

PUBLIC NOTICE OF A MEETING

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Thursday, July 18, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., Rm 2402

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**
- 4. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**
 - a. Envision Evanston 2045 – Meagan Jones Neighborhood and Land Use Planner
 - b. Intersection of Parks and Recreation / Fleet & Facilities Management
Sean Ciolek, Facilities & Fleet Management Division Manager
Michael Callahan Parks and Recreation Deputy Director
- 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - a. How a Project Becomes a Park
 - b. Pickle Ball Courts; Community feedback and next steps
 - c. Department CIP Project Status Report
Parks and Recreation Board CIP Projects Recommendations Update
 - d. Draft Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan
 - e. South End Community Center Program Plan
- 6. STAFF REPORT / UPDATES**
 - a. Dog Beach Accessible Ramp update
 - b. Updated Department Organizational Chart
- 7. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

Order & Agenda Items are subject to change. Information about the Parks and Recreation Board is available at: www.cityofevanston.org/government/boards-commissions. Questions can be directed to 847-866-2914. The City of Evanston is committed to making all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Any citizen needing mobility or communications access assistance should contact 847-866-2919 (Voice) or 847-866-5095 (TTY). Requests for access assistance must be made 48 hours (two working days) in advance. Requests received with less than 48 hours (two working days) advance notice will be attempted using best efforts, but cannot be guaranteed.



MEETING MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave.

6:00pm on Thursday, June 20, 2024

Members Present: E. Shevick, R. Bush, D. Bregman, M. Rosinski, K Terrell
N. Muboyayi, K. Machut

Members Absent: D. Michelin

Staff Present: A. Thompson, M. Callahan, M. Poole, E. Okallau, S. Levine
T. Carter

Other Present: P. Baker, D. Baker, E. Blumen, C. Maxell, C. Levine, M. Levine,
D. Walton, J. Korshak, A. Launick, J. Deeb, A. Rodriguez

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

With a quorum present the meeting was called to order.

E. Shevick reported that J. Totch resigned from the Board due to family issues. He wants the members to know that he loved his time working with everyone and has a lot of respect for the time and energy that everyone puts into serving on the Board as volunteers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

D. Baker, D. Walton and C. Maxwell spoke in support of the Honorary Street Name Sign application for Dr. Edward Blumen. E. Blumen thanked everyone for the kind remarks.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Motion Passed: To approve the May 16 meeting minutes.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

How a Project Becomes a Park -

This item was held for the July 18 meeting.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Public Art Sculpture Proposed at Quinlan Park

Public Art Working Group Chair J. Deeb reported that Quinlan Park is set to receive a new piece of public art this summer as part of the leased sculpture program. He shared photos of four sculptures by the artist Tess Little, asking for the Board's input. He also mentioned an online ballot has been sent out to give residents a chance to vote on which artwork should be installed in the park.

R. Bush expressed concern with the process. This should have come to the Board first and the real question for the Board should have been do you have any issues about where in the park we're installing the sculpture; not which sculpture do you like. The art professionals can decide the artwork but the Park Board should have decided where the sculpture would be placed in the park

E. Shevick noted that the Board will need to elect 2 new Board members to serve on the Public Art Work Group by September.

Action: Motion passed: Approve the location at Quinlan Park for installation of a public art sculpture approved by the Public Art Working Group.

Honorary Street Name Sign Designation – Dr. Edward A. Blumen

The Board received public comments and reviewed the honorary street name sign application submitted by Council Member Krissie Harris honoring Dr. Edward A. Blumen.

Action: Motion Passed: To recommend to the Human Services Committee, approval of the honorary street name sign designating Maple Ave., between Church St. and Clark St., with the honorary street name sign "Dr. Edward A. Blumen Way".

Free Beach Passes for ETHS, Dist 65 and NU Student Residing Outside of 60201 and 60202

Staff is seeking direction from the Board regarding expanding the free beach pass program to ETHS and Dist 65 students residing outside of 60201 and 60202. An intergovernmental agreement was approved by the Skokie Park District Board and the City Council in 2023 which provides discounted beach passes for Skokie residents and discounted pool passes for Evanston residents.

Action: Motion passed: Make no change to the policy and offer 60203 the same discounted rate as currently available.

Staff also seeks direction to review the current policy of allowing NU students to prove Evanston residency solely with their student ID. The existing policy permits NU students to acquire one free beach pass upon presenting a valid NU student ID. This policy was originally designed to facilitate beach access for students residing on campus or renting in Evanston. However, possession of an NU student ID does not necessarily confirm Evanston residency, as the student may reside in a different community or attend the NU Chicago campus

Action: Motion passed: Amend the policy to require NU students to provide additional proof of Evanston residency in 60201 and 60202 (such as a lease agreement), to obtain a free beach pass.

Action: Amended Motion passed: Amend the policy to require NU students to provide additional proof of Evanston residency in 60201 and 60202 (such as a lease agreement), to obtain a free beach pass - effective beach season of 2025.

Proposed Change to Dog Beach Rules/Ordinance

In May 2024, due to safety concerns, staff reinstalled snow fencing along the rocks of the Dog Beach. After installation staff received feedback that this took away seating for older adults and people with disabilities. Staff recommends amendment to the Dog Beach Rules/Ordinance that would allow individuals to bring one chair onto the dog beach as long as the chair is removed after each daily use.

Action: Motion Passed: Follow the recommended action by staff to strike the word “chairs” in the current Dog Beach rule #25 and City Ordinance 7-11-8 (I); Allow individuals to bring one chair as long as the chair is removed after each daily use; and Formally, allow a bench to be placed on the sand.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Forest Grant for Maintenance/Restoration in the Channel-side Parks

E. Okallau provided the Board with a copy of the USDA Forest Service Grant application submitted by the Public Works department for which the City received an award of \$802,500 to improve tree canopy health in the Evanston Channel-side parks. The project will focus on tree canopy maintenance in the parks, including tree removal and pruning during phase 1. In later phases, the City will replant trees and shrubs in the parks and provide outreach, education, and give trees away that can be planted on community property.

STAFF REPORT / UPDATES

South End Community Center Monthly Update

An open house is scheduled for 10am – 4pm on Saturday, June 22. There will be critter visits, preschool tours, bocchia (assessable rec program) demos, Ninja course, dedicated reduced sensory room, open play and more. Refreshments will be served throughout the day. Ecology Center Birthday parties will start July 13 weekend. Camp Real (accessible summer camp program) will operate at the center July 22 – August 9. Staff is in the process of finalizing the application for the preschool program. The plan is to start regular rental of the space by mid-August.

R. Bush reminded staff that the Board requested a flow chart of programs that will be offered and the personnel that will be working there. Staff will try to have this information by the July Board meeting.

Capital Improvement Projects Update

S. Levine gave an update on the feedback received from the Mason Park expansion public meeting #1 and encouraged the Board to attend public meeting #2 scheduled for 6pm on July 9 at Evanston Township High School.

Reason for the close out delay with Skate Park - the contractor needs to replace some concrete that deteriorated prematurely and staff added 2 small items to the scope (drainage and lighting)

The Grey Park project may be bumped from 2024 due to limited staffing. Public Works is having a hard time hiring a landscape architect.

E. Shevick reminded staff that putting a dog park at Grey Park was one of the Board's recommended priorities for 2024. It was approved by City Council during the budget season and we've been waiting on a dog park since 2021.

Increased estimate for pickle ball courts is due to a significant slope at the site which will require regrading and retaining walls. Also, because of soil contamination, all removed soil must be disposed of as nonhazardous special waste at a cost.

M. Roskinski gave an example of how a Wilmette converted two tennis courts into six pickle ball courts for under \$500,000 and provided copies to show how it looks. She suggested Evanston consider something similar, possibly at Lovelace Park.

Independence Park and Larimer Park received permits from MWRD and renovation will start soon.

R. Bush noted that the Skokie Park District hosted a community meeting in January to review/discuss the Pooch Park renovation plans. The renovation plan was approved by the Skokie Park District Board in February and the project began in April/May. The Parks and Recreation Board never got to review the plans as per the intergovernmental agreement. How is the Board supposed to offer input on park design if we're not presented with the plans?

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

N. Muboyayi apologized for being late and said she's looking forward to the Mason Park expansion project. E. Shevick said as the Board President she is supposed to send out a mid-month report and asked members to email her if there is something they would like to know more about. M. Rosinski once again stated that she thinks the Board's audio minutes should be made public and she would like for staff to work on making that happen.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:20pm. The next scheduled meeting is 6pm, July 18, 2024 at the Chandler-Newberger Center, 1028 Central St.

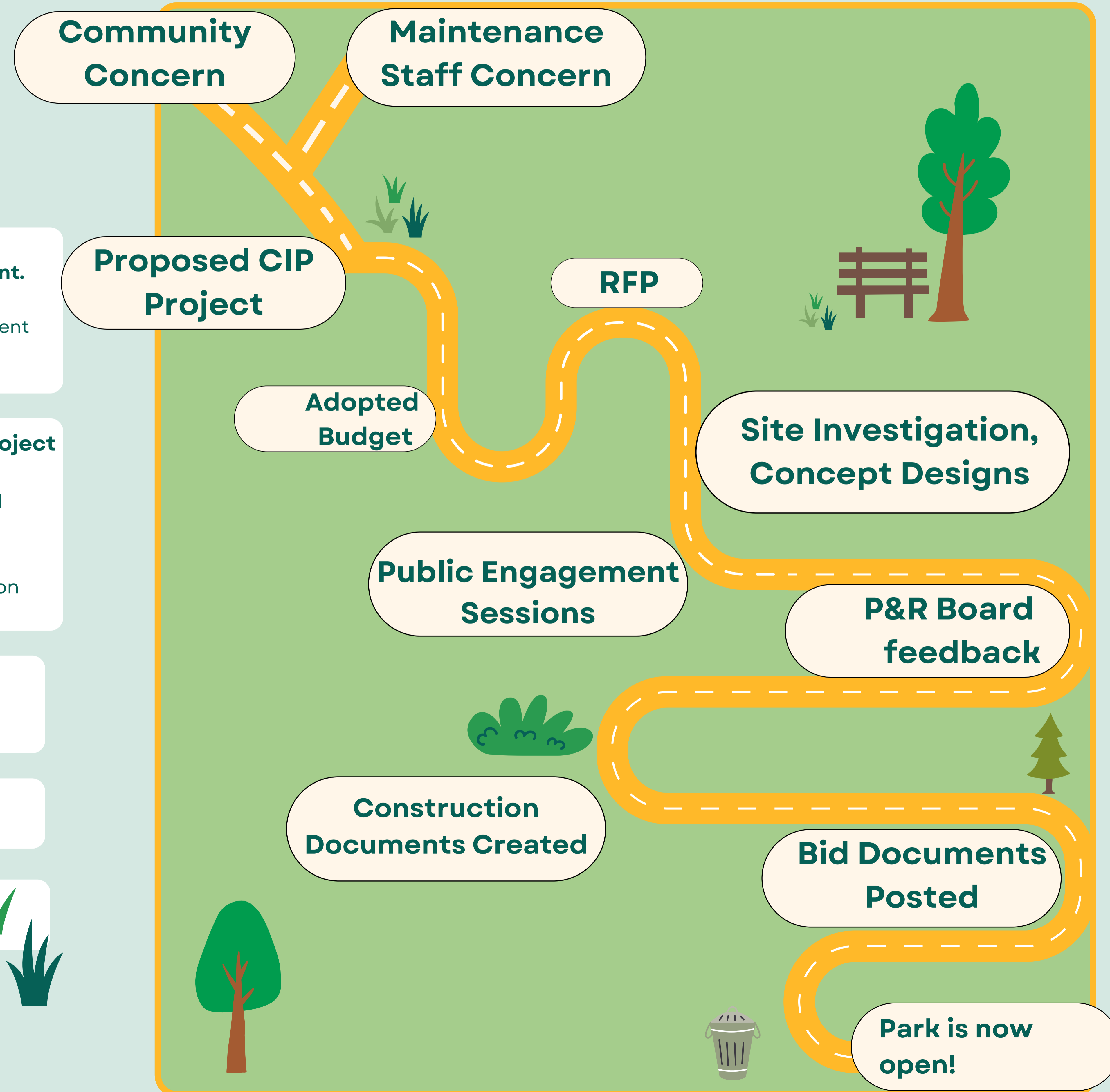
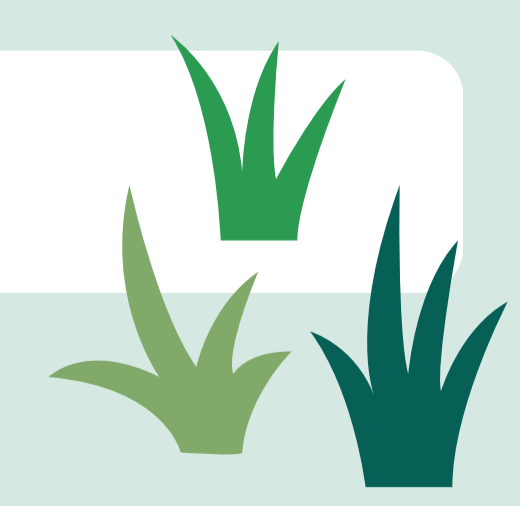
Parks Project Roadmap - Draft

Transforming a Parks Project into Reality

Park conditions and age of renovations are drivers of placement on long-term CIP (10+ years).

As a project moves to the top of the CIP, a renovation undergoes the following steps:

- 1 RFP**
An RFP with a consulting firm to complete concept design and public engagement.
Consultants Involved: landscape architect, civil/structural/electrical engineer
Steps: Site investigation, concept design presented to city staff, and 3 public engagement meetings
Timing: 3-4 months
- 2 Public Engagement 0-3 meetings depending on the magnitude of the project**
Steps:
 1. Meet with community members in the neighborhood where the park is located
 2. Meet with Parks and Recreation Board (PRB)
 3. Reveal design concepts and obtain PRB feedback
 4. Final meeting - feedback from the previous 2 meetings taken into consideration**Timing:** up to 6 months
- 3 Construction Documents**
Documents are created by city staff who turn sketches into what can actually be built.
Timing: 4-8 months
- 4 Bid Documents for construction posted**
Timing: 2 months
- 5 Construction completed**
Timing: 6-9 months



Community Concern

Maintenance Staff Concern

Proposed CIP Project

RFP

Adopted Budget

Site Investigation, Concept Designs

Public Engagement Sessions

P&R Board feedback

Construction Documents Created

Bid Documents Posted

Park is now open!



Memorandum

To: Members of the Parks and Recreation Board

From: Audrey Thompson, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Michael Callahan, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Subject: Next Steps for Dedicated Pickleball Play

Date: July 18, 2024

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends the Parks and Recreation Board review and provide direction regarding next steps for planning and execution of dedicated Pickleball courts in Evanston.

Summary:

An estimate of \$350,000 was recommended by the Public Works Agency Department for four dedicated pickleball courts to be constructed at James Park. After additional assessment, that estimate soared to nearly \$1 million for six courts. While the Finance and Budget Committee and Parks and Recreation Board could settle for four courts at James Park for an estimated \$600,000 to \$650,000, the Parks and Recreation staff would like the Parks and Recreation Board to explore additional options that could reduce costs and increase the number of dedicated pickleball courts. If dedicated pickleball courts could be constructed for considerably less, additional funds could be transferred to a separate project.

A draft of the Parks and Green Space Strategic Plan conducted by Agency Landscape + Planning provides a comparison for tennis and pickleball courts based on peer cities in the area. According to this comparison, the City of Evanston has nearly double the number of tennis courts per residents than its peer communities. There is one tennis court for every 2,206 Evanston residents, as compared to one tennis court per every 4,399 residents in peer communities. As for pickleball courts, there is one pickleball court for every 6,509 Evanston resident, as compared to one pickleball court for every 6,664 residents in peer communities. While Evanston is more on track with peer communities for pickleball courts, there are still no dedicated pickleball courts for Evanston residents to enjoy. These numbers reveal there is a greater need to increase dedicated pickleball courts.

Parks and Recreation administration recommends that the Parks and Recreation Board explore Mason and Ackerman Parks as two locations for dedicated pickleball courts. Converting both of these locations to dedicated pickleball courts will have the following impact for tennis and pickleball play:

- Reduction of 34 tennis courts to 30 tennis courts;
- Increase of dedicated pickleball courts

In addition, these four courts will be resurfaced, adding two locations that are sorely in need of resurfacing.

Next Steps:

There have been requests from residents close to Ackerman Park to stripe courts for pickleball play. Staff has worked with the IT Division to create an address list of residents within 500 feet of the tennis courts. This resulted in 358 addresses. Staff plans to send out correspondence to these addresses, inviting all to a community meeting at the park on Saturday, August 24th at 10:00am. Staff has invited pickleball enthusiasts to come to the park and play a pseudo game of pickleball so community members can know just how they could be affected by the sound of the game. In addition, all 358 residents will be invited to complete a survey with the following questions in case they are unable to attend the community meeting. These questions will provide support or opposition of residents within 500 feet of the park.

- How close do you live to Ackerman Park?
 - Between 100-200 feet
 - Between 200-500 feet
 - Not within 500 feet of the park
- Will you support striping the existing court with pickleball lines (Yes or No) This option will allow for tennis and pickleball play on the existing courts.
- Will you support resurfacing the court and striping the court for pickleball play only (Yes or No) This option will create dedicated pickleball courts.
- Will you attend the community meeting at Ackerman Park on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 10am?
- Any other thoughts or ideas you'd like to add regarding the courts at Ackerman Park?

The goal is to schedule a similar community meeting and community survey with residents within 500 feet of Mason Park as well, with a similar timeline.

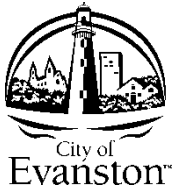
If dedicated pickleball play could be created at Ackerman and Mason Parks, there will be an increase in dedicated pickleball courts implemented in two separate areas of Evanston. In addition, there would be much less of an impact on the budget of \$600,000. If there is any remaining amount leftover after these two projects are completed, additional funds will be utilized to resurface other courts that were not included in the 2023 tennis resurfacing project (not to exceed the original budgeted amount of this total project)

Attachment:

Updated tennis/pickleball discussion includes feedback from staff outlined in **red**.

Recommendations from community members for Pickleball Locations	Feedback from City staff
<p>Business parking lots could have pickleball lines painted over flat and smooth portions. On weekends and evenings, these lots are virtually empty. Business could be encouraged to prohibit parking in these areas at non-business hours. One benefit of these ideas is that complaints about noise would be minimized, as most courts and parking lots are located at distances from homes and residential units that any noise would not be offensive. And pickleball technology is moving in the direction of noiseless paddles; such paddles could be required when noise is objectionable.</p>	<p>There would be an issue with safety and the ability to contain pickleball play. How would these parking lots be exclusive for pickleball play and who would manage them for open play? There could be a major issue for closing off these parking lots when they are scheduled for exclusive play for times when no one is supposed to drive on the lots. Many lots are also not level. The liability of these businesses could also be an issue. Who takes the liability for these lots for pickleball play?</p>
<p>What about nets? Rather than construct permanent nets as is done for tennis, players would have to provide their own portable nets. I've seen these advertised for \$150 or less, and sales near \$100, with 4 paddles and 6 balls included. To accommodate the financially disadvantaged, the city could purchase a sufficient number of these and arrange for a program to loan these to residents.</p>	<p>Nets are the least of the concerns. The liability of those playing on the parking lots of private businesses is more of a concern. Also, who is responsible for the maintenance of the courts on private property? If the City provides the nets and the paddles, where would participants get those items for each pickleball game?</p>
<p>Tennis courts could have pickleball lines added to the city tennis courts, as has already been done for many of these courts, e.g. Lovelace. All courts should have lines added. This idea isn't new, obviously; I would propose that the tennis courts at ETHS be marked and made available when the school is not needing to use the courts, such as evenings, and other times when the school has no plan to use the courts.</p>	<p>There are currently 12 tennis courts that have pickleball lines. In the initial discussions for tennis and pickleball play remaining separate, there was an argument from both communities that there should be dedicated pickleball courts just as there are dedicated tennis courts. To stripe all tennis courts as pickleball play does not provide pickleball their own dedicated courts.</p>
<p>Mason Park - The tennis courts are in bad shape (and there are a lot of tennis courts in Evanston); the park is being reviewed for improvements/expansion. There would be minimal cost to putting at least 4 dedicated pickleball courts where the tennis courts are now. Ideally there would be more. Expanding the current court footprint would increase the cost, but I would guess it would be significantly less since it appears pretty level. Mason is very centrally located in Evanston, giving Evanstonians good access.</p>	<p>There are currently a total of 34 tennis courts in Evanston. The courts at Mason Park should be explored to resurface as dedicated pickleball courts. There has been a lot of pickleball play at this court with not one complaint made to the Parks and Recreation Department. There is currently two courts at Mason Park which could be expanded to dedicated courts. The only one con to this change would be the lack of parking in the neighborhood. Doubling courts would diminish parking in the neighborhood.</p>
<p>There is a grassy level land east/north of Twiggs park. Could this work?</p>	<p>We should not continue to cram additional items into Twiggs Park. The more we add to the parks, the more we remove green space.</p>

<p>The East/South side of the canal near the new skate park is next to a large flat grassy area. Do you know if that is city property? That could support a number of courts!</p>	<p>See above answer. If this location is where the backstop is, there is drainage problems and we would need to push the water to the neighbors which is unacceptable.</p>
<p>Robert Crown between the turf fields and Washington school also has level, unused land</p>	<p>Parks and Recreation already gets many complaints regarding the noise at Robert Crown. Cramming additional activity at Robert Crown could cause more issue for the neighbors.</p>
<p>James Park - North of the Levy Center by Dodge</p>	<p>This will require elimination of a soccer field and two baseball fields. Also, same subsurface issues with landfill.</p>
<p>James Park - South of the tennis courts, giving up 1 of the soccer fields</p>	<p>This will also impact an existing baseball field. Also, same subsurface issues with landfill.</p>
<p>Lovelace Park – is there a possibility to add pickleball courts east or west of existing tennis courts.</p>	<p>There are already six tennis courts at this location; three are double stiped. Do we want to add additional courts to this location outside of pickleball courts? We need six courts for tournaments.</p>
<p>Cartwright Park – the demographics for the area match who plays. Could the basketball court be converted if they are not used?</p>	<p>The tennis courts could be reviewed as ones to be converted to dedicated pickleball. This can be explored during the community engagement for the park renovation.</p>
<p>Between Main and the dog (pooch) park – near SAMs club</p>	<p>There are concerns with parking lots as we are unable to contain them outside of areas of operation. The inability to contain them increases liability for the City of Evanston and the business/parking lot owner.</p>
<p>Having only four dedicated pickleball courts and the price tag for 4-6 courts at James Park sledding hill location seems excessive. For a high end court, an internet search quotes the costs could be more than \$305,000 for an 8-court community complex equipped with completed lighting, fencing and other facilities How Much Does A Pickleball Court Cost? Building Costs Explained - ThePricer Media</p>	<p>An Internet search would not be an accurate representation of our action existing conditions.</p>
<p>Pickleball at Water pump area</p>	<p>There have been several community meetings regarding the Beck Park renovations. Neighbors have been clear that they do not want organized sports in the park. To begin this community engagement process over again would inappropriate.</p>



Memorandum

To: Members of the Parks and Recreation Board

From: Audrey Thompson, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Subject: Parks and Rec Board CIP Recommendations - Projects Status Update

Date: July 18, 2024

Summary:

The following recommendations were made to the City Council by the Parks and Recreation Board on September 18, 2023. Please find an update of these projects below:

- **Fund five-year plan to renovate legacy parks** – construction contract awarded for Larimer Park and Independence Parks. Staff will work with Parks and Rec Board to determine the plan for the other six legacy as Fitzsimmons, Chandler and Cartwright are budgeted in the 2025 CIP budget. This recommendation will be discussed at the 7/25 CIP specific meeting.
- **Fund staff to maintain parks as well as additional renovations created by CIP** – funding additional staff will be at the discretion of the City Council.
- **Fund Pickleball Courts** – additional information has been added to the Board packet revising the current plan to add dedicated pickleball courts to James Park. The new plan would add dedicated pickleball courts to Ackerman and Marson Parks after community engagement.
- **Fund Renovations to Ecology Center** – Renovations are currently in process but when contractors opened the structure, there were concerns about the roof. As a result, the roof must be replaced. Additional plumbing work also needs to be completed. Because of the increase in funding for the project, the project must return to the Finance and Budget Committee. Project is now set to be completed by late April of 2025
- **Fund Bent Park Field House Renovation** is out for bids with bids due on 7/16/24.
- **Fund Dog Parks at Clarke Square and Grey Park** – Only Grey Park is currently in the 2024 budget but will not be completed in 2024 due to short staffing. This recommendation will be discussed at the 7/25 CIP specific meeting.
- **Fund Chandler Gym Upgrades** – the scope of this project is now easier to define with the purchase of the South End Community Center. This request will be discussed at the 7/25 CIP specific meeting.
- **Fund Annual Installation of Park Restrooms** is currently in the proposed budget for 2025. This request will be discussed at the 7/25 CIP specific meeting.
- **Fund Beck Park Expansion** – construction documents for phase one are in progress.
- **Fund Levy Cener Kitchen Renovation** is currently in the proposed 2025 budget. This request will be discussed at the 7/25 CIP specific meeting.

Attachment:

City Council PowerPoint Presentation from September 18, 2023 meeting

Fund five-year plan to renovate legacy* parks

- A plan to provide substantial improvements to parks that have not received improvements in at least 26 years is necessary.
- Our children play and create memories in our parks. Our children are our most valued and vulnerable treasures.
- An investment in our parks is an investment in our children, our community and our future.

Cartwright Park*
Chandler Tot Lot*
Clyde-Brummel Park*
Fitzsimmons Park*
Hobart Park*
Independence Park*

Larimer Park*
Philbrick Park*
Porter Park*
Raymond Park*
Southwest Park*

Fund staff to maintain parks as well as additional renovations created by CIP

- While additional staff will be needed to address CIP up front, more staff will be needed to maintain projects created by CIP.
- Hire staff over consultants to design several parks rather than hiring consulting firms to design one park project at a time.
- Specifically hire staff to design parks and manage projects.
- Ensure competitive salaries.

Fund Pickleball Courts

- Preliminary results from Parks Strategic Plan suggest Pickleball as one of the top five request from community members.
- Suggested location of James Park would ensure that sound of game play would not interfere with neighbors close by.
- Countless communications to Parks and Rec staff, the Mayor and council members by pickleball and tennis players support dedicated pickleball courts.

Fund renovations to Ecology Center

- Repairs will ensure:
 - adequate and accessible crawl space
 - ability to maintain and repair mechanics
 - floor joist are replaced
 - proper ventilation of crawl space
 - updated HVAC system and lighting, accomplishing CARP goals
 - new office and restroom spaces for a more inviting customer service experience

Fund Bent Park Fieldhouse Renovation

- The Fieldhouse has remained damaged for over a year.
- Parks and Recreation programming suffered this summer from not having the fieldhouse.
- The neighborhood deserves structured restrooms rather than portable the restrooms that have currently being installed.

Fund Dog Parks at Clark Square and Grey Park

- While Pooch Park offers a wonderful amenity shared between Evanston and Skokie communities, there are NO neighborhood dog parks in Evanston.
- Community members should be able to walk their dogs to a park in a neighborhood for an off-leash experience.
- Community members have provided feedback regarding both parks and both have great support.

Fund Chandler Gym Upgrades

- The Parks and Recreation Department has seen promise with the new gym spring floor and the increased gymnastics programs.
- Additional upgrades will allow for increased programs leading to additional revenue.
- Chandler's gymnastics program is the least expensive program in the area and offers a top-notch instruction that is still competitive with area programs.
- Chandler is hiring a full-time program coordinator who will focus the majority of their time on expanding the gymnastics program.
- The demand for gymnastics is incredible.

Fund Annual Installation of Park Restrooms

- Not having enough public restrooms is a public health crisis.
- Begin funding this project in 2024.
- Having park/neighborhood restrooms allows for more neighborhood programming by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The more restrooms installed in the parks, the more programs can be created for community members year-round.

Fund Levy Center Kitchen Renovation

- There can be no additional rental with kitchen revenue with the status of the Levy Center kitchen.
- A newly renovated kitchen will allow the Department to increase rental fees for the Center.

Any questions?

PRD Project Status Report
July 10, 2024

Project Name	Description	Current Status	Next Steps
ADA Improvements in Parks	Implement ADA improvements at various locations	Not started yet.	Determine specific list of improvements.
Alexander Park - Minor Repairs	Minor Repairs to playground	Not started yet.	Determine specific list of improvements.
Beck Park Expansion	Expand park south to Church Street, incorporating former Shore School site.	Construction documents production in progress.	Complete construction documents and bid project.
Bent Park Fieldhouse Repairs	Repair damage from fire.	Project is out to bid.	Bids due on 7/16/24
Cartwright Park Improvements	Renovate park and playground	Not started yet.	Prepare RFP for consultant services.
Dog Beach ADA Accessibility	Provide an ADA access to the dog beach.	Bids received.	Bid award tabled. Will be reconsidered on 7/22 if contractor agrees to extend their bid offer.
Ecology Center Renovation	Relocate and/or modify plumbing lines in crawl space. Renovate restrooms. Improve building security.	Construction is in progress	Complete construction.
Evanston Skate Park at Twiggs Park	Install a new temporary and permanent skate park	Punch list work being performed	Close out project.
Fitzsimmons Park Renovations	Renovate park and playground	Not started yet.	Prepare RFP for consultant services.
Fleetwood - Envelope Repairs	Implement repairs to the building envelope.	Not started yet.	Determine specific list of improvements.
Grey Park - Dog Park Installation	Install dog park.	Not started yet.	Conduct public engagement and conceptual design.
Independence Park Renovations	Renovate park and playground	Construction contract awarded on 4/29.	Receive permit approval from MWRD and City and begin construction.
James Park - Pickleball Courts	Install pickleball courts at James Park	Parks and Recreation Board has requested the project be expanded to six courts. Budget and Finance Committee has requested project remain at 4 courts. There may also be interest in exploring alternate locations.	Verify scope.
James Park Pathway Reconstruction	Repair the southern section of the James Park multiuse trail	Constuction in progress	Complete construction.
Ladd Canoe Launch	Design a new public canoe launch	Design has been finalized. Construction document production to begin.	Complete construction document production.

Project Name	Description	Current Status	Next Steps
Lakefront Shoreline Stabilization	Design stabilization for several park locations	A consultant is currently finalizing preliminary engineering drawings for this project as well as reviewing potential grant programs.	Complete preliminary engineering drawings and begin efforts to obtain grants.
Larimer Park Renovations	Renovate park and playground	All permits received and construction in progress	Complete construction
Mason Park / Davis Street Extension	Study potential park expansion and extension of Davis Street across former Mayfair right-of-way	Public engagement in progress.	Public survey #2 to be prepared and issued.
Parks Strategic Master Plan	Develop strategic master plan for the park system	Draft strategic plan received and provided to Parks and Recreation Board for review	Obtain comments from Parks and Recreation Board, finalize document and present to City Council.
Playground Equipment Replacement	Implement playground replacements at various locations	Not started yet.	Determine specific list of improvements.
Pooch Park Capital Investment	Working with Skokie, provide capital investments to Pooch Park	Construction	Complete construction.
Twiggs Park Playgrounds	Replace playground equipment at both Twiggs Park playgrounds	Initial concept development in progress.	Develop concept design options with play equipment vendor and present ideas to the public.

Accessible Recreation, Accessible Recreation Camps & General Operations

Lauren Ruiz

Accessible Recreation
Mackenzie Irelan

Adapted Boccia
Adapted Pickleball
Adapted Tumbling—Tots
Musical Expressions
Social Club
Accessible Special Events

Spring Break Camp
Winter Break Camp

Accessible Recreation Summer Camps
Leonard Woodson

Camp REAL

General Operations
South End Program Coordinator—TBD

Drop In Play
Open Ping Pong
Let's Play Trailer

Facility Rentals
Birthday Parties

Early Childhood
Enrichment
Programs
Katie Kopp

Vendor Programs
Music Time
Taekwondo

Ecology Center
Youth & Family
Programming
Ethan Johnson

Ecology Center
Adult Programming
Laura Nusekabel

Gymnastics Programing
Kathryn Dolan

South End Preschool
Kerry Bauer

Wild Weekends
The Big Gross Out
Wild Night Out
Nature Movie Night

Fall Fermenting
Beneficial Houseplants
Pickling
Evergreen
Wreathmaking

Gymnastics with a
Grown up
Preschool
Gymnastics
Advanced Preschool
Gymnastics
Coed Beginning I
Tumbling I

Birthday Parties
Day Off School
Gymnastics camps
Beginning Bars
Clinic

South End Early Learning Center
Lead Teacher TBD
2 year old full day classroom

Birthday Parties

Most programing to start after the completion of Camp REAL
Café will open after Labor Day
Pre-School will open in August, pending lead testing
Building Hours Mon—Fri, 9am –4pm

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Audrey Thompson

Accessibility and Inclusion Division Manager
Lauren Ruiz

Recreation Support Manager
Sean Owens

1 - Administrative Lead—
Petra Belcher

2 - Program Coord

1 - Administrative Coord

South End Community Center

1 - Digital Marketing Coord

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Deputy Director:
Michael Callahan

Lakefront & Athletics Division Manager
Tim Carter

CIP & Facilities Liaison
Coordination with Capital Planning, Engineering &
Public Services Divisions

Senior Services Division Manager
Amy Kellogg

Chandler-Newberger Center
2 - Program Coord 1 - PT Clerk III
1 - PT Program Supv 1 - PT Custodian
1 - PT Facility Supv

Food Service
1 - Program Coord

Levy Senior Center
2 - Program Coord 1 - Bus Driver
1 - Secretary II 1 - PT Office Assistant
2 - Custodian I 1 - PT Facility Supervisor
3 - PT Custodian 1 - Sr Services Advocate

Beach & Lakefront
1 - Program Coord

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Deputy Director
Matt Poole

Conservation & Outdoor Division Manager
Margaret Isaacson

1 - Special Events Coordinator
1 - Farmers Market Manager

Enrichment & Specialty Programs Division Manager
Victoria Revere

Ecology Center
2 - Program Coord
1 - Garden Coord
1 - Clerk III
2 - PT Facility Suprv
1 - FT Custodian I

Robert Crown Center & Ice Arena
1- Asst. Manager 1- Program Supv
3 - Program Coord 5- Facility Maint II
1 - Assist Program Coord 7 - PT Custodian
1 - Office Coord 1- Operations Supv
3 - Clerk II 2 - Facility Coord.
1-PT Clerk II
1 - Preschool Operations Supervisor
2 - Preschool Lead Teacher
8 - PT Preschool Teachers

2- PT Park Ranger

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Deputy Director
Jeron Dorsey

CARE Team
4- Crisis Responders

Youth & Family Services Division Manager
Jerme McCray

Community & Arts Division Manager
Ken Cherry

1- Youth & Family Advocate
1- Program Supv (MSYEP)
7 - Outreach Worker

Noyes Cultural Art Center
2 - Program Coordinator

Fleetwood-Jourdain Center
2 - Program Coord 1 - Office Coord
1- PT Clerk III 2- Bus Driver
3 - PT Custodian

Gibbs Cultural Center
1 - Facility Supv

Fleetwood-Jourdain Theater
1 - Fleetwood- Jourdain Theater
Operations Supervisor