
OSRP July Newsletter

City of Lowell Department of Planning & Development Open Space & Recreation Plan



Thank you for signing up for the OSRP Newsletter! The City of Lowell Department of Planning & Development is updating the Open Space & Recreation Plan. This Plan is an important document created in collaboration with the community to identify and prioritize needed park and open space improvements. The City is required to update its OSRP every 10 years to maintain eligibility for state grants to fund open space improvement projects. The newsletter is how we will share information about upcoming community engagement events, volunteer opportunities, and other ways to get involved. We will also be sharing back the feedback we gather along the way.

Get Involved!

The wait is over... the [Lowell Park Assessment Form](#) is now live; Join the Lowell 2025 Park Count!

Collect data on your local park/s to help prioritize the next 10 years of open space improvement projects! Tap the link to access the [Park Assessment Form](#). Head to your favorite nearby park and the form will

guide you through the assessment process. A park assessment typically takes 30-60 minutes depending on the size of the park. Questions about the form? Reach out to openspace@lowellma.gov or come to one of our upcoming events for in-person support.

Interested in having the OSRP Mobile Engagement Station at your event? Reach out to openspace@lowellma.gov.

LOWELL 2025 PARK COUNT TOUR

<https://tinyurl.com/37a2y2n9>

Scan the QR code with a smart phone to learn more!



1 NPS Maintenance Lot
Saturday, July 19, 2025
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

4 Shedd Park
Thursday, September 25, 2025
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

2 South Common
Tuesday, September 2, 2025
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

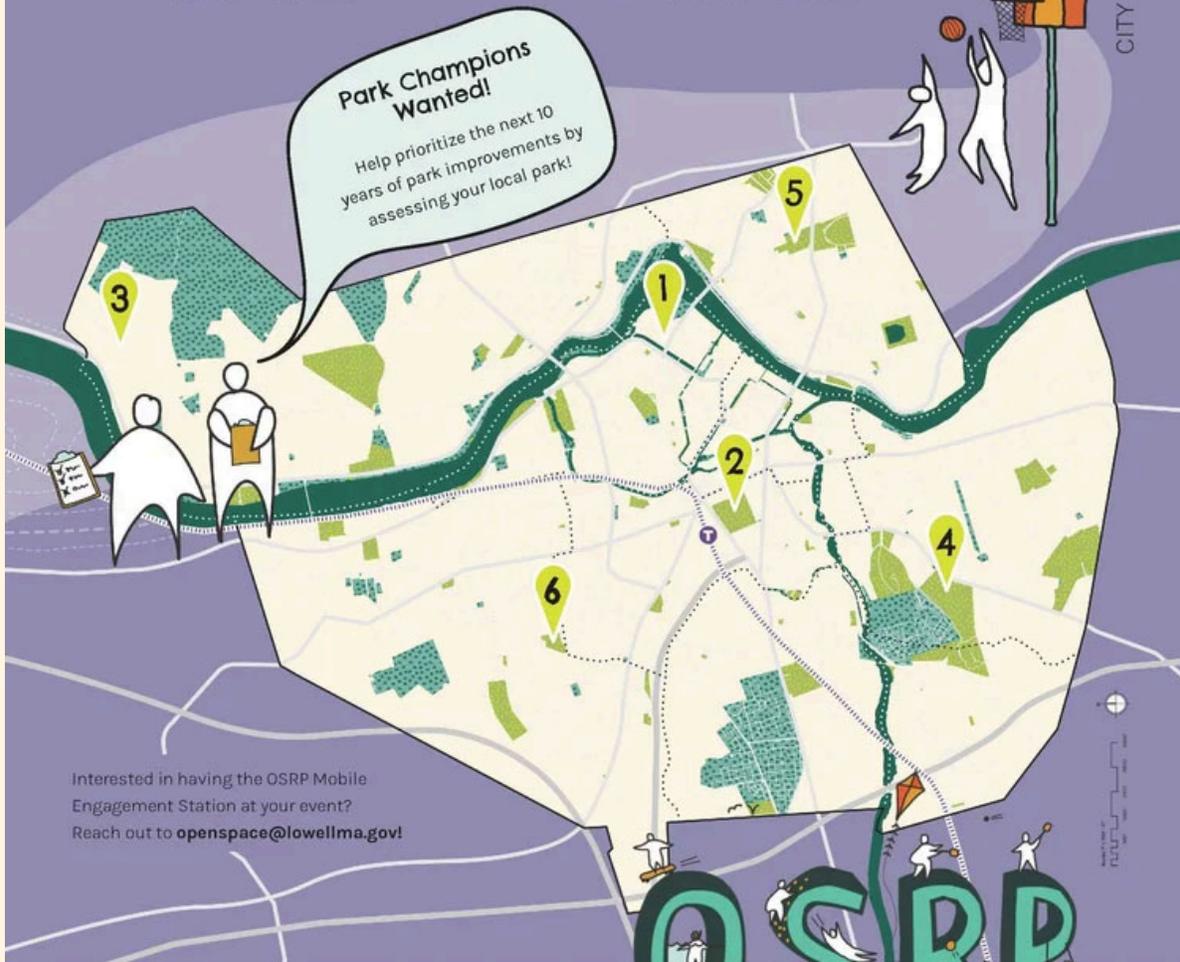
5 McPherson Park
Friday, October 10, 2025
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

3 Mill City Grows Farm
Saturday, September 13, 2025
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

6 Callery Park
Saturday, October 18, 2025
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Park Champions Wanted!

Help prioritize the next 10 years of park improvements by assessing your local park!



Interested in having the OSRP Mobile Engagement Station at your event?
Reach out to openspace@lowellma.gov!



LOWELL
FORWARD



CITY OF LOWELL OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN (OSRP)

Visit the [OSRP Digital Engagement Station](#). This is your one-stop-shop for all things OSRP-related. You can learn more about the OSRP, participate in the quick survey, and download the OSRP Coloring Book and Park libs. A Deep Dive Survey link will be added soon!

Get In Touch!



Email Hotline:

openspace@lowellma.gov

You may write to us in any language!



Phone Hotline:

978 - 674 - 4225

You may leave us a voice message in any language!



Digital Engagement Station:

<https://tinyurl.com/37a2y2n9>



Mobile Engagement Station:

Coming Soon to a Park Near You!

Calendar of Events



2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
SEPTEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
01	02 OSRP @ South Common 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm 200 South Street (track near the pool)	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13 OSRP @ Mill City Grows Harvest 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 1001 Pawtucket Boulevard	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 OSRP @ Shedd Park 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm 493 Rogers Street (Pavilion)	26	27	28
29	30					



LOWELL
FORWARD

Engagment Dashboard

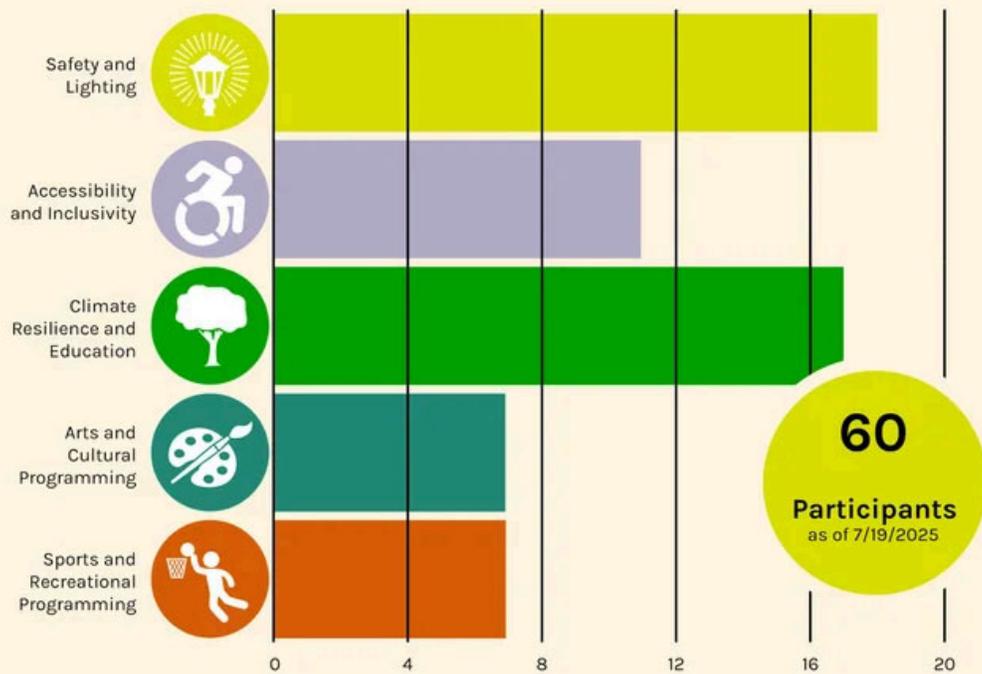
We've been listening!

- 3/29/2025 OSRP at Mill City Skill Share at Western Ave Arts Studio
- 4/5/2025 OSRP at Lowell Volunteer Fest
- 4/22/2025 OSRP at UMass Lowell Eco Fest
- 4/24/2025 OSRP at Mill City Grows Plant Sale
- 5/28/2025 OSRP CBO Focus Group with Nature Everywhere
- 7/10/2025 OSRP Senior Open Space Focus Group
- 7/19/2025 OSRP Park Count Tour Kick-off with Lowell Litter Krewe

Here's some of what we've heard from over 160 residents so far:

Poll Results I

WHAT PARK IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD THE CITY PRIORITIZE IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS?



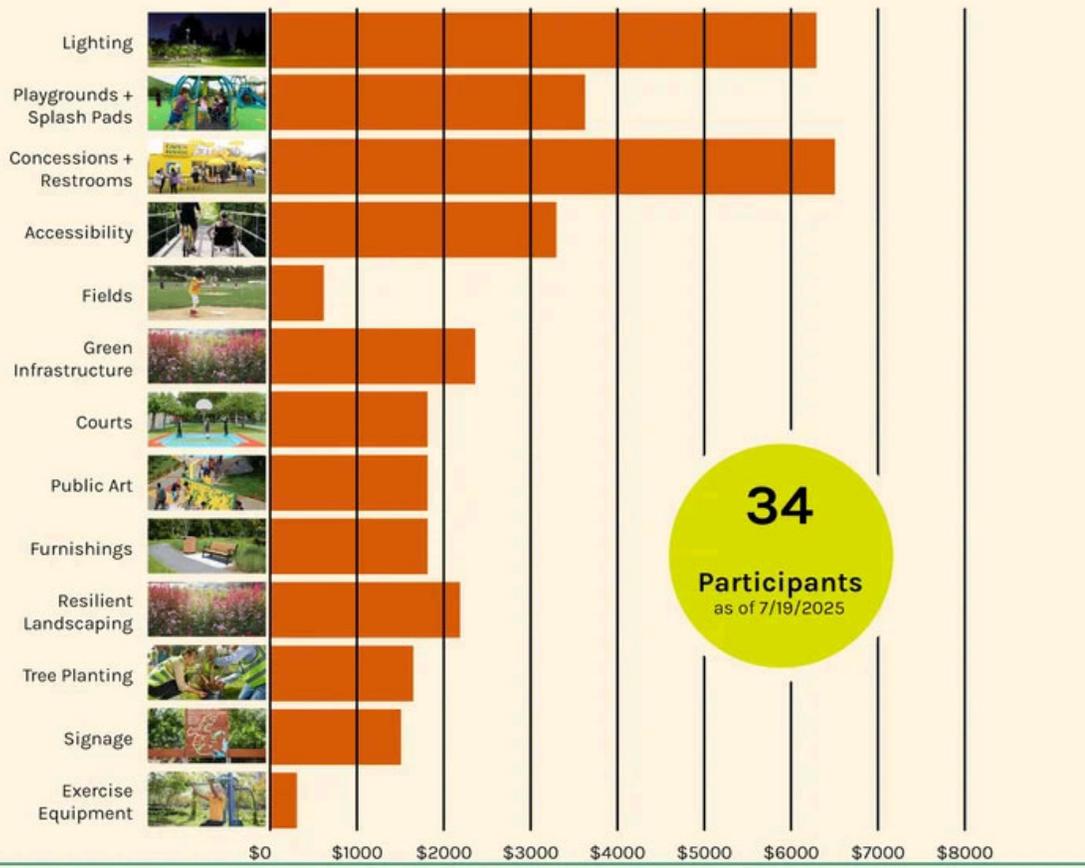
Mobile Engagement Station | Interactive Board Combined Results

“It would be great to have some tennis courts converted to or lined for pickleball in the Highlands.”



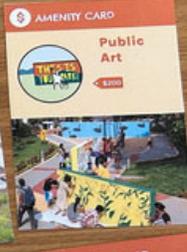
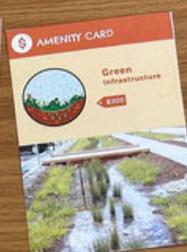
“At Callery Park [the rubber safety surface] is too dark! Kids don’t play on it when it’s hot out.”

Total Community Park Budget per Amenity:



Mobile Engagement Station | Park Budget Card Game Combined Results

“I would like a senior playground to include exercise equipment, hopscotch for balance, and built-in chess boards.”



OSRP Park Libs

My favorite park in Lowell is Mc Dermott Reservoir. My favorite thing to do there is strawberry. Sometimes I also like to have picnics.

I go there with my mom or my friends. We get there by driving.

It takes 7-10 minutes to get there. I usually visit the park at least 4 times per month.

I wish that this park had more trash cans, benches, dogs, and birds.

I hope that this park is always clean and that there are many activities to do.

in this park, political trucks and beer would make it even better. When I think of my favorite park in the future, I hope that it will be accessible and colorful.

When complete, please send a scan or photo to openspace@lowellma.gov. Thanks for participating!

THE CITY OF LOWELL DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Name: Nathan Torres

Date: 5/24/2015

LOWELL FORWARD



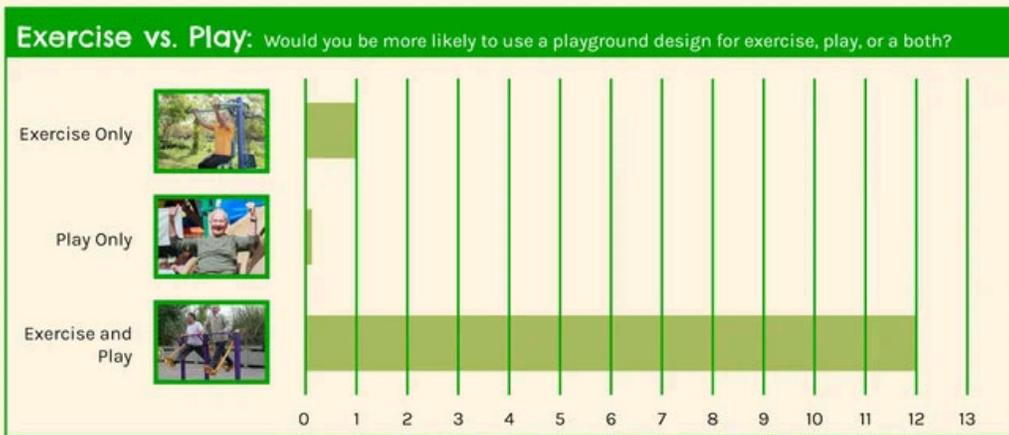
PARK CARD

Park: McDermott Reservoir / Christian Hill

Neighborhood: Centralville

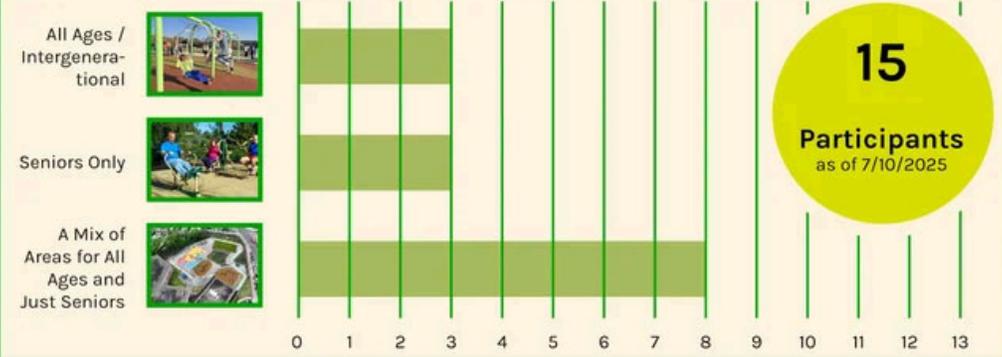


Senior Playground Visual Preference Survey Results

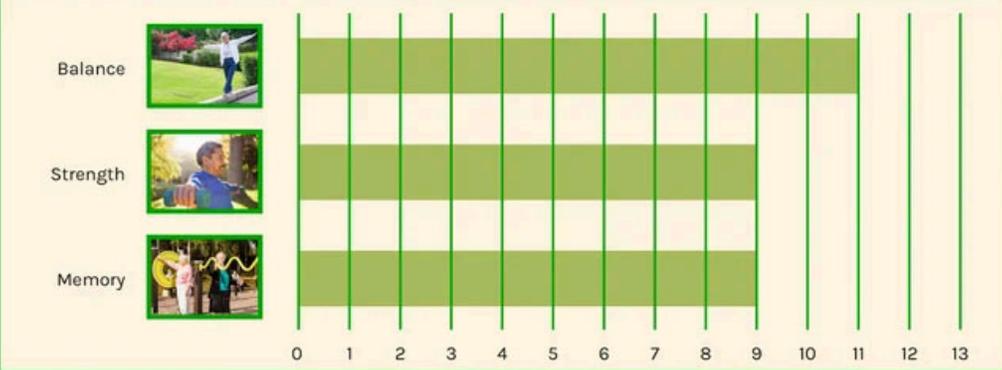


Senior Playground Visual Preference Survey Results

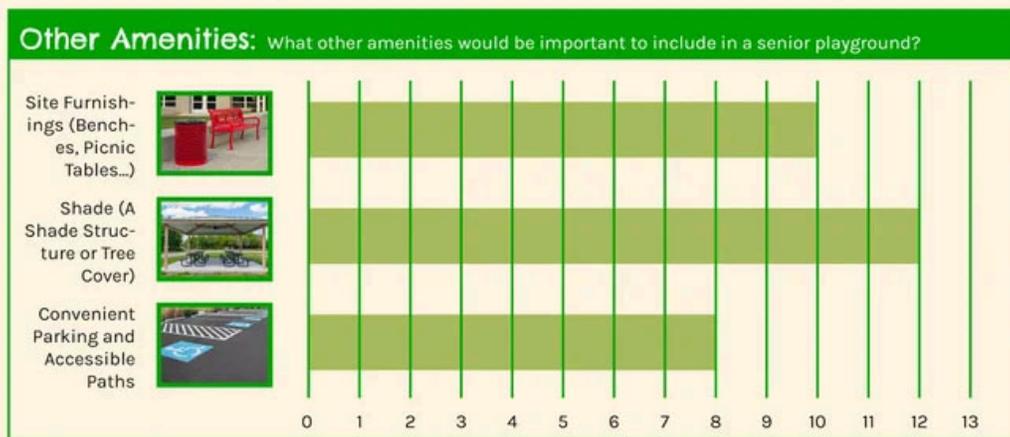
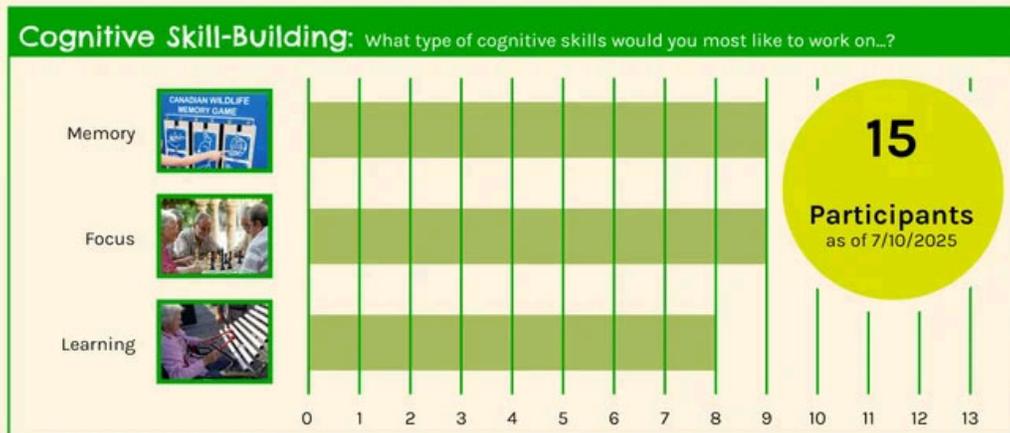
Intergenerational vs. Seniors-Only: Would you be more likely to use a playground designed for all ages, or one that is designed specifically for senior use, or something in between?



Physical Skill-Building: What type of physical skills would you most like to work on...?



Senior Playground Visual Preference Survey Results



OSRP Project Highlight

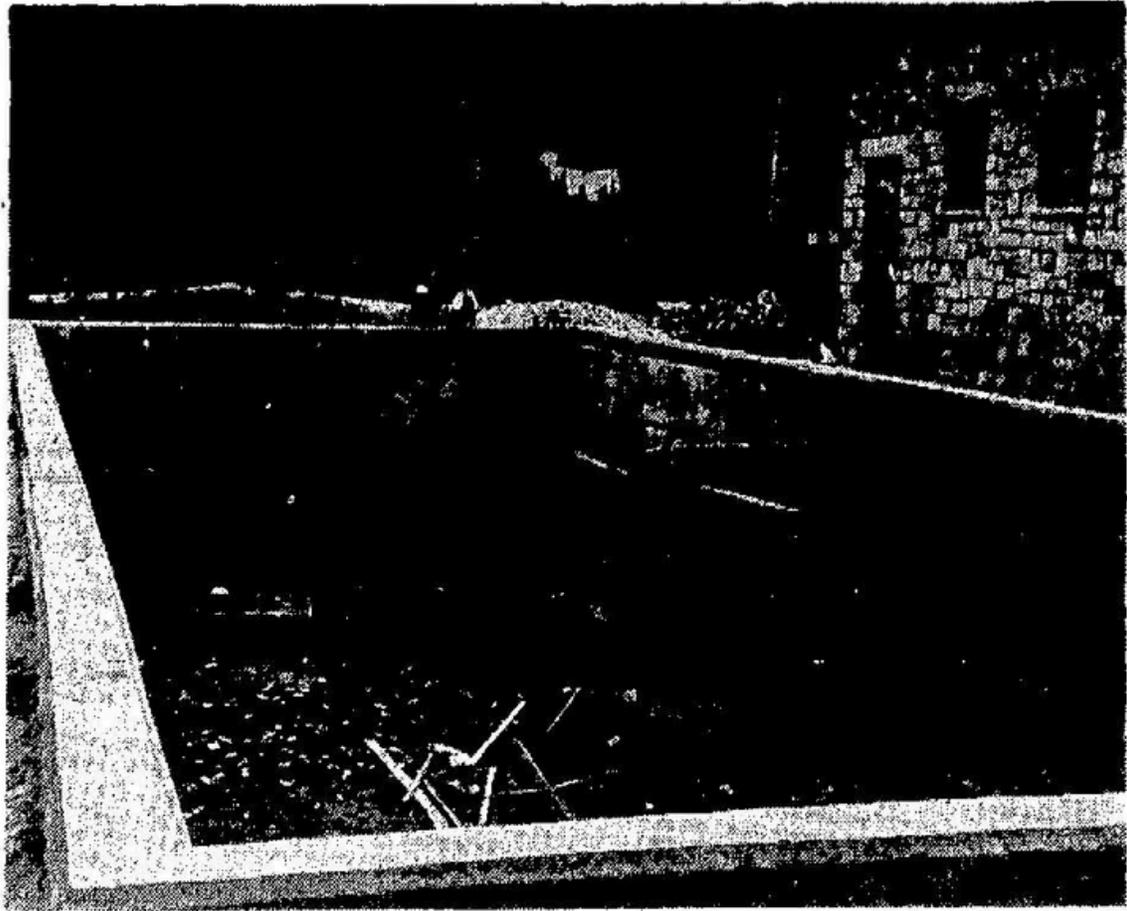
An abandoned 1940s WPA pool discovered under the skate park at Clemente Park! During excavation for the Clemente Park improvement project, contractors discovered an old pool and the foundation of a building that contained locker rooms. The Lowell Historic Board did some digging and discovered that it was part of a 1940 Works Progress Administration project to build 3 new City pools. The only pool that was actually completed was the one at O'Donnell Park, which is now a splash pad. You never know what you're going to find when you dig in Lowell!

Excavation is now complete, and the site is starting to take shape! The upgraded park will feature 8 new volleyball courts, a new basketball court, a new universally accessible playground, and a large circular event space for festivals and programs in the park. Construction is expected to be complete in November 2025.



Above: Remnants of the abandoned pool at Clemente Park discovered during construction.

Below: An image of the pool under construction from a 1941 Lowell Sun article.



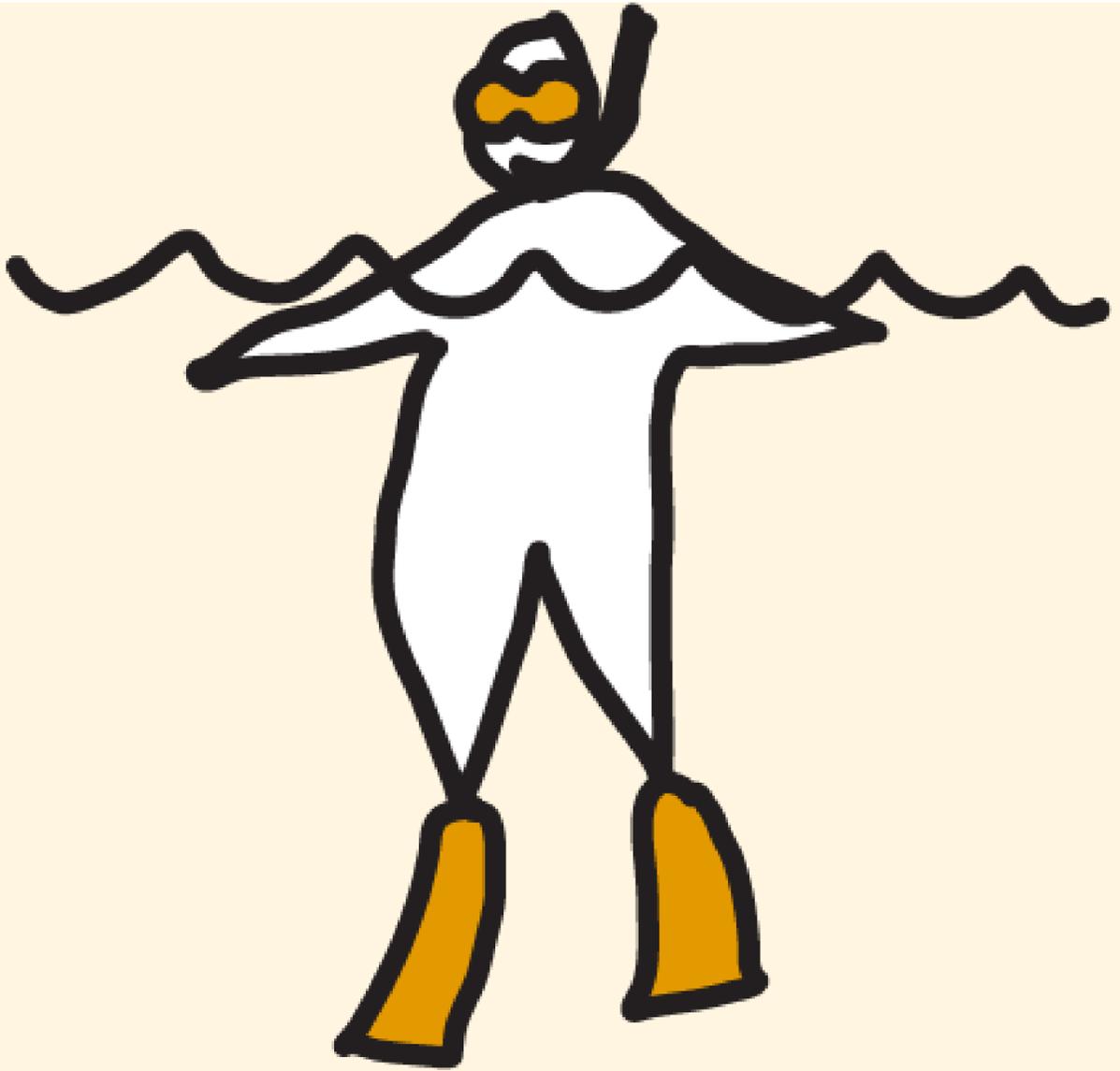
POOL-TO-BE AT WASHINGTON PARK—This spacious and deep swimming pool is under construction at Washington park, and is big enough to give summer heat relief to many. It still has a good way to go before completion.

Below: A 1947 Lowell Sun article indicating the pool at Clemente Park (formerly Washington Park) was never completed).

Swimming in the canals of the city has been forbidden, but we noticed boys enjoying this form of recreation last Monday using the canal bridge on Aiken street for jumping-off purposes. While we've rarely heard of a swimmer drowning in one of our canals, the practice certainly attracts youngsters who fail to realize the danger of being so close to deep water. It's really too bad this city isn't "swimming pool conscious." We have a fine pool on the O'Donnell playground and a duplicate of this one at Washington park. The trouble is the Washington park unit was never completed. It might be a good idea to study the cost of finishing this project, thus giving a congested section of the city a place for youngsters to cool off safely and to prevent possible drownings.



A rendering of the new playground under construction at Clemente Park.



LOWELL
FORWARD



City of Lowell Department of Planning & Development, 50 Arcand Drive, Lowell, MA 01852, USA

Powered by [Squarespace](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)