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TO: Honorable County Commissioners
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Jess L. Greenwood, P.E. – Director / County Engineer

RE: 01 July 26 County Board Meeting
Request to Proceed With Planned Park Projects

Date: 22 June 26

Summary

It is requested that the County Board authorize staff to proceed with several high priority park projects.

Background

The Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board (Park Board) met on 16 June 26. In consideration of upcoming budget challenges, the Park Board requested that the Commissioners consider the following park projects and proposed alternative funding:

1. Byllesby Park Fish Cleaning Station
 - \$30,000 was included in the Capital Improvement Plan in 2024 to construct a fish cleaning station at Byllesby Park. Funds have been carried forward to 2026.
 - Request to authorize reallocation of these funds to the Byllesby Park Host Sites project.
2. Byllesby Park Overflow Parking
 - \$50,000 was included in the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan to construct a gravel overflow parking lot.
 - Request to authorize reallocation of these funds to (1st) the Byllesby Park Host Sites project and (2nd) the Nielsen Memorial Preserve Access & Parking project.
3. Byllesby Park Host Sites
 - \$50,000 was included in the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan for design and construction of two park host sites at Byllesby Park. Funds have been carried forward to 2026.
 - A quote was received in 2026 for \$36,500 for design, plans, estimate, and proposal.
 - A rough construction estimate for 2027 is \$85,000.
 - Beyond the initial investment of design and construction, minimal additional expenses would be incurred: wages (if the County decides to have paid park hosts), utilities, and maintenance and replacement of a UTV if that is provided for the hosts.

"To effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of our residents"

- Request to authorize:
 - o Spending of the \$50,000 that was levied for this project.
 - o Spending of the \$30,000 that was levied for the fish cleaning station project.
 - o Spending of the \$50,000 that was levied for the overflow parking lot project.

- 4. Nielsen Memorial Preserve Access & Small Parking Lot
 - \$30,000 was included in the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan for an access and small parking lot at Nielsen Memorial Preserve. Funds have been carried forward to 2026.
 - This improvement is required for staff to access the site with equipment to perform basic natural resources management work. The access can be installed with County staff and equipment.
 - Request to authorize spending of the \$30,000 that was levied for this project.
 - Request to authorize spending of any remaining funds that were levied for the overflow parking lot project (after park host site construction).

- 5. Byllesby Park Playground Replacement
 - The hard structure playground at Byllesby Park will be 20 years old and was included as a Capital Improvement Plan request for 2027. Approximate replacement cost is \$320,000.
 - Request to authorize staff to work with vendors to develop a plan for a replacement playground, and apply for \$100,000 in GMRPTC/Legacy grant funding in 2027 (if successful, funds would be available starting summer of 2028).
 - Request to authorize staff to apply for other grant funding, manufacturer discount programs, and to raise as many private funds as possible to offset the purchasing cost.
 - Request to utilize Park Fund Balance to pay for any remaining playground replacement costs, up to \$220,000.

Under this proposal, no additional funds (that have not already been levied for in prior years) would be required from the Capital Improvement Plan in 2027 for park projects.