

# Caswell Regional Sporting Complex Capital Upgrades & Additions



# Purpose of Presentation

- The softball complex at Caswell will need improvements to maintain complex's international reputation. Because the facility services statewide sporting and economic needs, a bonding request should be submitted to fund the improvements
- Voters approved an extension of the sales tax in 2016 including a new use for indoor recreation. Governing Body direction to staff is required to proceed.

# 2018 Year end numbers

- 2018 Figures
  - Estimated visitors: 34,372
  - 23 Tournaments/Major Events at Caswell Park
  - \$5.5 million in economic impact
  - New for 2018: Special Olympics, MSF State Tournament, Johnny Blacktop 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Mud Lake Run 5K, National Pro Fastpitch series

# Significance of Caswell



- Estimated 850,000 visitors to Caswell Park since 1987
- Local – youth softball, regional tournaments, adult softball
- State - Girls' High School State Tournament since 1994 with 32 teams in 2018 and attendance of 10,868
- National – Northern Nationals, ASA National, Senior Softball World Series
- International – NAFA World Series, Team China, Team Japan, Canadian teams
- Caswell Park follows the goal of the MN Amateur Sports Commission to create economic and social benefits through sport events, providing increased amateur sport opportunities

# Timeline

- 1987 - Caswell Softball Park constructed (four fields, concessions)
- 2003 – Fields 7&8 constructed (two fields, concessions)
- 2005 – Caswell Land expansion identified, possibilities include use for indoor ice arena
- 2011 – Discussions begin on need for community center
- 2012- CIP includes \$40,000 for multipurpose community center project study
- 2013 – Caswell North Soccer Complex Completed
- 2015 – DRAFT Master Plan Completed for Caswell Park

# 2015 Caswell Park Master Plan / North Kato Ideas

- Sales tax extension discussion begins to expand use to include indoor recreation facilities
- Expansion and improvements of Caswell identified as top use of sales tax proceeds
- The plan identified improved parking, pedestrian access, lighting, and greenery.
- Plan included indoor ice, aquatic center, picnic areas, and a storm water pond

# 2015 Caswell Park Master Plan / North Kato Ideas, cont.

- Parkway Zone: parking lots, roundabouts, driveway access consolidation and improvements, park entrance signage, lighting, utilities, and landscaping
- Existing Softball Zone: Improve building finishes, fencing, lighting, branding, spectator seating, landscaping
- Stormwater Management Zone: Construct stormwater pond
- Community Zone:
  - Phase 1: Ice arena, parking lots
  - Phase 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> ice arena or aquatic center, sand volleyball courts, landscaping
  - Phase 3: 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> ice arena



Community Zone

Stormwater Zone

Water Treatment Facility

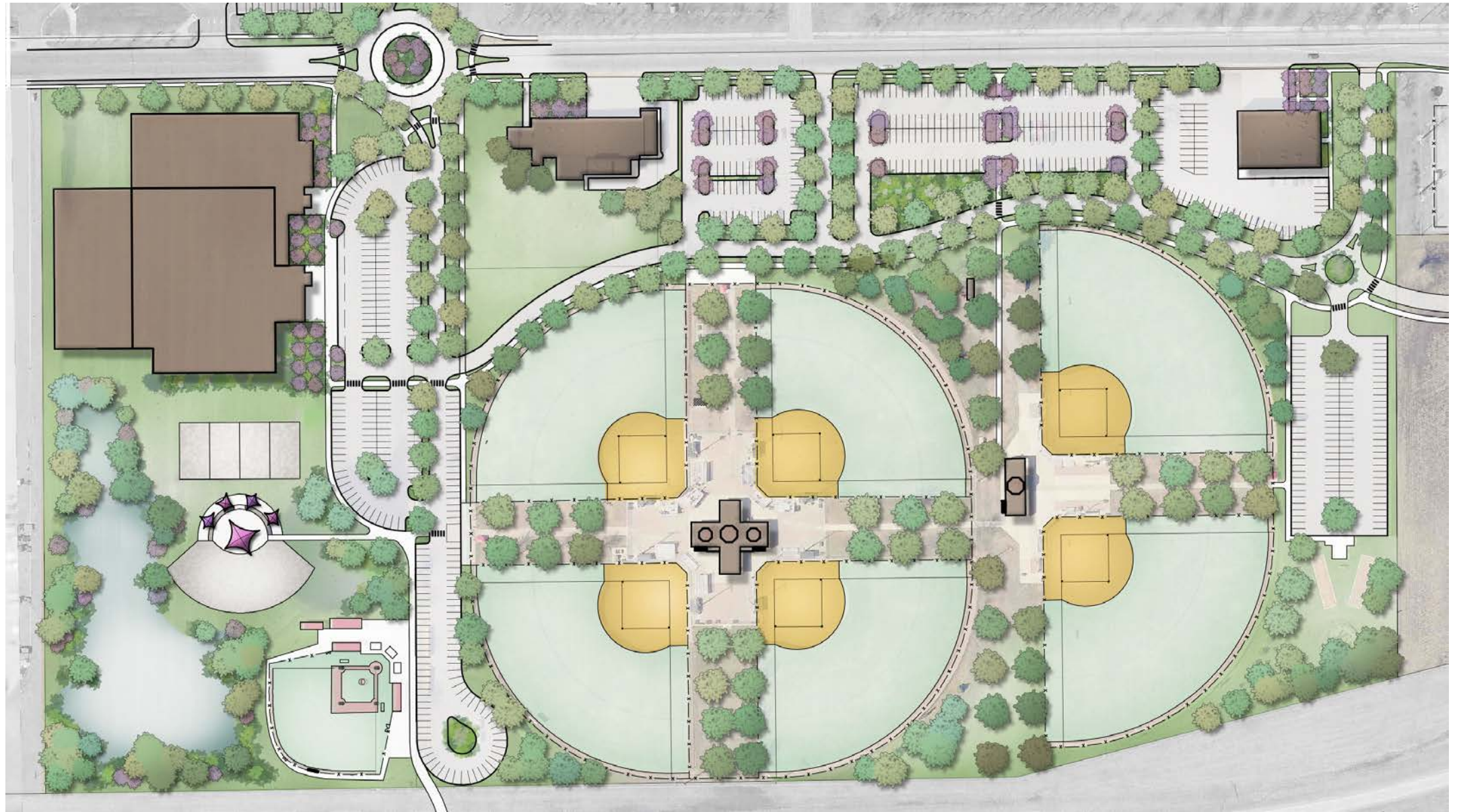
Parkway Zone

Fire Department

Existing Softball Zone

EXISTING SOFTBALL





# 2015 Caswell Park Master Plan / North Kato Ideas, cont.

- 2015 Cost Estimates:

Zone	Cost Estimate
Parkway	\$ 2,606,000
Existing Softball	\$ 528,000
Stormwater Management	\$ 287,500
Community Zone – Ice Arena	\$ 9,413,000
Aquatic Center	\$10,447,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ice Arena	\$ 5,457,500
<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Ice Arena</u>	<u>\$ 6,319,000</u>
TOTAL with Aquatic Center	\$26,600,500
TOTAL with only Ice Arenas	\$24,611,000

# Timeline continued

- 2015 – City Council authorizes resolution requesting extension of the existing sales and use tax
- 2016 – Voters approved extension of sales and use tax of \$15 million
- 2016-2018 – Community discussions organized through Greater Mankato Growth discuss indoor facilities
- 2017 – Minnesota Legislature approves authorization of \$9 million
- 2018 – Mankato Sports Commission refers facilities development to Governmental Affairs division of Greater Mankato Growth to work with institutional partners on pursuit of indoor recreation with local and regional significance. As North Mankato and Mankato sales tax extensions were approved, GMG Sports Commission established a Facilities Development Committee
- Members from each community, GMG, YMCA, school athletic directors, college and university athletic directors, business leaders, youth athletic associations meet to discuss various indoor recreational options

# Sales Tax Extension

- Sales Tax Extension referendum language was drafted to extend sales tax through 2038 with an aggregate amount not to exceed \$15 million for the following:
  - TH14/CSAH 41 interchange
  - Regional parks and trails, including construction of indoor regional athletic facilities
  - Expansion of the Taylor Library
  - Riverfront redevelopment
  - Lake improvement projects
- Voter approval on November 8, 2016 election – 73% (4,991 yes votes) to 27% (1,853 no votes)
- Legislative approval in 2017

# Facilities

- Facilities Development Committee of the Mankato Sports Commission was referred to Governmental Affairs Division of GMG
- Bethany, MSU-Mankato, ISD 77, Mankato, and North Mankato begin to meet independently to assess individual needs
- Bethany identifies need for their own sports facilities
- MSU-Mankato identifies need for their own sports dome
- ISD 77 continues to study long range facility needs
- Mankato prioritizes Tourtelotte, Thomas Fields, additions to Rosa Parks
- North Mankato continues discussion of Caswell improvements and expansion of indoor recreation

# Existing Facility Needs at Caswell Softball Park

- New plaza, entrances, ticket booths, signage
- Expanded concessions
- PA system, video board, score boards, lights
- New dugouts moved for spectator visibility
- Miracle Field improvements
- Shaded seating
- New fencing
- Knee walls and backstop netting
- Batting cages
- Parking Expansion
- \$3.5-5.0 million estimate to be refined with additional Council input
- Low estimate does not include championship field
- Does not include fields 7 & 8 expansion
- Does not include indoor recreation as authorized voters by voters in 2016
- Does not include resolution of parking issues at Caswell North complex

# Perspectives from GMG and the Sports Commission

- GMG goal – help develop a facility of a regional purpose
- Opportunities for N. Mankato and region
- GMG can assist community craft a legislative request

# Timeline continued

- October 1, 2018 – Presentation to City Council on background, existing facility needs, and next steps
- October-November 2018 – Follow up to Council direction with user groups and discussion with legislators on existing facilities bonding request
- November-December 2018 – Report back to Council on findings and staff recommendations; Council determines next steps



# Potential Bonding Request for existing park

- 2019 is a legislative budget year
- Legislature has considered bonding requests during budget years
- North Mankato could request a portion of the \$4.3 million remodeling costs
- Opportunity to expand request to include indoor recreation options

# QUESTIONS