

Ernie Shaw

Interim Director, LPRD

Dear Mr. Shaw,

The Brook Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA) has compiled ideas and comments for parks in our neighborhood. Could we meet to discuss them further and to hear your suggestions for how best to implement these ideas?

1. Management plan for Brook Creek Park. A few Brook Creek residents were alarmed when unexpected changes were made to the park to create running trails in 2013. If the City facilitates a process to create a written long-term plan for the park with resident input, future surprises can be avoided. The process of creating a park plan is a great opportunity to discuss expectations, hopes, and realistic possibilities for the park.
2. Improved landscaping in Brook Creek Park. Residents have commented that the amount of landscaping and flower planting in Brook Creek Park has decreased over the past several years, and that the former circle drive at the north end of Prairie Street was once accessible park land. We support the use of more flowers, native plants and fruit trees.
3. Sidewalk in Brook Creek Park. Recent construction of drainage from the Brook Creek Park playground has left damaged sidewalk, and we hope repairs are planned.
4. Re-shape Burroughs Creek trail intersection and Public Works facility. We suggest realigning the existing fencing (red) at the 12th Street and Burroughs Creek Trail intersection to the north (yellow). The appearance of the trail and park area would be improved significantly if the Public Works facility ceded the triangle of land that is unused by Public Works to the Burroughs Creek Park/Trail. Right now, the tall chain link and barbed wire fence detracts from the park, and is particularly intrusive at this trail intersection. Additional vegetative masking and an increase in weeding, landscaping, and trash cleanup around the public works facility would be welcomed.



5. Dog facilities

- a. East side dog park. Several locations on the east side of Lawrence may serve as an excellent fenced dog park. One option may be to lease and fence the vacant property east of Hobbs Park.
- b. Dog waste facilities. Dog waste bag stations would be welcome in Brook Creek Park and along Burroughs Creek.

6. Invasive species control. Brook Creek Park woods are overgrown with euonymus, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, and other exotic weeds, leaving us with an unnatural, unattractive landscape that will not support native plants and wildlife. Please plan for exotic species control as part of basic land management.

7. Burroughs Creek-to-Brook Creek Trail Extension. BCNA is very interested in seeing the development of a trail extension north of Struct/Restruct (1146 Haskell) along Burroughs Creek between Haskell and Brook Creek, and BCNA would like to participate in the planning process.

8. Consider a Creek rehabilitation project similar to the treatment received by Burroughs Creek for improved flood control, recreational access, and park design. The 13th & Brook Street area floods during heavy rains, and many nearby homes could benefit from improved flood protection.

9. A splash park was planned for the recreation at 15th Street and Burroughs Creek. Please add this facility when funds are available.

Sincerely,

Rena Figures

President, BCNA