

June 2022 PAC Meeting - Public Comment Questions & Answers

QUESTION 1:

What is the Parks policy is for repurposing park land for other uses, even if the other uses were for another city purpose, such as Fire Station 4?

ANSWER 1:

Parks does not have a policy for this specific issue. However, it was discussed by PAC during the last PROS Plan and a summary of this conversation is included on [page 90](#) and is copied below:

How should Parks and Recreation approach use of parkland for non-park uses, such as leasing of park land for parking lots by the University or use of park space for Project Grow Gardens?

The Commission agreed that there should be a series of questions asked to evaluate the merits of any given proposal, and that there should be a consistent decision making process. However, it was agreed that each situation will be different, and that some issues may merit additional steps, such as working groups and public meetings.

Questions discussed:

- Would the proposed use generate revenue/in kind contribution that supports a particular facility or park?
- Would that revenue adequately offset the loss of park space (and what does adequate mean)?
- Would the proposed use take park land away from other active uses or detract from current use?
- Would the proposed use complement other uses? (for example leased parking could be used by park users in off times, but need to make sure that parking is available when the parks are most heavily used)
- Does the proposed use detract from the aesthetics/ambience of the park?
- Does the proposal align with community goals and objectives, such as the sustainability framework?
- Does the proposal have any safety implications?
- Are other City facilities impacted that would necessitate the involvement of staff outside of Parks and Recreation, such as stormwater, transportation, natural areas?
- Are there any other factors that merit consideration? (this is a catch all question in case there are unforeseen factors)

The extent of public involvement would be based on whether the proposal has local or City-wide implications, the extent of controversy, and level of complexity. For a relatively straight forward proposal, staff would initiate discussion of the proposal utilizing the questions as the basis, and propose recommendations to PAC. If an issue is highly controversial or complex, a working group or task force would be established, and/or opportunities for public input to provide a basis for recommendations which would then be presented to PAC.

QUESTION 2:

How much park land is proposed to “change use” to Fire, for the Fire Station 4 project?

ANSWER 2:

The Fire Station 4 design team estimates approximately 0.25 acres of park land that will be converted from the basketball court (and surrounding area) to the parking lot for the Fire Station (orange area in the image below). The path was not included in the number because it could still be a park use and there is a picnic table and grill that will be maintained in the area between the new path and old path that would still be considered park uses.



QUESTION 3:

Is Fire Station 4 being considered as a future resiliency center/hub per A2Zero?

ANSWER 3:

Fire Station 4 plans include a conference room that will be able to serve as a resiliency hub.

QUESTION 4:

How many trees may be removed due to Fire Station 4 construction?

ANSWER 4:

It is currently estimated that five trees will be removed as part of the project. The species and DBH are listed below:

- 6" Wild Black Cherry
- 13" Sycamore
- 7" Swamp White Oak
- 12" Flowering Cherry
- 8" Red Maple

QUESTION 5:

How much more impervious surface may be added due to the Fire Station 4 construction, and will the runoff from any increase in impervious surface be retained on site?

ANSWER 5:

It is estimated that approximately 10,500 square feet of impervious surface will be added as part of the project. The increase in impervious surface will be detained per the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission rules & requirements.