

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council

From: Jeff Brauer, Director of Parks and Recreation

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Neighborhood Park Selection Process

Executive Summary

The 2018 budget request includes funding for development of the next neighborhood park. The Town currently owns five park properties suitable for development.

The Parks and Recreation Department is beginning an evaluation process to determine the location for the next park and has developed criteria designed to determine the neighborhood with the greatest need. The purpose of this update is to inform Town Council of the proposed public process.

The process will include a tour of the five sites with Parks and Recreation Commission, followed by two public meetings. The public meetings will include a formal presentation that will provide background information on the properties and neighborhoods, explain service levels, park distribution and master plan goals, and review prioritization criteria developed to evaluate each site. Staff will obtain feedback and comments from residents during this process. Information collected at the meetings will be presented to Parks and Recreation Commission and Town Council, along with a recommendation for site selection. Information will also be posted on the Town's website along with opportunities for feedback.

The following schedule is proposed for the process:

1. Present outline of the selection process to Town Council – Town Manager's report item – Tuesday, August 1, 2017
2. Host a Parks and Recreation tour of potential park sites with the Parks and Recreation Commission – Wednesday, August 16, 2017
3. Public Meetings – presentation and discussion – Monday, August 21, 2017 and Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at the Millhouse at Philip S. Miller Park from 6-7 p.m.
4. Present a site selection recommendation to Parks and Recreation Commission – Wednesday, September 20, 2017
5. Present a site selection recommendation to Town Council – Tuesday, October 3, 2017
6. Issue RFP for design – October 2017

Discussion

Castle Rock residents place a high value on parks, open space and trails for public use, buffers and habitat protection. In order to maintain Castle Rock's standards for recreational areas, new development projects are required to dedicate land for parks, trails and open space. Home builders also pay the cost to develop new parks through a building permit fee. Recent parks developed in this manner include: Matney, Rhyolite Regional, Bison, Wrangler and Philip S. Miller parks.

Approximately 15 additional neighborhood parks are planned to achieve the policy goal of locating parks within walking distance of all residents and to maintain the current level of service for developed parks as outlined in the approved 2015 Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan.

To continue this effort, the 2018 budget includes \$2 million from Park and Recreation Impact Fees to develop the next Town park. These funds were generated by park impact fees, which by State Statute can only be used for parks and recreation needs attributed to growth.