

Naperville Park District
and
Naperville Community
Unit School District 203

**Naperville Central High School
and Athletic Field Space Issues**





- The Naperville Park District and Naperville School District 203 have a long-standing partnership that benefits the community
- District 203 provides its indoor and outdoor facilities for Park District programming after school and on weekends; in turn, the Park District provides fields and tennis courts for use by District 203 for athletic practices, games and PE classes.
- Due to the Naperville Cemetery's plans to begin using land currently being leased as athletic fields, some District 203 programs must be relocated either to Knoch Park or elsewhere.





- Naperville Central is sited on approximately 35 acres (compared to 60-100 acres on more recently built schools)
- PE classes, marching band and athletic teams use land currently leased from the Naperville Cemetery and on Knoch Park athletic fields.
- These fields are used by community football and baseball leagues, club soccer and Park District teams. Hundreds of members of community youth football leagues (Naperville Youth Football League and St. Raphael Football League) practice and play on fields at Knoch Park in the fall season.





- Currently, Naperville Cemetery land is used by the high school for varsity and junior varsity football and certain track events.
- Knoch Park fields are used for:
 - NCHS marching band practice
 - all levels of boys' football practice
 - practice for three girls' softball and four boys' baseball teams
- Lacrosse, a new sport, is expected to become IHSA sanctioned, causing a need for additional field space near the school. All four of the boys' and girls' club lacrosse teams currently practice and play their games off-campus. A third team is likely.





- Available field space will be reduced when the lease with the Naperville Cemetery ends in the summer of 2009.
- PE classes will be able to use stadium field (synthetic turf) during the day.
- Stadium can be used after-school in the fall for football, band, and soccer, but won't solve entire problem.
- Some football teams will still need to move further onto existing Knoch Park fields or move elsewhere.





- If an additional field is used on weekends at Knoch Park by Naperville Central, community leagues would be displaced.
- Use of the field would also increase wear and tear on that field.
- It is not optimal to continue to have 110-125 members of the NCHS lacrosse teams practice off-site at multiple locations.



Option 1

Work with Park District to redevelop and relocate a portion of the garden plots and create a football/soccer/lacrosse field area on a portion of that land. This would add 3 soccer-sized fields - to be used in the fall for football and in the spring for boys' and girls' lacrosse.



Option 1 Impact

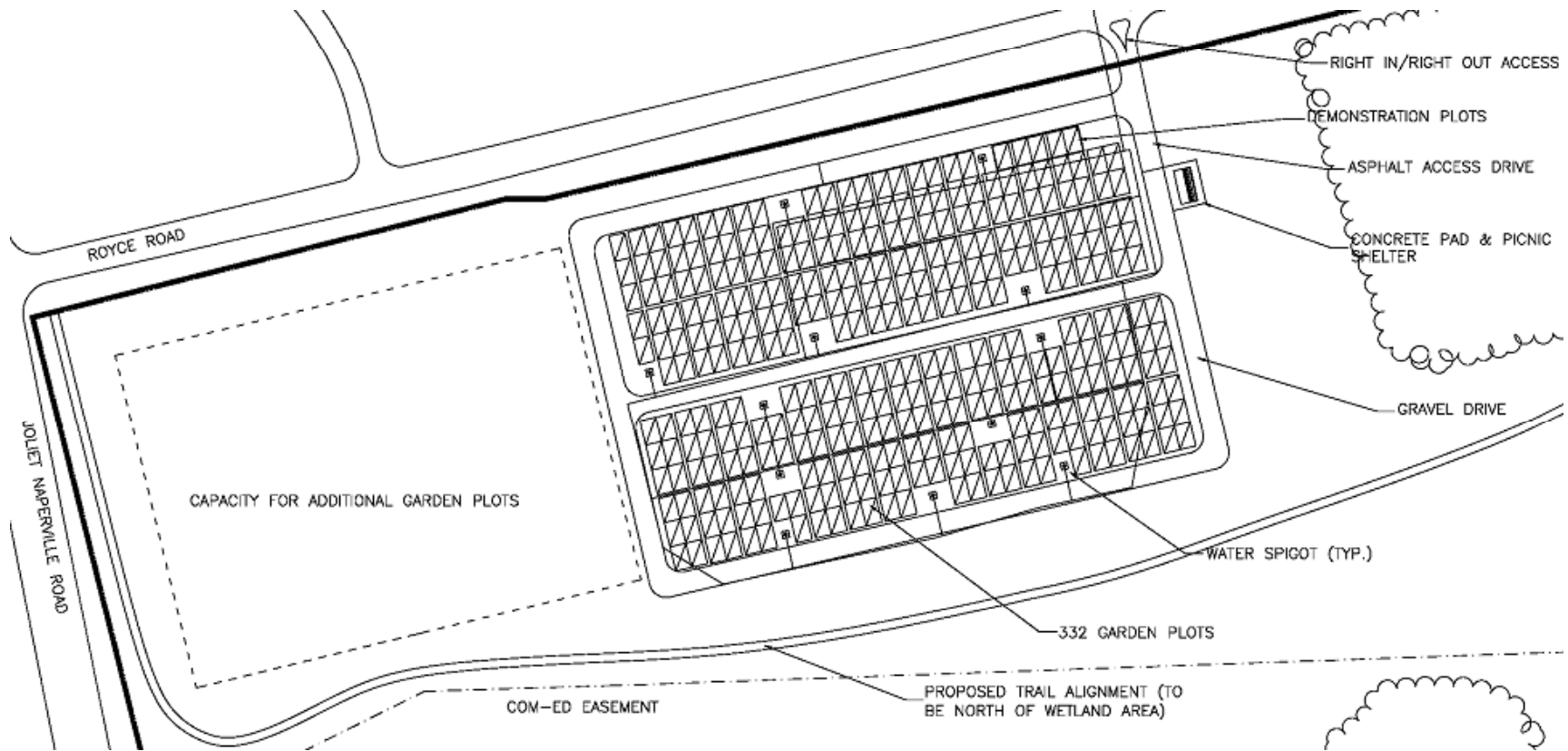
- Approx. 590 garden plots currently located on West Street,
 - 220 plots remaining exactly where they are
 - 144 plots would be added to West Street site
- 332 new garden plots would then be developed at DuPage River Park, or at undeveloped Southwest Community Park (near the corner of 248th Street and Wolf's Crossing).
- About 100 more garden plots overall.



Community Garden Plots



DuPage River Park



Option 1: Advantages

- Close to Naperville Central, close to athletic trainers and other personnel. No additional transportation costs or student time for transportation
- Knoch Park would have a net increase of one more available field
- Athletic fields to use during and after Ribfest
- Better maintenance of fields, increased safety and less wear and tear, thus reducing maintenance costs at Knoch Park
- More Park District field space near northern end of the community, consistent with OSRMP* passed in 2008
- Possible walking trails and open green space
- Expansion of the gardening program to other areas of the community

* Open Space and Recreation Master Plan



Option 1: Disadvantages

- Relocation of some garden plots
- Cost of development, relocation and expansion
 - Preliminary costs: Approximately \$250,000 to relocate garden plots; \$500,000 to develop fields
- Gardeners have expressed concerns about:
 - Soil quality
 - Inconvenience
 - Traffic
 - Disruption(see Park District “Frequently Asked Questions”)



Option 2

Move teams onto the third field at Knoch Park, currently used by youth football leagues.



Option 2: Advantages

- No garden plots would be moved
- District 203 football programs remain near Naperville Central
- This is the cheapest option, but increased maintenance costs of approximately \$28,000 annually would result from increased field use



Option 2: Disadvantages

- Youth football leagues would need to be relocated on weekends
- More wear and tear on Knoch Park fields, decreasing playability and increasing potential concerns with having safe turf areas
- Still a need to find alternate space for discus and for lacrosse teams in spring (Knoch Park fields are used for baseball and softball in spring)



Option 3

Move one or more Naperville Central football teams and other teams off campus to District 203 or Park District sites and/or to leased space.



Option 3 Impact

- Use Wil-O-Way Park, fields at Prairie Elementary School, or Arrowhead Park for football team practice for junior varsity and varsity football, or lacrosse teams. District 203 owns all of the Wil-O-Way and Prairie Park property, and a portion of Arrowhead Park.
- Possibility of leasing space near All Saints Catholic School being explored.



Option 3: Advantages

- No garden plots would be moved
- Less crowding at Knoch Park than Option 2



Option 3: Disadvantages

- Concern about student safety
- Additional costs of off-site practice location(s)
 - Increased transportation expenses
 - Added athletic trainer time
 - Duplicate training equipment for multiple sites
 - \$32,200 annual, on-going fees
 - \$17,685 one time set-up fees
- If leased space used:
 - Additional annual cost to District 203
 - No long-term guarantee that space leased from any outside organizations will remain available
- Relocation of St. Raphael Football, club soccer, community baseball teams and Park District teams, depending on location selected



Option 4

Create athletic fields at DuPage River Park or Nike Park for use by football and lacrosse teams.



Option 4: Advantages

- No garden plots would be moved
- Less crowding at Knoch Park than Option 2



Option 4: Disadvantages

- Concern about student safety
- New fields would need to be developed: approximately \$500,000 for fields, plus additional impact and infrastructure fees
- Timing of completion would be problematic for short-term needs
- Additional equipment would need to be purchased for training purposes at these sites
- Additional costs of off-site practice location(s):
 - Increased transportation expenses
 - Added athletic trainer time
 - Duplicate training equipment for multiple sites
 - \$32,200 annual, on-going fees
 - \$17,685 one time set-up fees





What opportunities exist for public input?

- Community Engagement Meetings:
 - October 29, 7 PM at the District 203 Administrative Center, 203 W. Hillside Rd.
 - November 10, 7 PM - Alfred Rubin Riverwalk Community Center, 305 W. Jackson Ave.
 - November 12, 7 PM - District 203 Administrative Center, 203 W. Hillside Rd.





What opportunities exist for public input?

- Comments via email to District 203 at athleticfields@naperville203.org OR to the Naperville Park District at info@napervilleparks.org. Please insert “Garden Plots” in the subject line.
- See the District 203 website at www.naperville203.org or the Naperville Park District website at www.napervilleparks.org for additional information.
- Complete Feedback Sheet before leaving tonight (comments and results will be shared with Park Board and School Board)



Naperville Central High School Proposed South View



Naperville Central High School Proposed South Entry



Naperville Central High School Proposed North Entry View





Questions & Comments



