

October 22, 2020

Members of City Council,
City of Hudson

Dear City Council,

The Park Board met on October 19 in a Special Meeting to consider the draft Connectivity Plan and form its recommendation for how it may enhance the Hudson Park System. We cite the citizen survey on Hudson Parks conducted November 2019 - February 2020 as part of the City's update of the Hudson Parks Master Plan. That survey with 485 responding households found the number one request was for more trails/paths in Hudson. This continues a long-expressed goal captured as early as the 2000 Park Master Plan for a system of multi-purpose paths connecting parks and neighborhoods throughout the City.

We recommend the following Connectivity projects as most important as proposed in the draft Connectivity Plan or with modification:

Segment S on Barlow Road connecting Barlow Farm Park, Wood Hollow and Oak Grove Park and linking the neighborhoods beyond each. We understand substantial cost is an obstacle mandated by the railroad crossing and we urge a creative solution.

Segment C on Middleton Road connecting neighborhoods north and south to the new SR 91 Turn Lane 8 foot pathway and to the Stow Road sidewalk, and thereby to Darrow Road Park, Hudson Springs Park, the High School and points beyond. We don't believe it is necessary at this time to extend the walkway to High Point Park as there are no improvement plans for the park due to traffic safety limitation for its access. **Segment F on Herrick Park Drive** offers similar access to parks and other points.

Segments J, K & L on Stow Road and Streetsboro Road connect many neighborhoods to Hudson Springs Park, the Turnpike Trail and make loops possible with those assets and Bicentennial Woods trail.

Segments Q & G on Hines Hill Road and Valley View Road or more efficiently **Segment Q, Prospect Street and Hunting Hollow Drive** to connect to the SR 91 8' pathway and thereby connect a major portion of Hudson to Maple Grove Park, the beauty of the YDC north property, and connection of the Ashbrooke neighborhoods to other points in the City.

Additional Segments:

Veterans Way Park should be connected by an improved pathway to the downtown to increase the two's functional relation and synergy.

Barlow Road should have a short connection project to the Metro Bike and Hike from Towbridge Drive and its neighborhood and thereby connection to other parks and the downtown.

Park Funding for Multi-purpose Path Use

We support use of the Park Fund for bond financing on the pathways that provide non-motorized safe access to Hudson Parks. The citizen survey I previously cited also identified demand for additional new facilities of a dog park and tennis/pickleball courts. The Park Board is developing plans to present those projects to Council and would welcome a joint meeting with Council members to review the Park Master Plan and recommendations, which should be completed as a draft next month.

Finally, we recommend that Park funded paths be constructed at a width of at least 6 feet, better yet at 8 feet. Existing multipurpose paths have been built along Boston Mills Road and Majestic Oaks Drive (Reserve at River Oaks) both at 8 feet in width and within the front yard of homes yet within the street right of way. To safely provide use by families walking, bicycles, and strollers greater than a 5 foot width is needed.

We applaud Council's pursuit of connectivity and enthusiastically advocate improvements to truly establish a network for healthy lifestyles and connected neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Tom King, Chair
on behalf of Hudson Park Board

c: Mayor Craig Shubert
City Manager Jane Howington