

Mayor Welcomes Oxford Community Center as Crown Jewel of Saint Paul's Parks Program

Complex featuring Jimmy Lee Recreation Center hailed as state-of-the-art facility for community

SAINT PAUL – Featuring Saint Paul's first city-operated indoor water park with slides and waterfalls, four gymnasiums, a computer learning center, and many other amenities, Mayor Chris Coleman, the grandson of Jimmy Lee and other dignitaries officially opened Oxford Community Center featuring the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center and Great River Water Park.

The Mayor called the new center a crown jewel in the city that is much more than a park and recreation center.

“This is a look at the future of Saint Paul,” Coleman said. “This is a state-of-the-art resource for children, families, and community groups, one that houses many activities and serves many goals at one time. This is the kind of facility that we need to continue to invest in, one that is a safe haven for children to spend their out-of-school time, one where families and groups can come to play, and one that builds community for surrounding neighbors and city residents.”

The Oxford Community Center is located at the corner of Lexington Parkway North and Interstate 94, across the street from Saint Paul's Central High School. Decades in the planning, the center also features a dance studio, synthetic outdoor turf field, party and meeting rooms, and a host of other brand new amenities.

James Lee, grandson of the recreation center's namesake, as well as current Ward 1 Councilmember Melvin Carter, former Ward 1 Councilmember Debbie Montgomery, Loft Teen Center Director Jim Robinson, Saint Paul School's Superintendent Dr. Meria Carstarphen, and Parks and Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid were on hand for the grand opening.

“Today was decades in the making, and it took the vision of many to get us to this place. Thanks to the city's partners in this project, we know this center will produce the next Dave Winfield, Joe Mauer, and Paul Molitor,” Mayor Coleman said, recalling names of star baseball players who played their childhood games on the same property.

For more information on Oxford Community Center featuring Jimmy Lee Recreation Center and Great River Water Park, including hours and rates, go to www.stpaul.gov and click on “Government” and then “Parks & Recreation.”

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