

Project Report

27 May 2025 - 25 June 2025

City of Columbia, MO

Douglass Park Improvements (2025-2026)



Visitors Summary

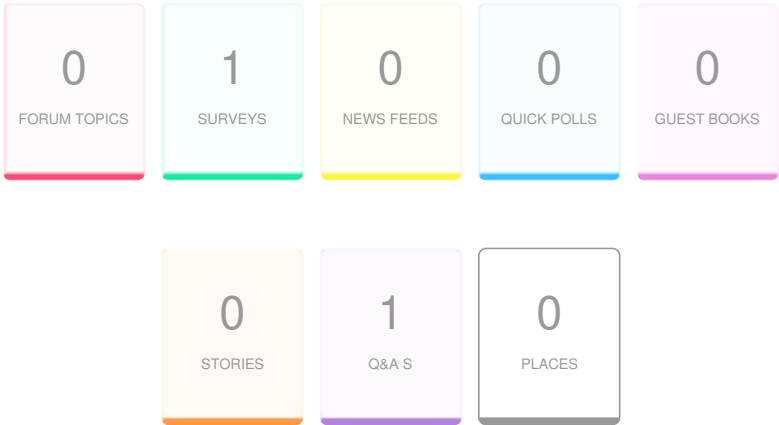


Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	
58	11	
NEW REGISTRATIONS		
1		
ENGAGED VISITORS	INFORMED VISITORS	AWARE VISITORS
2	23	54

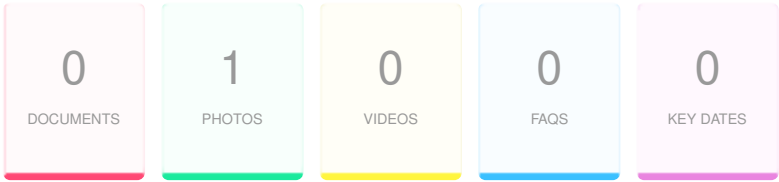
Aware Participants	54	Engaged Participants	2		
Aware Actions Performed	Participants	Engaged Actions Performed	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Visited a Project or Tool Page	54				
Informed Participants	23	Contributed on Forums	0	0	0
Informed Actions Performed	Participants	Participated in Surveys	1	0	0
Viewed a video	0	Contributed to Newsfeeds	0	0	0
Viewed a photo	9	Participated in Quick Polls	0	0	0
Downloaded a document	0	Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0
Visited the Key Dates page	3	Contributed to Stories	0	0	0
Visited an FAQ list Page	0	Asked Questions	0	0	0
Visited Instagram Page	0	Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0
Visited Multiple Project Pages	18	Contributed to Ideas	1	0	0
Contributed to a tool (engaged)	2				

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Qanda	Questions	Published	4	0	0	0
Survey Tool	Survey	Published	3	1	0	0
Ideas	Comments	Published	8	1	0	0

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



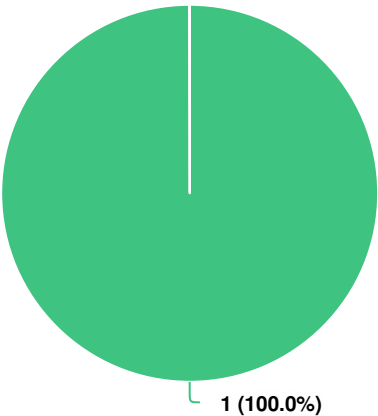
Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Photo	Improvement Plan.jpg	9	9
Key Dates	Key Date	3	3

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

Survey

Visitors 3	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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How often do you visit Douglass park?



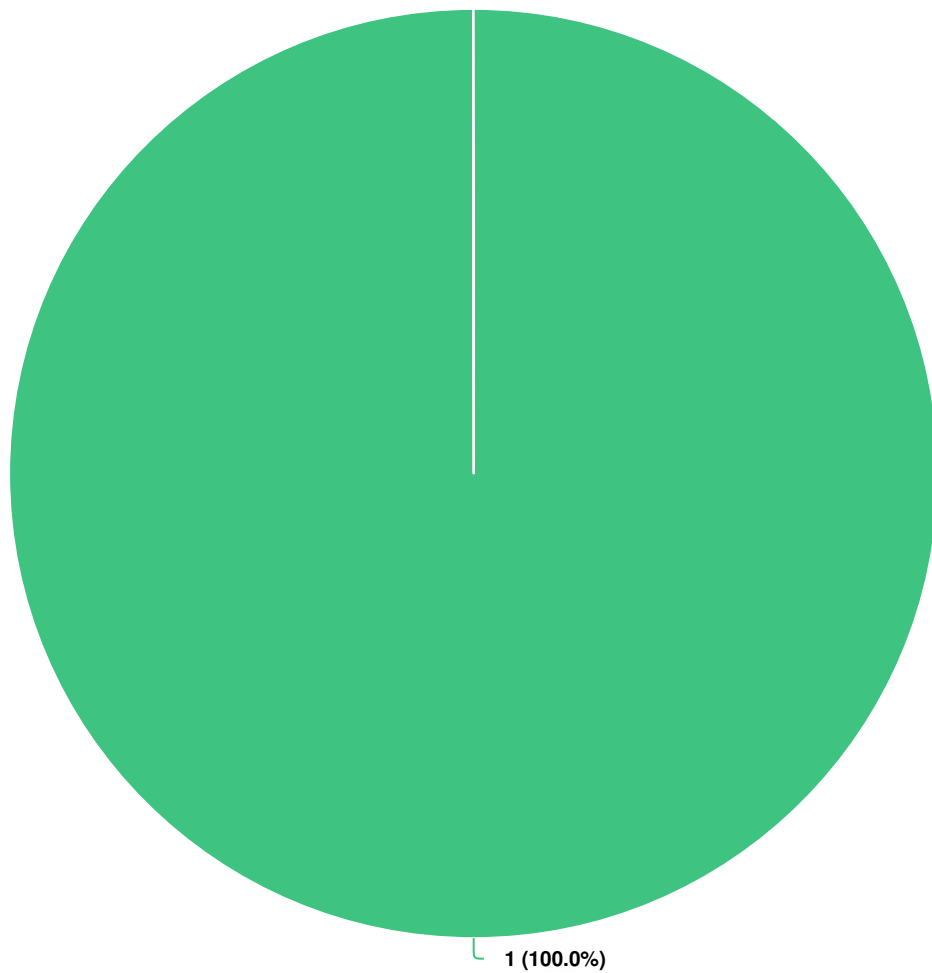
Question options

- A few times a year, for special events

Optional question (1 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Dropdown Question

Approximately how close to Douglass Park do you live?



Question options

- 3-5 miles

Optional question (1 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Dropdown Question

IDEAS

Comments

Visitors 8	Contributors 1	CONTRIBUTIONS 1
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30 May 25	VOTES 0	<p>Wouldn't it be interesting to have one of those courts partially covered from the elements namely the summer heat and occasional rain</p> <p>The idea that occurred to me originally was to have a cover/canopy cover one of the courts in the case of inclement weather conditions. Also it would come in handy during the summer months when Columbia hits triple digit heat index. So there could be a covered area that covers fans, court, players etc. Yes it's a long shot but it would be really nice & a vast improvement of the area, especially if it could be done under budget.</p>
Howiemntwin		

Survey Responses

27 May 2025 - 25 June 2025

Survey

City of Columbia, MO

Project: Douglass Park Improvements (2025-2026)



VISITORS					
3					
CONTRIBUTORS			RESPONSES		
1			1		
1	0	0	1	0	0
Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous



Respondent No: 1

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: Jun 01, 2025 14:10:22 pm

Last Seen: Jun 01, 2025 18:50:57 pm

IP Address: 10.174.128.232

Q1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

I'm not a neighborhood member, and only am in Douglass Park 1-2 per year for events. However, I am friends with several members of 5th Street Christian Church and know how much they have done to try to make the Park and it's regular patrons a vital part of that immediate neighborhood. Whatever the folks who use the Park, or live adjacent to it, is what should happen there.

Q2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

I attended the May 31 forum, and agreed with almost everything I heard from the folks who were there. 1) actively maintain and upgrade the splash park 2) storage space is needed for more activities 3) honoring and recognition of the history and heritage of the Park being recognized in some manner, possibly including the naming of some activities or areas 4) strong investment in partnerships with other organizations like Powerhouse and P.E.A.C.E. and Hope, etc 5) enhancement of the "Community Connectors" program... possibly including specially assigned police officers or connectors assigned to the police department 6) accessible and enclosed playground for 5-12 years and also play areas for older than 12 years 7) review of transportation options to the Park, and avenues of safe and secure access to the Park; including walkways, crossings, bridges, etc 8) more robust information dissemination about scholarships for various programs

Q3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see at Douglass Park?

Seems like there needs to be more activity spaces - concession stand was mentioned as one possibility Perhaps also including an open-air classroom - not as extensive as, but similar in nature to, the CCUA outdoor classroom at the Ag Park; place where programs and activities could be held by groups, without displacing others from the shelters/picnic areas

Q4. How often do you visit Douglass park? A few times a year, for special events

Q5. Approximately how close to Douglass Park do you live? 3-5 miles

Q6. Are there other topics you would like to learn more about? (This can be City services, projects, programs, etc.)

not answered

Q7. Please provide your contact information if you would like to be notified of other City of Columbia events.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Douglass Park Community Feedback

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comments in the space provided.
(Questions continue on the back of this
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

Keep it there

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

All Better Activities.

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

More public get ~~together~~
to gather

How often do you visit Douglass park?

- ☐ At least once a week
- ☐ Once or twice a month
- ☐ A few times a year, for special events
- ☐ Rarely, but I used to very often and care about its future
- ☐ Rarely, but I'm interested in visiting more
- ☒ I've never been to Douglass Park

Approximately how close to Douglass Park do you live?

- ☒ Within a few blocks
- ☐ 1-2 miles
- ☐ 3-5 miles
- ☐ More than 5 miles, but within City limits
- ☐ Outside Columbia, but within Boone County
- ☐ Beyond Boone County

Are there other topics you would like to learn more about? (This can be City services, projects, programs, etc.)

Keeping the drug dealers out of it

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upkeep and community events for all.
new goals,

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

Mid Night Hoops and More Co-existing programming
with the Armory, Salvation army, and
other places focused on Community
Development

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

widen Worley street for parking.

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no

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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts? *fix them*
2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)
NONE
3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?
NO

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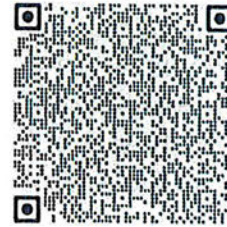
No

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a great place for kids or things

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

more family programming housing placement

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

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Services that show
That people from Columbia and
born Are Welcome

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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

None

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

basket ball

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

yes

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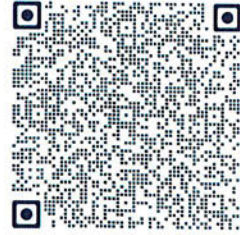
No

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I think its a good Idea to finish it.

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

fundraisers party's more holidays

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

*tennis courts ~~are~~ have a modern
Look*

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Douglass Park Community Feedback

~~May 27, 2025~~

Thank you for attending today's discussion!

Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

Explore how to honor past community members who helped build the community with an art wall (mural) or another creative way. There are too many people to fit on a court.

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

- ① Midnight hoops with cops
- ② neighborhood block party

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see at Douglass Park?

Benches

Bathroom on east side (instead of porta-potties) and doors with locks on the Bathroom stalls.

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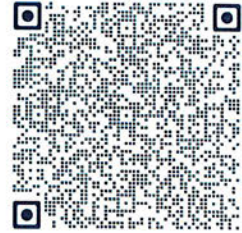
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

Needs to be Re-Painted

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

Fun City, Midnight Hoops

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

*Anything 2 keep the kids
out of trouble*

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everyday im here

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Are there other topics you would like to learn more about? (This can be City services, projects, programs, etc.)

NOPE

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LM good

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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

Naming of Court area.

*To deserving names and starters
ie (Scott Williams, Reford Broadus and
Tracy Edwards)*

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

Family and community activities

Concerts and programming -

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

Less skating ~~area~~ areas.

more seating / seating for elderly / handicapped

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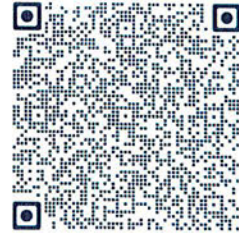
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3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

*Police / Emergency Call buttons
Public Service / Community Service
Aids for parks*

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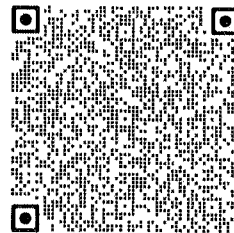
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Please continue to dedicate to Coach Willie Cox

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

Basketball teams for kids at low cost.

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

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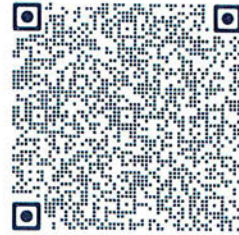
Kids programs

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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

Center Community Voices, Experiences
Heroes
Honor those who were involved

Tracee, Scott, Rufus

Navy & White Douglass Bulldog

Midnight Hoops

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

Summer Camps, Park Rangers
Basketball clinics, team/practices
Swim lessons
Baseball
Tournaments

June twentieth (Can the pool be open
later (~7pm) or later in year
as late as Albert Oakland?)

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

Bathrooms Expanded

Improved landscaping

Better Stormwater drainage/retention

Do Movies at Douglass

Better Lighting

Relationship w/CPD
Present X

Paint
by Nov
sept-Oct

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during Summer

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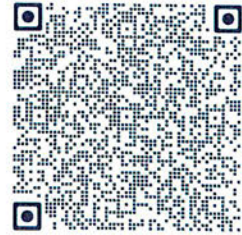
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Douglass Park Community Feedback

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comments in the space provided.
(Questions continue on the back of this
sheet.) Please also share with your friends
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

Resurface court so it's not slick
Adjustable rims so youth can play in leagues
Fix flooding on courts, field & bathroom

Name courts after Tracy Edwards & Scotty Williams

Paint the courts Douglass High Black & Blue & moonlight
New storage unit (larger)

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

I want to see the city partner w/ local
organizations working w/ the populations of
the past community rec programs to help
improve their reach & compcity

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

Water fountains, shade, bleachers, bathrooms

How often do you visit Douglass park?

- ☐ At least once a week
- ☒ Once or twice a month
- ☐ A few times a year, for special events
- ☐ Rarely, but I used to very often and care about its future
- ☐ Rarely, but I'm interested in visiting more
- ☐ I've never been to Douglass Park

Approximately how close to Douglass Park do you live?

- ☐ Within a few blocks
- ☐ 1-2 miles
- ☒ 3-5 miles
- ☐ More than 5 miles, but within City limits
- ☐ Outside Columbia, but within Boone County
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little less than 2023 input City Council Approval
skate park, BBall, Pool
1 mil

Douglass Park Community Feedback

200 sl
180 B3
Rem
Ag
12 mil
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2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)
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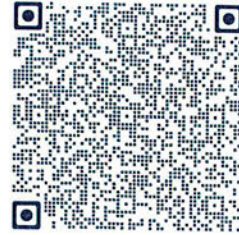
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

*The memorials / Panthers / designs for the Courts,
One Court repping Douglas Bull dogs / and the
other should rep the people impact.*

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

*Motion Detection in Bathrooms
Cam out side to see in/out.
Timed restroom occupation*

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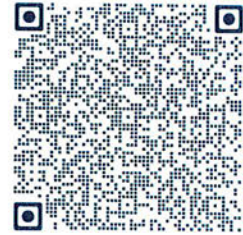
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

LISTEN to the "community"

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

Horseshoe pit

How often do you visit Douglass park?

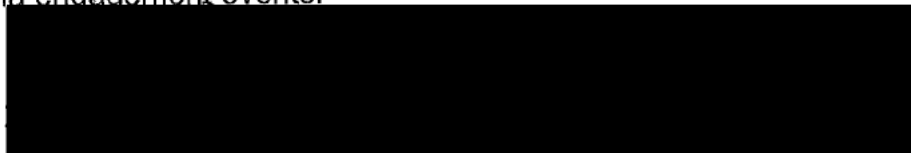
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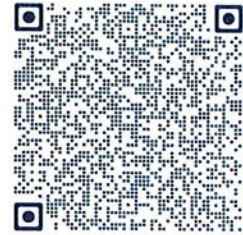
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

Neighborhood input + historical recognition
recognizing that renters should have
a voice in this process, even in ~~the~~
neighborhood associations

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

- Community Lead
- music

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

- Bathroom facilities better
- streets easier to cross for pedestrians

How often do you visit Douglass park?

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Are there other topics you would like to learn more about? (This can be City services, projects, programs, etc.)

Make it safer for those who try to
get to and from the park,

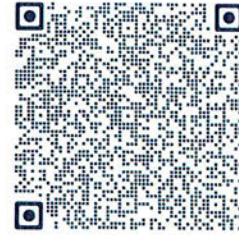
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

drainage system completely resolved!

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

Kid Friendly activities
Family Friendly activities

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

① Food truck vendor space on a month
(Family Friendly)

② more work-out equipment

How often do you visit Douglass park?

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New to the area

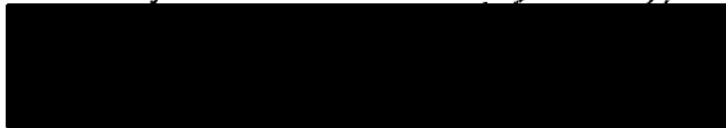
Approximately how close to Douglass Park do you live?

- ☒ Within a few blocks *(1 Block)*
- ☐ 1-2 miles
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Will there be a security phone available

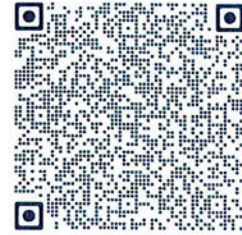
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

The ~~the~~ courts should reflect Douglass
Navy Blue / White

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

Sunset Camps 4pm - 8pm

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

Better water fountains.
Security Phones

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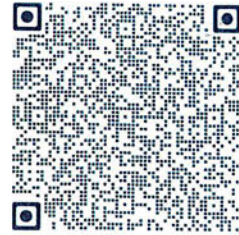
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

- Mural wall for the heroes that come from within the neighborhood
- Douglass Builds them on court colors & logos (working with past students & administration to identify)
- Memorial wall to tell the history

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

- Movies in the Park
- Midnight / Moonlight Hoops - live programming

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

- Murals & Memorial wall
- Spaces to tell the local history

- Create clear path to help the public know how to submit the mural & stories to be shared.

How often do you visit Douglass park?

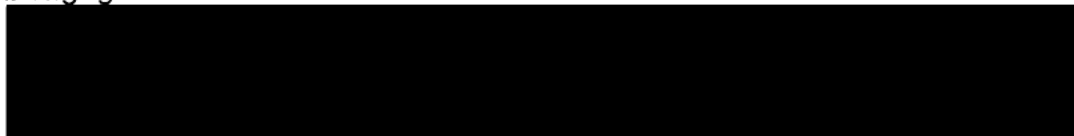
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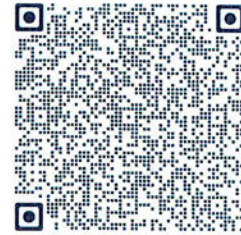
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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

I suggest that the basketball courts be named after: Tracy Edwards, Cecil Estes, Willie Smith, Scottie Williams, and Rufus Broadus. Willie Smith played for MU and he and his wife operated a cleaners on North Barth when he lived in Columbia.

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

I sometimes attend the Juneteenth program at Douglass Park and the Black & White Ball picnic festivities. A program to honor Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman would be nice.

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

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Are there other topics you would like to learn more about? (This can be City services, projects, programs, etc.)

I lived in Columbia from 1980-2013. My kids graduated from Hickman High after attending public schools in Columbia.

→ *My son played flag football in a Columbia Park Rec League. My daughter participated in the arts at park venues in Columbia.*

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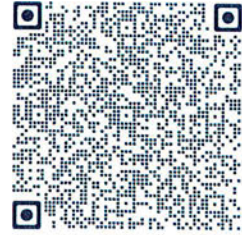
I moved to the Holts Summit area in 2013 after my kids moved from Columbia. I moved to be closer to my job with the State of Missouri in Jefferson City.

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In the past, I worked with the late Wynne Felt, Pam Hayes, & Sarah Bell Jackson for improvements to the swimming pool at Douglass Park & the addition of a Kiddie pool.

Douglass Park Community Feedback

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Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?
2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

Recreation for adults (games, programs, etc.)

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see added at Douglass Park?

- Bathroom by skate park or add path to make it accessible to current bathroom*
- Add benches by skate park*
- Add grills to all pavillion*

How often do you visit Douglass park?

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Verbal feedback gathered by Community Connectors at
the park on June 5, 2025 (10 residents total)

Douglass Park Community Feedback

~~May 27, 2025~~

Thank you for attending today's discussion!

Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

- There needs to be more recreational programs like midnight hoops, movie nights, or a kickball league. People expressed that they feel like recreational programming is more focused on other parks than on Douglass.
- Bring back yard games such as horseshoes.

3. Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see at Douglass Park?

- More parking spaces / Better parking
- Need cigarette disposal boxes for cigarette butts.
- Trash bags, cans, +/or cleaning materials should be provided to residents to assist with park cleanup. One resident stated he would clean the park every day if the city provided materials.

How often do you visit Douglass park?

- ☒ At least once a week — *Daily for some.*
- ☐ Once or twice a month
- ☐ A few times a year, for special events
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Verbal feedback gathered by Community Connectors at
the park on June 12, 2025 (8 residents total)

Douglass Park Community Feedback

~~May 27, 2025~~

Thank you for attending today's discussion!

Please share your thoughts about today's discussion topics:

③ ~~1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?~~

- Need better lighting + maintenance of the bathrooms. There's never any toilet paper and it's always dirty.
- Kids need a better playground. This one is "dull and boring."

2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in Douglass park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)

- Bring back Midnight Hoops

③ Are there facilities or amenities you would like to see at Douglass Park?

- CPD needs to be present in the park for safety and community building. There needs to be a better relationship between CPD and folks who utilize the park. Someone suggested a trained liaison b/c they felt CPD presence might disrupt the peace and comfortability in the park.
- Douglass Baseball needs a better shed for their equipment. Shed is old and dilapidated.
- More above.

How often do you visit Douglass park?

- ☒ At least once a week — all 8 people
- ☐ Once or twice a month
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June 18, 2025

Shawna Johnson
City of Columbia
Communication Division
701 E Broadway
Post Office Box 6015
Columbia, MO 65205

RE: Douglass Park Community Feedback

Dear Shawna Johnson:

We at in the Douglass Park Neighborhood appreciate the interest the City of Columbia has in upgrading the Douglass Park facilities.

As you may remember, I assigned myself the task of canvassing the population at the Park on that day, by securing questionnaires/surveys sheets from you to disseminate to the neighbors. Many readily advised me that would take the questionnaire, but most likely could not return it. So, what I did that day and a few days afterward was to invite the neighbors at the park to allow me to used their responses to the questionnaire in a combined effort.

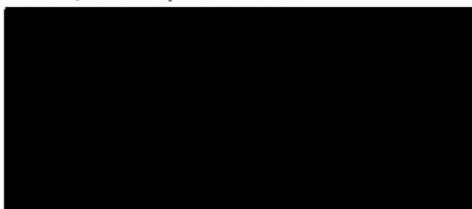
The following feedback is from approximately 50 participants:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Question No. 1 | Name of the court – Douglass Bulldog Basketball Courts
Names from former teachers from the 1950's and 1960, such as George Brooks, Emma Mae Turner both taught Physical Education, Math and Science
Added facilities: water fountain, restroom on the east side of the park, instead of the porta potty; lighting |
| Question No. 2 | A Clubhouse to host events, such as funeral repasses, could serve as a place for home work sessions; Blind Book Center can be utilized for this as a service to the community. |
| Question No. 3 | A bronze statue of Frederick Douglass erected at the entrance the park on Rogers and 5 th Street
More park benches – as present citizens must bring chairs
Handicapped consideration – there are many citizens who are confined to wheelchairs.
Electricity under shelters; more shelters
Speed bumps on 5 th Street
Painted permanent sidewalk games like hopscotch; shuffle, checkers
Horseshoe pit; miniature golf course instead of the skate park |

- No. 3 (Con't) Douglass Pool Heated
Concession stand for use by the citizens
Move the children's play area closer in; many strangers cut through the park, who be dangerous to our youngsters.
3 or 4 more BBQ Grills
A tree bench – take one of the trees and built a bench surrounding it.
- Question No. 1a Answers ranged from 2 days to 7 times per week. Personally, I go there during nice weather at least five days per week. Many workers take lunch breaks at Douglass Park. Elderly gather for socialization on a daily bases during nice weather.
- Another individual revealed that he has been living at the park for more than two years; for he is homeless.
- Question No. 2a Many of the participants lived within 1-2 miles; some actually live in the Project Building in the neighborhood. Some lived 3 to 5 miles. Others said they lived in other cities, like Fayette, Fulton and as far as St. Louis.
- Question No. 3a Water drainage problems that occurs whenever it rains, that results in a hugh puddle of water that children are subject to drowning. Near this area is a large tunnel opening large enough for a child to get stuck in.
- Answers for this question was voluminous: See #3 above.

Thank you very visiting our neighborhood; and we look forward to seeing some of these great ideas implemented. If you would to discuss any of the above further with me, let me know.

Respectfully submitted



May 27, 2025 | Douglass Park Meeting

Staff Attendance:

Gabe, Shawna, Christian, Erin, Tammy, Marcello, Chrishama, Corrina, Suhsi, Lacey, De'Carlton, Mitch, Sydney, Matt, D'Markus, D'Andre

Council Attendance:

Valerie Carroll

Location:

ARC - Activity and Recreation Center
1701 W Ash St, Columbia, MO 65203

Time: 6:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m

Number of Attendees: 32 including staff

To kick off the evening, Community Engagement Coordinator welcomed everyone and introduced the staff present. She gave an overview of what to expect. Parks and Recreation Director gave an overview of the project thus far. (See powerpoint presentation.) Following this, attendees were asked to respond, in no particular order, to the following 3 questions:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?
2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in the park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)
3. What facilities or amenities would you like to see added at Douglass Park?

Discussion notes:

The following is a paraphrased transcript of the comments by residents and responses from staff. These were transcribed throughout the meeting, with the intent of capturing the overall concerns and tone of those present. These notes are generalities, not word-for-word recordings. Discussion moved quickly at times and not all names were captured.

Citizen Question: Why was it postponed

Staff Response: Announced we were moving forward with the painting, and residents had concerns and opinions about the painting going on the court and council asked us to revisit

Citizen Comment: Still going to change the name of the basketball court?

Staff Response: It is open right now and we want to get feedback on that tonight. No planned name as of right now

Discussion Topics:

What ideas do you have about the basketball courts:

Citizen Comment: concerns about the understanding - there was community feedback and there was a pause

Change the narrative- not forcing the city to do something. -Pause isn't the right word- we wanted to work together

Citizen Comment: When does the painting need to take place by?

Staff Response: This is the last step in the process. We own the shelters and scoregoals. These things are continuing to move forward. Paint and logo- early November or in spring when it warms back up (dependent on winter weather) this is the last step.

-New colors

- 30 days after the concrete is poured: winter is really the only thing that gets in the way.

Citizen Comment: when will this ideally get poured:

Staff Response: Ideally pouring September to Early October, need to meet steps. Some steps are scheduled. Courts are playable right now.

Citizen Comment: Design for funding - is this separate from ARPA?

Staff Response: o this is all part of the project and will not change at the time. \$150,000 designated for these courts right now. It is all in place. We will not have to look for additional funding.

Citizen Comment: Drainage included?

Staff Response: Yes this is included. When pouring the new sidewalks we will look into the drainage. Mature trees around the shelter that we want to keep.

Citizen Comment: funding piece- MU pulled some funding- does it affect this project?

Staff Response: No, it won't change anything. Drainage is included in part of this project. Scoreboard ordering, branding, they are black in color and the tempered glass for goals. No proposed logos on any of the items.

Citizen Comment: Is the branding and logo the intent of this meeting tonight?

Staff Response: yes this is part of the agenda

Media Comment:

People in the park and giving their input to us: They want the city to come down there and talk to them.

Staff Response: Community connectors will be going to the park and will be having those discussions.

Citizen Comment: Keep it historic- Douglass park, the high school, the mascot, a mural with the faces. Representation of all .

Staff Comment: Public input meeting with the revised plans will also be at the park.

Media Comment: Saying- individuals are not comfortable coming to these meetings, we need to go and meet them. They are in the space that they are in.

Citizen Comment: ability to see that we affect change- our voices get to be heard and ask these questions. We want these words to be heard and not by proxy. It is important to know that this change is happening. Know that they can reach out to (city council members, community connectors) there is change at the end of it. Make sure these thoughts and feelings are being heard. Be able to have this space and know that we will be able to affect the outcome. And keep saying it.

Citizen Comment: Colors and names: Midnight hoop has a logo, douglass high school colors. Names.

Citizen Comment: Basketball coach- proud graduate of Douglass HS

Benches need to be made in honor of those people, People who have made an impact in people's lives. Morals, deep rooted value in this school and on those grounds. Blood sweat and tears- honor the people who gave him the. People who have impacted that community for years and stood up for that community for years. **Impacted the youth- non-profits.** And the impacts that they have made on the community. People who have made those.

- Tracy Edwards
- Midnight hoops
- Student at his graduation who hugged him
- Scotty Williams
- Rufus Broadus
- 3-4 non for profit games.
- Opportunity to combine this community
- People who have done a lot of work in the past 30-40 years that deserve to be represented. Especially those who have made those impacts.
- We need to go to them.

Citizen Comment: Born and raised. People in the community made Moonlight Hoops happen. It was important to them.

- Scotty Williams*
- Wynna Fae Elbert
 - Bear creek to indiana hills and pulled kids down to douglass
 - Our only historic sight and taking it away from us is wrong.

- Douglass bulldogs needs to be on there somewhere.
- Drove everywhere and put fliers out to the people
 - They didn't wanna come here tonight
 - City needs to come to them
 - Where is the security in the park?

Citizen Comment:

- That park, that school: we have a program in douglass in the evening time. Uno, volleyball, Jacks,
- We couldn't have it unless we showed numbers
- Once those programs were in the gym it moved to the park
- Cannot have a program without numbers.
- Tracy Edwards***
 - Thats all they had
 - * understand the story of Douglass- how we got here.
 - Move in the park. A lot
- Each one we reach one and teach one we reach one. There was a safe place for people to be.
- They made it happen
- Roller Park, Mckee, Indian Hills, Douglass, Grand Park,
 - Opportunity 4-8 after summer school for kids to be.
 - We had relationship with partners
 - It was order and structure
 - Relationships with CPD
 - They had relationships with kids and partners.
 - Collaborative mindset
 - These parks were safe because we were there and the kids were safer in the neighborhood. The less the programs and as they were removed the less those parks were used
 - Programming is really important and collaborative efforts.
 - Hanging out with police and fire- got t-shirts.
 - It only gets better.
 - Douglass Bulldogs
 - Tracy Edwards
 - Rufus (Doc)
 - Wynna Fae Elbert
 - Bulldog Blue*
 - Douglass colors

Citizen Comment:

- Douglass class of 59'
- Douglass park was our everything

- That's where we learned to swim- we were segregated. Everything happened in that park. Fourth of July
- It is HOME
- Let's respect our homes
- Navy blue and white- Douglass School

Citizen Comment: Is the City talking about parking

- It is an issue
- Don't want to see more houses torn down to make parking space
- Where is the parking going to be
- Want more people to come and enjoy the park
- Well-known that drug dealers go there to sell drugs, deters people from enjoying the park

Staff Comment: Lose space for green space in parks if parking increases*

- Parking takes up green space.

Staff Comment:

- Pay homage to all the stories, all the programs, all the stories, all the heroes

Sarah Bell Jackson

Daryl William

Shay Dickson

So much history that happened in that park.

ALL that history- we want you to know that it was all here.

- The community is on it
 - *Make sure the old bulldog is the original bulldog

Citizen Comment: A lot of people that can be represented in that park

Memorial wall****

Doc

Douglass Reunion

-people will come back every 3 year

Black and white ball (First weekend in August - every 2 year)

Citizen Comment: Hall of Fame- walk of fame of the story of Douglass that can continue for future years to come. **** Many nodded/commented this was a Great idea

Citizen Comment: What things the community should do- ask for from the city- from parks and rec- how do we bring something forward .

Continue to add to the story

- Having an ability to have the input over time and how that process works over time.
- How do we bring those ideas forward

- What does this process look like? Not only CIP, or point of execution.

Staff response: It is important to continue fostering relationships between the community members and those at the city.

Councilperson Comment:

- We have a process right now
- We can bring forward projects. - what are our next steps
- Need to identify next steps.

Citizen Comment: What are the consequences if the ARPA money isn't spent by the deadline?

Staff Response: if you don't use grant money we lose them.

Citizen Comment:

We should move forward with getting the courts finished and then see what kind of other memorial wall or mural type of project can happen.

Resident Question: When are you breaking grounds on the courts?

Staff Response: Get feedback to create direction on where to go. We know that August is an important date, that people attending the Black & White Ball will want to visit the park. So we want to make sure the park is accessible at that time. We also have to keep in mind the logistics of pouring concrete, etc., and avoid rainy/cold fall and winter weather conditions.

Councilperson Comment: When do we bring this back and when do we get these dates

Citizen Comment:

- Responsibility without Authority is a tragedy
- Tells the stories
- Give room to build
- Build a place where stories can be told and shared.
- No clarity in the process of this

Citizen Comment:

Good time to go down there.

- Drugs happen everywhere
 - Douglass is more than drugs* don't want that rhetoric
 - Positive space

Staff Response: Gathering all the ideas- and then using them to create something to present to the community and show them the concepts. We don't want to put the cart before the horse.

Resident Comments:

Advice for Community Connectors:

-Let people know that we are going to be down there

-Just be yourself

-By mouth flier

Post a sign down at the park

Amphitheater- Pavilion (each pavilion)

Don't look professional just be real

Make it simple and inviting

-Hotdogs/food will get people to come

Put fliers around Douglass area:

5th street and providence

"We wanna hear from you"

Go to Juneteenth events to collect feedback

-Share the information about this

Maybe post something in Douglass High School- pictures of proposed plans, etc.

Staff thanked the attendees for their valuable input and encouraged them to invite others to attend the subsequent meetings on May 28 and May 31, take feedback forms to friends, and let people know we would love to hear from them.

Key themes and feedback received: (After meeting, key points)

The following is a summary of the key themes mentioned throughout this discussion.

Basketball Ball Court Feedback:

- Douglass High School Bulldog
 - Navy blue and white (Bulldog Blue)
 - Note that it should be the original Douglass Bulldog ** (Ask Barbra H. for the original logo image.)
- Dates are going to be important moving forward in the process. We need to be clear in the direction and how we are reaching our audience.
 - There was a lot of confusion around processes- so it will be important to highlight this.

Other Projects:

- Potential Memorial Wall
 - This is where we can honor people who have impacted the community
 - This could also be a memory walk
 - Tell the story of Douglass park, but leave room to build onto it.
 - Names Mentioned:

- Sarah Bell Jackson
- Daryl William
- Shay Dickson
- Tracy Edwards
- Rufus Broadus
- Wynna Fae Elbert

Programming

- Need to bring back programming
- Successful programming for events that occurred after summer school

Communication

- Best way is to post fliers at the amphitheater
- Don't make them fancy or professional- be real
- 5th Street and Providence

May 28, 2025 | Douglass Park Meeting

Staff Attendees: De'Carlon, D'Andre, D'Markus, Gabe, Shawna, Sydney, Tammy, Chrishama, Corrina, Lacey, Marcello, Matt

Location:

City Hall, Conference Room 1A/1B

Time: 11:30am-1:30pm (people lingered until 2:30, chatting further)

Number of Attendees: 26 (12 residents, 14 staff)

To kick off the meeting, Shawna welcomed everyone and introduced the staff present. She gave an overview of what to expect. Gabe gave an overview of the project thus far. (See powerpoint presentation.) Following this, attendees were asked to respond, in no particular order, to the following 3 questions:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?
2. What activities and/or programming would you like to see more of in the park? (These can be private, family, City-sponsored or community-led, etc.)
3. What facilities or amenities would you like to see added at Douglass Park?

Key Topics Mentioned:

- Bathroom Safety and Upgrades*****
- Having Emergency phone at the park Emergency button in bathroom
- Work with CPD to potentially have CSA's routinely visit the park to help build relationships with the community and potentially decrease crime
- Broken water fountains*
- Need to follow up with IT for See-Click-Fix on location problems with reporting
- Programming programming programming!!*****

Discussion notes:

The following is a paraphrased transcript of the comments by residents and responses from staff. These were transcribed throughout the meeting, with the intent of capturing the overall concerns and tone of those present. These notes are generalities, not word-for-word recordings. Discussion moved quickly at times and not all names were captured.

Citizen Comment: Documentation in the February meeting referenced bathrooms- where are we at with this

Staff Comment: Next project is restroom and baseball fields- currently unfunded at this time. The next steps will be finding funding for that project.

Citizen Comment: Pretty park but not safe. Need to address this first. No monitoring of these activities: drugs, violence, etc. If it ain't safe what difference will this make.

Staff Comment: What does a safe park look like to you?

Citizen Comment:

- Community policing - Mike Matthis.- safety first. People would have input and buy-in
- Police would be grilling
- 60 days no shootings
- Give opportunity for those folks who were involved in prostitution

Relationships!!

We have got to get the people that are down there to come to these meetings. Kids do what they see and what they hear.

Citizen Comment: Are the community connectors going into the neighborhood and park to get their opinions?

Staff Comment: Yes they have already begun doing so and they have more dates where they will continue to do that.

Citizen Comment: The media need to know what the city is doing as well- shows that the city shows that they care.

Citizen Comment: In June, will you be at the Juneteenth events and events in the district that could be surveyed.

Staff Comment: yes, connectors will be going to these events to connect

- Office hours- drop in sessions
- time to go to douglass park
- other events that have resource tables * look into these

Citizen Comment: missing outreach. Douglass Park neighborhood association/coalition needs to be reestablished.

Douglass High School may be very helpful to invite people - school could also benefit from this.

Citizen Comment: Add to that: having as much information as possible- People are no longer in that neighborhood anymore- public housing- not the owner of that property - people who are not living in that community anymore who are engaged in this. Who is wanting to, who is able, and who has

history with Douglass Park. CPS has alternate programming and has become disconnected with Douglass Park

- Need to know who is still living there

Citizen Comment: Challenge with the city is recognizing that displacement is part of it and building relationships. Why is that disconnect happening? Relationships that need to be repaired. There was no central point of connection to people who live in the area.

Citizen Comment: The community doesn't trust the government anymore. Need familiar people to reach out.

Citizen Comment: We are knocking on those doors- I am- will you stand with me. What do we want on that court- we need to work with the city that is the only way to make it happen. Things have happened to break that trust- we impact how the park looks too. That is us- the violence that takes place- that's on us too. The jobs are being done. We need to work together. This is the process - I tip my hat to Glen to all y'all- yeah there is a lot of distrust - you walking those parks they are gonna say you are cops.

-Stand with me. This is why we need the community connectors, but the community needs to be willing to work with them and with the city.

Citizen Comment: Are the only restrooms the ones that have always been there? How much would it cost to get those upgraded:

Staff Comment: \$150,000

Citizen Comment: Before we worked for the cities- Destiny put on hoops for hope- had trophies for the kids and everyone was invited and I was sitting there and it was a real family things- sitting with my 9month old - this guy is walking down the sidewalk and he pulls out his gun and I thought it was fake- and the guy later shot it! Also- in these bathrooms - women have been raped- drugs have been dealt - The bathrooms are not safe. And we need to get a hold of the renters and get an association. We will find the money somehow to get those bathrooms fixed. We want families to come there because that's what makes up the community. It doesn't matter about their past or if they are renters. We have got to work together and love each other enough to work together.

Citizen Comment: That's the one thing that people asked for the restroom in the feedback. Makes me question how the courts came before the bathrooms. The restrooms are not healthy and people don't want to go to those restrooms

Citizen Comment: not just good clean restrooms- but we have some security with them. If they are not secure the rapes and drugs and everything will still happen.

Secure- having some physical presence and having rules about the bathrooms. Have somebody you can call or have the bathrooms locked at a certain time.

Women's stalls don't have doors on them- no lighting in there.

Citizen Comment: bathroom safety and security could it be an option for the male and female facilities to have a 911 call button for someone to use that they can use that button

Citizen Comment: If you find something broken in the park, how do we find that and how do we report that.

Staff Comment: Reporting systems.

- 311
- See-click-fix

(Staff showed como.gov website and where to locate reporting options. In this demo, residents expressed confusion and potential barriers for use.)

*******Note for Staff :Talk to IT**

- The more likely that people have to click, fill out more information the less likely they are able or wanting to report something.
- Location aspect- need to look into (Adding a specific address versus dropping a pin)

Staff Comment: We'll put that in our parking lot and come back to the discussion about the courts.

Citizen Comment:-Douglass colors- black white and blue

Bulldog 1910 bulldog- Barbara has it - navy blue

Midnight hoops- on the court and come back as programming.

-Cannot treat douglass like we do about all other parks- because it is a historic park- needs to be considered as a historic *

- It is not just a regular park

- community* is what Douglass represents

-needs to be a historical site

- honor the people of the past

-basketball courts should be named after Tracy Edwards

People who may not be associated with the courts but need to be mentioned (walk of fame for the history of the park as a whole)

Tracy Edwards - Caretaker of the pool

-booklet or do something with art- still gonna cost a good chunk of money- I am uncomfortable with putting a name - suggesting a name or even the colors without an association - without the people who use that park and people who work in the community having a say.

-Not going to build a community without including the people that live there and understand the history

-People who lived in that area that were displaced

Staff Comment: We gotta show these kids something different- agree to disagree with elegance and without disrespect. The problem is with the adults. We gotta take ownership at some point- lets decide to move forward. We got babies out here killing each other.

There is work to be done and there are lives on the line.

Citizen Comment: Important to honor

Oak street, 3rd street - MLK - connection to the people who live there now

Combining the opinions of those who live there and those who have been part of the history of Douglass. City building programming around - there is that bridge and connection -coalition building

There is no programming anymore: Open gym- midnight hoops - color guard- relationship with CPD- people knew parents, they knew grandparents, and built a community. Missing that connection to the past- that is when things fall apart.

Community Connector Comment: Community has changed a lot - I want to make this place better for my kid- I bring lived experience to the table- no one person has to be wrong in this room

-It is our job to stand up and fill in those gaps

- we shouldn't be fighting against each other. These communities have changed- why can't they join the conversation- they need to be here too. People with a history of the park need to be here too.

We need to know how far we've come to know where we are going. We need to come together. We cannot create an us versus them. We are all trying to come to the same place.

Citizen Comment: I attended midnights hoops back in the day- and saw a lot of beautiful things- babies holding babies- saw two young uniformed officers who looked scared to death to be there (I can't tell you what perfect security looks like) but parks and rec don't get to pick your own security but having individuals who have some kind of training - need people who want to be there- who enjoy playing basketball

Citizen Comment: Throughout this whole process I have tried to preach community- trying to encourage everyone to come and use their voice. It has always been a community thing- this community raised me and it raised a lot of different people. Move forward- love the idea of seeing the community come together to work with the city through all this.

The park is the last thing that we do have left. We need to save that legacy.

Citizen Comment: Has something changed in park and rec? It seems like they have moved away from having on site people who are at the parks. The paradigm has changed.

Staff Comment: We are trying to figure out how we can bring these things back in parks
-pop up and play days at the park
-bear peak park- once a month.

CPD is working on the park ranger aspects - started to do a little more. We are hoping to do it more frequently.

Citizen Comment: We need more water fountains that work
Simple games- cornhole, horseshoes, tether ball

Bathrooms- reason for the thing of no lights- drug use or you use em to go to sleep- motion sensor lights * could be a solution for this or cameras.

Citizen Comment: Not comfortable with cameras pointing at the bathrooms.
Historically - policed by people within their communities. Networks of consistent people who police the park (they don't have to be police) we have to be willing as a community to come together to solve this too. If people took this seriously- we would see things decrease just from that. This is to begin these discussions. We can't solve all these problems in three meetings. But it has to be consistent and ongoing.

We need to show up and make sure people are feeling safe. Need to honor and will honor - need to keep the ball rolling.

Citizen Comment: Do people drive around and empty trash?

Staff Comment: Parks staff clean out the bathroom and empty trash daily.

Citizen Comment: There needs to be something at the park. (A poster or signage that says " if there is a problem call this number")

Citizen Comment: There used to be a phone. Emergency call boxes ***

Citizen Comment: CSA's, a conversation that could be had that they have their own community service people where they could go to the parks throughout the day and report problems outside when there are events

-continue these conversations with the police department.

Citizen Comment: We used to have a phone call. It was an emergency phone- don't have that anymore. Bathrooms. I am connected with a person who was raped at those bathrooms and the predator was in that bathroom.

Citizen Comment: gotta think about those options and think through these processes. Cannot just jump to what sounds good Cannot put a bandaid on it.

May 31, 2025 | Douglass Park Meeting

Staff Attendees: De'Carlton, D'Andre, DMarkus, Gabe, Erin, Shawna, Sydney, Chrishama, Corrina, Lacey, Marcello

Location:

City Hall, Conference Room 1A/1B

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Attendance: 11 not including staff

To kick off the morning, Shawna welcomed everyone and introduced the staff present. She gave an overview of what to expect. Gabe gave an overview of the project thus far. (See powerpoint presentation.) Following this, attendees were asked to respond, in no particular order, to the following 3 questions:

1. What ideas do you have about the basketball courts?
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Key Topics Mentioned:

- Accessibility to the Park
 - Crosswalk- bridge that is located right in front of the basketball courts* Check in with public works on this.
 - One way streets, Z crosswalk makes it feel like we don't want people to go there
 - Very unnatural to use
- Parking lots
 - Parking lot at CPS can be used after hours
- Fields across Rogers
 - Owned by CPS
- Shade for the playgrounds/over the playgrounds
- Playground expansion
- Need a sidewalk connecting from north 5th street to basketball courts.
- Concession Stand (Maybe could help fund the park)
- Baseball shed to be replaced
 - Maybe combine with concession stand- expand storage
- Programming

- *Could we do something with CARE*
 - CARE needs to be revitalized.
 - Training to be a lifeguard
- Prices are being set for some of these programs where families cannot afford to be part of these.
 - ARC: donating memberships for kids
 - education, barriers
 - FunCity
- Youth Programming
 - Where is the city funding to invest in youth programs?

Discussion notes:

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Citizen Comment: Needs to be at least one meeting a month to keep these conversations happening

Citizen Comment: Ability for community members to take over and take care of the lawn- other park maintenance

- Running mowers, etc. ?
- Adding an aspect of ownership for community
- Basketball Courts

Citizen Comment : Tribute to Douglass- the history behind it. I graduated from Douglass high school as well. Keep it the bulldog way. Do a little hall of fame plaque- add on throughout time.

- More structures and things for kids to interact with
- Baseball field updates

Citizen Comment: Local non-profit organization

- Douglass baseball
- Bench seats with a plaque can be spoken on in the future
- Family restroom versus public-
- Storage facility - built for the park in general
- Community connectors- see if they might petition the police department to join in and start building those relationships.
- The police were proactive and we used to know their names.

- Park rangers show up from time to time and build those relationships as well and tone down the violence.
- Feel like the changes over the years that have been done to the park were built as a deterrent for kids and families to even want to come to the park
 - The bridge- only turn left
 - Access to the park is huge*
 - Hope you guys keep us in mind year round

Citizen Comment: If MoDot comes in - what is the communication between MoDot and the city. Do they work with us?

Staff Comment: “We meet with MoDot on a regular basis mostly for negotiations. There are some things we have power over and some we don’t”

Citizen Comment: Similar to the lights at hickman -cross walks

Citizen Comment: If we have concerns for people to cross safely at these parks.

Citizen Comment: The crosswalks where you have to wait in the middle feels uncomfortable and unsafe.

Citizen Comment Some way we put the bridge back in there? It was safe.

Citizen Comment: Start a program with Julius and D’Markus- try to be somebody to come and help our kids from killing each other. They got nothing else to do- we need someone who has representation from the streets to come and help these kids because it has to be someone they respect and know. There is a lot of stuff that makes our park not look good.

■ There is a lot that needs to be done to change the attitude of our children.

Need for a sidewalk to connect north 5th street to the basketball court.

Citizen Comment: Matt B. is in our baseball organization.

- Money that has been secured for the ARPA grant
- Are these funds secured?
 - Design:
 - Black bars that separate the park from the school

**Fence is owned by CPS*

Citizen Comment: Nothing really there for the playgrounds

- Only have one little circle
- one set of swing sets.

- Accessible and inclosed playgrounds

Looked at the KaBOOM funding

- Investigate for funding and grants

Citizen Comment: What was the rationale behind the previous changes that have happened at parks?

Citizen Comment: This is a central location - at a certain point the money figures itself out- what are the conversations that are had when updating parks?

Foster relationship with the city- and get the community to take ownership in this park and build that into the new reality. The best way to honor it- is get it back to the state where people talk about it in the same manner as they used to.

Citizen Comment: You had to see it to understand the history of it. That park was almost like a babysitter for a lot of us.

There is the age range where kids don't have anything to do so they get into these other behaviors to keep them entertained.

Make sure that our children are alright

Blind Boone Center

- A lot of programs started here (Grade A+, boys and girls club, etc.)
- This space has turned into offices

Powerhouse, PEACE and HOPE- more partnerships between these nonprofit organizations and the city to work on the programming.

Citizen Comment: We need to talk about parents now and helping get their kids down there .

Citizen Comment: Transportation is HUGE!!

Other Resident Comments: Really appreciate the park pop ups

Shared responsibility on ownership between the city and the community

Concession Stand:

-Douglass Bulldog baseball team- the concession stand would be open and the proceeds would go to the team made off that night.

- Would need the space for it.

-Portable concession stand

-programmable

-Albert oakland:

Security:

Both- both community police and CPD

Either or are goof- just need those better relationships

Symbolize that they are there to serve that community - they currently do not protect us

- Should not just release a bunch of cops- but a few individuals who come frequently and partnered with CPD so that that presence is tolerated- create the relationship where they are there to serve them.

Changing when the park is closed??

Familiarize the officers with the neighborhoods - feels like sometimes we have to force their hands.