



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
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[www.onelakewood.com/development](http://www.onelakewood.com/development)

July 2, 2010

**RE: Park Improvements to Kauffman Park and Jimmy Foxx Field**

Dear Resident:

As part of Mayor FitzGerald's parks initiative, city staff have been working for the past year with residents and community groups to develop a long-range improvement strategy for our parks and open space. The result is a Park System Strategic Plan that outlines a five-year improvement time frame to guide these efforts in making all of our City's parks the high quality green space deserved by the community.

During that process residents identified a number of priority improvements that emphasized safety, quality of the facilities and good access to all of our parks. Because of its central and downtown location and size (the city's third largest) Kauffman Park was given special consideration.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the City, in cooperation with the Friends of Kauffman Park, held a community workshop at the Main Branch Library to create a list of priority improvements for that park. The well attended forum recommended the following near term improvements and recommended that:

**Little Links** – the area be turned into usable green space by clearing out the former miniature golf facilities, removing the fences and reserving healthy mature trees. The long term reuse plan for the space would be developed by the City in conjunction with the Friends of Kauffman Park and resident input over the next year.

**Outfield Fence of Foxx Field** - the left field fence be adjusted to allow park patrons to walk all the way around the park and to take the left field light pole out of the field of play. Currently the outfield fence connects to the northern property line fence and limits pedestrian circulation around the park.

**Outdoor Basketball-** a pilot project be implemented at the park to bring outdoor basketball back to the community. This means that two (side by side) half court hoops would be installed on the eastern side of the tennis courts at Kauffman Park. Access to the fenced courts would have restricted hours and the gates to the courts would be locked at other times. In addition, a local advocacy group called the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee (LOBC) a non-profit organization made up of Lakewood residents, will regularly staff and supervise the use of the courts.

As a pilot project the installation would have a four month evaluation period. After the evaluation period, the city will use community feedback to make a determination as to whether or not the courts are being used in a manner that benefits the park and the community.

The city plans on making park improvements this year. As part of an on-going community input process, and realizing not every one can attend the meetings like that mentioned above, we are extending the public input period to Friday July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact us with any additional feedback that you would like to share by calling 216.529.6630 or via e-mail at [planning@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:planning@lakewoodoh.net).

HOLLER!

Sincerely,

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Joseph Beno, PE  
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