



MEMO

TO: Parks & Recreation Committee
Utilities Committee

FROM: Paula Vandehey, Director of Public Works *PAV*
Dean Gazza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management

DATE: September 17, 2014

SUBJECT: **Approve repurposing of Lions Park to address stormwater flooding issues in the Theodore Street drainage area, with a target construction date of 2020.**

During the 2014 Budget Process, the City Council directed staff to hold a neighborhood meeting to present the concept of repurposing Lions Park to address stormwater flooding issues in the Theodore Street drainage area. The Department of Public Works and Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management held the neighborhood meeting on June 17, 2014 at James Madison Middle School. Thirty-six residents and Alderpersons attended the meeting. The attendance list and associated comment sheets are attached for your information.

In general, the feedback received at the meeting, as well as through the comment cards, was mixed. Many attendees did not like the concept of repurposing the park because of the loss of the baseball diamond and playground equipment. Others were supportive of the project and especially liked the multi-seasonal uses the proposed design would accommodate. Several attendees requested that if the project moves forward, some type of playground equipment be included in the project design.

Both phases of the Appleton East High School Stormwater Storage Project under the parking lots have been installed. Although final modeling and reporting is not yet complete, the initial modeling, as previously reported, indicates a 41% reduction in the total depth of flooding at the compliance points during a 100-year flood event. The proposed repurposing of Lions Park would further reduce flooding at the compliance points by an additional 43% during a 100-year flood event.

From a parks & recreation perspective, the neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Staff believes these needs can still be met by the combination of other surrounding neighborhood parks and the repurposing of Lions Park.

The current schedule for this proposed project has changed as follows:

<u>Adopted 5-Year CIP (2014-2018)</u>	<u>Mayor's Executive 5-Year CIP (2015-2019)</u>
2015 Land Acquisition Park Amenities	2015 N/A
2016 Design & Permitting Park Amenities	2016 Land Acquisition Preliminary Engineering Park Amenities
2017 N/A	2017 N/A
2018 Pond Construction	2018 Design & Permitting Park Amenities
	2019 N/A

As part of the 2015 Budget Adoption Process, staff is requesting further guidance on the Council's support of repurposing Lions Park to address stormwater flooding issues in the Theodore Street drainage area.

Possible actions could include:

1. Approve repurposing of Lions Park to address stormwater flooding issues in the Theodore Street drainage area as outlined in the 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Plan, with a target construction date of 2020.
2. Deny repurposing of Lions Park to address stormwater flooding issues in the Theodore Street drainage area and remove project from the 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Plan.
3. Postpone decision for a number of years and focus resources on other drainage areas.

Attachments

LIONS PARK NEIGHBOR MEETING

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Ron Peters	1712 Moonbeam Trail
Tim Schnese	2613 S. Jason Drive
Marilyn Miland	2900 Schaefer Circle
Diane Gennaro	1816 S. Quintin Ct.
Gary & Bev Smith	1215 S. Theodore St.
Nao Tong Vang	3116 E. Bona Ave.
Ed & Sandy Green	18 Sunlite Ct.
Jerry Iverson	26 Sunray Ct.
Mike & Ellen Schabow	2700 E. John St.
Don & Mary Huiting	2701 E. John St.
Mark Conkey	1609 S. Fidelis St.
Keith Otte	2525 S. Jason Dr.
Randy Griesbach	2616 E. Dietzen Dr.
Sandy Kriefski	1223 S. Theodore St.
Dick & Linda Nicolaison	1317 S. Theodore St.
Katie Weber	1108 S. Clara St.
Mark Beschta	2118 E. John St.
Len & Jan Duello	1809 S. Angela Dr.
Patrick Trudell	1701 E. Robin Way
Sarah Pitsch	1617 S. Schaefer St.
Aldersperson Joe Martin	District #4
Aldersperson Polly Dalton	District #8
Scott Boeckman	1600 S. Fidelis St.
Chris Kennedy	1501 S. Irma St.
Aldersperson Kathy Plank	District #7
Aldersperson Sarah Garb	District #5
Marlene Otto	1517 S. Matthias St.
Jolene Verstegen	2923 E. Rail Rd.
Linda & Dick Nikolai	3 Eastfield Ct.



"...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life"

CITY OF APPLETON PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
CONCEPT PLAN FOR LIONS PARK
COMMENT CARD

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

SOCCER FIELD

Reasons for selecting concept park feature?

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

VOLLEYBALL COURTS - QUESTION THE NEED

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

1) GOOD IDEA - DO IT!

2)

(Over)



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CONCEPT PLAN FOR LIONS PARK
COMMENT CARD

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

nothing -

Reasons for selecting concept park feature? why - we don't need a big hole on St. Bern St -

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

do NOT REMOVE the playground! this is a great benefit - the playground is always in use by small children

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

1) USE the soccer field at App East High - don't need another near the street

2) St Bernadette is private property owned by the Diocese of Green Bay - it is not open for repurposing by the city of Appleton

Please fill in the following information if you would like to discuss this plan and/or planning process with an Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management staff member:

Name MARK BESCHTA Email Address MBESCHTA@NEW.PR.COM

Address 2118 E. JOHN Day Phone 764-8521

Evening Phone 734-1387

Feel free to leave this comment card with a staff member tonight or mail it to the Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management, 1819 Witzke Blvd., Appleton, WI 54911. Phone in your comments at 920-832-5905, or email William N. Lecker, Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management at bill.lecker@appleton.org. Thank you for providing additional information.

Please fill in the following information if you would like to discuss this plan and/or planning process with an Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management staff member:

Name Scott Borckmans Email Address _____

Address 1600 S. FIDELIS Day Phone _____

Evening Phone 920-830-0841

Feel free to leave this comment card with a staff member tonight or mail it to the Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management, 1819 Witzke Blvd., Appleton, WI 54911. Phone in your comments at 920-832-5905, or email William N. Lecker, Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management at bill.lecker@appleton.org. Thank you for providing additional information.



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CITY OF APPLETON PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
CONCEPT PLAN FOR LIONS PARK
COMMENT CARD

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

ice skating rink, soccer field (but not at expense of playground)

Reasons for selecting concept park feature? my family uses the playground at the park several times a week in the summer

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

* Adding a playground area instead of volleyball area.

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

- 1) Trees. → shade important.
- 2) tennis courts with backboards, timber golf baskets (practice).

(Over)



IT IS MY OPINION THAT LIONS PARK IS IMPORTANT FOR SE APPLETON, THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY ^{AT EAST} CAN LIVE WITH A TWO YEAR "..." DISRUPTION FOR BENEFIT

CITY OF APPLETON PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OF
CONCEPT PLAN FOR LIONS PARK
COMMENT CARD

ALL

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

NONE OF IT AT THIS TIME

Reasons for selecting concept park feature? EAST H.S. SOCCER FIELD, LONG TERM BEST OPTION, LEASE S10 B FIELD FOR SOCCER

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

DON'T DO IT.

WHAT ABOUT JOHNSTON SCHOOL - FOOTBALL PRACTICE

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

- 1) THIS WOULD BE AN EYESORE!!
- 2) LOSS OF PLAY AREA, BASEBALL - COMMUNITY TREASURE

(Over)

Please fill in the following information if you would like to discuss this plan and/or planning process with an Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management staff member:

Name Sarah Pitsch Email Address sjp5@tds.net

Address 1617 S. Schaefer St. Day Phone (920) 996-9851

Evening Phone same as day

Feel free to leave this comment card with a staff member tonight or mail it to the Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management, 1819 Witzke Blvd., Appleton, WI 54911. Phone in your comments at 920-832-5905, or email William N. Lecker, Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management at bill.lecker@appleton.org. Thank you for providing additional information.

Please fill in the following information if you would like to discuss this plan and/or planning process with an Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management staff member:

Name JERRY IVERSON Email Address jemyiversons@aol.com

Address 26 SUNRAY CT Day Phone 734-7499

Evening Phone SAME OR 585-1325

Feel free to leave this comment card with a staff member tonight or mail it to the Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management, 1819 Witzke Blvd., Appleton, WI 54911. Phone in your comments at 920-832-5905, or email William N. Lecker, Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management at bill.lecker@appleton.org. Thank you for providing additional information.

3) IF THE ^{EAST} SOCCER FIELD WERE USED - IT WOULD BE A TEMPORARY LOSS. IF LIONS PARK WERE USED - IT WOULD BE GONE FOREVER.



CITY OF APPLETON PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
CONCEPT PLAN FOR LIONS PARK
COMMENT CARD

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

Taking care of water retention near its source

Reasons for selecting concept park feature? _____

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

Feel we have enough soccer fields. Softball/Baseball fields are truly needed. Keeping a park for small kids important.

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

- 1) look to St. Bernadette for either soccer fields or if that cannot be done consider a softball/baseball field there.
- 2) _____

(Over)



CITY OF APPLETON PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
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COMMENT CARD

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

Use in winter

Reasons for selecting concept park feature? _____

Waterproof flooring, like concept below street level.

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

Keep baseball field - used a lot, space for a new design. Current field doesn't use turf - black matted grass. Yes, cost of fencing still high, but it is used greatly.

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

- 1) Baseball/softball field - like idea of regional/several ballfields
- 2) play court w/parking!

(Over)

Please fill in the following information if you would like to discuss this plan and/or planning process with an Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management staff member:

Name Dick & Linda Nikolai Email Address LINDA.NIKOLAI.NET

Address 3 Eastfield Ct Day Phone 920-734-0828

Evening Phone _____

Feel free to leave this comment card with a staff member tonight or mail it to the Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management, 1819 Witzke Blvd., Appleton, WI 54911. Phone in your comments at 920-832-5905, or email William N. Lecker, Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management at bill.lecker@appleton.org. Thank you for providing additional information.

Please fill in the following information if you would like to discuss this plan and/or planning process with an Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management staff member:

Name Chris Kennedy Email Address ckennedy@mcginnis.com

Address 1501 S. Irma Street Day Phone 715-855-7445

Evening Phone 920-202-3329

Feel free to leave this comment card with a staff member tonight or mail it to the Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management, 1819 Witzke Blvd., Appleton, WI 54911. Phone in your comments at 920-832-5905, or email William N. Lecker, Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management at bill.lecker@appleton.org. Thank you for providing additional information.

Would love
copy of
2020 job app.

THANK YOU
FOR PARTICIPATING



"...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life"

CITY OF APPLETON PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
CONCEPT PLAN FOR LIONS PARK
COMMENT CARD

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

improved viewing at soccer field due to banking

Reasons for selecting concept park feature? Enjoy thought of it

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

Ensure safety due to vehicles going down hill

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

1) None

2) _____

(Over)

John Miller
254-313-2994



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CONCEPT PLAN FOR LIONS PARK
COMMENT CARD

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

Winter activity options of the bowl

Reasons for selecting concept park feature?

South side could utilize access to more winter activities

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

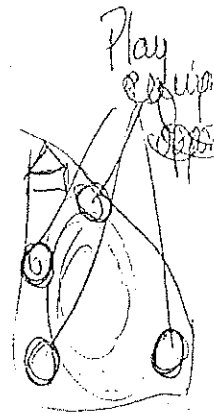
~~incorporate~~ incorporate playground equipment along borders or discrete playground pools along borders

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

1) Appreciate the bowl concept ~~as a noise/visual barrier~~ ~~as a noise/visual barrier~~ ~~as a noise/visual barrier~~ ~~as a noise/visual barrier~~

2) _____

(Over)





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After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

Multigeneration recreational use

Reasons for selecting concept park feature? Better use - Baseball park - causes safety issues when balls are hit over fence on John Street

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

Fence around pond

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

1) _____

2) _____

(Over)



CITY OF APPLETON PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
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After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

Hopefully taking care of water retention

Reasons for selecting concept park feature? Need play area for kids

Need play area for kids

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

1) Possible renting/buying St. Bernardette's for

2) Park space or use it for wet or dry pond.

(Over)



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After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

put it in on the Appleton East playing field

Reasons for selecting concept park feature?

and during construction, games can be played at

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

Lions Park.

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

(Over)



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After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

Leave The park ~~by~~ alone.

Reasons for selecting concept park feature?

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

(Over)



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COMMENT CARD

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

Reasons for selecting concept park feature?

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

- 1) BETWEEN THEODORE ST & IRMA, THERE IS A 6' CULVERT GOING TO
- 2) KENSINGTON POND. TOO MANY STREETS RUNNING INTO THAT CULV.
ADD MORE CULVERTS TO RELIEVE THE FLOW INTO THIS CULVERT
(Over)
I LIVE ON THEODORE ST BETWEEN BONA & LOURDES AND KNOW
HOW THIS CULVERT CAN FILL TO THE MAX. ☹



CITY OF APPLETON PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
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COMMENT CARD

After reviewing the conceptual drawing, the concept park feature I like the most is:

Winter use skating
Reasons for selecting concept park feature?

If changes could be suggested to the concept, the first or most important change would be:

Beacon seems to be great importance - far more than
baseball - necessary??

Other suggested changes to consider, in order of importance are as follows:

- 1) Maintain a playground similar to the one (in size)
- 2) Ball diamond consistently in use.

Parking restrictions on John^(Over) Calumet for sports?

Bill Lecker

From: Chris Kennedy [clutekennedy71@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 10:16 AM
To: Bill Lecker
Subject: Lions Park

Good Morning Mr. Lecker -

I was at the meeting at Madison Middle School, app. about a month ago, regarding Lions Park.

I saw in Sunday's Post-Crescent that the issue of the park sounds like it is going ahead. I thought the overwhelming voices at the meeting were not in favor of the proposed concept plan for Lions Park.

I don't believe that the question was answered on how many homes, etc. the last flooding affected was answered at that meeting. Also, I don't believe that getting rid of the ball diamond and waiting for a "proposed ball park facility" sometime in the future is the right course. (This park is well used, especially, the ball diamond - thought that came across pretty clear at the meeting.)

Just wanted to see if there was an update or if the community input will be brushed aside and the park concept plan is going ahead as originally proposed.

Thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

--

Chris Kennedy

Bill Lecker

From: Rebecca Salveson [rjkrepson@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2014 2:05 PM
To: Bill Lecker
Subject: Lions Park

Please accept this email as my ardent support of leaving Lions Park alone. I live in the neighborhood and frequent this park with my five children, ages 3 to 13. We love this park, especially the playground equipment and the baseball diamond. Unfortunately, the revised plan for Lions Park includes neither of these.

Please know the my family, and many others in my neighborhood, would be very disappointed to see Lions Park changed in the manner being suggested.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts.

Rebecca Salveson

Bill Lecker

From: Conkey, Mark [mconkey@gbpcoated.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 3:15 PM
To: Bill Lecker
Subject: Lions Park Proposal

Hello Bill,

I live on Fidelis Street just off of John St. I had an opportunity to attend the Lions Park info session on Monday night. First of all, I wanted to let you know I thought the session was very informative, so thanks to everyone for the preparation and thoughtful listening.

My thoughts:

- The water situation certainly needs to be addressed. I know several of my neighbors on Fidelis experienced flooded basements a few years ago and our street looks like a small river during bad rain storms.
- Of the three options presented I liked the Lions street option best. The extra cost & inconvenience of the under street projects were not appealing at all.
- As you heard, some of my neighbors will not like losing the playground, but Dercks Park is close by and it has a very nice playground. The ball field supporters will be unhappy as well, but the water situation is more important than a single ball park. Besides, I think the tradeoff (soccer plus volley ball vs. the ball diamond) is fair & reasonable.
- I like the idea of not having a fence around the park property. When I first move to Fidelis St. 15 years ago, the Appleton East sports fields provided a nice green space. Today it has more cyclone fencing than a minimum security prison...not very attractive and completely inaccessible & unusable.
- I particularly liked the ice rink, hockey pond, and sledding features. The park has no utility in the winter now, so that's a big plus.

Thanks again, Mark

Mark R. Conkey

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