

# TYLER PARK

## RENEWAL MASTER PLAN



FOR  
THE OLMSTED PARKS CONSERVANCY  
AND  
LOUISVILLE METRO PARKS

OCTOBER 2010

BY

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*“That the park throughout is a single work of art, and as such, subject to the primary law of every work of art, namely, that it shall be framed upon a single, noble motive, to which the design of all its parts, in some more or less subtle way, shall be confluent and helpful.” \**

\*Frederick Law Olmsted

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This project was initiated by the City of Louisville’s Metro Parks Department in partnership with the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Inc. in order to restore and improve historic Tyler Park. The Olmsted Brothers designed this historic park in 1907 when the neighborhood was just beginning to be developed from pastoral farmland. Additional facilities have been added to Tyler Park over the years, with tennis and the open lawn still remaining from the original plan.

The purpose of the plan is to create a long-term strategy for preservation, improvement, use, and management of this important historic park. Tyler Park is a valued community resource and this plan establishes clear directions and priorities that can be implemented over time through specific projects, daily management, and community initiatives as funding becomes available and community advocacy and volunteer efforts activate.

The project description called for a conceptual master plan that would address the present day issues and meet current needs while staying true to the original Olmsted Brothers plan. Many park uses introduced over the years have been well received by park users, however, some conflicts and organizational problems have arisen prompting the need for this analysis. Other issues such as drainage, accessibility between the two sides of the park, failing infrastructure, and park access as well as surrounding vehicular and pedestrian traffic are being addressed in this master plan.

The process of developing a long-range plan for the improvement of an important community resource, such as Tyler Park, must involve a variety of approaches and studies. The planning process included community involvement and research into the unique history, existing conditions, and current use of the park. Project tasks included an historic resource inventory, an historic landscape analysis, an existing conditions survey, as well as a user survey, and three public meetings. Information was gathered from a variety of sources on the park history, existing conditions, and user needs. The information was analyzed, mapped, and documented to determine and uncover any significant relationships or important attributes.

Since the development of this plan addresses the comprehensive improvement of this important community recreation space, the design team worked closely with the park user community and neighborhood association to develop an approach that addresses the historic design intent as well as current and future community needs. The Tyler Park Neighborhood Association Park Planning Committee met several times to develop a list of recommendations for the consultants to consider.

The Olmsted Brothers designed Tyler Park in 1907 and it has served the neighborhood and surrounding community for over 100 years. It is the hope of the design team and of the park’s users that this improved recreation area can fulfill the needs of the community for years to come.

## II. PARK HISTORY & LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Baxter Avenue crosses Tyler Park on a stone overpass, built of large limestone blocks in 1904. A stone tunnel allows park visitors to move under the roadway without having to cross Baxter Avenue. This large-scale overpass construction was a major character feature of the park when the Olmsted Brothers were hired to prepare a design for the park in 1907. The park, which was completed in 1910, was named for Mayor Henry S. Tyler who died in office in 1896. It serves as a lasting testament to his public service.

Park planning efforts influenced the character and use of Tyler Park through the twentieth century. In 1945, a General Plan was developed for the park that was not comprehensive but shows circulation systems and tree locations and sizes. Plans for a shelter and comfort station were prepared in 1955. A 1973 plan by Watson and Hughes, Consulting Engineers, shows two new tennis courts, an increase from the four existing courts, a shelter and picnic area, and a new basketball court. In 1980, a Master Plan for the park prepared by James L. Loper, Landscape Architect included a detailed planting plan. Plans for the Tyler Park Play Area in 1981 detail a number of improvements, including grading and new play equipment. Planned improvements to the Tyler Park Wading Pool by John Shulhafer & Associates followed in 1985. A new playground for small children was installed by Metro Parks near the tennis courts in the mid 1990s and a new playground and swings for larger children was installed on the west side of the park in 1999.

### LANDSCAPE UNITS

Review of the design and construction of Tyler Park yielded four distinct spaces, or landscape units, that can be mapped in the landscape. The four landscape units are:

- *Unit 1: Scenic Lawn* - The triangular lawn on the west side of the park is the principal feature of this landscape unit, surrounded by a walk and framed by vegetated slopes. This was the scenic core of the park in the original design that was uncluttered by improvements and that provided a sense of landscape within the neighborhood that could be used for diverse purposes. Only one recreation facility was included in the Olmsted Brothers plan, a small fitness feature along the edge of the overpass. Today this area is more segmented with spray pool, playground, shelter with restrooms, basketball court, and smaller lawn area. A handicapped parking access is located at the west edge, further limiting the green space. The slopes around the lawn are growing to a mixture of native and invasive vegetation with little management.
- *Unit 2: Active Recreation & Scenic Enclosure* - Unit 2 is positioned east of the Baxter Avenue overpass. This landscape unit was originally designed as the location for park facilities, including tennis courts, baseball diamond, and playground area to support active play. (See Figures 1 and 2.) Today this area has six tennis courts and tot play area. Vegetated slopes provide green edges on the north and south of Landscape Unit 2 while the houses along Tyler Park Drive provide an edge on the east side of this unit and the stone overpass of Baxter Avenue provides enclosure on the west.
- *Unit 3: Overpass & Street* - Unit 3 is the large limestone overpass that bisects Tyler Park, dividing Units 1 and 2, and that supports the movement of Baxter Avenue over the parkland. This feature separates the traffic above the park and the pedestrians through

the center of the overpass. The stone faces of the overpass are character defining features of Tyler Park.

- *Unit 4: Park Edge* - Tyler Park Drive, Castlewood Avenue, and Edenside Avenue surround Tyler Park, comprising Unit 4. In the original design, these tree-lined streets were intended to form a neighborhood edge, separating the park landscape from adjacent areas. Today, the park edges, streets and sidewalks are fragmented with no formal tree planting around the park.

## **TYLER PARK RECREATIONAL USE**

In terms of use, Tyler Park is an outdoor and recreational resource that provides a valuable community green space and offers recreational opportunities. Since the 19th century diverse recreation within public parks has been recognized. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. put forward four types of recreation: active, passive, social, and educational. These are described as:

*Active Recreation* - Active or exertive recreation is defined as aerobic exercise that increases heart rate, is a fitness activity and usually generates sweat. Exercise is related to the park as an open space for running, walking and perhaps stretching of a workout on simple apparatus as a part of an exercise loop. Active recreation can involve facilities or equipment like fields or courts for team or individual fitness pursuits, like running on a track or playing basketball.

*Passive Recreation* - Passive recreation is broadly defined as park enjoyment in informal ways. Passive recreation was cited as “recreative” by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. in the nineteenth century, and meant to recreate one’s self through experience of scenic landscapes.<sup>1</sup> It encompasses a range of casual and informal uses of parks and open spaces. It is often cited by users as simply spending time in a green, scenic environment. Passive activities include strolling, sitting, reading, hanging out, dog walking, picnicking, sunbathing, enjoying being outdoors, and other related park uses.

*Social Recreation* - Social recreation involves groups, friends, or families using the park for celebrations, picnics, reunions, performances, dances, fairs and festivals, sports spectating, etc. Known as gregarious, or friendly and polite contact with people of all classes in Olmsted’s lexicon, social recreation can take place within the broader landscape, be focused on facilities, like picnic tables and pavilions and can accompany other types of recreation.<sup>2</sup> For example, participating in an educational program, walking with a group of friends, or watching a sporting event, are all inclusive of two or more forms of recreation.

*Educational Recreation* - Educational recreation and interpretation of the landscape is casual or structured place-based learning about park and local history, ecology, geology, horticulture, garden design, art, etc. Educational recreation in a park setting often occurs by using the park as an outdoor classroom and focusing on elements found within the park

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<sup>1</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted, *Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns*, 1870, reprinted 1970.

<sup>2</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted, *Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns*, 1870, reprinted 1970.

landscape. Educational recreation can be addressed in a park atmosphere through guided or self-guided tours, hikes, informational signs, park programs, lectures and exhibits.

Types of recreation and landscape use in Tyler Park differ by landscape unit. The original land use in Unit 1 is scenic space dedicated to providing a broad landscape within a dense neighborhood and the Olmsted Brothers plan included only one recreation facility, the handball courts along the edge of the overpass. Recreation in Unit 1 is passive and social. Unit 2 is active, passive, and social. This area was designed for several recreation facilities set within passages of trees and sloping lawn. The recreation elements were tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and a playground. Unit 3 is used primarily for movement, both along Baxter Avenue and through the stone underpass between Units 1 and 2. Unit 4 is used as a scenic, green neighborhood edge, separating the enclosed park landscape from adjacent areas.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

In addition to landscape units, cultural landscapes can be subdivided into character-defining features. Federal guidance including the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* and *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* refer to and define the character-defining features of a landscape.<sup>3</sup> Character-defining features are identified and enumerated in as a series of interrelated, specific aspects of the cultural landscape. They include Spatial Organization, Land Patterns, Land Use & Visual Relationships, Topography & Drainage, Vegetation, Circulation Features, Landscape Structures, and Site Furnishings & Objects. For the purpose of discussion, this summary history narrative divides Tyler Park into character-defining features. These character-defining landscape features are used to provide detailed consideration of the unique qualities of Tyler Park as designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm and built in the early twentieth century. Use is considered above in the discussion of recreation.

### Spatial Organization, Land Patterns & Visual Relationships

These features address the three-dimensional organization and patterns of spaces in the landscape, including the uses of the land as well as views and visual relationships that are shaped by both cultural and natural features and defined by topography, vegetation, circulation, built elements, and often a combination of these character-defining features. At Tyler Park, the organization of distinct park spaces divided by an elevated central avenue and overpass is a dominant feature that defines the spatial and visual relationships. The topography of the park, which slopes to the Baxter Avenue overpass, shapes views and visual relationships. Views to the entire park are gained from Baxter Avenue in Unit 3, but visual relationships between Units 1 and 2 are limited by topography and the limestone overpass dividing the two spaces. From the overpass superior views of the park below are available and this overlook is a park use as well.

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<sup>3</sup>Robert R. Page, Cathy A. Gilbert, Susan A. Dolan, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*, Washington DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, 1998.

## Topography & Natural Systems

Topography is the shape of the ground plane and its height or depth. Topography occurs in relation to natural systems and as a result of human manipulation. Natural systems include landforms, watershed systems, climate, surface and underground flows, and their effects. The topography of Tyler Park is bowled toward the center with higher elevations all around the park except for the far western end where it slopes out toward Castlewood Avenue.

## Vegetation

Vegetation can include groups of plants, individual plants, agricultural fields, planting beds, formal or informal tree groves, woodland, meadow, or turf. The Olmsted vocabulary of shrub massing is evident throughout the original park plan, with flowering deciduous shrubs creating interplay of textures from fine to medium to coarse. Shrubs, primarily deciduous flowering in a mixed mass over groundcovers, are often found at path intersections within planted triangles. Trees planted at regular intervals line the streets surrounding the park. The open lawn in Unit 1 contains scattered paired and individual trees, generally pushed to the edges of this triangular area. Vegetated slopes frame the lawn. In Unit 2, vegetated slopes enclose the park in a green edge to the north and south. Vegetation in Unit 3 is limited to the street trees along Baxter Avenue. Tree plantings in Unit 4 along the park edge create visual separation between the interior of Tyler Park and the surrounding neighborhood.

## Circulation

Circulation features may include roads, drives, trails, paths, and parking areas individually sited or linked to form a network or system. Alignment, width, surface and edge treatment, and materials contribute to the character of circulation features. Vehicular circulation at Tyler Park is limited to perimeter streets and linear Baxter Avenue, on the overpass that bisects the park. Pedestrian circulation within the park sweeps visitors through the space, forming the edge of broad, open lawn areas that accommodate both active and passive recreation. The passage below Baxter Avenue was designed as a series of steps and is thus not accessible to people with disabilities, on bikes, or with strollers. Pedestrian access points into the park are found at all of the major road intersections. Stone steps in Units 1 and 2 negotiate changes in topography.

## Structures

Landscape structures are non-habitable constructed features such as pavilions or features such as walls, bridges, arbors, terraces, steps, and fences. Structures in Unit 1 are limited to one small area of handball courts. More structures are found in Unit 2, designed to accommodate active play, including tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and a playground. The large limestone overpass structure that forms the Baxter Avenue overpass defines Unit 3, shaping both its character and use. This structure incorporates a large arch that allows pedestrians to pass between Units 1 and 2 without crossing busy Baxter Avenue.



### Site Furnishings & Objects

Site furnishings such as signage and light fixtures are generally considered small-scale elements in the landscape while items such as garbage cans and benches are considered landscape objects. Site furnishing and objects are not detailed on the 1907 Olmsted Brothers plan, but may have included signage and light fixtures, among others.



Figure 1: This undated view from Tyler Park Drive south across Unit 2 shows the sloping topography of Tyler Park. Young trees and newly-planted shrubs are visible in the park, primarily along walks and drives. Curving paths guide visitor movement throughout the space. The tennis courts positioned in Unit 2 are apparent in this period photograph. Courtesy Metro Parks. (R-THL-MP-Tyler2-Undated.jpg)



Figure 2: The size of trees and other plantings in this undated view southeast from the northwest corner of Unit 2 at Baxter Avenue suggests that it was taken at a later date than Figure 1. Vines stretch across the wire fence of the tennis courts. Single trees are scattered on the sloping south hillside, opposite the camera. In this photograph, park visitors use the tennis courts for active recreation, a use accommodated by the Olmsted Brothers' 1907 design. Courtesy Metro Parks. (R-THL-MP-Tyler-Undated.jpg)



OLMSTED PARKS  
RESTORE. ENHANCE. PRESERVE.



METRO  
Parks



# TYLER PARK MASTER PLAN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

## EXISTING CONDITIONS WITH LANDSCAPE UNITS



enviroms inc.  
landscape architecture



Heritage Landscapes LLC  
Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners



studio  
MATTELLI  
ENGINEERS

SEPTEMBER 2010

SCALE: 1" = 50'



### Landscape Units Legend

- - - - Unit 1: Scenic Lawn
- - - - Unit 2: Active Recreation & Scenic Enclosure
- - - - Unit 3: Overpass & Street
- - - - Unit 4: Park Edge

# TYLER PARK MASTER PLAN

## LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

### OLMSTED PLAN WITH LANDSCAPE UNITS

SEPTEMBER 2010

SCALE: 1" = 50'



**Landscape Units Legend**

- - - - Unit 1: Scenic Lawn
- - - - Unit 2: Active Recreation & Scenic Enclosure
- - - - Unit 3: Overpass & Street
- - - - Unit 4: Park Edge

CITY OF LOUISVILLE PARK COMMISSION  
 PRELIMINARY TYLER PARK PLAN  
 Scale 50' = 1"  
 12.62.10

### **III. EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Tyler Park sits in a bowl with its surrounding edges, which are roadways on all sides, at higher elevations. The topography slopes from the road edges fairly drastically in some areas making it difficult for handicap accessible connections and exacerbating storm runoff and erosion issues in the park. Some of the pedestrian connections, particularly from Baxter Avenue into the park, are historic stone steps. There are several places in the park, particularly in front of the four tennis courts, where water ponds after heavy rains.

The character-defining landscape features that are found in the park today are similar in many respects to those that were originally intended when the park was first designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm over 100 years ago. However, several changes have occurred over the years that have impacted the character and integrity of the original plan. The park is still very much split into two halves by the Baxter Avenue overpass. Both halves of the park have much of their intended character but have been impacted by the addition of several active recreational facilities, particularly in Unit 1 on the west side of the park. Interior circulation paths are similar to the original plan but some path connections have disappeared over the years or were not built.

#### **Unit 1 – The West Side of the Park**

Unit 1, which was intended as an open event lawn surrounded by a loop walk with few active recreation facilities, has been cluttered with a variety of facilities that encroach on the oval lawn area and limit its use as a true event lawn. Although the loop walking path from the original plan is intact and in fairly good condition, several facilities including a basketball court, spray fountain, a playground and swings have been added to the lawn area inside the loop. Additional facilities outside of the loop path include a combined restroom and shelter which is in poor condition and often vandalized, an underused volleyball court, picnic areas, and a small parking lot. Vegetation on the park edge includes trees and in some cases, a thick layer of overgrown invasive understory plants, particularly along Tyler Park Drive west. The size of these shrubs tend to obscure views from surrounding streets into the park and make this part of the park feel hidden and unsafe. The loop path has several older benches and pedestrian scale lighting placed at regular intervals along its length. The historic stone steps into the park from Baxter Avenue are in need of repair.

#### **Unit 2 – The East Side of the Park**

Unit 2, which is the most visible side of the park, contains the original fenced four-court and two-court tennis areas, a tot lot playground near the four tennis courts, a drinking fountain, a sledding hill, picnic areas, and a system of pedestrian walks with lighting and benches. The walks follow the layout of the original plan and are in fairly good condition but are missing several sections from the original plan that would provide needed accessibility within the park. The benches are old and not of a consistent style and the drinking fountain has problems. Vegetation on this side of the park consists of scattered trees, some very large, that are well maintained. The vegetation along Edenside Avenue consists of more understory plants that could be maintained better. The historic stone steps from both Baxter Avenue and Windsor Place are in need of repair. The area between Windsor Place and Tyler Park Drive east contains some interesting rock outcroppings and overgrown vegetation that could be designed and maintained better.

### **Unit 3 – Baxter Avenue Overpass**

The large elevated limestone overpass that carries Baxter Avenue through the park is a major feature that divides the park but also defines its character. Although the overpass is a major part of the park, the evaluation of its structural integrity and condition was not part of the scope of this project. The overpass contains an arched tunnel that allows access between the two sides of the park. A set of steps in the tunnel makes it difficult for people with disabilities or those using strollers or bikes to access each side.

Baxter Avenue on top of the overpass is two lanes but wide enough to include room for some parking on each side of the street. Narrow sidewalks on either side of the street are located on the outer edge of the overpass and provide excellent views into the park. A wrought iron railing protects people from falling off of the overpass into the park. Street trees planted between the street and sidewalk may affect the integrity of the overpass and seem unnecessary since many of the large trees in the park also hang over the street. Debris from the street trees often clogs the storm drains on the overpass.

### **Unit 4 – Park Edge and Street Frontage**

Tyler Park is surrounded by City streets with residential housing fronting on the opposite side of each street. Edenside Avenue and Tyler Park Drive are local streets that provide access to the houses located along them as well as the park. These streets have street side parking along them for the residents and park users. Castlewood Avenue is a connector street with higher traffic volumes and no parking along it.

Speeding is a problem along most of these streets with few controlled intersections and crosswalks that would allow people to access the park safely. Sidewalks are intermittent along most of the surrounding streets with them occurring only along the south side of Edenside Avenue adjacent to the park and the north side of Tyler Park Drive between Edenside Avenue and Tyler Parkway. Most of the park entrances also have accessibility issues for the handicapped with high curbing, no ramping, and steep slopes.

Although many park users walk to the park from the adjacent neighborhoods, parking can be a problem on high use days. Tennis rentals and other park events cause many more people to come to the park and many of those people drive there. Parking is currently left to on-street areas along Tyler Park Drive and Edenside Avenue that are not well defined. Good pedestrian connections from the parking areas into the park are lacking.

There is no curbing along most of the adjacent streets which causes a lack of definition along those edges and allows storm runoff to flow directly into the park causing erosion. Most of the storm drains in these areas are filled with silt and do not function. Vehicle access to the park is discouraged by unsightly wooden bollards. In some cases, the bollard footers have revealed themselves due to erosion caused from the storm runoff.

Vegetation along these streets has deteriorated dramatically with few of the original trees planted in the early 1900's remaining. Planting done since that time has been spotty and has not been done according to the original design intent in the Olmsted Brothers plan.

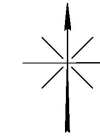
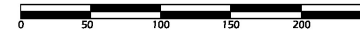
# TYLER PARK MASTER PLAN

## LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
















### EXISTING CONDITIONS

MAY 2009

SCALE: 1" = 50'



#### Existing Conditions Legend

-  Existing building
-  Existing treeline
-  Existing trees
-  Existing contours
-  Fence
-  Bollards
-  6 ft wood slat bench
-  6 ft perforated metal bench
-  8 ft wood & pipe bench
-  Flag Pole
-  Drinking Fountain
-  Catch basin
-  Manhole
-  Sanitary sewer line
-  Pedestrian Light
-  Utility Pole
-  Stop sign
-  No Parking sign
-  HC Parking sign

#### Existing Tree Legend

Key	Botanical Name	Common Name
AR	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple
AS	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	sugar maple
ASm	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	silver maple
CC	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	eastern redbud
CF	<i>Cornus florida</i>	flowering dogwood
CK	<i>Cladonia kantuckea</i>	yellowwood
FA	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	white ash
FP	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	green ash
JN	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	black walnut
LT	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tuliptree
MA	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	cucumber tree
MP	<i>Madia pomifera</i>	orange mulberry
MR	<i>Morus rubra</i>	mulberry
PC	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	callery pear
PS	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	white pine
PT	<i>Pinus serotina</i>	black cherry
QB	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak
QC	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	scarlet oak
QI	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	shingle oak
QN	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	water oak
QP	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak
TA	<i>Tilia americana</i>	American linden
UA	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm
UP	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	lacebark elm
UR	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	slippery elm

#### TREE CONDITIONS:

Tree conditions were evaluated on a four level system, as follows:

- (#1) Tree is in excellent condition with no apparent defects.
- (#2) Tree is in good condition but needs minor pruning or has defects.
- (#3) Tree is declining, needs major pruning, or has severe defects.
- (#4) Tree is dead or dying.

#### **IV. PROCESS, ISSUES & CONSIDERATIONS**

Issues for the project were identified through a series of meetings with Metro Parks and the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy as well as by collaborating with the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association. The process also included four public meetings that were held over a period of nine months as well as an online user survey to gain further information on the public use of the park and to help determine the priorities for implementation of park improvements. The survey and results are attached in Appendix A. The results of the survey clearly showed a positive view toward the design of the park and the historic layout.

The following list details the issues identified for the project through the meetings and surveys:

##### **I. Drainage and Erosion:**

- Surface runoff in the bowled topography creates drainage and erosion problems. Most of this runoff ends up going toward the tunnel under the overpass.
- There is a lot of erosion around the bollards and on the hillside from Tyler Park Drive east to the two tennis courts as well as in the wooded area sloping down to the park pathway along Tyler Park Drive west.
- Most of the existing storm drains on the street edges are filled with silt and do not function causing more runoff and erosion in the park. Many of the existing storm drains in the park are also in need of repair or replacement.
- There are several areas where water pools after rain events including a large area in front of the four tennis courts and smaller areas under the drinking fountain, by the restrooms, and by the steps under the overpass.
- The lack of curbing along the streets and parking areas allows more runoff into the park which also exacerbates the erosion and drainage problems.
- The storm sewers along Baxter Avenue get clogged with leaves and overflow into the stone structure of the overpass and cause problems in the park with runoff that flows out between the stonework. The stonework also needs restoration.

##### **2. Accessibility and Circulation:**

- There is currently no handicap accessible route between the two sides of the park as the tunnel under the overpass has a flight of steps. This makes it hard for people with disabilities or parents with strollers to easily access the two sides of the park.
- The lack of handicap access through the tunnel causes problems for playground users that might have a younger child on the tot lot east of the tunnel and older kids on the playground west of the tunnel.
- Speeding on Tyler Park drive east between Edenside Avenue and Baxter Avenue is a problem.
- There is no stop sign or crosswalk at the park entrance at Edgeland Avenue and Tyler Park Drive which makes it hard for people to access the park in this area.



- The park entrance at Edenside Avenue and Tyler Park Drive has no crosswalk.
- There are few sidewalks along the streets surrounding the park making access difficult, especially for the disabled. People have to walk in the street in many places to access the park.
- Few of the park entrances to the park are handicap accessible.
- The connections to the park along Castlewood Avenue need improvement.
- The stone stairs between Windsor Place and Tyler Park Dr. are in bad shape. There is not a connection to the park from the base of these steps.
- The stone steps that access the park on each side of Baxter Avenue need improvement and repair. There is no connection between the park walk and the Baxter Avenue walk on the east or southwest sides.

### **3. Parking:**

- Parking around the park is a big problem with few parking spots for park users and conflicts with property owners that park on the street around the park.
- The plan should provide more organized parking along both the east and west sides of Tyler Park Drive.
- The handicap parking at the west end of the park is unsightly and is often used by people that are not handicapped.
- There is no handicapped parking at the east side entrances along Tyler Park Drive.
- People park wherever they can because of the lack of organized parking. No parking zones should be enforced with 'no parking' signage.

### **4. Security and Vandalism:**

- Recurrent vandalism including graffiti is a big problem in the park. Signage with call-in information to report vandalism would be helpful.
- The west side of the park is too hidden by inappropriate and overgrown vegetation and seems unsafe at times.
- Teens and post-bar drunks congregate in the park and make a lot of noise at night.
- Police can't easily see what is happening in the tunnel area where drunks tend to congregate at night.
- Teens hang out around the playground because of the picnic tables there and sometimes bother the smaller children that are playing there.
- The wooded area along Tyler Park Drive west is a nice area for kids to play but is insecure and can be a hiding place. Homeless people have set up camps in this area in the past.
- The recessed area near the intersection of Castlewood Avenue and Baxter Avenue is another hiding place.
- The restroom is in a location that invites vandalism and other aberrant behaviors.

## 5. Facilities:

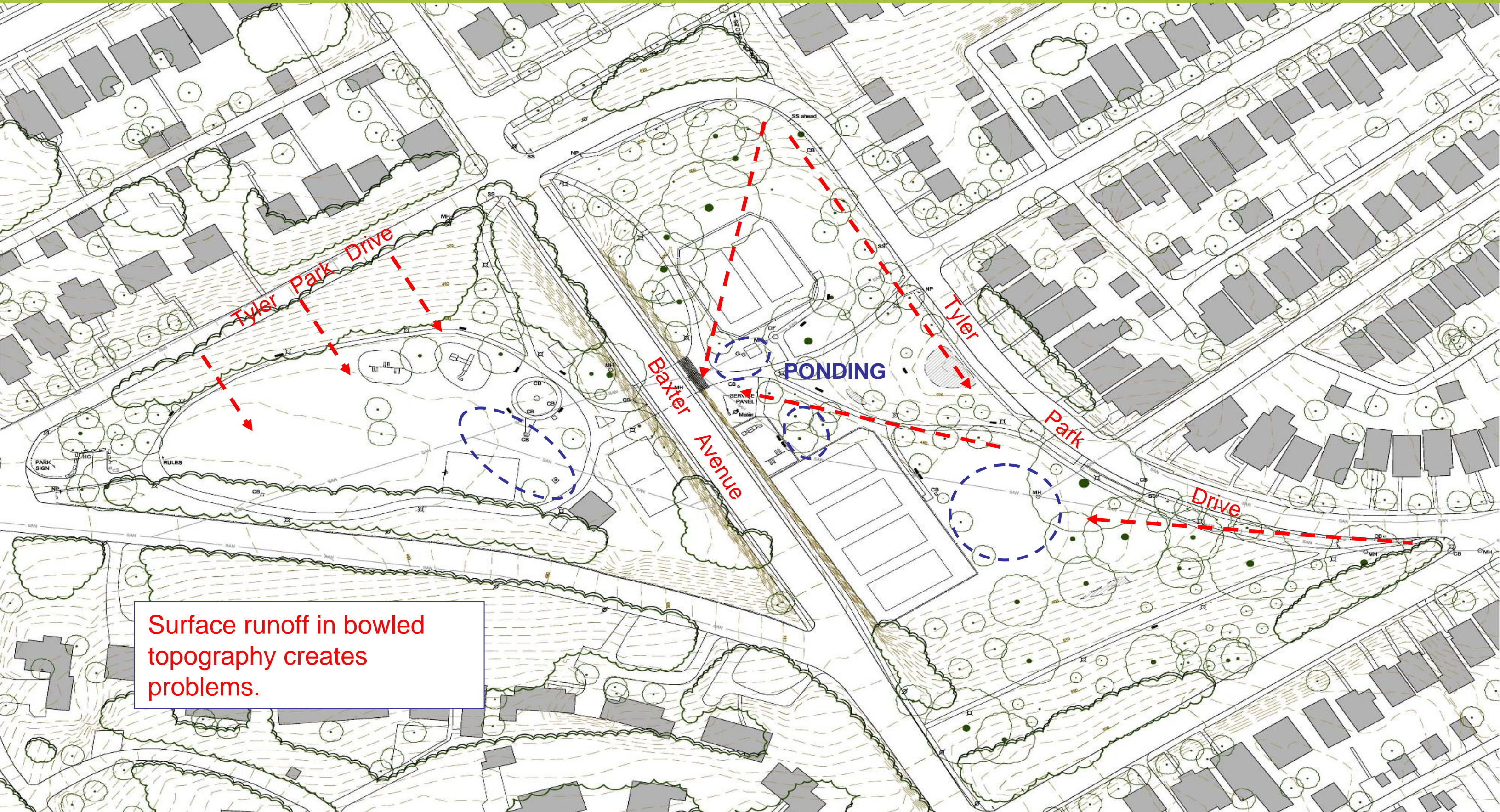
- The restroom is old, uninviting, and not well maintained. It is in a bad location in the park that is not easily monitored. It should be more accessible to the tot lot and open year round which is not the case now.
- The tot lot location seems to work well but lacks line of sight connection from it to the older children's playground on the west side of the park.
- The drinking fountain on the east side of the park is old and often broken. It is located in a depressed area and often has standing water around it. There is no drinking fountain on the west side of the park.
- Teens use the open area on west end for field sports, which is fine, but lack other activities to keep them occupied. The playground area lacks benches for adults.
- The spray fountain drains get clogged and water overflows onto the lawn creating muddy spots around it. The spray head wastes water because it is not on a timer and runs constantly. There are also not enough benches in this area.
- The volleyball court in the park is seldom used.
- The park acoustics in the lower part of the park are excellent but cannot be enjoyed due to the lack of facilities for concerts. There used to be a band stand in the park and many festivals and concerts have been held primarily on the west side.
- The hill into the park from Edenside Avenue down toward the tennis courts is used for sledding in the winter.
- There is no kiosk for information such as park rules, map, neighborhood postings that would help address park issues such as security and user conflicts. There is limited signage around the park addressing dog clean-up.
- The existing benches are old, of different styles, and need to be replaced. Seating is limited in the park.
- The existing trash receptacles are old and ugly.
- The fence along Castlewood Avenue is damaged and should be replaced with something durable and of the appropriate style.
- The wooden bollards around the park are unsightly.
- Some of the picnic tables are anchored to the dirt which causes hollowed out spots under them that gets muddy when it rains.

## 6. Other:

- The historic tree canopy along Tyler Park Drive has slowly disappeared over the years as trees have been removed and not replaced according to the original plan.
- Planting in the park is not very inviting with few flowering plants. The wooded area between Tyler Park Drive and Windsor Place could to be cleaned up and improved to reveal the nice limestone outcroppings in this area.

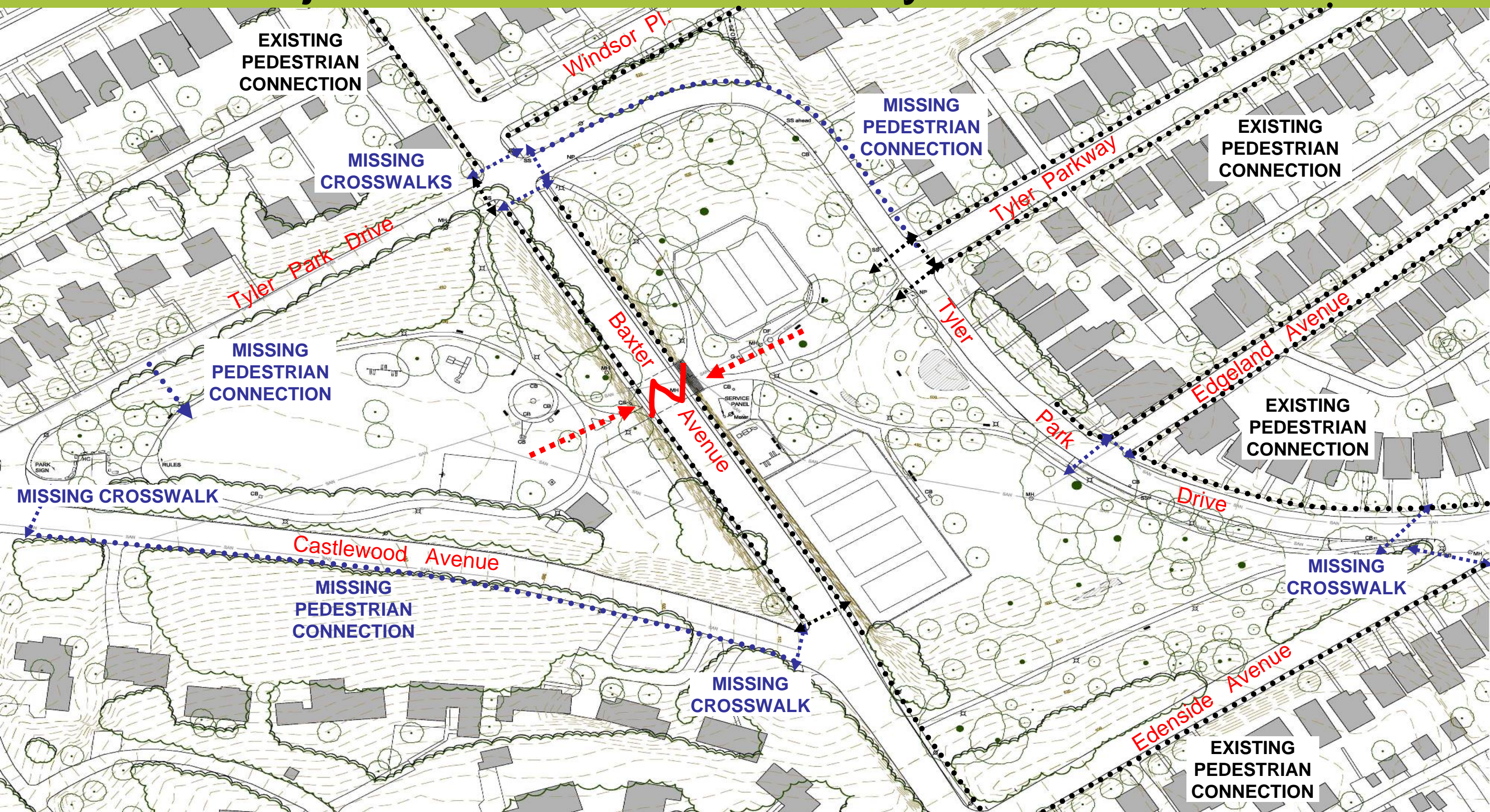
- The Baxter Avenue overpass is a local historic landmark but is not well maintained. There is concern that trees growing at the base of the overpass could pose a problem for its structural integrity.
- The traffic island at Tyler Park Drive and Castlewood Avenue needs improvement. Foliage on the island obstructs the view of drivers and the bus shelter needs maintenance.
- School groups come to the park for lunch, picnicking and events and should be accommodated whenever possible.
- The yellow colored lighting is not appealing and does not promote 'dark sky' lighting principals.

# Project Issues: Drainage & Erosion



Surface runoff in bowed topography creates problems.

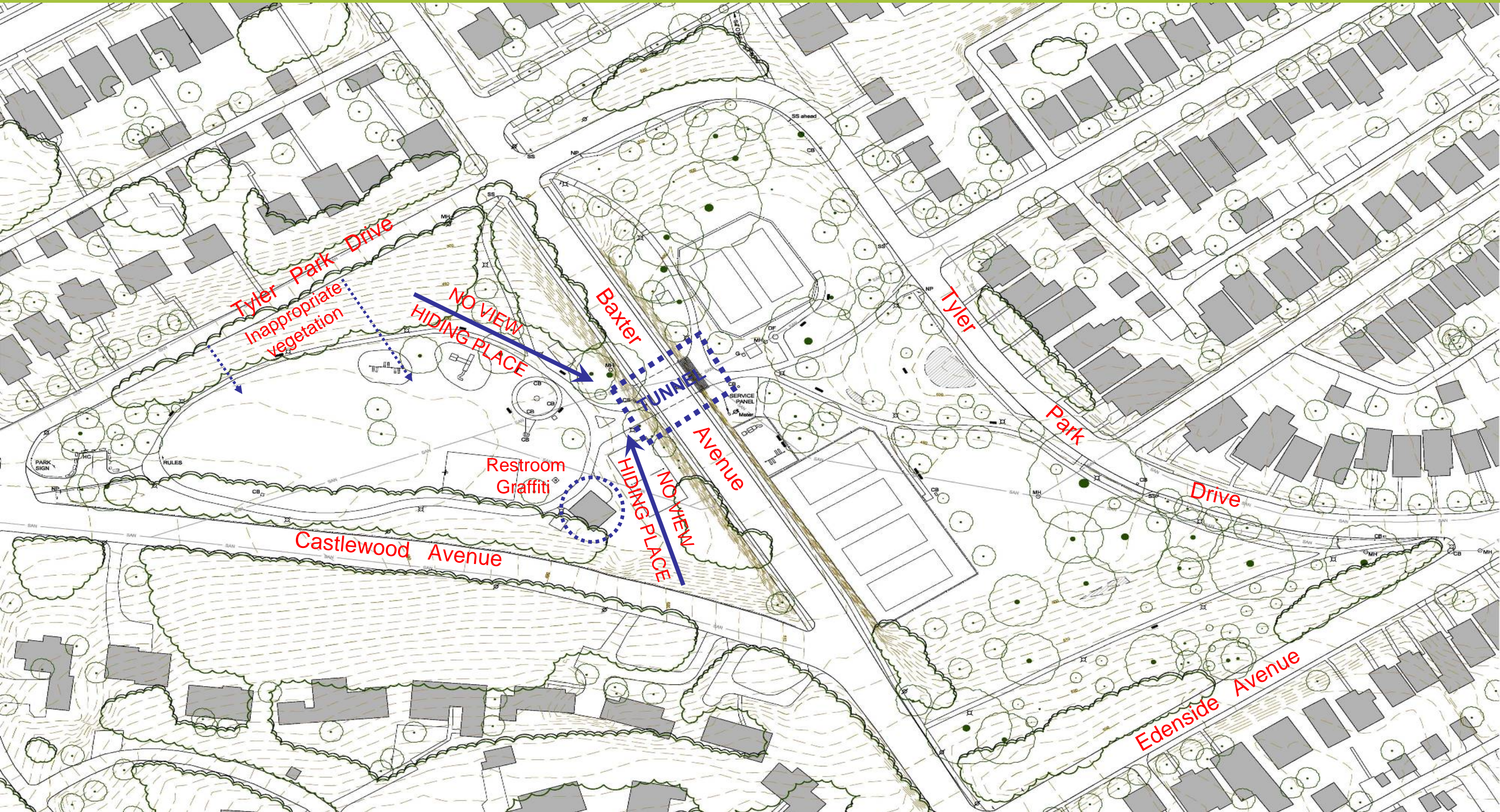
# Project Issues: Accessibility & Circulation



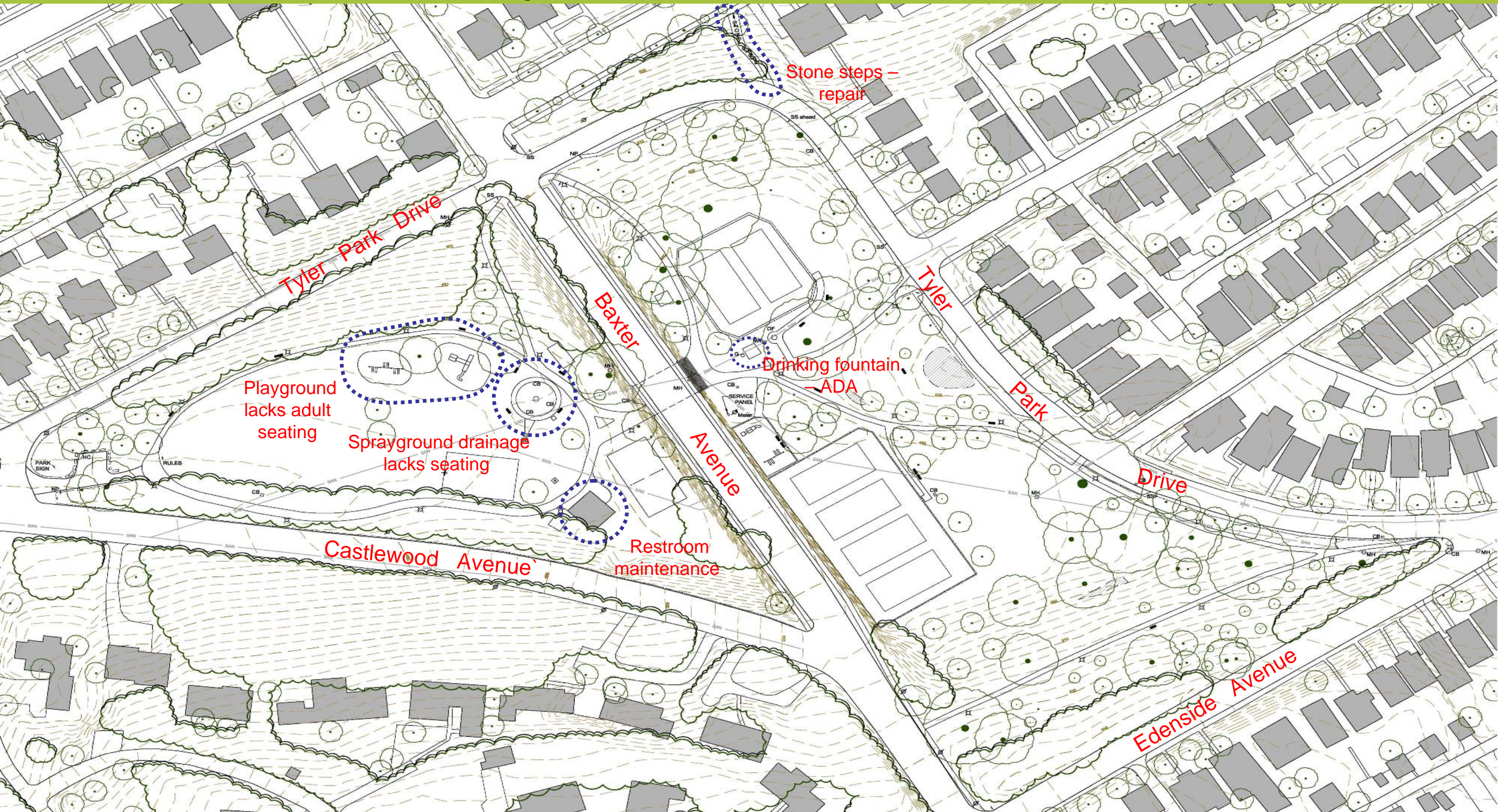
# Project Issues: Parking



# Project Issues: Security & Vandalism



# Project Issues: Facilities





## V. **ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS**

After identifying the issues and desires of the Tyler Park users and neighbors, the design team developed two conceptual alternatives for the park improvements (See Concept Plan 1 and Concept Plan 2 at the end of this section for reference). Both concepts respect the historic Olmsted Brothers plan and design, while addressing the major issues listed above and providing for the long-term use and enjoyment of the park.

### **A. CONCEPT PLAN I:**

Concept plan I strived to organize most of the active recreation facilities on the east side of the park in order to restore the open event lawn on the west side of the park. The event lawn would be used for festivals, field sports, open play, gatherings and events as the original plan intended. This concept respected the existing pedestrian path layout in the park but improved on it in several areas to provide better access. Additional access and parking improvements as well as drainage and erosion control measures were also proposed as outlined below:

#### **Unit I – The West Side of the Park**

This concept re-established the uncluttered event lawn surrounded by the existing loop walk with additional benches of a consistent style located around the walk. Additional improvements proposed in this area include:

- A fifty-person shelter near the handicapped parking area toward the far west end of the park to be used in conjunction with the event lawn.
- Improvements to the handicapped parking area to enlarged it slightly to add one additional space.
- A new sidewalk along the park side of Tyler Park Drive west as well as a walk connection from the new sidewalk to the new shelter.
- A half basketball court that could also be used as a multi-game court with badminton and/or volleyball was proposed along the base of the Baxter Avenue overpass.
- A new pedestrian connection with a series of steps from the intersection of Baxter Avenue and Castlewood Avenue into the park.
- Thinning of the dense vegetation along Tyler Park Drive west to open views to the park and allow the installation of additional stone steps through the woods to the park as well as hiking trails through the wooded edges of the park.
- Replacement of the tree canopy and other vegetation on the perimeter of the open lawn to define the park edges, absorb runoff, and provide interest.
- Installation of drainage improvements including bio-retention features to intercept and slow down the storm runoff before it causes erosion.
- Restoration of the historic stone steps from Baxter Avenue into the park.

## Unit 2 – The East Side of the Park

In this concept, this side of the park would be used as the active recreation area as it was originally intended. The facilities removed from the west side including the restroom, spray fountain, playground, and swings would be moved here to provide an accessible, organized, and safe place for kids to play. The two bank tennis court would be removed in this scheme to make room for the new playground and sprayground. The walk system would remain the same as it is today but would add several sections from the original plan that would improve accessibility in the park. Additional improvements proposed in this area include:

- A four unit restroom located between the tennis courts and the playground for proximity and safety reasons as well as to minimize vandalism.
- An accessible pathway from the intersection of Baxter Avenue and Tyler Park Drive to the park entrance at Tyler Parkway as designed in the original plan.
- An interior path connection between the Tyler Parkway entrance and the Edgeland Avenue entrance as designed in the original plan.
- A new sidewalk on the park side of Edenside Avenue.
- New benches and trash receptacles of a consistent style in additional locations.
- A new handicap accessible drinking fountain near the restroom building.
- Installation of drainage improvements including bio-retention features to intercept and slow down the storm runoff before it causes erosion.
- Replacement of the tree canopy from the original plan as well as planting improvements along Edenside Avenue and the Windsor Place area of the park.
- Restoration of the historic stone steps from both Baxter Avenue into the park and Windsor Place to Tyler Park Drive.

## Unit 3 – Baxter Avenue Overpass

The major recommendation for this area was to provide an accessible route through the tunnel under the Baxter Avenue overpass that would provide accessibility between the two sides of the park. This would be accomplished by removing the existing steps and sloping the path through the tunnel to handicap accessible grades (5% or less).

Although the Baxter Avenue overpass is not technically a part of the park, the design team decided to develop two options for its improvement that relate to parking, pedestrian use, and connectivity to the park. The following improvements are recommended:

- Reduce Baxter Avenue to twenty-four feet with five foot wide sidewalks and ten foot wide planting beds on each side.
- Reduce Baxter Avenue to twenty-four feet with ten foot wide multi-use walk on each side and one ten foot wide planting bed on one side only.

#### **Unit 4 – Park Edge and Street Frontage**

Several recommendations for improvements to the park edge and street frontage were made to improve access, parking, storm runoff control, as well as the visual character of the area. These recommendations included:

- Accessibility improvements at all park entrances including handicap ramps and crosswalks.
- A sidewalk on the north side of Tyler Park Drive from Baxter Avenue to Tyler Parkway with improved crosswalks across Tyler Park Drive to the park.
- A three way stop with crosswalks and an improved entrance to the park at Edgeland Avenue.
- New lay-by parking with curbing along the park side of Tyler Park Drive east.
- New lay-by parking on the existing pavement along the north side of Tyler Park Drive west.
- A sidewalk on the park side of Tyler Park Drive west.
- A sidewalk on the south side of Castlewood Avenue up to its intersection with Baxter Avenue. This would include crosswalks at the existing stop lights at Castlewood and Baxter
- Curbing along all park boundaries to define the park boundary better, control runoff, and limit erosion impacts.
- Improved storm drainage systems along the road edges.

#### **B. CONCEPT PLAN 2:**

Concept plan 2 also strived to restore the open event lawn on the west side of the park but kept the restroom, playground, and sprayground on the west side of the park and did not remove any of the tennis courts on the east side of the park. This concept has the same walk layout as well as access and parking improvements, and drainage and erosion control measures from Concept 1 above with the following exceptions:

#### **Unit 1 – The West Side of the Park**

A new playground and sprayground was located on the west side of the park near the existing restroom location. A new restroom was located about seventy feet west of its current location to service these facilities. An event lawn for festivals, field sports, open play, gatherings, and events was proposed on the west side. A fifty-person shelter was located across the event lawn on the west side of the park opposite the restroom.

#### **Unit 4 – Park Edge and Street Frontage**

- The intersection at Edenside Avenue and Tyler Park Drive was designed to be a three-way stop with crosswalks for better pedestrian access.
- The sidewalk along Castlewood Avenue was moved to the north (park) side of the road for better access to the park.
- Lay-by parking was added to both sides of Tyler Park Drive west.



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# TYLER PARK MASTER PLAN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

## CONCEPT PLAN 1

JULY 2009

SCALE: 1" = 50'



enviroms inc.  
landscape architecture



Heritage Landscapes LLC  
Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners



studio  
MATINGLY  
ENGINEERS



### Legend

- Proposed building
- Existing building
- Existing treeline/ tree
- Existing contours
- Proposed rain garden
- Proposed textured roadway
- Proposed crosswalk
- Proposed walkway
- Proposed bench
- Existing Pedestrian Light
- Existing Utility Pole
- Existing Stop Sign
- Proposed Stop Sign

### Plan Features

- Open lawn on west for pick-up games, events, & gatherings
- Shelter for 50 people near the handicap parking lot
- Play area, sprayground, & restroom facility concentrated on the east side
- Lay-by parking on the north side of Tyler Park Drive West
- Sidewalk on the Park side of Tyler Park Drive West
- Sidewalk on the south side of Castlewood Avenue
- A 1/2 basketball court that could become a multi-game court with badminton and/or volleyball
- Accessible ramp through tunnel
- Better access with crosswalks at main entrances
- An accessible path within the park from Baxter Avenue & Tyler Park Drive to the entrance at Tyler Parkway
- A sidewalk along Edenside on the park side
- A crosswalk at Edenside & Tyler Park Drive
- Well defined lay-by parking areas with curbing along Tyler Park Drive
- Control of storm runoff with rain gardens maintained as turf and other infiltration systems

### Total Parking

- 24 Tyler Park Drive West
- 19 Tyler Park Drive East
- 22 Edenside Avenue
- 48 Baxter Avenue
- 113 Total Spaces - LAY-BY
- 3 SMALL LOT



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# TYLER PARK MASTER PLAN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

## CONCEPT PLAN 2

JULY 2009

SCALE: 1" = 50'



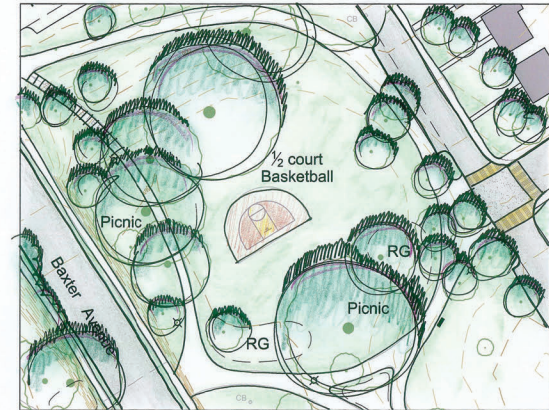
environs inc.  
landscape architecture



Heritage Landscapes LLC  
Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners



studio  
MATTINGLY  
ENGINEERS



**Legend**

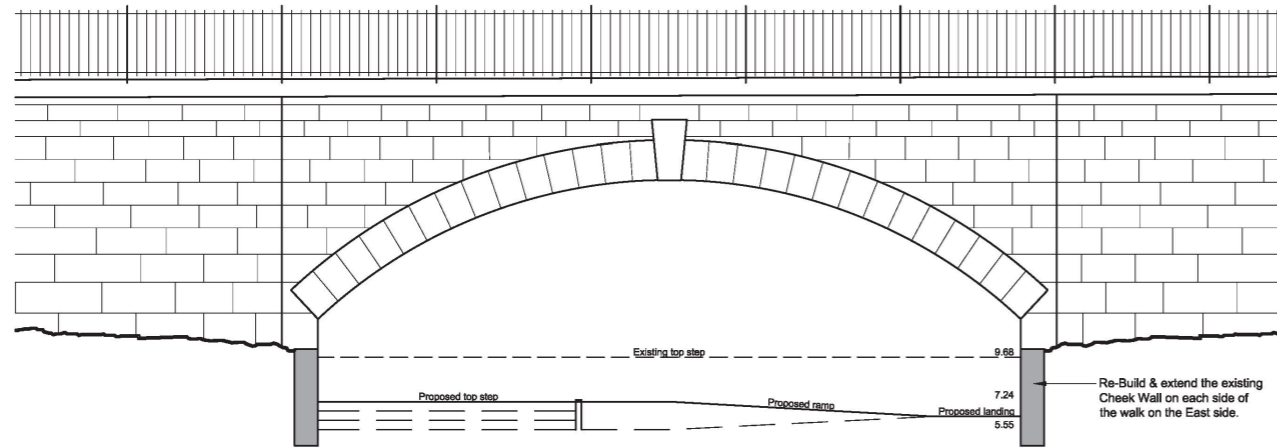
- Proposed building
- Existing building
- Existing treeline/ tree
- Existing contours
- Proposed rain garden
- Proposed textured roadway
- Proposed crosswalk
- Proposed walkway
- Proposed bench
- Existing Pedestrian Light
- Existing Utility Pole
- Existing Stop Sign
- Proposed Stop Sign

**Plan Features**

- Open lawn on west for pick-up games, events, & gatherings
- Shelter for 50 people on wooded slope
- Play area & sprayground in existing restroom area
- A new restroom along the path west of existing restroom
- Lay-by parking on both sides of Tyler Park Drive West
- Sidewalk on the Park side of Tyler Park Drive West
- Sidewalk on the north (park) side of Castlewood Avenue
- Accessible ramp through tunnel
- Better access with crosswalks at main entrances
- An accessible path within the park from Baxter Avenue & Tyler Park Drive to the entrance at Tyler Parkway
- A sidewalk along Edenside on the park side
- A redesigned intersection at Edenside & Tyler Park Drive to allow for better pedestrian access
- Well defined lay-by parking areas with curbing along Tyler Park Drive
- Control of storm runoff with rain gardens maintained as turf and other infiltration systems

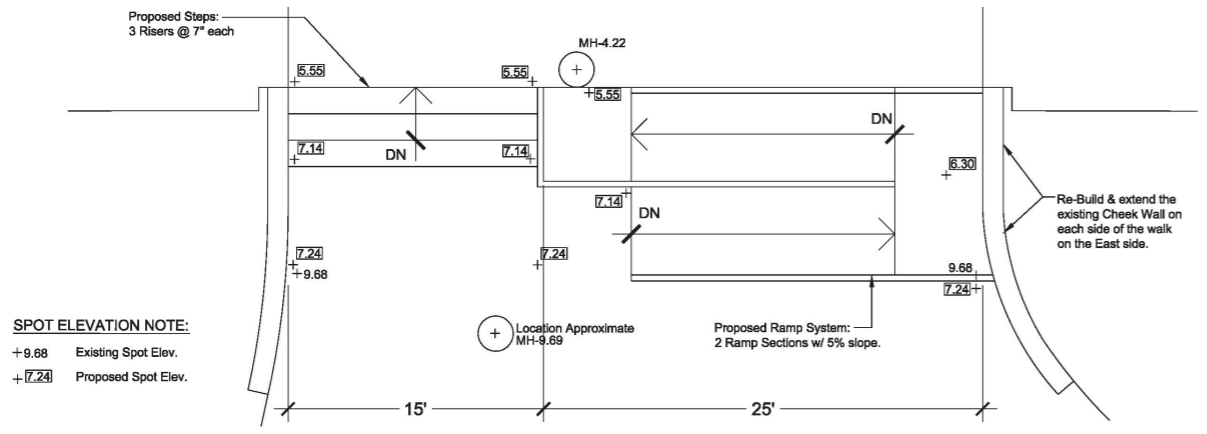
**Total Parking**

- 47 Tyler Park Drive West
- 19 Tyler Park Drive East
- 22 Edenside Avenue
- 48 Baxter Avenue
- 136 Total Spaces - LAY-BY
- 3 SMALL LOT



**East Arch Elevation**

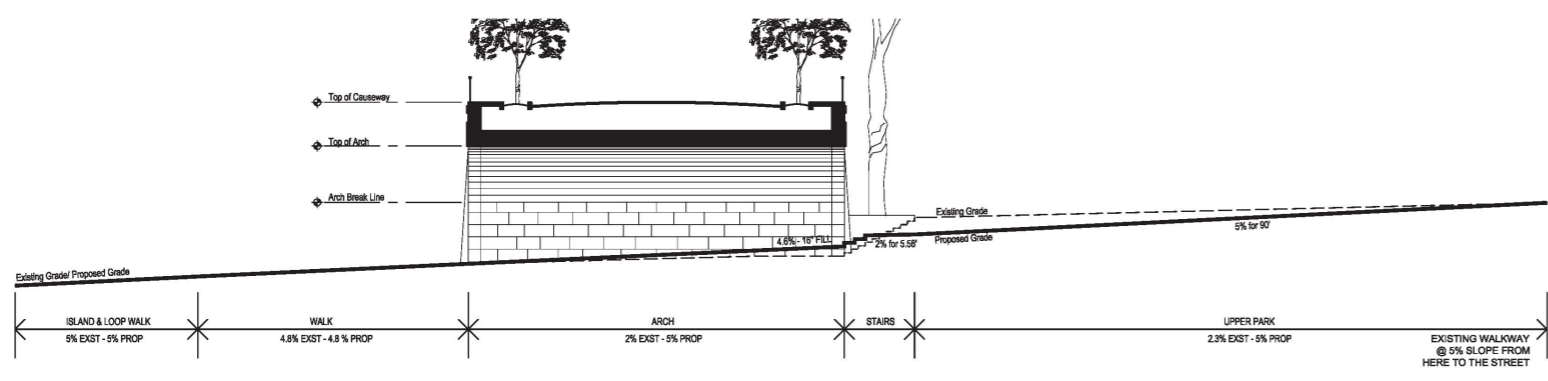
1/4" = 1' - 0"



**SPOT ELEVATION NOTE:**  
 +9.88 Existing Spot Elev.  
 +7.24 Proposed Spot Elev.

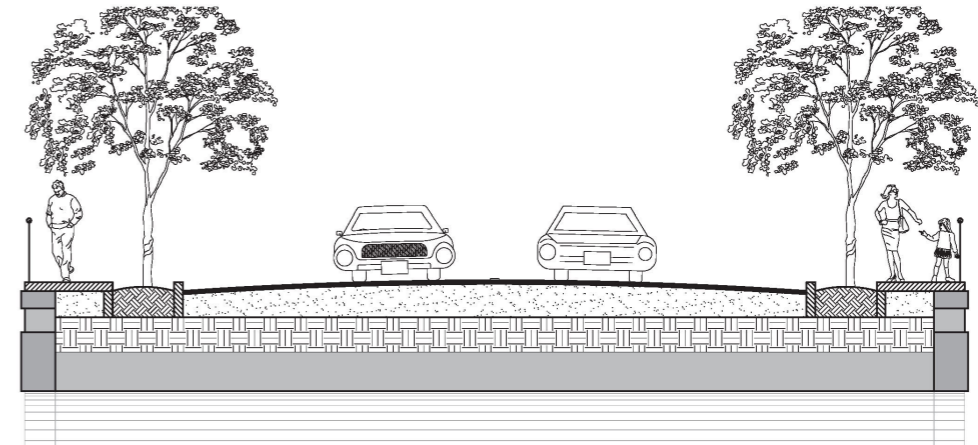
**Proposed Plan @ Ramp - East Side**

1/4" = 1' - 0"



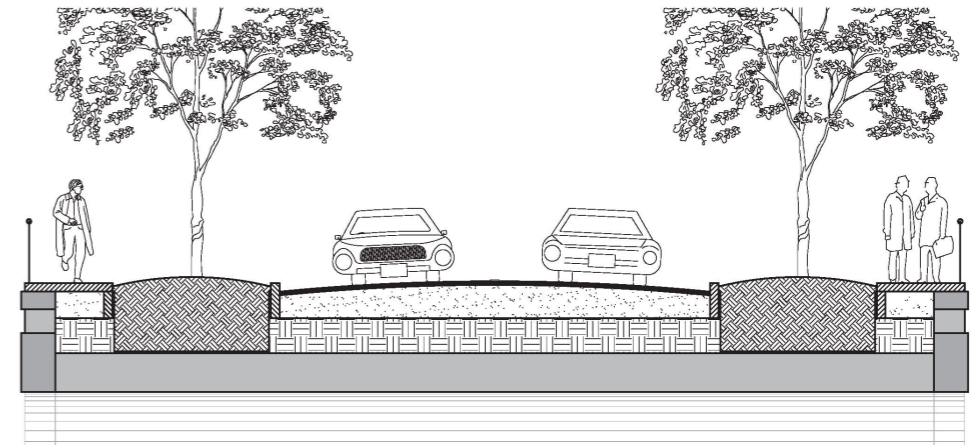
**Section through tunnel at Baxter Avenue**

1" = 10' - 0"



**Existing Section through Baxter Avenue**

1/4" = 1' - 0"

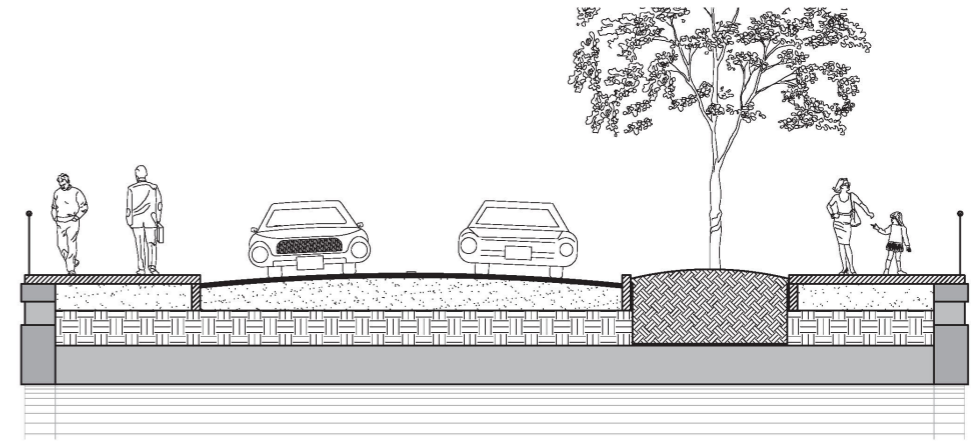


**Section through Baxter Avenue - Option A**

1/4" = 1' - 0"

36 ft width of Baxter Ave allows for two traffic lanes with room for parking on both sides.

Reduce Baxter Ave width to 24 feet with a 5 ft sidewalk on each side of the Causeway & 10 ft wide planting beds shading the street.



**Section through Baxter Avenue - Option B**

1/4" = 1' - 0"

Reduce Baxter Ave width to 24 feet with a 10 ft Multi-use walk on each side of the Causeway and a 10 ft wide planting bed shading one side of the street.

## VI. RECOMMENDED PLAN SOLUTIONS

### A. FINAL PLAN:

A final master plan was developed after weighing the pros and cons of each of the concept plans and holding several meetings and discussions between the design team, Metro Parks, the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, and the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association. The guiding principal for development of the final plan was to respect the historic plan and design while improving upon pedestrian access, existing facilities, activities, parking, drainage, and security. Other important issues were to mitigate erosion and discourage vandalism.

The final plan combines the recommendations from the previous alternative concepts into one final master plan that reflects the needs, desires, and wishes of the community and the clients. (See the Final Master Plan at the end of this section). This plan has many of the same features as Concept Plan 1 (discussed above) with the following exceptions:

#### Unit 1 – The West Side of the Park

- The location of the picnic shelter on the west side of the park is according to Concept Plan 2.

#### Unit 2 – The East Side of the Park

- The existing tot lot is retained in its existing location. The proposed playground and sprayground will replace the existing double tennis courts. It will be designed for older children with a section of the sprayground closest to the tot lot set aside for the tots.

#### Unit 3 – Baxter Avenue Overpass

Although the Baxter Avenue overpass is not technically a part of the park, the design team, Metro Parks, the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, and the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association developed recommendations for improvements to it. These improvements relate to parking, pedestrian use, and connectivity to the park. The following improvements are recommended:

- Retain the existing thirty-six foot width of the street to provide for two lanes of traffic and parking on each side.
- Remove the existing trees and tree pits and widen the sidewalks to nine feet.
- Increase the height of the existing 36 inch high wrought iron railings to a height of 42 inches to meet code. Use wrought iron when repairing or replacing these railings.
- Provide pedestrian scale period lighting for security.

#### Unit 4 – Park Edge and Street Frontage

- The final plan shows the lay-by parking along the north side of Tyler Park Drive west on existing pavement only with no additional disturbance. A sidewalk and curb is proposed for the park frontage along Tyler Park Drive west.

## **B. ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION:**

A number of issues were raised after the final plan was completed. These issues deserve to be discussed and should be addressed in the next phases of design for each specific project.

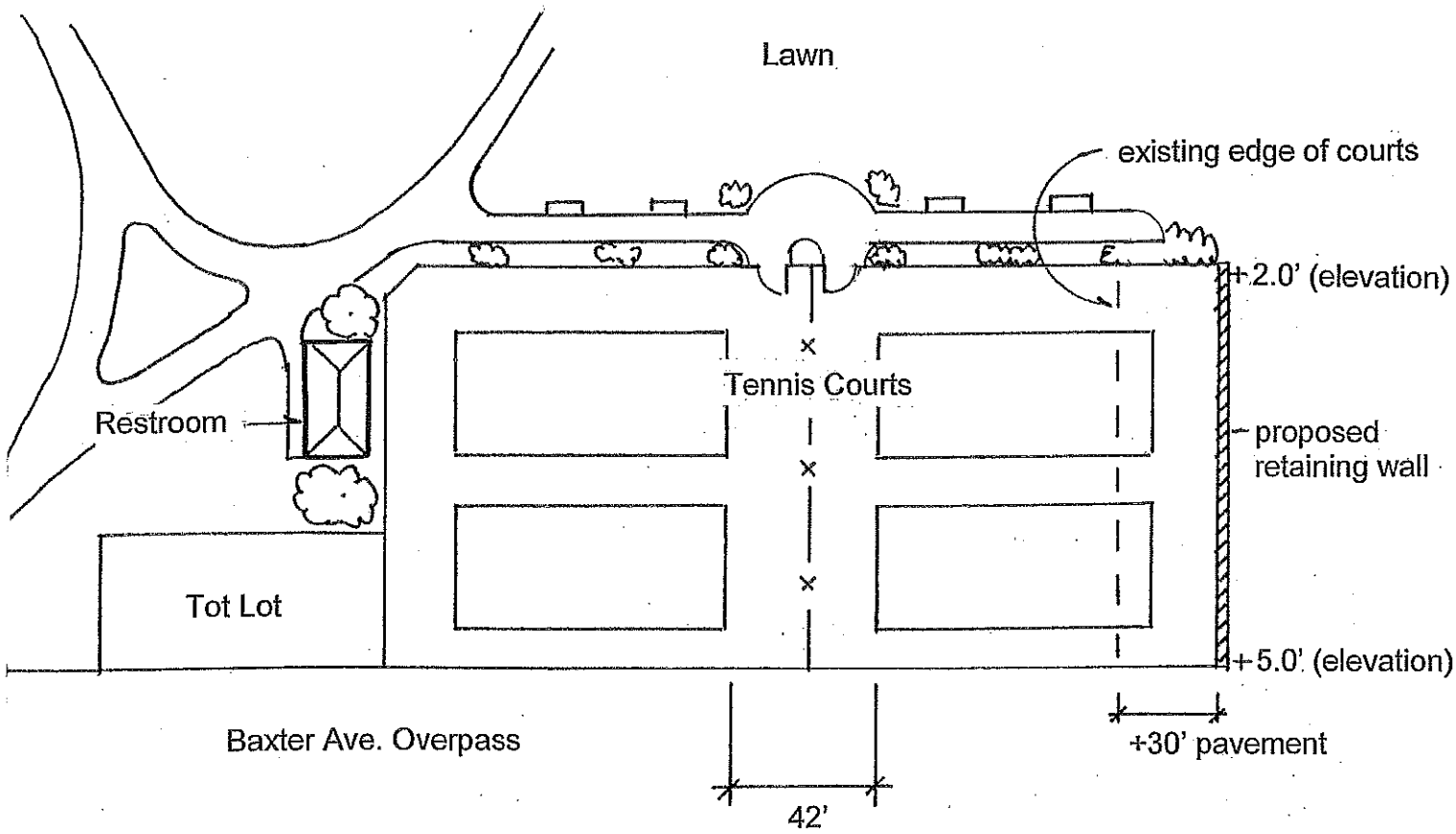
1. The Tyler Park Neighborhood Park Planning Committee requested that the master plan include a recommendation for a separate study to study the long term stabilization and maintenance required at the Baxter Avenue Overpass.
2. A concerned neighbor and tennis player requested that the plan look at ways to improve the bank of four tennis courts that will remain in the park. The existing bank of four courts do not work well for users because the stone backdrop sends balls rebounding in unpredictable ways into the games of the neighboring courts. The sketch included on the following page shows these courts turned ninety degrees to their existing orientation which would solve this problem and make the courts much more enjoyable to use.
3. A concerned neighbor requested that the plan carefully study the location of the proposed restroom at the upper end of the park, so it does not block the views to the tot lot and create additional security problems in the park. Metro Parks and the design team agree that this is an important issue and have changed the restroom orientation as indicated on the sketch included on the following page. This sketch shows the restroom turned and moved closer to the tennis court fence so it presents its narrow side to the street and does not block views to the tot lot.
4. The Tyler Park Neighborhood Park Planning Committee also requested that Metro Parks work with the institutional users of the tennis courts to find an alternate location for their programs, before removing the bank of two tennis courts.
5. A parent requested that the plan consider adding a small shelter next to the new playground.
6. The Tyler Park Neighborhood Park Planning Committee stressed that sledding is a very important activity in the east side of the park that should be accommodated in all future plans for the park.

### **Short Term Projects**

The Tyler Park Neighborhood Association Master Plan Committee also provided a list of projects that they would like to see accomplished in the short term, including:

1. Repair and maintain the asphalt curbing on Tyler Park Drive West to stop erosion on the hillside.
2. Add gravel to the parallel parking areas along Tyler Park Drive East.
3. Clean the drain grates on top of the Baxter Avenue overpass when they back up with leaves and branches.





**Tyler Park Tennis Courts and Restroom:**  
 layout revisions suggested by tennis player  
 and neighbors



### C. PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS:

In addition to restoring the tree canopy within the park and along the surrounding streets according to the Olmsted Brothers plan, there are multiple smaller scale planting opportunities that could enhance the character of the park.

The margins of the park offer an opportunity to plant small sized flowering shrubs. As shown on the Olmsted Brothers plan, the sloped edges of Unit 1, around the open lawn. In this area, the shrubs would be part of the understory and would help, once established to reduce invasive species volunteer plant infesting the area. A dense planting is needed to achieve the desired effect of flowering shrubs and ground covers covering the slopes with young trees coming up and a canopy of healthy primarily native trees. Vigilant management will be required in these areas to prevent large invasive shrubs from re-sprouting. Success will be most likely if a maintenance plan is developed and implemented when the plantings are installed.

At Tyler Park, shrub plantings should consist of a mixed group of relatively low species and some dwarf cultivars and smaller heights for perceived security. Shrub plantings could include:

- Slender deutzia (*Deutzia gracilis*), Height 3 feet.
- Dwarf 'Nikko' slender deutzia (*Deutzia gracilis 'Nikko'*) - Height 10"-12".
- Annabelle hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'*) Height 3 feet - an early, light shade tolerant cultivar of the native *Hydrangea arborescens* used by the Olmsted Brothers at Camden, Maine, Harbor Park.
- Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos chenaultii 'Hancock'*) Height 3 feet.
- Vanhoutte spirea (*Spirea vanhouttei*) - traditional, Height 5 feet is not invasive, unlike Japanese spirea which should be avoided.
- 'Henry's garnet' Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet'*) - 30"-36".
- Glossy Abelia (*Abelia grandiflora*) Height 3 feet.
- Cherry laurel 'Otto Luyken' (*Prunus laurocerasus*), Height 3-4 feet, prefers full sun, dwarf evergreen.
- Rugosa Shrub roses (*Rosa rugosa*) - Height 3-4 feet, highly disease resistant and low care with heavy thorns.
- Dwarf deciduous native holly (*Ilex verticillata*) Height 3-4 feet, short cultivars available with red berries and is attractive to birds.

A few higher shrub plantings would be appropriate for occasional use in Tyler Park, alone or in groups of two. These plantings could include:

- Common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*.
- Fragrant old-fashioned Mock orange, *Philadelphus coronarius*

In addition, low care native groundcovers and spring ephemerals could be mixed in. These plantings could include:

- Trillium
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- White wood aster
- Spring beauty
- May apples
- Solomon's seal



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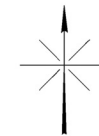


# TYLER PARK MASTER PLAN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

## FINAL PLAN

JANUARY 2010

SCALE: 1" = 50'



Heritage Landscapes LLC  
Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners



MATTEGLY  
ENGINEERS



### Legend

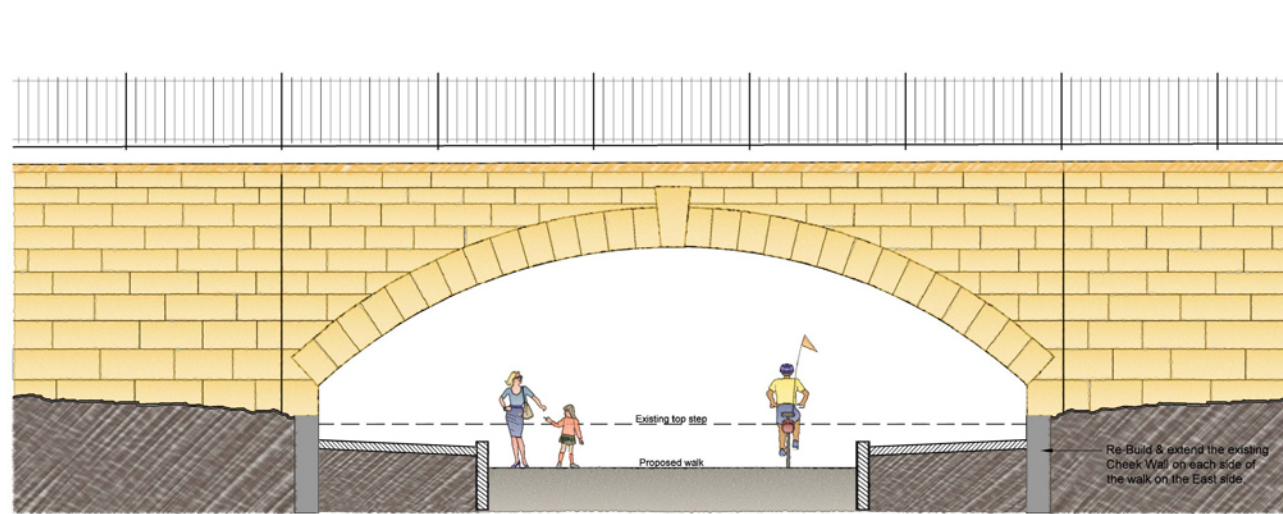
- Proposed building
- Existing building
- Existing treeline/tree
- Existing contours
- Proposed rain garden
- Proposed textured roadway
- Proposed crosswalk
- Proposed sidewalk
- Proposed bench
- Existing Pedestrian Light
- Existing Utility Pole
- Existing Stop Sign
- Proposed Stop Sign

### Plan Features

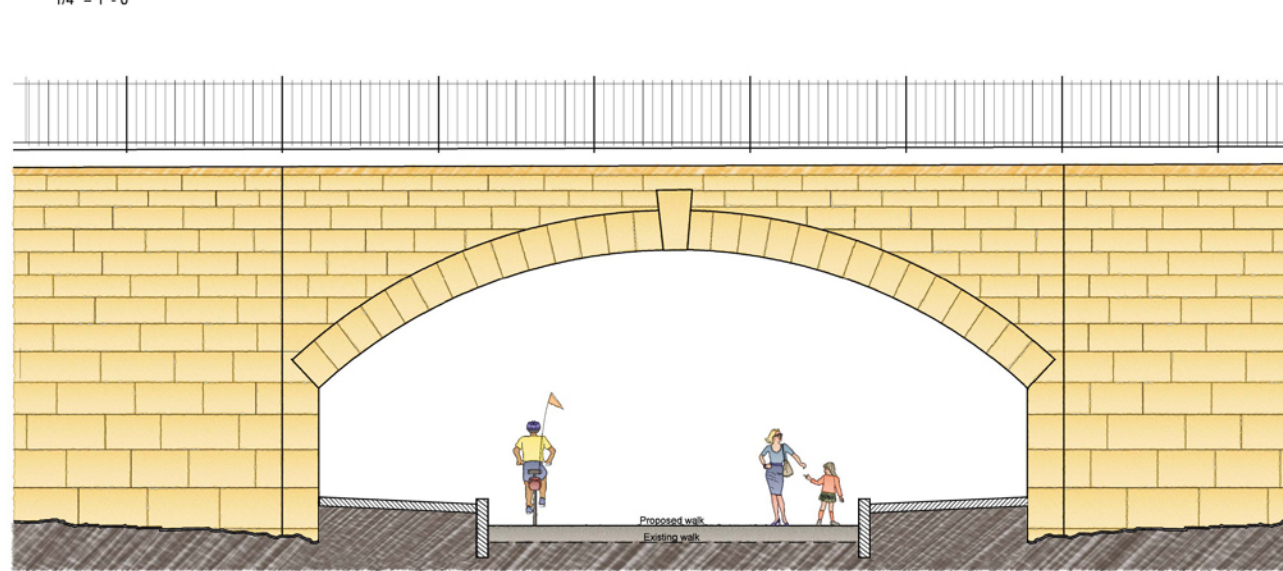
- Open lawn on west for pick-up games, events, & gatherings
- Shelter for 50 people
- Play area, sprayground, & restroom facility concentrated on the east side
- Lay-by parking on the north side of Tyler Park Drive West
- Sidewalk on the Park side of Tyler Park Drive West
- Sidewalk on the south side of Castlewood Avenue
- A 1/2 basketball court that could become a multi-game court with badminton and/or volleyball
- Accessible ramp through tunnel
- Better access with crosswalks at main entrances
- An accessible path within the park from Baxter Avenue & Tyler Park Drive to the entrance at Tyler Parkway
- A sidewalk along Edenside on the park side
- A crosswalk at Edenside & Tyler Park Drive
- Well defined lay-by parking areas with curbing along Tyler Park Drive
- Control of storm runoff with rain gardens and other infiltration systems

### Total Parking

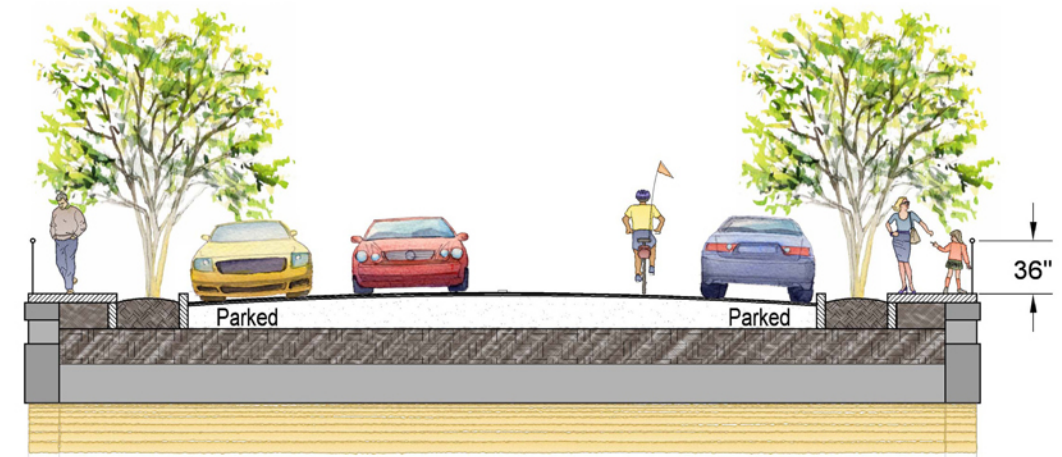
- 23 Tyler Park Drive West
- 19 Tyler Park Drive East
- 22 Edenside Avenue
- 46 Baxter Avenue
- 110 Total Spaces



**East Arch Elevation**  
 1/4" = 1' - 0"

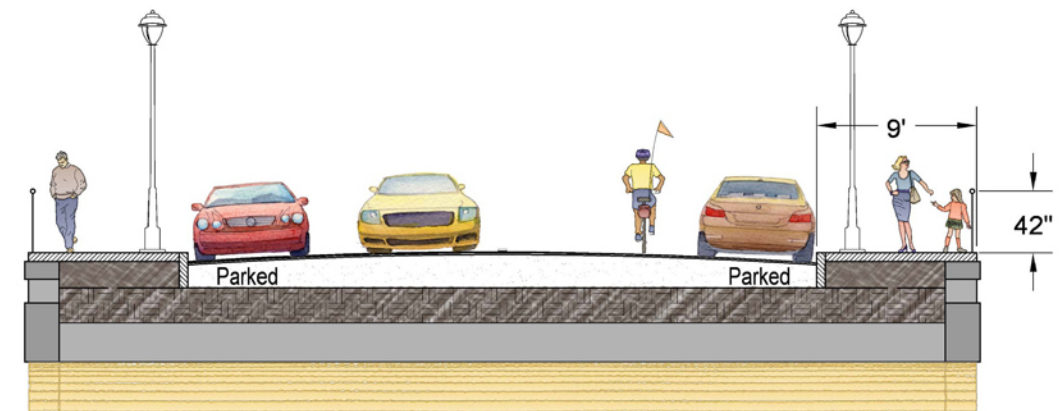


**West Arch Elevation**  
 1/4" = 1' - 0"



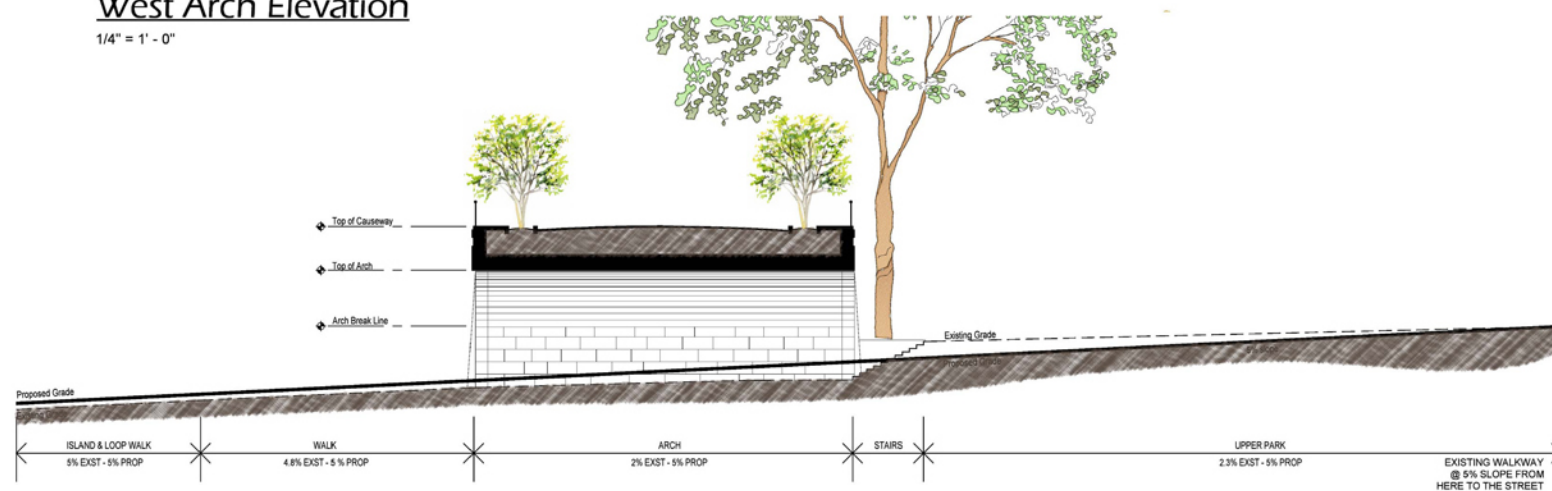
**Existing Section through Baxter Avenue**  
 1/4" = 1' - 0"

36 ft width of Baxter Ave allows for two traffic lanes with room for parking on both sides. Current railing height is 36".



**Section through Baxter Avenue - Option A**  
 1/4" = 1' - 0"

36 ft width of Baxter Ave allows for two traffic lanes with room for parking on both sides and widening the sidewalk to remove planting beds from the Causeway. Railings to be raised to 42".

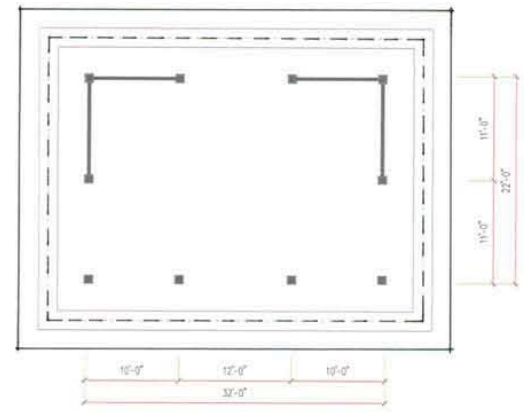


**Section through tunnel at Baxter Avenue**  
 1" = 10' - 0"



PRELIMINARY RENDERING  
A  
AG.1  
 SCALE: NO SCALE

THIS SKETCH IS BASED ON THE SHELTER LOCATION SHOWN IN CONCEPT ALTERNATE #1 NOT THE LOCATION SHOWN IN THE FINAL PLAN. IT IS INCLUDED TO INDICATE THE STYLE AND CHARACTER OF THE SHELTER AND NOT THE CHARACTER OF THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE.



PAVILION FLOOR PLAN - 50 PERSON  
I  
AG.1  
 SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



TYLER PARK MASTER PLAN

6 OCTOBER 2009



## VII. CONSTRUCTION COSTS AND PHASING

### A. PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS:

The following cost projections are based on the final plan dated January 2010 and include the contractor's materials, labor, taxes, and overhead and profit, as well as consulting fees, and a 10% contingency. These costs are based on current pricing and do not include any markup for inflation to cover any increase in cost for projects to be built in the future.

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,385,000</b>
<b>COST SUMMARY BY AREA:</b>	
<b>A. ACCESSIBLE WALK THROUGH TUNNEL –</b>	<b>\$ 135,000</b>
<i>Includes demolition, excavation &amp; grading, sewer manhole modifications, stone cheekwalls, new asphalt walkway, stone cobbles in the tunnel, and drainage improvements.</i>	
<b>B. PLAYGROUND/SPRAYGROUND –</b>	<b>\$ 540,000</b>
<i>Includes a new playground &amp; sprayground in the area of the two tennis courts, demolition of the two tennis courts and the existing playground and spray area, as well as drainage improvements.</i>	
<b>C. RESTROOM –</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>
<i>Includes demolition of the existing restroom/shelter and construction of a new restroom with associated utilities and surrounding concrete pad.</i>	
<b>D. PICNIC SHELTER –</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>
<i>Includes a new 50 person shelter built into the slope with a retaining wall and concrete pad.</i>	
<b>E. BASKETBALL COURT –</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
<i>Includes demolition of the existing basketball court and construction of a new 1/2 size practice court.</i>	
<b>F. DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS –</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>
<i>Includes construction of a large biofiltration basin with a turf surface near the four tennis courts.</i>	
<b>G. INTERIOR WALKWAYS –</b>	<b>\$ 235,000</b>
<i>Includes construction of new interior walkways, reconstruction and widening of existing walkways where needed, construction and repair of stone steps, and construction of foot trails.</i>	
<b>H. HANDICAP PARKING IMPROVEMENTS –</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>
<i>Includes expanding and reconfiguring the existing parking lot on the west end of the park with three spaces and limestone curbing.</i>	
<b>I. TYLER PARK DRIVE EAST IMPROVEMENTS –</b>	<b>\$ 262,000</b>
<i>Includes removal of the wood bollards, new limestone curbing, a concrete sidewalk from Tyler Parkway to Baxter, paved lay-by parking, drainage improvements, and new crosswalks with accessible entrances.</i>	
<b>J. TYLER PARK DRIVE WEST IMPROVEMENTS –</b>	<b>\$ 227,000</b>
<i>Includes a new concrete curb and sidewalk with a retaining wall along the south side of the street and parking on existing pavement on the north side of the street only.</i>	

<b>K. CASTLEWOOD AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS –</b>	<b>\$ 90,000</b>
<i>Includes a new concrete curb and sidewalk along the south side of the street to connect to a new crosswalk at the Baxter Ave. intersection.</i>	
<b>L. BAXTER AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS –</b>	<b>\$ 135,000</b>
<i>Includes removal of the existing trees, widening of the existing sidewalks, installation of lighting, and new crosswalks.</i>	
<b>M. EDENSIDE AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS –</b>	<b>\$ 66,000</b>
<i>Includes installation of a new sidewalk along the park side of the street with intersection improvements at Tyler Park Drive and a crosswalk.</i>	
<b>N. MISCELLANEOUS –</b>	<b>\$ <u>175,000</u></b>
<i>Includes new tree and shrub plantings, vegetation management, repair of the existing fence along Castlewood, a new drinking fountain, new light fixtures for the existing pole lights, as well as new benches, bike racks and trash receptacles.</i>	
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$ 2,385,000</b>

## B. PROJECT PHASING PLAN:

The project can easily be implemented in phases as is illustrated in the cost opinion. For instance, the proposed restroom can be taken on as a separate project and does not depend upon any of the other categories being done prior to beginning its implementation.

The user surveys and public meetings identified a number of issues to be addressed by the master plan. In order of priority, these are:

1. Although outside of the scope of the park master plan, understanding the long term maintenance needs of the Baxter Ave. overpass is a top priority. The Tyler Park Neighborhood Park Planning Committee has asked Metro Parks and the Olmsted Parks Conservancy to seek funding as needed to undertake a structural evaluation and restoration/preservation plan for the overpass.
2. Vandalism, graffiti and security issues.
3. Pedestrian accessibility and quality of the park experience.
4. Drainage and Erosion Issues.
5. Accommodation of large school and neighborhood events.

The consulting team strongly recommends however, that Metro Parks and the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Inc. continue the practice, as established by the 1994 *Master Plan for Louisville's Olmsted Parks and Parkways*, of comprehensively renovating a complete area of the project as identified here before moving on to the next area. This has been an important factor in the success of other projects completed to date in Cherokee, Iroquois, and Shawnee Parks.

**Phase 1:**

Address the vandalism, graffiti and security issues by relocating the playground, spray play and restroom to the east end of the park where the facilities will be more visible and more easily monitored.

- Relocate the playground and sprayground, demolish the two tennis courts, and provide drainage improvements – \$ 540,000
- Relocate the restroom and demolish the existing restroom – \$ 200,000
- Improve the four tennis courts that are to remain. Includes construction of a large bio-filtration basin near the tennis courts – \$ 100,000

**Phase 2:**

Enhance pedestrian accessibility to and within the park by:

- Creating an accessible walk through the Baxter Overpass and remove the existing stairway – \$ 135,000
- Improve the walkways, entries and parallel parking on the east end of the park along Tyler Park Drive East – \$ 262,000
- Construct new interior walkways, improve existing walkways where needed and construct foot trails – \$ 235,000
- Edenside Ave. Improvements – \$ 66,000
- Miscellaneous - (incl. planting & vegetation management) – \$ 175,000

**Phase 3**

Create a multi-use space in the western end of the park to accommodate large school and neighborhood events by:

- Build a new 50 person picnic shelter that will also function as a stage for events – \$ 160,000
- Construct a new ½ court basketball court and demolish the existing court – \$ 25,000
- Improve the walkway, entries and parallel parking on the west end of the park along Tyler Park Drive West – \$ 227,000
- Improve the handicapped parking area at the far west end of the park – \$ 35,000
- Castlewood Ave. Improvements – \$ 90,000
- Baxter Ave. Improvements – \$ 135,000



**VIII. APPENDIX**

**A. TYLER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

**B. USER RESEARCH**

**C. ENGINEERING REPORT**

Tyler Park Master Plan recommendations from the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association Committee on the master plan. August 25, 2009. By Andrea McElderry

The following recommendations are based on the results of the Tyler Park Survey, and on the discussion and observations at the meeting of July 29, 2009 (Martha Berner, Janet Dakan, Joan Dubay, John French, Mike Gramig, Andrea McElderry attending), and on responses to the draft recommendations. See separate document for the revisions.

### Design

The design of the park is its outstanding feature. Taken together, the surveys reflected a very positive view of the design.

Specific recommendation:

1. Integrate the Windsor hill more clearly with the rest of the park across Tyler Park Drive. This includes making the connection between the Windsor steps with the rest of the park more obvious and safer. (See also under Access.)

*Is the Windsor hill officially part of the park? alm*

### Drainage

There are a number of drainage problems in the park which need to be addressed.

- under the tunnel.
- spray ground so water doesn't spill onto lawn and walking track
- in front of the 4 bank tennis courts
- erosion at points around the "track"; at bottom of hill by 2 bank tennis courts
- erosion on the Windsor side of the 2 bank tennis courts.

### Plantings

The landscape needs attention. The committee looks to the Olmsted Park Conservancy consultants to recommend landscaping and plantings which are appropriate to the design of the park and the climate.

Specific recommendations:

1. New trees to replace those lost or damaged in storms (*apparently in progress. alm*)
2. More flowering plants.
3. Trees lining the street on TP Drive as on the original plan.
4. Removal of tree stumps.
5. Clean up over-grown areas, notably between TP Drive and the "track" on the north side and at the point where Castlewood meets Baxter.

### Bridge

Water seepage is damaging the bridge and must be corrected. Once corrected, the stonework needs restoration.

We realize that the bridge is not jurisdictionally part of the park. However it is an integral part of the park and we think that the bridge problems need to be addressed in the master plan or a related document.

### Access to the park

Priority should be safe and easy access for pedestrians, including wheelchairs and strollers.

Specific recommendations:

1. Slow or discourage traffic on Tyler Park Drive between Edenside and Baxter. This stretch is a cut-through route for often speeding cars and visibility is limited. The committee has specific concerns about crossing Tyler Park Drive from

- Edenside/Tyler Park Drive which is less an intersection than a through street which curves 45 degrees or less at the northeast corner of the park. Because of the angle and the momentum gained by cars going downhill on Edenside, it is dangerous for pedestrians.
- At the steps on the Windsor Hill.
- Edgeland and Tyler Park Drive. Visibility is limited and cars coming from Edenside are often still speeding.

We understand that there are ways to slow or discourage traffic. Suggestions we have heard are

- crosswalks
- raising awareness of the stop sign at Tyler Parkway
- speed bumps

2. Better access for wheelchairs, strollers, and those with limited mobility.

- Address traffic concerns as outlined above
- Handicap parking.
  - In the parking area by “track,” need measures to keep the handicapped parking space available for disabled. Enlarge the space - now it is smaller than the regular space – and paint it like handicapped parking spaces in shopping centers, etc. That there is only room for 2 designated spaces no doubt aggravates the problem. A larger parking area might help if it could be designed to minimize the impact on the view and existing trees.
  - At least one designated on-street parking space on TP Drive by the Edgeland or Tyler Parkway entrance.
- Make existing entrances more accessible - where possible.
  - Need paved connections, ramps not steps, between to street or sidewalk at these entrances: TP Drive and Edenside, and Baxter between Edenside and bridge.
  - The “no parking zones” at Edgeland and Tyler Parkway need to be more obvious. Need yellow paint, prominent “no parking” signs.

3. Repair and improve the steps into the park on both sides of Baxter, including pavement which would blend with steps and connect them to the sidewalk on east side of Baxter. At present, connection is grass.

4. Extend the park walkway along Tyler Park Drive between Tyler Parkway and Baxter (as indicated in the original plan) so that people would not have to walk in the street to enter or pass the park.

5. Sidewalks on Tyler Park Drive between Baxter and Castlewood and on Castlewood along the park. We realize that this would be a major project but it has come up several times.

*N.B.: Along Castlewood, there are mature trees, probably the original ones, right next to the street. Since the street is two lane at that point, doubtful that a sidewalk could be built without removing the trees. If the trees are healthy, I think they should be preserved. alm*

#### Access within the park

1. Improve access between the 2 sections of the park. The steps make it difficult to impossible for those in wheelchairs, with strollers, or with limited mobility to use the entire park.

2. Improve and maintain existing walkways. Priority should be the “track” (walkway around the meadow) since it gets the most traffic – walkers, skaters, bike and tricycle riders, and scooters.

#### Usage and Venues

Based on surveys and observation, usage of the various venues in the park is balanced and these venues should remain, with the possible exception of the volleyball court. However, some of the venues might be moved.

- Tot lot. The committee discussed the pros and cons of moving the tot lot to the same side of park as the playground (possibly where the volleyball court or picnic tables are now) as suggested in one survey. However others liked having the toddlers separated from the older children. The committee could see reasons for both: separation for those with only a toddler; proximity for those who have children of both tot lot and playground age; However, proximity might make existing problems worse, that is older children and teen-agers using the tot lot and concerns about language used on the basketball court. AND it is not feasible to move the tot lot to the other side of the park unless there is an alternative to the steps under the tunnel.
- Volleyball court is seldom, if ever, used but people do play volleyball in the park. They set up volleyball as well as badminton nets on grassy area between the 4 bank tennis courts and Edgeland Ave. If it is desirable that volleyball be limited to a specific area, then consider re-locating the court.

#### Structures

1. Remove the existing pavilion/restroom structure AND

2. Build a new multi-use structure, not necessarily in the same place as the existing structure. It should be

- covered,
- raised for performances,
- large enough to accommodate about 30 people for activities such as group picnics, classes from local schools, and have some form of seating.

Consider placing the structure in a different location than the current pavilion if it can be done without affecting the park design. Currently there is an unimpeded view of the bridge across the meadow on the west side of the park and if a structure obscured this view, it would not be desirable.

3. Build new restrooms SEPARATE from the multi-use structure and preferably not right next to it.
4. Replace the existing water fountain or get it to work properly.
5. Place a water fountain by the playground.
6. A kiosk for information. Part could be covered with a map of the park, proactive rules, call 311 to report maintenance or security problems, etc. Part could allow people to post flyers.
7. A recycling center next to the kiosk.

#### Furnishings

1. Need more waste receptacles, not only garbage cans but recycling containers.
2. Replace existing benches with benches from Olmsted Conservancy.
3. Re-think lighting, for both aesthetics and security.
4. Anchor picnic tables with something less intimidating than chains.
5. Place more benches by the playground and tot lot.

#### Borders

1. Curbs around the entire park which would enhance the design & feel of the park.
2. A pedestrian plan and a parking plan.
2. Replace or at least repair the fence along Castlewood.

#### Citizen Responsibility

One of the biggest concerns is the actions of others who use the park: not cleaning up after dogs, dogs and soccer games on the tennis courts, teen-agers in the tot lot, litter.

1. Better signage might help address some of these problems if only because it would provide others some leverage to say something to the offenders. Signs
  - with park rules and relevant city ordinances close to entrances and/or on a kiosk.
  - separate signs outlining the basics of the city's dog control and pooper scooper ordinances.
  - by the tot lot with age limit for use.
  - additional signs on the tennis courts saying they are only for tennis.
  - saying call 311 to report maintenance or security problems.

2. Litter. Recycling bins and more trash cans including at park entrances.





Maintenance



We realize that overall maintenance is not directly related to the master plan but think that the better the park looks, the more users will have a sense of ownership and hence more individual responsibility with regard to maintaining the park as the master plan is implemented.


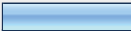



Security

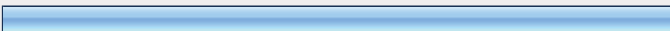



*When I tried to write this up, I wasn't clear about the security issues. Are vagrants, homeless, kids gathered in the park at night a security issue or a nuisance which make us feel threatened. Is there illegal drug dealing and usage or is it kids using over the counter drugs? Both committee members and surveys want more police patrols at night. How can these issues be related to the master plan? alm*

# Tyler Park Survey

1. How often on average do you visit Tyler Park?			Response Percent	Response Count
1-3 times a week or more			48.9%	45
about once a week			25.0%	23
about once a month			20.7%	19
about once a year			5.4%	5
never			0.0%	0
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>92</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

2. How long do you usually stay in the park when visiting?			Response Percent	Response Count
1 hour or less			53.3%	49
1-3 hours			37.0%	34
more than 3 hours			2.2%	2
it depends (please explain)			7.6%	7
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>92</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>

3. What time of day do you most often visit the park?			Response Percent	Response Count
7 a.m.-9 a.m.			6.6%	6
9 a.m.-12 noon			17.6%	16
noon-4 p.m.			24.2%	22
<b>4 p.m.-7 p.m.</b>			<b>50.5%</b>	<b>46</b>
7 p.m.-11 p.m.			1.1%	1
	<b>answered question</b>			<b>91</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>

4. How do you normally travel to the park?			Response Percent	Response Count
<b>on foot</b>			<b>92.4%</b>	<b>85</b>
bicycle			1.1%	1
car			4.3%	4
public transportation			0.0%	0
Other (please specify)			2.2%	2
	<b>answered question</b>			<b>92</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>			<b>0</b>



5. How close do you live to the park?			Response Percent	Response Count
right next to the park			45.1%	41
<b>within a 15 minute walk</b>			<b>50.5%</b>	<b>46</b>
within a 15-30 minute walk			2.2%	2
not within easy walking distance			2.2%	2
	<b>answered question</b>			<b>91</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>


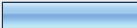






6. When you come to the park, do you come (check all that apply)			Response Percent	Response Count
alone			48.9%	45
with friends			43.5%	40
<b>with family</b>			<b>71.7%</b>	<b>66</b>
with a sports team			0.0%	0
with a group (not a sports team)			9.8%	9
	<b>answered question</b>			<b>92</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>			<b>0</b>

7. If you come to the park with children, what age group do they fall into? (check all that apply)



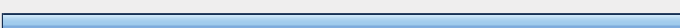
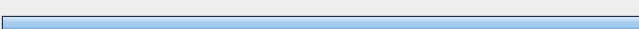

		Response Percent	Response Count
toddler		42.0%	21
3-5 years old		34.0%	17
4-7 years old		30.0%	15
7-12 years old		34.0%	17
13-16 years old		16.0%	8
16-18 years old		4.0%	2
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>50</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>42</b>

8. What do you do when you visit the park? (Please mark all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
jog/run		20.7%	19
leisure walking/measured walking		63.0%	58
walk a dog		47.8%	44
picnic		39.1%	36
<b>enjoy nature</b>		<b>71.7%</b>	<b>66</b>
enjoy views and vistas		45.7%	42
sunbathe		3.3%	3
attend organized activities		32.6%	30
attend a wedding or ceremony		1.1%	1
drive by, view from the road		34.8%	32
play tennis		41.3%	38
play volleyball		1.1%	1
relax		65.2%	60
meet friends		34.8%	32






play basketball		15.2%	14
play pick-up field sports		18.5%	17
sit at a table or bench		59.8%	55
watch a sporting event		5.4%	5
use the playground		52.2%	48
use the restroom		27.2%	25
sledding		28.3%	26
use the spray ground		32.6%	30
		Other (please specify)	10
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>92</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>



**9. Of the activities listed above, please list your top five in order of importance.**

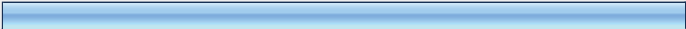


		Response Percent	Response Count
One		100.0%	83
Two		97.6%	81
Three		94.0%	78
Four		88.0%	73
Five		79.5%	66
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>83</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>9</b>

**10. How satisfied are you with the following facilities/services/amenities within the park? (check one for each)**

	<b>Very Satisfied</b>	<b>Somewhat Satisfied</b>	<b>Not Very Satisfied</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
general maintenance	21.1% (19)	<b>56.7% (51)</b>	22.2% (20)	0.0% (0)	2.01	90
cleanliness/litter pick-up	26.7% (24)	<b>51.1% (46)</b>	22.2% (20)	0.0% (0)	1.96	90
storm drainage	12.8% (11)	<b>47.7% (41)</b>	31.4% (27)	8.1% (7)	2.20	86
safety/security	18.0% (16)	<b>50.6% (45)</b>	31.5% (28)	0.0% (0)	2.13	89
access to the park	<b>67.0% (59)</b>	23.9% (21)	9.1% (8)	0.0% (0)	1.42	88
access within the park	<b>64.8% (57)</b>	22.7% (20)	11.4% (10)	1.1% (1)	1.46	88
condition of turf	27.3% (24)	<b>54.5% (48)</b>	17.0% (15)	1.1% (1)	1.90	88
condition of trees & shrubs	22.2% (20)	<b>46.7% (42)</b>	31.1% (28)	0.0% (0)	2.09	90
tennis courts	32.9% (28)	<b>36.5% (31)</b>	7.1% (6)	23.5% (20)	1.66	85
basketball courts	14.0% (12)	<b>34.9% (30)</b>	16.3% (14)	<b>34.9% (30)</b>	2.04	86
parking	21.2% (18)	21.2% (18)	15.3% (13)	<b>42.4% (36)</b>	1.90	85
walkways	32.2% (28)	<b>54.0% (47)</b>	13.8% (12)	0.0% (0)	1.82	87
views, vistas and scenery	46.6% (41)	<b>47.7% (42)</b>	5.7% (5)	0.0% (0)	1.59	88
picnic pavilion	12.8% (11)	31.4% (27)	<b>36.0% (31)</b>	19.8% (17)	2.29	86
restrooms	1.1% (1)	16.7% (15)	<b>61.1% (55)</b>	21.1% (19)	2.76	90
signs	18.4% (16)	<b>39.1% (34)</b>	31.0% (27)	11.5% (10)	2.14	87
lighting	19.0% (16)	<b>53.6% (45)</b>	21.4% (18)	6.0% (5)	2.03	84
benches	18.4% (16)	<b>46.0% (40)</b>	34.5% (30)	1.1% (1)	2.16	87
drinking fountain	10.3% (9)	<b>40.2% (35)</b>	37.9% (33)	11.5% (10)	2.31	87
spray ground	20.7% (18)	<b>40.2% (35)</b>	18.4% (16)	20.7% (18)	1.97	87
playground	<b>40.9% (36)</b>	35.2% (31)	5.7% (5)	18.2% (16)	1.57	88
tot lot	<b>40.4% (36)</b>	32.6% (29)	4.5% (4)	22.5% (20)	1.54	89
picnic areas	16.3% (14)	<b>47.7% (41)</b>	25.6% (22)	10.5% (9)	2.10	86
conduct of other users	15.1% (13)	<b>53.5% (46)</b>	29.1% (25)	2.3% (2)	2.14	86
volleyball court	8.1% (7)	16.3% (14)	32.6% (28)	<b>43.0% (37)</b>	2.43	86

15. What is your age range?			Response Percent	Response Count
10-16			1.1%	1
17-24			0.0%	0
25-35			21.1%	19
36-45			25.6%	23
<b>46-64</b>			<b>45.6%</b>	<b>41</b>
65+			6.7%	6
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>90</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>

16. What is your gender?			Response Percent	Response Count
female			58.9%	53
male			41.1%	37
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>90</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>

17. Are you completing this survey as an individual user or as part of a group, class, or team? If part of a group, class, or team, with which group are you associated?			Response Percent	Response Count
individual			94.4%	84
group			2.2%	2
both			3.4%	3
			please list group, class, or team	5
			<b>answered question</b>	<b>89</b>
			<b>skipped question</b>	<b>3</b>

**Report of Engineering Evaluation  
Existing Site Conditions  
Tyler Park  
Louisville, Kentucky**

Prepared For:

**Environs Inc.  
11601 Main Street  
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August 2009

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**MATTINGLY  
ENGINEERS**



# Report of Engineering Evaluation Existing Site Conditions Tyler Park Louisville, Kentucky

## 1.0 Introduction

Tyler Park is a five acre urban park located in the Highlands neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky. Facilities at the park include tennis courts, two playgrounds, a sprayground, a volleyball court, a basketball court, and restrooms. The park is divided by Baxter Avenue running north-south through the center of the park. A pedestrian tunnel beneath Baxter Avenue provides access to both sides of the park. This report summarizes the results of an engineering evaluation of the existing site conditions, and includes a discussion of soils and geology, drainage, and utilities. A site map and photos are included in Attachment 1.

## 2.0 Soils & Geology

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey of Jefferson County, Kentucky, the site is classified as urban land underlain by soils that belong to the Alfic Udarents-Crider complex (UmD) along the steeper slopes at the northern and southern limits of the site; the Udorthents complex (UahC) at the lower east central portion of the site; and the Udarents complex (UagB) at the lower west central portion of the site. The Alfic Udarents-Crider complex soils are generally described as thin, fine silty loess over clayey residuum weathered from the parent limestone or dolomite. No description was provided for the Udorthents complex, other than indicating that groundwater is generally one to four feet below ground. The Udarents complex soils are described as moderately well-drained, fine silty alluvium over limestone at



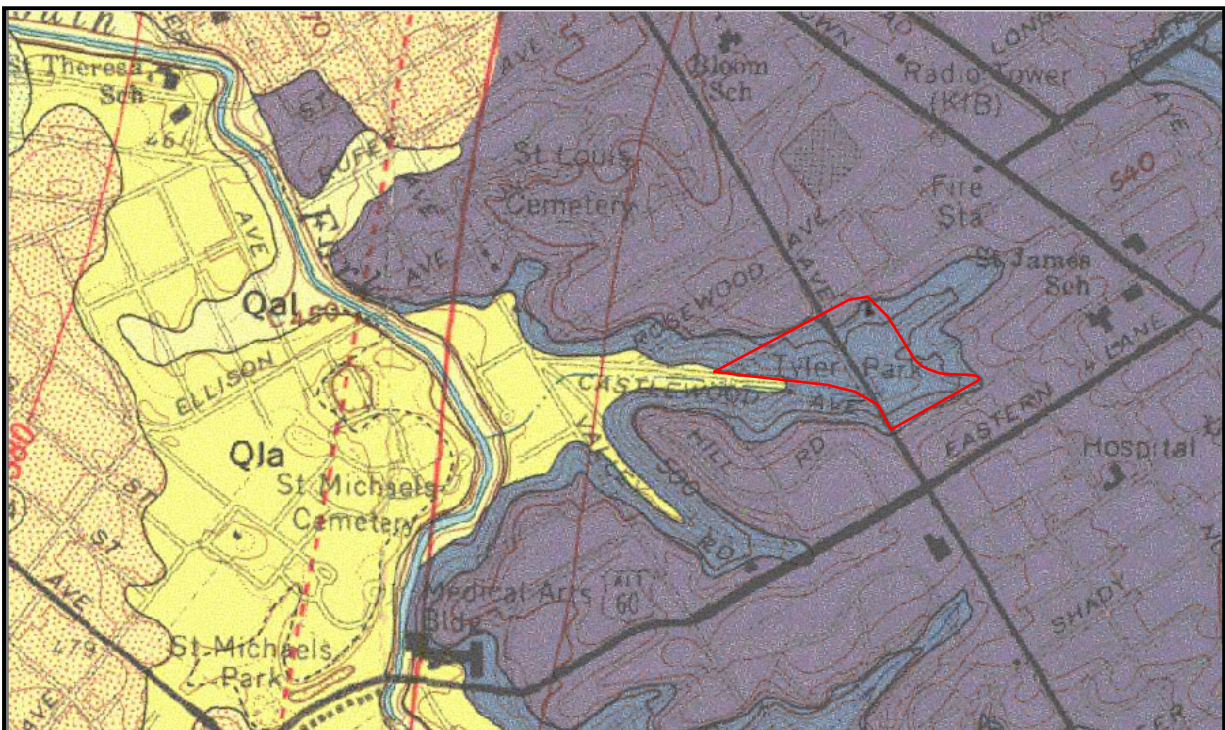
Figure 1. Portion of the NRCS Jefferson County Soils Map

depths of about four to five feet.

All soils mapped for this site are considered to be very limited as suitable subgrade material for roads and buildings, due to poor strength and moderate shrink-swell potential.

Based on a review of available geologic mapping (Geologic Map of the Jeffersontown Quadrangle, USGS, 1972), Tyler Park is primarily situated upon the Louisville Limestone (Slv) Formation of Silurian geologic age. Lacustrine deposits, resulting from glacial outwash that filled the Ohio River valley, are located along the lower, west end of Tyler Park. The Louisville Limestone is described as a dolomitic limestone susceptible to dissolution and the subsequent development of karst features such as voids and sinkholes in the soil overburden, or voids in the underlying bedrock. The mapping indicates that the water table in the lacustrine deposits at the west end of the park is known to reach the ground surface during wet periods.

Tyler Park is located about 1½ miles northwest of the northeast-to-southwest trending Springdale Anticline. The underlying bedrock is dipping slightly to the west.



**Figure 2. Portion of the USGS Geologic Map of the Jeffersontown Quadrangle (1972)**

### 3.0 Drainage

Topographic relief across the park is about 60 feet, with a high elevation of about 530 ft-MSL at the southeastern portion of the park and a low elevation of about 470 ft-MSL at the western limit of the park. Drainage generally follows the natural topography from the upper elevations along the northern, eastern, and southern limits of the park to the western end of the park, and eventually into Beargrass Creek about 1/3 of a mile to the west. Much of the site drainage is directed through the tunnel below Baxter Avenue, as the roadway embankment acts a dam.



Drainage structures in the park include several catch basins that direct drainage to a 48-inch diameter combined sanitary/stormwater sewer.

As seen in the photos in Attachment 1, poor drainage is a significant problem at Tyler Park. During this review, ponded water was observed in many areas, particularly east of the Baxter Avenue embankment. Also, runoff from Tyler Park Drive was causing erosion on the steep slope at the northwest side of the park. Figure 3 provides a map of the drainage and erosion problems noted during this review. Several factors contribute to the drainage problems, including:

- (1) the park is located in a low-lying area along a natural drainage area leading west;
- (2) high groundwater is reportedly only a few feet below the ground surface;
- (3) the Baxter Avenue embankment impedes the natural drainage paths;
- (4) high surges of stormwater flow due to runoff from the many impervious surfaces within the urban watershed; and,
- (5) ineffective catch basins clogged by leaves and debris.

A detailed study of the drainage issues at the park were beyond the scope of this review. In order to provide a comprehensive plan to address the drainage issues, a detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of the existing watershed and drainage structures is required. Some suggested changes that will improve the drainage conditions, both from a water quality and a water quantity standpoint, include:

- (1) regularly removing leaves and debris from the catch basin grates;
- (2) installing a small curb and catch basin along Tyler Park Drive to control sheet flow and erosion on the steep slope between the road and the park. These improvements would require connecting the outlet to the 48-inch combined sewer. Based on our preliminary discussions with MSD personnel, they strongly discourage adding flow to any combined sewer and strictly prohibit any connection larger than 6 inches. They indicated that connecting to the combined sewer would be more favorable if other, more natural, stormwater features such as rain gardens and bioswales were included in the drainage improvements.
- (3) minor regrading in low spots where water ponds and directing surface drainage to selected low areas, which can be enhanced as natural stormwater features. These features, such as rain gardens and bioswales, will act as natural filters for pollutants and sediment and will help slow down the runoff before reaching the stormwater system. It should be noted that these improvements would provide only minimal storage capacity and have an impact on smaller storm events only. More significant upgrades to the stormwater system are required to impact larger rain events.

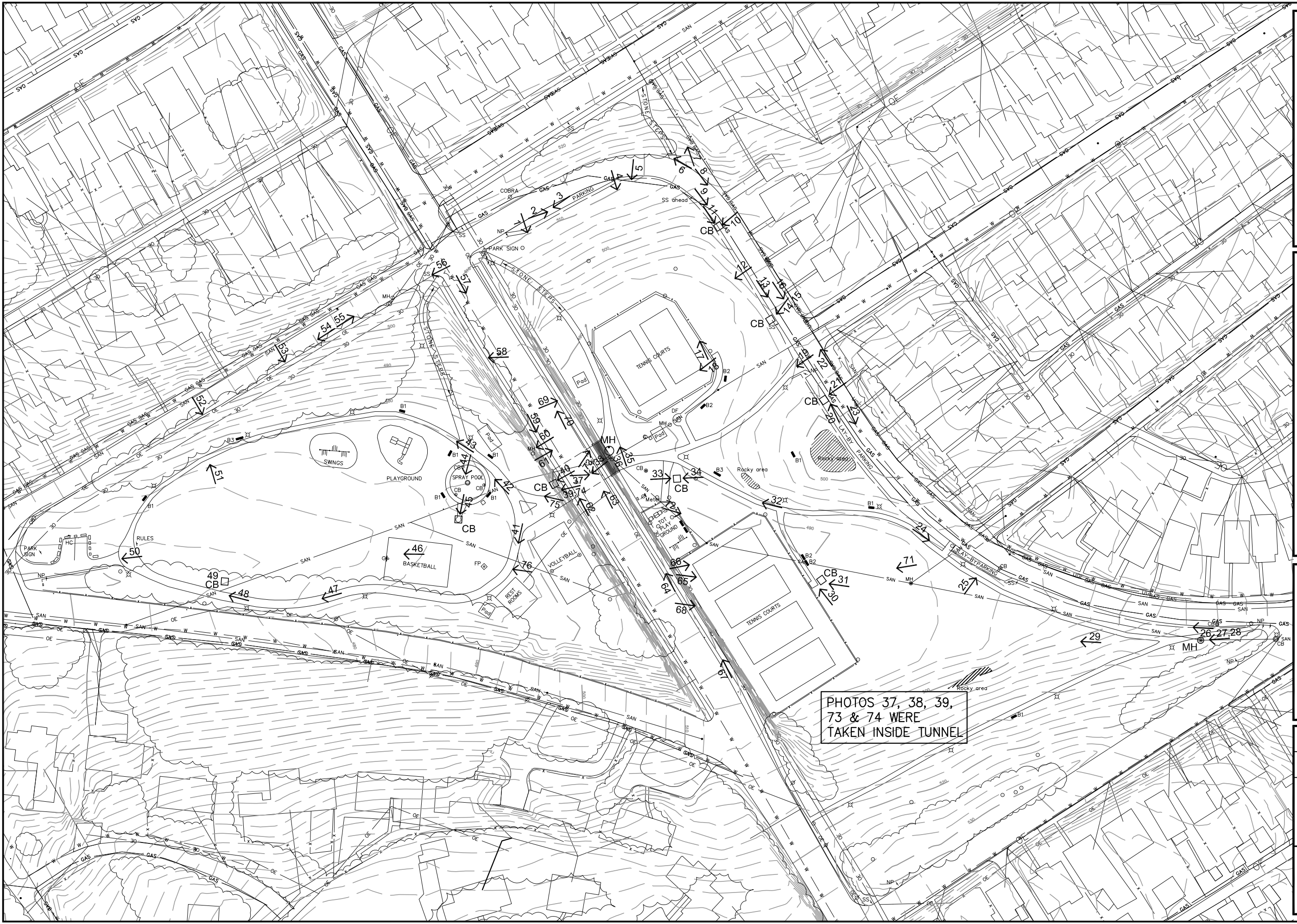


**Figure 3. Map of Poor Drainage Areas in Tyler Park**

#### **4.0 Utilities**

Existing utility services at the site include: overhead electric provided by Louisville Gas and Electric (LG&E), gas service (LG&E) along Tyler Park Drive, and water provided by the Louisville Water Company (LWC). A 48-inch combined sanitary/stormwater sewer, operated by the Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD), extends from Tyler Parkway, Edgeland Avenue, and Tyler Park Drive to the east, through the park and tunnel, westward along Castlewood Avenue. The site map in Attachment 2 shows the location of the existing utilities.

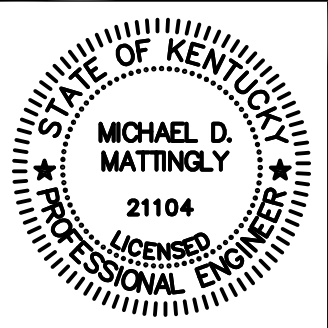
## Attachment 1 – Site Map and Photos



# MATTINGLY ENGINEERS

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LOUISVILLE METRO PARKS  
TYLER PARK  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY  
PHOTO INDEX MAP



PROJECT NUMBER: 08146	DATE: 7/20/09
DRAWN BY: DR	CHECKED BY: MM
REVISIONS:	

SHEET:  
1 OF 1

**Photos 1-70 taken April 14, 2009, after 0.9 inches of rain in 20 hours**



1. View of north tennis courts from Tyler Park Drive, looking southeast



2. View of Tyler Park Drive from Baxter Ave., looking northeast, alligator cracks, shoulder raveling at gravel parking area



3. Gravel parking area along Tyler Park Drive, near intersection with Baxter Ave.



4. View of park from Tyler Park Drive, looking southeast, standing water east of north tennis courts



5. View of park from Tyler Park Drive, looking south



6. Landscaped hillside north of park along Tyler Park Drive



7. Stairs from Windsor Place, northeast of park



8. View of Tyler Park Drive east of park, looking southeast



9. Asphalt cracks near large tree along Tyler Park Drive



10. Catch basin clogged with leaves



11. Catch basin along Tyler Park Drive, looking southeast



12. View of poor drainage east of north tennis courts



13. Missing asphalt section along the west edge of Tyler Park Drive



14. Catch basin near the intersection of Tyler Park Drive and Tyler Parkway



15. Catch basin clogged with leaves



16. Intersection of Tyler Park Drive and Tyler Parkway to the east



17. Standing water adjacent to north tennis courts



18. Standing water on sidewalk east of north tennis courts



19. Sidewalk into park from the intersection of Tyler Park Drive and Tyler Parkway



20. Catch basin in gravel shoulder along Tyler Park Drive



21. Leaves clogging catch basin, with outlet pipe primarily clear



22. Standing water at intersection of Tyler Park Drive and Tyler Parkway



23. Drop-off from asphalt to gravel parking area along Tyler Park Drive



24. Sidewalk into park along Tyler Park Drive, standing water near lightpole





25. Standing water near lightpole



26. Concrete headwall near southeast corner of park



27. Combined sewer manhole at southeast corner of park



28. Closeup of combined sewer manhole



29. Grassy slope, looking northeast



30. Catch basin near south tennis courts



31. Closeup of catch basin



32. Sidewalk leading to tunnel beneath Baxter Ave, minor cracking, poor drainage to the northeast



33. Catch basin between south tennis courts and tunnel



34. Closeup of catch basin



35. Small puddle near east entrance to tunnel



36. Standing water near edge of pavement at east end of tunnel



37. Standing water at base of stairs, east entrance to tunnel



38. Standing water at base of stairs, manhole submerged



39. Catch basin at west entrance to tunnel



40. Leaves and debris clogging catch basin



41. Standing water on sidewalk in front of bathroom



42. Standing water along east edge of spray fountain



43. Standing water at edge of sidewalk near spray fountain and playground



44. Spray fountain, looking south



45. Catch basin south of spray fountain, leaves and debris floating



46. Poor drainage behind basketball goal



47. Standing water on sidewalk near Castlewood Ave.



48. Standing water on sidewalk, catch basin to the right



49. Closeup of catch basin



50. Puddles near west entrance



51. Erosion on slope north of west side of park, runoff coming from Tyler Park Drive



52. View of erosion from Tyler Park Drive



53. Erosion of slope, from Tyler Park Drive runoff



54. Curb along south side of Tyler Park Drive, above west side of park



55. View of Tyler Park Drive, looking northeast towards Baxter Ave.



56. Intersection of Tyler Park Drive and Baxter Ave., looking southwest along Tyler Park Drive



57. Baxter Ave, looking southeast



58. View of stairs and grassy slope, from Baxter Ave



59. Curb inlet along southwest side of Baxter Ave, clogged with leaves



60. View of above-grade manhole box, from Baxter Ave.



61. Clogged curb inlet along Baxter Ave.



62. Standing water on southwest side of Baxter Ave.



63. Standing water along northeast side of Baxter Ave.



64. View of tot lot on east side of park, looking from Baxter Ave.



65. View of south tennis courts, looking east from Baxter Ave.



66. View of south tennis courts, looking northeast from Baxter Ave.



67. Debris and leaves cleared from curb inlet along northeast side of Baxter Ave.



68. View of park from Baxter Ave., looking east



69. View of north tennis courts, from Baxter Ave.



70. Poor roadside drainage, partially clogged curb inlet along northeast side of Baxter Ave.



Photos 71-76 taken by Metro Parks personnel on May 8, 2009, after 1.8 inches of rain in 15 hours



71. Severe ponding east of the south tennis courts



72. Standing water at catch basin between south tennis courts and tunnel



73. Standing water at base of stairs on east side of tunnel



74. Standing water at catch basin, west entrance of tunnel



75. Stream of water from overflow at catch basin, west entrance of tunnel



76. Poned water on walkway in front of bathrooms

## Attachment 2 – Utilities Map



OLMSTED PARKS  
RESTORE. ENHANCE. PRESERVE.



METRO  
Parks



# TYLER PARK MASTER PLAN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

## EXISTING UTILITIES



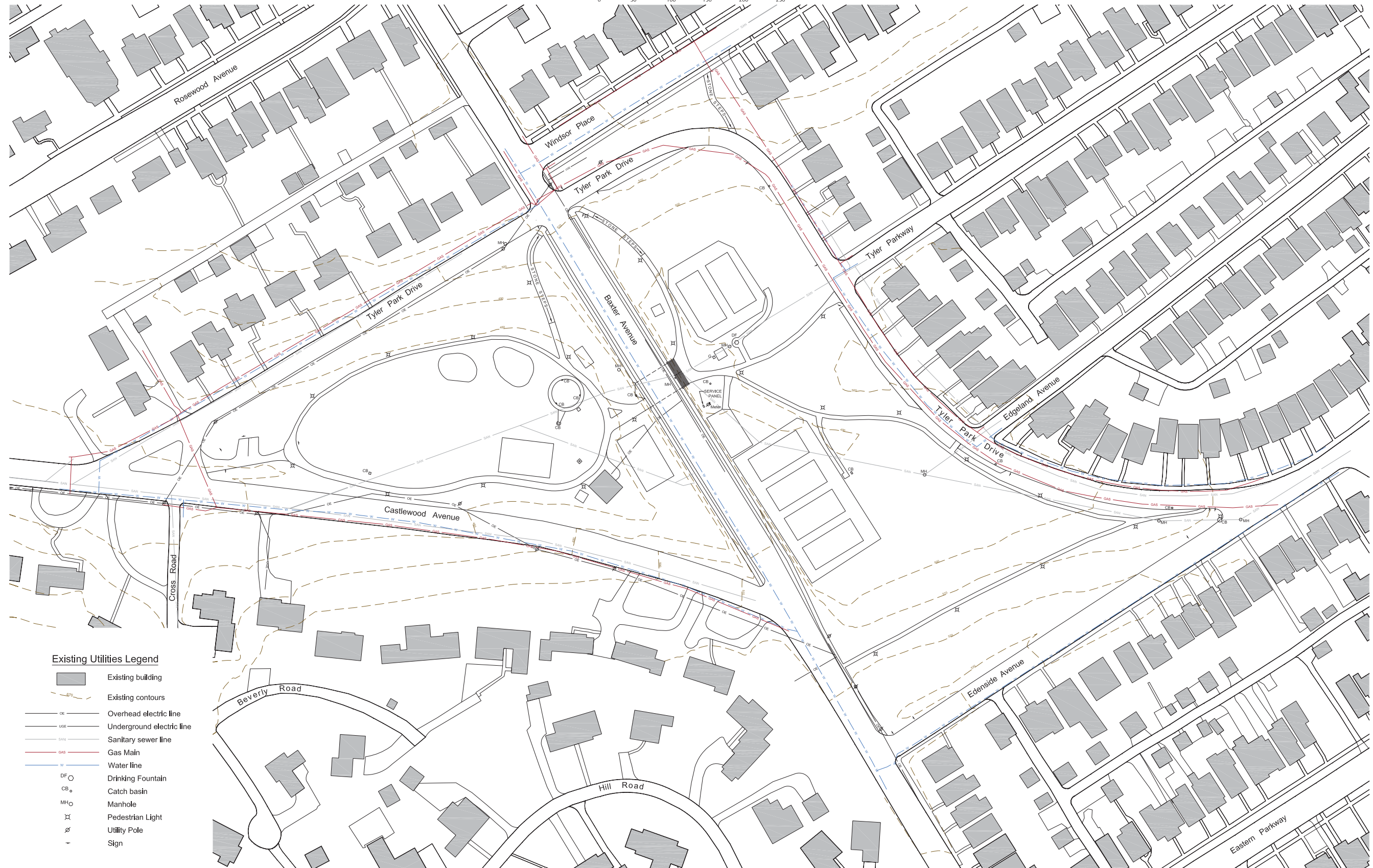
Heritage Landscapes LLC  
Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners



studio  
K  
MATINGLY  
ENGINEERS

MAY 2009

SCALE: 1" = 50'



### Existing Utilities Legend

- Existing building
- Existing contours
- Overhead electric line
- Underground electric line
- Sanitary sewer line
- Gas Main
- Water line
- Drinking Fountain
- Catch basin
- Manhole
- Pedestrian Light
- Utility Pole
- Sign