

**Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Recommendation
Finalized Proposal April 9, 2008
Presented to Parks and Recreation Commission April 10, 2008**

Staff Members

Terry Willenbrink, Parks Supervisor
Amber Morris, Recreation and Community Relations Director

Council Members

Lynda Roesch, Council member

Parks and Recreation Commissioners present at meeting of PARC

Therese Reiger
John Lovro
Dick Chisholm
Gene Droder
Gail Pulliam, emailed planned absence at 3pm April 10.

Motion to excuse by Gene Droder. Second, John Lovro. Motion passes 4-0.
Laura Devore, 6 month leave of absence. Motion to excuse absence included in the above motion.

The Park study submitted by Leisure Services Management in December of 2007 has been thoroughly reviewed by a subcommittee comprised of three council members, Lynda Roesch, Todd Steinbrink and Vicki Hirsch, three PARC members, Therese Reiger, John Lovro and Dick Chisholm filled in for Laura Devore after her leave of absence, and three staff members, Terry Willenbrink, Bob Nikula and Amber Morris.

The subcommittee has established a list of projects and suggested some general guidelines for prioritizing the recommended projects to fit into the next five to ten years of capital improvement, maintenance and equipment budgets in the pool, public works, parks, lodges and the CIP for each of these areas. Each of these identified projects were evaluated based on community feedback, needed maintenance updates, costs and alternate funding sources. The subcommittee used the following criteria to determine the project type and build in flexibility. This recommendation allows for consideration of other community projects, economics, trends and best practices:

1. Type 1 Projects with high community support, signature projects with high visibility or already budgeted items
2. Type 2 Projects with high use, generate revenues or reduce costs, or need immediate maintenance for safety reasons.
3. Type 3 Projects that are cyclical; done one location at a time over several years before repeating as needed for maintenance or upgrade
4. Type 4 Projects to be done when funding or grants are available. These projects are recommended as upgrades to meet with recognized standards within the community and increase services or use.

Each project was reviewed to indicate the park location, type of project, costs estimates for budgeting purposes, project considerations, alternative funding options and more. The details within this document are the work of the subcommittee volunteers in an effort to present a solid foundation of information for quality decision making that can be made during the planning and implementation of these projects.

The recommendation comes with much enthusiasm and excitement about improving upon the desirable and valued Montgomery Park System with a vision that was based on community feedback and a focus on maintaining and upgrading these well-used amenities to the standards that are in line with the community's values of safety, quality, aesthetics and environmental concerns and delivery of effective services.

This recommendation driven by public feedback is designed to be flexible, opportunistic, and fiscally responsible. The types of projects do not relate to priorities or to the order in which they would be completed. The recommendation, in terms of suggested priorities, is to schedule yearly upgrades and maintenance of items that had high public support or use such as ball field upgrades, playgrounds and all-season restrooms. A second goal within the recommendation is to pick one or two projects that have high visibility and would enhance frequently used locations such as the Pfeiffer Road/ Montgomery Road intersection improvements and the walkway enhancements in Montgomery Park.

The Parks and Recreation Commission and related staff and council have committed to an annual review on the status of these recommended projects and to evaluate the remaining projects in light of new information, changing trends, financial demands and public feedback. The 2007 Park Study from Leisure Services Management will be used as the list of project ideas and as a resource for relevant data. All decisions are consistent with our city-wide vision, strategic plan and community values to ensure the Montgomery Park System remain a valued, well-used signature asset to the community.

After presentation and discussion with the Parks and Recreation Commission and with consideration of the public feedback on the plan, John Lovro moved to accept the recommendation as amended by the commission to be presented to the Park Committee of Council at the Tuesday, April 15 meeting. Seconded by Gene Droder. Motion passes 4-0.

Recommended Projects

The following are projects recommended for consideration. The list is derived from the longer list of the potential park improvements and additions proposed in the 2007 Park Study. This current recommendation focuses on the priorities over the next five to ten years and contains a number of projects identified as both short-term maintenance and upgrade projects as well as some enhancements to be planned as funding permits.

Project

Project Type

Beautification of Pfeiffer Road Corners

1

- 3 corners with special feature denoting Montgomery. Consider sponsor by Bethesda and Medical building on the adjoining property to each corner
- Corner at Park would be landscaped but not feature architectural element
- Includes grant dollars for replacement of the traffic signals and poles to mimic downtown Montgomery. Also relocate and mask the control box on this visible corner.

Park Locations: Pfeiffer Park and Intersection

Includes: Pfeiffer/Montgomery/Radabaugh Traffic Signals

Estimated Cost: \$120,000 for architectural corner features and \$175,000.00 for traffic signal upgrade project

Project Type: 1

Project Details: Add architectural feature representative of historic Montgomery on three corners of the intersection and in the landscaping at each corner.

Replace existing traffic signals and poles with decorative type now at the Remington & Main Street intersection in downtown. Included in this would be again the decorative poles, Battery back up, lighted street name signs, moving the traffic control box from the SW corner to the NE corner.

Possible Events/Programming: None

Issue: Enhancement Safety Maintenance Addition

Best Practice\ Comparison Data: style in the heritage district.

Alternate Funding Sources: Possible eligibility for a 80/20 grant for traffic signal upgrades. Partner with the Arts Commission and Tree\Beautification Commission on corner projects. Partnership with Bethesda for sponsoring respective corner enhancements.

Walkway Enhancements at Montgomery Park 1

- Consider brick walkway
- Include lighting, water, electric built-ins for safe use and event use (this would add \$25,000 to costs of walkway enhancements).
- Consider parking and access to playground and annex enhancements if appropriate
- Consider naming rights or brick sale as potential fundraising opportunity.

Park Location: Montgomery Park

Estimated Cost: \$70,000 total project. \$45,500 (6,500 sq. ft. at \$7.00) This is based on materials only and would require construction to be done by City staff. An additional \$25,000 would cover the costs of adding lighting, water and electrical outlets along the pathway for festival and event use.

Priority Level: 2

Project Details: Widen walkway and connect to sidewalk and bike trails; add lighting and electrical outlets along the path; add running water supply along the path to facilitate use of booths for Fourth of July and Bastille Day celebrations. Could possibly incorporate bricks or brick structures, arches, etc.

Possible Events/Programming: Bastille Day, Fourth of July, concerts in the park, or any event in the park.

Issue: Enhancement ; Safety ; Maintenance ; Addition

Best Practice/Comparison Data: I found a promenade in Portland, Oregon and Lakeland, Florida but it is hard to say if it is really the same idea. The concept is to have a user-friendly path for events which is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. The running water and electrical outlets should facilitate set up of special events for service workers.
Alternate Funding Sources: ADA possibilities. Private donation. Brick sales.

Resurfacing with Poured in Place or solid tiles for Pool Playground 1

- Location identified as test site to evaluate the usefulness and maintenance savings of this type of surface. Reason for this site is: smaller size, high use, easy shape of playground layout to allow for quick evaluation of material for considered use in both Montgomery and Swaim Playground redesign

Park Locations: Pool

Estimated Cost: \$8-\$9 per square foot for SOFsurfacing tiled squares estimate or \$30 per square foot for poured in place surfacing. Area is 1440 square feet. Cost estimate is between \$15,000 and \$45,000.

Project Type: 1 (if use meets expectations, this may become a type 3 project with plans to gradually replace playground surfaces in all parks)

Project Details: This would be a solid surface replacement of the existing fibar material used for impact intenuation requirements under playgrounds. The justification for poured in place surfacing is minimal maintenance for wear and tear or displacement of materials, longevity of poured in place materials is 7-10 years whereas fibar is replaced or added to yearly. Design and color elements also can be used to add to the play experience by incorporating hop scotch, spelling, languages, animals, etc into the design of the material. Want to be sure it meets IPEMA standards. Use as a test site to determine usefulness and maintenance savings to consider with redesign of Swaim and Montgomery play areas.

Possible Events/Programming: rainy weather play

Issue: Enhancement Safety Maintenance Addition

Best Practice/ Comparison Data: Hamilton County parks has used this type of surfacing under water play elements and in playgrounds such as Fernbank Park (see this website: <http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/parks/fernbank.htm>)

Alternate Funding Sources: ODNR has scrap tire surfacing grants that we may consider. Also, NatureWorkds grants can be used for this type of park enhancement. Partnerships with a local business may also work (like the hospital – signage about preventing injury for children??) if we provide signage at the site about the business' support.

Montgomery Park Playground Redesign 1

- Redesign this site for optimal and safe flow of user traffic.
- Add a school-age composite structure
- Signage to identify age group and supervision
- Based on evaluation of solid surfacing at pool playground, consider this product for this park design
- Involve Montgomery Moms and PTA in choosing final playground designs from approved options.

Park Locations: Montgomery Park

Estimated Cost: \$75,000.00 total with new equipment at \$35,000 and reconfiguring existing equipment into one large play area while maintaining ADA elements and accessibility.

Project Type: 1

Project Details: Purchase one large composite structure for school age children. Reconfigure the layout and use of existing equipment to have a better flow and use of park site for both school age and tot lot equipment. Maintain ADA equipment and accessibility. Build in a drinking fountain in proximity to the site. Add additional bench seating around perimeter of play equipment for parental supervision. Add new signage indicating ADA elements and age appropriateness of equipment.

Possible Events/Programming: Used for rentals of park, camp activities, entertainment during July 3 and 4 events.

Issue: Enhancement Safety Maintenance Addition

Best Practice\ Comparison Data: Weller Park

Alternate Funding Sources: NatureWorks grant. Possible Community Block Grant for ADA elements which could include restroom enhancements and some other park amenities such as ADA drinking fountain and tables in shelter. Partnerships with Montgomery Moms and PTA for feedback and support.

Swaim Park Playground Redesign 1

- Redesign this site for optimal and safe flow of user traffic.
- Add a tot-age structure
- Signage to identify age group and supervision
- Based on evaluation of solid surfacing at pool playground, consider this product for this park design
- Involve Montgomery Moms and PTA in choosing final playground designs from approved options.

Park Locations: Swaim Park

Estimated Cost: \$45,000.00 for new equipment at \$25,000 and reconfiguring existing equipment into one large play area while maintaining a safe flow between swings, slides and composite elements.

Project Type: 1

Project Details: Purchase one large composite structure for tot use to compliment existing school age structure. Envelope swings and tire swing into the play area with correct traffic flow within the site for both age groups. Remove access barriers to the location. Add seating throughout the site for parental supervision and signage to indicate proper age groups for equipment.

Possible Events/Programming: Used for park rentals, during Harvest Moon and Eat to the Beat concert series.

Issue: Enhancement Safety Maintenance Addition

Best Practice\ Comparison Data: Weller Park

Alternate Funding Sources: NatureWorks grant. Possible Rotary or Women's Club contribution. Work with Montgomery Moms and PTA to identify choices.

Pool Heating 1

- This project will be determined by survey data indicating where additional dollars will come from (combination of membership fees, swim team financial support, general fund dollars, grants for alternative heating elements).
- Survey data to be collected in 2008 pool season including current temperatures, support for funding options, total project cost estimates, feasibility of different options, etc.

Location: Montgomery Pool
Estimated Cost: \$87,000 for solar estimate
 \$ TBD for traditional heating

Project Type: 1

Project Details: The pool water is cold early in the season and during morning hours when temperatures drop at night. As the swim team practices in the mornings, the water is viewed as too cold and swim team membership is impacted which drives 1/6th of pool memberships. Other pools nearby (Blue Ash Rec Ctr, Montgomery Swim & Tennis Club) have heated pools. The Montgomery Swim & Tennis Club is using their heated pool in advertising for memberships. Survey will need to determine combination of City capital improvement budget, member\user fees, swim team fundraising and corporate financial support. Education of realistic heat change resulting will need to be included in the survey so as to create realistic expectations.

Options being considered:

- 1) Roof top solar heated water option. Water is circulated through roof top pipes which use sun's energy to heat water throughout the day. Estimated Cost: \$87,000
Issue is that water temperature will drop overnight and there is not enough sunlight and solar heat generated by 8:30am to make much change for swim team use and may be too warm by end of day.
- 2) Instant heat system for heating the water when needed. The system uses solar panels to generate electricity to help with the power used by the heating system. Water is stored in tanks and then circulated. This option is new and will require further study to determine feasibility. Estimated Cost: to be determined
- 3) Use standard pool heating system. This option was initially deemed to require too many modifications for installation to be feasible (expanding room, ventilation installation, moving snack bar). Further study indicates a gas heating unit vented through the roof would not require much modification to the current system. Further study and estimates needed to understand the design requirements and alternatives for this conventional option. Estimated Cost: to be determined

Possible Events \ Programming: Improved swim practices for swim team, increased daily hours of operation, increased senior use. Stay competitive in market.

Issue: Enhancement X Safety __ Maintenance __ Addition __

Best Practice\Comparison Data: Blue Ash Pool, Montgomery Swim & Tennis Club

Alternate Funding Sources: Solar heating systems might qualify for grants. Duke energy has a research grant which might be a potential. Increased pool fees, swim team fundraising, and corporate partnerships (EPA? Trial location for a company?) to spread out the costs.

New Lodge Building at Swaim Park

2 (also 4 for budgeting)

- When funding is available

- Include all season restroom in redesign
- Design elements to consider increased rental opportunities and uses to compliment City events, trainings and functions to generate revenue to offset operational and construction costs.
- Consider proximity to neighbors in redesign for lighting, windows aesthetics, access and proximity to historic home.

Park Locations: SWAIM PARK

Estimated Cost: \$588,000.00

Project Type: 2 and 4

Project Details: Build a new lodge at Swaim Park to replace the small and outdated lodge presently used. The new lodge possibly located closer to the lake and connected to the Gazebo with the possibility of also having heated Park restrooms outside the lodge for usage by park patrons. Look at the possibility of thermal heating from the lake to the entire building. Could possibly market lodges to businesses for better income and overall usage.

Possible Events/Programming: To be comparable to Terwilliger Lodge with the image of what has come to be expected by our residents and customers. May be designed to have a lower level that would be more suitable for smaller gatherings such as Birthday parties.

Issue: Enhancement __x__ Safety__xx__ Maintenance __xx__ Addition _____

Best Practice\ Comparison Data:

Alternate Funding Sources: Design could possibly be drawn by University of Cincinnati Architect students for a class project or contest

Annex Building Redesign

2 (also 4 for budgeting)

- When funding is available
- Include all season restroom in redesign
- Design elements to consider increased rental opportunities and increased diverse programming, uses to compliment City events, trainings and functions to generate revenue to offset operational and construction costs.
- Consider proximity to neighbors in redesign for lighting, windows aesthetics, access and parking availability.

Park Locations: Montgomery Park

Estimated Cost: \$840,000 (5,000 sq ft estimate at \$168\sqft)

Project Type: 2 and 4

Project Details: This would be a redesign of the annex building to potentially envelope the existing restroom and shelter space to an indoor/outdoor design. The floor plan would be decided based on an assessment of need for programming, storage, office and rental spaces to consider revenue generation. The restrooms would be designed to allow for year-round use by all park patrons. The design would also be considerate of the proximity to existing neighbors to the north and the limitations of parking.

Possible Events/Programming: Art and cooking development programming with kitchen space and storage for materials, multi-purpose activity room for training and play spaces, camps for kids, activity room for adult social use. Also consider storage for event supplies and rental options.

Issue: Enhancement __x__ Safety_____ Maintenance __x__ Addition _____

Best Practice\ Comparison Data: Couldn't find a modified space of this nature from garage to an activity space with these diverse functions.

Alternate Funding Sources: ADA possibilities.

Pioneer Shoreline Stabilization

2

- Keep natural feel with materials used.
- Consider access for desired uses of the pond both as scenic and for fishing.

Location: Pioneer Park

Estimated Cost: \$40,000

Project Type: 2

Project Details: The Lake in Pioneer Park is seeing advancing erosion of the shore line. The shoreline will need to be stabilized to prevent further erosion and loss of hill side surrounding the lake. Several options could work to stabilize the shoreline and are detailed below. Goal is to enhance natural setting of this park with the use of natural materials or natural looking materials. Options to consider:

1. Rip Rap around the edge of the lake from below water surface to 2-3 ft. up the bank
Estimated cost: \$25,000 to \$30,000
2. Place large stone boulders around the edge of the lake from below the water surface an extending up the bank 2-3 ft. Estimated cost: \$30,000 - \$35,000
3. Build a stone or interlocking decorative concrete wall between the bank edge and the waterto stop action of the water on the bank. The wall would extend slightly above the high normal high water mark (1 ft above). Estimated cost: \$35,000 - \$40,000

Possible Events \ Programming: When completed the project will enhance appearance of the pond and attract more people to walk along the pond edges.

Issue: Enhancement X Safety X Maintenance X Addition

Best Practice\Comparison Data: Good example is Swaim Park.

Alternate Funding Sources: EPA Regional Wetland program development grants which apply to local governments could be a source of funding.

All Season Restrooms

3

- To be completed on location per year in the order listed below which is based on user levels of each park location.
- Weller
- Swaim (may be in conjunction with the Swaim Lodge redesign)
- Montgomery (may be in conjunction with the Annex redesign)
- Pioneer
 - For each of these sites, consider alternative energy or heating sources into the design (ie. Geothermal or solar) and also promote education and awareness of this “green” element at the site.

Park Locations: Weller, Swaim , Montgomery and Pioneer Parks

Estimated Cost: \$ 25,000 each at Weller and Montgomery and \$40,000 at Swaim and Pioneer.

Consider inclusion of Montgomery and Swaim park restrooms in the redesign of the Annex or Lodge buildings.

Project Type: 3

Project Details: The work at Pioneer Park and Swaim Park includes installation of geothermal elements utilizing the heat energy from the pond located within the park to keep the restrooms at a temperature above freezing throughout the winter months. The work at Weller Park and Montgomery Park will not include any geothermal elements and will most likely require heating by “fossil fuel” or solar panels. The project will also require building modifications to allow the buildings to be “closed and sealed up” so that insulation can be installed to keep the ambient temperature ideally above 35 degrees during the cold weather months. The project(s) if approved and constructed should also include educational elements that describe how this was accomplished and the environmental objectives achieved through project designs that may not require the use of fossil fuels.

The other point to consider is that if the project to expand or reconstruct the Swaim Lodge and/or Annex Building is approved, the existing restroom facilities could remain as a warm weather or three season restroom and the new building would include a year round restroom with exterior access for park visitors. The location at Swaim could consider geothermal heating and education components to increase awareness and understanding of this special “green” feature.

Possible Events/Programming: host winter activities within the parks

Issue: Enhancement yes _____ Safety yes actually more in the way of health as having restroom facilities that are available year round is a more healthy approach than either port-o-lets or no facilities at all. Maintenance yes, will require additional maintenance efforts by Service staff to monitor and clean restrooms on a year round basis Additions: yes, installation of geothermal “heating” source at Swaim and Pioneer and a fossil fuel heating source at Weller

Best Practice/ Comparison Data: As the use of park facilities is weather dependent there does remain considerable use of the parks and particularly Swaim and Weller during the months that the restrooms have been closed and winterized so the present practice is to place port-o-lets in these parks to be used by visitors to these two parks. This has been received as a suitable interim alternative however there was widespread community support to install year round restroom facilities in our parks particularly at the parks listed.

Alternate Funding Sources: Possibly eligible for grant funding through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Duke Energy of some other type of grants offered for environmentally friendly projects. Possible partnership with the Environmental Commission to educate and provide additional work in soliciting grants or fundraising.

Upgrade Ball Fields

3

- Field priorities identified with input from SBSA
 - Weller
 - Pioneer
 - Swaim
 - Dulle
 - Montgomery
- Current budget includes \$20,000.00 per year for safety and maintenance upgrades and the recommendation is to continue with the budgeted amounts.

Park Locations: Weller, Pioneer, Swaim, Dulle and Montgomery

Estimated Cost: \$20,000 per year for each location

Project Type: 3

Project Details: Meet with the SBSA to determine which fields are a priority based on existing condition and frequency of use. SBSA indicated the above listed order for field upgrades. SBSA indicated no need for dugouts, bleachers or other site amenities. Wants focus on drainage in fields. SBSA suggested some layout changes for Pioneer Park in an effort to share with the GSSA. Also, SBSA liked the idea of a grass infield at Montgomery Park since this is the site of the special All-Star game played on the 4th of July.

Possible Events\Programming:

Issue: Enhancement Safety Maintenance Addition

Best Practice\ Comparison Data: Grooms Fields in Blue Ash

Alternate Funding Sources:

Lighting in Parks

3

- Current budget reflects \$8,000 per year
- Request this to increase to \$20,000 per year per park and consider alternative energy sources for lighting elements but keep with style reflective of Montgomery
 - Swaim
 - Montgomery
 - Weller
 - Pioneer

Park Locations: Swaim, Montgomery, Weller and Pioneer

Estimated Cost: \$20,000 per year per park to add illumination along walkways and enhance lighting in parking lots, around restrooms and shelters. (current budget at \$8,000 per year)

Project Type: 3

Project Details: Design lighting elements consistent with historic look, considerate of neighboring properties, appropriate to the hours of operation of the parks and the safety concerns for all season-restrooms. Allow for lighting to be modified for brightness and hours of operation during events at that location (ie. Harvest moon or Haunted Tales). Consider solar power or alternative sources of energy (geothermal converter).

Possible Events\Programming: Events to later hours. Night walks for nature.

Issue: Enhancement Safety Maintenance Addition

Best Practice\ Comparison Data: Liked to mimic lighting fixtures with historic look.

Alternate Funding Sources: NatureWorks grant. Duke Energy Grant.

Reforestation

3

- Consider working on this in defined areas and in conjunction with replacement of Ash trees as needed

Location: Pioneer and Dulle Parks

Estimated Cost: tbd

Project Type: 3

Project Details: Wooded areas in both Pioneer and Dulle Park have extensive growth of honey suckle. This is resulting in a forested area with several very large trees with canopy over the forest and below that, honey suckle which provides a dense lower canopy. The result is that no other tree growth is occurring. The mature trees eventually will die off and there is no under growth of new trees to replace them

Recommendation: with help of an arborist, develop a 5 year plan of honey suckle removal and understory plant and tree planting. Compliment the plan for replacement of Ash trees.

Possible Events \ Programming: Educational benefits of damage invasive plant species can cause and how to over come this.

Issue: Enhancement X Safety __ Maintenance X Addition __

Best Practice\Comparison Data:

Alternate Funding Sources: Land and Water Conservation Fund?

Maintenance of Courts

3

- Tennis
 - Dulle
 - Swaim
 - Pfeiffer
 - Weller
- Basketball
 - Montgomery
 - Swaim
 - Dulle
 - Weller
 - Pool
- Current budget reflects maintenance level dollar figures. Request budget increase to represent replacement level dollar figures for these aging sites.

Park Locations: Pfeiffer Park
Montgomery Park
Montgomery Pool
Swaim Park
Weller Park
Dulle Park

Estimated Cost: \$36,000 for hardscape maintenance at each double tennis court
- Pfeiffer, Swaim, Dulle
\$72,000 for hardscape maintenance at Weller – 4 courts
\$14,000 for fencing, windscreens, poles and nets at each park
\$30,000 for hardscape maintenance for each basketball court
- Swaim, Dulle, Montgomery, Pool
\$60,000 for hardscape maintenance at Weller – double court
\$ 5,000 for backboard, poles and nets at each court
\$ 5,000 for each netting addition at Dulle and Montgomery Parks
Lighting and timing controls to be determined

Project Type : 3

Project Details: Three main goals need to be addressed with the basketball and tennis courts in the parks system.:

- 1) A thorough renovation and updating of all tennis courts, which includes:
 - improving drainage systems
 - complete resurfacing
 - painting/stripping
 - replacing fencing, windscreens, poles and nets as needed
- 2) Renovating and updating basketball courts, including:
 - improving drainage systems
 - complete resurfacing
 - painting/stripping
 - new poles, backboards and nets
 - netting for courts in Montgomery and Dulle parks
- 3) Court lighting at select courts
 - New technology lighting that reduces glare for neighbors and the sky
 - Timing controls for the lighting so lights will be on only when courts are actually being used

Possible Events/Programming: Tennis/basketball tournaments, children's programming/camps

Issue: Enhancement ___x___ Safety ___x___ Maintenance ___x___ Addition _____

Best Practice/Comparison Data: Currently, the courts are maintained on a regular basis, but could benefit by a thorough renovation that would keep them in optimum condition for the next 7 – 10 years.

Netting for the basketball courts at Montgomery and Dulle would enhance the playability of these two courts, by preventing basketballs from rolling down hills away from the court areas.

Lighting at selected courts would increase their availability during the spring and autumn, when weather may be good for playing, but there may not be enough natural light available.

Using timing controls would allow the lighting to be used only when the courts are used, thereby saving money, and also offering less infringement on nearby neighbors.

Alternate Funding Source: Improvements may be eligible for grants through the United States Tennis Association. Innovative local fundraising may also be an option for covering costs. Innovative lighting using green technology may be eligible for grants that promote environmentally friendly energy solutions.

Parkways and Boulevards

3

- Ideally add perennials, brick end caps and low level lighting in the medians.
- Begin design concept now to start this year with the median redesign at the Bethesda Hospital entrance intersection.
- Respite areas (up to 6) at the road way but in proximity to a park to include a bench, landscaping and a water fountain. These locations will be identified with consideration to current bus stop locations in progress.

Park Locations: medians and roadsides respite areas

Estimated Cost: \$30,000.00 with additional TBD

Project Type: 3

Project Details: Add additional landscaping with Perennials/grasses/woody plants. The islands look pleasing and pretty, but could benefit from work to provide a better appearance. The idea of brick hardscape at median tips with lighting structures serves as a better visual to traffic. Electric would have to be run for the lighting structures. Brick lighting structures could be designed in brick to compliment other structures through out the city. Respite areas defined with bench garden elements and bus shelter. The city staff is already planning on respite areas in two locations; the bus stop at Kroger's, and also at the strip mall that the Moy-Moy restaurant is located on the east side of Montgomery road. Cost allotted for this is approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 per location which could also include drinking fountains for human and pet. Recommendation is to identify 4 additional respite areas adjacent to parks to add bench seating, landscaping and a water fountain – increase “walkability” of community and connectivity between parks and to neighborhoods.

Possible Events/Programming: Walk\Run programs. Pet walks.

Issue: Enhancement Safety Maintenance Addition

Best Practice/ Comparison Data:

Alternate Funding Sources: Donations from community for naming or commemorative situations. Work with the Tree\Beautification commission on.

Johnson Nature Preserve Enhancements

4

- Showcase this park with trail expansion to a full loop to maximize exposure to the unique natural settings within this park and add nature markers by April 2009 to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of the tornado that changed the face of this park.
- Use this commemorative event to consider fundraising opportunities to generate dollars to further additional enhancements to this nature preserve.
- Additional changes for this park include improved signage for the parking area and upgrading the parking area to be better recognized
- Brick walkway with enlarged area for “nature talks” from parking lot to the park pathway

Park Location: Johnson Nature Preserve

Estimated Cost: \$30,000

Project Type: 4

Project Details: Consider option of tie-in to 10-year anniversary of tornado. Purpose is to provide residents and school children with a new upland trail loop with interpretive stops along the existing trail. Select 1 or 2 rest stops with benches along east side of site. Provide inventory as needed for restoration of forestry. At entrance: Provide new signage. Add new parking control signs adjacent to the parking areas. Provide access from parking to a clear and inviting area for presentation of nature programs.

Possible Events/Programming: Ongoing use for residents of all ages to walk, hike and explore nature. Provides on site area for students to earn specific merit badges. Provides a classroom atmosphere for local schools to fulfill educational objectives.

Issue: Enhancement ; Safety ; Maintenance ; Addition

Best Practice/Comparison Data: Miami Whitewater Natural Area. Cox Arboretum.

Alternate Funding Sources: ADA possibilities. Clean Ohio Grant. Volunteer/Scout work. Selling bricks or ID postings for trees\scenes as part of tornado anniversary or commemoration.

Educational Historic Cabin at Pioneer 4

- Consider if\when grant funding is available and when an appropriate cabin is available for this use.
- Effort should be made to establish a partnership with MHPA and Landmarks commission for this project.

Park Locations: Pioneer Park

Estimated Cost: \$67,500 (450 sq ft cabin estimate at \$150\sqft)

Project Type: 4

Project Details: This would be a historical cabin in Pioneer Park with possible walkthrough design and no windows so to discourage vandalism. Alternative is to have total enclosure so facility can be locked. Purpose is education and preservation. Options for education would be interchangeable panels with educational data such as “Montgomery’s Pioneer History”, “Nature’s Best” (seasonal park info), “Life of a Pioneer”, etc. The cabin would promote the historical significance of the creek that runs through this park as representative of the original settler’s homestead.

Consider the servant quarters building as a viable, historical option?

Possible Events\Programming: Pioneer Days with artisans . Coordinated events with MHPA, Landmarks, history classes in schools.

Issue: Enhancement _____ Safety_____ Maintenance _____ Addition __x_____

Best Practice\ Comparison Data: Monument Cabin in Hamilton is an 1804 structure with displays that illustrate what life might have been like for the earliest settlers. Site is open to the public M-F 10-4pm and Sat 11-3pm. Donated to the community in 1964 and moved to the site of old Fort Hamilton. Information available at www.butlercountymetroparks.org.

Alternate Funding Sources: Work with MHPA for fundraising to relocate servants quarters as a possibility if feasible. Consider partnerships with MHPA and Landmarks for identifying cabin and managing educational elements.

Public Gathering\ Recreation Space in Downtown Heritage District 4

- When funding is available to be opportunistic
- When availability of a space that makes sense for visible, accessible property useable as public recreation space

Park Locations: Heritage District

Estimated Cost: \$unknown for property

Current budget contains \$485,000 from Triangle TIF to enhance Nielly-Plaisance Plaza to be used as public space.

Project Type: 4

Project Details: Need to be opportunistic when property that could be used for public purposes becomes available within the downtown Heritage District and is within the financially responsible means of the City to purchase and enhance the site for uses to serve the public with recreational outdoor/indoor gathering space

Possible Events\Programming: farmers market, concerts, enhance or add to Bastille Day, Art Show, and other events.

Issue: Enhancement x Safety ___ Maintenance ___ Addition x

Best Practice\ Comparison Data: Blue Ash Town square, Findlay market, Veteran park Lebanon

Alternate Funding Sources: private support, partnerships with local civic groups

[For other Budgets but related suggestions for overall improvements:](#)

- [Connectivity:](#) Sidewalks extended from high school to Blue Ash and from Ohio National to Blue Ash. Continue discussions with neighboring communities and OKI to look to the future connection to Sharon Woods and the Loveland Bike trail.
- [Wayfinding Park Signage:](#) strategically add signage within the community indicating locations of parks. For example, signage at the corner of Deerfield and Pfeiffer to indicate Pioneer, Dulle and JNP location to the north.

For budgetary purposes, the following maintenance and cyclical upgrade projects are recommendations for planning implementation beginning in 2009 and continuing as needed yearly till each park and location has been addressed in the order listed within that projects outline:

- All-season restrooms (\$25,000 to \$40,000 per year for four years)
- Ball field drainage upgrades (\$20,000 per year for four years.)
*Begin with current budget of \$20,000 in 2008 at Weller Park.
- Park lighting for safety and security (\$20,000 per year for four years)
*Begin with current budget of \$8,000 in Swaim Park.
- Tennis and Basketball Court replacement (range between \$50,000 to \$90,000 per year for five years based on number of courts per location)
- Reforestation (Costs to be determined as sites are identified by City Arborist.)
- Median Enhancements (\$30,000 for two medians per year until complete)
*Begin with \$30,000 for 2008 Bethesda/ Montgomery Road intersection
- Respite Areas (\$20,000 per year for six years)
- Pioneer Shoreline Stabilization (\$40,000 – prioritize in next one to three years)
- Playground Redesign and surfacing (\$75,000 for two years for identified locations and \$50,000 for three more years based on solid surface evaluation at test site)
*Begin with \$55,000 in 2008 budget for solid surface at pool

In the short-term, in the next one to five years, the following enhancements to the parks are recommended for planning implementation as signature projects with high visibility and frequent use:

- Pfeiffer Road\Montgomery Road Four Corners (\$120,000 for architectural enhancements and \$175,000 for traffic signal upgrades)

- Walkway Enhancements at Montgomery Park (\$70,000 for walkway enhancements including lighting, electric and water)
- Johnson Nature Preserve Enhancements (budget \$30,000 to compliment fundraising done beginning with the 2009 tornado commemoration)
- Pool Heating (budget funding if 2008 survey data and site evaluation prove supportive)

Other project recommendations within this document are to be budgeted when funding and opportunity support the implementation of the projects. Projects which fall into this area for budgetary purposes include:

- New Lodge Building at Swaim Park (\$588,000)
- Annex Building Redesign (\$840,000)
- Educational Historic Cabin at Pioneer Park (\$67,500)
- Public Gathering/Recreation Space in Downtown Heritage District (unknown)
*Begin with \$485,000 from TIF for plaza improvements
- Connectivity to Loveland bike trail and Sharon Woods (unknown)