



## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager   **DATE:** December 2, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** Review the Park Amenity Request Policy and consider recommendations made by staff regarding the park amenity requests for the FY2025/26 Capital Improvement Program Budget.

**PRESENTER:** Tanner Arwine, Assistant Director

### **SUMMARY:**

Mr. Tanner Arwine will provide a summary of the Park Amenity Request Policy and review the Park Amenity Requests that were received by the Parks and Recreation Department in calendar year 2024.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Preparation of the FY2025/2026 Draft Capital Improvement Program Budget will be underway by mid-December 2024. The *Park Amenity Request Policy* outlines the criteria and methodology for responding to requests for additional park amenities and improvements in existing parks. Two park amenity requests for FY2025/2026 have been submitted:

1. Additional Fountain or Pond Aeration System for the Lakes of Hometown
2. John Barfield Trail Reorientation on Spring Oak Drive

According to the *Park Amenity Request Policy*, applications received will be evaluated by Parks and Recreation Department Staff by a variety of criteria, including:

1. Compliance with the 2007 *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* and 2016 *Updated List of Priorities*.
2. Current principles and methods of park planning and design.
3. Capital costs for the requested improvements.
4. Long term fiscal impacts related to maintenance and operations.
5. Impacts on other prioritized projects in the CIP Budget with regards to introduction of the funding and time schedules associated with the request.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Development Capital Improvement Program is supported by ½ cent sales tax revenue. Sales Tax projections are expected to continue



to impact cash flow capabilities. Funding may not be available for introducing new requests in the CIP Budget until a future fiscal year.

Request #1 - Additional Fountain or Pond Aeration System for the Lakes of Hometown.

Staff does not recommend an additional pond fountain at the Lakes of Hometown for the following reasons:

- While the pond fountains at the Lakes of Hometown do circulate water, they serve more of an aesthetic purpose than anything. The size of the fountains relative to the size of the pond have negligible impact on water quality.
- Because these ponds are actually a drainage channel with a series of dams, existing fountains regularly malfunction because of debris moving through the channel.

Staff does recommend the purchase and installation of a solar powered aerator for the following reasons:

- An aerator in this location assists in meeting Goals #2 and #3 of the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and 2016 Updated List of Priorities by improving water quality and protecting the natural resources within our parks.
- The aeration system would not have an intake and thus subject to similar issues experienced by current pond fountains at the park.
- Solar powered aerators are relatively inexpensive compared to other fountain and aeration devices. This product would serve as a pilot program that could be implemented at other ponds.
- Electric costs would be non-existent because the installation would be completely solar powered. The aeration system could result in a slight reduction in chemicals needed for algae control.



## Request #2 - John Barfield Trail Reorientation on Spring Oak Drive

Staff recommends the trail reorientation of the on-road portion of the John Barfield trail to the Oncor power line easement for the following reasons:

- The trail was not originally constructed in this easement because not all of the property was available at the time the trail was constructed in 2014. Since then, the small property that previously limited the trail development in the Oncor easement was conveyed to the City with the development of the Rumfield Estates.
- Relocating the trail from the roadway to the power line easement aligns with Goals #1 and #4 of the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and 2016 Updated List of Priorities by providing an open space system that links green spaces and meets the recreational needs and desires of the City's growing population.
- Current design, planning, and maintenance standards identify safety as the top priority within the parks. This off-road trail extension would provide a safer route that does not require cyclists to travel on road.
- Long term financial impacts would be negligible. The parks department already mows this property as a part of regular maintenance.
- This project has the potential to be grant funded. No grant has been applied for to date, but this type of safety improvement project is one that might qualify for and that grantors identify for pedestrian trail improvements.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Park and Recreation Board is requested to review these Park Amenity requests, and provide direction to staff on considering these projects as a part of the FY2025/2026 CIP Budget.