EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TITLE: Westwood Hills Nature Center Master Plan Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The purpose of this report is to provide City Council a current update of Westwood Hills Nature Center’s Master Plan Study that is underway.

POLICY CONSIDERATION: None at this time. Please let staff know of any questions or concerns you may have.

SUMMARY: The city recently hired Miller Dunwidde Architecture to create a comprehensive master plan to address development and programming goals for the Westwood Hills Nature Center. The plan will include nature center facilities, outdoor programming sites, infrastructure and programming needs.

The master plan will serve as the vision, guiding principles, resource allocation and action plan to meet the identified needs of the community and to assist the city in planning for future building development at Westwood Hills Nature Center.

Citizen input will play a key role in shaping this plan. There are several events planned to gather input from the community in regards to developing the Master Plan. The following opportunities were included in the October, 2015 issue of the Park Perspective.

Program and facility survey for participants of the following events:
- October 16 & 17: Halloween Party (Westwood Hills Nature Center)
- October 23: Halloween Party (The Rec Center, 3700 Monterey Drive)

Initial Public Input Meeting (Westwood Hills Nature Center)
- October 27, 6 - 8 p.m.

Second Public Input Meeting (Westwood Hills Nature Center)
- January 12, 2016, 6 - 8 p.m.

FINANCIAL OR BUDGET CONSIDERATION: The Master Plan Study is budgeted at $50,000 and was approved in the 2015 CIP budget.

VISION CONSIDERATION: St. Louis Park is committed to being a connected and engaged community. St. Louis Park is committed to being a leader in environmental stewardship.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: None

Prepared by: Mark Oestreich, Manager of Westwood Hills Nature Center
Jason T. West, Recreation Superintendent

Reviewed by: Cindy S. Walsh, Director of Operations and Recreation

Approved by: Tom Harmening, City Manager