

City of Coffeyville

Park Improvement Summary



Pfister Park
Eldridge Park
Grace Park
Harmon Park
North Park
Sycamore Park
Walter Johnson Park
LeClere Park
Exner Park
Cartwright Park

Presented to City Commission
April 22, 2014

INTRODUCTION

On April 8, 2014 the City Commission directed staff to provide an assessment of parks facilities maintained by the City of Coffeyville. The City’s comprehensive plan prepared in 2009 and adopted in 2010 contained a brief review of the City’s Parks and Recreation system along with recommendations for improvements. The recommendations from the comprehensive plan, which are provided for your consideration, remain valid today. Among those recommendations are the development of a parks and recreation master plan, the consolidation of Park facilities, and a strategy to address the long-term financial issues confronting Park operations.

In developing the City’s proposed Capital Improvements Plan for 2015 through 2019, city staff has programmed approximately \$180,000 for improvements to equipment at the various parks. Prior to moving forward with such improvements, staff recommends that consideration be given to the consolidation and/or reuse of existing Park facilities. This would help to ensure that the City’s investment of limited resources be done in such a way that maximizes benefits for both taxpayers and users. Additionally staff recommends engaging the Coffeyville Recreation Commission to identify potential improvements to park facilities that can be completed using the a portion of the recreation commission’s existing fund balances, totaling approximately \$1.3 million (after the installation of batting cages).

Staff conducted an on-site analysis of each park; photos and narratives of which are attached for your consideration. Planned improvements have subsequently occurred at both Walter Johnson Park and Harmon Park since the photos were taken. Improvements to Harmon Park were a result of concerns brought up by a concerned former resident. You may also recall that last month staff recommended the development of a Parks and Recreation Plan.

PFISTER PARK

Shelters	4	Climbing Fixtures	5
Play Structures	3	Spring Animals	6
Swings	6	Merry-Go-Round	2
Slides	9		

Pfister Park is a 3.16 acre park located on the northern edge of the community. The park is a combination of land acquired by the City, and land which was dedicated to the City with deed restrictions. The park is a community park with no neighborhood located within safe walking distance. The park is adjacent to the golf course, aquatic center, and Roosevelt Trail. The park has play equipment suitable for all ages. Equipment is generally well-maintained, with the exception of a bowl shaped merry-go-round which is in need of repair. The park is in need of additional fall protection material, as there are a few places in which concrete is exposed.







ELDRIDGE PARK

Baseball Field	1	Teeter Totter	2
Merry-Go-Round	2	Soccer Goals	2
Swings	2	Tennis Courts	2
Basketball Court	1		

Eldridge Park is a 3.25 acre park located in the southern portion of the community. The park is a neighborhood park serving an area in which much of the neighborhood no longer exists. While the park is mowed, the baseball field has no infield, the nets for the soccer goals are in disrepair, the tennis court is cracked, spalled, partially covered with silt, and has no net. The playing surface of the basketball court is spalled and unmarked, while there is only one backboard and goal with which to play. The equipment is dated, there are frames with no swings, there is no fall zone protection to speak of, and exposed concrete presents a potential danger. Additionally, there is a storm inlet on the northeast corner of the park which could serve as a dangerous attraction to children.









GRACE PARK

Slides	1	Swings	1
Merry-Go-Round	2	Teeter Totter	1

Grace Park is a .57 acre park located in the southern portion of the community, adjacent to South Walnut, just west of the Brown Mansion. While potentially charming when constructed, the idea of placing a park in the median of a roadway adjacent to a US Highway is ill-conceived at best. Fortunately, the decline of the neighborhood over time has resulted in minimal traffic on Grace Boulevard. Equipment is well-maintained but dated. They simply don't make slides, merry-go-rounds, swings, and teeter-totters the way they used to. Given what could be deemed by today's standards as design flaws, equipment lacks the safety that comes from adequate fall protection zone materials.



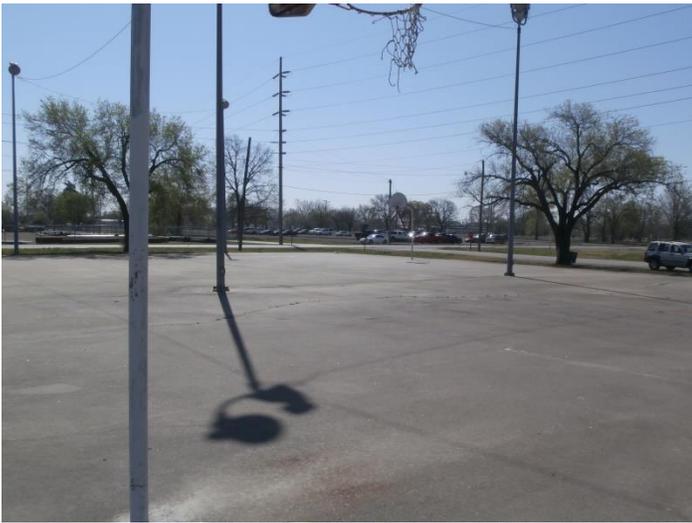


HARMON PARK

Shelters	2	Tennis Courts	2
Play Structures	1	Basketball Courts	2
Climbing Structure	1		
Swings	1	Slides	3

Harmon Park is a 3.28 acre park located in the eastern portion of the community, adjacent to the refinery, in the area impacted by the 2007 flood. The park was acquired in part through a donation from the Harmon Foundation to the School District, Farmland, and City acquisition. The school district deeded the original “Harmon Park” property to the City in 1999. Much of the neighborhood originally served by the park when it was donated in the 1920s has eroded away or was removed after the flood. The Harmon Foundation itself has not existed since 1967. The playground equipment is in generally good condition, suitable for a wide range of ages, and the fall zone protection material appeared to be the most adequate of any major playground in the community. The edging material to contain the fall zone protection material was in need of replacement. The tennis court is cracked, spalled, and without nets. The basketball courts are typical for outdoor courts, but backboards and rims are old, in need of nets, and the court’s surface is in need of paint. Shelters at the park were adequate and were in proximity to play equipment so as to provide seating for a minimal amount of parents from which to observe children playing on equipment.





NORTH PARK

Swings

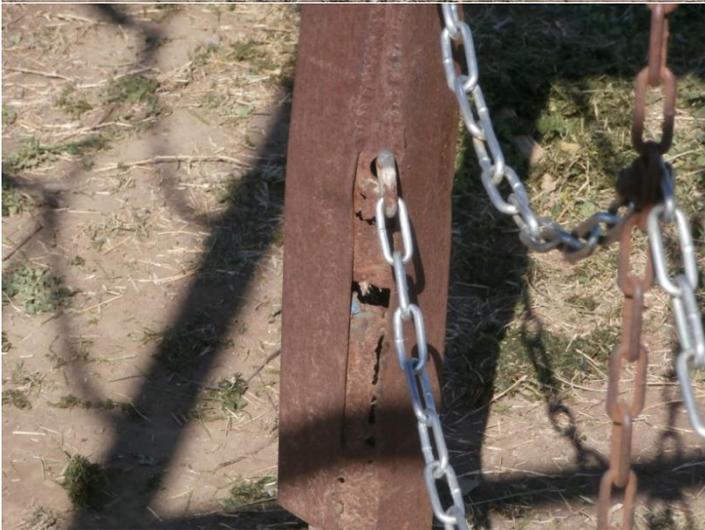
4

Slides

1

North Park is a 1.32 acre neighborhood park located in the northern portion of the community. The park has four sets of swings, one slide with a chain ladder that is difficult for younger children to negotiate, two concrete pads that serve no purpose, and one steel frame that serves no apparent purpose. Play equipment is limited, and no fall zone protection exists. There is no permanent off street parking to serve the park and no adjacent on street parking.





SYCAMORE PARK

Soccer Goals

2

Swings

1

Sycamore is a 2.92 acre park located in the western portion of the community. The park lacks modern play equipment, and the swing located on the site is remote. There are two swings on a frame that was originally designed for four, and the equipment lacked adequate fall zone protection materials. The primary use of the park is as a practice facility for soccer and baseball. The "backstop" structure is inadequate, while both soccer goals need to be replaced.



WALTER JOHNSON PARK

Play Structures	2	Climbing Fixtures	3
Swings	2	Slides	6

Walter Johnson Park is an 8.15 acre park located in the eastern portion of the community, in the area impacted by the 2007 flood. The park is a community park that is home to college baseball and softball fields, and the Interstate Fair and Rodeo. Play equipment at the park is modern and well maintained, and is suitable for children of all ages. There is adequate fall zone protection and substantial seating for visitors wishing to supervise older children from a distance. Some edging material was in need of replacement.





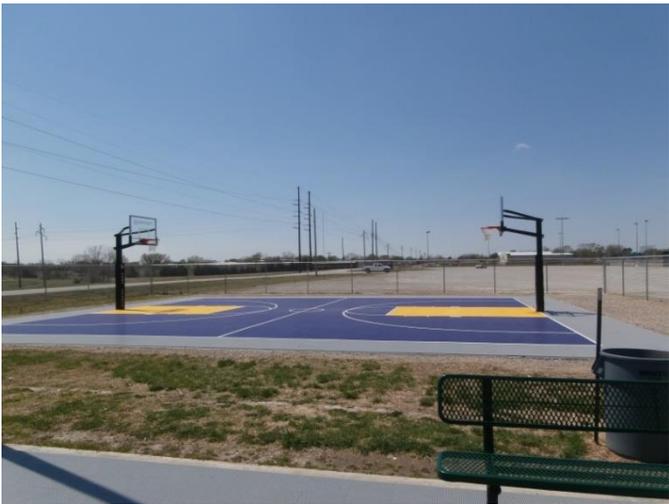
LECLERE PARK

Shelters	4	Climbing Fixtures	1
Play Structures	1	Basketball Court	3
Tennis Courts	6	Shade Structures	6
Slides	4		

Leclere Park is a 34.29 acre park located in the north-central portion of the community. The park is home to the most modern baseball and softball facilities, tennis courts, and basketball courts, all of which are in good condition or better. The tennis courts are in need of resurfacing. Modern play equipment was installed through the efforts of a local service organization, but the play area is perhaps the most lacking in terms of adequate fall zone protection measures. The park also contains a walking trail for patrons.







EXNER PARK

Eldridge Park is a 3.25 acre park located in the northern portion of the community. The park has no playground equipment and is used primarily for youth sports. The park is maintained primarily by the Coffeyville Recreation Commission. The facilities appear to be well maintained and in good working order. There is inadequate off street parking to support the park for the use of games.



CARTWRIGHT PARK

Cartwright Park is a .12 acre park located in the Downtown area. The park is inadequate in size to serve as an active park, but is suitable for passive uses, including picnics. Typically, what passive parks lack in equipment, they make up for with landscaping and other features that help to make them attractive in their own right. Cartwright Park's location on the outskirts of the downtown area limits its visibility and utilization. Its proximity to high density residential does provide it with greater potential for use.



CONCLUSION

The City's parks are in a state of disrepair, and inadequate funds have been allocated to improve maintenance of the facilities. Lack of maintenance does not appear to be tied to specific neighborhoods or user groups, but rather as a lack of emphasis and resources. Staff suggests that additional planning efforts be undertaken, even if only in-house, to identify levels of service and the implementation of the recommendations contained within the City's adopted comprehensive plan. Staff further recommends that immediate action be given priority with regard to fall zone safety and maintenance of existing equipment deficiencies.