



Penny for Park Community Requests – FY2023

Project Ranking Summary

Total budgeted: \$25,000
Total approved: \$24,400
Remaining: \$600

Recommendation for remaining funds: Use as additional contingency on community requests and emergent needs.

Following are short descriptions of each project request with staff notes and recommendations for FY23's qualifying Penny for Parks (PFP) project requests in their ranked order. Full PFP Request applications are attached as an appendix to this report.

1) Schifilliti Park Accessibility Improvements and Planning

Application Summary: This request came from a meeting between Parks Staff and the North Burlington Little League at the Park to discuss their request to reskin Schifilliti and Rosenberg fields and additional improvements. Representatives from the Little League specifically identified challenges that community members with a disability are not able to easily access restrooms or a viewing area to any of the fields. This is particularly problematic for wheelchair users and elderly spectators coming to watch their family members play.

Estimated Project cost: \$16,000 (staff estimate)

Staff Notes: The current accessible parking spaces are made out of turf/gravel and connect to a gravel pathway made of approximately 1" diameter stone (not ADA-compliant) that loops through the park past the concessions building and restrooms. There are no formal connecting pathways to any of the fields and the restrooms have a step up that prevents easy access for people using a wheelchair.

Additional design and scoping is needed for this project. There are many possible design solutions and more accurate measurement and design will be needed to ensure accessibility needs are being provided for in the most cost-effective manner. The estimate above is being recommended by staff to supplement an internal design process if any survey or additional consulting fees become necessary and, if possible, to begin implementing accessibility improvements in the park.

Recommendation: Allocate \$16K of funding and begin taking measurements and creating project cost estimates and design this winter/spring with the aim to implement some improvements in the coming construction season.

2) Waterfront Park Accessible Information Sign

Application Summary: This request, submitted by John Thomas of the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI), requests funds to design, manufacture and install a tactile wayfinding and



information sign at Waterfront Park. The sign will include Braille, tactile printing & large print (English), and a QR code that will allow one to access online information about the park, in a range of languages spoken in Burlington. If successful, this sign could serve as the first of a broader campaign for accessible wayfinding signage in other City Parks and public spaces.

Estimated Project cost: \$6,900

Staff Notes: Staff fully support this project and believe that it is in alignment with broader efforts to make our parks more universally accessible.

Recommendation: Allocate project estimate of \$6,900 and an additional contingency of \$1,000 to account for any potential design changes or additional installation costs that have not been captured in the proposed budget and to account for any inflation.

3) New infields at Schifilliti and Rosenberg Fields

Application Summary: A member of the North Burlington Little League submitted a request to re-skin both Schifilliti and Rosenberg baseball infields at Schifilliti Park. Both infields have poor drainage and water typically pools along the baseline following a rain.

Estimated Project cost: \$50-60,000 at minimum (each)

Staff Notes: These infields are in need of reconstruction to address the drainage issues, but the estimated minimum cost is much higher than the funds currently available for Community Requests. This project will require some surveying and assessment of the grades to determine how much of each infield would need to be replaced and regraded and whether additional underdrain pipes should be considered. Many other baseball infield renovations in other parts of the City have been funded in part using grant or donation dollars, and a preliminary design with a more accurate cost estimate could serve as the basis for a grant application or fundraising campaign.

Recommendation: Add reskinning of the infields to Parks long-term capital list. In addition to the accessibility improvements in proposal 1, staff can simultaneously begin exploring a preliminary design for reskinning each of the infields.

4) Pomeroy Park Tether Ball

Application Summary: A 9-year-old resident and his father would like to have a tether-ball pole installed in Pomeroy Park.

Estimated Project cost: \$500

Staff Notes: There is ample space within the park for this request and a tetherball pole and gravel “court” would be relatively simple to install. There is an outstanding request to replace the tot-lot (removed last year) at Pomeroy Park and staff are working on a redesign of the playground area as the



rest of the structure is also due for replacement, so the exact placement for the tether ball pole would need to be cited in coordination with that design.

Recommendation: Allocate funding for the new tetherball court and look to install it in conjunction with the playground improvements.

5) Permanent Greening of Dewey Park

Application Summary: Requester would like to see the asphalt portion of Dewey park turned into grassed green space.

Estimated Project cost: \$10,000 (requester's estimate). \$100,000 (staff estimate)

Staff Notes: Funding from outside of PFP has already been allocated for refreshing the mural and landscaping in this portion of Dewey Park in 2023. Any future conversion of this space requires abandonment of the City ROW and formally converting this space into a part of Dewey Park through survey and lot line adjustments. Staff are working on next steps in the legal process to determine the feasibility of ROW abandonment, and cost implications. This part of Spring Street includes hardscape, a catch basin, and underground infrastructure that would need to be considered as part of any proposed changes to the above-ground surface of the area. Once physical limitations are determined, a public outreach and design process will be initiated to determine any future changes to Dewey Park as part of a comprehensive planning process.

Recommendation: Continue to explore ROW abandonment and adoption of roadway as City Park. Do not allocate any community request funds for this project at this time.

6) Miller/Schifilliti Park Ice Rink

Application Summary: Put in an outdoor Ice Rink at the Miller Center/Schifilliti Park.

Estimated Project cost: \$3-5,000

Staff Notes: Outdoor rinks require a substantial amount of maintenance for what can be a very minimal return of skatable days due to the frequent temperature changes we now experience because of climate change. With six(6) outdoor rinks operated and supported by staff, there is not capacity for BPRW to take on maintenance of an additional rink without a dedicated community volunteer group. There is also not frost-free exterior water access at the Miller Center or Schifilliti Park to support the installation and maintenance of an outdoor rink in this location.

Recommendation: Do not allocate funds for this request as there is not the required infrastructure, staff capacity or a clear community group to take on this project at this time.