

Meeting Summary

The discussion group with the consultants included residents in the Town, Town staff, and Steering Committee members to discuss the general condition of the Town's recreation facilities. The Town has eight recreation areas or parks, three County parks, and multiple trails available for public use, not including any facilities available at the local schools. The results of this meeting are summarized below.

McAvoy Park

Current Conditions

- The park was updated approximately five years ago and currently has one football/soccer/lacrosse field, one smaller soccer field (40' x 70'), and two softball fields. Artificial turf.
- Field lighting is adjustable and the entire park is fully lit.
- Storage capacity is inadequate, especially at the snack bar/concession stand.
- The hours of operation at the park are usually from 9am to 9pm; sometimes it is open until 11pm for special events. It is closed from mid-November to March 1st.
- The park is consistently used and the schedule is almost always full. Everyone who uses the park must sign in.
- The neighbors complain that the park does not meet the neighborhoods needs. Perception??
- Past improvements have increased the use of the park.
- Previously, the park only had one baseball field available. Now many sports are played there.
- Fees to use the facility only cover maintenance.
- Adult softball leagues
- The park is fully programmed
- East Ridge H.S. plays here sporadically.

Potential Improvements

- Redevelopment of the park should include fencing so that the park can be locked at night to "protect our investment."
- Parking is inadequate (approximately 198 spaces). Beginning in the fall, sectional athletics begins. Fifty more parking spaces would be adequate to accommodate this.
- The obvious area to expand the parking is to the south towards the church. There is approximately 113 acres of land available. Thirty-five spaces could easily fit on a portion of the property.
- Expanding the concession stand would take up around two spaces.

- Press box with score board control and a sound system – this would need to be secured. The schools have a media program that could utilize/man this.
- Other notes:
 - i. Vote on December 9, 2008 for East Irondequoit CSD for the construction of a multi-purpose field, a reconstructed softball field, new tennis courts, new bus garage, expanded gymnasium, & a new pool.

Camp Eastman

Current Conditions

- One soccer field
- Approximately 90 acres in size
- A large berm is located down the east side of the property to protect the view of homes along Oakridge Drive.
- Irondequoit’s soccer tournament cannot be held there.
- The berm is constructed from rock excavated from the tunnel project and is hard to remove. It is approximately 35 yards wide.

Potential Improvements

- A secondary access is needed to make it safer for more people on the site.
- Camp Eastman needs some of the Van Lare property to really make the Camp usable for additional fields.
- In general, the Camp should be investigated more for the potential for fields.
- Soccer events at Eastman

Senior Center

Current Conditions

- Recreational space doubles as dining space.
- In 1977, the number of gymnasiums was inadequate and only one additional gym has been added since then. The building has been in use since 1977.
- The fitness room has both equipment and instructional space.
- The center serves approximately 45-60 people per day.
- The fees for the center never cover operation or debt service.

Potential Improvements

- 20-25,000 square feet needed – would double for use by other groups
- Larger dining room with a prep kitchen/area, game area, meeting area, space for community groups at minimal cost, arts/craft areas.
- The Town needs to improve the control and/or scheduling of the space that is available in the center and provide more flexibility to needs.
- The center needs a “child-friendly” space.

- Two years ago, a community forum identified the need for a new community center. Preliminary visioning identified the old Chase-Pitkin site; however, that was unavailable. Funding is needed from the State for design/construction, but due to the condition of the State's finances/economy, the outlook looks grim.

Heyer-Bayer Memorial Park

Current Conditions

- Previously called Remond Road Park
- Over the last five years vandalism has increased in the park.

Potential Improvements

- Hot in the summer – needs trees for shading
- Needs off-street parking (road reconstruction on SR 590 may provide additional space).
- Local service clubs could provide assistance with the construction of amenities such as shelters or planting trees.

Bateau Terrace Play Area

Current Conditions

- The neighbor's deeds include beach access rights.
- The homeowners bought sections of the old Hojack RR line.
- There are concerns about the value of the homes with the play area nearby as lake access is critical to the value of the neighborhood.
- The Town owns to the low/high (??) water mark ...
- The Town recently improved the lawn in the play area.
- The high usage of the play area annoys adjacent neighbors.
- The terraces are so narrow that beach parking causes problems for the neighborhood in general.
- The play area is heavily used by teenagers and dog owners.

Potential Improvements

- There needs to be a balance between the neighborhood and public access to the play area.
- If the neighbors used the beach area more frequently, the number of problems might be reduced.
- The play area needs to be investigated for the best use for the neighborhoods.

Spezio Park

Current Conditions

- Two tennis courts and a playground
- Neighbors think they own it.

Potential Improvements

- Maintenance needed for the tennis courts and playground equipment.

New SR 590/Culver recreational area

Current Conditions

- Area being reconstructed as part of the SR 590 improvements.

Potential Improvements

- Forty boat slips
- Increased access to the bay and lake
- There is enough room for only one or two fields.
- “Tot lot,” picnic shelter, family trail
- Increased public parking
- Speed table across the access road to preserve ...

Helmer Nature Center

Current Conditions

- Owned by the West Irondequoit CSD and the Town owns two acres where the building is located.
- The fields are owned by the school – four soccer fields and a lacrosse field
- Inadequate parking and overflow is a common problem.
- The center is not in a central location; it is too far from the east side of Town.
- The school would like to buyback the land owned by the Town.
- Difficult to turn left from Pinegrove to St Paul Street.
- The seniors previously had space in the basement of the Town Hall.
- In 1977, a study stated that the building would be inadequate in 1985.

Joshua Park

Current Conditions

- Five years old
- Located behind Wegmans and next to Saint Margaret Mary’s Church/School, which is closed.
- The Church is selling the land next to the park (approximately 6.5-7 acres).
- Two bocce ball courts, one horseshoe pit, two fields (40’x70’), and a walking path.
- The park is a target for vandals.
- Younger people hang out at the park at night – all ages, genders, and ethnicities.
- The trees have been improperly maintained (topped off, not pruned effectively).
- The rubber safety surface under the playground has been ruined.
- This park has some of the worst problems among all the Town parks with \$5,000-\$7,000 in repairs alone required.
- The park is difficult to maintain.

- The Ivy Ridge Apartments (Section 8 housing) seem to be the source of many of the problems.
- Many adults are scared to go into the park.
- The security cameras have been removed in the past.
- The park is typically used during the day while children are in school.
- Belligerent behavior by users.

Town Hall

Current Conditions

- Summer concert series, Farmers Market, other entertainment events, 4th of July festival
- Gazebos (donated by the local Kiwanis Club)
- Ukrainian memorial, Fireman’s monument
- Very attractive campus with historic buildings
- The Town has talked about moving the Department of Public Works; however, the cost is prohibitive.
- Traffic flow issues within the campus.

Potential Improvements

- Baseball events at Town Hall
- The site is attractive for a new library.

Irondequoit Bay Marine Park

Current Conditions

- No parking for non-boat users
- Public beach
- Swing bridge is a nightmare
- 11 years old
- Five months of traffic; seven months available for boats
- Money is not available for a higher bridge.
- Parking is prohibitive.
- Webster residents are opposed to opening the bridge to more traffic.
- The bridge is “a major pain in the neck” to some residents.
- The bridge has hampered commercial businesses in the area.

Potential Improvements

- A study is being done on the swing bridge to investigate the possibility of more operations, which would require a more powerful motor and leveling of the surrounding site. The bridge could potentially be opened quickly in case a storm or event arises – public safety issue, especially with the proximity of Ginna.

Tryon Park

Current Conditions

- Irondequoit Bay West
- Steep slopes

- Undeveloped
- LaSalle's Landing boardwalk approved at Tryon Park

Potential Improvements

- Destination area proposed at the end of the bay
- Boardwalk through the park? Neighbors opposed.
- Environmental areas need protection

Durand Eastman Park

Current Conditions

- A much loved park throughout the Town
- E. Coli pollution at the beach and the ponds further east from the adjoining streams.
- Problems at the creeks through the western portion of the park.
- Dog waste is a problem.
- Dog walkers keep the park safe.
- Aging septic systems on the homes located in the park; an expanded sewer system may be needed.
- Huntington Hills is on septic as well.
- Vandalism has been a problem this year (2008).
- The park closes at 11 p.m.
- The park has an outstanding arboretum.
- Lovers Lane activities have been cleaned up.
- Durand is a popular place for walking, jogging, dog walking, and other passive recreational activities.

Bristol Play Park/Pardee Road Play Area

Current Conditions

- Works well
- Located off of Pardee Road
- Includes a playground

Vinton Playground

Current Conditions

- Small play area that works well.
- The least used of the three play areas available

General Comments

- The Town has no dedicated little league facilities, yet other Town's do.
- The field locations are fragmented, which makes it difficult for parents ...
- In general, the Town would prefer to have one single 5-6 field complex, which would be much more efficient to maintain.
- There is a vote on December 9, 2008 for East Irondequoit CSD for the construction of a multi-purpose field, a reconstructed softball field, new tennis courts, new bus garage, expanded gymnasium, & a new pool.

- How many athletic fields do we (the Town) really need? Typically, there are industry standards to follow, but community-specific factors really determine the need.
- There are plenty of fields for baseball, but not enough fields for soccer.
- There is no “community feel” at the various baseball events and the fields don’t feel like community space.
- One community facility with multiple fields (4-5) would allow tournaments to be played.
- Most of the athletic programs are dependent on fields available at the various schools.
- Natural grass fields do not hold up well under an ever increasing demand for athletics.
- Providing more fields is a challenge.
- The youth population rises and falls.
- The lack of fields encourages younger families to go to other towns where facilities exist.
- The children suffer while the community waits for more fields to be built.
- One central location with 4-6 fields would give teams a home base for activities and events.
- The Town does do a good job with what it has available.
- Any proposals for an expansion must be fiscally realistic.
- Perhaps the scheduling of games should be investigated and altered; more Saturday games could be considered.
- Recreational and athletic activities are an important part of the Town’s social life.
- Recreational programs are the “building blocks” of the community.
- In general, programmatic outreach exceeds the availability and capacity of the fields that exist.
- In order for the Parks & Rec Plan to be truly comprehensive, the inventory of available facilities must include school facilities (at a reduced rate of availability).
- Personal recreational opportunities (i.e., marked bike lanes, sidewalk networks, gyms) should be incorporated into the plan.
- Demand analysis for services is necessary and should include ACTUAL demands (ie, enrollment) on facilities PLUS forecasts. It must distinguish what we need vs. what we want.