



# Sakai Park: Proposal for Two Tennis Courts

The Central Park for Bainbridge Island

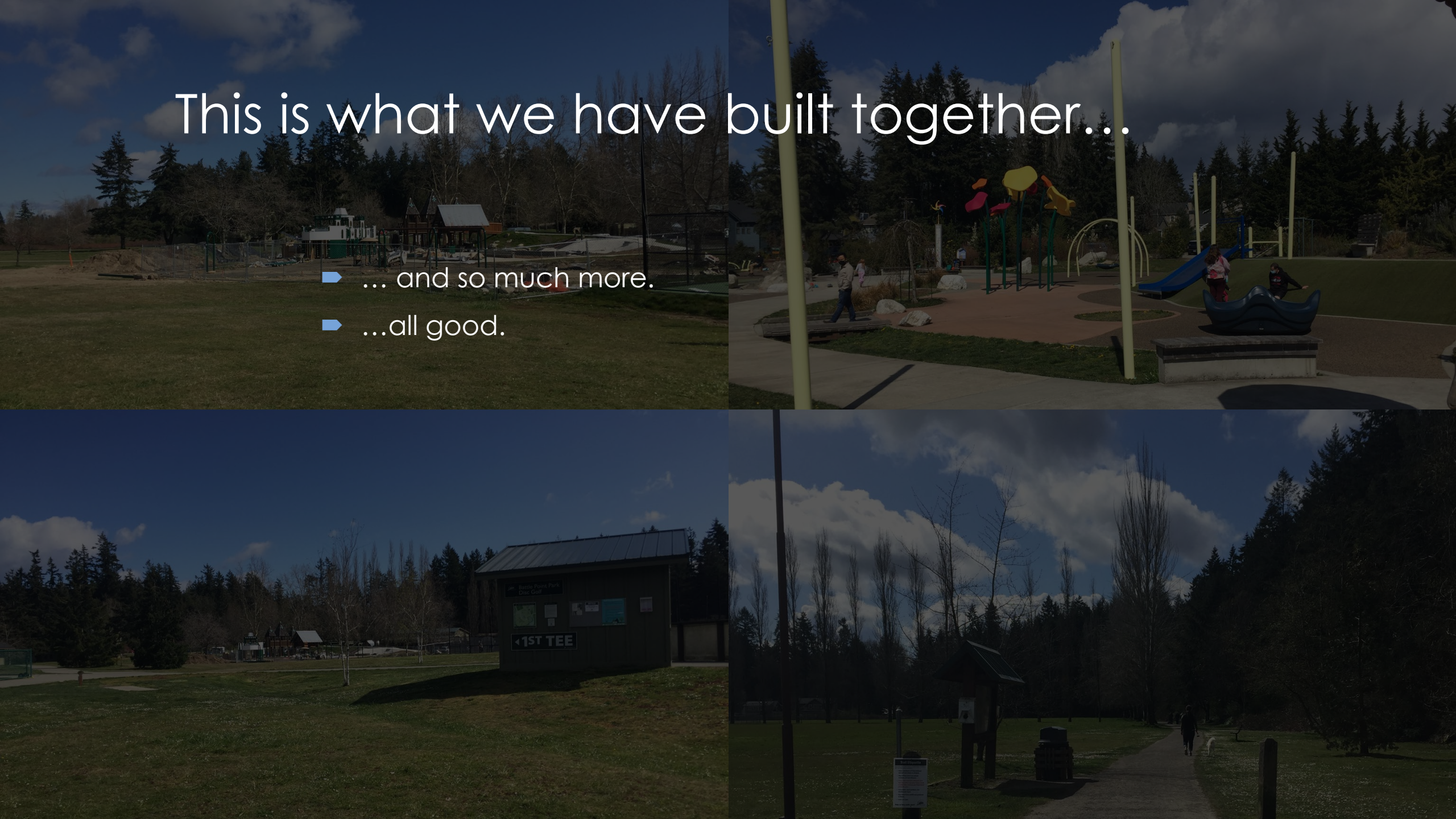
# Overview of Bainbridge: parks, schools, public services





# This is what we have built together..

- ▶ ... and so much more.
- ▶ ...all good.





BIMPRD: fundamental to our way of life  
and our future



**Comprehensive Plan**  
Parks, Recreation and Open Space  
2020



# Support

Voters to decide on park land purchase





This was the promise for Sakai Park.



**OUR PARK  
IN THE HEART  
OF THE  
ISLAND. ♥**  
**VOTE YES**





And so the citizens of BI supported this idea of a legacy park.

There's no other large piece of undeveloped land that could be used for a park for Winslow, where most of the island's population lives, he said.

"For people who like Manhattan, you try to imagine what Manhattan would be without Central Park. That's the kind of lasting legacy we're trying to create," Weiland said.



# Let's begin



## Supporters see chance to create Bainbridge's own 'Central Park'

**BY BRIAN KELLY**  
*Bainbridge Island Review*

Bainbridge parks supporters are hoping to turn a private jewel into a public gem.

Island voters will be asked during the Feb. 10 Special Election to approve a 20-year bond sale that would pay for the purchase of the Sakai property, 22.87 acres of largely undeveloped land that sits between Madison Avenue and Highway 305.

Supporters of the ballot measure say it's a rare opportunity to get a truly unique piece of property for the public's use.

"It's all about creating a central recreational open space that's in the middle of Winslow," said Bruce Weiland, co-chairman of People for Parks, the pro-park campaign.

"It's the island's heart and center."

Weiland said although the Bainbridge parks district has parks across the island, there isn't much in the Winslow area itself, where most of Bainbridge's population calls home.

"This is literally the largest undeveloped parcel within the central core of Winslow," Weiland said.

"This is the game. This is it," he added, noting that if the property is not purchased for the public it will most likely be put up for private sale and jam-packed with homes. "This is not just another piece that we can add to the inventory. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance."

If the ballot measure is approved by voters, the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan

Park & Recreation District will issue \$5.9 million in bonds to pay for the Sakai property.

A supermajority vote is needed for the parks proposal to pass. The measure must get 60 percent approval from voters, and the turnout must be 40 percent of the 2014 General Election or more (which means at least 4,734 voters must cast ballots for the election to be validated).

The bonds would be repaid over 20 years by an excess property tax levy of approximately 8 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, or roughly \$36 per year for the owner of a \$450,000 home.

Supporters say the chance to create a

TURN TO **PARK** | A14



# Central Park: games on the tennis courts



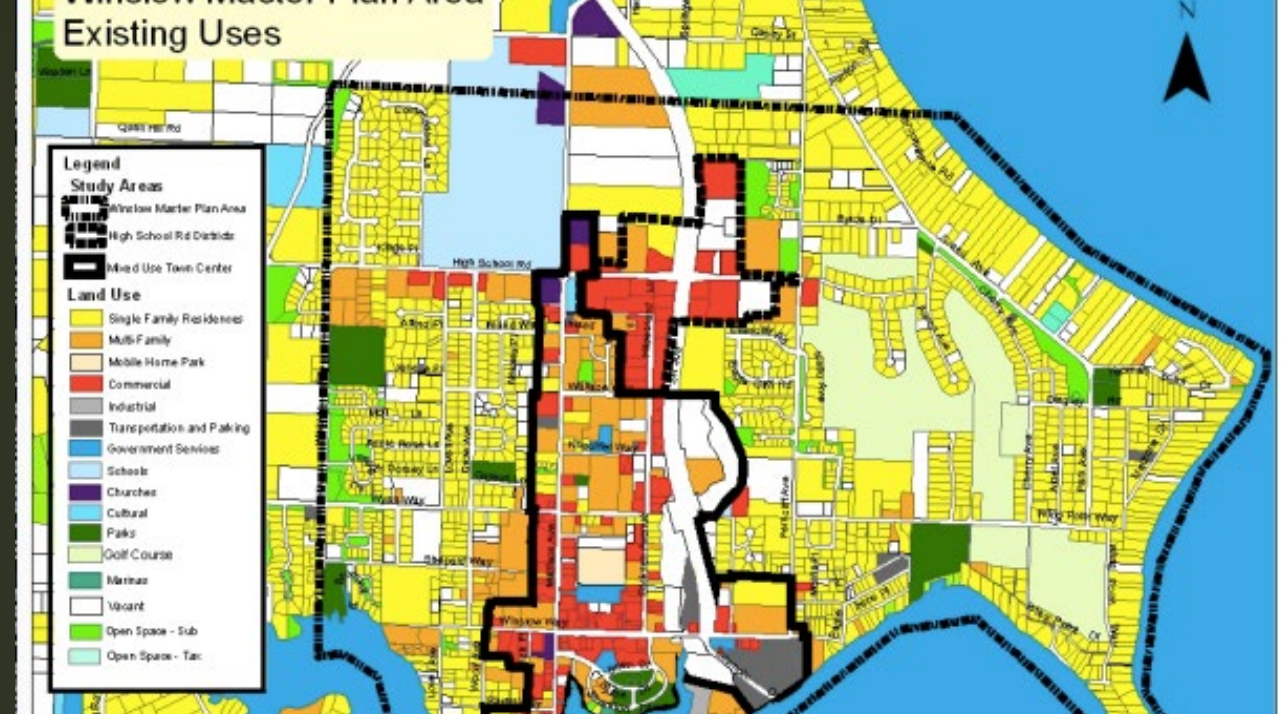
Games carry on at the tennis courts in Central Park on July 21.

PHOTOGRAPHER: PETE



# The need

Central location, additional courts, improved playing surfaces





LOCATION: The promise of Sakai Park needs to begin now because this is what we have...





....an increasing number of homes  
within the Winslow core



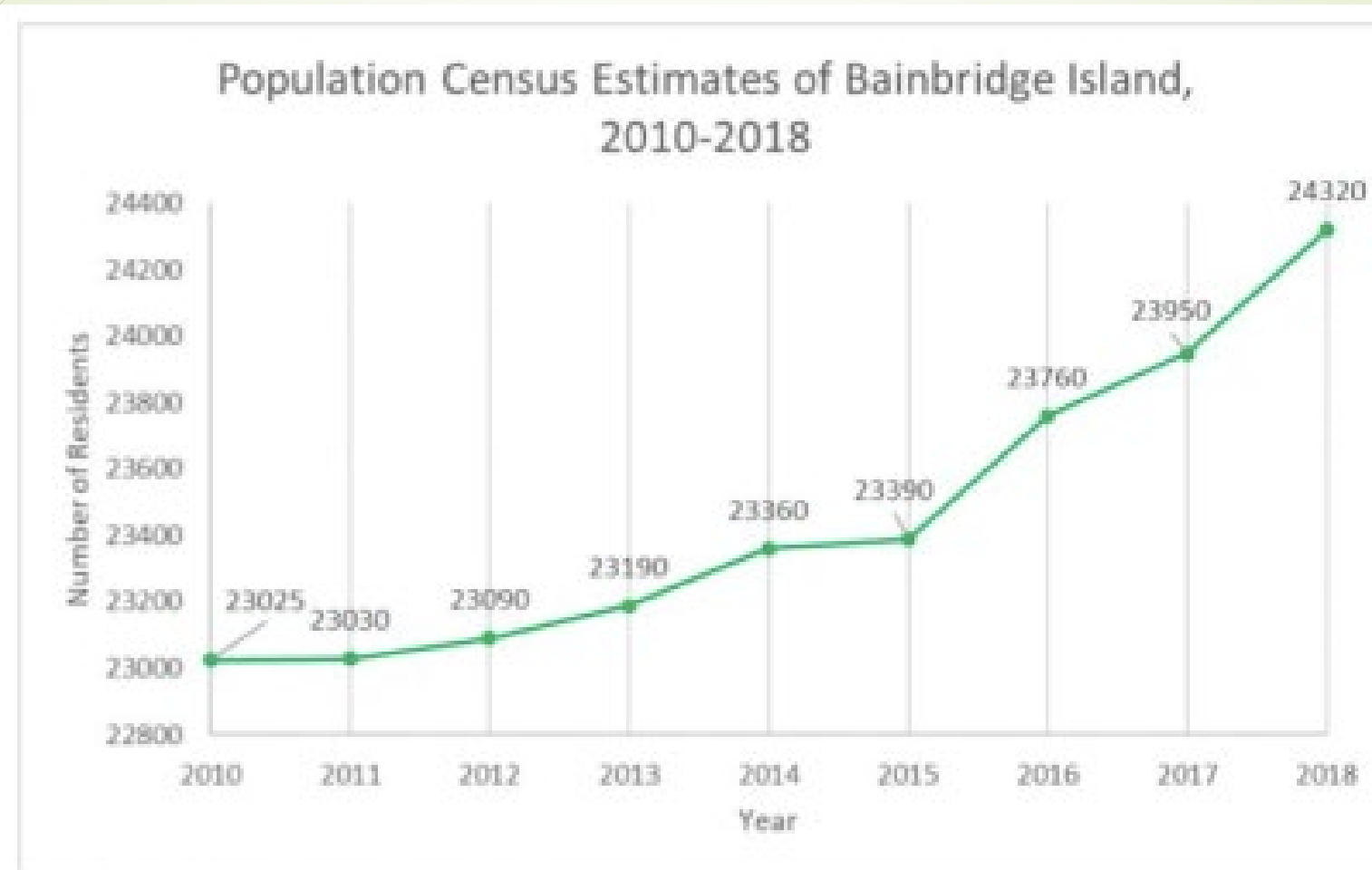


...and this (and more) is what's coming.





# Population growth



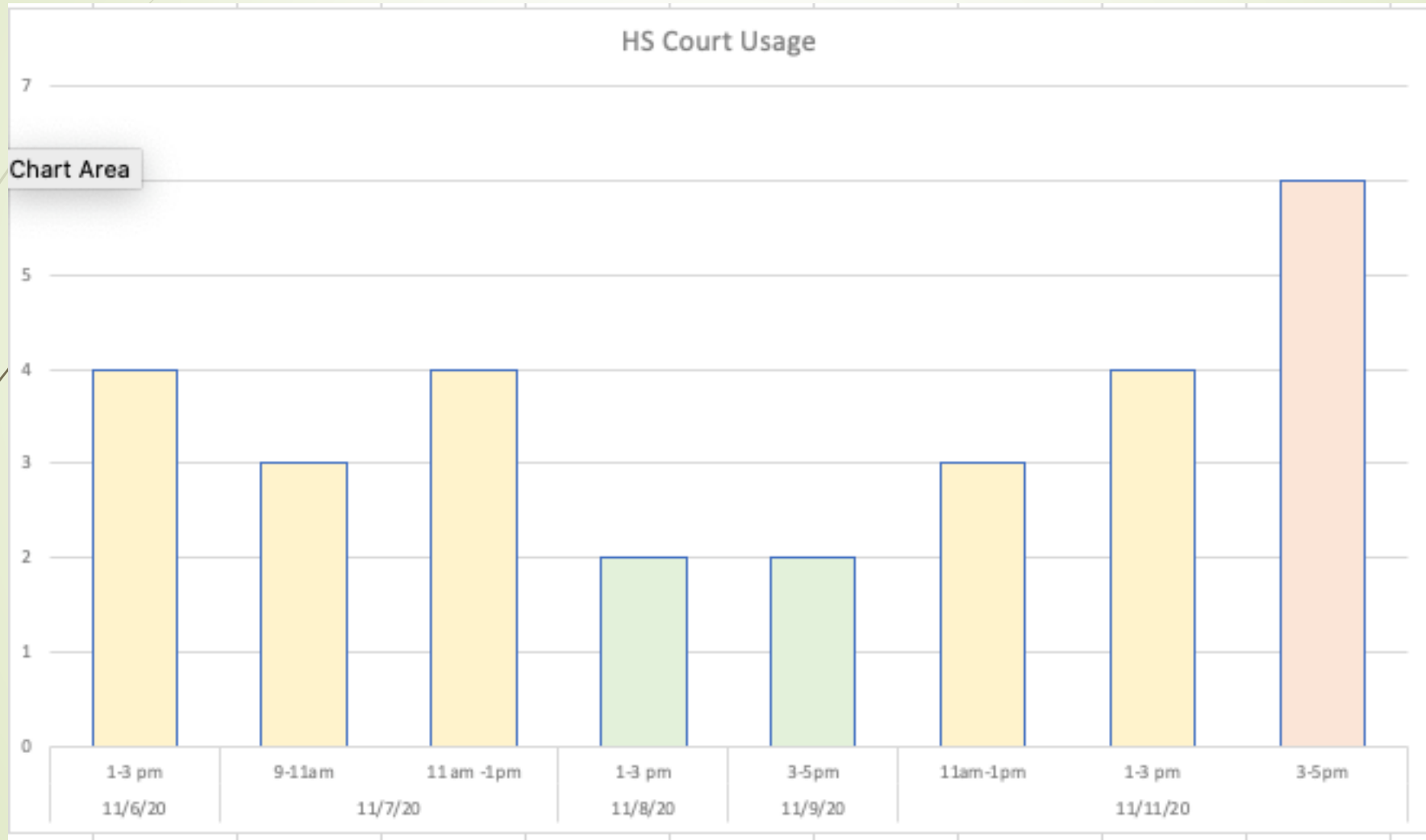


# National Findings

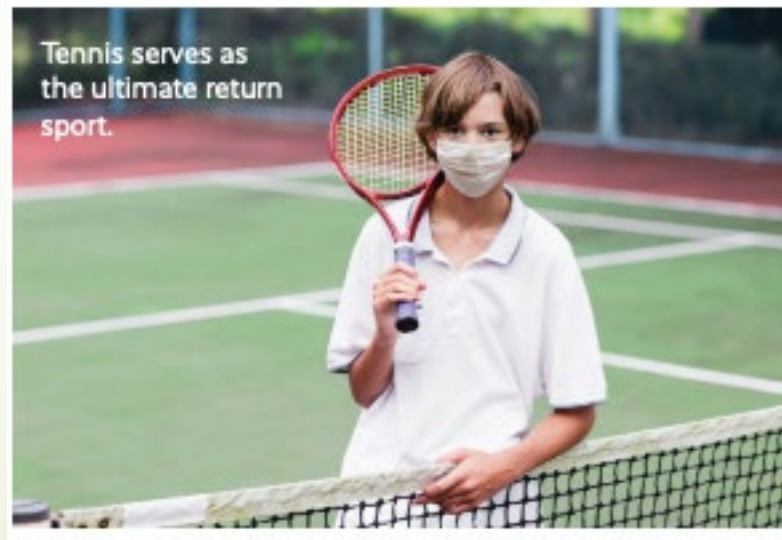
Tennis participation in the U.S. increased by 22% in 2020, with 21.64 million people hitting the courts, according to recent data from the Physical Activity Council's Participation (PAC) report produced by Sports Marketing Surveys. The survey and report monitor more than 120 different sports and activities participated in by Americans.




# November 2020



During this past year BI families turned to tennis as a safe, socially distanced recreational opportunity. Many public officials do not expect life to return to 'pre-COVID' ways. Central courts can meet this increasing need for places to play.







# If we build them, they will come to play.

- Sakai is the ideal location for additional courts because it is:
  - In the urban core.
  - Near schools
  - Accessible for seniors and youth
  - Accessible by multi-modal means of transportation

Sakai is located in the core, with trail access to tie east and west residential neighborhoods together and offer a place of public play and gathering.







# BIMPRD recommendations support additional courts in a central location.

- **NRPA recommends a ratio of 0.50 outdoor courts per 1,000 residents. ....The Park District currently provides a ratio of 0.16 outdoor tennis courts per 1,000 Island residents.**
- **In general, existing facilities do not quite meet tennis court needs nor public input preferences for new tennis court facilities.**
- **Several additional courts should be added central to school or park locations to meet existing and future population growth requirements on the island.**
- **Park District Comp Plan (Ch 6, page 10)**



# Usage

Play on public courts is limited by location and availability

## ➤ Location

- Battle Point: north end, 5 miles from core
- Eagledale: south end, 3.7 miles from core
- Strawberry Hill: central, 1.5 miles 'up-hill' :^) from the core
- High school courts in central core
- Location generally restricts access to kids and those without cars

## ➤ Availability

- Legal restrictions during school hours
- Team play after school
- Reserved courts for BIMPRD classes
- Reserved courts for BCTA
- Reduces availability to 4 dispersed courts



# Court Conditions: limit desirability





Usage: April 10, 2021---contrary to park  
opinions, they are used, and appreciated!!!!

Eagledale

Strawberry

BHS





# Battle Point!

- Two courts in use.
- Two groups waiting.







# Therefore:

- ▶ Courts should be built at Sakai Park now because:
  - ▶ Additional court space is recommended based on BIMPRD documents
  - ▶ Population growth since the existing courts were built continues
  - ▶ Population location by design in the Winslow core
  - ▶ Local use has increased and sustained
  - ▶ National statistics/standards support additional courts
  - ▶ To fulfill the promise of Sakai
    - ▶ **Resolution 2015-02: ... The property was considered to be ideally located to facilitate a number of recreation uses due to its central location and close proximity to other public facilities including schools.**



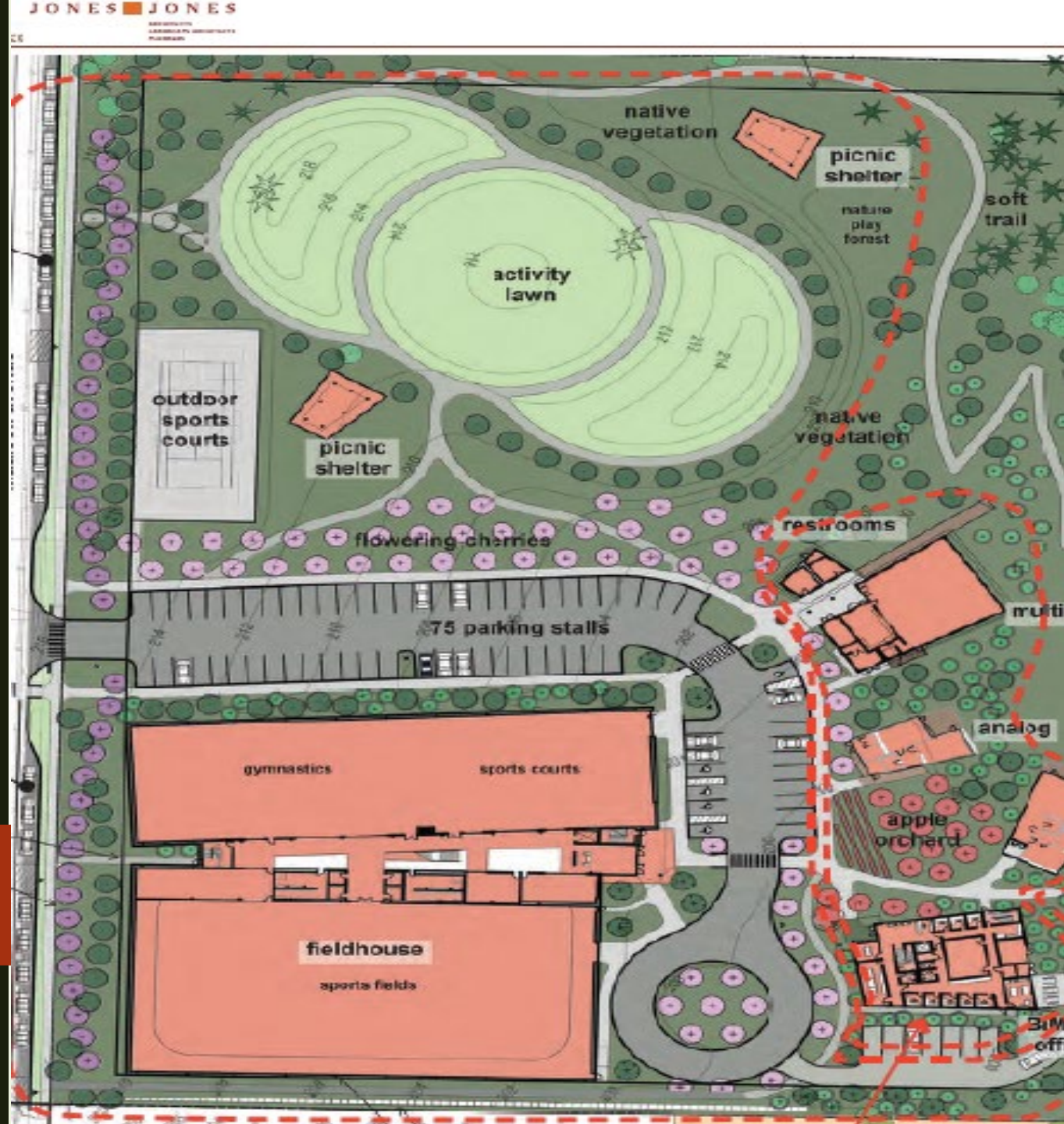
# Benefits to BIMPRD and to the citizens of BI

- Fulfill promise to the voters for a Central Park at Sakai
- Demonstrate a commitment to park development as BIMPRD considers additional levy requests
- Public private partnership maximizes potential
- As a location for:
  - School aged players
  - Close to the commercial and educational core
  - Green Bainbridge: limits single purpose drive trips



# The plan

Add an additional court. Relocate other function to alternate site.

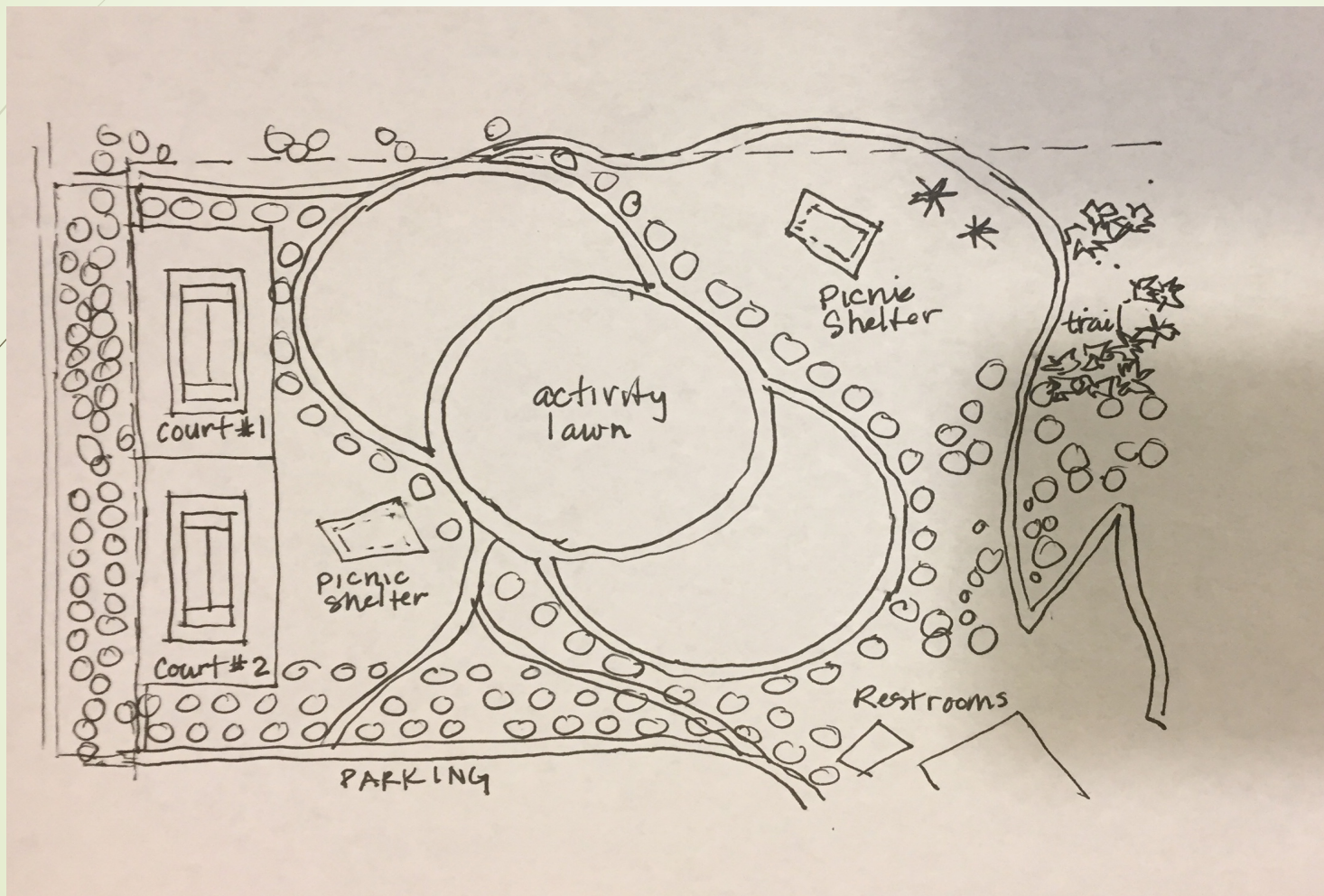


# Plan 1: USTA





## Plan 2: local architect





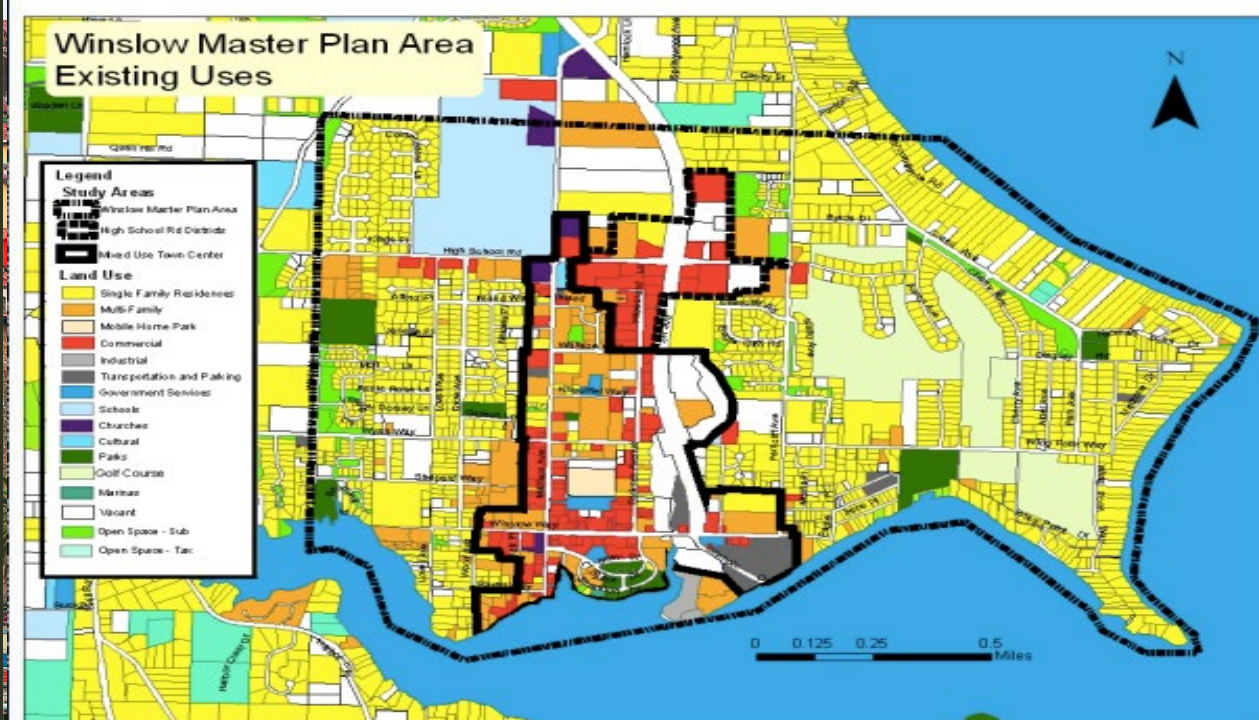
# Other options, plans, on-going discussions

- Resurfacing/refurbishing existing courts: in process!!!
- Locate additional courts adjacent to existing courts: location and transportation
- Or on other properties: Rotary, Sands, Gideon, new acquisitions
- Re-locate some planned functions from Sakai to another park property
- TBD



# The cost

Public and private partnership





# COST

- Court costs depend on surface preparation and material
- Variances: \$175,000 (asphalt like) to \$350,000 (concrete- based on pickleball construction)
- Funding
  - Existing BIMPRD capital funds
  - **Tennis community: \$50,000 raised in initial contributions**
  - Additional funding efforts by the tennis community
  - Public and private granting organizations
  - USTA
  - Promise to fund ratio based on recent agreements between community stakeholders and BIMPRD
  - **Benefit:** Winslow AND Bainbridge Island residents---accessible and environmentally friendly



# Conclusion: The legacy of Sakai

What will it be? When will it be? How can we  
move forward to fulfill the promise?





# It's a beautiful place to contemplate

- Its promise was for more.
- Jason Shutt, co-chairman of People for Parks
- Size
- Location
- Passive and active use





# “BIMPRD Values, Vision and Comprehensive Plan

- ❖ “Build a healthy community through effective, sustainable stewardship of the District’s parks and open space, and through the development and delivery of innovative cultural and recreational opportunities.”
- ❖ We can meet these goals by:
  - ❖ Sharing community owned assets
  - ❖ Operating a joint venture between parks and the tennis community
  - ❖ Prioritizing experiences of all age groups
  - ❖ Working collaboratively to expand and improve facilities to meet proposed levels of service standards and growth impacts



# What will it be?

There is a **need** based on use,  
location and conditions.

There is a **plan**, with potential  
solutions.

There are **funds**.

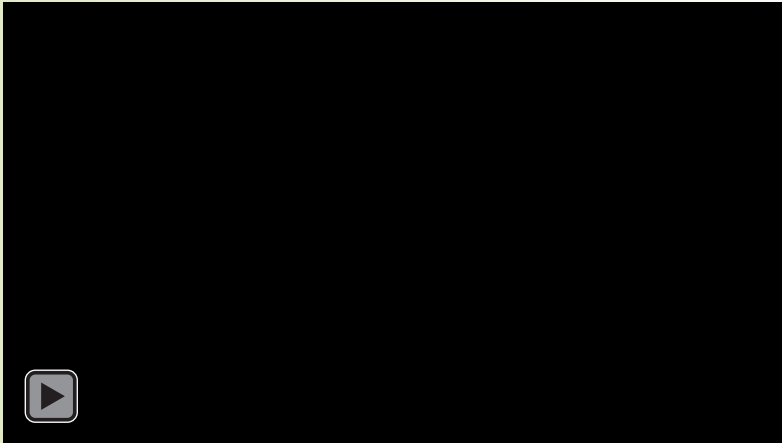




Private / public partnership  
Let us help – through the  
idea of adopt-a-park we  
can even help make it  
more beautiful, once it is  
built.

➤ Speakers: David Chester, Julie Riely,  
Rick Shepard, Edith Coburn and  
Kerry Houston Reightley and...

➤ BHS girls



➤ Questions

