



Parks and Recreation Board Agenda
Department of Public Services
851 South Eton-Conference Room
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
6:30 PM

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of the minutes of:** Tuesday, April 5, 2022(*regular meeting*)
- IV. Agenda Items**-Written and submitted by 5pm Monday at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, one week prior to the meeting.
- V. Communications/Discussion Items**
 - 1. Public Arts Board Update
 - 2. Project Updates
 - a. Adams Park Project
 - b. Rouge River Trail Corridor
 - c. Pickleball Update
 - d. Ground Water Energy Passive System
 - e. Prescribed Burn
 - f. Fire Station #2 Property
 - g. Ice Arena Mural Contest-Engage
 - 3. Pickleball Isn't Just for Seniors-Just Ask Stanley Cup Champ Kris Draper, Hour Magazine Article, 4/26/2022
 - 4. DPS Open House-Saturday, May 14, 2022
 - 5. River Day Clean-Up, Saturday, May 21, 2022
 - 6. Birmingham Ice Arena Recital-Sunday, May 22, 2022
- VI. Unfinished Business**
- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Open To The Public for Items Not On the Agenda**

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Individuals requiring accommodations, such as interpreter services, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 at least one day in advance of the public meeting.
Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al
(248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública.
(Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

*If you cannot attend the meetings, please contact Connie Folk at the Birmingham Ice Arena (248) 530-1642.
Minutes are available for review at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2300 East Lincoln, Birmingham, MI 48009*

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

The Parks and Recreation Board strives to provide opportunities for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration for present and future generations of residents and visitors through stewardship of natural, cultural and recreational resources. By continuously elevating the beauty and quality of the parks and recreation system of Birmingham, the Parks and Recreation Board will promote health and wellbeing, and strengthen the community.

Should you have any statement regarding the above, you are invited
to attend the meeting in person or virtually through

ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/98191466679> **Meeting ID:** 981 9146 6679

You may also present your written statement to:
City of Birmingham, Parks and Recreation Board
851 South Eton, Birmingham, Michigan 48009 prior to the meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2022

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Kyle Goulding
Ross Kaplan
Anne Lipp
Ellie Noble
John Rusche

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Zachary Miketa, Seaholm High School
Matthew Windsor, Seaholm High School

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pam Graham

ADMINISTRATION: Lauren A. Wood, Director of Public Services
Carrie A. Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator

GUESTS: Linda Forrester, Oz Forrester, Steve Sweeney and
Amy Ordona

It was moved by Lipp, seconded by Rusche to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 1, 2022, regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Kyle Goulding, Ross
Kaplan, Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble, and John Rusche
Nays, None
Absent, Pam Graham

Agenda item #1: Nomination of 2022 Parks and Recreation Board Vice-Chairperson

Carmona nominated Graham as Vice-Chairperson; Graham was not in attendance but was aware of the nomination.

Collins nominated Lipp. Lipp declined the nomination.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Kyle Goulding, Ross
Kaplan, Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble, and John Rusche
Nays, None
Absent, Pam Graham

Agenda item #2: Parks Natural Areas Maintenance

PM Laird stated that the city has numerous natural and native planting areas such as woodlands, prairies, bio swales, wetland garden areas and rain gardens throughout the park system and on city property for example at Barnum Park, Quarton Lake, and Martha Baldwin Park. Barnum, Quarton Lake, Martha Baldwin parks are all maintained and developed to support native wildlife and pollinators, free from invasive plants and wildlife species. Our raingardens are beneficial to our ecosystem's natural filtration of storm water runoff as well as help keep pollinators healthy.

PM Laird stated the city's maintenance program has been in place for quite some time. In 2014, the City hired Native Connections to put together a Habitat Restoration Plan specific to Quarton Lake Park. The Habitat Restoration plan calls for native species enhancement, invasive species removal and follow up treatments.

PM Laird stated that Cardno, as the lowest qualified bidder was awarded the Invasive Species Removal Project of 2015 at Quarton Lake and the Museum Park property and the 2018 Martha Baldwin Native Wet Meadow Garden project. Cardno performed some but less regular maintenance of natural areas in 2020 and 2021 due to the impacts of covid19.

Kaplan asked if after the treatment if the company will be analyzing the water or areas that were treated with the use of the tracking dye.

Rusche asked how the public can appreciate the City of Birmingham's effort on removal of invasive species.

PM Laird stated that educational signs have been installed that reference the ecological plants and future signage will be installed.

Ordona, 504 Landon asked why the prescribed burns are done.

PM Laird explained the prescribed burns are done to help establish native prairie plantings and discourages invasive species, a regenerative system.

Forrester stated that native plants filter the water as it flows down toward the Rouge River.

It was moved by Rusche, seconded by Collins to approve the project for Natural Areas Maintenance with Cardno (now Stantec) and further, to recommend this project be considered for approval by the City Commission.

Ayes,

Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Kyle Goulding, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble, and John Rusche

Nays,

None

Absent,

Pam Graham

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Parks and Recreation Bond Status

DPS Director Wood reviewed the Bond Funding Summary.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Adams Park Project-City Commission

Approval March 28, 2022

Chairperson Carmona recused herself from the Parks and Recreation Board meeting as the item 2 and 3 are related to Adams Park due to her conflict of interest with Adams Park.

Lipp stepped in for Carmona.

DPS Director Wood stated that Adams Park Project was approved at the March 28th City Commission meeting and was awarded to Michigan Recreational Construction company.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: Adams Park Fundraising Initiatives

PM Laird stated that staff has been working on a City of Birmingham donation website page and our first page will be Adams Park which will be time appropriately and a fundraising campaign will be coordinated with the neighborhood groups.

PM Laird stated that donations will be both general donations with set amount or pick a park feature, such as landscaping, trees and there will be recognition plaques in central area of park.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Carmona returned to the Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4: Pickleball Brainstorming Session

DPS Director Wood stated since the contractor that had been working on the pickleball project had withdrawn for the project and staff wanted to have a brainstorming session with the Parks and Recreation Board for additional input.

PM Laird stated that administrative comments were received from city departments on the proposed Kenning Park location.

PM Laird reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board the sites that were included in previous pickleball communications.

PM Laird showed the Parks and Recreation Board a new option idea from the City Manager to the City Commission recently as a potential place for pickleball at South Well Park, which is categorized as a mini park north of Market Square along Southfield Road.

Carmona stated that hearing from the pickleball community was very helpful in developing future pickleball courts.

Linda Forrester and Oz Forrester stated that converting a tennis court to a pickleball court would be acceptable and showed previous communications and sketches of converting tennis courts to pickleball courts.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5: Ice Arena Party Room Wall Mural Contest

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting 4/5/2022

Carmona commended the staff for a wonderful ribbon cutting ceremony for the celebration of the Ice Sports Arena re-opening.

PM Laird described the upcoming campaign to design a piece of art work that would be displayed on the party room wall. Submissions will be accepted on Engage Birmingham with the winning artwork being installed on the party room wall.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6: Wayfinding & Gateway Signage Committee Update

PM Laird provided the Parks and Recreation Board the Wayfinding and Gateway Signage Committee Agenda.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7: Golf is rejuvenated at local courses, C & G Newspaper Article, March 14, 2022

An article on golf was provided to the Parks and Recreation Board.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #8: Current Parks and Recreation Board Roster

A current Parks and Recreation Board Roster was provided.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Rusche asked about the Wiebrecht donations that were collected. RC Folk stated that family members have not indicated where the funds should be used.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

Lipp asked about the current park wet ground conditions.

PM Laird stated as the city improves parks, the addition of drainage systems will be considered.

RC Folk stated that sports teams are not being allow to use the parks and fields because of the ground conditions.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No Public Comments

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: May 2nd, 2022

TO: Parks & Recreation Board

FROM: Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner

APPROVED: Nick Dupuis, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Public Arts Board Update

The Public Arts Board has two new items coming to Birmingham's parks this spring. One includes 6 art installations from the Detroit Institute of Art's Inside Out program. The second is the return of Birmingham's Piano in the Park program at Shain Park.

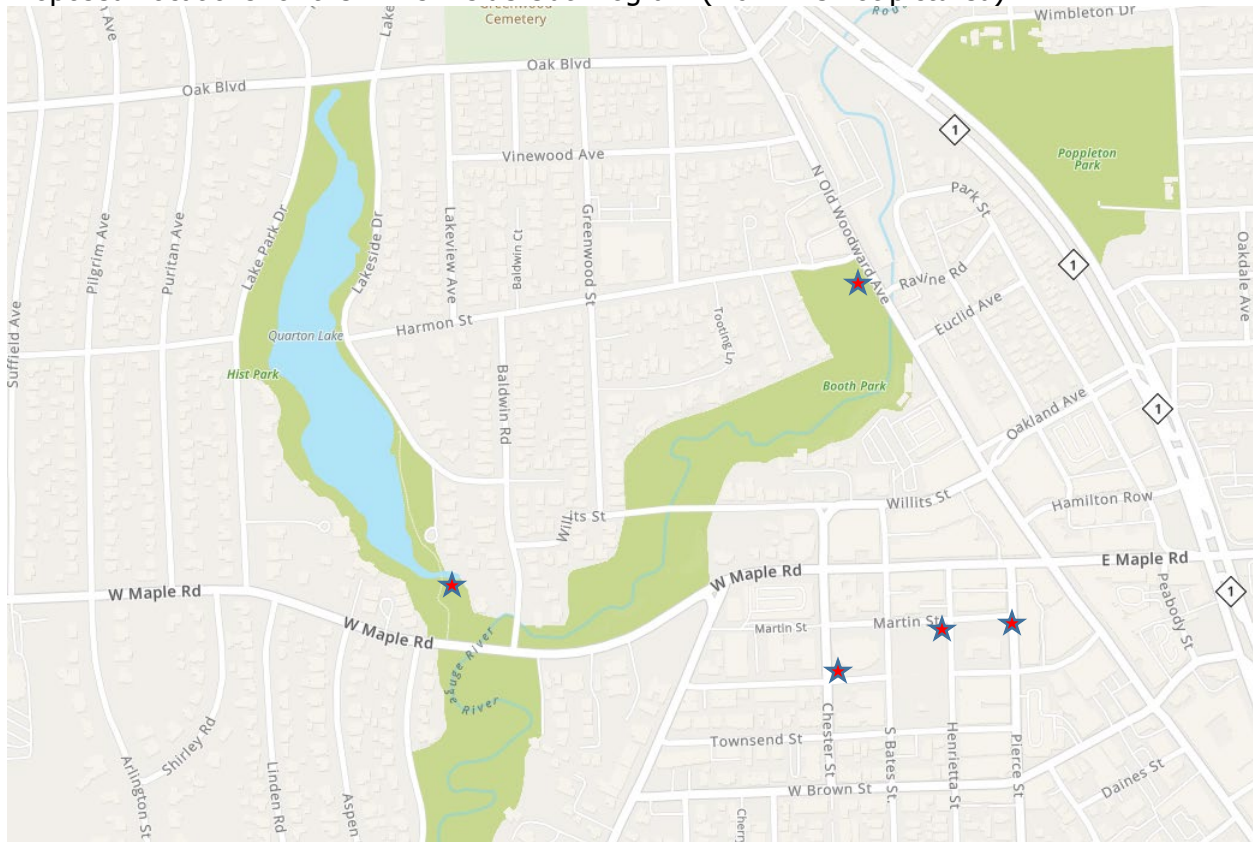
The DIA will install 6 copies of famous art work around Birmingham in the following locations:

1. City Hall – (Northeast corner facing Townhouse)
2. Shain Park – (Northeast corner near sidewalk entrance)
3. Baldwin Library – (greenspace west of entrance)
4. Booth Park – (northeast corner facing Willow and Fern)
5. Quarton Lake Park (east of bridge over Rouge River)
6. BBAC – (Entrance on north side)

The installations are scheduled to be in Birmingham from April to November of 2022. Pictures and dimensions are attached below.

A piano is also scheduled to be placed in Shain Park this summer, similar to 2019. The Public Arts Board will be hosting a piano painting event on Saturday, May 7th in the back parking lot of St. James Episcopal Church (corner of Martin Street and Chester Street). The piano will be placed beneath the Shain park pavilion with the standard lockable wheels that can be moved if needed.

Proposed Locations for the DIA's Inside Out Program (#6 BBAC not pictured)





2022 INSIDE|OUT Installation Agreement

This letter of agreement will confirm the participating site owner and DIA's commitment to the conditions of installation.

- a) A full-sized, framed reproduction of a work from the DIA's permanent collection will be produced at the museum's expense, using materials that are weatherproof and lightfast. Installation onto buildings will be performed by a licensed and insured sign contractor at the museum's expense, installation onto free-standing sign posts will be by DIA staff.
- b) Installations by sign contractor onto buildings will require anchoring the reproduction substrate with appropriate hardware. De-installation will also be performed by the same contractor, and includes remediation of mounting holes with materials specified by site owner in this agreement. The de-installed reproduction will remain the property of the DIA.
- c) Commercial general liability insurance during the period of exhibition will be covered by DIA underwriter (Lyman and Sheets Insurance Agency) with limits of insurance of \$1,000,000. each occurrence and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate.
- d) In the event of theft or vandalism, as budget allows, the DIA will replace or remove the reproduction at the museum's expense. Replacement will require approximately fourteen days from request to reinstallation. If for any reason the owner or municipality requests removal before the date specified in this agreement, the DIA will comply within five days, at the museum's expense.
- e) Cities and businesses involved in the project will be featured on a map on the DIA's website (www.dia.org). They will also be connected to the DIA through our social networks, including our Facebook, Flickr and Twitter accounts. The project will receive recognition through our newsletter and various printed and electronic communications.
- f) The duration of installation is approximately from **May** through **November**, although individual installation/de-installation dates may vary based on owner's arrangements with DIA site manager.

Community Contact:

Host Site: Birmingham

Owner/Contact Name: Brooks Cowan

Site Address: Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center - BBAC

1516 S Cranbrook Rd, Birmingham, MI 48009

Site Telephone: (248) 644-0866

Owner/Contact Telephone: (248) 530-4769

Site Fax: _____

Owner/Contact Fax: _____

Site E-mail Address: _____

Owner/Contact E-mail: BCowan@bhamgov.org

Zoning/Permits Required: _____

Requested Installation Date: May 2022 **Requested De-installation Date:** November 2022

TO BE FILLED OUT BY DIA



Title of Reproduction: View of Le Crotoy from Upstream

Artist/Culture: Seurat, Georges

Dimensions: 36x42.5

Building Material: _____

Special Mounting & Remediation Instructions : Free standing; call Miss Dig prior to installation

Will fill holes upon removal

Name & Signature of Owner/Contact:

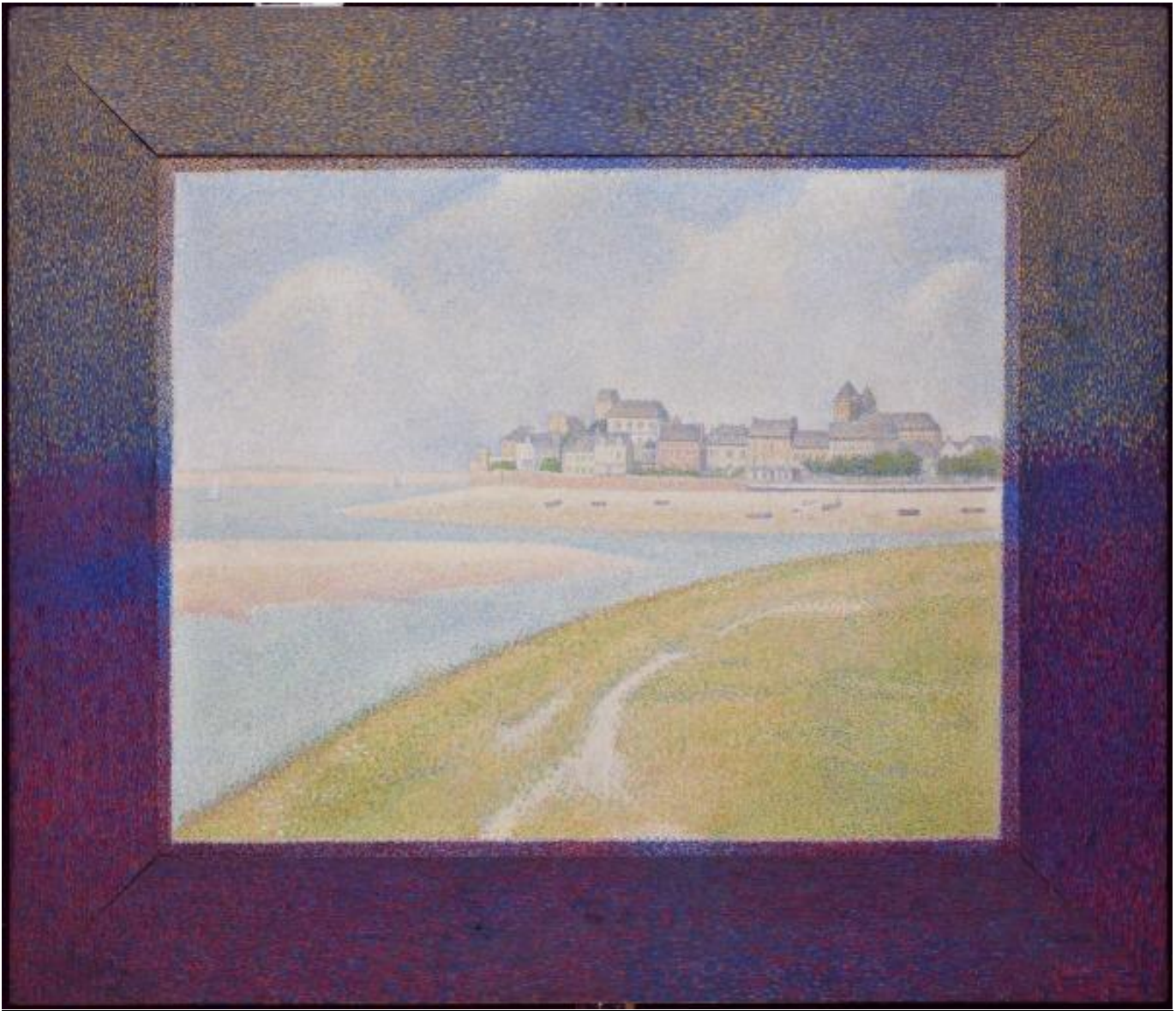
Date: _____

Name & Signature of DIA Community Engagement Manager:

Date: _____

Free Standing

All sites will need to be staked and reported to MISS DIG prior to installation. Free standing sites need 25-30 inches of in ground depth. The frame will be mounted to posts driven into the ground and secured with specialty hardware.



Community Contact:

Host Site: Birmingham

Owner/Contact Name: Brooks Cowan

Site Address: Shain Memorial Park
270 W Merrill St, Birmingham, MI 48009

Site Telephone: _____

Owner/Contact Telephone: (248) 530-1846

Site Fax: _____

Owner/Contact Fax: _____

Site E-mail Address: _____

Owner/Contact E-mail: BCowan@bhamgov.org

Zoning/Permits Required: _____

Requested Installation Date: May 2022 **Requested De-installation Date:** November 2022

TO BE FILLED OUT BY DIA



Title of Reproduction: Portrait of Postman Roulin

Artist/Culture: Vincent Van Gogh

Dimensions: 32 x 25 3/4 in.

Building Material:

Special Mounting & Remediation Instructions : Free standing; call Miss Dig prior to installation

Will fill holes upon removal

Name & Signature of Owner/Contact:

Name & Signature of DIA Community Engagement Manager:

Amanda Harrison

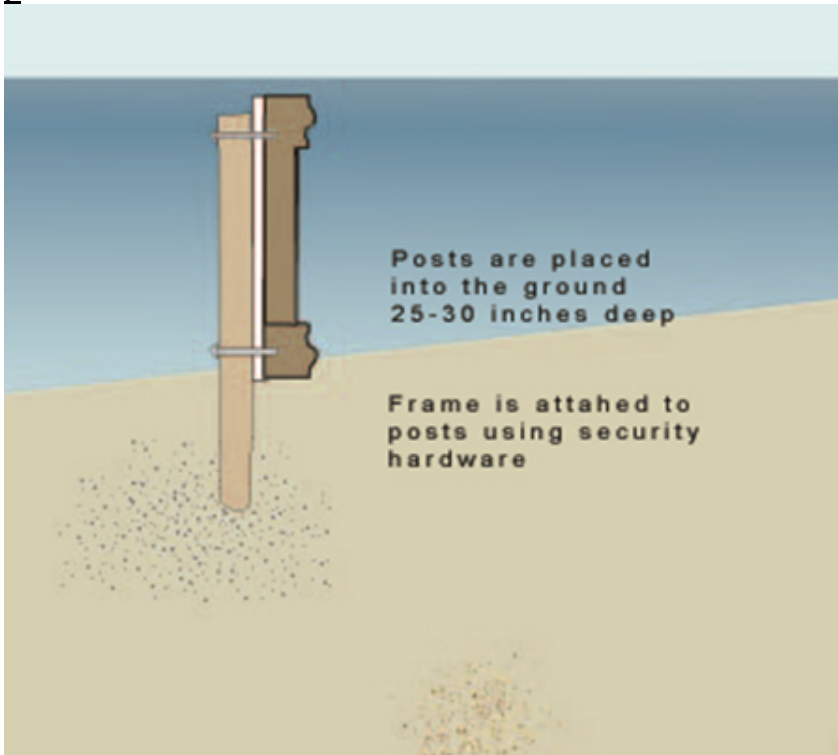
Date: _____

Date: 12.6.21

Free Standing

All sites will need to be staked and reported to MISS DIG prior to installation. Free standing sites need 25-30 inches of in ground depth. The frame will be mounted to posts driven into the ground and secured with specialty hardware.

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Community Contact:

Host Site: Birmingham

Owner/Contact Name: Brooks Cowan

Site Address: Baldwin Public Library
300 W Merrill St, Birmingham, MI 48009

Site Telephone: _____

Owner/Contact Telephone: (248) 530-1846

Site Fax: _____

Owner/Contact Fax: _____

Site E-mail Address: _____

Owner/Contact E-mail: BCowan@bhamgov.org

Zoning/Permits Required: _____

Requested Installation Date: May 2022 **Requested De-installation Date:** November 2022

TO BE FILLED OUT BY DIA



Title of Reproduction: Nocturne in Black and Gold, the Falling Rocket

Artist/Culture: James Abbott McNeill Whistler

Dimensions: 32 x 25 ¾ in.

Building Material:

Special Mounting & Remediation Instructions : Free standing; call Miss Dig prior to installation

Will fill holes upon removal

Name & Signature of Owner/Contact:

Date: _____

Name & Signature of DIA Community Engagement Manager:

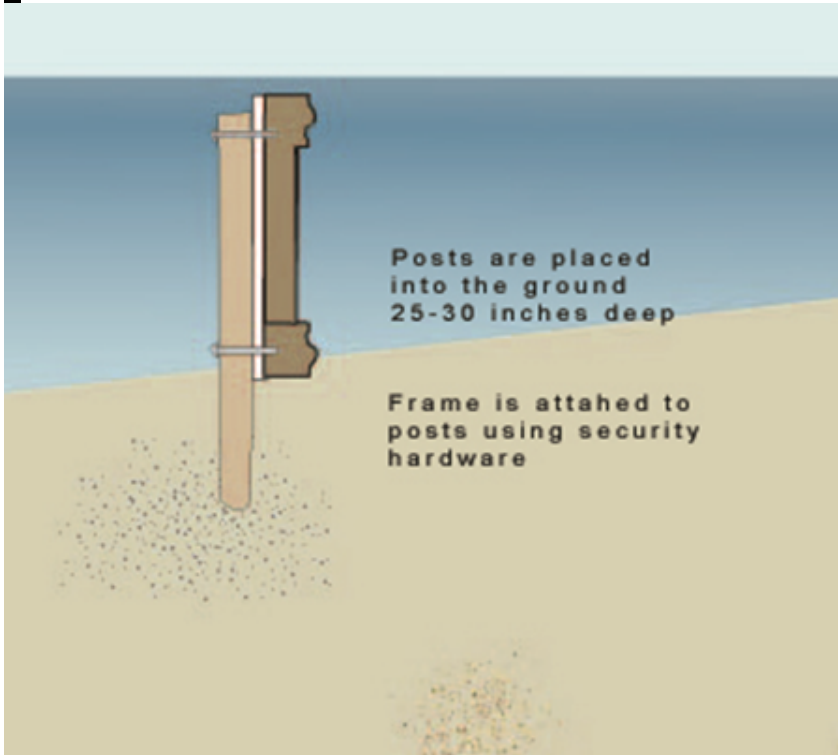
Amanda Harrison

Date: 12.6.21

Free Standing

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L





Community Contact:

Host Site: Birmingham

Owner/Contact Name: Brooks Cowan

Site Address: Birmingham City Hall
151 Martin St, Birmingham, MI 48009

Site Telephone: _____

Owner/Contact Telephone: (248) 530-1846

Site Fax: _____

Owner/Contact Fax: _____

Site E-mail Address: _____

Owner/Contact E-mail: BCowan@bhamgov.org

Zoning/Permits Required: _____

Requested Installation Date: May 2022 **Requested De-installation Date:** November 2022

TO BE FILLED OUT BY DIA



Title of Reproduction: Animals in a Landscape

Artist/Culture: Franz Marc

Dimensions: 45 x 40 ¾ in

Building Material:

Special Mounting & Remediation Instructions : Free standing; call Miss Dig prior to installation

Will fill holes upon removal

Name & Signature of Owner/Contact:

Name & Signature of DIA Community Engagement Manager:

Amanda Harrison

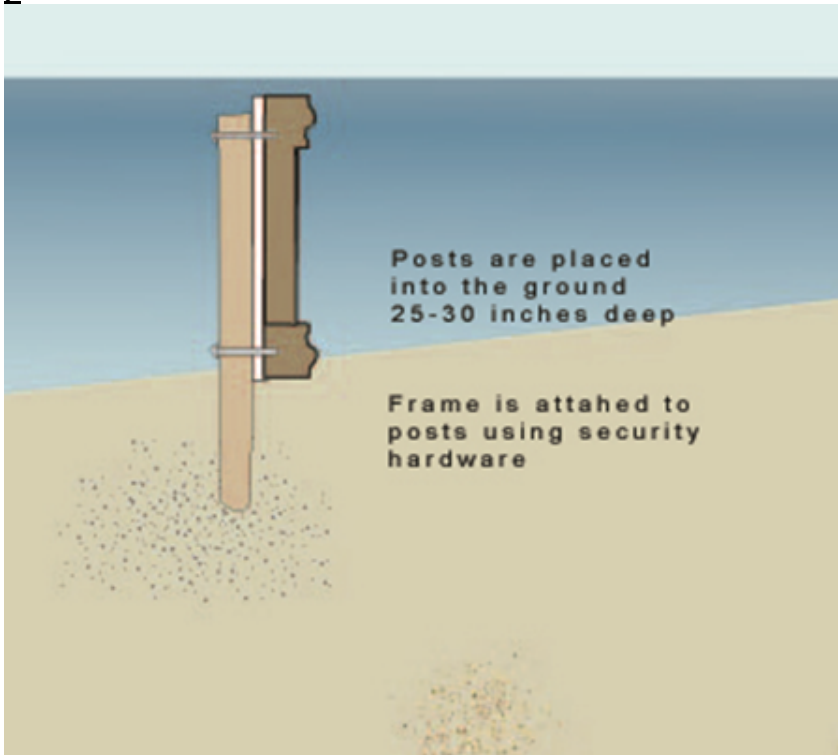
Date: _____

Date: 12.6.21

Free Standing

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L





Community Contact:

Host Site: Birmingham

Owner/Contact Name: Brooks Cowan

Site Address: Booth Park
Booth Trail, Birmingham, MI 48009

Site Telephone: _____

Owner/Contact Telephone: (248) 530-1846

Site Fax: _____

Owner/Contact Fax: _____

Site E-mail Address: _____

Owner/Contact E-mail: BCowan@bhamgov.org

Zoning/Permits Required: _____

Requested Installation Date: May 2022 **Requested De-installation Date:** November 2022

TO BE FILLED OUT BY DIA



Title of Reproduction: Movement #27

Artist/Culture: Kwesi Owusu-Ankomah

Dimensions: 38.5 x 55

Building Material: _____

Special Mounting & Remediation Instructions : Free standing; call Miss Dig prior to installation

Will fill holes upon removal

Name & Signature of Owner/Contact:

Name & Signature of DIA Community Engagement Manager:

Amanda Harrison

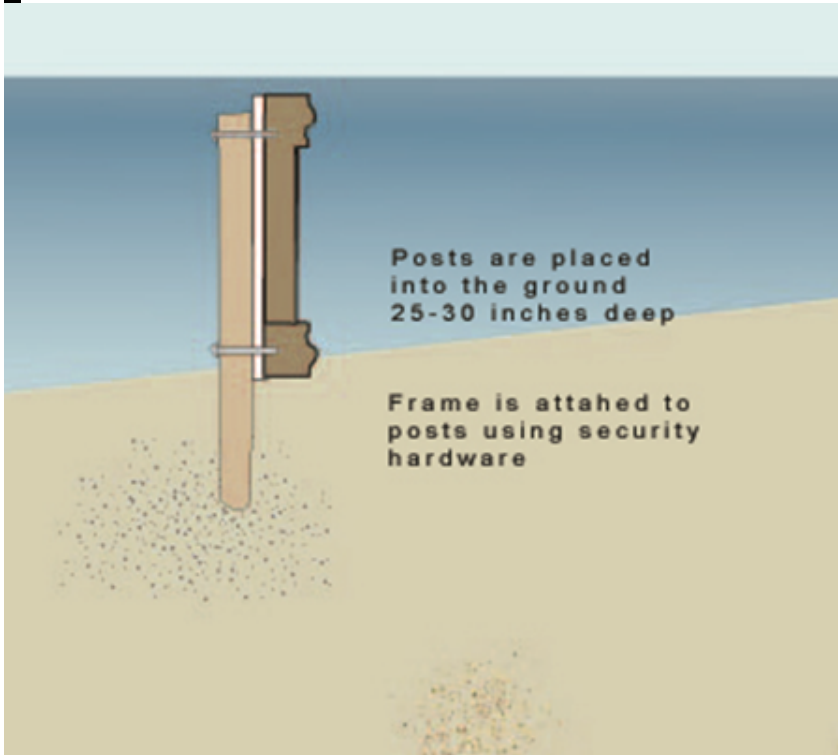
Date: _____

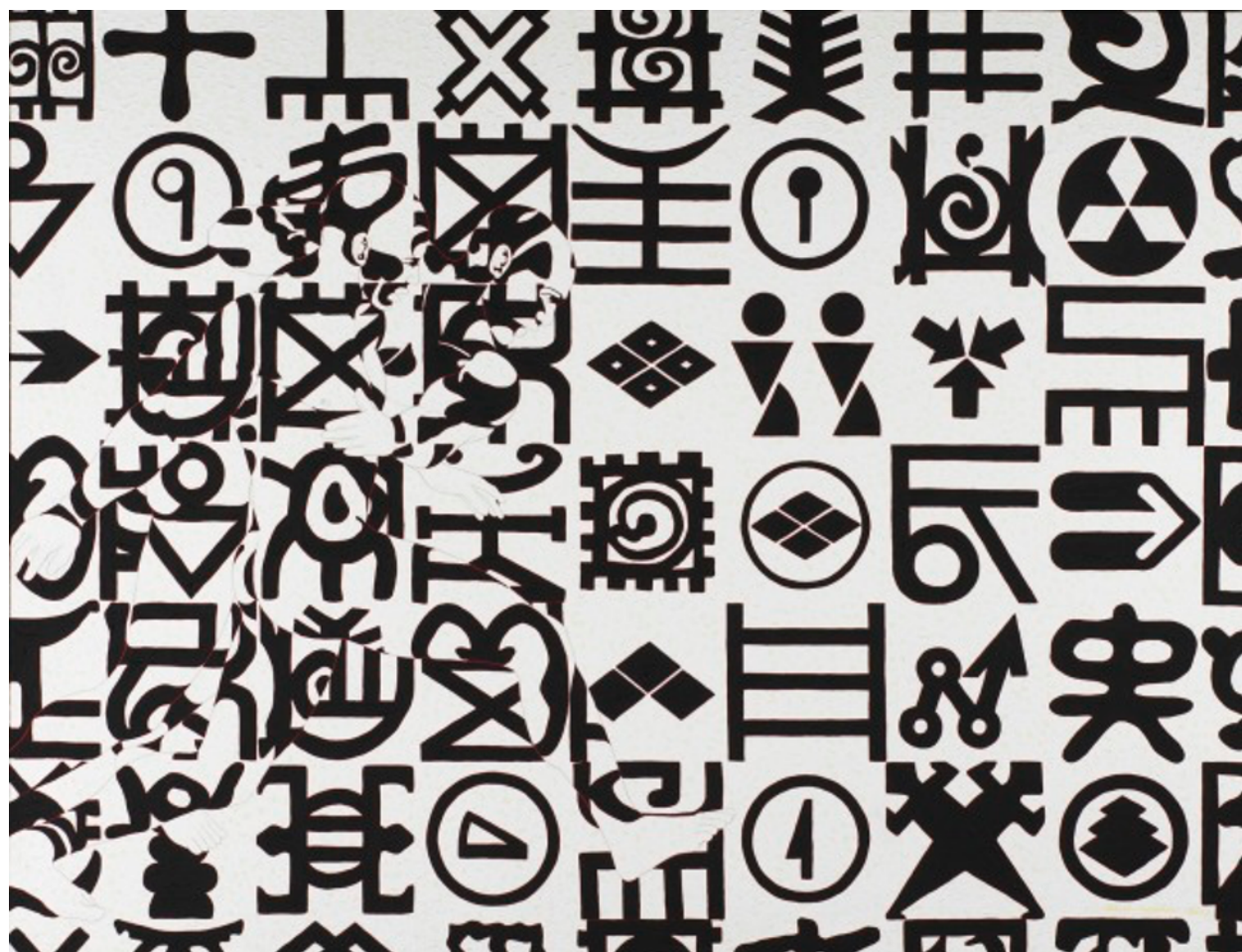
Date: 12.6.21

Free Standing

All sites will need to be staked and reported to MISS DIG prior to installation. Free standing sites need 25-30 inches of in ground depth. The frame will be mounted to posts driven into the ground and secured with specialty hardware.

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Community Contact:

Host Site: Birmingham

Owner/Contact Name: Brooks Cowan

Site Address: Booth Park
Booth Trail, Birmingham, MI 48009

Site Telephone: _____

Owner/Contact Telephone: (248) 530-1846

Site Fax: _____

Owner/Contact Fax: _____

Site E-mail Address: _____

Owner/Contact E-mail: BCowan@bhamgov.org

Zoning/Permits Required: _____

Requested Installation Date: May 2022 **Requested De-installation Date:** November 2022

TO BE FILLED OUT BY DIA



Title of Reproduction: The Lily Pond

Artist/Culture: Eaton, Charles Harry

Dimensions: 39 1/4 x 62 in.

Building Material:

Special Mounting & Remediation Instructions : Free standing; call Miss Dig prior to installation

Will fill holes upon removal

Name & Signature of Owner/Contact:

Date: _____

Name & Signature of DIA Community Engagement Manager:

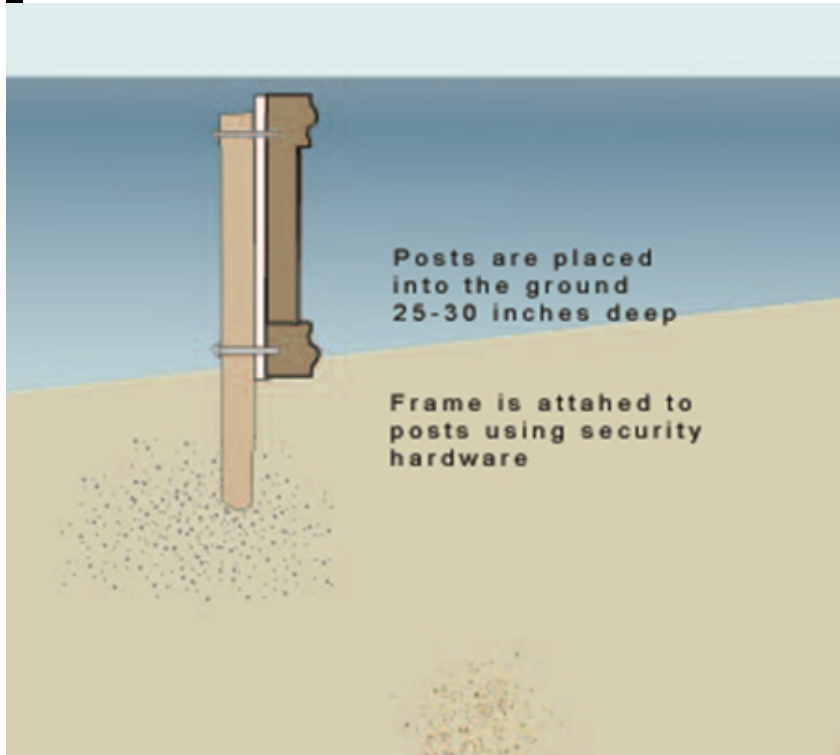
Amanda Harrison

Date: 12.6.21

Free Standing

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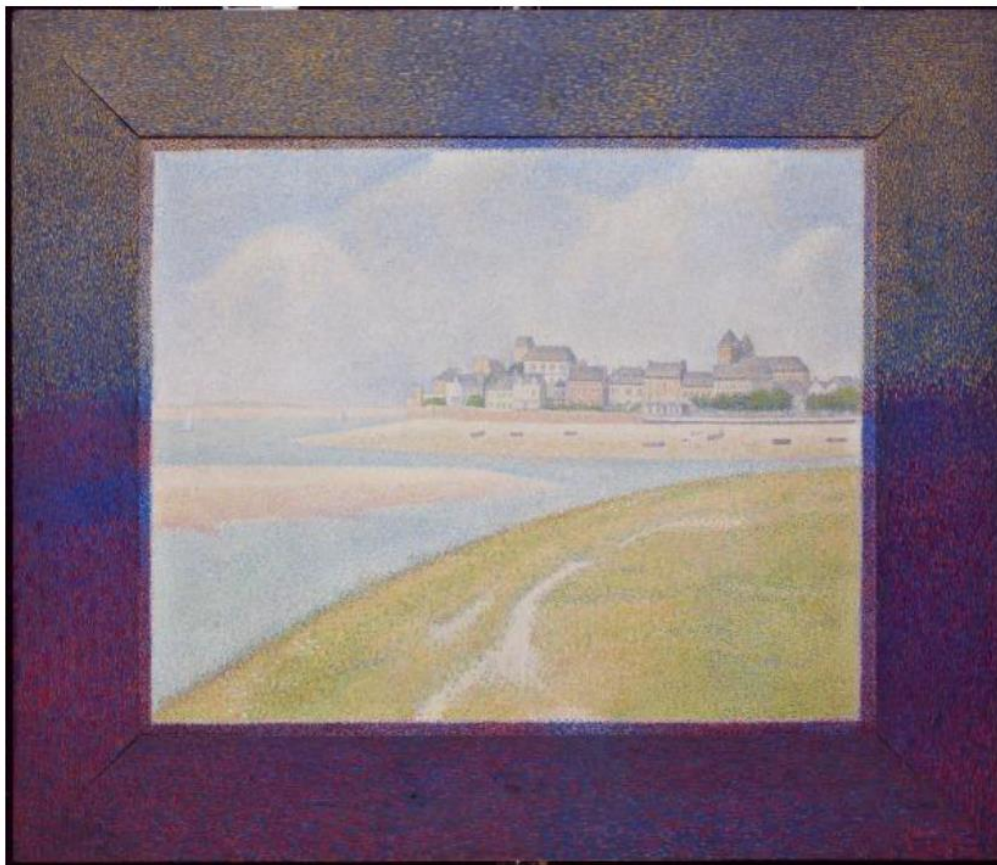
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1.) Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center



View of Le Crotoy from Upstream
Georges Seurat
36" x 42.5"



2.) Shain Park – 270 W. Merrill



Portrait of Postman Roulin
Vincent Van Gogh
32" x 25"



3.) Baldwin Public Library



Nocturne in Black and Gold, the Falling Rocket
James Abbot McNeil Whistler
32" x 25"



4.) Birmingham City Hall



Animals in a Landscape
Franz Marc
45" x 40"



5.) Booth Park



Movement #27
Kwesi Owusu-Ankomah
38" x 55"



6.) Quarton Lake – Greenspace to the right of path & bridge



The Lily Pond
Charles Harry Eaton
39" x 62"





MEMORANDUM

Department of Public Services

DATE: May 5, 2022
TO: Parks and Recreation Board
FROM: Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: Pickleball Update

The department is currently reviewing a proposal from the city's engineering consultant, Nowak & Fraus. Although we do not have anything to report at this time, we plan to present some options for Pickleball at the June Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Pickleball Isn't Just for Seniors — Just Ask Stanley Cup Champ Kris Draper

The former Red Wing is just one of many who have taken to the fastest-growing sport in the U.S.

By **Nolan Bianchi** and **Photographs By Josh Scott** - April 20, 2022



Since retiring from the NHL, former Red Wing Kris Draper has traded in his hockey stick for a pickleball paddle.

It's shortly after 11 a.m. on a Thursday in West Bloomfield, and Kris Draper is in a heated argument. Much like during his playing days, the former Red Wing and four-time Stanley Cup champion is disputing a call with conviction. Unlike in his 20-year hockey career, the argument ends with Draper and his opponent sharing a handshake embrace, acknowledging that the debate was just for laughs.

They've just finished a rousing game of pickleball.

"It's competitive," says Draper, 50, who played 1,157 NHL games including 17 seasons with the Red Wings. "Everyone has their moments, good and bad, but it's a really good game. Just a lot of fun."

For the uninitiated, pickleball is more or less a combination of tennis, badminton, and ping pong. It's typically played on a court that's 20 by 44 feet, with a net that's 3 feet high at the ends and 34 inches in the middle. While the size of the paddle resembles that of a tennis racket, it takes on the shape, feel, and touch of a ping pong paddle. It's played with a plastic Wiffle ball, neon green. It is also the fastest-growing sport in the U.S.

After his faux confrontation, Draper works his way back toward the gym bag sitting courtside and starts packing up his gear. Thus concludes one of the high points (maybe the high point) of his day. "You get great exercise, meet so many good people, and you get to compete," says Draper, who lives in Oakland County. "I'll be honest — after I retired, I missed that, having the ability to go out and play, go out and compete."

From a career perspective, Draper is still all in on the game of hockey. The Toronto native was promoted to Red Wings director of amateur scouting in 2019 and is constantly touring the globe in search of the world's best hockey prospects, on behalf of the team he once served as an assistant captain.

In his first draft in the new role, he even had the chance to select his own son, Kienan Draper — a University of Michigan commit — as the Red Wings' seventh-round pick.

But up until 2020, nothing gave him "that adrenaline rush" like stepping onto the ice once had. That changed when former Wings teammate Dan Cleary invited him and Shawn Horcoff (Cleary serves as Red Wings assistant director of player development; Horcoff was recently promoted to assistant general manager for the team) out to a game organized by Dee Geelhood of The Sports Club of West Bloomfield.



Kris Draper teams up with pal Tom Lin for a game of doubles.

Geelhood had taught tennis lessons for 30 years but gave it up to be the club's accountant — so she could have time to play more pickleball.

"I can tell you that people stick with pickleball," Geelhood says. "People are not moving on. They start it, and not only do they stay with it, they get addicted to it."

Despite being skeptical about the name "pickleball," Draper gave it a go, and as it turns out, Geelhood was right. "When I heard it, I was just like, 'Really?'" Draper says. "When you tell somebody that you play pickleball, unless they play it, that's the reaction they have. ... Next thing you know, we're major addicts."

Draper now tries to play pickleball every day he's in town. He has a wife, Julie, and two daughters, Kennedi and Kamryn, as well as his son, Kienan. For two decades, they'd ask, "Dad, how was hockey?" Now, he gets "Dad, how was pickleball?" (Draper admits that the latter doesn't pay nearly as well.)

He even took his equipment with him to the 2021 Ice Hockey U18 World Championships, in Texas, and had a routine with fellow NHL executives Jarmo Kekäläinen, Scott Mellanby, and Marty Lapointe: "Wake up, go play pickleball, go to the tournament."

They're not alone in their infatuation.

By 2019, pickleball had seen a 650 percent increase in participation, over the previous six years (per USA Pickleball), and then exploded another 21.3 percent, to 4.2 million players, around the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association's 2021 Topline Participation Report.

It was an alternative to tennis — one of the few activities that could be played outside and allowed for social distancing — that is much easier to get the hang of, which also increases the likelihood that people who try pickleball will keep playing it.



Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the U.S.

"That's kind of what I enjoyed about pickleball — all you gotta do is return it," Cleary says. "Not to sound rude, but older people can kick your ass at this sport, if you're not any good. It just goes to show you, it's a sport for all ages, and once you learn the sport, learn the angles, that's how you get good at it."

In early February, Cleary had knee replacement surgery while still recovering from a back injury. When he gets "off the shelf" this summer, he won't necessarily have the option of picking up tennis, which entails more running around and necessitates power, or a game like squash, whose violent stops, starts, and swings do a number on the joints.

"Given the amount of torque and pounding your body takes [in other racket sports], for me — not being as healthy, with my knee and back — pickleball allowed me to be competitive," Cleary says.

What Cleary and Draper love about pickleball is something that adults tend to forget: Competition is one of the best motivations to exercise.

Chef Tom Lin, co-owner of Szechuan Empire and frequent competitor in Food Network's array of cooking competitions, picked up the sport three years ago. He's already a senior pro and has become a regular participant in Geelhood's games with the Wings executives.

When Lin realized inflammation was limiting his ability to move around the court, he cut sugar out of his diet. "After I picked up this game, I started to focus on my fitness; I started eating right," Lin says. "Anybody can do it. I dropped 12 pounds this year, because of pickleball. ... This is the first time I've felt good. I feel much healthier, and that's just a great feeling."

Starting a gym kick in the middle of a pandemic can be a drag, and to Lin's point, eating healthier without exercising is usually a surefire way to let old habits resurface. Pickleballguide.net estimates that a person can burn 500-700 calories in a single hour of play — and that's part of what's kept people coming back.

"It's like when Pac-Man Fever first came out, you know? That was a craze," says Jason Parr, a longtime pickleball enthusiast who has helped along the celebrity pickleball crew.



Kris Draper tries to play pickleball every day he's in town.

Parr's brand, Dinktroit (a "dink" is a type of pickleball shot), offers clothing through Kid Rock's Made in Detroit line, which makes it no surprise that Kid Rock loves the sport too.

A Draper-Kid Rock match is “gonna happen,” says the former, once he’s developed a technique better suited for singles. In the meantime, the pair are members of the group of influential people who are helping to push this game into the mainstream. Another is Tom Dundon, owner of the NHL’s Carolina Hurricanes and the popular sports entertainment company Topgolf, who purchased the Professional Pickleball Association in January of this year and is adapting the Topgolf format to develop a similar apparatus for pickleball. The sport is now broadcast on ESPN. And Draper himself graced the cover of Pickleball Magazine in December 2021.

If you search “pickleball” on the internet, there’s a good chance you’ll find that a court has recently opened near you. With all this momentum, Parr envisions seeing Dinktroit apparel on the racks at sporting goods chains around the country, the sign of a growing industry at large.

“That’s going to drive more people [to the sport],” Parr says. “I mean, you’re seeing pickleball paddles at Meijer now. ... It went from ‘What is that?’ to ‘No, we’re getting it. We’re going to add it.’”

You probably won’t find Draper shopping for paddles at the grocery store, as he finds this endeavor to be quite a serious one. He hopes to compete in tournaments someday and never wants to be teammates with the best player. His sessions on the court are as much about “going to practice” as they are “going to exercise.”

That’s the main reason this group gets along so well: They all care about getting better. They study the top tournament matches, watch YouTube lessons, do their best to learn from the pros.

But when you boil it down, what they enjoy most is the chance to have fun while exercising, master a craft, and talk a little smack about things that don’t really matter.

“I won’t let Kris Draper get to my head,” Lin says. “He tried to intimidate me, threaten me — no. No way. I will not let him get into my head.

“You can write that down.”

This story is from the 2022 edition of Health Guide. Read more stories [here](#).

Facebook Comments



DPS Open House 851 S. ETON Birmingham, MI 48009

**Saturday, May 14, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Fun for the entire family
equipment displays plus hotdogs and
refreshments for all.**



Linden Park
Saturday, May 21, 2022
9:00 am – to noon

Registration begins at 8:30 am



This year's activities:

- Removal of Invasive Species.

Recommended items to wear & bring:

- Boots or sturdy shoes
- Long pants & long-sleeve shirt
- Masks are suggested
- Hat
- Sunscreen

Volunteers should dress according to prevailing weather conditions.

Mosquito repellent, gloves and bags will be provided.

Volunteers Needed

Community, churches, schools, environmental groups, scout troops and neighborhood associations are invited to help remove invasive species along the Rouge River.

***Anyone who wishes to volunteer is asked to call
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator at (248) 530-1642.***

The City of Birmingham Presents:

Movie Magic

**Sunday, May 22nd
2022** ★ **2:00-4:00 PM** ★ **Birmingham
Ice Arena**

Come join us at the Birmingham Ice Arena on Sunday, May 22nd to watch our talented Learn to Skate and club skaters showcase their achievements this season!

★ Seniors (55+)/Youth (Under 18) -\$10 ★ Adults -\$15 ★ Youth under 5 are free

