

Pros and Cons from Skate Park Site Committee

May 22, 2014

#1 - Elm Street Lot (1819)

Pros:

Could host skatepark and parking as its 3 times the needed 6500 square feet

Possible grants through downtown development

Minimal noise impact (dry kiln operation quite loud)

Central location

On public transit

Very visible - police report hourly drive by already

Enhance area with more activity – traffic for downtown merchants

Not too close to residences

Near Boys & Girls Club (current skate facility for youth), NEYT, future BMC

Immediate use – gray to gray

Cons:

Limited opportunity for expansion

Near current “bad behavior” drugs, homelessness

Not too close to residences (although neighbors have concerns)

Pedestrian safety concerns – close to street and sidewalks

Potential subsurface contamination and proximity to brownfield across the street

Flood control issues (Flooded after Irene)

Limited amenities

#2 - Crowell Lot (1518)

Pros:

Mixed recreation – keeps it as “park use”

On public transit

Highly visible (although this was disputed as bushes and Union Hill hide that end of lot)

Decreased cost for maintenance

Possible use by Green Street School

Increased utilization – added value

Traffic noise provides noise buffer

Cons:

Limited size – no scalability

Too close for comfort – everything would be jammed into lot

High speed on High Street – parking and getting out of car tricky – traffic safety issues

High number of traffic incidents – Union Hill intersection

Green space might be used more by Green Street School (both pro and con)

Neighborhood concern – not in favor

Limited visibility (see above)

Green to gray

No amenities near by

Disturbing current use

3. - Memorial Park (behind pool area - basketball court area) (1458)

Pros:

Near amenities of Memorial Park – water, rest rooms, parking

Expanded current park recreation options – mixed use recreation

Family friendly

Public transit

Cons:

Small space – things would be crammed when relocating current use

Impact of current right of way

Need to reconfigure current use – cost to town, impact to users

Neighbors concerned about noise channels up to condos

Poor visibility

Flood plan issues

Green to gray – minimal

Act 250 issues as park over 10 acres

Remediation needs with brook bank

Memorial Park (Upper field above skating rink) (1428)

Pros:

Large space currently not used

Near other recreation options

Not near residential area

Good topography

Cons:

Low visibility – far from main road

Accessibility issues

Very steep to get there

Hill steep – will boarders skate down?

Will Mother's let their children be in this isolated spot?

Act 250 issues as park over 10 acres