Courtney Cooke

Stillwater City Council Meeting

 Stillwater parks should be a place of beauty, but a Stillwater Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member said he feels like they are too full of trash.

 On Monday night at the City Council meeting, Wayne Wilczek said there is a growing problem in Stillwater parks that have dumpsters on site. The two parks he referred to were Babcock Park, 19th and Western, and North Boomer Park.

 Wilczek began his presentation with a slideshow of the dumpsters at Babcock Park overflowing with trash and recyclables.

 “We just don’t feel like these are an appropriate thing to have in our parks,” Wilczek said.

 He emphasized the importance of recycling, but said there needs to be more stress put on responsible recycling over convenient recycling.

 Wilczek suggested that the council consider the option of removing the dumpsters as soon as possible. He said there are other places in Stillwater to recycle, such as the Convenience Collection Center on Perkins Road.

 “If we leave these dumpsters, there will be a continuation of mixed and contaminated waste,” Wilczek said. “Someone has to go in and hand sort the recyclables out, and that wastes time.”

 Wilczek said if the City Council doesn’t think it would be a good idea to remove the dumpsters, it could move the dumpsters to a different spot that would be more appropriate; one that didn’t include parks.

 Wilczek said getting these dumpsters off the park sites would add efficiency and get Stillwater parks running better.

 Vice Mayor Charles Hopkins agreed with Wilczek. However, Hopkins said removing the dumpsters could upset residents who use them.

 “You solve one problem and create another,” Hopkins said.

 Hopkins said he uses the recycling dumpster at 19th and Western, and the area is a mess. He said the council would have to consider both sides of the issue before making a decision to get rid of the dumpsters.

 Councilman Darrell Dougherty said he was in full support of Wilczek’s proposal.

 “Our parks need to be a gorgeous place and a fun place,” Dougherty said. “They aren’t with all the trash in the way.” He thanked Wilczek for his dedication to the issue.

 Dougherty said it would be important to get the Stillwater residents and their opinions involved, also.

 City Manager Dan Galloway said the city could explore other options of land use for the recycling dumpsters.

 After the meeting, Thagendra Timsina, an OSU graduate student, and Roshani Timsina, his wife, said they think getting rid of the dumpsters is not a good idea.

 “I think they just need to send people out there more often to clean them up,” Thagendra Timsina said. “Getting rid of them will just make the problem worse.”

 Either way, Wilczek said he will start working immediately to gather the final information he needs to re-propose his issue. Mayor Nathan Bates said City Council will take a look at the proposal during the next study session.