

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Plans glitter for a new park in the Hills

(note: Waldron Park, located in the southeast portion of Farmington Hills, will, on completion, be the first attempt the city has made to provide a full-service neighborhood park. A report on progress of the development is followed by comments the neighbors of the new facility made to the Farmington Observer & Eccentric.)

By DIANE HUBEL
FARMINGTON HILLS—Waldron Park, which up until now has been little more than an empty field, may one day be a park complete with tennis and basketball courts and a winter skating rink.
 Farmington Hills, under the direction of Roger Magid, director of Public Service, has architect's preliminary sketches for the five-acre park and hopes to begin improvements on it sometime this fall.
 "Right now, all of our plans are in the preliminary stages," Magid said. "We still have to figure out drainage areas and evaluate our funds before we begin. We have a lot of plans and we just have to decide which one to plow into."

Magid said he will be getting together with a county planner early in September to make the final arrangements, and see what can be done this year.

THE MONEY for the project will be coming from federal funds.
 Right now Magid, William Ellison, a zoning inspector for the city, and police Captain Russ Conway are working with area residents to improve the physical appearance of the park.
 Groups of young people have been in the park on weekends with the three men helping to clean out the litter and clear away over-grown vines and other debris.
 "The people in the area have really adopted that park," Magid said. "The cooperation we have gotten from them has been tremendous."
 Ellison said there has not been as much trouble with the young people in that area as there used to be either.
 "The police activity in that area has really declined," he said. "We have had trouble in that area at times but now a lot of the young people are working with us."
THE CITY has already brought tables out to the park for people who want to picnic there.
 Magid said the preliminary plans

for the park call for three basic areas.

An activity area, which will have volleyball, basketball, and badminton courts, tennis courts, and a tether ball will be at one end.

Next to that area there will be a buffer zone, with a "passive play area."

The passive area will be open space surrounded with trees, and possible will have woodchip trails surrounding it.

IF THE DRAINAGE details can be worked out the passive area will be used as a skating rink in the winter.

The third area will be a family area. That area will have picnic tables and play apparatus for small children.

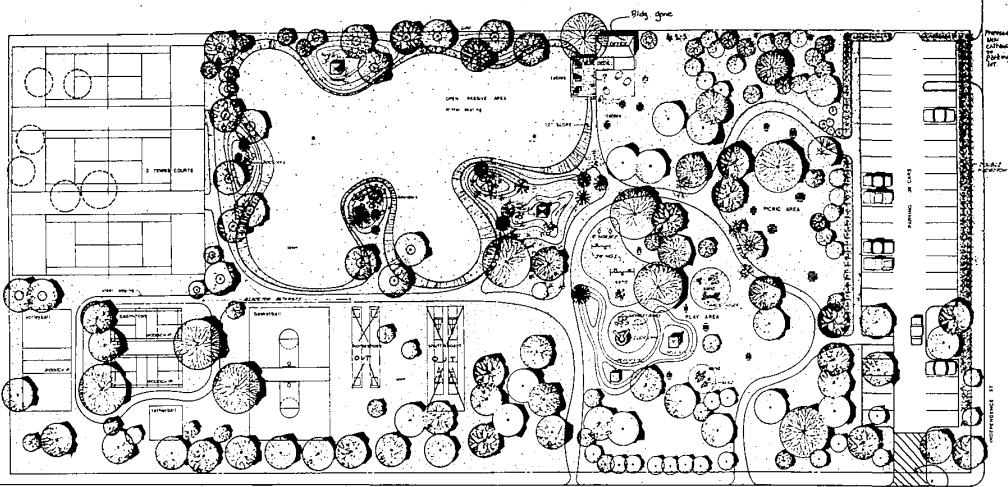
Magid said the park will be developed around the existing trees.

"There are some beautiful trees in that park and we intend to keep them," he said. "Unfortunately some people have already cut some of them down. You can just see the stumps where the trees used to be."

Until the actual development on the park begins, Ellison, Magid and Conway will continue to spend time at the park working to get the natural area cleaned up and ready for use.



City officials and young people have been working weekends to clean up Waldron Park by removing over-grown brush and vines and litter. (Evert photo)



The plans for new park

An architect's preliminary sketches of the future Waldron park. Adjustments will probably be made after city officials meet with the county planner early next month. The horseshoe lot and the shuffleboard in the center have both been eliminated.

Fans get chance to share Kaline's countdown thrills

Can Al Kaline pass the threshold of all-time baseball greatness by getting enough hits in the remaining games on the Detroit Tigers' schedule to reach the 3,000 mark?
 That's the question baseball fans are asking as the Tiger superstar nears the end of his illustrious career with a chance to become the 12th major leaguer to get 3,000 or more during his years as a player.
 But will he get them? The countdown has started and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are sponsoring a contest for readers to see who comes closest to the date of the big hit.
 Remember how folks had a countdown on Hank Aaron and when he would better Babe Ruth's home run mark? Well, this is the same with only difference being that reader will have a chance to follow Kaline as he bids for a niche in the record book.
 Details of the contest are published in all editions today elsewhere in the newspaper. Look for the full page ad telling of the rules and how you can win four tickets to a Tiger home game. Just fill in the entry blank and mark it in as directed in the rules.

'It's not really a park' say the neighbors

FARMINGTON HILLS—Residents who live around Waldron Park have found that many of the problems they first had with the park have stopped since the curfew signs were posted and the city began cleaning it up.
 Mrs. Richard Guertin was one of the residents who signed a petition asking the city not to develop the park when the project began.
 Now she has developed a wait and see attitude about it.

She is still not wild about the idea but she thinks that it may develop into something later on.
 "So far it is not really a park," she said.
 "Ask me again after they have put a tennis court or something in it, then maybe it will attract some families. Right now nobody uses it. The children don't play in it, we all have pretty large yards. It's hard to say

what it will be like later on. Now it is a park in name only."
 Mrs. Guertin did say that the police have been able to stop a lot of the problems residents were having with the young people using the park at night.
THE FARMINGTON Hills city council voted to impose a curfew in the park after residents complained that groups of young people were holding late night drinking parties.

The signs have been posted for several weeks now.
 The Hills police have also had special patrols in the neighborhood at night, attempting to eliminate some of the problems.
 Frank Lindbauer, whose property abuts the park said there have not been as many problems since the city began to clean it up.
 "It is strange but since they have

been here to clean it up there haven't been as many people using it," he said. "Of course there haven't been as many problems either. People used to come at night and cause problems but they're not around too much anymore."
 A NEIGHBOR of his, Patty Courtney agreed.
 She said, "There was a lot of trouble at first, but we haven't had too much lately. Kids used to hang around the park at night and cause problems for the people who lived around here.
 "They used to break our windows and everything but that doesn't happen too much anymore."

Schools approve family life books

FARMINGTON—The Farmington school board approved two new textbooks which will be used in the 10th grade family life course.
 The books, "Dating, Communications and Decision Making," by George Reimer and "Making Value Judgements" by Carl Elder were approved as the official texts for the Social Relations Course which will be offered as an elective at Harrison High.
 The course, a pilot program, was slated to begin this fall, but due to the millage defeat will not be offered until January.
 The textbooks will not be purchased until that time.
 ELLEN SILVERS, a representative of the committee which evaluated the

books said the course was designed to help tenth grade students form a system of values and make decisions based on that system.
 Board trustee William Gravius said he objected to some of the terminology used in one of the texts, and voted against the adoption of the books.
 He indicated that he was voting against the books presented, and not against the course, itself.
 Board trustee Emma Makinen said, "I think these books are excellent. The approach is positive and they are presented in such a way that they help students make value judgments."
 Assistant superintendent of schools Lewis Schulman said the books selected were among the finest in the "family life" field.
 He also said the selection of a teacher for the course was as important, if not more important, that the selection of the texts.
 He assured the board and the residents at the meeting that the teacher selected was a "fine, sensitive, understanding" teacher.
 The texts, like all texts used in the school system will be available at the school administration building for parents to review before their children take the course.

Junior highs to register
FARMINGTON—Junior high school students may pick up their student schedules at the offices of the individual junior high schools on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Aug. 26, 27 and 28.
 The offices will be open from 9-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.
 Senior high school students may pick up their registration packets at the individual high schools Aug. 19-30, from 9-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

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