



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

### Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** October 13, 2025

**Prepared By:** Jon Oliphant, AICP, Planning & Development Director

**Agenda Item:** Washington Park District Annexation of 223 Property Discussion

**Background:** Washington Park District staff via its attorney recently reached out to City staff about potentially adding the 223 property to its boundaries. The City annexed this property in November 2013 shortly after it was purchased. Four parcels encompass the entirety of the property. Two of these parcels, both located adjacent to W. Cruger Road, are currently in the Park District's boundaries and total 3.83 acres. However, the bulk of the property is not in the Park District's boundaries.

According to Section 3-10 of the Illinois Park District Code, no territory may be annexed more than one year after it has first been included in such municipality unless such territory so annexed is 120 acres or less. The parcel on the north side of US 24 is approximately 30 acres and the parcel on the south side is approximately 188 acres. While the northern parcel could be annexed to staff's best knowledge, the Park District cannot annex the southern parcel simply by passing an ordinance by its Board. A petition will need to be filed by the City as the property owner to request annexation by the Park District. If the Council is supportive of the annexation request, the Park District would prepare the pertinent annexation petition and ordinance.

**Fiscal Impact:** Because the City derives income from the annual farm lease activities on the property, it is subject to the payment of property tax. The City received \$72,560 in FY 2024-25 in farm income. If both of these parcels were annexed into the Park District's boundaries, the tax bill would increase by \$102.26 from the northern parcel and by \$585.36 from the southern parcel for a total of \$687.62 based on the most recent (2024 payable 2025) tax rates. This would not be subject to payment until the 2026 payable 2027 tax year. This would be budgeted for and is more than offset by the farm revenue from the lease.

**Action Requested:** Staff requests the consent to the Park District's annexation request of the remainder of the 223 property into its boundaries. This would allow the Park District to provide its services to the whole property at any point in the future. While the consensus was to proceed with a first reading ordinance following discussion at the September Committee of the Whole meeting, staff was asked to place this on the October Committee of the Whole agenda for further discussion.