



CLARKSON PARK IMPROVEMENT MEETING SUMMARY April 22, 2017

Welcome

Northfield Park District Director George Alexoff welcomed everyone and introduced staff members Bill Byron, Jim Reutter and Nada Becker. Director Alexoff also introduced Park Board President Buggie O`Grady and incoming Park Board Commissioner Garrick Beil.

2014 Strategic Plan

In January of 2014 the District adopted a Comprehensive Strategic Plan for the Park District. The strategic plan was developed through a community survey and community focus group meetings.

At that time, the top ten priorities were established.

<u>5 Year Capital Project Priority's (2014-2018)</u>	<u>Cost Estimates</u>
1. Willow Park Community Center Expansion	\$ 1,500,000
2. Clarkson Park Shelter	\$ 150,000
3. Clarkson Park Playground Improvements	\$ 175,000
4. Clarkson Park Splash Pad	\$ 175,000
5. Willow Park Trail Connections	\$ 75,000
6. Willow Park Nature Area/ Bird Sanctuary	\$ 125,000
7. Willow Park Stream Crossings/ bridges	\$ 75,000
8. Clarkson Park Landscape Improvements	\$ 50,000
9. Willow Park Landscape Improvements	\$ 25,000
10. Willow Park Parking Lot Improvements	250-K-500K

The top priority was the expansion and renovation of the Northfield Community Center.

- The Community Center renovation included the addition of a fitness studio, expanded fitness area, showers, renovated lobby, restrooms, office space, lighting and the addition of a cooking area for classes and facility usage.
- The existing parking lot at the community center was also completed.
- The Community Center was completed in June of 2017 and the parking lot was done in August of 2017.

(Updated June 1, 2016)

<u>5 Year Capital Project Priority's (2014-2018)</u>	<u>Cost Estimates</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>
1. Clarkson Park Shelter	\$ 150,000	
2. Clarkson Park Playground Improvements	\$ 175,000	
3. Clarkson Park Splash Pad	\$ 175,000	
4. Willow Park Trail Connections	\$ 75,000	
5. Willow Park Nature Area/ Bird Sanctuary	\$ 125,000	
6. Willow Park Stream Crossings/ bridges	\$ 75,000	
7. Clarkson Park Landscape Improvements	\$ 50,000	
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COMPLETED PROJECTS (June 2017)		
• Willow Park Community Center Expansion	\$ 1,500,000	2,400,000
• Willow Park Parking Lot Improvements	250-K-500K	100,000

2012 Clarkson Park Plan

In 2012 the Park District applied for a PARC Grant for the agency. The grant was for the renovations and additions to both Clarkson Park and Willow Park. Unfortunately the district did not receive funding for project. Director Alexoff provided an overview of the design elements that were in the Clarkson Park portion of the grant. Three core items were discussed.

- An improved ADA accessible picnic shelter which connected to the existing patio and sidewalks.
- Playground improvements including new play features and improved playground surface.
- Splash Pad water features with expanded patio area.

2017 Updated Clarkson Park Plan

Director Alexoff stated that the 2017 plan needs to be updated to reflect current needs and community input. Based on the current Capital Project priority list the core items identified in the 2012 plan should be the starting point for discussion.

The following areas were identified as current issues and opportunities:

Fence along Willow Road

- There is concern about children running out onto Willow Road.
- Children of different ages play at Clarkson Park. Sometimes the little ones are on the playground and the older ones in front of Clarkson Lodge. A fence would create more piece of mind.
- Could the Willow Road side of the park be degraded for safety instead of a fence?

The playground gets hot. Trees/Shade

- Would trees help?
 - The squirrels at Clarkson Park are aggressive and come up to people for food.
- The slides are hot. Some playground equipment has shade roofs. Johns Park in Glenview was mentioned.

Splash Pad

- A splash pad would be cooling and give us a sensory feature.
- The renovated Hubbard Woods Park is attractive and has a splash pad although it is small.

Other playground equipment

- A bench swing would be nice

ADA Equipment

- A new playground would be fully ADA accessible.
- ADA swing

Sand

- While the kids enjoy playing in the sand, the majority of adults do not like it. It's also a maintenance issue.
- Provide some kind of sensory play

Band shelter

- A band shell space would allow us to enjoy concerts in the park.
- Orient toward south side of park

Layout/Sight lines

- The importance of sight lines and equipment placement was discussed.
- Currently the swings are too close to the benches

FUNDING

The park district current capital funds could not cover the potential capital cost for the renovations discussed. The district would have to begin setting aside funds to fund the future renovation.

While funding dollars are limited, our community has always worked together to get things done. In 2002 Clarkson Park was renovated at a cost of \$1.2 million by partnering with the Northfield Parks Foundation and receiving additional grants.

The actual cost for the project is unknown and dependent on the community input. Once we have a rough idea of the scope of the project we can then put together a projected cost. Working with the Northfield Parks Foundation would be a good first step.

NORTHFIELD PARKS FOUNDATION

The Northfield Parks Foundation was formed in 2001 with the purpose to fund park improvements. The most recent board of directors assisted the Park District in raising funds for the 2002 Clarkson Park Renovation and the 2007 Willow Park Renovation.

Members of the current board have served for many years. We're now looking at rebuilding the Foundation Board and need people who want to be involved. We welcome participation from the younger families. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please contact George Alexoff at the Park District.

TIMING OF PROJECT

This would depend on determining where the funds for the project will come from. Once established the actual project could take anywhere from 1 to 2 years from approvals to completion.

NEXT STEPS

- The Northfield Park District will post a meeting summary and the Clarkson Park Improvement Plan layout on their website and Facebook page and ask for input.
- Schedule an evening meeting in order to provide additional dialogue
- Provide more information on the Northfield Parks Foundation so that we can secure new board members
- Develop a subcommittee to examine playground ideas from other locations.
- Schedule an informational meeting to discuss the Northfield Parks Foundation and member expectations.

PARKS FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING EVENT

Save the date for a new Northfield event, North by Northfield!

- Artisanal food and beverage pairings from local restaurants
- All proceeds benefit the Northfield Parks Foundation.
- Saturday, July 22nd
- 2 – 5PM
- Clarkson Park
- Tickets will be available at the Northfield Community Center and online.