



REQUEST FOR GRAND RAPIDS EDA ACTION

AGENDA DATE: December 11, 2025

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: Review and consider approval of a Program Agreement with University of Minnesota Extension to conduct economic impact studies in conjunction with the development of a Master Plan for American Legion Park.

PREPARED BY: Rob Mattei, Executive Director

BACKGROUND:

In August GREDA approved a contract with Bolton & Menk for professional planning services in the preparation of a master plan for American Legion Park.

The first phase of Bolton & Menk's work has involved considerable public engagement through community surveys, a project website with interactive mapping, and user focus group sessions to evaluate, measure and summarize the existing needs and uses of Legion Park. The second phase of the study will identify future options for enhancing and/or expanding the Park with a goal of optimizing its impact as a community asset and economic driver.

As originally envisioned, the scope of this project also includes a supplementary study of the economic impacts stemming from the current uses of the Park, as well as a follow-up projection of economic impacts based upon the Plan's recommended physical and operational enhancements to the Park.

The University of Minnesota Extension Department of Community Development has provided a proposal to prepare the economic impact analyses for a program fee of \$4,000. The Extension has done several studies for GREDA and the City, including retail trade area analyses in 2007 and 2014, as well as an economic impact analysis for the Yanmar Arena several years ago.

This work will be funded through the Blandin Foundation grant to GREDA. Within that larger grant of \$2.8M, a total budget of \$165,000 is dedicated to this project. The contract with Bolton & Menk at a fee of \$124,729 together with the \$4,000 fee from the Extension keeps us within the budget.

REQUIRED ACTION: Pass a motion approving a Program Agreement with University of Minnesota Extension to conduct economic impact studies in conjunction with the development of a Master Plan for American Legion Park.