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Ideas sought on future of Fontenelle Park

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The future of Omaha's Fontenelle Park will be the subject of a public meeting Thursday night, and interested people are invited to share their vision for the park.

The City of Omaha is updating the park's master plan in part to comply with a new federal mandate that could mean significant changes.

The Clean Solutions for Omaha project is tasked with improving sewer drainage because of that mandate. It involves finding more places to store rainwater so it doesn't overflow and bring sewage into waterways.

One suggestion about Fontenelle Park, courtesy of City Councilman Ben Gray, is to expand the existing lake and close the golf course, which has long been losing money.

The benefits, he said, would be twofold: It would help the city comply with water standards, and it would open the park for water recreation such as canoeing, kayaking and paddle boating.

He also said the Outward Bound youth outdoors program could use the lake.

Gray said residents should come to the meeting and share their ideas about the park.

"I think a lot of the residents are interested in something more than the golf course, but we'll find out," he said. "If I'm wrong, I will be wrong."

The meeting will be from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Fontenelle Park Pavilion, 4401 Fontenelle Blvd.

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