



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
New Business

MEETING DATE: March 16, 2023
PREPARED BY: Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director
AGENDA ITEM: Land Acquisition – Conservancy Park

PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

On December 20, 2018 the Park Board approved the 2018 Parks and Recreation System Plan.

RECOMMENDED PARK BOARD ACTION:

Motion to approve a recommendation to Council to pursue the acquisition of land designated Conservancy Park in the 2018 Parks and Recreation System Plan.

COMMENTS:

At the March 6, 2023 Council Work Session, Director of Public Works/City Engineer presented for discussion and direction the potential land acquisition of a parcel located directly north of Menards near the intersection of County Road 30 and Maple Grove Parkway.

The 2018 Park System Plan comprehends a park conservancy at three locations along the Interstate 94 corridor. These lands were first identified in the 1994 Park System Plan and have been included as such with each subsequent update. Please refer to the attached memo titled Attachment A. The memo outlines a strategy for the acquisition of a portion of the most southerly conservancy in association with the TriCare development proposal.

This particular parcel is a wooded lot with some wetland and high ground. The city proposes to capture some portion of the parcel for potential development and the remaining preserved as conservancy. The final configuration remains to be determined upon further study of the property. Funding options are outlined in the memo and will consider park dedication funds for that portion designated as conservancy.

Land designated as conservancy could allow passive recreation such as walking, and bird and animal watching per the definition in the Park System Plan.

Following presentation, Council directed staff to pursue negotiations for land acquisition.

As a matter of park land acquisition procedures, staff is recommending the Park Board formalize a recommendation to Council to pursue acquisition of available lands for conservancy park purposes pursuant to the Park System Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Work session memo dated March 2, 2023

Attachment B – Location Map