

# Forum turns spotlight on park plans

Continued from Page 1

ment mailed 500 invitations to the meeting "because we felt it (the proposed park) would be relatively close to the neighborhoods and that there may be some concerns — and there were," Wurminger said.

The proposed park — one of five top priority projects included in the city Master Parks and Recreation Plan's action program — is designed to meet the community's need for

youth athletic fields, Fitzgerald said.

The need for youth athletic fields was determined through a community survey included in the master parks and recreation plan.

Architectural drawings show the proposed L-shaped park would include three soccer fields, two baseball/softball fields, a fitness trail with 16 exercise stations, parking and landscaping around the park's perimeter as well as at the Farmington Road entrance.

ton Road entrance.

Estimated cost of the proposed park is about \$310,000.

THE ATHLETIC park, as well as a series of projects including initial development of Heritage Park, will be financed — if approved by voters Tuesday, June 24 — by a special 0.5-mill levy over five years. The levy is expected to garner in excess of \$3 million.

Despite a detailed explanation of the proposed athletic park, residents of nearby neighborhoods — Briar Hill, Willowbrook Commons, Three Oaks Condominiums, Wedgewood and Canterbury West — had some bones to pick about the development plan.

Residents expressed concern over the possibility that those using the athletic fields would either park in

their subdivisions or walk through them. Gaynor told residents that if park users use residents' property as a cut-through, it would be considered trespassing and police could be called.

"Fencing would eliminate that problem," a resident said.

Fencing as well as the installation of playground equipment, residents said, would also eliminate the possibility of young children — who accompany their families to the park — from using playground equipment in nearby neighborhoods' open space areas.

"If the fence is a real issue, then we'll put the fence in," Gaynor said.

PLANS TO NOT install playground equipment was not as positive.

"We felt because of the proximity of the subdivision, it was not desirable to make this a picnic-type park with (playground) apparatus," Gaynor said. "The entire site is pretty well used and we didn't want to mix too many uses."

Residents also complained about potential traffic problems, particularly with speeding along Farmington Road. Residents asked that the speed limit along Farmington Road near the proposed park be reduced to 35 mph.

Calling the proposed athletic park a "limited-use park," one resident asked why all city voters will be asked June 24 to consider the special park millage.

"Why is it a limited-use park, especially when it's an inconvenience? This is a limited-use park and everyone is being asked to pay for it," the resident said.

Gaynor responded that the park's only limited use is that it is designed for soccer and baseball/softball. "It is not limited use as far as who is going to use the park. The fields will be open to all residents of Farmington Hills," Gaynor said.

AS FAR as residents from other communities using the athletic fields, Gaynor added: "No one wants to come to Farmington Hills because our facilities are so inadequate."

Wurminger later said the athletic fields would be open to anyone in Farmington Hills who wanted to use them during the day. The fields will not be available for night play because the 15-acre site will not be lighted.

Gaynor added that the Farmington Soccer Club and North Farmington-West Bloomfield Baseball Club, for example, play according to a predetermined schedule.

"The times will be blocked in," he said, adding that more than 50 percent of the fields use will be by the clubs.

An angry resident told city officials that as far as he is concerned, the special millage is "not a fair vote," because residents who would not be directly affected by the athletic fields will be voting on June 24.

But city manager William Costick told the man that the Farmington Road athletic park is only one project revenue garnered from the proposed special millage will finance. A similar athletic facility in the south end of the city also is planned in the future, although the city has yet to buy property for it, he said.

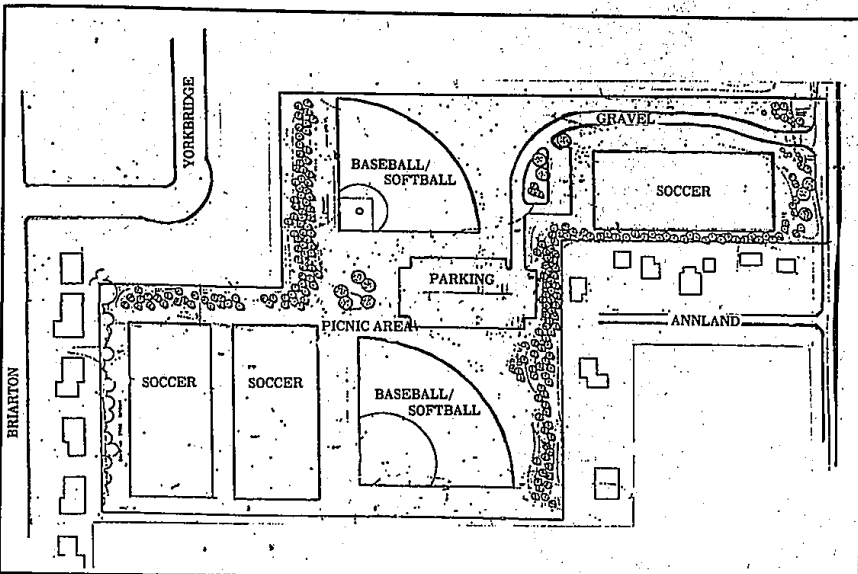
## City payments are approved

Payments to contractors for work in Farmington's Shiawassee Park, the paving of Hillcrest Street and the 1985 Sidewalk Program were approved unanimously Monday, June 2, by the Farmington City Council.

A third payment of \$11,952 to Armstrong Lawn and Tree Inc., contractor for the Shiawassee Park Project, was approved. Yet to be completed in the park are construction of a picnic shelter, lights for the baseball diamond and additional grass work, according to officials.

A final payment of \$1,827 was authorized to Detroit Concrete Products Corp. from the Special Assessment District and Local Street Fund accounts. This closes the Hillcrest Street Paving Project, done in 1985.

A second payment of \$11,794 to Italia Construction, contractor for the 1985 Sidewalk Repair Program, was also approved. Five percent of the total project cost was retained until warranty work and project cleanup is completed.



This is a rendering of the proposed athletic park at the north-west corner of 13 Mile and Farmington roads in Farmington Hills.

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