

Eastampton plans upgrades to Cliver Park

By Rose Krebs Staff writer | Posted: Friday, November 28, 2014 1:00 am

EASTAMPTON — The township is forging ahead with plans to build a playground and install a walking path at Cliver Park.

On Monday, the Township Council gave the OK for Environmental Resolutions of Mount Laurel to add trails at the park off Woodcrest Drive.

This year, the township received \$125,000 through the Burlington County Municipal Park Development Program to make the upgrades. It also plans to use \$75,000 from a previous grant.

Concept art for improvements at Cliver Park in Eastampton.

“We’re excited to get the amount we got,” Mayor Ricardo Rodriguez said.

The township initially planned to build a large recreational complex on a 211-acre municipal-owned property off Smithville and Monmouth roads. But after receiving feedback from residents at a workshop earlier this year, officials focused their efforts on Cliver Park.

Councilman Robert Apgar, a member of the parks and recreation committee, said residents indicated in a survey that they wanted better playground facilities and walking trails and sitting areas.

The township started working on concept plans for the site with the engineering firm. Apgar said work would be done in phases, with the walking trail and playground done first.

The park has tennis courts, a baseball field, a basketball court, a playground, a dilapidated hockey rink, and a large area that is used as a field.

Plans are to replace the playground, remove the rink, and possibly add a field, shelter/picnic area, more parking, and the walking trail around the park’s perimeter, Rodriguez said.

No decision has been made on what will be done beyond the trail and playground. Environmental Resolutions has drawn up concept plans that would keep the baseball field, and add a soccer field, baseball field with bleachers, expanded 32-space parking area, walking trail, playground, sitting area, concession stand, shelter area, and two youth soccer fields.

The township will need to make a decision about what work will be done once it determines how much can be accomplished with the \$200,000.

It has spent about \$200,000 from previous grants to replace the tennis courts at Cliver Park and at Buttonwood Park off Knightsbridge Road. Also, the parking lot at Cliver was paved using that money.

The township has four parks: Buttonwood, Cliver, Hollyville off Oak Street, and Veterans Memorial at Manor House Court.

Hollyville has a tennis court, walking trail and baseball field. Buttonwood has tennis courts, a basketball court, playground, baseball field and walking trails. Veterans Memorial is a passive-recreation area.