



Neighborhood Bridge

July 1998

NEW PARK TOT LOT WITH RUBBERIZED PLAY SURFACE READY LATER THIS SUMMER

Third Ward Alderman Tom Owen is leaving a considerable legacy in the landmark park for which our neighborhood takes its name. Tom has certainly spearheaded major projects throughout the Highlands, but to Tyler Park fans his generous support will be sorely missed when his term expires at the end of this year.

The neighborhood association was invited to prioritize the list of potential park improvements. With help from interested neighbors, we decided that replacing the worn out Tot Lot was the number one priority. Drainage improvements were a close number two, especially on the lower-level near the play equipment and spray pool. Third, we asked that concrete pads be provided for all park benches, which sometimes are unusable following heavy rains because of the mud under the benches. All three items fit within the \$25,000 budget, plus a few extras. The lower-level paved path will be graded and widened to accommodate maintenance vehicles. This is expected to eliminate muddy spots along the edges.

The latest round of improvements will get underway in the next few weeks, as neighborhood volunteers assist Parks Department crews in dismantling existing play equipment and fencing in the park's upper-level Tot Lot to make way for new play structures, custom-designed for very young children. Features include swings, slides, climbing units and something new for our park - a bouncing see-saw which allows an adult to partner with a youngster.

If you have visited the Children's Playground in the new Waterfront Park you may be familiar with the state-of-the-art play surface used there. The poured-in-place material is costly, but softer landings for kids and savings in long-term maintenance convinced Metro Parks to undertake a pilot project. Lucky for us, Tyler Park's Tot Lot will be the prototype! This means no more mud holes beneath the slides and swings. Leaves can be blown away and dirt simply hosed off. A new fence and gate, coated black to match the tennis court fencing, will complete the playground site. Sounds like we're going to love it!

Among other priorities the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association and Metro Parks have identified are replacing the lower-level playground and moving it closer to the pathway, opening up the vista through the landmark stone bridge tunnel. The basketball court could likewise be relocated close by, to reestablish the central oval playing field. The spray pool may be modified to be more aesthetically pleasing without changing its function. It's incredible how many schoolchildren, from daycare to middle school age, use the fields and other facilities daily.

An entry element is desired by neighbors and Parks, but didn't make the top of the priority list this year. Details remain to be decided, such as: Where would the official entrance be? How should it look? These and other issues of importance to our neighborhood's livability are discussed at monthly meetings of the association, open to all residents of Tyler Park neighborhood. Do become part of the solution. Stopping by the Highlands-Shelby library branch is also a great way to meet other neighbors, who would love to meet you! Meetings through September will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7PM.

TYLER PARK'S BRIGHTSITE

For the past several years the triangle of land where Tyler Park Drive intersects Castlewood has been a BrightSite. Since the time this was created, the TPNA has been responsible for its upkeep.

Recently the City of Louisville, with the help of Kroger, made available bedding plants. Several members of the TPNA Board of Directors planted 12 flats of these bedding plants in the BrightSite – more than 500 individual plants!

There is room for additional shade loving specimens in the beds circling below the trees. If anyone in the neighborhood would like to add some plants in the appropriate areas, it would be appreciated.

Volunteers are needed to periodically assume responsibility for maintaining this site. If you are willing to help, please call **John Reilly** at 627-3801.

A special thanks goes to **Helen Bickel** who lives across the street from the BrightSite. She has given us permission to use her garden hose for watering the plants when needed.

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ANNUAL TPNA FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 13

Plans are underway for the annual Tyler Park Neighborhood Association festival in the park. The date is Sunday, September 13, from 2PM until dark. Once again there will be continuous musical entertainment from the band stand featuring several quality local groups. Activities for children will be scheduled during the afternoon hours and efforts are being made to provide a variety of arts and crafts booths.

Merchants from the area will donate prizes for the Raffle which will also include cash prizes of \$300 and \$100. Raffle tickets will be sold prior to the date of the festival as well as all day on September 13. The next newsletter in August will include details on all the activities for the festival as well as a list of all the prizes for the raffle.

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