



UNDERWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING #1—SUMMARY OF NOTES

Meeting Date: 1/10/23 6-8pm

Questions Posed to the Work Session Groups

- What are the site's best assets?
- What could use improvement?
- What additional amenities would you like the park to have?
- Are there any upgrades or amenities you DO NOT want to see at Underwood Park?

Summarization of Best Assets

- Park's environmental qualities (large open field, wooded trails, apple trees, depth/distance from road, and wooded edges/seclusion)
- Accessibility and walkability within community (central location)
- Park is open all day which makes it more useable than school playgrounds that are only open outside of school hours

Summarization of Areas to Improve

- Trails need better signage and maintenance
- "Curb appeal" of park—make it feel more welcoming from the street with nicer vegetation, signage, and better parking area
- Current parking lot needs resurfacing and/or a few more parking spaces
- Brown parcel needs to be cleaned up (remove debris and invasives)
- Field needs better turf—it is flat but pitted, which makes it uncomfortable to run on
- Playground could be enhanced (less plastic, more natural)
- Improve lighting/use dark sky compliant lighting

Summarization of Amenities to Add

- Additional playground equipment for different ages of children (swing set, bigger equipment)
 - Many requested more natural play structures and natural materials
- Structures like a pavilion or gazebo—covered gathering space
 - A few people suggested referencing the Underwood Springs lookout
- More seating—benches near playground and picnic tables around the site for gathering
- Sports facilities/courts
 - Tennis, pickleball, basketball were the top requests
- Trash cans for pet waste and other garbage
- Signage/plaques that acknowledge the history of the site
- Splash pad in summer that can be transformed into an ice skating rink in winter
- Community garden
- Children's garden/story walk/art installation

- Bug/butterfly garden and bird houses
- Small fenced in dog park
- Fence or other barrier along road
- Fitness circuit (could be integrated with walking trails)
- ADA accessible paths and walking trails
- Water fountains/bottle filling station
- Pilot a few new parking spaces (along road as parallel parking or on site)
- Pool/pond/water feature
- Bike racks (encourage more walking and biking to park, fewer cars)

Summarization of Amenities NOT WANTED

- Additional parking (especially non porous parking)
- Sports facilities/courts
- Buildings (residential or commercial spaces)
- Pesticides used to control invasives or to improve the field or trails
- Community pool
- Don't remove any trees
- Don't touch the trails
- Too much asphalt on site

Additional Recommendations

- Would be cool to connect more of the parks in the area with trails to create a recreational beltway that Underwood is a part of
- Make the trails from Underwood to Falmouth Nature Preserve permanent with easements
- Payson Park, Mackworth Island, Ft. Williams Park, and Deering Oaks Park as precedents