



**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

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James B. Spengler, Director

Park and Recreation Commission

January 22, 2016

Mayor Allison Silberberg
Vice Mayor Justin M. Wilson
Councilman Willie F. Bailey Sr.
Councilman John Taylor Chapman
Councilman Timothy B. Lovain
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg

Re: Docket No. 11, Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan

Dear Mayor Silberberg and City Council Members:

The Park and Recreation Commission wholeheartedly supports the Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan. The individual park plans are concept plans that allow staff both to plan for the future in terms of budget and, importantly, allow staff to identify specific projects that could be the subject of community partnerships, grant applications, or developer contributions associated with nearby development projects. Having concept plans that have gone through our lengthy public comment process allows the city to meet efficiently and effectively the growing park needs of our community.

In the spring of 2014, the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities began the process of examining these neighborhood parks to determine how the community uses them and whether and how they might be improved. During the fall and winter of 2014 staff held numerous public meetings and gathered public comments, which ultimately resulted in initial draft plans. Throughout 2015 staff held additional public meetings and gathered public comment on the draft plans. The Park and Recreation Commission also conducted public hearings on the plans. Staff, in particular Dana Wedeles, did a commendable job in balancing the competing interests of all commenters to come up with a comprehensive revised plan addressing the unique needs of each neighborhood park.

This kind of forward thinking planning effort both allows significant, lengthy opportunities for public involvement in discussing current and future public park needs and puts the City in a great position to be able to act quickly to take advantage of funding opportunities when they arise. We are very pleased with this effort and advise you to accept this Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

Jennifer Atkins

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Jennifer Atkins, Chair Park and Recreation Commission