



## STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 4, 2018

**REGULAR**

ITEM #: 14

**MOTION**

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Ben Prchal, City Planner  
**AGENDA ITEM:** Lions Park – 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Marker  
**REVIEWED BY:** Kristina Handt – City Administrator

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### **BACKGROUND:**

During the development and renovation of Lions Park it was brought to light that the field was very close to the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel latitude line. Knowing this, the field was moved so that home plate and the first base line would directly line up with the 45<sup>th</sup> line. Having moved the field to ensure that this was possible, it had seemed appropriate to place a marker ensuring the efforts and significance were not forgotten.

### **ISSUE BEFORE THE COUNCIL:**

The Council is being asked to provide comment and final approval on the Parks Commission recommendation of the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel marker at Lions Park.

### **PROPOSAL:**

Planning Commission member Kathy Weeks and resident Jay Knutson have been working with Eric Mayne, owner of Livingstone Concrete Design to create a template for us to review. Livingstone Concrete produces high end, heavily durable specialty concrete and custom made material for countertops, furniture, sinks, etc. There were three options presented to the Parks Commission. One option would be built directly into the concrete walking path for the field (Option A) and the other two of the options were between the field and the asphalt walking path (Option B and C). Accompanying the marker would be a sign, which would be produced at no cost by Weeks-end Signs. The content of the sign would be informational in nature, providing a description of why it is there and the significance of the 45<sup>th</sup> with the field.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is expected to be a fiscal impact.  
Informational sign – No cost (Donation by Weeks Family)  
Marker – \$1,000 (estimated for material and install)

There were two funding mechanisms presented to the Parks Commission

#### Option 1:

Use park dedication funds for the project. Based off the last discussion on the 2019 CIP, at a minimum there will be \$562,704 in the account at the beginning of the New Year. The total of all the projects for 2019 is expected to be \$337,000 (Pebble Imp., Sunfish Imp., and New Park Development). This leaves the fund with \$225,704 remaining in the account. The expected cost of \$1,000 would not significantly impact the account.

#### Option 2:

Use funds from the sign advertisement program at the park. As of now, the revenue generated from the program has already been earmarked for improvements. However, if the commission does not mind waiting a year for the proposed project, next year's funds could be use.

**OPTIONS:**

- 1) Motion to approve the project with park dedication funds
- 2) Motion to approve the project with next year's sign funds
- 3) Motion for denial unless donations can be obtained to cover the cost
- 4) Motion to deny the project

**RECOMMENDATION AND STAFF COMMENTS:**

Parks Commission Comments:

The Parks Commission is recommending that the Council approve funding for Option C. However, the commission would like to see a wooden post placed on the edge of the pad (centered) near the sidewalk which would hold the sign. Their motion was "Motion to recommend pouring the concrete marker with stamping, from the asphalt sidewalk to concrete sidewalk, matching the grade as well as adding a cedar post for mounting a sign" Passed 4-2. The stamping was added for a decorative touch which staff is in support of. (Option C)

Staff Comments:

Out of the options presented, staff is inclined to follow the recommendation of the Parks Commission with the exception of the sign on the wooden post. Staff is under the impression that the marker is capable of standing on its own. Though the sign would provide value in that it is informational, it may detract from the marker due to its placement. Perhaps the Council would like to consider a similar sign imbedded in the concrete.

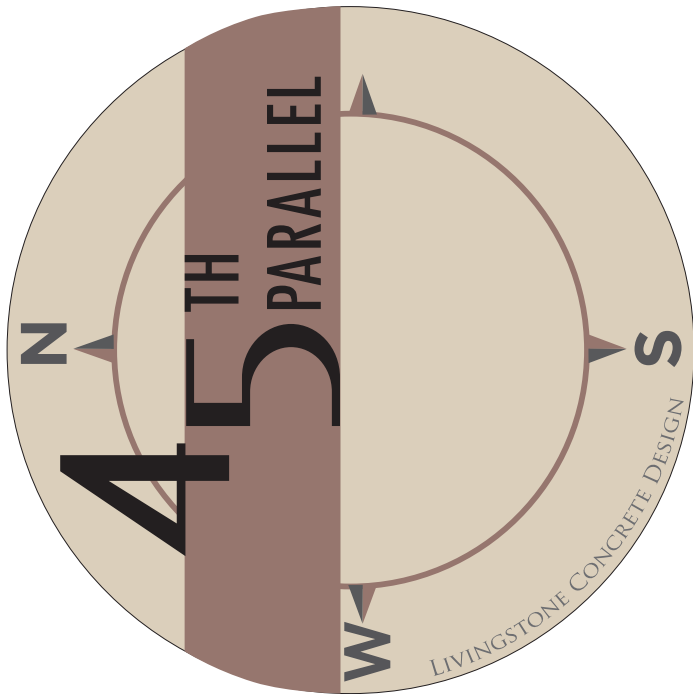
The Commission, by general consensus would like to use funds generated from the sign program at Lions to fund the project.

***"Motion to approve funding for the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel marker as recommended by the Parks Commission"***

**ATTACHMENTS:**

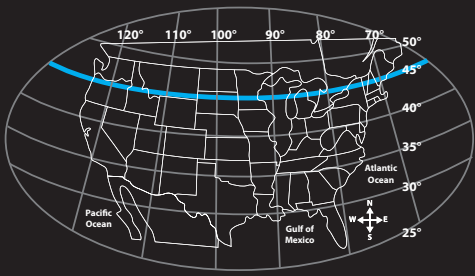
- Design proposals A, B, or C.
  - Write up describing Livingstone and informational sign.

27" in Diameter disc - cast specialty concrete - flush mounted into existing concrete gallery.



**OPTION A**

12" x 18" framed polycarb. protected sign Mounted on backfield fence.



**45th PARALLEL**

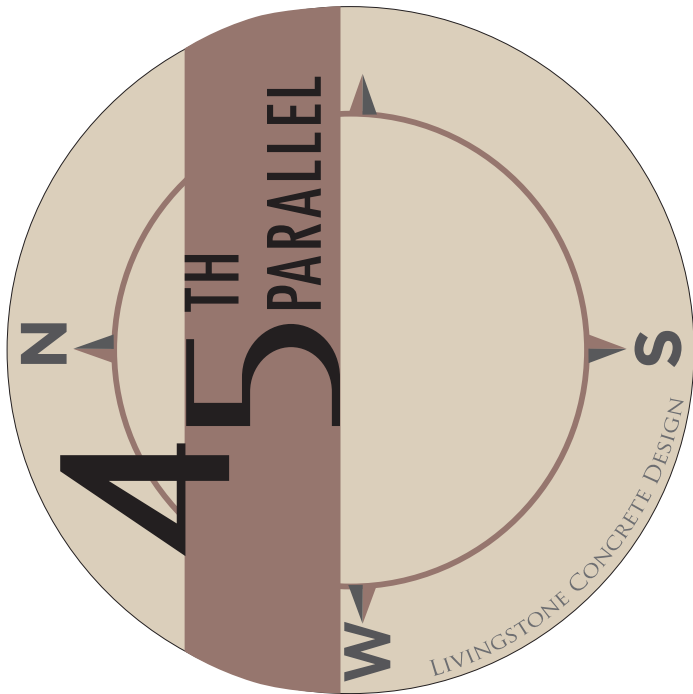
The 45th Parallel is halfway between the Equator and the North Pole.

The 45th Parallel of North Latitude on the surface of the earth passes directly through this marker. It is an East and West line which is midway between the Equator and the North Pole.

On this ball field home plate, first base, the first baseline, and the right-field foul line and pole are located precisely on the 45th parallel.

*Thank you to Jay Knutson & Rolf Larson for calling attention to this unique distinction.*

27" in Diameter disc - cast specialty concrete - flush mounted into a concrete pad constructed in the grass strip between the walking path and concrete gallery.



**OPTION B**

12" x 18" framed polycarb. protected sign Mounted on post.



### 45th PARALLEL

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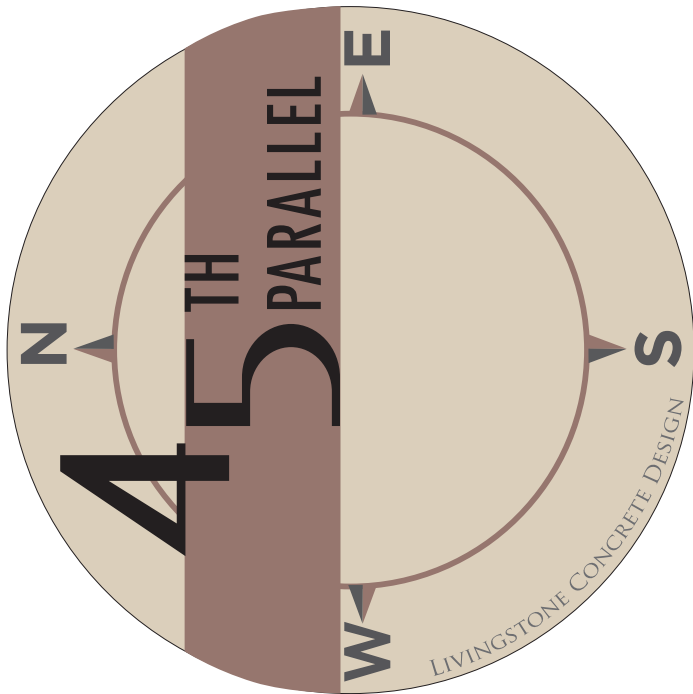
On this ball field home plate, first base, the first baseline, and the right-field foul line and pole are located precisely on the 45th parallel.

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◀ North



27" in Diameter disc - cast specialty concrete - flush mounted into a concrete pad constructed in the grass strip between the walking path and concrete gallery.



**OPTION C**

12" x 18" framed polycarb. protected sign Mounted on post.



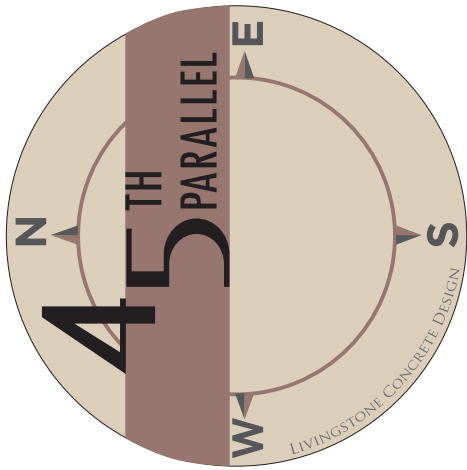
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This disc will be either flush mounted into the existing concrete gallery (Option A) or flush mounted into a concrete pad constructed in the grass strip between the Laverne Ave. path and the existing concrete gallery (Option B)

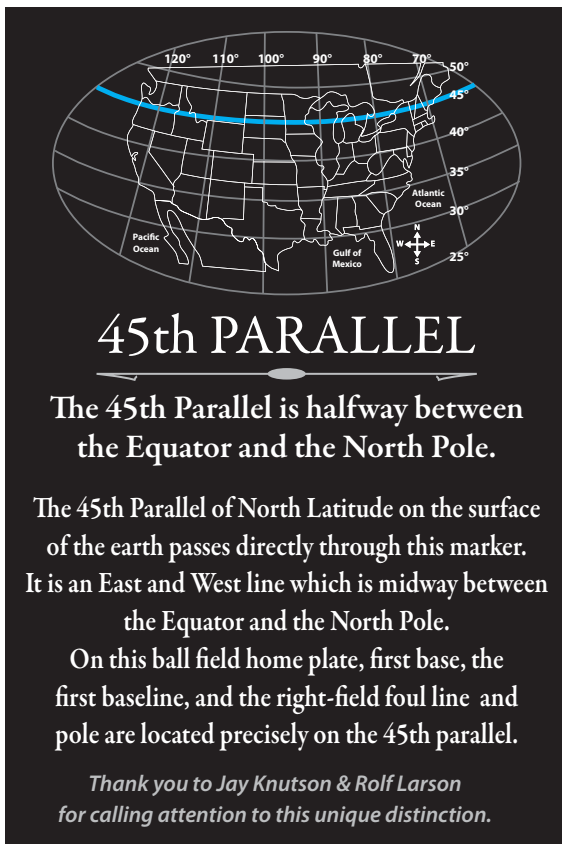
Eric Mayne, owner of Livingstone Concrete Design (a local Lake Elmo Company) has been working with Kathy Weeks, owner of Weeks-End Signs to create and produce a unique marker for the 45th Parallel marker for placement in Lions Park. The concept is a 27" in Diameter disc produced of cast specialty concrete.

Eric and Livingstone Concrete Design produce high end, heavily durable specialty concrete and custom made material for countertops, furniture, sinks, etc.

If you'd like to see a video of how this product is made, please go to: [Livingstoneconcretedesign.com](http://Livingstoneconcretedesign.com)

12" x 18" framed polycarb. protected sign

This sign will accompany the concrete marker disc to describe the 45th Parallel significance.



Weeks-End Signs will produce this sign of sturdy aluminum or steel panel and frame. The globe graphic and text info. will be reverse mounted vinyl graphics directly onto a clear polycarb./Lexan panel to make it highly protected from weather and vandalism.