



Existing Baseball Field



Child Playground



Existing Water Spray Area



Park Pavilion

PIONEER PARK

INTRODUCTION

Pioneer Park is a 7 acre neighborhood park located east of Interstate 270 and south of Manchester Road along Tallie Road. The park is situated in a residential neighborhood with three sides of the park adjacent to residential properties and Tallie Road bordering to the west.

The park provides a variety of active and passive recreation amenities for the residents of Des Peres. The active recreation opportunities include tennis courts, basketball hoops on an asphalt pad, a practice ball field and a soccer field. The passive recreation amenities include playgrounds with wood chip surfacing, a spray fountain, a paved walking trail, large stands of mature trees, a horseshoe pit, and a picnic shelter. These amenities are supported by restrooms and parking for approximately 25 vehicles along Tallie Road. The large open areas on the north and south sides of the park are divided by a stand of mature canopy trees that extend from the southwest corner of the park up through the center of the park. The walking path and drive, playground, shelter and other amenities are located within this wooded area. The park appears to be well used by adjacent residents, as well as by local youth sports teams which use the park as a practice location due to its athletic fields with restrooms and limited parking.

DESIGN INTENT

Recommendations for Pioneer Park are intended to create a park that appeals to many types of park users within the surrounding neighborhood, and throughout the City of Des Peres. Improvements are intended to create an organized and updated park that will better serve the community and enhance the existing conditions within the park. This can be achieved by reorganizing existing amenities in the park and by adding new amenities to make the park more appealing to a wider variety of city residents.

An aerial photo of the existing park conditions and the park recommendations follow.

Pioneer Park Existing Conditions





Artistic Park Sign



Proposed Trail



Expanded Walking Trail



Central Pavilion and Playgrounds

RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL:

- Require all facilities including pavilions, playgrounds and walking paths to meet ADA standards.

PARK ENTRY AND PARKING:

- Enhance the park entry at the center of the parking lot with new entry sign and planting.
- Improve the “curb appeal” of the park at pedestrian entries with plantings and signage.

WALKS AND TRAILS:

- Remove the existing center drive and asphalt pad in the center of the park .
- Create a six feet wide asphalt loop trail starting at the parking lot and circling the woodland shelter which would link the park amenities and create structure for the park center. However, existing grades and field locations prohibit a perimeter loop trail.
- A section of the trail may be eight feet wide from the parking lot to the restroom building to accommodate city and emergency vehicles if necessary, but bollards should be implemented to deter vehicular use.
- Construct a six feet wide concrete walk at the playground to create an edge for the play surfacing and to define the playground area.
- Separate the play areas and link the existing restroom to the new picnic shelter with a special paving plaza.

SITE STRUCTURES:

- Create a large centralized picnic shelter to serve as the main gathering space in the park, and convert the existing pavilion into a more private woodland shelter.



Proposed Play Area



Sprayground



Boulder Seating Area



Multi-Use Court

PLAYGROUND:

- Reorganize the playground area to create a central activity area for the park.
- Separate play zones for swings and provide a large play structure to provide a safer play environment.
- Install a resilient play surfacing at the play structures zone.
- Install engineered wood fiber surfacing at the swings zone.
- Replace the existing water spray area with a concrete base and a user-activated sprayground.

SPORTS COURTS AND FIELDS:

- Remove existing tennis courts and replace with multi-purpose court. This court should be completely fenced and could be striped for basketball, volleyball, and in-line hockey.
- Create a terraced rock outcrop seating area on the hillside between the soccer field and multi-purpose to provide park users a place to sit and watch or wait for the court.
- Maintain the current good condition of the existing soccer and ball fields.

LANDSCAPE:

- Identify and selectively prune existing mature trees within the park.
- Add seasonal interest with perennial plantings near park signage and other high-profile locations.
- Create an evergreen planting to buffer between the sprayground and the ball field.
- Maintain an open lawn area within the loop trail just east of the parking on Tallie Drive.
- Plant canopy and flowering trees throughout the park to add seasonal color, and begin a replacement program for the larger, mature trees within the park.

SITE FURNISHINGS:

- Place city standard benches and trash receptacles conveniently throughout the park.
- Provide other picnic opportunities by locating picnic tables at the north and south ends of the park.
- Implement a City standard park signage system to identify City of Des Peres Parks. This signage system could vary in detail from park to park depending on the character of the park.

