



## **Parks and Recreation Public Input Session**

**Date: January 20, 2022. Virtual via zoom meeting**

**Submitted by: Brad Dennehy/Director of Parks and Recreation**

### **Capital Project (1): Mispillion Riverwalk lighting**

- Currently have approximately 550' of guardrail located alongside the Mispillion river between Walnut Street and Washington Street.
- The guardrail is constructed of wooden 6"x6" posts and three horizontal galvanized tubes. The posts have deteriorated to the point that they need to be replaced. Several pieces of the horizontal tubing are either bent or have been broken over time and had to be repaired by welding back together.
- Due to the current design of the horizontal tubing with large spaces between the rails, there is very little in terms of fall protection, i.e. potentially there is a risk of a child getting underneath the railing and falling into the river.
- Any new proposed guardrail design should address and reduce the fall risk.
- A new design should also be constructed out of something other than wooden posts which over time requires maintenance and can deteriorate. The aim is to have a maintenance free type of guardrail which is structurally sound.
- Several members of the public have expressed a desire to have more lighting in this vicinity specifically for pedestrians walking alongside the river at night. Currently there is lighting in the park on the south side but there is a desire to see more lighting along the actual Riverwalk.
- The idea is to incorporate a lighting system into the proposed new guardrail which will provide better illumination for people walking along the Riverwalk, have a guardrail which is safer, and something more aesthetically pleasing as well.
- The City has applied for and received partial funding for this project from the State of Delaware, via DNREC's Outdoor Recreation and Trails program. Also, the City Council has authorized matching funds from the general fund reserves as part of the Capital Improvement plan.
- Because state funds are involved the project will have to be put for complete bidding.
- A design professional has been retained by the City of Milford in order to create a concept plan which has been given approval by the Parks and Recreation Advisory board.
- At this time there are two types of guardrails proposed with lighting and we are seeking input from the public as a preference.
- Any public input will be taken back to Council for ultimate approval in order to move the project to the next stage, which would be design documents leading to putting the project out to bid.
- Potentially an updated lighted guardrail could be a real feature of the downtown.

- **Capital Project (2): Memorial Park Concept Plan**

- The City of Milford has identified the need for both more passive and active recreational opportunities.
- Memorial Park has been identified as a location which is suitable for more recreational opportunities due to it being contiguous to the Riverwalk and proximity to the downtown.
- A commitment has already been made to the Memorial park area with improvements being made to the basketball court with new paving, striping, new fencing, backboards and sidewalks linking it to the Riverwalk.
- Additionally, several new shade trees have been planted in this location during the last year.
- The Parks and Recreation advisory board has heard from several citizens and two projects were identified as being desirable. These were a children's playground and pickleball courts.
- The City has applied for and received partial funding for this project from the State of Delaware, via DNREC's Outdoor Recreation and Trails program. Also, the City Council has authorized matching funds from the general fund reserves as part of the Capital Improvement plan.
- Additional funding for the playground has also been acquired from the State of Delaware bond bill.
- The desire for a playground and pickleball courts has led to a need for a concept plan for the entire Memorial Park. A design professional has been retained by the City and a preliminary concept plan has been created.
- It is important to note that at this time we have funding allocated for both the playground and the pickleball courts, and we are specifically looking for input regarding these two items, with secondary input regarding the entire concept plan.
- The proposed pickleball courts will include 5 courts located to the south west of the basketball courts. 10 additional parking spaces are proposed contiguous to the existing 11 spaces. A pathway/walkway is also proposed to link through the park to another existing 10 parking spaces east of the Salvation army parking lot.
- The proposed playground will be in the existing grass area to east of the park, on the south side of the pedestrian bridge. Currently the proposed playground is to include a multi-task play structure.
- In honor of Milford's ship building heritage the proposal is in the design of pirate type ship. The proposed structure will include slides, various climbing arches, ring climbers, overhead bars/horizontal ladders and a "swing disc" challenge.
- Other components of the playground are to include free-standing swings and a free-standing climbing arch.
- Also proposed under the concept plan for Memorial park is a potential freestanding picnic pavilion and a municipal restroom. The picnic pavilion is currently shown to the west of the pickleball courts; however, we have already had input that this could be relocated closer to the playground. The proposed restroom is currently shown as being located next to the existing pump station.
- Also there has been desire for a bandstand/performance stage to be located across the river in bicentennial park.
- Any public input will be taken back to Council for ultimate approval in order to move the project to the next stage, which would be design documents leading to putting the project out to bid in phases, with the first phase being the playground and the pickleball courts.