

Memo

To: Nathan Poore, Town Manager
From: Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks & Community Programs Director
Date: November 29, 2016
Re: Ad Hoc 260 Foreside Committee Report

After reviewing the Ad Hoc 260 Foreside Committee Report to the Town Council, I wanted to offer the following information as it relates to the Parks & Community Programs Department and specifically the management of Underwood Park and the adjacent Brown Property.

Currently outlined in the Parks Capital Improvement Plan are strategies to improve traffic flow, upgrade and renovate the parking area at Underwood Park. This work is slated to occur in 2019 and will include a new granite sign to match other park signs in town. There is currently \$26,000 in the CIP as a placeholder for this project.

There are currently no funds allocated for improving the playground area or the addition of new “play” courts, but this is certainly something that we can fund and construct in the future based on direction from the Town Council. The gate at Underwood Park was removed for safety reasons last year and can be replaced. The gate was broken and “wedged” in an open position due to heaving of the walkway and vandalism. There is funding available in the operating budget for modest parks renovations such as this. I would like to note that the department has not received any calls or concerns with the removal of the gate.

With regard to the elimination of invasive species on both properties, this has been an on-going effort. Lucas Tree has been contracted to manage the bittersweet and other invasive species on the property and the parks department “bush hogs” the back of the brown property at least two times a year. This work has been done through the Parks budget as part of our annual operating costs and we will request that this line item be increased. An alternative could be to work with the Conservation Commission and request that some of those budgeted funds for invasives be used to increase our invasive plant eradication efforts at Underwood Park.

The concept of installing an overflow parking lot with “grass pavers” at 260 Foreside Road is certainly feasible and would not interfere with other uses at this property or Underwood Park. The Parks and Community Programs Department can assist with construction management of this project. If there is a gate system used to manage access to the overflow parking area, I request that the management of that gate system be assigned to the Harbor Patrol Division of the Police Department.

Finally, there appears to be some interest to add landscaping at either or both 260 Foreside Road and Underwood Park. If this is desired by the Town Council, I would request the use of native species. I have been meeting with members of the Conservation Commission with regard to creating native species demonstration gardens in town and will add this location to their list.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this information if necessary. Thank you.