



CITY OF LOWELL  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
*WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.*  
LOWELL CITY HALL

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
3. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
4. NEW BUSINESS  
None
5. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. Continued Review of Draft Park Master Plan
6. PARK UPDATES
  - a. Recreation Park
  - b. Stoney Lakeside Park/Dog Park/Skateboard Park
  - c. Creekside Park/Community Garden
  - d. Richards Park
  - e. Scout Park
  - f. Riverwalk Park/Showboat
  - g. Miscellaneous Park Properties (Upper Bridge/McMahan/Moose/Rogers)
  - h. LARA Trails
7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
8. ADJOURNMENT

Note: The next regularly scheduled meeting November 15, 2022 at City Hall.

## Dan Czarnecki

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**From:** Bruce Matthews <bruce@paintedtrilliummusic.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 16, 2022 8:10 PM  
**To:** Dan Czarnecki  
**Cc:** DeOliveira, Tanya  
**Subject:** Thoughts on the Lowell P&R Draft Master Plan

Dan,

Thanks for the chance to review the draft Master Plan. Realizing the public comment is still ahead of us, I thought you might want to have these thoughts/comments before the draft went to final public review.

### Overall non-specific comments:

- It's pretty clear from the survey results and focus group that natural and resource-based recreation and protecting the natural areas supporting it are of utmost importance to our community. The Master Plan should better reflect this, particularly in terms of prioritizing preservation of existing places and opportunities, as well as enhancing cognitive and physical access.
- Specific to natural areas, is there a sense that Lowell has enough, or needs more? Perhaps this could be stated.
- The draft Master Plan drills down into park specifics pretty quickly when it would be better served with some more general strategies and objectives that apply across the board. Marketing most immediately comes to mind. Coordinating/integrating/collaborating efforts with existing groups and organizations sharing similar interests or mandates is another, which could also link to additional funding. Is there non park-specific programming that should be addressed? Are there non-city recreational providers that should be cultivated?
- In stepping back, are there ways this document could be more visionary in scope? Understanding the Master Plan is used in sourcing funding requests to the DNR and others, could it also serve Lowell better as a visionary document that sets forth what park facilities and recreational opportunities could be? Something to strive toward?

### Comments/questions/suggestions on Draft Master Plan:

For specific reference I numbered the Master Plan pages starting with chapter 1 as page 1.

- Under Chapter 2 (Community Description) you might consider a sentence or two about land attribution, i.e. the City is located on land once inhabited by indigenous peoples known as Ottawa/Odawa. (would need a confirmation for accuracy). You might also mention early history, since historical and cultural interpretation can and arguably ought to be important elements in community identity and related recreation. Including an awareness of the importance of historical factors, particularly in relation to the use/development of city recreational properties, might also help from a SHPO perspective as relevant.
- Under Chapter 3 (page 5) in the budget discussion I would note the opportunity to raise additional funding from "Friends of the Park" groups as relationships with them are cultivated and coordinated.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 7) a map locating all of the forthcoming referenced parks would be very helpful.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 8) under Recreation Park, I understood that primitive camping was permitted in the area along the west side of the Flat R. just upstream of the junction with the Grand. Is that accurate?

- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 10) under Richards Park, you reference proximity to the Grand River, but I think your intent is to say the Flat River.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 10) under Stoney Lakeside Park, you also have a small boat launch, which is not mentioned.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 10) under Upper Bridge...., I would note that the North Country National Scenic Trail route passes through this property.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 10) under Scout Park, I would note it as the location of a popular trailhead with access to the North Country National Scenic Trail, as well as unimproved access to the Flat River for kayaking and fishing.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 11) under Other...subtitle needs correct spelling of "Lowell"
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 12) under Fallasburg Park, mention that the hiking trails include the designated route for the North Country National Scenic Trail.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 13) under Saranac/Lowell SGA, I'd note that the MDNR would probably object to a characterization as a "preserve." I think technically they refer to them as state wildlife/game areas. You might also mention the SGA hosts about 4 miles of the NCNST.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 13) under NCNST, the NCTA now says 4800 total miles, stretching from North Dakota into Vermont. Also worth noting is that the City of Lowell is a designated Trail Town on the NCNST, complementing the many trail-based activities available in Lowell. It might also be worth mentioning that in Michigan the NCNST also hosts much of the hiking portion of the state's Iron Belle Trail.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 13-14) under Flat River Banks and Islands, it might be worth mentioning the historic role the islands played in Lowell's history. This area also is a very popular access point for fishing the Flat River, as it hosts not only a resident population of smallmouth bass and panfish, it occasionally features a run of steelhead and salmon on their spawning migration up the Grand R.
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 14) under Kent Co Bike routes, Fallasburg spelling correction; Grand River spelling correction. And, isn't the Fred Meijer Trail a designated bike route?
- Under Chapter 4 (Rec. Inventory, page 15) under Riverbend Campground, are they still operating?
- Under Chapter 7 (Action Program, page 26) under Scout Park Action Plan, the City needs to do a better job communicating/coordinating with the organized Scouting efforts. It would be a step in the right direction to indicate this as a task.
- Under Chapter 7 (Action Program, page 26) under Scout Park Action Plan, there are partnerships that could be developed, in addition to Scouts, with the North Country Trail Association's West Michigan Chapter, as well as the recently formed Lowell Scout Park Association.
- Under Chapter 7 (Action Program, page 26) under Scout Park Action Plan, creating a designated parking and traffic control plan would be a great step in avoiding current parking issues.
- Under Chapter 7 (Action Program, page 26) under Scout Park Action Plan, developing a plan for education/enforcement related to nuisance issues (littering, inappropriate activities, allowable activities, etc) would be helpful.
- Under Chapter 7 (Action Program, page 26) our Lowell Scout Park Association would advocate for the City of Lowell Parks and Recreation Commission to state "to finalize designation and ensure the integrity of the entire Scout Park as originally envisioned when it was established in 2007, including the leased house and acreage previously excluded."

### Related Questions

- How well does the P&R Commission integrate their efforts with the City Planning Commission? Does the City's overall Master Plan actually reflect the priorities of the P&R Commission? (noted on page 5).

Dan, I hope this contributes to the discussion and helps the P&R Master Plan be the best it can be.

--B

## ***Bruce E. Matthews***

### **Painted Trillium Music**

Web: [www.reverbnation.com/bruce Matthews](http://www.reverbnation.com/bruce Matthews)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bruce Matthews music/](http://www.facebook.com/bruce Matthews music/)

iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/roll-your-windows-down/1326091978?ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/0FPp4a9sFgwio70adjXf0o>

Press Kit: <https://www.reverbnation.com/rpk/bruce Matthews>

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October 25, 2022

To: City of Lowell, Parks and Recreation Committee Members

From: Bill and Brenda Schreur, Lowell Scout Park Association

RE: Master Plan update; language inclusion request as part of current Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. Please consider the following language as an update to your current draft:

1) The adoption of language to be added to Lowell Parks and Recreation Master Plan, under "Scout Park Action Plan" stating: "Preserve as parkland the entire 27.45 acre area as originally intended by the Lowell City Council in 2007". Note: there are approximately 4 acres of road and river frontage within the 27 acre parcel which are not currently designated as parkland.

2) The adoption of language to be added to Lowell Parks and Recreation Master Plan, under Chapter 6 Goals and Objectives, Goal 2, paragraph A: "Establish as a high priority, the preservation of unique natural areas within the City's Park System."

Thank you for your consideration,

Bill and Brenda Schreur

PROPOSED ACTION PROGRAM

Dan's List

10-25 -2022

All Parks – Actions that can take place for/in all parks in general.

- Destination and wayfinding signage
- Marketing of Parks/amenities, online information, update regularly
- Park improvements to include materials and equipment for people with special needs
- ADA and Seniors accessibility opportunities
- Pavement repairs of walkways and parking areas (crack fill, seal, overlay, etc.)
- Replace/add picnic tables and charcoal grills
- Upgrade drinking fountains to include bottle filling stations

Creekside Park	Priority	Est. Cost
- Rehabilitate/Replace Creekside Kingdom	High	\$100,000
- Add pathway from play area to pavilion	High	\$50 per foot +/-
- Insulate/re-side/add-on to concession/bathroom building	Med	\$75,000
- Add Pickleball/tennis courts	Med	\$75,000 each
- Replace footbridge over creek	Med	\$20,000
- Electrical Improvements to Pavilions	Med	\$10,000
- Add additional baseball fields (2?)	Low	\$50,000
- Add lights to athletic fields	Low	\$15,000/light
- Re-establish skate rink under large pavilion	Low	\$20,000
- Increase Parking	Low	\$15,000

Stoney Lakeside Park	Priority	Est. Cost
- New/Updated Informational Signs (2)	High	\$6,000
- Add park lighting	High	\$15,000/light
- Improve ADA accessibility (ramps to beach, foot wash/shower)	Med	\$50,000
- Replace/rejuvenate beach sand	Med	\$10,000
- Sidewalk access from Bowes Rd. into park	Med	\$50 per foot +/-
- Level sand volleyball area	Low	\$5,000
- Add basketball court	Low	\$30,000

Richards Park	Priority	Est. Cost
- Replace fall safety material beneath playground structure	High	\$10,000
- Add irrigation system	High	\$20,000
- Improve landscaping/flowers	High	\$10,000
- Restrooms/storage building	Med	\$200,000
- Add Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Med	\$25,000
- Repair/replace ice rink	Med	\$20,000
- Add climbing structure for young children	Med	\$50,000
- Add Splash Pad	Low	\$75,000

#### Scout Park

- Paved designated parking area	Med	\$50,000
- Improve Entrance into Park (gate/signage/landscaping/etc.)	Med	\$10,000
- Add Boat/Canoe/Kayak launch	Med	\$100,000
- Improve existing trails thru park and along water	Med	\$25,000
- Add picnic area/shelter/picnic tables/grills	Med	\$15,000
- Add mountain biking/x-country ski trails	Low	\$15,000

#### Recreation Park

- Implement Engagement Summary Design Plan	Med	\$5,000,000
- Replace lighting at Burch field (football field)	Med	\$15,000/light
- Replace lighting at baseball field	Med	\$15,000/light
- Replace baseball field dugouts/backstop	Med	\$10,000
- Pave baseball field parking lot	Med	\$50,000
- Improve boat launch facility	Med	\$20,000
- Replace/Re-establish track around Burch Field	Low	\$35,000
- Grand River Water Trail	Low	\$30,000
- Restrooms for Water Trail/Launch facility	Low	\$200,000
- Connect islands and Moose/Rogers property	Low	\$1,000,000

#### Riverwalk/Showboat Area

- Reconstruct/Rehab Riverwalk path area (Main St to High St.)	High	\$1,000,000
- Extend Riverwalk South of Main St.	Med	\$1,000,000
- Upgrade all irrigation systems	Med	\$25,000
- Fence/screen boat launch porta potty	Med	\$1,000
- Add irrigation to planters (incl. light poles)	Low	\$50,000
- Install river fountains	Low	\$50,000
- New pavilion north of library	Low	\$25,000

#### Other ideas to consider based on community input

- Establish East Side Park (Moose Property?)  
Picnic pavilion with tables/grills, establish pathways, pickleball/tennis courts, small dog park area, farmers market area, etc.
- Disc golf park.
- Figure out safe access to Roger's Property.
- Need Community Center and community pool.
- Integrate NCT into park access.