



FACT SHEET

Platte Landing Park Youth Sports Multipurpose Fields

The City of Parkville is in the process of developing four new multipurpose fields in Platte Landing Park, replacing existing fields in the neighboring English Landing Park. The 2016 Parks Master Plan proposed the fields as part of a long-term strategy to upgrade the riverfront parks, providing a wide range of amenities for the enjoyment of our residents. The location of the existing fields will be reclaimed for other open space enhanced amenities set forth in the Master Plan. It is part of a broader plan to improve park facilities and recreation in Parkville, which includes both passive and active recreation for the entire community's enjoyment.

This Fact Sheet shares information with the public concerning the multipurpose fields project, the 2016 Parks Master Plan, Proposition P (i.e., the 2019 sales tax election), and to address questions that have been asked by the public. This document will be updated to provide more information as the development of the youth sports multipurpose fields' project advances from the concept stage to the design stage. Please check back for updates, as well as announcements when the planning will be discussed in public meetings.

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Parkville Parks

Residents of Parkville enjoy one of the premier public park and open space systems in the entire metropolitan area.

The City of Parkville maintains a network of community parks and recreation areas that provide a broad range of recreation opportunities for its residents. It includes two large parks along the river, two nature sanctuaries, trails, and neighborhood parks. The City's Strategic Plan has adopted a Vision Statement that includes, "The City of Parkville will enjoy an accessible, safe and connected community park system, providing regionally significant destinations and preserving and enhancing Parkville's unique natural resource base while maintaining and creating a variety of unique recreational activities." In 2016, the City, with public input, adopted a Parks Master Plan that outlined long-term enhancements to the community's parks system. Consistent with the City's goals, the Plan sets forth a vision to continue to upgrade the parks and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

Parks Master Plan

Parkville adopted a master plan for its parks and recreation in 2016 that was developed with broad participation by the public, with the intended purpose of setting a long-term vision and action plan for the park system and recreation programs.

Consistent with the vision statement, the City, with public input, adopted a Parks Master Plan in 2016. The plan sets a long-term vision and action plan for the park system, providing the City a road map for facilities, and maintaining and improving the system and operations. The Plan promotes Parkville's parks to capture the essence of a small, riverfront town from the bluffs to the water, wetlands, natural areas and everything in between. Parkville parks are also about recreation – people "re-creating" themselves away from work and home, enjoying the outdoors. In surveys, residents credit parks, open space and recreational opportunities for their high quality of life in addition to the small-town atmosphere and proximity to all the amenities the metro area offers.

The City hired the professional firm Vireo to develop the Park's Master Plan. Vireo is an experienced planning and landscape architecture design team that specializes in parks, conversation and the environment. They were retained by the City to provide professional advice on the development of the Parks Master Plan and also for their outreach specialists and their ability to engage the community in the planning process.

Vireo facilitated a number of public outreach engagements in cooperation with the City and Platte County Parks & Recreation. Nearly 400 participants in total provided input identifying park priorities, preferences and needs. A variety of public engagement formats were employed in order to reach as many residents as possible including: focus group discussions; on-line questionnaires served across e-mail and social media; a public open house; and a booth hosted by the Community Land & Recreation Board at the City's 4th of July event. Information gathered from these engagements provided guidance and direction for the purposes of updating the Parks Master Plan and design concepts for the riverfront parks. It is noted that any one outreach engagement was not the basis for a specific recommendation in the Plan, but a collection of input provided guidance to the consultant in preparing a comprehensive plan for Parkville's parks that meet the long-term goals for the community.

During the planning process, recurring public comments heard from a broad representation of the community included both providing natural areas for passive recreation and active recreational fields. The Plan stated "While it might be assumed that proponents for active recreational fields and those for natural areas can have somewhat competing agendas, an analysis of responses from online surveys showed that in Parkville the two groups appear to be accepting of each other. In fact, the community as a whole generally appears very interested in marrying the two to create a park system found nowhere else in the region."

The final plan and its conclusions were presented to the appointed and elected boards of the City. Community Land and Recreation Board and the Board of Aldermen, in 2016, both unanimously approved the Plan. The following link includes the final Plan, as well as other documents related to the planning 2016 planning process:

[2016 Parks Master Plan](#)

What were the priorities in the 2016 Parks Master Plan?

A Riverfront Parks Design Concept was adopted that included a final design incorporating priorities expressed by the community. The Riverfront Parks Design Concept divided the park into three segments: Downtown Transition Zone, Platte Landing Park, and English Landing Park. Within each segment, the plan's goals were established. The priorities included findings to address:

- A. Create a Stand-Alone Parks Department
- B. Parks Maintenance
- C. Funding for Parks Improvements
- D. Providing greater connectivity to service areas
- E. Regional Riverfront Parks
 - a. Downtown Transition Area
 - b. English Landing Park
 - c. Platte Landing Park
- F. Existing Parks and Park Properties
- G. Activities Programming
- H. Development Fees
- I. City Codes

A copy of the Findings and Recommendations of the Parks Master Plan may be found on page 43 of the Parks Master Plan at the following link: https://parkvillemo.gov/download/ParksMasterPlan2016_Final.pdf.

What specifically was included in the Parks Master Plan for Sports Fields?

The City adopted the 2016 Parks Master Plan with input from hundreds of area residents. The Plan calls for improving community parks, including baseball/softball and multipurpose sports fields. A copy of the specific sports fields plan may be found at https://parkvillemo.gov/download/parks/ParksMasterPlan_ExecutiveSummary.pdf.

New Youth Sports Multipurpose Fields

The fields are proposed to be "Community Fields," to serve youth sports in the Parkville community.

The conceptual plan for youth sports multipurpose fields in Platte Landing Park includes four fields serving such uses as soccer, softball, baseball, football, and lacrosse. The multipurpose fields are proposed to include moveable fences to allow for play by various youth teams based on age and skill level. The fields will not have lighting as the Board removed lighting from consideration for the fields. The fields would be available for reservation by sports teams, similar to the present fields. The fields will support local youth teams for practice and could include recreational games such as those in a team league or as part of a team schedule against other teams. Youth sports programs could include those such as presently provided by the YMCA Youth Sports Programs for younger age groups and other Northland sports programs for older groups.

Overlay Concept

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this a commercial sports facility?

No. The fields are “community fields” for area teams to practice and play recreational games. This will not be a commercial sports or tournament facility. The fields will be similar to what is found in most community parks with natural grass fields used for practices and games. They will not be comparable to commercial artificial turf tournament facilities such as the Creekside Ball Park, Garmin Olathe Soccer, or Scheels Overland Park Soccer facilities.

Where do Parkville area youth presently play sports?

Area youth presently play all over the metro area, including area parks such as Tiffany Springs Park, Tiffany Hills Park, AJ Wilson, Waterwell Park, Platte Purchase Park, local churches and local schools. Many teams currently use the English Landing fields for practice and occasional games. In the past, many games were played there, too. The YMCA operates youth sports programs, such as soccer, softball and baseball for the younger age groups, while other Northland sports programs are available for the older youth leagues. The Parkville fields will help address demand for fields and provide an opportunity to practice and play games in our own community.

What will happen to the existing fields when the new fields are constructed?

The areas around the existing fields will be used for new enhanced open space and park amenities for residents.

The existing English Landing Park baseball and soccer fields will be converted to uses consistent with priorities in the Parks Master Plan, creating an opportunity to greatly improve the parks. The plan for converting the baseball fields to open space will create a direct link from downtown to the river. The area will be developed to include a central lawn near the riverfront, a Missouri River overlook, a Veteran’s Memorial Plaza, and other multi-Purpose open green spaces. A copy of the Park’s Master Plan for the riverfront improvements may be found on the City’s website at <https://parkvillemo.gov/government/city-plans-studies/2016-parks-master-plan-update/>.

Why is it important to reclaim this area for new open space and amenities?

It was important feedback in the master planning process to provide a connection between the two parks using green space and extending the sightline from the end of Main Street into a natural viewing point to the river. The Veteran’s Memorial complements this plan. It is green space with a monument for reflection, reverence, and respect; where people can gather and take in the natural beauty of the Missouri River. As part of the Central Plaza, the Farmer’s Market could be integrated which would further enhance it and create an opportunity to add additional parking for the park in the current location.

How will the new fields be developed?

Where will the new fields be located?

The Parks Master Plan shows a field layout along the north edge of Platte Landing Park. The current field concept plan being discussed shows overlapping fields, utilizing the outfields of the ball diamonds as green space for the multipurpose fields. This configuration reduces the overall footprint of the fields, reducing initial construction and long-term maintenance costs, while allowing flexibility to set up the fields based on the overall demand. In addition to the layout, there are a number of design considerations that will be pursued to address field maintenance needs, including

improvements such as drainage, a sprinkler system, and equipment storage. Other considerations will address any parking and related sidewalk needs. The intent is to design quality fields, for the enjoyment of use by teams, and mitigate any impacts related to the field development.

Overlay Concept

Why develop park facilities in an area that occasionally floods?

The subject property is currently zoned "PLCD Parkland and Conservation District" which permits public recreation activity uses. The use of floodplains for parks and recreation is recommended by city planners throughout the nation. Facilities can be flood-proofed, and in some cases elevated to minimize the frequency of flooding.

The current *Parkville Master Plan* calls for current and future land use for Platte Landing Park for parks and open space, and this typology is, "Public or private land reserved for active and passive parklands, trails, recreation uses, environmentally sensitive areas, natural resources, or any other lands reserved for permanent open space purposes." In addition, the City is in the process of updating its Parkville 2040 Master Plan. It includes an interpretation that ballfields be compatible with a projected "Parks & Recreation" future land use category as proposed by the draft *Parkville 2040 Master Plan*.

Why not preserve the parks for open space and passive recreation?

The City has proceeded in implementing the Parks Master Plan for the benefit of the entire community. At different points in people's lives they have different needs. People raise their children, become grandparents, and the children grow up to become adults, including raising their own children in the community. Passive and active recreation is being pursued for "all ages" for current and future residents, which is consistent with Parkville's recognition as a Bronze level Community for All Ages. Furthermore, implementing the park improvements was the basis for the submittal of Proposition "P" to the Parkville voters, who overwhelmingly approved the half-cent sales tax to pursue both passive and active recreation in the Park.

Parkville is also fortunate to have ample open space and broad areas for nature and natural habitat. It has over 200 acres of parks along the river, which is more than enough to provide all the amenities in the master plan including the new wetland restoration area. As the Parkville Master Plan update team recently pointed out, we have a huge excess of parkland per capita. In addition to the recapture of the green space in the existing field's area, there are still acres of natural space left over. It is far from being overdeveloped. Well-maintained sports fields are green. The City also has over 75 acres of undisturbed natural wildlife habitat in our nature sanctuaries. They complement the miles of trails that run through our parks, and along our major transportation corridors. Lastly, due to the natural setting of Parkville, the topography makes for wooded and undisturbed ridges and deep ravines that provide open spaces and scenic vistas. It complements the outstanding parks and open spaces and to the community's beauty.

How does the City of Parkville plan on addressing some of the impacts raised by residents concerning the sports fields?

The City plans on addressing, during the design stage:

- Potential increases in traffic, as the result of the new and relocated fields. This will include an analysis of downtown traffic, the existing traffic usage in the park, and reviewing converting the one-lane bridge to two lanes, to improve accessibility to Platte Landing Park.
- Storm water diversion, sensitive to the environment.
- Elevating the fields to reduce the frequency of flooding.

- There has been no proposal about installing a sound system at the athletic fields. Most similar facilities do not have a sound system.

What happens next?

The current plan for developing the multipurpose fields concept is to initiate a design process that will include the hiring of an engineering firm to design the main components of the field. The City will also study other impacts and any mitigating measures that are needed relating to traffic and storm water runoff. The public will continue to be encouraged to participate in public meetings where the design process is considered.

Was the decision-making process to plan for park improvements open and transparent?

Community members are encouraged to attend City meetings

Meetings of the Board of Aldermen, Planning and Zoning Commission, Community Land and Recreation Board and other committees are open to the public. These meetings are streamed live over the internet. Residents provide public comment at the Board of Aldermen meetings and resident testimony at formal public hearings. The City Clerk posts advance notice for public meetings following the rules of the State of Missouri Sunshine Law. Open meetings of the regular Board of Aldermen meetings, Planning and Zoning Commission, the Community Land and Recreation Board and other Boards and Commissions are recorded on video and posted on the City's website at:

<http://parkvillemo.gov/meeting-video-archive/>. The website also includes meeting agendas, agenda materials, and meeting notes and are posted here: <http://parkvillemo.gov/government/board-of-aldermen/agendas-minutes/>.

In 2016, the Board of Aldermen approved the Parks Master Plan. The Plan was developed with extensive public engagement, including focus groups and community input. Throughout the design development process, sentiment was heard that the melding of Platte Landing Park's passive recreation and proposed wetlands with the proposed active recreation elements could create a one-of-a-kind park experience not found anywhere in the region. Because of the commitment to wetland preservation, the City consulted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the youth field placement and any potential impact to the wetland.

"While it might be assumed that proponents for active recreational fields and those for natural areas can have somewhat competing agendas, an analysis of responses from online surveys showed that in Parkville the two groups appear to be accepting of each other. In fact, the community as a whole generally appears very interested in marrying the two to create a park system found nowhere else in the region."

The Parks Master Plan has a detailed description of the public participation that occurred in the development of the plan. The document is available on the City's website at https://parkvillemo.gov/download/ParksMasterPlan2016_Final.pdf.

What is Proposition P?

In 2016, the City adopted the Parks Master Plan with input from hundreds of area residents. The Plan called for improving the community's parks, including baseball/softball and multipurpose sports fields, trail connectivity, upgrading neighborhood parks, and increasing parking. With reduced county parks grants allocation on the horizon, it was estimated it would take the community 24-38 years to complete the improvements in the Parks Plan without grant funding or a dedicated funding source for parks. In April 2019, the Parkville voters considered a dedicated parks sales tax to fund and

implement the Parks Master Plan's recommendations. Voters approved the proposition by nearly 69 percent. The election turnout was 33% of the registered voters, (1,506 out of 4,528 registered voters) and exceeded the turnout for every prior municipal election since at least 2007. The City informed the voters with three direct mailings before the vote how the funds will be used with the proposition's approval.

What did the City promise the voters should Proposition P pass?

Baseball and Multipurpose Fields in Platte Landing Park were promised.

The City held a public information campaign before the election. It stated priorities for the funding should the Proposition Pass. The priorities for the funding included:

Park Improvement Priorities

The Community Land and Recreation Board took a closer look at the Parks Master Plan. From their work, if Proposition P should pass, it will provide a dedicated funding source for park improvements. The priorities for improvements included:

Trail Connectivity

Increased neighborhood trails for better connectivity to local parks; completion of the Riverfront Trail, the Loop Trail, and continuing the trail from Highway 45 to downtown Parkville.

Baseball and Multipurpose Fields

Provide more active recreation facilities in Platte Landing Park, including additional baseball and multipurpose fields for such uses as soccer, football, and lacrosse.

Neighborhood Parks Upgrades

Upgrade existing neighborhood parks including replacing shelters, playgrounds, and pedestrian access.

Riverfront Parks Improvements

Improvements will be made to English Landing Park, Platte Landing Park, and the transition to the parks from downtown Parkville. Improvements will expand recreation facilities and help blend active and passive recreation areas for the enjoyment of residents.

How did the City communicate these priorities for Prop P funding to residents?

Before adopting an ordinance requesting the voters consider Proposition P, the Board of Aldermen asked the Community Land and Recreation Board to review the Parks Master Plan and prioritize projects that would be funded with projected revenue should voters approve a parks sales tax. A list of priorities was approved and the City engaged in a public education campaign to help the voters understand Proposition P and how funds would be allocated with the 10-year sales tax approval. The City sent three direct mailings to Parkville homes, made presentations to the community and neighborhood groups and used the City's social media sites to provide information about the public question. A copy of the three direct mailing pieces may be found at <http://parkvillemo.gov/community/parks/park-sales-tax/#education>.

Does the City plan on spending the Proposition P Sales Tax for the Projects as promised to the voters?

Yes, the City is committed to the projects as promised. Several Proposition P projects are underway or completed (Missouri Riverfront Trail connection). In addition to advancing the sports field project, the City adopted master plans for three neighborhood parks and improvements to Adams Park and Watkins Park will occur this year. New pickleball courts and a new basketball court have opened in English Landing Park. Other projects are scheduled for upcoming

years as revenue is collected from the 10-year sales tax period. Plans for the three neighborhood parks and the new pickleball courts may be found at <http://parkvillemo.gov/community/parks/park-projects/>.