

## **COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Public Comments for Again Street Park Improvements**

**Meeting Held August 5, 2020**

**Online Comments were open from August 3, 2020 through August 17, 2020**

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

- I approve the improvements planned.
- I like the improved playground (for older kids).
- And the path to the basketball court and Pershing Street.
- I like the proposed suggested improvements – esp extending the path from playground to Pershing and the baseball diamond does need better drainage. Also fixing the playground so its more useable.
- Sidewalk to Pershing. Trash can near basketball court. Sign for hammocks didn't know it was there.
- I like the layout design and pleased this is mostly an improvement rather a significant change.
- Additions overall are good. An added walkway is great.
- My comment is a more general park comment. I like the idea of neighborhood parks but we have too few in this large area – only Again and Worley. I would like to see more so they would be more accessible to more of neighbors.
- I like seating ideas.
- I think the park, and pavilion especially, would get used a lot more if there were a restroom.
- It would be good to see exactly what the new playground would be like. The existing climbing structure seems to be ok.
- I would like to see improvements to the park's creek/waterway which is currently really an eyesore, including storm water mitigation techniques to handle runoff, rain gardens, swales, etc., planting of native restoration vegetation along banks, and native plant demonstration gardens. The amount of runoff that leaves Highland Park neighborhood and heads to Again Park during heavy rainstorms is massive. This could be coupled with additional runoff mitigation measures at lot adjacent to health department which would also be a great place for additional native plant demonstration gardens. Thanks!

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

- I suggest 1) benches installed on the existing concrete pads that are currently empty. 2) replacing the chain link foul ball screen that collapsed due the 20" snowfall in 2019.
- Fix up the soccer goal or make a new one.
- A sprayground! Or a giant spider net for the playground. Pave the gravel path South of the school (for strollers, wheelchairs, kids bikes, etc.). Open a path from Ash to Again over the culvert. Flowers and benches around the trail. Lights by the bridge. The bridge is very slippery when wet.

- It would be great if there were benches around the other perimeter path to have somewhere to sit. Add a couple more stations for people to clean up after dogs. Also can the small bridge be surfaced with something so it's not so slippery when wet. I have fallen several times when crossing it.
- Disc golf basket good idea! Also few agility structures for dogs. Management – Honeysuckle removal, protect riparian corridor, native plants at sign let some grass grow higher along the edges of trees, creek – To help firefly displays. Thanks!
- More dog poo stations and please better lighting, especially around the trail and back of the park.
- Socially distant seating circle is a good idea.
- A secondary shaded area by the play area. Light in the pavilion and an additional grill. Bigger rockwall. Tennis area?
- Benches in circles for family or group meeting w/distance and outdoor air for COVID safety.
- Hammock signage so people know what to do with the holders. Bridge is slippery. Practice disc golf basket. Social distance outdoor bench arrangement for gatherings. Trails from Again to West is overgrown. Update the basketball court. Keep the trashcans and one more dog bag. A new separate seating area would be great. Edible plants and trees would be great. Dog agility equipment would be awesome. It is a lot of \$ for the playground maybe keep it minimal if possible.
- I would also add seats inside for players for the small ball field. Another thing would be to do better landscaping and mowing around existing trees and berm.
- Ideas for playground equipment or other additions to enhance learning, development, and fitness of children and adults alike as one means by which to address our public health crisis: lots of surfaces of various sizes to improve balance/coordination in children and reduce fall risk in the adult population (balance beams, 4x4 or 6x6 waxed timbers arranged in various relationships to climb and balance on, vault over, etc.). Good old fashioned steel monkey bars at least 3 feet wide and spread 2 feet apart, at least 8 feet off the ground to address shoulder strength/stability, correct chronic postural issues in our seated/sedentary world. Various uneven bars at various heights as obstacles to climb/limbo over, under, around for other strength and flexibility benefits. Keep the existed rock climbing wall or consider adding a larger rock climbing wall. Rocks/boulders also add natural play, climbing, crawling opportunities for people of all ages. Very unique, challenging, and well thought playground equipment can draw in kids from their video games and parents from their phones. Having equipment that can be engaging for children and adults alike enhances the child/parent relationship as they can engage in fitness/play together, making better, healthier relationships for families in our community. A unique playground set up rather than just the standard "jungle gym" can even bring families from outside of the greater Again St. neighborhood to enjoy the park. I care about parks and the people that use them. I care about this community and the health of the people living in it. These are all great options to consider and you might be surprised by the cost difference as opposed to purchasing a traditional prefabricated "jungle gym". I hope you consider some of my recommendations. Thank you for all that you do for Columbia's parks.

### **Additional E-mailed Comments Received:**

Hello - I didn't see an online survey but wanted to offer a few comments/suggestions about Again St. Park Improvements.

1. The wooden bridge on the south side of the park gets \*very\* slippery when wet - even just morning condensation. It would be nice (and safer!) if there was some way to add traction to that.
2. When we started using the park more regularly to run we would have appreciated some indication of how long the trail loop was. I found it online eventually - but some kind of signage would have been nice.

3. I know this is out of scope, but central Columbia needs a tennis court! It is a great sport for all income levels. Having one near either West Blvd Elementary or West Middle School would allow more kids to participate, which could lead to college scholarship opportunities later in life. Add pickleball lines to make it work for even more people!

*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