

Weaver and Prairie Parks Planning History and Update



September 2023

Weaver Park Acquisition

Weaver Park was acquired in 2002 with the assistance of a LAWCON (Land and Water Conservation Fund) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The grant application below notes the need for ballfields for the acquired land anticipating leased lands from the County are not secure for providing ballfields long-term.

Attachment A-I Narrative Statement
Urbana Park District
Main Street Park Site

Objectives and Need for Assistance

Objective

The Urbana Park District seeks assistance to acquire approximately 60 acres of land bounded by Main Street, Champaign County Complex, Prairie School and the existing Scottswood Subdivision in Urbana, IL.

Need for Assistance

The property is located in the northeast section of Urbana—an area of considerable growth and development over the past few years. Currently, the Urbana Park District leases the nearby, 5-acre Canaday Park from Champaign County for a variety of baseball and softball uses. Canaday Park is located on Champaign County property and is within their building complex, which includes the Champaign County Nursing Home, Champaign County Jail, Champaign County Humane Society, Youth Detention Facility, Brookens Administrative Center and Champaign County Highway Facility.

Growth and expansion of the county's building complex will require Canaday Park to be relocated as the land is needed by the county for facility expansion. In addition, the existing 20-acre Prairie Park—near the proposed acquisition property—is filled to its carrying capacity. Prairie Park contains 3 ballfields, several soccer fields, a large sledding hill, and a small restroom and bleacher areas for spectators. Currently, parking is shared with the Urbana School District's Prairie School. Additional parking is also needed to support activities at Prairie Park. **Therefore, acquisition of the proposed property is needed to relocate the Canaday Park ballfield and provide additional ballfields, soccer fields, parking and other neighborhood park features and facilities for the Scottswood Subdivision and northeast Urbana.**

Currently, Champaign County is developing a master site plan for their county complex. The Urbana Park District has requested that the county include our proposed 60-acre tract in the master plan to determine the best use for the property.

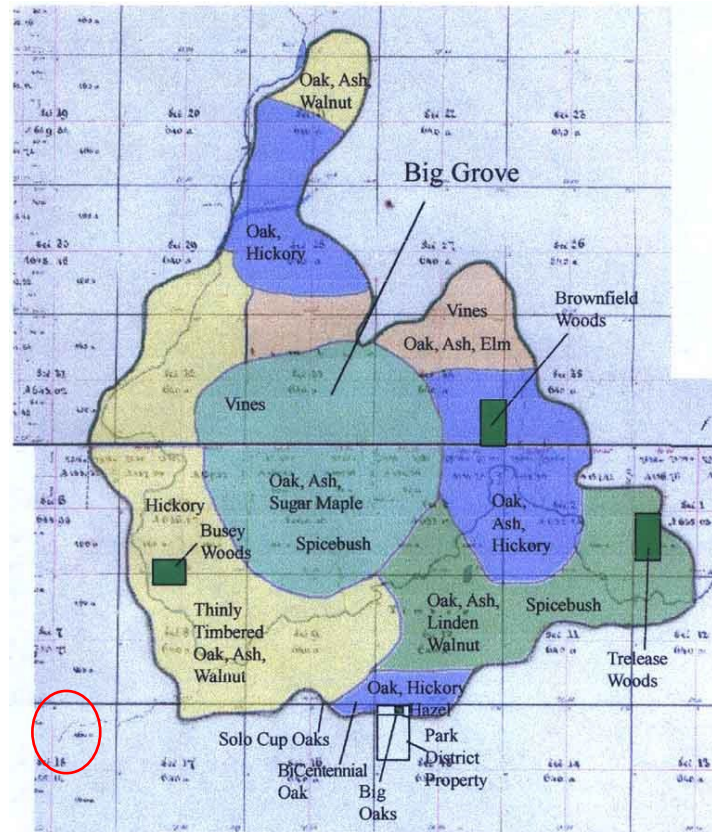
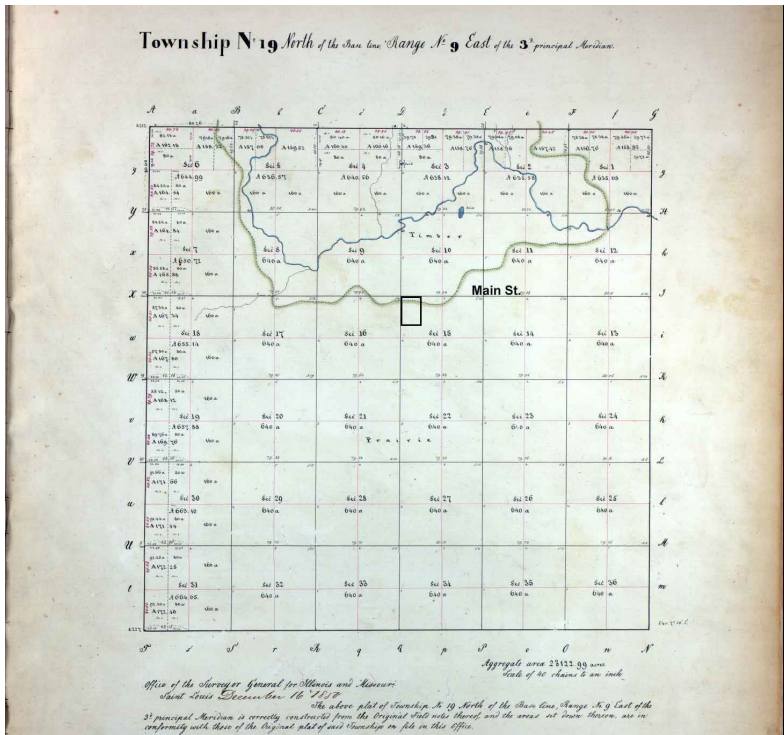
Results/Benefits Expected

Once the 60-acre tract is acquired, all Urbana residents will benefit by the acquisition of the proposed 60-acre property. The new property will allow for District-wide soccer and ballfield expansion, additional parking, stormwater detention and general open space. Scottswood, Country Squire and Berriger Commons Subdivisions will greatly benefit with the creation of a new neighborhood park with a **playground, picnic/restroom pavilions, bicycle/pedestrian paths, parking and beautifully landscaped areas adjacent to their properties.**

The Urbana School District will benefit from the opportunity to cooperatively utilize ball fields and soccer fields for their team use also. Room exists on the site for a detention basin to help with any water flow issues.

Weaver Park Big Grove Remnant Discovery

A Park District volunteer natural areas steward was mapping the historical location of the Big Grove woodland and found historic oaks in Weaver woods that promoted a new vision for Weaver Park—a combination of active athletics recreation and natural areas at a site that could provide for multiple benefits and interests. An opportunity to recreate the historic Big Grove to savanna to prairie transition in Urbana.



Urbana's ancient oaks provide a living link to the Big Grove



When we think about the landscape of central Illinois prior to European settlement we tend to think "prairie": tall grasses and wildflowers adapted to life in unevenly drained soil subject to burning on a fairly regular basis.

And prairie is most of the story. But it is not the whole story.

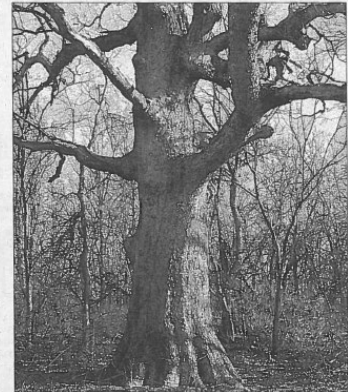
Groves of trees intruded on the prairie here and there, especially on the eastern edges of rivers and streams, which created natural breaks to prairie fires driven by winds from the west.

Such groves were dominated by fire-resistant species of oak, and interspersed with hickory, ash, walnut, sugar maple and linden trees as well.

Prairie groves were quite hospitable to humans compared with the prairie itself, offering game, shelter and respite from some of the discomforts of life in the open. They were preferred sites for Native American villages, and the first places to be settled by Americans of European descent coming from the east.

One of the largest of these timbered areas in our region was called the Big Grove by settlers of the early 19th century. As it was mapped in the original survey of the area in 1821, the Big Grove covered about 10 square miles. Its western edge roughly paralleled the Saline Branch, the stream that drops into Urbana from the north and runs through Busey Woods and Crystal Lake Park before turning east toward St. Joseph. Along its southern edge the Big Grove extended to about where Urbana's Main Street runs today.

If you're familiar with Urbana and the locales just north and east of the city, you know there's no forest left that would merit the name "Big Grove," most of the wood from those trees having gone into



This chinquapin oak in Weaver Park began life as part of the Big Grove.

houses, fences, farm implements and fires long ago. But here's something really cool. Some trees that began life in the Big Grove still stand in Urbana today.

You can touch them. Heck, you can hug them. They're the kind of trees that elicit that response from people.

Near the corner of East Main and Maple streets, a bur oak that predates the Declaration of Independence rises more than 80 feet from the yard outside Long's Garage. This tree's limbs spread as wide as it is tall, which tells us that it grew up in a relatively open area, the meeting zone between woodland and prairie.

Farther from the center of town on East Main, a still larger bur oak can be seen on the eastern edge of the site of the Quaker Meetinghouse. We know this tree to be roughly 240 years old now, based on cal-

culations made in 1976, when the International Society of Arboriculture recognized it as a "bicentennial tree."

Greater numbers of oaks that predate European settlement can be seen — and hugged — at Urbana Park District sites. The largest trees in Crystal Lake Park and Busey Woods are relics of the Big Grove, as are 10 or so of the trees at Weaver Park on East Main Street.

On the University of Illinois campus you can visit a 200-year-old relative of the Big Grove trees, the enormous bur oak that grows in front of the Natural History Building on Green Street.

Bob Kanter is a senior writer with the University of Illinois Environmental Council. Environmental Almanac is supported in part by the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Environmental Almanac can also be heard on WILL-AM 580 at 4:45 and 6:45 p.m. Thursdays.

Weaver Park Master Planning

A park program statement was developed reflecting a shared-use site—athletic fields combined with natural areas. The need for athletic fields included softball, baseball and soccer. At the time, preserving the woodland and restoring natural areas to the south of the woodland was the highest priority among the natural resource advocates. A wetland stormwater facility was also proposed to store/clean stormwater, provide habitat, and address flooding in Scottswood Subdivision to the east.

URBANA PARK DISTRICT

WEAVER PARK

MASTER PLAN – PROGRAM STATEMENT

BACKGROUND:

In 2003 the Urbana Park District acquired 60 acres of open space in the eastern region of the City of Urbana. The park has been named “Weaver Park” in honor of the late, State Sen. Stanley Weaver—an Urbana resident. The site consists of approximately 8 acres of wooded/vegetated area with the remaining land used for agricultural purposes. A low, wet area of approximately 2-3 acres is evident on the site and serves as a detention basin due to the problem with flooding adjacent to the park. Hedgerows consisting of volunteer and planted trees/vegetation border both the east and west side of the park thus, creating a buffered edge for the site. (See attached map).

The land is currently zoned County—Agriculture (AG) and will ultimately be zoned City of Urbana—Conservation, Recreation, Education (CRE). The park is bounded by Main Street to the north; Champaign County complex and Prairie Park to the west; Prairie Elementary School to the south; and Scottswood Subdivision to the east. Currently, Main Street is the only city street access to the park site. Baker’s Lane (City of Urbana R.O.W.) located on the east side of the park site runs parallel in a north/south direction connecting Main Street on the north with Washington Street to the south. Adjacent Urbana Park District parks and facilities include Prairie Park (22 acres), Brookens Gymnasium (Champaign County Complex—Pod 400 - leased), Brookens soccer fields (approx. 8 acres – leased) and Canaday Park (5 acres – leased nearby). It is assumed that the currently leased parks and facilities will facilitate athletic programs until lease agreements with Champaign County are terminated/renegotiated.

The proposed Kickapoo Trail is projected to connect Urbana to Kickapoo State Park near Danville via the abandoned rail line between the two communities. The rail line is located approximately ½ block north of the park site.

VISION STATEMENT:

Create a new community park in Urbana that will incorporate a variety of “green building” design and planning principles to include both active and passive recreational opportunities. The park plan should strive to utilize solar and/or wind energy sources, emphasize native landscape planting schemes to include woodland, savanna, wet prairie and tallgrass prairie vegetation and provide storm water drainage schemes/techniques that are environmentally sound. A strong

emphasis should be placed on creating opportunities for outdoor education and site interpretation.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Combine the natural and cultural history of the existing remnant “Big Grove” wooded area (approx. 8 acres) that serves as an example of innovative park planning and design. “Cultural/historic” landscape and natural history of the park site will be incorporated and interpreted throughout the site as appropriate.
2. Currently, existing tree/shrub hedgerows provide an edge to the park on the east and west side. The use of hedgerows should be considered in the plan as appropriate.
3. Strong emphasis should be placed on utilizing wind, solar and/or other appropriate alternative/renewable energy resources. Use of “green” building practices and construction materials should be considered.
4. Landscape elements will emphasize woodland, savanna, prairie and wet prairie/wetland planting schemes that are to be displayed and interpreted as such. Native landscaping schemes will be utilized to provide: an attractive site appearance; a variety of opportunities for environmental education; resistance to diseases and pests; plant diversity; appropriate wildlife habitats; and active and passive recreational activities. High maintenance turf grass areas should be limited to athletic fields or other areas where appropriate.
5. Storm water planning and design practices will provide the following: use of native plant materials, suitable wildlife habitat, maximum control of flooding/high water conditions, reduce/control “flashy” (or rapidly fluctuating) water levels, minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, educational/interpretive opportunities and will recharge/recycle/filter storm water in an appropriate manner.
6. Recreational/play facilities to be considered for the site include—but are not limited to—the following: softball fields, baseball fields, soccer fields, playground, climbing wall, ice skating pond, bicycle/pedestrian pathways and/or other types of activities to be considered.
7. Playground features to be considered should emphasize free play, exploration, universal access and a wide variety of active play opportunities for children. Playground design concepts could include the natural and/or cultural history of the park site. The proposed playground may be located on/adjacent to Urbana School District property.
8. Access to park site will include a well designed and connected system of hard and soft surface pathways, boardwalks, overlooks and parking areas for motorized vehicles. Appropriate connections to Prairie Park, Prairie School, Scottswood Subdivision, Champaign County Complex/Brookens, Main Street, etc. will be well planned and

designed. Consideration should be given to include a Kickapoo Trailhead and information kiosk on the north end of the site in anticipation of the proposed trail.

9. Access for all maintenance needs/services and police/fire/emergency vehicles will be included in the overall site design. Appropriate parking areas will be provided for public use. Park access roads, adjacent roads and/or parking areas may be joint-use with Champaign County and/or Urbana School District facilities. Roads/parking areas located on the park site will be limited to perimeter areas of the site and/or adjacent to existing city/county roads.
10. Storage will be required for related park/athletic field equipment. Storage areas should be considered as part of park pavilion, restroom and/or concession facilities.
11. Appropriate public access for utilities will be required. Electrical, water, sanitary, storm water, wind energy, solar energy and/or other site support services will need to be located/identified in the site planning process.
12. Partnerships between the Urbana Park District, the Urbana School District, Champaign County, City of Urbana, St. Joseph Drainage District # 3, Urbana Township and/or other governmental agencies is encouraged. Other partnerships with environmental groups, athletic teams, service clubs, neighborhood groups and/or other appropriate individuals/groups are also encouraged.

DESIGN FEATURES:

ATHLETIC FIELDS

1. Softball – 2 fields (similar size to Prairie Park)
2. Baseball – Pony League (13/14 year olds)
3. Soccer – 2 Pee Wee; 2 Kickers; 6 Middle School size (to allow for field rotation)
4. Other Athletic Fields – Youth Football, Cricket, Rugby, etc. as space allows (2nd priority)
5. Ice Skating Pond – Could be part of detention (2nd priority)
6. Seating/Dugouts/Bleachers
7. Athletic Lighting
8. Irrigation/Drainage Needs

WOODLAND (Big Grove Area)

1. Wildflowers/Groundcover
2. Sub-canopy
3. Dominant Canopy
4. Wildlife Habitat
5. Soft Trails
6. Site Interpretation/Signage

SAVANNA

1. Mixed Woodland/Prairie – diversity
2. Wildlife Habitat
3. Hard/Soft Trails
4. Site Interpretation/Signage

PRAIRIE

1. Mesic Prairie – diversity
2. Hard/Soft Trails
3. Wildlife Habitat
4. Site Interpretation/Signage

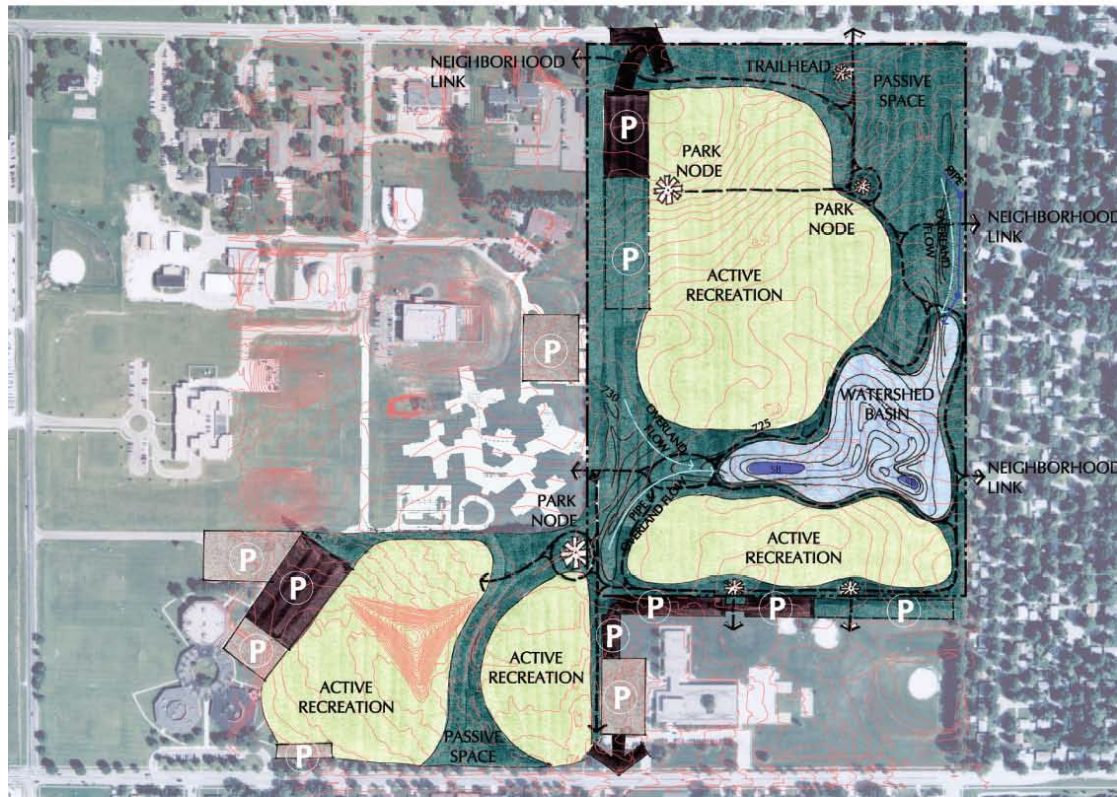
WET PRAIRIE/WETLAND/STORMWATER FACILITY

1. Recycled/recharged hydrologic cycle/Irrigation System/
2. Sediment Traps
3. Vegetated Swales
4. Bioinfiltration Islands (parking areas)

Initial Plan Concepts

Early planning bubble diagrams had “active” recreation in the center and “passive” natural areas around the periphery but lacked the woodland to savanna to prairie opportunity afforded by the Weaver woods oaks.

Alternative B3



- Passive Space around the perimeter
- Active Recreation centrally located

DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

Weaver Park
Urbana, Illinois

Park Board Meeting October 5, 2004

JJR

2005 Master Plan

The final master plan worked to move active ballfield recreation to the south and west to buffer the woods.

The 2005 park program called for 5 full-size, 2 medium, and 2 small soccer fields. Also, 2 softball and 1 pony baseball field.

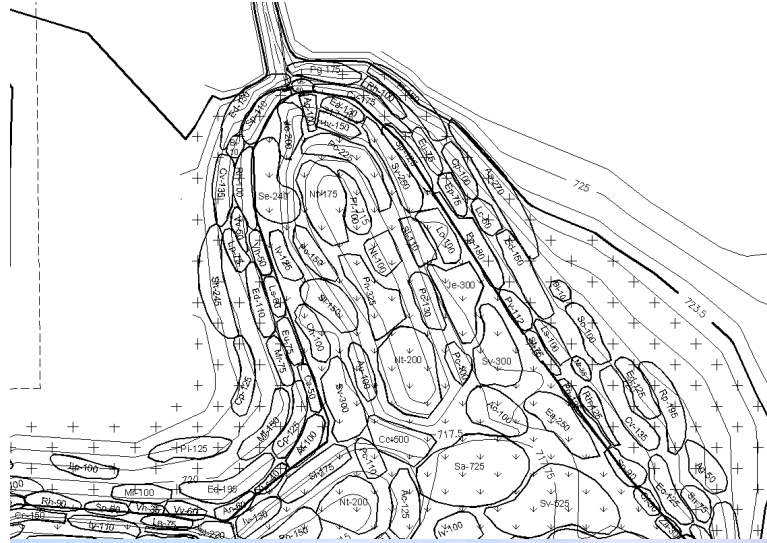
Loop trail systems were proposed for around the park and a bicycle node off the north parking lot was proposed in hopes there would be a future Kickapoo Rail Trail opportunity to connect with the park.



Stormwater Wetland

Weaver was host to a collaborative project to address Scottswood Subdivision flooding to the east of Weaver Park, 2006-2008



- Urbana Park District—Landowner and Env. Educator. Watershed Basin as a park amenity. Stormwater runoff as a resource instead of a waste product.
- City of Urbana—Main Street drainage concerns—excess sent to basin.
- Champaign County—Nursing Home stormwater needs—parking lot sent to basin.
- Regional Planning Commission—planning assistance.
- Urbana Township—CDAP grant-eligible
- St. Joseph Drainage District #3—levy assessment for improvements within watershed.
- Urbana School District #116—school campus within watershed. Env. Education and park use opportunities.

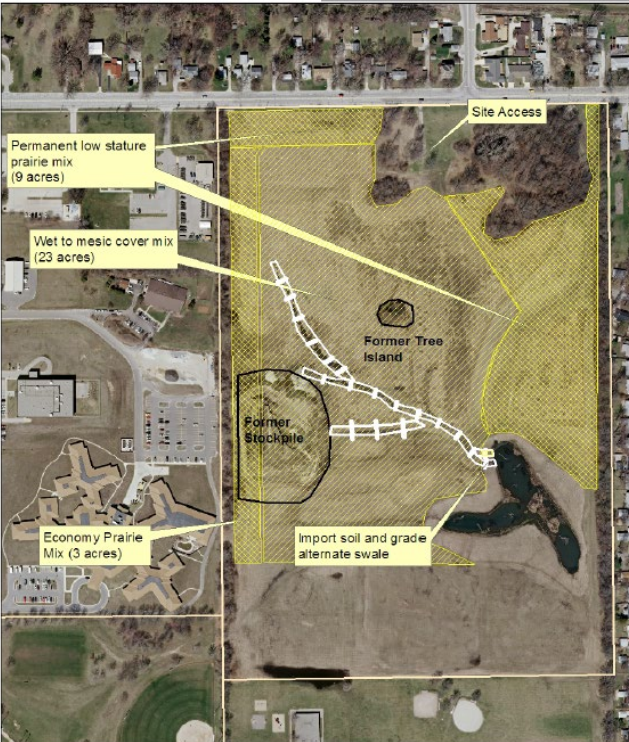


Planting Weaver Park

Weaver Park had been in agriculture and a plan was developed to plant the park according to the 2005 master plan. Areas that were planned for ball fields would be seeded with a temporary native tallgrass cover crop. Other areas would be invested in with more diverse seed mixes.

ADDENDUM #1
Updated Weaver Park
Planting, Site Preparation
and Erosion Control Plan

 = erosion mat (41,629 sq ft)
 = erosion waddles (475 linear feet)



Source: ODRPS UPD
Date: 11/30/10
Author: D4L

Wet to Mesic Prairie Mix for Temporary Cover for 23 acres

oz/acre	Grasses and Sedges	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Notes
12	Andropogon gerardii (Big Bluestem)	\$0.75	\$9.00	276
2	Carex annectans xanthocarpa (Yellow Fox Sedge)	\$15.00	\$30.00	46
2	Carex frankii (Frank's Sedge)	\$8.00	\$16.00	46
2	Carex vulpinoidea (Fox Sedge)	\$8.00	\$16.00	46
32	Elymus canadensis (Canada Wild Rye)	\$0.75	\$24.00	736
24	Elymus virginicus (Virginia Wild Rye)	\$0.50	\$12.00	552
2	Panicum virgatum (Switchgrass)	\$0.50	\$1.00	46
24	Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)	\$1.25	\$30.00	552
12	Sorghastrum nutans (Indian Grass)	\$0.50	\$6.00	276
112	Total price per acre		\$144.00	
			\$3,312.00	

Economy Prairie Mix for 3 acres

oz/acre	Grasses	Unit Cost	Total	Notes
8	Andropogon gerardii (Big Bluestem)	\$0.50	\$4.00	24
16	Bouteloua curtipendula (Side-Oats Grama)	\$1.00	\$16.00	48
32	Elymus canadensis (Canada Wild Rye)	\$0.75	\$24.00	96
16	Elymus virginicus (Virginia Wild Rye)	\$0.50	\$8.00	48
32	Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)	\$1.25	\$40.00	96
8	Sorghastrum nutans (Indian Grass)	\$0.50	\$4.00	24
112		\$0.00	\$0.00	336
	Forbs		\$0.00	0
0.5	Aster novae-angliae (New England Aster)	\$20.00	\$10.00	1.5
2	Cassia hebecarpa (Wild Senna)	\$7.00	\$14.00	6
3	Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower)	\$7.00	\$21.00	9
1	Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake Master)	\$10.00	\$10.00	3
1	Heliopsis helianthoides (False Sunflower)	\$7.00	\$7.00	3
0.5	Monarda fistulosa (Bergamot)	\$10.00	\$5.00	1.5
3	Ratibida pinnata (Yellow Coneflower)	\$7.00	\$21.00	9
2	Rudbeckia hirta (Black-Eyed Susan)	\$6.00	\$12.00	6
1	Silphium integrifolium (Rosinweed)	\$10.00	\$10.00	3
1	Silphium terebinthinaceum (Prairie Dock)	\$20.00	\$20.00	3
1	Solidago rigida (Stiff Goldenrod)	\$10.00	\$10.00	3
16	Total per acre		\$236.00	
	Total for 3 acres		\$708.00	

Permanent Low Stature Prairie Mix for 9 acres

oz/acre	Grasses	Unit cost	Total Cost	Notes
10	Bouteloua curtipendula (Side-Oats Grama)	\$1.00	\$10.00	90
2	Carex annectans xanthocarpa (Yellow Fox Sedge)	\$15.00	\$30.00	18
2	Carex bicknellii (Prairie Oval Sedge)	\$20.00	\$40.00	18
16	Elymus canadensis (Canada Wild Rye)	\$0.75	\$12.00	144
10	Elymus virginicus (Virginia Wild Rye)	\$0.50	\$5.00	90
48	Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)	\$1.25	\$60.00	432
8	Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)	\$15.00	\$120.00	72
96			\$0.00	864
	Forbs		\$0.00	0
1	Amorpha canescens (Leadplant)	\$15.00	\$15.00	9
0.5	Asclepias sullivantii (Sullivan's Milkweed)	\$50.00	\$25.00	4.5
1	Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)	\$20.00	\$20.00	9
1	Aster azureus (Sky Blue Aster)	\$20.00	\$20.00	9
0.5	Aster ericoides (Heath Aster)	\$100.00	\$50.00	4.5
2	Aster laevis (Smooth Aster)	\$20.00	\$40.00	18
2	Baptisia leucantha (White False Indigo)	\$20.00	\$40.00	18
2	Coreopsis palmata (Plains Coreopsis)	\$50.00	\$100.00	18
1	Desmodium illinoiense (Illinois Tick Trefoil)	\$20.00	\$20.00	9
3	Echinacea pallida (Pale Purple Coneflower)	\$10.00	\$30.00	27
4	Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower)	\$7.00	\$28.00	36
3	Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake Master)	\$10.00	\$30.00	27
2	Heliopsis helianthoides (False Sunflower)	\$7.00	\$14.00	18
2	Lespedeza capitata (Round-Headed Bush Clover)	\$15.00	\$30.00	18
0.5	Liatris aspera (Rough Blazing Star)	\$30.00	\$15.00	4.5
1	Liatris pycnostachya (Prairie Blazing Star)	\$15.00	\$15.00	9
0.5	Monarda fistulosa (Bergamot)	\$10.00	\$5.00	4.5
2	Parthenium integrifolium (Wild Quinine)	\$15.00	\$30.00	18
1	Penstemon digitalis (Foxglove Beardtongue)	\$8.00	\$8.00	9
2	Petalostemum purpureum (Purple Prairie Clover)	\$10.00	\$20.00	18
1	Potentilla arguta (Prairie Cinquefoil)	\$10.00	\$10.00	9
0.5	Pycnanthemum virginianum (Mountain Mint)	\$30.00	\$15.00	4.5
2	Ratibida pinnata (Yellow Coneflower)	\$7.00	\$14.00	18
4	Rudbeckia hirta (Black-Eyed Susan)	\$6.00	\$24.00	36
1	Silphium laciniatum (Compass Plant)	\$10.00	\$10.00	9
1	Silphium terebinthinaceum (Prairie Dock)	\$20.00	\$20.00	9
1	Solidago rigida (Stiff Goldenrod)	\$10.00	\$10.00	9
1	Solidago riddellii (Riddell's Goldenrod)	\$15.00	\$15.00	9
1	Solidago speciosa (Showy Goldenrod)	\$20.00	\$20.00	9
1	Tradescantia ohiensis (Ohio Spiderwort)	\$25.00	\$25.00	9
0.5	Veronicastrum virginicum (Culver's Root)	\$50.00	\$25.00	4.5
1	Zizia aurea (Golden Alexanders)	\$15.00	\$15.00	9
47	Total price per acre		\$1,035.00	
			\$9,315.00	

Master Plan and Seed Mix Overlay

Park is planted according to planned use in 2010.

Wet to Mesic Prairie Mix for Temporary Cover for 23 acres

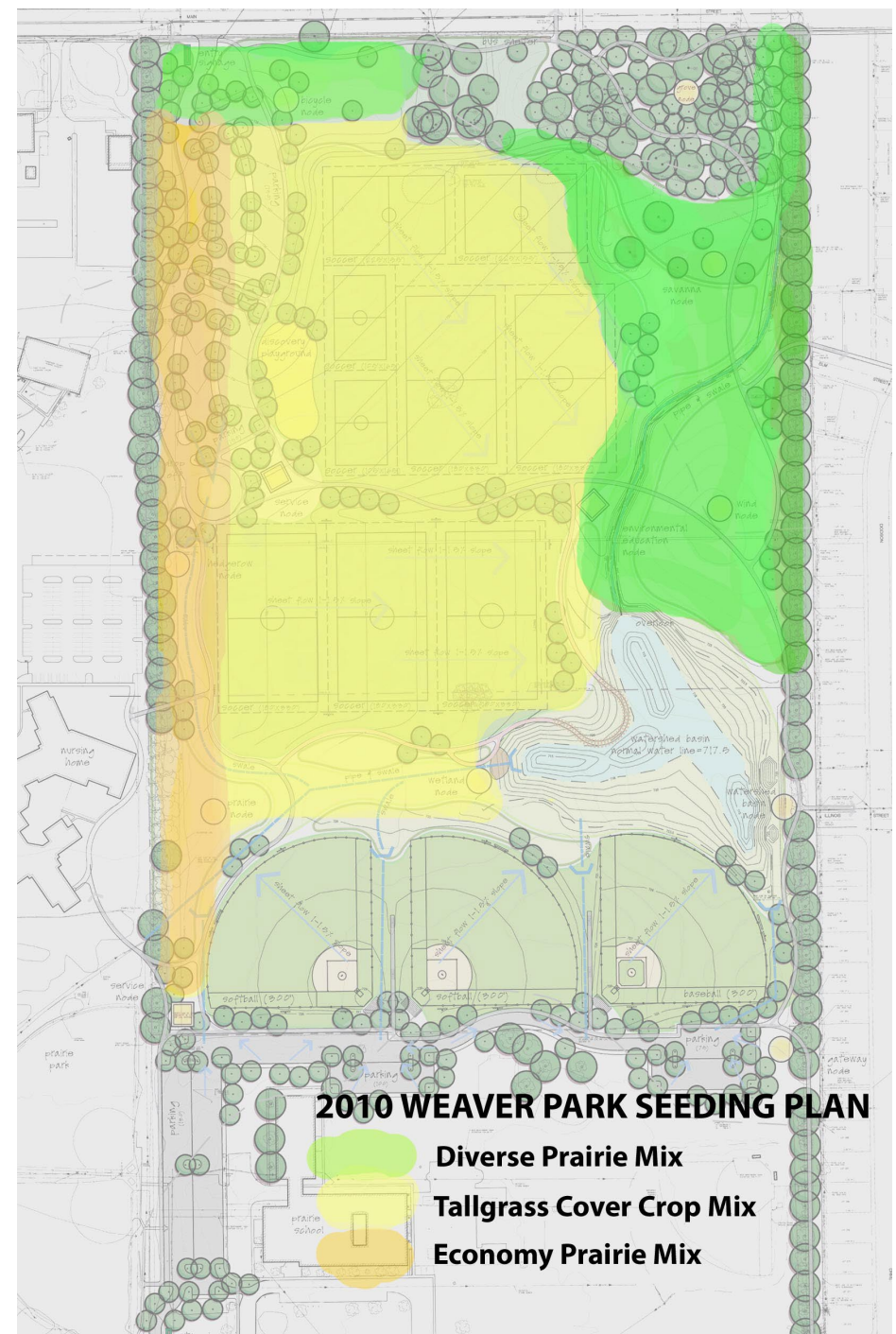
Grasses and Sedges	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Notes
oz/acre			
12 Andropogon gerardii (Big Bluestem)	\$0.75	\$9.00	276
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24 Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)	\$1.25	\$30.00	552
12 Sorghastrum nutans (Indian Grass)	\$0.50	\$6.00	276
112 Total price per acre		\$144.00	
		\$3,312.00	

Economy Prairie Mix for 3 acres

Grasses	Unit Cost	Total	
oz/acre			
8 Andropogon gerardii (Big Bluestem)	\$0.50	\$4.00	24
16 Bouteloua curtipendula (Side-Oats Grama)	\$1.00	\$16.00	48
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8 Sorghastrum nutans (Indian Grass)	\$0.50	\$4.00	24
112		\$0.00	336
Forbs		\$0.00	0
0.5 Aster novae-angliae (New England Aster)	\$20.00	\$10.00	1.5
2 Cassia hebecarpa (Wild Senna)	\$7.00	\$14.00	6
2 Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower)	\$7.00	\$21.00	9
1 Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake Master)	\$10.00	\$10.00	3
1 Helopsis helianthoides (False Sunflower)	\$7.00	\$7.00	3
0.5 Monarda fistulosa (Bergamot)	\$10.00	\$5.00	1.5
2 Ratibida pinnata (Yellow Coneflower)	\$7.00	\$21.00	9
3 Rudbeckia hirta (Black-Eyed Susan)	\$6.00	\$12.00	6
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1 Silphium terebinthinaceum (Prairie Dock)	\$20.00	\$20.00	3
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16 Total per acre		\$236.00	
Total for 3 acres		\$708.00	

Permanent Low Stature Prairie Mix for 9 acres

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oz/acre			
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Forbs		\$0.00	0
1 Amorpha canescens (Leadplant)	\$15.00	\$15.00	9
0.5 Asclepias sullivantii (Sullivant's Milkweed)	\$50.00	\$25.00	4.5
1 Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)	\$20.00	\$20.00	9
1 Aster azureus (Sky Blue Aster)	\$20.00	\$20.00	9
0.5 Aster ericoides (Heath Aster)	\$100.00	\$50.00	4.5
2 Aster laevis (Smooth Aster)	\$20.00	\$40.00	18
2 Baptisia leucantha (White False Indigo)	\$20.00	\$40.00	18
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4 Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower)	\$7.00	\$28.00	36
3 Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake Master)	\$10.00	\$30.00	27
2 Helopsis helianthoides (False Sunflower)	\$7.00	\$14.00	18
2 Lespedeza capitata (Round-Headed Bush Clover)	\$15.00	\$30.00	18
0.5 Liatris aspera (Rough Blazing Star)	\$30.00	\$15.00	4.5
1 Liatris pycnostachya (Prairie Blazing Star)	\$15.00	\$15.00	9
0.5 Monarda fistulosa (Bergamot)	\$10.00	\$5.00	4.5
2 Parthenium integrifolium (Wild Quinine)	\$15.00	\$30.00	18
1 Penstemon digitalis (Foxglove Beardtongue)	\$8.00	\$8.00	9
2 Petalostemum purpureum (Purple Prairie Clover)	\$10.00	\$20.00	18
1 Potentilla arguta (Prairie Cinquefoil)	\$10.00	\$10.00	9
0.5 Pycnanthemum virginianum (Mountain Mint)	\$30.00	\$15.00	4.5
2 Ratibida pinnata (Yellow Coneflower)	\$7.00	\$14.00	18
4 Rudbeckia hirta (Black-Eyed Susan)	\$6.00	\$24.00	36
1 Silphium laciniatum (Compass Plant)	\$10.00	\$10.00	9
1 Silphium terebinthinaceum (Prairie Dock)	\$20.00	\$20.00	9
1 Solidago rigida (Stiff Goldenrod)	\$10.00	\$10.00	9
1 Solidago riddellii (Riddell's Goldenrod)	\$15.00	\$15.00	9
1 Solidago speciosa (Showy Goldenrod)	\$20.00	\$20.00	9
1 Tradescantia ohioensis (Ohio Spiderwort)	\$25.00	\$25.00	9
0.5 Veronicastrum virginicum (Culver's Root)	\$50.00	\$25.00	4.5
1 Zizia aurea (Golden Alexanders)	\$15.00	\$15.00	9
47 Total price per acre		\$1,035.00	
		\$9,315.00	



2018 Weaver Park and East Urbana Connectivity Study

This study reviewed options for connecting east Urbana and Weaver Park to the Kickapoo Rail Trail. Option #4 depicted in red is the top preference among the respondents to the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission study. Baker's lane trail is proposed to meander through the tree line on the east edge of Weaver Park connecting Washington Street with Main Street and then the KRT.

WEAVER PARK & EAST URBANA KICKAPOO RAIL TRAIL CONNECTIVITY STUDY | Public Involvement



June 2018

Urbana KRT Study Public Meeting #2 - Preferred Alternative Votes



Alternatives presented for voting:

1. Main Street Bike Lanes Extension (0.36 miles)
2. Main Street Sidepath (0.49 miles)
3. Smith Road via Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR) (approximately 0.61 miles)
4. Baker's Lane via NSRR (approximately 1.01 miles)
5. Pfeffer Road extended (UCSD driveway) to Main St. (0.58 miles)
6. Industrial Circle extended (approximately 0.08 miles)
7. Pfeffer Road & Washington Street (1.01 miles)
8. Tatman Court extended via High Cross Rd. (approximately 0.43 miles)
9. Art Bartell Road extended via NSRR (approximately 0.94 miles)

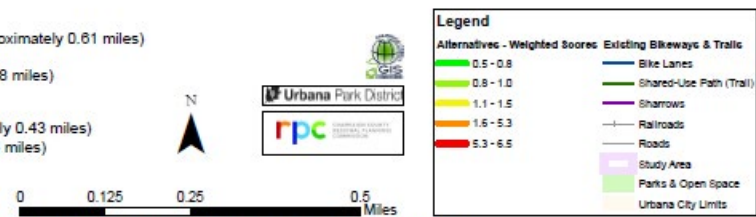
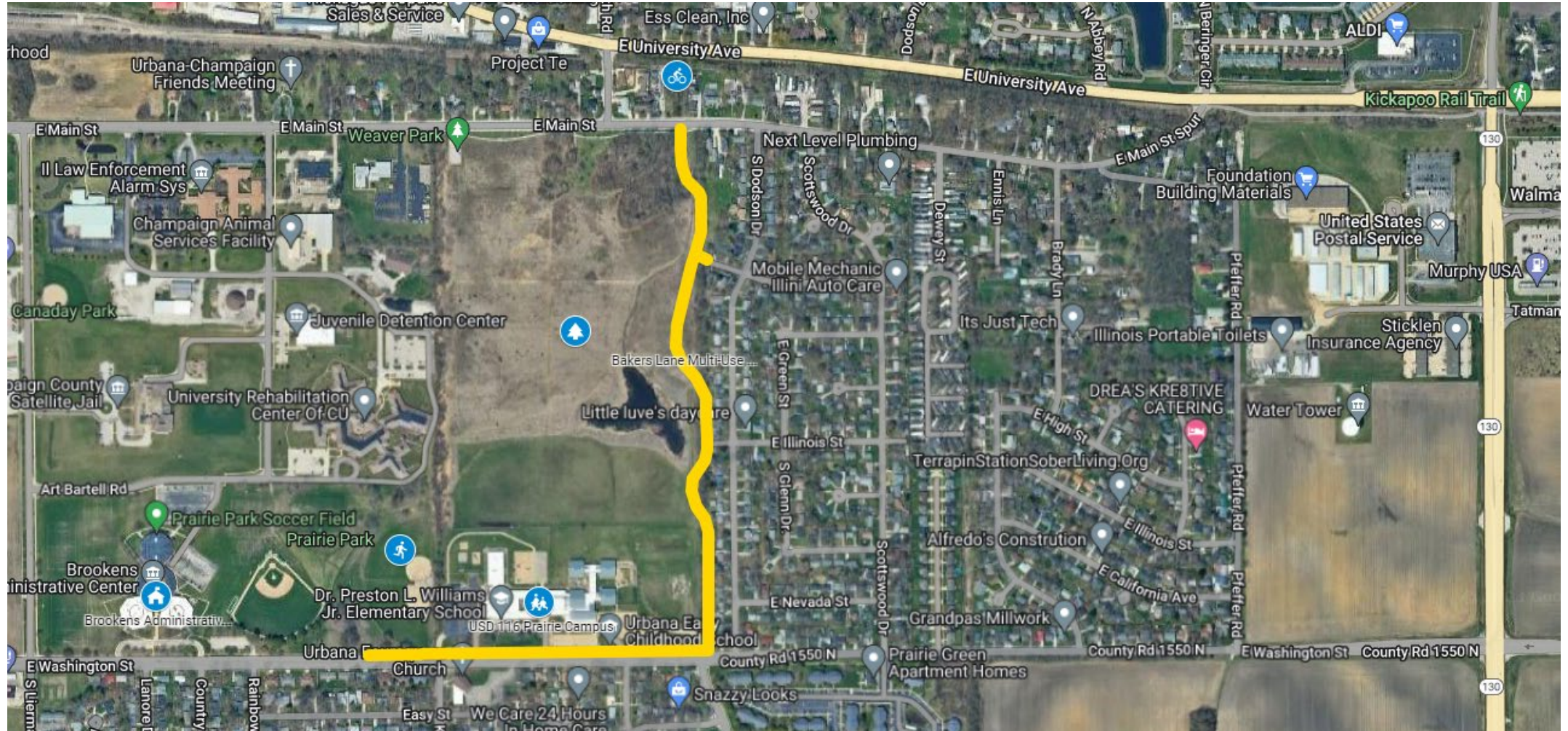


FIGURE 4-9 Public Workshop #2 Preferred Alternative Votes Map

ITEP Multi-Use Trail Grant Award 2023

Based on the Connectivity Study, the City of Urbana submits and is awarded a grant for trail development along the east side of Weaver Park that will also connect with the future Health & Wellness Facility in Prairie Park and neighborhoods to the south through a sidewalk to trail expansion on the north side of Washington Street.



Prairie Park Health & Wellness Center

As the need for indoor recreation space grows, the Urbana Park District's Strategic Plan established a goal of expanding indoor recreation space in the district.

The Park District engages with Farnsworth on a site suitability analysis and Prairie Park is the top choice.

The 2019 Master Plan for Prairie Park includes the new facility and some community-preferred outdoor amenities.



SITE PLAN PROGRAM – PROGRAM FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

1. 77 Additional Parking Spaces
2. Vehicular Accessible Pavilion
3. Nature Themed Splash Pad
4. Nature Themed Playground
5. Half Court Basketball Courts
6. Multi-Use Trailways
7. Nature Pavilion
8. Low Profile Native Prairie
9. Naturalized Stormwater Management



Urbana Park District

Attachment A-3 Site Plan

Project Title:

Urbana Indoor Recreation and Fitness Center

County purchases downtown County Plaza building, relocating Brookens offices (2022)

With the loss of Prairie Park ballfields to the new facility and the uncertainty of leased Brookens soccer fields, the Urbana Park District begins the process of updating the 2005 Weaver Park and 2019 Prairie Park Master Plans. The current lease at Brookens is through 2026.

LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN AND THE URBANA PARK DISTRICT

THIS LEASE AGREEMENT is made effective as of June 8 2021, by and between the County of Champaign (hereinafter referred to as "Landlord") and the Urbana Park District (hereinafter referred to as "Tenant").

ARTICLE I

Premises

Landlord does hereby lease to Tenant space located in POD #400 of the Champaign County Brookens Administrative Center, which is located at 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois. The Tenant will lease 12,957 square feet of space on the first floor and 875 square feet of space on the east mezzanine during the period of **June 1, 2021-May 31, 2026**. The space leased is identified in the floor plan of the Brookens Administrative Center, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

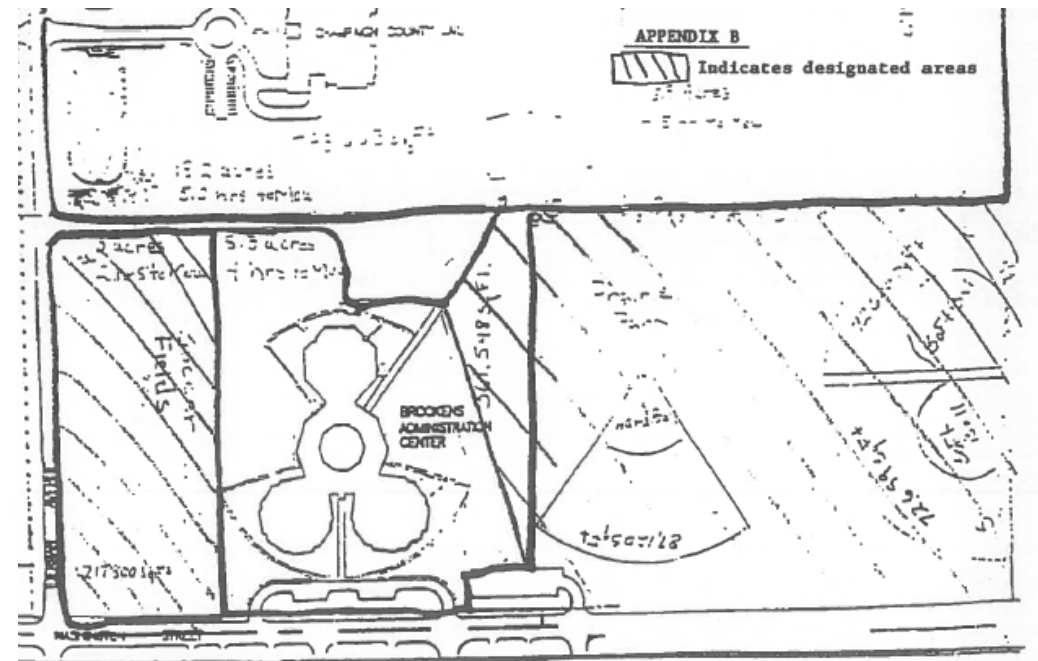
Champaign County government

Champaign County proceeding on purchase of County Plaza building next to sheriff's office

By DEBRA PRESSEY dpressey@news-gazette.com Jan 21, 2022



URBANA — It will be about a year before the Champaign County Sheriff's Office and likely several other county offices can move into the County Plaza building at 102 E. Main St., U, County Executive Darlene Kloeppel said Friday.



Community Input

In order to evaluate how athletic and recreation needs in 2023 differ from 2005, the UPD sends survey notifications out via email, social media, and the park district website to district program participants and Urbana School District households. Focus groups are conducted for general recreation and athletics use.



Urbana Park District Outdoor Courts, Fields and Amenities Survey Results



Focus Groups Summary

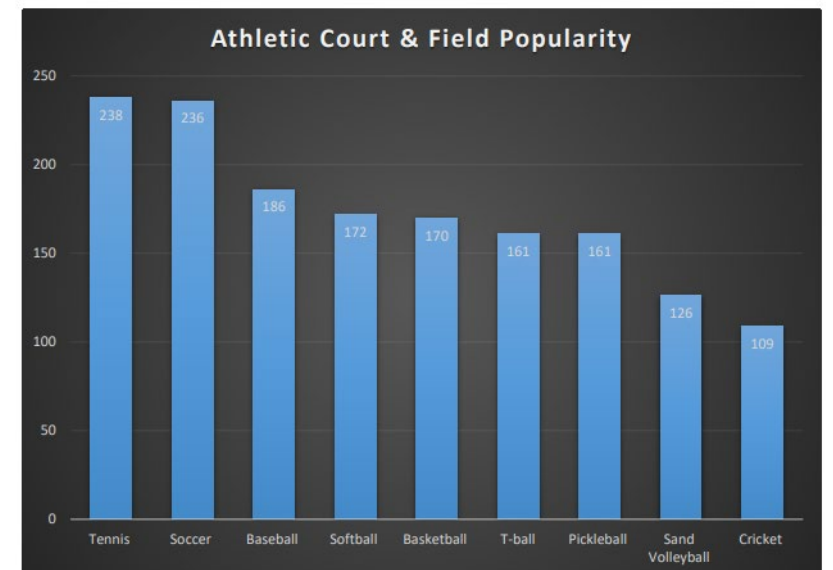
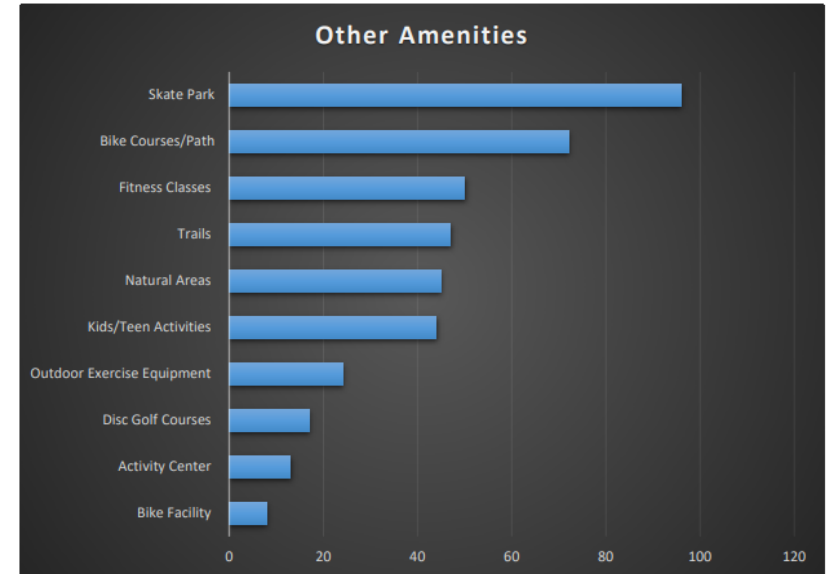
Meeting Subject: UPD Staff Workshop
Issue Date: March 7, 2023
Meeting Date/Time: March 8, 2023 / 11:00 AM
Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams
Reported By: Debbi La Rue
Owner: Urbana Park District
Project Name: Weaver-Prairie Park Master Plan
Project Number: 0220988.00
Present: See attached Sign-In Sheet

On February 20th and 27th, Farnsworth Group facilitated focus groups designed to discuss needs and opportunities at Weaver and Prairie Parks. The February 20th focus group concentrated on diamond and rectangular athletic field facilities, and the February 27th focus group participants represented general recreation interests. Five questions were used to facilitate conversation in both groups:

1. What do you like about Weaver Park, Prairie Park, Brookens Fields, and Canaday Park as they are now?
2. What concerns about the parks do you have as they are now? What would you like to change?
3. What activities, programs, or events do you like at other parks that you would like to see here?
4. What amenities or facilities are not currently offered, but should be?
5. Who or what groups of people are underserved in the park complex? How could the park district be more welcoming?

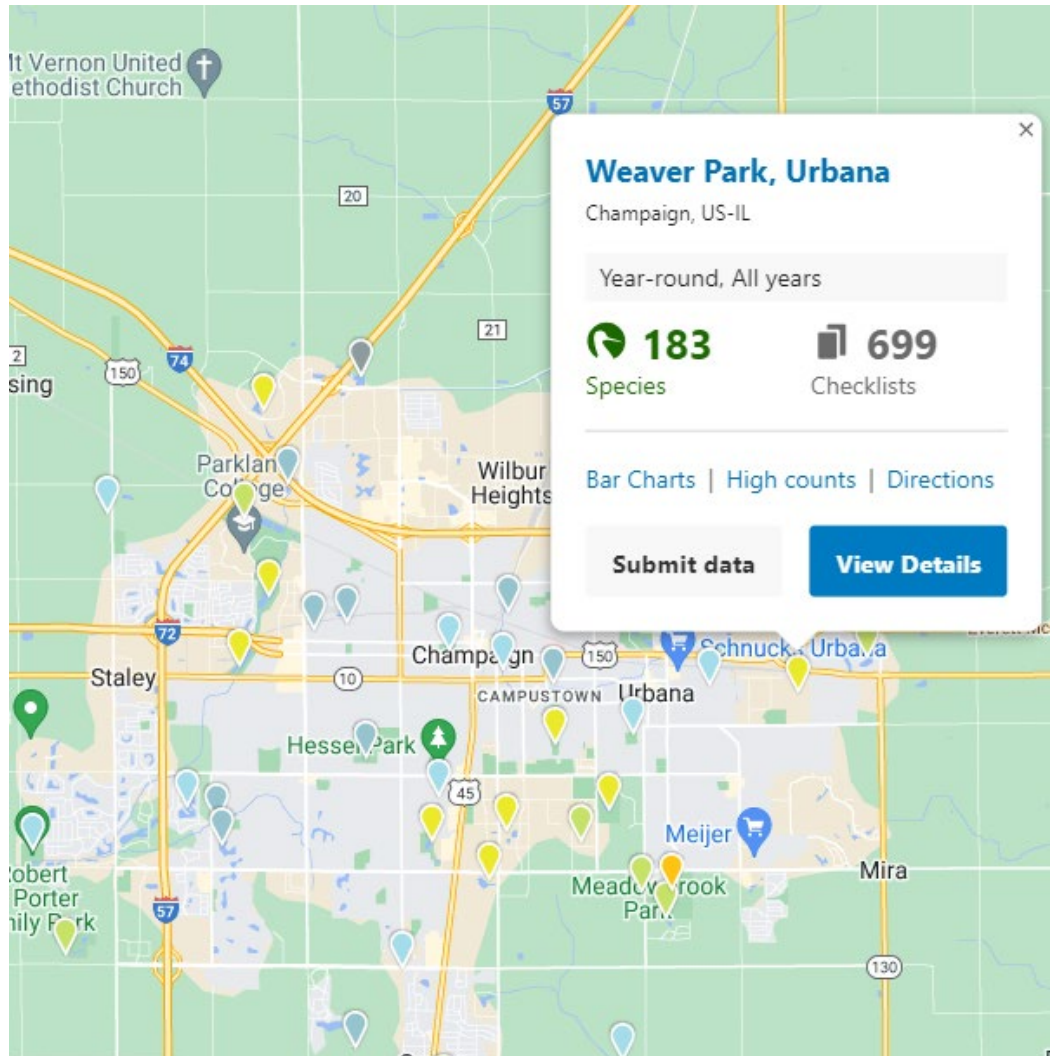


Individual responses and themes are provided below. Scans of original documents are provided in the project's OneDrive folder.



Habitat Considerations

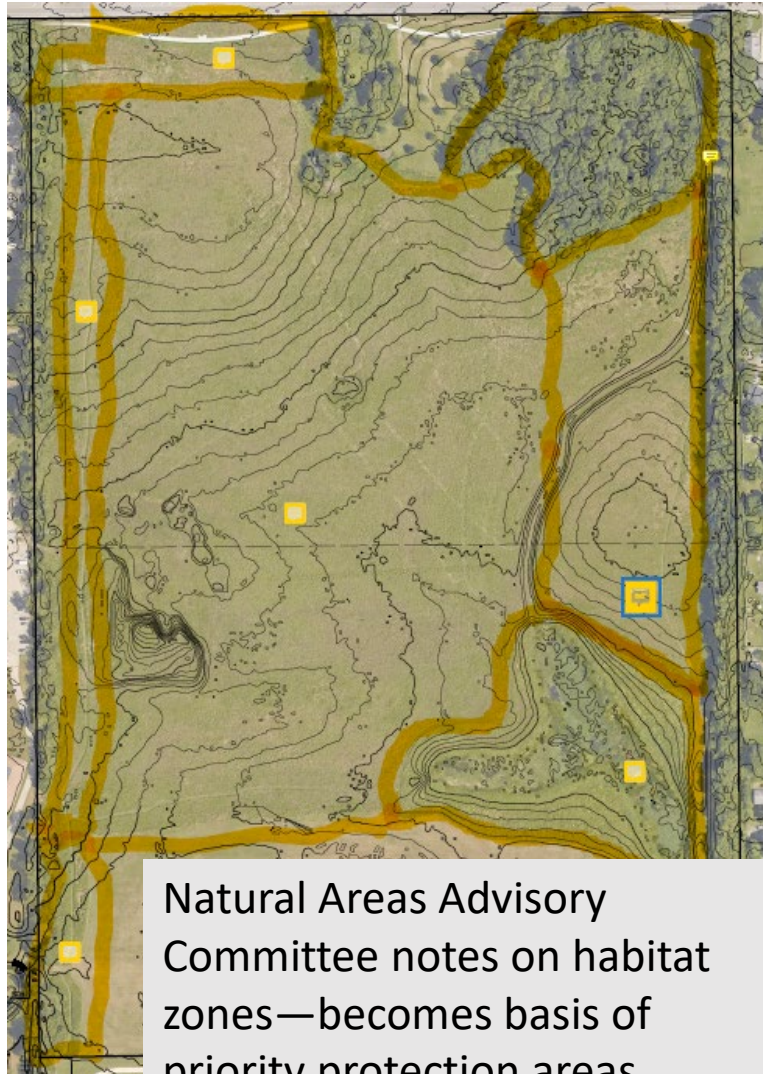
Recognizing Weaver Park is providing much more habitat than it did in 2005 when it was a farm field with a remnant woodland, planners sought data and feedback on the park's most critical habitat areas and functions.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Virginia Rail				■	■					■		
Sora				■	■	■	■		■	■	■	
American Coot			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Sandhill Crane				■								
Killdeer			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
peep sp.				■								
American Woodcock			■	■	■							
Wilson's Snipe				■	■	■			■	■	■	■
Spotted Sandpiper					■	■						
Solitary Sandpiper					■	■						
Lesser Yellowlegs					■							
Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs					■							
Ring-billed Gull				■						■	■	■
Caspian Tern					■							
Double-crested Cormorant									■	■	■	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lapland Longspur												■
Grasshopper Sparrow					■					■		
Chipping Sparrow				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Clay-colored Sparrow					■					■		
Field Sparrow		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Lark Sparrow					■							
American Tree Sparrow	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Fox Sparrow			■	■	■	■				■	■	■
Dark-eyed Junco	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
White-crowned Sparrow					■	■				■	■	■
White-throated Sparrow			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Vesper Sparrow					■	■		■				
LeConte's Sparrow					■	■				■	■	■
Nelson's Sparrow										■	■	■
Ammodramus sp.										■	■	

Natural Areas Inventory and Mapping

Planners work with birding representatives and district's natural areas advisory committee to identify protection priorities. Top priority is the wetland, lowest priority is area of former cover crop planting.



Natural Areas Advisory Committee notes on habitat zones—becomes basis of priority protection areas



Focus Group comments about birds—later confirmed and marked up for future planning and protection priorities

Early Plan Concepts

Early concepts are informed by the athletic and recreation priorities in 2023 and expected trends. Soccer remains a high need as existing fields lack investment due to leased status. New plans call for a reduction in field space from the 2005 plan, however. New plans have a greater focus on the preservation and buffering of the wetland as the top priority, woodland still important but secondary. Cover crop area, now a low diversity prairie, is lowest priority and proposed for ballfields. Two plans have a drive through road and two do not—the road is removed from future planning—opting for less automobile focus and favoring “green over gray.”



Two plans prepared for public comment—neither intended to be final

Option one has softball to the south with more wetland buffer. Soccer to the north can double as multi-purpose and event space near the pavilion. Option one has a larger dedicated multipurpose field southwest of the wetland.



Total Area (Weaver Only)	59.25 acres
Natural Area (Weaver Only)	~29.25 acres (49%)
Parking Data	Weaver North: 155
	Weaver South: 130
	Weaver Overflow: 145
	Prairie East Ph. 1: 81
	Prairie East Ph. 2: ~ 71
	Prairie West: 60
Total:	~ 642
Suggested New Amenities	Weaver Park:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (4) Large Soccer Fields (180' x 330') (2) Small Soccer Fields (141' x 225') (2) Softball Diamonds (300') (1) Multi-Purpose Field (180' x 330') (1) Restroom Building (1) KRT Trailhead with Restroom (1) Small Playground (1) Storage Shed (Softball) (1) Wetland Overlook 10' Wide Concrete Paths 5' Wide Soft Surface Paths
	Prairie Park:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (4 to 8) Pickleball Courts (5) Sand Volleyball Courts (1) Skate Park (1) Splash Pad (1) Large Playground (1) Restroom (Splash Pad) (3) Half-Court Basketball (1) Full-Court Basketball (50' x 75')



Both plans are the same for the Prairie Park amenities

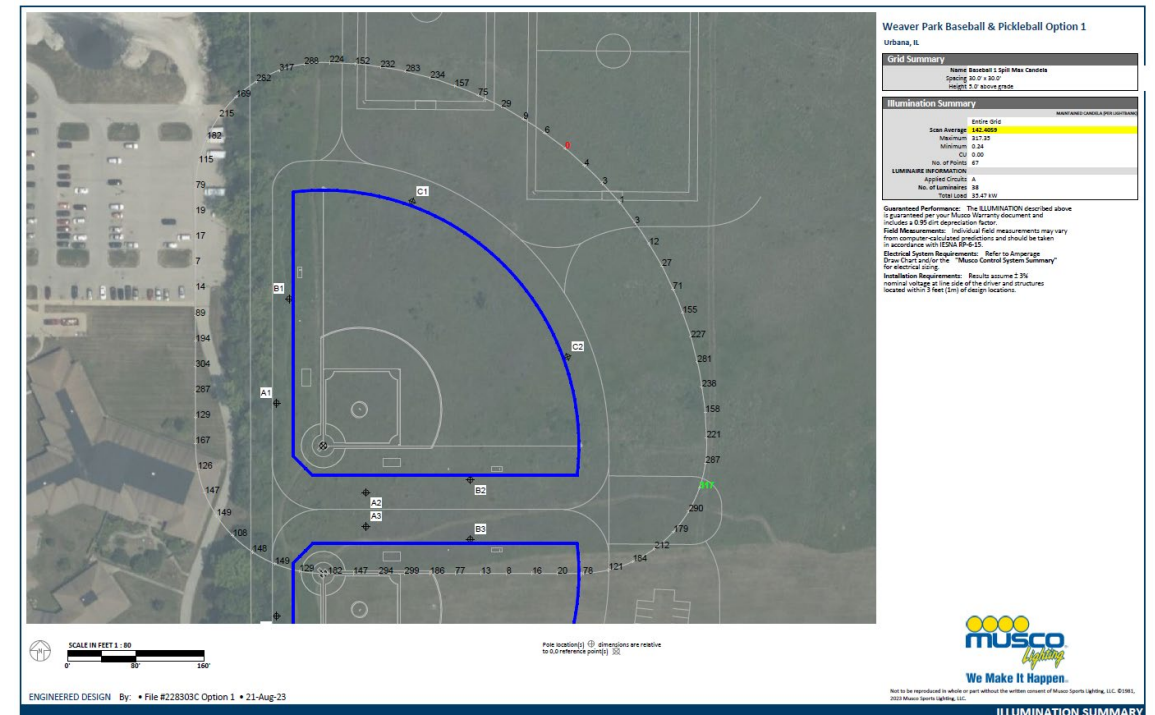
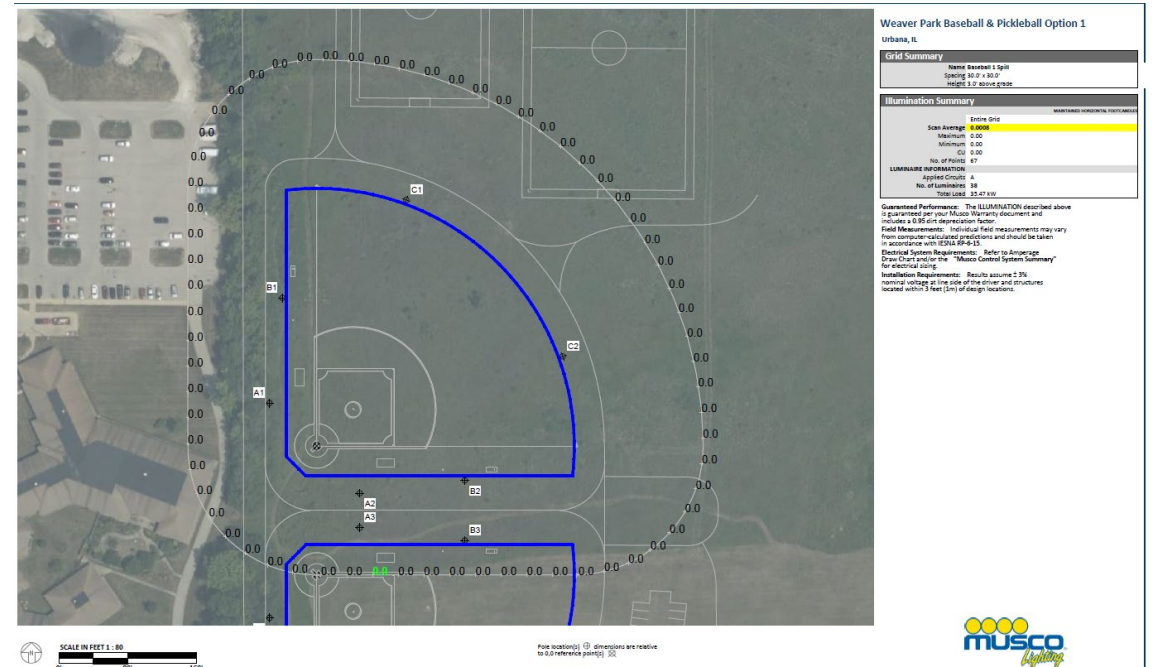
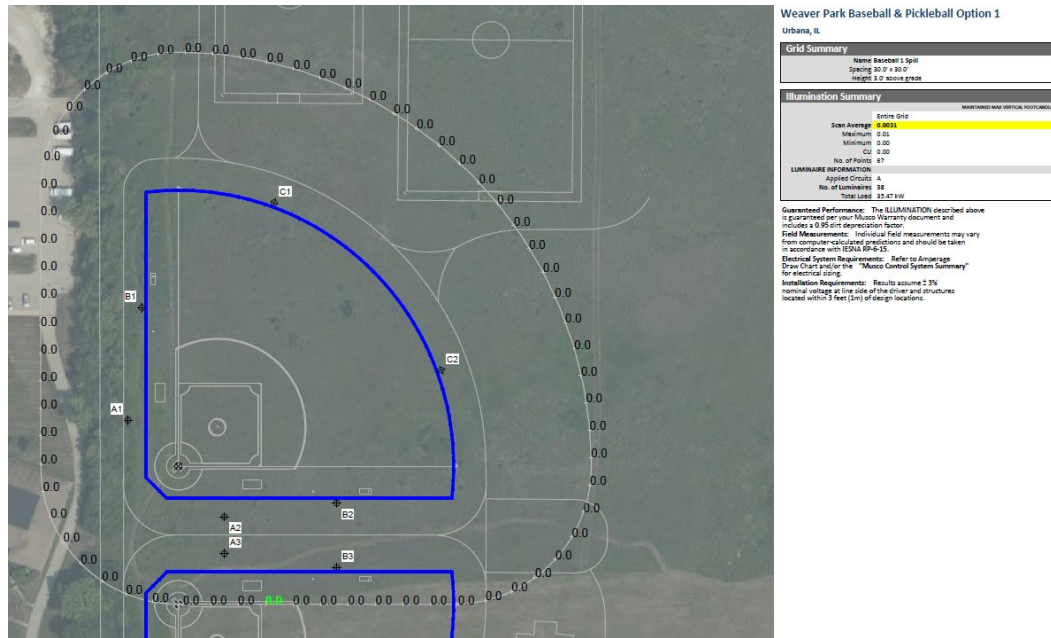
Prairie Park proposed to include skatepark, splashpad, pickleball, sand volleyball, and both youth & adult basketball. Weaver Park option two has soccer to south and softball to north. Lighted softball fields are further from wetland in option two. Both plans have expanded wetland footprint and more wetland buffer to the south.



Total Area (Weaver Only)	59.25 acres
Natural Area (Weaver Only)	~31.60 acres (53%)
Parking Data	Weaver North: 170
	Weaver South: 155
	Weaver Overflow: 165
	Prairie East Ph. 1: 81
	Prairie East Ph. 2: ~ 71
	Prairie West: 60
Total:	~ 702
Suggested New Amenities	Weaver Park:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (4) Large Soccer Fields (180' x 330') (2) Small Soccer Fields (141' x 225') (2) Softball Diamonds (300') (1) Multi-Purpose Field (140' x 225') (1) Restroom Building (1) KRT Trailhead with Restroom (1) Small Playground (1) Storage Shed (Softball) 10' Wide Concrete Paths 5' Wide Soft Surface Paths
	Prairie Park:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (4 to 8) Pickleball Courts (5) Sand Volleyball Courts (1) Skate Park (1) Splash Pad (1) Large Playground (1) Restroom (Splash Pad) (3) Half-Court Basketball (1) Full-Court Basketball (50' x 75')

Dark Sky Lighting

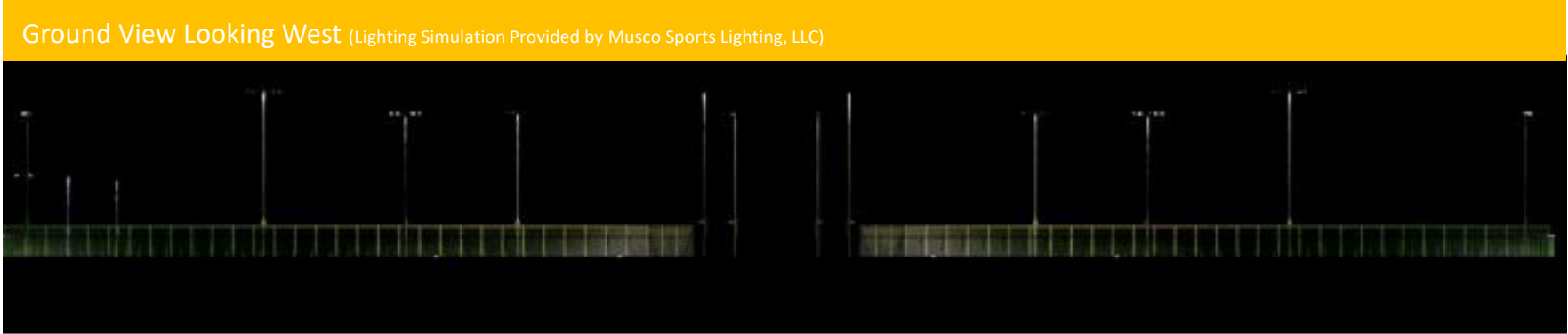
Concerns regarding lighting impacts on wildlife and neighbors prompt dark sky lighting design. Dark sky athletic lighting analysis provided by Musco Lighting. Musco is active with the International Dark Sky Association.



We Make It Happen.

Musco provided renderings of proposed Weaver Park softball fields

Ground view looking west on top, aerial view looking east on bottom.



Formation of Stakeholder Committee

At the Virtual Webinar on August 23, 2023, there were several comments and concerns:

- Lack of Knowledge of Plans
- Questions of why now—survey indicates general satisfaction?
- Concerns about loss of habitat, especially rare birds
- Support for athletics but not at the expense of natural areas
- Concerns if the plans address the needs of surrounding neighborhoods, schools, marginalized communities

The UPD has assembled a stakeholder committee to assist in reviewing these concerns and to have more community engagement before carrying the planning process forward.

