

ARENA PARK

Arena Park Phased Improvement Plan (15 years)

Arena Park is one of the city's largest, centrally located older parks at just over 90 acres having been constructed in 1939 for both community and the SEMO District Fair use. The SEMO District Fair and the City both own, share and utilize multiple parcels as part of the entire park grounds. The property is located in a lower lying area adjacent to Cape LaCroix Creek. The infrastructure has grown through the years as funds have been raised by the SEMO District Fair but the 70 year old park is showing its age. A renovation to the Arena Building itself was completed through funds allocated with the passage of the initial Parks and Stormwater Tax, along with the replacement of several playgrounds and pavilions that were failing; however, very little else has been done to the infrastructure due to periodic flooding and lack of funding. The park is also used as a youth athletic complex that has 15 baseball/softball fields and accommodates over 100 teams throughout the season with close to 1,000 participants in the spring and summer. As part of the first PRS fund allocation, lights were added and a smaller age division quad complex was also developed on the west side of the park.

CURRENT ISSUES

Park Utilization

Sports fields are often used off league season by other outside events whether they be carnival rides, heavy equipment, other vehicles or agriculture programs that degrade/damage turf, especially during seasonal rainy periods where vehicles often create deep ruts that have to be repaired through grading, seeding and straw before sports play can commence.

Usage Patterns

Conflicting usage patterns and layout of the park between events and sports usage don't allow programs to be increasingly successful. The sports fields are not able to be utilized for any youth tournaments or events due to the lack of infrastructure, accessibility and field conditions.

Athletic Facilities

Athletic fields are spaced sporadically through the park making space utilization inefficient with very little formal access such as paved parking and sidewalks. There are very few, if any, ADA accessible bleachers from either grass or gravel parking with only casual access for spectators/participants to dugouts, concessions and pavilions.

Restrooms

Program areas lack sufficient restrooms resulting in port-o-lets being placed throughout the park.

Stormwater/Utilities

Stormwater flooding will risk future improvements until the watershed/drainage issues are addressed.

PROJECT SCOPE

- Address storm water issues off Optimist Drive.
- Develop revised park amenity layout, circulation, entries/exit, and traffic flow patterns.
- Renovate existing tennis courts, relocate sand volleyball (to Osage) and construct a new restroom pavilion in place.
- Improve accessibility to current ballfield areas until, or if, relocated.
- Re-create the center of the park to accommodate more green space for event venues such as boat/rv shows, agriculture exhibits, internal circulation, and walking paths.
- Develop and update utilities, lighting, and water/sewer plan.
- Relocate aging park/fair storage areas.
- Improve park/fair layout and functionality.
- Renovate access to grandstand seating to better accommodate events, concerts, and shows. Replace bleacher seating and fencing.



PROJECT OUTCOMES

- ★ Improve overall park access, vehicular, and pedestrian circulation.
- ★ Improve park infrastructure, stormwater management, and utilities to enhance overall park amenity functionality, safety, and attractiveness.
- ★ Partner with the Fair Board to improve building facilities that will improve opportunities to attract new economic impact events such as exhibitions, concerts, and agricultural events.
- ★ Relocate usage conflicts, such as ballfields, to open up green space and interior trail circulation for events, festivals, and fitness.
- ★ Renovate and enhance other park infrastructure, such as tennis courts, to improve safety and usage.



CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE:
\$1,500,000

Stormwater improvement costs are included in the Stormwater proposal.



CITY of CAPE GIRARDEAU
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

