

18. Why did this “Save Red Bank Central Park” group form?

In autumn 2020, the Red Bank Board of Commissioners attempted to quickly sell the publicly owned old middle school site at 3715 Dayton Boulevard to developers. Fortunately, the November 2020 election and the new elected officials halted the disposal process for a while. However, the Board’s selloff attempt alarmed and awakened residents. Many citizens remember promises made years earlier by the Board to preserve a significant portion of the site as a public park. Many citizens recognize that Red Bank is a park-deprived city. Many citizens desire and see the benefit of a large, central commons for the people to gather, mingle and recreate together.

Meanwhile, Red Bank is suffering a stubborn decades-long economic and cultural malaise, causing many to search for new ideas to lift and energize the city.

Our group of concerned Red Bank residents believes a destination-worthy, 1st-class public park and commons in the city center would address these and other community needs. We formed with a mission to preserve the entire 12-acre public property at the old middle school site in public ownership in perpetuity, and to develop it as *Red Bank Central Park*, for the enjoyment and benefit of the people.