

Burlington park to offer wireless Internet

by Kyle Waggoner, April 6, 2010

Burlington City Park may soon be adding wireless Internet for residents and visitors to the park.

The park, located on South Church Street one mile from downtown Burlington, offers 75 acres with organized activities, picnic shelters, an amusement area, athletic fields, a walking track and tennis courts.

Recently, city officials decided that bringing wireless Internet to the park would be useful and beneficial for visitors. City Manager Harold Owen and other city employees have begun to take steps to make this a possibility.

Owen said a significant amount of locals who visit the park would make use of the wireless Internet availability at the park, and it will attract new people to visit the park.

"The park area itself draws a number of people who have children that use the facilities, such as the tennis courts and soccer fields," Owen said. "When they bring their children to the facilities, many parents have their laptops and will now have the ability to do work."

Owen said a lot of parents of small children in the area work from home and spend a lot of time at the park, either watching their child play a game or practice. He said he recognizes wireless Internet is available at many other facilities and restaurants throughout the Burlington area, and he wants to bring this convenience to the park.

The provider is yet to be determined, although Owen said the process of bringing wireless Internet to the park would be a simple extension to the contacts of Internet protocol technicians down Church Street. He said the process would be inexpensive, although he could not determine the exact price.

"It could even potentially create revenue," Owen said, "The amusement park is already an attraction, and if people come to use the Internet, they may want to also use the facilities."

Georgie Turner, a senior at Elon University, said wireless is a good idea for any place where people spend a lot of time, especially at a place like a park.

"It would be really great to have the option to go sit at the park and do homework when the weather is warm," Turner said. "There are few places that have Internet and outdoor setting where the atmosphere is relaxing."

Although she has never been to the park, Turner said she has driven by it several times. She said that if the park acquired wireless Internet, she may make use of it.

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