



MARSHALL

Office of the City Administrator

344 West Main | Marshall, MN
www.ci.marshall.mn.us

February 9, 2024

Dear Resident,

In 1947, Eatros Place was platted and developed as a new housing development in the City of Marshall. As part of this development, Elaine Park was established. By dedicating Elaine Park to the City on the plat, the developer gave the City an easement for the park (similar to the streets and other easements dedicated to the City on the plat). This means that the City does not own the park property, it only has an easement to use the property for park purposes.

The City's understanding is that Elaine Park adjoining property owners have been maintaining this park by mowing the green space instead of the City. It is also the City's understanding that since the establishment of Elaine Park as part of the original housing development, the City has not maintained this green space likely due to the premise that this Park was established as a "neighborhood park" with support from the surrounding property owners, not the City to maintain the park.

Recently the City was approached about maintaining Elaine Park. Some options for park maintenance include:

- A) The City maintains the park by mowing the green space or establishing other low-maintenance vegetation such as native plantings. With this option, the City would stake the boundaries of the park and require that any personal property located within the park be removed from the park. Currently it appears that a playground set and a portion of a utility shed are located within the park boundaries.
- B) The City attempts to obtain clear title to the park property. Should the City be able to clear title to the park property, it would value the property, establish a sales price for it, and divide and sell the property equally to adjoining property owners based on the established sales price.
- C) The City re-establishes the premise that Elaine Park is a "neighborhood park" and leaves responsibility for the maintenance of the park to adjoining property owners. The City would not stake the boundaries of the park and leave personal property in Elaine Park within its discretion unless a complaint is received.

In consideration of this request, the City would like to hold a public meeting with property owners surrounding Elaine Park to determine the best future action to take with regard to this request for maintenance. **The meeting will be held on Thursday February 29, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 344 West Main Street, in City Hall Council Chambers.** During this meeting information will be presented on the Park and also public feedback will be received.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Hanson at sharon.hanson@ci.marshall.mn.us or 507-537-6761.

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