

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JON RADERMACHER, City Administrator

SUBJECT: DONATION – JOHN BURCH PARK BACKSTOP AND GRANDSTAND IMPROVEMENT

MEETING DATE: August 19, 2025

BACKGROUND

John Burch Park (JBP) Supporters have aided the park and ballfield for many years through a series of donated improvements. Their next planned project includes:

- Removing the chain-link fencing behind home plate and replacing it with a concrete knee wall.
- Removing the existing netting.
- Replacing the wood retaining wall under the grandstand.
- Painting the grandstand.

The replacement of the netting will be addressed in a future project once the best options for hanging and securing it to the grandstand are determined. This portion of the work will require engineering review to ensure that the netting is properly attached so it can withstand wind loads and prevent damage to attachment points. Staff have requested a proposal for this review from our engineers. The expectation is that the netting will be reinstalled before the start of next season, funded as another donated project by the JBP Supporters.

The current work will begin this fall, with all costs covered by the JBP Supporters through a combination of direct payments to vendors and donated labor. Estimated costs are \$30,000–\$35,000 for the backstop work and \$8,000–\$12,000 for painting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends accepting the donation and authorizing the JBP Supporters to proceed with the planned improvements. If changes to the plan are necessary, or if any items would result in costs to the City, the City Administrator and Public Works Director will work directly with the John Burch Park Supporters to review and approve those changes. If changes can be accommodated within the existing 2025 budget, they will be handled administratively; if they require funding beyond the budget, proposals will be brought to the Public Works and Parks Committee for consideration.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Motion to accept the donation from the John Burch Park Supporters for improvements to the grandstand and backstop, and to authorize the John Burch Park Supporters to perform the work on behalf of the City, with any changes to the project scope to be addressed by the City Administrator and Public Works Director in coordination with the John Burch Park Supporters.

**CITY OF CANNON FALLS
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2822

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF DONATED
IMPROVEMENTS AT JOHN BURCH PARK**

WHEREAS, the Supporters of John Burch Park have plans to make improvements to the grandstand at John Burch Park (JBP); and

WHEREAS, the improvements will be paid for by the Supporters of JBP or through volunteered labor for the improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Cannon Falls accepts the donations of the following planned improvements at John Burch Park: removal of fencing and installation of knee wall under the grandstand; replacement wood retaining wall under the grandstand; painting the grandstand; and other associated improvements needed for this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administrator and Public Works Director will work with the Supporters of John Burch Park to coordinate the improvements and address and changes in the scope of the project if necessary.

ADOPTED by the City Council of Cannon Falls this 19th day of August, 2025.

CITY OF CANNON FALLS

Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jon Radermacher, City Administrator