

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Melissa Marsh, City Manager

DATE: August 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Request to Waive Permit, Engineering, and Inspection Fees for the Red Oak Park (Ambassador) Project

Oakland County is beginning construction on the significant investment of \$7.2 million reimagination of the Red Oak Park (also known as Ambassador Park) project. This investment will directly fund critical improvements on City-owned property, enhancing recreational infrastructure and public amenities for residents.

Under normal circumstances, when projects are funded internally or through City-managed grants, we routinely waive internal fees without Council action, as these fees would otherwise be transferred from one City fund to another. In these situations, no external funding is impacted.

However, in this case, the project is funded entirely through Oakland County, and any permit or related fees charged by the City would reduce the total funds available for direct project work. As such, this request falls outside of standard internal procedure and requires formal Council approval. Waiving these fees is consistent with past practice for City-owned or grant-funded projects, and will allow Oakland County's full investment to go toward the benefit of our community. Therefore, we respectfully request Council's support in waiving the applicable fees.

Recommendation

To maximize the impact of the County's grant investment and ensure that the full \$7.2 million is used for construction and improvements, we recommend that City Council formally waive all City-related permit, engineering, and inspection fees associated with the Red Oak Park (Ambassador) project.