

Clifton Journal

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### Clifton parks in disrepair

At the last monthly meeting of the Clifton Watchdog Group, the group decided that one of our goals would be to get our local parks restored. Over the last few weeks, residents have been taking pictures of the parks in their neighborhood and emailing the pictures to me (marysadrakula@aol.com) so that I may post the pictures on Facebook. Here is what we have discovered so far. Parks in all sections of Clifton are in dire need of improvement and some with very unsafe and deplorable conditions. To date, I have posted pictures of 10 parks. What the pictures show is all these parks are in various degrees of disrepair with the worse being Lowry Park on William Street.

We have two parks (Skatezone which has been closed for three years and Gregory Manor) being used as a "free construction site" for a contractor doing sewer work in Clifton. All 10 parks are in need of repair and conditions vary from missing signs, deteriorating basketball and tennis courts, bent football posts, fields badly in need of leveling, benches rusted

and falling apart, crumbling dedication plaques, trees blocking pathways, huge pieces of concrete over ravines, missing or broken playground equipment, missing fences or fences falling down, graffiti lined parks, missing score board signs, lack of mulch under playground equipment, nails and screws visible near playground equipment and field houses that have deteriorated beyond the point of repair. The common thread is this is not confined to one area of Clifton but rather all over the city. What this has shown the public is the majority of our parks have been neglected for years with "band-aid fixes."

Parks act to define the shape and feel of a city and its neighborhoods. Parks enhance property values and have been shown to attract new home buyers to the area. Parks have also been shown to create safer neighborhoods with fewer violent and property crimes and where neighbors tend to support and protect one another. All of Clifton's parks need to be restored.

Clifton Watchdogs needs your help in documenting unsafe and deteriorating conditions at your neighborhood park. Please take pictures of the park and either email the pictures to me at marysadrakula@aol.com; or post them on Facebook or send the pictures to me at 340 Dwasline Road, Clifton, N.J. 07012. Clifton Watchdog is committed to getting our parks restored to pristine condition. These parks belong to all the citizens of Clifton.

Mark your calendars - the next meeting of the group will be on Monday, Dec 7 at 7 p.m. at the Allwood Library.

Mary Sadrakula  
Clifton