

To: **Mayor and City Council**
Through: **Nate Burkett, City Manager**
From: **Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director**
Date: **October 18, 2021**

Marthaler Park Draft Master Plan

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2017, WSB & Associates was chosen from five consultants to update the Marthaler Park Master Plan and provide planning & design services and construction management for the Marthaler project. About 6 months later staff and Council reallocated project funding in an attempt to pay off the debt mainly from the Robert St project. The Marthaler project was changed to be a pay as you go project that would be spread out over many years. Because of this, the Master Plan was never completed.

In 2019, staff worked with Dakota County to complete improvements in the north end of Marthaler Park in conjunction with the Wentworth Ave reconstruction project. The City once again collaborated with Dakota County in 2020-21 to design and construct the River to River trail segment through both Garlough and Marthaler Park. Additionally in 2020, staff was able to reallocate project funding for parks, to be able to complete the remainder of the Marthaler Park redevelopment in 2022-24. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee have recommended the specific elements and phasing for the redevelopment project. In July 2021, Council approved rehiring WSB and Associates to complete the Master Plan and guide the project through at least the first phase in 2022. Staff has been working with WSB to complete the draft Master Plan (attached), and present it to Council for comment and approval.

As part of this process, residents and park users were given two opportunities, an open house on September 20 and the City open house on September 23, to provide input and express concerns about the Master Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was instrumental in working through the Master Plan and developing specific phases for reconstruction. Phase 1 in 2022 is expected to include relocation and construction of new parking area, site preparation, pond clean up, and internal park trails. Phase 2 in 2023 should focus on new playground installation, new picnic pavilion construction and completion of the River to River trailhead, which includes permanent public bathrooms. Phase 3 in 2024 will focus mainly on rehab of the sledding hill and installation of a hilltop observation area or tower. Resident's comments regarding safety have been heard and will be addressed with the addition of lighting in the park as well as security cameras.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The current approved CIP allocates \$450k in 2022, \$598k in 2023, and \$252k in 2024 for Marthaler Park improvements. Additionally, the City expects to receive funding from Dakota County for the trailhead and state grant funding for buckthorn removal and pond clean up.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Consider the Marthaler Park draft Master Plan and provide staff with comments or concerns.