

Mayor Coleman's 2009 Proposed Budget: Financial Stability. Wise Investments. Strong Management.

Saint Paul Parks & Recreation

Overview

Improving service delivery and infrastructure maintenance will be the focus of the department in 2009. Parks and Recreation will launch a parking circulator for Como Park Zoo & Conservatory to alleviate traffic and congestion concerns. Infrastructure maintenance funding will also increase by nearly \$350,000.

The department will remain an integral part of the City's efforts to expand educational opportunities by partnering with community organizations to offer quality programming at our recreation centers.

Investing in children, families, and neighborhoods

Since Mayor Coleman took office, the Division of Parks and Recreation Department has redefined its role in the City to be a resource offering better service at a better price. A number of innovative changes and key additions have shaped the way the department does business:

- Service delivery reorganization: Adjusted staffing, resources, building hours and expanded the mobile recreation team to creatively meet the needs of the changing public
- Recreation center reprogramming: Partnered with non-profit community organizations to manage eight recreation centers, saving the City \$1 million annually in operating costs
- Increased capital maintenance: Put additional funding into aging infrastructure
- *Key additions*: Oxford Community and Jimmy Lee Recreation Center, refrigerated skating rinks, Blooming Butterflies exhibit in 2008, Polar Bear Odyssey exhibit

The 2009 budget will maintain the department's focus on service delivery, recreation center reprogramming, and capital maintenance. Armed with a new mission and vision, the department has a number of goals and success stories to build upon for the future.

- Leverage federal funds to launch the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory circulator to help alleviate some traffic and congestion concerns and allow a larger local audience the ability to visit the zoo without having to get a ride or take a metro bus
- Maintain premium service without personnel reductions
- Use additional funding to restore the aging infrastructure through increasing capital maintenance
- In cooperation with the Saint Paul Public Library and various community groups, complete the unique plans for the new Payne Maryland Partnership facility. The facility will bring a City investment into an East Side neighborhood with historic roots in Saint Paul culture and would exemplify what Invest Saint Paul is all about.
- Target additional projects through the Capital Improvement Budget:
 - o Completion of Polar Bear Odyssey at Como Park Zoo
 - o Highland Park Aquatic Center
 - o Begin plans for the replacement of the Como Pool/Aquatics Center
 - o Finalize plans for major joint facility improvements with Saint Paul Public Library at Payne/Maryland, Hillcrest and Conway sites.