

Memorandum



From: Ryan Heiar, City Administrator
To: North Liberty City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission
Subject: *Parks Planning and Ball Field at Penn Meadows Park*
Date: September 29, 2011

At the last joint meeting earlier this month, there were a number of issues and questions raised by the Commission and Council that we did not have time to address. The intent of this memo is to address these items as well as to provide guidance as to the expectations of the next joint meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 6.

- 1. Soccer Fields:** The City of North Liberty does not have any soccer fields at this time; however, there is ample space within several parks that would allow kids to play a “pickup” soccer game or for practice. Iowa City Kickers is the organization that provides the soccer program for the area and kids from all over travel to be a part of this organization. Their complex is over 100 acres in size, consisting of more than 20 fields. As such, it would be difficult to compete with this program. Coralville has several soccer fields at their new sports complex. When the demand increases, North Liberty and Coralville may eventually partner, much like with basketball and football, to provide a less competitive soccer league for the youth in the north corridor.
- 2. Flag Football:** Currently, the City partners with Coralville for a flag football program. In the early years, games were hosted in Coralville. For the last six years, the games have been played in Penn Meadows Park. This year and in future years, games will be played at the new sports complex in Coralville as the location is more centrally located for participants. This, much like a potentially shared soccer program, is a great example of program sharing to benefit the entire area.
- 3. NLYBS:** For years, the City has partnered with NLYBS to provide a baseball program for the youth of North Liberty and surrounding area. The most recent figures estimate that 900 kids were involved with the program this year. NLYBS collects the registration for the program and pays for the officiating, equipment, including bats, balls, bases, catcher’s gear, helmets, uniforms, and other field maintenance related products (i.e. chalk, infield gravel, etc.). They are also able to secure private donations for the program that the City may otherwise not be able to secure. Additionally, they have previously invested back into the ball fields at a total of \$80,000. In turn, the City provides the field space, concession stand building, general maintenance of the

fields and handles inquiries about the program at the Community Center. This program, much like many of our other recreational programs, is subsidized by city funds/labor.

Overall, I believe a good working relationship exists between the City and NLYBS. Staff would like to continue to build the relationship in a way that is beneficial for all as we move forward. One way I see that happening is through better communication as to the expectations and roles of each organization as well as the investments each group is making into the ball program. Additionally, I think this will give us an opportunity to better plan for the ball program, for example with the construction of a concession stand and other future program and property enhancements.

To have a parent/volunteer organization manage such a large program is beneficial to the City because, with volunteers, costs can be minimized, allowing player registration to be more affordable and additional investment back into the program, including the ball diamonds. We should continue to embrace this partnership while improving the communication on both sides as to the expected roles and what each entity is providing.

4. **Agreements with Schools:** The City has agreements with the Clear Creek Amana and Iowa City School districts to use the gymnasium and other miscellaneous space within Buford Garner and North Bend Elementary. The agreements do not allow for use of any of the ground outside of the buildings.
5. **Dog Park:** In its current form, the Comprehensive Parks Plan does not include the addition of a Dog Park within the City. If this is a priority of the Parks and Recreation and Commission and City Council, it should be added to the plan. Staff has received a number of requests for such a facility; however, the City does not own property at this point that would accommodate such a park.
6. **Grants:** Staff has always been aggressive in pursuing grants for park and recreation and other city services and facilities. Many of our current parks facilities were established with the use of grant funds (Liberty Centre, Cornerstone Park, the community center, and Dubuque Street Trail to name a few). Staff will continue to be aggressive. Unfortunately, available grant funding for these types of facilities/activities seems to be shrinking and is very competitive. Realistically, in order to accomplish the park improvements outlined in the CIP, the City will need to plan on funding the majority of the projects with local tax dollars.

The following items are attached to this memo:

- A history and forecast of potential parks and recreation projects and associated costs as defined in the City's Capital Improvements Plan. This document does not include maintenance/equipment costs such as trucks, mowers, etc.

- An email from Parks Superintendent, Guy Goldsmith, proposing an alternate plan for a ball field at Penn Meadows Park, which addresses some of the open space concerns mentioned by the boards.
- Two maps of Penn Meadows Park. Map A outlines the original proposal of a ball field in the park, which was discussed at the last joint meeting. Map B reflects Park Superintendent Goldsmith's revised proposal, which allows for more open space in the park. Both maps highlight areas of open space that could be used for a variety of activities.
- The design concept for the future Westside Park.

In addition to reviewing the information above and attached, at the next joint meeting staff would like to accomplish two main objectives. Objective number one is for the two groups to provide staff direction on the construction of a new ball field in Penn Meadows Park. The Parks Department has flagged the outer limits of the proposed ball field, as identified on Map B (this is the Park's Department new proposal and is attached). I encourage you to visit Penn Meadows Park to look at the outlined field as well as to walk down the new trail to see just how much open space is available for picnicing and other activities along the west side of the park. If approved, the plan is to start the project this year, weather dependent, anticipating having the field ready for next ball season. Objective number two is to finalize any changes of the park plan. It is staff's understanding, based on the few comments at the last meeting, that the two groups are generally satisfied with the plan. We would like to update the plan by adding the west side park concept (attached) into the document.

If you have any questions or desire further information regarding the Comprehensive Parks Plan or proposed ball field in Penn Meadows Park, please contact me or a member of the Parks and Recreation staff.

Summary of Parks & Recreation Projects

Project Name	Project Description	Project Cost
FY 10 Projects		
Cornerstone Nature Area	Construction of a pocket park, with trails, lighting, a bridge and vegetation areas.	\$210,269
Swimming Pool Repairs	Replace grate in deep end of outdoor pool.	\$5,000
Conference Room Walls	Replace walls in upstairs conference rooms.	\$12,400
Chiller Repairs	Replace wiring in chiller unit.	\$12,016
		\$239,685
FY 11 Projects		
Playground Equipment	Replace playground equipment at Penn Meadows Park.	\$49,011
Meade Barn	Repair and enhance Meade Barn located in Penn Meadows Park.	\$76,029
Penn Meadows Rain Gardens Parking Lot	Installing a pervious pavement parking lot and rain gardens on the south side of Penn Meadows Park.	\$275,166
West Side Park Purchase	Purchase 40-acres of land, adjacent to St. Andrews Drive and west of Jones Boulevard, for a future community Park.	\$822,745
Wireless Internet	Install wireless internet throughout Community Center building.	\$7,250
Security Cameras	Install 5 new security cameras in and around Community Center building.	\$14,043
Pool Maintenance	Paint the shell of indoor and outdoor pools and resurface pool deck.	\$63,775
Exercise Equipment	Replace treadmill at the recreation center.	\$3,872
Electric Bleachers	Upgrade existing bleachers at Community Center to electric bleachers.	\$29,727
		\$1,341,618
FY 12 Projects		
Dubuque Street Trail	Constructing a 10-foot, separated trail connecting the proposed Dubuque Street Trail to the proposed Mehaffey Bridge Road Trail.	\$800,000
Penn Meadows Rain Gardens Parking Lot	Installing a pervious pavement parking lot and rain gardens on the south side of Penn Meadows Park.	\$40,000
Liberty Centre Trail	Finish the trail and lighting project at the northwest point of Liberty Centre.	\$14,000
West Side Park Development	Allocate funds to develop 40 acre park on west side of town, adjacent to Jones Blvd. and St. Andrews Rd (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$50,000
Quail Ridge Update	Install water and sewer hookups for shelter and restrooms at Quail Ridge Park (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$45,000
Pool Maintenance	Resurface (stain) pool decks to maintain integrity of surface.	\$75,000
Exercise Equipment	Replace cardio exercise equipment at recreation center.	\$10,000
Gerdin CC Kitchen	Install kitchen prep area (counter, sink, refrigerator) in the Gerdin Conference Center	\$5,000
Community Center Flooring Project	Replace flooring in Recster room, rooms A, C, C1 and aerobic room.	\$30,000
Ultraviolet Units for Pool	Designation of funds to install UV units in pools if/when required by state (1 of 3).	\$5,000

Summary of Parks & Recreation Projects

Project Name	Project Description	Project Cost
Backboard Replacement	Replace 4 backboards in old gym to electric operation.	\$10,000
Community Center Generator	Install backup power generator to be used for emergency and disaster situations.	\$300,000
		\$1,384,000
FY 13 Projects		
Freedom Park Play Structure	Install playground structure at Freedom Park (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$70,000
Penn Meadows Trail	Grade and asphalt trail with segments from parking lot to shelters and asphalt parking lot (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$175,000
Penn Meadows Concessions Building	Construct new concessions building between north and south 4-plexes at Penn Meadows Park.	\$300,000
West Side Park Development	Allocate funds to develop 40 acre park on west side of town, adjacent to Jones Blvd. and St. Andrews Rd (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$300,000
Park Signage	Install monument signs at all parks throughout community (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$25,000
Community Entryway Signs	Landscaping and welcome sign installation at north, south and west entrances. Specific locations not yet determined.	\$30,000
Gym Tarps/Rollers	Replace floor tarps and roller units used for special events in gymnasium.	\$7,000
Duct Cleaning	Deep clean air ducts throughout ventilation system.	\$23,000
Ultraviolet Units for Pool	Designation of funds to install UV units in pools if/when required by state (2 of 3).	\$30,000
Pool Sand Filters	Replace sand and other elements within the filters.	\$30,000
Exercise Equipment	Replace cardio exercise equipment at recreation center.	\$10,000
Tables and Chairs Replacement	Replace tables and chairs within the Community Center.	\$35,000
		\$1,035,000
FY 14 Projects		
West Lakes	Construct fishing jetty (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$10,000
Goose Lake Park	Construct fishing jetty (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$10,000
Zeller Street, Wide Sidewalks	Extra-wide sidewalk along Zeller Street, from Quail Ridge Park to HWY 965 (1,145 feet)	\$70,000
Penn Street, Wide Sidewalks	Extra-wide sidewalk along Penn Street, from Stewart Street to Penn Meadows Parks (1,382 feet).	\$85,000
Penn Meadows Trail	Grade and asphalt trail with segments from parking lot to shelters and asphalt parking lot (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$150,000
Penn Meadows Ball field Lights	Install ball field lights at Babe Ruth Field in Penn Meadows Park (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$200,000
West Side Park Development	Allocate funds to develop 40 acre park on west side of town, adjacent to Jones Blvd. and St. Andrews Rd (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$250,000
Exercise Equipment	Replace cardio exercise equipment at recreation center.	\$10,000
Pool Accessories	Replace diving boards and deck furniture.	\$14,000
Pool Awnings/Funbrellas	Replace all awnings and funbrellas at outside pool.	\$25,000

Summary of Parks & Recreation Projects

Project Name	Project Description	Project Cost
Playtime Indoor Equipment	Indoor play equipment to be placed in new area when Library expands.	\$75,000
Concession Equipment	Adding new and/or replacing concessions equipment.	\$10,000
Marquis Sign	Install marquis sign at the Community Center.	\$35,000
Ultraviolet Units for Pool	Designation of funds to install UV units in pools if/when required by state (3 of 3).	\$30,000
Pool Equipment	Replace chemical control feeders.	\$19,000
		\$993,000
FY 15 Projects		
Broadmoor Park	Install playground structure (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$70,000
Creekside Park	Construct shelter (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$20,000
Freedom Park Project	Construct fishing jetty, parking lot and trail (see Comprehensive Park Plan).	\$45,000
Community Center Tot-lot	Install a tot-lot playground (3 to 5 year old age group) at Community Center/Ranshaw House.	\$45,000
Penn Street Trail	Construct trail on West Penn Street, from Jones Boulevard to I-380 (3,153 feet).	\$200,000
West Side Park Development	Allocate funds to develop 40 acre park on west side of town, adjacent to Jones Blvd. and St. Andrews Rd.	\$250,000
Exercise Equipment	Replace cardio exercise equipment at recreation center.	\$10,000
Aquatic Feasibility Study	A study to determine needs for pool expansion and/or additional water area, which is recommended by the Parks Plan.	\$50,000
Locker Upgrades	Replace existing lockers with coin operated units.	\$12,000
Inside Play Feature	Add a slide or play feature to indoor pool.	\$150,000
		\$852,000
FY 16 Projects		
Beaver Kreek Park Play Structure	Replace modular play structure.	\$50,000
Track Resurface	Resurface track, fix cracks, etc.	\$50,000
Recreation Center Appliances	Replace appliances in facility	\$5,000
PVC Shell Lining / Pools	Line pool shells with PVC lining	\$150,000
Outdoor Pool Feature	Add new outdoor pool feature	\$150,000
Exercise Equipment	Replace cardio exercise equipment at recreation center.	\$10,000
		\$415,000
Total Potential 7-year Investment		\$6,260,303

Ryan Heiar

From: Guy Goldsmith
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2011 1:08 PM
To: Ryan Heiar; Tracey Mulcahey
Cc: Shelly Simpson; Brian Motley; Dean Wheatley
Subject: Penn Meadows New Ball Diamond option A & B
Attachments: Penn Meadows Multi-use Plan A.pdf; Penn Meadows Multi-use Plan B.pdf

Ryan,

After giving much thought to the proposed construction of a new ball diamond at Penn Meadows Park we have come up with a plan B. Plan B addresses two major concerns that have been brought up by the public. We have adjusted the size and location of the ball diamond to accommodate more green space on the west side of the park. 1) The diamond will still accommodate 80 foot bases like the original plan but will be 10 feet shorter. This is still 5 feet longer than the required minimum outfield fence for 80 foot bases. 2) Changing the direction of the layout of the diamond will shift the field to the east closer to the proposed concession stand/restroom facility and will persuade users to use the south parking lot off of Dubuque Street and the new parking lot on the south side rather than on the north side. This will help with the extra traffic on Penn Street which was a major concern of residents. We feel plan B is a great alternative that addresses these concerns but still keeps all of our diamond at the same facility for ease of future ongoing maintenance and capitalize on our investment in the proposed concession stand/restroom facility.

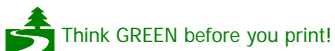
I have attached the original plan A and new plan B for your comparison. We have marked out the outline of plan B at Penn Meadows Park with white flags and mowed that area short so that the council can have a visual of the overall foot print of the proposed ball diamond.

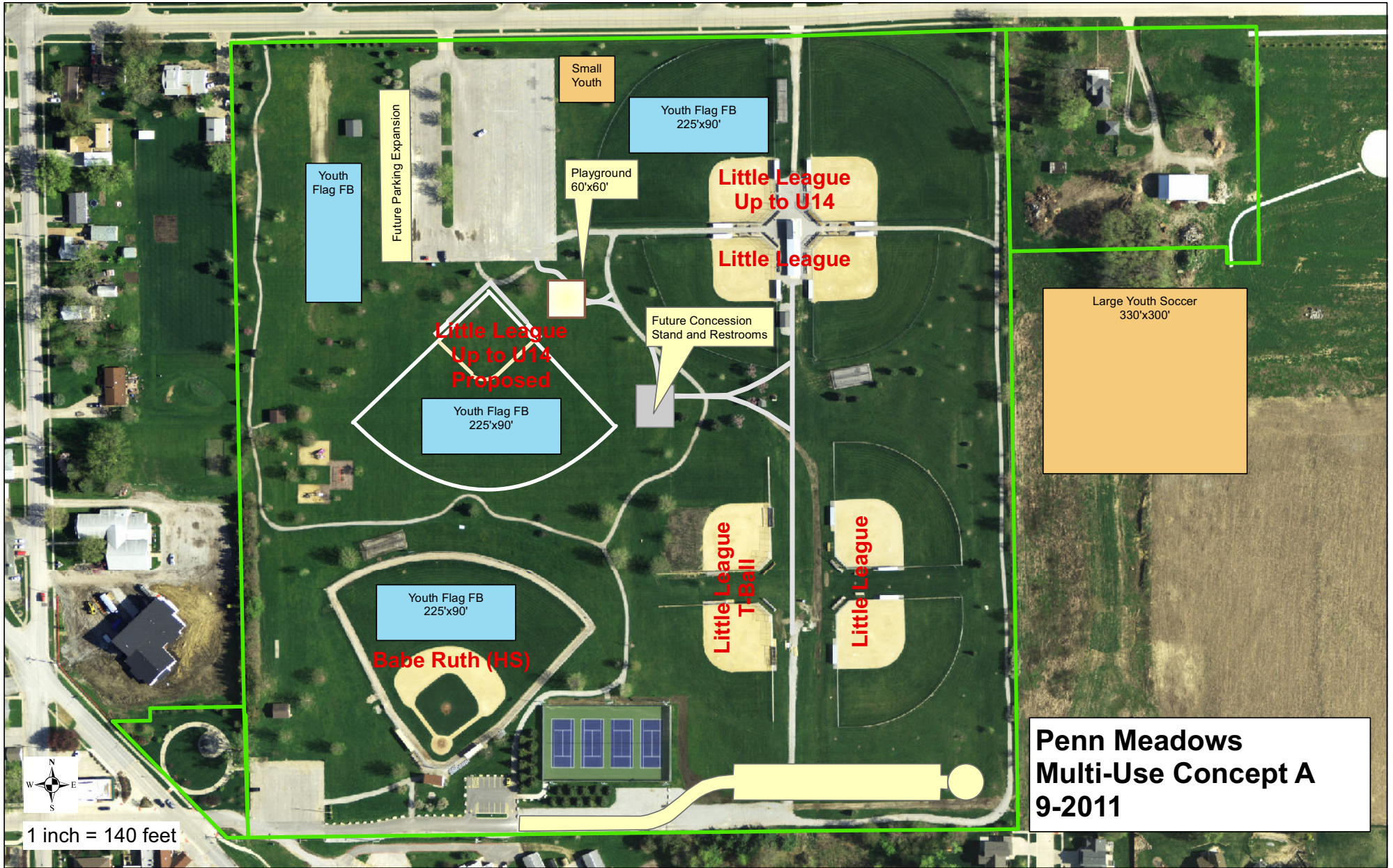
Ryan could you forward this on to council so that they may have the opportunity to look at this area for future discussion.

Thank you,

Guy Goldsmith
City of North Liberty
Parks Director
PO Box 77
435 South Front St.
North Liberty, IA 52317
Phone: (319) 626-5720
Cell: (319) 430-5106
Fax: (319) 626-5702

PLEASE NOTE THAT MESSAGES SENT AND RECEIVED ON THIS ACCOUNT MAY BECOME PUBLIC RECORD





Youth Flag FB

Future Parking Expansion

Small Youth

Youth Flag FB
225'x90'

Playground
60'x60'

Little League
Up to U14

Little League

Little League
Up to U14
Proposed

Future Concession
Stand and Restrooms

Youth Flag FB
225'x90'

Large Youth Soccer
330'x300'

Youth Flag FB
225'x90'

Babe Ruth (HS)

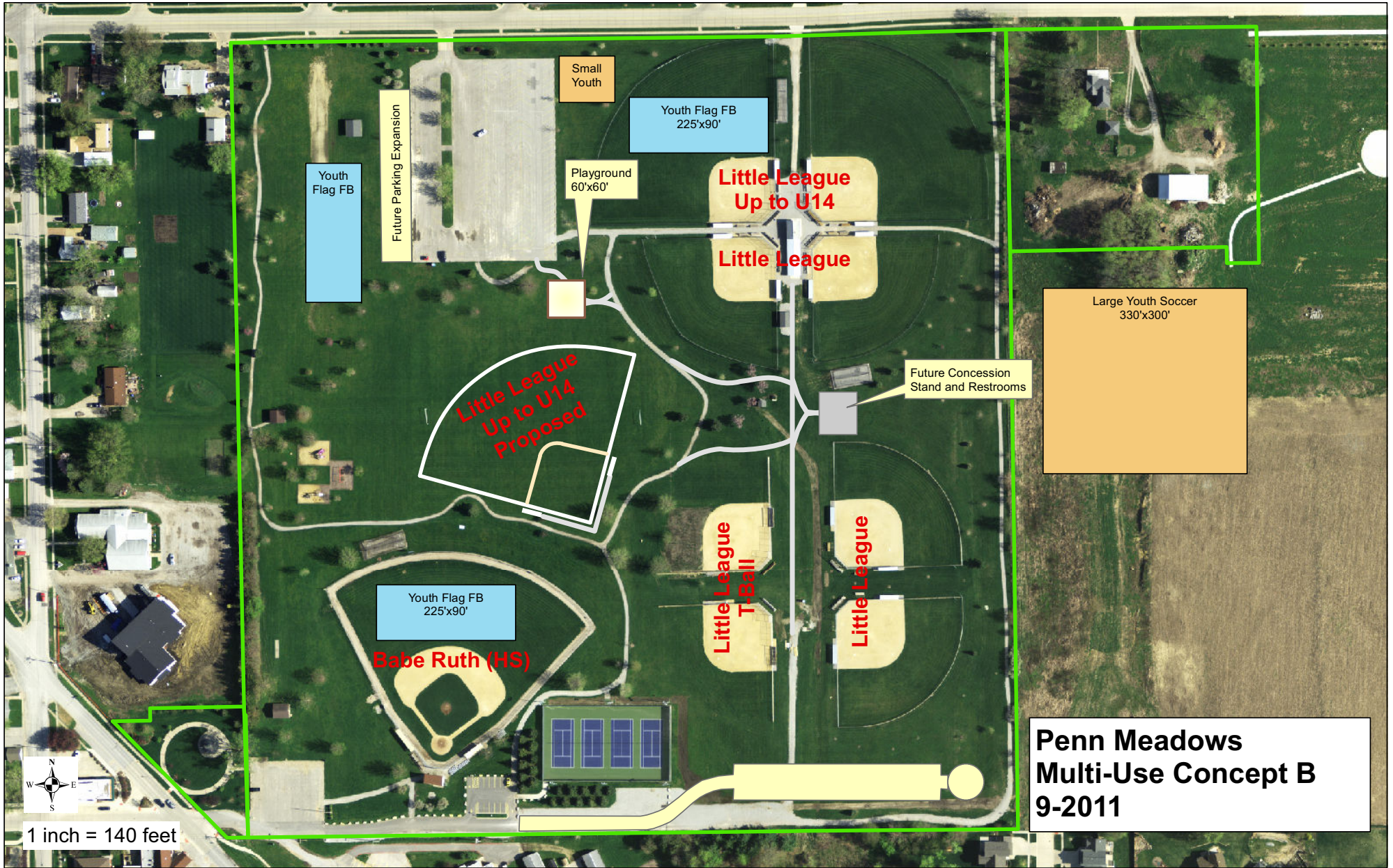
Little League
T-Ball

Little League

**Penn Meadows
Multi-Use Concept A
9-2011**



1 inch = 140 feet



Youth Flag FB

Future Parking Expansion

Small Youth

Youth Flag FB
225'x90'

Playground
60'x60'

Little League
Up to U14

Little League

Little League
Up to U14
Proposed

Future Concession
Stand and Restrooms

Large Youth Soccer
330'x300'

Youth Flag FB
225'x90'

Babe Ruth (HS)

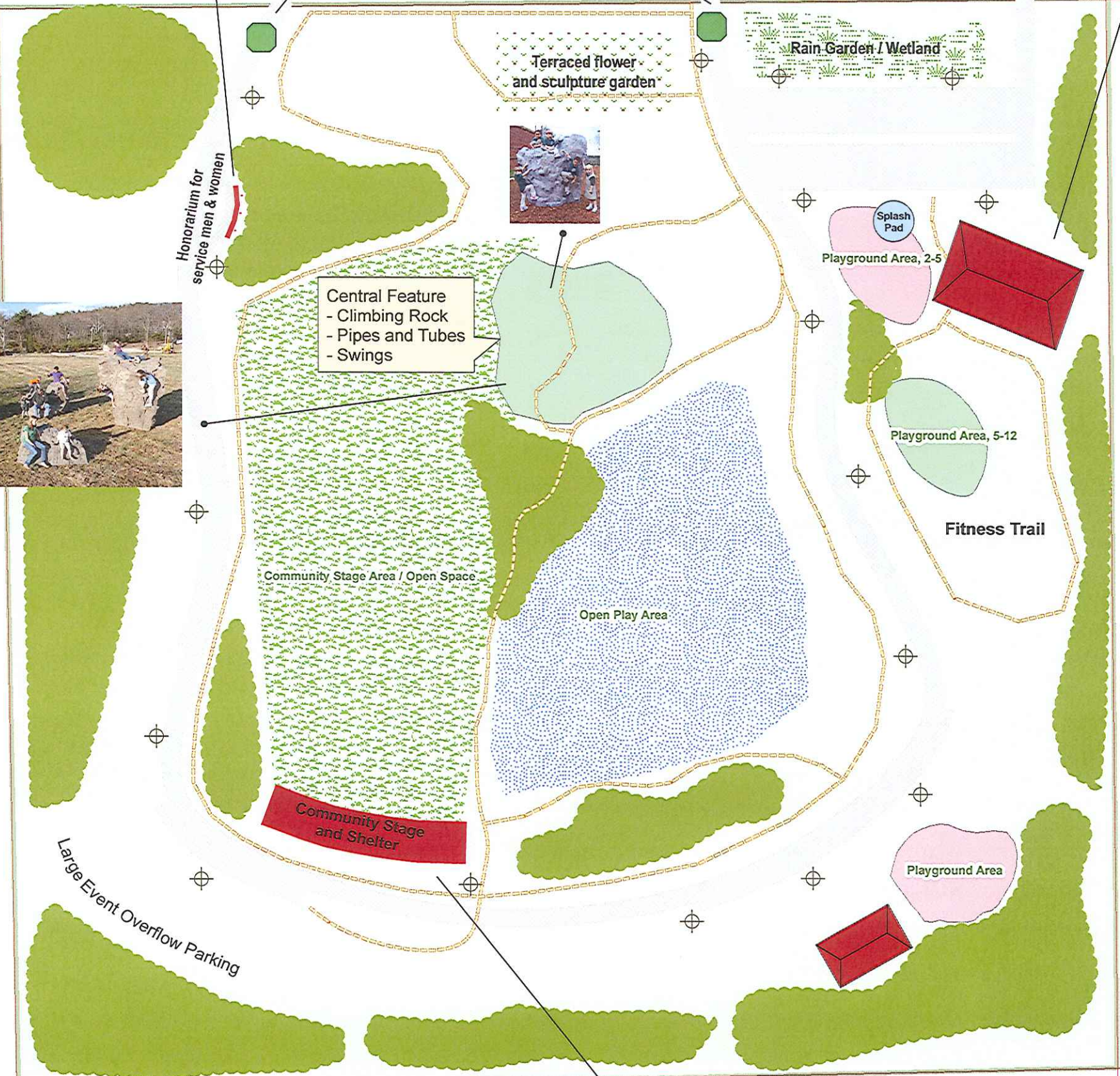
Little League
T-Ball

Little League



1 inch = 140 feet

**Penn Meadows
Multi-Use Concept B
9-2011**



1 inch = 150 feet



Use colors from logo

- Key Terms for Development:
- Natural (materials, finishes)
 - Family-oriented
 - Multi-purpose
 - Growing/evolving
 - Quality
 - Youth



Draft