

Westwinds Park Improvements

Interested Parties Meeting

June 27th, 2024

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

- Would love to see some work done on attacking the invasive honeysuckle and ground cover in the wooded area. Support the proposed changes.
- Please consider more trees or something for a natural sound barrier up by the playground at Westwinds. There are some improvements coming apparently and that would be great!
- Comparing our playground to what's done nowadays, especially in schoolyards, finds it lacking. So I'm happy to see it being improved. Also, I like that the bench on the lower part of the trail dedicated to Michael Burke will be replaced and future benches be of long-lasting quality. Lastly, get rid of as much invasive honeysuckle and poison ivy on east road.
- Playground equipment is ready for updating. Will be safer. Like replacing the "walls" with new material. So glad the park we love so much is getting a new face. Thank you.
- Love the new equipment being proposed! Really love the new retaining wall. New swings are also an amazing upgrade.
- Ample budget for new playground.

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

- Add a regrading or paving of east driveway where the gate is.
- I'd add trimming of overhanging trees above walk and widening path trails. Thanks so very much for this presentation and continued park progress.
- Additional toddler friendly areas such as swings and shorter slides. Play panels.
- No change but request/suggestion: Lost of young children in this area. Request playground with lots of slides and hopefully a tall climbing structure.

Comments/Questions from BeHeard Como

- Will the new playground be fully accessible playground for all abilities?
- SW corner sound barrier. For the past 13 years our family of three has played at on the Westwinds park playground, what we call the Yellow Park bc as a toddler that's what our daughter named it lol. And have come to know it very well, so we'd like to request a natural sound barrier of some sort, trees perhaps, in the SW corner of the park as it is VERY LOUD when you're on the playground because of the traffic so close to Stadium. And my daughter requested a zip line. Lol. Thank you for all your efforts and successes in getting our neighborhood park ship shape! We appreciate you all soooo much!

- (another commenter replied) I would also love to see this! The playground area is one of the most utilized areas of this park but it's often very loud and unpleasant due to stadium, a sound barrier would be very beneficial
- The southeast area of the park is underutilized and could be rehabilitated to be a better asset, there are too many potential uses to list. The trail through the forestry crosses over bridges and creeks and is quite enjoyable, but only in the daylight as there is no additional lighting for evening walks. Due to the lack of lighting, it does not feel safe to be on the trail as the sun is going down or in the evenings, especially in late winter/early spring when the weather is nice but sunset is early, additionally the trail has points of dense foliage. This area could be redeveloped and enhanced while keeping the natural beauty already available but also improving the safety of citizens using the park. Once the southeast corner is redeveloped so it is a more functional asset at the park a plan could be made to create an access to the MKT trail via Planter Rd and White Oak Ln, potentially under Stadium for a safer pedestrian route.
- The trail through the woods, over the bridges and creeks and around the rest of the park is overgrown, the smell is not always pleasant, there seems to be more and more trash either from patrons with poor habits or flowing in from the creek within the forestry, also the foliage inside has increased over the last decade. There are constantly bugs, especially gnats and mosquitos due to the current design of the park. The downhill slope behind the pavilion into the foliage with little drainage at the bottom of the hill causes the ground to become a breeding area, as we move from spring to summer it gets more and more difficult to use the grassed areas of the park due to these pests. The forestry and foliage needs cleared at a further distance so that it doesn't protect the breeding area, drainage needs to be considered to remove the water and prevent a breeding area and overall maintenance needs to be improved with the forestry and foliage to reduce patron hazards as poison ivy and other potentially hazardous weeds are present in many areas available within the park. The park has many days where it is unusable due to the amount of biting bugs in the air.
- The trees next to the pavilion offer great shade but prohibit a lot of use of the open field area. Trimming the trees next to the pavilion or removing them could offer the potential to grade the field so it could be used for ball sports like soccer, football or even Columbia's first official wiffle ball field. Regardless the space is large and is rarely used although the shade provided is fantastic and shouldn't be compromised when possible.