

CONCEPTUAL PARK PLAN

ARTIST LAKE "FIELD OF DREAMS" PARK



Design Concept:

The design concept for the Artist Lake Park focuses on the ability to include all community aspects into a “LYSA” sports park. The park would be used by LYSA for sports events. LYSA does not have and/or own sites for the community to participate in seasonal sports, and uses the school fields when available. This becomes a problem when the school season and LYSA’s season parallel, and LYSA is forced to go to elsewhere.

Since the park is in Middle Island and the Town will be building some part of the overall plan, the Park must address the concerns of all citizens. LYSA will maintain the facility and have first picks at the usage schedule for league play.

This is a great opportunity for community input. It’s a prime example of thinking outside of the box and making “HYBRID FIELDS” that have a multi-use purposes; meaning seasonal use for multi-sports activities and also multi-uses for community activities. After some thought on the sites’ potential usage, I have come up with several design options (see attached).

Below are my conceptual thoughts of how it all comes together with sport vs. community needs. As I mentioned before, the site is too small to accommodate all of LYSA’s wish list of sports fields at one site.

The site has enough area for sufficient parking of 416 vehicles and special parking spots for handicap visitor as per the Town’s requirements. On the south east side of the entrance roadway the parking can be developed into a “drop and go” type of access for parents dropping off their children for games and/or activities.

Design elements of the proposed park:

1. **MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE EAST SIDE OF THE PARCEL** – The main entrance will be at the existing west side of the property between the Breslin’s site and the Park north of NYS Route 25. The entrance will be lined with medium growing street trees and illuminated from the base of the tree for nightscape effects. There will be no curb parking until the Promenade drop-off, on east side of the entrance access.
2. **CENTER MALL/PROMENADE** – Area of the center Mall/Promenade is the main access for seasonal outdoor activities. Shade will be provided by small street trees in raised planters functioning as seat walls. Pedestrians will have the freedom to relax as they will be protected from vehicles in the center mall/promenade by bollards, which can be removed for emergencies. This area is a multi-functional area for both active and passive uses such as street fairs, farmer’s markets, movies, concerts, etc. As a designer for the TWA flight 800 memorial at Smith Point County Park, I have observed the advantage of using pavers that can be interchanged with “memorial” pavers. These “memorial” pavers can be sold for various remembrances including weddings, births, and can be as general as “in memory of...” and provide a sense of community to the park.

At the center of the mall are the baseball dugouts, which act as the focal point during sports activities, and for special events when not actively used. This would be the perfect venue for an outdoor inflatable movie screen for evening summer community programs.

3. **HANDICAPPED DROP-OFF PARKING** – Several areas along the exterior of the park accommodate handicapped visitors to be dropped off and/or to park to use the Park facilities. Total number of site parking spaces is approximately 416, of which 9 are required to be designated as handicapped spaces by the Town of Brookhaven. Additional spots can be added to encourage use by Senior Citizens within the surrounding community.

4. **PARKING SPACES** –Parking spaces are located on all three sides of the Park- North, East and West. There are no curbside parking spots along the entire south side parallel to NYS Route 25. The drafted conceptual design has allotted for 416 parking spaces.
5. **LYSA Storage Facility/Maintenance Area** – This parking lot and building are for the maintenance/storage of equipment and uniforms. During times of registration/uniform pick-up, this becomes a separate facility and out of the flow of traffic. Cones and signs can be placed to eliminate confusion and provide a protected, safe place for the players and their families.
6. **CENTER MALL NORTH/SOUTH OF CENTER PROMENADE** – This area usually is congested with either players waiting to play or players waiting to get off the fields. The raised tree planters located in the center would function as seating/storage shelves for the player's equipment; and between seasons this area will function as passive seating areas for numerous community activities.
The area under the trees will have evergreen ground covers with seasonal flowering plant materials in both the north and south areas.
7. **SOUTHEASTERN BALL FIELD RETAINING WALL** - Along the main entrance walkway, the pedestrian path raises approximately 10 feet to a viewing area on top of the retaining wall.
At the base of the wall is the ball field, and at the top of the ramped walkway is a shaded pavilion. The view shed from the pavilion to the north is the ball fields below and the view shed to the south is the view across Artist Lake. Within the inside of the pavilion opportunities exist for educational panels to be installed for environmental issues, ground water education, local history, and other community information. All panels will be treated with anti-graffiti coatings.
Additionally, this would be a great spot to take memorable photographs for weddings, graduations and special functions on a reserve basis or Town of Brookhaven permit.
8. **RETAINING WALL PROMENADE WALKWAY TO PAVILLION** - As the walkway raises, from the north to the south elevation at 10 feet, the gardens composition changes from evergreen to a mixture of evergreen and perennials (see photo # 8 for example). The wall at the top has a black fence protecting the visitor's at the top edge, while affording views to the gardens, ball fields and the lake. This view shed includes the wildlife mix of ducks, geese, hawks, bald eagles, insects, wildflowers and the ever-changing foliage.



Photo # 8

9. **OBSERVATION AREA AT ELEVATION 10** - This area is covered with a 120 foot pavilion for protection from the weather, and serves as a perfect focal point for viewing the Park and Artist Lake, as it allows for a 360 degree panoramic view of the landscape (see photo #9 below for view of Artist Lake). The outside ring of the pavers is engraved with the name of the Park and the year it was built, while the inside ring is covered with a Long Island style architectural pavilion. This area will be lit from the pavers up to enhance the architecture from inside and from the outside, where it will suggest that the structure is floating on air. As you head west along the pathway, the elevations change from elevation 10 to elevation 4, still sloping towards the picnic area (15) and the shaded passive seating pavilion (13), inscribed with the Town of Brookhaven-established 1655. See Photo # 9 below:



Photo # 9

10. **VICTORIAN WALKWAY LIGHTS AND RAILINGS/FENCE** – The pathway lighting fixtures are similar to the lights in the Town’s historic buildings in Coram and Yaphank, which utilize flush lights that shine upwards from the pavers. The black fencing will also be of the same type as the historic houses in Yaphank.
- For the surrounding neighbors concerned with light glare, all lights shall be on timers and/or have shields to eliminate/lessen impacts.
11. **NYS ROUTE 25 SCREENING/BEAUTIFICATION** - Behind the 10 foot wide sidewalk in front of the Park, native and near native species of deciduous and evergreen species will be installed to screen/block the busy roadway from the Parkland. This landscape will attract birds and beneficial insects to the Park for viewing and help balance the environment. Flowering annuals and perennials will be seasonally installed to attract migratory birds such as humming birds for bird watching and educational opportunities at the park for the local schools and scouting groups.
12. **RAISED PLANTER WITH SEATING WALL** – Passive park area for sunning, reading and gardening with the seasonal plants installed by local businesses who can buy space as advertisement for the seasonal displays and care. Adjacent to the Picnic area (15), where parents/ grandparents can wait for the game to start, watch a movie, or just spend some quiet time with friends and family. See Photo # 12 to the right.



Photo 12

- 13. TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN PAVILION** – Shaded area dedicated to passive activities out of the sun and next to the evergreen/deciduous landscape screening. Area intended for board games, cards, conversation and/or just taking a break between games for both players and parents. In addition to passive board games and a spot to get out of the sun, this area also affords shelter for the people using the picnic areas. Educational and health posters can be seasonally posted for issues such as ticks diseases, mosquitoes, yellow jackets and how to treat any medical reaction. See Photo # 13 to the right for a rendering of a similar shaded pavilion.



Photo # 13

14. INTERPLANTING NATIVE FOREST

REMNANTS – Buffers will be required by the town and also the surrounding community. This design provides for native species and near native species to be inter-planted between healthy trees/vegetation. Dying trees and invasive species will be evaluated and removed from the site and disposed of in a responsible manner. Both upper and under story vegetation will be used based on the surrounding benchmark vegetation growing on the site, pre-construction. If there is sufficient available healthy vegetation that can be moved, efforts should be made to “PLANT RESCUE” materials for use in the proposed park.

- 15. PICNIC AREA-ADDITIONAL GAME VIEWING** - With the multi seasonal use of the park, picnic areas afford the community and athletes to enjoy a “PICNIC” within an area permanently setup with tables and barbeques that cannot be moved. This area will be protected with additional netting, similar to all areas where pedestrians could be hit by a foul ball.

- 16. SEASONAL CHILDREN’S WET FOUNTAIN AREAS** – The areas situated near the parent overlook areas can be fitted with small ground spray fountains that will be seasonally activated by movement during periods of hot weather. The areas will be self-draining and there will be no standing water above ground-water and will be drained into underground storage tanks for treatment to use in the irrigation system in the park. See Photo # 16 to the left for a similar wet fountain concept.



Photo # 16

- 17. WAITING/STAGING AREA** – Additional area off the main promenade created to help facilitate team/player coordination before and after games, that would place crowds away from the parking fields and the major walkways. All raised tree planters have seat walls and/or benches for the park visitors whether a sports player, park user, senior citizen, student, etc.

18. **PROMONADE-MALL AREA** - These areas will usually be closed except for emergency vehicles and seasonal Town/LYSA sales events, to include booster club fund raisers, farmer's market, art shows, outdoor movies, Longwood Day, etc. Opening would be by Town Permit for proper usage.
19. **CHILDRENS' PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT** – This area will be fenced in for the safety of the children, so the parent can let them explore within a secure area. The playground will feature hard pavement along the outside with soft crushed tire shreds/sand within the safety fall areas. See Photo # 19 below for a similar concept using crushed tire shreds/sand.

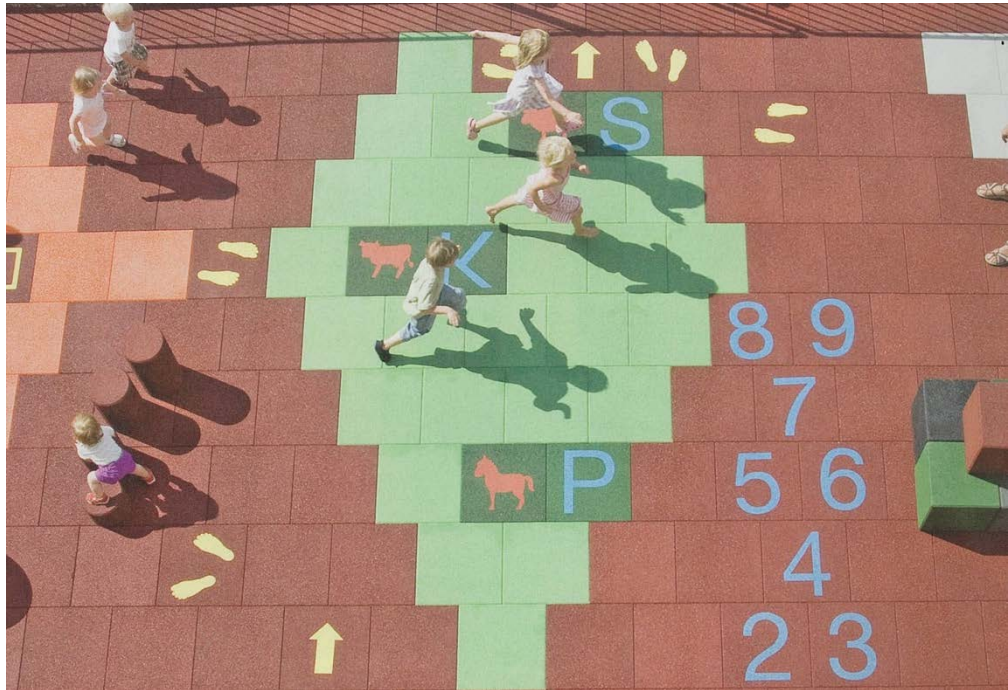


Photo # 19

20. **ADDITIONAL PARKING/DROP-OFF AREAS**- Additional parking off of Currans Road and drop-off area to let off players/visitors with a lot of baggage to carry. Southern end of the lot is for the parents using the playground, requiring short range access with toddlers.
21. **CENTER OF THE PROMONADE/MALL** – Main area for sport and entertainment functions, where organizers can control/direct visitors to the proper event area. Removable bollards for vehicular access to assist event and/or easy clean-up after special events.
22. – 25. **BASEBALL FIELDS** - There is one (1) 60' base Little League baseball field, two (2) 75' base Pony League baseball fields, and one (1) 90' base Babe Ruth baseball field.
26. **HYBRID MULTI-USE PERMIT** – Standard use hybrid field for football, lacrosse, and soccer similar to the field built in "Diamonds in the Pines "by the Town of Brookhaven.
27. **ADDITIONAL PARKING AND ACCESS** – Perimeter parking to access the sports fields and the outdoor movies events held on the sports fields.



Photo # 27

28. **EXTERIOR WELLNESS TRAIL AROUND PARK** – Multi-use pathway around entire park facility, built with porous paver used to eliminate future repaving when asphalt surfaces fatigue. The complete loop around the outside is approximately ½ mile. Photo # 28 below shows a similar pathway using porous pavers:



Photo # 28

29. **SITE UTILITY SHED/LYSA EQUIPMENT** – This area was selected as a protected lot that can be blocked off during times of equipment disbursement for the LYSA sports programs. It also can be used as a special events area where community activities load/coordinate setups.
30. **SITE MAIN ENTRANCE/PAVED TRAILS** – Decorative paving with covered sitting structures featuring benches, planters, fountains and signage greeting individuals into the park



Photo # 30

showing the history of Middle Island and the significant environmental of the site and the areas along Artist Lake. This would be the “gate way” into the park. See photo # 30 for a similar concept.

31. **CONCENTRATED EXERCISE EQUIPMENT AND PAVED TRAIL** –

This section of the park would be for both active and passive exercise usage. An

exercise circuit would be anchored into the pavement, while still allowing passive exercise activities around the park. The passive exercise path is ½ mile in total length and combines the workout equipment.

32. **FUTURE NYSDEC PROPERTY/PASSIVE PARK** – Opportunity to coordinate exercise, environmental education, environmental signage and community partnership for care and security.