



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: SUSAN LEE, PLANNER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RE: NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PLAN UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES FOR 2023
DATE: AUGUST 9, 2022

Summary and Background: In 2019, as part of the community outreach process for the Community Plan update, the Town held several meetings focused on recreational facilities. Outcomes from the meetings included the prioritization for upgrades at more locally oriented park facilities specifically: Meadow Creek, Walter Byron, Old Town Hall, and Pioneer Parks. The general feedback from community members was that the Town provides great facilities at the Marina and PRA but our neighborhood parks were in need of some upgrades. 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. The planning process included public meetings, a community survey, and site analysis. A summary of prioritized improvements for each park was created along with conceptual plans and cost estimates for the desired improvements at each park. As part of the master planning process Town Council discussed annually budgeting \$750,000 to continue moving forward with park enhancements. They also prioritized the improvements at Walter Byron Park and safety and security enhancements at Meadow Creek Park.

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 remainder of the play area was completed in 2021, with the addition of a small deck and nature play features. Phase Two improvements at Walter Byron Park include expanding the gazebo deck, creating additional patio seating, and installing a wetland overlook adjacent to the parking area. Staff presented the Phase Two conceptual design to Town Council at the March 8, 2022 meeting. The work was estimated to cost approximately \$530,000 and staff received direction to proceed with the improvements. The project is currently out to bid with work to be completed by early summer 2023.

Improving the safety and security at Meadow Creek was a high community priority identified during the master planning process. The master plan elements most closely related to safety and security are enhanced pathway lighting and improving visibility from Meadow Drive. Overhead lighting around the entrance and along the pathway that connects Hawn Drive to Basecamp Way is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2022 for a contracted amount of \$154,000. In 2021, the visibility component was addressed through thinning and pruning of the trees in the landscape berm along Meadow Drive. An entrance path from the bike path to the park was created. The sign was relocated and cleaned up.

Analysis: With three years of park improvements completed or underway, staff would like to revisit the recommendations of the Neighborhood Parks Master Plan with Council to establish priorities moving forward and discuss any potential additions or changes to the plan.

Financial Impact: In 2019 Town Council discussed allocating \$750,000 annually for five years for implementation of the Neighborhood Parks Master Plan. Changes or modifications to the plan could be implemented by staff.

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. The Town recognizes the importance of its recreational opportunities as essential to the Town's vibrancy, providing unique opportunities for visitors and locals to explore, play, experience, and share with the broader community. Such vibrant recreation is central to the community's economic vitality and therefore a high priority for the Town Council to maintain, sustain, and protect for future generations.

Environmental Sustainability: In order to ensure the improvements are compatible with and include Town goals related to environmental sustainability, Hilary Sueoka, the Town's Environmental Programs Coordinator, participates in the design discussions for park projects. Staff will continue to incorporate the Town's sustainable land use codes in the design of the improvements to ensure that they meet or exceed all requirements.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends Town Council take this opportunity to review the Neighborhood Parks Master Plan recommendations and provide feedback to staff regarding priorities for future projects and modifications to the Plan.

Reviews and Approvals:

- Leslie Edwards, Finance Director
- Diane McBride, Interim Town Manager

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 Neighborhood Parks Master Plan
- Attachment 2 Schematic Design for Walter Byron Phase Two