



Village of WILLOWBROOK

Mayor

Frank A. Trilla

March 30, 2023

Dear Residents,

Village Clerk

Deborah Hahn

Village Trustees

Mark L. Astrella

Sue Berglund

Umberto Davi

Michael Mistele

Gayle Neal

Gregory Ruffolo

Village Administrator

Sean Halloran

Chief of Police

Robert Schaller



Proud Member of the
Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

This letter is a follow-up to last month's correspondence with you regarding the Midway Park Improvement Project and the Borse Community Park Improvement Project. In response to the feedback that has been received from the Open House on March 15th, 2023, two letters from residents, several emails from four property owners, and the 20 residents that have attended the Board meeting opposing some of the changes, the Village would like to give further background on the project.

In 2022, the Village conducted a community survey specifically for parks and recreation, which was administered by aQity Research & Insights, Inc. Staff received a topline and final report of the findings in January 2023. In this survey, three hundred and fifteen residents responded and provided their feedback. This survey provided community-wide observations on the current conditions of the parks, current rating of programs/services rendered, and what wants or needs the community would like to see staff focus on and bring to Willowbrook. ([Willowbrook Parks and Rec Community Survey Results*](#))

The findings and takeaways from the survey were as follows: 1) Increase community events (family/special events, concerts in the park, movies in the park etc.), 2) Improved outdoor facilities, specifically walking trails, outdoor venue space, restrooms, and playground equipment, 3) Pickleball courts, 4) Adult programming (ages 19-55 years old), and 5) Senior programming and activities (ages 55+). From these survey results a Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed. This document identifies and evaluates the current park infrastructure and prioritizes what projects need to be completed and where.

After the survey and Master Plan were completed, staff began the process of evaluating where some of these amenities and components could be added to parks within the community. Borse Community Park and Midway Park were identified as ideal locations because of the current park lot sizes, and the potential for additional park amenities. From there, staff developed a timeline and gathered information about a potential park project.

*Willowbrook Parks and Rec Community Survey Results

<https://www.willowbrookil.org/DocumentCenter/View/2812>

On the Village website, willowbrookil.org

Select Departments menu, then Parks and Recreation page. The link to the survey is available in the fifth paragraph, "Parks and Recreation Community Survey Results."

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Project planning and development is a long and carefully managed process. These steps are imperative to every project's success because it's important that your voice is heard, and the Village receives community feedback.

Below are the typical steps that are followed during a large capital project:

- ✓ 1. Gather community-wide feedback, data, and information to justify staff-time spent researching the subject (i.e., community survey) – **Completed**
- ✓ 2. Develop a concept rendering of the project as completed to give a visual cue to what a potential project may entail. – **Completed**.
- ✓ 3. Develop a proposed and estimated budget, outlining any potential cost for the project. – **Completed**.
- ✓ 4. Present the concept rendering and budget to the Mayor and Board of Trustees for approval to move forward and explore bringing the project to fruition. **Completed**.
- ✓ 5. Host a Community Open House, Capital Improvement Project meeting to receive feedback from residents in the community (This event was held on Thursday, March 15th at 5:30pm at the Community Resource Center. Meeting notices were mailed to homes surrounding the proposed project area.) – **Completed**.
- 6. Interpret community feedback and finalize project details ***Current phase of this project timeline***
- 7. Present amended and finalized project details to community at an Open House meeting (date of next meeting will be Thursday, May 11th at 5:30pm at the Community Resource Center, 825 Midway Drive.)
- 8. Interpret community feedback and present it to the Mayor and Board of Trustees for final approval. (This step may be delayed based on overall feedback)
- 9. Create and release Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for contractors to perform the duties specified for the project
- 10. Review bids submitted, present the best bid to the Mayor and Board of Trustees and award proposal for the project to begin.
- 11. Set project timeline and inform community members

TRAFFIC SAFETY:

Since 2020, the Village has installed traffic calming devices in the neighborhood, specifically with the installation of speed tables along Eleanor Place, speed monitors at Eleanor Place near 75th Street, and along Midway Drive in between Borse Community Park and Midway Park. As part of the Midway Park Improvement Project, the Village would like to increase traffic calming measures, which would include a raised crosswalk and potential stop signs in between Midway Park and Borse Community Park along Midway Drive. The Village has also asked representatives from Gewald Hamilton, a traffic engineering firm, to review further measures which could include stop signs at the following intersections:

1. Eleanor Place and Midway Drive (4-way stop intersection)
2. Brookbank Road and Midway Drive
3. Virginia Court and Midway Drive

The proposed additional parking lots (122 spots) at Midway Park and Borse Community Park are a necessity to alleviate congestion in the neighborhood. It's imperative that emergency vehicles can pass through the neighborhood without being blocked by parked vehicles. As of right now, the Village is conducting a traffic study in the neighborhood based on data for the last year.

NEXT STEPS:

As part of the process, the Village will present alternative options at the next Open House Meeting on **Thursday, May 11th at 5:30 pm at the Community Resource Center (825 Midway Drive.)** At this meeting, the Village will offer different choices based on the feedback received from the Open House on March 15th, 2023, and additional correspondence from residents. Based on the comments received, the initial proposal for pickleball courts have been **removed** from the Midway Park Improvement Project. The updated amenities are below and will vary by option.

Village staff is asking for your input. At the May 11th Open House, another choice, consisting of recommendations from the public, specifically from the neighboring property owners of Midway Park, will be available.

Midway Park Improvement Project Amenities

- **Pickleball Court**
- Wiffleball field (Summer/Fall 2023)
- Permeable paver parking lot (51 spaces) (Summer/Fall 2023)
- Outdoor fitness equipment (Added after 3/27 Board meeting after receiving resident comment) (Summer/Fall 2023)
- Restroom facility (Summer/Fall 2023)
- Multi-sport court (Summer/Fall 2023)
- Arborvitae and native tree planting along with landscape beautification. (Estimated 50 trees installation - Fall 2023)

Borse Community Park Improvement Project Amenities

- New permeable paver parking lot off of Eleanor Place (71 spaces and an estimated 50 trees installation, project estimated for Summer/Fall of 2023)
- Expanded concrete walking path (increase pathway by 0.4 miles, from .027 miles to 0.67 miles) (Spring 2024)
- Replacement of current pavilions (Spring 2024)
- Replacement and conversion of the current asphalt parking lot to permeable paver (86 parking spaces) (Summer/Fall 2024)
- Softball game field enhancements (outfield fence, scoreboard, and stands) (Spring 2024)
- Softball field training and warm-up area (Summer 2024)
- Pedestrian bridge over (connecting Eleanor lot to the north pathway in the park) (Summer 2024)
- Tree plantings and beautification (Estimated 40 trees installation – Fall 2024)
- New playground with pour-in-place ADA accessible surface. (Summer 2025)
- New Splash Pad (Summer 2025)
- Band shelter (Summer 2025)
- Pickleball courts (Added after residents' suggestion – Summer 2025)

The Village encourages all residents, especially those in the Midway and Borse Park neighborhood, to attend the next Open House meeting on **Thursday, May 11th at 5:30 pm at the Community Resource Center (825 Midway Drive.)** At that time, there will be alternatives for this project presented, and your feedback and comments will decide what options are selected for the project and presented to the Village Board for approval.

The Village is encouraging you to voice your opinion and participate in this meeting. Ultimately, the purpose of this project is to improve the recreational facilities and opportunities for you and your families in your community. We have enjoyed wonderful partnerships and relationships with our surrounding communities, but we want to take pride in and provide Willowbrook residents with facilities, events, and activities in Willowbrook. The Village believes these improvements will create a marquee park, similar to Harvester Park (Burr Ridge) or Community Park (Darien), for Willowbrook and our residents.

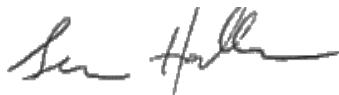
If you have any questions or comments about the project you can contact Mayor Frank Trilla at ftrilla@willowbrook.il.us, Sean Halloran, Village Administrator at shalloran@willowbrook.il.us or Dustin Kleefisch, Director of Parks and Recreation at dkleefisch@willowbrook.il.us, or please call 630-323-8215 if you would like to speak with one of us about the project.

We look forward to hosting you and discussing these exciting improvements coming to our community!

Sincerely,



Frank Trilla
Mayor



Sean Halloran
Village Administrator



Dustin Kleefisch
Director of Parks and Recreation