

COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION
Public Comments for
Fairview Park/Bonnie View Phase II Improvements

Meeting Held August 26, 2020

Online Comments were open from August 21, 2020 through September 3, 2020

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

- We are excited about the proposed nature play structure at Bonnie View! You might consider checking out the playground at the Knoch Knolls Nature Center in Naperville, IL for inspiration. We used to live near it and enjoyed playing there.
- We like the idea of a nature based playground with muted, more natural colors used rather than bright primary colors which would not fit in the nature sanctuary. We hope the city continues with this theme especially to maintain the natural quality of the Sanctuary! We would be so disappointed if the playground were instead a typical plastic playground with bright colored equipment which would not fit in at all with the natural elements. Great plan to keep it nature-based!
- I think they look great.
- I loved the nature playground idea that looked like trees instead of plastic. It would be essential to have a shade over it because of the direct sun.
- I like the bridge on the west path as I often feel like I'm going to twist my ankle on that rock stepping stone.
- I am excited that you are thinking about a nature playground. PLEASE consider keeping it as nature based as possible and maybe be a model on how to do this at other sites throughout the city. I was so disappointed in the farmers market playground, thinking they would be creating something innovative and nature based, but alas no. There are so many examples of innovative playground throughout the country and I hope Columbia can be a leader in this area too
- I like having play equipment at Bonnie View... any discussion of a slide or something besides a climber?

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

- We would appreciate the following regarding the nature play structure: Trees near the play area to provide shade, play structures to accommodate multiple ages-smaller scale structures for 2-5 year olds as well as more challenging structures for the 5-12 year range, swings or a round group swing.

- I would like to request the addition of a Skateboarding feature. Columbia does not yet have any skateboard parks on the west side of the city and it would be really good for the city.
- We would love to see a shade structure put over the new playground equipment. The proposed location for the playground is in full sun and would be a harsh spot for summer play.
- It would be nice to add netting around tennis court near corner with the wall.
- Two things in the Fairview park area we would like some ideas for possibly: 1. Many classes enter from the trail that leaves from the Fairview school playground (trail not shown on your map) which has a steep grade and is slick at the entrance. Thoughts or ideas about how to make it more accessible would be great. 2. The main trail from the pavilion to the pond has some erosion issues since we removed the honeysuckle. Possibilities for a no invasive way to stop the erosion and keep the trail more useable? Thanks!
- I think there should be something done about abandoned garden plots. They're unsightly and add weed seeds for future gardeners. Some of the plots should be smaller so they're easier to take care of. Can you also get rid of that metal post by the water fountain too?
- LED lighting.
- Not exactly a change but how will the bridge be accessed from Bonnie View? (South of the last house on Leland Ridge?) Will there be a gravel or marked trail? With a house that backs up to the nature sanctuary I'd prefer not to have folks walking through yards (which you likely have thought about!)
- I would like a separate driveway to the park parking lot that does not go through the school driveway. So many people turn in to park in the Fairview lot park when students are getting out after school, and they turn into the "exit only" driveway.
- Make sure they are compliant with that ADA to ensure access for all our citizens, including individuals with disabilities.
- Why? Assuming the City is truly experiencing revenue shortfalls as a result of Covid-19; why not prioritize spending to those initiatives that are "needed" versus "wanted"? That is how I am running my personal household during these trying times.
- Keeping the trail maintained throughout the summer.
- Add a trail all the way around the pond. Figure out why there is always water drainage west of the tennis courts. Put a material on the trails (mulch, rock, etc)
- A nature playground next to the Bonnie View Pavilion would be a draw for our kids as long as it's not the typical playset with brightly colored plastic found just across the street at Fairview. Can that nature playground get a shade structure or canvas since there are no shade trees and it's direct sun there? The parking

lot at Fairview Park's Community Gardens has a sidewalk that connects it to Bonnie View. Right next to the drinking fountain, there is a metal post in the middle of the sidewalk which is hazardous to bikers. I have almost wiped out numerous times there as there is a large curve in the sidewalk and then that metal post. I understand the intention behind the metal post: so that gardeners don't drive their vehicles up the path. I think a sign posting that information next to the sidewalk would work as well for that purpose. Could you remove that metal post in the sidewalk? The Fairview Park Community Gardens mostly get taken care of but every year there are a few that quickly become overgrown with weeds and weed seeds which future gardeners and their worn fingers will wish had not been allowed to proliferate. If these plots were people's front yards, they would certainly have received citations from the city. Many gardeners would like to use the abandoned plots since the demand so outstrips the supply that the garden plots are all spoken for within hours in early February. I have a few ideas that may help allocate space more equitably for the community's gardeners. Can you raise the price plots so that gardeners who really want to care for the land and make it produce are prioritized? Can you lower the lot size for at least some of the plots so that many others can participate? The 25 x 50 lot size is huge. It is much bigger than the Jefferson City Community Garden's plot sizes. Can you draft a contract with gardeners for 2021 and beyond that states that their right to the plot is canceled if 10% of the vegetation is weeds over 8" high or something like that? If you end up charging more for lots, you could allow people a prorated amount of their money back if they decide they can't take care of the plot and then you can call the people who didn't get a plot to see if they want to take it over for the prorated amount.

- We would really like to see an ADA accessible ramp placed at the "entrance" to the Bonnie View/Fairview area on Fairview Road across from Malibu Ct. (near Fairview playground park). We must cross Fairview often with our children on bikes and in bike carriers in order to access Country Lane path to Twin Lakes and the MKT. But there is no bike ramp to get us across Fairview Road from Fairview park, and Fairview is very busy and frankly dangerous to cross with kids. We also see many other families trying to access the Fairview woods/nature playground/Bonnie View coming from these neighborhoods but it is difficult to cross without a ramp on the Fairview park Side of the road (a crosswalk would be wonderful as well). We have to go down to Fairview elementary and use that ramp and crosswalk (which is not very safe due to it being in a valley). We would also love it if the city would remove the metal pole at the drinking fountain near the community gardens, placed right in the center of the concrete path. I am assuming it was placed there to keep cars from driving on the path, but it is honestly very dangerous, especially as the path is not very wide there and there are lots of children on bikes going through there as well as parents with wide bike trailers. Thank you!
- Skateboarding is a rapidly growing sport and the current options in Columbia are not keeping up with the need/demand. The city of Columbia has plenty of soccer fields, basketball and tennis course, but not enough skate parks. Thank you.

- Is there a way you can mow a section between the Bonnie View west nature trail and the Audubon trail system. It would help runners and birders alike.
- The super-bright LED lighting that the city has been putting in around town is not wildlife-friendly. There's a sizeable literature on this, so if you have to use it, please consider yellow or amber LED lighting rather than blue or white. At minimum, LED lights need to be shielded to stop light spread.
- Looks good!
- Please make sure any lighting fixtures are low-impact as far as light pollution. The International Dark Sky Association has a lot of good information about lighting and fixtures. <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-for-citizens/led-guide/>
- The parking lot for the Fairview park needs its own driveway. It is unsafe when students are walking to/from school and people are turning into the "exit only" driveway at the school. When people are leaving the park area it also creates congestion at the school driveway exit which is right by the crosswalk for students.
- Make sure they are compliant with that ADA to ensure access for all our citizens, including individuals with disabilities. Too many of of parks and equipment are not accessible for individuals with disabilities.
- We love to explore the pond but you can't go all the way around it and it is hard to show things you notice, have to back-track, etc. The water issue makes it muddy often. The trails have some washout and get muddy.
- There is an unmowed walking path that connects Bonnie View's West mowed path (east of the creek) to the Audubon's path network. It is a very high value add to connect Bonnie View's and Audubon's path networks in this way, especially for runners. Would you add that connector (probably less than 200ft) to what gets mowed when Bonnie View gets mowed? Sometimes there is loud music in the Bonnie View parking lot late at night. Could you post a sign at the parking lot entrance stating that "This is a Nature Sanctuary: No Amplified Music past 8pm"? On the sidewalk along Fairview road directly across from Malibu Ct, there is a need for a paved ramp to the street for strollers and bikes that want to safely cross at that point. Would you create a paved ramp to the street from the sidewalk there?

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Thank you for your participation.

City of Columbia, MO

Parks and Recreation