

Strawberry Lake Park, Access and Beach – Background and Recommendation

- The original work at our Park was completed between the years 1987 – 1990, i.e.,
 - Building the seawall, installing the play-scape, structuring the beach and volleyball areas, installing the boat launch, installing parking barrier.
- Historically, the beach and park have been maintained by volunteer labor and the annual financial contribution of only twelve property owners (pontoon owners)
 - Pontoon owners contribute \$250 each, for an annual Park budget of \$3,000.
 - Money goes to pay for porta-toilet, grass cutting, garbage removal, small social events, minor improvements (lock, painting picnic tables, swim raft).
 - Average bare maintenance-only expenses are increasing.
- No improvements have been done in over 22 years, and there is significant deferred maintenance at the park and erosion on the order of up to 12 inches annually. There has been no financial reserve built. Key improvements needed:
 - Erosion prevention south of boat launch and docks to protect it;
 - Replacement of seawall north of boat launch;
 - Replacement of aging and potentially dangerous play-scape;
 - Replacement of decaying picnic tables.
- Volunteers to do the work have been very scarce in recent years, and the work has fallen to a very, very few volunteers
 - In the last few years, only three or four individuals helped install the dock, swim line and swim platform and remove it. No one responded to the open call to help in email and on the web, and personal calls had to be made.
 - Volunteers have painted and repaired the picnic tables just once in years.
 - Not enough people have been showing up for grounds maintenance (raking, weeding, shoveling stones for road, shoveling sand for beach and volleyball).
 - There is no blame – families and lives have changed, and people are busy.
- The beach benefits the entire neighborhood – not just 12 pontoon owners
 - Non-lakefront owners have a waterfront;
 - All owners can have an opportunity to moor a pontoon boat;
 - All owners can launch boats;
 - All owners share in legal ownership and responsibility through our Associations.
- Property that looks unkempt attracts problems and problem-makers.
- Homeowners in the neighborhood need to support and protect this wonderful benefit and our joint property.
- Responding to neighborhood comment, the Committee recommends a dues increase targeted to the park of the following amounts, payable annually, to fund the work in the proposed and updated budget:
 - \$12.50/month for 2013;
 - \$8.33/month for 2014 - 2017;
 - \$4.16/month for 2018 and beyond with this last reduction subject to a vote.