

FOOTE FIELD REJUVENATION

Background:

In January 2024 The Cornwall Park and Rec Commission conducted a survey about programming and facilities. Some questions were asked about if one uses Foote Field, the frequency, and reasons why or why not for usage.

The summary of responses:

There were 67 responses regarding the use of Foote Field with 38 yes and 29 no. The biggest reasons why people didn't use it were their own age and physical limitations, needs maintenance/amenities, or forget about it/use other facilities. It is most often used for people to meet up and gather with family and friends or for a Park and Rec event. This made it clear that Foote Field could use some TLC to increase its usage.

Sports programs are mostly done regionally now due to lack of kids at the same ages and coaches. It is difficult for teams to be formed when you have only a few kids or they span from K-6th grade. Looking at the resources Cornwall has we found that we have an abundance of soccer fields. There two at Foote Field and one at Hubbard field.

A subcommittee was formed and they went to Foote Field to look at options for future rejuvenation. The discussion was around turning the "upper soccer field" into a "recreational field". This would leave 2 soccer fields to be used whenever Cornwall hosts a soccer program.

The Commission tabled the project while the Little Guild was there. As their new facility is nearly done and they are moving out this spring; now is the time to create a plan, so we can apply for grants and start a fund raising and volunteer campaign.

Vision/Goal:

Increase recreation options at Foote Field: The following will remain

- *The baseball diamond/field* It is not a Little League regulation size field and can't be used for "official games"; however, it is a great place to practice and play.
- *Current pickleball court*
- *Pavilion*
- *Lower soccer field*

Some ideas and suggestions that have already been presented to the Commission

- *Full basketball court and perhaps have room for a second pickleball court using the already graded space from The Little Guild.* They have done a tremendous amount of work that will benefit the community and save money when they return to their new facility this spring.
- *Playground equipment for kids from toddler and up at recreational field*
- *Adult Fitness circuit or equipment apparatus at recreational field*
- *A small parking area at recreational field*
- *A walking bridge to connect Jewell St to Foote Field*
- *An additional pavilion at recreational field*

Tonight is about hearing what the community wants and beginning a plan.

Further ideas/comments can be sent to park.recreation@cornwallct.gov