

# ACQUISITION OF EASTSIDE RAIL CORRIDOR

## PARK BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Given the high priority the City has placed on acquiring the Eastside Rail Corridor, and given the timing considerations, the Park Board has recommended that approximately \$1.54 million of certain existing Parks CIP funds be made available and repurposed as necessary to assist with acquisition of this important and unique community asset. This recommendation was approved by the Board in March of 2011.

PROJECT	TOTAL AVAILABLE	REMAIN WITH PROJECT	REPURPOSE FOR RAIL CORRIDOR
<b>Forbes Lake Park Development</b>	\$800,000	\$600,000	\$200,000
<b>South Juanita Park Site Development</b>	\$212,349	\$0	\$212,349
<b>Skate Park</b>	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
<b>Waverly Beach Park Renovation</b>	\$745,000	\$240,000	\$505,000
<b>Spinney Homestead Park Renovation</b>	\$400,000	\$50,000	\$350,000
<b>Community Rec. Center Facility Planning</b>	\$ 71,980	\$0	\$ 71,980
			<b>Total: \$1,539,329</b>

*Note: Funding for Parks capital projects averages \$731,000 per year (Current Revenue) in the 2011-2016 CIP*

### Background:

The **Forbes Lake Park Development** project is proceeding. The Parks and Community Services Department is in the final stages of seeking permits and soon will be preparing to seek construction bids with an eye towards 2012 spring/summer construction of a trail from 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to the lake's shoreline. We were not successful in seeking a State grant to augment the project budget in order to complete a larger lake trail system at this time; as a result, only a portion of the project can be completed and the selected portion can be completed within the existing CIP budget. The reduced approach to the project will likely result in some project savings which we are recommending for repurposing.

The **South Juanita Park Site Development** project is a long-standing project which originally was intended to support improvements to neighborhood park property on NE 116<sup>th</sup> which has since been incorporated into McAuliffe Park. This project is now seen as being a lower priority for use of City resources given that a playground and other related improvements were previously completed at the site.

The **Skate Park** project has been in the Parks CIP for a number of years, and pre-dates completion of the Juanita Beach Park Master Plan in 2006. The park master plan envisions a community skate park constructed in what is now the gravel parking lot adjacent to Juanita Drive. However, development of the skate park cannot be completed independent of other scheduled park improvements (new replacement parking, Little League field improvements, etc.). It is appropriate at this time that the project funding should be re-directed to more immediate priorities.

The **Waverly Beach Park** and **Spinney Homestead Park** renovation projects, while important, do not have the same sense of urgency compared to acquisition of the Corridor. We are recommending however that a portion of each of the project budgets be retained for planning purposes to complete engineering reports, work with the community to create renovation plans, and obtain updated project cost estimates for each park. For Waverly Beach, a portion of the budget would also be retained for refurbishing the dock which has been identified by staff as the most vital need at this time.

The **Community Recreation Facility Planning** funds were intended to be used to analyze an identified potential site for a new facility. Such a site has yet to be found, and again, it is appropriate at this time that the project funding should be re-purposed for a higher priority. Funding for site analysis can be reconsidered once a potential site is actually identified.