

CFPS Work Group Update- Rec Check

Program/Initiative Name: Rec Check After School Programs (Recreation Services)

Lead Staff: Andy Rodriguez

Rec Check Program

- Recreation Centers offers free after-school and other out-of-school time care for youth at multiple locations across the City.
- The program is offered for free to all youth who live or attend school in Saint Paul and are in grades 1-5, with an estimated 80% of those children coming from low-income families.
 - Children participate in a variety of structured, supervised activities that are recreation focused.
 - Activities include arts and crafts, community building games, quiet time, homework help (during the school year) and more. To promote health and fitness.
 - Staff engage participants daily in physical activity.
 - The program is staffed with community recreation leaders on a 15-1 participant-to-staff.
 - Rec Check is also offered for extended periods during No School Days.
 - A snack is also provided.
- As part of the 2020 budget proposal, a \$5 fee was introduced as a way help close a funding gap and maintain the increased level of participation (almost 1,000 new participants) the program had seen over the last 2 years. The fee would only be assessed to those families that could afford it, thus keeping the program free for those that can't.
- The \$225,000 CFPS investment ensured that the program would continue to remain free and accessible to all families in our community.

2021 Update: (2021 Program/Initiative Update)

1. Number of Rec Check Participants, September – December: 711 participants
2. Number of Rec Check Participants, January – March: 489 Participants
3. Number of Rec Check Participants, school year and summer: 646 participants

Recreation Center	Rec Check School Year	Rec Check Summer (Registration Ongoing)	Grand Total
Arlington Hills Community Center	16	2	18
Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center	43	1	44
Duluth & Case Recreation Center	N/A	3	3
Edgumbe Recreation Center	51	37	88
El Rio Vista Recreation Center	44	18	62
Frogtown Community Center	45	2	47
Hancock Recreation Center	54	3	57
Hayden Heights Recreation Center	8	2	10
Hazel Park Recreation Center	23	4	27
Highwood Hills Recreation Center	17	2	19
Jimmy Lee Recreation Center	13	3	16
Langford Park Recreation Center	35	26	61
Linwood Recreation Center	N/A	12	12
Martin Luther King Recreation Center	42	7	49
McDonough Recreation Center	12	2	14
Merriam Park Recreation Center	N/A	7	7
North Dale Recreation Center	36	12	48
Palace Community Center	16	5	21
Phalen Recreation Center	21	5	26
Rice Recreation Center	9	1	10
West Minnehaha Recreation Center	4	0	4
Wilder Recreation Center	N/A	3	3
Grand Total	489	157	646

Program Considerations

1. Rec Check is currently operating under covid guidelines set by the State, which limits the number of participants we can accept daily (30).
2. Participation trends show a varying level of attendance across the city, based on several variables
 - Remote learning and some parents and guardians still working from home which altered their need for out of school time care.
 - Participant returning to in person learning and evolving needs for after school care.
 - Overall comfortability with covid protocols and participation in Rec Programs.
 - Participation trends show that attendance for childcare and out of school time care have fluctuated considerably throughout the pandemic.

- With the reintroduction of service at Frogtown Community Center, our newest facility, we have seen a strong decrease down the road at West Minnehaha.

City of Saint Paul 2021 Budget: (Full 2021 Program/Initiative Budget)

- Total Rec Check Spending Budget - \$225,000
- **YTD Spending:** \$225,000