

Glasgow Regional Park Update

FROM: Councilman David Tackett
TO: Residents in the 11th District

I know this has been a while in coming to you, but I thought it time to give a full update and time line for the Glasgow Regional Park at the corner of RT 40 and 896.

From the day I took office I have been committed to bring the residents of this district the regional park they waited for all too long. With the backing and full support of our County Executive Chris Coons, that promise now has a vision and time line to bring this area to you. I know that each and every one of us will spend as much time as possible there!

First I want to give you a little history, then go into what features will be built there, lay down the time line, then wrap up by sharing a vision we have for the historic houses and barns on the site. County Executive Coons and I have discussed many times how important it is to bring this area to you. Together we have some exciting thoughts to share with you:

Condensed History

- Prior to 1996 - Departmental Long Range Plan called for a District Park in the Iron Hill/Glasgow Area, 25-50 acres in size.
- NCCo was working on many options for cost-free or minimal cost land with land owners and had done schematic designs for park development over the years with some properties falling through.
- In 2002, the Department was directed to begin the purchase of the current 300-acre site as the vision was quickly emerging that we needed a regional park in the Glasgow Area.
- Our first three public meetings were March 12, 2003; May 7, 2003; and June 4, 2003; to determine needs and desires of the community. Each of these three meetings was heavily attended.
- Our Parks Department was directed to construct two (2) three-mile paved loop trails in July 2003 with minimal design work, but because of design and drainage problems, had to re-route the path several times.
- A bulk grading contract worth \$1.6 million was performed spring and summer 2004 at which time the overall site was rough graded and a sledding hill constructed.

Here is a quick update on our Current Standing

- Our construction plans and specifications are ready to bid as soon as some drainage issues are resolved with our Land Use Department.

Now the exciting news on what will be bid and built:

- Park features will include:

6 Tennis Courts

3 Basketball Courts

2 Children's Play Area/Adventure Playgrounds for two age groups

The adventure play ground includes five different play equipment zones for children of various ages and abilities. It includes a play area for children two to five and a play area for children ages 5 to 12. Some areas are more user friendly for children with various disabilities. The five zones utilize different types of safety surfacing. Some areas use colored rubber tiles; some use wood fiber. In addition to the five zones using conventional types of play equipment, there is a water splash area where water jets are placed in various places and configurations. There is no standing water in this area. It is a zone where children can interact with jets of water and splash. Another area includes a maze comprised of lawn and pavement. The pavement is placed in such a way as to provide the user with various choices of direction. Also, to provide shade within this area, architectural shade structures will be included. A picnic pavilion is located within feet of the adventure play area.

1 Interactive Spray Water Feature

1 Small Child Maze

1 Sledding Hill

1 Family Picnic Area

1 Passive Contemplation Area

3 mile 10' wide Paved Trail (lighted)

3 Woodland Trails

1 Gateway Pond

1 Farm Pond

2 Soccer Fields on a large common lawn

2 Multi-Use Lawns

1 Skateboard Park

The skate park will be constructed of reinforced concrete currently 16,000 sq feet. This is being designed by Site Design out of

Arizona. Please visit my web site at: <http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/countyCouncil/Home/webpage15.asp> and click under links.

35 Car Parking Lots
1 ½ mile Roadway System
1 Garden Area
1 Long Central Paved Promenade
5 Pavilions
4 Rest Rooms

Construction Timing

- As soon as we resolve the current drainage issues, which will be very soon, we will go to bid and have a contractor on board ready to construct as soon as the weather breaks this winter (probably March or April.) If we can work during the winter months, we will. Construction should be completed by September 2007.

Existing Buildings "Hermitage", the farm houses and out buildings

- Future phase buildings are currently fenced for security. Future security will depend on the nature of the uses/designs for this area. Security will have to be considered as part of the design/uses of the buildings. The Department is receiving proposals from interested parties such as Omnia Humanitas, a non-profit organization working in the fields of sustainable agriculture, green construction, historical preservation, community development, and education. I have met with this group and they have quite a plan that will compliment the other features in the park. I will keep you posted as the future of these building unfolds. I also need your input as to what you would like to see there.

I know for some time now as you have driven past the Glasgow Park you see the all too familiar sign: Coming Soon. Well, hopefully you can now tell just how soon the park is coming and make plans to spend quite a bit of your free time in this new and exciting place that will be the place to come and visit with not just the residents of this area but people from all around our area.

I envision this park being the place that will bring us back together as a community. I look forward to seeing "All" of you there in the near future.

This is what is planned as of today. If the timeline and features are updated, I will keep you informed.

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