

Roseville Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 2014
6:30 P.M.
Roseville City Hall
2660 Civic Center Drive

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment Invited
3. Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2014
4. Kotoski Park Dedication – 301-303 South Owasso Boulevard
5. Park Board Continued Discussion
6. Park and Recreation Renewal Program Update
7. Staff Report
8. Other
9. Adjournment

Roseville Parks and Recreation
“Building Community through People, Parks and Programs”
www.ci.roseville.mn.us

*Be a part of the picture...get involved with your City... Volunteer!
For more information, call Roseville Parks and Recreation at 651-792-7006
or check our website at www.cityofroseville.com
Volunteering, a Great Way to Get Involved!*

MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Lonnie Brokke
Date: April 24, 2014
Re: Notes for Commission Meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2014

1. **Introductions**

Commissioners and staff will be introduced.

2. **Public Comment Invited**

Public participation and public comment is encouraged.

3. **Approval of Minutes of the April 1, 2014 Meeting**

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of April 1, 2014. Please be prepared to approve or amend.

Requested Commission Action: Approve/amend meeting minutes of April 1, 2014.

4. **Kotoski Park Dedication – 301-303 South Owasso Blvd**

Included in your packet is a proposal to demolish or move all structures on the properties of 301-303 South Owasso Blvd, subdivide the property and build six single family homes. A written description, location map and a map indicating how the lots would be configured is included.

The role of the Commission is to discuss and make a recommendation from a Park Dedication perspective. Specifically, recommending either land or cash in lieu of land. The Park Dedication Ordinance is in your packet.

Specifically, this is a subdivision proposal where Kotoski is seeking to subdivide a 3.28 acre parcel into six single family residential lots. The cash amount is 6 units x \$3500 = \$21,000 vs. the land amount is 10% of 3.28 acres = .32 acre.

Kotoski has indicated if land was recommended that it would not be able to do the development so they are requesting that cash be accepted in lieu of the land dedication.

This area is located in Constellation E. There are no specific plans for a parcel in this area. For reference and guidance, in your packet is specific information from the Master Plan including the constellation map and goals and policies related to parks and open space acquisition.

Requested Commission Action: To make a recommendation to accept land or cash in lieu of land dedication to satisfy the Park Dedication requirements.

5. **Park Board Continued Discussion**

This has been a continued item. At your last meeting, Commissioners discussed the establishment of a Park Board in Roseville at length. The discussion concluded with Commissioner Gelbach suggesting that, based upon all information collected so far, a position paper is drafted for review at the May meeting. Commissioners agreed and Holt and Gelbach indicated they would work together to set up a meeting for this purpose.

Commissioners Gelbach, Stoner, Wall and Chair Holt met with staff to discuss all previous information collected. Gelbach drafted an initial outline of a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and subsequently, Stoner, Wall and Chair Holt contributed. The all contributing analysis is included in your packet for your review and discussion at the meeting. As a reference, also included in your packet is the memo from the City Attorney and the

outline presented to the City Council at the joint meeting last year discussing pros and cons.

Requested Commission Action: Discuss, suggest adjustments to finalize an approach for joint meeting with the City Council scheduled for Monday, June 9, 2014.

6. **Park and Recreation Renewal Program Update**

Staff will provide you with the most up to date information at your meeting.

Any additional information on the Renewal Program will be shared at the meeting.

Requested Commission Action: Hear latest information, discuss and provide advice.

7. **Staff Report**

8. **Other**

9. **Adjournment**

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 1, 2014
ROSEVILLE CITY HALL – 6:30PM**

PRESENT: Boehm, Diedrick, Doneen, Gelbach, D. Holt, M. Holt, Stoner, Newby
ABSENT: Azer, Wall,
STAFF: Brokke, Schultz
OTHERS: Two University of Minnesota graduate students

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 4 MEETING

Commission Recommendation:

Minutes for the March 4 meeting were unanimously approved with the revision of line 85 it should read: Brokke spoke about a pathway along County Road B between Cleveland and Highway 280 in that it is moving forward.

4. INTRODUCTION AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW COMMISSIONER

Chair Holt officially did the swear-in procedure for new commissioner Terrance Newby and welcomed him. Terrance and the other commissioners gave a brief background on themselves and how they got involved with the Commission.

5. DALE STREET FIRE STATION PROPERTY PARK DEDICATION

Chair Holt provided a brief overview and opened up for discussion. Commission members discussed recommending land versus cash for the Dale Street Fire Station redevelopment project. Since the land size would be very small (.3 acres) commissioners thought that it would be best for the city to accept the cash on this project.

Commission Recommendation:

Doneen moved to recommend cash of \$85,000 (25 units x \$3,500) be accepted in lieu of land dedication. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners also said they value having sidewalks in these types of projects and it was beneficial to see that some were included with the redevelopment plans.

6. PARK BOARD DISCUSSION

Members had a lengthy discussion on the establishment of a Park Board for Roseville. Chair Holt stated this meeting was for discussion, with a possible recommendation by the commission at their May meeting. Members received information in their packet on how the Housing and Redevelopment Authority was formed and a guidance letter from City Attorney Mark Gaughan. Commissioner Doneen asked "What are we trying to fix by becoming a Board?"

Commissioners commented on sometimes in the past the budget has been cut by the City Council which resulted in deferring park maintenance system wide. Even with a Board, the City Council would still have levy authority. Some members thought having a dedicated group, like a Board, would be important to ensure the Council knows the importance of having a good parks and recreation system. Chair Holt said he thought the communication with the current Council has been good.

51 Brokke stated he knows Parks and Recreation are highly valued by the community. Legislative
52 action would be needed to become a Park Board. Stoner said he thought having a Park Board
53 would be an advantage for, after Brokke retires, filling the Parks and Recreation Director
54 position.

55
56 Gelbach suggested that having a position paper on the Park Board would be helpful. Other
57 commissioners agreed that would help them in looking more closely at the advantages and any
58 disadvantages of forming a Board. Gelbach will meet with some of the commissioners and
59 Brokke to write the position paper. This will be presented at the May meeting.

60 61 **7. RENEWAL PROGRAM**

62 Brokke gave a short update on the park renewal program. There are eleven packages with the
63 program: Tennis courts, Lighting, Irrigation, Disc Golf, Field improvements, Shelters-Buildings
64 and Site improvements, Bridges and Boardwalks, Sidewalks, Natural Resources, Nature Center
65 and Skating Center. We are using the Best Value method with the renewal program. Brokke
66 noted that some costs are coming in over budget so some of the projects will need to be adjusted.

67
68 The new park buildings are a cornerstone of the renewal so maintaining the size and quality of
69 those buildings will be a high priority to meet community expectations. Brokke said discussions
70 are occurring with the apparent Best Value building contractor, discussing details of their
71 proposals.

72
73 Staff reviewed the overall Renewal Program and described a preferred approach to make
74 adjustments in the program due to budget amounts. For example, remodeling work on the Central
75 Park picnic shelters will be scaled back but upgrades will still be done. The new building at
76 Sandcastle Park can be built on its present site, to reduce utility costs. The Central Park Lexington
77 plans can be adjusted or done later. Rink improvements may be delayed. The wading pool at
78 Rosebrook Park will be available but the Splash Pad may be deferred. Following staff review and
79 description of the potential adjustments, commission members concurred with approach.

80
81 Chair Holt said it was unfortunate that the lawsuit that delayed the renewal program has resulted
82 in a lot higher construction and other costs that have affected the program.

83
84 Brokke said he is planning on bringing the first six packages to the City Council in April for their
85 approval. Hopefully, construction can still begin in May.

86 87 **8. STAFF REPORT**

88 Brokke reported:

- 89 • Spring-Summer brochures have been delivered to homes
- 90 • Roseville Community Band and Central Park Foundation are celebrating 50 years
- 91 • Earth Day at HANC April 19
- 92 • Arts@theOVAL and Tapping Time at HANC were very popular over the weekend
- 93 • SNAG Golf and Junior Golf registrations now open
- 94 • Park Renewal Kickoff event planned for May 3 assuming all can be worked out
- 95 • New park building open houses will be planned

96
97 Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

98
99 Respectfully Submitted,
100 Rick Schultz, Recreation Supervisor

**ORDINANCE 1278
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TITLE THREE, SECTION 1103.07
PARK DEDICATION**

THE CITY OF ROSEVILLE ORDAINS:

Section 1103.07 of the Roseville City Code is amended to read as follows:

1103.07: PARK DEDICATION:

- A. Condition To Approval: As a condition to the approval of any subdivision of land in any zone, including the granting of a variance pursuant to Section 1104.04 of this Title, when a new building site is created in excess of one acre, by either platting or minor subdivision, and including redevelopment and approval of planned unit developments, the subdivision shall be reviewed by the Park and Recreation Commission. The commission shall recommend either a portion of land to be dedicated to the public for use as a park as provided by Minnesota Statutes 462.358, subdivision (2)(b), or in lieu thereof, a cash deposit given to the City to be used for park purposes; or a combination of land and cash deposit, all as hereafter set forth.
- B. Amount To Be Dedicated: The portion to be dedicated in all residentially zoned areas shall be ten percent (10%) and five percent (5%) in all other areas.
- C. Utility Dedications Not Qualified: Land dedicated for required street right of way or utilities', including drainage, does not qualify as park dedication.
- D. Payment in lieu of dedication in all zones in the city where park dedication is deemed inappropriate by the City, the owner and the City shall agree to have the owner deposit a sum of money in lieu of a dedication. The sum shall be reviewed and determined annually by the City Council by resolution. (Ord. 1061, 6-26-1989)
- E. Park Dedication Fees may, in the City Councils sole discretion, be reduced for affordable housing units as recommended by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority for the City of Roseville.

Ordinance 1278 Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication

Passed by the City Council of the City of Roseville this 24th day of February, 2003.

Goal 2

Parks Development, Redevelopment, and Rehabilitation

Provide a high-quality, financially sound system of parks, open spaces, trails, and waterways that meets the recreation needs of all city residents, offers a visual/physical diversion from the hard surfacing of urban development, enhances our quality of life, and forms an essential part of our community's identity and character.

Policy 2.1: Evaluate and refurbish parks, as needed, to reflect changes in population, age, and diversity of residents, recreational activities preferred, amount of leisure time available, and best practice designs and technologies, and asset management strategies.

Policy 2.2: Orient parks and programs equally to youth activities that focus on community building activities teaching them life-long skills, and exposing them to a variety of recreation experiences, and to adult activities which accommodate adults' needs for wellness and provide a range of social interaction opportunities.

Policy 2.3: Focus parks on passive and active recreational activities and activities that take advantage of the unique natural features. Pursue opportunities for incorporating art and cultural programs, which enrich citizens' mental and emotional well-being, as a complement to primary

physical focus of parks and recreation programs. Policy 2.4: Organize all parks and facilities so that a component is provided for informal, non-programmed activities—those open to anyone in the community, at any time.

Policy 2.5: Maintain parks and open space according to the standards outlined in the Park Maintenance Manual which recognizes that levels of service must be provided based on the intensity of use and purpose of the site.

Policy 2.6: Use innovative methods for park and facility improvements that offer lower lifecycle costs, even if the initial cost is higher. Develop park and recreation facilities that minimize the maintenance demands on the City by emphasizing the development of well-planned parks, high-quality materials and labor-saving maintenance devices and practices.

Policy 2.7: Promote and support volunteerism to encourage people to actively support Roseville's parks and open spaces.

Policy 2.8: Encourage the preservation of features in parks considered to be of historic or cultural value, especially those features that do not conflict with other park uses and activities. Consider the potential of historic landscapes in parks, including agricultural landscapes or features. Work to perpetuate those landscapes and other features of historic or cultural significance when they are identified through recognized investigations.

Goal 3

Parks and Open Space Acquisition

Add new parks and facilities to achieve equitable access in all neighborhoods, accommodate the needs of redeveloping areas, and meet residents' desires for a range of recreation opportunities serving all ages, abilities, and cultures.

Policy 3.1: Ensure that no net loss of parkland or open space occurs during alterations or displacement of existing parkland and open space. If adverse impacts to parkland or open space take place, ensure that mitigation measures include the acquisition of replacement parkland of equal or greater size and value.

Policy 3.2: As areas of Roseville evolve, and properties undergo a change of use and/or density, land should be dedicated to the community for park purposes to ensure adequate park facilities for those new uses.

Policy 3.3: Determine potential locations and acquire additional park land in neighborhoods and constellations that are lacking adequate parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 3.4: Determine locations for new park and recreation facilities in redevelopment areas as part of the redevelopment process and use the park dedication process to acquire appropriate land.

Policy 3.5: Make continued effective use of the Park Dedication Ordinance. Park land dedication will be required when land is developed or redeveloped for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes. Review annually park dedication requirements in order to ensure that dedication regulations meet statutory requirements and the needs of Roseville.

Policy 3.6: Use park dedication funds to acquire and develop new land in addition to other funding sources.

Policy 3.7: Acquire properties necessary to implement adopted park concept plans and in Roseville's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and consider other additions based on needs identified in the sector or constellation concept. Acquire land on a "willing seller" basis unless otherwise determined by the City Council.

Goal 4 Trails, Pathways, and Community Connections

Create a well-connected and easily accessible system of parks, open spaces, trails, pathways, community connections, and facilities that links neighborhoods and provides opportunities for residents and others to gather and interact.

Policy 4.1: Develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive and integrated trails, pathways, and community connections system plan for recreation and transportation uses, including separate facilities for pedestrians, and bicyclists (including off-road unpaved trails for bikers and hikers that offer new challenges while protecting resources).

Policy 4.2: Develop, adopt, and implement a Trails Management Program (TMP).

Policy 4.3: Advocate the implementation of community parkways on the County Road C and Lexington Avenue corridors to accommodate pedestrian and bicyclist movement and inclusion of community character and identity features.

Policy 4.4: Maintain the trail and pathway system through all seasons.

Policy 4.5: Make the park system accessible to people of all abilities.

Policy 4.6: Align development and expansion of non-motorized trails, pathways, community parkways, and other routes with the need to provide connections to and within parks, to open spaces, recreation facilities, and key destinations, as well as between neighborhoods, constellations, and sectors.

Policy 4.7: Educate the public on the advantages and safe use of non-motorized trails, pathways, and community parkway connections.

Policy 4.8: Develop clear and communicative signage and kiosks for wayfinding.

Written Description of project and Proposed Plan for Park Dedication

301-303 South Owasso Blvd, Roseville MN 55113

3/25/14

To whom it may concern:

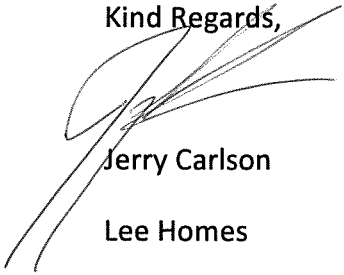
The developer/builders plan is to demolish or move all structures on the properties 301-303 South Owasso Blvd, Roseville. The builder is planning on subdividing those addresses into six single family buildable lots. He will be demolishing/moving the existing structures after approval from the city.

The price range of the builds (including house and lot) should range from the low \$400's to over \$600,000. For the most part, they will be two story homes with either the garage along side or behind the main house. Ramblers will also be able to be built on these sites.

The developer/builder would prefer to pay a park dedication fee because of subdividing lot size requirements by the city. The site currently is subdivided into three individual lots.

Please contact me (651 248 4849) or my associate Ariana (651 633 9168) with any questions you may have.

Kind Regards,



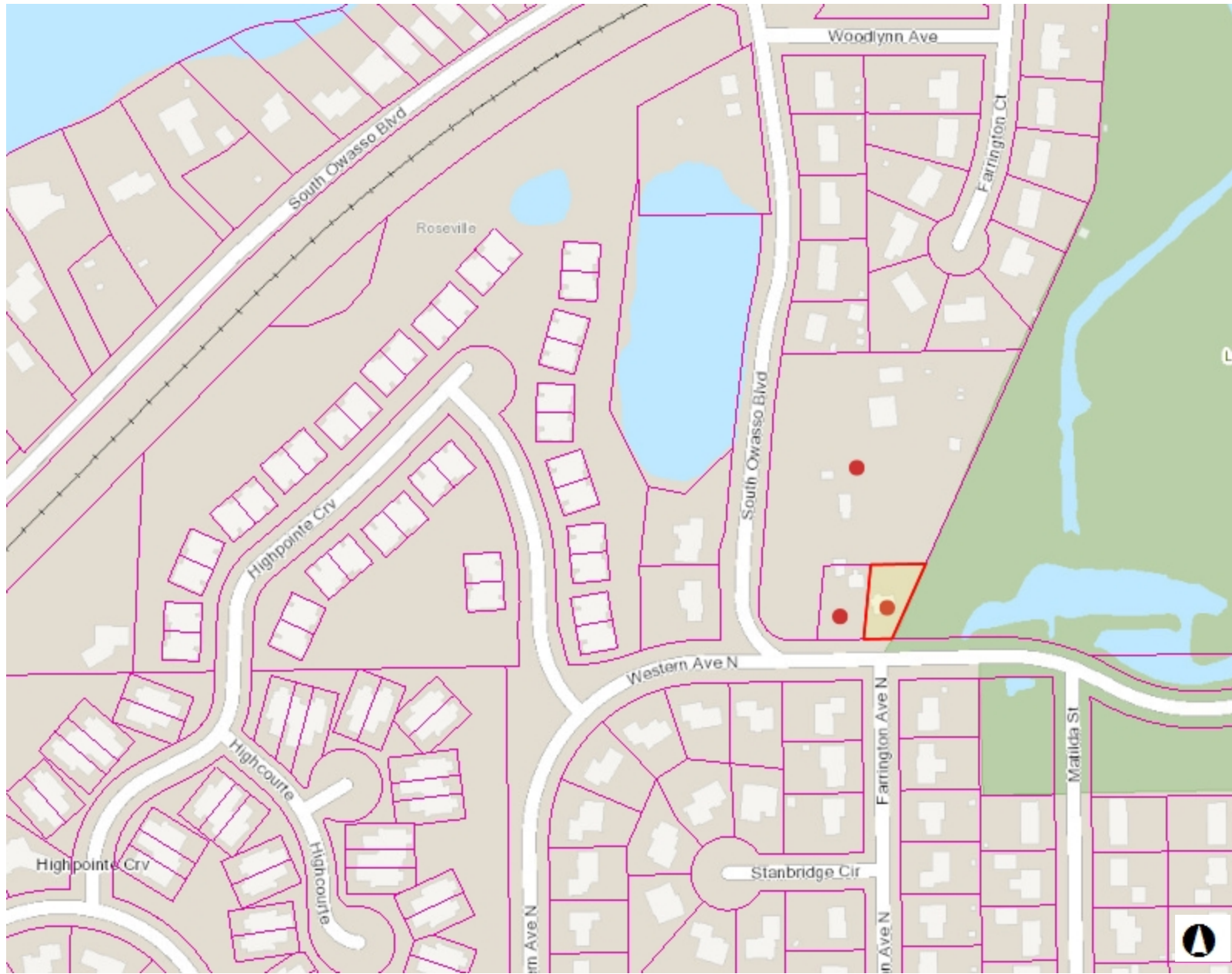
Jerry Carlson

Lee Homes

Ladyslipper
Park

Area highlighted for Lot location. Lots 303, 301 1/2, 301 on South Dwasso Blvd that backs up to Ladyslipper park.





Legend



- City Halls
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Fire Stations
- Police Stations
- Recreational Centers
- Parcel Points
- Parcel Boundaries



Notes

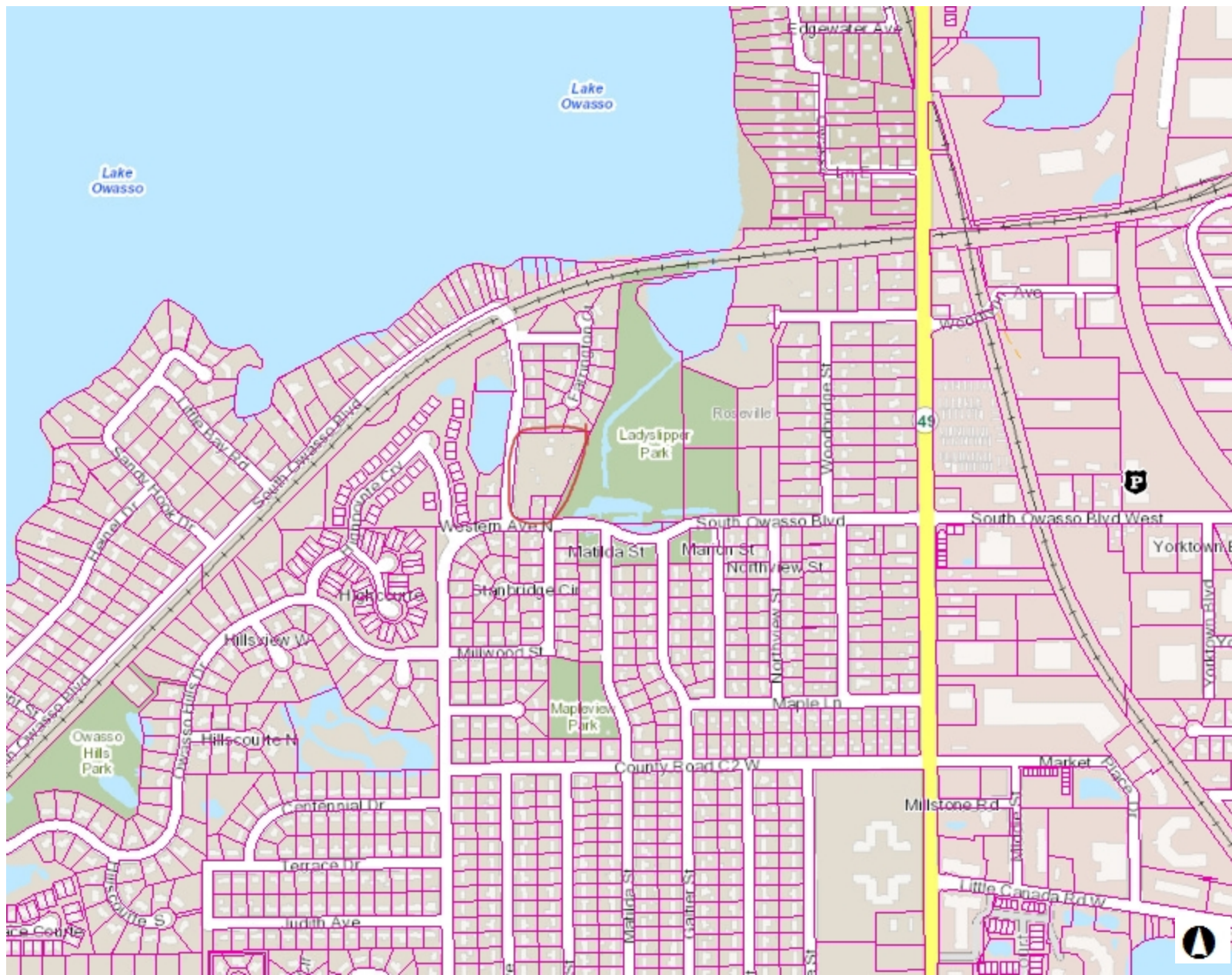
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Legend



-  City Halls
-  Schools
-  Hospitals
-  Fire Stations
-  Police Stations
-  Recreational Centers
-  Parcel Points
-  Parcel Boundaries

Notes

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Legend



-  City Halls
-  Schools
-  Hospitals
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-  Parcel Points
-  Parcel Boundaries

Notes

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Parks and Recreation Commission

Discussion regarding the legislative action to change from a commission to a board May 6, 2014

Discussion Point

Should the current Roseville Parks and Recreation Commission members adopt a resolution declaring support to change the commission's current status as a commission to become a Park Board and undertake the necessary steps to persuade the City Council and local legislators to author and sponsor and enact a special law to create a fully-empowered Roseville Park Board.

Strengths

- The current Commission acts more like a Board than a Commission
- Under Minnesota law, a fully empowered Park Board would possess “full absolute and exclusive control” over all property set aside for park purposes including:
 - Budget development and management;
 - Employ personnel;
 - Undertake construction projects;
 - Generally maintain and care for park property.
- A Board would provide regular and constant attention and oversight to Parks and Recreation activities. Might not need it now, but might be useful in future years as city staff turns over.
- The City Council has limited capacity to review all details from all areas of the City, a Board would be able to review things and act in place of the Council. Shoulder a bit of the load in response to park and recreation issues.
- A Board structure would assure a strong and benevolent advocacy for Parks and Recreation into the future
- May create increased staff efficiencies.
- The Board would help prevent the deferred maintenance issues that resulted in having to go out for bonding
- Parks and Recreation needs to be viewed as an essential service. People expect police and fire, but they choose to live in Cities based on Parks and Recreation and Schools. A Board would give focused attention to this important service.

Weaknesses

Roseville is a Plan B city-it has a City Manager form of government that makes it ineligible to have a park board without special legislative action.

- The Roseville City Council cannot relinquish their authority over Parks and Recreation functions and activities to another group—even the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- HOWEVER, as a Plan B city the only other option is to function jointly with another political subdivision i.e. another City, School District, or County. So the City **can** create a Park Board if it joins the function with another political subdivision.
- To create a fully-empowered Park Board is a lot of work... the City would need a special law enacted:

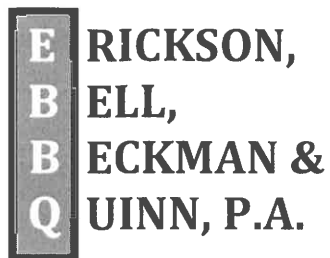
- o The City should be united in its pursuit of a Park Board, demonstrated by:
 - The Parks Commission adopting a resolution declaring support for Park Board legislation (need unanimity due to its political nature) and followed by:
 - The City Council adopting a resolution declaring support for Park Board legislation (again need unanimity)
 - Local Representative must author the bill and get it passed through appropriate committees
 - Must pass majority vote of both chambers
 - Must be signed into law by Governor
 - City and community must lobby the legislature for support
- If Parks and Recreation chooses to pursue legislative action, we are about a year out on the legislative timeline for an action like this.
- Future City Council make-up might not be as propitious and advantageous for Parks and Recreation as our current Council make-up.

Opportunities

- The Roseville Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) was approved by the legislature using a process similar to what the Parks and Recreation Commission would have to undergo (the HRA process has set a pattern for the process that we could follow).
- Future City Council make-up might not be as propitious and advantageous for Parks and Recreation as our current Council make-up. A Board structure would assure a strong and benevolent advocacy for Parks and Recreation.
- Increased “ownership” in the management of the City’s parks and recreation system by Board members.
- Increased accountability for Board members by the residents.

Threats

- Higher time commitment by members. Board activities would include more time from board members to:
 - o Review budget
 - o Make personnel decisions
 - o Review projects
- Long and involved legislative process to achieve desired outcomes
- Future City Councils might not be as committed to funding parks and recreation at a level necessary to maintain the existing investment
- Future economic circumstances may entice budget reductions which compromise the maintenance and expansion of services (underscores need for a strong advocating body)
- Public perception of implications of additional taxing authority
- Board members may have less accountability because they are not elected and are making decisions that were formerly considered by the Council



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James C. Erickson, Sr.
Caroline Bell Beckman
Charles R. Bartholdi
Kari L. Quinn
Mark F. Gaughan
James C. Erickson, Jr.

Robert C. Bell
(1926-2014)

March 14, 2014

Via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail

Mr. Lonnie Brokke
City of Roseville
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Mr. Pat Trudgeon
City of Roseville
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

RE: Park Board Legislation
Our File No.: 1011-00186

Dear Pat and Lonnie:

Lonnie asked me to put into writing the process that would be necessary for the City of Roseville to establish a Park Board with all of the powers governing such a board under Minnesota Statutes. Under state law, a Park Board possesses full, absolute, and exclusive control over all property set aside for park purposes. To that end, a Park Board is authorized to employ its own personnel, undertake construction projects, purchase supplies and equipment, and generally maintain and care for park property. Under Minnesota Statutes section 412.621, however, an Optional Plan B City cannot have a Park Board:

“In any [Optional Plan B City] there shall be no...park board...except for the administration of a function jointly with another political subdivision. The council itself...shall govern and administer...parks...as fully as other municipal functions for the administration of which no independent boards are authorized by statute for cities generally. The council may, however, create boards or commissions to advise the council...”

Under this section, then, the City can create a Park Board if it joins this function with another political subdivision, such as a neighboring community. The City also may have an advisory commission for the parks, which Roseville already possesses. Or, the City could renounce its Optional Plan B form of government and re-form under a governing scheme that permits Park Boards.

The only other alternative for the City, if it wishes to create a fully-empowered Park Board, would be to gain statutory permission from the state legislature. Specifically, the City would need a special law to be enacted that permits the City of Roseville to create a Park Board despite the fact that it is an Optional Plan B City. The process to gain such statutory permission would be as follows:

1. The City will need to be united in its pursuit of statutory permission for a Park Board. I would suggest that such unity could be demonstrated through the Parks Commission adopting a resolution declaring its support for Park Board legislation, followed by a similar resolution adopted by the City Council. Because this is a purely political pursuit, it would be important that these resolutions be adopted in a near-unanimous fashion. If the City's leadership is divided on this issue, then the prospects of gaining legislative support diminish.
2. Armed with the demonstrated support of City leadership, one or more local legislative representatives will need to shoulder the burden of authoring a bill and undertaking the burden of getting the bill passed through appropriate committees within their chamber of the legislature, followed by a majority vote of the entirety of the chamber. Then, the bill will have to pass by majority vote in the other chamber of the legislature and, finally, signed into law by the Governor. Along the way, City leadership and the community as a whole will likely need to lobby the legislature to support the bill. The first step in this process, however, will be to convince at least one local legislative representative undertake this project.

I hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

ERICKSON, BELL, BECKMAN & QUINN, P.A.



Mark F. Gaughan

MFG/kmw

Research and Analysis of a Park Board 5-7-13

Background

In the 2010 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan it was suggested that the City of Roseville investigate the potential of a park board or park district. Subsequently, the research and recommendation of the potential formation of a park board was identified in the City Council's 2012 Work Plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission have been asked to research the issue and provide a recommendation to the City Council at the joint meeting in June. Commission members assisted City staff in gathering background information, reviewing example park board ordinances, and also attended a meeting with representatives from the City of Maple Grove regarding their Park Board.

History

The Village of Roseville originally established a Recreation Board in August 1958. The powers and duties of the Board included the following:

- Establish recreation policy.
- Conduct and supervise recreation areas, facilities, services and programs.
- Conduct activities and pay for the necessary supervision.
- Establish the qualification, employ and determine the compensation of a Director of Recreation and necessary other employees.
- Coordinate services with other governmental programs.
- Solicit and train volunteers.
- Purchase supplies and equipment.
- Develop and maintain facilities.
- Procure or lease public or private properties, areas or facilities that may be required for programs.

In addition, the Board had the power to create a Citizens Recreation Committee whose role was to advise the Board on the City's recreational needs and interest. The Board was financed by annual appropriation by the Village Council and was required to submit an annual report with a detailed account of its estimated fund requirements for the ensuing year.

The Recreation Board was replaced by the existing Parks and Recreation Commission in the early 60's. The Parks and Recreation Commission is advisory with the following duties and functions, as contained in Chapter 203 of the City Code:

- Make recommendations to the Director of Parks and Recreation, the City Manager and the Roseville City Council on all matters relating to parks and recreation programs, facilities and services.
- Provide a method for citizens' input concerning the city's parks and recreation facilities, programs, needs and concerns.
- Identify areas that may require action and/or change to promote a harmonious, safe, and responsive Parks and Recreation program.

Park Board Characteristics

As included in the August 16, 2011 letter from the City Attorney, MN Statutes § 412.271, Subd. 6 gives the City the power to give an independent board or commission the right to disburse funds without council approval. Currently, only the City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has this power. According to MN Statutes § 412.501, the council of any city of more than 1,000 population may by ordinance establish a park board.

The main powers of a park board, as included in MN Statutes § 412.521, are as follows:

- Acquire and control land for park purposes.
- Employ necessary personnel and fix their compensation.
- Construct recreation facilities and make contracts and leases for their construction and operation.
- Purchase all necessary materials, supplies, equipment, and services.
- Maintain, beautify, and care for park property.

In order to carry out the powers of the Park Board, the City is required to set up a park fund. The Council may transfer money to the park fund for park purposes. Each budget year the Park Board submits a budget request to the City Council for approval. Most Park Board members are appointed by the Mayor and then they elect a Chairperson; the Board can also set term lengths and limits.

Communities in Minnesota with Park Boards include Brainerd, Maple Grove, and Rochester. Each has their own structure and powers contained in the local ordinance and can be reviewed in further detail to determine potential options in Roseville.

Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board

Parks and Recreation Director Brokke and Commissioner Wall had the opportunity to meet with the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Director Terry Just, a former City of Roseville employee, and the Park Board Chair Tim Phenow, prior to attending the March Board meeting. The Parks and Recreation Board manage approximately 1,488 acres of parkland and 998 recreation programs. In addition, the Board manages the Community Center, which includes an indoor and outdoor pool, gym, two ice rinks, teen and senior centers, indoor and outdoor playground, skate park, and meeting and banquet rooms. The Board employs 44 full-time and 423 seasonal employees and had an operating budget of \$5.4M in 2012.

In addition to touring the Community Center, the powers and duties of the Parks and Recreation staff and Park Board members were discussed as well as a number of specific questions regarding their interaction with the City Council and other City staff. Their current Park Board is well-respected and appreciated among the community members and various user groups that utilize the facilities and should be considered as a model for a potential future Roseville Park Board.

Pros/Cons

As the Commission considers the best fit for Roseville and its residents regarding the formation of a Park Board, a list of potential pros and cons may be helpful in guiding the discussion. The following list is meant to start the discussion and is based on information already provided to the Commission and the visit to Maple Grove:

PRO	CON
Increased transparency	Potential duplication of administrative services
Greater public influence – board has more authority therefore lends to greater influence	No longer an advisory commission
Funding control and responsibility	Added responsibilities of Board members
Increased Citizen engagement	Increased oversight of Department staff
Increased authority over the Department staff	Limited City Council and City Manager oversight/control
Board member increased accountability to the residents	Public perception of implications of additional taxing authority
Increased “ownership” by Board members	Less accountable because not elected
Decisions are less “political”	
Limited City Council and City Manager oversight/control	
Consistent and ongoing emphasis in Parks and Recreation – through good times and bad	
Increased staff efficiencies	

Time Spent

The Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board Members currently spend about 1-3 hours a month in meetings and 1-3 hours a month preparation time on average. The Board Chair spends a bit more time depending on what is going on, typically with a once a week phone call and/or meeting just to keep open lines of communication.

Summary of Commission Discussion on April 2, 2013

D. Holt introduced the topic and indicated that this was a topic of interest by the City Council and that it is was important that the Commission provide an analysis and recommendation to the City Council.

Wall indicated that he, Simbeck and staff have been working to compile information. He reviewed draft #1 research and analysis report dated 4/2/13 that included the background, history, Park Board characteristics, a start of a pros and cons list and was included in the packet. He also mentioned that he and staff met with the Director and Board Chair of Maple Grove Parks and Recreation and attended their meeting. His observations were that it appeared to operate in a similar way to Roseville.

Wall suggested that further discussion, analysis and recommendation of what is in the best interests of the City and residents occur in May in preparation for the June 10th joint City Council/Commission meeting.

Wall communicated his impression of the Maple Grove visit as follows:

- They appear to operate similar to Roseville even though they are a Park Board
- Users and stakeholders appear satisfied
- They like the system that they are operating under
- Maple Grove is a very good model
- Appointments are made by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council which is similar to Roseville
- The Community Center is very impressive

Staff indicated that procedurally a Park Board is more involved in staffing and budget development with the City Council approving a levy. It would operate similar to the Roseville HRA.

Staff observation was that the Roseville Parks and Recreation Commission is in actuality operating similar to the Maple Grove Park Board with all members being vested and engaged at all levels. With the value placed on Parks and Recreation in the community of Roseville, it does make sense that this type of consistency is important in Roseville.

According to the City Code, the Roseville Commission is advisory only and is probably going beyond their scope of work.

Further discussion included how long Maple Grove has been a Park Board, questions on board members pay and how the City Council is kept informed. Response included that Maple Grove has been a Park Board since inception, board members are not paid but it is believed that Brainerd Park Board Members are paid a stipend of \$25 month and the City Council in Maple Grove is kept informed through a quarterly report provide by the director. Larger items such as land acquisition and certain level of projects are reviewed by the City Council.

Diedrick wondered what the interaction with other City Departments in Maple Grove. Response was that the Director attends Department Head meetings and the need for interdepartmental coordination and cooperation still is important and exists.

Doneen provided his analysis on the primary difference between a Park Board and Commission. Specifically, the day to day operations and project development moves away from the City Council with the responsibility given to the Park Board. A Park Board would be a more focused, separate board relieving the duties from the City Council.

Gelbach questioned that with increased accountability and responsibility, does that then mean increased liability for Board Members.

Azer was complimentary of the existing Commission structure but is interested and would like to learn more.

D. Holt reiterated that the charge of the commission is to research the topic and provide information to the City Council so they can make a decision.

Responding to D. Holt, staff indicated that because of the importance Roseville Residents place on their Parks and Recreation system, that at some point, the consideration of a Park Board may be advantageous for Roseville. As guided by the recently updated Master Plan it is suggested that Roseville consider a Park District, which is not currently allowed by State Law. A Park Board seems like it could be a logical step or progression for Roseville.

The Commission thanked Wall and Simbeck for their work. More discussion will occur at the May meeting.

Conclusion

Based on the information gathered by the designated Commission members on the topic and discussion at last month's meeting, the demonstrated importance and value placed on parks and recreation by Roseville residents, and the guidance in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission feels the Park Board structure has merit and should be furthered evaluated by the City Council to ensure the parks and recreation system is managed in the best interest of the City's residents.

April 30, 2014

Roseville Mayor Dan Roe and Council
City of Roseville
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

Dear Mayor Roe and Council:

On April 21, 2014, I was able to appear at your council meeting and make comments regarding your city's RFP Proposal Package 1 (Natural Resource Improvements). I would like to restate my concerns at this time.

There have been several difficult factors in this process that I hope you will consider. These include:

1. I believe that the best value scoring system that was used is subject to bias and predetermined outcome. Although it seemed at first that the best value system would be a great system, the distribution of point values actually leaves the outcome subject to manipulation. Because up to thirty-five percent (35%) of the potential total is based on the interview, it essentially becomes the deciding factor. This interview process needs to be completely equal for all parties and we do not believe that it was. Although we do believe that the interview questions were the same for all bidders, we do not believe that the time spent by the interviewers was equal. This is extremely important because of the high point values allocated to this step. Spending less time with less favored bidders puts them at a disadvantage. Perhaps the total elapsed time of the interviews for each bidder should be compared.

We believe that more emphasis needs to be put on capability. The point value of this was established at 100 points maximum. Ultimately, we believe it is the most important factor and should have the most points assigned to it. Detailed lists of personnel, equipment, and facilities should have been compared for all bidders.

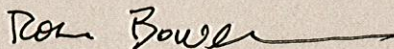


2. The field of bidders included Stantec, a consulting contractor for your city. Unlike the other bidders, Stantec had a significant advantage based on its familiarity with the sites. The RFP was requested at a time when there was heavy snow cover, making it difficult for other bidders to inventory the sites and submit good proposals. For this reason and other capability related issues, it is our belief that Stantec should have been excluded from bidding.
3. There is a limited opportunity for the bidders to have access to information. It is extremely challenging to reconcile the bidding process without information about the bids. What were the scores? How long were the interviews? Is there reason to challenge? With a public bid this information needs to be made available before the contract is awarded. Once that is done, it is too late and a legal challenge becomes the only option available. Contractors make a substantial investment in bidding, deserve to see the information, and should not be forced to challenge legally.

In closing, I would simply like to say that Roseville undoubtedly has some excellent native plant communities. Like most urban remnants, they need management now and will into the future or they will be lost. Time is of the essence and professional management is critical. Obviously it is in your city's best interest to find competent help for this work and I hope that you can achieve the best outcome possible.

Please feel free to contact me if there are questions.

Most sincerely,



Ron Bowen
President
612-708-9425



2014-04-17

[Image: NYC, Central Park via Pio3 / Shutterstock]

If You Live Near A Park, You're More Likely To Be Happy

Green space puts people in a better mental state, with "significant and sizable" effects. Better get gardening.

If you want to be happy, living near a park could be a good idea. More and more research shows a relationship between green space and higher levels of mental health.

The latest comes from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Researchers looked at 2009 survey data that asked 2,500 residents about depression, anxiety, and stress. They next analyzed 229 neighborhoods for vegetation cover. Those places with more trees tended to be happier, and the association was "significant and sizable," according to a paper discussing the results.

Those places with more trees tended to be happier, and the association was "significant and sizable."

In fact, the relationship of happiness to trees was similar to well-known correlations, like unemployment. "The most interesting thing is that decreased symptoms attributed to green space were similar to decreases observed for other important determinants of mental health, including insurance status and income," wrote Kirsten Beyer, an assistant professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin, in an email.

The paper shows the difference in well-being levels between areas with zero tree canopy cover and 100% canopy cover was greater than the well-being difference between someone having and not having health insurance.

The research, which is published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, could provide further reasons to invest in green space, the authors write. "Our work indicates that 'greening' could be considered a potentially low-cost, high-return investment among urban and regional planners to positively influence population mental health," they say.

In other words, don't just invest in parks because they look nice and offer exercise for joggers. Do it to make people feel better, too.

<http://www.fastcoexist.com/3029115/if-you-live-near-a-park-youre-more-likely-to-be-happy>



News and Events

Wisconsin Research Shows Green Space Keeps You From Feeling Blue

Madison, Wisconsin - If you start feeling better as spring begins pushing up its tender shoots, you might be living proof of a trend discovered in data from the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin: The more green space in the neighborhood, the happier people reported feeling.

"If you want to feel better, go outside."

- Kristen Malecki

"Across neighborhoods of Wisconsin, from the North Woods to the cities, the results are striking," says [Dr. Kristen Malecki](#), assistant professor of population health sciences at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. "Higher levels of green space were associated with lower symptoms of anxiety, depression and stress."

The study, published recently in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, combines mental-health data from the [Survey of the Health of Wisconsin](#) (SHOW) and Landsat 5 satellite data from July 2009 that analyzed how much vegetation was present in each of the SHOW census blocks.

About 2,500 Wisconsin residents from 229 neighborhoods answered an assessment that asked them to rate their symptoms of depression, anxiety and stress. The research team, which was also led by Dr. Kirsten Beyer of the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, adjusted the results to make sure they weren't confounded by race, age, income level, education, marital status, employment and other factors.

They found that across all strata of society, people who lived in a neighborhood with less than 10 percent tree canopy were much more likely to report symptoms of depression, stress and anxiety. So, for example, a poor person living on a logging road in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest was more likely to be happy than a wealthier person living on a treeless block in Milwaukee.

Malecki notes that the study gives credence to the "attention restoration theory," which holds that more time in nature restores the ability to concentrate and reduces mental fatigue. This idea is also the theme of the book "Last Child in the Woods," which suggested that indoor lifestyle and more screen time hurt children's attention spans. It also suggests a relatively simple solution to improving the mental health of poor urban neighborhoods: Plant trees and grass.

"The greening of neighborhoods could be a simple solution to reducing stress," says Malecki. "If you want to feel better, go outside."

Research Support

The SHOW project is supported by grants from the Wisconsin Partnership Program, the National Institutes of Health (IRC2HL101468-01), and the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (UL1TR000427). This research was also supported by the Clinical and Translational Research Institute of Southeast Wisconsin (NIH UL1RR031973.)

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News tag(s): [show](#), [research](#), [public health](#)



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