

Zabriskie Schedler Park



Timeline 2003 to 2023



2003

Ridgewood Open Space Committee submitted a plan identifying the Schedler property as a "first-priority" target for acquisition by Ridgewood.

2007

Village was informed that the family would be selling the Schedler property.

2008

Open Space Committee provided the Village Council with a report recommending that the initial development of Schedler property consist of a parking lot, a baseball diamond and overlay multipurpose field (without lights or restrooms), with the remainder of property left as passive recreation space with wooded areas and a disabled-accessible (ADA compliant), senior-friendly paved walking path around the perimeter.

2008

Open Space Committee urged the Village to acquire the Schedler property, warning that "if the property is acquired by a private developer, the Village will face the possibility of a 'builder remedy' suit forcing the Village to accept high-density multi-family residential development of the property including affordable housing units."

2009

Village purchased Schedler property for \$2.7 million with grants from the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund.

2013

Village purchased Shotmeyer property, a .358 acre parcel of land that was surrounded by the Schedler property, for approximately \$90,000.

2014

Zabriskie Schedler House (alone) receives certificate of Eligibility for Architecture. The National Park Service defines resources that meet National Register Criterion C as those "that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction."

2015

Council passed resolution adopting Open Space Committee's recommendation for a passive and active park that included a playground, walking path, 90 ft. baseball diamond, and a 120 x 75 yd. multi-purpose field. Resolution also provided a road map for stabilization and possible restoration of the Zabriskie Schedler House.

2017

The Council rescinded the 2015 resolution, deciding instead to re-analyze the proposed plan for Schedler, and appointed the Ad Hoc Committee to propose a re-development plan.

2018

Village approves a plan for small sided multi-purpose "Cool Play" Turf field. 2018 project, then stalls.

2020

In Spring of 2020 the Village is notified that the House and Property (all 7 acres) are on the NJ and National Historic Registry due to the Architecture of the house and the adjacency of the land.

2020

In Fall of 2020 two plans (one overdeveloped Pickleball Plan & one historically inaccurate Pergola Plan) are submitted outside of public light and rejected by SHPO.

2023

Council introduces and approves the current plan for varsity sized eco-friendly turf, playground, ample parking, bathrooms and walking paths.

2023

The work on the Zabriskie Schedler House is completed for a total cost of \$2.6 million dollars. Friends of Zabriskie- Schedler rescind prior donation of \$44,000 which was the only donation of record. No future intended use has been determined.