

Answers to Questions provided prior to the March 24, 2021 Wilmette Neighborhood Storage Project - Phase 3 Public Meeting

	QUESTION	ANSWERS (red indicates response by Park District)
1	Slide 12: Mentioning water and sewer lines for a potential restroom might be confusing. The Park District Board (which will have three new members soon, none of whom support a permanent restroom) probably won't vote to put in a permanent restroom, and we doubt it would be located in the SE corner, since that isn't near any activities.	The concept of bathroom facilities in Thornwood Park is contained in the agreement with the Village and whether or not to proceed will be determined by the Board of Park Commissioners somewhere in the future. The locations of bathrooms, and the associated costs for water and sewer will be developed for the board's consideration, if and when they would like to discuss the topic.
2	You also mention that irrigation WILL be put in. We're still a little unsure of why that is necessary, given that we've never had issues with dry grass. And won't the vault have several feet of soil above it (compared to Community Playfields' minimal over soil) which would keep the grass more moist? I think the average neighbor would want to know why we need expensive irrigation, how it will impact the playing surfaces, and if we could do away with one more large structure above ground.	There will be approximately 3-4 feet of soil on top of the StormTrap. The Park District has requested the irrigation system to be installed as part of the project. Given the stated concerns about the irrigation system at Community Playfields, the Village Manager has assured the Executive Director of the Park District that any and all components of work to be performed by the Village will come to the Board of Park Commissioners for review and approval prior to the Village board's approval of contracts/bids.
3	Slide 14: We would LOVE it if you could host the May meeting in Thornwood Park. You could mark on the ground where all the structures will go, we could help market it, and we could keep it Covid-safe in the park. It would also be great to start to picture traffic flow, etc.	We would like that too pending COVID-19 protocols. We can also arrange to stake out different components of the system as well.
4	Slide 17: Why do you have to reseed the outfield areas? Can't we use sod so that we don't have to wait until spring 2023 to start using the grass?	The Park District's preference is seed or sod because of the long term performance of the seed, the flexibility to choose seed varieties and sod is more likely to contain insects or disease problems. Another concern with sod, is the soil that is brought in from the sod farm is different than the site soil. That soil creates a layer effect that prevents drainage and prevents deep root establishment.
5	You mentioned "hockey rink" when technically it's a skating rink (no wooden boards around it). I'm assuming you mean you'll just replace the existing water source once construction is done.	This was a type-o and the presentation was modified to "skating rink".
6	Slide 20: People will ask why you need a quite large permanent generator, when a portable generator is a possibility. They might want to know technical constraints, cost comparisons, etc.	This is being evaluated as part of engineering design.
7	Slide 21: Please discuss the bi-weekly generator testing. Will it be run on natural gas? Any pollution or odor issues?	Typically the generator manufacturers recommend the gensets be run at least once or twice per month to : a. Verify it is in running condition so when it is needed it will be ready and operate b. Keep the moving parts and bearings lubricated for long term maintenance There is an exerciser feature in the Automatic Transfer Switch that turns the generator on at a set time and day chosen by the Owner and runs for a typical 20-30 min cycle. We would recommend a unit of this size be a natural gas unit and it would run cleaner than a car engine idling for 20 min - so there is not a concern about air pollution. This is routine for this type of equipment as it is not recommended to sit idle. All municipalities exercise their generators typically once every two weeks. Regarding noise when the generator is running, it would be 70-75 decibels at 23 feet. The closest house is nearly 100 feet away, which would result in a noise level of 60 decibels, which is equivalent to a normal conversation.
8	Please discuss the perimeter underdrain system. Is there any chance this project will divert underground water streams and that could hurt our properties? Will any runoff from the top of the vault come close to our properties?	A perimeter underdrain system will be approximately 20 feet below the ground and will reduce groundwater levels in the vicinity of Thornwood Park. All surface runoff from the park will be collected in the new park storm sewer and underdrain system. The project will reduce or eliminate groundwater and surface water draining from the park towards adjacent properties.
9	Slide 25: How many truckloads per day will be going near the park? What is that number if construction occurs every Saturday vs. no Saturdays? We know that the school will want you to finish as soon as possible (Saturdays) but the neighbors might want a break from construction. And we hope the work hour constraints will be enforced by your crew.	The heavy hauling at Thornwood Park is currently anticipated to start around June 1st and extend into September. Based on this timeframe and our preliminary discussions with contractors, the estimated number of trucks per day would be 100-120. Not allowing work on Saturdays would push the vault completion further into the Fall when school will be in session. Saturday work is also allowed by the Village Code.
10	In non-Covid world, Harper has six drop offs and pick ups per day...early bird drop off, regular drop off, kindergarten pick up, kindergarten drop off, regular pick up (extra kindergarten pickup on Fridays), and then after school class pick ups. Since you'll halt construction traffic then, will that impact the timeline?	We will work with the School District and Wilmette Police Department on the schedule and truck traffic routing surrounding Thornwood Park
11	Slide 28: Everyone wants to make sure the climbing trees are preserved and their root systems are not impacted at all. They are the most beloved trees in the park.	Special care has been taken to minimize tree loss. As of now, only 1 mature tree is proposed to be removed. The grove of mature trees along the east side of park south of the tennis courts will remain. We will reach out to the author of this comment to verify this addresses their concern.
12	Slide 29: Will you use Princeton for southbound Harper traffic? Dartmouth is already crowded enough without construction. And then you'd need a crossing guard or traffic controller on the corner of Princeton and Thornwood. We hope there will also be a crossing guard (not construction worker) on the corner of Dartmouth and Thornwood. The school provides one in the afternoons, but the morning position is currently filled by a parent volunteer.	We have not developed the pedestrian plan yet. Where there is a large concentration of children crossing we will work with the Wilmette Police Department to make sure the crossing is safe, including looking at a cross-walk guard.
13	Slide 33: Can you provide a diagram showing what the park surface will look like with irrigation heads, storm drain covers, manhole covers, etc. We know this diagram was produced for Community Playfields a little late in the process and it caught neighbors off guard.	The grading and drainage plan as well as the irrigation plan is currently under design with the project team and Park District. Similar to the other parks, it is our intention to locate all surface manholes and inlets outside of the active play areas and flush with the ground elevation.
14	Slide 34: You'll get a lot of questions about people using their own streets and driveways. Where will residents park? Where will the many, many construction workers park?	Residents will be able to park in their own driveways except for the brief period of time where curb in front of the house or driveway apron work replacement is occurring. There may also be times where storm sewers or manholes are being constructed in front of the driveway, which would temporarily limit driveway access. Advanced notice will be provided for both. Construction workers at Thornwood Park will park within the construction fence limits similar to previous projects. Construction workers in the streets will park in accordance with Village parking requirements and our Village Liaison Engineer will address any issues.
15	Slide 36: For vibration monitoring, we need to discuss potential damage to house foundations but also to the clay sewer connector pipes (my very technical term) underneath the streets, which are very fragile AND which are the responsibility of each homeowner. Do you have some sort of program to get a baseline (photos, etc.) of each structure before and after the project to assess liability?	The vibration monitoring is strictly performed as a precautionary measure. The results of the previous two projects show that vibration is well below levels that could result in damage. The vertical separation and soil protection around private sewers makes construction damage unlikely.
16	Also, let's minimize light pollution for surrounding neighbors, with nighttime security lights.	We will obtain input from public safety officials on lighting.
17	Thornwood Park gets strong west winds (which blow baseball field dust into our yards) so perhaps 6 feet is not tall enough for a fence on the east side of the project.	Taller temporary construction fences will be considered during the design process.
18	Please discuss how long sewer and water service might be down. One hour? Three days?	On similar past projects, these shutdowns have been 1 or several hours while utilities are reconnected or sewers lined and will entail significant advanced notice.
19	Will you offer any compensation for window cleaning after the project?	Unfortunately not for maintenance. While we don't expect any, property damage claims will be tendered over to the Contractor for resolution..
20	How long will the construction take? More specifically, how long will the streets be torn up?	The construction duration will vary for each street as the length of storm sewer, size and existing utilities vary. Based on past projects, we would estimate 2-4 months for each street but can vary. More information will be available as design progresses.
21	Is there any impact to be expected on lawns from this project and what will be the impact on the streets during the project?	Lawns on private property are not anticipated to be impacted at this time. The grass within the Village roadway ROW may be impacted by the project and will be replaced with sod. The impacts to the streets will include excavation, storm sewer installation and reconstruction or repaving with asphalt.
22	I'm curious about the alignment change in the new storm sewer being moved to Schiller	The alignment change was completed to reduce project cost and not reconstruct Ouilmette Lane, which was recently reconstructed. It also provides the opportunity to reconstruct streets and replace watermain that are in need of improvement.

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23	Has the location of the pump house been determined	The currently proposed location is the southeast corner of the park. As shown in the presentation, the pump station will be underground below a concrete pad and is proposed to be located in the southeast corner of the park. The above ground features currently include a pump control, backup generator, electrical box, and cable junction box. There will also be a small enclosure for the irrigation pump and water service as requested by the Park District. The area will be landscape screening around the area.
24	What above ground structures will be present in the park? Will a portable generator be used? What security measures will be used to keep free roaming kids out of the construction site? Will the root systems of the climbing trees definitely be protected?	The above ground structures in the park will consist of components related to the pump station and irrigation system. There will also be drainage structures (inlets, etc.) and these will be located outside of the playable areas as has been done on the other projects. These elements are currently under design. Security during construction will consist of a construction fence, locked gates and a camera.
25	Will there be any construction occurring on Romona S of Lake. The is a heavily trafficked street for various schools.	This area is currently under design, and it is not yet known whether or not construction will be required on this section of Romona Road. When a design is finalized, more information will be provided via the project website and public outreach.
26	I am concerned that even though I live a stones-throw from the park, it does not appear that the storm sewer connections will benefit my street (Princeton Pl). My neighbors and I had water halfway up our front lawns during the 2020 Spring storms and several neighbors had water damage. Considering how close we live to this project, I want to be sure it will benefit me and my neighbors.	The project is designed to relieve the Hunter Road trunk storm sewer system during storm events and therefore has benefits to all the adjacent lateral storm sewer systems (new and existing) that drain into the trunk storm sewer system, including Princeton Place. Specifically for Princeton Place, the project will reduce peak water elevations in the storm sewer system by up to 2 feet, which is a significant benefit.
27	Will construction affect the playground?	No, it is outside of the construction fencing limits and therefore will not be impacted by construction. Note that parking and sidewalk access in the vicinity may be limited during certain periods of construction.