

Source: Mike Hood

MH

Agenda Item No. _____

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff 
DATE: January 26, 2009
RE: Lee School Playground Expansion – Impact on Paquin Park

FISCAL NOTES:

City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply:	
\$0	City's current net FY cost.
\$0	Amount of Funds Already appropriated
\$0	Amount of budget amendment needed
\$0	Estimated 2 yr net costs:
\$0	One-time
\$0	Operating / On-going
Program Impact:	
N	New program/ agency (Y/N)
N	Duplicates/expands an existing program (Y/N)
Y	Fiscal impact on any local political subdivision (Y/N)
Resources Required:	
N	Requires add'l FTE personnel? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional facilities? (Y/N)
N	Requires additional capital equipment? (Y/N)
Mandates:	
N	Federal or state mandated? (Y/N)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Parks and Recreation Department has recently been notified by the Columbia Public School District (see attached letter) of their intent to expand the playground area at Lee Elementary School. The playground expansion will require the use of a portion of a school owned tract of land which has, for many years, been maintained by the City as part of Paquin Park (see attached map). School District staff and Park Department staff have met and discussed the proposed expansion. As part of this discussion, the School District has agreed to continue to allow the City to use a portion of the School district property on which is located the walkway that provides ADA access to the park's raised (accessible) community garden beds. A new fence will be installed by the School District to clearly define the adjusted boundary between the park and the school playground.

DISCUSSION: Paquin Park was developed by City in 1978 to serve both as a neighborhood park for east central Columbia and specifically to provide outdoor, open space for use by the residents of Paquin Towers. To develop the park, the City purchased approximately 0.9 acres of land immediately north of Paquin Towers and south of Lee Elementary School. Directly

adjoining the City's property was a tract (approximately 130' by 55' or 0.16 acres) owned by the School District which was not being used as part of the Lee Elementary site. At the time of the park development, it was apparently mutually agreed that the City would develop and maintain the school owned property as part of the park until and/or unless the School District identified a need to use the property. However, neither School District staff nor Park Department staff can find any record of such agreement ever being made in writing.

Lee School has for some time been interested in expanding their limited playground space and has recently received a grant which would provide the funding to do so. As such, they plan to use a portion of the school owned tract to accomplish the planned expansion. For safety and security reasons, the School District intends to include the playground expansion within the fenced boundaries of the school property.

Park staff has met with School District officials to discuss the proposed project and its impact on the park. During these discussions, it was determined that a portion of the walkway providing ADA access to the raised garden beds used by the Paquin Tower residents is located on the school owned property. School officials have agreed to locate the new fence defining the playground in such a manner that the accessible walkway remains within the park and is excluded from the playground expansion. In return, park staff will provide any needed maintenance of the portion of the new fence erected

adjacent to the park property. School officials have indicated that they intend to initiate construction of the new fence this coming spring. Once the new fence is erected, the school district will assume maintenance of the property included with the fenced boundaries of the playground.

It should also be noted that the Lee School playground will remain open to public use in non-school hours under the terms of the grant agreement between the City and the School District whereby the City provided funding for new playground equipment. The public entrance to the playground will be provided through the playground's front gate on the north side of the property. There will be no direct access from the park to the playground .

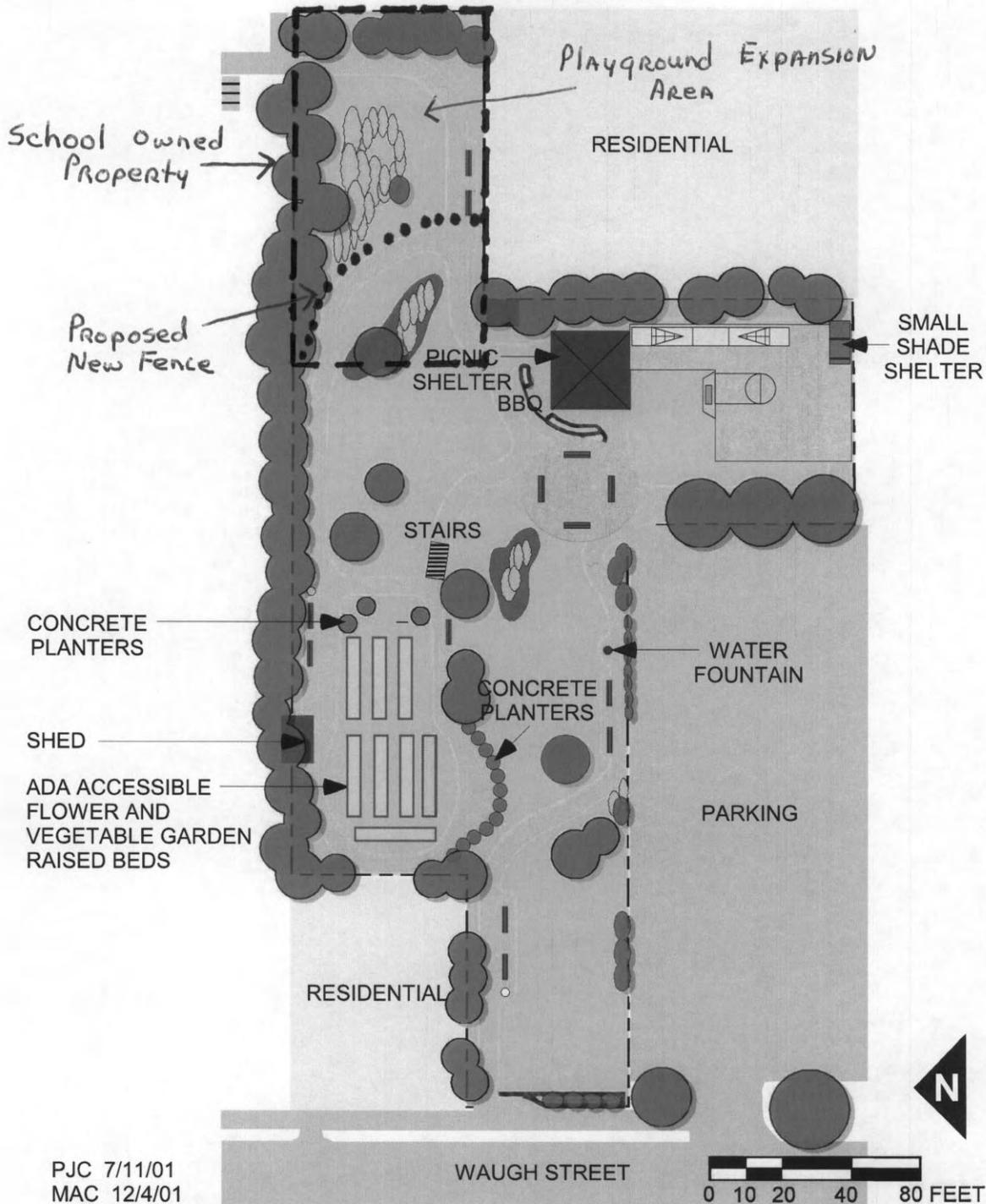
FISCAL IMPACT: Staff anticipates no net fiscal impact from this action. The School District will be assuming responsibility for maintenance of the grounds being included within the fenced boundaries of the playground. This reduction in park maintenance responsibilities should off-set, if not exceed, any increase in maintenance expenses incurred by the City in regard to the new fence.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff believes that the School District, as owners of the property, has the right to use any or all of the 130' x 55' tract for the proposed playground expansion. In agreeing to use only a portion of the tract, the District has insured that accessible use of the park's community gardens can continue without interruption and without any additional expense to the City. It is recommended that a formal written agreement be developed and adopted by the School Board and the City Council authorizing the City's use of the smaller portion of the school's property. It is anticipated that such an agreement will be similar to numerous other use/lease agreements between the two agencies.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS: Accept this report and direct staff to prepare a written use agreement with the School District

PAQUIN PARK

212 WAUGH STREET



PJC 7/11/01
MAC 12/4/01

WAUGH STREET

0 10 20 40 80 FEET

PARK FACILITIES

- 1 ACRE
- NON-RESERVABLE SHELTER
- 5 - PICNIC TABLES
- NO LIGHTS
- NO ELECTRICITY
- 1 - ADA DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- NO RESTROOMS
- 2 - ADA SINGLE BBQ GRILLS
- 1- HALF COURT BASKETBALL COURT
- 1 - SHUFFLEBOARD COURT
- 1 - ADA FLOWER & VEGETABLE GARDEN

KEY

-  BENCH
-  BOULDER
-  LANDSCAPE BED
-  PARK PROPERTY
-  PAVED AREA
-  RESIDENTIAL
-  TRASH CAN

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. James Ritter
Interim Superintendent of Schools



January 10, 2009

Michael J. Hood, Director
Parks & Recreation Department
1 South 7th Street
Columbia, MO 65201

Subject: Expansion of Play area for Lee Elementary School
Re: Attached overhead views of site (2)

Dear, Mr. Hood

It is the intent of Columbia Public School District to expand the play area at Lee Elementary School to include property which is presently being used by the City Parks belonging to the Columbia Public School District.

The proposed fence will be installed and extend from reference point 1, South to the North edge of the handicap ramp and run on the North and East side of the ramp connecting to reference point 5. There will be no walk through gate in this area as the administrators' for this facility feel this creates a safety and security issue for our CPS staff and students. The only access for the use of the School Playground area will be through the front gate as is the present procedure.

The dead trees in between reference points 1 and 3 will be removed by the City. The existing fence between these two points will be removed by the Columbia School District Maintenance crews. The addition of the new fence will be coordinated by Columbia Public School District.

It is not the intent of Columbia Public School District to hire any firm to set property boundaries unless deemed necessary by the City. If so any cost for this service shall be shared by both parties.

It is further agreed, the property including handicap ramp and area to the South and West of this ramp remain the property of the Columbia Public School District and that this area will be used at no cost to the City and maintained by the City Parks & Recreation at no future cost to Columbia Public School District.

In fair trade for use of this land and handicap ramp along with the realization that potential damage to the new fence will most likely be due to through traffic from the park area we would request the

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maintenance of the fence from reference point 1 to point 5 be the responsibility of the City Park & Recreation.

Should you any questions regarding this letter please feel free to contact me anytime. Again thanks for working with the District in coming to this agreement.



Charles A. Oestreich

CC:

Dr. Nick Boren

Chief Operations Officer

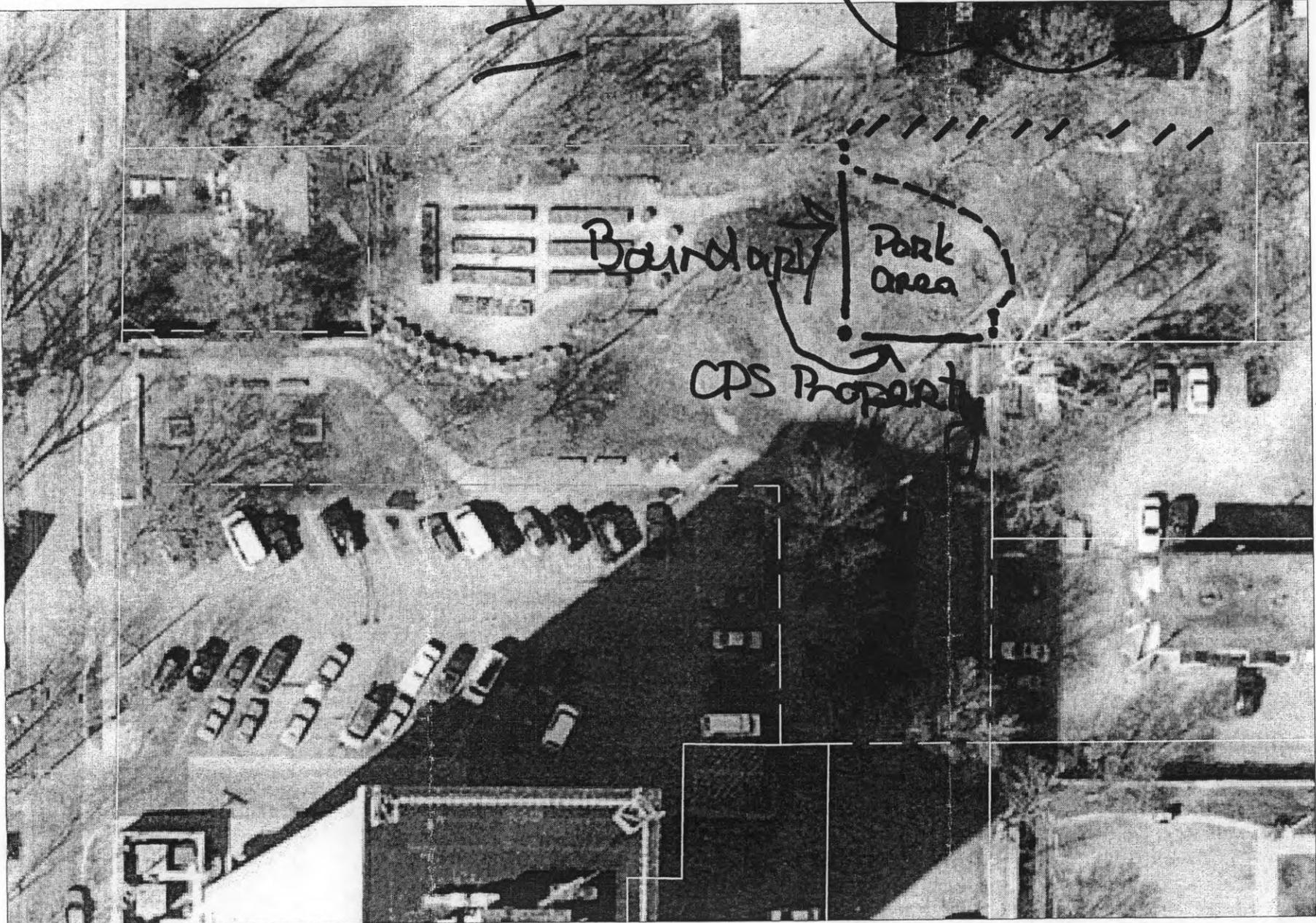
Dr. Jack Jensen

Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education

Ms. Teresa VanDover

Principal, Lee Elementary School

Remove Fence
Add Fence - Proposed



PAQUIN PARK-CITY PROPERTY

40 SCALE ▲ NORTH



2
Reference Points

PAQUIN PARK-CITY PROPERTY

40 SCALE ▲ NORTH