



CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

OPEN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MUNICIPAL CENTER
LOBBY CONFERENCE ROOM
October 10, 2016
5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Agenda
3. Review The Regular Meeting Consent Agenda
4. Agenda Item(S)
 - 4.A. Closed Session To Discuss Robert Street Easement Acquisitions
Estimated Time Required: 15 minutes
 - 4.B. Closed Session To Discuss Management Position For Labor Negotiations
Estimated Time Required: 15 minutes
 - 4.C. Discussion Of RFP For Sports Complex Phase 2 Improvements
Estimated Time Required: 30 minutes
Documents:

[COUNCIL REPORT - DISCUSSION OF RFP FOR SPORTS COMPLEX PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS.DOCX](#)
[FINAL SPORTS COMPLEX MASTER PLAN_050812.PDF](#)

5. Adjourn

Future Topics for Discussion & Consideration

- Economic Development Financing Tools, TBD, 90 minutes
- North Gateway Development, TBD
- Solid Waste Management Discussion, TBD, 90 minutes

651-552-4100, TDD 651-322-2323 at least 5 business days prior to the meeting
www.wspmn.gov EOE/AA



TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Matt Fulton, City Manager
Ross Beckwith, Park & Rec/PW Dir.
FROM: Dave Schletty, Asst. Parks & Rec. Dir.
DATE: October 10, 2016
SUBJECT: Discussion of RFP for Sports Complex Phase 2 Imprc

City of West St. Paul

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2012 the master plan for the Sports Complex was updated. Construction improvements began in September of 2012 and were completed late in 2013. Improvements are scheduled to take place in 2017 with a total budget of \$1.2 million. Staff has put together a list of recommended improvements along with a proposed budget for each item (listed below).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The itemized Phase 2 improvements and budget:

- Trail Replacement \$100,000
- Parking Lot Replacement \$120,000
- Parking Lot Expansion \$50,000
- Concrete Plaza/Walkways \$60,000
- Fix Field Drainage \$25,000
- Replace Field Lighting \$375,000
- Replace Irrigation \$75,000
- Field Modifications \$10,000
- Renovation of Buildings \$40,000
- Site Lighting \$5,000
- Replace Scoreboards \$20,000
- Replace Storage Building \$50,000
- Horseshoe Court Rehab \$10,000
- New Large Picnic Shelter \$50,000
- IT (Security) \$60,000
- Consultant Fees \$100,000
- Contingency \$100,000

Total \$1,250,000.00

		Amount
Fund:	413	
Department:	45000	
Account:	40530	\$1,200,000.00

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council discuss the proposed improvements, budget and any other options for phase 2 of the Sports Complex improvements, and authorize staff to solicit RFPs for the work.



MASTER PLAN FOR

THE SPORTS COMPLEX

CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL

MAY 2012



ENGINEERS
PLANNERS
DESIGNERS

MASTER PLAN
FOR
THE SPORTS COMPLEX
WEST ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Prepared for:
City of West St. Paul
1616 Humboldt Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118

I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The planning team would like to thank the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission and City Council for providing their insights and knowledge of the Sports Complex as this plan was prepared. We would also like to thank the citizens who attended public meetings for their input. The open dialogue with members of the community enhanced our understanding of the issues and needs of the site.

City Council

- John Zanmiller, Mayor
- Jim Englin (Ward I)
- Ed Hansen (Ward I)
- Ed Iago (Ward II)
- Tony Vitelli (Ward II)
- Dave Wright (Ward III)
- Darlene Lewis (Ward III)

Park and Recreation Advisory Commission

- Mike Petrasek, Chair
- Bill Creamer
- Pat Flynn
- Bob Gausman
- David Lynch
- Pat Armon
- Susan Stradtman

City Staff

- Sherrie Le, Acting City Manager
- Matt Saam, City Engineer/Public Works Director/Parks Director
- Dave Schletty, Parks and Recreation Manager

Consultant

- SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
One Carlson Parkway, Suite 150
Minneapolis, MN 55447
(763)475-0010

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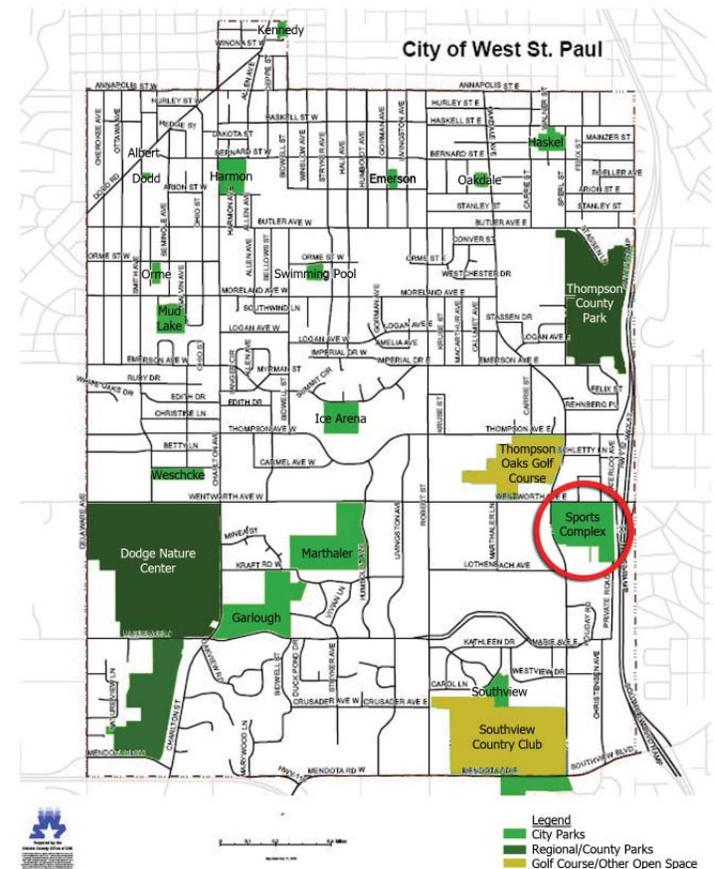
II. PROJECT OVERVIEW/PLANNING PROCESS

The Sports Complex is a 23 acre athletic complex located on the eastern edge of the city. The site is bordered by Trunk Highway 52 on the east, County Road 8 (Wentworth Avenue) on the north, and County Road 73 (Oakdale Avenue) to the west. As the primary athletic complex in West St. Paul, the facility is widely used and highly programmed. A master plan for The Sports Complex was completed in 2003 but did not address potential uses for the Marthaler parcel which was occupied at the time. This document serves as an update to the 2003 plan, integrating the Marthaler property and assessing the site as a whole, creating a long term vision for the park.

Public Input

Input from user groups and residents was sought in a number of ways throughout the planning process. This feedback was invaluable in preparing the master plan.

- A stakeholder meeting was held with the West St. Paul Youth Athletic Association to gain an understanding of how the Sports Complex is currently utilized. This input also aided in determining how the facility could be modified to improve efficiency and maximize public benefit.
- An online survey was conducted on the West St. Paul web page to solicit input from interested citizens on the long term vision for the park.
- A public open house was held following a Park and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) meeting on December 13, 2011 to provide feedback on the three initial concept plans developed.
- Based on input received at the public open house, a preferred master plan concept was prepared and presented to the PRAC at a meeting on February 14, 2012. The PRAC recommended the plan for approval by the City Council.
- (Pending) Council Review and Approval



III. DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

The development master plan provides for a cross-section of recreational activities to meet community needs and is based on input received from city staff and stakeholders over the course of the planning process. Given the level of existing development within the park, many of the proposed improvements are minor modifications to improve the functionality of these extensively used facilities. However, the recently acquired expansion parcels present an opportunity to integrate passive uses and provide a more complete park experience for users.

Play Area

The former play area was located just north of the large parking lot. The equipment was removed due to deterioration and is slated for replacement through implementation of the first phase of this master plan. The recently acquired parcels provide an opportunity to relocate the play area to a more natural area of the park with some separation from the athletic fields but within reasonable distance of restroom facilities.

The proposed location for the play area is bordered on the south and west sides by an existing drainage way. The drainage area briefly stores 3-4" of storm water during extreme storm events, but is dry at all other times. There are steep slopes along the length of the drainage area, some of which will be reduced by the grading required for installation of the play area. The remaining slopes will be stabilized with native vegetation, with crushed stone rip rap installed at drainage pipe in-flow points to prevent erosion.

The existing vegetation within the proposed play area and adjacent drainage way includes a few nice trees, primarily oak and basswood. Large poplars are also present, but are in poor condition and present danger in the form of falling branches. Nearly all of the understory vegetation is buckthorn and should be removed.

The play area will include equipment for pre-school (ages 2-5) and elementary school (ages 5-12) children in separated curbed areas. Swings and other stand-alone equipment to enhance the play experience should be added as space allows.



Erosion along the drainage way.

III. DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

Access to and within play containers including surfacing must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Picnic Areas

A picnic shelter is proposed adjacent to the play area, flanked by a grassed picnic area flowing to the east within the circuitous trail system. The proposed picnic area includes groupings of picnic tables with grills spaced along the trail system and among wooded areas. Additional picnic tables are proposed west of the drainage way in the existing turf area.

Over the course of the planning process, interest in an informal gathering area was noted. The existing topography within the proposed picnic area is rolling and lightly wooded, making it ideal for this use.

Athletic Facilities

The existing softball fields are well maintained and are generally in good condition. There are opportunities to improve safety and playability of the fields. They include:

- Adding agg-lime warning tracks along foul lines of all fields.
- Installation of drain tile to mitigate drainage issues on the two eastern fields
- Installation of 20' high safety netting on the two western fields to prevent fly balls from entering adjacent roadways and trails.

Maintenance could be slightly reduced by paving small existing turf areas between bleachers and dugouts. Paving field maintenance access points will also reduce maintenance and improve the overall aesthetic of the park.

Other proposed improvements include expanded gathering space for teams and spectators, enhanced circulation that meets the requirements of ADA, and provision of shade and seating within the plaza and adjacent to fields where possible. The existing concessions building canopy provides seating and shade and could be expanded to serve more users. Adding a separate shelter within the plaza to the north is a slightly more costly secondary option that could provide more gathering space without impacting circulation around the fields. Modifications are also proposed



Rolling topography and large trees provide an optimal setting for the picnic area and amphitheater.



Circulation around the ballfields is constricting and does not meet ADA requirements.

III. DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

to the existing parking lot to improve the field entrance sequence and better delineate parking from pedestrian areas. Improvements to other related facilities include refining the aggregate surfacing within the batting cages to eliminate drainage issues and replacing the netting, which has begun to deteriorate.

The soccer/football fields are located on the eastern edge of the site and are bordered by Trunk Highway 52, buffered by a staggered row of large coniferous trees. The buffer could be improved but would require coordination with the Minnesota Department of Transportation as any additional planting would occur within the highway right-of-way. A billboard is located at the southeast corner of the fields with access provided by a bituminous drive that follows the south and west edges of the southern field. The elevation of the drive is 2-3 feet lower than the field at the south end and chain link fence has been installed at the back of the end zone at the top of the slope, presenting a safety issue for field users. A similar condition exists at the north end of the fields, but there is space available to relocate the chain link fence a safe distance beyond the boundary of the field. The fields should be shifted as far north as possible, maintaining safe distances between the fields, and padding added to the fence posts.

All of the athletic fields include aging irrigation and lighting systems that are in need of replacement. In addition to improving safety and visibility, new field lighting will use less energy than the existing fixtures while reducing light spillover into the adjacent neighborhood.

Circulation

The existing trail system within the park provides connections to all of the major elements including the softball fields, restroom/concessions facilities, horseshoe pavilion, and soccer/football fields. As the recently acquired parcels are developed, the trail system will be extended to include the playground, picnic areas, and other amenities. Circuitous loop trails that provide a range of experiences are highly valued by park users.

A culvert crossing over the existing drainage way will be required to connect existing park amenities to proposed elements within the former Marthaler/Schanno parcels. The proposed crossing has been located to minimize the distance from the play area to the existing restroom/concessions building. The crossing will also provide access from the proposed parking lot to the athletic fields during tournaments or other special events.



Drainage issues on Field 2.



Safety issues at soccer fields.



Trails are needed for safe pedestrian movement along the perimeter of the park.

III. DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

The North Urban Regional Trail connects to the site at the northwest corner via crosswalk at Wentworth and Oakdale Avenues. This regional trail corridor provides access to Thompson County Park to the north and Marthaler and Garlough Parks within the city system to the west and south. At the northeast corner of the site, sidewalks with crosswalks provide connections to South St. Paul under Trunk Highway 52, but are not continued beyond the park boundary. Paved multipurpose trails are proposed within the site adjacent to Oakdale and Wentworth Avenues to allow for safe movement of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Parking

The existing parking lot has 183 stalls and also serves as a park and ride facility. It is often at capacity under average daily use and insufficient during special events such as baseball tournaments. The proposed parking area within the former Marthaler/Schanno parcels will serve the amenities proposed in that area and provide overflow parking for the athletic fields during high traffic events, minimizing the need for on-street parking. The proposed parking area adds 57 stalls and provides separated parking for play area/passive park area users from typical ball field traffic, enhancing safety for users.

Horseshoe Pavilion

The horseshoe pavilion has a strong presence within the park, providing structure along Wentworth Avenue. It is a highly used facility from spring through fall, programmed through the West St. Paul Horseshoe Club. While no modifications are noted for the structure, there are some proposed improvements related to drainage and the adjacent walks. They are as follows:

- Regrading of turf and landscape areas on the south and west sides to eliminate flooding issues. Rain gutters and downspouts should also be considered when the roof is replaced, planned for summer of 2012.
- Removal of wooden covers over wiring runs into the pavilion. These covers are not ADA compliant and present tripping hazards. Conduit should be installed under sidewalks to eliminate this issue.
- Enhancement of landscape plantings to reinforce the entrance sequence and provide visual interest.



An existing trail in need of replacement.



The existing parking area on a typical day.



Roof drainage is causing flooding on the south side of the pavilion.

III. DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

Landscape Enhancements

There are numerous opportunities to enhance the landscape within the park, many of which have been discussed elsewhere in this document. They include:

- Enhancement of the park entrance and active use areas.
- Expansion of buffers, especially adjacent to athletic fields and residential properties.
- Restoration and enhancement of natural areas, utilizing native plant material.
- Enhancement of memorial bench and tree locations including maintenance of plaques and replacement of dead or dying trees.
- Buffering of proposed parking facilities including landscape plantings and ornamental metal screen fence.



An opportunity to enhance the park identification sign and entrance sequence.



Enhancement opportunity adjacent to the existing memorial bench and plaque.

III. DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN



IV. COST ESTIMATE

The Sports Complex - Preliminary Cost Estimate
City of West St. Paul

Item Description	Unit	Unit Cost	Phase 1		Future Phases	
			Quantity	Total	Quantity	Total
Removals/Staking						
Mobilization	LS	\$21,000.00	1	\$8,000	1	\$13,000
Construction Staking	LS	\$21,000.00	1	\$8,000	1	\$13,000
Site Clearing	LS	\$14,000.00	1	\$9,000	1	\$5,000
Removals/Staking Total				\$25,000		\$31,000
Earthwork/						
Grading/Erosion Control	LS	\$42,000	1	\$40,000	1	\$2,000
Earthwork Total				\$40,000		\$2,000
Pavement/Curbing/Utilities						
Bituminous Parking Lot	SY	\$25	2,577	\$64,425	-	-
B6-12 Curb & Gutter	LF	\$11	1,270	\$13,970	-	-
Valley Gutter	SF	\$7	126	\$882	-	-
Bituminous Trails	SY	\$25	1,335	\$33,375	3,116	\$77,900
Play Container Curbing	LF	\$30	428	\$12,840	-	-
Storm Drainage	EA	\$13,500	1	\$13,500	-	-
Concrete Walks	SF	\$3.50	7,040	\$24,640	14,500	\$50,750
Parking Lot Modifications	LS	\$5,000	-	-	1	\$5,000
Pavement/Curbing Total				\$163,632		\$133,650
Field Modifications						
Field Drainage Modifications	LS	\$18,000	-	-	1	\$18,000
Relamp Field Lights	LS	\$255,000	-	-	1	\$255,000
Replace Irrigation	LS	\$60,000	-	-	1	\$60,000
Foul Line Warning Tracks	LS	\$12,000	-	-	1	\$12,000
Field Modifications Total				-		\$345,000
Site Amenities						
Concession Building Enhancements	LS	\$25,000	-	-	1	\$25,000
Batting Cage Reconditioning	EA	\$2,500	1	\$2,500	-	-
Benches	EA	\$1,000	5	\$5,000	4	\$4,000
Trash Receptacles	EA	\$800	2	\$1,600	3	\$2,400
Game Tables	EA	\$1,200	2	\$2,400	2	\$2,400
Picnic Tables	EA	\$1,200	5	\$6,000	10	\$12,000
Grills	EA	\$400	2	\$800	2	\$800
Bike Racks	EA	\$1,200	1	\$1,200	2	\$2,400
Drinking Fountain	EA	\$7,500	1	\$7,500	-	-
Play Equipment/Surfacing	LS	\$85,000	1	\$85,000	-	-
Picnic Shelter	LS	\$30,000	1	\$30,000	-	-
Ornamental Screen Fence	LF	\$120	320	\$38,400	-	-
Split Rail Fence	LF	\$15	225	\$3,375	-	-
Site Electrical	LS	\$10,000	1	\$10,000	-	-
Modular Seat Wall	LF	\$40	-	-	240	\$9,600
Site Amenities Total				\$193,775		\$58,600

IV. COST ESTIMATE

Landscape/Seed/Sod						
Seed/Sod	AC	\$4,000	3.3	\$13,200	1	\$4,000
Landscape Plantings	LS	\$10,000	0.5	\$5,000	0.5	\$5,000
Trees	EA	\$350	12	\$4,200	20	\$7,000
Landscape/Seed/Sod Total				\$22,400		\$16,000
Estimated Construction Costs by Phase				\$444,807		\$586,250
10% Contingency				\$44,481		\$58,625
Total Estimated Construction Costs by Phase with 10% Contingency				\$489,288		\$644,875
Overall Estimated Construction Costs (All Phases) with 10% Contingency						\$1,134,163

Optional Elements

Item Description	Unit	Unit Cost	Phase 1		Future Phases	
			Quantity	Total	Quantity	Total
Expansion Parking Area	LS	\$15,000.00	-	-	1	\$15,000
40' x 60' Picnic Shelter (in lieu of Concession Building Expansion)	LS	\$45,000.00	-	-	1	\$45,000
Deduction of Concession Building Expansion	LS	(\$25,000)	-	-	1	(\$25,000)
Estimated Construction Costs for Optional Elements						\$35,000
10% Contingency						\$3,500
Total Estimated Construction Costs for Optional Elements with 10% Contingency						\$38,500
Total Estimated Construction Costs (All Phases) Including Optional Elements and 10% Contingency						\$1,172,663

V. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Implementation of this master plan will be dependent on available funding and will likely require a phased approach. The cost estimate prioritizes improvements based on a first phase set to occur immediately following preparation of this plan, with remaining improvements to be undertaken as funding becomes available. An illustrative plan highlighting improvements to be completed under the first phase of development is included on the next page.

There are a number of options available in terms of securing park development funding. Annual allocations for through the city budgeting process, bond referenda, and grant programs administered through regional and state agencies are a few of these options. Regional and state grants typically require local matching funds. Listed below are three such grant programs administered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

- Outdoor Recreation Grants
- Local Trail Connections Program
- Federal Recreational Trail Program

V. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



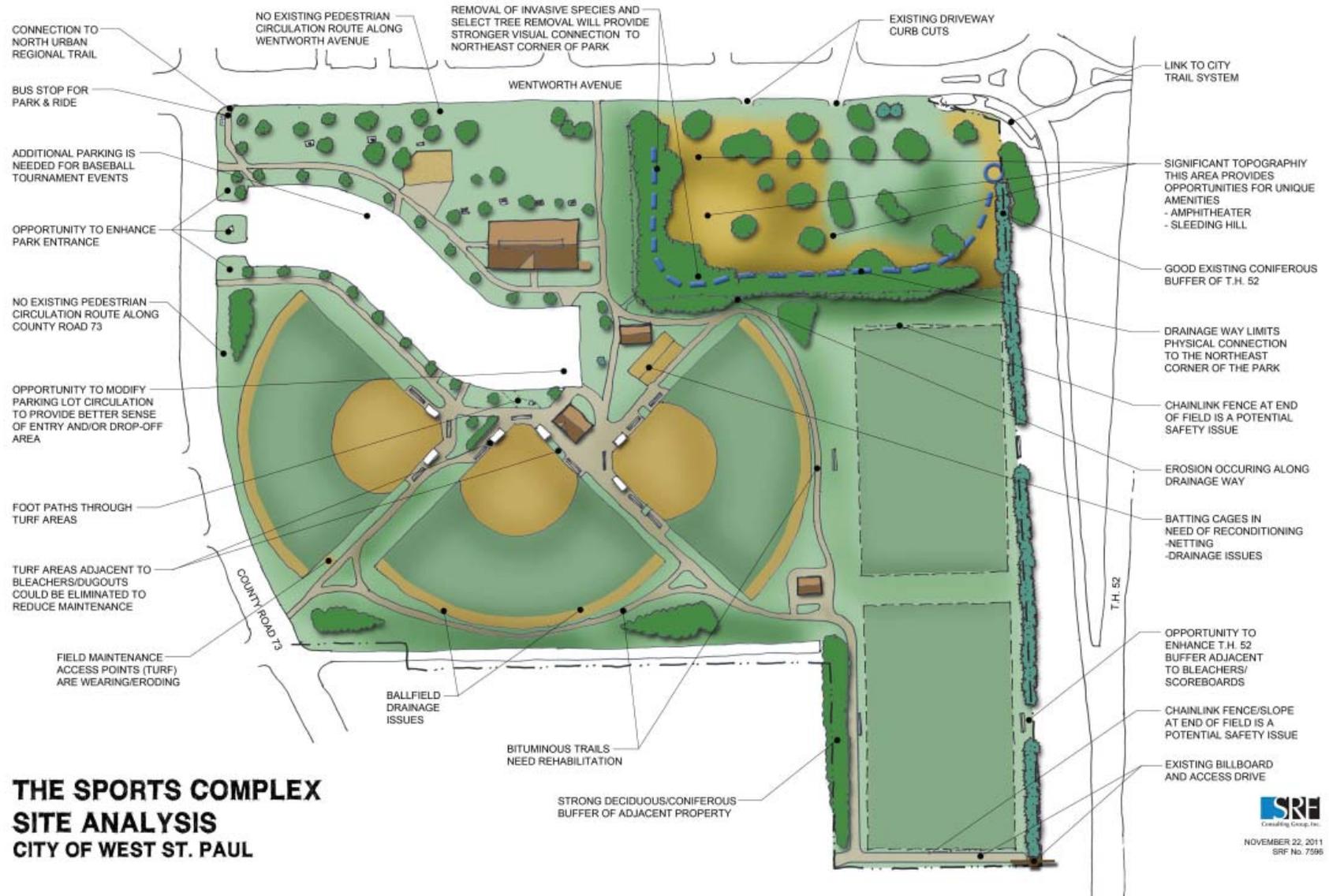
**THE SPORTS COMPLEX
PHASE I DEVELOPMENT PLAN
CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL**



May 2012
SRF No. 7598

VI. APPENDICES

A. SITE ANALYSIS



NOVEMBER 22, 2011
SRP No. 7596

B. CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES



**THE SPORTS COMPLEX
MASTER PLAN CONCEPT A
CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL**

SRP
Consulting Group, Inc.
DECEMBER 5, 2011
SRF No. 7596

B. CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES



B. CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES



**THE SPORTS COMPLEX
MASTER PLAN CONCEPT C
CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL**

SRP
Consulting Group, Inc.
DECEMBER 5, 2011
SRF No. 7596

C. PRAC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES

WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING December 13, 2011

Park & Rec. Members Present: Pat Armon, Bill Creamer, Pat Flynn, Bob Gausman, David Lynch, Mike Petrasek, Susan Stradtman

Non-voting Members Present: Cpln. Ed Iago, Cpln. David Wright, Parks/Public Works Director, Matt Saam; Parks and Recreation Manager, David Schletty; Parks/Recreation and Public Works Secretary, Sharon G. Hatfield

Presenters: Ken Grieshaber and Tim Wold from SRF

1. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Chair Petrasek welcomed committee members and called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

The minutes from the November 2011 meeting were approved by the committee.

2. NEW BUSINESS

Sports Complex Master Plan- SRF

Ken Grieshaber and Tim Wold from SRF Consulting came to the committee meeting to show the progress on the Sports Complex Master Plan. They will follow-up with a master plan for Harmon Park in January 2012. They are targeting Spring 2012 for Phase I improvements.

SRF prepared three concept boards for the Sports Center. Concept A presented the park with issues identified: the playground, passive use on the north side, the separation of the north and east sides on the last Master Plan, the parking lot expansion and the trail circulation around the perimeter of the park. Circulation for spectators and players was also considered. Athletic field drainage problems on the east and center fields are addressed. On all three concepts the entrance sequences have been expanded and shade structures have been added for people to be more comfortable in the park. Efforts to reduce maintenance to the fields and turf have been addressed as well as improvements to the batting cages.

Drainage issues are addressed with drain tile and "warning" tracks for the safety of ball players. The trails are in "tough shape," and need resurfacing. The park needs enhancement with buffers between the adjacent properties and fields. Concept A has the least amount of impact on the Sports Center. It has the advantage of using the existing topography. Grading, however, will still be expensive. Concept B reaches into the additional land parcels with more separation from the road and has improved access to soccer fields. It will incur the most grading. Concept C will have the most parking, (70 stalls.)

Member Gausman asked the consultants if they had the estimated costs of each concept. The cost for each concept has not been determined yet; one hundred thousand dollars has been allocated for the playground. The parking lot cost will be determined for a future phase.

Park and Recreation Committee Meeting
December 13, 2012
Page 2

The buffers between the playgrounds and adjoining areas are wooded but are open; they are not completely shut off from other areas. Sightline conditions for the playground will be improved for the safety of children. Parking lots are not near the soccer fields in the concepts. Petrasek asked if the location of the southern soccer field could be switched to where the amphitheater is in the concept. Schletty said that this would raise the cost of the concept because of irrigation and lighting changes. The park would lose its natural grading as well. Petrasek said he liked the volleyball court, amphitheater and splash pad in concept A. The basketball court could be a "give." Petrasek does not like the trees near the batting cage. He asked if the concession stand overhang could be extended to provide more shade. SRF said it was possible.

Member Flynn's "wish list" includes the volleyball court, and improved sight line for the kids play area. Concept B accommodates his wish list. Concept C is not as good. Member Lynch asked how long the trees would take to grow. SRF said they would need to install larger trees for their concepts. Lynch likes the grassy area in concept B. Petrasek was wondering if the trees in the northeast corner are salvageable. SRF said that some trees could be retained; some are "short for this world." Gausman said that the Environmental Committee would like to have input on the trees that are planted at the Sports Center.

Schletty mentioned that the demolition of the Marthaler house would be tomorrow. Creamer asked if the grading on the space will have to be changed. Yes, the grading would have to be changed and the parking lot near there would be lower in elevation.

Stradtman asked about the water feature; it is a drainage ditch that would stabilize slopes and in-flows to minimize erosion. Stradtman asked if there would be room for a skate park if the basketball court was taken away. SRF replied that a skate park is a touchy issue with residents nearby; they create a lot of noise. The cities of Plymouth, Ostego and Blaine have had some problems in locating the right place for a skate park. Plymouth built the skate park near the maintenance facility to solve problems. The area allocated to the basketball court is a little small for a skate park although a skate park can be made smaller or bigger. It may be good to put a skate park right next to Wentworth and Highway 52. Petrasek said that he would like to see the skate park in either the Sports Center concepts or the Harmon Park concept, not in both. Stradtman remarked that many parents want to have a skate park and noise was not an issue to them.

One idea for the basketball court would be to have eight foot and ten foot high hoops. These would serve both age groups.

Creamer was wondering if the maintenance equipment shed could be moved. It's an eyesore. Schletty replied that the shed must be near a road so that the staff can drive to it. Creamer suggested the southern entrance to the Sports Center.

Lynch asked about the placement of the amphitheater. Schletty replied that the topography of the site lent itself to the placement; it would be a good place to have movies in the Park.

C. PRAC MEETING MINUTES

Park and Recreation Committee Meeting
December 13, 2012
Page 3

Petrasek said that he could live with any of the three plans. Petrasek said that he liked concept B the best. Members agreed that more picnic tables and grills were always recommended.

3. OLD BUSINESS

2012 Community Gardens

At the public meeting on November 9, residents living near Emerson Park said that they did not want a community garden in Emerson Park. Staff is now looking into different locations for the garden. To address safety concerns, staff is thinking about removing the basketball court hoops. They may also set them at a lower height to encourage younger children to play.

4. OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS

Mud Lake Study

Cpln. Wright would like an update on the Mud Lake study.

Eagle Scout Candidate, Troop 288

Lynch would like to bring an Eagle Scout from Troop 288 to make a presentation to the Park and Recreation Committee. The scout may install permanent tee pads in the Garlough Park Disc Golf Course. Petrasek suggested getting park dedication funds for this.

Environmental Committee

Gausman reported that the Environmental Committee had some ideas regarding rezoning traffic on Robert Street.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 6:31 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield

C. PRAC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING February 14, 2012

Park & Rec. Members Present: Pat Armon, Pat Flynn, Bob Gausman, David Lynch, Mike Petrasek, Bill Creamer

Excused: Susan Stradtman

Non-voting Members Present: Clpn. Darlene Lewis, Clpn. Ed Iago, Parks/Public Works Director, Matt Saam; Parks and Recreation Manager, Dave Schletty; Parks & Recreation /Public Works Secretary, Sharon Hatfield

Presenters: Tim Wold from SRF

1. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Chair Petrasek welcomed committee members and called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the January 2012 meeting were approved by the committee.

2. NEW BUSINESS

Orme Park Community Garden Public Meeting

Chair Petrasek welcomed Orme Park and other neighborhood residents and explained that tonight's proceedings would not be the "final say" on the permanent community garden in Orme Park. The Park and Recreation Committee will be making a recommendation to City Council; residents will be able to appear before Council regarding the garden. Petrasek said that last year's garden at Harmon Park was a huge success. It produced over 100 pounds of food for a local food shelf. Harmon Park is not available for another garden this year because of the upcoming demolition of the green houses. Orme was chosen for the next possible garden location. Staff is also considering a garden behind City Hall.

Parks and Recreation Manager Schletty added that last year's community garden was the first in 15-20 years. Interest was raised within the City by the West St. Paul Environmental Committee. They looked for a park that had less use and traffic in order to build a non-disruptive garden. Emerson Park was first approached because it had a pleasure rink that had low attendance and was hard to flood. At a public meeting it was decided that Emerson Park was not the best place to have the garden. Orme Park was then approached because it only had "green space" with a hockey rink. It does not have heavy summer use and does not have a playground or ball field. City staff is proposing a 50-by-70 foot garden in Orme Park.

Jason Booth of 1217 Seminole Ave. spoke against the community garden. He loves a good idea as a business person but feels that the community garden plan is not flushed-out fully. There is no cost benefit analysis. The horseshoe of homeowners [around the park] needs to be consulted. He does not want to eliminate the skating rink. Organic farming is a challenge and finding real organic fertilizer is hard. Orme Park was an "old swamp" and pesticide elimination from this is hard. Public access to the garden is not good. Roof top gardens would be a good [alternative.]

Dan Santos of 378 Moreland Ave W says that he deals with public gardens in his job in St Paul. Rats love a free meal. He says that rodent extermination is [tough.]

Sandy Boehmer of 1212 South Smith said that the traffic flow needs to be look at. It is not a through alley and there is an accessibility issue. She has questions about the refuse generated by the garden and the irrigation for the garden. [Gardeners will have access to water from a fire hydrant.] She asked who owns the plots? She also was unsure about the security of the garden in the evening hours. She has been spoiled until now. In summer, kids play in the park and run dogs. In the spring, the ground melts and is

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mush. It pools when it rains and barricades are set up. Also the concrete slab on her driveway is cracked. This is not a good location for a permanent garden. She has been looking for other locations for the community garden. On Charlton at the Garlough school is an option. Also the Wolter's plot and the Heritage Gym are options. She says she sounds selfish but she's speaking for others.

Phyllis Malmgren of 1208 South Smith said the city bought the land for St. Joe's; it kept the bonds up and cut grass and left it as a park. The City did not have enough parks. There is no playground for children in Orme, so they throw Frisbees and run around. Children use their bikes and trikes on it. The alley is not constructed for traffic. There would be not as much privacy with the garden. She is not in favor of it. There are better places in the city.

Linda Emeott of 1216 Smith Ave. has concerns about the parking but she is in favor of the garden. People can grow their own food and teach skills to their kids. The larger community would be welcome.

Dave Weimer of 1201 Seminole is not in favor of the garden; he has lived for 40 years in West St. Paul. He does not like taking away area from kids. It is an isolated area. He is wondering if the police are going to monitor it.

Tania Wahl of 1195 Seminole is in favor of the garden. It brings neighbors together. It would be like a National Night Out all summer long. It is a wonderful idea and a lot of communities have gardens. She really likes neighbors.

Rachel Metzger of 1182 Smith is not in favor of the garden. With the hockey it is total chaos. There is a parking issue. The sewer backs up. There is a 90-year old woman who would be frightened by the activity there. Metzger's daughter also plays there.

John Margot of Thompson Ave. was in favor of the garden. There was no mess with the Harmon garden. There were 23-24 people with plots and the traffic was not a big deal. [Orme] Park is an underutilized piece of property and we should go ahead with the garden.

Ken Klein of 1226 Smith is not in favor of the garden but if one is constructed he would like a plot.

Bob Liggett of 1072 Charlton is in favor of the community garden. There is an agreement to use no chemical pesticides or insecticides in the garden. They can use chemical fertilizers in the garden. He had a plot in the community garden last year and he never saw more than three cars at a time in the parking lot. The gardeners were a considerate people, not a Cossack horde; they were careful drivers. Nobody walked through anyone's yard.

Steve Cook of 1120 Cherokee is in favor of the community garden. He does not live adjacent to the park. He says taxes are for park land. There are advantages and disadvantages of the park. It needs to be somewhere. He has his own garden in his own yard and has never had rats.

Brent Nagel of 1211 Seminole says there is a lack of planning for the community garden. He does not like losing space. He has lived there 20 years. Kids play in the park every summer. For a select few 22 people, the garden would take away from others. It would limit other people from using it. He has a vested real estate issue in this; his housing value would go down with a community garden.

Darlene Lewis, Council Rep from District III, spoke about the success they had with the community garden last year. West St. Paul is one of the few communities that does not have a community garden. There are currently two plans for the Sports Center and for Harmon Park that would spend thousands of dollars for youth but nothing for empty nesters or seniors. There is a 2-page rental agreement for the community gardeners. They donated 130 pounds of food to the local food shelf. They received donations

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for the water. They did not take away much of the park. There is more traffic in the winter time. Dodd Park is also 2 blocks away.

Member Armon asked if there were any rats in Harmon Park last year; people said there was not any rat problem. Member Gausman remarked that it is important to build community; the parks are an important tool.

Cook commented that the park is 7,000 square feet; the proposed community garden would only take up less than 10 percent of the park. He does not see a need for a plan. The ice rink and the skate rink will still be there.

Chair Petrasek is not sure about the [organic] fertilizer. The traffic flow at Orme would not be a problem; nor would security be a problem. He closely monitored the garden at Harmon Park and saw that there were never more than two people at the garden at one time.

Member Creamer asked if there was anyone against the concept of a community garden. None of the residents were against the concept. Creamer said that there was a similar situation with the disc golf course at Garlough Park. Neighbors were concerned with the possibility of more traffic and more chaos but it never happened. There are no complaints now.

Motion: Lynch made a motion to try the community garden in Orme Park for one year. The motion carried.

[At the end of the meeting, Steve Cook thanked the committee for passing the motion.]

Sports Center Draft Master Plan- SRF/Tim Wold

SRF made revisions on the draft Master Plan of the Sports Center based on the December meeting of the Park and Recreation committee and the public meeting held on the Sports Center. Tim Wold presented the "Preferred Plan." On the Preferred Plan there is a playground on the northeast corner with improved access to the trails especially to the NURJ and the picnic pavilion. There is also improved lighting and an updated irrigation system. The lighting will produce less glare and be more directional. There are minor improvements to the fields and additional seating, plus another covered plaza area.

In the Phase I Development the picnic area will be enhanced by a trellis and a culvert crossing will be installed. Parking lot expansion has not been included in Phase I; it will be done if there is enough funding. Parking is a concern for committee members because parking is currently inadequate in the Sports Center. Schletty said that the Park and Recreation Committee can recommend the additional parking to the City Council in the plan.

Creamer made a motion to move forward the Phase I plan with the additional parking of the Sports Complex to City Council. The motion passed.

Harmon Park Master Plan- SRF/Tim Wold

SRF refined two Harmon Park concept plans from input they received at the Park and Recreation Committee Open House in January. SRF produced the "Preferred Concept" and a comparative alternate concept for the committee to review. The alternate concept expands into all of the adjoining school district property. The Preferred Concept will include four 200-foot Little League fields, dugouts, a concession stand and restrooms. There is a plaza with a play area in the northwest corner of the plan. A decision was made to eliminate one hockey rink and have only one hockey rink and one pleasure skating rink in a relocated area. A skate park has also been added to the park. A new regulation sized soccer field is part of the preferred plan. Both plans include new, more functional trail systems.

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Chair Petrasek said that the preferred plan is a well thought- out, very nice plan. Lynch said that the plan provides better buffering for the neighbor residents.

Member Creamer does not think that the park renovation can happen in phases with the way the fields are laid out in the plan.

Clpn. Iago said that the price of the new warming house would not get Council approval; \$300 thousand was a lot of money for a building that is only used 3 months of the year. Iago advised that the warming house should include a concession stand. Schletty said that the warming house would be used more than 3 months of the year; it is used for summer programming and as a drop-in center for youth. Children play ping-pong and foosball in the warming house and kids check in to use basketballs and other equipment in the warming house. The warming house is used year round. It is also used for storage space as well.

Lynch asked if use would go up for the park if the ice arena were closed. Schletty replied it could go either way. Creamer said that the Mites and the Mini Mites would definitely use the outdoor rinks if the hockey area were closed.

Creamer suggested that the concession stand near the soccer field could be the main building/warming house. Volunteers could use it to keep everything; it needs to be multifunctional.

Creamer asked about the number of parking spaces. There are 80 spaces now; this will be increased to 139 with the preferred plan. There is a tendency for residents along Arion Street to complain about cars. An option would be to shorten the field to a football field to accommodate more parking. Many options of the plan will be affected by negotiations with the school district.

Flynn made a motion to recommend the Harmon Park preferred Master Plan to Council. The motion passed.

West St. Paul Days

May 19 is the parade date. The Committee would like matching staff shirts.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Eagle Scout Project Proposal - Mike Post

Discussion on the Eagle Scout Project was tabled until the March Park and Recreation Committee meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 7:45 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield

D. COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH ONLINE SURVEY

1. What existing features or amenities do you like at the Sports Complex?

2. What existing amenities need to be improved at the Sports Complex?

3. What new types of amenities would you like to see at the Sports Complex?

1	It is fine as is.	Nothing. It is hardly used as it now is. There are other issues that prevent people from using the complex.	Nothing new needs to be added. The money is better spent elsewhere and I will vote against any council member who wants to build anything new before spending our money on things that are really important such as safety and road improvements, especially the numerous dangerous intersections that exist throughout the city.
2	I like the ball fields and I like the location. It's easy to find. I like the look of the horseshoe "shelter."	The playground needs to be installed in a better shaded area. Also we need more shade to watch the games...	I would like a real restroom with running water and a nice playground/picnic shelter. I DO NOT LIKE PORTAPOTTIES!!!
3	Size. Don't make it any larger	Any improvement should be paid with user fees only. Not enough user fees?, Must mean no one is using it anyway	You'd be packing them in to add. Leave it alone
4	Although the playground is getting long in the tooth, it is nice to have this option during games for younger fans. Of course the fields are great.	Playground equipment, dugouts, shade area by the soccer field.	A shaded picnic area with small shelters would be great for families. Might be nice to add basketball courts since these don't seem to work as well at neighborhood parks. Other thoughts: A large rink to replace several small rinks at neighborhood parks. An area for dogs. A skate park
5	It's fine as is.	Nothing needs to be improved. Any new money should be spent on fixing roads and hiring additional public safety officers so that laws and city ordinances will actually be enforced. There are numerous dangerous intersections we have contacted the city about and were told it was too expensive to put up additional signs, and you want to spend more money on recreation?	None. I will vote against any councilman who votes for new spending on any new complexes or amenities. Recreation is of trivial importance, especially when you are raising taxes on ordinary citizens and allowing drivers to speed and routinely violate noise and pollution laws in the City.
6	nothing	concession stand, pavement, restrooms, bleachers	another baseball field, improve restrooms
7	Ballfields, horseshoe pits, football fields, location	Field 2 drainage, lighting for all fields is old, more shade	updated playground equipment, things to do for siblings to do while there for their siblings games, things for kid/adults to do between games
8	Baseball diamonds, soccer fields	Longer bike/walking trails pedestrian/bike access to this facility has issues and only gets worse as traffic gets worse.	Pedestrian crosswalks away from the intersection of Oakdale & Wentworth what about the roundabout & another 85 parking spots will make it worse. Park is empty most of fall, winter, spring a small dog park might be nice maybe a tennis court