

# JOHNSON PARK

## AREA IMPROVEMENTS

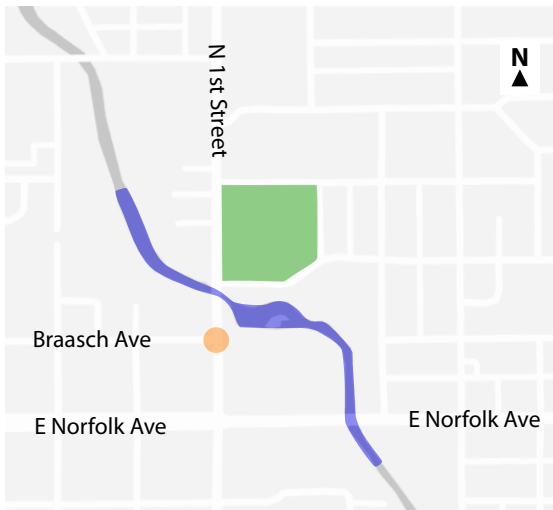


**The Johnson Park Master Plan was completed in 2018 with a goal to restore the park into a community destination with a wide variety of attractions for all users.**

### **Amenities recommended by stakeholder committee:**

- Splash pad
- Amphitheatre
- New playground
- Festival space
- Parking lot improvements
- Restroom improvements
- Historical kiosk
- Connection/expansion of bike trails

**The planned improvements to Johnson Park and the surrounding area include in-river improvements, transportation improvements, and park improvements.**



### **In-River Improvements**

The North Fork of the Elkhorn River will be transformed into an interactive white-water park, strengthening the region's relationship to the river.

### **Transportation Improvements**

Ongoing roadway improvements will provide safer traffic flow to the area for residents and visitors alike.

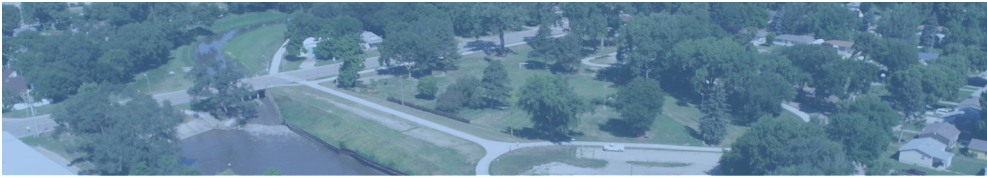
### **Park Improvements**

Improvements to Johnson Park will restore a connection to the Elkhorn River and re-establish the park as a community destination.

**The City of Norfolk is receiving funding from a variety of sources for all planned improvements to Johnson Park and the surrounding area.**

- Funding is currently being provided through the Lower Elkhorn NRD, CDBG Tourism, state and local funds, and private donations.
- Primary infrastructure items for all projects have been budgeted; however, private funding is still needed for some amenities, like park benches.
- An individual permit from the US Army Corp of Engineers is in process, and should be approved soon, for work in and adjacent to the Elkhorn River.

**If you are interested in financially supporting amenities at Johnson Park, please contact Steve Rames, Public Works Director, at 402-844-2020.**



# JOHNSON PARK

## IN-RIVER IMPROVEMENTS



Nearly half of one mile of the North Fork of the Elkhorn River adjacent to Johnson Park will be transformed into an interactive white-water park, strengthening the region's relationship to the river.

- Part of this transformation will holistically address safety concerns for drivers and river users alike by replacing the 1st Street bridge.
- The 1st Street bridge and river grade control structure are nearing the end of their functional life and need to be addressed.

### Planned in-river improvements include:

- Rapids and staged drops to better control stream flows
- Enhanced recreational user safety
- Provide increased regional angling and paddling opportunities

The city is anticipating an 18-month construction for the in-river improvements, which could start as soon as fall 2021. Construction will begin at the downstream end.



Rendering of improvements along the North Fork of the Elkhorn River



## JOHNSON PARK | IN-RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

### Examples of previous work by Riverwise Engineering

#### BANKS



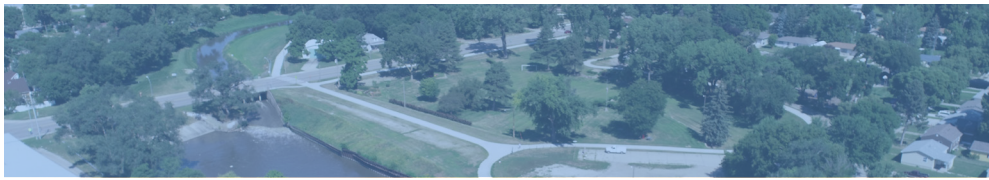
#### TRAILS/ACCESS



#### RECREATIONAL

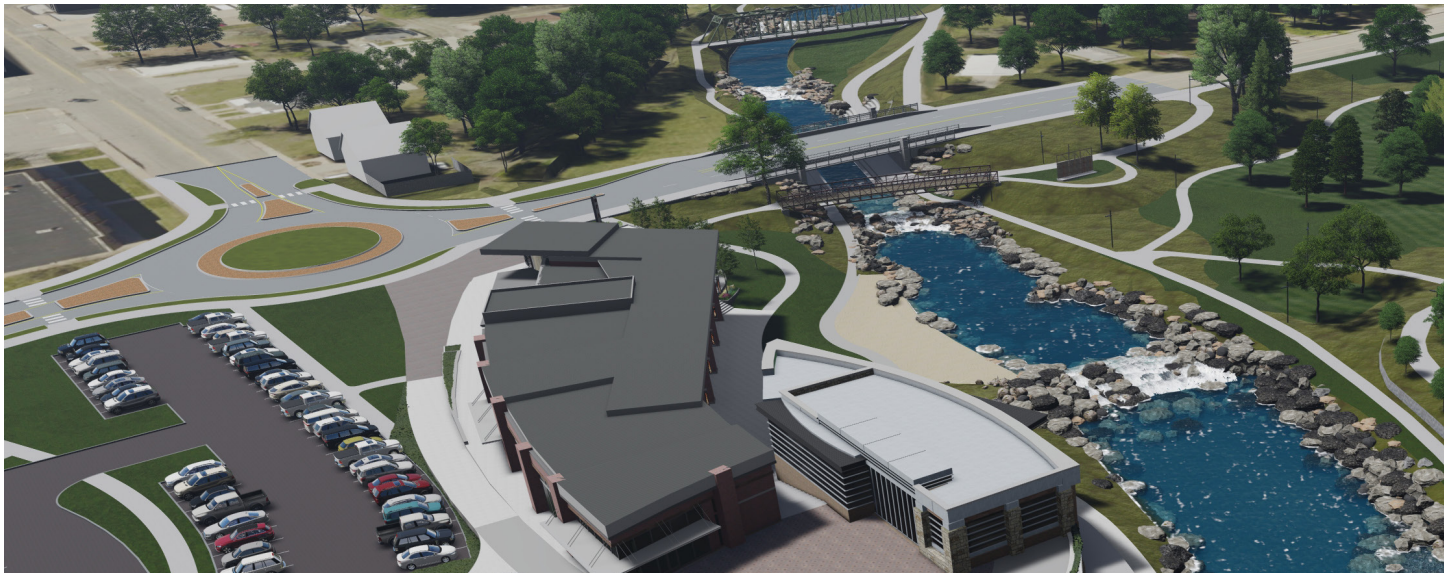






# JOHNSON PARK AREA

## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS



*Rendering of redeveloped area around 1st and Braasch Avenue, including roundabout*

### **Ongoing roadway improvements will provide safer traffic flow to the area for residents and visitors alike.**

- A roundabout will be added to the Braasch Avenue and 1st Street intersection to provide more efficient traffic flow, improve safety, and support future development of the area.
- Previous work along Braasch Avenue was designed with this future roundabout in mind, with improvements stopping short of the Braasch and 1st intersection to minimize rework.

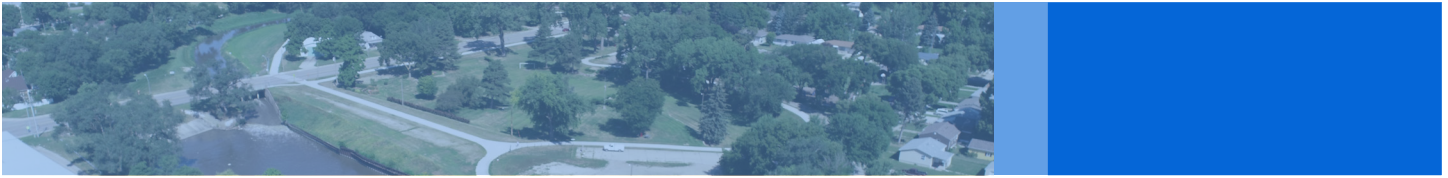
### **The city will replace the 1st Street bridge and grade control structure as both are at the end of their functional life.**

- By replacing the bridge, trail connectivity to Johnson Park will improve and allow for accessible trail links along both sides of the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.

**The 1st & Braasch roundabout and 1st Street bridge will be included on the same construction contract. The City of Norfolk anticipates bidding in late summer 2021.**

**In-river improvements would accommodate trail connectivity for the potential relocation of an old railroad bridge, located more than 800 feet upstream of 1st Street bridge; however, relocation of that bridge is not part of this project.**





# JOHNSON PARK

## PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Improvements to Johnson Park will restore a connection to the Elkhorn River and re-establish the park as a community destination. Components of the project include additional parking, updated playground equipment and new ADA restrooms.

The 2018 Johnson Park master plan was further refined through discussion with community stakeholders.

- Stakeholders identified creating a festival space and building an amphitheater as top priorities.
- Stakeholder also came to a consensus about adding a changing room and shower to the updated restrooms, building a splash pad to accommodate additional seasons and activities, and adding strategic lighting throughout the park.



Renderings of planned improvements to Johnson Park



## JOHNSON PARK | PARK IMPROVEMENTS

It is anticipated the construction of park improvements will begin as the in-river and transportation improvements are nearing completion.

	Anticipated Phases			
	Phase 1A	Phase 1B	Phase 2	Phase 3
<b>Project Components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrooms</li> <li>Nebraska Ave. parking lot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grading</li> <li>Utilities</li> <li>Sidewalk, trails</li> <li>Retaining wall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remaining sidewalk</li> <li>Playground</li> <li>Amphitheater</li> <li>On-street parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fountain improvements (splash pad/skating rink)</li> </ul>
<b>Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bidding: Fall 2021</li> <li>Construction: Spring 2022</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bidding: Spring 2022</li> <li>Construction: Summer/Fall 2022</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bidding: Summer/Fall 2022</li> <li>Construction: Spring/Summer 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding dependent — would follow completion on Phase 2</li> </ul>

*\*All dates are tentative and subject to change*



*Aerial view of area improvements, looking south from E Prospect Avenue*

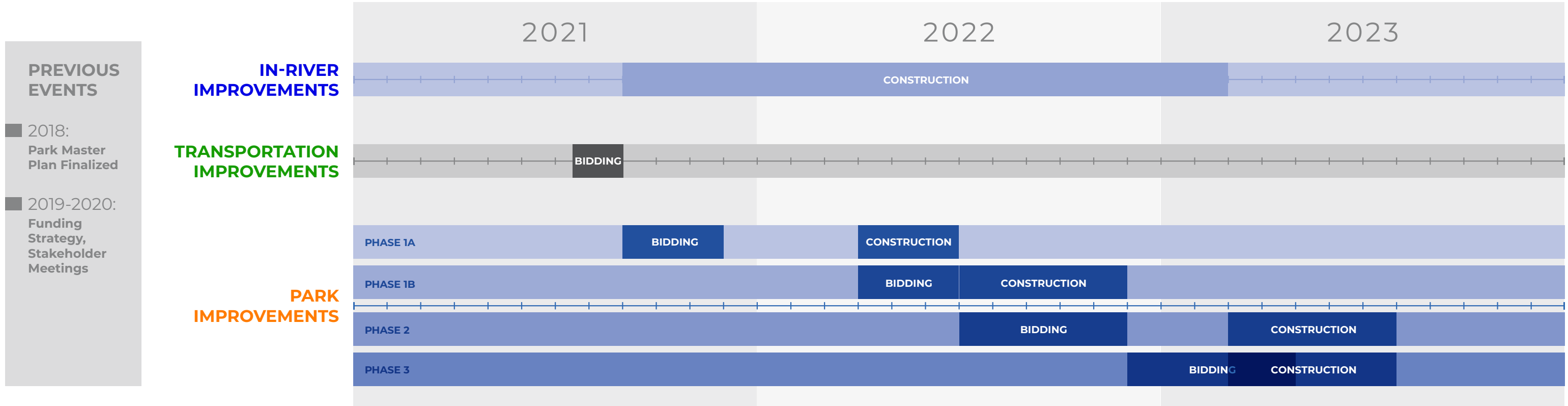


# JOHNSON PARK

## AREA IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE



All three components of Johnson Park improvements – in-river, transportation, and park – will be scheduled subsequently, with dates and timeframes for each project dependent on weather and funding.



\*All dates are tentative and subject to change