

Survey looks to city parks' future

Southside leader, officials also want to preserve the past at recreation areas

By Jeff Smith

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CORNING - A survey seeking public input to guide a long-range strategy for the city's aging parks will remain available until Monday on the City of Corning website.

Mayor Bill Boland said community feedback will be gathered through the results of the second open house survey. The first open house survey was held August 20, 2019, at the Corning-Painted Post High School.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the second open house is a recorded presentation that the public can view on the city's website by clicking the "Parks Open House" tab at the top of the city's homepage at www.cityofcorning.com.

The strategy will shape the facilities and appearance of the city parks to help meet the public's recreational needs, according to officials.

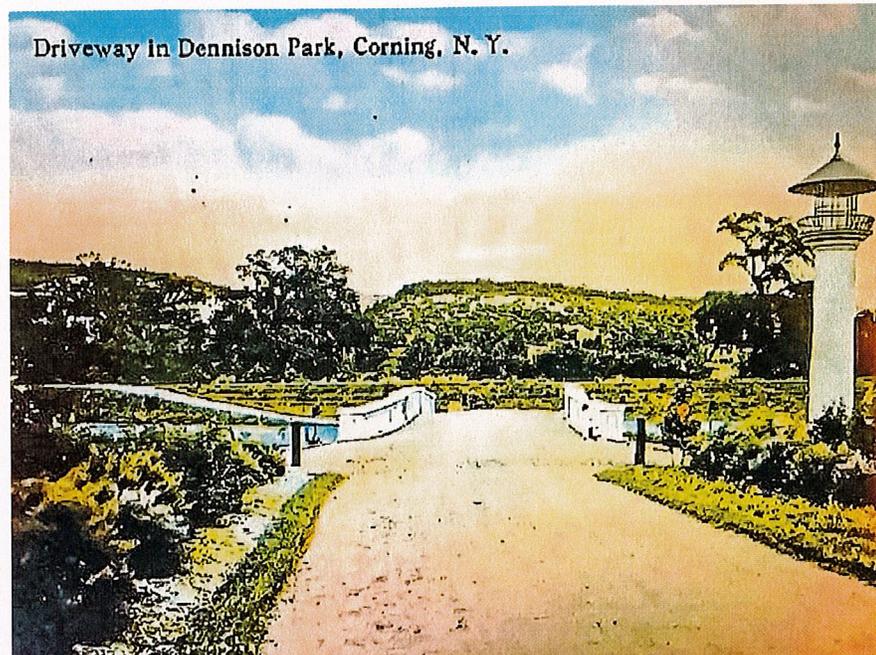
"This is a good opportunity for the public to comment on the future of the city's parks," said City Manager Mark Ryckman.

Input from the Open House will be used by the Parks Improvement Committee to help guide their recommendations for the new long-term strategy.

"We encourage everyone to watch the video before taking the survey," Boland said. "The community input is very important and the survey is a key part of getting just that."

Peetie Dimitroff, a Southside Neighborhood Association board member, said the park survey is really well done.

"I agree with a lot of it,"



Driveway in Dennison Park, Corning, N. Y.

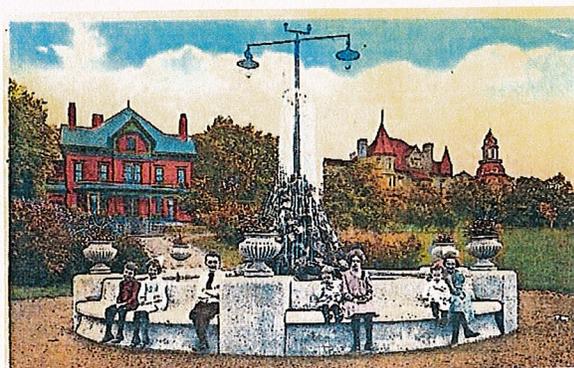
An old postcard shows the lighthouse in Denison Park. [PROVIDED]

Dimitroff said. "My biggest disagreement is Canfield Park. Even though it was supposed to be restored (a couple of years ago), it wasn't. Messy material was used, the drainage is wrong and the circles are in the wrong place. If you look at an old picture of the park, you can see that."

In Denison Park, Dimitroff said she would like to see the Memorial Gate on Park Avenue restored and a lighthouse in the park brought back to its former look.

Dimitroff said the survey mentioned using the old lighthouse, which originally was a disguised vent, as a location for public art.

"No, I don't want it used like that," Dimitroff said of the lighthouse. "I'd like to see it go back to what it was."



An image shows a fountain at Corning's Courthouse Park. [PROVIDED]

Ryckman said historic preservation is an important consideration.

"Over the years, I have heard many positive compliments about the city's willingness to

preserve their historic character," Ryckman said.

For more information, residents can contact the city's parks and recreation department at 962-0340, Ext. 1132.

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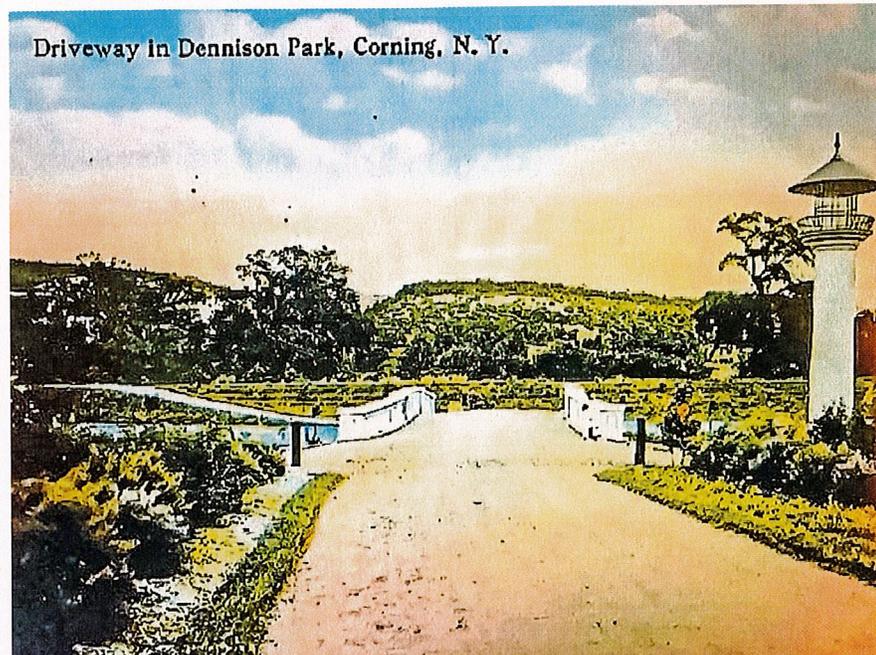
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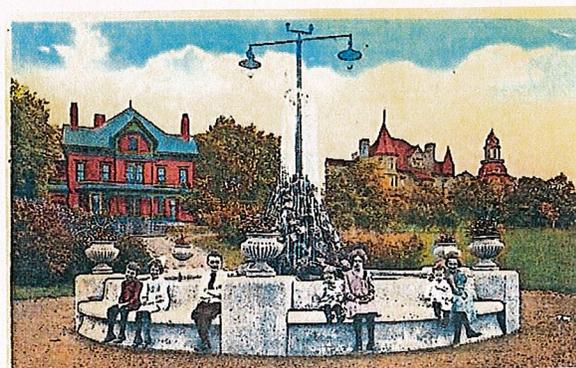
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