



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
Special Business

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2022
PREPARED BY: Aimee Peterson, Recreation Superintendent
AGENDA ITEM: Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association – Award of Excellence Presentation

PREVIOUS ACTIONS:
None

RECOMMENDED PARK BOARD ACTION:
None

COMMENTS:

Staff is honored to announce Maple Grove Parks and Recreation's Intergenerational Garden has been selected as one of the 2021 Minnesota Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) Award of Excellence for Programming. Nick Jacobs, MRPA Awards Committee member will attend the meeting to present the award.

The MRPA Awards of Excellence is an annual program that was solely created to recognize agencies and their staff for an outstanding project that either was implemented in 2021 or received substantial revisions in 2021.

MRPA members may nominate a project for an Award of Excellence in seven different categories: Administrative or Management Strategies, Communications, Park and Facility, Programming and Events, Sponsorships and Partnerships, Sustainability and Volunteer Initiatives. Only the top scoring nominations are selected to receive Award of Excellence recognition.

The Intergenerational Garden was selected to receive a 2021 Award of Excellence for Programming and Events.

The Intergenerational Garden Club launched in May of 2021 through a partnership between the Youth Outreach and Senior programs, with support from Age Friendly Maple Grove. This garden area was supported by Lowe's and previous donations. In 2021 the garden consisted of 8 standing garden beds that were built with the help of our parkkeepers. This garden design is inclusive and allows for those to garden that have mobility issues or cannot kneel on the ground. In 2021 they had 18 participants ranging

from 11 years old to 80 years old. This program is continuing to grow with added support from Lowes and Maple Grove Hospital they were able to add an additional 8 garden beds in 2022. Currently, there are over 30 participants. They have the support of a gardening expert, Byron Emmons who volunteers his time throughout the summer to teach and guide us on our planting and garden. In 2021, they also had support from Bobby Jensen of Kare 11 Grow with KARE program to help kick off the garden. Throughout the summer the produce created from the garden is shared between the participants of the garden. This program not only teaches about health and sustainability, but also helps bridge the gaps between the different generations as they work together all summer to care for their gardens.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Intergenerational Garden Program