

Regular Spencer Park Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

5:00 PM

Westview Park

900 W 9th St.

Spencer, Iowa

1. Roll Call

Greer, Lawson, Soucek, Yarkosky, Grange

2. Motion Adoption

A. Approve April 14, 2026 Park Board Minutes

3. New Business

A. Pickleball Tournament & Kayak Races

B. West View Memorial & Sunset Park Discussion

4. Items for Future Agendas

A. Deerfield Park

5. Park Director's Report

(no action to be taken)

A. Update

6. Adjourn

SPENCER PARK BOARD MEETING

April 14, 2026

SPENCER, IOWA

The Park Board of the City of Spencer, Iowa, met on the 14th day of April, 2026 at 5:00 o'clock P.M., regular session in the Main Conference Room, pursuant to law, to adjournment and to the rules of said board. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lawson.

Those present and absent were:

Present: Greer (arrived at 5:01pm), Lawson, Soucek, Yarkosky, Grange

Absent: None

It was moved by Board Member Grange, seconded by Board Member Yarkosky to approve the board minutes of March 10, 2026. The motion was declared carried when all Board Members present voted aye on voice call vote.

It was moved by Board Member Soucek, seconded by Board Member Grange to approve the claims. The motion was declared carried when all Board Members present voted aye on voice call vote.

The Board discussed the following items:

East Leach Park:

The Board is doing an audit of the parks. Phase 1 check list was provided. The Board discussed the playground equipment. Pros and cons of refurbished equipment vs. replacing with new was discussed. The consensus of the Board was they would like to keep the same size of the park. Paving the parking lot was also discussed. Doing this would benefit the parking for the shelter houses along with the ice-skating rink in the winter.

West Leach Park:

The Board discussed West Leach Park. The boat launch is located here. The Board would like to see signage placed for this. Disc golf has been relocated to the Moose Pond area. The Board had discussion regarding the old grills that are located here. They would like to see these removed.

The Lookout:

The Board discussed development plans for the Lookout area located near Gary's on the River. This area was put in around the same time as the bridge that is located on Grand Ave.

Earl Page Park:

The Board discussed Earl Page Park and the plans for this area.

The Park Director gave an update on the following:

- Pedersen Park is ready to go for the season
- Mowing and weed control have begun to take place
- Staff attended a hands on meeting for park inspections

Items for Future Agendas:

- Kayak Races
- The Board would like to meet at Westview Memorial Park next month

It was moved by Board Member Grange, seconded by Board Member Lawson to adjourn the meeting of the Park Board of the City of Spencer at 5:55 o'clock P.M. The motion was declared carried when all Board Members present voted aye on voice call vote.

Mark Lawson, Chair

ATTEST:

Kellerie Burns, Recording Secretary

To: Spencer Chamber

From: Mark Lawson, Spencer Park Board

Subject: Flagfest Activities (Pickleball and Kayak races)

The Pickleball tournament will be held at the Spencer Family YMCA and at the Westside Racquet Club on Sunday June 7th, 8:00 a.m. until noon.

There will be an entry fee of \$ 40 for one entry, and \$ 60 for two entries.

Kayak races will be held at Stolley Park on June 14th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be two divisions, 15 & under and 16 and above. There will be no entry fee. Racers must provide their own kayaks, flotation devices must be worn, and liability waivers must be signed. There will be a minimum of 2 races per person.

Questions can be directed to Mark Lawson (712-260-0205)

Agreement to Participate
Release and Indemnification Form

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

I understand that the nature of this activity may involve certain dangers and risks, and I voluntarily assume all risks of accident or injury. I hereby release and forever discharge _____ Township Trustees, and their respective employees, officers, agents, elected and appointed officials, donors, coordinators and volunteers (“_____ Township”) from any and all liability for personal injury, death, or property damage of any kind sustained in any manner arising from my participation in **Click here to enter text.** I agree to indemnify and hold harmless _____ Township from any and all claims, liability, loss and expense, including but not limited to damages, legal expenses and costs of defense, and all claims of any nature whatsoever, in any manner, arising from my participation in **Click here to enter text.** It is further understood and agreed that this waiver, release and assumption of risk is to be binding on my heirs and assignees.

Further, I hereby agree that any video or photographs taken of me by _____ Township or their respective agents are owned by _____ Township. If I should receive any print, negative or other copy thereof, I shall not authorize its use by anyone else. I hereby waive all my rights to inspect and approve the finished product. Nothing herein will constitute any obligation on _____ Township to make any use of any of the rights set forth herein and I hereby grant to _____ Township and to such other persons or entities that may be designated from time to time, the absolute right and permission to use or license the use, in perpetuity, without compensation, my name, portrait, likeness, voice, image and photograph of me either alone or accompanied by other material, in any manner and in any media for the purpose of promotion of _____ Township and its respective programs.

Your signature constitutes acceptance of the terms of this legal document.

Participants under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign for them.

Date: _____

Full Name of Participant (Printed) _____

Individual Executing Release: _____
Signature

Full name printed (if different from Participant)

Participant address _____

Phone _____

Emergency contact name _____

Emergency contact phone _____ (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell)

E-Mail Address (optional) _____

Bob,

Getting back to you with cost. If we can follow the suggested safety measures below and have participants sign a waiver, ICAP can do the liability for the kayak races for \$425.

Let me know what you think and if you have any questions. If you are going to proceed, I just need to let ICAP know so they can add the coverage.

Thank you!

J. Scott Simpson
Agency President
CA License No.0122945

Spencer Park and Rec System Overview

Community Parks (3)

East Leach Park (61.8 ac)

- Skate Park
- Band Shell
- Leach Park Event Center

Riverview Park Complex (58.1 ac)

- Aquatic Center
- Riverview Tennis Courts
- Splash Pad
- Disc Golf
- Moose Pond

West Leach Park (39.1 ac)

Neighborhood Parks (5)

Fairview Park (6.4 ac)

Deerfield Park (5.1 ac)

Waterway Park (4.7 ac)

West View Memorial Park (4.6 ac)

North School Park (3.3 ac)

Mini Parks (2)

Sunset Park (1.6 ac)

C. Earl Page Park (1.0 ac)

Sports Facilities (2)

Pedersen Memorial Park (29 ac)

Dennis Price Courts

Special Use Areas (4)

Stolley Park (129.6 ac)

Storybook Park (Pete's Pond) (8.8 ac)

DeWolf Dog Park (10.5 ac)

Spencer Trail System

Natural Resource Area (1)

Oxbow Wildlife Area (49.8 ac)

Miscellaneous

Grand Avenue

North Lookout

Maintenance Areas

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17. Sunset Park
18. Waterway Park
19. West Leach Park
20. West View Memorial Park

C. Earl Page Park

Size: 1.1

Address: NEED ADDRESS

Location Description:

Located between 13th and 14th Ave. W, between West 13th and West 16th Streets, near the south end of the block.

Park Description

This small neighborhood park—often called a pocket park or mini park—features a picnic shelter with a table, a single basketball hoop, and a berm that’s popular with children for play.

Key Features:

- Picnic shelter (1985)
- Basketball hoop

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 1.1 acres

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

- Park board should make a recommendation to do one of the following:
 - 1) decommission park and sell property,
 - 2) if keeping, determine if any money should be spent on updating or
 - 3) just continue minimal maintenance

Deerfield Park

Size: 5.1 acres

Address: 1501 W 15th St.

Location Description:

Located between West 15th and 16th Street, two blocks east of 18th Ave. West.

Park Description:

Locally known as the “Green Park” for its green playground equipment, this neighborhood park is a favorite for active play. It features a ½-mile walking trail, a covered picnic area with tables and grills, a half-court basketball area, and a baseball backstop. A portable restroom is also available. The playground is a highlight, with a fun zipline and a large netted climbing structure that kids love. With a mix of open space and unique play features, it’s a great spot for both recreation and relaxing outdoors.

Key Features:

- Park purchased in 2006
- Playground (2016)
- ½ mile of trail
- Covered picnic area with tables and grills
- Half-court basketball area
- Baseball backstop
- Portable restroom

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 5 acres

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

Dennis Price Courts

Size: 35.5 acres

Address: NEED ADDRESS

Location Description:

Located directly east of Spencer Middle School on the far east edge of town, sharing the same parking lot as the school.

Park Description:

These courts include four newly constructed tennis courts that were built in 2023 as part of a joint project with the Spencer Community School District. The courts are lined for both tennis and pickleball, allowing for multiple types of play on the same surfaces. They provide a modern, shared-use facility designed for school and community recreation.

Key Features:

- 4 tennis courts (with pickleball lines)
- Constructed in 2023 in joint project with Spencer School
- WHO OWNS THE COURTS? CITY PROVIDES ALL MAINTENANCE? WHERE DOES HS PLAY?

DeWolf Dog Park

Size: 10.5 acres

Address: 3605 240th Ave.

Location Description:

Travel east on Highway 18 past Del's Garden Center. The park is located on the southwest corner of Highway 18 and County Road M50 (240th Ave). Turn right onto M50; the parking lot will be on the east side of the road.

Park Description:

Established in 2019, this spacious dog park offers a safe and enjoyable environment for dogs of all sizes. The park features two separate fenced areas—one for small dogs (under 30 lbs) and one for large dogs (over 30 lbs)—allowing pets to play safely and comfortably.

Visitors will find ample parking, portable restrooms, picnic benches, and convenient dog waste receptacles. Please note that water is not available on-site, so visitors should bring water for their dogs. Surrounded by mature trees and open green space, the park provides a beautiful setting for both pets and their owners. The park is open daily from dawn to dusk.

Key Features:

- Dog park features two separate areas for large and small dogs
 - Large dog (30+ lbs.)
 - Small dog (<30 lbs.)
- Picnic benches located inside fenced-in area
- Portable toilets available
- No water source available

Maintenance:

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

- Post rules online
- Indicate no water source available

East Leach Park

Size: 61.8 acres

Address: 225 4th St. SE

Location Description:

Located on the south side of the Little Sioux River, just east of Grand Avenue.

Park Description:

Nestled along the Little Sioux River, East Leach Park is Spencer's largest and most active park. It offers a wide variety of amenities, including direct access to the paved trail system, fishing opportunities, a large playground featuring the park's well-known "Rocket Slide," and a spacious covered picnic area with tables and grills. Visitors can also enjoy a skate park, sand volleyball courts, and a unique bandshell for performances. The park is home to the Leach Park Event Center, which offers two indoor spaces available for reservation, making it an ideal location for gatherings and events.

Key Features:

- Playground (1998) and Rocketslide (2004)
- Cover picnic area with tables and grills (1998)
- Each Leach Rental Facility (1998)
 - Fully renovated in 2024 with heat/AC
 - Capacity: East Room (50), West Room (100)
 - Men's/women's showers/restrooms
- Bandshell (1969)
- Skate Park (2004)
- Sand volleyball courts (2)
- Portable restrooms
- Direct access to Spencer Trail System

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 15+ acres
- Baling and prescribed burning: 40+ acres
- Pollinator mix: 1 acre (west of shop, seeded 2025)

Park Director Input:

- Playground equipment replacement: ~\$500k
- Pour in Place surface: \$21/sq ft: ~\$472k
 - Play area: \$336k, Swing area: \$136k

East Leach Park...continued

Action Items:

- Website:
 - How to reserve the Event Center and cost associated with it (General fee Schedule)
 - How to reserve the Bandshell
 - Post skate park rules
 - Mark campground as permanently closed on City website
 - Mark campground as closed on Google (currently listed as temporarily closed)
- Remove signage for campground entrance
- Get information on replacement playground equipment, including quotes

Fairview Park

Size: 6.4 acres

Address: 1406 5th Ave E

Location Description:

Adjacent to Fairview Elementary School on the east side.

Park Description:

Fairview Park features a covered picnic area with tables and grills, a large open green space, and a walking trail. It is located next to Fairview Elementary School, giving visitors easy access to additional amenities, including a playground, basketball court, and soccer goals.

Key Features:

- Covered picnic area with tables and grills
- Large open green space
- Walking trail (PART OF SPENCER TRAIL SYSTEM?)
- Adjacent to Fairview Elementary School playground and basketball court

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 5.22 acres

Park Director Input:

- PART WAS SOLD TO SCHOOL SEVERAL YEARS AGO - WHERE DOES BOB WANT THIS CHANGED/ WHERE IS IT LISTED INCORRECTLY
- Old tennis courts have been completely removed and grassed over

Action Items:

Grand Avenue

Size:

Address:

Location Description:

Park Description:

Key Features:

Maintenance:

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

Maintenance Areas

- Fire training area / Green Industrial Signs (3): 3 acres MOWING?
- Fairview Gardens
 - Location: E. 14th St near Middle School
- E. 9th St. between 5th and 6th Ave.: 0.17 acres MOWING?
- Shines - park street lot next to railtracks: 0.3 MOWING?
- Street Dept. Shop: 0.5 acres mowing
- East and West 10th St. and 1st Ave. E (E. 14th to E. 18th St.): 1.2 acres MOWING?
- East/West 10th St.
- Country Club Lane/18th St.
- Stolley to Country Club Lane
- Country Club Lane to Drive
- 1st Ave. East Blvd.
- Misc. green spaces (12?)
- Community Gardens
- Flood lots (39?)
- Industrial Park signs

North Lookout

Size: NEED SIZE?

Address:

Location Description:

Located two blocks west of Grand Avenue on West Park Street, just west of Gary's on the River.

Park Description:

This area features a scenic overlook on the north side of the Little Sioux River, offering some of the best river views in town. It includes benches for seating and relaxation and serves as a connection point between the Spencer Trail System and the off-street trail network.

Key Features:

- Scenic lookout
- Benches
- Connects to both Spencer Trail System and off-street trail
- IS THIS WHERE THE CARRY DOWN ACCESS WILL BY FOR KAYAKS?

Maintenance:

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

- Signage needed
- Electrical not working post-flood

North School Park

Size: 3.3 acres

Address: 1103 1st Ave West

Location Description:

Located one block east of North Grand Avenue, between West 11th and West 12th Streets. On-street parking is available on the north and east sides only.

Park Description:

North School Park, established in 1980 on the former site of North School (demolished in 1975), features a playground added in 2005, a large covered picnic area with tables and grills, a full basketball court, and plenty of green space. The park also connects to the North School Trail, which extends north and provides a path for walking and biking.

Key Features:

- Established in 1980
- Playground (2005)
- Covered picnic area with tables and grills
- Full basketball court
- Connects to Spencer Trail System

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 2.5 Acres (park), 4.3 acres (along the 0.7-mile trail that extends north to Casey's)

Park Director's Input:

Action items:

- Wiffle ball field with pitching backstop?
- Area around trail to north - how can we decrease what city mows? Sell land?

Oxbow Wildlife Area

Size: 49.8 acres

Address: 2901 W 4th St.

Location Description:

Wildlife Area Description:

Key Features:

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 1 acre

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

Pedersen Memorial Park

Size: 35.5 acres

Address: 1203 E 9th St.

Location Description:

Located on the far east edge of Spencer along 10th Avenue East, just south of Spencer Middle School.

Park Description:

This complex serves as the primary baseball and softball facility for Spencer youth programs. It includes 10 total fields: five softball fields, four youth baseball fields, and one small T-ball field. The park also features a playground, a covered picnic area with tables and grills, and a concession stand with public restrooms that are open during the youth baseball and softball season.

Key Features:

- 10 fields
 - 5 softball fields
 - 4 youth baseball fields
 - 1 small field (T-ball)
- Playground (WHAT YEAR?)
- Covered picnic area with tables and grills
- Concession stand and public restrooms open during youth baseball and softball season
- Park Shop (40 x 60)

Maintenance:

- Mowing: HOW MANY ACRES?
- WHO DOES FIELD PREP?

Park Director Input:

- RC Track not part of park (owned by SMU)
- Well irrigation available
- Cardinal Field
 - OWNED BY SMU? IN USE? WHAT TO DO WITH IT?
- EXPLAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH WHAT CITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VS. THE SYBSA

Action Items:

Riverview Park Complex

Size: 58.1 acres

Address: 612 4th St. SE

Location Description:

From Highway 18, turn north onto 4th Ave. SE; the complex is located just to the east. From Grand Ave., turn east onto 8th St. SW and continue for approximately six blocks.

Park Description:

Riverview Park Complex is a nearly 60-acre recreational destination in southeast Spencer, offering a wide variety of amenities for all ages. The Spencer Aquatic Center features a 10,000-square-foot pool with zero-depth entry, spray features, a body slide, and a tube slide. Additional amenities include a concession stand, shower house, interior and exterior restrooms, and green space within the fenced area.

The complex also includes eight tennis courts, with one court lined for pickleball. An 18-hole disc golf course winds through the park, and Moose Pond features two one-acre ponds and more than 20 acres of wildlife area with access to the Spencer Trail System. The historic Freeman Township Schoolhouse is also located on-site.

Looking ahead, the Spencer Splash Pad is planned for completion in 2027. Located next to the aquatic center, it will feature a 1,800-square-foot interactive play area and a separate 1,000-square-foot toddler zone for ages 2–5, along with shaded seating.

Construction is expected to begin in 2026.

Key Features:

- Aquatic Center (1996)
 - 10,000 sq ft pool, 223,440 gals, zero depth entry, spray features, body slide, tube slide, max depth: 5'
 - Showers/restrooms inside, public restrooms outside
 - Greenspace inside Aquatic Center
 - Concession stand
 - Managed by Spencer Family YMCA
- Riverview Tennis Courts (1995)
 - 8 courts
 - Resurfaced in 2014
- Disc Golf
 - 18-hole course wraps in and around complex
- Moose Pond
 - (2) 1-acre gravel pit ponds, no fish
- Wildlife area (20+ acres)

Riverview Park Complex...continued

- Spencer Trail system passes through complex
- Freeman Township Schoolhouse

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 9.5 acres (Aquatic Center), 13 acres (Moose Pond)

Park Director Input:

- Aquatic Center: past life expectancy of pool
- Tennis courts: poor condition
 - Replacement: \$1.72m (asphalt), \$2.35m (post-tension concrete)
- Disc golf: \$2500 sponsorship per hole
 - Currently, 6 are sponsored, concrete pads, etc., being finalized
 - Travis Johnson is contact

Action Items:

- Disc golf map on website
- Disc golf - signage on course?
- Disc golf - show on google maps
- Google Maps lists "Southeast Tennis Courts"
- Google Maps lists Riverview Park, not Riverview Park Complex

Spencer Trail System

Size:

Address:

Location Description:

Park Description:

Key Features:

Maintenance:

Park Director Input:

- Little Sioux River trail complex - 140 acres, 20 acres pollinator mix, 1 ½ mile trail from thunder bridge to Grand Ave Bridge

Action Items:

Stolley Park

Size: 129.6 acres

Address: 2906 W 18th St

Location Description:

This park is located on the far northwest side of town along West 18th Street. It sits west of the fairgrounds and near the airport, adjacent to the industrial park and just south of the community's transfer station.

Park Description:

This unique park, formerly a large gravel pit donated to the city, has been transformed into a scenic outdoor destination. It features a one-mile trail loop and connects to the Spencer Trail System, making it a great spot for walking and exploring. The park offers excellent access to the water, including a fishing pier, a kayak launch, and carry-down access to the Little Sioux River. The water is stocked with trout, making it a popular location for fishing. Visitors can also enjoy two covered picnic areas with tables and grills, providing a comfortable place to relax and take in the surroundings.

Key Features:

- Gravel pit (40 acres)
- Fishing pier
- Kayak launch
- (2) Covered picnic area with tables and grills
- Carry down access to Little Sioux River
- 1-mile trail loop
- Connects to Spencer Trail System

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 12 acres

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

- Should any historical info on the park be listed on the Website?

Storybook Park

Size: 8.8 acres

Address: 1203 E 9th St.

Location Description:

Located south of the Spencer High School football field, on the north side of the Little Sioux River.

Park Description:

Storybook Park is located along the north side of the Little Sioux River and offers a scenic setting for walking and relaxation. The park features two looped walking trails—one circling Pete’s Pond and the other looping around a small limestone amphitheater. It connects to the paved Spencer trail system and is located near Oneota Park and the pedestrian bridge that crosses the river to East Leach Park.

Key Features:

- Pete’s pond
- Amphitheater limestone retaining walls around circle plaza, pile of limestone pieces at center

Maintenance:

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

- Google: Pete’s pond only, no Storybook Park

Sunset Park

Size: 1.6 acres

Address: 1014 W 7th St.

Location Description:

Located at the corner of West 7th Street and 11th Avenue West.

Park Description:

Sunset Park is a small neighborhood park with a playground, covered picnic area with tables and grills, a half-court basketball area, and a baseball backstop. A portable restroom is available.

Key Features:

- Established in 1960
- Playground (2005)
- Covered picnic area with tables and grills
- Half-court basketball area
- Baseball backstop
- Portable restroom

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 1.5 acres

Waterway Park

Size: 4.7 acres

Address: 1601 S Grand Plaza Dr

Location Description:

This park is located two blocks south of the intersection of Highways 71 and 18, known locally as the “South T.” Heading south on South Grand Avenue (which becomes Grand Plaza Drive), the park is on the west side of the road. It also borders the east side of the Spencer Municipal Golf Course.

Park Description:

This neighborhood park includes a playground, a covered picnic area with tables and grills, a basketball area, and a portable restroom for convenience. The park also borders the east side of the Spencer Municipal Golf Course, creating a scenic backdrop and a natural open-space setting.

Key Features:

- Playground (2005)
- Covered picnic area with tables and grills
- Basketball area
- Portable restroom
- Green space located across the road

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 3 acres (playground area), 2.68 acres (green space)

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

West Leach Park

Size: 39.1 acres

Address: 107 4th St. SW

Location Description:

Located on the south side of the Little Sioux River, just west of Grand Avenue.

Park Description:

West Leach Park, located on the south side of the Little Sioux River, offers convenient river access with a concrete boat ramp and a designated carry-down launch for canoes and kayaks. The park is connected to the Spencer Trail System, providing easy access for walking and biking. Ample parking is available, making it easy for visitors to enjoy a day on the water. The area is also a popular fishing destination and features expansive green space, making it a favorite spot for relaxing and bringing pets.

Key Features:

- Access to fishing along the Little Sioux River
- Concrete boat ramp
- Carry-down access for canoes/kayaks
- Direct access to Spencer Trail System
- Abundant green space

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 12 acres
- Baling: 11 acres (west of driveway)
- Clay. Co. Fair Prep: 4 acres mowed south of trail

Park Director Input:

- Upcoming DNR project: carry down canoe/kayak access

Action Items:

- Remove the Kiwanis Disc Golf signage from the park sign
- Signage needed at driveway turnoff
 - Should indicate boat ramp/carry-down access
 - Remove grills/tables?

West View Memorial Park

Size: 4.6 acres

Address: 906 W 9th St.

Location Description:

Located directly west of Johnson Elementary School on West 9th Street.

Park Description:

West View Memorial Park features the Deegan Pavilions (2015), an outdoor performance space with three pergolas made of glass, steel, and wood. The park also includes a scenic, tree-filled setting that serves as an unofficial arboretum, along with a ¼-mile trail and sidewalk that wraps around Johnson School for walking and recreation. A year-round portable toilet is available for visitor convenience.

Key Features:

- Quiet arboretum
- Deegan Pavilions (2015)
 - Outdoor performance area (3 pergolas)
- ¼ mile trail wraps around Johnson Elementary School
- Year-round portable toilet

Maintenance:

- Mowing: 4.6 acres

Park Director Input:

Action Items:

- Listed on Google as Westview Park
 - Is it two words or one and is memorial in the title?
- Website: how to reserve the Pavilion for an event