

URBAN PARKS APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION MATERIALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ON PAPER (ONE COPY) AND ELECTRONICALLY.
(INDIVIDUAL EMAIL CANNOT EXCEED 25 MB.)

Complete and submit with all required attachments by June 15, 2021 to:

UrbanParksApplications@dep.nj.gov and

NJDEP Green Acres Program

Mail Code 501-01

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Contact: (609)984-0570

For G.A. Use Only

Date Rec'd: _____

UP Application No. _____

GA Application No. (if applicable) _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title North Hazlet Community Park

Location of site 8th Street, Hazlet, NJ 07734

Municipality HAZLET County MONMOUTH

Street(s) 8th Street

Block(s) and Lot(s) (attach additional pages, if necessary) Block 30, Lot 31

Type of Application (select one):

Acquisition: _____

Acres to be acquired: _____

Will land be acquired *in fee simple* _____ or *easement* _____?

Development: ☒

Size of site to be developed: 3.75 acres Is land *owned by* ☒ *or leased to* _____ applicant

Historic Preservation: _____

Is land *owned by* _____ or *leased to* _____ applicant

Is the site listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places _____ National Register of Historic Places: _____

(If yes, additional coordination with the DEP's Historic Preservation Office will be required, depending on the potential impact to the listed property. Please see www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/2protection/njrreview.htm for more details.)

State Legislative District (of project site) 13 Congressional District (of project site) 6

Total Estimated Cost of Project:

Land Acquisition:

Land \$ _____
Survey \$ _____
Appraisal \$ _____
Preliminary assessment \$ _____
Title \$ _____
Demolition* \$ _____
Other related costs* (itemized) \$ _____
Total project cost \$ _____

Park Development/Historic Preservation:

Construction \$ 1,236,427.50
Professional services
(up to 13% of construction) \$ 150,000.00
Preliminary assessment \$ 7,500.00
Other related costs* (itemized) \$ 0

Total project cost \$ 1,393,927.50

Total request this round \$ 500,000.00

Total request this round \$ _____

* Demolition and incidental costs will be limited to established caps.

Do you want this funding request also to be considered for Green Acres funding ☒ Yes ☐ No
(If yes, please adopt both the enclosed Urban Parks and Green Acres enabling resolutions, and talk to your Green Acres project manager to ensure proposal is eligible for GA funding.)

Estimated yearly operating/maintenance expenses after project completion \$ see attached sheet

Have there been previous loans/grants related to this property/project?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain: _____

Are there any structures located on the project site? Yes ☐ No ☒. If yes, please describe the use of the structure(s) or if they will be demolished _____

Is the project site a current or former landfill site, known or suspected hazardous waste site, or adjacent to (or affected by) such sites?

☐ Yes ☒ No. If yes, explain: _____

For acquisition projects, has the project site been identified by a municipality or otherwise designated for use in meeting municipal fair share low- and moderate-income housing obligations under the Fair Housing Act of 1985 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301)?

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe the alternative to meeting such obligations: _____

NOT APPLICABLE

Has the municipality achieved an approved petition for plan endorsement or, for a municipality in the Pinelands, received certification from the Pinelands Commission that its master plan and land use ordinances or regulations are consistent with the minimum standards of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:50-3 Part II or IV, as applicable?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please submit verification.

NOT APPLICABLE

Current Community Profile:

Area 5.6 (square miles)

Population ~ 20,000 Year 2010 Population per square mile _____

FUTURE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- Landscaping 32 weeks / growing season X 2 staff X 2.5hrs / cut = 160 manhours / year
- Refuse disposal 52 wks. X 2 pickups/wk. X 2 staff X .5hrs / pickup = 104 manhours / year
- Miscellaneous 4 hrs. / month X 12 Months X 2 staff = 96 manhours / year
- Note: Hourly rate of \$25.00 – not inclusive of benefits

Project description (Please describe, *in detail*, the scope of project, existing land use, physical characteristics, short- and long-term plans for site, etc. *This description will enable us to determine if your proposed project is eligible for funding.* Attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED
PROPOSED PROJECT

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Project Sponsor:

Name of Local Government Township of Hazlet
Address 1766 Union Avenue
City Hazlet State NJ Zip 07730
Chief Executive Officer Mayor Tara Clark E-mail address TClark@Hazletnj.org
Telephone () 732-217-8674

Applicant's federal identification number as assigned by IRS: To Be Supplied
21-6001050

Person having day-to-day responsibility for this application:

Name Annie Eng Title Acting Deputy Clerk
Address 1766 Union Avenue
City: Hazlet State NJ Zip Code 07730
Telephone (732-217-8674) Fax Number () 732-264-1785
E-mail address AEng@Hazletnj.org
Signature: Annie Eng Date: 6/29/21

I, Annie Eng (name of official authorized by the governing body resolution), hereby certify that the information provided within this Urban Parks application form is complete and true.

6/29/21
Date

Annie Eng
Signature of official authorized to submit application
as per attached Governing Body Enabling Resolution(s)

URBAN PARKS
PARK DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION
ATTACHMENTS CHECK LIST

*APPLICATION MATERIALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ON PAPER (ONE COPY) AND ELECTRONICALLY.
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NOTE: This checklist should be returned with your completed application. If any items are not applicable, please indicate with 'N/A' next to that item.

1. ☒ Application Form: Are all questions answered? Is form signed by the individual authorized by resolution?
2. ☒ Governing Body Urban Parks Enabling Resolution (the enclosed form must be used)
3. ☒ Governing Body Green Acres Enabling Resolution (must also be adopted for applications to be rolled over into the 2021 Green Acres funding round)
4. ☒ Units and quantities cost estimate, prepared and signed by an authorized, licensed professional
5. ☒ Narrative description of proposal (must address, *in order*, each applicable factor contained in the enclosed Local Project Priority System.)
6. ☒ Site specific mapping:
 - ☒ a. Site location on legible street map
 - ☒ b. Tax map outlining boundaries of site to be developed
 - None* ☒ c. Existing property survey (if available)
7. ☒ Environmental Assessment (instructions enclosed)
8. ☒ Conceptual Site Plan. Plans should be prepared by an authorized, licensed professional. Site plans should clearly identify all proposed facilities, any existing facilities and improvements, and any areas of proposed tree clearing.
9. *N/A* Copy of irrevocable property lease or use agreement (if applicable).
10. ☒ Proof of publication for the public hearing advertisement(s)
11. ☒ Minutes from public hearing
12. ☒ Digital photographs of the site
13. ☒ Letters of support (see Priority System Factor #5)
14. ☒ Letters from municipal **and** county planning boards describing how project is specifically consistent with appropriate Master Plan (see Priority System Factor #5).
15. ☒ List of all applicable permits that may be required for the project. Applicants with projects requiring permits, grants, or other approvals must contact all applicable permitting agencies to secure permit information and application materials prior to the submission of an application. Evidence of having met this requirement must be provided with the application. - *See attached*
16. *N/A* Letter verifying pre-application conference with the Highlands Council, Meadowlands Commission, or Pinelands Commission, if applicable, including their comments on the proposed project.
17. ☒ Breakdown of annual operating/maintenance expenses after project completion
18. *N/A* Conceptual floor plan that indicates the proposed use of any structure to be developed.



park amenities will attract visitors to the park, and residents in the area will be able to enjoy improved recreation facilities within their neighborhood park.

5.0 ALTERNATIVES

5.1 No Action

One alternative to the project would be the no-action alternative which would involve keeping the park as it is which is underutilized and run down. The community and surrounding neighbors will ultimately not benefit from keeping the park as it currently is as the new and improved amenities will attract locals to use the park more often.

5.2 Alternative Design/Configuration

One alternative would include a redesign of amenities to decrease the impacts or to minimize the overall footprint. They mayor has met on site with residents to discuss the project. There were several iterations of the concept plan, with minor changes to the layout and amenities. There have been two meetings with the residents during the planning phases of this project, with the most recent meeting over June 5th weekend. A Public hearing was held on June 7, 2021 with the Township Committee. The residents are very supportive of the proposed design and to see this project come to fruition.

As such, the proposed park design is a result of the local township committee and local residents' input on what type of amenities would be beneficial for the park. This alternative is not preferred.

6.0 PERMITS

The following permits will be required for the proposed project:

NJDEP Permits to be finalized and discussed with NJDEP Division of Land Resource Protection to ensure the appropriate permit applications are being submitted.

- NJDEP Flood Hazard Area (FHA) Verification to verify the limits of the Floodplain on the property **To be submitted**
- NJDEP Flood Hazard Area General Permit No. 13 (construction of trails and boardwalks) **To be submitted**
- FHA Permit by Rule 25 construction of an aboveground athletic and/or recreational structure. **To be submitted**
- The Pavilion may require a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit. **To be submitted**

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control from Freehold Soil Conservation District – **To be submitted**

PROPOSED PROJECT

NORTH HAZLET COMMUNITY PARK

SERVICE AREA FACILITY NEEDS:

Hazlet Township is in Central New Jersey, in the Monmouth County Bayshore Region. The 5.6 square mile community is home to over 20,000 residents, approximately 7,140 households, 5,526 families and 4,616 children as counted in the 2010 United States Census. West Keansburg is a community within Hazlet Township, with approximately 855 homes located in the Special Flood Hazard Area as mapped by FEMA. The Township has excellent regional transportation access, with the Garden State Parkway Exit 117 in the western sector of the Township. State Routes 35 and 36 serve as major east-west arterial roads to Sandy Hook National Park and the Jersey Shore. Middle Road, Hazlet Avenue, Poole Avenue, Union Avenue, and other secondary arterial roads and collector roads provide access within the Township and to destinations in adjoining municipalities. Hazlet is a commuter rail stop on the NJ Transit North Jersey Coast Line and hosts an Academy Bus Depot at the intersection of Middle Road and State Route 36.

As an older developed community, Hazlet is now in the next stage of its planning and development cycle. Its older infrastructure requires replacement and / or major upgrades. Many challenges present themselves to the Township to address these infrastructure needs since limited funds are available. Hazlet has met the challenges of maintaining its local infrastructure through ongoing maintenance and by initiating programs to the extent funds are available. Hazlet has a number of community facilities including a relatively new municipal complex, a library, a post office, and several community parks throughout the municipality.

The Township's public school system has eight schools: one high school, one middle school, and six elementary schools located throughout the town. Brookdale Community College also has a branch location at One Crown Plaza on Union Avenue, in the center of Hazlet, that offers a variety of college classes.

Hazlet Township is part of the Bayshore Regional Strategic Plan, an effort by nine municipalities in northern Monmouth County to reinvigorate the area's economy by emphasizing the traditional downtowns, dense residential neighborhoods, maritime history, and the natural beauty of the Raritan Bayshore coastline.

Hazlet completed its Master Plan Reexamination in 2007 and the Hazlet Township Planning Board identified four focus areas in town to study in greater detail. It was subsequently awarded a \$50,000 state grant to hold a series of public meetings and workshops culminating in the Hazlet 2030 Vision Plan (a/k/a Community Vision Plan). This Hazlet 2030 Vision Plan was designed to guide future development, while setting priorities for land preservation, recreation, and other public amenities.

The plan was adopted as our community's derived conception of what the Township should look like from both a land use and development perspective. It contains an overview of the land use history and demographics of our town, and documents the concerns, ideas, and preferences of Hazlet's residents, businesspeople, and township officials.

The Hazlet 2030 Vision plan establishes specific, actionable guidance and priorities for the people of Hazlet and its elected officials to plan future development, land preservation, recreation, and other public amenities. It encompasses guidance that represents the will of the people, as we look forward to turning our vision into reality.

Since it was sponsored by the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth and provides alignment with the Bayshore Strategic Plan, the Hazlet 2030 Vision plan makes it easier for Hazlet to obtain future funding for land preservation, community beautification, and public amenities. It also provides a public mandate to improve and update our Master Plan, including the completion of a Housing Plan, the re-zoning of transitional properties, and the strengthening of our development review ordinances.

The visioning process examined the municipality as a whole and studied four focus areas: Natco Lake, Waackaack Creek, Veterans Park, and State Route 36, which were also identified in Hazlet's 2008 Master Plan Reexamination report, as candidates for further study. The 2008 Master Plan Reexamination found that these focus areas contain all or most of the following characteristics:

- Significant, contiguous land area.
- Multiple properties that are either vacant, underutilized, worthy of preservation, or in need of rezoning, to reflect the current land use priorities of Hazlet.
- Concentration of public or commercial uses with opportunities for enhancing public access, connectivity and utilization.
- Areas recommended by the Bayshore Regional Strategic Plan for further study.
- Properties with existing residential or business uses that may affect or be affected by changes to other properties within the Focus Area.

Three of the four focus areas are important open space and / or conservation areas, while the fourth area, State Highway 36, where West Keansburg is located, is ripe for

redevelopment or revitalization. The examination of the four focus areas, in addition to the overall Township, allowed for the creation of demonstration plans that can be applied to other portions of the municipality. Examples of some of the plans include smart development-redevelopment, improved pedestrian access, the preservation and expansion of open space, and a planned, sustainable, ecologically responsible community.

Each of the focus areas identified offered our residents the opportunity for broad interactive public participation and built the necessary support to carry out the Township's vision for a better future. Their input and ideas, which are all relevant to this grant application, included items such as:

- New access points
- Areas needing pedestrian improvements
- Proposed active recreation ideas
- Proposed passive recreation ideas
- New pedestrian or bicycle paths
- Areas in need of redevelopment
- New park connections
- Locations for transportation upgrades

As part of the 2030 Vision plan, a community questionnaire was provided to the residents of Hazlet Township. One of the questions asked residents to describe the characteristics of a community, that they would like to live in, using only three words. All the resulting words are also relevant to this grant application. The top ten words were:

- Parks/Open Space
- Green/Sustainable
- Safe
- Family-oriented
- Vibrant/Active/Exciting
- Friendly
- Quiet/Peaceful
- Inexpensive/Affordable
- Attractive/Beautiful
- Clean

OVERBURDENED COMMUNITY

North Hazlet Community Park, currently named 8th Street Park, is in West Keansburg, in an Overburdened Community in Hazlet Township. The neighborhood dates to the early 1900's and is a densely populated residential zone. It is bordered by State Highway 36. 8th Street Park, comprised of 3.75 acres, is the only recreational park in this section of town; the park is outdated and underutilized.

Per the NJDEP, an Overburdened Community means any census block group, as determined in accordance with the most recent United States Census, in which:

- (1) at least 35 percent of the households qualify as low-income households
- (2) at least 40 percent of the residents identify as a minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; or
- (3) at least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency.

On January 19, 2021, Kerry Kirk Pflugh, Director of the Office of Local Government Assistance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), officially notified Hazlet Township of the following:

"Pursuant to the requirements of the newly-enacted Environmental Justice Law, N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is writing to notify you that your municipality contains block groups designated by the law as overburdened communities."

The NJDEP provided the following information pursuant to this notification: **(See Exhibit A)**

- List of block groups and tribal areas identified as an "overburdened community" within a municipality in an Excel spreadsheet;
- Interactive mapping tool;
- PDF maps for each municipality that has any part designated as an overburdened community; and a Downloadable GIS layer

As a result of being identified as an Overburdened Community, Hazlet Township is submitting two grants for consideration: *The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Urban Park Initiative Grant* and the *Green Acres Local Government Assistance Grant* for funding.

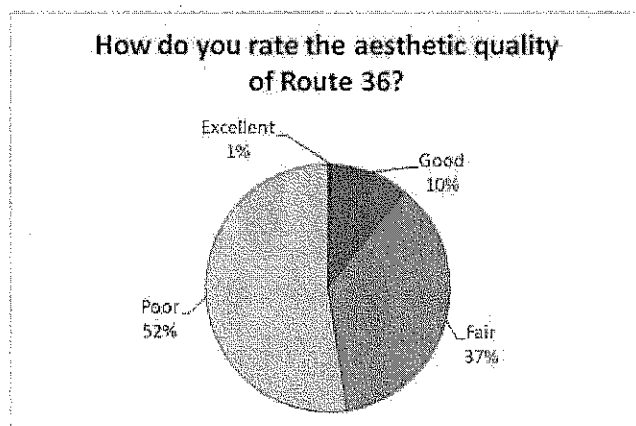
The West Keansburg section of Hazlet is ethnically diverse, has a large percentage of lower-income households, and has a significant senior population.

To classify the West Keansburg section of Hazlet Township as an Overburdened Community a shapefile of overburdened communities was downloaded and added to the map. Next, environmentally sensitive areas, historic sites and properties, and areas vulnerable to flooding were added to the map; specifically, NJDEP mapped wetlands, historic properties, and FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) from the National Flood Hazard layer.

The Monmouth County Parcel layer represents digitized property boundaries developed from best available local and municipal tax maps data. The parcel data is compatible with the NJ Department of Treasury MOD-IV system used by tax assessors.

- Hazlet parcels were isolated and further broken down by EPLFacilityName. The following were identified and mapped as possible locations for eligible grant activities: PARK; PARK LAND; TAX LIEN FORECLOSURE; VACANT LAND; VACANT LAND-PUBLIC. In addition, Property classes 3A, 3B, and 15A-15E (farmland and untaxed land) were identified as "Other Possible Open Space Properties."
- ROSI properties (Open Space, Recreational, and Conservation Easements) for Hazlet were mapped. Repetitive loss properties for Hazlet were also mapped (these are confidential per the Privacy Act of 1974 and are not identified on the map, however it was determined that there were none in Overburdened Communities). *Funding is available for the acquisition of land that will be transformed into a park, the development of park facilities, or the rehabilitation of historic properties.*
- The analysis shows that there are four municipally owned vacant properties less than .1 acre in the Overburdened Community. There is also one recreational property in the community.
- The Eastern portion of the community is mapped as freshwater wetlands by the NJDEP, and most of the community is within an AE Flood Zone.
- There are no known historic sites or properties, farms, or repetitive loss properties within the community.
- Repetitive loss properties in Hazlet were mapped (per the Privacy Act of 1974, these are confidential and are not identified on the map, however it was determined that there were none in Overburdened Communities). If funding is permitted outside of the Overburdened Community, repetitive loss properties could be a target for acquisition.

In Hazlet's 2030 Vision plan, 52% of respondents rated the aesthetic quality of the area along State Rte. 36, the main route by West Keansburg and 8th Street Park, as *poor*. 37% rated the aesthetic quality *fair*.



In applying for the Urban Park Initiative Grant, it is our intent to create a park that will foster an inclusive place for West Keansburg's ethnically diverse, lower-income residents to socialize and enjoy physical activities and entertainment.

It is our goal to:

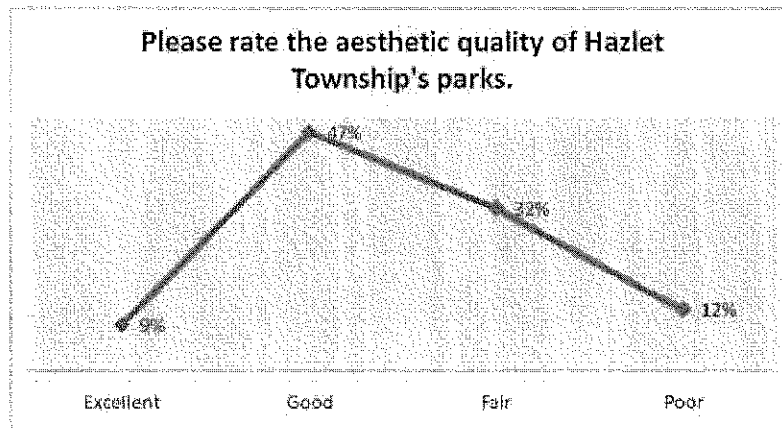
- a) Increase accessibility to programming and park amenities.
- b) Increase conservation of land and resources providing both environmental and economic benefit to the community.
- c) Provide availability of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and greenway connections to the Henry Hudson Trail, and link adjacent neighborhoods.

The revitalization of 8th Street Park would move Hazlet closer to achieving the park and recreation objectives outlined in its 2030 Vision Plan and would have a positive impact for the entire community along the Route 36 corridor section of West Keansburg.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / SUPPORT / PLANNING

Hazlet Township's Mayor, Township Committee members, Land Use Planning Officials, Recreation Director, Environmental Commissioners, and Open Space Advisory Council members proactively reached out to residents in West Keansburg to involve them in the needs-assessment, planning, and evaluation of the project's conceptual plans. In addition, government representatives and other community leaders submitted letters. All agree, approve, and fully support the proposed action plan. Their overwhelming support for this initiative is evidenced by the many letters included in this grant application. (Please see attached Letters of Support as Exhibit B).

In Hazlet's 2030 Vision Plan, four questions in a resident survey were dedicated to parks and open space. Participants were asked to rate the aesthetic quality of Hazlet's parks. Only 9% rated the parks system as excellent.



The survey clearly showed that Hazlet residents wanted more recreation opportunities within their existing park system including new pedestrian and / or bike trails and expansive open space. The renovation of 8th Street Park would help the West Keansburg section of town meet these goals.

Hazlet Township understands the importance of empowering communities to participate in decision-making processes that directly affect our neighborhood, as outlined in Governor Murphy's 2018 *Furthering the Promise Initiative*. We realize that collaboration builds community support and sways people to embrace change.

Therefore, we personally knocked on more than 100 doors in the community, held focus groups, pushed out information on social media using West Keansburg's Facebook pages "*I Grew Up in West Keansburg, NJ*, and *West Keansburg Annual Block Party*, texted, emailed, and handed out flyers, in addition to posting information on the township website, online newspapers and holding a public hearing.

We invited a variety of people to provide feedback based on their having lived in the community and their personal experiences. It was essential that a multi-generational, diversified group be involved throughout the planning process. Questions were generated and desired outcomes identified. The following is a summary of the community outreach and timeline of events in the preparation of the North Hazlet Community Project proposal:

Community Outreach / Timeline of Key Events / Meetings

- **May 1, 2021 Walking Tour**

8th Street Park (10:00 – 11:00am)

Attended by:

Members of Hazlet's Open Space Advisory Council
Members of Hazlet's Environmental Commission
Hazlet Township Public Information Office
Hazlet Township's Recreation Director: Chris McManus
Mayor Tara Clark

Participants walked the grounds, evaluated the park's features, and discussed ideas for the park's revitalization.

- **May 1, 2021 Neighborhood Canvassing by Mayor Tara Clark**

8th Street Park (1:00am – 5:00pm)

Recognizing that community engagement is critical to the successful design and revitalization of a park, Hazlet Mayor Tara Clark, knocked on doors in the immediate vicinity of 8th Street Park to listen to residents' perceptions on the park's current state and to obtain general feedback on how the residents could increase their enjoyment of the park. Mayor Clark also interviewed teenagers and adults observed using the park's basketball courts, baseball field and playground equipment.

As a result of the canvassing, an enthusiastic, multi-generational group, comprised of 20 West Keansburg residents, volunteered to meet to brainstorm ideas for the park's renovation:

- Josh Alicia
- Samantha Ambler
- Jennifer & Andy Brennan
- Jason Cinquegrana
- Eutiquio Hernandez
- Katie Javins
- Linda Lamberson
- Norene Sandifer
- Dan Smith & Kristy Smith
- Tracy Smith
- Annmarie & Steven Turner
- Jeff Tyler
- Carrie Virgilio & Katie Virgilio
- Donna and Jennifer Wendland
- Alex Zilberman

- **May 15: Springboard Focus Meeting**

8th St. Park (10:00 – 11:30am)

Attended by:

- Community Core Group of 14 community volunteers:
 - Josh Alicea
 - Andy & Jennifer Brennan
 - Jason Cinquegrana
 - Katie Javins
 - Dan & Kristy Smith
 - Linda Lamberson
 - Norene Sandifer
 - Tracy Smith
 - Carrie Virgilio
 - Jennifer Wendland
 - Alex Zilberman
- Mayor Tara Clark
- Township Committeeman Mike Glackin
- Open Space Advisory Council Members:
 - Annie Eng, Vice Chairwoman
 - Joe Pobega, Chairman
- Township Engineer: Dennis Dayback
- Recreation Director: Chris McManus
- Public Information Officer: Christina Johnson
- Several neighborhood children

The residents shared insights on the history of the park and their observations on how the park is currently utilized. They brainstormed ideas that would make the park enticing for the community, in addition to discussing the critical role that community engagement plays in the success of a neighborhood park. The group also walked the circumference of the park providing feedback on the ground's features and changes that had occurred over several decades.

(Please see Exhibit C – Photographs of Community Engagements and Existing Park Site and Features).

- **May 18, 2021 Township Committee Introduction of Resolution to submit for The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Urban Park Initiative Grant.**

(See Attached Exhibit D).

- **June 6, 2021 Review of Preliminary Engineering Conceptual Plans with Focus Group**

8th Street Park (12:00pm – 1:00pm)

Attended by:

Community Core Group (10 Members)
Mayor Tara Clark
Committeeman Skip McKay

Mayor Tara Clark and Committeeman McKay shared the engineer's conceptual plans with the Core group. The Core Group enthusiastically approved all the elements of the plan.

(Exhibit E is a copy of the Conceptual Plan and Engineers Estimate of Costs).

June 7, 2021 Township Committee Public Hearing

(Attached hereto as Exhibit F collectively are Proof of Publication for the Public Hearing, a copy of the Advertised Public Hearing Notice and minutes from the Public Hearing).

June 25, 2021 Neighborhood Canvassing by Mayor 8th Street Park (5:45pm – 8:15pm)

Mayor Clark knocked on 85 doors to hand out literature and discuss the conceptual park plans with additional residents on 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Streets, Holly Ave. and Central Ave. in West Keansburg. Residents received a letter discussing the park renovation plans with conceptual drawings, in addition to a flyer with details on upcoming concerts being offered in 8th Street Park on July 8th and July 29th to inform residents of the first concerts being held in the park in recent memory.

(A copy of the Flyer is attached hereto as Exhibit G).

June 26, 2021 Conceptual plan and Informational Flyer posted to two popular West Keansburg Facebook pages (Please see Exhibit H).

Estimated Timeline for 8th Street Park Renovation

June 30, 2021	Submit Grant requests
August 30, 2021	Conclude engineering conceptual plans.
September 30, 2021	Receive grant approvals.
October 30, 2021	Finalize all capital items to be placed for bid.

November 30, 2021	Review and select winning bids for equipment and services to renovate Park.
February 1, 2022	Weather permitting, begin excavation work.
April 30, 2022	Pavilion and basketball court construction completed.
May 30, 2022	Playground construction, trail, and other park components completed.
May 31, 2022	Dedication of new "North Hazlet Community Park."

As a result of public input and collaboration during the planning phase, the following components were identified as ideal for 8th Street Park's revitalization:

- **10' wide trail around the circumference of the park to enable children to ride their bikes and for residents to run, jog, walk or push a stroller.** (In the Hazlet 2030 Vision Plan, 34% of respondents wanted to see the creation of walking and cycling trails in the township)
- **New playground equipment for multi-age groups with rubber ground-surfacing. (ADA Compliant)**
- **Larger swing set (with different swing seats, ADA compliant)**
- **Two multi-hoop, lighted, fenced-in basketball courts, like the popular courts recently installed in local schools in the area, for shooting hoops.** (One of the courts will be multi-purpose: to play volleyball)
- **Shaded picnic tables and benches surrounding the playground for parents / guardians to watch children at play.** (Different bench styles would be installed to meet the multi-generational needs of park patrons).
- **Pavilion for residents to participate in a broad spectrum of recreational and entertainment activities: yoga, group classes, music performances.** (The pavilion would allow for activities to take place during poor weather)
- **Open space in center of the park to allow for group sports.**
- **High-definition, state-of-the-art security system installed to allow for 24/7 surveillance to enhance park safety. Wi-fi hotspot installed.**

- **Elegant lighting throughout the park - attractive lighting fixtures / posts.**
- **Substantially upgrade the parking area.** (Additionally, move parking spots away from corner of 8th Street and Brown Avenue to have increased visual clearance, thereby increasing safety).
- **Improve turf quality / irrigation.**
- **Plant more trees and vegetation for additional shade.**
- **Install ample trash / recycling receptacles to minimize litter.**
- **Remove existing baseball field since members of the community rarely use the baseball field.**

PARK SECURITY

A huge concern for residents is park security. To ensure safety and to protect the significant investment in the park's new infrastructure, a security system and ongoing security plan are essential.

Hazlet's Police Department is currently in the process of creating a town "Digital Dome" to discourage vandals and / or those who would choose to endanger anyone in our parks.

Our police Department intends to construct a HD Video Surveillance system in 8th Street Park. The Surveillance system will be placed on poles to ensure all parts of the park are visible and recorded. Signs will be prominently placed around the Park. The cost of this system is minimal relative to the upside of lessened risk of damage. More importantly, the citizens will gain an increased sense of security while using the park. Our grant request includes the cost of this system.

In an urban environment such as 8th Street Park, the safety of the Park's users is paramount to its success. Our "Digital Dome" will significantly increase that level of safety for our residents.

This "Digital Dome" System will work using Wi-fi technology and it is also our plan to enable this Wi-fi capacity to allow Park users to access the internet. In this manner, we can offer classes in our Pavilion and or show movies by streaming. In conversations with our local residents, they were all very excited about the Wi-fi connectivity so they could listen to music or read while their children play on the new playground equipment.

This connectivity will be an incremental benefit from the placement of our Security system.

Any Park redevelopment project in 2021 should have this technology to protect and serve our Residents.

PROPOSED RECREATION PLANNING FOR 8TH STREET PARK

Research shows that planned park events, including sports competitions and other attractions, is the strongest correlate of park use. It is Hazlet Recreation's vision that recreational activities and entertainment take place in parks around town, instead of in one central location, as has been done in the past in Veterans Park.

8th Street Park is scheduled for two music / movie concerts this summer: the first township-sponsored events to take place in this park in years. Our intent is to increase community engagement and excitement for the park's upcoming renovations and revitalization.

Music will be performed by the newly formed Hazlet Community Band, "Hazlet Pops." This 40+ piece band will perform in July. More events are under consideration for August. The lack of bathroom facilities limits the type and size of events we can currently hold at 8th Street Park. For this year's summer series concerts, the town has contracted for portable toilets for the month. Phase II of the Park's development may include limited bathroom facilities.

After we build our Pavilion in the park and enable wi-fi, we envision offering a wide spectrum of classes for the West Keansburg community such as Tai Chi, yoga, arts and crafts, and karate for all age groups. We are also considering summer recreation camp classes at the Park for the convenience of local families.

In Phase II of the project, we envision offering Environmental classes. Residents will be able to embark on bird watching expeditions in the marshlands within 150 meters of the Park at the end of 8th Street. Given the density of the area and the attractive nature of the Thornes Creek waterway, we believe the use of the Park will exponentially increase.

8th Street Park's new paved trail, which will circle the Park, will have benches for our seniors, many of whom live in the mobile home community contiguous to the Park. This pathway will become a center point of exercise for seniors who will be able to pace themselves and rest along the pathway.

Based on all the above, the Township strongly believes its proposal to develop North Hazlet Community Park will create a broad array of recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.

The improvements to the park will allow families to spend more time outdoors with their children in their own neighborhood and help build a vibrant community.

Estimated Costs for the North Hazlet Community Project are as follows:

8TH STREET PARK TOWNSHIP OF HAZLET ENGINEERS ESTIMATE					
NO.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
1	SITE WORK	LS	\$25,000.00	1	\$25,000.00
2	SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL	LS	\$2,500.00	1	\$2,500.00
3	NJDOT OGFC SURFACE COURSE, 2" THICK	TON	\$100.00	280	\$28,000.00
4	HMA 9.5M84 SURFACE COURSE STONE MIX I-5, 2" THICK	TON	\$100.00	125	\$12,500.00
5	NJDOT DRAINAGE BASE COURSE, 4" THICK	TON	\$100.00	580	\$58,000.00
6	HMA PAVEMENT FABRIC	SY	\$5.00	1,040	\$5,200.00
7	BASKETBALL COURT COLORCOATING	SY	\$15.00	1,040	\$15,600.00
8	AASHTO NO. 2 STORAGE COURSE	TON	\$50.00	1,000	\$50,000.00
9	BASKETBALL POST, BACKBOARD, RIM & CONCRETE FOOTING	UN	\$5,000.00	4	\$20,000.00
10	SPORTS LIGHTING, 25' HIGH	UN	\$12,500.00	4	\$50,000.00
11	LOW LEVEL WALKWAY LIGHTING	UN	\$4,000.00	26	\$104,000.00
12	6" UNDERDRAIN	LF	\$35.00	300	\$10,500.00
13	18" INLINE DRAIN	UN	\$400.00	4	\$1,600.00
14	6"X12" FLUSH CONCRETE VERTICAL CURB	LF	\$30.00	600	\$18,000.00
15	CONCRETE SIDEWALK, 4" THICK	SY	\$75.00	400	\$30,000.00
16	CONCRETE WHEEL STOP	UN	\$100.00	34	\$3,400.00
17	PAVEMENT STRIPING	LF	\$1.00	1,000	\$1,000.00
18	CHAIN LINK FENCE, 4' HIGH	LF	\$35.00	1,350	\$47,250.00
19	CHAIN LINE FENCE, 10' HIGH	LF	\$75.00	400	\$30,000.00
20	PARK BENCH	UN	\$2,500.00	4	\$10,000.00
21	PICNIC TABLE	UN	\$3,000.00	4	\$12,000.00
22	RECREATIONAL PAVILION	UN	\$100,000.00	1	\$100,000.00
23	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	LS	\$115,000.00	1	\$115,000.00
24	PLAYGROUND FALLING SURFACE	LS	\$100,000.00	1	\$100,000.00
25	3/4" CLEAN STONE, 4" THICK	SY	\$25.00	300	\$7,500.00
26	MATURE SHADE TREE	UN	\$2,500.00	7	\$17,500.00
27	MATURE EVERGREEN TREE	UN	\$2,000.00	10	\$20,000.00
28	SECURITY SYSTEM	LS	\$75,000.00	1	\$75,000.00
29	IRRIGATION	LS	\$50,000.00	1	\$50,000.00
30	SODDING	SY	\$15.00	8,000	\$120,000.00
31	BORROW TOPSOILING, 4" THICK	SY	\$5.00	8,000	\$40,000.00
SUBTOTAL					\$1,177,580.00
CONTINGENCY (5%)					\$58,877.50
TOTAL					\$1,236,427.50
L. FRANCIS W. MULLAN, P.E., C.M.E., TOWNSHIP ENGINEER. CERTIFY THAT THIS TABULATION IS CORRECT					
					
DATE: 8/10/21					

PROJECT PRIORITIES



Climate change and sea-level rise have the potential to negatively impact public open space and park and recreation areas. The entire 8th Street Park is located within a 100-year flood zone. Maintaining this area as open space is beneficial for floodwater storage as well as reducing risks to life and property during flood events. 8th Street Park is within 400 feet of Thorne Creek, which leads to the Raritan Bay. The town owns the property at the end of 8th Street which affords us access to this waterway. In Phase II, we plan to build a walkway and bird observatory station(s).

There is an active Bald Eagle nest within a mile and an Osprey nest within 1.5 miles of this location. The marsh lands abound with fish and game that these raptors feed on. Visitors to the park would also be able to observe raptors or Bald eagles along Thorne Creek.

Additionally, we plan to construct a kayak / canoe/ paddle board launch area into Thorne Creek. Those plans would follow the initial redevelopment of the Park. Environmental lectures / classes could be held in the Pavilion that is proposed on 8th Street Park's property.



Thornes Creek leads directly into Raritan Bay. The distance to the bay is approximately 800 meters. Thornes Creek is a quiet waterway and fish in the back water are comprised mostly of small fish including "snapper" bluefish and schoolie striped bass (which would be catch and release only).

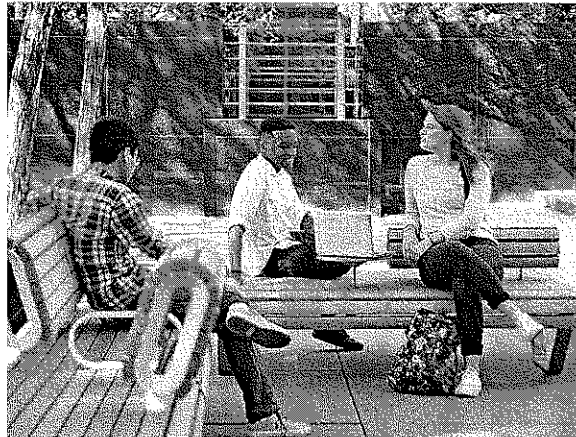
Crabbing for blue claw crabs is seasonal and softshell crabs are common in the marshy areas. Fresh fishing baits can be secured in the back waters of the creek including spearing, killifish, and menhaden. Should a kayaker choose to enter the Raritan Bay, they would have access to all the gamefish commonly found in the bay including summer flounders (fluke), striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and the occasional drum fish. Therefore, visitors to 8th Street Park would have additional recreational activities to engage in.

A well-designed community park should include safe walking and biking routes. During focus group and other community meetings, the most requested renovation across all age groups was a walking / biking trail. Cars are inclined to speed through the West Keansburg area adjacent to the park. Brown Avenue connects to State Rte. 36, which is a main arterial road. Therefore, residents feel uncomfortable walking or riding bikes on neighborhood roads that do not have sidewalks, due to safety concerns. A park trail would be highly utilized; it would be an asset to the entire community.

Trails allow all members of the community the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors; it offers both physical and mental health benefits. To that end, a 10' wide trail will be installed around the entire circumference of 8th Street Park. Residents have expressed their excitement at the possibility of young children being able to ride their bikes safely in the park or parents having the ability to walk with strollers on a beautiful day. Joggers and runners alike have shared their enthusiasm for a high-quality trail in a local park to exercise, and the elderly would like a pleasant place to socialize with friends and neighbors.

The renovated park is expected to be used for a wide variety of active and passive recreational activities including basketball, volleyball, walking, jogging, running, soccer, and football (in the open grassy space).

Multi-generational benches and picnic tables will allow all patrons to relax and socialize all around the park. Mayor Clark recently had a conversation with a group of five teenagers who said they frequent the park daily throughout the year to chat and hang out with friends. They always sit on the Park's existing small bleachers and were ecstatic to hear about the possibility of benches and seating designed for social interaction. They were also excited to hear about the possibility of a Wi-fi hotspot being installed with security systems.



The installation of a pavilion will allow for bands and other performers to entertain the community. Classes will be able to be offered, without concern for weather conditions. Residents will be able to use the Pavilion for shade as their children and grandchildren play on the playground.

We anticipate friendly intramural basketball and volleyball tournaments on the courts and the Pavilion being used as a staging area for teams between games. It is our vision to roll out recreation to the community parks across the town, so residents can walk to their nearby park for enjoyment and activities.

After we build our Pavilion in the park and enable Wi-fi, we envision ongoing classes including activities such as Tai Chi, yoga, arts and crafts and karate for young and old alike. We also would like to offer summer recreation camp classes at the 8th Street Park.

Most of the renovated park's materials will be made of recycled materials. The trail will be constructed of porous pavement and the multi-generational benches and trash receptacles will be made of recyclable materials. Additionally, the lighting in the park, will be LED. With proper maintenance the life of the equipment can be expected to last at least 25 years.

The 8th Street park has not been renovated in decades. The single set of playground equipment is old, and not ADA compliant. The only swing set in the park is comprised of two baby swings. Members of the community have asked for more swings for the children in West Keansburg to enjoy. The playground surface is comprised of rubber

pieces which are strewn across the playground area. The single basketball court is old, in need of both new nets and a new surface and it is situated in the park in such a way that players face into sun. The two new proposed basketball courts would be turned in a new direction, fenced in, and well lighted for extended play time and added security.

ADA COMPLIANT EQUIPMENT TO INCREASE INCLUSIVITY

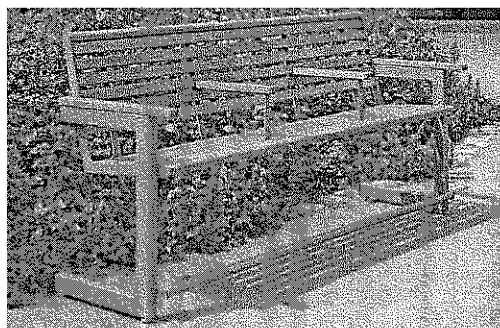
Playgrounds are a place for laughter, friends and fun where all children can play together regardless of their abilities. An inclusive playground removes the physical and social barriers to exclusion. The two new playground sets proposed at 8th Street Park will be designed with inclusivity in mind; to best fit the needs of our community.

During our Focus Group meetings several parents brought to light the current lack of ADA compliant playground equipment in the neighborhood. Several of the parents stated that their children or they themselves had disabilities, and the current park facilities did not meet their needs. The proposed new playground equipment will provide a safe place for local children to play and residents to socialize. It will provide facilities for children with disabilities.

The spillover effect of a newly renovated, ADA compliant, playground system is that Hazlet residents in other parts of town will be able to visit 8th Street Park to enjoy its inclusive recreational facilities.

VARIABILITY OF BENCH DESIGN

To further focus on inclusivity, it is proposed that a variety of bench types be placed throughout the park to best meet the needs of the park's patrons. For example, senior-friendly benches with comfortable armrests and footrests to increase comfort and mobility. These benches would also be beneficial for those with disabilities. We want the park to be a popular meeting place for people of all ages. Seating is identified as one of the top urban age-friendly features.



(See attached Exhibit I - Photographs of various benches)

OVERBURDENED COMMUNITY

West Keansburg, which contains 8th Street Park, was classified as an Overburdened Community under the newly - enacted Environmental Justice Law, N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) notified the Township that West Keansburg has block groups classified by the law as overburdened. The West Keansburg section of Hazlet is ethnically diverse, has a large percentage of lower-income households, and has a significant senior population.

PROJECT QUALITY

8th Street Park is situated in a dense residential area, within walking distance of a large portion of the West Keansburg population. There are wooded uplands on the eastern portion of the park and ample open space for passive recreation. Two multi-age playgrounds are proposed, along with a number of benches throughout the park for sitting. The neighborhood is approximately five minutes drive away from Garden State Parkway Exit 117. State Routes 35 and 36 serve as major east-west arterial roads and are minutes away by car from 8th Street Park.

The park is situated in an area that is easily accessible for pedestrian access. There is an area for street parking for people who need to drive to the park. The new proposal will have paved, marked parking for patrons. The neighborhood setting is very pedestrian friendly.

There are no surface waterbodies on the park property. Thorns Creek is located approximately 400 Feet west of the site and an Unnamed Tributary to Thornes Creek is located approximately 400 feet north of the site. According to FEMA Flood Data, effective Map Community Panel, from 2014, the site is located within the FEMA Flood Zone AE elevation 12 feet (NAVD88).

The park is in considerable need of updated amenities and improved park facilities; it is currently underutilized and run down. The proposed renovation involves a trail with LED lighting, two basketball courts (one court would be multi-purpose as it would include a volleyball net), two playground sets for different age groups, a large swing set with a concrete walkway, multi-generational park benches situated throughout the park, picnic tables and a large pavilion for entertainment and activities throughout the year.

It is anticipated that entertainers will perform in the Pavilion. In addition, the Pavilion will be able to be rented out for special events such as birthday parties and graduation parties generating revenue for the community.

A security system would be put in place to ensure 24/7 surveillance. Parking would be created along 8th Street and Brown Avenue (currently residents park on gravel). The rest of the area would be open space. The baseball field will be removed.

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATIONAL USES

FOR DIVERSE USER GROUPS

One of the main focuses of our proposal is our intent to focus on gender equality. If our park is to be used by girls and boys on equal terms, it is critical that it be planned and designed in a way that considers how boys and girls socialize in public settings.

What matters most to girls and young women?

- **Games and physical activities:** Volleyball, badminton, rollerblading, balancing, playing on swings, basketball, private places to sit and socialize.
- **Safety:** Trails that are visible and well lit, and cleanliness of park facilities.

What matters most to boys and young men?

- **Games and physical activities:** playing football, shooting hoops, skater ramps.

What matters most to parents / caretakers of young children?

- Separate play areas
- Enough benches and picnic tables, with an excellent view of playground areas
- Places in the shade
- Lighting
- Access to water
- Access to functioning toilets

What matters most to seniors?

- Ample benches to socialize with friends and neighbors.
- Easily walkable trails
- Access to functioning toilets.

We believe that our new park design will address most of the needs for diverse groups mentioned above.

Much of the park is landscaped with native trees, shrubs, and a grass lawn. The property is well maintained by professional landscapers. The existing trees and vegetation will be preserved and new trees, native to the area, will be planted to provide additional shade cover. An irrigation system will be installed to maintain the turf.

The existing playground is rarely used since it is decades old, outdated, and non-ADA compliant. Most of the residents who were interviewed stated that they drive to other nearby towns (Union Beach, Keyport, Middletown, and Holmdel) to let their children play on playground equipment that is more attractive and interactive. The new playground structures will be age appropriate and considerably more engaging for young children through mid-teens.

The existing swing set only contains two baby swings. A larger swing set that existed in the far corner of the park was removed years ago and never replaced. The proposed new swing set will have multiple seats and the swing seats will vary in design.

The basketball court is in need of a new surface and new nets. The courts do not have multiple hoops to allow for shooting games with multiple groups. Two new courts will be installed with multiple hoops to allow for shooting games. One court will be multi-purpose and will have a volleyball net. It is our intent to have more parks offer volleyball to attract girls to the park to play sports. Volleyball is currently a very popular sport. The closest public volleyball court is a sand court in Veterans park on the other side of town, is rarely used since beach volleyball is not as popular in this area. The life of the new playground equipment and basketball courts is expected to be 25 years, with proper maintenance.

FUTURE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- Landscaping 32 weeks / growing season X 2 staff X 2.5hrs / cut = 160 manhours / year
- Refuse disposal 52 wks. X 2 pickups/wk. X 2 staff X .5hrs / pickup = 104 manhours / year
- Miscellaneous 4 hrs. / month X 12 Months X 2 staff = 96 manhours / year
- Note: Hourly rate of \$25.00 – not inclusive of benefits

FACILITY DESIGN SENSITIVITY AND SITE SUITABILITY

The redevelopment of 8th Street Park will have no adverse impact on adjacent natural resources or the surrounding neighborhood. New park amenities will attract visitors to

the park, and residents in the area will be able to enjoy improved recreation facilities within their neighborhood.

- 8th Street Park will be renovated in its current location which is already graded and leveled.
- No trees or vegetation will be removed from the park's 3.75 acres of open space. In fact, additional trees will be planted in the park that will provide increased shade for park patrons, soak up water runoff after rainfall, and increase park aesthetics.
- An irrigation system will be installed to better maintain the park's turf. A healthy turf absorbs atmospheric pollutants like carbon dioxide, sulfur-dioxide, ozone, and other greenhouse gases. Healthy turf also releases oxygen back into the air. Strong, healthy, turf generates deep root systems to prevent erosion and runoff which would be beneficial at 8th Street Park since the area is prone to water retention after rainfall.
- Soil erosion and sediment control measures will be in place during the entire construction process.
- There will be no impact to animal species during construction or post-construction. Wildlife species expected to be found in the project area include those species which typically co-habituate with humans such as eastern cottontail rabbits, gray squirrel, eastern chipmunk, opossum, and groundhog along with a wide variety of avian (bird) species which pass by to nearby forested areas to rest and feed.
- Based upon review of NJDEP Digital GIS Data, Landscape Project Data Version 3.3, the site is identified as containing habitat for Rank 1 Species Habitat as Riparian Corridor. Rank 1 habitat patches do not have any listed State or Federal Threatened Species listed. The Rank 1 designation is used for planning purposes, such as targeting areas for future wildlife surveys.

(See the attached Engineering Environmental Assessment for additional information Exhibit J).

STRUCTURES / BUILDINGS

Outdoor play is essential to childhood development; it is critical for social and emotional development. Children playing on playgrounds interact with other children and must learn how to engage in mutual play.

The two multi-age playground sets proposed in 8th Street Park will be selected with a focus on durability, quality, safety, innovation, and inclusiveness. Every effort will be made to select Eco-friendly playground equipment, made from recycled materials, that is non-toxic and complies with the Consumer Product Safety Commission's playground safety codes.