

CHASKA FIREMEN'S PARK

MRPA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

**RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS
FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS**

By Bethani Gerhard, Minnesota Recreation and Park Association

Each year MRPA recognizes agencies or organizations in Minnesota for outstanding achievements. The following are the recipients of the MRPA Awards of Excellence for projects completed in 2015.



**INVER GROVE HEIGHTS
LAWN OF THE WEEK**



MAPLE GROVE CENTRAL PARK

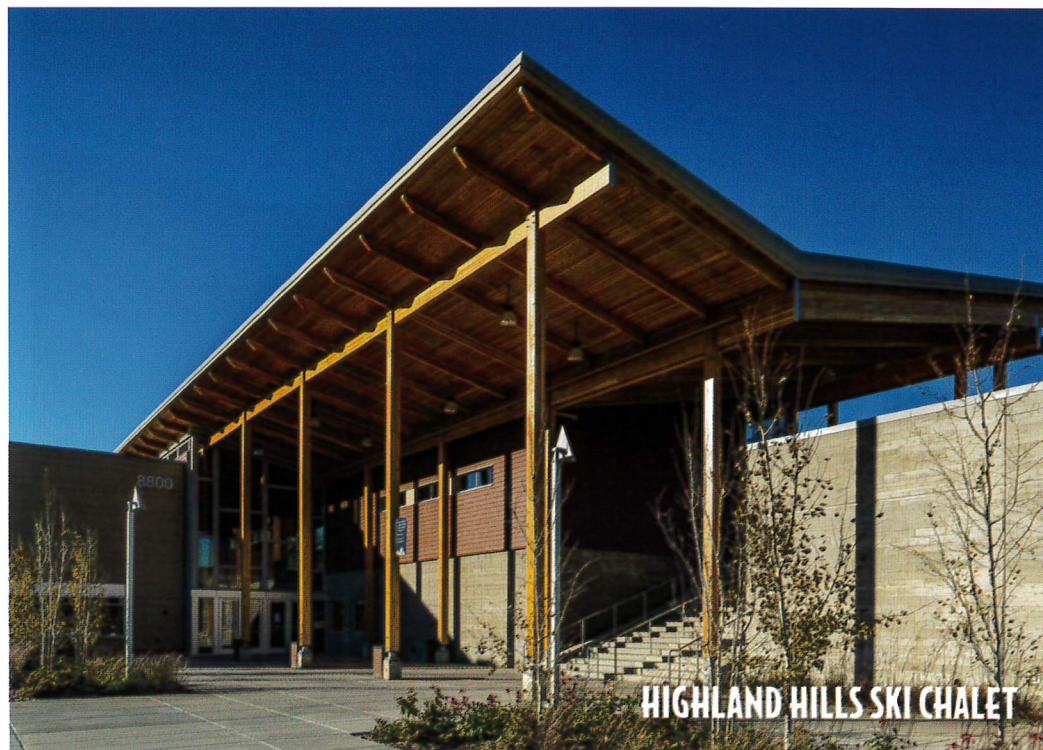
Parks and Facilities:

Chaska Parks and Recreation - Firemen's Park

The Firemen's Park project included the renovation of two city parks that lay on both sides of Clay Hole Lake in the downtown Chaska area. Project components include new park shelters, park concession stand, new playground equipment and amenities, interactive fountains, boardwalk around the lake and a bridge connecting the two parks. There is also a performance stage, remodeled beach, 300-seat event center, six-sheet curling center, Crooked Pint Ale House Restaurant, historic gardens, and a large common area.

Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board - Central Park of Maple Grove

What was formally a gravel pit, has transformed into a large 40-acre park. Almost 30 years in the making, Central is located just east of the Town Green on Lakeview Drive and features a park building, pond, large lawn space, interactive fountains, playground, gardens, courts area, ice skating loop, and access to extensive trails that run



HIGHLAND HILLS SKI CHALET

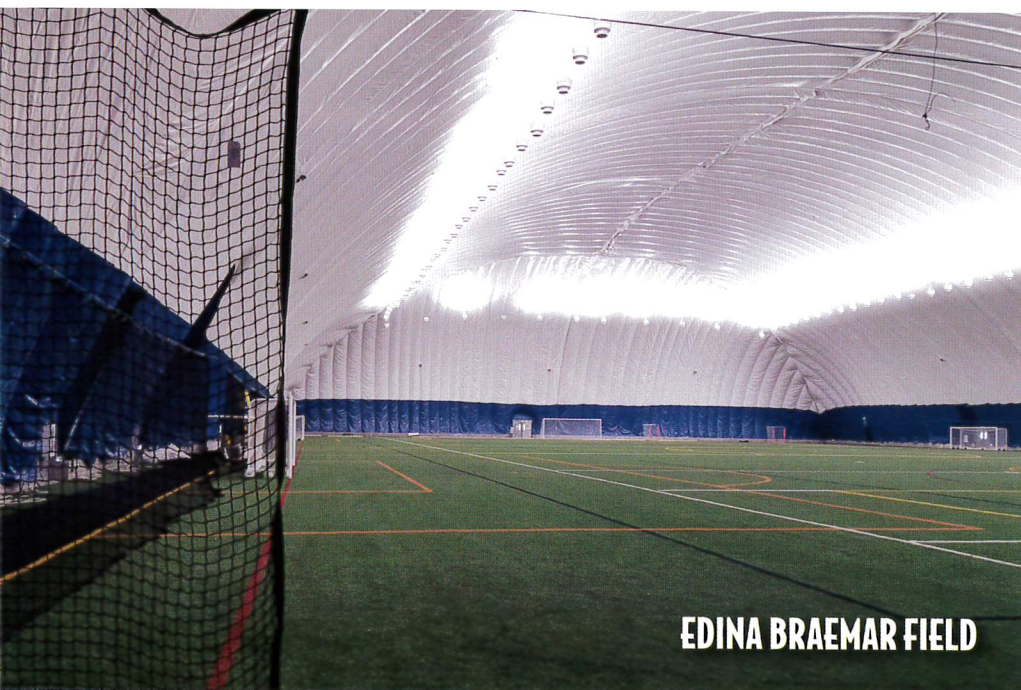
throughout the city. This new community park is another part of the comprehensive plan to create a walkable city that links residents to Maple Grove's many amenities. Central Park serves as a destination park that attracts visitors from the community and surrounding areas.

Three Rivers Park District - Hyland Hills Chalet

In the fall of 2015, Three Rivers Park District celebrated the grand opening of the new chalet at Hyland Hills Ski Area. The previous chalet was demolished in the spring of 2014, and the project



Woodbury Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event



EDINA BRAEMAR FIELD

called for an approximately 16-month construction timeline. The new chalet includes an innovative design responsive to a unique customer base; a butterfly roof to keep snow from shedding or melting onto sidewalks and ski areas; expanded kitchen, food service and guest services areas; general seating areas that can be reconfigured for use during the winter season as well as special events; energy efficient and green building elements; and a mechanical system that adequately ventilates the rental room, keeping the odor out of the rest of the building.

Programming and Events:

City of Inver Grove Heights - Lawn of the Week

The Lawn of the Week program concept was developed and implemented with the intent of recognizing resident lawns that exemplified curb appeal, neatness, natural beauty, natural resources and neighborhood pride. The parks and recreation department enlisted its "Green Thumb" summer seasonal staff to drive to a different neighborhood each week

to designate nominees and ultimately select a winner. Once a winning lawn was identified, a congratulatory flyer was posted on the homeowner's door with instruction on how to proceed. A colorful yard sign was then placed in the recipient's lawn for the public to see and also directed viewer to our website if they wished to nominate a lawn for the future.

Sponsorship and Partnerships:

Edina Parks and Recreation - Braemar Field

With demand for sports facilities booming, the City of Edina partnered with local athletic associations to make Braemar Field a reality instead of a vision. For over 10 years, the City of Edina vetted construction of sports dome for 6,000-plus youth that participate in sports. While meeting with youth non-profit athletic associations to determine the need of the sports dome, the youth associations understood they needed to commit to a partnership for the benefit of the community and most importantly their association. Adjacent to the sports dome, the outdoor ice rink was built. Twelve miles of piping was used to refrigerate the rink and 110 tons of steel helped construct the barrel-vault roof.

City of Woodbury Parks and Recreation - Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event

Feed My Starving Children is a Minnesota-based non-profit organization committed to feeding hungry children with hand-packed meals specifically formulated for the malnourished. The goal for Woodbury's Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event was packing four million meals over a four-day period. Woodbury Parks and Recreation coordinated the event logistics and donated the space, which took place at the new Bielenberg Sports Center Field House. In addition, city staff helped to market and promote the event, as well as encourage employees from all departments to participate in the packaging process of the event.

Volunteer Initiatives:

Roseville Parks and Recreation - Roseville Parks Stewardship Network

The Stewardship Network supports the maintenance and sustainability of natural resources restoration projects and natural resources management efforts, as well as cultivates a better understanding of the processes involved. Current park maintenance obligations are stretched, so staff needed to look beyond the traditional city labor pool and tap into another community resource, its volunteers to help support natural resources. The Stewardship Network performs critical work that contributes toward the long-term health of natural areas. In 2015, 167 individual volunteers participated in the Stewardship Network and spent 735 hours cutting and removing buckthorn from 80 acres of parkland; performed broadcast seeding of native grasses and glowers at four park locations; installed 3,000 plant plugs along Roseville shoreline; planted 500 trees; and built 50 bee nesting boxes and 15 duck boxes.



Roseville Parks Stewardship Network

Congratulations to all winners!



Solutions For Lighting

For 40 years, Musco has specialized in the design and manufacture of sports and large area lighting. We're committed to providing lighting solutions and services you can rely on.

Musco's solutions – using LED or metal halide – provide superior energy efficiency, environmental light control and cost effectiveness, all supported by our leading product assurance and warranty program.

For Your Budget...For The Environment

www.musco.com

Local area representative:
Craig Gallop
763/533-2030 (office)
800/825-6030 (toll free)
craig.gallop@musco.com



MUSCO
Lighting
We Make It Happen.

©2016 Musco Sports Lighting, LLC - ADAM 16-1