

Let your voice be heard at the Algona City Council meeting on April 21

City Administrator Jacob Tjaden issued a statement regarding plans for development of the Peck property site, which was donated to the City of Algona to be developed as a city park.

In 2024, the Donald R. Tietz Charitable Foundation donated the site of the former Peck Auction House located south of the Algona Aquatic Center to the City of Algona to be developed as a city park. The site is approximately 51 acres and includes open space, wooded areas and access to the East Fork of the Des Moines River.

Algona City Administrator Jacob Tjaden has issued the following statement regarding plans for development of the site:

“On Wednesday, April 2 the City opened bids for the demolition, site clearing, and restoration of most existing structures and fencing, as well as removal of debris piles at the former Peck Auction House site. The apparent low bidder is Reding’s Gravel and Excavating of Algona. At the April 7 City Council meeting, staff recommended awarding

the demolition contract to Reding’s. Work is expected to begin later this month, with substantial completion scheduled for June 15 and final completion by July 1.

“Also on the April 7 agenda will be an item seeking approval to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the development of a master plan for the site. The master planning process will include a series of public engagement opportunities designed to help shape future improvements and amenities for the park, both in the near and long term.

“The Algona Parks and Recreation Commission previously reviewed an initial proposal for developing a master plan. During its February meeting, the Commission expressed interest in exploring additional options and directed city staff to prepare and issue an RFQ for professional master planning services. The City anticipates selecting a planning firm in May, with the planning and public engagement process beginning this summer and a final plan completed by the end of the year.

“Separately, the City recently received an unsolicited proposal from Oliver’s Light Foundation offered by Deb Wolfe to acquire the property for private development of a project known as ‘Stogie’s Prairie’. A video about the proposal, which includes ideas for an event center, restaurant, animal shelter, boarding facility, dog park, trails and other amenities, was recently shared on social media.

“While we appreciate the passion and vision the group has for Stogie’s Prairie, the proposal has only been presented to a few city officials. It has not been discussed by the City Council and no commitments have been made regarding the future use of the Peck property. At this time, the City will continue to move forward with our plan to develop the site as a public park, while remaining open to hearing this and additional ideas as part of the broader planning process.”



City of Algona proposed plans for Peck property. Submitted photos.



Wolfe's plan for the Peck property which she will present to the Algona city council on

for people, pets, bikes and wheelchairs, water features, splash pads and wading pools, agility training and exercise stations, multiple seating areas for relaxation, natural landscaping and artwork, rescue and resort, management offices and retail store, Darren’s Dive Bar & Grill, activity and storage needs for the city of Algona, a multi-use conference room and a multi-use event center.

The rescue would be able to take in a variety of animals whether they are strays, abandoned, abused, neglected or surrendered. It would provide food and shelter, medical care (veterinary, surgical, basic), emotional needs and foster care.

In addition to educational events lead by veterinarians and vet technicians oncare and feeding of companion animals, basic medical care, exercise and potty training tips, how to handle a new puppy and caring for an aging pet.

It would offer grooming, adoptions and pet accommodations for persons traveling with pets. It would offer a place for pets to enjoy themselves with exercise, socialization and mental stimulation while their humans tend to other obligations

The Barking Lot Park features a walking path, water features, play areas, peaceful seating spaces and designated areas off-leash for small, medium and large dogs.

There will be space for events such as birthday celebrations, memorials, weddings, bridal showers, baby showers, fundraising events, school activities, new puppy/kitten showers and weddings with pets.

This would be the first fully-functional animal rescue facility in Kossuth County and a no kill facility. The largest county in Iowa and the only county without a dog/cat rescue facility.

Currently the options for animal rescue in Kossuth County is the city dog catcher/pound which is a kill facility.

It would be easily accessed by every demographic including young, elderly and handicapped. Enjoy a river walk, get out and de-stress with nature. Bring your dog or walk a rescue dog, pet a cat or feed a kitten.

The economic growth opportunities are endless with amenities that will attract new residents and workforce. Visitors will enjoy this facility plus all the other sites and things to do in Algona.

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