

HARWOOD PARK

INTRODUCTION

Harwood Park is a small 2 acre mini-park located east of Interstate 270 and north of Manchester Road on Harwood Road. Harwood Road runs along the western edge of the park while the north and east sides of the park are adjacent to residential development. The south end of the park is buffered from existing commercial property by a mature tree line and thick undergrowth which continues along the creek on the east side of the park.

This park provides Des Peres residents a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities. A stand of Bald Cypress trees along with other canopy trees at the north end of the park create a quiet shaded area while the south end of the park provides an open lawn for gathering or active play. A concrete walk stretches the length of the park along Harwood Lane and creates a small loop in the center of the park. This walk links the amenities located within the center of the park. These amenities include a small picnic shelter with two picnic tables, a water fountain, and two playgrounds, one for tot age play (1-3 years old) and one for child age play (4-7 years old). The park appears to be well used by neighboring residents but due to its hidden location and small size is often unnoticed by other citizens of Des Peres.

DESIGN INTENT

Recommendations for Harwood Park are intended to improve usability and to make it more easily identifiable to Des Peres residents. A centrally located entry to the park along Harwood Road, along with reorganizing and updating the existing elements within the park are the main proposed improvements. An expanded loop trail will link the north and south ends of the park and enable park users to experience the entire park.

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



Open Lawn with Bald Cypress Stand.



Existing Child Playground



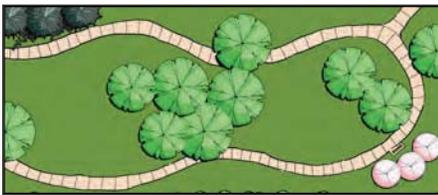
Park Entry

Harwood Park Existing Conditions





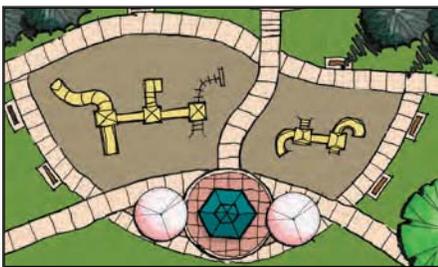
Entry Gate with Monuments



Proposed Loop Trail



Park Pavilion



Proposed Playground and Pavilion



Playgrounds

RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL:

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

PARK ENTRY:

- Create a pedestrian entry to the park centrally located along Harwood Road. This entry could include a paved entry plaza and monuments to identify the park location.
- Improve the “curb appeal” of the park by adding flowering trees and shrub / perennial beds along Harwood Road and at the park entries.

WALKS AND TRAILS:

- Expand the existing sidewalk to a six feet wide concrete loop path which will allow park users to walk throughout the park and small children the opportunity to ride bicycles within the park.
- Explore the opportunity for a pedestrian connection from the north end of the park.

SITE STRUCTURES:

- Provide a central picnic shelter with a paved plaza area for park users to gather close to the main park entry and the playgrounds. This plaza could include an overlook to the creek based on the existing topography of the park.

PLAYGROUND:

- Replace the existing playground structures with new equipment, and relocate the playgrounds closer to the central picnic shelter.
- Replace the existing surfacing and edging with concrete walks curbs and engineered wood fiber surfacing.



Drinking Fountain



Themed Entry Sign

LANDSCAPE:

- Identify and selectively prune existing mature trees within the park.
- Implement a program to reduce honeysuckle along east and south park boundaries. This will help other plant material mature, as well as reclaim overgrown parkland. While some honeysuckle can remain as a buffer where desired, overall the plant should be better maintained.
- The existing bald cypress stand is an amenity within the park which should be preserved. Special care should be taken that development in the park avoid disrupting the stand.

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.

