



Board of Aldermen Memorandum

This memo is intended to provide additional context regarding the Parks Master Plan presented for adoption, including its purpose, scope, and how it is intended to be used by the City moving forward. As the Board considers approval of the plan, staff felt it was important to clearly outline what the Master Plan represents—and just as importantly, what it does not.

The Parks Master Plan being presented for adoption is not a list of required projects or approved expenditures. Rather, it is a comprehensive, long-term vision for the City's parks and recreation system, derived directly from extensive feedback provided by residents, park users, and other stakeholders. The plan is intended to guide future planning, policy discussions, and decision-making, while recognizing that not all identified desires or concepts will be feasible or affordable. Its value lies in clearly understanding what the community is seeking as the City plans for the maintenance, improvement, and evolution of its existing park system.

All specific projects or capital investments identified through this planning process will continue to come before the Board of Aldermen through the normal budgetary, capital planning, and policy approval processes. Approval of the Master Plan does not authorize construction or funding of any individual project. Following adoption, staff will begin identifying a limited number of priority projects anticipated for completion within the next three to five years. Based on community input, those near-term focus areas are expected to include an aquatic center amenity improvement such as a locker room remodel, a park maintenance building or facility, an indoor walking track at the existing community center, and expanded trails and pedestrian accessibility to existing parks. This short-term list of priority projects will also be used to help inform residents and voters as part of the upcoming ½-cent parks and stormwater sales tax ballot initiative, providing transparency regarding potential uses of future funding while recognizing that final project decisions remain subject to Board approval.

Development of the Master Plan included numerous public meetings facilitated by staff and Cochran Engineering, as well as significant online engagement, with more than 900 residents providing feedback through the community survey. In addition to serving as a roadmap for future planning, the Master Plan is a critical foundational document for pursuing state and federal grant opportunities. Adoption of the plan ensures the City is positioned to make informed, community-driven decisions while maintaining flexibility and fiscal responsibility as projects are evaluated over time.