

SUGAR CREEK PARK

INTRODUCTION

Sugar Creek Park is a 20 acre neighborhood park located west of Interstate 270 at the intersection of Dougherty Ferry Road and Des Peres Road. This park is divided into two distinct areas, the central active area with playground, ball field and restrooms and the wooded passive areas surrounding this active recreation area. The passive areas are heavily wooded and contain a creek and paved or wood chip walking trails. Parking in the park is divided into two smaller lots of approximately 25 parking spaces each. The parking lots are located along Des Peres Road and Dougherty Ferry Road, and both lots contain security lighting. The location of this park provides opportunities for future trail connections east to Des Peres Hospital and west along Dougherty Ferry Road, and a location for creating an entry to the City of Des Peres at the intersection of Dougherty Ferry and Des Peres.



Existing Playarea with Mulch



Existing Walking Trail



Park Pavilion

DESIGN INTENT

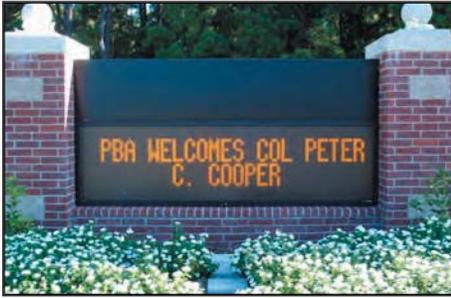
The recommendations for Sugar Creek Park are intended to enhance the passive and active recreation zones within the park by updating and enhancing existing amenities. Passive recreation improvements are intended to improve the “curb appeal” of the park along Dougherty Ferry Road and at the intersection of Dougherty Ferry and Des Peres Road, enhancing the existing trail system within the park and planning for future trail connections from the park.

Active recreation recommendations are intended to create a destination playground space in the center of the park through updated play equipment and the additions of a playground pavilion and sprayground. The use of landscape berming will reinforce the playground design and will also serve as additional play features. Adjusting the trail route to increase the open play space in the park, along with improvements to the drainage on the ball field, are other key goals of the recommendations.

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

Sugar Creek Park Existing Conditions





City Entry Sign



Proposed City Entry Monument



Expanded Pedestrian Trail



Pedestrian Entrance

RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL:

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

ENTRIES AND PARKING:

- Create easily-identifiable parking lot entries to improve park visibility at the intersection of the two busy roads.
- Implement park standard signage with landscaping to provide subtle but identifiable entries to the park.
- Discuss the opportunity for a city entry monument or sign with landscaping along Des Peres Road, since this intersection is also a key entry point into the City of Des Peres.

WALKS AND TRAILS:

- Implement the minor changes and additions which are recommended for the existing internal paved and chip trail systems for the park which are already well planned and in good condition.
- Extend the paved loop at the north end of the park to increase the play field area and to allow the trail to pass closer to the creek edge.
- Connect the east parking lot to the loop trail through the woods and across the creek with a new trail connection. This trail will provide access to the creek as well as an overlook into and down the creek.
- A new eight feet wide trail along Dougherty Ferry and Des Peres Roads that could meander into the park. This would provide the large number of joggers and walkers along these roads a safer and more inviting experience.
- Add a major pedestrian entry to the park at the intersection of Dougherty Ferry and Des Peres Roads with additional pedestrian park entries along the new perimeter trail.



Proposed Play Area



Unique Play Equipment



Climbing Boulders



Spacenet Climber

- Remove the existing chain link fence along Dougherty Ferry and replace it with a split rail fence. Provide breaks in the fence for the trail to move in and out of the park. The replacement of this fence would also soften the visual appearance along this edge of the park.
- Explore opportunities for the future expansion of the nature chip trail including a potential connection to Phantom Forest and Bittersweet Woods.

PARK STRUCTURES:

- Provide a picnic pavilion adjacent to the new playground and overlooking the ball field to give park users a gathering space in the heart of the park and allow the existing shelter to become a woodland shelter.

PLAYGROUND:

- Create a destination playground for the parks system with themed or unique play equipment including climbers and swings.
- Use earth berms and mounds around and within the playground space to create play space, aesthetic interest, and a buffer from the parking lot and Dougherty Ferry Road.
- Include boulder outcrops in the berms for additional climbing locations, as well as sitting areas.
- Separate the play areas with stamped or sealed concrete walks to blend with the theme of the playground.
- Locate a user-activated spray ground with concrete base in one of the playground “rooms” to provide an additional play amenity in the summer months.
- Install resilient play surfacing in the play structure zones.
- Install engineered wood fiber surfacing in the swing zone.



Berming in Play Area



Bridge with Native Plantings



Park Information Kiosk

BALL FIELD

- Improve grading and drainage to prevent standing water and allow the field to dry out more quickly for play.

LANDSCAPE:

- Begin a program to assess trees along the creek and thin out plant material to open views into the creek.
- Use native plants for bank stabilization along creek in place of rip-rap and concrete.
- Incorporate native meadow and woodland edge planting in low profile locations for year-round interest, to create wildlife habitat, and to reduce maintenance within the park.
- Add seasonal interest in the park with seasonal or perennial planting at the city entry sign, park entries, and other high profile locations in the park.
- Implement themed landscaping at the playground to reinforce the design and provide shade.
- Maintain an open lawn area within the loop trail north of the ball field.
- Add canopy and flowering trees throughout the park for seasonal color, and begin a replacement program for the larger mature trees within the park.
- Create and enforce a honeysuckle eradication program.

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.

