

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SPILLWAY PARK FROM THE COLLEGE PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

The College Park Homeowner's Association has conducted a voluntary survey of the neighborhood with a ballot attached to the monthly newsletter to determine what type of improvements the neighborhood would like in Spillway Park. The ballot asked each resident to rank the following options:

- Dog Park
- Heart Trail
- New perimeter fence
- Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Playground (ages 2-5)
- Playground (ages 5-12)
- Tennis Courts

There are 530 homes within the College Park neighborhood, 32 surveys were returned. Two of the returned surveys did not rank any of the options. The highest ranking option was a Playground (ages 2-5) and was also chosen number as the top option on 37% of completed surveys. Picnic tables were the second highest ranking option and were ranked second by 30% of the residents. The heart trail ranked third. Five surveys stated that nothing should be done with the park.

Several residents of Maryland Drive expressed interest in maintaining a quiet atmosphere within the park and trying to keep the amount of automotive traffic to a minimum.

Members of the College Park Homeowner's Association (CPHA) met with park planning staff from the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department as well as the Recreation Director for the City of Lake Worth, Daryl Boyd. Integrating the suggestions of the City and County recreation staff members with the results of the neighborhood survey, the College Park Homeowner's Association suggests an improvement plan which includes a playground for 2-5 year olds, a mulched trail and several additional picnic tables.

The CPHA's recommended improvement plan for Spillway Park includes a proposal for 1450 feet of mulched path, four picnic tables and a 900 square foot playground area. This playground area is based on the footprints of six different playgrounds (ages 2-5) within the Playworld catalog (pages 109-111), supplied by Daryl Boyd. The average base cost of these six sample playgrounds is \$7,200. The attached figure illustrates this conceptual plan.

## **Safety Concerns**

Over the course of several meetings with neighbors and discussions with community police officers, it is apparent that there are also safety concerns in Spillway Park. The main factors for the park's lack of safety are access and visibility. The access along the C-51 Canal from Dixie Highway increases undesirable pedestrian traffic. The CPHA recommends closure or reduction of this access to improve park safety. Another access concern is the gate that allows automobile access to the parking lot, this gate should be closed at sundown, while the fishing pier is not in operation.

There are also visibility issues due to vegetation and poor lighting in the parking lot. The overgrown and non-native vegetation decreases visibility and increases vagrancy within the park. Lighting within the parking lot should also be improved. Increasing the utilization of the park by adding amenities and these other park improvements would increase the overall level of safety.

## **Additional Suggestions**

Additional suggestions have been proposed to improve the overall appearance of Spillway Park including changing the 8-foot perimeter chain-link fence to a style that matches the style of the Courtyards perimeter fencing. Other improvement suggestions include refurbishing and improving maintenance of the existing restroom facilities as well as an interest in adding bag dispensers and "Curb your Dog" signs.

The CPHA believes that with these additional amenities and updates to Spillway Park this will become a thriving park on the north side of Lake Worth, frequented by many families making it the pride of our neighborhood and the surrounding district.











DIXIE HIGHWAY



MARYLAND DRIVE

**LEGEND**

-  LARGE SHRUB
-  SHADE TREE
-  PROPOSED PLAYGROUND
-  PROPOSED PICNIC TABLES
-  EXISTING PIER
-  EXISTING SIDEWALK
-  PROPOSED PATH
-  PARKING LOT

1 inch equals 100 feet

**COLLEGE PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SPILLWAY PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN**