



MEMO

Engineering Department

To: Board of Public Works
From: John Neumeier, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Date: 10/5/2026
Re: Item 2c - Authorization to seek bids for LaFollette Park Improvements

Background information:

LaFollette Park is a great local park with playground equipment, pickleball courts, basketball court, restrooms, a rental pavilion, along with other amenities and great views. This park is located along Kenneth Avenue at Park Street and has close ties to the downtown, bus routes, the Nelson trail, and future bike lanes, giving us an opportunity to make it a destination for local and regional users. The park has aging restroom facilities, basketball surface, parking lot, and walking trails that all need updates to bring the park back up to safe and accessible conditions.

City staff has been working with McMahon Associates to develop plans for site improvements and a new pavilion/restroom building. We are nearing completion of plans and specifications and are looking for authorization to seek bids for multiple improvements over the next few months. McMahon and city staff believe there would be cost savings by bidding the work in up-to three projects. By separating the work, we allow building contractors, site work contractors, and specialized landscapers to each bid on their own specific work items rather than one large project which could greatly reduce the number of qualified bidders and would likely increase costs. We also intend to include several alternate bid units to look for cost savings when possible. Finally, City staff will perform some work items as available to help reduce overall project cost.

An updated site plan and a 3D view of the proposed pavilion is attached.

Strategic Plan:

These proposed projects bring a much-needed update to an aging but popular park. The project will be improving quality of life, increasing park usage, and will help work toward being a community of choice.

Budget: Current estimate for all phases of work is about \$2.5M. \$1M was previously borrowed in 2025 to begin the design and construction of the LaFollette Park improvements. Additional funds would be needed to complete all phases. City staff will look at utilizing existing funds, future capital borrowing, and will also explore grants that could help offset the improvements costs.

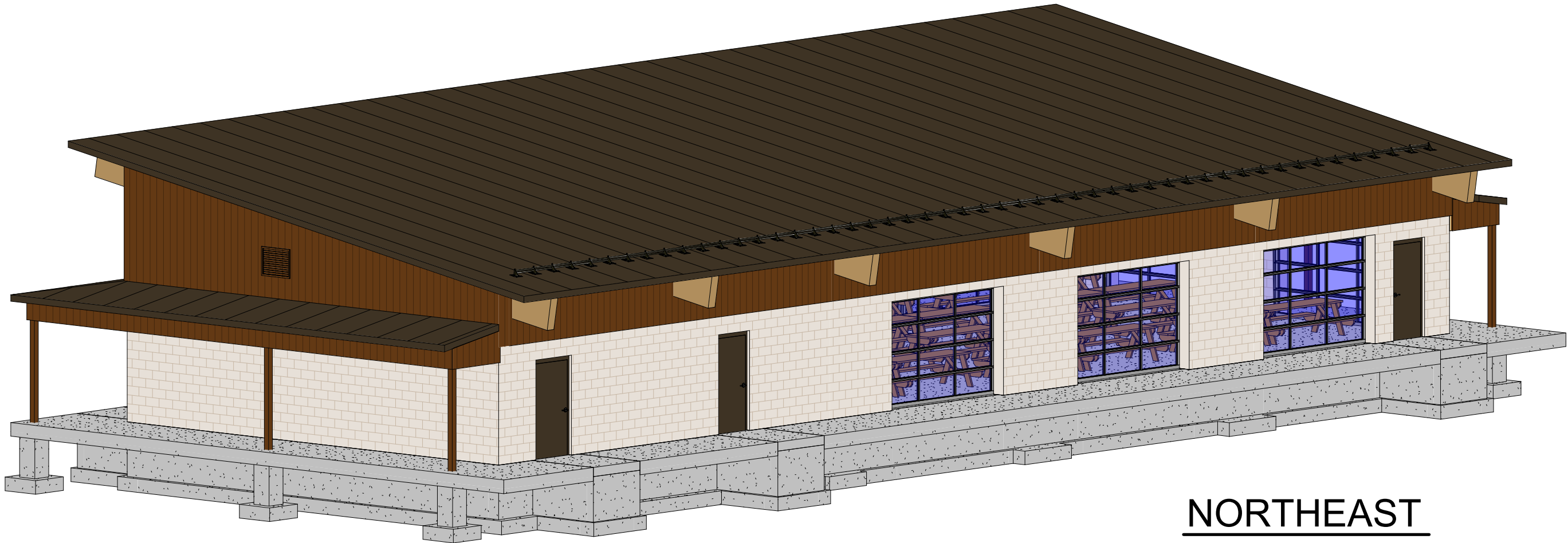
Staff Recommended Action:

Authorize the Engineering Department to seek bids for LaFollette Park Improvement projects.

OCTOBER 5, 2026



SOUTHWEST



NORTHEAST



SOUTHEAST



NORTHWEST



LAFOLLETTE PARK PAVILION
EXTERIOR 3D VIEWS



LEGEND:

- EXISTING MAJOR CONTOUR
- EXISTING MINOR CONTOUR
- FINISHED MAJOR CONTOUR
- FINISHED MINOR CONTOUR
- EROSION CONTROL SILT FENCE
- INLET PROTECTION

NORTH

40 20 0 40

SCALE - FEET

