

**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

June 14, 2023

No. 23-42

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**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE BONDING MONEY FOR FALCON  
HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PARK**

**WHEREAS**, parks are an essential part of our city; and

**WHEREAS**, parks play a vital role in building healthy communities and in attracting much-needed younger workers and families and retaining retirees; and

**WHEREAS**, Falcon Heights Community Park is the largest park in the city, accountable for over 55% of the city's park space, and is considered a central gathering place for numerous community events in and around Falcon Heights; and

**WHEREAS**, Falcon Heights had leased Community Park from the University of Minnesota for many decades; and

**WHEREAS**, Falcon Heights closed on a transaction purchasing Community Park from the University of Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2014 report entitled Falcon Heights Park Improvement Study found, among other needs, the need to replace the park building, pavement, and basketball court in Community Park along with upgrading park amenities to make them accessible based on ADA guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2014 report recommended potential improvement costs of up to \$800,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the condition of Community Park has steadily deteriorated since the 2014 report with no significant improvements made since then; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Park is the central gathering point for most community functions and a social gathering point for many in the community and its' adjacent communities; and


**WHEREAS**, the Falcon Heights community, staff, and leadership are making strides to promote community cohesion and cultivating a caring community in the wake of the shooting and killing of Philando Castile in 2016 by our contracted police; and

**WHEREAS**, further deterioration of the park and the possible closing of the park building and other amenities makes cultivating of a caring community and enhancing community cohesion efforts more difficult; and

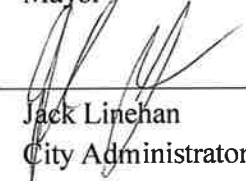
**WHEREAS**, the project cannot be possible without the assistance of state bonding given the costs of the overall project, the size of our community, recent increases in taxes and levies, and our limited financing options. The City of Falcon Heights is committed to moving forward.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Falcon Heights hereby requests state bonding in the amount of \$1,000,000 for improvements to Falcon Heights Community Park that include but are not limited to the following: full replacement of the park building, pavement, basketball court, tennis court, and walks and trails and upgrading the park amenities currently not considered accessible according to ADA guidelines.

Moved by: *Wehner*

Approved by:   
Randy Gustafson  
Mayor

GUSTAFSON      5      In Favor  
LEEHY  
MEYER            0      Against  
WASSENBERG  
WEHYEE

Attested by:   
Jack Linehan  
City Administrator