

Opinions sought on recreation

Opinions do count. And Farmington Hills officials want to know residents' ideas on the future development of parks and recreation facilities in the city.

Residents' opinions are being sought by way of a survey — to be mailed with the city's December newsletter — of what type of facilities and programs they would like available to their families.

Survey results will help consultants who are updating the city's master plan for parks and recreation. The master plan will include a land-use

plan for the 212-acre Spicer property on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile, said Eric Wurminger, Farmington Hills assistant special services director. The plan is expected to be completed in January or February.

"To aid the consultants in preparing the master plan, a survey has been developed to solicit community input on facilities and services offered by the department of special services," said Wurminger in a news release.

"The survey is intended to provide you with the opportunity to give opinions concerning future development of the parks and recreation system. Your input is needed to insure that future parks and recreation facilities and programs meet the needs of you, your family and friends."

FARMINGTON RESIDENTS can also give their opinions. Surveys are available at the Farmington branch of the Farmington Community Library, 23550 Liberty, and Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty.

Completed surveys should be returned by Dec. 20 to the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services in the city administrative offices building, 23555 11 Mile. Questions can be directed to Special Services Director Douglas Gaynor at 474-6115, Ext. 282.

In October, city officials hired a Farmington Hills landscape architect, John Grissim & Associates to develop the Spicer property land-use plan and to update the city's parks and recreation plan.

Updating the city's eight-year-old parks and recreation plan is a necessity

If officials expect to apply for and receive federal and state grants for development of the Spicer acreage.

The Spicer property — a term city officials want to discontinue using — is the largest tract of publicly held land in Farmington Hills. Purchase was completed in April with the help of a \$1.2 million grant from the Michigan Land Trust Fund and \$200,000 from the city.

CITY OFFICIALS have asked Grissim for a comprehensive plan of how Spicer acreage could be used. The plan will include site analysis, design, a master site plan, detailed cost estimates and a year-by-year development plan.

Grissim's plan will also include design details for: botanical gardens, an adventure playground, nature and cross country ski trails, a nature cen-

ter, picnic areas, a working farm, parking lots, a natural outdoor ice rink, an outdoor amphitheater, and both active and passive areas.

The plan is also expected to analyze the possible addition of a community center, an indoor ice rink and an indoor/outdoor swimming pool.

The updated master plan for parks and recreation will include the city's history, population characteristics, natural resources, an inventory of local recreation, existing facilities and programs, bike paths, goals, evidence of community support, needs of handicapped residents, proposed projects and priorities.

The consultant is also required to prepare a survey and subsequent presentation of comments from the Farmington Public Schools, Farmington Hills Planning Commission, Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission and residents.

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Holiday service set

Consistent with local customer needs, post office window and collection service will continue during the Christmas period as usual or be increased, Farmington Postmaster Kenneth Harris said.

Harris said the Postal Service intends to clear from its office by Tuesday, Dec. 24 all classes of mail available in time to meet year-round service standards.

Normal windows service will be provided throughout the Christmas period.

On Christmas Day and on New Year's Day, all offices will be closed so as many postal employees as possible may spend the holidays with their families. However, special delivery service will be provided on both holidays, along with deliveries of express mail and perishables.

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