

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 12, 2021

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Noyes Park

File Type: Informational Report

REQUEST

In response to File 21-762, the Parks Department has prepared an informational report to share information on existing conditions and potential future improvements at Noyes Park.

BACKGROUND

Noyes Park is a 71-acre park on the northwest side of the City of Milwaukee. Park assets and uses include an indoor deep well pool facility, parking lot, paved walkways, playground, forestry service yard, 9-hole golf course and simple golf range programmed in partnership with First Tee of Wisconsin, and a 19-acre Isolated Natural Resource Area (INRA) comprised of woods, wetlands and soft trails, and overall site balance of wet meadow land cover.

Recent County investments in Noyes Park have been focused on mechanical improvements to the pool building. Of the existing four pool boilers, two are now unrepairable and out of commission, and the remaining two are obsolete and need replacement. While our Trades Team has worked on them there is no long-term solution in queue except a full replacement, which is estimated to cost over \$300,000. An exhibit indicating existing conditions within the park has been submitted as an attachment to this report.

Par 3 Golf Course

Noyes Par 3 golf course is in dire need of a new irrigation system (estimated to cost around \$350,000) to make the greens playable and to maintain the 9-hole course. Staffing limitations also continue to pose challenges to the operations of the course, as the course needs staff on hand to maintain the greens daily. If capital and staffing challenges continue to remain, Parks will recommend creating a 4-hole practice course to reduce costs.

Natural Areas

Parks Natural Areas staff have identified specific goals and objectives for Noyes Park:

Goals

1. Protect existing high quality natural areas (woodlands).

2. Maintain and increase native plant and wildlife diversity.
3. Reduce the negative impacts of invasive species.
4. Provide passive recreational opportunities for the public.
5. Enhance and maintain the environmental corridor (Little Menomonee River).
6. Consider repatriation of species that could have historically existed at the site.

Objectives

1. Reforest areas currently experiencing significant ash decline due to Emerald Ash Borer (introduced invasive species) infestations. These areas tend to be around the perimeter of the main woodland.
2. Convert select areas turf grass to native trees and shrub species to provide habitat for native wildlife. Furthermore, change the timing of mowing in the larger turf grass area to reduce negative impacts to breeding grassland wildlife.
3. Conduct natural resource inventories to acquire baseline data for breeding wildlife populations, presence of invasive species, and build upon native plant population surveys conducted by SEWRPC from 1975-1998.
4. Aggressively manage existing populations of invasive species.
5. Implement long-term monitoring protocol to determine the impact of restoration projects on wildlife, invasive species, and native plant populations.
6. Manage habitat where appropriate for species listed by the WI-DNR as endangered, threatened, and/or species of concern; and species listed as local concern by the DPRC.
7. Protect existing habitat and expand dispersal corridors for potential populations of breeding herps (amphibians and reptiles). Consider repatriation of select amphibian species.
8. Maintain the DPRC designated hiking trail system and provide environmental education when appropriate to enhance the public's understanding of the site's natural features.

Capital Investments

While Noyes Park is one of 157 parks within the system vying for scarce financial resources, the following capital projects have been included in the 5-year capital outlay, published with the annual budget:

Project Description	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Noyes Indoor Pool Clerestory Window Replacement			200,000		
Noyes Park Hard Surfaces					80,000
Noyes Pool Planning – Improvements/Renovations				200,000	
Noyes Indoor Pool Restroom Renovation				500,000	

Parks also keeps internal documents to track needed investments over time, and the following projects are identified for consideration in future out-year budget planning documents. These estimates are for planning purposes and any actual capital or maintenance project will require refinement of the scope and cost of each improvement:

Noyes Golf Service Electrical Renewal	\$ 30,000																		
Noyes Golf Service HVAC Replacement	\$ 25,000																		
Noyes Golf Service Plumbing Renewal						\$ 30,000													
Noyes Golf Service Roof replacement							\$ 20,000												
Noyes Indoor Pool Front Entrance Pavement	\$ 100,000																		
Noyes Indoor Pool SS Lockers			\$ 75,000																
Noyes Indoor Pool Clerestory Windows	\$ 200,000																		
Noyes Indoor Pool Electrical Renewal						\$ 50,000													
Noyes Indoor Pool HVAC Replacement																			\$ 400,000
Noyes Indoor Pool Plumbing Renewal						\$ 50,000													
Noyes Indoor Pool Roof replacement								\$ 400,000											
Noyes Park Tennis Replacement – Pickleball Overlap?			\$ 345,000																
Noyes Park Light Pole Replacement								\$160,000											
Noyes Park Parking Lot-Golf course/pool					\$ 221,994														
Noyes Park Walkway Replacement		\$317,655																	
Playground Replacement	\$ 275,000																		
Soft Trail re-routes/plantings/signage/mktg/structures		\$7,259																	

Future Possibilities

In addition to the projects identified above that are generally targeted towards maintenance or continuation of existing services, future projects based on recreational trends or desires are possible. These could include:

- A planned future trail corridor on the south boundary of the park along the waterway. This trail connection is shown on the Parks Trails Network Plan
- Enhancements to the Isolated Natural Resource Area, in line with the Parks Natural Areas Restoration Management Plan for Noyes Park
- Expanded First Tee operations – existing contract ends in February 2022

- New or different aquatic offerings – This topic is expected to be addressed in the forthcoming Aquatics Master Plan, the pool building is very inefficient and in need of extensive repairs
- Futsal or tennis/pickleball improvements

Any future project that substantially changes the park uses would include collaborative engagement with the public. This means that Parks would partner with the public and stakeholders in each aspect of decision making, including development of goals and priorities.

Related File No:	21-762
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ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Executive Director Guy Smith, Interim Deputy Director Jim Tarantino, Director of Parks Administration and Planning Jeremy Lucas, Parks Manager of Planning and Development Sarah Toomsen

PREPARED BY:

Sarah Toomsen, Manager of Planning and Development

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Parks Executive Director *Guy Smith*

ATTACHMENTS:

Noyes Park 2021 Conditions Exhibit

cc: David Crowley, County Executive
 Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive’s Office
 Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3
 Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8
 Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7
 Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12
 Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1
 Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
 Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
 Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
 Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
 Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller’s Office
 Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller’s Office
 Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk
 Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
 Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
 Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB