

City Council Introduction: November 7, 2016

BILL NUMBER: 16R-245

Public Hearing: November 21, 2016

Date Factsheet Prepared: November 1, 2016

FACTSHEET

TITLE: Revision to Woods Park Master Plan

BOARD/COMMITTEE: Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board

APPLICANT: Parks and Recreation Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Forthcoming

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: For

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED: Lincoln-
Lancaster County Health Department

SPONSOR: Parks and Recreation Dept.

OPPONENTS: Witherbee N.A. opposes additional
parking without replacement green space

REASON FOR LEGISLATION

Revision to Woods Park Master Plan to consolidate parking and add 30 spaces to an existing parking lot at 3140 'N' Street.

DISCUSSION / FINDINGS OF FACT:

Staff for Lincoln Parks and Recreation and the Lincoln Parks Foundation will be relocating to the third floor of what is currently the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) building at 3140 'N' Street due to the expansion of the Lincoln Children's Zoo at 27th and A Streets on the Antelope Park Triangle. The Woods Park Master Plan is being revised to show 30 additional parking spaces. This will be accomplished by removing one parking lot to consolidate it with the expanded parking lot south of the building.

Staff from the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department have met with both the Woods Park Neighborhood Association and the Witherbee Neighborhood Association. The Woods Park N.A. submitted a letter that is generally supportive of the revised plans. The Witherbee N.A. submitted a letter expressing opposition to the additional parking area without the acquisition of a commensurate area of green space. The plan has been reviewed with a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the full Board will review and provide recommendations regarding the revised plan at their meeting on November 10.

The net area needed for additional parking is 10,000 SF, or 0.23 acres. Woods Park is a 47-acre Community Park. It is serving as the Neighborhood Park for surrounding residential areas, but it also serves a larger community area and has multiple uses. The location of Parks and Recreation staff and the parking to support that staff in the park is related to the outdoor recreational use of the park. While the new parking area will serve as office parking during weekdays, it will provide additional park visitor parking on evenings and weekends. Adequate parking has been an issue in the past for Woods Park during large swim meets, and this solution will assist with parking during those events. The solution developed consolidates green space and parking areas within the park, and the new parking is being located in an area that is in long grass and is not serving as an active use area.

While at the present time the Parks and Recreation Department does not have any specific plans to purchase additional parkland in central Lincoln, we would certainly be open to this if an opportunity became available in the future. The Department is committed to providing adequate parkland in central Lincoln and has worked to expand parks in underserved areas in the past. An example of this is land that has been acquired to expand Peach Park at 14th and Peach Streets twice in the past several years.

POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE: ___ Yes X No

This revision to the Woods Park Master Plan consolidates parking, supports related parks and recreation offices and additional visitor parking, and does not impact uses in the community park. It is not a policy change to have parking to support parks and recreation offices in a park area.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: None.

COST OF TOTAL PROJECT: This request is for an update to the Woods Park Master Plan. The cost for parking improvements displayed on the plan is estimated at \$85,000. Funding will come from the lease agreement with the Lincoln Children's Zoo for the relocation of Parks and Recreation staff from the Antelope Park Triangle.

RELATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS: None - same as operation of present day parking which will be relocated.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

CITY: \$0

NON CITY: \$85,000

FACTSHEET PREPARED BY: Nicole Fleck-Tooze

DATE: 11/1/16

REVIEWED BY: Lynn Johnson 

DATE: 11/1/16