

**COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**Public Comments for**  
**Albert-Oakland Park Improvements**

**Meeting Held October 13, 2020**

**Online Comments were open from October 6, 2020 through October 19, 2020**

**Please comment on what you like about the proposed potential improvements:**

- Seems to strike a good balance of uses. Neighbors will welcome better playgrounds (as will groups once covid is over). Thank you for finally fixing the chlorine leak into the stream adopted 20+ years ago. After several fish kills over the years it's nice to see a repair.
- The new disc golf holes look great. Having some longer holes (set par 4s) is what this course is missing, so these look perfect.
- More pickleball courts are so desperately needed! We come to play and 25-50% of the time there are no courts. We moved here 1 ½ year ago and can't find anywhere else to play.
- It would be helpful to have fences that separate the courts. The would not have to run the length of the courts.
- Moving the bathroom up to the parking lot seems like it will give it a more central location, easier access, and remove the blind spot down by the shelter where people are doing things they shouldn't be doing. New/improved playgrounds in a more central location near the shelter. Repaving the basketball court. Looks great, excited about the project!
- More PB courts!!!
- I like all the proposed improvements. I would like to see a dog park here.
- Continue to add pickleball courts. Consider converting or lining Fairview tennis courts to accommodate pickleball.
- More courts and options to play at Albert Oakland. Phillips development will work for those south of town.
- My son is excited about the new basketball court. The pickle ball courts always look busy and I think this is needed by current demand. This will only improve the disc golf course.
- We need more pickleball courts. There is always a crowd and many people waiting. The additional 6 pickleball courts is much needed.

- Outdoor fitness/ Exercise stations.
- Door to the ladies restroom by the tennis court gets stuck open on a raised concrete bump. I use the park year around.
- I like the proposed park master plan at Albert Oakland Park.
- I really Like the proposal to make six pickle ball courts and one tennis court out of the existing tennis courts. I play pickle ball many days of the week from 6 AM on and often there are more people there than will fit on the six existing courts with many people having to wait for turns to play. Having more courts would be a great improvement to the park.
- I am supporting the proposed plans and would like to consider adding more courts in the future.
- I like the increase in number of pickle ball courts
- more pickle ball courts is good
- Looks wonderful. Need more pickle ball courts .
- Please do add pickleball courts to Oakland Park. The demand is strong and growing over several years. To boot, demand is substantially higher than current Parks facilities can accommodate. In general terms, I think its fair to say pickleballers are stable tax-payers in CoMo, and they have worked with the City in good faith. They deserve this. I think it's the right thing to do. Thank you for your consideration.
- I like having more designated pickleball courts!
- We definitely need additional outdoor pickleball courts. I moved here in December of last year and have found it challenging to be able to play at the pickleball courts. Part of the challenge is due to coronavirus rules.
- Adding the 6 pickleball courts is absolutely imperative.
- It's fantastic to see the additional Pickleball courts as part of the project. The existing courts are almost always full in nice weather with substantial wait times. They could certainly draw more tournaments as well.
- First, thank you for the current pickleball courts at AO; they are wonderful. I strongly support the plans for 6 more courts to be constructed there. The existing courts are so popular that we usually have to wait to play during popular times.

- I would like to see Rock Quarry park tennis courts improved they are in very bad shape, they also need to have Pickleball courts added and cracks fixed in the existing courts. Albert Oakland does not need any improvements thank you
- The proposed additional Pickleball Courts are most welcomed. It is a growing sport for all ages and it is nice to see Columbia leading the way in enhancing availability of play!
- This will help promote Columbia as a venue for regional pickleball tournaments bringing in players from several surrounding states.
- Great investment on the pickleball courts! The indoor and outdoor pickleball demand has outgrown the supply. Any other places for pickleball courts in the city? South of town? New, and more bathrooms will be great. Thank you!!!
- I like the proposed plan. More pickleball courts are needed. I would love to see more pickleball courts put in at Bethel Park...by the existing tennis courts.
- Pickleball is growing exponentially in Columbia, I am at the courts various times and see that the number of courts are inadequate to serve the community. Players have regularly spill over to the tennis courts. In addition to avid players, the courts are used by families of all ages, young adults, and seniors citizens. Physical and mental Health benefits are linked to fitness and fully supporting this sport with additional courts serves multiple populations.
- I oppose transitioning from three tennis courts to one at Albert Oakland Park. I recognize the need for Pickleball courts is growing, but my family is at these courts weekly and most often at least two tennis courts are in use.
- I strongly support the plan to resurface old tennis courts and create pickleball courts. The current courts are regularly overcrowded with enthusiastic players and there are sadly (and embarrassingly) few court options in the city.
- The continued and growing popularity of pickleball warrants expansion of the number of courts. Currently, players are frequently waiting for courts due to high demand.
- More pickleball courts and a water fountain
- Converting some of the existing tennis courts to additional Pickleball Courts. The addition of some form of wind breaks on the west and south sides of the Pickleball courts.
- We are in great need of additional outdoor pickleball courts in Columbia! It's a rapidly growing sport, especially with retirees, and the 6 courts at A.O. Park frequently are filled with people waiting. With Covid-19 likely to be with us for a long time, it is even more important to build more outdoor courts. Thank you!

- I am a pickleball player so I am especially excited about new pickleball courts. These would help to accommodate the many players we have in Columbia. I also appreciate the renovation of bathrooms and playgrounds. Thank you.
- I am excited about the improvements mentioned in the proposal. We often have to wait to get a pickleball court and the more courts, the more fun.
- The proposed improvements look great. The main interest for me is the addition of the pickleball courts. This is the fastest growing sport in America and is certainly caught on in Columbia. On a typical summer morning, groups need to be there at 6:15-6:30 in the morning to secure a court and they are continuously busy throughout the day and evening. Thanks for using our tax dollars wisely!
- Strong demand for more pickleball courts. Growing popularity of this sport necessitates additional courts. Additional courts on south side of Columbia would be good.
- I like the addition of more pickleball courts. We need more to accommodate the increased number of players.
- There is more than enough need for additional pickleball courts at Albert Oakland. The existing tennis ball courts are underused and are desperately in disrepair. It would be a high benefit to the community to replace them now getting them ready for spring/summer
- This is a highly used park in Columbia. These improvements would be an asset to the use of the park.
- Additional pickleball courts are needed and having the existing tennis courts resurfaced and made into 6 additional pickleball courts will be very beneficial.
- Fully support the reconfiguration of the two tennis courts to pickleball courts. My wife and I play PB every day. Not enough courts now, have to wait to play many times because of the demand. Thanks.
- I strongly support the project to improve AO Park, especially the resurfacing of 3 tennis courts, creating 6 pickleball courts.
- I like the additional pickleball courts and restrooms
- I am very much in favor of the improvements at Albert-Oakland Park, especially the conversion of the very sparsely used tennis courts to pickleball courts. While we have six great courts, they are in high demand and there is a lot of waiting for play time. I am also happy to see plans for another restroom and water, so much needed at this park which is getting more and more use.

- Pickleball is a very popular sport, played by all ages and skill levels. I believe there is a need of having more courts dedicated to the sport. With more people in the area, bathroom improvements would also be needed.
- The need for more Pickleball courts is huge. Great plan to repurpose the tennis courts, allowing both Tennis and Pickleball on full regulation , permanent courts. Well done
- We definitely need more pb courts. This will be a fantastic facility. Hopefully there will be room for individual courts and fences like the courts south.
- Modifying and re-surfacing two tennis courts for pickleball would be much more appropriate in that the present pickleball courts are overwhelmed with players, and the tennis courts are rarely used. Richard Muzzy 573-239-6658
- More pickleball courts. It's the fastest growing sport in the USA.
- Strongly support the addition of six pickleball courts, provided each court is fenced to contain errant balls. Without the enclosed individual courts, play would be hampered continually by errant balls from neighboring courts.
- Changing more tennis courts to pickle ball will use the court space at Albert-Oakland more wisely. More people will benefit.
- I cannot make the meeting due to a surgical procedure that morning, but I love all the proposed improvements, especially the additional pickleball courts. The disc golfers are not a problem for pickleball players unless they want their holes rerouted. This is so exciting! Thank you!
- The tennis court definitely need to be resurfaced!!
- I think the new hole placements for 5 and 6 are comparable to the ones before.
- The east bathroom definitely needs replacing.
- I am completely in favor of more pickleball courts. The pickleball courts are consistently full when weather permits. Pickleball is an excellent activity for all ages, and additionally provides "easy on the joints" opportunities for ages 40+. Thank you for adding more pickleball courts!
- I like that Columbia is paying attention to Pickleball. It is not only an up and coming sport it is a big attraction to people of ALL ages, socio-economic levels and most fitness levels. People base their travel and overnight stays based on pickleball opportunities. I appreciate that Columbia listens to our pickleball club and to people like Steve and Heather Lewandowski for solid guidance.

- Regarding the new alignment of disc golf hole # 6 and its proximity to the New playground: It seems as though the playground is in the direction of most drives from that tee pad. Also put, disc golfers will be throwing at kids-IF its in the spot markers on the map with design suggestions on it.
- Defiantly need to update shelter house and bathrooms. Any and all improvements are needed at all shelter house the picnic tables are always nasty. More cleaning of the shelter houses picnic tables would be nice. And they need to mow more often the bugs get bad on the golf course because of tall grass.
- I like the added pickleball courts. More courts are much needed for the community as the sport is exploding in popularity. Albert-Oakland Park is the one place where dedicated pickleball courts are in town, which is great. Pickleball is a community sport bringing people together. But right now the number of players requires additional courts.
- Mostly interested in the Pickleball courts, but like the overall plan and additions, especially restrooms. More Pickleball courts are needed due to number of people
- I like the changes to the disc golf course and the new facilities.
- we need more pickleball courts as we have to wait all the time because more people have started playing this game now. Also if they can put a shelter on some of these courts so old people can play in summer during the day time.
- I like the plan to resurface the tennis courts and converting them to pickleball courts. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America and the demand for outdoor & indoor courts is growing rapidly. The courts at Albert-Oakland are often full during the morning and evenings. At this point, I don't believe the plans reflect details concerning how the courts will be constructed. The existing 6 courts at Albert-Oakland have fencing around each court which keeps the majority of balls from entering other games in progress (safer and less stopping of play due to balls entering the court). Ideally, fencing would be installed in a similar manner while maximizing the sideline space for each court. Another important aspect is to allow for future maintenance of the surfaces, fencing, etc. The community will benefit from additional pickleball courts and routine maintenance at Albert-Oakland, Philips Lake and other locations in Columbia. Thank you for accepting public input.
- More pickleball courts. Pickleball is growing in all age groups in our community and often all courts are utilized with many groups waiting for court time. Additional courts would be fantastic!
- I like the plans to increase the number of pickel ball courts. Our numbers are growing g monthly. Soon younger generations will discover the sport and we will need even more!

- I think the plan looks great. We definitely need more Pickleball courts. It's so popular!
- This is such an exciting proposal for our city. Our courts are over crowded and this will alleviate the waiting times. In addition, this gives our community to host pickleball tournaments which will generate income to our local businesses.
- I really like removing and replacing the playgrounds, shelter and bathrooms
- Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US. Please we need more courts ASAP! Thanks.
- Appreciate the new bathroom at parking lot site but as the principal of Oakland Middle School, I am concerned for the safety of OMS kids who walk through the park to get to school. I know bathrooms sometimes invite people seeking shelter and I'm worried about student safety, as that new bathroom is in the direct path of where students walk to school. Some of our kids walk through the park between 6:30-7am. If there are members of the public taking advantage of the park bathrooms in the new location, I worry about interactions between them and our kids.

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

- Was hoping we could use the nearly silted in pond as a rain garden. Something to improve water quality-reduce run off. We are sorely lacking native plants. I've been working on bush honeysuckle but could we get some natives in their place. I want to do a native planting in the switchback trail access just west of the park.
- Need to spend some money to improve issues with this park like the lack of mowing and garbage/littering problems.
- Nothing. Gabe- Hole 11 on the back. Rock the creek bank please, and maybe some mulch or rock by the bridge. Thanks Lance.
- Disc golf specific comments. Add a bridge in front of the new disc tee #5 over the large ditch. Not directly related to this phase but very near please add cheap narrow bridges over the several drainage/creek crossings that are part of the Oakland lower course. Love all 3(4) disc locations in Columbia, I look forward to more. Harmony bends could use some swales. All courses need more trees and less shrubbery and poison ivy.
- Fences between the new 6 courts.
- Another basketball court but unsure of where you would put that.

- More PB courts!!!
- Everything looks good.
- Add some/part fencing between courts. Consider eliminating the tennis courts in its entirety. Philips-do lights right away. Add a water fountain and possible slab for benches during tournaments.
- Please camouflage the concrete manhole by the creek. Add stormwater detention ponds to bear creek. Convert parker st cul de sac to trailhead parking lot with 4 spaces and a restroom (1 person restroom).
- Make holes 5 and 6 even longer so that hole 5 finishes closer to oakland gravel and that the teepad for hole 6 is closer to oakland gravel. Cut tunnels in those woods to add more complexity to the holes.
- Please provide limited fencing between pickleball courts. It is needed for safety. The divider fences do not have to be full length of the court. you can provide a fence with a 10-12 foot opening at the net.
- Nothing.
- Please disregard any of the following comments if they are already in the plans. Please separate all of the new courts, including the tennis court, with fencing. Please provide lights. And please construct another shelter that would provide shade. Ideally it would be located on the opposite side of the courts from the existing shelter Thanks for all you do.
- Consider a sidewalk around the entire existing courts
- playground on banks of DG#6 looks like a death trap for kids. I advise utilizing unused property between and around holes 7 & 8. New PG will get a lot of use so any risk to children is unnecessary. Current holes five and six are pretty crappy to begin with so this would be a well put renovation
- Looks good.
- Please consider a Plan for being able to Continue Pickleball play into the colder Months. Could we add additional indoor venues Or some way of heating the courts. At least partially. With COVID it's a great help to be able to Get out & do something fun & active. Thank you!!!!
- Turning all the tennis courts north of the existing pickleball courts into designated pickleball courts.
- As more and more people play pickleball, there will be continuing demand for additional courts. One way to delay the need for even more courts would be to



place a shade structure over the current courts. In that way, play can be extended to more hours throughout the day. It is also much safer, physically, for the Senior Players, who make up the majority of new players.

- It would be nice if the new courts were divided like the others and if the lighting were updated, but just having the courts is still a big plus.
- Water near the courts. Windscreens Electric outlets Equipment box or shed for squeegees Bulletin board for notices
- Please consider an appraise sized off leash dog park somewhere in one of the parks remote nooks. Only need a fence and a garbage can. Would be a place for the many dogs and owners to socialize.
- It appears with the current proposal and future developments there is some really nice upgrades for everyone!
- Great to clean the restrooms more frequently. Bigger shelter nearest pickleball courts would be great. Fencing between pickelball courts, like the existing ones would be ideal. More seating options around the courts would be nice.
- None
- Maintain three or at least two full tennis courts.
- I recommend installing a sun shade structure above the pickleball courts for public safety. A lot of seniors play pickleball and the intense summer sun limits the available hours of play. Courts that are currently empty from noon to 6 pm would be buzzing with active citizens. Playing in full sun can cause dehydration, heat stroke, skin cancer and cataracts.
- I can't remember if the tennis court area where the proposed new pickleball courts will be built is lighted but they should be to maximize usage.
- Please put fences between pickleball courts, a sidewalk around the outside of fence to prevent walking in the grass, then gates on the end of each court so we don't have to walk through another game to access a court.
- I would move the new bathroom to the current shelter and just make it a bit bigger if bathroom number/size is a concern.
- I am hoping the restroom will be closer to the courts. I also think we need a drinking fountain near the courts as well.
- I would add a commitment to add Pickleball court markings to all the tennis courts in Columbia. This would not eliminate the tennis courts, but would

increase the amount of time they are in use. In addition, it would be inexpensive to do.

- The improvements need to be placed on the fast tract, volunteers should be solicited to assist and or solicit donations to assist in the immediate restructuring of the tennis courts to pickleball courts
- Only change would be the prompt implementation of the project without increasing taxes.
- Add wind blocks to the fence surrounding the pickle ball courts.
- I think there at least needs to be a fence/barrier between the pickleball courts on the ends (where the two courts are end to end). I couldn't tell from the proposal if a fence is planned or not.
- Insure some divider fences between Pickleball courts(ends and sides). Side fences can have a 10 foot wide opening at the center to reduce cost and allow access between courts without gates. Add a couple of gates or openings at the end of the Pickleball and tennis court
- Provide more spectator seating. A city sponsored Pickleball league by skill level would be a plus. Paid pickleball instructors are needed.
- Be sure the new pickleball courts are individually enclosed similar to the existing courts.
- I would also introduce pickleball courts in other parts of town when funds permit. Albert-Oakland is a 15-20 min drive to reach from those of us on the South and West sides of town.
- We would love a water source close to the pickleball courts. Windbreaks on the south fence would be beneficial or more trees there.
- Why would there only be one tennis court!? It needs 3 courts!! Where will people play if the court is taken? We would have to go all the way to Cosmo to play tennis!! It doesn't make sense.
- I think it would be great if there was an ability now or in the future to put a shade structure over the courts to allow for additional daytime play during the summer months when it is otherwise too hot. Otherwise the plans look great to me!
- I hate to see tennis courts removed for pickle ball. We love the east playground with the tunnel.
- I would tuck the kids playground to the Far East section of that area, to the south of where the eastern mist equipment currently resides.

- I think that Columbia's location is excellent for attracting people to play pickleball in general, and for tournaments and events like show me games. Therefore, I would strongly suggest that the timeline for improvements be accelerated or other cities will take our place.
- I wouldn't change anything just add above maintaining the grounds better especially cleanliness of shelter house.
- Would like some temporary separation between courts and maybe a couple new gates to enter without crossing courts in action. Added rest rooms facilities by Pickleball courts, allow use of restrooms at pool.
- Not so sure about tennis courts. I'm sure they would get used some but feel like I see the pickle ball courts full more than tennis and sometimes the over flow of pickle ball is on the tennis court.
- Seems to be well thought out!
- Do not convert tennis courts to pickleball courts. There are already 6 pickleball courts. if existing tennis courts are converted, there would leave only be 1 tennis court so if it is in use, a park user would have to leave the park, thus making the park unreliable for tennis availability, pickball players can use a tennis court if all 6 are in use while waiting for 1 of 6 to free up. A tennis player cannot use a pickelball court.
- I dislike losing 2 tennis courts. There would be only 1 tennis court at this park with the proposed changes. There are already 6 pickleball courts! 1 tennis court in insufficient.
- I'd like to see the lighting improvements for the parking lot done sooner. I see too much evidence of late night "liaisons" occurring there and I'm hoping more/better lighting would discourage that.
- it would be nice to have it graded down and be able to have it more aligned with the south courts

*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