

The Capital Neighborhoods

Neighborhood digest: April 10

South County: County adds option for park

The county added another ballfield option for Franklin Point Park as the committee charged with establishing plans for five local parks began finalizing its recommendations.

The two side-by-side multipurpose fields would be directly to the east of Dent Road, which leads into the 477-acre property in Shady Side.

The new, drier site became the fourth option for the park: three with athletic fields and one without.

Although the committee won't take any action until next month, it is likely to scrap a ballfield option closer to the bulk of the park property.

Committee members spent much of its meeting on Tuesday hashing out details of the plan and touching on public comments received at or since a February public meeting.

Other subjects covered included:

Building some sort of breakwater to protect Franklin Point's shoreline.

Establishing a Friends of Franklin Park or similar body such as those affiliated with other county parks.

Better maintaining the existing athletic fields at Shady Side Park.

Guaranteeing any final report reflects the will of the committee.

The panel will meet again at 7 p.m. May 4 in the Shady Side Elementary School cafeteria. It will hone its final plans and direct the county's consulting firm, Environmental Resource Management, to prepare final drafts of the five-park management plan. That plan could be approved in June.

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