

October 9, 2023

116th Street Park- Project Narrative

The City of Wauwatosa adopted an Active Tosa plan in 2017 which outlined an area at 116th and Gilbert Avenue for the development of a new park. The land is currently utilized for Wauwatosa's City Garage operations, which encompasses over 55 acres in the heart of the west side of the City. The development of a new park on the west side of the City will provide recreation and conservation opportunities within an area of the city that currently does not have easy access to City parks.

The following are the objectives the City in implementing into the park design:

- Improve environmental and ecological services through the implementation of biofiltration and engineered wetlands.
- Provide active and passive recreation spaces with the goal of providing a range of uses and opportunities for users of all ages and abilities.
- Encourage users to spend time outside and promote an active lifestyle.
- Create a distinct identity for the neighborhood.
- Create a destination and provide connectivity for all users, including bicycle and pedestrian connections to the park.
- Create a park that is sustainable, inclusive, and inviting.

In 2021, the City worked with a consultant to develop a master plan for a new City park. The process resulted in a conceptual space use plan for the entire property, as well as a conceptual park plan that incorporates wetland areas, a sledding hill, pump track, playground, walking trails and other passive recreation opportunities. Conceptual plans were reviewed by City staff and the Board of Parks and Forestry.

In the same year, the City was allocated funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be utilized for the betterment of Wauwatosa's parks and open spaces through the implementation of portions of the Active Tosa Plan. Common Council has approved \$2 million of funding to be utilized for the development of a new park based upon the 116th Street master plan.

The City engaged a consultant team in late 2022 to complete public outreach and detailed design of the Park. The plans continue to progress and will be complete by the end of 2023, with construction of most park elements in 2024.

The City also was also successful in getting additional funding for the park project through Milwaukee

Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

The City is requesting approval for a zoning map change and Certified Survey Map to address the required zoning and property changes to develop the Park.

Respectfully Submitted,

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