

April 18, 2022

The Mission Park Recreation and Tree Commission would like to bring the following items forward for the City Council to consider including in their 2023 budget process. We have shared and debated these items at our first ever PRT retreat and we feel strongly that these are items that would benefit our city and keep our parks system vibrant.

- **Trail maintenance and improvements**

- The PRT recommends that the city address the deteriorating trail infrastructure in our parks, with an emphasis on the Broadmoor Park trail and the Waterworks Park trail. Repairing and/or improving these trail systems would alleviate neighborhood concerns for safety, increase park usage and enhance the quality of these parks immensely. Trails are often listed as a very important amenity in most every citizen survey the city has conducted.

- **Complete all phases of Mohawk Park**

- The PRT is thrilled to be moving forward with the restroom/pavilion and potential parking lot relocation in Mohawk Park. We would like to recommend that a plan be made to complete the remainder of the park redesign and improvements - including, but not limited to landscaping, creating soccer fields, new play and picnic equipment, pickleball/basketball courts, lighting, parking improvements, and trails. Dragging out park improvements over multiple years can be disruptive to the neighborhood, and completing all phases of the recommended park improvements will result in a more usable park. It will also limit the disruptions to the soccer league that uses this park. A fully designed park will allow the city to initiate more programming and events in the park.

- **Increase landscaping in our parks**

- The PRT recommends enhancing all parks with landscaping improvements. This recommendation will allow us to stay aligned with our Tree City goals, as well as enrich and support our local environment. Recommendations include creating plantings with a purpose such as pollinator gardens, as well as plantings for beautification, such as recently begun in Beverly Park, or looking for potential ways to incorporate art in our parks. Monument signage should be assessed to see if they would benefit from landscaping support as a potential deterrent from vandalism and being climbed on, as

well as for beautification. We feel getting the opportunity to create landscaping projects in our parks would be a great opportunity for PRT to work together with the Sustainability Commission, further strengthening and uniting our varied commission's stated mission and goals to support the city.

- **Create a comprehensive plan to market/promote and fundraise for our parks**

- The PRT recommends that the city invest in more opportunities to promote all the great things the parks have to offer. We strive to engage citizens in all our parks, and increased marketing and programming opportunities will bring more usage and opportunity to our community. The more parks are used and celebrated the more they will benefit our city. The PRT would like the opportunity to create a non-profit entity similar to what is happening with the Leawood Foundation, so that we may target specific improvements to potentially be funded by community donations.

<https://www.leawood.org/wp-content/uploads/Parks/LeawoodFoundation/2019-LF-Brochure-November-r4-Full.pdf>

The PRT thanks all the members of the City Council for considering these ideas in your future city plans.. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like further input on any of these recommendations. We look forward to many more great opportunities to work with you.

Sincerely,



Anne O'Leary  
Parks Recreation and Tree Commission Chair