

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: PARK BOARD

Agenda Item #: VI. A.

From: Ann Kattreh, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

Action

Discussion

Date: February 12, 2013

Information

Subject: Edible Playground Public Hearing – Lewis Park

Action Requested:

Staff requests a Public Hearing and approval of the Edible Playground Proposal for Lewis Park.

Information / Background:

At the December 12, 2012 Park Board meeting:

Member Deeds made a motion, seconded by Member Segreto, to approve the notification of the neighbors.

Ayes: Members Steel, Kathryn Peterson, Gieseke, Jacobson, Segreto, Cella, Jones, Deeds
Motion Carried

On January 15, 2013, a letter was mailed to notify resident neighbors of the proposed Edible Playground within 1,000 feet of Lewis Park and requested their input on the proposal. Residents were also notified about the February 12th Public Hearing at the Park Board Meeting.

The proposal is a staff request to build a 20 foot by 30 foot cedar wood fenced-in area immediately west of the most westerly rectangular athletic field at Lewis Park, 7300 Cahill Road, that would fence in 10 different raised planter beds for planting and harvesting vegetables, two benches and a storage unit similar to Eden Prairie's Edible Playground (please see attached photos). The program is in keeping with the Do.town initiative and Get Fit City initiative.

In her "Action Plan" shown below, City of Edina Recreation Supervisor Kristin Aarsvold has done an excellent job recruiting volunteers from Dow Water Process Solutions and the Edina Garden Council to participate in this project. She has also secured funding from Dow's "Keep America Beautiful" initiative and from the Edina Resource Center. She has also requested a \$5,000 grant request from the Fairview Foundation and additional funding opportunities may be available through the Bloomington Public Health in conjunction with the Statewide Health Improvement Program.

Edible Playground Action Plan

Submitted By: Kristin Aarsvold, Recreation Supervisor

PREMISE: Over the past ten years, childhood obesity has been on the rise. Unfortunately, 79% of school children in the United States do not get the recommended daily allowance of fruits and vegetables. (CDC Youth Risk Behavior survey, 2009) Lewis Park is the proposed site of the City of Edina's first Edible Playground. The park is in south central Edina, near Oak Glen apartments. Oak Glen is located in a Census tract that has seen significant changes in the past ten years. The racial demographics have shifted with a 294% growth in black residents and 210% growth in Hispanic residents. In addition, this area of Edina has witnessed a 27% decrease in median household income in the past decade. Oak Glen currently welcomes families who are receiving government subsidies for housing, such as Section 8. Census information was provided by the Edina Resource Center.

As recreation providers we have the opportunity to teach gardening skills as a lifelong leisure pursuit as well as make the connection to healthy foods for fueling young bodies for being active. Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation built their first Edible Playground in 2012; plans for an Edible Playground in Edina are based on their efforts. Registered playground program participants will take part in the Edible Playground as well as in the typical playground games and crafts offered for youth ages 6-10. The Edina Playground program runs from June 17- July 24 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m. at Lewis Park. Grants-in-Aid are provided for families who cannot afford the \$36 registration fee. In addition, Garden Camps will be offered the first 3 weeks of August.

GOALS: The goals of creating an Edible Playground are:

1. Provide a hands-on opportunity to teach kids about gardening (food production and a lifelong leisure skill). Goal attained through participants tending garden, visits from Edina Garden Council members and written resources provided for participants and families. Outcome will be measured in end-of-program evaluations.
2. Inspire kids to eat healthy and nutritious food through fun activities and visits from nutritionists to making healthy snacks. Outcome will be measured in end-of-program evaluations.
3. Help kids understand and appreciate the importance of how fresh foods fuel bodies for healthy and active living. Outcome will be measured in end-of-program evaluations.

PROGRAM DESIGN: The Edible Playground will be built with a volunteer pledge from Dow Water Process Solutions employees as a part of their "Keep America Beautiful Initiative". The garden will be maintained by participants in the Edina Playground Program with oversight by Recreation Supervisor, Site Leader and Playground Leaders. A weekly curriculum will be developed using the U of M Extension Service and other available resources like Bloomington Public Health. Parks & Recreation staff will measure outcomes through an end-of-season evaluation. Pizza and salsa plots will be planted as a way to make the connection between the

garden and the table. A “Harvest Dinner” will be held for participants, families, volunteers in late August. Dow Water Process volunteers have pledged to oversee the garden during the off-season as needed.

PROGRAM TIMELINE:

MARCH 2013	Funding secured
APRIL/MAY	Construction begins
LATE MAY	Planting by Dow Water Process Solutions volunteers, participants enrolled at Lewis Park and targeted ELL students/families
JUNE- AUGUST	Playground participants and staff maintain, tend and learn about healthy eating during program hours
AUGUST	Garden camps and end-of-season “Harvest Dinner” with volunteers, participants, families and community members
SEPTEMBER	Put garden to bed

ESTIMATED BUDGET:

EXPENSES:

\$2,000	Storage Shed
\$2,000	Fence Materials
\$5,000	Planters
(*in-kind labor to build the garden has been pledged by Dow Water Process Solutions volunteers)	
\$100	Soil
\$775	Gravel Base
\$350	Plants/Seeds
\$200	Small Tools and Equipment
\$325	Mailings and postage/newsletter and curriculum printing/signage
<u>\$250</u>	Volunteer recognition, video production costs, harvest dinner supplies
\$11,000	Total Expenses

REVENUES:

\$1,000	Pledge from Dow's "Keep America Beautiful" Initiative
\$1,500	Pledge from Edina Resource Center
\$5,000	At this time a \$5,000 grant has been submitted to the Fairview Foundation; potential funding has been requested from Bloomington Public Health through the Statewide Health Improvement Program.
<u>\$3,500</u>	Parks and Recreation Department 2013 operating budget.
\$11,000	Total Revenues

Long- term sustainability includes \$500 per year for seeds/plants/soils and maintenance. This will be folded into program expenses partially covered by program and camp fees.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Neighborhood notification and Public Hearing letter
- Hand-drawn Layout Diagram of the Proposed Edible Garden
- Aerial Map of Lewis Park Showing Location of the Proposed Edible Garden
- Two Photos of Eden Prairie's Edible Garden

January 15, 2012

Dear Resident Neighbor of Lewis Park:

This letter is to inform you of a proposal from the Edina Parks and Recreation Department to construct and program an Edible Playground at Lewis Park. A proposal was discussed at the December 11, 2012 Edina Park Board meeting, with unanimous support from Board members.

Over the past ten years, childhood obesity has been on the rise. Unfortunately, 79% of school children do not get the recommended daily allowance of fruits and vegetables (CDC Youth Risk Behavior survey, 2009). Participants in the summer playground program and camps at Lewis Park will be the main beneficiaries of the Edible Playground. The plans for the Edible Playground are based on a successful Edible Playground in Eden Prairie.

- Garden dimensions are 20 foot by 30 foot cedar fenced in area immediately west of the most westerly rectangular athletic field at Lewis Park.
- The garden would fence in 10 different raised planter beds for planting and harvesting vegetables, two benches and a storage unit similar to Eden Prairie's Edible Playground (please see attached photos).
- The garden and storage unit will be locked during unsupervised hours.
- Dow Water Process Solutions has pledged funding as well as volunteer support to build and oversee the garden as needed throughout the year.

Total project construction costs are estimated to be approximately \$11,000. Funding has been pledged from various sources to cover these costs.

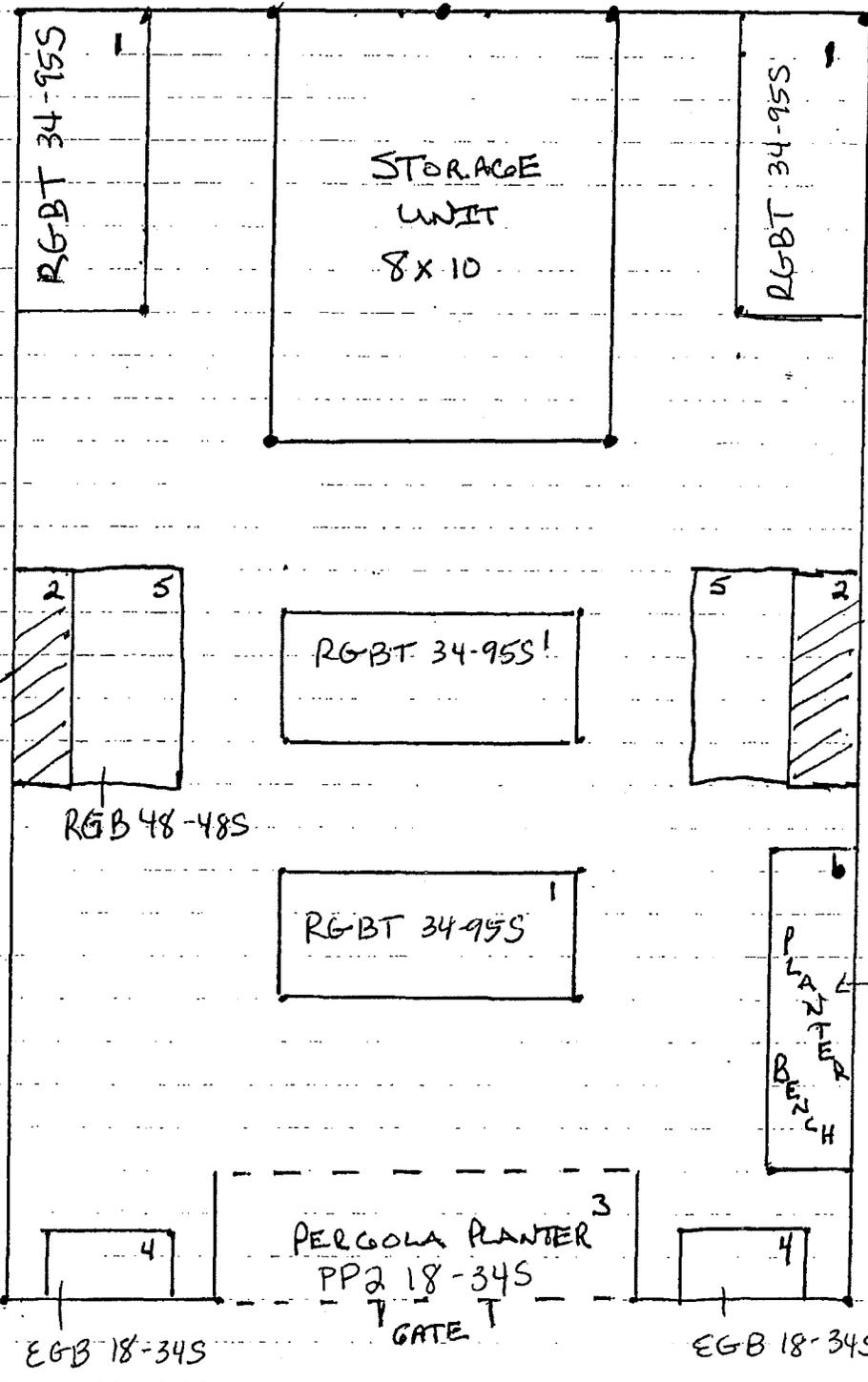
The Edina Park Board will meet in the Council Chambers in City Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 to take final action on this proposal. As always, the public is welcome to attend the meeting and speak to this topic in the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

The goals of creating an Edible Playground are to provide a hands-on opportunity to teach kids about gardening (food production and a lifelong leisure skill), to inspire kids to eat healthy and nutritious food through fun activities and visits from nutritionists to making healthy snacks and to help kids make the connection between how fresh food fuel bodies for being active. If you have any questions about the proposed Edible Playground or process, feel free to contact me directly. To share your comments with the Park Board about the proposed project, please send them to me in writing either by postal mail or email. All correspondence will be forwarded to the Park Board. Many thanks.

Respectfully,

Ann Kattreh, Director
Edina Parks and Recreation Department
(952) 826-0430
akattreh@EdinaMN.gov

← 20' →



RGBT 34-95S

STORAGE
UNIT
8x10

RGBT 34-95S

2

5

TK 48-80S

RGBT 34-95S

5

2

30'

RGB 48-48S

RGBT 34-95S

EPB 21-82S

EPB 21-82S

4

PERGOLA PLANTER
PP2 18-34S

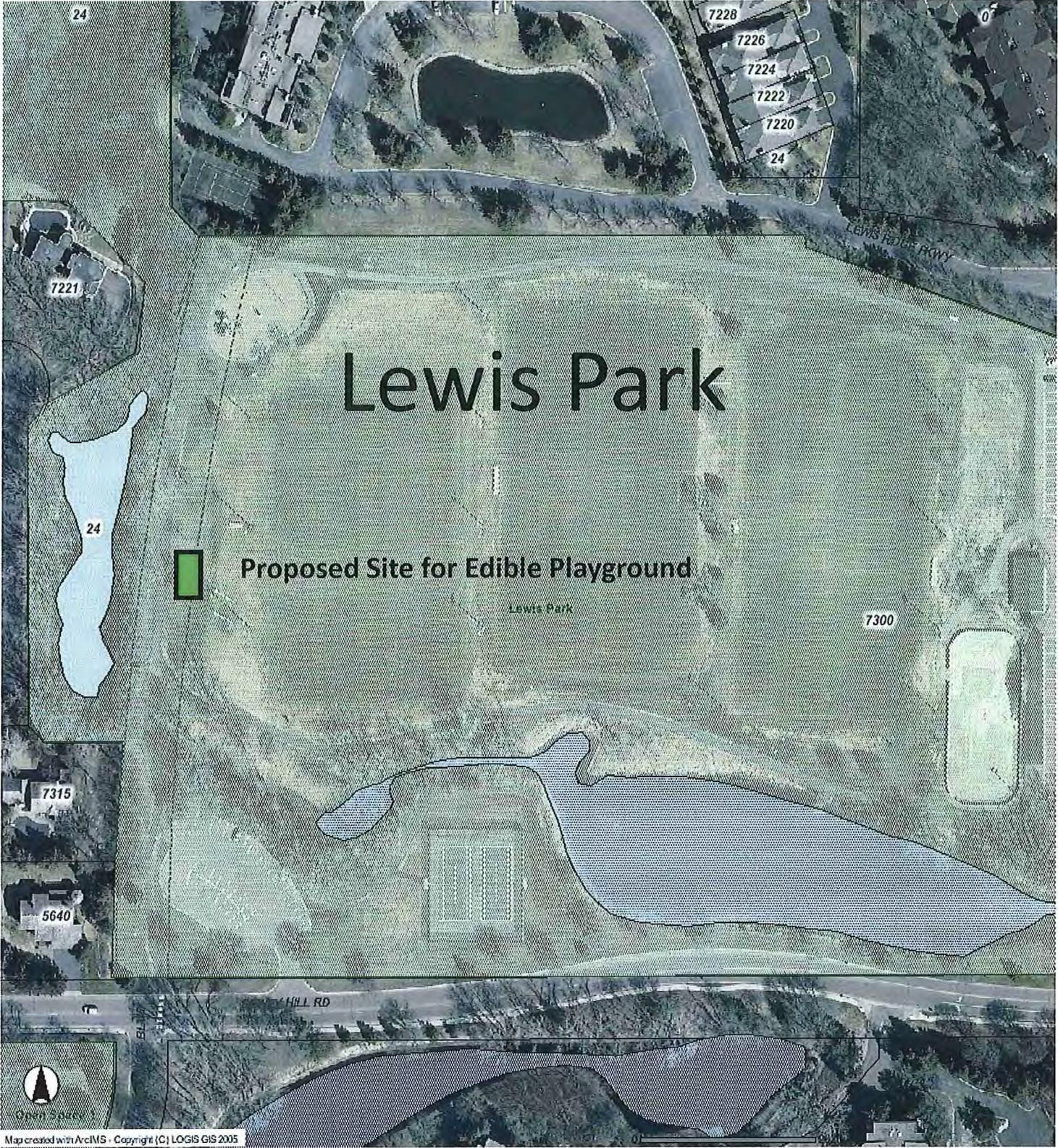
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EGB 18-34S

GATE

EGB 18-34S



Lewis Park

Proposed Site for Edible Playground

Lewis Park

7300



Open Space



Eden Prairie's Edible Playground Est. 2012



