

AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
City Hall Council Chambers – 515 Clark Avenue
Thursday, October 21, 2021

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: The Parks and Recreation Commission welcomes comments from the public during discussion. If you wish to speak, please complete a green card and hand it to City staff prior to the meeting. When your name is called, please step to the microphone, state your name and address for the record, and limit the time used to present your remarks to three minutes so others have the opportunity to speak. The normal process on an agenda item is staff may first give a report on the item, Commissioners may ask questions for clarification, public input is received, a motion is placed on the floor, the Commission discusses the issue or responds to the audience concerns, and the vote is taken. In consideration of all, if you have a cell phone, please turn it off or put it on silent.

1. Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2021
3. Public Forum (For items not on the agenda)
4. Motion to Recommend to City Council the Installation of an Agility Course in Carr Park
5. Presentation on the Land Retirement of the City Owned Area West of Ioway Creek and Moore Memorial Park
6. Motion Recommending to City Council the Renaming of Squaw Creek Park
7. Update regarding the State of Iowa Reinvestment District Program
 - a. Downtown Plaza
 - b. Indoor Aquatic Center
 - c. Final Application Submittal
8. Project Updates
9. Monthly Report
10. Commission Member Comments
11. Next Meeting:
 - a. Thursday, November 18 at 4:00 PM (Regular Meeting)
12. Adjournment

AMES PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 16, 2021

COMMISSION

PRESENT: Jeremy Bristow, Sarah Cady, Nicole Fannin, Sarah Litwiller, Duane Reeves, Nathan Shimanek

ABSENT: Jacob Ludwig

STAFF: Keith Abraham, Joshua Thompson,

CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Reeves, with a second by Bristow, to approve the August 19, 2021, and September 9, 2021, meeting minutes. No discussion. No opposition. **Motion Approved**

PUBLIC FORUM

No Public Forum

STAFF REPORT ON THE INSTALLATION OF AN AGILITY COURSE IN THE PARK SYSTEM

Thompson presented the Staff Report concerning the installation of agility equipment in Carr Park to the Commission. This report included photographs of agility equipment and reviewed the criteria that were set by the Commission during the May meeting.

Public feedback has shown that Ames residents want Parks and Recreation to diversify playground equipment in the park system instead of repeating the post and deck pieces that are typically installed.

Thompson stated that this project is part of the department's commitment to community and park equity.

Cady asked Thompson to explain what he meant by community and park equity.

Thompson said that community equity is to spread amenities throughout the city, such as placing the splash pad in Daley Park on the west side of town. Park equity is to place amenities in parks that have little or no amenities instead of crowding parks that already have multiple amenities.

Thompson then reported on concerns that were expressed in the public information sessions held via Zoom and at Homewood Golf Course.

Safety, Injuries, and Liability:

The City of Davenport has had no injury reports on the course they installed in 2019. This amenity is so popular that they are considering a second course. Thompson stated the City's insurance carrier was contacted and this would not be an insurance liability for the City of Ames.

Increased Traffic:

Thompson stated that while Staff does hope that such an amenity would attract users to the park, we would want these individuals to obey the speed limit and traffic laws. Staff has been in discussions with the Ames Police Department. The Police will respond to calls but based on data there is typically one officer at a time on regular patrol for this area and this has not been a problem area.

Delinquents:

Thompson stated all parks close at 10:30 PM. The police will come and ask people to leave if necessary.

Increased Maintenance Costs:

Thompson stated that all playground equipment is inspected in-house by a staff member who is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. The department has the budget available to maintain equipment.

Carr Pool Bathhouse:

Currently, maintenance staff removes any graffiti on the outside of the building and the Police remove people from inside the building. Originally the building was to be repurposed, however, the costs were prohibitive, and the building is set for demolition. Costs will be provided to the Commission in October.

Aesthetics:

The equipment is made by the same company as the Miracle Playground. There are plans to build a restroom and shelter in the 2023/2024 CIP. The shelter will have security lighting. There is no lighting planned for the equipment.

Additionally, City Council has approved adding 14 additional gardens in that area.

Parking:

The hard surface parking lot from when Carr Pool was in the park remains and will continue to be utilized. When the pool was open, there were enough spaces for multiple users in the area at the same time. Staff would prefer people utilize the hard surface lot. People may decide to park legally on the street.

Neighborhood vs Community Park:

Neighborhood parks do not have sports fields or tennis courts. Carr Park has always been a hybrid park due to its accessibility to other parks (i.e. North and East River Valley Parks) and the history of having a community swimming pool.

Disruptive to Nature:

Thompson stated that the area proposed for this development is turf and was, in the recent past, a swimming pool. He informed the Commission that it is the staff's job to make sure park use is appropriate. The proposed area is not a nature preserve.

Cady asked if Staff had considered swapping the agility course and the shelter. Abraham said there has been a suggestion to add a walkway and a deck expanding the view from the shelter. He stated that technically, yes, they could be flip-flopped. However, Staff feels this is the best configuration.

Cady asked if some passive designs could be done to slow traffic. Thompson informed Cady that street design and traffic control are handled by Public Works and we will check with them.

Reeves asked about what age the users for the site would be.

Thompson stated that most of the equipment is for individuals 13 and up. Davenport did report individuals as young as 8 to 10 have also used their equipment.

Reeves asked about the demographics of the neighborhood.

Thomson informed him that we received comments from multiple people in the neighborhood stating they would use the equipment.

Bristow stated that his opinion is that people would travel to use this equipment so it would not be limited to the demographics in the neighborhood.

Cady feels Carr Park is already a destination for people as they go there to garden, use the trails, and cross-country ski as well as being the location of a community pool in the very recent past.

Thompson asked the Commission for direction and next steps.

Shimanek stated upfront that he uses Carr Park daily as he lives at 20th and Maxwell. He explained that he really likes the idea of equipment being placed in this location as there are no other structures that serve the adolescent population who need this simulated dangerous play for their cognitive and physical development. This is a perfect example of a new structure that encourages this development. He appreciates the staff's work on this and the comments from the neighbors good and bad.

Shimanek also stated that as a police officer, crime prevention through environmental design is vital. The key components of environmental design are visibility and interaction. The more people you have using the park, the less crime you have. He feels it will be very nice and compliment the area. It is his opinion that the Commission has a responsibility to make sure that we are getting

people out to use our facilities. He knows from the comments some neighbors don't want to increase the number of people using the park, however, he feels that people using the structure is a plus.

Fanning complimented Thompson on a great job with this report. She said she has read all the emails and comments. Fanning commented that she has seen these structures in other states, and they are busy. She feels it is great and for a different demographic.

Reeves asked Thompson if there was another park in the city that he felt could be tweaked and be a better location. Thompson said the parks that were not included in the criteria have other plans in place.

Litwiller asked about the life of the equipment. Thompson stated that the typical lifecycle of playground equipment is 20 years. The top surfacing layer will need to be replaced in 10-12 years. Litwiller asked if people would get bored with the equipment if it is not changed. Thompson replied to Litwiller that the same statement could be said about every playground. Abraham stated that you could have people using equipment 15 years from now that have not yet been born. Students cycle through every three to five years. One individual could get bored and another individual use it weekly.

John Sogandares (1703 Meadowlane Ave)

Sogandares informed the Commission he lives across the street from Carr Park and feels privileged to have that park across the street. He enjoys seeing foxes, deer, and birds. He stated that the pool was closed before he moved to his current home, and he does not want to see anything that will attract people to the park.

He states that people go behind to bathhouse to use the restroom and they are still going to use that area as a bathroom once the bathhouse is torn down.

Abraham stated that a portable restroom could be placed in the area. There is one at Gateway Park for the disc golfers and one at Roosevelt for the concert series.

Tracy Sogandares (1703 Meadowlane Ave)

Sogandares stated that she did her own patrolling up and down the street and her neighbors agreed with her opinion that they do not want this in the neighborhood. They feel that the history of Carr Park is being ignored.

Cady stated that she came to Ames before the Carr Pool demolition when this same neighborhood was filled with "Save Carr Pool" signs. Cady remembers a lot of collective grief in the neighborhood regarding the demolition of the pool. She feels there is a dissonance between the neighborhood wanting to preserve that space as a community recreation space then and not wanting a community recreation space now that we are proposing to repurpose the area. Cady does not feel an agility course will be as heavily attended as a pool in July.

Sogandares stated that for the neighborhood, it is more of a concern about the crime aspect. She understands what Cady is saying. She admitted the neighbors were very mournful about the pool but are not thrilled with this.

Bristow stated it is his opinion that more activity in the park would decrease crime.

Cady does not think an agility course is going to attract a criminal element. She feels that if there is crime happening there, then it should be addressed.

Cady stated that Ames is lucky to have incredible urban wooded areas including areas of Carr Park across the river. In her opinion, the proposed area that was a pool for 50 or 60 years, and then not a pool for 12 years is not the natural area of the park.

Reeves asked Sogandares if the individuals she spoke with had attended the neighborhood meetings and had an understanding of what this may look like. Reeves stated that Staff was "pretty beat up" about the Miracle Park, which is now one of the most fantastic places in Ames.

Sogandares stated that there were quite a few people that did come and quite a few that didn't. It was her opinion that the meeting at Homewood was well attended.

Abraham informed Reeves that there were two meetings. In the first meeting, John and Tracy Sogandares were the only people from the neighborhood who attended. Abraham also stated that because of Tracy's efforts, Staff began to receive emails, and therefore a second meeting was scheduled.

Fanning asked Sogandares, what type of things were mentioned by the people she spoke with instead of the agility course. Sogandares said she didn't know how to express it but maybe a place where kids could learn. She didn't know what that would look like.

Sogandares also stated her opinion that, as far as park equity goes, she does not believe there needs to be playground equipment in every park. She would like to see benches overlooking the river.

Abraham asked the Commission if there were specific things that they would like to have or if there was a need for more information.

Reeves asked about the design of the equipment.

Thompson stated that if the Commission directed Staff on this location there would be multiple designs submitted and the neighborhood would have input on the design and colors.

Abraham stated most of the manufacturers have different things that are natural-looking pieces, such as the pieces look like logs, but the pricing can be 20-30% higher.

Fanning asked about the timeline for the equipment, shelter, and restroom.

Abraham answered that the shelter and the restroom are in fiscal year 23/24 so as of July 1 of 2023. The money for the agility course is available right now and Staff would like to get it done before July 2022.

Cady appreciates the work that Thompson has put into this project.

Bristow thinks Carr Park checks all the boxes as there is already a parking facility, and the site is fairly level, which will keep the costs down. He states the manufacturer did such a great job on the Miracle League playground and he has no doubt that they can do it again.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (FISCAL YEARS 2022-2027) DISCUSSION

Abraham went over the CIP 2022-2027. He reminded the Commission that only year one of the plan is funded by the Council. He also stated that both department staff and public input are gathered year-round.

Abraham asked the Commission members if there was something that speaks to them as a whole.

There was an agreement among the members that items regarding safety and accessibility were a priority, so people can use the places we've created.

Shimanek is glad that someone mentioned the disc golf course, as it is heavily used and needs some hardscape, landscape, and erosion control.

Abraham stated that there are ideas being discussed to address these concerns. Three volunteers are working on reconfiguring the course.

Cady feels there has been a lot of discussion about disc golf in the last few years.

Abraham informed Cady that the money is available, however, we have not reached an agreement on what should be done.

Cady stated there is concern about the state of the sand volleyball court in Carr Park.

Abraham stated the court would be on the operations side of things. There will be a neighborhood discussion about the court included with the shelter and restrooms.

J. Sogandares asked to speak. He would like the department to focus on getting kids involved with biology and science using resources at the University. Also, resurfacing the parking lot at Carr Park.

Cady asked if there was a friends group for Carr Park. Abraham answered that there was not. She explained to Sogandares what a friends group is and what they can do.

UPDATE REGARDING THE STATE OF IOWA REINVESTMENT DISTRICT PROGRAM

Abraham reported the City Council approved the use of up to \$21.2 million in bonds for the indoor aquatic facility. The private fundraising amount is \$10.5 million. Abraham stated that if no money from the Reinvestment District is reimbursed, the tax burden would be \$28.50 per \$100,000 valuation. If the reimbursement comes in at \$10 million, the tax burden would go down to \$20.00 per \$100,000.

***MOTION APPROVING REQUEST FROM GREG PREGRACKE TO SELL BOOKS IN THE CITY AUDITORIUM AND WAIVE THE 10% OF GROSS SALES.**

Abraham went over the event and the history of waiving fees. Staff Recommends Alternative #1.

It was moved by Litwiller, with a second by Bristow, to approve Alternative #1. Discussion. Bristow recommends that people attend this lecture. No opposition.

Motion Approved

RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Courtney Spawn Kort has been named as the new Recreation Superintendent. Yesterday was her last day as the director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism for the town of Payson, Arizona.

PROJECT UPDATES

MONTHLY REPORT

The Dog Park will be closed for annual maintenance next week. Work will include turf maintenance, installation of a bench, and tree trimming.

The fishing pier at Ada Hayden, improvements at Franklin Park, and the development of Hira park are almost completed. There will be ribbon cuttings scheduled to celebrate these projects.

Cady said she had a question from a community member regarding the timeline of the pickleball retrofit at McCarthy Lee Park. Abraham informed her the design will be this fall and the construction will be next year.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Reeves to adjourn. The meeting concluded at 5:59 PM.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 4:00 PM.

*Out of Order

ITEM # 4

DATE: 10-21-21

COMMISSION ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: CARR PARK AGILITY COURSE

BACKGROUND:

As part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Parks and Recreation replaces several pieces of playground equipment each year. Staff has been working on diversifying the types of equipment to be installed in the parks in order to provide a variety of offerings. Playground equipment in Inis Grove Park was up for replacement and during this past CIP budget cycle, staff shared the idea of an agility course which an example is shown below:



The agility course was well received so staff moved forward with this idea. Because of the addition of the inclusive playground in Inis Grove Park and the direction from Parks and Recreation Commission to not increase activities in the park, staff investigated putting this agility course in another location.

At the September Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, staff presented a report outlining potential sites for the equipment, the evaluation criteria used to review each potential site, feedback from the two public input sessions, emails from neighbors, and how staff plans to address some of the concerns expressed by the neighborhood. Also, two neighbors of the park presented feedback as to their desire to keep the park in its

current state and add educational programming for youth that utilizes the current amenities of the park like the river and other natural areas to educate them about the benefits of nature.

LOCATION SELECTION CRITERIA:

When developing criteria, staff looked at what could be measurable and thus compared as objectively as possible. As a reminder, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed these criteria at its May 2021 meeting and agreed it should be used for evaluating the potential locations. The following criteria, not in any order, was used to review potential sites:

- Out of flood plain
- Fits with park philosophy
- Space available
- Relatively flat space
- Parking available
- Visible from road
- Safety
- Community/Park equity
- Accessibility

LOCATION OPTIONS:

The City manages 38 parks and all of them were reviewed at a high level as possible locations for the agility course. The aforementioned criteria were used to narrow down the locations for the agility course. The parks listed below best fit the criteria:

- Brookside Park (east of loway Creek)
- Moore Memorial Park
- Carr Park
- Northridge Heights Park
- Emma McCarthy Lee Park
- Tahira and Labh Hira Park

EVALUATION OF LOCATION OPTIONS:

Staff reviewed each site against the determined criteria and listed a yes if it met the criteria and a no if it did not. The table below compares the potential locations for the agility course with the identified criteria.

Park	Out of Flood Plain	Safety	Fits w/Park Philosophy	Space Available	Flat Space	Parking Available	Visible from Road	Community/ Park Equity	Accessibility
E. Brookside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No/ No	No
Carr	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes/ Yes	Yes
Emma McCarthy Lee	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes/ No	No
Moore Memorial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No/ No	Yes
Northridge Heights	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes/ No	Yes
Tahira & Labh Hira	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes/ No	Yes

PUBLIC INPUT:

Any time something is proposed for a space, staff does public outreach to inform people of the proposal and to gather feedback on the potential project. There were two opportunities for individuals to express their opinions regarding the proposed location of the project.

August 11, 2021: A public input session regarding the project was held virtually. A postcard was sent out to approximately 150 households in the Emma McCarthy Lee Park neighborhood and 180 to Carr Park neighbors notifying them of the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the proposed agility course location. An overview of the proposed project and location were presented to approximately eight people in attendance.

August 26, 2021: A second public input session was held in the Community Room at Homewood Golf Course after staff received comments from neighbors of Carr Park that didn't attend the first meeting and wanted to have an opportunity to discuss their concerns with the project. A letter was sent to approximately 400 households regarding the meeting, as well as, providing more information about the project. Comments from the second meeting were included in the staff report that was presented at the September Commission meeting. A petition from Carr Park neighbors was also submitted as part of the staff report at the September Commission meeting.

Additional Correspondence: After each of the two meetings, staff received additional correspondence that was presented at the September Commission meeting. Since the last Commission meeting, Staff received one additional correspondence from a neighbor of the park requesting again the park be kept in its current state. Also, the email included an alternative idea to utilize a portion of the park to test new varieties of plants for home gardens and partnering with Iowa State University Horticulture students to assist with operating the gardens.

NEIGHBOR'S CONCERNS:

Safety:

Carr Park neighbors expressed concerns in the meetings as well as in emails sent to staff regarding safety of the proposed equipment. Comments included the following:

- **Increased liability for the City of Ames**
 - City staff confirmed with the City's insurance carrier regarding increased liability with this equipment. A representative from the insurance company stated the following, ***"I don't see a problem with this, and would see it as play equipment; therefore, no additional liability charge."***
- **This type of equipment is for thrill seekers and have a high degree of injury potential.**
 - This equipment is manufactured by the same company that supplied and installed the equipment at the Miracle Park in Inis Grove Park. All playground manufacturers are required to develop equipment that meets or exceeds safety standards set by many entities including Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), American System of Testing Materials (ASTM), and International Playground Manufacturers Association (IPEMA). Injuries can take place at any playground due to accidents or if individuals are using equipment improperly, however, there have been very few injuries reported from individuals using playground equipment in Ames parks. Since this equipment will be new to the park system, signs will be posted to ensure all individuals are aware of how to properly use the equipment.
- **Increased traffic to the park**
 - The proposed equipment will likely bring more individuals to the park, yet staff feels Carr Park is capable of handling the use. The parking lot at Carr Park has approximately 30 parking spots available, as well as, two accessible parking spots.
- **High rate of speed of cars traveling along Meadowlane Ave., and not stopping at the stop sign located at Carr Dr. and Meadowlane Ave.**
 - Staff has communicated these concerns to the Police Department and is continuing dialogue for potential solutions.
- **Delinquents hanging out in the park after hours**

- Park hours are 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., however, most playground equipment does not get played on after dark. When we have had issues in the past regarding bad behavior in the park, staff has asked Police to increase patrol of the area. Staff also encourages all residents to call the police if they witness behavior that is against the law. There have been other times when Parks and Recreation staff will go to a site and talk to individuals about appropriate behavior.

Annual Maintenance:

Staff explained during the meetings that each piece of playground equipment is inspected on an annual basis. All inspections are completed by a staff member that is licensed by the National Recreation and Park Association as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. If deficiencies are identified the equipment is repaired immediately or the play piece is closed until repairs can be made. Additionally, funds are budgeted in the operational budget to replace/repair equipment as needed. For more expensive items (i.e. replace surfacing), these would be programmed into the Department's Capital Improvement Plan.

Carr Pool Bathhouse:

Comments included issues with homeless individuals, graffiti on the exterior of the building, the building becoming dilapidated, and why it hasn't been repurposed or demolished. Staff explained that repurposing the building was cost prohibitive due to the way the building was constructed. After hearing these comments and concerns, staff estimates the cost to demolish the building to be approximately \$12,500 and hopes to proceed with completing that this winter.

Future Plans for the Park:

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) has funding in FY 2022-23 (design) and in FY 2023-24 (construction) for a new bathroom and shelter at the park. Additionally, funds are identified in the FY 2022-23 CIP to install playground equipment in the park. Adding the agility course equipment in this fiscal year is moving the timeline forward for that project, and the designated playground funds will be allocated elsewhere.

Aesthetics:

Staff received comments that the proposed agility course equipment displayed in the presentation pictures was not attractive (bright colors) and neighbors didn't want to look out the windows of their home and see the structure. During the second meeting, staff stated there are multiple color schemes of what the equipment and safety surfacing could look like and if this equipment does go into Carr Park, staff would work with the neighbors to get their feedback on a color scheme.

Lighting:

Additional lighting to compliment the agility course will not be added to this project. When the shelter and restroom are constructed, security lighting will be included in the structure.

Parking:

Staff received comments that adding this piece of equipment would increase parking pressure on the park and individuals would have to park in the street. As mentioned earlier, the parking lot has approximately 30 spaces as well as two accessible parking spaces. Based on observations over the years during the various seasons, the park is able to handle this amenity with the current size of parking lot. Staff will also look at the parking lot design to ensure the parking lot lines are painted to maximize parking. Also, there was a comment that the parking lot needs resurfaced. Staff reviewed the condition of the asphalt and determined resurfacing is not warranted at this time but will be continually evaluated.

Lack of Sidewalk in Carr Park:

The sidewalk along Meadowlane Ave. is not continuous and has resulted in a mid-block crossing and ped-ramp in front of a house which has eliminated some on-street parking. As part of this project, staff will install a portion of sidewalk making the sidewalk continuous and eliminate the mid-block crossing and ped-ramp.

Neighborhood vs. Community Park:

City of Ames defines the service area of Neighborhood parks to be within ½ mile of the park. Community Parks serve residents within a two-mile radius and include amenities that may serve the entire community. Amenities commonly found in Community Parks include baseball/softball fields, tennis courts, park shelters, playground structures, and a restroom. Amenities in Neighborhood parks typically include a shelter, water fountain, playground structure, and a basketball court. Carr Park is already a gateway to several community parks as you can access North River valley Park, East River Valley Park, and Inis Grove Park. Because of this fact, Carr Park is already attracting people from across the community making Carr Park a bit of a hybrid park based on current use.

Disruptive to Nature:

Staff received emails and comments on how adding this amenity would disrupt animal habitat. The space proposed for this equipment is an open turf area that once was the location of a swimming pool. No designated wildlife areas or refuges will be disrupted by adding this amenity. Also, wildlife adapts to their surroundings. An individual can go to almost any park in Ames and see wildlife and our hope is that individuals will be able to do the same at Carr Park if the agility equipment is constructed.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Recommend City Council approve placement of Agility Course Equipment in Carr Park.
2. Do not recommend to City Council approve placement of Agility Course Equipment in Carr and direct staff to determine a different park location for the equipment.
3. Refer back to staff.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff has been working on diversifying the types of equipment to be installed in the parks in order to provide a variety of offerings. Installing the Agility Course equipment will provide not only youth, but adults the opportunity to enjoy the equipment. Carr Park is a great location to install the equipment because it meets all the evaluation criteria as well as offers the opportunity to add play equipment to an area of town that is underserved as far as playground amenities.

As with addressing the aforementioned concerns raised by the neighbors of Carr Park, staff will hopefully be demolishing the bathhouse this winter, will add a sidewalk in order to make it continuous along Meadowlane Ave, will complete maintenance on a regularly basis, will review the parking lot to ensure efficient use of the parking lot, and will work with the neighborhood in providing equipment with colors that fit into the existing landscape of the park.

Therefore, staff recommends approving Alternative #1; to recommend to City Council approve placement of Agility Course Equipment in Carr Park.

COMMISSION ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: RENAMING OF SQUAW CREEK PARK

BACKGROUND:

In February 2021, Squaw Creek was officially renamed loway Creek. The Parks and Recreation Commission directed staff to solicit recommendations from the public regarding renaming Squaw Creek Park. Since the City has a Parks and Recreation Naming Policy (Attachment A), individuals with a naming idea were instructed to complete an application with their proposed name. Three applications were submitted, as well as, three naming ideas without an application. More information regarding these names is given in the next section.

The naming policy process involves applications being submitted, followed by a review by the Parks and Recreation Director. The Parks and Recreation Director will then present a recommendation regarding the naming request at a public meeting to the Parks and Recreation Commission. At this meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission will develop their own recommendation regarding the request to be presented to City Council. The Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation regarding the naming/renaming request, along with the Parks and Recreation Director's recommendation, if different, will be presented to the City Council at a public meeting for a final decision.

Please note that the Commission or City Council is not bound to choose one of the submitted names for the park.

NAMING APPLICATIONS:

Three applications were received regarding the renaming of Squaw Creek Park. The proposed names and the reason for the name are listed below:

Elysian Gardens (Attachment B)

The reason given on the application for this name is "It's a beautiful sounding name". The definition of Elysian according to Merriam-Webster dictionary is "of or relating to Elysium". Elysium is defined as "the abode of the blessed after death in classical mythology".

When searching Elysian on Google, one finds many businesses throughout the country that use Elysian in its name (i.e. Elysian Apartments, Elysian Café, Elysian Brewing, etc.).

Lyda Conley Memorial Park and Gardens (Attachment C)

Eliza Burton "Lyda" Conley was a Wyandot-American lawyer of Native American and European descent, and the first woman admitted to the Kansas Bar Association. She was notable for her campaign to prevent the sale and development of the Huron Cemetery in Kansas City, now known as the Wyandot National Burying Ground. She challenged the government in court, and in 1909, she was the first Native American woman admitted to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States.

In the application, the applicant states "What better way to rebuke (the use of Squaw), than to name the park after a strong, accomplished, and historically significant Native American Woman?".

South Maple Community Garden Park (Attachment D)

The reason given to rename the park is the applicant believes the park is currently unnamed.

Additionally, several names were submitted via email but not on the application form. These name recommendations included **Sustaining Plotworks Park, Grandwood Park, and Gardens Park.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Recommend City Council approve the renaming of Squaw Creek Park to one of the suggestions submitted.
2. Recommend City Council approve the renaming of Squaw Creek Park to loway Creek Park.
3. Recommend City Council approve the renaming of Squaw Creek Park to a name as directed by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
4. Refer back to staff.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Of the three applications received, only Lyda Conley Memorial Park and Gardens fits within the three naming categories. It could be considered under the Historic Events, People or Places category or the Outstanding Individuals category. The criteria for each category must be evaluated. The policy states:

Naming/renaming for Historic Events, People, and Places

When considering naming a park, recreational facility, or major feature after events, people and places of historic, cultural or social significance, requests must demonstrate this significance through research and documentation and show there is continued importance to the city, region, state, and/or nation.

Naming/renaming for Outstanding Individuals

A park, recreational facility, or major feature may be named for an outstanding individual who has made a significant contribution to the Ames parks and recreation system, the City of Ames, the State of Iowa, or the nation. In addition to societal contributions, the moral character of the individual must be considered. When considering requests, it is preferred that the individual has a connection to the park, recreational facility, or major feature being requested to be named.

The policy also states the following:

It is the policy of the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department to reserve the name or renaming of parks, recreational facilities, and/or major features for circumstances that will best serve the interests of the City and ensure a worthy and enduring legacy for the City's Parks and Recreation system.

Lyda Conley's accomplishments are commendable; however, do they demonstrate a continued importance to the city, region, state, and/or nation? It is also preferred that the individual a park is being named for has a connection to the park. In this case there is no known connection between Ms. Conley and the park.

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ATTACHMENT A

PARKS AND RECREATION NAMING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

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Major structures such as community centers, swimming pools, and enclosed pavilions located within lands under the stewardship of City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department.

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Major permanent components of park and recreational facilities, e.g. sports fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, shelters, fountains, artwork, or physical features (lakes). Rooms within buildings are considered to be Major Features.

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Smaller furnishings and facilities in the parks and recreation system (e.g. benches, drinking fountains, tables, etc.). Amenities are not formally named. Recognition for donated amenities is possible.

f. **Donations:**

A donation of property, goods or cash generally with no expectation of return. If the gift is contingent upon a special request, it is made subject to "condition."

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a. Historic Events, People, and Places

The history of a major event, place or person may play an important role in the naming or renaming of a park as communities often wish to preserve and honor the history of a city, its founders, other historical figures, its Native American heritage, local landmarks and prominent geographical locations, and natural and geological features through the naming of parks.

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The City has benefited, through its evolution, from the contributions made by many outstanding individuals. This category is designed to acknowledge the sustained contribution that has been made by such individuals to the City and/or the development and management of the City's park and recreation system.

c. Major Donations

Over the years, the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department has benefited from the generosity of some of its residents, businesses, and foundations. On occasion, the significance of such donations may warrant consideration being given to requests from either the donor or another party to acknowledge such donations by naming.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

a. Naming/renaming for Historic Events, People, and Places

When considering naming a park, recreational facility, or major feature after events, people and places of historic, cultural or social significance, requests must demonstrate this significance through research and documentation and show there is continued importance to the city, region, state, and/or nation.

b. Naming/renaming for Outstanding Individuals

A park, recreational facility, or major feature may be named for an outstanding individual who has made a significant contribution to the Ames parks and recreation system, the City of Ames, the State of Iowa, or the nation. In addition to societal contributions, the moral character of the individual must be considered. When considering requests, it is preferred

that the individual has a connection to the park, recreational facility, or major feature being requested to be named.

c. Naming/Renaming for Major Donations

From time to time, a significant donation may be made to the City that will add considerable value to the City's park and recreation system. On such occasions, recognition of this donation by naming/renaming a park, recreation facility, and/or major feature in honor of or at the request of the donor will be considered.

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Donors seeking naming rights for major donations with respect to an individual should follow the principles outlined in 4.b. Exceptions to this will be considered on their own merits.

Naming parks and/or recreational facilities with a company name is not permitted, however, company names will be considered for Major Features. Corporate logos, insignias, brands or direct advertising text shall not be permitted

d. Renaming a park, recreational facility, and/or major feature

Proposals to rename parks, recreational facilities, and/or major features whether for a major gift or community request are not encouraged. Likewise, names that have become widely accepted by the community will not be abandoned unless there are compelling reasons and strong public sentiment from the broader community for doing so. Historical or commonly used place names will be preserved wherever possible.

e. Other Considerations

When naming/renaming a park, recreational facility, and/or major feature, does the proposed name engender a strong positive image, have historical, cultural or social significance for future generations, and have broad public support?

To minimize confusion, parks will not be subdivided for the purpose of naming unless there are readily identifiable physical divisions such as roads or waterways. However, naming of specific major recreational facilities within parks will be permitted; under these circumstances such names should be different to the park name to avoid user confusion.

All signs that indicate the name of a park and/or recreational facility shall comply with City of Ames graphic and design standards. Specialized naming signage will not be permitted.

City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to rename any park, recreational facility, and/or major feature if the person for whom it is named turns out to be disreputable or subsequently acts in a disreputable way.

5. PROCEDURES

These procedures have been established to ensure that the naming or renaming of parks, recreational facilities, and/or major features is approached in a consistent manner.

a. Requests for naming/renaming of parks, recreational facilities and/or major features

All requests for the naming or renaming of a park, recreational facility, and/or major feature shall be made by submitting a Naming Application to the Director of Ames Parks and Recreation.

The Naming Application will contain the following minimum information:

1. The proposed name
2. Reasons for the proposed name
3. Written documentation indicating a certification of character and community support for the proposed name (e.g. letters of support, petitions, etc.)
4. If proposing to name a park, include a description/map showing location and boundaries of the park
5. If proposing to name a recreational facility or major feature within a park, include a description/map showing the location of the facility.
6. If proposing to rename a park, recreational facility, or major feature, include justification for changing an established name.
7. If proposing to name a park, recreational facility, or major feature for an outstanding individual, include documentation of that individual's significant contribution in regards to the Ames park system, the City, State and/or Nation

b. Assessing and approving naming/renaming requests

Upon receipt of a naming request by Ames Parks and Recreation, the Parks and Recreation Director shall:

1. Review the proposed request for its adherence to the Parks and Recreation Naming Policy.
2. Ensure that supporting information has been authenticated, particularly when an individual's name is proposed
3. Seek input from relevant neighborhood association(s), historical groups, and other organizations, if deemed appropriate

The Parks and Recreation Director will then present a recommendation regarding the naming request at a public meeting to the Parks and Recreation Commission. At this meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission will develop their own recommendation regarding the request to be presented to City Council.

c. Final decision by City Council

The Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation regarding the naming/renaming request, along with the Parks and Recreation Director's recommendation if different, will be presented to the City Council at a public meeting for a final decision.



515 Clark Ave - Ames, IA 50010
 Phone: 515-239-5350
 Fax: 515-239-5355
 www.amesparkrec.org

Naming Request Application

Requested by: MALINDA JOHNSON
 Address: 2415 ASPEN #101
 City, State Zip: AMES, IA 50010
 Phone: 515-975-8877

PARK NAMING REQUEST

I request a park to be named or renamed.

Current Park Name: _____

Proposed Park Name: ELYSIAN GARDENS

Park Location: 600 S. MAPLE

(Please attach a description/map showing the location and boundaries of the park.)

RECREATION FACILITY NAMING REQUEST

I request a recreational facility to be named or renamed.

Current Facility Name: _____

Proposed Facility Name: _____

Facility Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the facility.)

MAJOR FEATURE NAMING REQUEST

I request a major feature be named or renamed.

Major Feature: _____

Proposed Feature Name: _____

Major Feature Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the major feature.)

e-lee-zhnk

Please attach the following documentation as a part of this application.

A. The reason(s) for the proposed name.

It's a beautiful-sounding name.

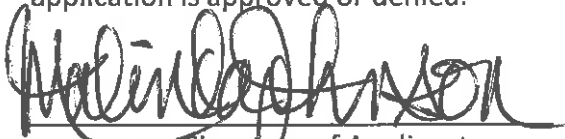
B. Written documentation indicating a certification of character and community support for the proposed name. (i.e. letters of support, petitions, etc.)

C. If proposing to rename a park, recreational facility, or major feature, include justification for changing an established name.

NAME THAT PARK! opportunity

D. If proposing to name a park, recreational facility, or major feature for an outstanding individual, include documentation of that individual's significant contribution in regards to the Ames Park System, City of Ames, State of Iowa and or the Nation.

I certify that the statements made in this application and any attachments are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the Parks and Recreation Director will assess and authenticate any information provided in this application pursuant to the Parks and Recreation Naming Policy. I also understand once submitted, this application and any findings during the authentication process will become part of the public record and will continue to be part of the public record whether the application is approved or denied.


Signature of Applicant


Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

Signature: _____

Notes:

COMMISSION ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **RENAMING OF SQUAW CREEK PARK**

BACKGROUND:

In February 2021, Squaw Creek was officially renamed loway Creek. The Parks and Recreation Commission directed staff to solicit recommendations from the public regarding renaming Squaw Creek Park. Since the City has a Parks and Recreation Naming Policy (Attachment A), individuals with a naming idea were instructed to complete an application with their proposed name. Three applications were submitted, as well as, three naming ideas without an application. More information regarding these names is given in the next section.

The naming policy process involves applications being submitted, followed by a review by the Parks and Recreation Director. The Parks and Recreation Director will then present a recommendation regarding the naming request at a public meeting to the Parks and Recreation Commission. At this meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission will develop their own recommendation regarding the request to be presented to City Council. The Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation regarding the naming/renaming request, along with the Parks and Recreation Director's recommendation, if different, will be presented to the City Council at a public meeting for a final decision.

Please note that the Commission or City Council is not bound to choose one of the submitted names for the park.

NAMING APPLICATIONS:

Three applications were received regarding the renaming of Squaw Creek Park. The proposed names and the reason for the name are listed below:

Elysian Gardens (Attachment B)

The reason given on the application for this name is "It's a beautiful sounding name". The definition of Elysian according to Merriam-Webster dictionary is "of or relating to Elysium". Elysium is defined as "the abode of the blessed after death in classical mythology".

When searching Elysian on Google, one finds many businesses throughout the country that use Elysian in its name (i.e. Elysian Apartments, Elysian Café, Elysian Brewing, etc.).

Lyda Conley Memorial Park and Gardens (Attachment C)

Eliza Burton "Lyda" Conley was a Wyandot-American lawyer of Native American and European descent, and the first woman admitted to the Kansas Bar Association. She was notable for her campaign to prevent the sale and development of the Huron Cemetery in Kansas City, now known as the Wyandot National Burying Ground. She challenged the government in court, and in 1909, she was the first Native American woman admitted to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States.

In the application, the applicant states "What better way to rebuke (the use of Squaw), than to name the park after a strong, accomplished, and historically significant Native American Woman?".

South Maple Community Garden Park (Attachment D)

The reason given to rename the park is the applicant believes the park is currently unnamed.

Additionally, several names were submitted via email but not on the application form. These name recommendations included **Sustaining Plotworks Park, Grandwood Park, and Gardens Park.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Recommend City Council approve the renaming of Squaw Creek Park to one of the suggestions submitted.
2. Recommend City Council approve the renaming of Squaw Creek Park to loway Creek Park.
3. Recommend City Council approve the renaming of Squaw Creek Park to a name as directed by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
4. Refer back to staff.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Of the three applications received, only Lyda Conley Memorial Park and Gardens fits within the three naming categories. It could be considered under the Historic Events, People or Places category or the Outstanding Individuals category. The criteria for each category must be evaluated. The policy states:

Naming/renaming for Historic Events, People, and Places

When considering naming a park, recreational facility, or major feature after events, people and places of historic, cultural or social significance, requests must demonstrate this significance through research and documentation and show there is continued importance to the city, region, state, and/or nation.

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The policy also states the following:

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515 Clark Ave - Ames, IA 50010
 Phone: 515-239-5350
 Fax: 515-239-5355
 www.amesparkrec.org

Naming Request Application

Requested by: MALINDA JOHNSON
 Address: 2415 ASPEN #101
 City, State Zip: AMES, IA 50010
 Phone: 515-975-8877

PARK NAMING REQUEST

I request a park to be named or renamed.

Current Park Name: _____

Proposed Park Name: ELYSIAN GARDENS

Park Location: 600 S. MAPLE

(Please attach a description/map showing the location and boundaries of the park.)

RECREATION FACILITY NAMING REQUEST

I request a recreational facility to be named or renamed.

Current Facility Name: _____

Proposed Facility Name: _____

Facility Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the facility.)

MAJOR FEATURE NAMING REQUEST

I request a major feature be named or renamed.

Major Feature: _____

Proposed Feature Name: _____

Major Feature Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the major feature.)

e-lee-zhnk

Please attach the following documentation as a part of this application.

A. The reason(s) for the proposed name.

It's a beautiful-sounding name.

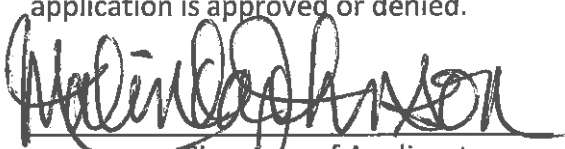
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C. If proposing to rename a park, recreational facility, or major feature, include justification for changing an established name.

NAME THAT PARK! opportunity

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Signature of Applicant


Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

Signature: _____

Notes:



CITY OF
Ames[™]
PARKS & RECREATION

515 Clark Ave - Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-239-5350
Fax: 515-239-5355
www.amesparkrec.org

Naming Request Application

Requested by: Alan M. Bailey

Address: 4908 WALLER ST.

City, State Zip: AMES, IA 50014

Phone: 515-720-4041

PARK NAMING REQUEST

I request a park to be named or renamed.

Current Park Name: SQUAW CREEK PARK

Proposed Park Name: LYDA CONLEY MEMORIAL PARK + GARDENS

Park Location: 600 S. MAPLE

(Please attach a description/map showing the location and boundaries of the park.)

RECREATION FACILITY NAMING REQUEST

I request a recreational facility to be named or renamed.

Current Facility Name: _____

Proposed Facility Name: _____

Facility Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the facility.)

MAJOR FEATURE NAMING REQUEST

I request a major feature be named or renamed.

Major Feature: _____

Proposed Feature Name: _____

Major Feature Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the major feature.)

Please attach the following documentation as a part of this application.

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- B. Written documentation indicating a certification of character and community support for the proposed name. (i.e. letters of support, petitions, etc.)
- C. If proposing to rename a park, recreational facility , or major feature, include justification for changing an established name.
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Signature of Applicant

5/25/21

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

Signature: _____

Notes:

Hello! My name is Alan Bailey and I think I have a good idea for renaming Squaw Creek Park. As an act of Juxtaposition, the park should be named "Lyda Conley Memorial Park and Gardens".

The word "Squaw" is an ethnic and sexual slur, historically used for Indigenous North American women. Contemporary use of the term, especially by non-Natives, is considered offensive, derogatory, misogynist and racist. What better way to rebuke, than to name the park after a strong, accomplished, and historically significant Native American Woman? Its easier for me to copy and paste from Wikipedia than to try and retype it all. I think she is more than worthy of the honor.

liza Burton "Lyda" Conley (ca. 1869 – 1946) was an Wyandot-American lawyer of Native American and European descent, the first woman admitted to the Kansas Bar Association. She was notable for her campaign to prevent the sale and development of the Huron Cemetery in Kansas City, now known as the Wyandot National Burying Ground. She challenged the government in court, and in 1909 she was the first Native American woman admitted to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Her case appears to be the first in which "a plaintiff argued that the burying grounds of Native Americans were entitled to federal protection."^[1] Conley gained the support of Kansas Senator Charles Curtis, who proposed and led passage of legislation in 1916 to prevent the sale of the Huron Cemetery and establish the land as a federal park. In 1971, the Huron Cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2016 it was designated a National Historic Landmark.

She was the one of the first female attorneys to argue a case before the US Supreme Court, and the first Native American woman to do so.

In June 1937, Conley chased some people from the cemetery. She was charged by the police with disturbance. A young judge gave her choice of a \$10 fine for disturbing the peace or a 10-day jail sentence. Proudly Conley served the sentence. A newspaper item of June 16, 1937, headed "Miss Lyda Conley Leaves Jail", was the last article about her until the notice of her death in 1946.^[5]

Conley died on May 28, 1946 and was buried near other family members three days later in the cemetery she had fought so hard to protect.^[6] Lyda's good friend, Wilma Kollman, stated that the evening before she died, Lyda was coming home from the library when a man jumped from the bushes, whacked her on the head with a brick, and stole her purse, which contained only 20 cents. Lyda died within 24 hours.¹

Thank you for your consideration,

Alan M. Bailey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan M. Bailey', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.



CITY OF
Ames
PARKS & RECREATION

Phone: 515-239-5350

Naming Request Application

Requested by: Jim Lee

Address: 1125 Florida Ave, #512

City, State Zip: Ames, IA 50014

Phone: 292-4334

PARK NAMING REQUEST

I request a park to be named or renamed.

Current Park Name: "Not Named"

Proposed Park Name: "South Maple Community Garden Park"

Park Location: South Maple Street

(Please attach a description/map showing the location and boundaries of the park.)

RECREATION FACILITY NAMING REQUEST

I request a recreational facility to be named or renamed.

Current Facility Name: _____

Proposed Facility Name: _____

Facility Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the facility.)

MAJOR FEATURE NAMING REQUEST

I request a major feature be named or renamed.

Major Feature: _____

Proposed Feature Name: _____

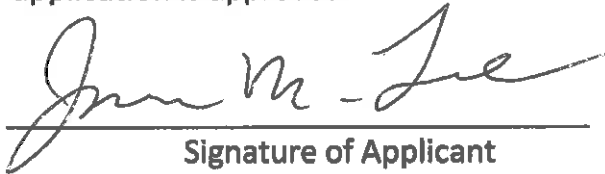
Major Feature Location: _____

(Please attach a description/map showing the location of the major feature.)

Please attach the following documentation as a part of this application.

- A. The reason(s) for the proposed name. *not named at present time.*
- B. Written documentation indicating a certification of character and community support for the proposed name. (i.e. letters of support, petitions, etc.)
- C. If proposing to rename a park, recreational facility , or major feature, include justification for changing an established name.
- D. If proposing to name a park, recreational facility, or major feature for an outstanding individual, include documentation of that individual's significant contribution in regards to the Ames Park System, City of Ames, State of Iowa and or the Nation.

I certify that the statements made in this application and any attachments are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the Parks and Recreation Director will assess and authenticate any information provided in this application pursuant to the Parks and Recreation Naming Policy. I also understand once submitted, this application and any findings during the authentication process will become part of the public record and will continue to be part of the public record whether the application is approved or denied.


Signature of Applicant

6-8-2021
Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

Signature: _____

Notes:

Search

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- Roads
- 3D Buildings
- Weather
- Gallery
- More
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North ↑

Dot used equipment

South Maple Street

South Maple Garden Park
Write a description for your map.

Legend

- Ames, IA, USA
- Riverside Manor
- S. 4th St at



Google Earth

Windows taskbar showing icons for Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, and other applications. The system tray shows the date and time as 10:41 AM on 8/23/11.