

Parks Improvement Program Community Meeting

Conway Parks, Recreation and
Trails Committee

Agenda

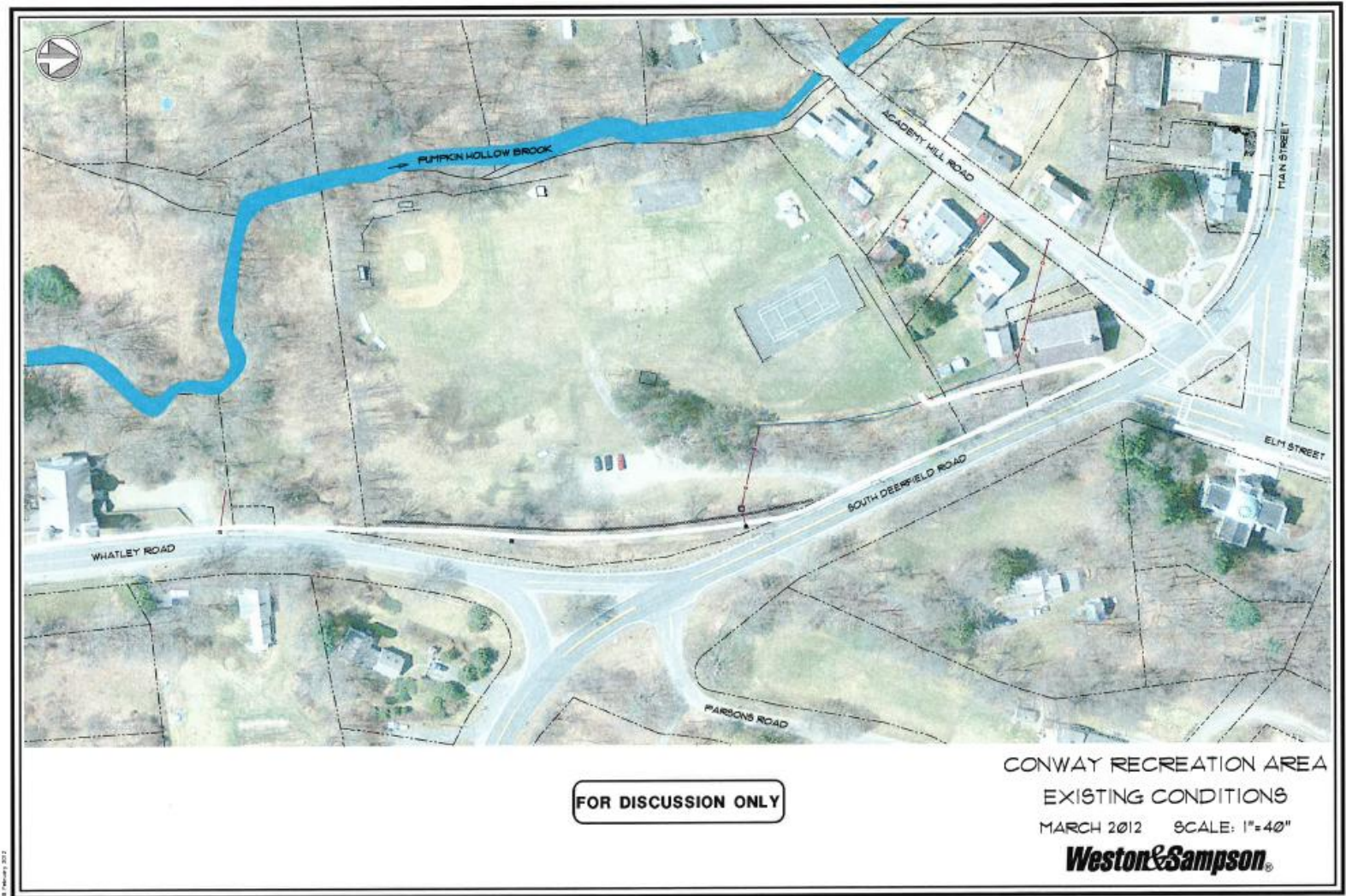
- Project Overview
- Summary of existing conditions
- Site Analysis
- Goals
- Scope of Work
- Timetable
- Budget
- Next Steps

Project Overview

The existing ball field located along Rt. 116 is the town's primary recreation area. It is enjoyed by residents for many of the following activities:

- Youth Baseball
- Youth Soccer
- Festival of the Hills
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Ice Skating Rink
- Women's Softball
- Family Picnics
- Child Playscape
- General Enjoyment

Existing Recreation Area



Existing Rose Field



FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

ROSE FIELD
EXISTING CONDITIONS
MARCH 2012 SCALE: 1"=40'

Weston&Sampson

Current State Issues

- Redesign of Rt. 116 redirected water into the recreation area through several culverts
- Gradient across soccer playing area is approximately 3 feet
- Both soccer and baseball playing area is frequently submerged under standing water in the Southeast corner
- Rolling gradient across area to the north of the soccer field makes it un-usable for many other activities and creates virtual catch basins for water to collect
- Years of low maintenance and lack of annual aerating has caused the existing soil to become compacted and therefore water does not drain into the soil

Current State Issues

- Park has little “flow” between recreation areas
- Parking is limited and not to current handicap accessible standards
- Driveway entrance onto Rt. 116 is not to current standards and is a significant safety hazard
- 2 of the past 5 Festival of the Hills have had to deal with significant mud and standing water due to poor drainage

Festival of the Hills 2011



Baseball Right Field 2011



Hurricane Irene Flooding

- Extreme case of flooding during Hurricane Irene
- Area up to 554 ft line flooded, remainder of field and hillside funneled water into this area and downtown



Current Topographical Survey

- Insert scanned picture here

Goals of Project

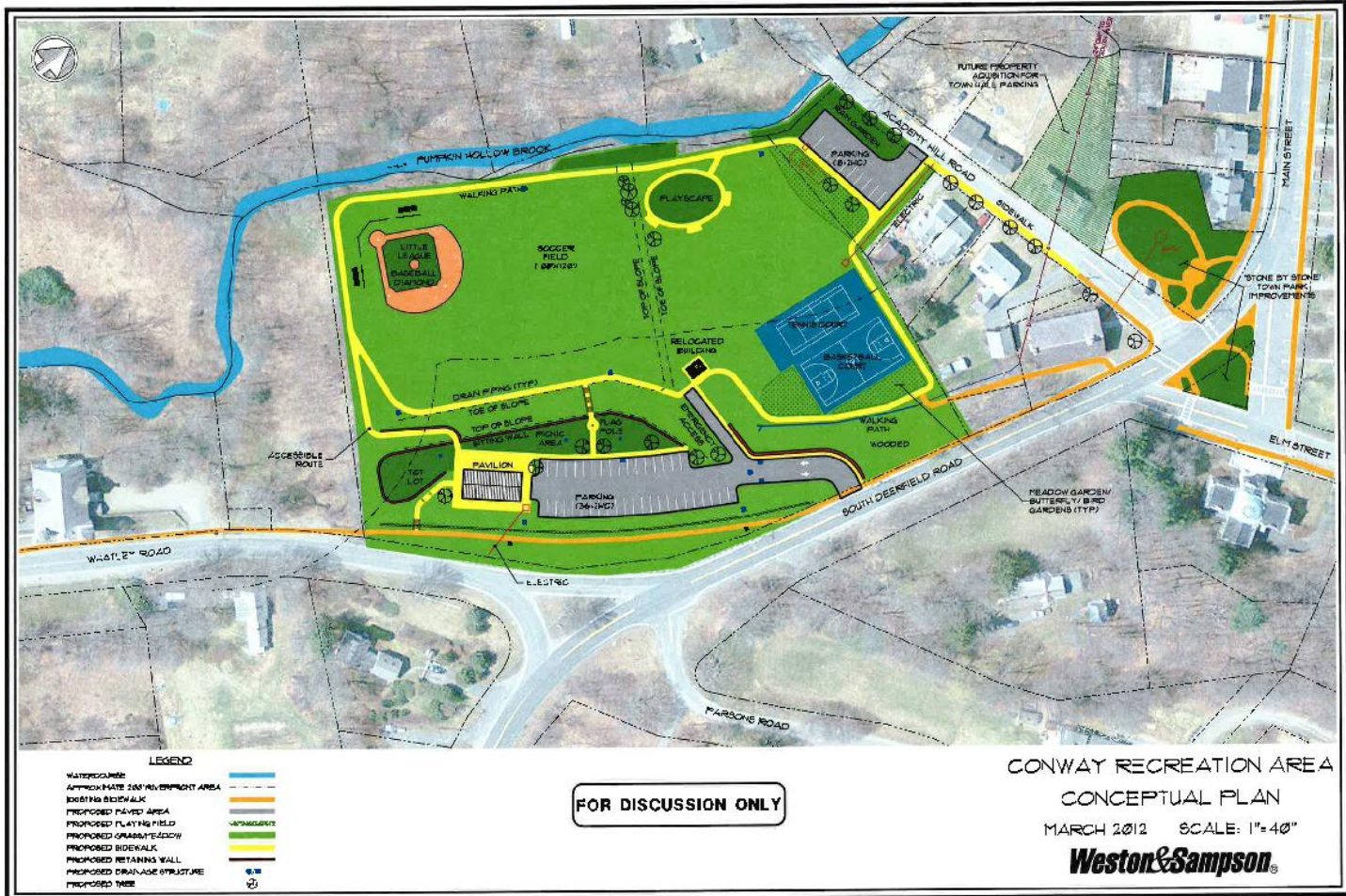
- Correct drainage issues for field and minimize impact of heavy rains into town center
- Improve recreation areas for the residents of Conway both with and without children
- Improve usability of town fields for the Festival of the Hills and the 250th Celebration
- Utilize Rose Field in a manor to get maximum enjoyment and still reserve the right to utilize it for other purposes in the future
- Improve the overall appearance and charm of the downtown area

Scope of Work

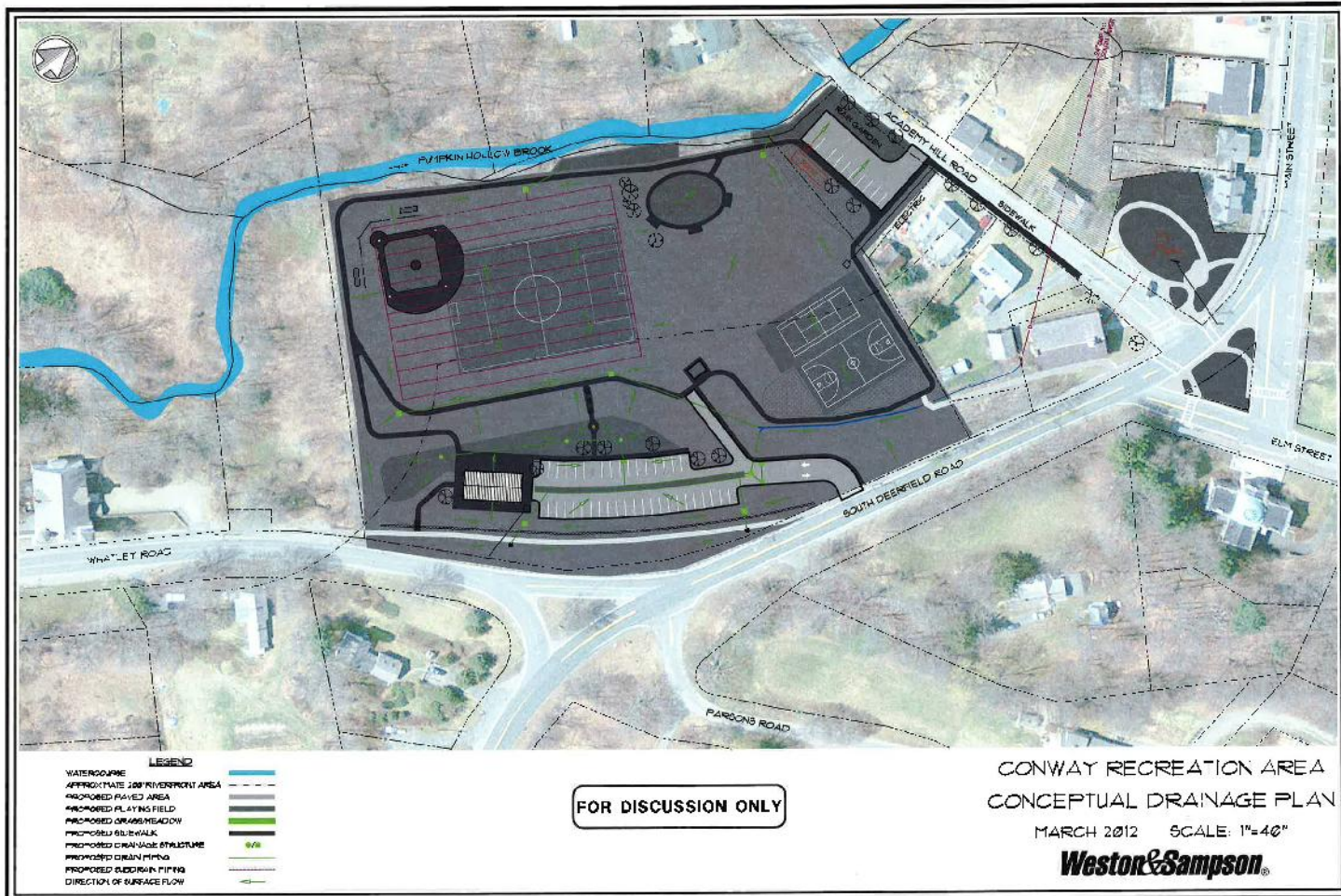
○ Recreation Field

- Install underground drainage system, tie Rt. 116 culverts into existing town system, install large water storage tank to compensate for “flash flooding” conditions that have been experienced over the past several years
- Re-grade the playing fields and terrace the end of the field to create a second “flat” area for other activities
- Relocate the basketball and play structure to accommodate new topography required for drainage issue
- Improve parking, driveway and handicap accessibility
- Create a family picnic area and outdoor pavilion to be used for parties, concerts, etc.
- Enhance the riverfront enjoyment with a walking trail and riverfront sitting area

Recreation Area Concept



Drainage Plans



Scope of Work

○ Rose Property

- Create driveway and parking area
- Create a U12 Soccer Field on the north side of the field
- Create a community garden for residents to develop and maintain personal garden plots
- Create a meadowland/woodland area to maintain environmentally friendly area along riverfront
- Create walking trails around perimeter
- Connect property to the center of town and other field with additional sidewalks along Shelburne Road

Rose Field Concept



Town Center



FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

CONWAY DOWNTOWN AREA
OVERALL CONCEPT PLAN

MARCH 2012 SCALE: 1"=100'

Weston & Sampson

Time Table

The following table represents a theoretical phased approach which minimizes rework and fits the project into a completion date prior to the 250th celebration

Phase	Description of Work	Start and End Dates
Phase One	Complete Concept Design Study	Q4 2011 / Q1 2012 - Complete
Phase Two	Complete Detailed Design and Permitting	Q3 2012 – Q2 2013
Phase Three	Complete Recreation Field Drainage, Grading/Landscaping, Improved Parking (main lot and Barber Property)	2014
Phase Four	Recreation Field Extra Features (Pavilion, Shuffle Board, Additional Recreational Features)	2015-2016
Phase Five	Rose Field Enhancements	TBD
Phase Six	Sidewalk enhancements to tie all the properties together	TBD

Budget

	Description of Work	Anticipated Costs
Phase One	Complete Concept Design Study	\$8,500 – Complete
Phase Two	Complete Detailed Design and Permitting	\$55,000 - \$90,000
Phase Three	Complete Recreation Field Drainage, Grading/Landscaping, Improved Parking (main lot and Barber Property)	\$750,000 - \$1,000,000
Phase Four	Recreation Field Extra Features (Pavilion, Shuffle Board, Additional Recreational and Aesthetic Features)	\$250,000 - \$500,000
Phase Five	Rose Field Enhancements	\$650,000 (TBD Option)
Phase Six	Sidewalk enhancements to tie all the properties together	\$200,000 (TBD Option)
	Total	\$1.0M-\$2.5M

Funding Sources

- There are several significant sources of funding available for this project
 - Massachusetts has 2 grant programs with high probability of award for the program
 - Select Board is currently working with MEMA on a flood mitigation program that includes drainage correction to mitigate flooding
 - Other grant programs
- These programs REQUIRE design and permitting to be complete before submitting applications
- Grants are reimbursement programs and require funding by town via bond or other short-term borrowing sources prior to payment
- The program will only proceed once grants have been awarded for a significant percent of the program. The burden on the town would be for the unfunded portion and the interest on the short term lending required to initially fund the project prior to the grant reimbursement.

Warrant Article

- The following article is recommended to move the project forward:
 - *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, take from free cash, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$90,000 for the purpose of engineering and permitting required for the improvement of the Town Park and related areas, or take any action relative thereto.*
- Once again, it is **imperative** to have Design and Permitting complete prior to grant application.

Next Steps

- Hold several public forums to gain town support for the project
- Secure a yes vote on initial funding for the project
- Hold “Linkage” meetings between various committees with vested interest in the project and develop an action plan and project schedule
- Identify and initiate grant requirements and compile a list of design features that will ensure highest probability of funding
- Contract design and permitting with engineering firm including public forums to ensure maximum usage
- Continue to add to the Parks stabilization fund year over year to fund portions of project beyond what grants will fund
- Secure grant / self funding
- Begin Construction

Summary

- Parks, Recreation and Trails committee has developed a preliminary plan for improving the drainage and improving the town recreation areas and charm
- The project will require a significant commitment from the town
- There is a high likelihood that a large portion of the ultimate project would be funded by identified grants and would not proceed until awarded
- Application for the grants REQUIRE design and permitting be complete prior to applying
- Funding is therefore required to complete the design and permitting phase ASAP
- 250th Celebration represents an achievable goal for completion of the project

Questions