

CITY OF EXCELSIOR

REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

THE EXCELSIOR COMMONS IS A REGIONAL RESOURCE IN NEED OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

- The Excelsior Commons, dedicated as public land in 1864, is comprised of 13-acres of public property along the shores of Lake Minnetonka.
- The Commons hosts regional events drawing over 100,000 people annually. Summer and winter events draw daily visitors in the 5,000- 10,000 range.
- Daily users of the Commons arrive from all over the metro for baseball, softball, Charter Boat rides, and Concerts in the Commons. Many choose the Commons as their day-trip visit and enjoy picnicking, throwing a frisbee, and swimming at the beach.
- The diverse recreational opportunities offered at the Commons promote quality of life for Minnesota residents both regionally and from the greater metro area.
- The City of Excelsior created a Master Plan to serve as a blueprint for necessary capital improvements. The anticipated cost to implement the plan is \$30-35M.

EXCELSIOR HAS LIMITED RESOURCES TO STEWARD THE COMMONS

- Excelsior is less than one square mile and 45% of property within the City limits is property tax exempt (schools, religious institutions, and parks.)
- The City contributes a (net) of \$827,639, or 10.22% of the City's tax capacity through the fiscal disparities program.
- Excelsior receives no Local Government Aid or Municipal State Aid.
- Total County and State Aid received in 2022 was less than \$17,000 (PERA Aid, Small Cities Assistance, and County Aid to Municipalities).
- Excelsior continues to prioritize essential drinking water, utilities, and road reconstruction infrastructure through tax levy increases and assessments. After 15 years of work, 40% of the City's drinking water and street systems still need reconstruction. As a result, the City is unable to fund needed Commons park improvements.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INITIAL PROGRESS

- In 2014, Excelsior residents voted to impose a local area sales tax to pay for capital improvements to the Commons.
- In 2019, the Minnesota legislature approved the sales tax and authorized it for \$7M or 25 years, whichever happened first.
- Local sales tax provides a mechanism for regional visitors to share in the cost of a regional asset.
- The local sales tax funds have already been used to make two significant improvements to the Commons - by adding a new Pavilion and Plaza (see images below).
- The Excelsior Commons is also supported by a Park Conservancy (Community for the Commons) that provides strategic and philanthropic leadership on the implementation of the Commons Master Plan. To date, Community for the Commons has raised over \$1M in charitable gifts and pledges to advance the Commons master plan.

IMPROVING A REGIONAL ASSET WITH REGIONAL DOLLARS - REQUESTING \$23 MILLION FOR IMPROVEMENTS IDENTIFIED IN THE COMMONS MASTER PLAN

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Before & After Photos of the Pavilion
(Completed in 2021)



Before & After Photos of the Concession/Plaza
(Underway - Estimated to be completed in 2023)



MORE WORK TO BE DONE - REMAINING IMPROVEMENTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE COMMONS

FUTURE PROJECTS

1. Port Entry Area at Water Street
2. Walkable Public Street Edge
3. Athletic Field/Tennis Courts
4. Picnic Area
5. Beach/Play Area

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE THE COMMONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The City of Excelsior is requesting that the Minnesota Legislature extend our local option sales tax to allow for the collection of an additional \$23M to complete renovations to the Excelsior Commons.

