

Southwest Park Working Group Report

**Plans to Advance Recreation, Park, and Therapeutic Recreation
Opportunities in Southwest Columbus**

**Submitted to Columbus City Council
Pursuant to Columbus City Ordinance 1112-2026
June 29, 2026**

Prepared by the Southwest Park Working Group

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I. Executive Summary

The Southwest Park Working Group was established to develop plans that fulfill the expanded recreation, park, and therapeutic recreation opportunities originally envisioned for McCoy Park in Southwest Columbus. This report delivers on that charge by identifying actionable solutions, implementation timelines, funding considerations, and legislative next steps to guide the City's work.

The Working Group's plan does not simply replace what was originally contemplated for McCoy Park; it expands the investment across Southwest Columbus. The report outlines a multi-site approach that includes a neighborhood park at Greenleaf Park, continued public park development and therapeutic recreation amenities at McCoy Park north of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) training facility, an adaptive recreation field opportunity at Berliner Sports Park, and an aggressive acquisitions strategy for additional parkland to fully replace lost acreage.

Together, these solutions preserve and advance the core elements of the original McCoy Park vision while creating a broader network of park and recreation assets. The plan expands access to playgrounds, sports courts, open greenspace, gathering areas, walking paths, inclusive and adaptive recreation opportunities, and therapeutic recreation programming for residents, families, children, nearby schools, and individuals with disabilities.

The report also identifies future parkland acquisition as an important strategy to support long-term recreation needs in Southwest Columbus and recognizes that the City remains committed to addressing stormwater and flood-mitigation needs.

This report reflects a collaborative process informed by Working Group deliberations, community input, City staff expertise, and project partner engagement. The result is a larger, more connected, and more comprehensive investment in Southwest Columbus, with a clear path for delivering meaningful community benefits and long-term public assets.

Implementation will require continued coordination among the Mayor's Office, Columbus City Council, City departments, and project partners. The Working Group emphasizes the importance of timely action, public accountability, and ongoing communication with residents as these solutions advance from planning to implementation.

Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary	2
Table of Contents	3
II. Background and Purpose of the Southwest Park Working Group	4
Introduction and Background	4
Legislative Context and Community Commitments	4
Purpose and Charge of the Southwest Park Working Group	6
Guiding Principles of the Southwest Park Working Group	6
Purpose of This Report	7
Composition of the Working Group	7
III. Working Group Process	8
IV. Public Meeting and Community Feedback	10
Community Outreach and Promotion	10
Public Meeting Format	11
Summary of Community Feedback	11
Use of Public Feedback in Working Group Recommendations	14
V. Park Site and Park Amenity Development Solutions	16
Overview of Site Locations	17
Solution 1: Greenleaf Park	18
Solution 2: McCoy Park, North of the Training Facility – Phase I Park Development and Phase II Therapeutic Recreation Facility Development	20
Solution 3: ADA Softball Pad or Miracle Field at Berliner Sports Park	25
Solution 4: Future Parkland Acquisition Opportunities in Southwest Columbus	27
Solution 5: Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation	29
VI. Comparison to the Original McCoy Park Vision	30
VII. Implementation Phasing and Proposed Timeline	33
VIII. Cost Estimates, Funding Sources, and Budget Considerations	34
Capital Funding Status and Budget Considerations	35
Operating Budget Considerations	36
Ongoing Funding Coordination	37
IX. Subsequent Ordinances and City Actions Required for Implementation	37
X. Report Attachments	40

II. Background and Purpose of the Southwest Park Working Group

Introduction and Background

The Southwest Park Working Group was established in response to Columbus City Ordinance 1112-2026 (Attachment A), adopted by Columbus City Council on April 20, 2026, in connection with the City's effort to support the successful award of a National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) franchise to Columbus.

On April 21, 2026, the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) announced that Columbus had been awarded the league's 18th expansion franchise. The club is expected to begin play in 2028 and will be owned by Haslam Sports Group, Nationwide, and Drs. Christine and Pete Edwards, collectively referred to in this report as the Ownership Group. The Columbus NWSL club and the Columbus Crew will operate as sibling clubs, sharing ScottsMiracle-Gro Field and certain community resources while maintaining separate training facilities.

Ordinance 1112-2026 set course to provide McCoy Park, a City-owned park in Southwest Columbus, as the new home of the training facility for the NWSL expansion franchise. In recognition of this loss of parkland and the original plans for McCoy Park improvements, the Ordinance called for the formation of the Southwest Park Working Group to develop plans for expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park in Southwest Columbus.

Legislative Context and Community Commitments

Ordinance 1112-2026 authorized the City to take several actions related to the proposed development of facilities necessary to support the Columbus NWSL franchise and to advance related community benefits. In summary, the ordinance:

- Authorized the City to enter into a Development Agreement with Franklin County, the Confluence Community Authority, and the Ownership Group regarding the financing, development, construction, operation, and occupancy of facilities needed to support the NWSL franchise;
- Outlined proposed facility improvements, including a new practice facility and training complex on City-owned land that includes McCoy Park, as well as enhancements to ScottsMiracle-Gro Field needed to satisfy NWSL facility standards;
- Recognized the City's and Franklin County's respective commitments, subject to future budget approval and appropriations, to contribute \$25 million each toward the costs of the facilities projects, with the ownership group responsible for costs above that combined public contribution;

- Stated the City’s intent to use additional admissions fee revenue generated from ticketed events at ScottsMiracle-Gro Field to support debt service associated with the City’s contribution;
- Identified community benefit commitments from the ownership group, including a \$12 million private investment over 12 years focused on early childhood education and food insecurity for Franklin County residents;
- Identified additional commitments made by the ownership group related to youth sports programming, community soccer camps and clinics, equipment and gear donations, matchday experiences for local schools and nonprofits, and volunteer and service initiatives;
- Required the Ownership Group to contribute \$3 million to the Columbus Recreation and Parks Foundation by December 31, 2029, to support fulfillment of the initial vision for McCoy Park’s community amenities and the therapeutic recreation concept in Southwest Columbus;
- Required the Ownership Group to provide equipment donations and in-kind support to Columbus Recreation and Parks Department youth soccer teams;
- Directed the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Director, upon the successful acquisition of the NWSL franchise, to form a working group to develop plans for expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park in Southwest Columbus;
- Directed the Working Group to discuss park design plans, site opportunities, construction timelines, and funding needs for the upcoming 2026 and 2027 capital budget;
- Directed the Working Group to outline the subsequent ordinances and actions to allow for initial groundbreaking of some recreation and parks opportunities by the end of 2026 and completion of the full concept by the end of 2027; and
- Indicated that the City Contribution associated with the NWSL facilities project, which shall be the subject of future legislation, is contingent on faithful implementation of the working group and its resulting deliverables.

Together, these provisions reflect a dual public purpose: supporting Columbus’s emergence as a national leader in women’s sports while ensuring that public and private investment also strengthens neighborhood park assets, youth opportunities, and community access.

Purpose and Charge of the Southwest Park Working Group

Section 10 of Ordinance 1112-2026 directed the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Director to form a working group within 15 days of the ownership group successfully acquiring the NWSL team. The ordinance charged the Working Group with developing plans to fulfill the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park in Southwest Columbus.

The ordinance further established several expectations for the Working Group. Specifically, the Working Group was to:

- Include no more than 10 members, with representation from the Southwest Area Commission, the Mayor’s Office, Columbus City Council, the Department of Development, the Ownership Group, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, and others as appropriate;
- Discuss design plans, identify site opportunities, outline construction timelines, and clarify available funding and remaining needs for the 2026 and 2027 capital budgets;
- Hold at least one public meeting to receive community feedback;
- Issue a public report of options or plans to Columbus City Council within 60 days of formation; and
- Outline subsequent ordinances and actions that would allow for initial groundbreaking of some recreation and park opportunities by the end of 2026 and completion of the full concept by the end of 2027.

The ordinance also states that the City Contribution associated with the NWSL facilities project, which will be the subject of future legislation, is contingent on faithful implementation of the working group and its resulting deliverables.

Guiding Principles of the Southwest Park Working Group

In carrying out its work, the Southwest Park Working Group was guided by a charge stated in Ordinance 1112-2026:

“ . . . develop plans to fulfill the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park, in Southwest Columbus.”

In the course of its work, the Working Group was guided by the following principles:

The Working Group recognizes that public park space and recreation programming are essential community assets. Residents of Southwest Columbus deserve high-quality and accessible parks, amenities, and programs that support physical health, connection, play, and inclusion.

The Working Group recognizes the importance of therapeutic recreation. The initial vision for McCoy Park included concepts intended to expand inclusive and adaptive recreational opportunities in the Southwest Area. As plans move forward, the City and its partners must preserve that focus and ensure that youth, families, older adults, and residents with disabilities can benefit from thoughtfully designed spaces and programs.

The Working Group recognizes that community engagement must remain central to implementation. The development of new park and recreation opportunities in Southwest Columbus should continue to be informed by the needs, priorities, and lived experiences of residents, neighborhood leaders, youth-serving organizations, and other community stakeholders.

Finally, the Working Group recognizes the importance of accountability. Ordinance 1112-2026 established clear expectations for planning, public reporting, future legislative action, and project timelines. The recommendations outlined in this report are intended to support transparent implementation and continued oversight by Columbus City Council, the City Administration, and the public.

Purpose of This Report

This report is intended to summarize the work, findings, and actionable solutions of the Southwest Park Working Group for the consideration of Columbus City Council and the City Administration in accordance with Columbus City Ordinance 1112-2026.

Composition of the Working Group

In accordance with Columbus City Ordinance 1112-2026, the Southwest Park Working Group was composed of no more than ten members representing the public, private, and community stakeholders identified in the ordinance.

The Working Group was intentionally structured to bring together neighborhood perspective, City policy and operational expertise, and private partner participation. This composition helped ensure that the Working Group's deliberations were informed by both the City's broader goals and the specific priorities of Southwest Columbus residents and stakeholders.

The members of the Southwest Park Working Group were:

- **Kym Douglas**, Director, Department of Neighborhoods
- **Quinten Harris**, Deputy Director of Real Estate and Land Redevelopment, Department of Development
- **Craig Murphy**, Deputy Director of Capital, Strategy and Development, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

- **Liz Reed**, Chair, Southwest Area Commission
- **Bernita A. Reese, M.S., CPRP**, Director, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- **Mary Shepro**, President of Business Operations, Columbus Crew
- **Elon Simms**, Chief of Staff to Mayor Andrew J. Ginther
- **John Tannous**, Chief of Staff, Columbus City Council
- **Nathan Wymer**, Vice President, Local Government and Partner Relations, Nationwide
- **Leah Young**, Fiscal Officer, Southwest Area Commission

The Working Group also benefited from the support and participation of staff and partner representatives from the Mayor’s Office, Columbus City Council, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, Department of Development, Department of Neighborhoods, and the Columbus Crew. The Working Group would like to expressly thank Morgen Wade – Capital and Strategic Planning Administrator, Kerry Francis – Senior Manager of Strategic Communications, and Brad Westall – Planning Manager of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, who were instrumental in finding, expressing, and visualizing many of the solutions called for in Ordinance 1112-2026.

The Working Group expresses its appreciation to all staff and partner representatives for their contributions throughout the process, including research, note-taking, administrative coordination, meeting support, and other work that supported productive deliberations. Their efforts helped the Working Group maintain an efficient process, consider relevant information, and move this work forward within the timeline established by Ordinance 1112-2026.

III. Working Group Process

The Working Group met weekly over the course of nine weeks, beginning on April 30, 2026, and concluding on June 25, 2026. Meetings were held in person at the Jerry Hammond Center, located at 1111 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43205, with limited virtual participation available for Working Group members or support staff who were unable to attend in person.

The Working Group’s first three meetings were scheduled for one hour. To allow for additional discussion and more detailed consideration of the issues before the group, the remaining six meetings were extended to up to 90 minutes in duration. This meeting structure allowed the Working Group to move efficiently while providing sufficient time for discussion, review of information, and collaborative development of recommendations.

Over the course of its meetings, the Working Group considered a range of topics directly related to its charge under Ordinance 1112-2026. The discussions included:

- Review and discussion of potential design plans and park concepts, including amenities at existing and potential new parks;
- Consideration of therapeutic recreation amenities, inclusive and adaptive recreational opportunities, and other features intended to serve residents of varying ages, abilities, and needs;
- Exploration of potential site opportunities, including the possible acquisition of additional park land in Southwest Columbus;
- Discussion of neighborhood walkability, connectivity, and pedestrian access to existing and potential new parks and recreational opportunities;
- Consideration of opportunities for community engagement and the role of public input in shaping the Working Group’s recommendations;
- Discussion of potential uses for the ownership group’s \$3 million contribution to the Columbus Recreation and Parks Foundation;
- Review of construction timelines, funding needs, capital budget considerations, and the City’s upcoming budget cycles;
- Discussion of legislative, administrative, and operational considerations necessary to implement the Working Group’s recommendations; and
- Collaborative development of this final report for submission to Columbus City Council.

As described in greater detail in the following section, the Working Group held a public meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, to receive community feedback and help inform its recommendations.

Throughout the process, the Working Group members placed a strong emphasis on fulfilling what was envisioned for McCoy Park, accountability, and the importance of advancing solutions that can be implemented within the aggressive timelines required by Ordinance 1112-2026. Members recognized the timelines established by Ordinance 1112-2026 and worked with urgency to develop realistic, actionable, and concrete solutions.

In between Working Group meetings, members and support staff coordinated next steps, gathered information, followed up on questions raised during discussions, and advanced items that required additional review. This coordination helped ensure that meeting time was used productively and that the Working Group was able to make steady progress throughout the process.

A detailed record of the discussions that occurred during each Working Group meeting is included in the meeting minutes attached to this report (Attachment B).

IV. Public Meeting and Community Feedback

Consistent with the requirements of Columbus City Ordinance 1112-2026, the Working Group held a public meeting to solicit community feedback regarding the development of Southwest neighborhood parks and the recreation, park, and therapeutic recreation concepts under consideration.

The public meeting was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Finland Elementary School, located at 1835 Finland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43223. This location was selected to make the meeting accessible to residents living in Southwest Columbus and because of its close proximity to one of the concepts for a new park. Additionally, some of the children who live across the street from McCoy Park attend Finland Elementary School.

Following discussion of potential sites among the Working Group, a Working Group member representing the community connected with Brittany McDaniel, Principal of Finland Elementary School, before the end of the school year. Principal McDaniel expressed a willingness to host and attend the event.

Refreshments were provided to meeting attendees by the Ownership Group. The meeting was well attended by community members, in addition to Working Group members and City staff. A sign-in sheet captured the names and household size of 33 residents representing at least 72 household members, though more residents were present than had signed in.

Community Outreach and Promotion

In the two weeks leading up to the public meeting, the Working Group and City staff promoted the meeting through multiple outreach channels intended to reach families and residents in Southwest Columbus. These efforts included:

- Sharing a digital promotional flyer with Finland Elementary School, Finland Middle School, and Franklin Woods Intermediate School, with encouragement that the flyer be distributed to families of students enrolled at each school;
- Conducting door-to-door canvassing in nearby neighborhoods and distributing promotional materials;
- Placing promotional yard signs near parkland sites, including McCoy Park and Greenleaf Park, that had been discussed by the Working Group;
- Posting about the meeting on NextDoor, with the post targeted to the Southwest Columbus area; and
- Conducting outreach to reporters who had previously expressed interest in the project.

Public Meeting Format

The public meeting was conducted in an open-house format to allow residents to review information, ask questions, and share feedback at their own pace. The meeting began with a welcome and introductions from Working Group members and support staff in attendance, followed by a brief overview of the park concepts and planning considerations presented for public input.

A series of display boards depicting the park concepts under consideration were arranged throughout the room. Columbus Recreation and Parks Department staff were stationed near the display boards to provide additional context, answer questions, and assist residents in understanding the ideas being presented. Community members were invited to share written and verbal feedback for consideration by the Working Group.

The concepts and topics presented for public feedback included:

- Context map of recreation and park amenities in Southwest Columbus;
- Context map of existing and proposed shared use paths and bike lanes;
- Greenleaf Park Conceptual Design;
- Greenleaf Park Dedicated Sport Court Options;
- Greenleaf Park Non-traditional Play Options;
- Greenleaf Park Site Furnishing and Shelter Style Options;
- McCoy Park Conceptual Design;
- McCoy Park Dedicated Recreational Area Options;
- McCoy Park Shade Structure and Shelter Style Options; and
- Berliner Park Conceptual Design.

Summary of Community Feedback

Following the public meeting, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department staff reviewed and analyzed the feedback provided by community members. This feedback was then presented to the Working Group for consideration as it developed its final recommendations.

Community feedback received during the public meeting is summarized in the following tables.

Public Input Polling

Greenleaf Park

Poll 1: Non-traditional Play Options	Dot Votes
Bouldering Wall	5
Toddler-focused Adventure Play	2
Bamboo Jungle	4
Balance Board	2
Cargo Net Climber	0
Tight Rope Obstacle	0

Poll 2: Dedicated Sports Court/ Field Options	Dot Votes
Basketball Court	3
Skating Pad	1
Tennis Courts	2
Pickleball Courts	6
Athletic Field / Greenspace	5
Outdoor Fitness Stations	4

Poll 3: Site Furnishing & Shelter Options	Dot Votes
Traditional Timber Picnic Shelter	2
Modern Steel Picnic Shelter	2
Unique Picnic Shelter	8
Lounge Seating	0
Hammock Grove	5
Park Bench Swing	7

Greenleaf Park Write-In Comments

Tennis!
 Open Play Spaces
 Native Flower/ Teaching Gardens
 Clean Sight Lines for Safety
 Rock Climbing Wall
 Accessible Features i.e. playground swings
 Walking Connection to Willow Creek & McCoy Parks
 Accessible Equipment
 Paddleboard and Kayaking
 Bouldering Wall!
 Picnic Tables
 Increased Police Presence
 Columbus Police Patrolling
 Swinging Benches
 Picnic Table with Shaded Area for Visually Impaired
 Individuals
 Pickleball
 Running Trails
 Hybrid Pickleball & Tennis Courts
 Fitness Stations
 Connector Trail to West Meadows Neighborhood
 Nothing is missing
 Kayak Training?
 Fitness Trail
 Children's Playground
 Crosswalks
 Mixed Use Path on Brown Road
 Future Acquisition of Land Behind Church
 Running Trails w/ Mileage Markers

Table 1. Summary of Public Meeting Feedback – Greenleaf Park. This table summarizes dot-polling results and written comments provided by community members regarding Greenleaf Park during the June 16, 2026 public meeting.

McCoy Park

Poll 1: Shade Structure & Shelter Options	Dot Votes
Traditional Timber Picnic Shelter	3
Modern Steel Picnic Shelter	1
Unique Picnic Shelter	2
Pergola Structure	2
Shade Sails	4
Hard Top Shade Structure	4

Poll 2: Dedicated Recreational Areas	Dot Votes
Futsal Court	0
Athletic Fields	1
Tennis Courts	2
Pickleball Courts	2
Accessible Playground	11
Accessible Splashpad	11

McCoy Park Write-In Comments

Basketball Court
 Walking Trails
 Make sure people can safely access from a COTA stop
 Greenspace is pretty but not functional if accessibility is the goal
 Sprinkler Fountain
 Walking/ Mixed Use Trails
 Small 1 to 2 mile trail with railing to hold onto, for people with invisible disabilities
 Open Soccer
 Concerned about lack of bus routes to park
 Walking connection to Berliner Park
 Walking connection to Greenleaf Park
 Safety around the pond
 Bigger Splashpad
 Lawn is not very useable for Therapeutic Recreation
 Single Rim Basketball Court (half court)
 COTA Mainstream Access
 More accessible pathways to pond, playground, splashpad, etc.
 Benches
 Children's Play Zone
 Jobs?
 Fitness Room
 Plaza Space with Shade
 Ditto on the Plaza and shade

Table 2. Summary of Public Meeting Feedback – McCoy Park. This table summarizes dot-polling results and written comments provided by community members regarding McCoy Park during the June 16, 2026 public meeting.

Photos of the park concept boards displayed during the public meeting, including feedback added by community members, are included in Attachment C. These materials provide a visual record of the concepts presented for public input and the feedback shared by attendees during the public meeting.

Use of Public Feedback in Working Group Recommendations

The Working Group considered the public feedback gathered during the June 16 meeting as part of its final deliberations. This input helped inform the Working Group's recommendations in the following ways:

For Greenleaf Park:

- The bouldering wall was extremely popular and will become a component of adventure play areas.
- The bamboo jungle and outdoor fitness stations were equally popular and will be evaluated based on space and budget criteria to determine whether both or just one of the amenities will be included.
- Open space that can be used as informal athletic fields was a high priority and will be maintained in the design.
- Pickleball courts were highly requested. Columbus Recreation and Parks Department will evaluate whether courts can be included in a way that does not create noise concerns for nearby residents. Basketball courts will definitely be included, and tennis courts will be considered.
- Pedestrian trails will be prioritized throughout the park.
- Picnic tables, benches, and potentially bench swings will be plentiful in the park design.
- The Unique Shelter shown on the precedent board was overwhelmingly popular and the design team will take the style into account when designing the shelter.

For McCoy Park:

- Public input for McCoy Park was well-aligned with the plans presented.
- The universally accessible playground and splashpad were disproportionately popular with residents.
- Tennis and pickleball courts were equally well received for McCoy Park, so the design team will determine the best siting of both sports between the McCoy Park and Greenleaf Park locations.
- Open greenspace is a priority for some, while some residents observed that greenspace is a less accessible amenity in terms of ADA accessibility. A plaza with a shade structure was suggested by several residents. The design team will need to strike the right balance.

- Discussions with Therapeutic Recreation staff led the department to revise the Therapeutic Gardens to a Therapeutic / Community Garden Master Planned Space. The feedback provided from staff was that the most useful space for future programming would be to have a master planned, but not yet built out, space near the indoor facility, capable of supporting accessible vegetable gardens that could be used for life skills classes and maintained by participants and staff. Staff preferred to solidify the program space after utilizing the building for a while to ensure we are selecting the right program fit for the valued greenspace. An early version of the space could potentially be a hardscaped plaza.

For Berliner Park:

- The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department team must determine which type of field to place at Berliner Park. There are several options ranging from a hard surface ADA sports pad to a Miracle Field, and the department's Sports and Therapeutic Recreation teams are gathering information to determine what type of field will work best for the groups who will play there.

At all parks:

- COTA Mainstream access was a topic brought up for all park locations. For McCoy Park, particular emphasis was placed on making sure that accessible routes and stops were coupled with a safe and accessible connection between the COTA stop, and the park and the therapeutic recreation facility. Columbus Recreation and Parks staff and City leadership will coordinate with COTA when beginning detailed design.
- Park trees and reforestation are known interests to Southwest Columbus residents based on past feedback and data from the Urban Forestry Master Planning effort. While the original McCoy Park plans called for roughly 440 new park trees, the number of new potential trees at Greenleaf, McCoy and Berliner Parks will be determined during design development, with a priority to achieve additional canopy coverage.
- Permanent restrooms came up as a request across all locations. These are planned for McCoy Park but are not feasible at Greenleaf Park. Greenleaf Park will include portable restrooms (both ADA and standard) screened by restroom blinds. Permanent restrooms require a substantial capital and operating investment, with regular staff oversight to ensure safety and sanitation for park users. Permanent restrooms are not an amenity that the department can consider in Neighborhood Park typologies at this time. McCoy Park, with the focus on regional Therapeutic Recreation offerings and universally accessible splashpad, is the correct park typology for inclusion of permanent restrooms.

V. Park Site and Park Amenity Development Solutions

As part of its charge under Columbus City Ordinance 1112-2026, the Working Group reviewed a range of opportunities to expand recreation and park access in Southwest Columbus and to fulfill the expanded recreation, park, and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park.

The Working Group's review included consideration of existing parkland, potential new park sites, possible land acquisitions, neighborhood connectivity, access for nearby residents, opportunities for inclusive and adaptive recreation, new stormwater solutions for Franklinton, Hilltop, and Southwest neighborhoods, and the feasibility of advancing projects within the timeline established by Ordinance 1112-2026.

Based on this review, the Working Group offers a multi-site solution for implementation. This approach recognizes that the original vision for McCoy Park can be fulfilled through a coordinated set of investments across Southwest Columbus, rather than through a single site alone. By pairing improvements to existing parkland with targeted acquisition and development opportunities, the City can expand access to high-quality recreational amenities, strengthen neighborhood connectivity, and create inclusive spaces that serve residents of varying ages, abilities, and needs.

Overview of Site Locations

The map below identifies the general location of each park site planned by the Southwest Park Working Group. This map is intended to provide geographic context for the multi-site strategy outlined in this report.

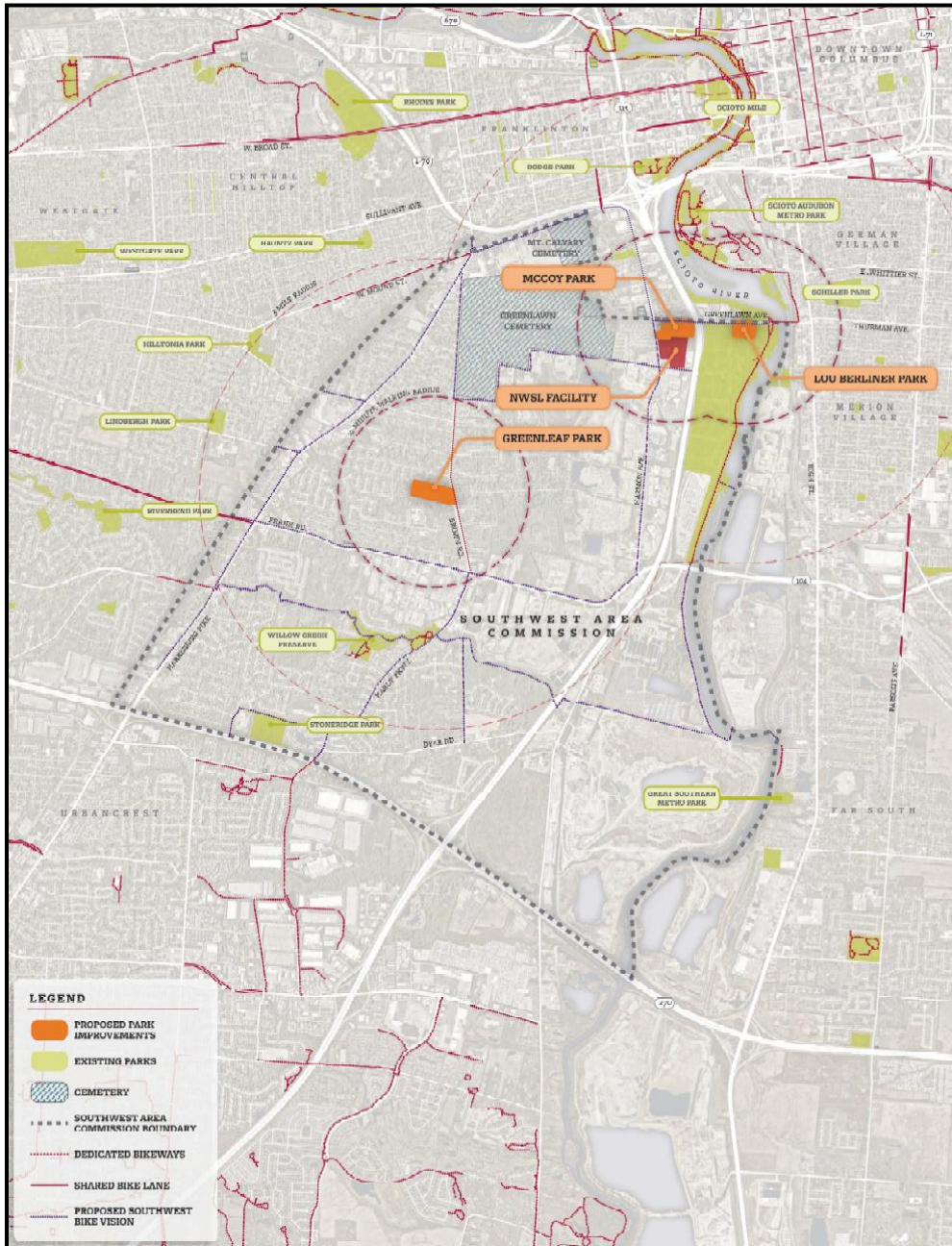


Figure 1. Overview of Park Site Locations. This map identifies the general location of the park sites included in the Working Group’s multi-site solution and provides geographic context for the planned investments in Southwest Coumbus. A larger version of this map is provided in Attachment D.

Solution 1: Greenleaf Park



Figure 2. Greenleaf Park Conceptual Site Plan. This site plan depicts the conceptual layout for Greenleaf Park. A larger version of this site plan is provided in Attachment E.

Site Location

- Site Address: 1615 Brown Road, Columbus, OH 43223
- Parcel ID: 140-000154
- Acreage: 8.9 Acres

Access and Connectivity

- Walkshed: There are 572 residents currently living within a 10-minute walk route to Greenleaf Park.
- Driveshed: There are 16,566 residents living within a 2-mile drive of Greenleaf Park
- Access and equity context: Attachment F provides additional mapping and analysis related to pedestrian access, vehicular access, and surrounding Social Vulnerability Index conditions for this site.
- Neighborhood access considerations: Greenleaf Park will be located with frontage on Brown Road, a major arterial corridor through Southwest Columbus that is centrally

located within the community. The park is adjacent to and will be easily accessible to the West Meadows subdivision to its North. The park is located near three Southwestern City Schools, including Finland Elementary, Franklin Woods Intermediate, and Finland Middle Schools, which together serve more than 1,500 students. Future acquisition opportunities could allow for more direct access between the park and schools. Many more residents, including Franklin Township residents, would live within a 10-minute walk of the park; however, lack of sidewalks or shared use paths on neighborhood streets create a barrier for protected pedestrian access.

- Planned mobility improvements: In 2029, the Franklin County Engineer’s Office is planning a shared use path on the west side of Brown Road, heading South to Frank Road, and the City of Columbus has planned a shared use path on the west side of Hardy Parkway from Frank Road down to Gantz Road. These shared use paths will vastly improve pedestrian access from connected neighborhoods and beyond. Columbus Recreation and Parks Department staff will also reach out to COTA to understand opportunities for COTA access to Greenleaf Park.

Amenity Opportunities

A sample of the planned amenities for Greenleaf Park include:

- Pedestrian Paths
- Benches and Picnic Tables
- Park Trees and Landscaping
- Playground with Additional Accessible Features (ages 2-5; 5-12)
- Adventure Play / Bouldering Area with Potential “Bamboo” Jungle (Result of Public Input)
- Outdoor Fitness Station (Result of Public Input)
- Potential Hammock Grove (Result of Public Input)
- Open-Air Shelter
- Open Greenspace
- Basketball Court(s)
- Tennis or Pickleball Courts
- Port-o-let with Blinds (ADA and Standard)
- Bike Racks

- Trash Receptacles
- Park Signage
- Dedicated Parking Lot and Park Drive from Brown Road
- Future Connectivity to a Shared Use Path
- Site-Specific Stormwater Mitigation
- Potential Recreation Features in Stormwater Basin/Pond

Solution 2: McCoy Park, North of the Training Facility – Phase I Park Development and Phase II Therapeutic Recreation Facility Development

The Working Group plans call for parkland to be developed on the northern parcels (owned by the City, north and adjacent to McCoy Park and south of Greenlawn Avenue) and for this area to continue to be referred to as “McCoy Park,” reflecting the site’s history, neighborhood identity, and continued role as a public park asset for Southwest Columbus. This plan was made possible by the ownership group’s willingness to modify their initial plan for these parcels.

These northern parcels were acquired by the City pursuant to Columbus City Ordinance 1622-2024, which authorized the purchase and donation of approximately 10.4 acres from Greenlawn Realty Company to support an integrated site plan involving park improvements and therapeutic recreation. Consistent with that legislation, the therapeutic recreation facility envisioned for this area will include “Younkin” in its title. The Working Group’s plans reaffirm the City’s commitment to honor its obligations and carry forward the public purposes associated with the acquisition.

McCoy Park is planned for a two-phase development approach, with the majority of park features to be constructed in Phase I. Phase II would include the renovation of the existing building into a dedicated Therapeutic Recreation space. During detailed design, Columbus Recreation and Parks will determine the final selection of amenities that will be constructed in Phase I rather than Phase II, based on a constructability analysis.

McCoy Park Phase II creates a new indoor Therapeutic Recreation Facility through the renovation of an existing building on-site. The new facility will be the second Therapeutic Recreation-focused facility in the City of Columbus, with the first being the Espy Adaptive Sports Complex, housing gymnasium space and a fitness center. The new Therapeutic Recreation Facility will offer new and expanded types of programming that have not been conducive in a large gymnasium. Summer camp and after school programs, life skills classes (e.g., learning to cook after an injury), support groups for participants and caregivers, and mind and body wellness programs such as yoga, dance and drumming, and art classes are examples of the program types that Recreation and Parks will more readily accommodate in the new

facility. All of the building components will be further developed through the detailed design process, however, renovations to the facility will prioritize accessibility, with known improvements consisting of a new accessible elevator, accessible companion care restrooms, kitchen, art and studio spaces including the reconfiguration of some classrooms, offices and corridors to meet accessibility guidelines.



Figure 3. McCoy Park Phase I Conceptual Site Plan. This site plan depicts the conceptual layout for McCoy Park north of the NWSL training facility. A larger version of this site plan is provided in Attachment E.

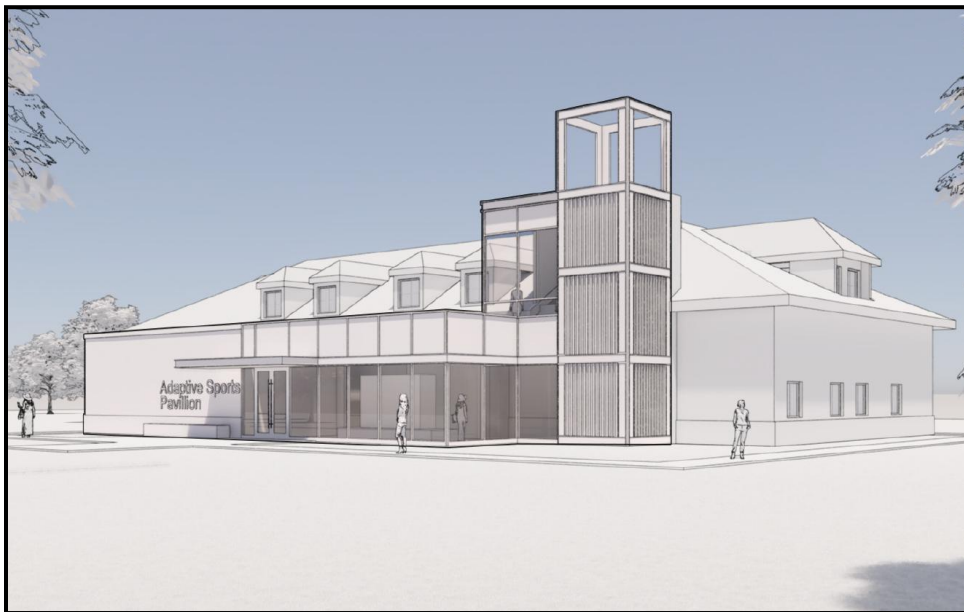


Figure 4. McCoy Park Phase II Therapeutic Recreation Facility Concept Rendering. This rendering depicts the conceptual exterior design for the planned therapeutic recreation facility at McCoy Park. A larger version of this rendering is provided in Attachment G.

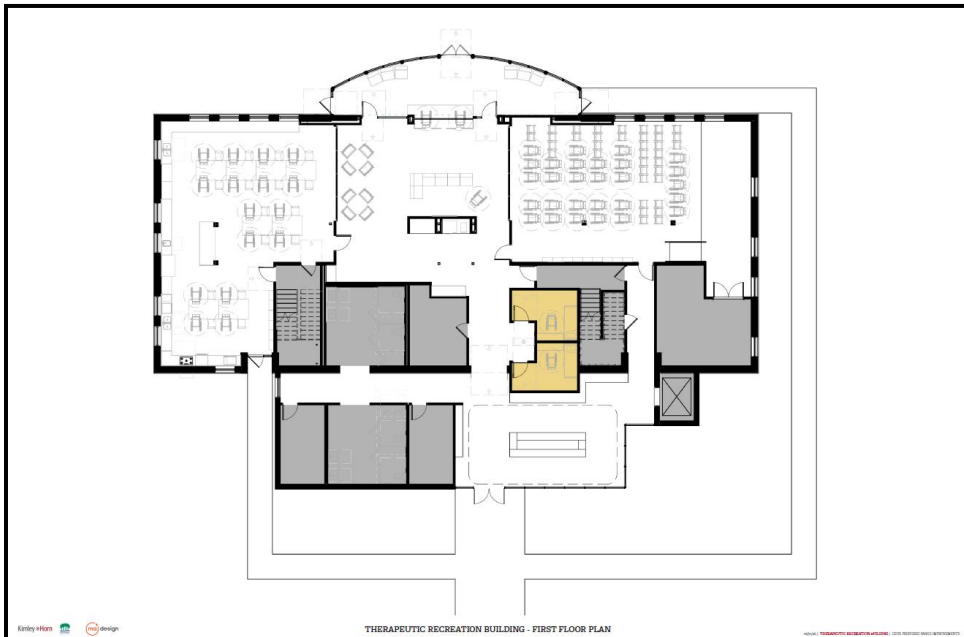


Figure 5. McCoy Park Phase II Therapeutic Recreation Facility Preliminary Floor Plan. This preliminary floor plan illustrates the conceptual interior layout for the planned therapeutic recreation facility at McCoy Park. A larger version of this floor plan is provided in Attachment G.

Site Location

- Site Address: 555 Greenlawn Avenue, Columbus, OH 43223
- Parcel ID: 010-095233
- Acreage: Roughly 7.5 acres will be available for parkland

Access and Connectivity

- Walkshed: There are 533 residents currently living within a 10-minute walk route of McCoy Park.
- Driveshed: 17,835 residents live within a 2-mile drive of McCoy Park.
- Access and equity context: Attachment H provides additional mapping and analysis related to pedestrian access, vehicular access, and surrounding Social Vulnerability Index conditions for this site.
- Neighborhood access considerations: Pedestrian access is currently limited at McCoy Park. A sidewalk exists along Greenlawn Avenue from Harmon Avenue on the west and High Street on the east. However, no pedestrian routes exist on Harmon Avenue or Stimmel Road, and pedestrian routes are limited in the manufactured home communities to the west of the park. McCoy Park is easily accessed from the Greenlawn Avenue exit ramps on Interstate 71.
- Planned mobility improvements: There is great opportunity for increased pedestrian access through planned shared use paths identified in the Bike Plus Vision Network. A nearly 2.5-mile proposed shared use path along Harmon Road from Souder Avenue on the north, to Frank Road on the south would extend access to South Park Apartments, Sullivant Gardens Community Center and Sullivant Elementary School. Additionally, the sidewalk that exists along the McCoy Park and Berliner Park frontage is planned for a future upgrade into a shared use path, per the Bike Plus Vision Network. This path would connect with the Scioto Trail and provide access to Downtown and surrounding communities.

Amenity Opportunities

A sample of amenities proposed at McCoy Park include:

- Therapeutic Recreation Indoor Facility
- Universally Accessible Playground (ages 2-5; 5-12)
- Pedestrian Paths
- Benches and Picnic Tables

- Park Trees and Landscaping
- Community Use of Synthetic Turf Academy Fields
- Open-Air Shelter
- Open Greenspace
- Programmed Multi-use Fields (Result of NWSL Partnership)
- Tennis or Pickleball Courts
- Permanent Restrooms
- Drinking Fountain (Result of Therapeutic Recreation Input)
- Dedicated Parking Lot
- Bike Racks
- Trash Receptacles
- Park Signage
- Future Connectivity to Shared Use Path
- Potential COTA Connectivity
- Site-Specific Stormwater Mitigation
- Potential Recreation Features in Stormwater Basin/Pond
- Therapeutic/Community Garden Master Planned Space
- Lighting

Solution 3: ADA Softball Pad or Miracle Field at Berliner Sports Park



Site Location

- Site Address: 325 Greenlawn Avenue, Columbus, OH 43223
- Parcel ID: 010-095230
- Acreage: Approximately 3 acres within an existing 228-acre park

Access and Connectivity

- Walkshed: 67 residents live within a 10-minute walking route of Berliner Park.
- Driveshed: 26,277 residents live within a 2-mile drive of Berliner Park.
- Access and equity context: Attachment I provides additional mapping and analysis related to pedestrian access, vehicular access, and surrounding Social Vulnerability Index conditions for this site.
- Neighborhood access considerations: Being adjacent to McCoy Park and separated only by Interstate 71, many of the considerations for McCoy Park also hold true at Berliner

Park. Pedestrian access is currently limited at Berliner Park. A sidewalk exists along Greenlawn Avenue from Harmon Avenue on the west and High Street on the east. However, no pedestrian routes exist on Harmon Avenue or Stimmel Road. Berliner Park is easily accessed from the Greenlawn Avenue exit ramps on Interstate 71. Due to the nature of the softball programming at Berliner Park, the majority of participants for this amenity would likely arrive by vehicle. Columbus Recreation and Parks will engage with COTA to support safe, accessible route planning.

- Planned mobility improvements: Planned shared use paths identified in the Bike Plus Vision Network will increase pedestrian access to Berliner Park, which may benefit users of other park elements, such as the Lou Berliner Athletic Complex or the Single Track Mountain Bike Course, even more than users of the Softball amenity. A nearly 2.5-mile proposed shared use path along Harmon Road from Souder Avenue on the north, to Frank Road on the south would extend access to South Park Apartments, Sullivant Gardens Community Center and Sullivant Elementary School. Additionally, the sidewalk that exists along the McCoy Park and Berliner Park frontage is planned for a future upgrade into a shared use path, per the Bike Plus Vision Network. This path would connect with the Scioto Trail and provide access to Downtown and surrounding communities.

Amenity Opportunities

A sample of the amenities proposed at Berliner Park include:

- A Regulation-size ADA Wheelchair Softball Pad or a Miracle Field
- Dugouts and Shade Structures
- Spectator Seating and Benches
- Lighting
- Drinking Fountain
- Restroom Facilities
- Dedicated Parking
- Park Signage
- Bike Racks
- Trash Receptacles
- Potential Concession Hook-Ups

Solution 4: Future Parkland Acquisition Opportunities in Southwest Columbus

In addition to the solutions outlined in the preceding sections, the Working Group identified future land acquisition, including the acquisition of land for a future Parkland Reserve, as an important strategy for expanding parkland and creating additional opportunities for recreation, access, and neighborhood-serving amenities in Southwest Columbus. The Working Group supports a land acquisition strategy that ensures Southwest Columbus has parkland options that meet, and where possible exceed, the acreage originally envisioned for McCoy Park. Over the course of its work, the Working Group had encouraging discussions about potential acquisition opportunities, and the City is committed to pursuing additional land acquisition to make up lost acreage and add greenspace in Southwest Columbus. City staff are currently aware of and exploring multiple acquisition opportunities, the collective acreage of which exceeds that of the original vision for McCoy Park.

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department uses the term “Parkland Reserve” to refer to land acquired for future park development. A Parkland Reserve may be developed within a few years of acquisition or may be held by the Department for a longer period until community need, growth patterns, available funding, or other planning considerations support the development of a new neighborhood, community, or regional park.

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department has a long history of acquiring land to expand the City’s park system. In the last four years, the Department has used a combination of capital and grant funds to purchase 14 properties totaling more than 120 acres of new parkland. These acquisitions are in addition to land received through Parkland Dedication, a process through which new development may be required to dedicate land, or provide an equivalent fee, to help meet the park and recreation needs created by growth.

When evaluating potential parkland acquisitions in Southwest Columbus, as in other areas of the City, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department considers several criteria. Many of these criteria are referenced elsewhere in this report in connection with the Working Group’s site solutions. Key considerations include the following:

Land Plan Priorities

Potential acquisitions are evaluated based on whether they advance Columbus Recreation and Parks’ land plan priorities, including whether they would:

- Increase access to current or future parks and park amenities in areas with limited park access. Columbus Recreation and Parks uses the nationally recognized 10-minute walkshed metric to evaluate pedestrian access to parks and commonly uses a two-mile driveshed to assess vehicular access to neighborhood or community parks.

- Increase the level of service, measured in park acreage per 1,000 residents, in areas where existing park acreage is limited. A sufficient level of service helps ensure that high use of existing parks does not create maintenance challenges, safety concerns, or overcrowding that limits residents' ability to enjoy park amenities.
- Improve connectivity to recreation and park amenities, including opportunities for future shared use paths, trails, or greenways.
- Advance any of the above priorities in areas experiencing compounding inequities or high levels of social vulnerability.

Social Vulnerability and Community Need

The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) is a national standard developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It uses U.S. Census data to help identify communities that may be more vulnerable to hazards or other community-level stressors due to demographic and socioeconomic factors such as poverty, limited access to transportation, crowded housing, and related conditions.

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department considers social vulnerability as one of several factors when evaluating potential parkland acquisitions. Access to quality greenspace is associated with physical, mental, and community wellbeing and can be especially important in areas experiencing higher levels of vulnerability.

Social Vulnerability Index scores are generally grouped into the following bands:

- 0–25%: Least Vulnerable
- 26–50%: Low to Moderate Vulnerability
- 51–75%: Moderate to High Vulnerability
- 76–100%: Most Vulnerable

Site-Specific Acquisition Considerations

Once location, access, and demographic criteria are considered, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department evaluates the specific characteristics of each potential site to determine how the land could support future park use. Site-specific considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- Consistency with a locally adopted plan, needs assessment, or Columbus Recreation and Parks' Vision Plan.
- Compatibility with an identified gap in recreation programming.
- Access from the public right-of-way.

- Opportunities to preserve historic or cultural resources.
- Opportunities to expand tree canopy.
- Conservation of ecologically sensitive habitat.
- Conservation of high-quality forests, wetlands, prairies, or riparian corridors.

Southwest Columbus Acquisition Priorities

In Southwest Columbus, the Working Group and Columbus Recreation and Parks Department identified several priorities that should guide future acquisition efforts. The Southwest community has a need for both increased pedestrian access to parks, as measured by the 10-minute walkshed, and an improved level of service through additional park acreage.

In relation to the solutions outlined in this report, priority should be given to acquisition opportunities that align with the forthcoming Southwest Columbus Community Plan, which will include Census Tract 51, and the Working Group's charge under Ordinance 1112-2026. Future acquisition opportunities should be evaluated based on whether they can support neighborhood or community park programming, expand tree canopy, improve access or connectivity to existing parkland, and provide safe and visible access from the public right-of-way.

The Working Group and Columbus Recreation and Parks staff have identified several potential acquisition opportunities in Southwest Columbus that meet more than one of the criteria described above. However, because land acquisition discussions may involve private property owners and require additional due diligence, specific property profiles are not included in this report.

Solution 5: Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation

In addition to the parkland, recreation, and community amenity considerations addressed throughout this report, the Working Group also discussed stormwater drainage and flooding concerns affecting portions of Franklinton, the Hilltop, and Southwest Columbus. The original vision for McCoy Park included a stormwater basin intended to help reduce flooding north of the park. Because McCoy Park is no longer expected to serve as the basin site, the Working Group recognizes that flood mitigation must continue to be addressed as part of the City's broader efforts to carry forward the community-serving goals originally associated with McCoy Park.

As part of the Working Group's discussions, Columbus Water and Power provided information regarding the Franklinton Stormwater System Improvements project. The project is intended to improve drainage and reduce flooding in the Renick Run watershed area, which drains south toward the Scioto River through the Renick Run Pump Station.

The original concept for the McCoy Park basin was intended to increase system capacity and help the City meet its stormwater level-of-service goals. However, because McCoy Park is no longer expected to serve as the basin site, Columbus Water and Power is revisiting previously evaluated alternative sites and considering additional concepts for a future stormwater basin location.

Columbus Water and Power indicated that the City's commitment to reducing flooding in Franklinton has not changed, and that future alternative basin sites will be evaluated based on whether they can provide a similar level of flood relief as well as site-specific considerations such as drainage patterns, available space, existing infrastructure, environmental conditions, project cost, and potential impacts to other community uses. Columbus Water and Power also outlined a phased approach to the related sewer improvements (see Attachment J).

The Working Group supports continued coordination among Columbus Water and Power and other City partners to identify an appropriate future basin location.

VI. Comparison to the Original McCoy Park Vision

As part of its work, the Southwest Park Working Group evaluated how the combined solutions outlined in this report compare to the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park. This comparison is intended to help City leaders and the public understand how the report's solutions carry forward the community-serving goals associated with the original McCoy Park concept.

The table on page 31 compares the proposed park characteristics, amenities, access considerations, and community-serving features associated with the original McCoy Park concept with the solutions outlined in this report. In addition to preserving and advancing many of the core amenities originally envisioned for McCoy Park, the combined park solutions would substantially improve access to parkland in Southwest Columbus by more than doubling the number of residents within both a 10-minute walk and a two-mile drive of the identified park sites.

Attachment K provides additional mapping and analysis related to pedestrian access, vehicular access, and surrounding Social Vulnerability Index conditions for all three park sites: Greenleaf Park, McCoy Park, and Berliner Park.

Proposed Park Characteristics & Amenities	Original McCoy Park Concept	Greenleaf Park Concept	New McCoy Park Concept	Berliner Park Concept	Acquisition of Parkland Reserve	To Be Addressed Elsewhere
	Pedestrian Paths	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic Tables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park Trees- Quantity at new locations to be determined	440	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscaping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universally Accessible Playground (ages 2-5; 5-12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground for ages 6 months to 2 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground w/ Accessible Features (ages 2-5; 5-12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universally Accessible Splashpad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permanent Restrooms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Port-o-Let w/ Blinds (ADA & Standard)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking Fountain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adventure Play / Bouldering Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Fitness Station	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hammock Grove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open Shelter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open Greenspace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programmed Multi-use Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADA Softball or Miracle Field w/ Dugouts & Spectator Seating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball Court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis Court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Possible	Possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pickleball Courts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Possible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blind/Crutch Soccer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional Stormwater Solution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site-Specific Stormwater Mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Features in Stormwater Basin/ Pond	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Possible	Possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Therapeutic/ Community Garden Master Planned Space	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Therapeutic Recreation Indoor Facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated Parking Lot	300+	~35	~75+	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike Racks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trash Receptacles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park Signage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Connectivity to Shared Use Path	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COTA Connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Use of Synthetic Turf Academy Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park Acreage	30	8.9	~7.5	~3	10+	
Residents within 10 minute walk	533	572	533	67	TBD	
Residents within 2 mile drive	17,835	16,566	17,835	26,277	TBD	

Table 3. Comparison of Combined Solutions to Original McCoy Park Vision. This table compares the park characteristics, amenities, access measures, and community-serving features included in the original McCoy Park concept with the combined solutions outlined in this report.

Taken together, the solutions outlined in this report preserve and advance many of the core elements of the original McCoy Park vision, including expanded recreation access, inclusive and adaptive recreation opportunities, open greenspace, pedestrian and bicycle access improvements, neighborhood-serving amenities, and future therapeutic recreation opportunities. While not every amenity originally contemplated for McCoy Park would be delivered at a single location, this combined approach creates a broader network of park and recreation investments across Southwest Columbus.

Youth Sports Programming and Field Access

An analysis of existing and future sports programming opportunities available through Columbus Recreation and Parks Department recreational leagues was an important part of the Working Group's due diligence. One significant consideration was the impact of the original McCoy Park concept on Columbus Recreation and Parks' recreational soccer and flag football programs.

McCoy Park has historically served as a primary game location for Columbus Recreation and Parks recreational soccer and flag football. Approximately 1,000 youth soccer players gather at McCoy Park for weekly games during the spring and fall seasons, and approximately 380 flag football players gather for weekly games from March through May. Practices are held at participants' local community recreation centers, while games have historically been centralized at McCoy Park.

Under the original McCoy Park concept, Columbus Recreation and Parks had planned to reconfigure these recreational leagues in order to accommodate the improvements contemplated for the site. While practices would continue to be held at local community recreation centers, weekly games would be dispersed across a regional hub model at several locations around Columbus. As an example, for participants living on the West Side or Southwest Side, games would be held at Westgate Park. Although this model was feasible, it would have created scheduling challenges and operational disruptions for Columbus Recreation and Parks, participants, and families.

Through the collaboration of Working Group members, a single-site solution was identified that would allow these programs to return to McCoy Park following construction. Upon completion of the public park space on the northern parcels of McCoy Park and the Ownership Group's NWSL training facility, one Columbus Recreation and Parks field and three synthetic turf academy fields would be made available for Columbus Recreation and Parks program use. This field access would also include dedicated parking and permanent restroom facilities adjacent to the fields.

Although recreational soccer and flag football will still need to temporarily relocate off site during construction, the opportunity to bring citywide recreational league programming back to

McCoy Park after construction represents a significant community benefit. This outcome would preserve McCoy Park’s role as an important home for youth sports programming and provide a value-add that was not available under the original McCoy Park concept.

Overall, the Working Group believes that the combined solutions outlined in this report provide a practical and community-focused path for fulfilling the intent of the original McCoy Park vision.

VII. Implementation Phasing and Proposed Timeline

In close coordination with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, the Working Group aligned to a multi-year development process to implement the full range of solutions outlined in this report. This phased approach is intended to move the work forward efficiently while recognizing that each solution will require a different combination of design, acquisition, construction, funding, administrative review, and legislative action.

The Working Group placed a strong emphasis on swift and coordinated implementation in order to remain aligned with the project timelines contemplated by Ordinance 1112-2026. The timeline below reflects an aggressive but achievable path for advancing multiple solutions simultaneously, with near-term design and construction activity beginning in 2026 and additional phases continuing through 2027, 2028, and early 2029.

Solution	2026			2027				2028				2029
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Greenleaf Park Development												
Greenleaf Park - Design	■											
Greenleaf Park - Construction				■								
McCoy Park Development Phase 1												
McCoy Park Phase 1 Design		■										
McCoy Park Phase 1 - Construction				■								
McCoy Park Development Phase 2- Therapeutic Recreation Facility												
McCoy Park Phase 2 - Therapeutic Recreation Facility - Design			■									
McCoy Park Phase 2 - Therapeutic Recreation Facility - Construction							■					
Berliner Adaptive Softball or Miracle Field												
Berliner Park - Design		■										
Berliner Park - Construction							■					
Acquisition Opportunities												
Acquisition of Southwest Parkland Reserve		■										

Figure 7. Implementation Phasing and Proposed Timeline. This timeline illustrates the anticipated sequencing of design, construction, acquisition, and implementation activities for the solutions outlined in this report.

This timeline reflects the Working Group's intent to begin implementation as quickly as possible and to advance this work with the urgency and public accountability called for in Ordinance 1112-2026. The sequencing also recognizes that some solutions can move forward in the near term, while others depend on additional site analysis, acquisition due diligence, design work, or coordination with related projects.

This timeline assumes close coordination between the City Administration and Columbus City Council to support timely implementation. It also assumes that, where appropriate and legally permissible, the City may use available administrative and legislative tools, processes, and decision-making to maintain the implementation schedule. This could include, but is not limited to, expedited legislative consideration and emergency legislation when justified by project timing, public purpose, and applicable legal requirements.

VIII. Cost Estimates, Funding Sources, and Budget Considerations

Due to the expedited timeline for the completion of the Working Group's final report, the cost estimates included in this section are preliminary. They were developed internally by Columbus Recreation and Parks Department staff based on recent bid results, comparable project experience, and currently available information.

As is common in any design development process, cost estimates will continue to be refined as project details advance through the 30%, 60%, and 90% design stages and as unknown variables are resolved. The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, City Administration, Columbus City Council, and other project partners will need to remain closely coordinated as cost estimates, funding availability, project sequencing, and implementation needs evolve.

Based on current estimates, the full range of solutions outlined in this report, including potential land acquisition, design development, and construction of park improvements, is estimated to cost approximately **\$35 million**.

By comparison, construction of the original McCoy Park vision was estimated at approximately \$20 million. However, the multi-site approach outlined in this report is broader in scope. It includes potential new parkland acquisition, distributes originally contemplated amenities across multiple locations, and creates more complete park experiences rather than simply relocating individual amenities. For example, both Greenleaf Park and the new McCoy Park concept would provide a more complete combination of playgrounds, greenspace, sports courts, gathering areas, shelters, and pedestrian paths. Taken together, the Greenleaf Park, McCoy Park, and Berliner Park solutions outlined in this report would significantly expand access to parkland in Southwest Columbus, more than doubling both the number of residents within a 10-minute walk and the number of residents within a two-mile drive of these park sites compared to the original McCoy Park concept.

Capital Funding Status and Budget Considerations

The availability of capital funding is complex and is influenced by local, state, and national economic conditions. Each year, the City’s Capital Improvements Budget is reviewed and adjusted by the City Administration, the City Department of Finance and Management, and the City Auditor’s Office before adoption by Columbus City Council. This process typically includes consideration of standard departmental capital allocations as well as additional capacity for priority requests.

After a capital budget is adopted, the timing of funding availability may depend on the City’s bond sale schedule or the availability of other eligible funding mechanisms. As a result, some sources identified below are committed, while others remain pending future budget adoption, bond sale timing, grant awards, contribution agreements, or other required actions.

The following table summarizes currently identified capital funding sources and budget considerations associated with implementation of the solutions outlined in this report.

Funding Source	Estimated Amount	Timing / Availability	Status
Existing McCoy Park Improvements Design Contract Modification	Approximately \$300,000 of the overall contract	Available immediately	Committed
2025 Columbus Recreation and Parks Capital Improvement Budget	\$1,500,000	Approved. Funding is anticipated to become available following the City’s next bond sale, expected in Fall 2026.	Committed
2026 Columbus Recreation and Parks Capital Improvement Budget	\$6,200,000	Pending adoption of the 2026 Capital Improvement Budget, anticipated in Fall 2026.	Pending
Ownership Group Contribution	\$3,000,000	Timing to be determined. Contribution must be available by December 31, 2029.	Committed, pending execution of a contribution agreement
2026 Capital Improvement Budget – Columbus Recreation and Parks Priority Funding Request	\$7,130,680	Funding request above and beyond Columbus Recreation and Parks’ annual capital allocation. Availability to be determined; this request is expected to align with the 2026	Pending

		Capital Improvement Budget timeline.	
2027 Capital Improvement Budget – Columbus Recreation and Parks Priority Funding Request	\$13,370,000	Funding request above and beyond Columbus Recreation and Parks’ annual capital allocation. Availability to be determined; this request is expected to align with the 2027 Capital Improvement Budget timeline.	Pending
Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Conservation Grant	\$3,900,000	Full application due in late Summer 2026. Awards expected to be announced in December 2026.	Pending
Total Identified Sources	\$35,400,680		

Table 4. Capital Funding Status and Budget Considerations. This table summarizes currently identified capital funding sources, estimated amounts, timing of availability, and commitment status associated with implementation of the solutions outlined in this report.

Operating Budget Considerations

While this section primarily addresses capital costs for acquisition, design, and construction, implementation of the solutions outlined in this report will also require attention to long-term operating needs. New and improved park spaces, recreational amenities, therapeutic recreation opportunities, and program locations may require additional resources for staffing, programming, and ongoing operations.

Ensuring adequate operating funding for the solutions outlined in this report will be an ongoing priority for Columbus Recreation and Parks Department following submission of the Working Group’s final report. As individual projects move from concept to design and implementation, operating impacts should be evaluated alongside capital costs so that new or improved amenities can be properly maintained, programmed, and sustained for long-term community use.

Ongoing Funding Coordination

The funding strategy for these solutions will require continued coordination among the City Administration, Columbus City Council, the ownership group, and potential external funding partners.

Because several funding sources remain pending, the implementation timeline outlined in this report assumes continued administrative and legislative coordination to align project timing with budget adoption, bond sale timing, grant opportunities, contribution agreements, and any subsequent ordinances or actions required to move projects forward.

IX. Subsequent Ordinances and City Actions Required for Implementation

This section summarizes the anticipated City actions needed to advance the projects described in this report.

As noted in Section VII, maintaining the timeline outlined in this report will require close coordination among the City Administration, Columbus City Council, and other relevant City partners. Where appropriate and legally permissible, the City may use available administrative and legislative tools, processes, and decision-making to maintain the implementation schedule. This could include, but is not limited to, expedited legislative consideration and emergency legislation when justified by project timing, public purpose, and applicable legal requirements.

The following actions are anticipated to support implementation of the solutions outlined in this report:

1. Modify the existing contract for the Gender Road Park and McCoy Park Improvements Design Project.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to modify an existing contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the “Gender Road Park and McCoy Park Improvements - Design Project.” This modification would not require additional funds but would redeploy remaining funds on the contract. The contract date will extend to December 31, 2027. The modification will allow for site feasibility analysis and master planning of several potential alternative sites, and begin detailed design of Greenleaf Park. (*Ordinance 1407-2026; approved by Columbus City Council on May 18, 2026*)
2. Further modify the design contract to complete design work for Greenleaf Park and McCoy Park Phase I.

- a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to modify for the third time that same contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the “Gender Road Park and McCoy Park Improvements - Design Project.” This modification would allow for the completion of detailed design, construction documentation and construction administration for Greenleaf Park and McCoy Park Phase I. *(Proposed to be legislated in October 2026)*
3. Authorize construction of Greenleaf Park Phase I
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with *[insert contractor]* for the phase I construction of Greenleaf Park. *(Proposed to be legislated in October 2026)*
4. Authorize construction of Greenleaf Park Phase II.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with *[insert contractor]* for the phase II construction of Greenleaf Park. *(Proposed to be legislated in December 2026)*
5. Authorize construction management and inspection services for Greenleaf Park.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with *[insert contractor]* to provide construction management and inspection services for the construction of Greenleaf Park. *(Proposed to be legislated in December 2026)*
6. Authorize professional services for McCoy Park Phase II – Therapeutic Recreation Facility.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with *[insert contractor]* to provide professional services for the completion of detailed design, construction documentation and construction administration for McCoy Park Phase II Therapeutic Recreation Facility. *(Proposed to be legislated in August 2026)*
7. Authorize professional services for Berliner Adaptive Softball/Miracle Field.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with *[insert contractor]* to provide professional services for the completion of detailed design, construction documentation and construction administration for Berliner Park Adaptive Softball or Miracle Field. *(Proposed to be legislated in August 2026)*
8. Authorize construction of McCoy Park Phase I Development.

- a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with *[insert contractor]* for the construction of McCoy Park Phase I Development. *(Proposed to be legislated in January 2027)*
9. Authorize construction management and inspection services for McCoy Park Phase I Development.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with *[insert contractor]* to provide construction management and inspection services for the construction of McCoy Park Phase I Development. *(Proposed to be legislated in January 2027)*
10. Authorize construction of Berliner Adaptive Softball/Miracle Field.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with *[insert contractor]* for the construction of Berliner Adaptive Softball or Miracle Field. *(Proposed to be legislated in October 2027)*
11. Authorize construction management and inspection services for Berliner Adaptive Softball/Miracle Field.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with *[insert contractor]* to provide construction management and inspection services for the construction of Berliner Adaptive Softball or Miracle Field. *(Proposed to be legislated in October 2027)*
12. Authorize application for Clean Ohio Conservation Grant funding.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to apply for Clean Ohio Conservation Grant funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission to support the fulfillment of the McCoy Park Vision. *(Timeline for legislation to be determined)*
13. Authorize acceptance of Clean Ohio Conservation Grant funding, if awarded.
 - a. Authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to accept Clean Ohio Conservation Grant funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission to support the fulfillment of the McCoy Park Vision. *(Timeline for legislation to be determined)*

Implementation of the recommendations contained in this report will occur through a combination of administrative actions authorized by existing legislation and future legislative actions requiring City Council approval. Administrative implementation includes execution of the agreements authorized by Ordinance 1112-2026. Future legislative action by City Council is anticipated for matters including the proposed admissions fee ordinance, subsequent New

Community Authority legislation, funding appropriations, parkland acquisitions and other real estate transactions, rezoning or land use approvals, and any additional legislation necessary to carry out the recommendations contained in this report. These legislative actions are anticipated to occur prior to the end of calendar year 2026.

X. Report Attachments

- Attachment A – Columbus City Ordinance 1112-2026
- Attachment B – Southwest Park Working Group Meeting Minutes
- Attachment C – Public Meeting Concept Boards and Community Feedback
- Attachment D – Visual for Overview of Site Locations
- Attachment E – Visuals for Greenleaf Park, McCoy Park, North of the Training Facility Phase I, and Berliner Park Site Locations
- Attachment F – Greenleaf Park Access and Social Vulnerability Analysis
- Attachment G – Visuals for McCoy Park, North of the Training Facility Phase II Therapeutic Recreation Facility
- Attachment H – McCoy Park Access and Social Vulnerability Analysis
- Attachment I – Berliner Park Access and Social Vulnerability Analysis
- Attachment J – Columbus Water & Power Presentation to the Southwest Park Working Group
- Attachment K – Greenleaf Park, McCoy Park, and Berliner Park Access and Social Vulnerability Analysis

Attachment A – Columbus City Ordinance 1112-2026



Legislation Text

File #: 1112-2026, Version: 2

BACKGROUND: The Haslam Sports Group (“HSG”) together with Drs. Pete and Chris Edwards (“Edwards”) collectively own the entity that is the investor operator of the Columbus Crew Major League Soccer club (the “Crew”), and through the Crew, they have been leaders in advancing soccer and investing community-driven and youth sports initiatives in Central Ohio. Building on the success of the Crew, HSG, Edwards, and NRI Holdings, LLC through ~~NWSL Columbus LLC~~ Columbus Women's Soccer Holding Company, LLC (together with one or more to be identified affiliates, “NEWCO”) is actively seeking an opportunity to secure a National Women’s Soccer League (the “NWSL”) franchise for Columbus (the “Team”) that would be operated by NEWCO and play its home matches at the ScottsMiracle-Gro Field, located on Franklin County Parcel ID No.010-300553-00 (the “Stadium”). Women’s professional sports are experiencing sustained national growth in participation, viewership, investment, and media visibility, and communities that invest strategically in this emerging sector are increasingly recognized for strengthening economic competitiveness, civic identity, and opportunity for women and girls. NEWCO, the Confluence Community Authority (the “NCA”), the City of Columbus, Ohio (the “City”), and County of Franklin, Ohio (the “County”) will help finance and develop certain facilities required by the NWSL and necessary to secure the Team. The proposed facilities are intended not only to support a NWSL franchise, but also to enhance community assets, expand youth sports opportunities, and generate additional economic activity through construction, team operations, and increased visitation. This ordinance authorizes the City to enter into a Development Agreement with the County, NCA, and NEWCO regarding the financing, development, construction, operation, and occupancy of the certain facilities projects for the Team and the community benefits commitments of NEWCO.

The facilities would include a new state-of-the-art practice facility and training complex to serve as the permanent home and training base for the Team (the “Training Facility”) located on an approximately 28-acre site owned by the City that encompasses McCoy Park (the “Training Facility Land”). The Training Facility is anticipated to incorporate improvements to park space and recreational amenities that complement existing uses at McCoy Park and support community access, youth sports programming, and neighborhood engagement, subject to final design and operational requirements. The Training Facility will be owned by the NCA then subleased to NEWCO, and the Training Facility Land will be leased from the City to the NCA and then subleased to NEWCO. The NCA was established by the City in 2019 to own the Stadium and the Crew’s OhioHealth Performance Training Center. The NCA will facilitate the design, development, financing, and construction of the Training Facility, all of which will be controlled and executed by NEWCO in consultation with the County and City. Facility modifications to the Stadium, such as a women’s locker room (the “Stadium Enhancements” and together with the Training Facility, the “Facilities Projects”), are also required to accommodate the Team and meet or exceed NWSL standards. Subject to respective legislative approval of budgets and annual appropriations, the City and County have agreed to make respective commitments of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000.00) each towards the costs of the Facilities Projects, and NEWCO will be responsible for costs above such combined amount. These public investments are intended to support infrastructure and community assets that will serve both the Team and the broader public while leveraging substantial private investment required to secure and operate the Team. Independent economic analysis indicates that the Team and Facilities Projects are projected to generate positive long-term fiscal impacts for the City, County, and State through construction activity, payroll-related income tax, admissions fee, and related economic activity.

NEWCO is committed to i) working alongside the HSG’s *Stay in the Game!* initiative to implement community programming and contributions aimed at addressing chronic absenteeism; ii) partnering with local organizations to bring soccer programming to Central Ohio’s youth; iii) charitable donations including sports equipment, uniforms, and gear to local schools and youth programs; iv) community camps and clinics by the Team; v) ticket and Team matchday experience donations to local schools and nonprofits; and vi) annual volunteer and service initiatives. NEWCO and the Crew will support modifying the City’s admissions fee from five percent (5%) to seven percent (7%) with respect to all

ticketed events at the Stadium. For purposes of this Ordinance, “Additional Admission Fee Revenue” shall mean: (i) one hundred percent (100%) of the City’s admissions fee revenues collected from the incremental two percent (2%) increase in the City’s admissions fee applied to all non-Team ticketed events at the Stadium, and (ii) one hundred percent (100%) of the City’s admissions fee revenues collected at the seven percent (7%) rate from all Team ticketed events at the Stadium. NEWCO will make a community benefit private investment totaling twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000). The investment will be made over a 12-year period and focus on the areas of early childhood education, ~~workforce development~~, and food insecurity for Franklin County residents.

It is the intent of the City to utilize the Additional Admission Fee Revenue from Stadium generated events to pay the debt service associated with the \$25 million community investment in the state-of-the-art Facilities Projects.

NEWCO is also committed to contributing three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) to the Columbus Recreation and Parks Foundation, payable by December 31, 2029, to support the fulfillment of the initial vision for McCoy Park’s community amenities and the therapeutic recreation concept in Southwest Columbus, as well as providing Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) with equipment donations and in-kind support to CRPD’s youth soccer teams.

In addition, should NEWCO successfully acquire the Team, the CRPD Director shall form a working group within fifteen (15) days of acquisition to develop plans to fulfill the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park, in Southwest Columbus.

Fiscal Impact: No immediate funding is required for this legislation. The City’s financial commitments contemplated herein, including the City Contribution, will be subject to future appropriation and authorization by City Council.

To authorize the Director of the Department of Development to enter into a Development Agreement with the County of Franklin, Ohio, Confluence Community Authority, and ~~NWSL Columbus LLC~~ Columbus Women's Soccer Holding Company, LLC (together with one or more to be identified affiliates, “NEWCO”) to finance and develop certain facilities required by the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL) necessary to secure a franchise for Columbus and to deliver certain community benefits commitments from NEWCO, all in furtherance of improvements to community assets and Columbus’ position as a national leader in women’s sports; to authorize the Director of the Department of Development and/or Recreation and Parks Director to enter into any leases with the Confluence Community Authority contemplated by the Development Agreement for the NWSL team’s Training Facility; to waive the provisions of Chapter 328 of the Columbus City Codes; to authorize the Director of the Department of Development to execute a contribution agreement with the Confluence Community Authority for the City’s capital contribution towards the Training Facility and modifications to the Stadium as contemplated in the Development Agreement; and to authorize the Director of the Department of Development and/or Recreation and Parks Director to consent and file such consent with the City Clerk to add the property of the Training Facility to the new community district of the Confluence Community Authority per Ohio Revised Code Chapter 349. (\$0.00)

WHEREAS, Haslam Sports Group, NRI Holdings, LLC., and Drs. Pete and Chris Edwards, through NWSL Columbus LLC (together with one or more to be identified affiliates, “NEWCO”) is actively seeking an opportunity to secure a National Women’s Soccer League (the “NWSL”) franchise for Columbus (the “Team”) that would be operated by NEWCO and play its home matches at the ScottsMiracle-Gro Field, located on Franklin County Parcel ID No.010-300553-00 (the “Stadium”); and

WHEREAS, women’s professional sports represent one of the fastest-growing segments of the global sports economy and have experienced sustained growth in participation, investment, and national visibility; and

WHEREAS, research consistently demonstrates that participation in sports is strongly associated with leadership development and upward mobility for women and girls, and that visible professional opportunities in women’s sports can help sustain youth participation and expand pathways to leadership and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the City has long pursued strategic public-private partnerships that strengthen economic vitality, improve community assets, and expand opportunity for residents across Columbus neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Ohio (the “City”), County of Franklin, Ohio (the “County”), Confluence Community Authority (the “NCA”), and NEWCO desire to enter into a Development Agreement (the “Development Agreement”) regarding the proposed financing, development, construction, operation of a new training facility for the Team (the “Training Facility”) located at the City’s McCoy Park (the “Training Facility Land”), and certain modifications to the Stadium (the “Stadium Enhancements” and together with the Training Facility, the “Facilities Projects”) to accommodate the Team and satisfy NWSL requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Training Facility is expected to incorporate recreational and park improvements that complement the existing public park and support community programming, youth sports participation, and neighborhood access, subject to final design and operational plans; and

WHEREAS, the City, pursuant to Resolution Nos. 0230X-2019 and 0252X-2019, established the NCA to own the Stadium and the Crew’s OhioHealth Performance Training Center, and it is intended that the NCA will lease the Training Facility Land from the City and the NCA will thereafter sublease the Training Facility Land to NEWCO; and

WHEREAS, it is contemplated that the City will submit subsequent legislation to expand the new community district of the NCA to include the Training Facility and Training Facility Land; and

WHEREAS, subject to budgeting and annual appropriations to be approved by the respective legislative authority, the City and County have agreed to make respective commitments of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000.00) each towards the costs of the Facilities Projects (the City’s \$25 million commitment being, the “City Contribution”) and NEWCO will be responsible for costs above such combined amount; and

WHEREAS, NEWCO and the Crew agree to support an increase of the City’s admissions fee from five percent (5%) to seven percent (7%) with respect to all ticketed events at the Stadium. For purposes of this Ordinance, “Additional Admission Fee Revenue” shall mean: (i) one hundred percent (100%) of the City’s admissions fee revenues collected from the incremental two percent (2%) increase in the City’s admissions fee applied to all non-Team ticketed events at the Stadium, and (ii) one hundred percent (100%) of the City’s admissions fee revenues collected at the seven percent (7%) rate from all Team ticketed events at the Stadium; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City to utilize the Additional Admission Fee Revenue from all Stadium generated events to pay the debt service associated with the City Contribution for the Facilities Projects to accommodate the Team and satisfy the NWSL requirements; and

WHEREAS, if total Additional Admission Fee Revenue generated at the end of the 2032-2033 NWSL season is less than the revenue projections for Additional Admission Fee Revenue as set forth in the Development Agreement (the “Revenue Projections”) then the City and NEWCO shall negotiate modifications; and

WHEREAS, upon the completion of the 2032-2033 NWSL season, the City and NEWCO shall evaluate whether cumulative Additional Admission Fee Revenue has met or exceeded the Revenue Projections said Additional Admission Fee Revenue shall be used to satisfy the debt obligations of the City Contribution, either for past debt service payment or future; and

WHEREAS, if cumulative Additional Admission Fee Revenue is less than the Revenue Projections, the City and NEWCO shall in good faith negotiate modifications to address such shortfall, which may include, but are not limited to, adjustments to admission fee structures, facility-related charges, lease payments, or other mutually agreed-upon revenue sources, provided that such modifications shall not include the imposition of additional City income or property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Facilities Projects are expected to leverage significant private investment associated with securing and operating the Team while supporting long-term economic activity through construction, team operations, and increased visitation to the City; and

WHEREAS, independent economic analysis indicates that the Team and Facilities Projects are projected to produce positive and meaningful long-term fiscal impacts to the City, County, and State; and

WHEREAS, NEWCO agrees to use commercially reasonable efforts to deliver meaningful community benefits such as initiatives focused on ~~workforce development~~; small, regional business participation; youth sports programming; neighborhood engagement; and community access to the facilities and programming; and

WHEREAS, NEWCO will make a community benefit private investment totaling twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) over a 12-year period focusing on the areas of early childhood education, ~~workforce development~~, and food insecurity for Franklin County residents; and

WHEREAS, NEWCO will also contribute three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) to the Columbus Recreation and Parks Foundation, payable by December 31, 2029, to support the fulfillment of the initial vision for McCoy Park’s community amenities and the therapeutic recreation concept in Southwest Columbus, as well as providing Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) with equipment donations and in-kind support to CRPD’s youth soccer teams; and

WHEREAS, should NEWCO successfully acquire the Team, the CRPD Director shall form a working group within fifteen (15) days of acquisition to develop plans to fulfill the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park, in Southwest Columbus; and

WHEREAS, these investments and partnerships are intended to strengthen Columbus’ position as a national leader in women’s sports while advancing economic vitality, community engagement, and opportunity for residents across the region; and

WHEREAS, the Development Agreement will include a reasonable non-relocation provision, and generally require that the Team play a majority of its home matches at the Stadium; and

WHEREAS, the provisions, commitments, and obligations outlined in this ordinance are contingent on NEWCO successfully acquiring the Team; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary in the daily operation of the Department of Development for the Director of the Department of Development to enter into the Development Agreement with the County, the NCA, and NEWCO and additional agreements contemplated thereunder regarding the financing, development, construction, operation, and occupancy of the Facilities Projects for the Team and regarding the community benefits commitments of NEWCO all to help establish Columbus as a leader in women’s sports nationally; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the Director of the Department of Development or his or her designee (the “Director”), on behalf of the City, is hereby authorized to enter into the Development Agreement presently on file with the Department of Development, along with any changes or amendments thereto not inconsistent with this Ordinance and not substantially adverse to the City and which shall be approved by the Director and the City Attorney, provided that the approval of such changes and amendments thereto, and the character of those changes and amendments not being substantially adverse to the City, shall be evidenced conclusively by the Director’s execution and delivery thereof, to outline the plans and certain commitments of the City, the County, the NCA, and NEWCO relating to the proposed development of the Facilities Projects and to outline the community benefits commitments of NEWCO.

SECTION 2. That the Director and/or Recreation and Parks Director, as applicable, on behalf of the City, is authorized to

execute and acknowledge any documents necessary to lease any fee simple title or lesser real estate associated with the Training Facility as contemplated in the Development Agreement, and subject to any approvals that may be required by the Recreation and Parks Commission per City Charter Sections 128 and 129, including any leases to the NCA and provided such leases or agreements require subsequent leases as contemplated in the Development Agreement.

SECTION 3. That the lease agreement for “Training Facility Land” shall reflect provisions for community use of certain areas of the Training Facility Land, including the current freestanding community building abutting American Blvd. and the future academy fields, acknowledging NEWCO’s need to operate the Training Facility and use the Training Facility Land for the Team’s needs and to address stormwater detention and other engineering issues at McCoy Park, and that the Recreation and Parks Director is hereby authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with NEWCO and/or the NCA to organize CRPD’s usage of the spaces for community uses, and subject to any approvals that may be required by the Recreation and Parks Commission per City Charter Sections 128 and 129.

SECTION 34. That City Council finds and determines that it is in the City’s best interests to waive the provisions of Chapter 328 (Sale and Lease of City-Owned Realty) of the Columbus City Codes and does hereby waive the same.

SECTION 4 5. That the Director of the Department of Development is hereby authorized to enter into a Contribution Agreement with the NCA, along with any changes or amendments thereto not inconsistent with this Ordinance and not substantially adverse to the City and which shall be approved by the Director and the City Attorney; provided that the approval of such changes and amendments thereto, and the character of those changes and amendments as not being substantially adverse to the City, shall be evidenced conclusively by the Director’s execution and delivery thereof to outline the timing and other mechanics relating to all or a portion of the City Contribution contemplated under the Development Agreement; provided further that the City Contribution shall be the subject of future legislation submitted for City Council consideration.

SECTION 6. That the Contribution Agreement shall stipulate that NEWCO shall provide three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) to the Columbus Recreation and Parks Foundation, payable by December 31, 2029, to support the fulfillment of the initial vision for McCoy Park’s community amenities and the therapeutic recreation concept in Southwest Columbus.

SECTION 7. That NEWCO shall provide CRPD with equipment donations and in-kind support to CRPD’s youth soccer teams.

SECTION 58. That, pursuant to R.C. Section 349.03(B), this City Council ratifies, approves, and authorizes the Director and/or Recreation and Park Director, as applicable, for and in the name of the City as the property owner of the Training Facility Land, to sign and file a written consent with the Clerk of City Council to add the Training Facility and Training Facility Land to the NCA’s new community district.

SECTION 69. That the Director of the Department of Development, or such other appropriate officers of the City, on behalf of the City, are authorized to execute and approve such other agreements and instruments and to take all actions necessary to implement this ordinance and the transactions contemplated by the Development Agreement; provided, however, that the increase to the admissions fee, expansion of the NCA, and budgeting, appropriating, and expenditure of the City Contribution will require separate subsequent legislation to be submitted for City Council consideration.

SECTION 10. That, upon NEWCO successfully acquiring the Team, the Recreation and Parks Director is hereby authorized and directed to form a working group within fifteen (15) days of acquisition to develop plans to fulfill the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park, in Southwest Columbus, which shall operate in the following manner:

The working group of no more than ten (10) individuals shall include representatives of the Southwest Area Commission, Mayor’s office, Columbus City Council, Department of Development, NEWCO, and may include others. It shall discuss design plans, identify site opportunities, outline construction timelines, and

clarify available funds and needs for the upcoming 2026 and 2027 capital budget.

- The working group shall hold at least one public meeting for community feedback.

- The working group shall issue a public report of options or plans to Columbus City Council within sixty (60) days of formation, which shall outline subsequent ordinances and actions to allow for initial groundbreaking of some recreation and parks opportunities by the end of 2026 and completion of the full concept by the end of 2027.

- The City Contribution, which shall be the subject of future legislation submitted for City Council consideration, shall be contingent on faithful implementation of this working group and its resulting deliverables.

SECTION 711. That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

**Attachment B – Southwest Park Working Group Meeting
Minutes**



Southwest Park Internal Working Group

April 30, 2026, 9 a.m.

Attendees

- Liz Reed, Southwest Area Commission
- Leah Young, Southwest Area Commission
- Elon Simms, City of Columbus
- Stephanie Cedeno, Columbus Crew
- Nathan Wymer, Nationwide
- John Tannous, Columbus City Council
- Brad Westall, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Bernita Resse, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Craig Murphy, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Morgen Wade, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kerry Francis, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kym Douglas, Department of Neighborhoods
- Vanesa Mora, Department of Neighborhoods
- Quinten Harris, Department of Development
- Greg Brown, Department of Development

Focus: Properties and Parkland Amenities

Current Parkland in Development

- Willow Creek Park is in phase 1 of development. The park was expanded by 3+ acres with the purchase of property off Gantz Road. Feedback – is there an opportunity to have access to the natural area?

Parkland Acquisition

- The department has been exploring potential sites for acquisition in the southwest neighborhood. The department has a 5-year land plan, which is allowing us to explore potential acquisitions more quickly.

McCoy Park

- Community representatives stated the property north of McCoy Park, which includes the newly purchased/donated parcels and 555 Greenlawn Building, must remain as a public park with adaptive/therapeutic park amenities, including





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

a splash pad. They shared that these parcels are not needed for the training facility to have a team ready by 2028, and that the owners can find other land for whatever future expansion plans they may have. They believe that, for multiple reasons, this is a non-negotiable aspect of the solution.

- The City is exploring how to make safer street crossings to connect neighborhoods east and west of 71.
- The City is working to ensure commitments to the previous owners of 555 Greenlawn are met.

Potential Site – Greenleaf Park

- Existing 9.9-acre park off Brown Road - Liz Reed connected the City with Hope Central Church several years ago, facilitating the acquisition. Benefits of this site:
 - 90% of trees are Callery Pear and not desirable/good quality.
 - There is a lot of walkability with close neighborhoods, and several schools close by.
 - There are no natural wetlands that would interfere with plans, though drainage will be factored into the planning.
 - Columbus Recreation and Parks' Operations and Maintenance team has walked the property and identified that the site is well positioned for development.

Potential Features and Ideas

- Explore partnering with the neighboring church to use their parking so we can use the full park for amenities and greenspace, and the schools for track access
- Playgrounds/play spaces for different age groups
- Shelter, picnic tables and benches
- Waking loop
- Sports courts: many kids play basketball and there are no courts in the area
- Exercise equipment/fitness stations
- Restrooms
- Community garden – potential to partner with the schools
- Reforestation
- Stormwater management
- Shade structure (over playground)

Next Steps

- Pull together ideas for a brief layout to share at the next meeting





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- Continue exploring potential sites for acquisition





Southwest Park Internal Working Group

May 7, 2026, 9 a.m.

Committee Members Present

- Liz Reed, Southwest Area Commission
- Leah Young, Southwest Area Commission
- Elon Simms, City of Columbus
- Mary Shepro, Columbus Crew
- Nathan Wymer, Nationwide
- John Tannous, Columbus City Council
- Craig Murphy, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kym Douglas, Department of Neighborhoods
- Quinten Harris, Department of Development

Committee Members Absent

- Bernita Reese, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Attendees

- Craig Conley, City of Columbus
- Greg Brown, Department of Development
- Stephanie Cedeño, Columbus Crew
- Vanesa Mora, Department of Neighborhoods
- Morgen Wade, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Brad Westall, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kerry Francis, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Meeting Focus

Group's purpose and site concept review

Discussion

Objectives of Legislation





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- **Objective 1:** Recreation and Parks Director “to form a working group within 15 days of acquisition to develop plans to fulfill the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park, in Southwest Columbus, which shall operate...” “The working group of no more than 10 individuals, representatives from Southwest Area Commission, Mayor’s office, Columbus City Council, Department of Development, NEWCO, and may include others.”
- **Objective 2:** “...shall discuss design plans, identify site opportunities, outline construction timelines, and clarify available funds and needs for the upcoming 2026 and 2027 capital budget.”
- **Objective 3:** “Working Group shall hold at least one public meeting for community feedback”
- **Objective 4:** “The working group shall issue a public report of options or plans to Columbus City Council within 60 days of formation...”

Feedback on Objectives

Review four key requirements (objectives) of the legislation.

- Objective 1: Form a working group...
 - The group will develop a purpose statement to validate shared understanding on the scope of the working group based on the charge of the legislation - “to develop plans to fulfill the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park, in Southwest Columbus.”
- Objective 2: Create a high-quality neighborhood park in Southwest Columbus
 - It was noted that this should be updated to “parks” to indicate that more than one park space may be needed.
 - The Community Advisory Group for SWAC (Southwest Area Commission) Community Input to the Working Group provided a checklist of items that were part of the McCoy Park plans for the internal working group to reference during planning, and stressed the importance of implementing all items on the checklist within the Southwest neighborhood (see “McCoy Park Replacement Checklist”).
 - Craig Murphy will edit the slide to clarify that land, if needed to fulfill the working group’s charge, would be identified but not acquired in 60 days.
 - The group asked for a definition of a Neighborhood Park so we can refer to things in the same way.

Definition: Developed park with emphasis on both active and passive uses that are usually self-directed (non-facilitated/non-programmed).

- *Usually serves residents of the immediately surrounding neighborhood, or within a half (1/2) mile radius.*
- *Length of visit: 1/2 hour to 2 hours; Core Programs: 1 – 3.*





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- *The service area is half (1/2) a mile (10 min walk).*
- *Key Amenities May Include: the baseline amenities offered in the typology above, in addition to playground, open-air shelter, sports courts, and multi-purpose fields.*
- *Supporting Amenities May Include: the supporting amenities listed above, fitness stations, security lighting, bike rack, and portable restrooms.*
- *Amenity Considerations: the amenity considerations above, fitness stations or other active recreation feature if community parks are not available in service area, open-air shelter (Lit, 4 table space, Non-reservable), 1-2 sports courts (often half court vs full court basketball).*
- *Often includes open greenspace but may include athletic field; pedestrian path/circulation within park and potentially connecting to neighborhood; if lighting, likely limited to area/security lighting rather than for sports. Parking lot within park is not as common as on-street parking.*
- *Access: Pedestrian level access from the surrounding neighborhood. Access may be achieved via access easement. Preference for direct access via sidewalk or bikeway connector. Vehicular access may be supported but often gained via on-street parking on local or neighborhood streets.*
- Objective 2: Secure land acquisition(s) for future parkland
 - In the timeframe the group has, land likely won't be secured but can be identified.
- Objective 2: Resolve proposed Therapeutic Recreation amenities
 - It was stressed that there is a need for therapeutic recreation amenities within the southwest neighborhood, as travel is difficult for some. SWAC representatives shared an example of a resident who lives next to McCoy Park who shared they need accessible park amenities close by.
 - The need to expand therapeutic recreation amenities was identified as a priority through the SWAC's need for more parkland and the department's desire to expand therapeutic recreation offerings. Also, it's difficult to ensure the long-term sustainability of an adaptive field and inclusive playground at Rhodes Park, which is Northwest and is leased from the State, which only offers short-term leases to the City. The department's current therapeutic recreation programming focuses on athletics, and there's a desire to expand it into other areas, such as creative programming.
 - Several options for therapeutic recreation amenities were shared. One, transitioning a field at Berliner Sports Park to an adaptive field; this would create a consistent experience for all users, regardless of ability. Two, the Davis Center, located adjacent to the Espy Adaptive Sports Complex, is not being used and is well-suited for therapeutic recreation programming; the building could be renovated to make a therapeutic recreation campus. Both options could be implemented relatively quickly. It was noted that the Davis Center isn't easy to get to from the southwest neighborhood.
- Objective 2 - Establish funding, BZS review time, bid waiver, emergency legislation





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- It was noted that funding will be a consideration and using existing City resources will allow us to put more into amenities. Determining what funding is available and what is needed will be the focus of a future meeting.
- The City is meeting with the previous owners of the 555 property regarding the sale of the property.
- Objective 3: Hold at least one public meeting for community feedback.
 - Timing of the meeting is contingent on several things. It was noted that June 12 gives the group time to get feedback and update plans. This is a Friday, which could affect participation, so that will be factored in.
- Objective 4: The working group shall issue a public report of options or plans to Columbus City Council within 60 days of formation
 - The working group will begin to align on the form of the deliverables/report in the near term.

Review Two Concepts for Greenleaf Neighborhood Park

- Two preliminary concepts were reviewed – one passive, one active.
- It was asked how long it would take to build either concept. Design takes about a year with permits – design can be accelerated, but permits and site compliance take time. It is estimated that construction could be completed in one season.
- It was noted that the Berliner and Davis options can move quickly since the City owns the sites, and the concepts and needs have been identified.
- The SWAC would like to have a conversation about what can be done at 555 with the City, ownership group and previous owners. They noted there is no building in the southwest area to hold functions and events, so community needs aren't being met. Marion Frankin Community Center, the library and Franklinton locations were shared for immediate solutions.

Timeline and Status

- Create a working group within 15 days – Complete
- Discuss design plans, ID sites, timelines and funding – In process
- Hold at least one public meeting – Not started
- Issue a public report within 60 days – Not started

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 9-10 a.m. | 1111 East Broad Street, Buckeye Room





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- Land acquisition will be covered; there are some initial ideas. Columbus Recreation and Parks and the Department of Development are meeting to talk in more detail.

Additional Comments

- The Community representatives stated that, if funding is a concern, the most affordable way to replace McCoy Park is to keep McCoy Park as originally planned. There was money in the 2026 budget to complete phase 1 this year and phase 2 planning. Recreation and Parks planned to put phase 2 completion in the 2027 budget. There must be a commitment to fully fund this, even if we need to secure additional private funding.
- The Community representatives stated that the City did not want to discuss the Greenlawn properties during this meeting, and that the City did not want to form a subcommittee.





Southwest Park Internal Working Group

May 14, 2026, 9 a.m.

Committee Members Present

- Liz Reed, Southwest Area Commission
- Leah Young, Southwest Area Commission
- Elon Simms, City of Columbus
- Mary Shepro, Columbus Crew
- Nathan Wymer, Nationwide
- John Tannous, Columbus City Council
- Craig Murphy, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kym Douglas, Department of Neighborhoods
- Quinten Harris, Department of Development

Committee Members Absent

- Bernita Reese, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Additional Attendees

- Craig Conley, City of Columbus
- Marshall Troxell, City of Columbus
- Greg Brown, Department of Development
- Stephanie Cedeño, Columbus Crew
- Vanesa Mora, Department of Neighborhoods
- Morgen Wade, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Jim Miller, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Brad Westall, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kerry Francis, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Meeting Focus

- Purpose statement and objectives
- Acquisitions and strategy





- Final report deliverables

Discussion

Purpose Statement and Objectives

- To develop plans to fulfill the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park, in Southwest Columbus.

Updates

Working Group

- The Working Group unanimously believes Greenleaf Park is part of the solution.

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

- The department submitted legislation to the Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission on May 12 to revise the scope of a current contract to allow existing dollars to be used for the design of new park amenities in the Southwest neighborhood. This will advance to City Council as an emergency on Monday, May 18.

Administration

- Legislation to set a June 24 hearing on adding McCoy Park and other city-owned land to the district controlled by the Confluence Community Authority was submitted to City Council for a first reading on May 11. This is the first of several necessary steps to expand the district. A vote affirms that the legislation meets the legal requirements and is not an agreement on any plans.

City Council

- City Council is developing a timeline and process to expedite legislation. They will clarify timelines and communication to ensure transparency.
- City Council is working to understand the purchase agreement of the 555 property. The resolution/legislation that went to Council on Monday, May 11, will be amended to only include the land needed for the training facility as already submitted in the design. The northern most parcels remain part of the Working Group's discussion and may provide opportunities for many solutions called for Ordinance 1112-2026.

Southwest Area Commission

- The SWAC presented at a meeting and gathered community feedback. The north parcel was a topic, along with the community building and splashpad. They shared the community expressed concern with moving therapeutic recreation amenities solely to a Franklin Park campus and noted that therapeutic amenities are needed in the Southwest neighborhood. Community members preferred the active plan for Greenleaf Park.





Acquisitions and Strategy

- Progress is being made on acquiring additional parcels for development as parkland. The City is in active conversation with several landowners, and more conversations are anticipated. Timing to complete acquisition is not determined, as the City needs to secure funding.
- The City continues to complete work toward the long-term strategy to acquire land in the Southwest neighborhood.

Final Report Deliverables

- An initial concept that was drafted based on the legislation was reviewed for feedback. The Working Group agreed to proceed with the format with the addition of definitions of the different types of parks and what is looked for in each, and maps of where residents live in the area. See Appendix: Working Group Final Report Full Outline.

Timeline and Status

- Create a working group within 15 days – Complete
- Discuss design plans, ID sites, timelines and funding – In process
- Hold at least one public meeting – Not started
- Issue a public report within 60 days – Template created

Next Meeting

- Thursday, May 21, Time TBD | 1111 East Broad Street, Buckeye Room

Additional Comments

- It was requested that the group work together to support forward momentum and to first reach out within the Group with questions.
- Members of the Working Group requested the Group is informed before legislation comes to City Council.
- It was noted that more explanation around what the various legislative processes are would help as they are new to some members of the Working Group. This will include what the process is, what it does, what it means and the timing.
- It was clarified the public hearing is a step in the process, and reaffirmed that the feedback will be considered.





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- It was asked if the City can start clearing trees at Greenleaf Park. Columbus Recreation and Parks commented that it's not a recommended approach, as the final design and construction plans could affect that work. Columbus Recreation and Parks has already inventoried the trees as the start of that work.
- It was noted that, if the Group works quickly, design could be completed by the end of 2026, and construction could begin in spring/summer 2027.
- It was asked if we should extend the meeting time. Craig Murphy will look into that.
- It was noted that finding opportunities to expedite deadlines is important.





Southwest Park Internal Working Group

May 21, 2026, 9 a.m.

Committee Members Present

- Liz Reed, Southwest Area Commission
- Leah Young, Southwest Area Commission
- Elon Simms, City of Columbus
- Mary Shepro, Columbus Crew
- Nathan Wymer, Nationwide
- John Tannous, Columbus City Council
- Bernita Reese, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kym Douglas, Department of Neighborhoods
- Quinten Harris, Department of Development

Committee Members Absent

- Craig Murphy, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Additional Attendees

- Marshall Troxell, City of Columbus
- Greg Brown, Department of Development
- Stephanie Cedeño, Columbus Crew
- Vanesa Mora, Department of Neighborhoods
- Morgen Wade, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Brad Westall, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kerry Francis, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Meeting Focus

- Final Report Walkshed Portion
- Acquisition Progress





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- Final report deliverables
- Greenleaf Park Expansion Visioning (moved to a future meeting due to time)

Discussion

Updates

Admin

- No updates

Council

- No updates

Southwest Area Commission

- The SWAC talked to the ownership group about what's possible at the Greenlawn site and would like to discuss this during this meeting.

Ownership Group

- The team is submitting a rezoning application that reflects the northern parcels being taken out this week. This will be presented to the SWAC at its June 9 meeting.

Columbus Recreation and Parks

- Legislation passed council on Monday, May, 18, that shifted the scope of Kimley-Horn's contract allowing them to work on Greenleaf Park. Their work began yesterday.
- One of the next steps is to complete the survey work at Greenleaf Park, and the department is working on contracts for base mapping; the department also completed the survey of the trees on the site. This information will clarify what the site requirements are and what's needed for permitting. A schedule for this work will be shared next week.

Neighborhoods

- No updates

Development

- The Monday, May 18, legislation was noted.

Final Report Walkshed Portion

- The Working Group reviewed the walkshed to gain an understanding of the neighborhood around Greenleaf Park (see Appendix – Greenleaf Park Walkshed). It was noted that a 10-minute walk is an industry measure and the Social Vulnerability Index is developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Working





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

Group asked to see the walkshed for McCoy Park to compare the sites, and for details around what Columbus Recreation and Parks looks for when determining where to build a park. It was also noted that the Working Group will want to look at how this map changes with planned improvements by the City and County, i.e., sidewalks, land acquisition, shared-use paths.

- It was noted that the format of the final report may need to be adjusted slightly to meet federally required accessibility standards.

Acquisition Progress

- Conversations around potential acquisitions continue to move forward. Securing funding is the next step, and the Ownership Group noted that the transfer of funds could begin very quickly. It was noted that the timeline for acquisitions would need to account for legislative action.

Open Discussion

- The SWAC would like to see what can fit on the northern parcels, including amenities focused on therapeutic recreation, then move what can't fit to Greenleaf Park. Development on all projects needs to move forward together to meet timelines for all.
- Columbus Recreation and Parks said the department can deliver therapeutic recreation programming in the southwest neighborhood, but noted it is important to look at what can be supported by the department.
- It was noted that a portion of the Ownership Group's property will have public access, and that the Ownership Group and Columbus Recreation and Parks are already having conversations about shared programming.
- The Working Group requested what funding is available for the project and how it was earmarked, as well as any timelines.

Timeline and Status

- Create a working group within 15 days – Complete
- Discuss design plans, ID sites, timelines and funding – In process
- Hold at least one public meeting – Not started
- Issue a public report within 60 days – Template created

Next Meeting

- Thursday, May 28, 8:30-10 a.m. | 1111 East Broad Street, Buckeye Room





Southwest Park Internal Working Group

May 28, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present

- Liz Reed, Southwest Area Commission
- Leah Young, Southwest Area Commission
- Mary Shepro, Columbus Crew
- Nathan Wymer, Nationwide
- Bernita Reese, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Craig Murphy, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Quinten Harris, Department of Development
- Kym Douglas, Department of Neighborhoods

Committee Members Absent

- Elon Simms, City of Columbus
- John Tannous, Columbus City Council

Additional Attendees

- Council Member Tiara Ross, Columbus City Council
- Marshall Troxell, City of Columbus
- Greg Brown, Department of Development
- Phil Dangerfield, Columbus Crew
- Stephanie Cedeño, Columbus Crew
- Vanesa Mora, Department of Neighborhoods
- Morgen Wade, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Brad Westall, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kerry Francis, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department





Meeting Focus

- 30-Day Timeline
- Acquisition Process
- Greenleaf and Greenlawn Concepts
- Public Meeting

Discussion

Updates

Administration

- No updates

City Council

- The NCA first reading is on June 22 and the second reading is on June 29.
- It was confirmed that the land acquisition is the only other legislation planned before the July recess.

Southwest Area Commission

- The Southwest Area Commission (SWAC) would like to start the conversation with Columbus Water and Power about drainage. This will take place at a future meeting. Director Reese will connect with Administration to get representation to speak to this.

Ownership Group

- The rezoning application was submitted last Friday, May 23. The Ownership Group will be at the SWAC meeting on June 9; they will introduce the high-level design and talk about partnerships. Rezoning should be complete in September. A public meeting is scheduled for June 24.
- The lot split process is occurring and paperwork has been submitted.

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

- Updates shared further in the agenda

Department of Neighborhoods

- No updates

Department of Development

- No updates





Acquisition Process

- The first set of acquisitions have moved to the next steps. More progress is expected in the next two weeks. It was confirmed that a plan for funding is in place and this will not cause delays. The Department of Development is working to complete all legislation before the July Council recess; however, the priority is in securing purchase contracts.

Greenleaf and Greenlawn Concepts

- Greenleaf Concept: An initial concept was reviewed. The Working Group identified some questions to ask neighboring properties.
- Greenlawn Concept: An initial concept was reviewed. It was asked if there is a multi-use path along Greenlawn; this should connect with Berliner. This is standard development and the City will confirm. The Ownership Group will see what is planned along Harmon; the easements and setbacks are in place. It was agreed that the NWSL Owner's architects and Kimley Horn would continue to work together on what co-existence at the site could look like.
- The current total acreage for parkland access across the two sites is 19+ acres with planned acquisitions. This is in addition to the 9-acre academy fields on the NEWCO Site, which will be co-programmed with Columbus Recreation and Parks. The remaining 13 acres of that site are designated for the first team.
- SWAC said there is still an acreage deficit and there is a need to acquire more parkland; the City is actively working on this with near- and long-term planning.

Public Meeting

- Proposed Format: A welcome, introductions and overviews, followed by a series of boards where residents provide information/input (i.e., where I live, Greenlawn concept, Greenleaf concept, what amenity is most important). Additional topics to cover include additional parkland and stormwater.
- Logistics
 - Date and time: June 16, 5:30 or 6 (90 minutes to two hours in length)
 - Location: Potential options include an area schools, Hope Central Church and Franklin County Forensic Science Facility. Columbus Recreation and Parks will take the lead on securing the location.
 - Refreshments: The Ownership Group will provide refreshments.
 - Anticipated Attendance: ~100
 - Promotion: Focus on the Southwest neighborhood. Push through the SWAC, the Department of Neighborhoods, schools and churches. Collateral development was started and plans include a webpage, yard signs, a flyer and door





hangers/door drops. Materials need to be delivered to the SWAC by June 8 for its June 9 meeting. It was noted that June 2 is Southwest Licking School's last day.

Open Discussion

- SWAC said that Cooper Park needs to be a part of a conversation. It was noted that this land is privately owned so there are several obstacles. Administration, City Council and the Department of Development said this is something that needs to be addressed and will raise the issue; however, it's not a part of this conversation.
- It was reinforced that recreation league play at McCoy would have been relocated this fall with planned construction, and Columbus Recreation and Parks is finalizing plans to move programs. The Ownership Group noted that co-programming at the site could begin following completion of training facility construction and the team's launch.
- A virtual link to the next several meetings was requested.

Timeline and Status

- Create a working group within 15 days – Complete
- Discuss design plans, ID sites, timelines and funding – In process
- Hold at least one public meeting – In process
- Issue a public report within 60 days – Template created

Next Meeting

- Thursday, June 4, 8:30-10 a.m. | 1111 East Broad Street, Buckeye Room





Southwest Park Internal Working Group

June 4, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present

- Liz Reed, Southwest Area Commission - virtual
- Leah Young, Southwest Area Commission
- Mary Shepro, Columbus Crew
- Nathan Wymer, Nationwide
- Elon Simms, City of Columbus
- John Tannous, Columbus City Council
- Craig Murphy, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kym Douglas, Department of Neighborhoods
- Quinten Harris, Department of Development

Committee Members Absent

- Bernita Reese, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Additional Attendees

- Craig Conley, City of Columbus
- Marshall Troxell, City of Columbus
- Greg Brown, Department of Development
- Phil Dangerfield, Columbus Crew – virtual
- Stephanie Cedeño, Columbus Crew
- Vanesa Mora, Department of Neighborhoods
- Morgen Wade, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Brad Westall, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kerry Francis, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Meeting Focus

- Acquisition Progress





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- Berliner Park Miracle Field Concept Review
- Tentative Project Schedules & Funding Timeline
- Open Discussion

Discussion

Updates

Administration

- The Mayor will be announcing the City's plans to focus on Census Tract 51 on Monday, June 8.

City Council

- No updates

Southwest Area Commission

- To help promote the public meeting, the Southwest Area Commission sent recommended canvassing boundaries to the City and posted meeting information in their channels. They will repost the day before the meeting.

Ownership Group

- The Ownership Group continues to work with the Department of Development on the lease and development agreements.
- A rezoning hearing is scheduled for next Tuesday, June 9.
- The Group has been briefing City Council members.
- The Group is engaging the community around the NWSL team name and brand. This will be part of the upcoming Challenge Cup.

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

- The location for the public meeting is set. The school will help promote the meeting. The Working Group will finalize plans at the next meeting.
- The department is gathering information about what programming has taken place at McCoy in the past, and what's planned for the future.

Department of Neighborhoods

- The City's next community plan covers census track 51. This will be the second-largest plan, covering 16,000 residents and 5+ square miles. While 12-18 months is typical for this type of project, the department is looking to expedite timing with the extensive engagement that's taking place as part of the Working Group's efforts. This will be announced on Monday, June 8.





Department of Development

- Letters of intent have been signed for the first two acquisitions. One property owner is on an extended vacation so there have been challenges getting a hold of them; there's no concern that this won't move forward.

Acquisition Progress

- Columbus Recreation and Parks is exploring another parcel in the area that is promising. The department submitted a preliminary CleanOhio grant application to help with acquisition and will hear back shortly about submitting a formal application around Labor Day. Approval would come late fall. The CleanOhio grant program supports preserving greenspace, so this parkland would focus on conservation but can include some amenities based on the funding structure of the acquisition; Columbus Recreation and Parks plans to include amenities in this space if plans move forward.

Berliner Park Miracle Field Concept Review

- An initial concept for the miracle field was shared. This is a hard rubberized ADA softball pad; the closest example is in New Albany. The concept includes covered bleachers, reworked parking, an accessible restroom and storage capabilities. The Miracle league is a growing program, and many of the tournament directors who use Berliner are interested in this program, making this a good fit.

Tentative Project Schedules & Funding Timeline

- A tentative project timeline, broken into two phases, was shared. The timeline aligns well with the City's budget cycles, and covers three budget cycles: 2025, 2026 and 2027. Columbus Recreation and Parks noted that this is an extremely aggressive timeline and that, while things are aligned now, timing may shift due to multiple factors out of our control such as working with designers and engineers, and the timing of bond sales. The Ownership Group asked if the timeline can be expedited even more. Columbus Recreation and Parks noted that timing for phase 1 is likely what it is. There is flexibility in phase two; however, accelerating may increase costs.
- The City and the Ownership group are talking to make sure the timing of construction at McCoy Park and the NWSL training facility projects are aligned. City Council noted this is an extraordinary circumstance, and they will help speed up the legislative process. Administration noted they will accelerate plan reviews.

Open Discussion

- It was asked if the Working Group had concerns with calling the parcel north of the NWSL training facility McCoy Park. It was asked if the history of the name was known, and it is not. The Group liked McCoy for the name of the park.

Timeline and Status

- Create a working group within 15 days – Complete





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- Discuss design plans, ID sites, timelines and funding – In process
- Hold at least one public meeting – Scheduled
- Issue a public report within 60 days – Template created

Next Meeting

- Thursday, June 11, 8:30-10 a.m. | 1111 East Broad Street, Buckeye Room





Southwest Park Internal Working Group

June 11, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present

- Liz Reed, Southwest Area Commission – virtual
- Leah Young, Southwest Area Commission
- Nathan Wymer, Nationwide
- John Tannous, Columbus City Council
- Craig Murphy, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kym Douglas, Department of Neighborhoods
- Quinten Harris, Department of Development

Committee Members Absent

- Elon Simms, City of Columbus
- Bernita Reese, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Mary Shepro, Columbus Crew

Additional Attendees

- Craig Conely, City of Columbus
- Marshall Troxell, City of Columbus
- Phil Dangerfield, Columbus Crew – virtual
- Stephanie Cedeño, Columbus Crew
- Greg Brown, Department of Development
- Vanesa Mora, Department of Neighborhoods
- Kasey Kaschak, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Morgen Wade, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Brad Westall, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kerry Francis, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Mike Wagner, Columbus Water and Power
- Paul Wilson, Columbus Water and Power





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- Ken Heigel, Columbus Water and Power
- William Glenn, Columbus Water and Power

Meeting Focus

- Stormwater
- Project Acceleration
- Final Report
- Public Meeting
- Programming

Discussion

Updates

Administration

- No updates.

City Council

- No updates.

Southwest Area Commission

- The Southwest Area Commission (SWAC) distributed the public meeting flyer at the Tuesday, June 9, meeting as well as to some area businesses. Meeting information has been shared with some businesses, on the SWAC communication channels and with a local apartment community. The SWAC will reshare on Monday, June 15.

Ownership Group

- The Group shared there was a good conversation at the June 9 SWAC meeting, and they will be in attendance at the next meeting for a vote on the rezoning of the training facility portion of McCoy Park.

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

- This morning, there were two RSVPs. The department's Job Readiness youth are canvassing this morning to promote the public meeting, and meeting information was posted on NextDoor to increase attendance.





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

Department of Neighborhoods

- The department has requested an ASL interpreter for public meeting, and will canvass this morning, as well.

Department of Development

- The department continues to work on land acquisition. One property owner has signed a letter of intent, and we are waiting for the second. Legislation has been drafted and shared with City Council to allow legislation to move quickly.

Discussion

Stormwater

- Columbus Water and Power (CWP) reviewed the original stormwater plans for the area. While a new site needs to be finalized for the stormwater basin, it was clarified that there is minimal impact to the overall plans; work hasn't stopped and funding is earmarked. The City is committed to reducing flooding in Franklinton. CWP has committed to \$30 million to the project, and the full scope of work is a 15-year plan that includes more; the stormwater basin is an early step, and design for the other work is not contingent on having the basin location solidified. CWP is working with the Department of Development to identify a new location for the stormwater basin as quickly as possible.
- It was asked if CWP can come to the public meeting next week, and if further plans could be developed before Tuesday. CWP will attend, however, it's not possible to develop additional information until an alternate site has been identified.
- It was noted that the original site was 7.5 acres and 8 feet deep, holding 45 acre feet of water. It was asked if there is another site that could accommodate this; it was shared that there are other sites, however, the design (size and depth) needed will be determined by the location.
- It was noted that the basin planned in the updated McCoy Park concept is partially a wet basin. Columbus Recreation and Parks, CWP and the ownership group will coordinate work at McCoy Park with the training facility development. It was asked what the depth of the new pond would be and if we can stock it with fish; more information will be available after the week of June 15 as the engineers for the Ownership Group's project and Recreation and Parks project have had more time for analysis.

Project Acceleration

- Columbus Recreation and Parks has identified some ways to accelerate the project timeline. It may be possible to waive the competitive bid process as well as submit legislation along a faster "Emergency" track in some cases, which would accelerate the timeline; there is support from City Council and the Mayor's Office, but will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.





Final Report

- The Working Group was asked to look at the current draft of the report and share input/feedback with Marshall by the next meeting. Specific areas to look at include the first and fifth sections. The SWAC asked if this would be on the Council Agenda on June 29, and would like it to be.

Public Meeting

- The meeting format was finalized:
 - Introduction: SWAC representatives, Director Reese, Morgen Wade and potentially Chief Simms will discuss the purpose of the group, where we are today and what to expect tonight.
 - Open conversation: Residents will visit a series of stations to learn more and provide input.

Programming

- The short term plan for programs that would have taken place at McCoy is to use a hub-based model, where weekday practices will be held at local community centers as they always have, and Saturday games will be dispersed into a regional hub-based model which will allow for all participants to play closer to their homes. The regional hub location for the West/ Southwest Side of Columbus' Saturday games will be at Westgate Park. Communication will go out to participants in the next few weeks. We will evaluate at the end of the season and update as needed. This plan is based on feedback from stakeholders.
- Long term, we would like to get back to McCoy Park, and to bolster therapeutic recreation and general sports offering.
- Someone from Recreation Services-Sports will be at the public meeting on June 16.

Timeline and Status

- Create a working group within 15 days – Complete
- Discuss design plans, ID sites, timelines and funding – In process
- Hold at least one public meeting – Scheduled
- Issue a public report within 60 days – In process

Next Meeting

- Thursday, June 18, 8:30-10 a.m. | 1111 East Broad Street, Buckeye Room





Southwest Park Internal Working Group

June 18, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present

- Liz Reed, Southwest Area Commission – virtual
- Leah Young, Southwest Area Commission
- Nathan Wymer, Nationwide
- Mary Shepro, Columbus Crew – virtual
- John Tannous, Columbus City Council
- Bernita Reese, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Committee Members Absent

- Elon Simms, City of Columbus
- Craig Murphy, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kym Douglas, Department of Neighborhoods
- Quinten Harris, Department of Development

Additional Attendees

- Craig Conley, City of Columbus
- Marshall Troxell, City of Columbus
- Phil Dangerfield, Columbus Crew
- Stephanie Cedeño, Columbus Crew
- Greg Brown, Department of Development
- Vanesa Mora, Department of Neighborhoods
- Morgen Wade, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kerry Francis, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Ken Heigel, Columbus Water and Power
- Brad Westall, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department – virtual





Meeting Focus

- Public Meeting Recap and Debrief
- Logistics of Report Submission to Council and the Public
- Ordinance 1883-2026 Admissions Tax Reading
- Final Report Review

Discussion

Updates

Administration

- No updates.

City Council

- Council and residents have questions about how Council will interact with the final report. This will be covered in today's agenda.
- The admissions tax legislation is scheduled for a second reading Monday, June 22. This is the same day the Working Group's final report is due, which could be confusing. Timing isn't critical, so legislation will be postponed. Key dates are to be listed in the final report, and the Ownership Group, Council and Southwest Area Commission (SWAC) will meet to finalize all key dates.

Southwest Area Commission

- A concern about impacts to the Indiana Bats was raised. It was confirmed by Phil Dangerfield that the construction in October won't impact the population. Leah will connect with the resident who shared the concern to let them know that everything is being handled appropriately.

Ownership Group

- The Ownership Group continued meeting with Columbus Recreation and Parks and Kimley Horn on stormwater at the McCoy site and will follow up to keep things moving.
- There will be site investigation on north parcels in the next couple of weeks. This doesn't affect park programming, but it was noted that the community notices. It was asked if we can post updates on the website. No other work is planned until mobilization September.
- The Ownership Group is preparing for the July 14 SWAC meeting where the McCoy site rezoning will be voted upon.

Columbus Water and Power

- No updates.





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

- No updates.

Department of Neighborhoods

- No updates.

Department of Development

- The department did connect with the second property owner, who is on extended vacation. They confirmed they still plan to sell and will work on this when they return on July 15. The department is still working to contact the church.

Discussion

Public Meeting Recap & Debrief

- The public meeting was positive. 35 community members representing 72 individuals signed in, but it is believed more people were there. The SWAC was thanked for pushing out meeting information. An email list will be created from the registration list and will be expanded.
- Park Amenities Feedback
- The bouldering wall was popular and will become a component of adventure play areas.
- Permanent restrooms came up as a request. This is planned for McCoy Park. There are no plans for permanent restrooms at Greenleaf Park. This would require a building that wasn't planned for, maintenance needs and safety concerns. It was noted that there is a difference between types of parks, and there is a rationale behind the standards for the different types of parks. Greenleaf Park will have portable restrooms, and it was noted that these won't work for some residents.
- Columbus Recreation and Parks needs to determine which type of field to place at Beliner. There are several options, and the department's Sports and Therapeutic Recreation teams are gathering information to determine what type of field will work best for the groups who will play there.
- A recap of the information collected at the meeting was requested; this is in development, and a summary will be in the final report.

Logistics of Report Submission to Council and the Public

- It was noted that this needs to occur without delaying the work. The recommended approach is to announce the report at City Council on Monday, July 29, and host several virtual briefings for council and a public hearing, which can occur during recess. Council will vote on the pieces of legislation that come out of the Working Group's efforts.





Ordinance 1883-2026 Admissions Tax Reading

- Legislation will be postponed.

Final Report Review

- There was a suggestion to use a modular format, and to balance what we know with those things that are still not known – i.e., it's known that more parkland reserve is needed and that can be noted, the Working Group can't commit to specific properties without contracts. It was recommended that the report start with the Working Group's broad consensus on general themes – creating new amenities at McCoy Park, Greenleaf Park and Berliner, as well as new parkland acquisitions – and outline what it will take to accomplish this.
- Other comments on the current draft report:
 - The report is required to outline subsequent ordinances and actions. Since it's not feasible to have detailed information for some (i.e., costs can't be known until design is complete), it was suggested to include a high level timeline.
 - It was recommended to include the community statistics around the initial plans at McCoy and the community statistics around the new approach to fully tell the narrative around what the Working Group took into consideration when developing these plans. This includes the positive impact on the area schools, i.e., saving \$600+ per bus in transportation costs for students to visit the park since they will be able to walk there.
 - It was recommended to include a recap of the public meeting, including the intentionality of those with therapeutic recreation needs and expertise being invited.
 - It was recommended to include Sports programming plans for activities that would have taken place at McCoy Park.

Open Discussion

- It was noted that the next meeting is the last official meeting, and asked how the Working Group can stay engaged and committed to the work. It was asked if the Working Group could meet regularly; options include sharing updates at SWAC meetings, or as part of the neighborhood plan meetings/work. A concern with this approach is that the SWAC would like a conversation versus a report out, and some things aren't able to be discussed publicly. This will be decided on at the next meeting. It was noted that a project website has been established; this will be built out to ensure transparency.
- Immediate action items
 - The final report draft will be sent to the Working Group for review by the close of business on Tuesday, June 23.





RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

- A public hearing date needs to be set prior to the presentation to Council on Monday, June 29.
- A plan for the Monday, June 29, Council meeting needs to be set.

Timeline and Status

- Create a working group within 15 days – Complete
- Discuss design plans, ID sites, timelines and funding – In process
- Hold at least one public meeting – Complete
- Issue a public report within 60 days – In process

Next Meeting

- Thursday, June 25, 8:30-10 a.m. | 1111 East Broad Street, Buckeye Room





Southwest Park Internal Working Group

June 25, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present

- Liz Reed, Southwest Area Commission – virtual
- Nathan Wymer, Nationwide
- John Tannous, Columbus City Council
- Bernita Reese, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kym Douglas, Department of Neighborhoods
- Quinten Harris, Department of Development

Committee Members Absent

- Leah Young, Southwest Area Commission
- Elon Simms, City of Columbus
- Mary Shepro, Columbus Crew
- Craig Murphy, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Additional Attendees

- Craig Conley, City of Columbus
- Marshall Troxell, City of Columbus
- Phil Dangerfield, Columbus Crew
- Stephanie Cedeño, Columbus Crew
- Greg Brown, Department of Development
- Vanesa Mora, Department of Neighborhoods
- Morgen Wade, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Kerry Francis, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
- Brad Westall, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department





Meeting Focus

- Finalize Monday, June 29, Council Presentation
- Council Hearing
- Final Report Review

Discussion

Updates

Administration

- There are discussions about hosting a briefing with the Mayor; Administration is working to coordinate schedules.

City Council

- See updates further in the agenda.

Southwest Area Commission

- The Southwest Area Commission (SWAC) would like to see all known legislation with anticipated dates in the Final Report so there are no surprises.

Ownership Group

- The Ownership Group shared there is no anticipated work on the McCoy site in the near term other than Soil testing on the Northern Parcels, which will begin in a few weeks. The Ownership Group plans to expedite sitework as early as possible and will share upcoming work with SWAC. This is an exciting moment as work is getting started.
- The Ownership Group will coordinate the Greenlawn site retention pond work with Columbus Recreation and Parks.

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

- No updates.

Department of Neighborhoods

- No updates.

Department of Development

- The department has been having conversations with Lamar Advertising about removing the billboard at McCoy/Greenlawn to facilitate site access. The current lease expires at the beginning of the year so the conversation is ongoing.





Discussion

Mondy, June 29, City Council Presentation

- City Council is working to schedule this within the first 90 minutes of the Council meeting. Director Reese will give a brief five minute overview, with five minutes for high level comments and questions from Council; the questions will not be in response to the content of the report as Council will not have had time to review it. It was noted that it is important for SWAC to be present.
- It was discussed that framing of the public hearing needs to be determined; the report outlines the work that will take place so the hearing is an opportunity to present the report to the public. SWAC requested the hearing take place prior to its July 14 meeting, where the rezoning of McCoy is voted on so people are informed.
- The media plan for the release of the report was discussed. This will include an embargoed release and a requested sit down with The Dispatch.
- The Working Group will receive talking points so there is a consistent message shared.

Final Report Review

- The Working Group shared specific feedback, and additional feedback was requested today. It was noted to balance being thorough with overexplaining and overcommunicating. Another draft will be shared as early as possible Friday; the Working Group is asked to share comments as quickly as possible so the report can be finalized on Monday, June 29.
- City representatives will meet to review messaging and the executive summary.

Open Discussion

- Members of the Working Group expressed thanks for everyone coming together to provide what's needed for the southwest community.

Timeline and Status

- Create a working group within 15 days – Complete
- Discuss design plans, ID sites, timelines and funding – Complete
- Hold at least one public meeting – Complete
- Issue a public report within 60 days – In process



Attachment C – Public Meeting Concept Boards and Community Feedback

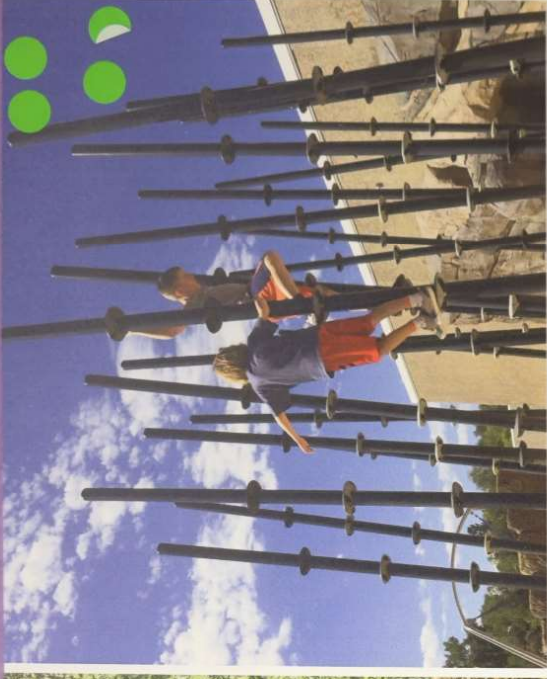
PLAY OPTIONS



BOULDERING WALL



TODDLER-FOCUSED ADVENTURE PLAY



BAMBOO JUNGLE



BALANCE BOARD



CARGO NET CLIMBING FEATURE



TIGHT ROPE OBSTACLE

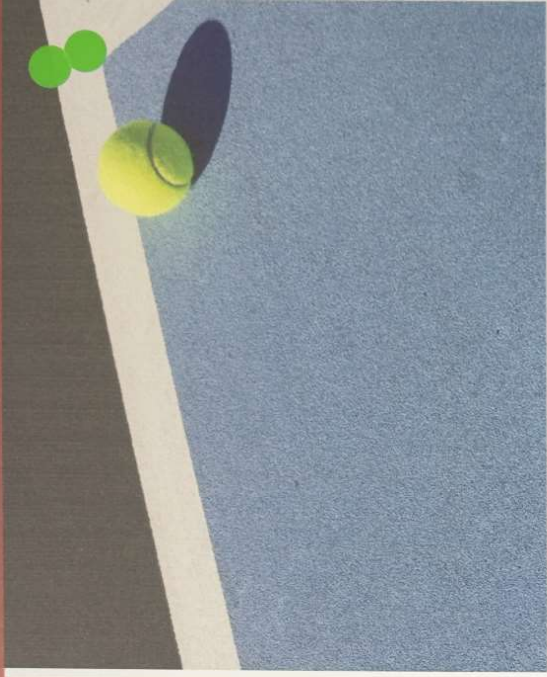
DEDICATED SPORT COURT OPTIONS



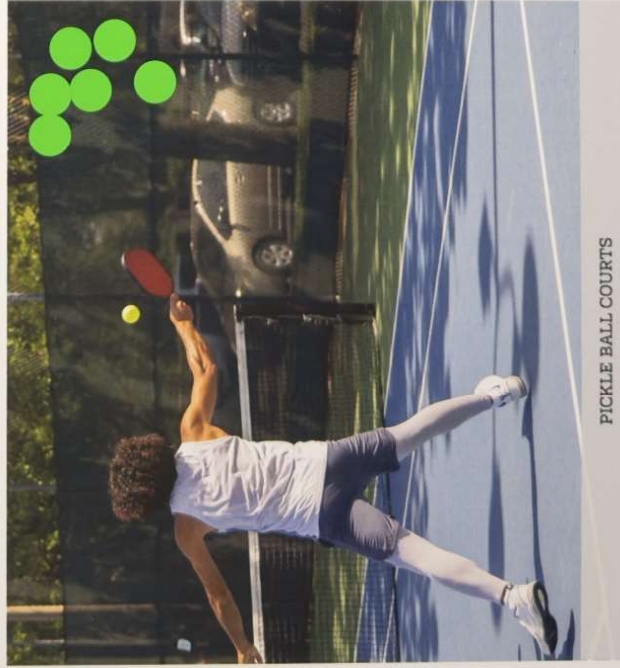
BASKETBALL COURT



SKATING PAD



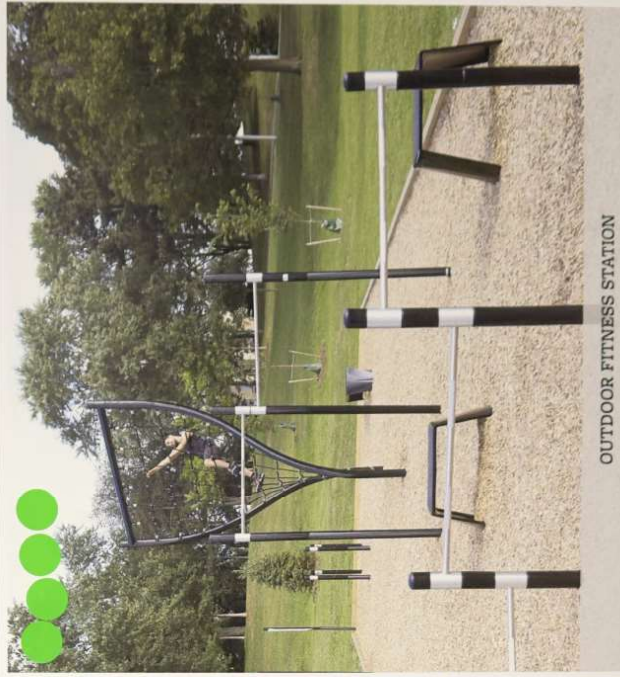
TENNIS COURTS



PICKLE BALL COURTS



ATHLETIC FIELD



OUTDOOR FITNESS STATION

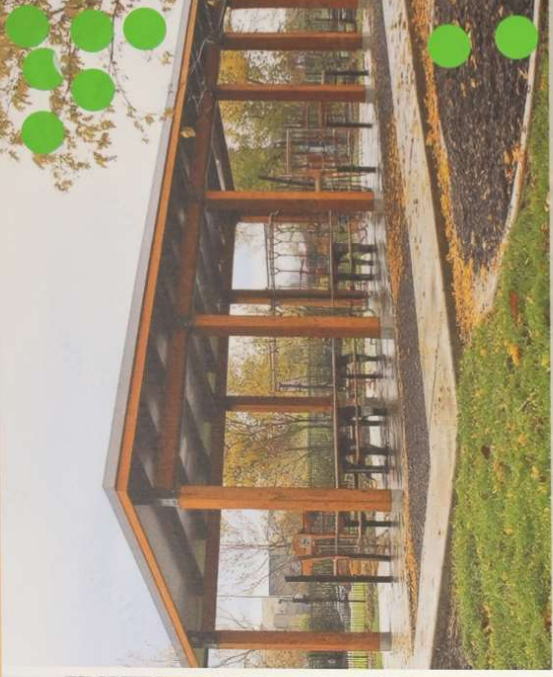
SITE FURNISHING & SHELTER OPTIONS



TRADITIONAL - TIMBER PICNIC SHELTER



MODERN - STEEL PICNIC SHELTER



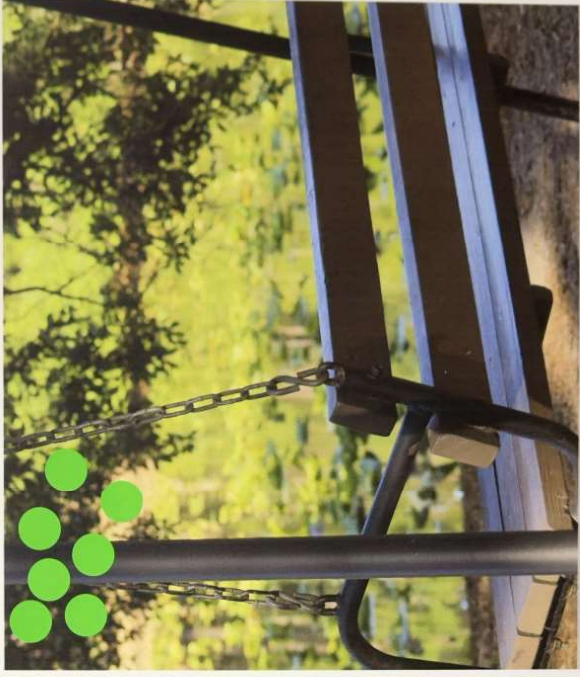
UNIQUE PICNIC SHELTER



LOUNGE SEATING



HAMMOCK GROVE



PARK BENCH SWING



CHILDREN'S PLAY ZONE

Benches

MORE ACCESSIBLE PATHWAYS TO: DOSS; PLAYGROUND; SPLASH PAD; ETC.

USGS
 Needs Park Space
 + Shade
 + Water

Fitness Room

ADD ITAWA THOUGHTS!

Basketball Court
 Single rim

Law is NOT VERY USABLE FOR THERAPEUTIC ETC.

Safety ground like pond

Bigger! Splash Pad

WALKING CONNECTION TO BERLINER
 WALKING CONNECTION TO GREENLEAF as well.

GREEN SPACE IS PRETTY, BUT NOT FUNCTIONAL IF ACCESSIBLE IS THE GOAL

SPRINKLER fountain

MAKE SURE KIDS CAN GET OFF BE AT NOT RISKY

PERMANENT COURTS

WALKING / MIXED USE PATHS

Small 1-2 mile Trail for people who may have mobility disabilities within walking distance

open square

Concern about lack of bus routes to this park

MCCOY PARK - PLAN

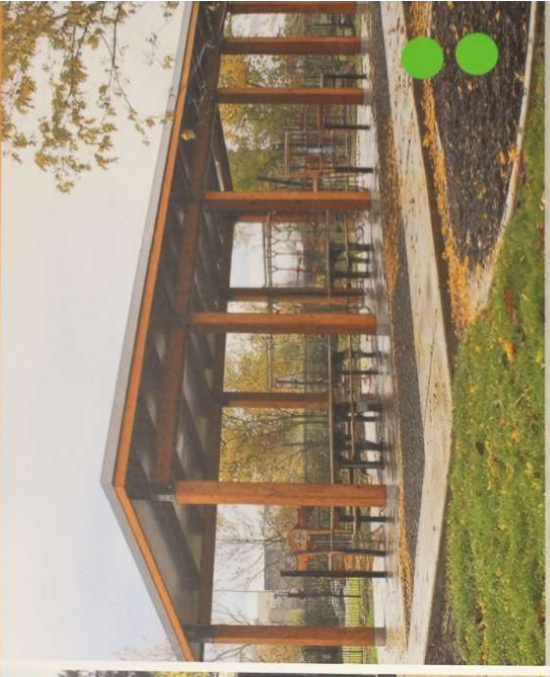
SHADE STRUCTURES & SHELTER OPTIONS



TRADITIONAL - TIMBER PICNIC SHELTER



MODERN - STEEL PICNIC SHELTER



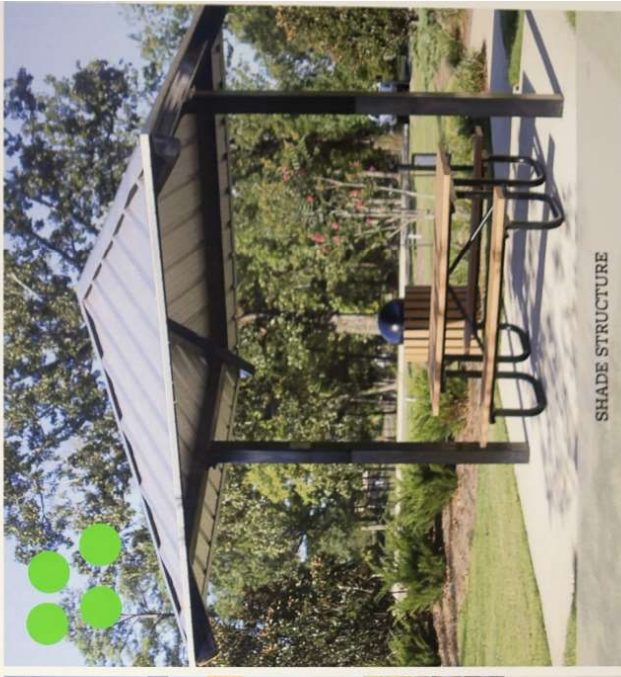
PICNIC SHELTER



PERGOLA STRUCTURE



SHADE SAIL



SHADE STRUCTURE

DEDICATED RECREATIONAL AREAS



FUTSAL COURT



ATHLETIC FIELD



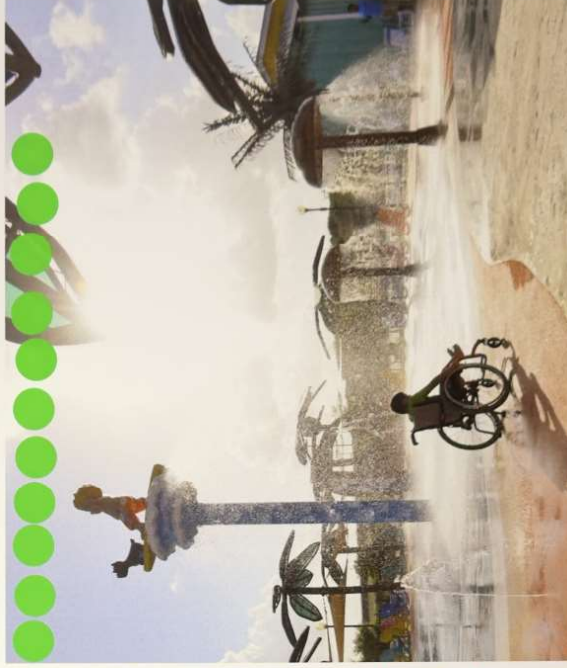
TENNIS COURTS



PICKLE BALL COURTS

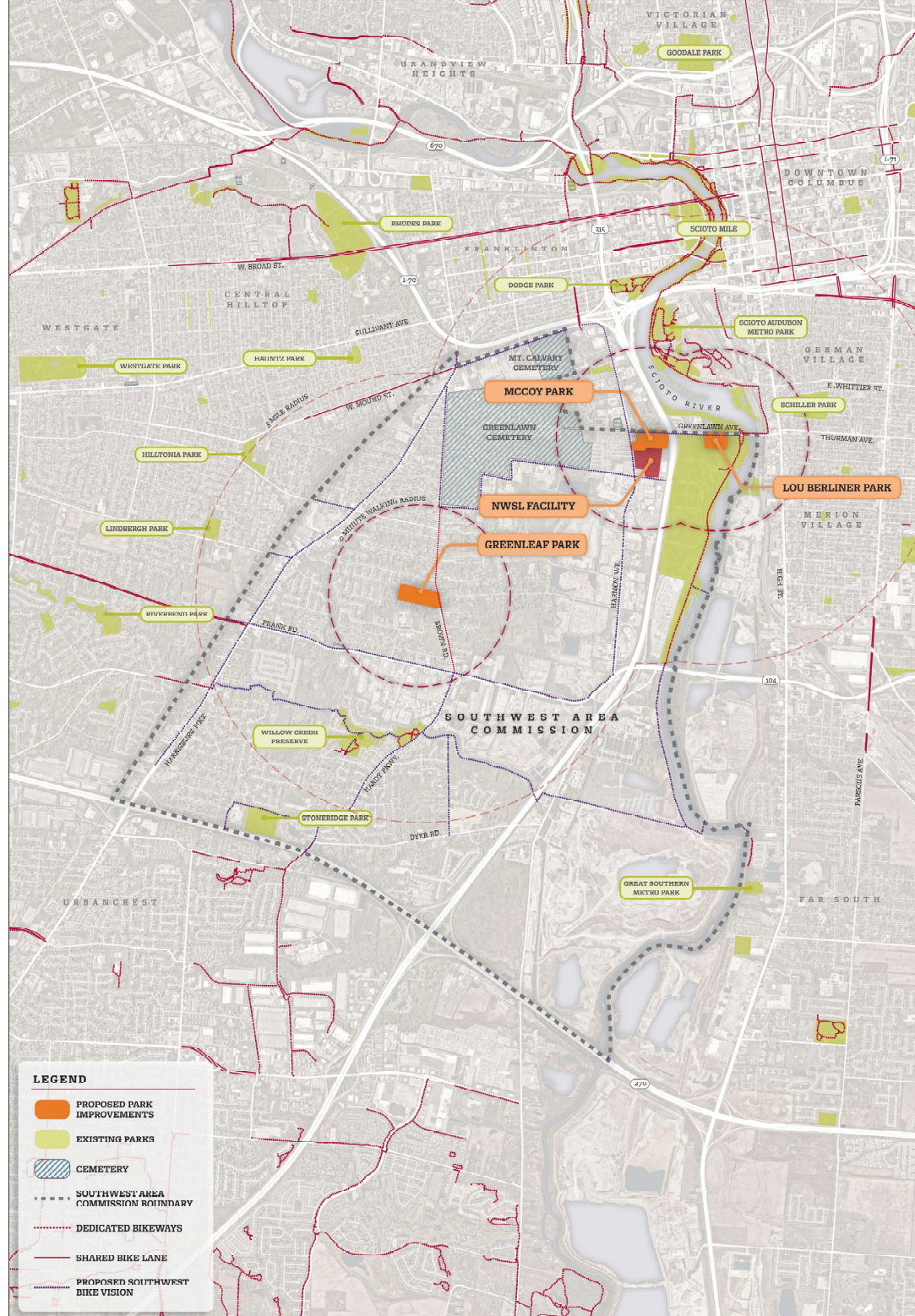


ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND



ACCESSIBLE SPLASH PAD

Attachment D – Visual for Overview of Site Locations



LEGEND

- PROPOSED PARK IMPROVEMENTS
- EXISTING PARKS
- CEMETERY
- SOUTHWEST AREA COMMISSION BOUNDARY
- DEDICATED BIKEWAYS
- SHARED BIKE LANE
- PROPOSED SOUTHWEST BIKE VISION

**Attachment E – Visuals for Greenleaf Park, McCoy Park,
North of the Training Facility Phase I, and Berliner Park
Site Locations**



- SITE KEY**
- 1. PERIMETER WALKING TRAIL
 - 2. REFORESTATION + SEATING BENCHES
 - 3. MEADOW
 - 4. VIEWING POND / BASIN
 - 5. MORNING/AFTERNOON PARK SHELTERS
 - 6. ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND
 - 7. ADVENTURE PLAY + TRAIL
 - 8. BASKETBALL COURT
 - 9. PARKING LOT [35 SPACES + TURN AROUND]
 - 10. PORTABLE RESTROOM
 - 11. TRAIL CROSSING
 - 12. PARK ENTRANCE

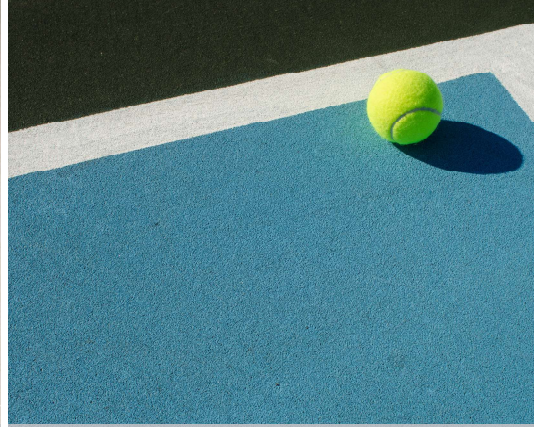
DEDICATED SPORT COURT OPTIONS



BASKETBALL COURT



SKATING PAD



TENNIS COURTS



PICKLE BALL COURTS



ATHLETIC FIELD



OUTDOOR FITNESS STATION

PLAY OPTIONS



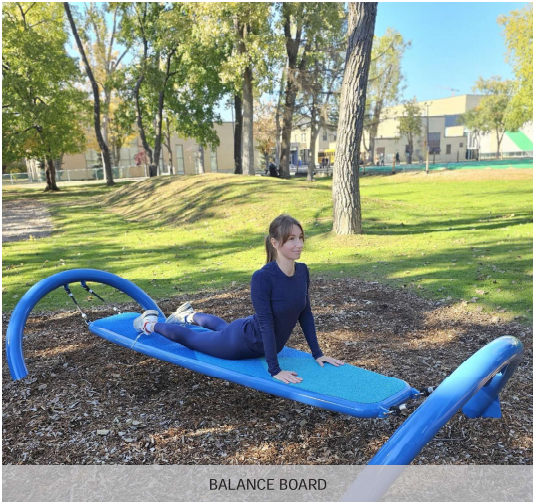
BOULDERING WALL



TODDLER-FOCUSED ADVENTURE PLAY



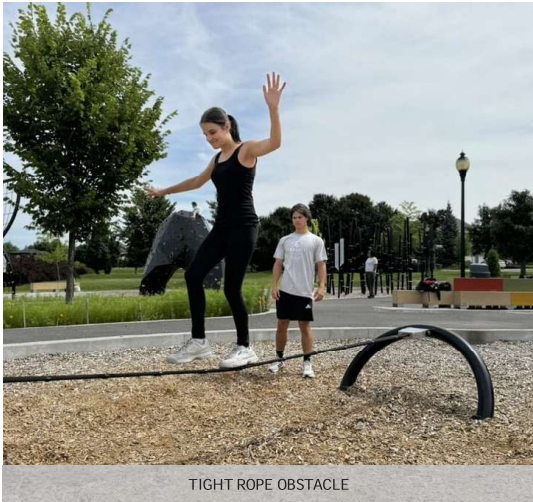
BAMBOO JUNGLE



BALANCE BOARD



CARGO NET CLIMBING FEATURE



TIGHT ROPE OBSTACLE

SITE FURNISHING & SHELTER OPTIONS



TRADITIONAL - TIMBER PICNIC SHELTER



MODERN - STEEL PICNIC SHELTER



UNIQUE PICNIC SHELTER



LOUNGE SEATING



HAMMOCK GROVE



PARK BENCH SWING

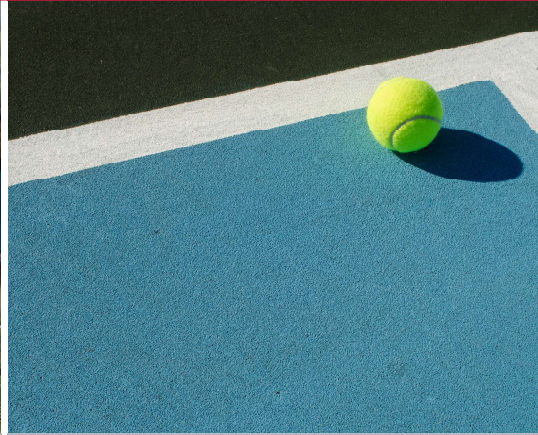
DEDICATED RECREATIONAL AREAS



FUTSAL COURT



ATHLETIC FIELD



TENNIS COURTS



PICKLE BALL COURTS



ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND



ACCESSIBLE SPLASH PAD

SHADE STRUCTURES & SHELTER OPTIONS



TRADITIONAL - TIMBER PICNIC SHELTER



MODERN - STEEL PICNIC SHELTER



PICNIC SHELTER



PERGOLA STRUCTURE



SHADE SAIL



SHADE STRUCTURE



GREENLAWN AVENUE

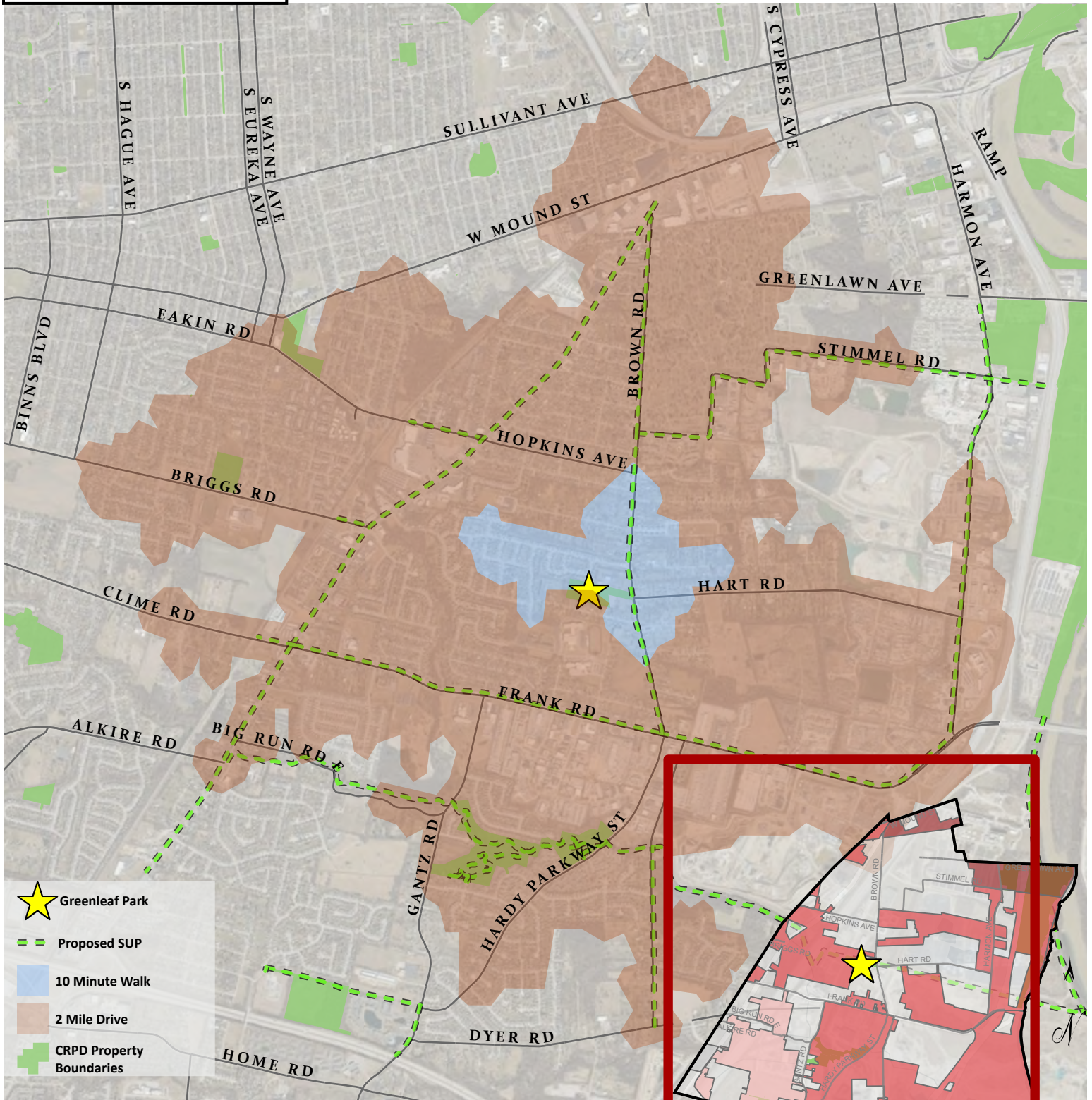
DECKENBACH ROAD






SITE KEY

- 1. ADAPTIVE PLAY SOFTBALL
- 2. ADDITIONAL ADA PARKING
- 3. LANDSCAPE SCREENING

Attachment F – Greenleaf Park Access and Social Vulnerability Analysis




Greenleaf Park



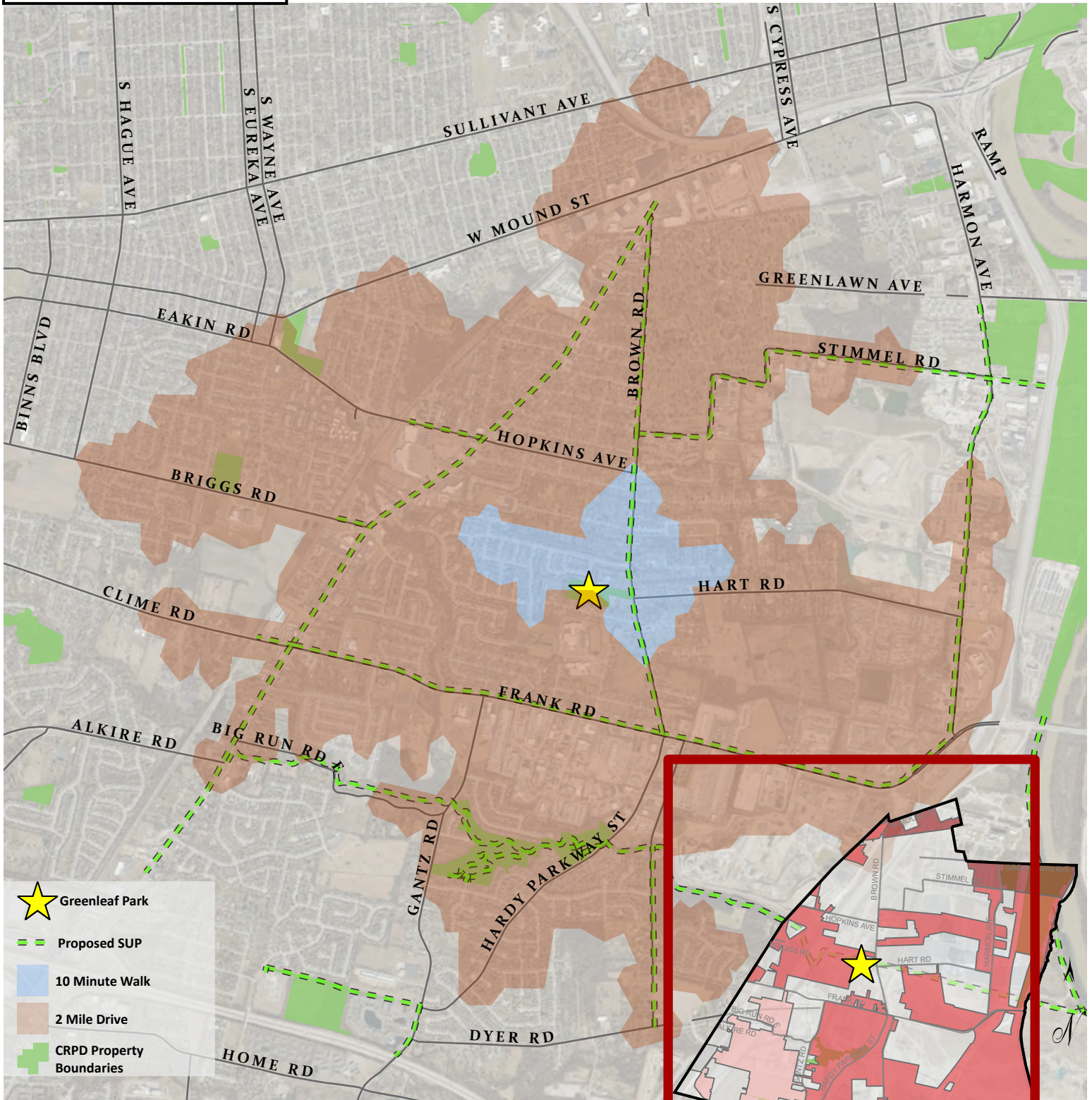
-  Greenleaf Park
-  Proposed SUP
-  10 Minute Walk
-  2 Mile Drive
-  CRPD Property Boundaries

POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK: 572
POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 2-MILE DRIVE: 16,566

Social Vulnerability Index

-  0-25%: Least Vulnerable
-  25-50%: Low to Moderate Vulnerability
-  50-75%: Moderate to High Vulnerability
-  75-100%: Most Vulnerable

Greenleaf Park



- Greenleaf Park
- Proposed SUP
- 10 Minute Walk
- 2 Mile Drive
- CRPD Property Boundaries

POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK: 572
POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 2-MILE DRIVE: 16,566

Social Vulnerability Index



**Attachment G – Visuals for McCoy Park, North of the
Training Facility Phase II Therapeutic Recreation Facility**

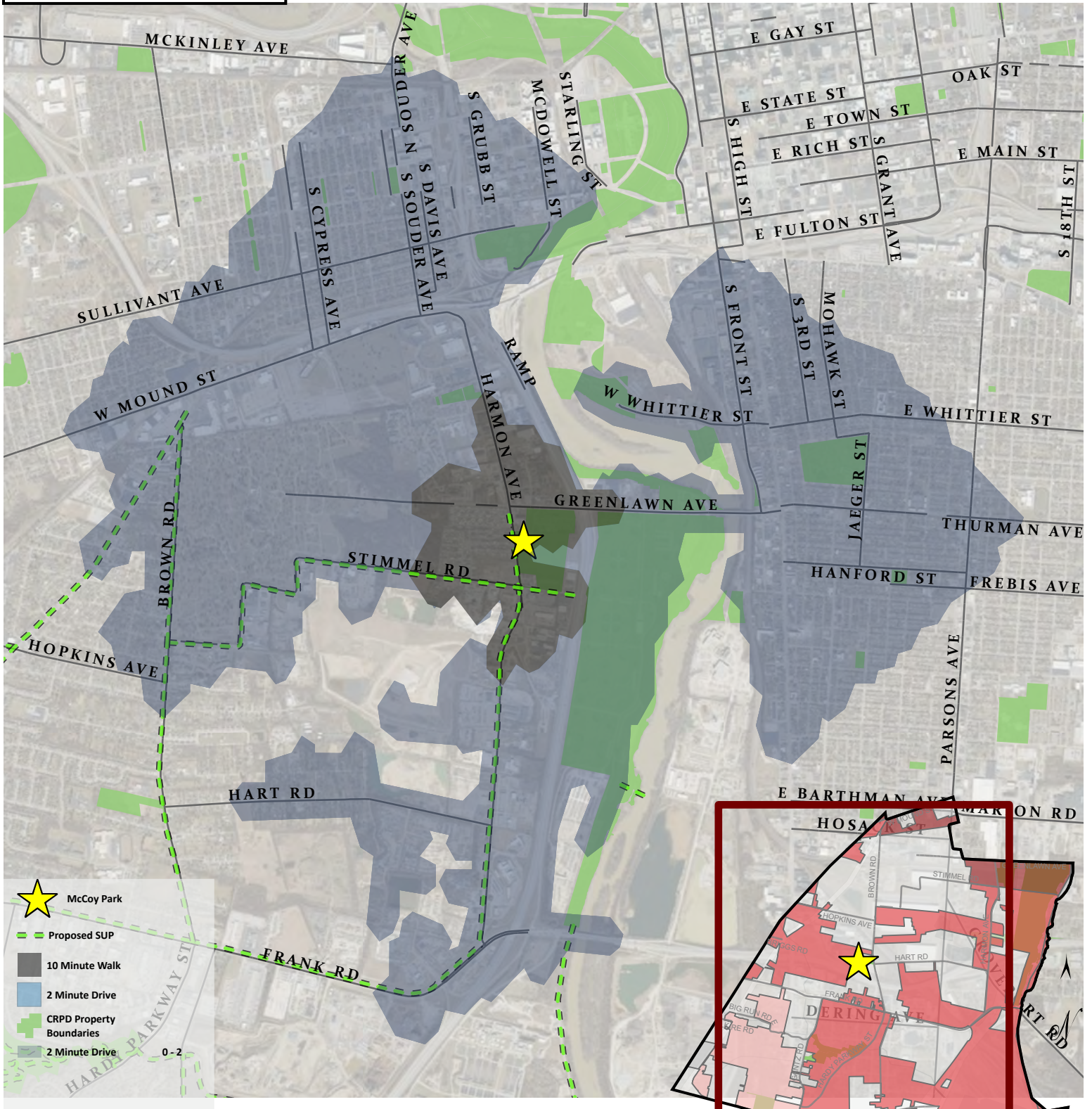




THERAPEUTIC RECREATION BUILDING - FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Attachment H – McCoy Park Access and Social Vulnerability Analysis

McCoy Park



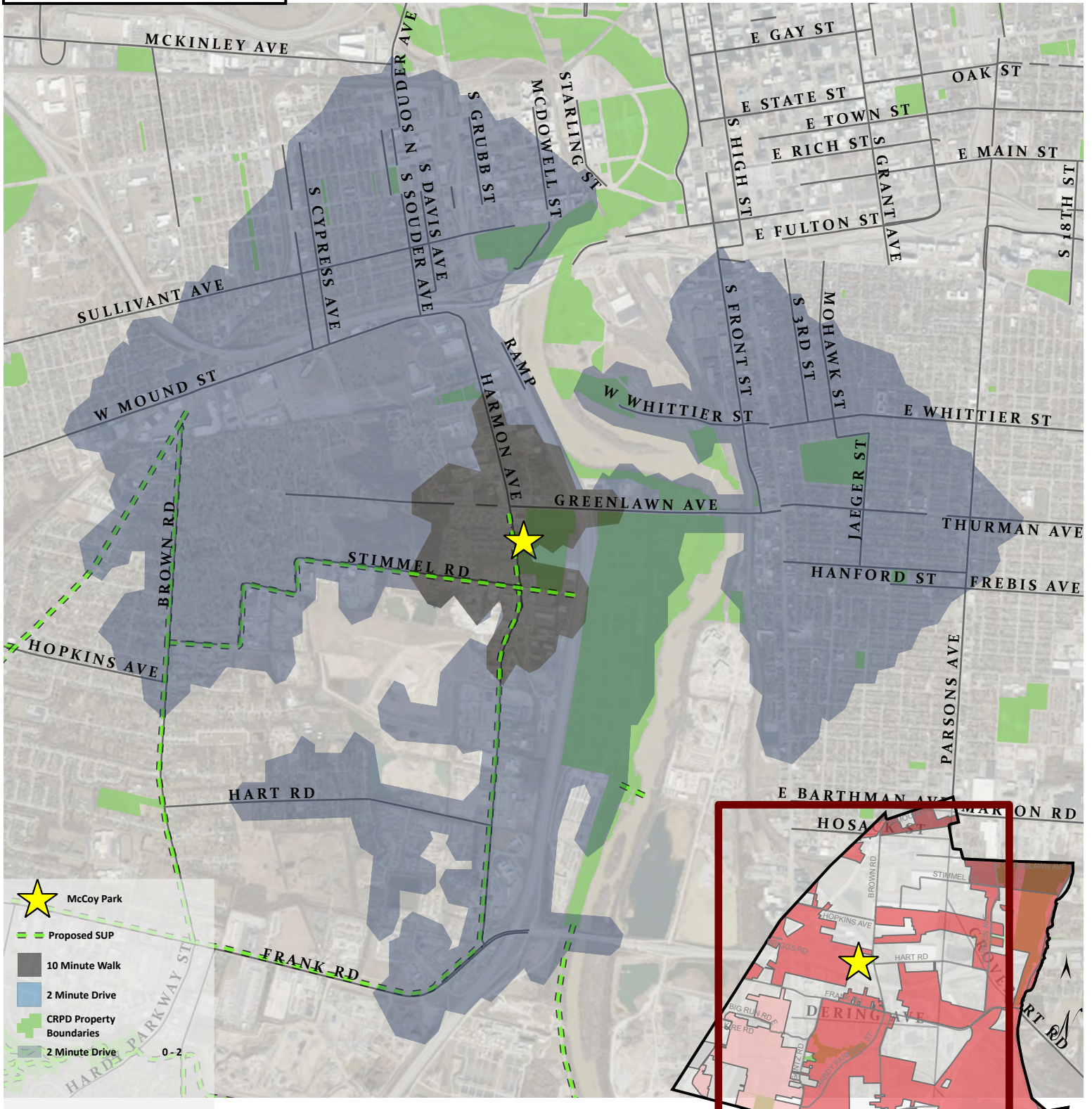
- McCoy Park
- Proposed SUP
- 10 Minute Walk
- 2 Mile Drive
- CRPD Property Boundaries
- 2 Minute Drive

POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK: 533
POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 2-MILE DRIVE: 17,325

Social Vulnerability Index



McCoy Park

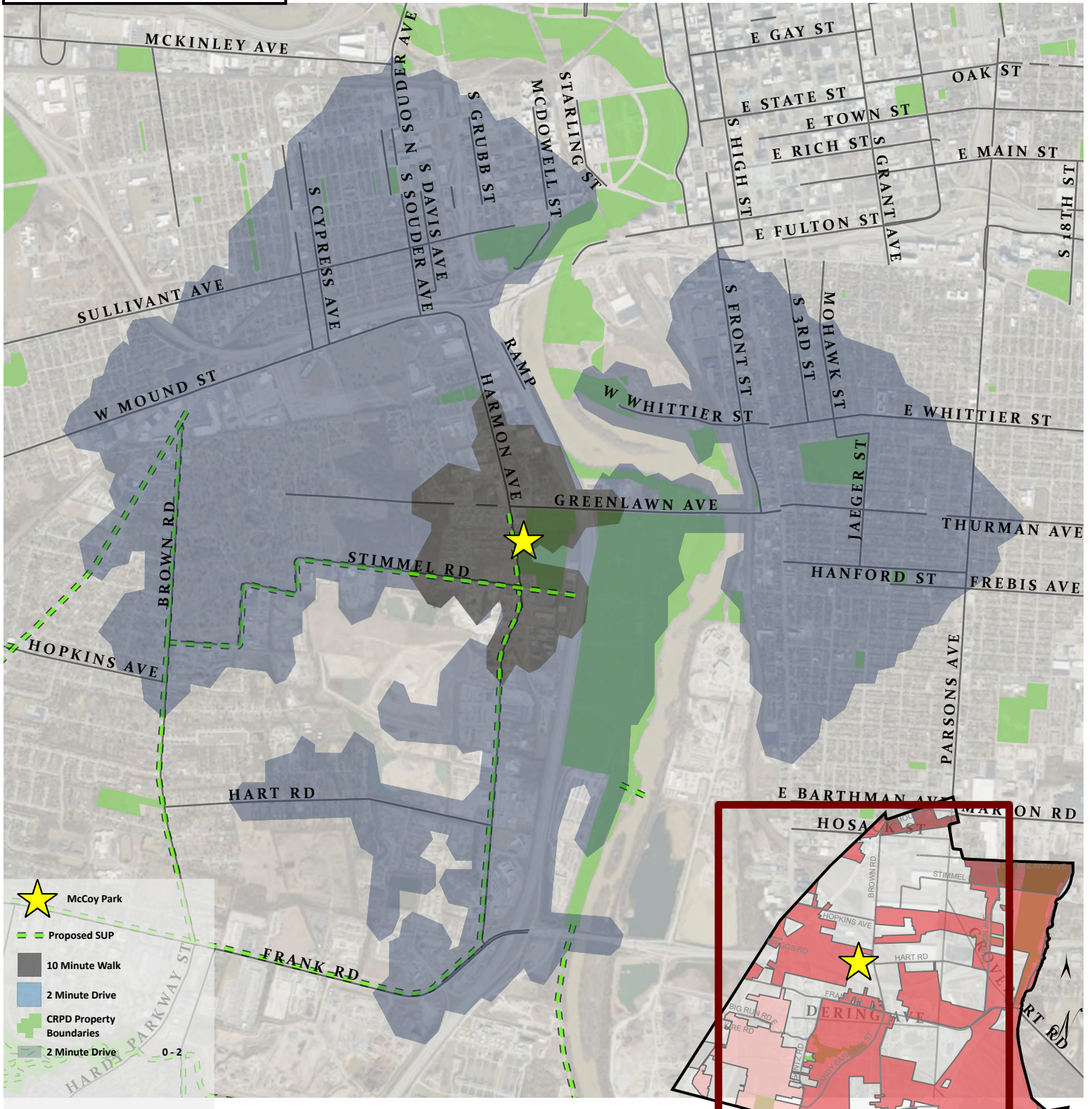


POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK: 533
POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 2-MILE DRIVE: 17,325

Social Vulnerability Index



McCoy Park



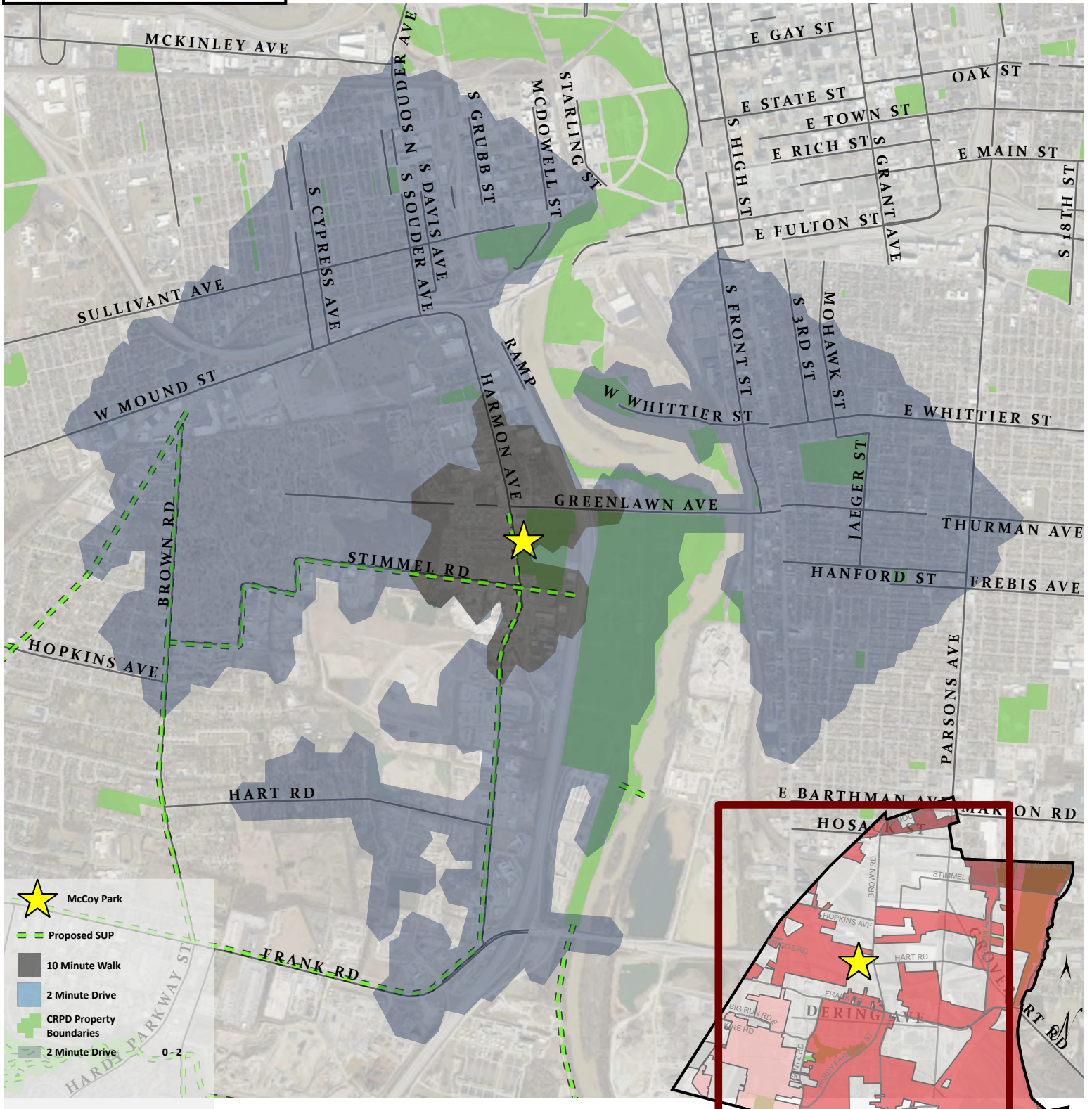
- McCoy Park
- Proposed SUP
- 10 Minute Walk
- 2 Mile Drive
- CRPD Property Boundaries
- 2 Minute Drive

POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK: 533
POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 2-MILE DRIVE: 17,325

Social Vulnerability Index



McCoy Park



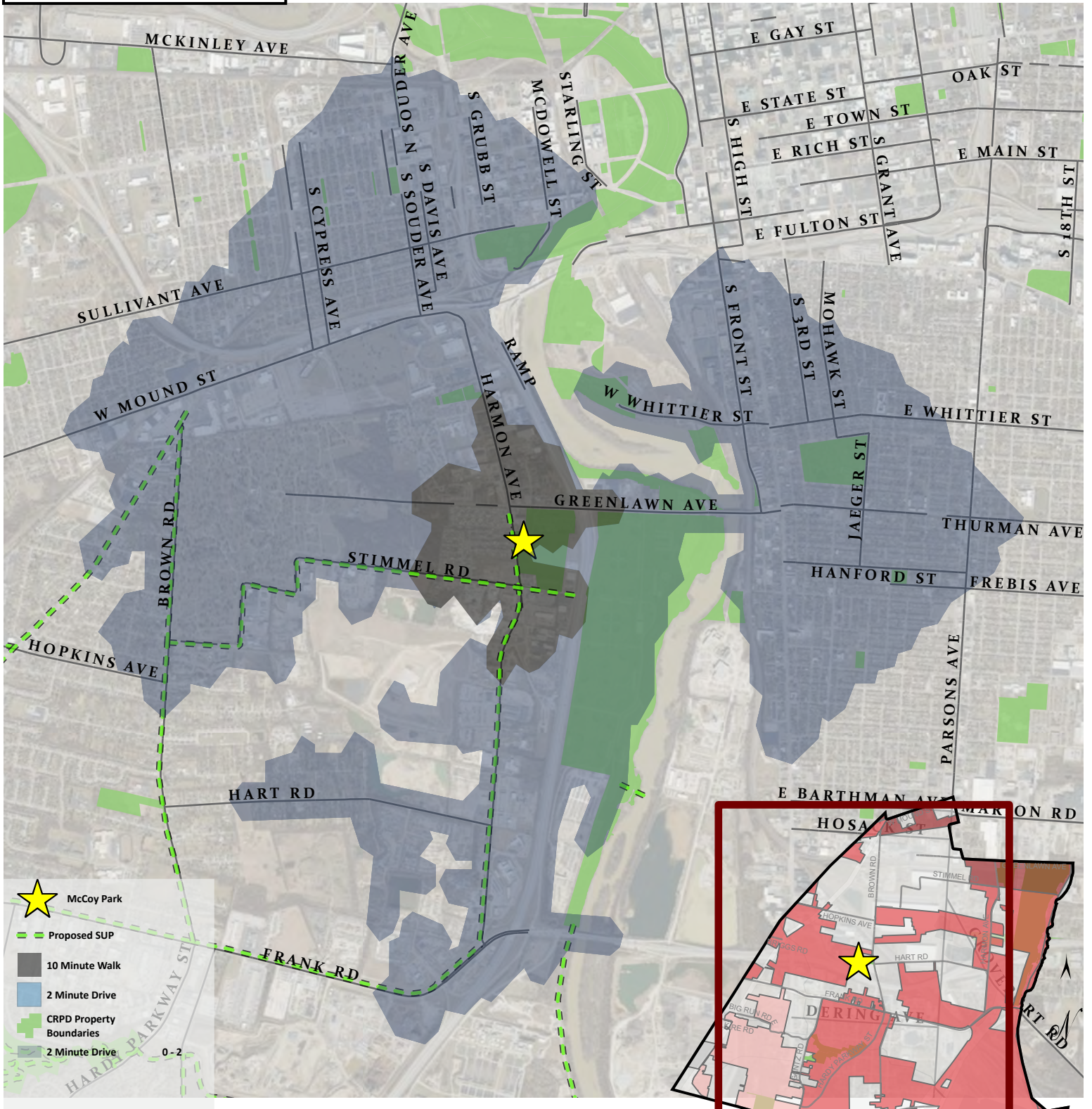
- McCoy Park
- Proposed SUP
- 10 Minute Walk
- 2 Mile Drive
- CRPD Property Boundaries
- 2 Minute Drive

POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK: 533
POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 2-MILE DRIVE: 17,325

Social Vulnerability Index



McCoy Park



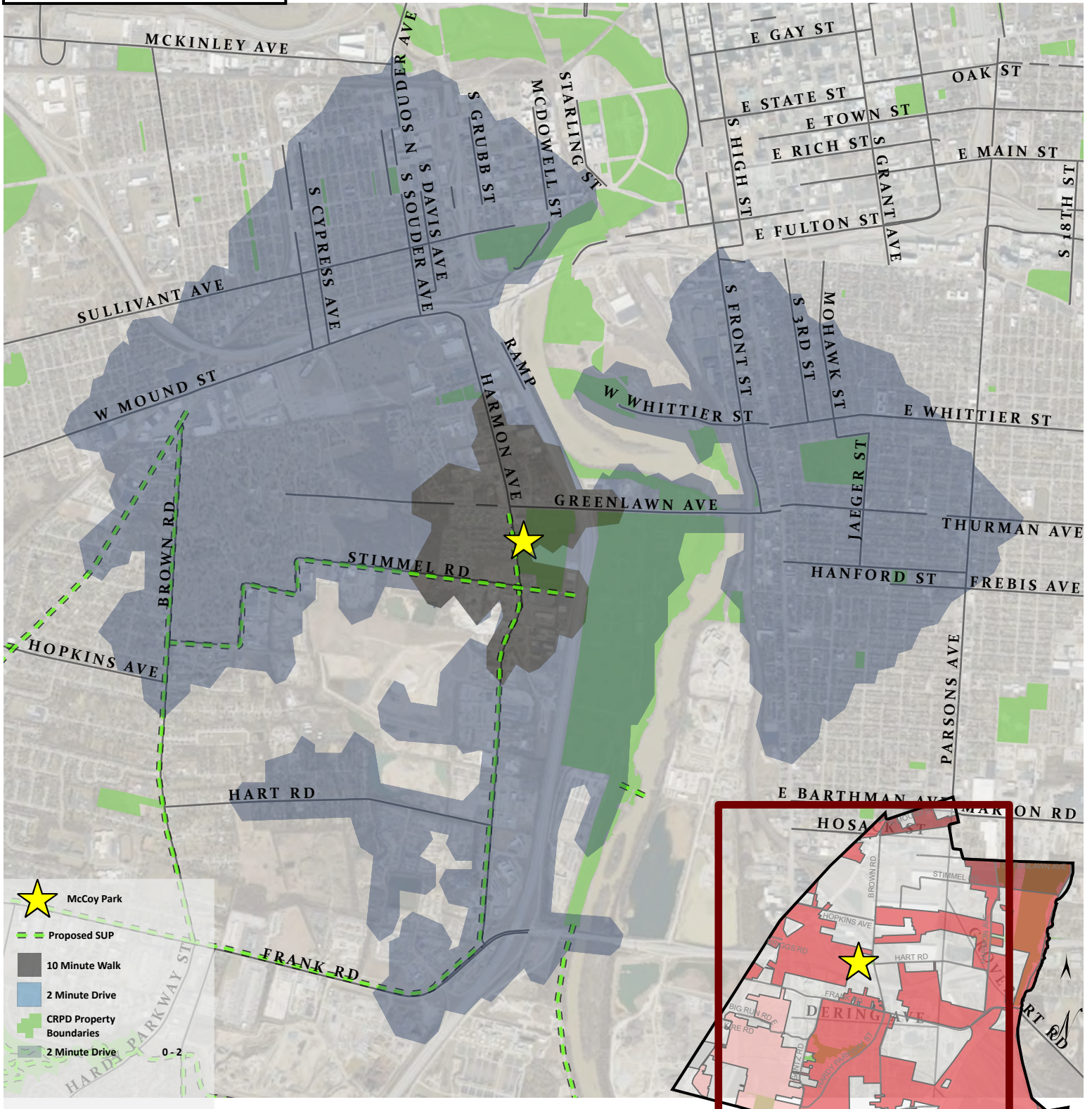
- McCoy Park
- Proposed SUP
- 10 Minute Walk
- 2 Mile Drive
- CRPD Property Boundaries
- 2 Minute Drive

POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK: 533
POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 2-MILE DRIVE: 17,325

Social Vulnerability Index



McCoy Park



POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK: 533
POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 2-MILE DRIVE: 17,325

Social Vulnerability Index



Attachment I – Berliner Park Access and Social Vulnerability Analysis

**Attachment J – Columbus Water & Power Presentation
to the Southwest Park Working Group**

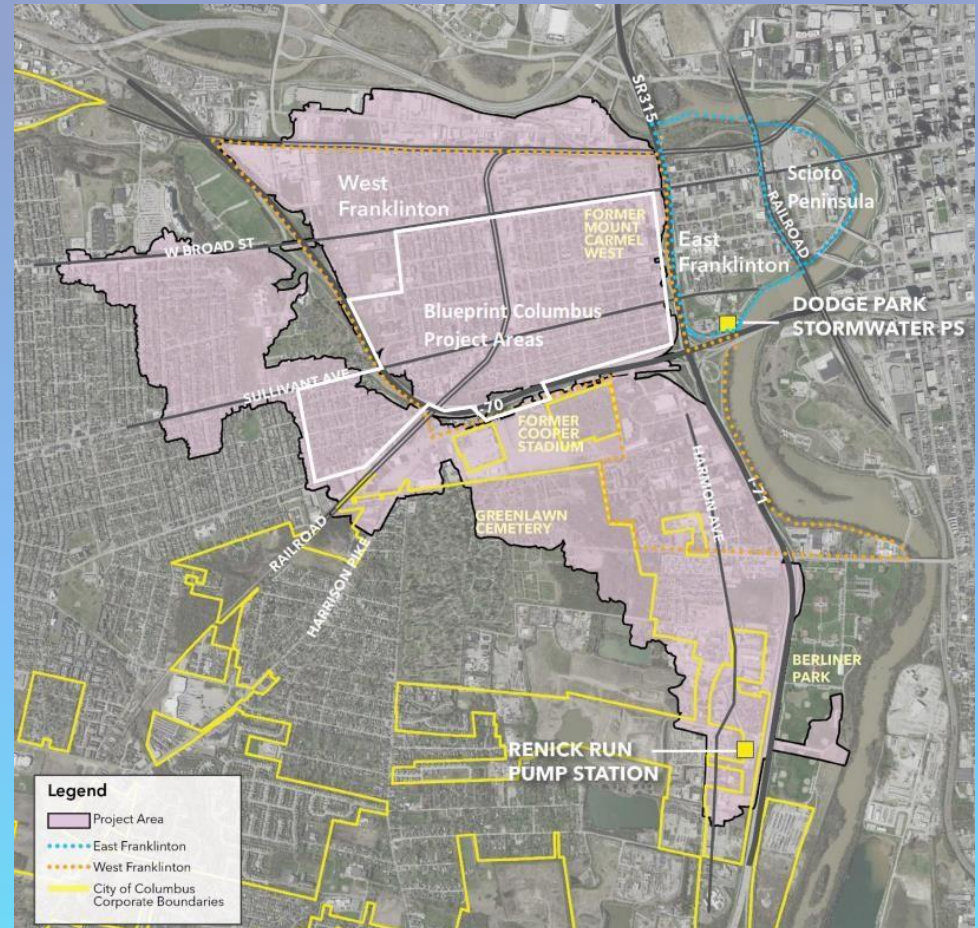
Franklinton Stormwater System Improvements CIP 610910-100001

McCoy Park – Working Group
June 11, 2026



Study Area

- Renick Run Watershed Area = 2.87 sq. mi. (1,800 acres)
- Entire water shed flows south towards Scioto River.
- Drains to Scioto River through floodwall at Renick Run Pump Station



Existing Outlet – Renick Run Pump Station (ST-29)

- Normal Conditions – Gravity outlet
- Scioto River High Water Events
 - Uses mechanical pump to maintain flow and drainage from Franklinton.
 - Includes adjacent storage areas south of the pump station that temporarily store stormwater during high river events and help manage pump station flows.

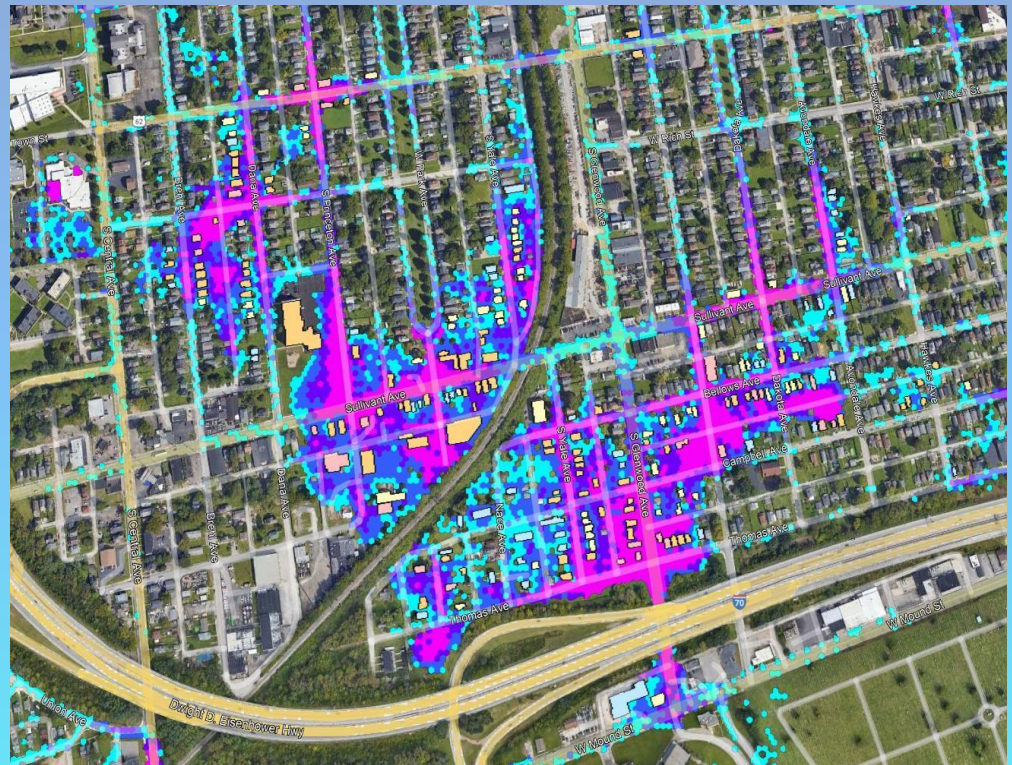


Existing Drainage – Capacity Concerns

- **15 streets flood** (over 6”) during modeled 5-year storm on Arterial and 2-year modeled storm on local streets
- **349 buildings flood** with modeled 100-year storm

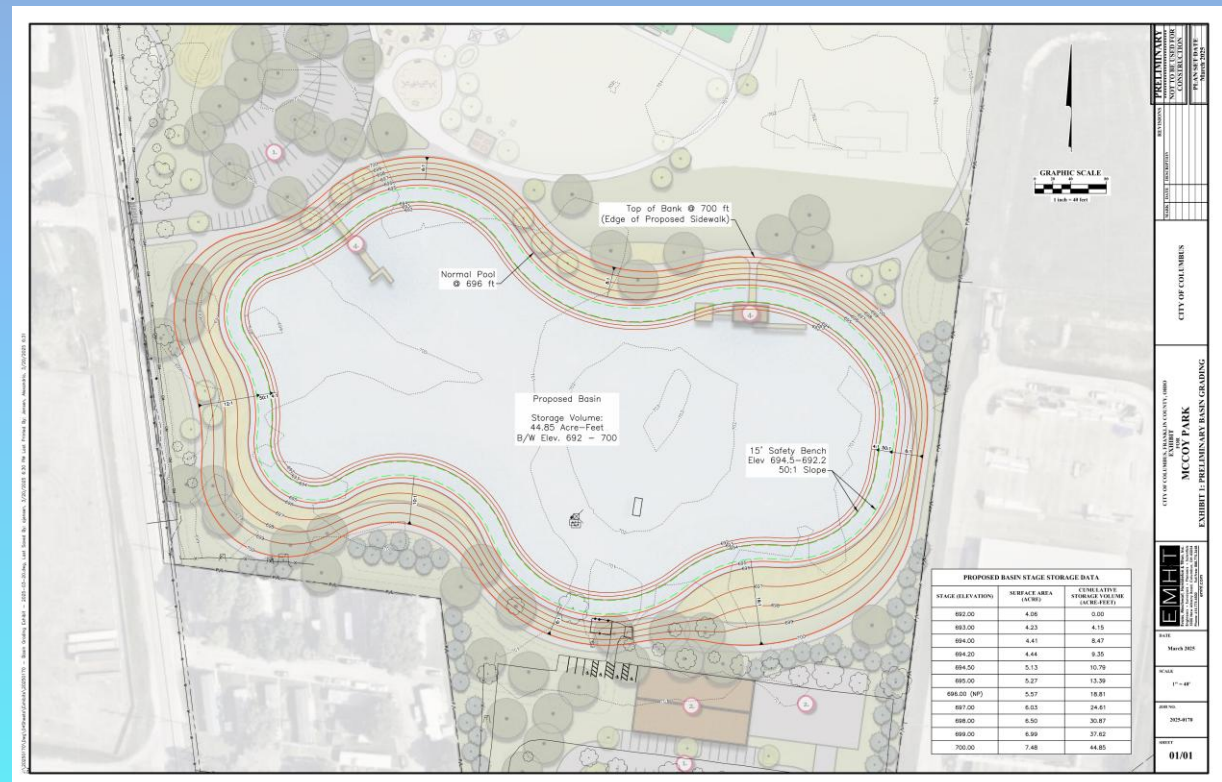
Mostly concentrated:

1. Campbell & Glenwood
2. Sullivant & Park



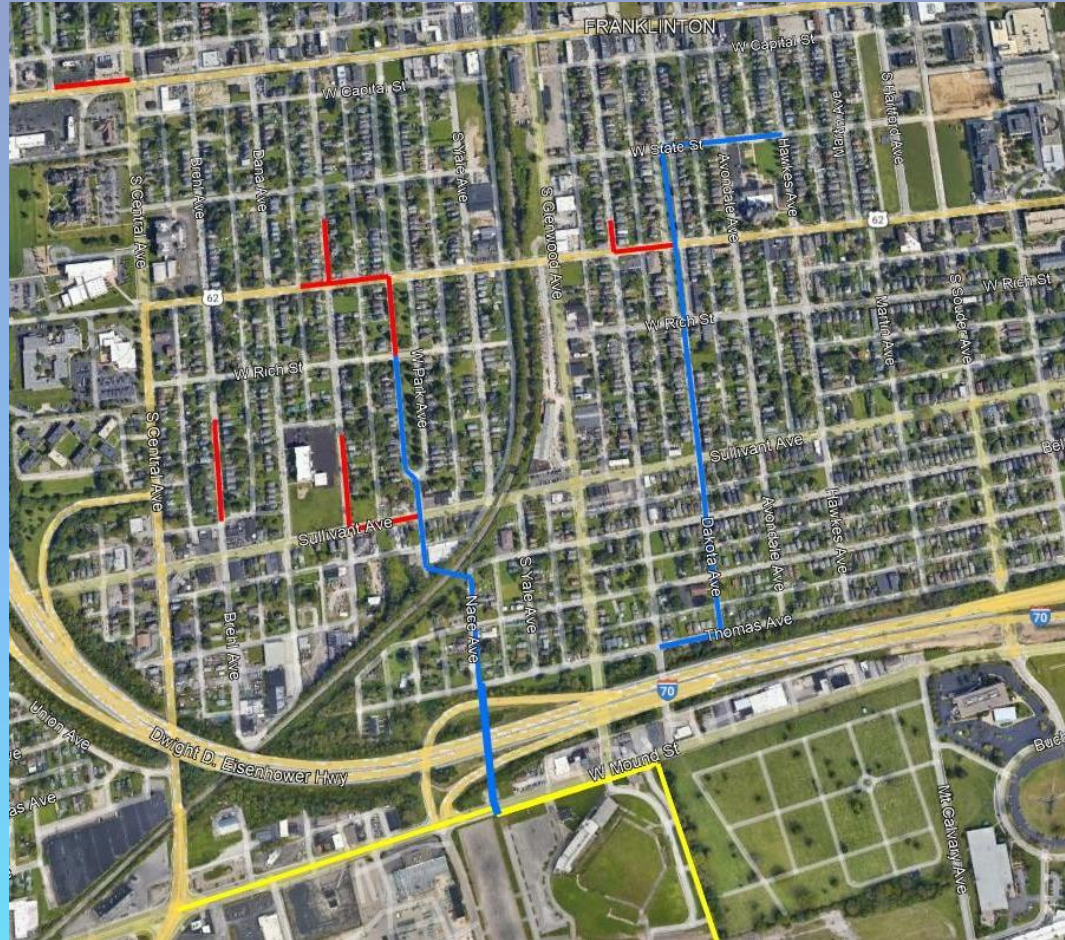
Proposed Solution – McCoy Park Basin

- Increases system capacity to achieve the City's level-of-service goal of less than 6 inches of street flooding during the modeled 5-year arterial street storm and 2-year local street storm.
- Reduces the number of buildings experiencing flooding during the modeled 100-year storm from 349 to 258 (a 26% reduction).



Proposed Solution – Project Phasing & Schedule

- Phase 1 (Yellow):
 - Sewer from I-70 south to outlet location.
 - Proposed to be complete in early-2030s
- Phase 2 (Blue):
 - Sewer along Park and Dakota connecting to the major areas of concern.
 - Proposed to be complete in late-2030s
- Phase 3 (Red):
 - Sewer to connect to various spot concerns.
 - Proposed to be complete by 2040.



Project Funding – Stormwater Utility Fees

- Stormwater utility fees are dedicated to stormwater infrastructure and related project costs.
- The McCoy Park concept presented a unique opportunity to combine stormwater infrastructure with park improvements through a partnership between Columbus Water and Power and Columbus Recreation and Parks.
- This approach allowed recreational amenities to be added at a lower installation and maintenance cost than if they were constructed independently.

Future Basin Location

- At this time, no preferred alternative has been identified.
- Several factors influence site selection including:
 1. drainage patterns
 2. available space
 3. existing infrastructure
 4. environmental considerations
 5. project cost
- Sites must be evaluated individually to determine whether they are suitable for stormwater storage and whether there are impacts to other potential community uses.
- We would be open to similar opportunities at a future site; however, each location would need to be evaluated based on its specific circumstances, partnerships, funding sources, and project goals.
- Any recreational amenities would still need to be funded through other sources.

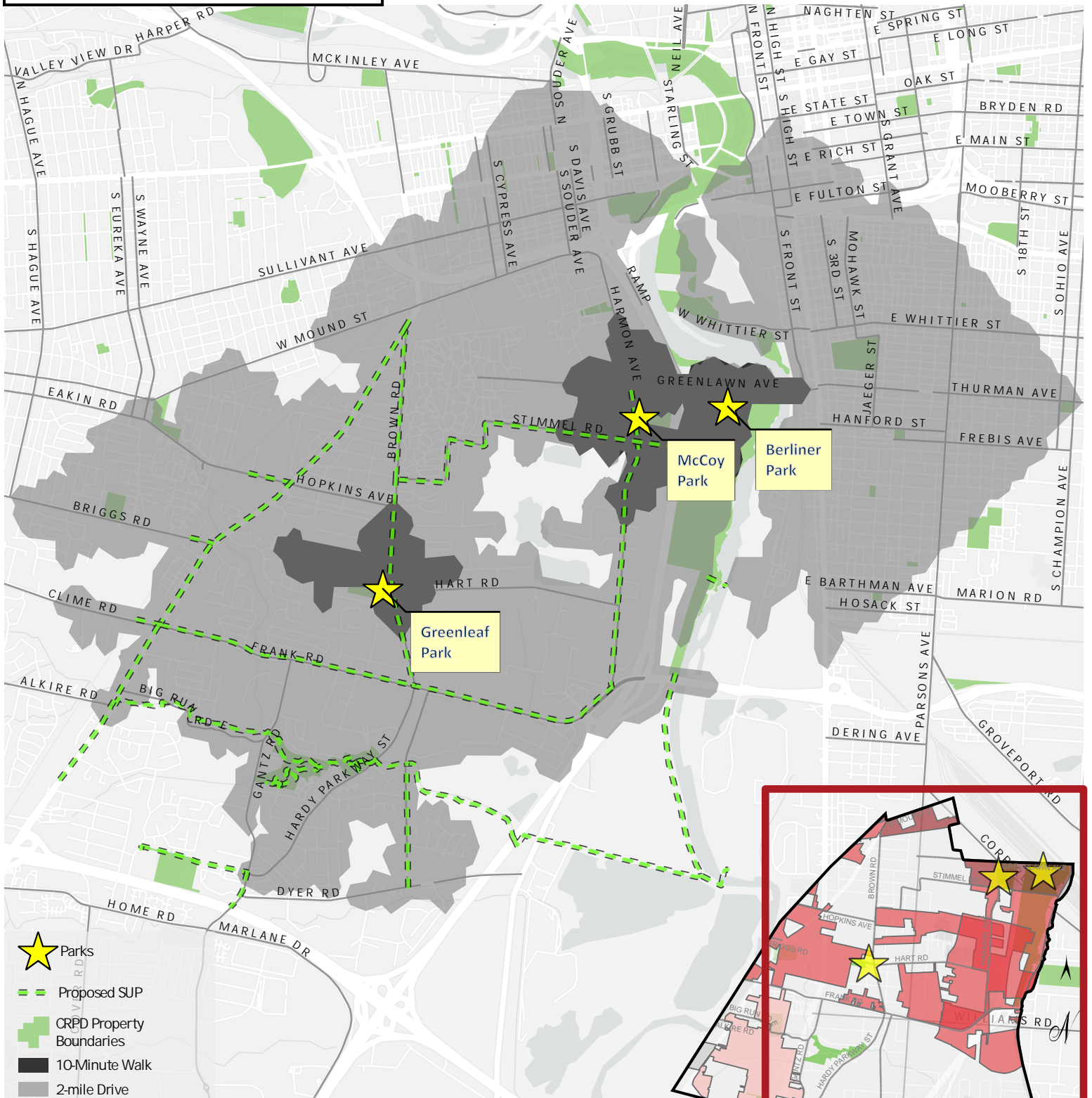
Impacts to Project Due to Changed Use of McCoy Park

- **Project Goals:** The project goals have not changed. Alternative solutions will only be considered if they provide a similar level of flood relief.
- **Project Timeline:** The schedule is dependent on how quickly a suitable site can be identified and acquired for the detention basin.
- **Project Cost:** Changes to the project are not expected to impact the stormwater utility budget or customer bills.

The City's commitment to reducing flooding in Franklinton has not changed. Previously evaluated alternatives are being revisited, and additional concepts are being considered.

**Attachment K – Greenleaf Park, McCoy Park, and
Berliner Park Access and Social Vulnerability Analysis**

Southwest Project: Total Service Times



POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 10-MINUTE WALK: 1,274
 POPULATION TOTAL WITHIN 2-MILE DRIVE: 46,955

Social Vulnerability Index

