

Memorial Park Master Plan

City of North Royalton



North Royalton's Central Park

behnke
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Memorial Park Master Plan

City of North Royalton

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The development of a Master Development Plan for Memorial Park began in October 2020. The Planning Team is being led by Behnke Landscape Architecture and City Officials. The Team has solicited and received input through:

- social media
- two in-person workshops
- the Recreation Committee
- City Officials
- the Board of Education
- City Council

To date, several hundred people have participated in the planning process (See appendix for additional information).

Memorial Park is North Royalton's "Central Park." It is an outstanding resource that should be taken full advantage of to the benefit of present and future residents. To accomplish this, the planning process has had two primary areas of focus.

First, improving existing facilities, including

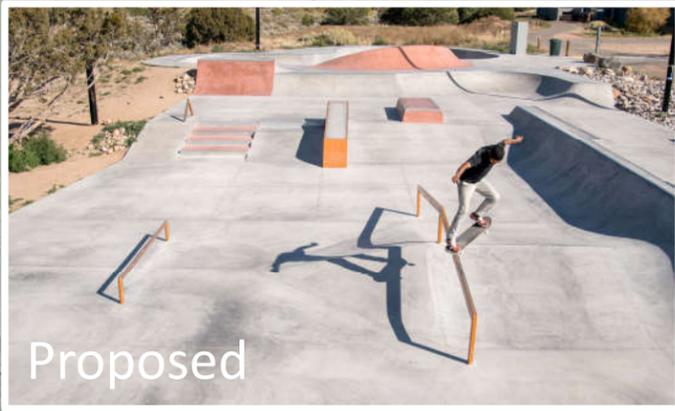
- The skate park
- Tennis and basketball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Shelters
- The State Road frontage
- Greener/stormwater efficient parking areas
- Picnic areas – add more furnishings and shade
- Great lawn for special events
- More natural areas; less mowing
- More trees

Second, adding new facilities based on resident input, including

- Pickleball courts
- Splash pad
- All-purpose perimeter trail
- Movie and performance area including stage and lawn seating
- Year-round climate-controlled pavilion
- Additional restrooms



Executive Summary: Plan and Process



Skate Park

The existing skate park is outdated and in poor condition. It should be removed and replaced with a facility that meets current standards and user expectations.



The courts should be completely reconstructed to resolve pavement failure issues. New LED lighting should be added. Striping for two pickleball courts should be added to the two (2) tennis courts in the northwest corner.



Volleyball Courts

The existing sand volleyball courts require a new edge treatment and drainage improvements.



Existing

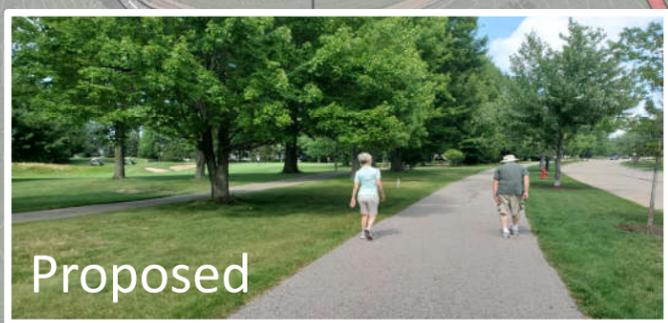
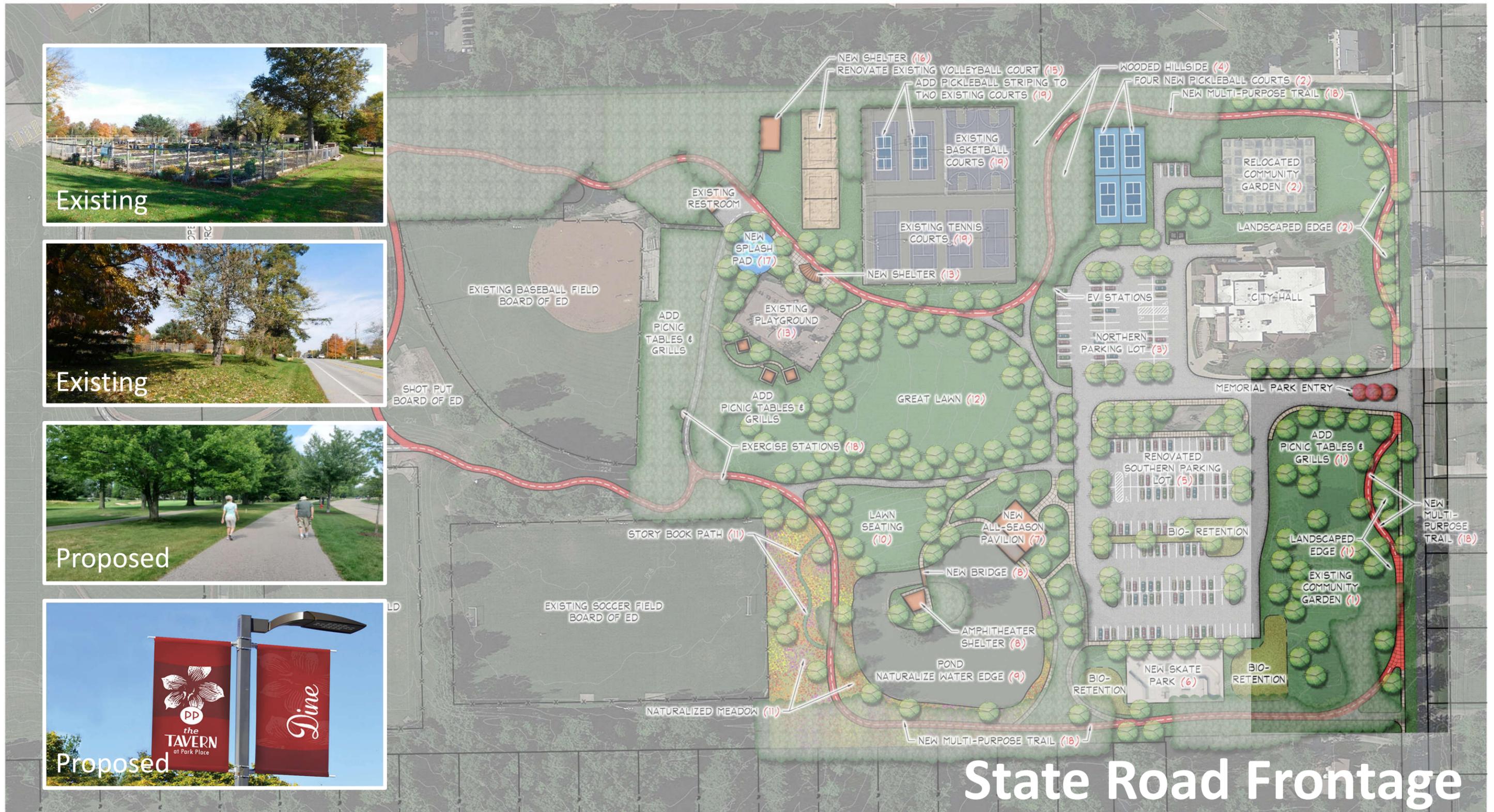


Proposed



Shelter (Upper)

The upper shelter needs to be replaced. A metal structure is preferred due to lower costs and greater graffiti resistance. The size will match the existing structure.



State Road Frontage

The State Road frontage will be given a consistent landscape treatment to improve its appearance and enhance the experience for all-purpose trail (APT) users. The community garden will be relocated and improved. This will open the frontage on State Road adjacent to the parking lot for a future project. In the interim, this area will be a passive and park-like picnic area. The entrance to Memorial Park should be celebrated. Utilizing banners is a possible strategy to help celebrate the entrance and foster a sense of place.



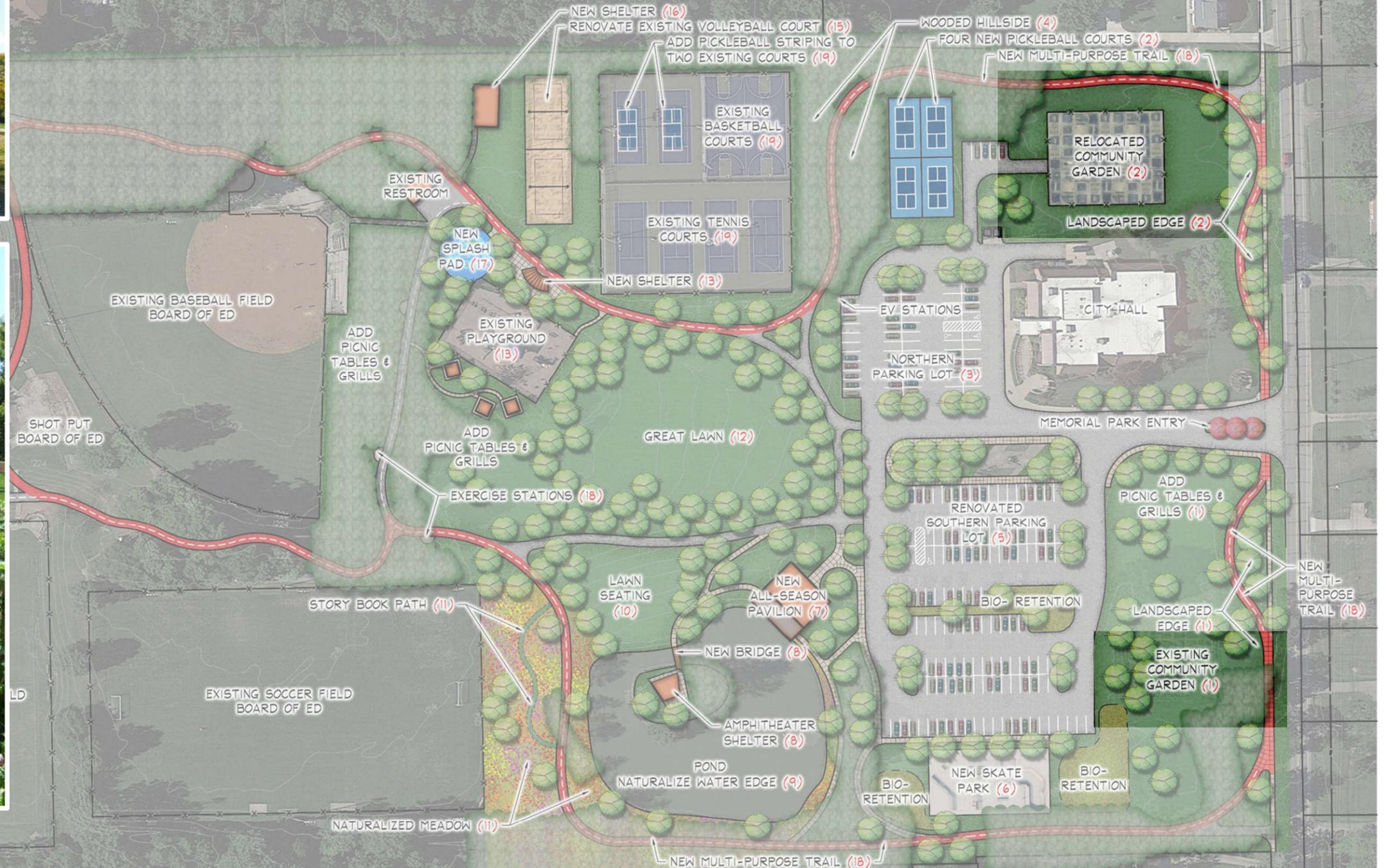
The existing parking lot needs to be repaired and surfaced. Green infrastructure should be added in the form of bio-retention and possibly pervious pavers to manage stormwater runoff.



Existing



Proposed



Community Garden

As noted on page 9 (State Road Frontage), the community garden should be relocated to the parcel north of City Hall. The garden should be upgraded with better fencing, screening from State Road, and needed supporting infrastructure (including water and storage).



Proposed

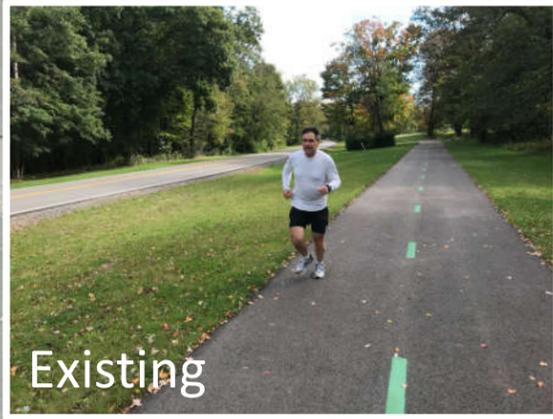


The public comment period and community open house events demonstrated a high demand for pickleball courts. Four (4) new courts are proposed.



Splash Pad & Shade Structure

The public comment period and community open house events also demonstrated a considerable demand for a splash pad. The size and features would be determined by budget considerations. There was also a significant request for more shade structures. A shade structure similar to, but smaller than, the new pavilion proposed on page 8.



All-Purpose Trail (APT)

The public comment period and community open house events showed overwhelming support for an all-purpose trail (APT). This proposed 10' trail utilizes the entire park and would also include exercise stations.



Performance Area

The existing island, which faces a sloping lawn, is an ideal location for a performance venue. The bridge needs to be replaced to support heavier vehicles and allow ADA access. A stage cover would allow for shade and protection, enhancing programming possibilities. Naturalizing the pond edge would greatly improve appearance and lessen erosion at the pond edge.



Existing



Proposed



Proposed



Proposed

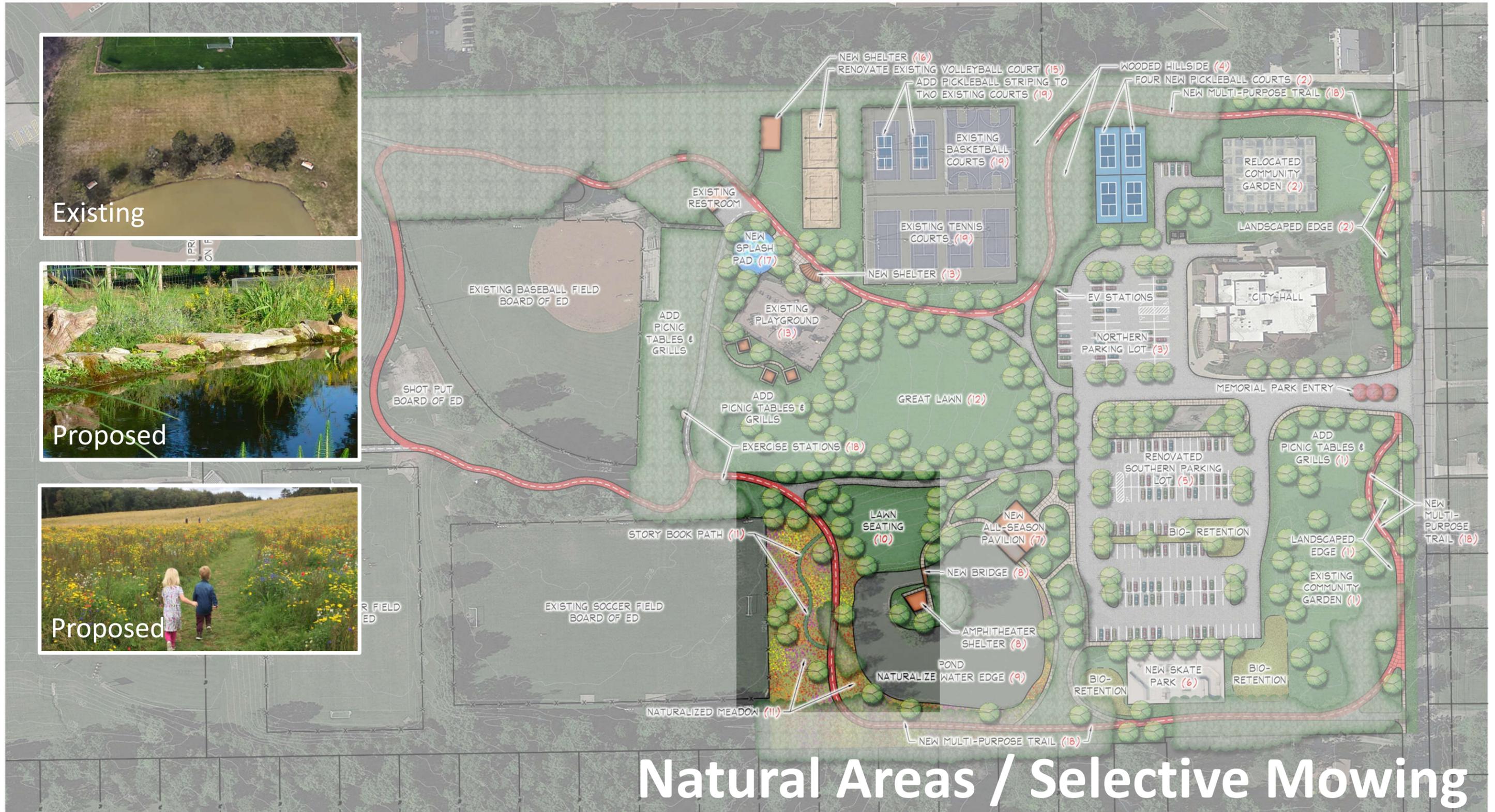


All-Season Shelter and Restrooms

Replacing the existing shelter near the pond with an all-season structure would be a major asset for the park. It would provide a restroom facility for the lower park area and would introduce an amenity that would be utilized year-round. Additionally, the all-season structure would be an indoor/outdoor rentable space.

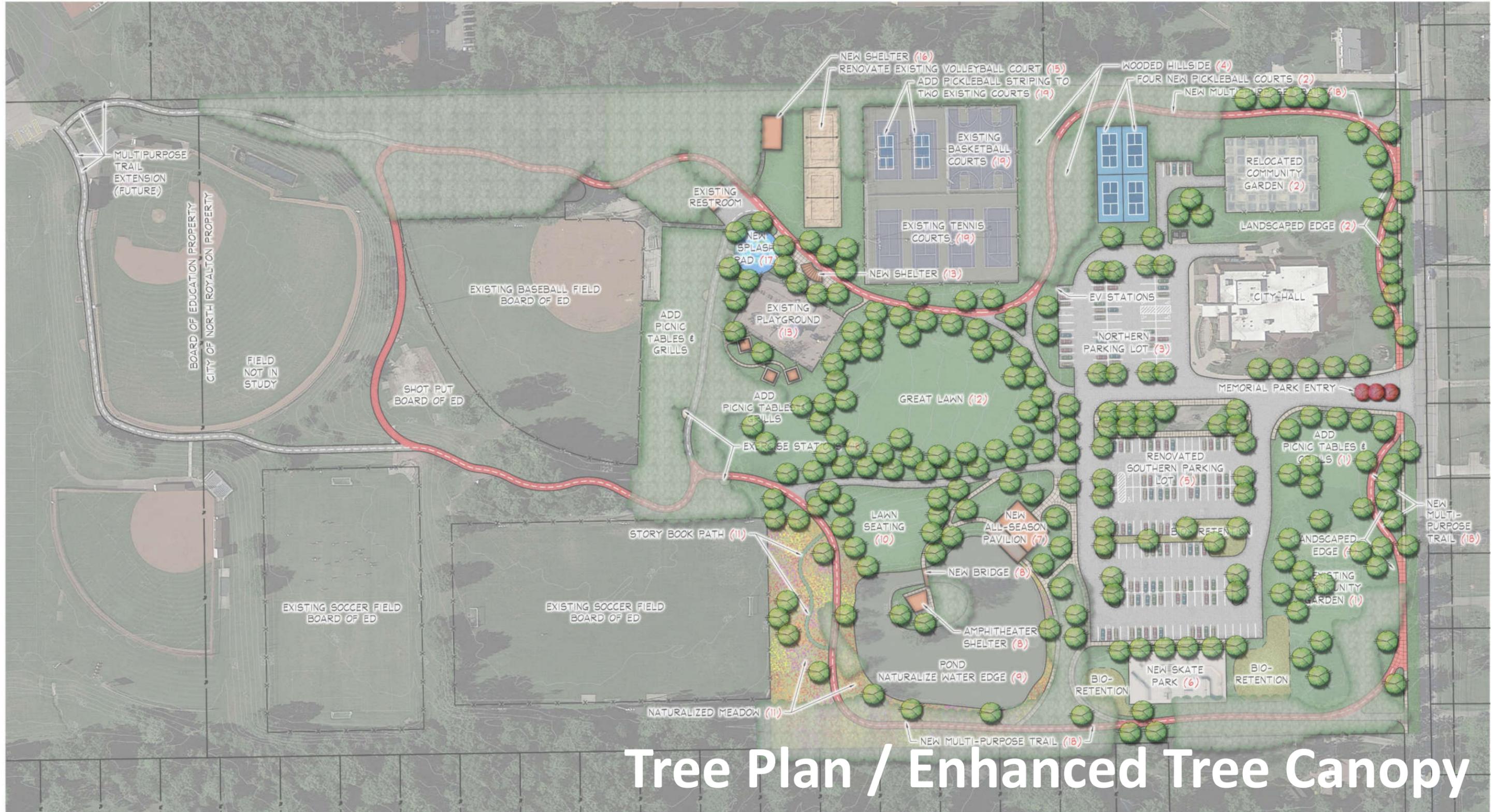


What is referred to as the 'great lawn' needs little improvement. Some additional infrastructure, such as lighting and power, could turn this space into North Royalton's Wade Oval. Many opportunities for events and programming are possible in the heart of North Royalton's Central Park.



Natural Areas / Selective Mowing

Many residents commented on the need for more natural areas and less mowing. The area just west of the lagoon would make an excellent meadow. As noted previously, naturalizing the lagoon edge would be a major improvement and help to minimize erosion at the pond.



Tree Plan / Enhanced Tree Canopy

There are few mature, healthy trees throughout Memorial Park. This corresponds with the frequent comment regarding the need for more shade. This plan locates approximately 200 native trees to provide shade, cooling, and spatial definition.



Existing Table

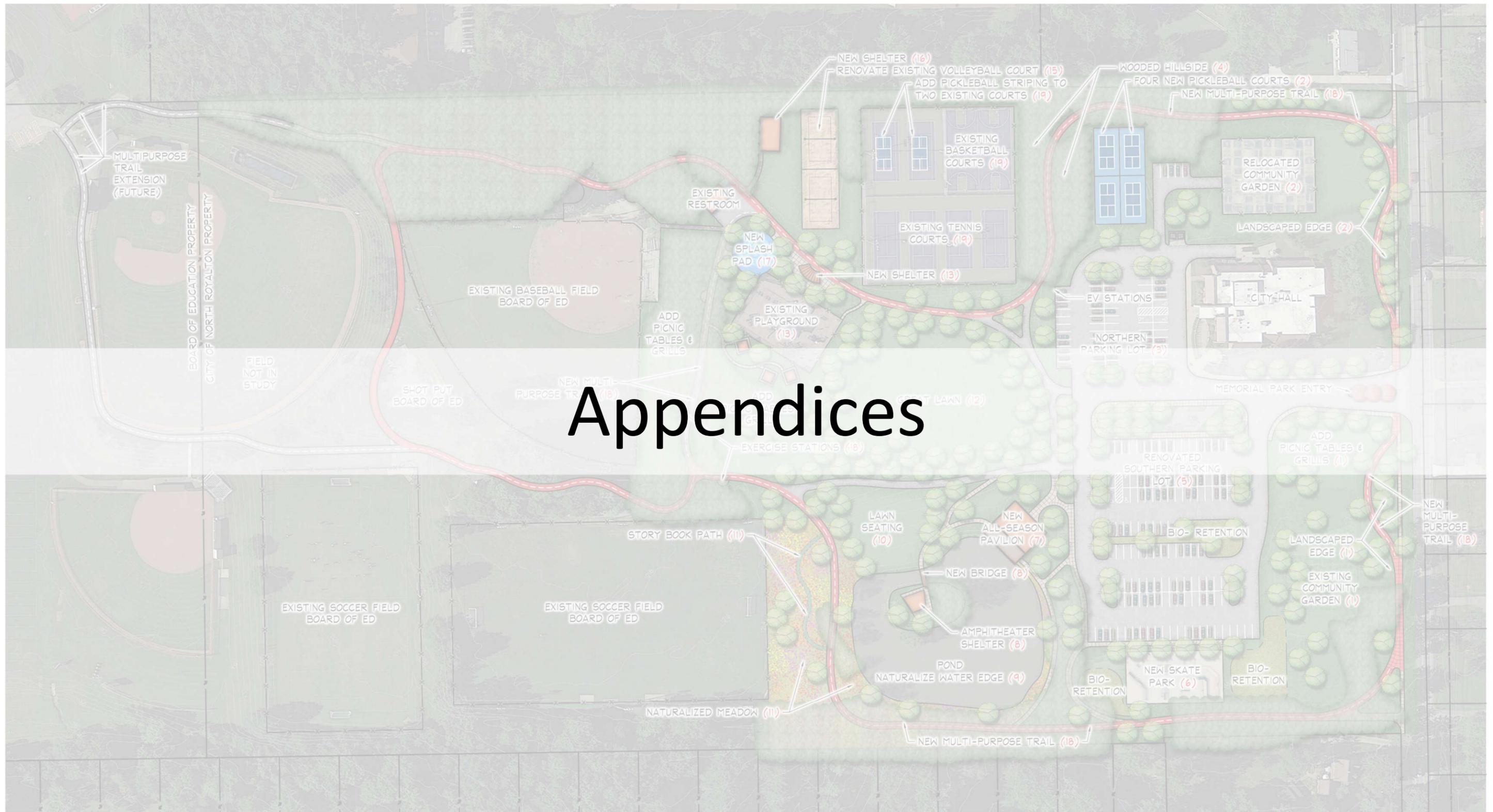


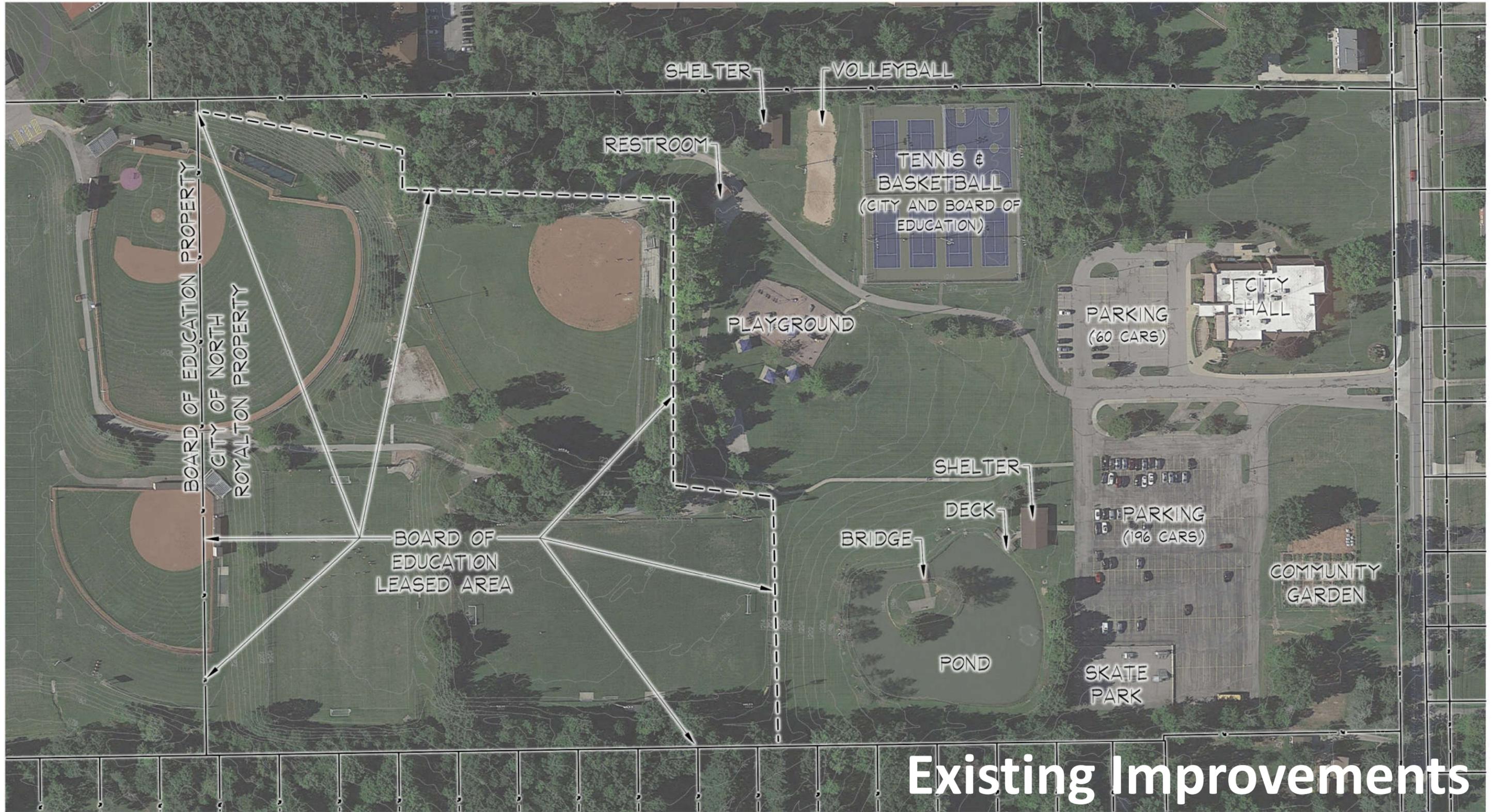
New Tables



Furnishings

Appendices





Total Park Area: 30 Acres

Board of Education Leased Area: +/- 12 Acres

**Memorial Park Master Plan
Conceptual Master Plan
Estimate of Construction Budget**
Behnke Landscape Architecture 5/24/2021

	Low			High		
	Quan	Unit	Unit Cost	Total	Unit Cost	Total
1 State Road frontage landscape improvements						
Planting/grading	800	LF	\$ 30	\$ 24,000	\$ 35	\$ 28,000
Multi-purpose trail - 6' concrete (A)	800	LF	\$ 60	\$ 48,000	\$ 75	\$ 60,000
Misc. furnishings - picnic tables, grills	1	LS	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Celebration of park entry	1	LS	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
2 Vacant Lot North of City Hall						
Landscape	1	LS	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Relocated community garden	1	LS	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Paved access/5 Parking spaces	1	LS	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Pickle ball courts	4	EA	\$ 35,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 160,000
3 City Hall Parking						
Charging station - no cost to City						
4 Wooded hillside						
Prune and thin	1	LS	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Resolve drainage issues	1	LS	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
5 Main parking lot						
Green infrastructure improvements (B)	1	LS	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
New islands incl demolition	1	LS	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000
Repair and resurfacing	52000	SF	\$ 3.00	\$ 156,000	\$ 3.25	\$ 130,000
6 Skate park						
Redesign and reconstruct in place	8000	SF	\$ 50	\$ 400,000	\$ 60	\$ 600,000
7 Lake shelter and surrounding area						
Replace all-season structure incl RR/Deck	1	LS	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,100,000
Picnic tables and grills	1	LS	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
8 Pond island and bridge						
Replace bridge w heavy duty structure	1	LS	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
Misc infrastructure	1	LS	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
ADA path access	180	LF	\$ 60	\$ 10,800	\$ 70	\$ 12,600
Covered stage	300	SF	\$ 275	\$ 82,500	\$ 300	\$ 90,000
Landscaping	1	LS	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
9 Pond						
Naturalize edge	150	LF	\$ 120	\$ 18,000	\$ 80	\$ 112,000
10 Amphitheater lawn						
Minor regrading; turf improvement	1	LS	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Path improvements	1	LS	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
11 Area West and South of pond						
Naturalize; meadow; wild flowers	1	LS	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Stone walking path	300	LF	\$ 15	\$ 4,500	\$ 20	\$ 6,000
Story Walk - Cuyahoga Cnty Library			no cost to city			

12 Great lawn							
Tree planting (C)	1	LS	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
Infrastructure	1	LS	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
13 Playground area							
Add shade trees (C)	1	LS	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
Furnishings - Tables/grills	1	LS	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
Shade structure	1	LS	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	
14 Restrooms							
Recently upgraded							
15 Volleyball courts							
Improve drainage	1	LS	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
16 Shelter							
Replace shelter	1	LS	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	
17 Splash Pad							
Depends on size and equipment	1	LS	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	
18 All purpose trail							
10' wide asphalt	2500	LF	\$ 150	\$ 375,000	\$ 180	\$ 450,000	
Exercise stations	8	EA	\$ 5,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 48,000	
19 Tennis/Basketball courts							
Restripe 2 courts for pickleball/equipment	1	LS	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	
Surface repairs - Bd of Ed	50000	SF	\$ 5	\$ 250,000	\$ 6	\$ 300,000	
Lighting upgrade - Bd of Ed	1	LS	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000	
Bd of Education Lease Area							
Soccer/Baseball/Shotput							
No changes							
			Subtotal	\$ 3,913,300		\$ 4,779,100	
			Fees and Contingencies	\$ 978,325		\$ 1,194,775	
			Total	\$ 4,891,625		\$ 5,973,875	

- (A) Existing 5' wide concrete sidewalk will be widened on park property.
- (B) Consider using funds from the NEORS Community Cost Share Program
- (C) Cuyahoga County Tree Canopy Grant could offset these costs.

Estimate of Construction Budget

MEMORIAL PARK MASTER PLAN - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Compiled by Behnke Landscape Architecture

Compilation of all comments received prior to 2/1/2021.

Comments & Suggestions	Facebook (Comments)	Email	Totals
Amenities - New			
Amphitheater (Bandstand)			3
Benches - Additional			5
Bike Racks			3
Bocce Courts			2
Community Bulletin Board			1
Community Flower Bed			2
Community Greenhouse			1
Dog Park - Fenced In			14
Entertainment Space			1
Exercise Stations / Equipment			4
Flower Beds (Around Pond and Site)			1
Food Trucks			2
History Timeline (of Park)			1
Ice Skating Rink			2
Larger Pavilion			1
Lookout or Bell/Clock Tower for "People to Climb"			1
Memorial Benches or Trees			1
Movie Screen (Inflatable or Portable)			1
Multi-Purpose Path			7
Nature Play Area			2
Nature Trail (In Meadow or New Native Area)			2
NR Sign (Like the Cleveland or Parma Sign)			2
Paved Pump Track (Downhill Dirt Jump Line)			3
Playground - Expand			1
Playground - Teamwork Activity (Like at Berea)			1
Playground - Sensory Elements			1
Playground - Smaller Set of Monkeybars			1
Pickleball (New Courts or Apply Lines to Tennis)			5
Picnic Tables and Grill - Additional			5
Pool			6
Tennis Courts - Add Another Set			3
"Tree Pods" with Benches & Picnic Tables			1
RC Course			1
Reincorporate Bricks from Old Playground			1
Restroom in Lower Park (Accessible)			4
Safety Town			4
Sand Box with Machines			1
Sidewalk Around Pond			1
Snow Shoe or Cross Country Ski Rental			1
Splash Pad			14
Trash Cans (Add More) and More Recycling Options			1
Walking Trails (With Low Lights and Benches)			1
Winding Walkways			1
Ziplines (at Playground)			6

Amenities - Improvements to Existing			
Bridge to Island - Upgrade or Replace			1
Playground - Extra Shade for Equipment			2
Playground - Extra Trees for Shade			1
Playground - Extra Shade for Seating			1
Pond - Comfortable Benches			1
Pond - Remove Metal Chain/Wire			1
Pond - Add Cattails			1
Restrooms - Existing - Add Toilet			1
Shelters - Upgrade			2
Skate Park - Upgrade and/or Replace			5
Tennis - Divider Fence Between Courts			1
Tennis - Improve/Resurface/Level/Improve Drainage			6
Tennis - Lighting Improve			5
Volleyball - Improve Drainage			1
Amenities - Keep / Maintain			
Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis - Keep			2
Benches Around Pond - Keep			1
Community Garden			1
"Free Library" Book Station			1
Green Space - Keep As Is			1
Paths through Woods and Natural Areas			1
Playground			1
Skate Park - Keep In Some Capacity			2
Tennis			1
Amenities - Remove or Relocate			
Skate Park - Remove or Relocate Away From Families			2
Environmental			
Arboretum (Native Grasses, Trees, Shrubs)			1
"Allow Native Wildlife to Re-Establish Itself"			1
Alternative Energies (Solar, Geothermal, Wind)			2
Flooding Problems - Fix			1
Green Parking Lot			1
No Mow Zones			2
Milkweed Area (for Monarchs)			1
Native/Natural Areas ("National Wildlife Area")			2
Permeable Surfaces			1
Rain Gardens			1
Stormwater Management - Parking Lot Island			1
Trees - Dedication Trees with Species on Plaque			1
Tree Canopy			1
Trees - Replace Dead in Parking Lot			1
Wildflower Meadow (for Pollinators)			4

Public Input

A summary of discussion points, as follows:

Behnke Landscape Architecture provided a draft of the “Memorial Park Master Plan: Summary of Preliminary Improvement Option.” This document contained an introduction, preliminary master plan, summary of potential improvements and amenities (with photographs), a cost estimate, and several appendices.

The Mayor provided a brief introduction of the master plan process to date. He emphasized that this is a preliminary draft and is still a work in progress. In this introduction, he also stated that they are looking at this as a 10-year plan.

Tom Zarfoss began the discussion by walking the board through the master plan and the summary of improvement options number by number. After walking through the improvement options summary, the floor was opened for questions, comments, and discussion.

Comments and Discussion on Specific Amenities:

- Parking Lot
 - There was concern about shrinking the parking lot. Many noted it is full when team sports are occurring.
 - It was also noted that if we were to add additional amenities to the park as outlined in the master plan, we would likely need the larger lot due to higher park usage.
- Splash Pad
 - There was overwhelming support for the splash pad.
 - There was debate as to where the future splash pad should be located. Several members felt it should be put east of the parking lot, where it could be a visual draw for those driving by. Additionally, it would be located near parking and would be located near the potential pool site if the city were to ever opt to look at pursuing a pool in the future. Many also felt the splash pad should stay where indicated on the master plan (near the playground). These individuals were concerned about having the splash pad near vehicular traffic and felt having the splash pad near the playground kept all the family activities together, allowing for parents to watch multiple children in multiple use areas. Additionally, it was noted at the end that having the splash pad near the playground would encourage visitors to come into and experience the full park. Ultimately, there seemed to be more support for locating it near the playground.
- Amphitheater
 - One member noted the seating area reminded her of the “steps at Lakewood” (Solstice Steps) and asked the we consider putting in some hardscape seating for the amphitheater.
 - One member asked whether Memorial Park is the best location for an amphitheater and inquired whether the City Green would be an appropriate location. The Mayor talked about the various uses the City Green is needed for and on the success of the movie nights on the pond island.
- Dog Park
 - The dog park issue was heavily discussed and not resolved.
 - Many inquired about why Aukerman Park is not satisfying this community need. Tom Jordan explained that Aukerman Park is an on-leash facility and that many of these respondents are looking for something off-leash. He further explained the Metroparks reasoning for keeping Aukerman Park an on-leash facility.
 - The issues of locating a dog park were also discussed (proximity to residences, parking, etc.).

- The Community Garden Representative expressed concern on having the dog park next to the garden, as the garden would suffer from urine run-off.
- Shelter and Restrooms in Lower Park
 - There was overwhelming support for restrooms in the lower part of the park.
 - There was also support for the year-round shelter, which would come with the restrooms.
- All-Purpose Trail and Exercise Stations
 - There was support for the all-purpose trail and exercise stations.
- Community Garden
 - There was discussion on the location of the community garden. Many proposed proactively moving the community garden to the parcel north of City Hall, even if the programming of the State Road frontage is unclear, or where it is to happen sometime in the future.
 - Councilman Dietrich proposed improving the exterior of the community garden with “pillars” and a “nice fence,” at the new garden location.
 - The Community Garden Representative stated she is not opposed to moving the garden. She did want to note the quality of the soil in the garden and stated that the high-quality soil would need to be moved or new gardening quality soil would need to be imported.
- Skate Park
 - There was support for improving the skate park. Scope of improvements was not discussed.
- Pickleball/Tennis
 - Several stated they frequently get requests for pickleball.
 - There was support for putting pickleball lines on a couple tennis courts.
- State Road Frontage
 - Many members recognized the State Road frontage needs to be improved.
 - There was brief discussion on the potential for a pool; although it was recognized that is not a priority at this time. It was recognized this would be the pool location if it were to become a future priority.
 - See community garden notes above for community garden discussion.

Financial and Implementation Discussion:

- Members of the board did not feel the preliminary master plan had any significant omissions.
- Members of the board also challenged the notion that this should be a ten-year plan, as many felt this should be implemented sooner. The board does not want this to be a master plan that “sits on the shelf.” This sentiment was also expressed by the Mayor.
- Members of the board supported a major financial commitment to make this happen.
 - The Mayor stated council would have to bond the big-ticket items.
 - A few members stated that if we are going to have to bond out an item, we should “bond all of them out at once” since rates are currently cheap.

The School Board Member expressed that the school district will be willing to coordinate with the city where needed.

It was noted that additional community input will be pursued.

Recreation Board Input

	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	ROOTS
1	<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Red Sunset Maple'	Red Sunset Mape	2" Cal.	B&B
2	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	2" Cal.	B&B
3	<i>Aesculus flava</i>	Yellow Buckeye	2" Cal.	B&B
4	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye	2" Cal.	B&B
5	<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Heritage'	Heritage River Beech	2" Cal.	B&B
6	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	2" Cal.	B&B
7	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> f. <i>inermis</i> 'Imperial'	Imperial Honeylocust	2" Cal.	B&B
8	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree	2" Cal.	B&B
9	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	2" Cal.	B&B
10	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tuliptree	2" Cal.	B&B
11	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumber Tree Magnolia	2" Cal.	B&B
12	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American Hophornbeam	2" Cal.	B&B
13	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	2" Cal.	B&B
14	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak	2" Cal.	B&B
15	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak	2" Cal.	B&B
16	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	2" Cal.	B&B
17	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	2" Cal.	B&B
18	<i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Valley Forge'	Valley Forge Elm	2" Cal.	B&B

Proposed Tree Planting & Plant List

