



**City of Missoula, Montana
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

Committee: Climate, Conservation and Parks

Item: Northwestern Energy Land Use Agreement for East Caras Park

Date: April 26, 2022

Sponsor(s): David Selvage

Prepared by: David Selvage

Ward(s) Affected:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Wards | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

Action Required:

Approve Land Use Agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Recommended Motion(s):

I move the City Council: Approve a Land Use Agreement with NorthWestern Energy for use of East Caras Park and Authorize the Mayor to sign.

Timeline:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Committee discussion: | May 4, 2022 |
| Council action (or sets hearing): | May 9, 2022 |
| Public Hearing (if required): | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Final Consideration | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Deadline: | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Background and Alternatives Explored:

Northwestern Energy is requesting use of East Caras Park to set up and operate a temporary substation as well as provide for limited construction staging to support its Downtown Substation rebuild project. The initial term of the agreement will run through January 2023. Northwestern Energy will be responsible to reimburse the City's direct cost for restoration of the park lands they use. East Caras Park was identified as one of very few suitable sites for locating a temporary substation. East Caras Park has necessary proximity and access to both transmission and distribution lines. Northwestern Energy exhausted all other potential locations prior to making this request. The Northwestern Energy project is necessary to ensure reliable power delivery to the City and its downtown and well as provide for increased capacity to serve new development.

Financial Implications:

None. City will provide for site restoration through a public bid process. Funds for park restoration will be reimbursed by Northwestern Energy (estimated cost +/- \$108K) and Montana Department of Transportation (\$70K). Parks and Recreation is making a capital improvement plan request for the restoration project.

Links to external websites: