

COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION

Public Comments for

Flat Branch Park Expansion

Meeting Held January 31, 2019

Online Comments were open from January 28, 2019 to February 19, 2019

Please comment on what you like about the proposed potential improvements. Please be concise.

- Excellent plan. The greener the better. Columbia needs a pleasant west entry to downtown. Lots of trees!
- This project will be a legacy for Columbia, adding a vibrant and engaging space for the public. Transforming an underused parking area to greenspace will enhance the community for all.
- I don't like the plan. I think the alternative option would be better!
- I don't feel spending resources on this project is prudent.
- I believe this is a forward looking plan that will contribute to the preservation of a historic part of the city. The opening up of the creek and the areas for art and sculptures are especially appealing.
- I like the fact that the city wants to expand our parks and celebrate Columbia and its history.
- Making a park bigger that isn't used and will hurt local businesses is crazy.
- Like it gives a nice entrance to the Flat Branch Park. It does create green space but it lacks consideration for property owner's rights.
- Great idea. Expansion of space increases the possibilities for utilizations.
- It is an easily accessible park that should be a unique site for the city. Like the idea of widening the creek and incorporation of a bridge, art and lighting.
- My biggest concern is the loss of parking on private property. This would seriously impact the _____ of that property. Does the city have "moral" rights to do this?
- I like the trees and slope to collect storm water. I like the art installations and connections to existing park.
- The creeks can be more attractive with good design and less of an ugly ditch.
- I prefer this "alternate" for the parking lot opposed to the plan being presented.
- Please consider the community business growth overall.
- I think the Parks Department always presents well. The proposed park where McAdams was should be a major improvement to the road scape. I do have a hard time understanding the scale of the art.
- I love the green space on Providence and the connection to the existing park. I like the openness of the design. Having sidewalks and green sin the urban area is more valuable than the few surface parking spaces that would be displaced.

- It's a complete and total waste of resources. No one is going to enjoy a park next to a major intersection, except more homeless. No one is going to use this as a photo op with other alternative sites like columns and Jesse.
- Need to slow down the parks. Lots of homeless here. Businesses are for downtown, not parks, but if you would like a park head to Stephens, it's amazing! Let not put more money into the million dollar ditch. And a park right next to a highway!?! Maybe somewhere else in Parks and Rec could use the money and resources.
- I believe the plan as presented this evening is magnificent and should be a tremendous plus for the community.
- Please keep the parking for the people to enjoy the district. Good for ark and business.
- The idea is good but it _____ to _____ with this existing building owner of the Ice House. We should be supporting local businesses with this prospect of continuing lower sales tax.
- Improve access to both park and businesses by maintaining existing parking spaces.
- An expansion of some sort to Flat Branch Park could be very nice when holding events and festivals in the downtown area. I also think it has potential to beautify the "entrance" to the District which can be beneficial for Columbia. It has potential to give Columbia an area that could develop the "vibe" of the Riverwalk in San Antonio – If done well.
- I support the 4th Street brick restoration, the intersection improvement on Broadway with a median, and the extension of the park to include a bridge and sculpture. Columbia could really benefit culturally from a sculpture garden somewhere around downtown. I am very interested in the sculpture area on the corner and how that will look. Why not hang that ball somehow like the others are hung, and focus on a corner of columns that invite people to sit (as they do at the courthouse and the Quad)?
- I like the bridge location as it highlights the view.
- Nothing.
- Like the bridge idea and the improvement of the lighting Would be a great space
- I love the proposed improvement to the corner of Providence and Broadway. That area has been an eyesore for years. This plan will give us a green gateway to Downtown; I can't wait to see the change!
- Cleaning up the whole area. Notion of a large plaza welcoming people to the city.
- I like that it will open up the downtown area to Providence more, hopefully attracting more people into the heart of Columbia to increase local revenues.
- I generally support daylighting of streams, even one as impaired as Flat Branch. I also like that it will provide access west to Providence from the park.
- I think this is a great idea and glad the city bought the land. A once in a generation opportunity. I like the fact that there's an additional bridge, gateway, and the ice house was kept.
- I strongly believe Columbia needs a Gateway to welcome people to our community. I love the added green space and connectivity the Flat Branch Park expansion would provide.

- My favorite part of the plans is the exposure of more of Flat Branch Creek.
- I like that there will be more prominent green space as an entry point to downtown Columbia with opportunities for public art. Love the idea of a bridge to connect new park space to existing Flat Branch Park.
- I love how inviting and clean the design is. It is a much better image of Columbia for people coming into town than is currently there.
- I like the brick streets, bridge and added trees
- I like the brick 4th St. walkway. I like the restoration of the creek. Love the green areas. Would help if Broadway and Providence were labeled.
- It looks nice, not much details.
- Not applicable.
- I like the added green space along Providence and the bridge joining the two areas.
- Love daylighting of the creek! And all the green on a corner that has been just a parking lot.
- Love this park! What an improvement the West part of downtown. The addition of this green space is much appreciated!
- The additional green space in our downtown is incredibly valuable to our community. Also the brick road adds charm and keeps the historic look. The "Columbia" sign is a great addition. This would add so much to our downtown and therefore our entire city.
- Anything you can do to improve that corner will be great!

What would you change about the proposed potential improvements? Please be concise.

- Looks good.
- The old Ice Building needs to keep the parking spaces. I do not support the City plan. I support the alternate plan as it will keep the parking for the existing office buildings.
- I don't think this plan shows support to the local businesses on this corner. I think the alternative plan that Mark Stevenson is proposing is a way better plan and will support the local businesses and promote "community". This will affect some local places that give the City lots of money and support and I feel that the relationships will be damaged as a direct result of the proposed improvements.
- I feel a better use of the money would be to improve existing parks and services, or move funds to more prudent efforts such as better snow removal response for City residents. Whether that can be accomplished through Parks and Rec – or whether funds need to be re-distributed to other departments.
- The brick roadway is nice but it should be done in consultation with disability advocate groups.
- I personally manage the two buildings that expansion affects and work there every day. The existing park is beautiful but it's filled with homeless people. Every single day we battle the homeless harassing and screaming at our tenants. So, I'm against expanding this particular park because of that reason, but if it's going to be expanded it can't be at the expense of the current

businesses and their parking. We would be ok moving forward with Mark Stevenson's alternative plan. This isn't about the park or celebrating como but about affecting existing commerce in the area.

- The idea of extending a park that is only used by the homeless that costs a large amount of money is just silly. It's a bad idea and shouldn't happen.
- After seeing the plan.
- I would like to see the alternate plan.
- I would change the parking lot proposal to at least save some of the parking at 302 S. Providence. It once again shows this cities antibusiness sentiment. The owner's alternative proposal that Mr. Stevenson is proposing at least gives options to consider everyone's needs. It would save some parking and give option to create a smaller entrance.
- Wifi Accessibility. Lights for safety. Benches and seating along the creek and on the bench. Covered areas for rain. Smaller tables for gathering. Overall this is quite exciting. Well done.
- More seating and hanging out space.
- Proposed alternate plan. No taking our parking.
- Parking is needed for both the adjoining building and for the patrons of the park! Customers, clients, employees need parking. There is already a shortage. Everyone agrees and knows this. Please don't eliminate what is needed.
- Really like Mark Stevenson's plan to keep more parking. Downtown needs more parking, not more parks. Please!!! It really hurts the property he owns and all of his tenants. Business who moved there for location and parking.
- Existing commercial parking on west side of Ice House property should remain. Use a portion of this parking to provide public access and ADA parking to Broadway corner of park. Current plan has no parking or close access to the Gateway. Provide a landscape buffer between west parking and Gateway sign (a vegetated screen).
- Would see the parking on the north side of the building.
- I am very concerned about the effects on the two businesses to the west of the ice house. I would be in favor of allowing access to those two businesses from Broadway by including the driveway as it exists today. I believe it would be less contentious.
- Happy with design.
- Eliminate the whole plan. Reduce size and costs. Use the \$ to fix intersection and streets.
- Move the monument south. Keep parking.
- I would support an alternation to the plan that would save some of the parking. I believe they submitted an alternative plan to save some of the parking while moving this park forward.
- Whatever it takes to keep both the park and parking with safe access parking being the priority!
- Save the parking lot – parking supports access to the parks as well as access to the tax-paying businesses. Move the monument south and conserve the parking lot. Downtown complains about lack of parking now. Loss of this parking lot is moving in the wrong direction. The city

just added parking spaces to Douglass Park – should the city not choose the same direction here.

- I think a park at that location will need parking as most people will not go there as a destination via bicycle or walking. During events parking will be at a premium. I also believe that you should respect the businesses in the area by allowing them to maintain access to their current parking lot. People are lazy and will be looking for parking they will take the very limited parking of the businesses. We need to encourage businesses in this area so we do not end up with a blighted area right beside a beautiful park. Allow the businesses to maintain the lots they currently enjoy to help keep quality businesses in the area.
- In the plan proposed, the Ice House and associated business lose valuable parking for clients and customers visiting those businesses. I have seen the alternate plan by Robbie Price of Simon Oswald and Associates and believe, as that plan shows, that the parks improve and the businesses can co-exist in a way that enhances both and allows both business and park to thrive. As a business owner who serves customers and clients, I know that parking is a critical piece of business success. Without parking, a business is doomed. The burning question I can't ignore when I look at this otherwise interesting plan is this: Why are you damaging thriving business in downtown Columbia? Why are you damaging an economically thriving historical property (Ice Plant) that has been beautifully improved the past few years? I grew up in Columbia and remember what the building had become as it fell into sad times. Today we have a beautiful corner due to the investment of the current owner. This is the question: Why are we compromising the business by taking away the parking – and it will be compromised. The park can be compatible with existing business by cooperation with the business. What good will the park and the art be on that corner if the Ice Plant hits sad times again because it's difficult to lease to business tenants without the necessary parking? The park can and will be complete with existing parking retained for the building. Please consider the alternate plan by Robbie Price of Simon Oswald and Associates. This plan achieves both goals of a visitor park and photo op location and encouraging local businesses (retaining parking) we value and need in Co. Come on, Columbia, there is room for everyone to benefit – the alternate plan shows us how!
- Consider a plan that allows for owner to access their own parking spaces. There shouldn't be any parking spaces in the park.
- Sell the land to bring in a CVS Pharmacy and jobs to Columbia. That is economic development.
- Nothing
- Please be sure the park is well lighted and designed for safety.
- Can't think of anything.
- I would add more lighting and artwork.
- Wondering what will be one to keep thrill seekers out of the culvert - it may become an attractive nuisance.
- Nothing comes to mind at this time.
- I would not change anything. I love the proposed plan.
- I don't like how the park surrounds privately owned buildings (Columbia real estate building and Shiloh). Would not spend public money on brick work in front of Shiloh. Private \$ is ok.

- Does not really show parking in case someone does not walk from downtown or a nearby restaurant. The presentation shows green space but so often in development project the greenspace is not carried through in final plan. It is used to get approval, and then vanishes.
- Improved crosswalks at Providence and Broadway that don't collect trash, mud, water.
- I would like the city to stop spending money on luxury items such as an expanded park maybe 10% of the population will use at most. The city should focus on public safety and all the violent crime, raises for city employees, road repair and necessities.
- Nothing other than more green. Bigger trees.
- Would like to see the original creek restored under Broadway with an attractive bridge. I know that would require more land and property, but it would be great to see the waterway restored fully. Most great cities that in common, an iconic waterway in the downtown, even if it is a small creek. Thanks
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting.
- See if the rich owners of the lot in front, that is just a parking lot can fund and improve their side of the road and add to the park

The above record(s) is subject to Missouri's open records laws and may be provided to the public if requested and/or placed in public domain.

Thank you for your participation.
City of Columbia, MO
Parks and Recreation