

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AMES COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DONATION OF EDWARDS PROPERTY

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Community School District (ACSD) has agreed to transfer 5 acres of the former Edwards school property to the City of Ames for use as a neighborhood park. During the 2018/19 Budget hearings, the City Council committed \$80,000 in the 2019/20 Capital Improvement Program for developing this former school site as a neighborhood park.

As a reminder, City Council in May 2017 agreed to accept a portion of the Old Edwards School site at a future date for use as a City park if the following conditions were met:

- a. The site provided to the City by the Ames Community School District is “clean and green”;
- b. The site is given to the City by the Ames Community School District at no cost; and
- c. The land that is donated at no cost to the City by the Ames Community School District does not include the land on which private sheds, landscaping, and fences currently exist (the area south of the School District fence).

City staff has confirmed that all three of these conditions have been met in order for Council to accept the transfer to City ownership. Please note, the playground equipment on the site which was jointly funded by the City and the ACSD will remain.

All legal documents have now been finalized with ACSD for the transfer of the property. The ACSD School Board approved the transfer of this property at its July 8 meeting.

Neighborhood residents have been active supporters of the transfer of a portion of the Old Edwards School property to the City for use as a neighborhood park. The neighborhood also agreed to raise funds to help offset the demolition costs of the school building if the ACSD would transfer the land to the City for use as a park. The neighborhood residents provided the ACSD over \$150,000 for demolition. In addition, Parks and Recreation staff have begun meeting with Old Edwards neighbors to gather input on the development of the neighborhood park in FY 2019/20.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the donation of 5 acres of land on Woodland Street from the Ames Community School District for the purpose of a neighborhood Park.
2. Do not accept the donation of this land for the purpose of a neighborhood park.

MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City and the Edwards neighborhood are appreciative of the Ames Community School District’s donating this land to the City for use as a neighborhood park. The ASCD resolved the south boundary line issue and completed the “clean and green” requirements established by the City Council. Therefore, it is the City Manager’s recommendation that the City Council approve Alternative #1 as stated above.



Woodland Street

Westwood Drive

New Property Line

Fence Line

Old School District
Property Line



Former Edwards School Site



1 inch = 83 feet

Date: 7/16/2019