

## Residents focus on parking at park improvements meeting

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Major renovations at Twin Oaks Park could be years away and would cost at least \$1.3 million, the parks and recreation director said.

Parking concerns dominated a special meeting in Middletown on Monday night about ways to improve the township's Twin Oaks Park at Trenton and Woodbourne roads.

The 18-acre park is adjacent to the Twin Oaks section of Levittown in Middletown, and residents in the section often complain about all the vehicles parked along their streets from people using the park.

A proposed Twin Oaks Park improvement plan drawn up by Gerald DeFelicis Jr. of CMX Engineering adds to and relocates parking spaces. However, some at Monday's meeting - which drew about 60 residents - wondered if the proposed plan would improve the parking problem.

"I came home one day and found someone parked in my driveway," said Twin Oaks resident Marian Conaway. "When there are tournaments and special events like that, it's even worse."

Another resident who declined to give her name said some people even park in the green belt next to the park.

"They tear it up," she said. "If these improvements are done, I want to see police down there enforcing the parking rules."

Since the park is also troubled by drainage and other problems, perhaps the best solution would be just not having it at that location, suggested resident Bruce White.

"You ought to just pick the whole thing up and move it to that vacant land behind the Kmart (on Business Route 1)," he said.

Township Parks and Recreation Director Debby Lamanna said that would be impractical and too expensive.

The proposed plan would remove a soccer, baseball and softball field from the park while leaving five baseball and two softball fields. However, the fields would be relocated within the park in a way that would encourage people to use the parking lots and not park on residential streets, said Lamanna.

Also included in the improvement plan is moving a playground to a more accessible and open location within the park and building a 6-foot-wide walking trail around the park.

"We'd like the park to become more of a resource for people who aren't necessarily interested in organized sports," said Lamanna. "We'd like to see more people get out and walk or ride their bicycles."

Lamanna stressed that DeFelicis' proposed plan is just a model from which to work and can be modified based on input from residents and township officials. She didn't know what the improvements would cost but said it would be at least \$1.3 million, the amount the township is paying for a renovation nearing completion at Simmons Park on Brownsville Road.

Actual construction at Twin Oaks Park could be years away, Lamanna added.

"I have no idea when this would actually happen," she said. "But we want a master plan ready for consideration by the township supervisors if and when funds become available."

To make suggestions about Twin Oaks Park, call 215-750-3890 or e-mail [dlamanna@middletown-township.org](mailto:dlamanna@middletown-township.org).

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