



PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN REFINEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 09, 2021

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

REVIEW OF MINUTES

- [1.](#) Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2021 Refinement Advisory Committee Meeting

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- [2.](#) Community Park Plans Review and Discussion
- [3.](#) Review Next Steps and Future Meeting Dates

ADJOURN

The City of Fridley will not discriminate against or harass anyone in the admission or access to, or treatment, or employment in its services, program, or activities because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation or status with regard to public assistance. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any of Fridley's services, programs, and activities. Hearing impaired persons who need any interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact Roberta Collins at (763) 572-3500. (TTD/763-572-3534).



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 9, 2021

Meeting Type: Park System Refinement Task Force

Submitted By: Melissa Moore, Administrative Services Coordinator/Deputy City Clerk

Title

Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2021 Refinement Advisory Committee Meeting

Background

Attached are the minutes from the August 12, 2021 Refinement Advisory Committee Meeting.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2021 Refinement Advisory Committee Meeting

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN REFINEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 12, 2021

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

MINUTES

Members Present: Mike Heintz, Peter Borman, Dan Gourde, Don Whalen, Kim Farraro, Ken Schulz, Malcolm Mitchell, Liz Novotny, Jordan Hurst, Jim Stangler, Maija Sedzielarz

Members Absent: E.B. Graham, Traci Wuchter, Jeremy Powers

Others Present: Mike Maher, Community Services Director, Candace Amberg, WSB Landscape Architect, and Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager for Streets, Parks and Facilities

Mike Maher, Community Services Director, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Maher welcomed those who were present.

2. Icebreaker Activity

Mr. Maher led the group in an introduction and icebreaker. He concluded the exercise by summarizing that this meeting will be to set the table for the group's future work. The group will discuss how to set expectations of how the group wants the decision-making process to be. He informed the members that these meetings are open to the public.

3. Review and Discuss Refinement Task Force Charter and City Council Resolution No. 2021-51, Directing Continued Efforts Pertaining to the Park System Improvement Plan

Mr. Maher reviewed feedback from the 2021 Town Hall Meeting where preliminary concepts were shared with the public. Responses from residents were considered and caused the City Council to adopt Resolution No. 2021-51, which was the Council's direction for staff to refine the Park System Improvement Plan (Plan). Resolution No. 2021-55 formally appointed members to two separate task forces. The Finance Advisory Committee will examine funding options for the Plan, and the Refinement Committee will examine concept plans to pare down the cost of the Plan to approximately \$30 million.

Mr. Maher reviewed the committee charter, which outlines the framework of the group's work, the format of the committee's meetings and the role of the committee in the overall Plan. He reiterated that this is an advisory committee tasked with making a recommendation, that will ultimately be decided upon by the City Council.

4. Park System Improvement Plan Background

Mr. Maher provided a brief history of the Fridley park system, reviewed current park conditions and introduced park improvement plan benefits. Mr. Maher recapped 2019 community workshops that identified the community's priorities of safe and connected parks for all, nature access, and quality facilities.

Committee members noted additional considerations should be including age groups included in plans, better wayfinding and signage, and flexibility in accommodating sporting trends.

Candace Amberg, WSB Landscape Architect, reviewed her firm's process in analyzing what the current park usages were and incorporated those sports into the Plan. Peter Borman commented that Community Park was built for softball and now is sitting vacant. Mr. Borman recommend consulting with sports associations to find out why they play where they do. Mr. Maher said the next meeting would be to review community parks. Ms. Amberg reported that she will consult with local sports associations to integrate their feedback, community survey results, and feedback from this meeting's discussions to refine concept plans.

Mr. Maher reconfirmed the group will get into discussions on specific parks and uses for each at later meetings.

Jim Stangler noted it would be nice to know what each park is currently being used for. Ms. Amberg replied that analysis will be integrated into future presentations to the group as concept plans change.

Mr. Maher asked the group to spend time reviewing each park concept. The group will discuss the three community parks: Commons, Community and Moore Lake, and approximately six of the neighborhood/special use parks to recommend changes. In subsequent meetings the group will decide what six parks they will work on. This process will help refine the priorities, which will impact the price.

Mike Heintz noted the Park and Recreation Commission's strong recommendation that there be no consideration of selling any park land within the City. Mr. Maher noted the consideration of selling park land is not being considered in the Plan.

Malcolm Mitchell asked if there were any criteria for review that the group should look at? Ms. Amberg replied that yes, the priority to understand system as a whole to identify particular populations and how the parks serve them, examine the barriers to park usage, age of the park, safety concerns, condition and accessibility of each park. Ms. Amberg discussed barriers to recreation in high-density, low-income and minority neighborhoods is a major component of analyzing the Plan. Those are the parks she really would encourage the group to focus on to make sure the most meaningful impact to the community is felt. The change needs to be noticeable so taxpayers understand what their tax dollars pay for. Ms. Amberg stressed the need to make a good and big impact for residents so they realize the good work being done and are supportive of additional improvements.

Kim Farraro asked how long it would take to pay for the Plan. Mr. Maher said it depends on the recommendation of the Finance Committee who is working on exploring different financing strategies. Mr. Mitchell thought working on financing strategies first does not make sense until the Plan is fully

established with a clear price tag. Mr. Maher informed the committee that most likely the primary source of funding will be bonding, but other avenues are being explored. This group is tasked with paring down to the current proposal from \$50 million to \$30 million at direction of the City Council.

Mr. Heintz added the City has a good track record with how it financed the Springbrook Nature Center building through bonding. Mr. Maher added that if the group would like to learn more about the financing options, he would request the City's Finance Director come to speak with the committee.

Ms. Amberg noted this is an exercise to prioritize top parks to work on. There will be projects that will move down the priority list and that will decrease the cost. She asked the committee to look at broad picture to make sure the whole community is served.

Mr. Mitchell asked if the \$50 million price was based on high-estimate price for each concept plan in the binder. Ms. Amberg affirmed. Ms. Farraro asked if there a price list for each item at each park? Ms. Amberg affirmed and noted that as the group works through feedback, they can decide what items to remove, which will decrease the overall cost.

Ms. Amberg reviewed the park service area analysis in the committee's binders.

Mr. Mitchell asked what features are most desired by diverse groups. Ms. Amberg recommended the committee consider age. Typically, City parks accommodate younger children, and teens are often not considered when new equipment is installed. Also, how can we get parents involved to enjoy the park alongside their children or grandchildren.

Mr. Heintz added shelter buildings are appealing for diverse groups who use those facilities for family/community gatherings. It is a good way to serve those who may not have their own yard space. Mr. Maher noted these discussions will be a big part of this group's work.

Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager for Streets, Parks and Facilities stressed the important work of this group to analyze and determine where are high-need areas are. There will be some conflict. The group must weigh all aspects and prioritize the work to be done, and not every group will be satisfied. The committee's task is to discuss and debate so the City may attempt to best serve all groups. He added that the City needs to create a Plan that will provoke a response from residents to the Plan, and this committee is tasked with finding a way to wisely pare down the initial proposal.

Mr. Borman asked if the committee should take into consideration the added burden to the City of staff hours and maintenance. Mr. Jensen answered, not at this phase. The operational cost has already been considered. Those costs will be absorbed by the City and is a past practice of the Council.

Mr. Maher informed the committee that first thing they will be asked to consider are the three community parks. He asked the group to visit each one and envision the space with the proposed changes to visualize the concepts. This will allow each member to best be prepared to analyze each proposal, and to recommend changes.

5. Task Force Meeting Agreements

Mr. Maher led the group through a discussion to understand and agree on how the group will interact with each other.

Mr. Borman asked how long the meetings go on, and what was the ultimate goal. Mr. Maher replied that he has scheduled meetings until the end of 2021. He is open to what the group thinks for how long they would want to meet. Don Whalen added that the first two meetings will tell the group a lot once they begin getting into details. Ms. Amberg added the next meeting will be to discuss high-level items first, and subsequent meetings will do a deeper examination into particular parks. Mr. Maher reminded the group that their suggestions will go to Ms. Amberg who will then bring back a revised Plan for the group to review.

Mr. Mithcell suggested the meetings be set for 90 minutes with the flexibility to go longer, but not more than two hours. The group collectively agreed.

Mr. Mitchell noted its ok to have a disagreement. Maija Sedzielarz added the committee members should assume positive intent and be willing to listen to other people's perspective.

Mr. Maher confirmed that all members will have an equal voice in the process and committee meetings. The committee's meetings will be public meetings and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Maher reminded the group that this is a refinement process where the three community parks will be examined first, followed up by six neighborhood parks. The committee will work toward an end recommendation that the City Council will consider.

Mr. Jensen added that this could be a ten-year plan. Part of the process with any park plan is community input to begin designing a concept. This group will work to take those park concepts, consider feedback from the community and planning experts to come to a more defined and clearer concept. Then ultimately, present the refined Plan to the community for their buy-in.

Ms. Amberg offered to provide guidance through her expertise, but will not make any decisions for the group.

Mr. Stangler asked why the City is not asking for the full \$50 million concept. Ms. Amberg answered that based on community feedback in the resident survey, there was a set dollar amount residents were willing to pay for a Plan. Mr. Maher confirmed that the City Council decided on the \$30 million price based on the resident survey.

Ms. Farraro asked if the group was aware of increasing taxes from the school districts and the County. Mr. Maher explained that the City typically uses eight other cities as comparisons for percentage of property taxes. Fridley is usually in the middle of that list. He noted that adding a \$30 million bond would increase property taxes but not significantly compared to other cities. Ms. Farraro added that a tax increase would compete with another increase from the school district, and may not be supported. Mr. Maher acknowledged it will be hard to separate the finance conversation from the work of this committee, but that is the work of the finance committee.

6. Review and Confirm Future Meeting Schedule

Mr. Maher presented proposed meeting dates for the remainder of 2021: September 9, October 14, November 10, and December 9. For each meeting an agenda along with the previous meeting's minutes will be sent.

Jordan Hurst asked for confirmation of what the committee should do for the next meeting. Mr. Heintz answered to take the binder to the community parks and visualize the Plan and come to the meeting to discuss.

Mr. Maher thanked the committee for attending this evening's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Moore, Administrative Services Coordinator/Deputy City Clerk



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 9, 2021

Meeting Type: Park System Refinement Task Force

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Community Services Director

Title

Community Park Plans Review and Discussion

Background

Our consultant, Candace Amberg, Landscape Architect with WSB, will review the concept plans that were developed for Moore Lake, Commons and Community Parks. These concept plans were created by the firm HKGI, with input from residents and city staff.

Exhibit A shows the developed concept plans for Moore Lake, Commons and Community Parks. Exhibit B is a summary of public feedback that was received to date on these three community park concept plans.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Exhibit A: Concept plans for Moore Lake, Commons and Community Parks
- Exhibit B: Summary of Resident Feedback on Community Park Concept Plans

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



Fridley Engagement Feedback – Community Parks

Re: WSB Project No. 016927-000

COMMONS PARK COMMENTS

Tennis Court:

- Like Least:
 - The tennis courts on the east are run down and are overkill with the ones on the north and at the high school.
 - Tennis does not need 6 more courts added as they get used the least. (3)
- Suggestion: Instead of tennis courts, maybe add some pickle ball courts (2)
- Don't visit: When tennis courts are being used

Splash Pad:

- Like Best:
 - Splash Pad (5)
 - Splash pad would be amazing!
 - Splash pad is a cool idea.
- Least Like: Where a splash pad sounds fun, adding more parking and people not using appropriate attire for a splash pad makes it truly unsanitary. What will the added maintenance of a splash pad look like.
- Suggestion: The splash pad looks a bit small. Hopefully there is two - 1 for older kids and 1 for toddlers.

Soccer:

- Like Best: The interactive soccer walk is super cool! I think it will be incredibly well-utilized.
- Least Like:
 - Soccer wall: This is sure to be broken and after this year I can tell you we need LESS electronics in our children's lives.
 - There are already soccer fields at nearby schools (2)

Ballfield:

- Again, we need to let people know HOW this will affect their property taxes, because overall Commons is a nice park the way it is and consistently busy when it is nice out. (4)
- Like least: Removing ballfields (31)
 - We MUST keep the Baseball field - Both the Middle School and the High School use it for their games.
 - My little league uses the park!

- Where would there be a space for ball if you remove all 3 fields?
- Suggestions:
 - If you take away field 2, you should unlock the high school baseball [field]. I see fields 1 and 2 used consistently, few other places in Fridley for league baseball.
 - I think it is very important to keep at least 1 baseball and 1 softball field. The high school sports use these fields every day. There is not enough room on campus for extra fields. I would rather see them updated.
 - Work with school district to build a couple behind middle school
 - Get more tournaments in the area.
 - Maybe keep 1 to make sure kids/teams can play there along w the other stuff like soccer, basketball & tennis.

Sledding:

- Like Least: Change to sledding hill.
 - Will that area (splash pad) conflict with the sledding hill.
 - It also looks like we would lessen [the] current hill by making those pollinator spaces right next to it. [We] would not want to have those trampled for sledding.
- Do not make the sledding hill any less fun.
- Don't make the sledding hill any narrower!

Gardens

- Like Best: We do like the pollinator plantings and Sensory gardens.
- Like Least:
 - Not enough gardens (2) – more nature space that help our animal friends thrive would be helpful and needed.
 - Like Least: It makes me slightly nervous to have the pollinator garden right next to the playground.

Rink / Skating / Winter Area:

- Like Best: Rink & skating options (3):
 - I miss the skating oval. Nice to have a general skating area that isn't for hockey.
 - Winter recreation area is needed, happy to see that.
 - Maintain general skating opportunity – not just hockey.
- Like least:
 - Loss of ice-skating rink - will new hockey accommodate figure/free skate and hockey games at once?
 - Not sure the existing hockey rinks get used enough to justify upgrades.
- Suggestions:
 - Size of new Winter Recreation Activity area is probably too small.

- I think more winter amenities should be incorporated - firepits and warming shelters would be nice along the trails as well.
- Convert to indoor ice rink to offset the removal of Columbia Arena and address the high demand for ice and long waits for hockey teams, leagues, and pickup groups

Parking:

- Like Best: Better parking options
- Reason don't use: Parking (3)
 - full parking on north end
 - Lack of quality parking
- Like least: Adding more parking will lessen the green space for activities.
 - Most people park on the street (7th) anyways as the parking between the park and the community center is far from anything but the ball fields.

Picnic Shelters:

- Reason don't use:
 - Picnic space is just ok
 - There is only one pavilion which is usually rented or used during the summer. Would like the larger ones so people could rent for family/class reunions, or Fridley 49ers events
- Like least:
 - The picnic shelters are heavy on one side of the park. A lot of team activities on the field side. They'll need some shade spaces as well and would be nice not to have to cross the park.
 - No bathroom access if not renting the shelter.

Playground:

- Like Best: An inclusive play area (2)
 - It will be a huge asset to the community. I'm so impressed that you're making these types of big investments.
- Least Like: Gaga ball pit.
 - Exclusive of people with disabilities.
 - Concern with older adults or teenagers used their strength that the ball could then be constantly flying at a child's head who is outside the pit.
 - Concern with people don't know what it is and being unprepared.
- Least Like: Metal Structures
 - Please look at Harper's playgrounds and more nature-based play then new metal structures.
- Concerns/Suggestions:
 - It's hard to tell if the playground size is shrinking (hope that's not the case)!

- With the round design, will there still be plenty of swings?
- Provide shade near playground.
- Think of nature play spaces/ areas. We need more of these for Children's imaginations to develop and thrive.
- We need more inclusive and truly ADA accessible playgrounds.

Trails:

- Like Best:
 - The fitness circuit is a nice idea.
 - As a dog owner, I'm very excited for the expanded walking trails!
- Reason don't use: Lack of shade and walking paths
- Least Like: Fitness Circuits
 - Be real, park "fitness circuits" don't get used. They're the park versions of the treadmill in the basement that doubles as a shelf 11 months of the year.
- Suggestion:
 - Paved walkways.
 - More walking paths (2)
 - If a fitness loop trail is put in, it would be great to groom it in the wintertime for XC skiing and fat biking to go along with the revamped winter activity area.

General Comments:

- Looks good/Like the Plan (12)
 - The vision for this park looks like it will really activate and clarify the space and make it a great community hub- truly a "Commons."
 - This master plan is so great! I love how it has something for all residents of Fridley and everyone would benefit from it.
 - Commons Park is the Central Park for Fridley. Many families live within walking/biking distance of this park. It could be a fantastic place for people of all ages to enjoy.
 - The concept plan is incredible and would make Commons Park the crown jewel of the Fridley Parks system.
 - Commons Park is one of Fridley's premier parks.
 - This concept looks AMAZING and would be a huge draw to families, because it has many diverse activities for kids and adults of all ages.
 - Commons Park is the most geographically central and pedestrian-accessible of all the community parks and in my opinion, should absolutely be the highest priority.
- Reason don't use:
 - It gets really busy. Lots of red sports gather (volleyball, soccer, etc.) Seems to be a great use of all that space. Looking forward to the new park!
 - Time conflicts
 - Not enough for my older son

- Distance from home (2)
- General Like Least:
 - Cost of improvements (2)
 - Adding so many trees that you can't fly kites.
 - Do not remove the [sledding] hills.
 - Seems to have too many things squished in here.
 - Almost all you proposed is a bit upsetting.
 - Work on maintaining what we have first before going getting carried away.
- Other Ideas, Suggestions or Concerns:
 - I wish Community Parks concepts were flipped with Commons to go with the idea of the Civic Campus being a hub. Maybe, flip or move some ideas from Community to Commons where it makes sense – like the Splash Pad.
 - I think it will be really important to invest in quality landscape plantings and screening. Please make the investments shown and devote the necessary funds to maintenance of the new trees and native plantings.
 - Perhaps a friend's group could be organized, or another volunteer corps could be mobilized to help.
 - Football markings would be nice or a turf football field.
 - Will the pavilion be enclosed for all seasons like Roseville has done?
 - We need more consideration for disabilities, inclusive spaces, and nature development.
 - I see a lot of frisbee football being played, the areas along 7th toward the north parking lot are good for that.
 - Maybe add disc golf or a dog park possibly.
 - Basketball hoops for younger kids would be nice (shorter height hoops) and some more regular half courts. More basketball.
- **FROM RCWD:** Encourages city to consider stormwater bioretention practices to park to treat runoff from proposed/existing impervious surfaces and if possible 7th street

COMMUNITY PARK COMMENTS

Ballfields:

- Like Least:
 - Removal of ballfields (8)
 - Too many park plans removing ballfields.
 - Various organizations use the fields for tournaments (softball & baseball)
 - Fields are named after John Gargaro. It is a disservice to remove something that he so cherished.
 - Football should be played over by the high school. I do not want to see football fields at Community Park.
 - Quantity of Ballfield Space: I'm not sure the demographic trends support the 3 baseball fields still. Feel like a lot of space dedicated to that specific use case.
- Suggestions / Concerns:
 - Getting amenities that are more modular/broad would help use.
 - Softball fields should also be turf. If you are adding turf soccer fields turf all of the athletic fields (softball fields)
 - Are there enough fields if you take 3-4 away? Is there room for some sort of pollinator garden there?
 - Will the concessions area be renovated? With fewer softball fields, potential for any sizeable tournament is reduced, do you need that big of an existing structure? It is in rough shape.

Soccer:

- Like Least: Too many soccer fields in the area.

Playground:

- Like Best: Moving the playground to the center is great for families who may have older kids in sports activities on the fields, and younger siblings that would utilize the park.
- Like Least: I do not think a gaga ball pit is necessary. I do not think that kids play that much and would be a waste of time, money, and space to put in.
- Suggestions / General Concerns:
 - Move the Gaga ball pit to behind the batting cages. The proposed location is too busy of an area for an intense game like Gaga ball. (The ball often flies out of the Gaga ball pit and will hit people) A better place for it would be on the other side of the batting cages, or in a more open area.
 - Would like to see updated playground equipment throughout the city- handicap accessible, musical equipment, zoned playgrounds, equipment for pretend play, parent child swings, quiet areas, with shade.

Trails & Pedestrian Bridge:

- Like Best:
 - Pedestrian Bridge (4) - This is a must
 - Like additional trail loops and gardens.
- Suggestions / General Concerns:
 - Be sure to add some trail maps so that people realize they can loop around.
 - Would love to see more walking trails in Fridley.
 - Wish there was a more extensive trail, but I understand this is not what Community is for.
 - That's [the bridge] is a large piece of infrastructure for such a small area.
 - Pedestrian Access: University Avenue is a significant barrier to recreation (as is Hwy. 65). At least one pedestrian bridge is necessary. However, its placement weakens its connection to the Rice Creek trail and Locke Park. I'm worried there will be a lot of jaywalking if the pedestrian bridge isn't more centrally located.

Athletic Fields:

- Like Best: Diversity of Other Athletic Fields
 - I really like the addition of other sports fields besides baseball.
- Like Least: Why is it called athletic fields? Just looking for natural resources. Athletic fields are not for everyone. I want to walk my dog and my family in a safe environment.

Parking:

- Like Least: Expansion of parking lots (4)
 - Prefer reducing parking and expanding the "Edible Orchard and Demonstration Gardens". Thereby keeping stalls at 275. Overflow parking can use streets north of the park.
 - Remove one of the existing parking lots entirely.
- Concern: These huge lots in front are not welcoming. Activation of the park while the huge parking lots remain (often empty) along busy university avenue is hard to overcome.

Orchard:

- Like Best - orchard (4)

General Comments:

- Don't Visit:
 - Lack of Basketball Courts (3)
 - Playground didn't seem to be for younger children (2)
 - Not interested

- Accessibility/Walkability: Community Athletic Fields is more isolated from residential areas and is harder to access for people using non-automotive transportation (2)
- No bathroom facilities
- Like the Plan (2)
 - The changes in general are good. I like the leaving the natural area south of the athletic fields being unchanged.
 - I think it's overall a huge improvement. The interactive sports court will be really popular once people see all the ways they can use it.
 - Great amenities for spectator families to use during practices/tournaments.
 - Glad to see the addition of soccer/multi-use fields for diversification of offerings. Consider maple grove's investments as a precedent (Fernbrook). Would be a huge community asset.
- Like Least:
 - Lack of Basketball Courts (3)
 - Right now, Community park feels like it is just a group of ballfields. This should offer more diverse opportunities and help replace the old soccer fields.
 - No space for future community center. The space would be perfect for a community/interactive center could work with YMCA to move there too.
 - The picnic shelter feels stuffed in a corner and is quite a distance from the parking. A long walk if people are renting and bringing in food, etc. How accessible is it for people with ambulatory issues?
 - Concern of runoff from rain into the existing pond with moving of the parking lot.
- Other Ideas, Suggestions or Concerns:
 - Find ways to attract people to the city that are community based and taxpayers.
 - Give the community a purpose for tax paying families to come and live in the city. Get back to community-based schools.
 - Add community garden
 - Add a water park like so many cities have installed like Columbia Heights and Coon Rapids.
 - Vandalism. Who will be supervising all these improvements?
 - This is already a nice area and does not need improvements.
 - I think you should consider Community Park an extension of the Civic Campus and move splash pad idea to Community Park or as a secondary splash pad.
- **FROM RCWD:** Encourages city to consider stormwater reuse irrigation on play fields within park, given the large pond onsite. Suspected that pond has large drainage area that is highly impervious – would make potentially viable reuse irrigation site.

MOORE LAKE COMMENTS

Water Access / Beach Area:

- Like Best:
 - Redevelopment of the beach area
 - New dock areas for fishing
- Like Least:
 - Lack of beach front access / lack of (removal of) swimming beach (12)
 - That [swimming beach] is a key point to the community.
 - More than just watercraft rental.
 - No lifeguards on duty
- Concerns / Suggestions:
 - Improve quality/condition of the beach – weeds, trash, wildlife
 - Provide wading pool or splash pad if swimming beach isn't possible (3)
 - Get rid of swimming beach unless you can prevent water runoff from local streets into the lake.
 - Dock at the north end of the park is in a shallow location.

Rentals

- Like Best: Rentals (4) – I like the idea of offering water equipment to rent
- Like Least (4) – Current water condition doesn't generate desire
- Concerns / Suggestions:
 - Will watercraft be used enough to justify the expense?
 - Sell ice cream bars at paddle boat station

Trails/Boardwalk:

- Like Best: Boardwalk (4) – Love the connection to commercial area.
- Like Least: Boardwalk south of the commercial area.
 - Maintaining such a boardwalk could be costly.
 - It's easy enough to walk to the commercial area via the existing paved path along Old Central.
- Concerns / Suggestions:
 - Provide walking paths in a loop.
 - More trails would benefit the community
 - Paths along the way MUST be shoveled during winter months.
 - Can the trail loop around the lake?
 - Bike trails.

Pavilion & Shelters

- Like Best:
 - Pavilion, Plaza and Gathering Areas (3)

- I like the focal point of a beach side pavilion and plaza. This would be a great spot for concerts, food trucks or restaurant/drinks/coffee/ice cream shop and recreation programming options.
 - Revenue Generation opportunity
- Shelters (2)
- Like Least:
 - Beach Pavilion - Pavilions rented out to large numbers of people might negatively impact the natural environment. I do not really like the idea of large gatherings and the rental spaces accommodating so many people. This seems to invite more garbage and pollution.
 - The beach is never open, so why have a bigger facility there?
 - Picnic Shelter Sizes & Reduction of Quantity (3)
 - I'm concerned about losing the small picnic shelters. Those shelters are in high demand.
- Suggestion:
 - I like the old "retro" 60s picnic shelters on the north side of the park, would like to see them stay. (2)

Open Space, Natural Open Space & Gardens

- Like Best: Hammock area
- Like Least: Lack of Pollinator/Native Areas (2)

Traffic & Vehicular Circulation:

- Like Best: Roundabout (6)
- Like Least:
 - Roundabout (15)
 - Larger/More Parking Areas (7)
 - People to drink and leave garbage behind.
 - Takes away from having more stuff
 - Focus on motorized transportation – we ride our bikes there.
 - Road pollution into lake
 - Location of Parking – Move away from Gardenia. It's already too congested.
- Suggestion/Concern:
 - Is there enough room for a roundabout?
 - Communicate how long construction will affect traffic patterns.
 - Adding more traffic on this busy road is going to be a safety hazard along with noise and trash.
 - Don't make the roundabout a 2-lane roundabout. People don't know how to drive on 2-lane roundabouts.
 - Traffic control at Gardenia & Central is crucial (3)
 - Focus on pedestrian crossings and use through roundabout and to the park (3)

Playground

- Like Best: Visibility of playground from different park locations.
- Concern:
 - I'm concerned that the new playground will be subpar
 - Age-appropriateness for different ages

Dog Park:

- Liked Best (10)
 - Needs to be larger
- Liked Least (11)
 - I do not think there is enough space or even sure of a need for dog park.
 - More dogs there is likely to scare away waterfowl and other birds that use the lake.
 - UNLESS policed by park system
 - I just wouldn't use it
- Concern:
 - Dog park may further degrade the lake's water quality (3)
 - Location of the dog park seems like an afterthought. Move to a more desirable location.
 - Consider including turf as opposed to just wood chips and dirt.
 - Separate areas for dog sizes: one for large dogs, one for small dogs, and one specifically for training or timid dogs.
 - Dog park not big enough (2)

Existing Volleyball & Sports Courts:

- Like Least:
 - I would get rid of volleyball courts and add a pollinator area or even more dog park.
 - Existing Tennis Court Removal (11)
 - The fact that you are not planning to fix the tennis courts. I'd like to see that upgraded and add a pickle ball court. You could even rent the equipment at the kiosk. (3)
 - There is no net on the tennis courts. Makes it impossible to play.
 - Existing Basketball Court Removal (6)

General Comment:

- I Like the Plan/Looks Nice (16)
 - Implement this faster (2)
 - These improvements would improve the City of Fridley and make it feel like a more modern suburb where families want to live.

- Keep up the good work trying to encourage the people of Fridley to enjoy natural areas.
- This is an example of what a community can do to promote togetherness beyond playgrounds and ballfields.
- I fully assume [the weeds on the beach] will be addressed in all the upgrades.
- I appreciate the importance that our city places on recreational spaces for our community.
- Thank you so much for listening to the concerns of the citizens of Fridley. This community has been and still is very important to me. Greatly appreciate all you are doing to make Fridley an even better place to live.
- Like the open space and natural beauty. Like that this is a place where families can go to picnic and beach and walk and play
- Conversion of the ball field to open, flexible space is good
- Like Least:
 - Impacts to Water Quality / No focus on Water Quality Improvement (25)
 - The Grant money we received is intended for water quality, not park modernizations. We think the grant should apply to everything we can do to improve the water of the lake FIRST.
 - Impacts to wildlife and/or environment (4)
 - Any activities that increase the noise will detract from the natural beauty of the lake and the wildlife it harbors.
 - This is too small of a lake to have watercraft rentals.
 - More weeds
 - We highly value Moore lake as a natural resource.
 - Lack of Waste Receptacles/Trash Service (5)
 - Need proper garbage cans that don't let garbage blow out. (2)
 - Provide appropriate signage
 - Lack of Safety / Lighting (5) – provide a safe environment when walking in the evening.
 - Improve General safety (3)
 - High / Increased Park Use and Additional Noise (3)
 - Removal of Sports Courts – need hard surface courts (tennis, basketball, etc.)
 - Flooding not sufficiently addressed (2)
 - Ball Field Removal (5) - stop taking out ballfields in all the plans
 - Existing playground removal (2)
 - Mismanagement and lack of maintenance by the city.
- Don't Visit:
 - Park Condition / Cleanliness (10):
 - Doesn't meet my family's standards (2)
 - No Swimming or closed beach (5)
 - Fence around water prevents access and discourages use.
 - Not ADA accessible

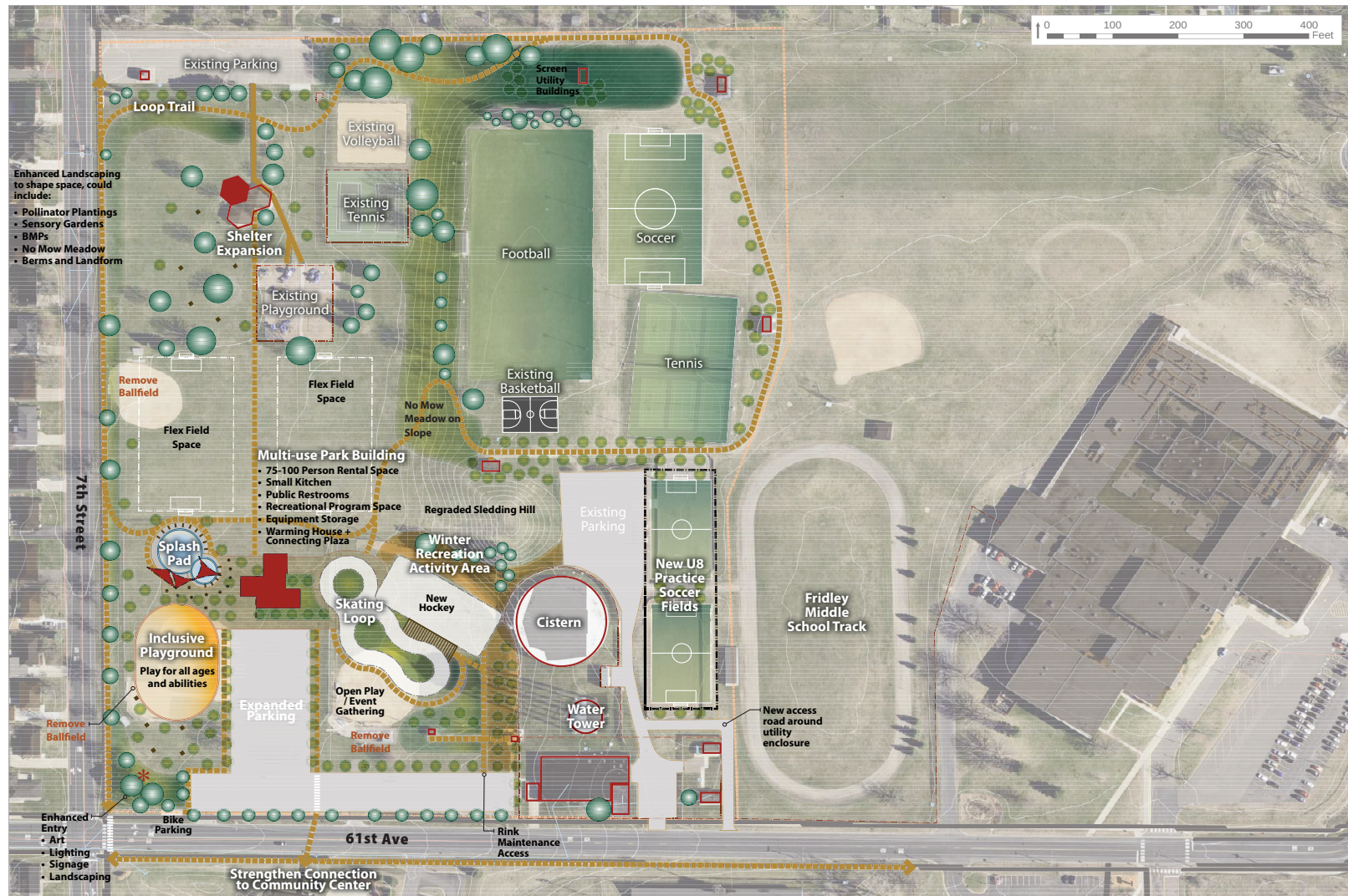
- Type of people frequenting the park
- Off-leash dogs
- Focus on profit/rentals.
- Other Ideas, Suggestions or Concerns:
 - What are the fiscal/tax impacts to the residents?
 - Make parks more entertaining for children.
 - Moore Parks as a community gateway (4)
 - The community could really use a revamped Moore park
 - I think if the city gets this right, Moore Lake could become a major hotspot, given the proximity to both 694 and NE MPLS.
 - A lot of potential, especially by connecting to the business district.
 - Moore Lake Park is a key feature of the city, is seen daily by thousands of commuters and reflects upon the image of the city. Making it an enjoyable destination for both residents and non-residents will likely benefit the entire city
 - This should really be a premier park.
 - We have a lot of growth happening in Fridley and I'd like to see the kid's athletics programs improve.
 - Additional Maintenance Requirements (4) – future park enhancements will increase park use and the need for dedicated personnel to maintain the facilities.
 - Amenities / Ideas:
 - Water access from East Moore Lake to West Moore lake for canoes and paddleboats would be desirable.
 - Summer food trucks and Outdoor Market location.
 - Community Garden
 - Single track mountain bike courses
 - Bridge to island from the west shore of Moore Lake.
 - Rain gardens (with appropriate interpretive signage)
 - Orchard or community garden
 - Skatepark
 - As many trees as possible
 - Screening between the lake and the road. Make it look as natural as possible.
 - Winter uses, like fat tire biking and XC-skiing
 - Musical art
 - Exercise equipment
 - Splash pad (3)
 - More beautification efforts
 - Shade



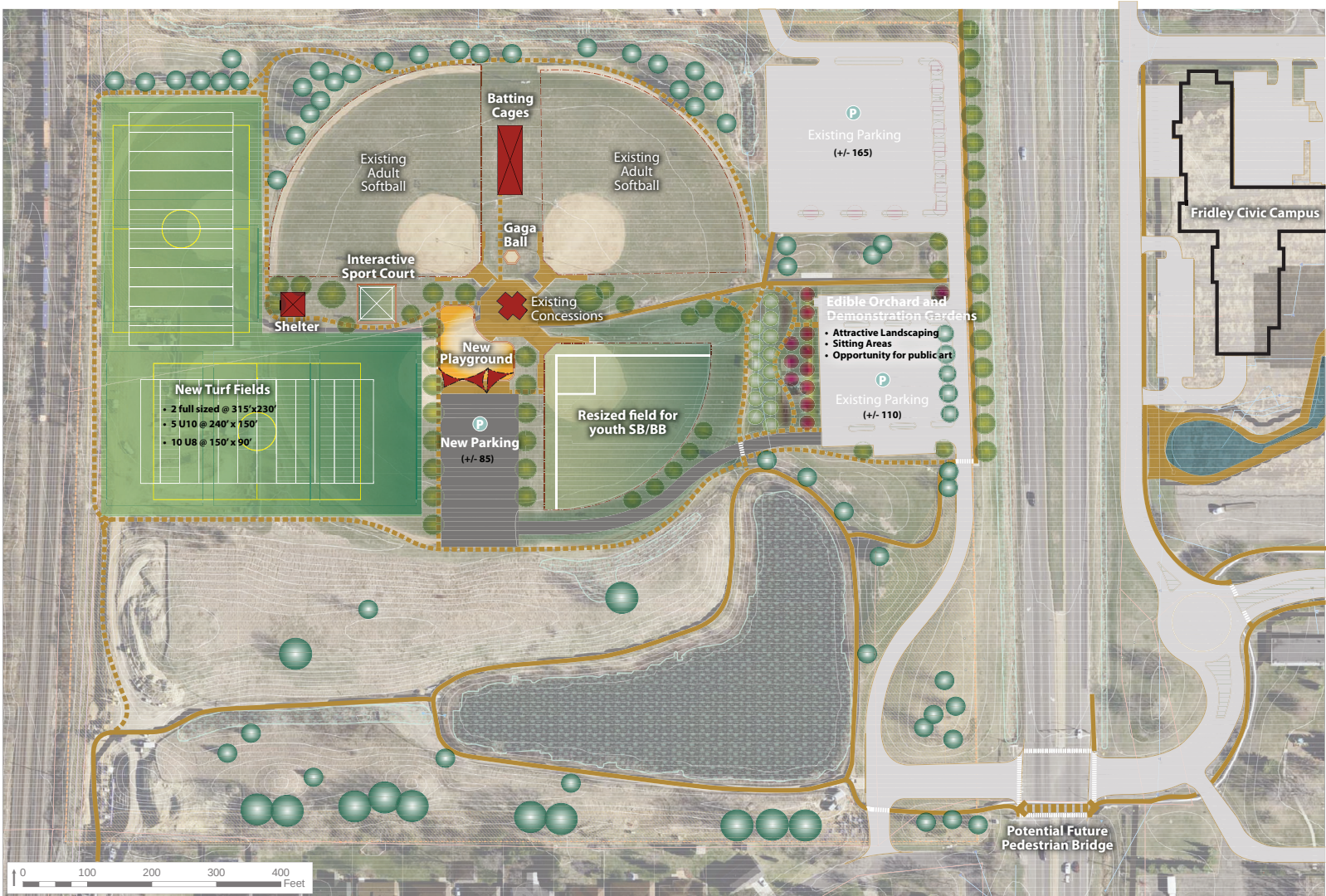


COMMONS PARK PLANNING FRAMEWORK A DRAFT January 2020





COMMONS PARK PLANNING FRAMEWORK B DRAFT January 2020





PRECEDENTS
DRAFT January 2020





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 9, 2021

Meeting Type: Park System Refinement Task Force

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Community Services Director

Title

Review Next Steps and Future Meeting Dates

Background

The Refinement Committee's future meeting dates are October 14, November 10, and December 9, 2021.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.