

History of MV Parks and Recreation

Max Siders

When Was The Director Position Instigated?

- The parks and recreation board felt there needed to be a Parks and Recreation Director.
- Then they put an ad in the Mount Vernon Sun, this was on March 23rd, 2000.

Who Was The First Director?

- Kelly Douda was the first full time director.
- She was the one chosen out of 4 other people in April of 2000
- Mike Beimer said she was the best option because she was the interim for the former Parks and Rec Coordinator Michelle Bostwick after her resignation

How Have The Programs Changed?

- For example, Tee-Ball in 2004 had 89 participants.
- Now in 2016 the department has added Blastball. Blastball is for 2 and 3 year olds and gets them prepared for Tee-Ball.
- Now Tee-Ball and Blastball have over 140 kids participating altogether.
- That means the program has grown 51 kids in eight years. 49% increase.

Parks and Recreation Office Locations

The location for this office has changed three times.

- First, the office was located in the basement of Mount Vernon City Hall.
- The office was shared with the Historic Preservation at that time.(When Kelly Douda was director)
- Then when Kelly had to also take over as manager of the pool, the office was moved to the pool.
- Then around 2007, the office was moved to it's current location which is above the Elliot Park City maintenance garage.

Parks

Memorial Park

- Memorial Park was acquired and constructed in 1933.
- The Park was meant to show historic characteristics
- Long Term Renovations- Adding a restroom facility, reconstructing a new gazebo
- Also is the site where our water tower is located.

Parks Continued

Bryant Park-

- Now Includes three soccer fields (named after the Rittmer Family in 2000)
- Was acquired and constructed in 1999
- At the start it only included two soccer fields
- Uses- Tee-Ball, Soccer, Coach Pitch.
- Long Term Needs- Park Expansion, Additional Trail

Parks Continued

Davis Park- Acquired and Constructed in 1964. Oldest of all the parks.

Uses- Baseball, Softball, Football Buddies, Ice Rink.

Includes a baseball/softball field, and two basketball courts. Playground.

The pool which is 55 years old is located NE of the park. Cornell College utilized the ball fields years ago. The upgrades made are still present, making this ball field much desired by other teams and citizens.

Renovations were performed on the playground and lights in 1976, and 1999. Plans for 2016 renovations have been made.

Long Term Needs- Create trail through park from 8th AVE NW, replace/update ball field lights.

Intermediate Needs- Replace concession stand building (including the restrooms), repair permanent bleachers, rebuild the storage building near batting cages.

Parks Continued

Elliott Park- Acquired and constructed between 1999-2001, formerly Mount Vernon Athletic Complex. Named after former Mayor and well known Mount Vernon resident Rick Elliott. At the start only had four baseball fields but in 2014 a new field was made NE of the main ball fields.

- Now includes 5 baseball fields, concession stand, restrooms, trail, playground
- Uses- Flag Football, new ball field is used by the school for high school baseball practices, soccer.
- Opportunities/Constraints- residential area to the South, farmland for sale to the East.

Immediate Needs- Expand the playground.

Intermediate Needs- Purchase more portable bleachers, add a crosswalk from the street to the playground area.

Long Term Needs- Lighting for at least one field, acquiring land to the east. Acquiring the land could expand the park into a larger complex.

Pictures



Citations

<http://www.mvhpc.org/items/show/5863>

http://www.cityofmtvernon-ia.gov/index.asp?Type=B_LIST&SEC=%7BE73BF045-B3BC-44F3-B67F-EB4DAEF53510%7D