

Ridgeland Common Facility & Site Plan

2nd Community Meeting

Questionnaire Results

Q. Developing a master plan for the future of Ridgeland Common is an important project in our community. The Park District of Oak Park is committed to ensuring that citizen involvement is an integral part of this project throughout the planning process. In the following space, please provide your thoughts, ideas and suggestions regarding the three long-term space use options (bubble diagrams) and space amenities that were presented at the 2nd Ridgeland Common Community Meeting. Your comments will be shared with the project planning team as it works to develop conceptual drawings as part of the next phase of this project.

1. Mon, 3/17/08 9:11 PM

As residents of S. East Ave., we are totally opposed to closing Scoville Ave. between Lake St. and S. Blvd. It would exacerbate the traffic on an already over-busy street, East.....and take away much needed parking. While Ridgeland Common needs an over-haul, please don't do it at the expense of the residents on South East Ave.

2. Sun, 3/16/08 11:11 PM

Please include the closure (for additional park space) of East Ave, between Lake and North Blvd in the third design. The closure of Scoville without that of East would dramatically increase the number of teenage drivers on a residential street.

3. Sun, 3/16/08 10:40 PM

The current traffic problem on East Ave 100 to 300 south blocks from Lake to Washington, has been the topic of the residents' concerns. The amount of traffic, the speeding and the failure to stop at stop signs all cause great concern for those who live on East Ave as it relates to safety, especially for the pedestrians and children. We believe that the Ridgeland Common expansion will cause more traffic problems to spill over onto East Ave as that will be the closest alternate route to not only the both highschools that are on East Ave, but to the Ridgeland Common, and the farmers market. I would propose that the changes to the traffic pattern be strongly considered in this project.

4. Sun, 3/16/08 6:50 PM

Re: Visionary Plan I am opposed to the closing of Scoville Ave, if East Ave. is not also closed. I live on East Ave. and the traffic problems that we currently have would only get worse if you close Scoville Ave (from Lake to North Blvd.). Also, I am also opposed to placing the new field house near East Ave, if East Ave. is not also closed from Lake to south blvd. Again, our traffic problems would only increase!

5. Sun, 3/16/08 5:49 PM
Please consider the traffic patterns when planning the redevelopment of Ridgeland Commons. There is already a huge traffic situation and safety concern being discussed on the 100-300 blocks of S.East Ave. By closing Scoville, the traffic issues and safety will worsen on East Ave. Please consider closing East along with Scoville to improve our community's safety. Thanks
6. Sun, 3/16/08 5:22 PM
Closure of Scoville would be a great addition to the Ridgeland commons recreational area. However, closure of Scoville without appropriate action on adjacent streets such as East will worsen the traffic on these side streets. East Ave would become an even great hazard to the residents and their children. In addition, has there been any study as to parking for the Farmer's market? Parking is always an afterthought in Oak Park, and the residents are always asked to suck it up with the increased congestions, litter and inconvenience of residential street park. Ridgeland commons needs renovation. Focus needs to be placed on improvement and modernization of the buildings over expansion of the fields.
7. Sun, 3/16/08 3:31 PM
Hello, I am very concerned about the closing of Scoville for expansion of the Ridgeland Park. There is already a huge traffic problem on East Ave. in that area and the closing of Scoville will only increase the traffic and exacerbate the problems with safety on that street. The traffic patterns need to be looked at more closely, as that part of town is already congested and the driving is unsafe. Please approach this responsibly with the safety of the community in mind. Thank you.
8. Sun, 3/16/08 2:59 PM
I am opposed to any plan that would close off Scoville between South Blvd. and Lake Street. I live on East Avenue and feel that the closure of Scoville would only encourage more traffic to be rerouted to East Avenue as a thoroughfare to Lake St.
9. Sun, 3/16/08 2:11 PM
As a resident of Oak Park with four children, I am very pleased with improvements being made over time to each of the park facilities. However, as a resident of the 100 block of South East Avenue, I am absolutely opposed to the potential Ridgeland Common expansion plan that would close Scoville Ave between Lake Street and South Blvd. The 100, 200, and 300 blocks of East Avenue endure much more traffic than many other Oak Park streets, and closing Scoville would only increase the volume of traffic. East Avenue already serves as a "convenient cut-through" for many drivers; why give them more opportunities? Many children live on these blocks, and we constantly worry about the cars, trucks, buses, that ignore speed limits and stop signs. Also, the youth foot traffic is very high due to our location between Fenwick and OPRF. Is gaining 40' of park space more important than the safety of the children who would use those exact parks? Or, if the Scoville strip is closed, you should also close the East Avenue block between Lake and South. It should be both or NONE.

10. Sat, 3/15/08 7:30 AM

Sir: I can support the visionary plan as a positive advancement for the Park District. Having said this I have strong concerns....parking and increased traffic on East Ave. Parking...I suggest either underground parking under the new structure, additional levels added to the high school parking structure, or a public/private development of parking structure on the current church surface lot. Traffic...moving the main field house from Ridgeland Ave to East Ave you are inviting traffic to bypass Ridgeland and use our street as the primary entry to the RRC. To protect our neighborhood, close East Ave from Lake Street to North Blvd. This will give you many advantages..... The RRC will have additional frontage to use as a pedestrian plaza, the condos to the west and the dance studio can use North Blvd as a primary entry (North Blvd dead ending at East Ave will calm the current traffic volume) and the neighborhood south of the viaduct will continue to be residential zone,,,,,not a driveway to the village recreational center. These concerns, unaddressed, would prevent myself and our neighbors from supporting these needed improvements. Thank you.

11. Tue, 3/11/08 5:04 PM

As a nearby resident and frequent user of Ridgeland Common, I read with interest these three potential plans to modernize and improve its facilities. Two features in particular concern me, however. One, I do not wish to lose the sledding hill. This winter's bountiful snowfall afforded my family many enjoyable sledding days at Ridgeland, which for the first time actually felt safe enough to use. Obviously many villagers enjoyed their sledding at Barrie, and a better, safer time was had by all because there were two sledding hills to choose from. Parking is of course easier to find when the entire sledding populace is not trying to use the same facility at the same time, as well. Not only is Ridgeland more convenient to families in the center and north sections of the village, its shorter, less steep slopes are much more appropriate for young children/beginner sledders and anyone bothered by the greater windchills at the top of Barrie's hill. Secondly, as a resident of the 200 block of S. East, I am VERY concerned at the prospect of closing Scoville between Lake and North Blvd. This is an extremely heavily trafficked block, by students and others parking to use the high school, Pilgrim Nursery School, the Farmers Market and by residents of all the 100-300 blocks between Elmwood - East who wish to travel east-bound on Lake. Many, many cars seem to use that route to avoid traffic on East or Ridgeland. We on East are currently involved with the Village over our concerns about traffic, speeding, and safety on the 100-300 blocks. Closing one of the few alternatives to East would only make an already bad situation much worse. I knew when I bought my property that it was near Ridgeland, and I experience that as a benefit. But never would I expect, as a neighborhood homeowner, that a street I travel on sometimes as often as 8 times per day would be closed! Please look for options that improve Ridgeland Common without negatively impacting the quality of life of its neighbors.

12. Tue, 3/11/08 2:10 PM

As a resident of the 200 block of East Avenue, I am, like my neighbors, very concerned about the effect of this project and its inevitable impact on the already congested blocks of East Avenue. I am opposed to any street closures that will result in the diversion of more traffic onto East Avenue. We have for some time now been looking to the Village for remedies to our traffic issues, and this project clearly will have an opposite, detrimental impact on the situation we have asked the Village to address and resolve. Someone eventually is going to be injured or killed by the irresponsible drivers barreling down East Avenue. We do not need more of them, but fewer. We would insist that the Ridgeland Common Project committee take East Avenue traffic crisis into consideration before making any changes to traffic flow on any adjacent streets.

13. Tue, 3/11/08 12:35 PM

As an Oak Park resident, I am obviously excited about plans for a new and improved Ridgeland Common. As a resident of the 300 block of S. East Ave, however, I have some very real concerns about the impact the "visionary" plan is likely to have on S. East Avenue traffic patterns. The 100-300 blocks are currently in the midst of discussions with the Village about concerns we already have regarding speeding, traffic and parking enforcement related issues on these blocks of S. East Avenue. Traffic, parking and safety are already huge concerns, and closing off Scoville between Lake and South is certain to make matters much worse, since many people use Scoville as an alternative to avoid East Avenue traffic. I am strongly opposed to any such street closing in absence of a concurrent closing of S. East Avenue between Lake and South. Closing this section of S. East Avenue enables planners and Village residents to "think even bigger" than the existing "visionary" plan by adding valuable additional park space. In short, I share the sentiments of other residents of the 100-300 blocks of S. East Avenue, and am only in favor of a plan that closes both street sections, or neither.

14. Tue, 3/11/08 10:52 AM

As a resident on the 200 block of South East I am very much opposed to the closing of Scoville between Lake and South Blvd due to the extra traffic it will cause on South East. We already have a serious safety issue on South East and closing of this passage way under the railroad line while keep South East open will only increase the hazards on South East. I suggest you also close South East between Lake and South Blvd for an extra 30' or 40' times 360' feet to the park. Neither or both is the only reasonable option.

15. Mon, 3/10/08 12:46 PM

I am a proponent of the visionary plan over the expanded plan for the park. My experience in Oak Park is that implementing a smaller plan to save money now just means that it costs more later to implement the greater plan. In particular, I strongly support the inclusion of space for a dog park in whatever plan is implemented. I am a frequent user of both the temporary dog park and the expanded field on weekends. This program has done more to build my sense of community in Oak Park than any other program I have joined, and it's a great use of my tax dollars.

16. Fri, 3/7/08 4:57 PM

I loved all of the pictures of features for the proposed new site, and the visionary plan. Please build a building large enough to accomodate ALL of it (at least 4 floors high), but get rid of the dog park! Be sure to also come up with a solution for parking, so patrons can park for free and not have to buy a permit or pay by the hour.

17. Thu, 3/6/08 8:28 AM

1. I use the dog park twice a day every day, hope we can find room
2. I am a soccer coach. It looks like the 3rd plan takes away the dedicated soccer/field hockey/lacrosse space across from the high school and combines it with baseball? The infield presents a big problem for playing any other sport but baseball. Also, this looks like a net loss of green space for all of these sports. Currently, we can practice 3 teams on the the Lake St. field but the infields would prevent that.
3. As a resident and taxpayer, I support renovating what we have to save money.

18. Wed, 3/5/08 7:33 PM

I would like to make sure that important community amenities such as the dog park and the sledding hill are still present at Ridgeland. I don't see a need to eliminate these well-used amenities just to create something new and different. Ridgeland is not "broken" and doesn't need a major set of changes. It just needs updating. Thanks.

19. Wed, 3/5/08 6:16 PM

I am concerned that the dog park has been relegated to third-class status. I know it was established as a temporary solution -- and looks it -- but we have yet to see a permanent dog park materialize. Until we do, please keep in mind the many of us who rely on Ridgeland Common to enjoy our dogs off-leash. Not all of these options do, and it is not clear why a little creative energy wasn't directed at this very legitimate use of outdoor space.

20. Wed, 3/5/08 1:57 PM

A dog run isn't just for dogs. It serves the citizens who live with dogs. We citizens use the dog run nearly every day the facility is open. We watch our dogs play with their friends, and we talk and enjoy the socialization.

21. Wed, 3/5/08 10:53 AM

Permanent dog park

22. Tue, 3/4/08 1:16 PM

The ice rink is by far the most important aspect of this plan, as it is the only rink for many miles. Price must be kept to a minimum, so stick with repairing / re-engineering the existing structures.

23. Mon, 3/3/08 9:58 PM

Where is the parking? This is an important component. 2 ice rinks would be wonderful even if one were a studio rink and the other one a full size rink. Both figure skating and hockey classes would benefit from this. I think the enrollment in ice skating classes this last season showed that there was more than enough demand for the extra ice sheet.

24. Fri, 2/29/08 5:16 PM

Ridgeland Common is an important community asset. I hope the final plans reflect the needs and interests of our community.