

Paducah Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Site Plan Descriptions

I. Introduction

Brandstetter Carroll Inc. assisted the City of Paducah in the development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan which was approved in November of 2002. Recently the City contracted with Brandstetter Carroll Inc. to assist in an update of the site plans that were included in the Master Plan. Several projects have been accomplished since the 2002 Master Plan and it is important to assess the progress and changing priorities of the community at least every five years. This document discusses the improvements proposed at some key parks in Paducah.

A. Bob Noble Park

1. Changes to Bob Noble Park since the 2002 Master Plan have included the following:
 - a. Development of the amphitheater.
 - b. Addition of a large Boundless Playground.
 - c. Addition of playground improvements in the southern area of the park near the entrance off of Park Ave..
 - d. Addition of a large group-reserveable picnic shelter.
 - e. Development of a high quality skate park and adjacent restrooms.
 - f. Access to the Greenway Trail on the levee and extending over to Stuart Nelson Park.
 - g. Addition of a restroom in the picnic shelter area.
 - h. The loss of several trees and two picnic shelters resulting from various storm damage.
2. The overall plan for Bob Noble Park has changed much since the last plan. The following are the proposed improvements recommended on the accompanying plan:
 - a. A one mile long paved perimeter walkway path to allow the many walkers and joggers that use the roadway to have a safer place to walk. The surface could be a fine crushed stone in the short term and possibly paved with asphalt in the long term.
 - b. A paved path around the lake which also provides for fishing access platforms.
 - c. Paving of all parking lots to reduce the amount of loose gravel and to allow for more efficient and better organized parking.
 - d. The addition of two new large picnic shelters on the west side of the lake. One could also function as a bandstand if needed. The addition of a restroom to the picnic area and shelters at the area near Park Avenue. Two small shelters in this area will also be

- replaced with larger shelters. All shelters would have paved access walkways leading to them.
- e. The long term development of a family aquatic center in the location of the existing pool and basketball courts. The existing pool could have the piping replaced in the meantime to extend its life. The family aquatic center will be a regional attraction with zero depth access, shallow water, slides, competition pool, shade structures, grass beach area, and interactive water features. The pool house would be renovated.
 - f. When the pool is replaced with a family aquatic center, the basketball courts will be relocated to the area west of the entrance off of Park Ave where the ball fields area currently located. The ball fields will be relocated to Stuart Nelson Park and the new Sports Park.
 - g. The long term development of an indoor ice rink to be located in the southwestern corner of the park.
 - h. The tennis courts would be enhanced with the development of 8 lighted courts, a restroom and parking lot.
 - i. The area located between the main entrance off of Park Ave and the Cherry Civic Center is scheduled as a landscape enhancement area for local groups to adopt and develop the landscape.
 - j. The east side of the park will be enhanced with the development of a parking lot and picnic shelter immediately near the entrance off of H.C. Mathis Blvd. Another shelter and parking area would be located north of this area and near to the new Boundless Playground to meet the growing demand for picnic shelters in this popular area.
 - k. A series of trails would be added to link the features in the eastern portion of the park. These trails would follow former road paths.
 - l. A major improvement will be the development of paved plaza space along the southern edge of the lake. The hard edge to the lake will discourage geese from this area and it will provide a multi-functional space that can be used for picnics, gatherings, events, etc.
 - m. The entire edge of the lake south of the overlook and walkway should have a hard edge such as a sea wall.
 - n. The parking lot between the pool house and the lake will be redeveloped to provide 169 spaces with the road separated from the parking lots. This will be much safer for park users and more organized to result in a much neater appearance than the current sea of deteriorated asphalt. Handicap accessible spaces will be included in the design. Walkways will be developed to provide easy access to the pool, picnic shelters, lake, amphitheater, and trail system.

- o. A paved road will be provided to the rear of the amphitheater for deliveries.
- p. The road between the amphitheater and pool will be widened to two lanes to provide better access to the Anna Baumer Group Picnic Area.
- q. The greenway trail on the levee will be paved.
- r. A Reforestation Plan should be developed to plan for the long term replacement of the many large trees that make this park so special. The recent storm damage has made it clear that the trees will not last forever and need to be replaced in a planned manner.
- s. The entire park should be planned as a native species arboretum. Areas should be designated for various species and habitat demonstration displays.
- t. Plans for the park at one time included a large recreation center. The acquisition of the Armory across Park Ave. provides an opportunity to use some of the existing building for program space and the area has room to develop a double gym and support rooms. Safe pedestrian access across Park Avenue should be considered.

B. Lang Park

- 1. A site plan was developed for Lang Park in 2006 and the City requested that the plan be updated to reflect current priorities. This plan includes a new curb and an eight foot wide sidewalk around the perimeter of the park, along with improved walkways into the center of the park. The curb and walkway could possibly be constructed by City forces.
- 2. At each of the four entrances to the center, the design would include the development of a stone wall consisting of stones that were previously used at the park to develop a semi-circle entrance area and steps. A curved and ramped walkway will provide handicap accessible walkways around the steps to provide access to the interior walkways.
- 3. This design also illustrates the development of curved shade pergolas in the northwest quadrant and an informal play area with simple climbing structures such as rock formations. The current thinking is that a large brightly colored playground would not be appropriate in this park.
- 4. Landscape planting will continue to complete the circle in the other three quadrants.
- 5. The stone foundation of the Tilghman Statue should be reset by a monument company to level the surfaces and repair loose stones.

C. Stuart Nelson Park

- 1. The site plan for Stuart Nelson Park is not dramatically different from the plan prepared in 2002 with the main exception that the disc golf course had been developed on the site and the Greenway Trail has been developed through the center of the site in an east-west direction.

2. This plan still shows the development of eight ball fields with the redevelopment of the adult softball fields into a wagon wheel arrangement and the development of a youth softball/baseball complex on the east side of the park.
3. Parking would be concentrated in the center of the park and be accessible to all of the facilities.
4. Both of the ball field complexes would have restroom and concession buildings in the center of the complex.
5. A playground would be developed near each complex and a picnic shelter would be developed near the complex of larger fields.
6. A walking trail should be developed around the perimeter of the park to provide a loop route around the ballfields and along Perkins Creek.

D. Brooks Stadium Park

1. The plan for Brooks Stadium is very similar to the previous plan. This site has had much discussion lately concerning the location of the girls' softball field. This would be located in the same orientation as the boys baseball field and it will be tucked into a corner of the trees adjacent to the existing soccer field. Funding is currently available to develop this field and eventually it should be developed into a stadium of equal quality to the boys field.
2. On the east side of the park, the plan indicated the development of a new playground and a picnic shelter.
3. A walkway should be developed to connect the existing parking lot to the new field and the parking adjacent to the soccer field.