

EXHIBIT A

DOCUMENTATION OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Regional Significance of Marshall, MN

Marshall is a regional center in southwest Minnesota, and the county seat of Lyon County.

Marshall is the regional center for medical care, retail, trade, education, employment, and business. The diverse economic base and strong foundation in agriculture has provided stability to the local economy. Recent studies illustrate a common labor and retail draw of approximately sixty (60) miles. Marshall's current population of 13,680 doubles its daytime population to 25,000+ according to employment estimates.

A pull factor compares the local taxable sales per capita to that of the state. A pull factor higher than 1.0 usually indicates that businesses are pulling in customers from outside the community. Marshall has steadily and significantly increased its pull factor from 1.35 in 2007 to 1.55 in 2018.

Marshall has 18 employers with 100 plus employees. It is the headquarters of the Schwan Food Company, Runnings Farm and Fleet, Ralco and the home of Southwest Minnesota State University. A large corn wet-milling facility operated by Archer Daniels Midland Company is in Marshall. The plant employs 250 people and has a 50-60 mile radius for market supply.

Other major employers in the city are US Bancorp, Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center, Hy-Vee, Walmart, Runnings Farm and Fleet, Menards, Southwest Minnesota State University, Turkey Valley Farms, and Marshall Public Schools. Employees come from a 50–60-mile radius.

Southwest Minnesota State University serves approximately 6,660 students across the State of Minnesota and throughout the upper Midwest through a variety of undergraduate, graduate, and concurrent enrollment programs. Approximately 1,914 undergraduate degree seeking students are served on-campus. SMSU is recognized for its affordability, quality and lifetime return on investment.

Highways in or adjacent to the city include U.S. Highway 59 and State Highways 19, 23 and 68. Interstate Highway 90 (east and west) is 67 miles south of the City and Interstate Highway 29 (north and south) is 50 miles west of the city. Highway 23 is a designated interregional corridor by the State of Minnesota.

The Southwest Regional Airport-Marshall/Ryan Field is located on the west side of the City along State Highway 19 and has two paved lighted runways; one measuring 7,200 feet in length, which is the third longest runway in the State of Minnesota excluding the MSP International Airport, and the other measuring 4,000 feet in length. Charter flights are available direct from the city to anywhere in North America. Rail service is provided by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.

In November of 2012, the City voters passed 0.5% general sales and use tax and 1.5% lodging and prepared food and beverage tax to fund new amateur sports facilities in the City. These public funds will provide for capital development as well as a dedicated source of operating funding to supplement user fees. The use tax collections are generally \$1.5 million annually.

Regional Significance of Existing Marshall Park and Recreation Facilities

The Camden Regional Trail is a paved, multi-purpose recreational trail extending from Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) through the City of Marshall and connecting area residents to Camden State Park. About 4 miles of paved trail connect adjacent campuses of Marshall High School and SMSU to a network of bike lanes in the City of Marshall. At the West end of Marshall, the paved trail covers 10 miles of gently rolling hills between Victory Park (along MN HWY 23) to Camden State Park. The community is fortunate that years of planning has come to fruition. Supported by the Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program (administered through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) this trail system is of regional importance by providing community members from throughout the region to utilize the trail for walking biking, running, hiking, and inline skating.

Mattke Field at the Regional Events Center is a college football stadium on the campus of Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU). Mattke Field had a seating capacity of 5,000 prior to 2008 and it has been the home field of the SMSU Mustangs since 1971. Construction began in 1970, and it was complete in 1974. It was originally named SSU Field. On September 28, 1985, the stadium was renamed after Glenn Mattke. He had worked with the SMSU athletic department since its founding in 1968 and was the athletic director from 1970 to 1985. Lights were added in 1997. The stadium was rebuilt after the 2007 season and opened in 2008 as the Regional Events Center. The new capacity is around 2,500 and features an artificial surface. This stadium is home to the SMSU football, SMSU Soccer, Marshall Tigers football and soccer team. The Facility Host Semi & Final Section Tournaments for High School Football as well as youth tournaments.

Schwans Regional Amateur Sports Complex feature's four ball fields, concessions, restrooms, outdoor gathering space and tiered spectator viewing areas at each ball field. There are 2 lighted championship fields, and a walking path throughout the complex.

The Red Baron Arena & Expo accommodates events large and small, including tradeshow, expos, weddings, concerts, and various sized meetings. In the Summer, the Arena Host one expo floor & one sheet of ice. During the hockey season, there are two sheets of ice. Marshall Area Hockey Association hosts tournaments during the season for all ages. Currently the following area schools participate in the hockey program that utilized Red Baron Arena: Granite Falls, Wabasso, Cottonwood, Minneota and Canby. Marshall Community Services also hosts Open Skate & Adult open hockey. The Southwest Minnesota Figure Skating club also uses the ice for their performance show in March.

9/11 Memorial Park commemorates one of the most significant events in our nation's history. The Marshall Fire Department acquired a beam from the rubble of the World Trade Center in New York City and after years of planning, dedicated the beam in Marshall's Memorial Park on 9/11/11. Each year the City of Marshall has a remembrance ceremony to mark the anniversary of the 9/11 event, which is attended by supporters from across SW MN.

Since its opening on July 15, 2003, the Marshall Area YMCA has been a major factor in meeting physical, social, and mental health needs for those living in SW Minnesota. The Y's mission in meeting the physical, social, and mental health needs for those living in SW Minnesota. The Y's mission of "creating

programs and services that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all and as its name implies has affected the lives of thousands of members from the Marshall area.

**Regional Significance of the Proposed Park and Recreation Projects:
Aquatic Center and an Indoor Recreation Facility**

In October of 2021, the City of Marshall conducted a survey of over 300 respondents regarding the support for future park and recreation projects and facilities. When asked an open-ended question about what park and recreation amenities the city could offer, the most common responses were related to swimming pools and water parks. Respondents were also asked for their likelihood to support the city and the Marshall Area YMCA sharing programs and costs with programs and facilities. Greater than fifty percent (50%) of respondents supported partnerships in the area of senior citizen programs and additional indoor recreation opportunities. In addition, the survey received 74% support for a large indoor play area.

The Marshall Aquatic Center has served the residents of Marshall and surrounding communities for more than 50 years—a long time for a community recreation facility. The current facility is showing its age and has numerous deficiencies in code compliance, operations, customer experience and maintenance costs. The aquatic center's current status has meant that attracting visitors from outside the City of Marshall has been challenged due to surrounding communities improving their aquatic centers and pools. It has been noted that families have traveled sixty (60) miles or greater to enjoy aquatic center and water park features available in other communities. The National Park and Recreation Association past standard for was based on one pool per 20,000 population. The newer standards have focused on drawing from the surrounding area (50,000 population) with amenities for the entire family. The proposed Marshall Aquatic Center will be regionally significant based on the following amenities: water slides, leisure river, splash pad, children's play features, zero depth entry, diving boards and slides, shade, seating and concessions, areas for lessons, lap swimming and recreation.

In August of 2019, a branding survey was conducted for the City of Marshall by North Star. The results showed there was a high percentage of people who felt Marshall was lacking entertainment and activities. With an increasing number of sporting tournaments and events bringing visitors to Marshall each year, there is a need to expand the community's recreational offerings.

From April - May 2017 the Marshall Area YMCA commissioned Y-USA to study the compelling needs of the community in order to inform their program expansion plans. An online survey instrument was distributed throughout the community to best identify the top community needs in the areas of youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The survey results support there is a regional need for an additional outlet to offer adult and youth activities.

Indoor recreational sports facilities and aquatic centers are limited in Marshall and throughout the region. Demand from local high schools, club teams, recreational league play, and facility programming leaves the current inventory of facilities insufficient in supporting all facility demands effectively. While the competition needs of the high school programs are relatively well met, daily high school practice needs, local recreational league play, and club sport practice and game needs struggle to find space and time. Locally, the inventory of indoor court facilities is largely made up of area elementary, middle, and high schools' gyms, the majority of which are limited in size and court offerings and are most-often used

to support practices and in-season games. Additional venues such as the Marshall Area YMCA has very limited ability, to provide additional indoor recreation opportunities. Further, the lack of family entertainment and play areas, especially during winter months is nearly non-existent. The city's only bowling alley closed in 2015 as an example. The Marshall Area YMCA has proposed capital improvements of \$5 million that include an indoor play area and a revised indoor recreation design. Similar to the proposed aquatic center, a proposed indoor recreation facility would retain families and recreation enthusiasts who now currently travel sixty (60) miles or greater for indoor recreation.