30 p.m.	MacRae Park W.C. Walker Enclosed Shelter	\$15/box built

Bird House Building Workshop

Learn about birds that like to live in houses, such as, the Eastern Bluebird and Wrens and build your own birdhouse to take home with you. Pre-registration is required.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
03/29/25	10 a.m.	Greenwood Park Jay Spence Enclosed Shelter	\$10/birdhouse built

Birding Basics

Participants will take a casual walk to search for migrating and residential birds. John Bissel leads the group, pointing out birds, talking about their habits and answering questions.

Day(s)	Time	Location	Cost
Wed in March - May	11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Gray's Lake	FREE

Build a Bird Feeder Workshop

Join us to learn about bird feeders, take a hike and then build your own bird feeder to take home with you. Pre-registration is required.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
11/16/24	10:30 a.m.	Columbus Park Enclosed Shelter	\$15/bird feeder

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

Take a walk with us through the park on a set of snowshoes and enjoy our city parks on a Full Moon Winter Evening. Dress for the weather. We will provide gear for adults and children. Pre-Registration is required. Anyone under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
01/13/25	5:30 p.m.	Greenwood Park Jay Spence Enclosed Shelter	\$5/person
02/12/25	5:30 p.m.	Pioneer Park Shelter	\$5/person



GPS Pot O'Gold

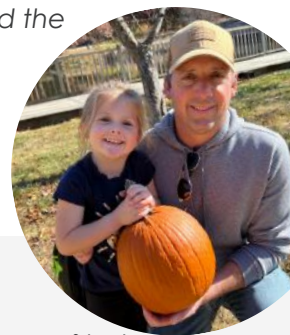
Participants will learn how to use a handheld Global Positioning Unit then use the GPS to find hidden "golden treasures" in the park. Pre-registration is required.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
03/15/25	1 p.m. or 3 p.m.	Tower Park Shelter	\$10/person collecting prizes

GPS Great Pumpkin Hunt

Participants will learn how to use a handheld Global Positioning Unit then use the GPS to find the "Great Pumpkin" in the park. Pre-registration is required.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
10/26/24	10:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.	Greenwood Park	\$10/person



Luminary Hike

Everyone is invited to follow the nature themed luminaries along the trail and then enjoy a cup of hot chocolate around the fire.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
12/06/24 & 12/07/24	5 - 8 p.m.	Grandview Park Mahaffey Enclosed Shelter	FREE





Monarch Tagging

Join us for one of our FREE Monarch butterfly tagging events, a local component of a larger citizen science project. Explore the fascinating fall migration dynamics of the Monarch and participate in hands-on tagging. Don't miss this opportunity!

Location	Date	Time
Forest Avenue Library	09/05/24	5 - 6 p.m.
Blank Park Zoo	09/07/24	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
South Side Library	09/09/24	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Gray's Lake S.E. Parking Lot Area	09/12/24	5 - 6 p.m.
Greenwood Park Open Air Shelter	09/14/24	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
North Side Library	09/16/24	4 - 5 p.m.
East Side Library	09/18/24	4 - 5 p.m.
Ashby Park	09/28/24	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Franklin Avenue Library	09/28/24	2- 3 p.m.

Owls of Iowa

Learn about the different kinds of owls that live here in Iowa and meet a live screech owl. Dress for the weather so we can take a short hike in search of wild live owls in the park.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
02/21/24	5:30 p.m.	MacRae Park W.C. Walker Enclosed Shelter	FREE



Special Events



Learn More

Bark Before Dark

Dog park permit holders are invited to the Bark Before Dark Halloween Pawty! Each registered dog will receive a goodie bag, the opportunity to run about the park with Halloween activities, and entered into the costume contest to win a 2025 Dog Park Permit. Pre-registration required September 1 - October 23.

Date	Time	Location(s)	Cost
10/22/24		Reno Memorial Dog Park	
10/23/24	5 - 6 p.m.	Ewing Dog Park	\$5/dog
10/24/24		Riverwalk Dog Park	



Brenton Boo-tacular

Get ready for a ghoulishly good time at Brenton Skating Plaza! Dress up, bring your candy bags, and join us for an unforgettable evening of frightful fun. Whether you're a witch, superhero, or just love candy, this family-friendly celebration promises entertainment for all! Wander around the rink for delicious treats and spooky surprises. Afterwards, join us in the parking lot of the Armory Building for Disney's "Coco" on the big movie screen! Don't miss out on the most spooktacular event of the season!

Date	Time	Location	Cost
10/22/24	5 - 6:30 p.m.	Brenton Skating Plaza	Free



Family Fun Night

Enjoy live animals from the Blank Park Zoo, compete on our inflatable obstacle course, enjoy a live magician, get your face painted, meet members of the Des Moines Police and Fire Departments and play laser tag. Pre-registration required January 1 - February 28.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
03/01/25	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Pioneer Columbus Rec Center	\$10/person

Jingle Bell Stroll

Walk along the holiday-themed loop with games and craft stations. Visit Santa Claus, listen to some holiday tunes, and pick up a hot chocolate to keep you warm as you wander around the loop. Santa Claus will be available for photos. Event is designed for children 13 and under. Pre-registration required November 1 - December 13.

Date	Time	Location	Cost
12/14/24	2 - 4 p.m.	Gray's Lake Park - Southeast Lawn	Free

Mayor's Annual Ride

Ride to help maintain our trails! Register for the 2025 Mayor's Annual Ride and your contribution will help fund new trail projects. Pre-registration required January 1 - May 2. Register by March 1 to guarantee a t-shirt in your size.

Date	Time	Location(s)	Cost
05/03/25	10 a.m.	TBD	\$35/adult before May 2; \$50 on-site! \$5/child (Children 4 and under ride free)

Nature Trail Running Series

Runners of all levels explore nature trails in our park system. Participants will run three or six miles guided by volunteers from Fleet Feet and Capital Striders!

Date	Time	Location(s)	Cost
09/04/24	6 p.m.	Ashworth Park	Free
09/11/24		Ewing Park (Ashley Okland Star Playground)	
09/18/24		Grandview Park	
09/25/24		Ashby Park	

Snow Ball

Experience the enchantment of winter at "The Snow Ball". Embrace the magic as you twirl and glide under shimmering lights, creating cherished memories in each other's company. Share laughter, love, and the joy of togetherness on the frosty dance floor. Parents, relatives, guardians and/or role models are invited to bring their kids to the event. Pre-registration required January 1 - January 31.

Date	Time	Location(s)	Cost
02/01/25	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Science Center of Iowa	\$10/person



Trivia Night

Join Des Moines Parks and Recreation for Trivia Night! Assemble a team of your friends and put your knowledge to the test with a mix of general knowledge questions. The event is hosted by The Rook Room and will take place at Waveland Golf Course. Teams are limited to six or fewer participants. Pre-registration required December 1 - January 9. Team captains will register their entire team, include team name and number of participants.

Date	Time	Location(s)	Cost
01/09/25	6 - 8:30 p.m.	Waveland Golf Course Clubhouse	\$20/team

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots

Des Moines Parks and Recreation is partnering with the U.S. Marine Corps this holiday season. Ensure that your children have a holiday they'll never forget by signing up for Toys for Tots!

Registration

If you would like to register your child(ren) - 14 and under - pre-register online to receive toys this holiday season. Please note you can only sign up for one toy distribution site. Scan the QR code to sign up beginning November 1.



**Pioneer Columbus Community
Recreation Center**
2100 SE 5th St.



**Fourmile Community
Recreation Center**
3711 Easton Blvd.

Register



Registration Period	Registration Days / Hours	Pick Up Dates*	Pick Up Times*
11/01/24 - 11/30/24	Mon - Fri / 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	12/16/24	12 - 6 p.m.
		12/17/24	3 - 8 p.m.
		12/18/24	12 - 6 p.m.

*at the selected location



Volunteer



Volunteer Opportunities

Program Title	Registration Period
Adopt-a-Block	Ongoing
Adopt-a Park / Adopt-a-Trail	Ongoing
Bark Before Dark	Ends 10/08/24
Dog Park Ambassadors	Ongoing
Family Fun Night	Ends 02/14/25
Jingle Bell Stroll	Ends 11/29/24
Luminary Hike	Ends 11/22/24
Monarch Tagging	Ends 9/13/24
Snow Ball	Ends 12/17/24

Adopt-a-Block

Help preserve the beauty and history of our cemeteries by caring for a cemetery block(s). Duties include picking up small branches, cutting back dead flowers, picking up litter, and reporting damage. Scheduling is flexible so choose what works best for you.

Orientation	Volunteer Period	Age Requirements
03/26/25, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	April - November 2025	18+ or 14 -17 with a guardian

Adopt-a-Park / Adopt-a-Trail

Help beautify our parks and trails by hosting quarterly cleanups. View available locations and apply online. After your first clean up, an adoption sign will be placed with your family, business, organization or individual name.

Orientation	Volunteer Period	Age Requirements
None	Flexible, Annual Commitment	18+ for volunteer leaders

Bark Before Dark

Are you a dog lover? Consider volunteering to help facilitate a Halloween costume contest for pups as well as various Halloween activities at each of our dog parks. See page 27 for event details.

Orientation	Volunteer Period	Time	Age Requirements
None	10/22/24 @ Reno 10/23/24 @ Ewing 10/24/24 @ Riverwalk	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.	18+ or 16+ parental/guardian approval



Volunteer



Dog Park Ambassadors

Join our grrrr-eat team of Dog Park Ambassadors welcoming permitted dogs and owners to our parks. Donate 40 hours/year and receive a FREE dog park permit for the following year. To learn more about how ambassadors create a safe and enjoyable dog park experience, scan the QR code on page 22.

Orientation	Volunteer Period	Age Requirements
Varies	Flexible, Year-Round	18+

Family Fun Night

Let the fun begin! Help us host a family-friendly event packed full of activities and excitement. See page 27 for event details.

Volunteer Period	Time	Age Requirements
03/01/25	6 - 9 p.m.	18+ or 14 -17 with parental/guardian approval

Jingle Bell Stroll

Santa Claus is coming to town! We need your help with some jolly good fun along our holiday-themed loop. Volunteer as event staff at this FREE family-friendly stroll. See page 27 for more details.

Volunteer Period	Time	Age Requirements
12/14/24	1:30 - 4:30 p.m.	18+ or 16+ with parental/guardian approval

Luminary Hike

Experience the magic of winter while volunteering to assist Des Moines Parks and Recreation Environmental Educator on a luminary hike. See page 25 for event details.

Volunteer Period	Time	Age Requirements
12/06/24 & 12/07/24	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	18+ or 14 -17 with parental/guardian approval

Monarch Tagging

Assist our Environmental Educator in hosting a free monarch-tagging event, as part of an international citizen science effort collecting data on monarch butterfly migration. See page 26 for more event details.

Volunteer Period	Time	Age Requirements
Multiple options in September	Varies	18+ or 14 -17 with parental/guardian approval

Snow Ball

Help us host the best party of the year! Volunteers make this evening magical as our guests dance the night away. Event helpers greet guests, run the coat room, and host the refreshment room. See page 28 for event details.

Volunteer Period	Time	Age Requirements
02/01/25	6 - 9 p.m.	18+ or 16+ with parental/guardian approval



New Amenities

Bouldering

Part of the Cohen Park (1000 Scott Ave) renovations included the addition of three bouldering walls. These structures offer multiple climbing routes, allowing both beginner and experienced climbers to test their skills without equipment. There are also equipment tie-ins that will support adaptive climbing programs coming soon.



Learn More



Sutu Wall

Cohen Park now features a unique, interactive ball wall called Sutu. The Sutu wall is one of the most dynamic outdoor play products in the world. With the free Sutu app, participants can track their gameplay, gauge their improvement, keep score, and even measure their progress against other Sutu players worldwide! A vast library of games is available, with new ones constantly being added.



Foot Golf

Say hello to the new 9-hole Foot Golf course at Pete Crivaro Park (1105 E. Railroad Ave)! This exciting addition offers a unique blend of soccer and golf, perfect for players of all ages and skill levels.

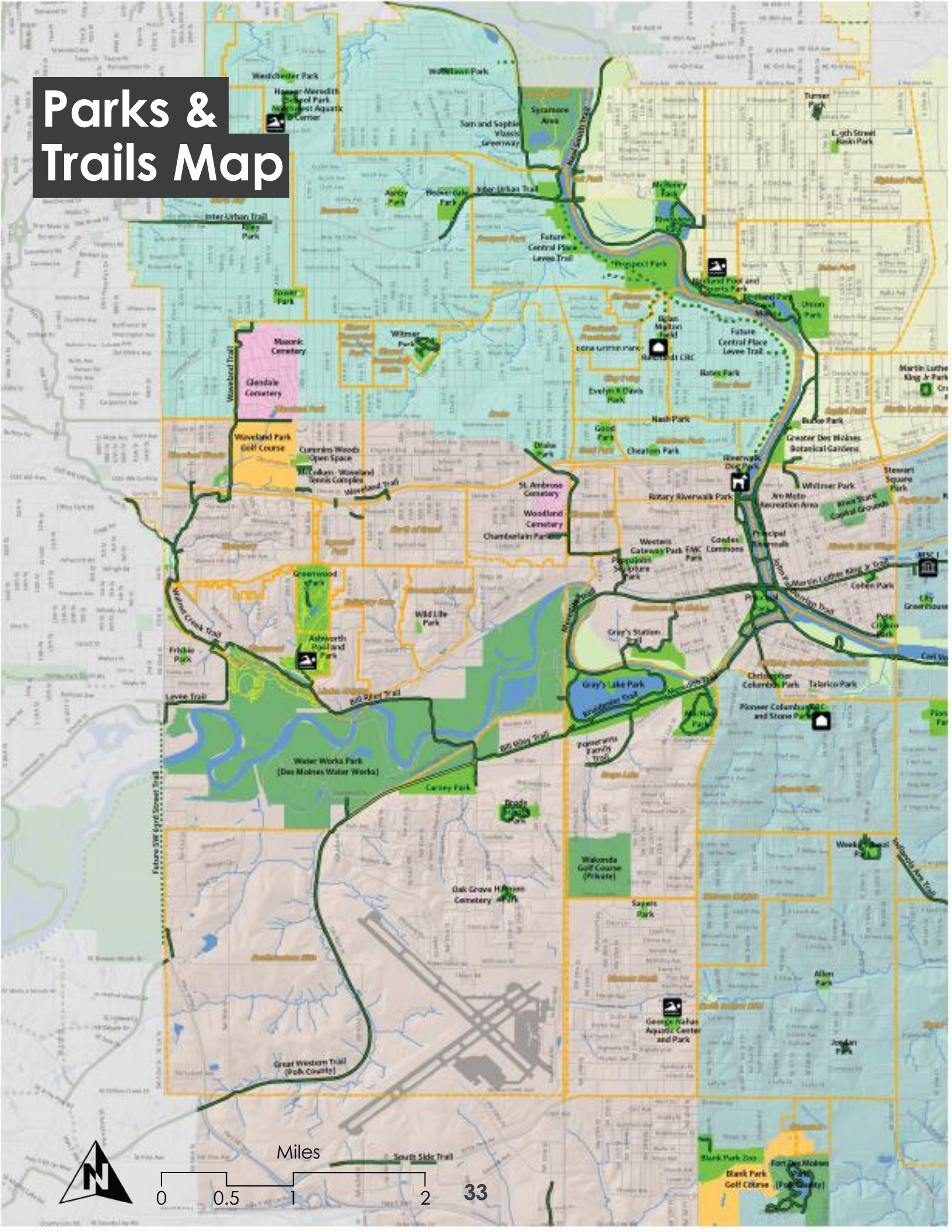
Foot Golf Open House

Explore the new 9-hole foot golf course and learn how to play. This event is perfect for all ages and skill levels.



Date	Time	Location	Cost
09/14/24	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Pete Crivaro Park	FREE

Parks & Trails Map
















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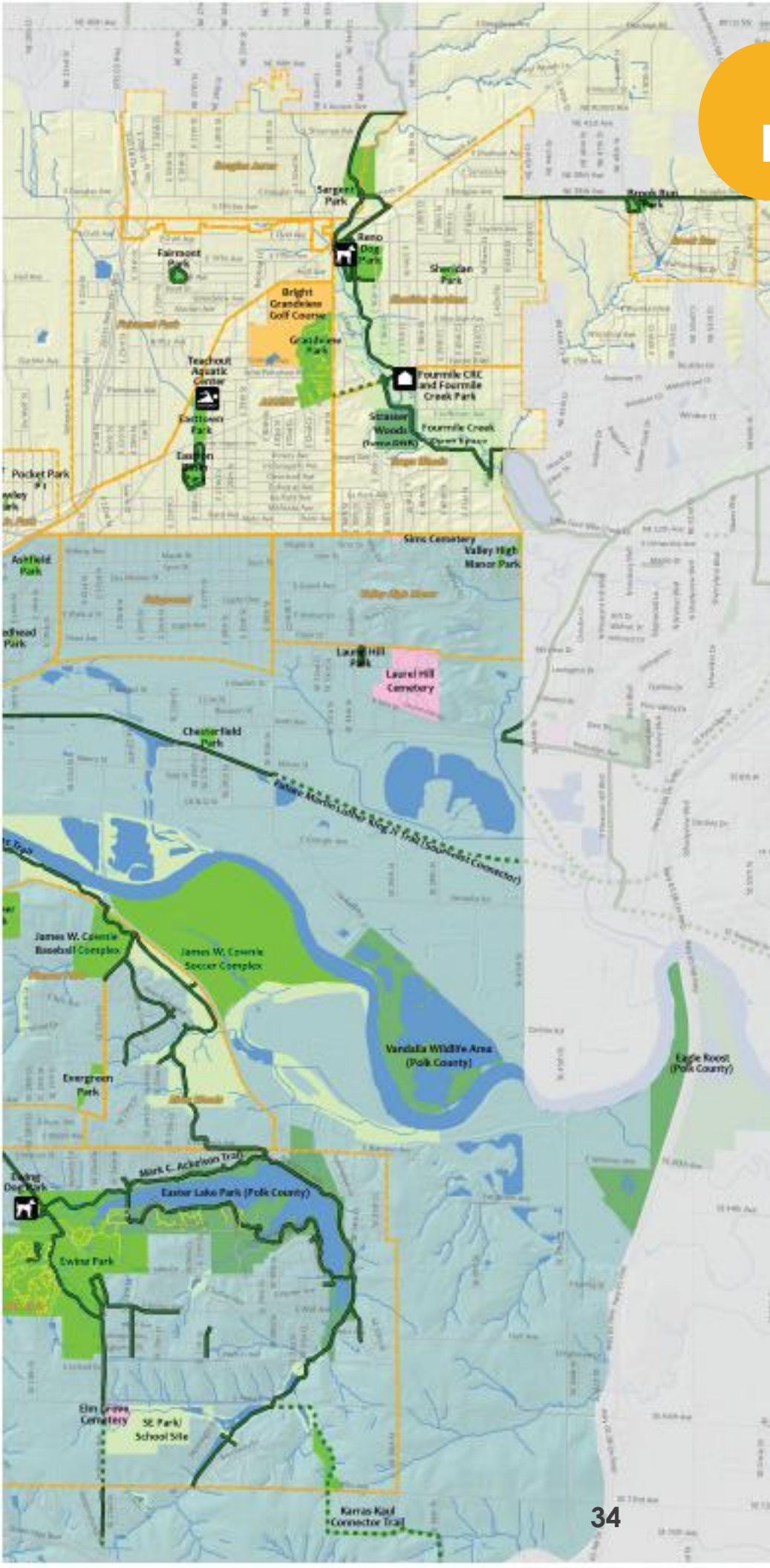
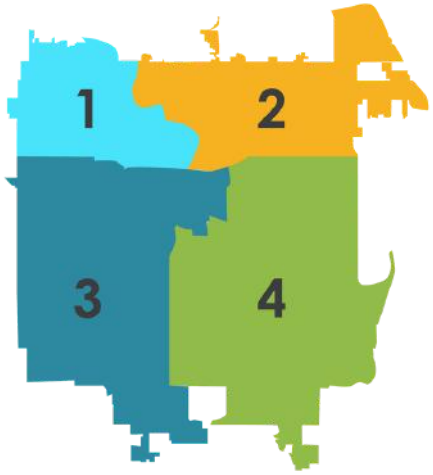
Des Moines Parks and Trails

Learn More



-  Parks
-  Other Parks
-  Open Space
-  Cemetery
-  Golf Course
-  Paved Trails
-  Nature Trails
-  Future Trails
-  Neighborhood Boundary
-  Municipal Service Center Parks and Recreation Dept.
-  Community Recreation Center
-  Pool/Aquatic Center
-  Dog Park

City Council Wards



**BRENTON SKATING
PLAZA**



**1551 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway
Des Moines, Iowa 50317
515-237-1386
parks@dmgov.org**