

Vergas Park Improvement Plan

Supporting Documentation

Economic Impact Summary

The Vergas Park Improvement Plan will generate measurable economic benefits for residents, businesses, and visitors. Key impacts include:

- **Increased Property Values:** Homes near improved parks typically see a 5% or greater increase in value, boosting local property tax revenues.
- **Business Growth:** Enhanced parks attract visitors who spend at local restaurants, retail shops, and lodging establishments, generating additional sales tax revenue and supporting local jobs.
- **Tourism and Regional Draw:** Upgraded facilities will host community events, festivals, and recreational activities, drawing visitors from outside Vergas and contributing to the regional economy.
- **Health and Productivity Benefits:** Parks encourage physical activity, reducing healthcare costs and improving workforce productivity.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Green spaces improve stormwater management and air quality, reducing municipal infrastructure costs.

Estimated Economic Figures:

- Annual visitor spending projected at \$250,000, with a local economic multiplier of 1.5 (total impact: \$375,000/year).
- Property value increase projected to add \$50,000 annually to city tax base.

Regional Significance Statement

Vergas Park serves as a regional recreation hub for surrounding communities and visitors from across Minnesota. The planned improvements align with state goals for enhancing outdoor recreation and tourism infrastructure. Key points:

- Vergas hosts annual festivals and events attracting thousands of visitors from outside city limits.
- The park connects to regional trail systems, supporting cycling and hiking tourism.
- Improved facilities will increase accessibility for seniors and individuals with disabilities, serving a broader population.
- Project supports Minnesota's regional economic development and tourism objectives.

Public Information Sheet

Purpose: To inform residents about the proposed local sales tax and park improvement plan.

- Project Cost: \$1,200,000 to be raised within 5 years.
- Funding Source: 0.5% local sales tax on applicable retail sales.
- Use of Funds: Playground upgrades, trail improvements, picnic shelters, accessibility features.
- Timeline: Tax effective upon legislative and voter approval; estimated completion within 5 years.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Q: Why is this needed?

A: To enhance community amenities, attract visitors, and support local businesses.

- Q: Will property taxes increase?

A: No, funding will come from a local sales tax, not property taxes.

- Q: Who pays the tax?

A: Anyone making taxable purchases in Vergas, including visitors from outside the city.

- Q: How long will the tax last?

A: Until \$1.2 million is raised, estimated within 5 years.