



McGaw Park Visioning Survey Report

April 14, 2011

Executive Summary

In March 2011, Fitchburg citizens and McGaw Park users had the opportunity to complete a survey that requested their input on park issues, opportunities, vision, and amenities for McGaw Park. This report summarizes the common ideas and concerns among survey respondents.

Key findings of the survey include the following:

- The features of McGaw Park that are most liked by residents are the wooded areas, trails (especially wooded walking trails), and open space.
- The most common factor that keeps people from using McGaw Park is the lack of free time (70.8%). The second largest factor is that people prefer to use different parks (55.4%) and this is followed by safety concerns (44.6%), poor maintenance (40.0%) and lack of features people are interested in (35.4%).
- The concern about McGaw Park held by the most people has to do with safety or lighting. The second most common issue is the current state of the shelter and bathrooms. Of those who identified the issue/concern of most importance to them, 26.1% stated safety as the most important issue.
- The opportunity to develop the park, as perceived by the most number of people, is trail development. The next common opportunity viewed by residents is related to improving the shelter/bathrooms or adding more shelters.
- There is strong vision for recreational opportunities that support a variety of ages, interests, or seasons. Many citizens also envision a place with a beautiful natural setting or environmental preservation.
- More than half of respondents feel a trail system is one of the top 4 key things that make a park worth visiting.
- A water recreation facility (i.e. pool or splash pad) is the amenity viewed by the most residents as a needed recreation facility in Fitchburg.
- The most desired amenity in McGaw Park is unpaved nature/walking trails. Other amenities wanted by a majority of respondents are a shelter with restrooms, picnic areas, drinking fountain, paved multi-use paths, and natural areas.
- Shelter and bathrooms are the most desired park improvements. It is uncertain if most respondents want new facilities or want the existing facilities repaired or remodeled. Trail development or maintenance improvements and safety improvements are also highly desired park improvements.
- The most popular outdoor recreational activity among survey respondents is walking, running, or jogging (90%).

Survey Methods

The survey asked 10 questions, with some having multiple parts. Questions had various formats, including multiple choice and short answer. The survey was divided into 2 parts- “Issues and Opportunities” and “Park Amenities.”

Paper and digital copiers of the surveys were made available at the March 24th McGaw Park Visioning Session and at the project website (Appendix A). Staff asked that people not submit both versions of the survey. Email notification of the survey was sent to interested citizens and stakeholder groups, including recreation groups, the recreation list serve, and neighborhood associations. The survey was also publicly noticed on meeting announcements for the Visioning Session that were posted in various locations in the City (i.e. City Hall, Community Center, park kiosks, and coffee shops) and on the Parks Department website. The McGaw Park Visioning Session was promoted through news media sources like FACTv, Connect Fitchburg, and the City newsletter.

A total of 68 surveys were submitted to the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department. 17 paper surveys were submitted by citizens who attended the McGaw Park Vision Session and the remaining 51 surveys were submitted online.

4 parties provided additional comments by email. Refer to Appendix B.

Notes: Not all surveys were completed. A number of questions were left blank by some participants, especially questions soliciting an open-ended response. McGaw Park may have been confused with McKee Farms Park by a couple respondents. Respondents may not have read entire questions or followed directions.

Issues and Opportunities

Estimate how many times persons in your household visited McGaw Park in the last 12 months.

There was a mix in frequency of park visitation of those who submitted the survey (Table 1). Nearly 81% visited McGaw Park at least twice in the last year. Many respondents visited McGaw Park either 2-12 times or at least bi-monthly.

Table 1. Visitation of McGaw Park

	Percent	Count
0 Times	11.9	8
1 Time	7.5	5
2 to 12 Times	38.8	26
13 to 24 Times	13.4	9
24 or More Times	28.4	19
		67

What do you like about McGaw Park?

The features of McGaw Park that are most liked by residents are the wooded areas, trails (especially wooded walking trails), and open space. Numerous residents also enjoy the rural

setting, scenery, size and quietness of the park, and particular amenities, such as the shelter, athletic fields, and tennis and volleyball courts. A number of respondents enjoy walking in the park and like the close proximity of the park to their homes.

“The space, the trails, mix of open space and wooded area”

“Close to home. Shelter available for birthday parties. Playground and volleyball courts. Open space for other games.”

“Most of the time it is a quiet park, good for walking. Nice trees and scenery of tree lines all around. It is a rustic park, much like many state parks.”

What keeps you and members of your household from using McGaw Park more often than you currently do?

As shown in Table 2, the most common factor that keeps people from using McGaw Park is the lack of free time (70.8%). The second largest factor is that people prefer to use different parks (55.4%) and this is followed by safety concerns (44.6%), poor maintenance (40.0%) and lack of features people are interested in (35.4%). Other factors that were identified by more than 1 respondent are people sitting in parked cars, sexual activities, and difficulty to bike or walk to the park from nearby neighborhoods. A couple respondents also commented that they don’t have children at home to use the park.

Table 2. Factors Keeping People from Using McGaw Park

	Major Factor	Moderate Factor	Minor Factor	Factor	Not a Factor	Don't Know	Count
Not enough free time	18.5%	18.5%	33.8%	70.8%	27.7%	1.5%	65
Prefer to use different parks	10.8%	15.4%	29.2%	55.4%	43.1%	1.5%	65
Safety concerns	16.9%	7.7%	20.0%	44.6%	44.6%	10.8%	65
Poor maintenance	4.6%	7.7%	27.7%	40.0%	47.7%	12.3%	65
There are no features I am interested in	12.3%	16.9%	6.2%	35.4%	61.5%	3.1%	65
McGaw Park is not conveniently located	7.7%	10.8%	13.8%	32.3%	67.7%		65
I don't like the recreational activities offered	7.7%	16.9%	6.2%	30.8%	61.5%	7.7%	65
There are not enough people using the park	1.5%	7.7%	13.8%	23.0%	69.2%	7.7%	65
Lack of accommodations for my disability			1.6%	1.6%	93.8%	4.7%	64
Other: People sitting in parked cars, sexual and illegal activities	75.0%	25.0%		100%			4
Other: Difficult to walk/bike to from neighborhood	33.3%	66.7%		100%			3
Other: Condition of shelter/bathrooms, dogs off-leash	100.0%			100%			1
Other: Canceled community activities			100%	100%			1
Other: Gang hang-out	100.0%			100%			1
Other: No children in household		100.0%		100%			1
Other: Parkina lots are too dark in evenina	100.0%			100%			1
Other: Lack in variety of recreation activities	100.0%			100%			1

“Safety, especially late in the day. Wooded walks are overgrown with honeysuckle and too secluded. Cars park late, often with people in the cars - not clear whether they are just enjoying the peace and quiet or up to something.”

“McGaw Park has developed as a sports only park and it needs other features to make it more usable to both my family and myself. It has great potential if it is to be developed different than it exists now.”

“1) There is no dedicated bike trail connecting McGaw park directly to Swan Creek bike trail system... 2) The playground in McGaw can not compete with the one in McKee park. Because of the reasons 1 and 2 we prefer to ride our bikes all way to the McKee park. It is 100% off the road bike trail all way and much better playground”

What other issues or concerns do you have about McGaw Park and/or its future development? What is the most important issue or concern?

Respondents were asked to think about what should be changed or looked at and environmental issues at McGaw Park. Of the 62 who responded, the concern held by the most people has to do with safety or lighting (14.5%). The second most common issue is the state of the shelter and bathrooms (11.3%). Other issues raised by a number of people are about the maintenance of the woods, development of the woods and park (including expansion areas), lack of trails, improvement/maintenance of softball fields, and the dominance of ball sport facilities. 5 respondents stated they had no concerns and 2 reported they didn't know.

46 people commented on the issue or concern of most importance to them, with 2 stating there were none. The top issue of most importance is safety (26.1%). The second most frequently stated issue is the development or over-development of the park (8.7%).

“Safety issues- control traffic speed on drive (speed bumps), better lighting, extended walking/biking path, add security cameras by shelter; Add family friendly features- sledding hill, tot lot, ice skating”

“It should NOT be packed with more fields, and turned into any more of a sports complex, than it already is now, with the many baseball fields, and the very bright field lighting.”

“More trails, better maintenance of wooded areas, better shelter.”

“Concern that it may be developed into an urban busy city park, and have people there all the time. Too many people all the time will ruin the atmosphere of an open natural environmental theme.”

What opportunities are there for developing McGaw Park?

Respondents were asked to think about the enhancement of existing areas or amenities, interesting site features, new activities, park design, and environmental protection. Of the 59 who responded, the opportunity perceived by the most people is trails (23.7%). This includes trails for walking, biking, hiking, fitness, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and educational purposes. The next common opportunity viewed by residents is related to improving the shelter/bathrooms or adding more shelters (16.9%). Other opportunities noted by at least 10% of respondents are having/improving natural areas (15.3%) and adding water features, such as a splash pad or pool (11.9%).

“I suggest to add 1) paved bike trail (joined to the the Capitol system) all around the perimeter; 2) prairie restoration with the unpaved trails that join to the wooded trails 3) sites to rest and observe wildlife and nature. This park should be modeled as a small arboratum, not just another generic park.”

“The bathrooms and shelter need to be updated....but not necessary a new building.”

“There could be a swimming pool added and more shelters.”

In a few words or a sentence, what is your vision for McGaw Park?

Survey respondents were asked to think broadly about what they would like McGaw Park to achieve, such as “to have high quality recreational opportunities for all ages.” 50 people answered this question. There is strong vision for recreational opportunities that support a variety of ages, interests, or seasons (24%). Many citizens also envision a place with a beautiful natural setting or environmental preservation (18%). Other common ideas include McGaw Park being a place that the community enjoys or is attracted to (12%) and a place that supports family activities (10%). An interesting finding is that 4 respondents (8%) want the park to be similar to McKee Farms Park, while 4 respondents (8%) would like it to be unique and/or an alternative to McKee Farms Park.

“An aesthetically beautiful and well designed park where natural and recreational areas support a variety of families and interests.”

“McGaw park should not compete with McKee park. Instead, it should complement it. McKee park is best for families with little children (the playground) and sports. But McGaw should be defined as a place focused on the environment. The vision for the McGaw should be defined as the "Fitchburg's Own Arboretum". This vision is supported by the park's large wooded area and large open space that could be turned into prairie. Right now McGaw competes with McKee and, naturally, loses.”

“I'd love for it to be very much like McKee Farms park but for the Swan Creek neighborhood. More concerts and rec programs too!”

What are the 4 key things/characteristics that make a park worth visiting, other than location?

Out of 67 respondents, most citizens (53.7%) feel a trail system is one of the 4 key things that make a park worth visiting (Table 3). The remaining top 4 key things/characteristics are “well-maintained” (44.8%), “park support facilities (i.e. parking, restrooms)” (32.8%), “quiet and peaceful” (31.3%), and “safety” (31.3%).

Table 3. Things/Characteristics that Make a Park worth Visiting

	Percent	Count
Trail system	53.7	36
Well-maintained	44.8	30
Other park support facilities (i.e. parking, restrooms)	32.8	22
Quiet and peaceful	31.3	21
Safety	31.3	21
Areas devoted to wildlife and native plants	29.9	20
Scenery, great views	22.4	15
Concerts/festivals/events	22.4	15
Amenities for all interests	20.9	14
Amenities unique to the area	19.4	13
Landscaped with trees and plants	19.4	13
Organized recreation programs	16.4	11
Lots of open grass	16.4	11
Areas in park are well-connected	11.9	8
Active and highly used	11.9	8
Water features	7.5	5
Educational opportunities	6.0	4
Vending/concessions	0.0	0
Other: Emphasis on sports venue	1.5	1
Other: Dog park	1.5	1
Other: Fitness options	1.5	1
Other: Park for getting away	1.5	1
Other: Things to see, like sculptures or gardens	1.5	1
Other: Let the wooded part grown into a true woods	1.5	1

Park Amenities and Improvements

What recreation facilities or amenities does the community need that are not available or adequate within the existing Fitchburg park system?

According to the 44 people who responded to this question, the most needed recreation facility in Fitchburg is a water recreation facility, such as pool or splash pad, with 18.2% (8 respondents) identifying this type of amenity. Other frequently mentioned amenities were cross country ski trails and an ice rink for hockey or skating, both 13.6%. The next most common responses were sledding hill, disc golf, snowshoe trails, or nothing is needed (6.8% each).

“Pool or water play area! More young kid play equipment. An enjoyable natural woods area.”

“The Fitchburg Park system should be built for the direct enjoyment of Fitchburg residents, and especially for those living around and closest to each park. These are the patrons who are going to use each park day to day. Very few are going to drive or travel very far every day or week to go to a distant park. If a family wants to travel and visit a special park, it would be to a park outside the area that they have not visited in a long time, and it would be to go for a completely different view and surroundings. Fitchburg Parks should be only built for its own residents, and not to draw people from other cities.”

Please note all the amenities, including existing ones, that you would like to see in McGaw Park.

The most desired amenity in McGaw Park is unpaved nature/walking trails, with nearly 74% of respondents wanting this existing amenity (refer to Table 4). Other amenities wanted by a majority of respondents are a shelter with restrooms, picnic areas, drinking fountain, paved multi-use paths and natural areas. These are all existing amenities (shown in green below). The amenity wanted by the most people, which is not currently found at the park, is cross country ski trails.

Table 4. Amenities Desired in McGaw Park

	Percent	Count
Nature/walking trails (unpaved)	73.8%	48
Shelter with restrooms	72.3%	47
Picnic areas	67.7%	44
Drinking fountain	64.6%	42
Multi-use path (paved)	64.6%	42
Natural areas (e.g. forest, prairie)	63.1%	41
All-age play equipment	58.5%	38
Parking areas	56.9%	37
Cross country ski trails	55.4%	36
Tennis courts	49.2%	32
Tree and shrub plantings	49.2%	32
Open area for general play	47.7%	31
Volleyball courts	43.1%	28
Fitness trails	43.1%	28
Basketball court	41.5%	27
Soccer field	41.5%	27
Sledding slope	36.9%	24
Softball diamonds (lighted)	33.8%	22
Bleachers for athletic fields	33.8%	22
Open-air shelter	32.3%	21
Ice-skating rink (lighted)	30.8%	20
Frisbee golf course	30.8%	20
Outdoor education area	29.2%	19
Community gardens	27.7%	18
Swimming pool	24.6%	16
Outdoor amphitheater	23.1%	15
Lacrosse field	20.0%	13
Ice-skating rink	16.9%	11

	Percent	Count
Horseshoe pits	15.4%	10
Softball diamonds	13.8%	9
Baseball diamonds (lighted)	10.8%	7
Tennis courts (lighted)	10.8%	7
Botanical sculpture garden	10.8%	7
Baseball diamonds	9.2%	6
Indoor recreation center	7.7%	5
Volleyball courts (lighted)	6.2%	4
Concessions	6.2%	4
Other: Picnic grills	3.1%	2
Other: Outdoor fireplace	3.1%	2
Other: Mountain bike trail	1.5%	1
Other: Skateboard park	1.5%	1
Other: Fitness stations	1.5%	1
Other: Off-road bike	1.5%	1
Other: Gazebo (lighted, outlets)	1.5%	1
Other: Small shelter (light-outlet only)	1.5%	1
Other: Tot play lot	1.5%	1
Other: Safety lighting	1.5%	1
Other: Geo-trekking	1.5%	1
Other: Bocce ball courts	1.5%	1
Other: Edible landscaping	1.5%	1
Other: Shelter screening walls (windbreaks)	1.5%	1
<i>Green= Existing amenity</i>		
# Respondents:		65

If you could choose the 3 most needed amenities/improvements (i.e. recreation facilities, park support facilities, maintenance, or natural area enhancement) to McGaw Park, what would they be?

54 individuals responded to this question, with some providing three improvements and others providing one or two. Improvements relating to the existing shelter and bathrooms are the most desired improvements, with 44.4% (24 people) mentioning the shelter and/or bathrooms, as shown in Table 5. Of 24 people, 4 mention a new shelter or bathrooms, 2 want cleaner bathrooms or shelter, and 1 mentions shelter repair. It is unclear whether the other 17 people want new facilities or the existing facilities repaired or remodeled, with responses such as “shelter with restroom” and “improve shelter.” Another 5 people want additional shelters or bathrooms, such as an open-air shelter for the soccer/lacrosse field.

Trail development or maintenance improvements are also desired by many residents (46.3%). Out of all respondents 11.1% desire connecting or access trails, such as a trail connection to Swan Creek Neighborhood. Nature/walking trails and cross country ski trails are both wanted by 9.3% of respondents.

Nearly 26% of citizens (14 respondents) want to see safety improvements. More lighting (5 respondents) and park monitoring/enforcement (4 respondents) are the most common types of safety improvements desired.

Other frequently stated improvements are a pool/splash pad (16.7%), natural area enhancement/invasive species removal (16.7%), and maintenance/repair (14.8%). It is unclear whether “maintenance” refers to the entire park or specific amenities.

Table 5. Most Needed Park Improvements

	Response Percent	Count
Shelter/Bathrooms		
Improve shelter	7.4%	4
Improve/update shelter and bathrooms	5.6%	3
Shelter w/ bathrooms	5.6%	3
Additional bathrooms	5.6%	3
Improve/renovate bathrooms	3.7%	2
Shelter	3.7%	2
Bathrooms	3.7%	2
New shelter	3.7%	2
New bathrooms	3.7%	2
Clean shelter/bathrooms	3.7%	2
Repair shelter	1.9%	1
Improved/new structure	1.9%	1
Additional shelters	1.9%	1
Open air shelter for soccer/lacrosse fields	1.9%	1
Trails		
Connecting/access trails	11.1%	6
Nature/walking trails	9.3%	5
Cross country ski trail	9.3%	5
Trail maintenance/enhancement	5.6%	3
Fitness trail/stations	5.6%	3
Multi-use trails (walking, hiking, biking)	1.9%	1
Safe running trails*	1.9%	1
Open up hiking trails to improve safety*	1.9%	1
Safety		
More lighting (e.g. path, parking, road)	9.3%	5
Enforce park closing time	3.7%	2
Security features (e.g. traffic speed control)	3.7%	2
Parking lot monitoring	1.9%	1
Volunteer rangers for natural areas	1.9%	1
Safe running trails*	1.9%	1
Open up hiking trails to improve safety*	1.9%	1
Safety	1.9%	1
Recreation Facilities		
Pool/splash pad	16.7%	9
Disc golf course	11.1%	6
More recreation facilities/opportunities	7.4%	4
Play equipment	7.4%	4
Improve/maintain softball fields	5.6%	3

	Response Percent	Count
Ice hockey/skating	5.6%	3
Baseball field	3.7%	2
Community gardens	3.7%	2
Improve/maintain volleyball courts	3.7%	2
Dog area	3.7%	2
Enlarge wooden play area	1.9%	1
Play structure w/ shade awnings	1.9%	1
Adult soccer field	1.9%	1
Nature center for kids	1.9%	1
Additional tennis courts	1.9%	1
Lighted tennis courts	1.9%	1
Fishing ramps	1.9%	1
Sledding	1.9%	1
Softball lights	1.9%	1
Sports fields	1.9%	1
Outdoor amphitheater	1.9%	1
Enhance picnic areas	1.9%	1
Activities to attract people	1.9%	1
Other Improvements		
Natural area enhancement/invasive species removal	16.7%	9
Maintenance/repair	14.8%	8
Natural areas (forest, prairie)	5.6%	3
Tree and shrub planting	3.7%	2
Education about McGaw Park's purpose	1.9%	1
Forest management	1.9%	1
Keep character of woods, buffer	1.9%	1
Concessions	1.9%	1
Shade	1.9%	1
Better views	1.9%	1
Park support facilities	1.9%	1
Plan that works for current space and smoothly extends into additional space	1.9%	1
Sound abatement measures	1.9%	1
Re-install amenities that have been removed	1.9%	1
Edible landscaping	1.9%	1
None	3.7%	2
# Individuals who Responded:		54

**Improvement listed in more than one category*

What outdoor recreational activities do you or members of your household participate in?

The most popular outdoor recreational activity among survey respondents is walking, running, or jogging, with more than 90% of respondents participating in the activity and most doing it on a more than monthly basis (Table 6). Other popular activities include social gatherings, biking, picnicking, hiking, attending outdoor events, sledding, and swimming- all having more than 60% of citizen participation. Out of these activities, the ones with the most people participating on a frequent basis (more than 12 times per year) are biking, hiking, social gatherings, and swimming.

Table 6. Participation in Outdoor Recreational Activities

	1 time/year	2-6 times/year	7-12 times/year	More than 12 times/year	Count	Count Percent
Walking/running/ jogging	0	3	8	47	58	90.6%
Social gatherings	4	15	7	21	47	73.4%
Biking	0	6	8	33	47	73.4%
Picnicking	5	23	10	4	42	65.6%
Hiking	2	8	9	23	42	65.6%
Attending outdoor concerts, plays, or festivals	2	23	12	4	41	64.1%
Sledding	6	20	8	6	40	62.5%
Swimming	1	9	9	20	39	60.9%
Throw and catch	3	14	7	13	37	57.8%
Nature watching	1	5	11	19	36	56.3%
Other exercise activities	0	1	1	32	34	53.1%
Yard games	2	14	3	13	32	50.0%
Gardening	0	3	9	19	31	48.4%
Camping	4	17	5	5	31	48.4%
Photographing nature	1	10	7	10	28	43.8%
Fishing	2	11	5	10	28	43.8%
Walking/playing with pet	1	4	0	22	27	42.2%
Cross country skiing	2	9	7	8	26	40.6%
Ice skating/hockey	5	8	8	4	25	39.1%
Tennis	2	11	8	2	23	35.9%
Outdoor/ environmental education	2	8	10	3	23	35.9%
Kite flying	8	11	3	1	23	35.9%
Golf	2	7	5	9	23	35.9%
Canoeing/kayaking	4	11	3	5	23	35.9%
Basketball	4	12	4	3	23	35.9%
Snowshoeing	1	6	8	5	20	31.3%
Youth summer programs (excludes team sports)	0	7	5	7	19	29.7%
Mushroom/berry collecting	4	7	3	5	19	29.7%
Volleyball	3	6	4	5	18	28.1%
Softball	3	2	2	11	18	28.1%
Mountain biking	0	5	2	11	18	28.1%
Art viewing	3	9	3	3	18	28.1%
Soccer	0	5	2	10	17	26.6%

	1 time/year	2-6 times/year	7-12 times/year	More than 12 times/year	Count	Count Percent
Sunbathing	1	9	4	2	16	25.0%
Frisbee	0	10	2	2	14	21.9%
Football/rugby	3	4	1	5	13	20.3%
Disc golf	3	2	4	2	11	17.2%
Baseball	2	1	2	6	11	17.2%
Horseshoes	2	6	0	1	9	14.1%
Archery	3	4	1	0	8	12.5%
Orienteering	0	3	1	2	6	9.4%
Lacrosse	1	1	1	1	4	6.3%
Ultimate Frisbee	0	2	0	0	2	3.1%
Other: Sitting around campfire, grilling, sitting on lawn		1			1	1.6%
Other: Fitchburg park play equipment				1	1	1.6%
Other: Dog park					1	1.6%
Other: Birding				1	1	1.6%
					# Respondents:	64

Appendix A: McGaw Park Visioning Survey (Paper Version)

McGaw Park Visioning Survey

The Fitchburg Parks Department seeks public input for the development of the McGaw Park Master Plan. Serving as a long-term vision for future development and operation, a park master plan is a guide for appropriate park uses, design, and management.

PART 1. ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

At 65 acres, McGaw Park is Fitchburg’s largest park and one of two community parks (McKee Farms Park is the other). The park is located off of Lacy Road. The park is currently used for community events, family and company picnics, recreational programs, and sports tournaments.

1. Estimate how many times persons in your household visited McGaw Park in the last 12 months. *(McGaw Park is sometimes confused with McKee Farms Park.)*

- 0 Times
- 1 Time
- 2 to 12 Times
- 13 to 24 Times
- 24 or More Times

1a) What do you like about McGaw Park?

2. What keeps you and members of your household from using McGaw Park more often than you currently do? Rate each of the following issues for how they affect your use of the park by checking 1 option in each row.

	Major Factor	Moderate Factor	Minor Factor	Not a Factor	Don't Know
Not enough free time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McGaw Park is not conveniently located	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer to use different parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are not enough people using the park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are no features I am interested in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I don't like the recreational activities offered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of accommodations for my disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2a) Comments

Part 2. Park Amenities

In addition to athletic facilities and a shelter, McGaw Park contains walking trails, woodlands, prairie, and tall grass areas. McGaw Park is expected to expand to the west and south when the McGaw Park Neighborhood develops.

7. What recreation facilities or amenities does the community need that are not available or adequate within the existing Fitchburg park system?

8. Please check all the amenities, including existing ones, that you would like to see in McGaw Park. *Existing amenity

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All-age play equipment* | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural areas (e.g. forest, prairie)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball diamonds | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking areas* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball diamonds (lighted)* | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding slope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball diamonds | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoe pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball diamonds (lighted) | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor amphitheater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball court* | <input type="checkbox"/> Botanical sculpture garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open area for general play* | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball courts * | <input type="checkbox"/> Open-air shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball courts (lighted) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter with restrooms* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts* | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor recreation center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts (lighted) | <input type="checkbox"/> Concessions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer field* | <input type="checkbox"/> Bleachers for athletic fields* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse field* | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice-skating rink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree and shrub plantings* | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice-skating rink (lighted) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic areas* | <input type="checkbox"/> Frisbee golf course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking fountain* | <input type="checkbox"/> Community gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-use path (paved)* | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness trails* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature/walking trails (unpaved)* | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross country ski trails | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor education area | |

9. If you could choose the 3 most needed amenities/improvements (i.e. recreation facilities, park support facilities, maintenance, or natural area enhancement) to McGaw Park, what would they be?

Most needed _____

Second most needed _____

Third most needed _____

3. **What other issues or concerns do you have about McGaw Park and/or its future development?** Think about what should be changed or looked at and environmental issues.

3a) **What is the most important issue or concern?**

4. **What opportunities are there for developing McGaw Park?** Think about the enhancement of existing areas or amenities, interesting site features, new activities, park design, and environmental protection.

5. **In a few words or a sentence, what is your vision for McGaw Park?** Think broadly about what you would like the park to achieve, such as “to have high quality recreational opportunities for all ages.”

6. **What are the 4 key things/characteristics that make a park worth visiting, other than location?**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amenities for all interests | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amenities unique to the area | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet and peaceful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organized recreation programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Active and highly used |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water features | <input type="checkbox"/> Areas devoted to wildlife and native plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail system | <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of open grass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well-maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Vending/concessions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaped with trees and plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Other park support facilities (i.e. parking, restrooms) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts/festivals/events | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety | <hr/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenery, great views | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Areas in park are well-connected | |

10. What outdoor recreational activities do you or members of your household participate in? If you do not participate in an activity, leave the row blank.

	1 time/year	2-6 times/year	7-12 times/year	More than 12 times/year
Softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lacrosse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football/rugby	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Throw and catch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frisbee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ultimate Frisbee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseshoes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yard games	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking/running/ jogging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other exercise activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross country skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sledding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice skating/hockey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snoeshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canoeing/kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mountain biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature watching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art viewing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	1 time/year	2-6 times/year	7-12 times/year	More than 12 times/year
Photographing nature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mushroom/berry collecting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking/playing with pet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orienteering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending outdoor concerts, plays, or festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth summer programs (<i>excludes team sports</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kite flying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunbathing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor/ environmental education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for completing this survey!

Please return the completed survey to the Parks Department by Monday, April 4th.

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department
5520 Lacy Rd
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Appendix B: Public Comments Received by Email

From: Joe Rueden
To: Dana Dentice
Date: 3/21/2011
Subject: Please send me updates, comments

Once the land addition is made to McGaw Park, the City has the option of adding another access point, adding parking on that end, and then another shelter on that side makes a lot of sense. In fact, since Nobel Drive is so close, this could become the primary access point for the park. This also allows opening the view on that end and improving safety. Large, mature trees are great – too many screening bushes aren't.

thanks for listening!
Joe

From: Kaye Cooke
To: Dana Dentice
Date: 3/28/2011
Subject: McGaw Park

Hi Dana,
I was at the McGaw Park visioning meeting last week and filled out a survey. Since then, I have had some thoughts that I would like to add to my survey.

I don't think that you will get the public use out of the park that you desire until the area is less isolated. I don't think that the areas south and west of the park will be developed for at least the next 15 years (based on our current economy). planners can do is to take the **long view** and realize the strength of the park lies in its natural areas and work to beautify existing natural areas by planting quality trees and working on the trails and prairie and perhaps--if there is money--doing some creative landscape design.

This landscaping will take many years to achieve and to mature. I think the park will then be greatly appreciated by the people who --15 years from now-- will choose to live in the new developments around the park. The park would then also be a special place to walk to from Swan Creek or and Quarry Hill and the parks department will have achieved its **long term goal** of getting more public use of the park.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Good luck with everything.

Kaye Cooke

From: Patrick Cheney
To: Dana Dentice
Date: 4/1/2011
Subject: McGaw Park Visioning "out-of-the-box" future view

Hi Dana,

This is in response to your request, that I email my suggestions to you, from the McGaw Park Visioning meeting.

I briefly outlined my future view ideas and vision, at the meeting, to you, Scott, Tom and Susan.

I found Scott's introduction for the McGaw Visioning meeting to be encouraging, and so this should be of value to consider.

In his intro, Scott spoke of expanding to the West and South, and asked that we keep that in mind, when we're talking about the future. He urged us to think outside the box, and this is kind of a clean slate. "We really have an opportunity to do whatever we want to do. So don't think any idea is out of turn."

I have thought a lot about the future of McGaw Park, while remembering and considering the MPNP, the McGaw Park Neighborhood Plan, and the P&OSP, the Park and Open Space Plan. My vision is of a different version future from the current view of McGaw and nearby related areas, including the future Moraine Edge Park.

The current McGaw Park is the former McGaw family farm, as sold to the City of Fitchburg. Next to their farm is the current Fahey family farm to the West, and to the South is the current Stoneman family farm, both still operational. When these family farms may eventually cease operations, they may want their land to be recognized and each remembered for their former historical family ownership, and they might prefer these were named the Fahey City Park, and the Stoneman City Park. Naming their farm land to respect their long term family heritage, may help in obtaining land for the P&OSP. Fitchburg is very aware and considerate of its historical past ownership. Considering these as small neighborhood parks, would encourage separate dedication of thinking and planning, for the use by the closest new residents.

In line with Alder Andy Potts' comments of the high density housing that will border these two areas, their use and available activities may better serve their neighborhoods, as small activity quiet neighborhood - type parks. This also agrees with the small scale and quiet activity desires, as I heard in the Visioning discussions.

Any large group team athletic fields right across a narrow quiet residential city street, may be very objectionable to these residences, and not at all what they would like in front of them. The narrow width discussed in the Visioning meeting also seems far too small and narrow for any larger sized athletic field. As Tom Hovel measured these, an addition of 200 foot width to the West and only a 100 foot width to the South squeezes any field up against the sidewalk and street, and has no room for sideline observers. I commonly find lost baseballs, softballs, LaCrosse, golf, and others easily 100 feet, even 200 feet outside of the bounds of their fields. That would be hazardous to vehicles passing, parked cars, even to housing, and

would be a high risk to the players who chase after to retrieve flying game balls. Any 100 foot wide field in a 200 foot wide space does not allow adequate sidelines around large fields. This narrow width of addition is really only a buffer of space between the existing parking lot and field noise and bright field lighting, versus the new housing only a short distance away across the narrow frontage street.

As a further vision I would suggest, the Moraine Edge Park is large open fields, and seems much more suitable for designing a new athletic complex, with a real clean slate. This will be entirely from scratch, and could be configured with all the best planning and designs known, based on any good ideas seen elsewhere, or dreamed, for a Moraine Edge Athletic Fields Park. Creating a new Sports Complex that is not immediately bounded by neighborhood housing, could also eliminate the current conflicts existing in McKee Park. The McKee Park is a community Park, and the surrounding neighbors continually have high objections to the large scale events in McKee Park. Any similar Athletic Complex built up against the near - future high density housing of the McGaw Neighborhood, according to this approved MPN-Plan, is inviting more unending conflict with the immediate neighbors, just like in the McKee Park area. I also wonder what the future McGaw Neighborhood residents will say about many 100's-thousands-wattage of baseball field lights shining into their front windows. McKee has its bright tennis court lighting, and these had to be controlled and limited, otherwise, anywhere else it has environmentally (and neighbor) friendly lighting. McGaw baseball fields have non-limited extremely bright lighting, and much more of this lighting. Do Fitchburg planners and staff really want to load up more large team activities into the same McGaw Park Baseball Park? This existing activity has not been objectionable to the long - term surrounding residents, but increasing McGaw into a Sports Complex will test the patience and tolerance of current and future neighbors, especially those with a direct front view into McGaw Park.

The Moraine Edge Park is envisioned as part preserve, part recreational area, part demonstration farming, and parts may be left as wild natural areas. I like this vision, and I think there is plenty of room for a variety of purposes. Based on the maps, the hundreds of acres should allow everything from native conservancy to high activity uses, along the long stretches across Fitchburg, as this future Park could be.

I have considered other factors, without going into more detailed points here, and I have not found any serious conflicts with this view. In the spirit of Scott's comments, this is my "out of the box" vision, and I hope it will stimulate further consideration and comment, both as part of the McGaw Park Vision, and also as part of the upcoming Moraine Edge Park vision and future planning ideas and considerations.

Patrick

From: Jan Wilson and Mike Kicmol (The Crossing)
To: Dana Dentice
Date: 4/10/2011
Subject: McGaw Park updates

I know the survey is now closed, but we moved to this area after living fairly close to Elver Park. That was once a beautiful, safe park, too. Now, it feels very unsafe. We hope the city is mindful of that, since The Crossing borders the McGaw park. We moved here for a reason, because it's quiet, and we hope to stay here for a long time. Lights are fine, but not all night long. How will the park be monitored and secured? What about noise at night? We don't want to get snuffed out!