

Parks and Recreation Priorities for 2019

Prioritized Determined, November 19 meeting
Final Approval, January 21 meeting (pending)

University City Park Commission

Carl Hoagland, President

Kevin Taylor, Vice President

Lisa Hummel, Secretary

Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

Steve McMahon, City Council Member

Jay Redd, Member

Su Schmalz, Member

Margaret Ullman, Member

James Wilke, Member

University City
Parks Commission Report
November 2019

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Introduction

The mission of the Parks Commission is to “survey, advise and review plans for maintenance and improvement of University City parks, recreational facilities and activities; along with recommending rules and regulations for the administration of the activities of the Public Works & Parks, and Recreation departments on related policy matters“ (<https://www.ucitymo.org/276/Park-Commission>). Commission member City employees have been assigned parks to monitor.

Centennial Commons-----	Jay Redd
Heman Pool-----	Jay Redd
Community Center-----	Jay Redd
Ackert/Greenway South-----	James Wilke
Adams-----	Su Schmalz
Eastgate-----	Margaret Ullman
Flynn-----	Carl Hoagland
Fogerty-----	Kevin Taylor
Heman-----	Jay Redd
Kaufman-----	Su Schmalz
Kingsland-----	Margaret Ullman
Lewis-----	James Wilke
Majerus-----	Kevin Taylor
Metcalf-----	Carl Hoagland
Millar-----	Lisa Hummel
Mona Trail-----	Margaret Ullman
Mooney-----	James Wilke
Rabe-----	Lisa Hummel
Ruth Park Woods-----	Lisa Hummel
Ruth Park Golf Course-----	Su Schmalz

To accomplish the major portion of the mission, the Commission created this planning document; it lists projects that address activities, rules and regulations. Member of the Commission have gathered project recommendations from city staff, constituents, and Park visits. Each project is described, assigned prioritized criteria (page 5), provided a suggested budget and possible completion date. After all the projects were listed, the Commission members voted on the priority of all projects. Projects in the Summary are listed in priority order according to three funding categories. This document will be presented at appropriate times to the City Manager and the City Council for funding decisions. Additions and reviews take place throughout the year. The funding priorities of the Park Commission follow.

Final Priorities of the Park Commission with Parks and Recreation Department Priorities Included

The Par Commission Priorities are divided into three categories. The first category, **Projects over \$250,000** is large-scale projects. The first category projects will most likely be funded through the County Grants. Additional grants could provide funding as well as University City funds. The second category is **Projects over \$100,000 but less than \$250,000** and the third category is **Projects under \$100,000** The second and third category projects are items that are primarily funded though the University City budget or grants.

Fore each project the Park and Recreation Department has indicated their priority for the project.

Projects over \$250,000

Priority	Project Name & Descriptions
1	Kaufman Project 3 Upgrade playgrounds at Kaufman & Mooney and one other park to meet ADA standards (approved by City Council and submitted to county (2019) — grant was not approved) pp. 12-13
2	Heman Project 5 Replace current playgrounds with new all-inclusive playground pp.11-12
3	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 1 Enclose cart storage yard provide indoor/outdoor seating area. Repair Golf shop exterior and interior and renovations and build an emergency shelter at end of driving range.- Commission voted July 2019 to apply for planning grant in 2020. pp. 15
4	Heman Project 4 Develop Field, drainage, safety, to meet ADA requirements on playing fields pp. 11
5	Indoor Aquatics Facility (Pool) Project 1 Build a facility as part of Centennial commons. - a study is needed to determine costs pp. 9
6	Lewis Project 1 Implement Master Plan, Phase II pp. 13-14
7	Heman Project 2 Complete ADA Improvements/master plan pp.10-11
8	Ackert Project 1 Park Improvement / East-West Connector—A Planning grant in 2019

	was submitted and approved—some funding may come from Washington University pp. 9
9	Metcalf Project 1 Implement Master plan pp. 14
10	Greensfelder Park Develop usable park pp. 10

Projects over \$100,000 and under \$250,000

Priority	Project Name & Descriptions
1	Kingsland Park Project 1 Provide Walking lane, gazebos & playground pp. 13
2	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 3 Install Range lights pp. 17
3	Heman Project 1 Implement Trail improvements pp. 10
4	Heman Project 3 Improve aesthetic appearance pp. 11
5	Special Projects 2 Replace 1994 mobile stage pp. 8

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Projects under \$100,000

Priority	Project Name, Descriptions and Estimated Cost
1	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 6 Repair or replace parking lot pp. 18
2	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 2 Replace worn and damaged protective netting on the driving range pp. 16
3	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 4 Complete short iron area pp. 17
4	Kaufman Project 1 Replace ties pp. 12
5	Kaufman Project 2 Remove wood wall pp. 12
6	Special Projects 1 Resurfacing, painting and striping of basketball courts pp. 8
7	Ruth Park Woods Project 1 Make trail improvements pp. 15
8	Mona Trail Project 1 Make trail improvements pp. 14
9	Special Projects 3 Install tennis court bench canopies pp. 8
10	Special Projects 4 Organize volunteers assistance for the removal of evasive species pp. 9
11	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 5 Install additional practice putting green near #1 tee pp. 17

Prioritized Criteria

Priority	Criteria
1	Needs infrastructure upgrading
2	Increases access, use and services for persons with disabilities

3	Repairs unsafe items to reduce liability
4	Provides equitable distribution of facilities & programs
5	Increases leisure opportunities, skills passive recreation of family participation
6	Reduces maintenance costs
7	Increases enjoyment of existing facility
8	Provides trail linkages that connects parks, schools, public and private open spaces throughout the City and surrounding area
9	Enhances beautification of parks and high visibility areas of the city
10	Provides basic amenity for facility
11	Provides for large user base
12	Provides facilities or programs not offered or in short supply that meet an identified need
13	Supports neighborhood revitalization or City goals
14	Increases public awareness and public involvement for programs and facilities
15	Encourages City partnership with the private sector, other public agencies or neighborhoods to meet identified needs
16	Provides opportunities to increase revenues which help support the agency

Special Projects

Projects 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Special Projects

The project or improvement needed: Resurfacing, painting and striping of basketball courts

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

This project will renovate the basketball court playing surfaces at Heman, Mooney and Eastgate Parks. The work will include the crack sealing, patching, color coating and striping of the current surfaces at all three parks. The renovation would improve the condition of the playing surfaces for better safety and aesthetics.

The priority/priorities addressed 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

Suggested completion date: July 2022

Projects 2

Name of recreation or park facility: Special Projects

The project or improvement needed: Replace 1994 mobile stage

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

This new self-contained mobile stage unit will provide users with more platform area, better acoustics, open air and better sight lines for audiences. The mobile stage is utilized for many community occasions and is also rented to outside organizations for special events. The existing stage is a 1994 model that no longer meets the needs of our regular users. A proposal put forward by the Park's staff supports eliminating the mobile stage and setting up a permanent stage in an existing park.

The priority/priorities addressed: 1, 2, 6 & 7

Estimated Cost: \$200,000

Suggested completion date: 2021

Projects 3

Name of recreation or park facility: Special Projects

The project or improvement needed: Put canopies over benches on tennis courts.

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary: A number of trees have been cut down, thus eliminating shade on some benches and courts.

The priority/priorities addressed: 1, 2

Estimated Cost: \$5,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2022

Projects 4

Name of recreation or park facility: Special Projects

The Project or improvement needed: Organize volunteer assistance for the removal of invasive species from parks (example: honeysuckle removal) A staff member of the Parks Department will coordinate the projects for volunteers

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary: Community volunteers can participate in park improvements such as invasive plant removal

The priority/priorities addressed 9, 14, 15

Estimated Cost: staff costs

Suggested completion date: 2020

Centennial Commons

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Centennial Commons

Project or improvement needed: Indoor Aquatics Facility (Pool) Build a facility as part of Centennial commons.

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary: An indoor aquatics facility would potentially attract more users to the Centennial Commons and could be a revenue generator. A study is needed to determine what would be attached to the current Centennial Commons facility. The expense is large and it is anticipated that compensation from the MSD instillation of tanks in Heman Park could fund the indoor aquatics facility

The priority/priorities addressed 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16

Estimated Cost: Estimate needed for staff costs & capital costs

Suggested completion date: 2023 or when MSD decisions are made

Community Center

Ackert\Greenway Park

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Ackert\Greenway Park

The project or improvement needed: Planning grant submitted and approved—some with possible funding from Washington University, Park Improvement / East-West Connector

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

Implementation of the Ackert Park master plan developed in 2010 by H3 Studio. Plan was vetted by community stakeholders but never utilized. Part of Parkview Gardens Master Plan. Project increases accessible public link through neighborhood. Some funding possible from Washington University.

The priority/priorities addressed: 2,34,7,8,9,13 &15

Estimated Cost: \$500,000.00-\$750,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2021

Adams Park

Eastgate Park

See Special Projects 2 (basketball courts)

Flynn Park

See Special Projects 5 (tennis shade structures)

Fogerty Park

Greensfelder Park

Project 1

Name of park or facility: Greensfelder Park

The project or improvement needed: Develop a usable park

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

The park currently consists of grass fields that often flood in heavy rains. A concept plan was presented on November 19. Comments were received from the community and Park Commission members.

The priority/priorities addressed 1,2,3,5,6,7,8 & 10

Estimated Cost: \$150,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2022

Heman Park

Project 1

Name of park or facility: Heman Park

The project or improvement needed: Trail Improvements

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

The existing park trail system is not well designed or maintained. Existing pathways used by trail walker's overlaps as maintenance pathways and are in very bad shape. It is easy for injury to occur. No benches for relaxing along pathways. Poor drinking fountain condition. Pathway design and connection points could be better developed and more / improved signage would improve usability.

The priority/priorities addressed 1,2,3,5,6,7,8 & 10

Estimated Cost: \$150,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2022

Project 2

Name of park or facility: Heman Park

The project or improvement needed: Complete ADA Improvements/master plan

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

The existing facility has numerous barriers that impede those with mobility issues from enjoying the full services offered by Heman Park. A comprehensive

ADA 2010 master plan is needed to identify all existing barriers. This includes the surrounding public right-of-way sidewalk and curb ramps, accessible parking at facilities and recreational areas, pavilions, restroom access, picnic tables, and individual sidewalks within the park. This item is only ADA assessment and does not take into consideration broader design opportunities such as enhanced accessibility and universal design strategies.

The priority/priorities addressed 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 10,11,12 & 14

Estimated Cost: 500,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2024

Project 3

Name of park or facility: Heman Park

The project or improvement needed: Improve aesthetic appearance

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

As the regional city park Heman Park should set the example for park beautification through the site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, signage, trash cans, pathways, bike racks, drinking fountains, etc.). Currently the park does not have a consistent aesthetic appearance and in some areas falls short of acceptable appearance. I believe that improving the overall aesthetic quality of the park through upgrading, improving, or adding / eliminating amenities and site furnishings the park would grow its user base significantly.

The priority/priorities addressed 1,6 & 9

Estimated Cost: \$150,000

Suggested completion date: 2022

Project 4

Name of park or facility: Heman Park

The project or improvement needed: Athletic Field Improvements in Heman Park

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

This project will improve playing conditions of skinned infields, reduce rainout situations, and include the installation of safety fencing along baselines and player's dugouts. ADA accessibility will also be addressed during this project.

The priority/priorities addressed: 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11

Estimated Cost: \$550,000.00 (Municipal Park Grant Funding)

Suggested completion date: 2024

Project 5

Name of park or facility: Heman Park

The project or improvement needed: Replace current playgrounds with new all-inclusive playground in Heman Park

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

This project will replace a 20-year-old non-accessible playground in Heman Park with a new all-inclusive destination structure. The playground will be the largest

in University City, ADA accessible, all-inclusive and attract patrons from all areas of University City.

The priority/priorities addressed 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 & 14

Estimated Cost: \$550,000.00 (Municipal Park Grant Funding)

Suggested completion date: 2024

Kaufman Park

Project 1

Name of park or facility: Kaufman Park

The project or improvement needed: Replace ties

A short description: The Park slopes downhill from north to south. The tennis courts are probably 10 to 12 feet below the level of the playground surface. Presently, this change in grade is navigated by a set of stairs (with no handrails) made out of railroad ties. While presently serviceable, the ties show substantial wear and will need to be replaced. The current situation is probably not ADA compliant.

The priority/priorities addressed: 1, 2 & 3

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Suggested completion date: 2021

Project 2

Name of recreation or park facility: Kaufman

The project or improvement needed: Remove wood wall

A short description: Between the bottom of the stairs noted above and the north end of the tennis courts is an expanse of asphalt approximately 20 by 60 feet which has an old painted wooden wall along the north edge. New hitting walls were installed inside the fenced tennis courts which seem ample for the volume of use; therefore, it is recommended to remove the existing wooden wall and revisit the purpose of the flat surface for alternate use such as area for outdoor workout equipment, table tennis, or other use

The priority/priorities addressed: 5, 6, and 7

Estimated Cost: \$275,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2021

Project 3

Name of recreation or park facility: Upgrade playgrounds at Kaufman & Mooney and one other park to meet ADA standards (approved by City Council and submitted to county (2019) —grant was not approved)

The project or improvement needed: Upgrade three non ADA neighborhood playgrounds

A short description:

This project will replace three neighborhood playgrounds in the greatest need of replacement. The playgrounds selected are outdated, ADA non-accessible, and no longer meet CPS guidelines. The installation of new safety surface will be included in the replacement project.

The priority/priorities addressed 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 &10

Estimated Cost: \$550,000.00 (Municipal Park Grant Funding)

Suggested completion date: July 2021

See special projects 5 (tennis shade structures)

Kingsland

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Kingsland

The project or improvement needed: Walking lane, a refurbished playground and installation of one or more gazebos

A short description:

Kingsland Park is deeply rooted in the eastern section of the Third Ward where I reside. Pershing School is uphill from the park. I believe that Pershing School is the only school that does not have park in close proximity to a school. Thus, I am proposing a park improvement and program idea. Pershing school should have a safe walking lane and or sidewalk either running down Bartmer or Crest to the school where the teachers can take the students from the school to the park. Once at the park, they can sit in newly built gazebos with benches and listen to storytellers and professionals reading books to them and discussing what they have read. There is a small playground with equipment that probably needs to be renovated and have the rust removed from the equipment as well as new safe and healthy mat of grass or refurbished rubber matting beneath the equipment. Also, maybe a partnership can be created with the new African American bookseller in U city or Subterranean Books.

The priorities addressed:

Estimated Cost: \$150,000

Suggested completion date: 2028

Lewis Park

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Lewis Park

The project or improvement needed: Implement Master Plan, Phase II

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

This phase II improvements will include; replacement of existing playground with ADA accessible surfacing, a new nature playground with woodland garden, invasive honeysuckle removal and swing set with accessible surfacing.

The priority/priorities addressed 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14
Estimated Cost: \$550,000.00 (Municipal Park Grant Funding)
Suggested completion date: 2026

Majerus

Metcalf

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Metcalf Park

The project or improvement needed: Implement Park Improvement / East-West Connector

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

Implementation of the Metcalf Park master plan developed in 2010 by H3 Studio. Plan was vetted by community stakeholders but never utilized. Part of Parkview Gardens Master Plan. Project creates a highly visible destination park in close proximity to Delmar Loop.

The priority/priorities addressed: 1, 4,5,7,8,9,13,15

Estimated Cost: \$1,000,000.00 \$1,500,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2024

Millar

Mona Trail

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Mona Trail

The project or improvement needed: Make trail improvements

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

This project consists of reconfiguring the current route of the trail away from the eroding banks of the River De Peres. The work will include replacement and repairs to the fence that runs alongside the trail. The bank erosion continues to move closer to the asphalt trail and in time will impact the usefulness of the trail. The cost of maintenance will be reduced due to elimination of frequent fence post replacement and repairs.

The priority/priorities addressed 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

Suggested completion date: 2030

Mooney

See Special Projects 6 (basketball courts)

Rabe

Ruth Park Woods

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Ruth Park Woods

The project or improvement needed: Make trail Improvements

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

The trail has severe water damage and many of the signs are in need of repair.

The priority/priorities addressed 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Suggested completion date: 2021

Ruth Park Golf Course

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Ruth Park Golf Course

The project or improvement needed: Enclose cart storage yard provide indoor/outdoor seating area. Repair Golf shop exterior and interior and renovations and build an emergency shelter at end of driving range. Commission voted July 2019 to apply for planning grant in 2020.

A short description:

This project will provide an enclosed storage area for the golf cart fleet at Ruth Park. The new roof for the enclosed storage area will provide a second story sun deck outdoor seating area for guest and tournament social activities. The addition will increase revenues, improve aesthetics, reduce wear and tear on the cart fleet and provide a comfortable indoor/outdoor setting. Repair the exterior of building. Place shelter on end of driving range for emergency weather and golf lessons.

The priority/priorities addressed 5, 9, 14, 16

Estimated Cost: \$500,000.00

Suggested completion date: July 2023-2024

Project 2

Name of recreation or park facility: Ruth Park Golf Course

The project or improvement needed: Replace worn and damaged protective netting on the driving range

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

The current protective netting is beginning to wear and is torn in several locations. Staff is making repairs to the netting in 2018 but it is expected much of the netting will need to be replaced and/or repaired by the year 2023. This project will assure the safety of golfers, property and reduce liability.

The priority/priorities addressed: 6 10

Estimated Cost: \$75,000

Suggested completion date: July 2021

Project 3

Name of recreation or park facility: Ruth Park Golf Course

The project or improvement needed: Install light for the driving range

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

Previously the driving range had lights. The lights should be reinstalled in such a way that they do not add additional lumens to the neighbors. The permit to install the lights still exists and the previously electrical conduit still exists. This should increase usage. The driving range is a moneymaker and the addition of lights should increase revenues. Consideration of the management of the range at night must be addressed if the lights are installed.

The priority/priorities addressed 5, 7, 9, 10 & 16

Estimated Cost: \$100,000 plus personnel costs

Suggested completion date: 2023

Project 4

Name of recreation or park facility: Ruth Park Golf Course

The project or improvement needed: Complete the short game practice area at the driving range

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

Currently there are no opportunities at the range for short iron play. The short game area was part of the overall master plan for the range but limited funding prohibited the installation in 2016. The projected began in 2019 with \$30,000 funding. Completion is needed. The addition would offer a much sought after amenity and increase teaching opportunities and revenue.

The priority/priorities addressed 2, 5, 7, 11, 12 & 16

Estimated Completion Cost: \$80,000

Suggested completion date: 2020

Project 5

Name of recreation or park facility: Ruth Park Golf Course

The project or improvement needed: Install additional practice putting green near #1 Tee

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

The addition of a putting green east of #1 Tee would give the golfers somewhere to practice while waiting for their tee time. This would keep the golfers close to #1 Tee and keep the tee times on schedule. The additional practice green will also provide more teaching opportunities/increase revenues, allow more accessibility and improve pace of play.

The priority/priorities addressed 1, 5, 7, 9,11, 12 & 16

Estimated Cost: \$35,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2025

Project 6

Name of recreation or park facility: Ruth Park Golf Course

The project or improvement needed: Repair or replace parking lot

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

The parking lot is in poor condition and needs to be repaired.

The priority/priorities addressed 1, 5, 7, 9,11, 12 & 16

Estimated Cost: \$35,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2020

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