

Owosso

*Parks & Recreation
Commission*



Special Meeting
7:30 pm
Tuesday, January 10
City Conference Room
Owosso City Hall



MEMORANDUM

301 W. MAIN ▪ OWOSSO, MICHIGAN 48867-2958 ▪ WWW.CI.OWOSSO.MI.US

DATE: December 6, 2017

TO: Chairman Espich and the Owosso Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development

RE: Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting: January 10, 2017

The Parks & Recreation Commission shall convene at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 in the basement conference room of city hall. The focus of this meeting will be continued discussion of updating the current *Parks & Recreation Master Plan*.

If you have any other updates or new information before the meeting, please send it along to myself and the commission. You can call my office number at (989) 725-0544 or email me at susan.montenegro@ci.owosso.mi.us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Please RSVP! See you on the 10th!

AGENDA
Parks & Recreation Commission
Tuesday, January 10, 2017 -- 7:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers
301 West Main Street
Owosso, MI 48867

Call to order:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll call:

Approval of agenda: January 10, 2017

Approval of minutes: December 13, 2016

Public comments:

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. Minutes from December 13, 2016
3. Park sites from 2011 Parks and Rec Master Plan

Business:

1. Discussion of Parks & Recreation Master Plan Updates for the following parks:
 - Hugh Parker Soccer Field
 - Harmon Patridge Park
 - Collamer/Hopkins Lake
 - Rudy DeMuth – baseball field
 - Rosavere
 - James Minor Trail/Loop
 - Curwood Castle Park

Public comments:

Adjournment:

The City of Owosso will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/ hearing upon seventy-two (72) hours notice to the City of Owosso. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Owosso by writing or calling the following: Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk, 301 W. Main St, Owosso, MI 48867 or at (989) 725-0500. The City of Owosso website is: www.ci.owosso.mi.us

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 24, 2017** at 7:30 p.m.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867**

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Espich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was recited.
- ROLL CALL:** Was taken by Deputy City Clerk Roxane Cramer.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Espich, Vice Chair Jeff Selbig, and Commissioner Randy Woodworth.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Shane Nelson and Kristen Woodbury.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development; Glenn Chinavare, Utilities Director.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 13, 2016, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **VICE-CHAIR SELBIG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2016 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, MOTION SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WOODBURY NOT COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH.
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Espich expressed his appreciation of serving on the commission and his appreciation of Crisler Arena.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Staff memorandum
2. Minutes from November 22, 2016

BUSINESS:

Changing the ordinance to increase the number of commission members from five to seven.

Chairman Espich explained that Vice-Chair Selbig had suggested this and it had been discussed previously.

Ms. Montenegro reported that she felt the council would support this and it would help the commission obtain a quorum more regularly. It would take four out of seven members to have a quorum. Ms. Montenegro stated she would put it on the agenda to set the public hearing Monday, December 19th and

the public hearing would be January 3rd. If approved the change would take effect 20 days after the public hearing.

Commissioner Woodworth stated he felt it was necessary to increase the number of members.

**MOTION BY WOODWORTH TO ASK COUNCIL TO CHANGE THE COMMISSION SIZE FROM 5 TO 7 MEMBERS.
SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.
ALL AYES MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSSION OF UPDATING THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Discussion of Parks & Recreation Master Plan Updates for the following parks:

8) GROVE HOLMAN PARK

Location: Southwest Owosso near State Highway M-52

Size: 6.0 Acres

Key Observations:

- ~~1. This park primarily served the community with a swimming pool. The pool was closed in August-2005 and reopened with a local fund raiser for the 2006 season. The pool has subsequently closed permanently and demolition has begun.~~
- ~~2. In 2010, a sledding hill was constructed.~~
 1. Park has a sledding hill.
 2. Park is underutilized during the rest of the year.
 3. Possible future location of skating rink.

2011 Park Plan Components:

- ~~1. Evaluate the potential for the former pool area to be used for ice skating or some other winter activities to create a critical mass of wintery fun that will promote the park's winter identity.~~
 1. House the Skate Park.
 2. Investigate the potential to turn the pool building into a winter warming house with bathrooms, concessions and other fun stuff.
 3. Install park sign at SE corner of Hampton and Walnut Streets (~~no sign on M-52~~) Signage along M-52.
 4. ~~Consider a leveling of the hill or the construction of a wooden platform at the top.~~
Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes, a sketch of a sledding hill at **Exhibit H.**

7) BENTLEY COMMUNITY PARK

Location: On State Highway M-52 in south Owosso.

Size: 8.2 Acres

Key Observations:

- ~~1. The park has developed as a community park serving the entire city and very likely regional citizens and organizations.~~
- ~~2. The industrial boundaries on the north and east and the major thoroughfare boundaries on the south and west isolate this park from safe approaches by any means other than automobile.~~
- ~~3. There is a large residential neighborhood round the park.~~
 1. Over the last five years this park has been updated to include placement of a new gazebo, splash pad, playscape, a new ice rink has been added to the newly resurfaced tennis courts.
 2. More people now attend and use this park.

2011 Park Plan Components:

- ~~1. Construct a playscape in two phases (a splash pad should be considered as an alternate for the second phase).~~
2. A new sand volleyball court will be constructed.
- ~~3. The tennis courts will be resurfaced and potentially outlined with evergreens on the south and west for wind buffer and reduced interference from highway traffic.~~
- ~~4. The open space area will continue to be reviewed for ice skating potential but does not have a specific plan recommendation.~~
- ~~5. A 2,000' Add a perimeter running path. will provide a fitness facility.~~
- ~~6. An added land dimension on the north side will provide better 90 degree parking and/or facilities that relate to a trailhead. The land would be acquired or leased from Consumer's Power.~~
- ~~7. Add 6 covered tables and benches.~~

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? None

4) FAYETTE SQUARE

Location: In the Original Plat of the City of Owosso at Washington and Oliver Streets.

Size: 1.1 acres

Key Observations:

1. This park ~~has a~~ is in need of a partner for development, ~~and some~~ maintenance and care.—~~the Owosso Master Gardeners Club.~~ A site plan for the park lays out planting areas and preferred species; however, this plan has been modified to include future benches that surround an area dedicated to veterans.
2. In the center of the western portion of the park is a circular gathering place that contains a number of war memorials. The area within this circle is referred to as “veterans circle,” and is landscaped by volunteers.

2011 Park Plan Components:

1. The park needs a sign at both the Washington/Oliver corner and the Park/Oliver corner. The sign material requires attention for compatibility for this historic district of Owosso.
2. The park plan recommends a trellis structure for an entryway to the park at Washington and Oliver Streets.- If the trellis is at the park remove from Park Plan and move to Key observations
- ~~3. Construct a low-profile, low-tech creative play space in southeast park area.~~
- ~~4. Add four additional benches in the approaches to the veterans circle.~~
- ~~5. Continue the garden development over the short and long term. Develop a garden maintenance Program.~~

Site Plan or Graphics in the Appendix? Yes, a site plan (which has been subsequently amended) of the garden layout in the Appendix, **Exhibit Q**.

Commissioners discussed some changes for Rudy Demuth Field; however, they felt they needed to speak with someone more involved with the field for their input for changes. Commissioners will make recommendations on this park at a later date.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES AS PRESENTED FOR GROVE HOLMAN, FAYETTE SQUARE AND BENTLEY PARKS TO THE PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.

ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.
ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

**COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:42 P.M., SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.
ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

HUGH PARKER SOCCER FIELD

Location: Southeast limits of City at entrance to Southeast Owasso Industrial Park.

Size: 15 Acres

Key Observations:

1. This park is a companion park to Rosevear Park across Farr Street.
2. The park is primarily a soccer complex with very adequate parking and a functional open space zone in the southeast.
3. The park gives a barren appearance but has a landscaping plan on file.
4. This park is noted for poor soils that do not provide for good growth of vegetation.

2011 Park Plan Components.

1. Implement the plan on file in the Office of Community Development that demonstrates detailed landscaping recommendations, planned for three phases, for the berms and park borders--
 - 65 Canopy Trees
 - 35 Coniferous Trees
 - 52 Ornamental Trees
 - 22 Spreading Evergreens
 - (cluster the trees along Monroe Street to preserve views of park)
 - (avoid species that will spread tree litter on the fields)
2. Create parking "mall" on Farr Street—one side of this 50' right-of-way.
3. Establish a maintenance standard and implement it for the embankments along the Abrey Creek drain. Consider a meandering route alteration.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes--Tree/Species List in the Appendix, **Exhibit I.**

HARMON PATRIDGE PARK

Location: Owosso Township, Section 12; generally Outlots B, C, E, and a portion of D.

Size: 5.2 Acres

Key Observations:

1. This park received a “makeover” in 2004 and is nearly completed.
2. This park was established for the enjoyment of the public on July 6, 1929, by deed from Laura Patridge. The deed restriction states, “that the premises hereby conveyed shall always be kept in such a condition as to be attractive as a place for recreation.”
3. Chippewa Trail was a County Road. Now that the road is closed the east side park boundary at the north end had been the east line of the former roadway right-of-way. A city survey of the road revealed that the pathway is on the east side of the roadbed and no longer available to the public. The west half of the road right-of-way is wooded and impassable now.
4. The north boundary of the park ends at Wilkinson Road. There is a public way up the hill on a worn pathway that reaches the crest of the valley wall. The serious bicyclists use this as a link on a 16-mile loop trail that routes through Corunna too.
5. The park is not in the City but would be an ideal destination for northwest Owosso neighborhoods if there were a footbridge/bicycle path to Chipman and on to North Street.

2011 Plan Components:

1. Identify a solution to the brackish water supply at the well and redevelop a potable water supply for this heavily used picnic facility.
2. Complete woods trail back to the south from the north terminus.

Maintenance Recommendations.

1. Routine maintenance of the trail is required along with some repairs to sloped sections where wash-outs occur.
2. The Rotary trees should be inventoried and replaced when trees die. The species must be adhered to in order to maintain compatibility with the interpretive map at the park. Some plantings remain to be completed.

Site Plan or Graphics in the Appendix? None.

COLLAMER PARK (previously "Hopkins Lake Park")

Location: South central Owosso including areas outside the city limits.

Size: 164 Acres

Key Observations:

1. Hopkins Lake is regional recreation area and urban park. Since the 1972 Michigan Recreational Bonding Program, Hopkins Lake has had this concept. Four other government units dedicated their bond revenues to this park at that time. A metropolitan park with diversified recreational activities should have at least 200 acres. The park at complete build-out and ownership would have 174 acres and is deemed a sufficient match for that standard.
2. This kind of park serves the whole city and region. It contains activities that cannot be accommodated by neighborhood or community parks.
3. The 16-acre lake and land area is very sensitive to intensive recreational activity. It is more characteristic of a natural reservation for nature study and hiking. There are soil and slope limitations, and the lake is in an advanced stage of eutrophication. Resource management and carrying capacity monitoring will command attention in the care of this park.
4. A regional park suggests that there should be a regional support mechanism in place.

2011 Plan Components:

1. Selective fencing locations may be required to resolve boundary and use area conflicts. The fencing material in favor is the woven wire 6" fence with cedar posts and a height of 5 feet. A design influence of the enforcement strategy is to maintain the free passage of wildlife to and from the wetland, forests and meadow areas of the park with surrounding uplands outside of the park.
2. A means to improve the oxygen levels in the lake should be investigated. A passive windmill-float system is used on smaller ponds and may provide the much needed oxygen supply to the lake's very eutrophic condition.
3. The plan shows an additional 9 acres of lake area potential beyond the southwest area of the lake. A dredging operation would remove the muck accumulation and create more surface water.
4. A map at Exhibit N shows an interior loop trail system of up to five miles in length. The local Kiwanis clubs are heavily vested in this system and its maintenance. Discussions with BMX bikers make also generate more interest.
5. The 12-acre "Verlac" parcel is designated for about 50 camping spaces. A traveler/visitor campground franchise should be examined for its feasibility at this location.
6. A pavilion for large group outings will overlook Hopkins Lake at the southeast boundary of the Verlac/Fairchild parcel. The setting is ideal for companion use by the campground and daycamp activities planned for the area.
7. A companion east-side parking facility will be developed on the upland section between the former Verlac house location and the pavilion
8. An expanded parking facility is possible to serve the pavilions and volleyball courts on the west side.
9. A new playground is to replace the removed west side playground.
10. Lakeshore plantings are to provide shade for lakeside users and relief from the sterile shoreline setting on the west side and diminish foraging Canadian geese.
11. Develop an east side parking facility at the lakeshore with fishing pier.
12. Build a six-space trailhead parking facility south of the end of Palmer Street. This lot could supplement parking for the use of the small pavilions.

13. Ultimately, Palmer Street should be vacated as a public street and closed at a point south of the residence at the north end of the Verlac property. This closure would enable structural closing of the east end of the park at dusk.
14. Construct a new 5-acre level playfield on the former landfill and current stump disposal site.
15. A boat launch should be constructed.
16. Develop a potable water supply for the area near the dog park and community garden.
17. The east side of Collamer Park may serve as an alternate disk golf location.

Maintenance Recommendation.

1. The parkland mowing scheme can be reduced through an edge mowing along roadsides and pathways while converting to twice a year mowing of meadow areas.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? There is a hand-drawn trail map for the park in the Appendix, **Exhibit N**. Playground and campground designs are included in the Appendix at **Exhibits O and P** respectively.

RUDY DEMUTH FIELD

Location: Eastern limits of the City along the Shiawassee River.

Size: 10.2 Acres

Key Observations:

1. This floodplain park is on the inside of a broad meander loop of the Shiawassee River in a beautiful natural setting. This park has as good potential for creating quality of life improvements for the city.
2. Rudy DeMuth Field is one of three parks slated for “makeovers” in the 5-year plan.

2011 Park Plan Components:

1. Acquire and develop the school’s bus garage area for parking (for football games as well), James Miner Walkway, and riverside landscaping.
2. Create a parking lot on a closed Oakwood Street with turnaround.
3. Eliminate parking between ball diamonds but maintain a gated service drive.
4. Improve drainage, if possible, for fields and add security lighting.
5. Apply some outfield fence landscaping for screening, baseball visibility.
6. Build a small tot lot in the south lot of the bus garage property.
7. Build a Gould Street gated entrance and north side parking lot if stadium parking needs are not met on #1 above.
8. Relocate tot lot ball diamond to the southeast corner of the park.
9. Install park sign.
- 10 Build a canoe launch on the south lot of the bus garage site.
11. Add a park sign at SE corner of Jerome and Oakwood Streets.
12. Install covered tables and benches [a pavilion has not been recommended for this park].

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix. Yes, a site plan in the Appendix, **Exhibit M.**

ROSEVEAR PARK (“ROSEVEAR WOODS”)

Location: Southeast Owosso limits near Hugh Parker Field and the Southeast Owosso Industrial Park

Size: 7.8 Acres

Key Observations:

1. The better suggestions for this park over the years talk about restricting vehicle access and restricting off-road vehicles that have damaged the parks slopes. The park has a grotto like setting with a small stream in its center and gently sloping valley walls. It may easily be planted with native shrubs and trees in a natural setting for nature interpretation along a simple trail system. Potential exists to unify with a nearby elementary school for support to this end.

2011 Park Plan Components:

1. The park will have a natural plantings master plan with incremental efforts to implement the plan over a period of time.
2. Install a signed interpretive trail constructed with donations.
3. The Farr Street parking facility will provide the parking for this park.
4. The drain culvert will be maintained (repaired) and guarded from accidental falls.
5. The erosion scars from the bicycle park experiment will be repaired if they conflict with other uses.
6. Consider a scenic overview, with sign, above the current access spot and clear an area to establish a visual presence on Farr Street.
7. Consider a disc golf design that has the potential to integrate with Oak Hill Cemetery 8. Investigate the potential for a non-motorized path that can connect Rosevear to Collamer Park via Oak Hill Cemetery or other routes.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes, an interpretive trail map at **Exhibit K.**

PARK LINKAGES, RIVER, AND BIKE SYSTEM PLANS

Location: The existing park linkage is the James Miner River Walkway that begins on Williams Street at the north boundary of the Owosso Middle School and proceeds to the east city limits on the north side of the Shiawassee River. There is a south side connection that begins at Washington St. and heads east.

Size: The James Miner River Walkway is 7,500 lineal feet of trail with a partial roadway section at Jerome Street and Oakwood Street.

Key Observations:

1. The city's sidewalk system is offered as a pedestrian link to parks and open space areas and another basis for keeping fit.
2. There is a regional trail plan for the former Central Michigan RR line from Owosso to Ionia. Owosso Township Planning Commission will consider routes into the city street and trail system to permit access to the James Miner Walkway.
3. The city council has adopted a "Bike City" policy goal in 2011. Efforts are on-going to install and promote wayfinding signs, bike racks, and complete streets.

2011 Park Plan Components.

1. Unite the city on designated routes with clearly marked signs and maps.
2. Establish crossing of M-52 at Cass Street.
3. Connect Bennett Field with northwest Owosso via 15' easement west of RR to King Street.
4. Create bikeway through school bus garage site.
5. Upgrade trail from Oakwood Bridge to Gould Street on south side of river.
6. Curb and drain Jerome Street and improve existing bikeway to 10' width.
7. Add two features to bikeway:
 - a) Install tot lot at Lyon's Club Park south of the Comstock Center lot.
 - b) Through donations, double the size of the skate park off the walkway at South
 - c) Gould and Allendale Streets with a loop connector from James Miner Walkway to the Gould Street sidewalk.
8. Establish pedestrian/biking rail crossing in Westown at Lynn Street and Lansing Street.
9. Initiate intergovernmental efforts to:
 - a) Widen Copas Road to Hintz Road and plaza with dedicated bike lanes.
 - b) Develop route to rails-to-trails bikeway trailhead west of Delaney Road.
 - c) Apply major maintenance upgrade to James Miner Walkway.
10. Construct Footbridges at:
 - a) City hall parking lot to Clinton Street (covered)
 - b) Water treatment plant grounds
 - c) Northwest Owosso from N. Chipman Street to Harmon Patridge Park
11. Create 5K and 10K road race routes for special events.
12. Narrow M-52 to 3 lanes from M-21 to Wilkinson Road and establish 5' wide bikeways on each side.
13. Upgrade sidewalks for circulation--neighborhood fitness walking and connection to parks at the locations outlined in the Appendix.
14. Establish a trailhead in the city that connects to the Ionia trail, preferably in or near downtown. The Consumers gas plant site north of Bentley Park on M-52 and the parcel at the north west corner of Washington St. and the river are candidates. There is also a parcel that was acquired adjacent to the water treatment plant in 2011 that could be used.
15. Work with the Friends of the Shiawassee River to replant available riparian areas to their natural state, and consider multiple canoe/kayak launches that are readily signed.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix:

- a) Downtown Loop Trail, **Exhibit F.**
- b) Covered bridge concept at Clinton Street, **Exhibit G.**
- c) "Active Living by Design—Sidewalk Linkage Plan, **Exhibit R.**
- d) Recommended 5K and 10K road race route map, **Exhibit L.**
- e) Map of James Miner Walkway. **Exhibit J.**

CURWOOD CASTLE PARK

Location: Downtown at the confluence of State Highways M-52, M-21 and M-71.

Size: 7 Acres

Key Observations:

1. This is a historic/cultural area, and that influence has established the underlying theme for this park's development.
2. The park, more than any other public open space in the city, represents a destination for travelers, visitors and tourists.
3. The downtown greenspace at two major highway intersections is a regional park in a downtown setting.
4. Special events occur here on a regular basis.
5. Surrounding land uses represent assets to the park – the armory and middle school.
6. It is helpful to think of the park as consisting of land use zones:
 - a) Entry/welcome area zone (south end)
 - b) Museum/heritage zone (arts museum and Cabin area)
 - c) Castle zone
 - d) River interaction zone (west of the Castle)
 - e) Amphitheater and grounds zone
 - f) Armory/middle school zone
7. The park's objective is to promote cultural/historical themes, and expand engagement with the Shiawassee River.

2011 Plan Components: What follows are the planned new or improved facilities:

1. Reconstruct the parking lot and Curwood Castle drive to reduce traffic speeds and design all street access points as park entry drives. A sketch of the traffic and parking concept is in Exhibit E.
2. A new park sign and arrival feature is to be designed and installed at the south entranceway.
3. Establish a traveler's/visitors mini-lot with picnic facilities overlooking the Shiawassee River.
4. Continue with sidewalk and lighting program for the planned walkways.
5. Irrigate the castle grounds.
6. Build a stairway off the Main Street Bridge to the walkway.
7. Acquire scenic easements to the west walls of the Matthew's Building and Armory and apply architectural treatment to assure compatible vistas from the park.
8. Plant evergreens on the east river bank of the middle school from the castle perspective.
9. Continue to explore the establishment of a whitewater dam at the existing dam.
10. Acquire the house at 408 Curwood Castle Drive and plan a pond and perimeter landscaping in this area.
11. Work with landowners on Williams Street to maintain a vegetative cover for a scenic, erosion-free embankment on the river.

Programming or Maintenance Recommendations:

1. Clean the island north of the castle of flood debris on an annual basis.
2. Reapply dry-vit surface to the amphitheater roof façade.

Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix? Yes—a parking and traffic concept sketch at **Exhibit E** and the report from the Curwood Castle Park Planning Committee **at Exhibit D.**