



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: SUSAN LEE, PLANNER
CHRIS JOHNSEN, GROUNDS FOREMAN
RE: 2021 PARK IMPROVEMENTS
DATE: JANUARY 26, 2021

Summary and Background: As part of the outreach process for the 2019 Community Plan Update, public meetings on recreational facilities were held. Outcomes from the meetings included the prioritization for upgrades at four parks including: Meadow Creek, Walter Byron, Old Town Hall, and Pioneer Parks. In order to thoughtfully plan for these upgrades and improvements, Town Council gave staff direction to develop a master plan for each of these parks. On October 8, 2019, Town Council approved a resolution adopting the Neighborhood Parks Master Plan, a conceptual master plan outlining community priorities for park improvements.

In 2020 Town Council allocated \$750,000 for the restroom and playground replacement at Walter Byron Park. This work was completed in the fall of 2020. The southwestern portion of the new playground area was earmarked for nature play elements, to include a log tunnel, long steppers, a sand play area, wacky sticks, and a raised stage/deck to be located beneath the large existing spruce trees. The majority of these elements have been purchased and are awaiting installation in 2021. As part of the master plan process Town Council discussed annually budgeting funds to continue moving forward with park enhancements. \$200,000 has been included in the budget for park improvements in 2021.

Analysis and Discussion: During the 2019 Park Master Planning process, the improvements at Walter Byron Park were identified as the top priority, and safety and security enhancements at Meadow Creek Park as the second. Upon reviewing the master plan for both parks staff has identified two possible scenarios for continued improvements in accordance with the Neighborhood Parks Master Plan:

1. Completion of additional items at Walter Byron:
 - Installation of the nature play elements (installing the nature's instruments equipment, install under tree deck/stage)
 - Remodel/update of the gazebo to match restrooms (metal roof, new siding, sand and stain log supports)
 - Build wetland viewing deck and pathway connections
 - Install overhead lighting at parking lot, pathway, and gazebo bbq area
 - Install slow-zone bollards (similar to marina boat ramp)
 - Build sitting areas along Tenmile Creek (to match existing)
 - Lawn Improvements
2. Enhance Safety and Security at Meadow Creek
 - Lighting along pathways and picnic areas

- Remove berm and clean-up landscaping along Meadow Drive (for better sightlines into the park)

Based on estimates provided in the master plan and recent construction projects, staff estimates that either scenario would cost approximately \$175,000 to \$200,000.

The additional items at Walter Byron include several items from the master plan that would add a more finished appearance to the main entrance and circulation areas of the park. The nature play elements at Walter Byron have been purchased with funds from 2020. Installation will be difficult because of additional COVID-19 projects being covered by Public Works. The use of a contractor may be needed. The gazebo at Walter Byron was slated for replacement on the approved master plan. The proposed refurbishment would bring it into visual alignment with the new restroom facility. The wetland observation deck is proposed in the master plan and intended to provide a means to incorporate the wetland area into the park through visual interaction and educational signage. The overhead lighting is to improve safety and visibility for monitoring by the Police Department as well as for trail users moving through the park at dawn and dusk. The bollards were proposed in the master plan to create a slow zone around the gazebo/playground/restroom plaza area where user conflicts exist between park goers, trail users, and sometimes, vehicles. The lawn improvements are part of a multi-year program to improve the turf field. The final item listed are the sitting areas along Ten Mile Creek. The sitting areas would mimic the existing boulder and flagstone sitting area and are intended to encourage interaction with the creek without causing additional erosion.

Improving the safety and security at Meadow Creek was a high community priority identified during the master planning process. The improvements proposed for Meadow Creek are the master plan elements most closely related to safety and security – lighting and visibility. The master plan proposes overhead lighting around the entrance and along the pathway that connects Hawn Drive to Basecamp Way. Clean up and lowering the berm along Meadow Drive will improve visibility into the park and parking lot from the right of way.

Financial Impact: As approved in the 2021 budget, \$200,000 is budgeted for Park Improvements in account 20-2000-5093. Staff feels that either of the options, for Walter Byron Park or for Meadow Creek Park, can be completed for this amount.

Environmental Sustainability: Several of the proposed elements will be installed with the Town's sustainability goals in mind such as energy efficient lighting, bank stabilization, and lower water usage. The final design will dictate the exact scope.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Vibrant Recreation is one of Town Council's strategic priorities as outlined in the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan; this includes prioritizing and implementing park improvements in conjunction with the approved Neighborhood Parks Master Plan.

Staff Recommendation: Staff is seeking feedback from Council as to the priority for park improvements in 2021.

Reviews and Approvals: This report has been reviewed and approved by:
Diane McBride, Assistant Town Manager/Recreation Director
Bonnie Moinet, Finance Director
Nancy Kerry, Town Manager

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Neighborhood Parks Master Plan, 2019

Attachment 2: Conceptual plan for nature play elements at Walter Byron Park