

# Department of Parks and Recreation Goals and Initiatives for 2026!

Brian C. Emelson, CPRE, Director of Parks and Recreation



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In 2026, our country will celebrate the 250th anniversary of American Independence known as the “SEMISESQUICENTENNIAL.” Events and activities in Victor will be marked with music, food, activities for families and most importantly patriotic recognition of the efforts our founders undertook to create this great nation. Our department will host a commemorative event at Victor Municipal Park on July 2nd with local music and food, a craft and vendors market with the evening’s activities being capped off by a fireworks display. Please save the date and come celebrate with your family and friends!

In April, we will celebrate Arbor Day once again with a tree planting at Victor Municipal Park as well as the planting of numerous “new” trees and shrubs which coincide with the recent improvements to Harlan Fisher Park in the Victorwood neighborhood. It is our hope to complete a 3rd phase of improvements to this park with an update to the children’s playground in the near future. On the subject of playgrounds, a new more accessible playground will be opened at Dryer Road Park in early June including shade elements, inclusive play features, adventurous climbing structures and creative play spaces for young imaginations! Keep an eye out for our spring / summer activity guide this year for a special sneak peek at our one-of-a-kind Dryer Road Park “Treehouse!”

The Town owns (25) acres of undeveloped land on the east side of Brace Road directly across from the entrance to Victor Municipal Park. Approximately (16) acres of this land are dedicated parkland locally known as “Paparone Park.” One of the near-term goals of our Town Board and its

Parks and Recreation Citizens’ Advisory Committee is to develop this land for future recreation facilities. Some of the ideas presented already include a disc golf course, baseball and softball fields, a splash pad, more pickleball courts, and a network of trails for hiking and biking. A public outreach process will be developed to gain feedback from our residents on any items identified in a master plan for this parcel.

If you follow Victor Parks and Recreation on social media channels including Instagram and Facebook, you’ve undoubtedly seen an increase in content development in the past six months. Our more strategic and community-focused approach to social media has resulted in significant gains in reach, engagement and followership. This strategy has paid off as attendance figures increased significantly at events including Taco Tuesday at Dryer Road Park, the Monster Mash Halloween Party and Spooktacular. For us though, it’s not just about the numbers. It’s vital that every resident knows and understands the importance and value of how parks and recreation strengthen a community and its connection to its residents and businesses. A more advanced commitment to reaching you is critical to achieving this goal.

And if you’re reading this and don’t follow us on social media, find us and give us a “LIKE” and a thumbs up.

Have a Happy Holiday and a joyous start to 2026...it’s going to be celebratory!

All the best,

Brian C. Emelson, CPRE, Director of  
Parks and Recreation