

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	22-203	Meeting:	May 9, 2022
	Agenda Item:	27	Roll Call:	22-0690
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Set hearing for approval of vacation of excess City right-of-way located in Gray's Lake Park, 2101 Fleur Drive.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend the City Council set the date of hearing for vacation of excess City right-of-way located in Gray's Lake Park. These excess right-of-way parcels include remnant platted alley and street fragments, are fully surrounded by parkland and are not connected to any other right-of-way properties. These parcels have been functioning as parkland since the inception of Gray's Lake Park and are improved as such.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Gray's Lake Park is one (1) of Des Moines' signature parks and has been honored by the American Planning Association as one (1) of a limited number of *Great Places in America*. The park features a multitude of improvements that support both active recreation and passive enjoyment of nature in the City.
- August 23, 2016, by Resolution Number 16-065, the Parks and Recreation Board voted to approve the updated Gray's Lake Park Master Plan which identified the parcels shown in the exhibit below for wetland and supporting park improvements.
- Feasibility of this wetland feature was explored as part of the Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study by Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, to be presented to the City Council for approval.
- On September 28, 2021, by Resolution Number 21-062, the Parks and Recreation Board voted 13-0 to approve the proposed Southwest Infrastructure Plan, subject to the condition that the land adjacent to Gray's Lake Park be dedicated as parkland.
- On January 24, 2022, by Roll Call Number 22-0095, City Council (at the request of the Parks and Recreation Board), directed staff to prepare the necessary documentation to allow the City Council to dedicate such land as parkland at the time of the Council's approval of the Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study.

- This work led to the discovery of excess City right-of-way located in Gray’s Lake Park that includes remnant platted alley and street fragments, which are fully surrounded by parkland and are not connected to any other right-of-way properties. These parcels have been functioning as parkland since the inception of Gray’s Lake Park and are improved as such.
- Prior to the parkland dedication that supports the potential future Gray’s Lake wetland and related improvements, it is recommended by City Real Estate and Legal staff and approved by the Plan and Zoning Commission that these remanent right-of-way parcels be vacated and then also dedicated as parkland, so this action to set the date of hearing and the forthcoming hearing are necessary first steps prior to the requested parkland dedication.

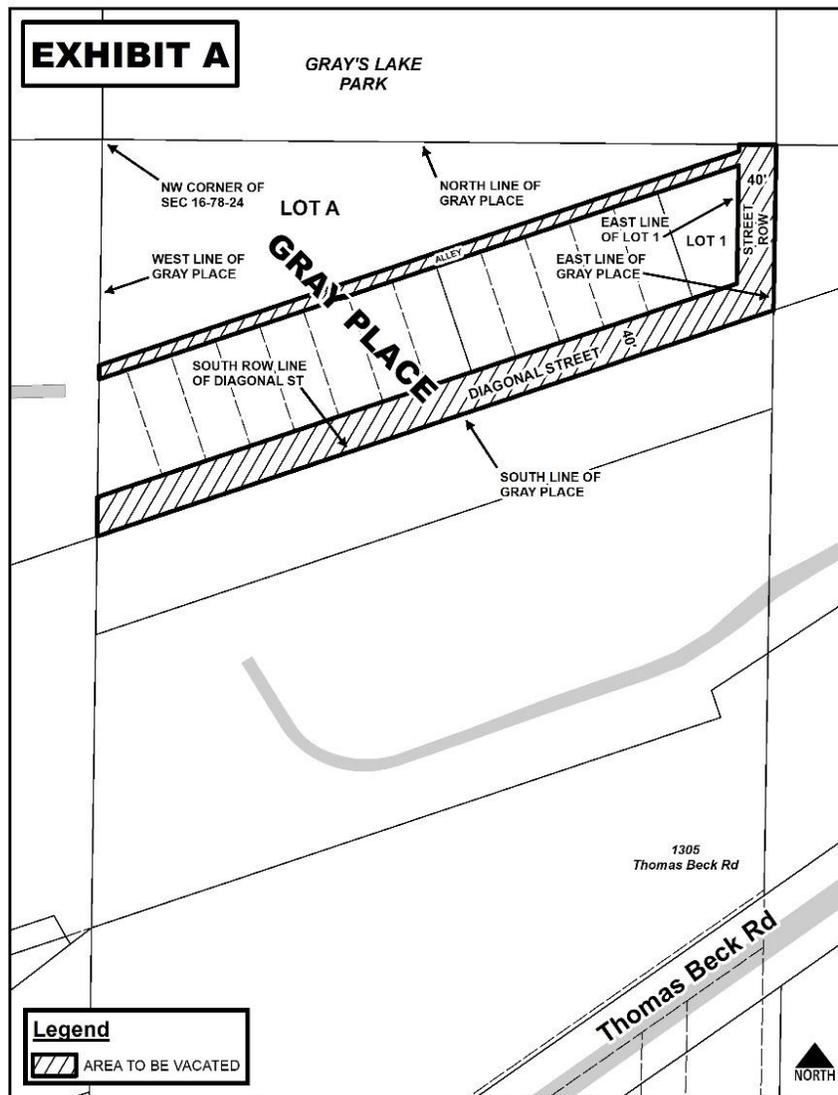


Exhibit A

Excess right-of-way parcels including remnant platted alley and street fragments to be vacated, then dedicated as Parkland in a future action, also shown in Exhibit B below in yellow.



Exhibit B

- (1) Remnant right-of-way (yellow) recommended to be vacated then dedicated as Parkland in a future action; and
- (2) City-owned land (green) to be dedicated as Parkland in a future action, shown in this exhibit for reference only and to support future potential wetland and related improvements

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 24, 2022

Roll Call Number: [22-0095](#)

Action: [Receive](#) and file communication from the Parks and Recreation Board regarding approval of the Southwest Infrastructure and Planning Study and recommendation of dedication of Gray's Lake Wetlands Project Area as parkland. Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Mandelbaum. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Plan and Zoning Commission

Date: April 21, 2022

Action: Motion by Garner to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 12-0.

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: September 28, 2021

Resolution Number: 21-062

Action: Motion by Davis to approve the Southwest Infrastructure Plan subject to the land adjacent to Gray's Lake becoming part of parkland inventory.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Anticipated actions include hearing for approval of vacation of excess City right-of-way located in Gray's Lake Park, approval of the ordinance on this vacation with reading waiver requested by Parks and Recreation Director, and a resolution dedicating the vacated land and the additional identified properties as parkland.

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