

Parks and Recreation Commission Priorities

**Priorities Determined, November 19, 2019
Final Approval, January 21, 2020**

University City Parks and Recreation Commission

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(practice area), Ruth Park Project 5 (additional putting green), Ruth Park Project 6 (parking lot)

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 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
Greensfelder-----	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 its mission, the Commission created this planning document. It lists projects that address activities, rules and regulations. Members of the Commission gathered project recommendations from city staff, constituents and park visits. In this document each project is described, assigned prioritized criteria (page 5), and provided a budget recommendation and potential completion date.

After all the projects were listed, the Commission members voted to determine the rank order of each project in three funding categories. The summary provides these prioritized lists. This document will be presented at appropriate times to the City Manager and the City Council for funding decisions. Projects will be reviewed throughout the year and additions and deletions made. The funding priorities of the Parks Commission follow.

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

The Parks Commission’s 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 St. Louis County grants. Funding could also come from grants from other agencies or University City. The second category is **Projects over \$100,000 but less than \$250,000**, and the third category is **Projects under \$100,000**. Projects in the second and third categories are primarily funded by University City or grants.

The first column indicates the Commission’s priority for the project, and the third column gives when the Parks Department staff suggests the project might be done.

Projects over \$250,000

Comm. Priority	Project Name & Descriptions	Parks Staff Suggested Date of Completion
1	Kaufman Project 3 Upgrade playgrounds at Kaufman, Mooney and Rabe park to meet ADA standards (approved by City Council and submitted to county (2019) —grant was not approved) pp. 12-13	2021*
2	Heman Project 5 Replace current playgrounds with new all-inclusive playground pp.11-12	2024
3	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 1 Enclose cart storage yard, provide indoor and 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. p. 15	2022
4	Heman Project 4 Develop field, drainage, safety, to meet ADA requirements on playing fields p. 11	2024
5	Indoor Aquatics Facility (Pool) Project 1 Build a facility as part of Centennial commons. - a study is needed to determine costs p. 9	No date projected
6	Lewis Project 1 Implement Master Plan, Phase II p. 13	2021-2025**

7	Heman Project 2 Complete ADA Improvements/master plan pp.10-11	2024
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 p. 9	2021
9	Metcalf Project 1 Implement master plan pp. 13-14	2025
10	Greensfelder Park Develop usable park p. 10	2022

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

Priority	Project Name & Descriptions	Park Staff Suggested Date of Completion
1	Kingsland Park Project 1 Provide Walking lane, gazebos & playground p. 13	2021*
2	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 3 Install Range lights pp. 15-16	2025
3	Heman Project 1 Implement trail improvements p. 10	2024
4	Heman Project 3 Improve aesthetic appearance p. 11	2024
5	Special Projects 2 Replace 1994 mobile stage p. 8	2021***

*City playgrounds will be surfaced for less than \$250,000.

**Playground surfacing is projected to last for more than 5 years.

***The Parks and Recreation staff recommended that the pavilion in Heman Park be replaced and that the mobile stage not be replaced.

Projects under \$100,000

Priority	Project Name, Descriptions and Estimated Cost	Park Staff Suggested Date of Completion
1	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 6 Repair or replace parking lot p. 16	2021
2	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 2 Replace worn and damaged protective netting on	2021

	the driving range p. 15	
3	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 4 Complete short iron area p. 16	2022
4	Kaufman Project 1 Replace ties p. 12	2021
5	Kaufman Project 2 Remove wood wall p. 12	2021
6	Special Projects 1 Resurfacing, painting and striping of basketball courts p. 8	2021
7	Ruth Park Woods Project 1 Make trail improvements p. 14	2021
8	Mona Trail Project 1 Make trail improvements p. 14	2021
9	Special Projects 3 Install tennis court bench canopies p. 8	No date projected
10	Special Projects 4 Organize volunteers assistance for the removal of evasive species p. 9	2020
11	Ruth Park Golf Course Project 5 Install additional practice putting green near #1 tee p. 16	No date projected

Prioritized Criteria

Priority	Criteria
1	Needs infrastructure upgrading
2	Increases access, use and services for persons with disabilities
3	Repairs unsafe items and protect patrons
4	Provides equitable distribution of facilities & programs
5	Increases leisure opportunities, skills passive recreation or 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

Special Projects

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Special Projects

The project or improvement needed: Resurfacing, painting and striping 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 sealing cracks, patching, color coating and striping the current surfaces at all three parks. The renovation will improve the condition of the playing surfaces for 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

Project 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 used for many University City events as well as rented to outside organizations for special events. The existing stage is a 1994 model that no longer meets the needs of regular users. A proposal from the Parks staff would eliminate the mobile stage and set up a performance pavilion in Heman Park.

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

Estimated Cost: \$200,000

Suggested completion date: 2021

Project 3

Name of recreation or park facility: Special Projects

The project or improvement needed: Canopies over benches on tennis courts

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary: Trees have been cut down around tennis courts, eliminating shade for players and expose them to sun while they rest during and between matches.

The priority/priorities addressed: 1, 2

Estimated Cost: \$5,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2022

Project 4

Name of recreation or park facility: Special Projects

The project or improvement needed: Organizing volunteer assistance for the removal of invasive plant species from parks (example: honeysuckle) 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)

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary: An indoor aquatics facility would potentially attract more users to 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 project would be large and expensive but compensation from MSD's installation of tanks in Heman Park could fund it.

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: When MSD decisions are made

Community Center

No projects proposed

Ackert\Greenway Park

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Ackert\Greenway Park

The project or improvement needed: Planning grant approved by St. Louis County

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary: The project would implement the Ackert Park Master Plan developed in 2010 by H3 Studio. The plan was vetted by community stakeholders but never implemented. It is part of the Parkview Gardens Master Plan. The project will increase an accessible public link through the neighborhood. Some funding may be 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

No projects proposed

Eastgate Park

See Special Project 1 (basketball courts)

Flynn Park

See Special Project 3 (tennis shade structures)

Fogerty Park

No projects proposed

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 rain. A concept plan was presented to the community on November 19, 2019.

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 walkers overlap with maintenance pathways and are in very bad shape, easily causing injuries to occur. No benches exist for walkers to rest and drinking fountains are nonexistent or in poor condition. Pathway design and connection points could be better developed with more and better signage.

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

Estimated Cost: \$150,000.00

Suggested completion date: 2024

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 prevent people with poor mobility from enjoying the full services offered by Heman Park. A comprehensive ADA 2020 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 an 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. Improving the overall aesthetic quality of the park through upgrading, improving, or adding /eliminating amenities and site furnishings the park could grow the parks significantly.

The priority/priorities addressed 1,6 & 9

Estimated Cost: \$150,000

Suggested completion date: 2024

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 the need to call off games because of the effects of rain and include the installation of safety fencing along baselines and player 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 a new all-inclusive playground

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary:

This project will replace a 20-year-old non-accessible playground 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 the 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 serviceable, the ties show substantial wear and need to be replaced. The current stairway 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 Park

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 that has an old painted wooden wall along the north edge. New hitting walls were installed inside the fenced tennis courts that seem ample for the volume of use. Therefore, the recommendation is to remove the existing wooden wall and revisit the purpose of the flat surface for alternate use such as space for outdoor workout equipment, table tennis or something else.

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: Kaufman, Mooney and Rabe parks

The project or improvement needed: Upgrade three non-ADA neighborhood playgrounds to meet ADA standards. (Approved by City Council and submitted to St. Louis County in 2019. The grant was not approved)

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 a 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 Project 5 (tennis shade structures)

Kingsland Park

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Kingsland Park

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. Pershing School is uphill from the park. Pershing School is the only school that does not have a park in close proximity to it. Thus, a park improvement and program idea is proposed. 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. A small playground needs to be renovated, have the rust removed and a new safe and healthy mat of grass or refurbished rubber installed beneath the equipment.

The priorities addressed: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14

Estimated Cost: \$150,000

Suggested completion date: 2021

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: These Phase II improvements will include replacement of the existing playground with an ADA accessible surfacing, a new nature playground with woodland garden, invasive honeysuckle removal and a 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 (Funding of parts over multiple years)

Suggested completion date: 2021-2025

Majerus Park

No projects proposed

Metcalf Park

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: This project would implement the Metcalf Park Master Plan developed in 2010 by H3 Studio. The plan was vetted by community stakeholders but never implemented. It is part of the Parkview Gardens Master Plan. The project creates a highly visible destination park in close proximity to the 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: 2025

Millar Park

No projects proposed

Mona Trail

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Mona Trail

The project or improvement needed: Improvements to the trail

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 Des 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 Park

See Special Project 1 (basketball courts)

Playground (See Kaufman Project 3)

Rabe Park

Playground (See Kaufman Project 3)

Ruth Park Woods

Project 1

Name of recreation or park facility: Ruth Park Woods

The project or improvement needed: Improve the trail

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary: The trail has severe water damage and many of the signs need 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 and provide an indoor/outdoor seating area. Repair the golf shop exterior, and build an emergency shelter at the end of the driving range. The Commission voted July 2019 to apply for a 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 with an outdoor seating area for guests and tournament social activities. The addition will increase revenue, improve aesthetics, reduce wear and tear on the cart fleet and provide a comfortable indoor/outdoor setting. Repair the exterior of building. Place a shelter at the end of the 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; it is torn in several locations. Staff repaired the netting in 2018, but it is expected much of the netting will need to be replaced and/or repaired by 2023. This project will assure the safety of golfers and property and will 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 lights for the driving range

A short description why the project or improvement is necessary: Originally the driving range had lights. The lights should be reinstalled in such a way that they do not add lumens to the neighbors. The permit to install the lights still exists and the previously installed electrical conduit still exists. This should increase

usage of the range. The driving range is a moneymaker and the addition of lights should increase revenue. 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, 2024 or 2025

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 the driving range offers no accommodation 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 project began in 2019 with \$30,000 funding. It needs to be completed. The addition would offer an amenity much sought after by golfers 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 will give golfers a place to practice while waiting for their tee times. This will 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 the 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 or 2021