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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Honoring the Past, Building the Future: Gretna Updates Longtime Park

**Gretna, Nebraska, September 8, 2025** – The old city pool at Peterson Park that served Gretna families for generations was removed beginning September 3. As the facility aged, the cost to restore it to a long-term usable condition became too high. Mayor Evans noted, *“The Peterson Park pool has been a landmark for our Gretna citizens for over 50 years. It was a difficult decision to remove a facility that created so many great memories, but the financial reality was that continuing as it was designed was not a reasonable choice.”*

At the same time the older pool was failing, Gretna Crossing Park was under development with a new indoor pool and outdoor aquatics facility. Maintaining both pools would have been cost-prohibitive. The indoor/outdoor aquatic complex offered a larger facility that could accommodate our growing community, add more features, and provide the school with a competition pool.

While the older pool was no longer financially sustainable, the City understood the importance of providing a place where the entire community would have access to cooling off, interacting with the water, and enjoying the surrounding features. Removing the pool creates an opportunity to extend the park, which has been a centerpiece of the community since 1921.

The next step is reimagining the site and possibilities of what Peterson Park can become. With the pool removed, the City is considering extending the park and possibly closing the road to the east of the pool. With the larger site, there is the potential to create multiple experiences, one of which would be to honor Gretna’s veterans. *“While considering removing the pool, it became apparent there was an opportunity to invest in the core of our community and enhance a wonderful park - not just by offering more features, but also by honoring our veterans,”* Evans said.

The City of Gretna, the American Legion, and Confluence, a design team, are working to develop concepts for the space. The Legion has expressed a desire to continue the Veterans Memorial atmosphere that already exists at the park. This would be in addition to a water feature designed for people of all ages and abilities, which community feedback has identified as vital.

The project is still in the design phase, with no set timeline for completion. As planning progresses, the City will share updates with the public on design concepts, cost estimates, and an anticipated schedule. There will also be opportunities for community input throughout the process. Final approval of the project will rest with the City Council, based on construction costs and any cost-sharing opportunities.

Mayor Evans said, *“I am excited to see the concepts and feedback our team and the community provide. This will truly be a very special place in Gretna for generations to come.”*

For any additional question on this project, please reach out to us at City Hall 402-332-3336.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact DeAnna Whittemore, Communications & Events Coordinator, City of Gretna, NE, [DeAnna@cityofgretna.com](mailto:DeAnna@cityofgretna.com).

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The City of Gretna is a vibrant community located in Nebraska, known for its rich history, exceptional quality of life, and commitment to progress. With a thriving economy, excellent schools, and a strong sense of community, Gretna offers residents and visitors alike a welcoming environment to live, work, and play.