

**COALITION TO SAVE BONNERWORTH PARK
RESPONSE TO COUNCILOR MATT CROWLEY'S REDDIT POST
DATED APRIL 28, 2024**

Councilor Matt Crowley's Reddit Post Dated April 28, 2024

Hey there!

report that came to Council during budget season. It was passed unanimously *twice* including votes in the affirmative by both Town Ward councillors (not throwing them under the bus - I love them both to death). There was no real discussion and no one from the area delegated against it at that time. This issue was essentially signed, sealed, and delivered in October 2023.

became an issue. At that point, the neighborhood saw the facility fit plan - saw that there were pickleball courts at the park, and came to council to vent their anger and frustration that Bonneworth Park would turn into a highly populated area. In my Ward I had emails of overwhelming support - the only dissension was from people who saw a parking lot in the fit plan and were upset that during a climate emergency the city would pave over the park. I went to staff and received assurances that would not be the case and there would be green space there
lement - only an example of what could be done with the space available to alleviate resident fears of massive street parking on Bonnacord.

Staff did the work over the last year and a half of looking at all parks in the city to see where the for pickleballs courts would be, and they chose Bonneworth. All of council agreed with
-utilized space with a large grass and dirt field, with around 50% of that land taken up by two dirt ball diamonds with irregularly use.

I think it all highlights that better communication is needed to make constituents aware when developments occur in their area. I have had meetings with my CAO to suggest ways to foster healthier communication between the city and residents when builds occur in an area. Like

deliberations anyway, but a separate report before.

back with a site plan. They

may design it with less. It could have 8. It could have 16.

aying it, or have family members

be suitable for the amenities laid out by staff - as did the rest of Council back in 2023 when it was passed.

Coalition to Save Bonnerworth Park Response (Penned by R. Scott, April 29/24)

Re: Councilor Crowley's Reddit post of April 28 in support of the Bonnerworth Park Plan

plans for Bonnerworth and the process the City used to get to this point. In its review of his post below, the Coalition to Save Bonnerworth Park points out how many of his points only serve to

[October 23]. The reasons for this is clear. The City never actively sought out representatives in our community – the people most affected by this plan – as it had with organized sports groups

broader community or the many users of the park for informal, unstructured recreation the plan shuts out, completely. The community only received any attention in March 2024, when it was

The Council st drop- shows how the City views our community. We were not to be consulted, we were to be

consulted organized sports groups, our community would have spoken loudly about the inappropriateness of the proposed fa diverse users and the surrounding residents.

can only imagine the e-mails he would have received had this facility been proposed to usurp a valued open space in his ward.

The Councilor suggests that staff will reduce parking in the north end of the park. But doing so demonstrates yet another lose-lose aspect of the City's park plan. Removing parking near Bonaccord Street will worsen the overflow parking issue on Bonaccord, for which the community has been asking the City since 2022 without success for traffic calming treatment because of the high number of children using the playground and splash pad in Hamilton Park. So the choice is either more unusable parking area in the park, or bigger traffic and safety issues on Bonaccord and nearby streets.

pickleball sites. Where is the evidence? The documentation? The 2023 *Tennis and Pickleball Strategy* only notes Fleming and the former Naval Association property. Its recommendation that the City investigate the Fleming site disappeared into the ether – no documentation whatsoever. A comprehensive site search would have included evaluation criteria to guide selection and investigated a wide range of outdoor and indoor sites across the city. If this exists, then let the community see it.

summer. They are used for informal baseball practices, pick-up games, etc. The open space of the park including the ball diamonds and outfields School for their sports programs that will now be eliminated (as will its tennis programme). pick-up soccer, Frisbee, kite flying, dog walking, etc. It does so because the City's own studies show the

More people have recently moved into our community (Hunt Terraces, Malcolm Court) and more are coming (the housing development at the Mount). That is why this community park is so important--and will be increasingly important for so many people and for so many other reasons than just organized sports facilities.

wants to be communicated to. No community in the city should just be development. City residents for ANY project deserve to be CONSULTED, and in a

of the City that our community is to be told what is happening at the park but have no role in shaping its future beyond amenities such as park benches and shade structures.

Councilor Crowley suggests a wide range of possible design outcomes. It begs rational comprehension how City staff could come up with a \$4.425 million budget and council approve \$2.035 million this year (down to the thousand dollar level of accuracy, no less) for a project with no plan, no overall cost estimate, whose facilities are so up in the air, and for which no studies of its feasibility and true cost exist even today.