



Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

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TO: University City Parks Commission
FROM: Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
DATE: March 13, 2020
SUBJECT: Greensfelder Park Concept Plan

As you are aware, in October of 2019, the City received a Municipal Parks Planning Grant for Greensfelder Park through the Municipal Park Grant Commission of St. Louis County. The purpose of the grant was to develop a Concept Plan that would be used as a guide for the future application of a Municipal Parks Construction Grant, as well as other grants for the redevelopment of Greensfelder Park.

As part of the requirements of the grant application, the City had to identify and receive an official quote from a prequalified consultant with the St. Louis County Municipal Parks Grant Commission. Accordingly, staff received a scope of work, cost estimate, and contract agreement from Gateway Design Studio, LLC.

From the onset staff had received input from surrounding residents that had stated that they would like to have a more passive park (nature themed, walking trails, playground, etc.) versus an active park (athletic fields, basketball courts, skate park, tennis courts, etc.). This was primarily due to the fact that the park is located deep within a neighborhood and that they would prefer not to have high traffic volumes, nighttime activities, athletic facility lights, etc., as those activities could take place at Fogerty Park which was more conducive and accessible, and is less than a half mile from Greensfelder Park.

With that in mind, staff along with the consultant began the process of 1) An initial basic inventory/assessment analysis of the site and existing conditions; 2) Met and received input from City staff (Parks, Public Works, Planning and Police); 3) Developed Design Concept Drawings; 4) Held two Community Engagement Meetings (Although light turnout at both meetings, we mainly received positive comments from members of UCity in Bloom, Green Center, Urban Forestry Commission, Tree Tenders, as well as from residents; and 5) Presented and received comments from the Parks Commission, Green Practices Commission, Urban Forestry Commission, and members of the City's Green Team Committee and Great Rivers Greenway; and 6) From the comments received, staff and the consultant made minor adjustments to the plan.

The revised plan consists of a nature themed park that includes stormwater retention/detention; multi-purpose trails; pavilion/restroom; native plantings (trees, plants, butterfly gardens); educational components (signage); a nature themed adventure playground; open lawn play area; future trail connections to GRG Centennial Greenway and Fogerty Park; and dedicated maintenance space for a possible tree/plant nursery, green houses, and a bulk storage etc.

The City currently doesn't have funds dedicated to the redevelopment plan, however, as outlined within staff's park priorities, staff would identify, analyze and apply for various grants (Metro St. Louis Sewer District, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Municipal Park Grant Commission of St. Louis County, etc.). However, due to the overall cost for the redevelopment of Greensfelder Park (\$1,002,161.20), it would be necessary to receive grants as well as to be phased over several years.

Accordingly, it is staff's recommendation that the Parks Commission support and endorse the Concept plan as presented.