

Patterson Neighborhood Park Plan

Prepared by: Friends of Patterson Park
April 2018



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Illustration of Patterson Park by Caitlin B. Alexander

State of the Park

Patterson Park is where five East Austin neighborhoods come together to play, exercise, and celebrate with family and friends. It was established in 1952, and brings together neighbors from Cherrywood, Delwood 2, Mueller, Schieffer-Willowbrook, and Wilshire Wood/Delwood 1. It also attracts visitors from all over the area for birthday parties, pickup soccer and basketball games, family celebrations, games of frisbee and fetch, and a variety of community events.

The Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan, which was adopted in August of 2002, lists several goals for the park. These are 1) improve local access to Patterson Park, 2) preserve and enhance the natural beauty and functionality of Patterson Park, 3) improve safety conditions of Patterson Park, 4) encourage responsible enjoyment and sense of stewardship of park by all users. In particular, encourage its users to uphold standards of cleanliness, and 5) increase community involvement in the improvement, maintenance, and upgrading of Patterson Park. The original plan document is available [here \[PDF\]](#) and attached in Appendix A.

Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP) was organized in 2002 and has been working to beautify and improve the park since then. We collaborate closely with both the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Austin Parks Foundation. Some of our initiatives include the planting of dozens of trees over several different plantings; playground improvements; the creation of and improvements to a perimeter trail; regular mulching of trees; the installation of pool house mosaic, skateboard halfpipe, shade over the baby pool, Purple Martin nesting site, and *Dance of the Cosmos* sculpture; and the design and installation of a community garden. Most of the specific action items listed in the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan have been completed, but there is much more that can be done to update the park and achieve the goals of the neighborhood plan.

The Patterson Neighborhood Park Plan is considered a “dream plan,” the vision for improvements to the park not just now, but 10 and 20 years from now. This document includes items neighbors would like to see incorporated into the park in the future. Over time, as funds become available, the COA or Friends of Patterson Park can undertake these improvements.

The Patterson Park plan is expected to evolve over time with updates made approximately every 5-10 years to reflect the impact of completed improvements and the changing nature of our community. To learn more about our events and activities, visit <https://friendsofpattersonpark.org> or sign up for our listserv at <http://bit.ly/foppgooglegroup>.

Vision

We imagine Patterson Park as a place where the community can play, gather, and grow together.

We want Patterson Park to be a multi-use, multi-generational space for exercise, play, and community events; we want to preserve open spaces and heritage post oaks; we want to continue to draw visitors from beyond the neighborhood; and we treasure our trees, community garden, pool, art, and sense of place at the intersection of five neighborhoods.

Goals

Looking ahead 5, 10, & 20 years, we want to

- Activate the park with more uses
- Exaggerate small/big spaces to make them feel more intimate/expansive
- Integrate trails better and add shade
- Add educational/historical component through programming & signage
- Use space to bring the surrounding neighborhoods together
- Maintain tree canopy, plant replacements
- Expand sculptural area
- Reclaim storm runoff with rain gardens
- Connect better to context through wayfinding and physical access

* Make improvements while keeping in mind preserving open space & intimate spaces*

Planning Process

The planning process was organized by Friends of Patterson Park using guidelines from the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. The planning process included five stages:

1. A survey was conducted in 2016 to gather information on park users (demographics, park use patterns) and users' priorities for park improvements.
2. Two community meetings were held in 2017 for park users to develop a vision and goals statement and assess potential projects that meet the community priorities identified in the survey (June 21 and September 13).
3. The plan was approved by Friends of Patterson Park in an online ballot that closed October 2, 2017.
4. The draft park plan, project boards and maps were shared at the October 8, 2017 Belated National Night Out at Patterson Park.
5. The plan was approved by the five adjacent neighborhood associations at their general meetings. Mueller voted to approve the plan on October 21, 2017; Delwood 2 on November 4, 2017; Cherrywood on November 15, 2017; Schieffer Willowbrook on November 18, 2017; and Wilshire Wood/Delwood 1 on January 24, 2018. It was also presented to the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Contact Team on October 23, 2017. The plan was submitted to the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department for review in April 2018.

Process Timeline

May 17, 2016 – Announcement of upcoming survey and plans to develop park plan at Cherrywood Neighborhood Association meeting.

May 31, 2016 – Survey opened on Google Forms. Emails sent to Friends of Patterson Park, Cherrywood, Schieffer Willowbrook, and Wilshire Wood listservs; posted to Next Door (Cherrywood, Delwood 2, Mueller, Schieffer Willowbrook and Mueller neighborhoods), and shared on Friends of Patterson Park Facebook page, and Patterson Park Families, Maplewood Elementary School, and Cherrywood Parents Facebook groups.

June 11, 2016 – Paper copies of survey distributed at Friends of Patterson Park meeting.

June 30, 2016 – Announcement of survey and plans to develop a park plan at Schieffer Willowbrook Neighborhood Association meeting. Paper copies of survey distributed.

August 1, 2016 – Article on community survey and park plan published in Cherrywood quarterly newsletter, *The Flea*.

August 16, 2016 – Paper copies of survey distributed at Cherrywood Neighborhood Association meeting.

August 23, 2016 – Paper copies of survey distributed at Friends of Patterson Park meeting.

September 28, 2016 – Announcement of survey and plans to develop a park plan at Delwood 2 Neighborhood Association meeting. Paper copies of survey distributed.

October 4, 2016 – Paper copies of survey distributed at Patterson National Night Out celebration.

December 13, 2016 – Initial results posted to Friends of Patterson Park website and listerv and

to neighborhood listservs.

January 24, 2017 – Update on park plan at Wilshire Wood Neighborhood Association meeting.

May 6, 2016 – Update on park plan at Cherrywood Neighborhood Association meeting.

June 16, 2017 – Update on park plan at Mueller Neighborhood Association meeting.

June 21, 2017 – Community meeting on Neighborhood Park Plan held at Servant Church

August 22, 2017 – Update on park plan at Wilshire Wood Neighborhood Association meeting.

September 13, 2017 – Community meeting on Neighborhood Park Plan held at Servant Church

October 2, 2017 – Friends of Patterson Park vote to support Neighborhood Park Plan

October 21, 2017 – Mueller Neighborhood Association vote to support Neighborhood Park Plan

October 23, 2017 – Presentation of Neighborhood Park Plan to Upper Boggy Creek

Neighborhood Contact Team

November 1, 2017 – Park plan published in Cherrywood quarterly newsletter, *The Flea*

November 4, 2017 – Delwood 2 Neighborhood Association vote to support Neighborhood Park Plan

November 15, 2017 – Cherrywood Neighborhood Association vote to support Neighborhood Park Plan

November 18, 2017 – Schieffer-Willowbrook Neighborhood Association vote to support Neighborhood Park Plan

January 24, 2018 – Wilshire Wood Neighborhood Association vote to support Neighborhood Park Plan

Survey of Community Priorities for Patterson

The following section summarizes the major results of the Survey of Community Priorities for Patterson Park, conducted May-October 2016. A copy of the on-line survey is included in Appendix B.

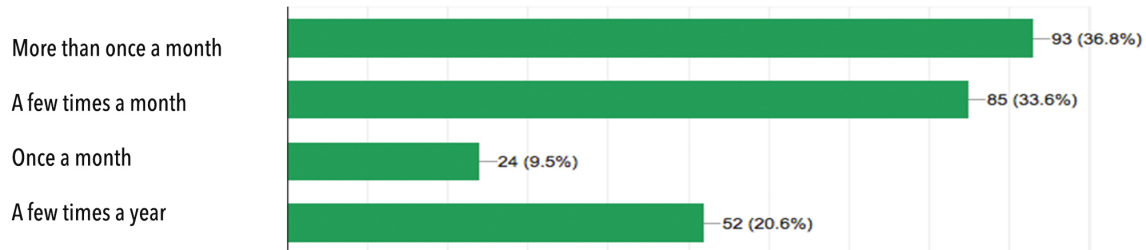
255 respondents



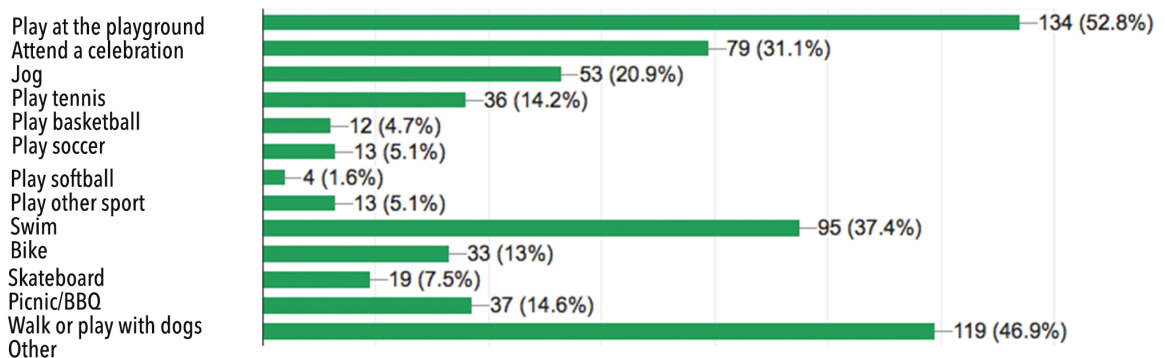
Survey Results (summary p.1 of 6)

Note: Many respondents selected multiple answers to survey questions

Q1. How often to you visit Patterson Park? (253 responses)



Q2. What do you usually do at the park? (254 responses)



Other:

Walk, work on community garden, fly kite, hang out, run around the green spaces play with kids, swim team, hang out, photography

Survey Results (summary p.2 of 6)

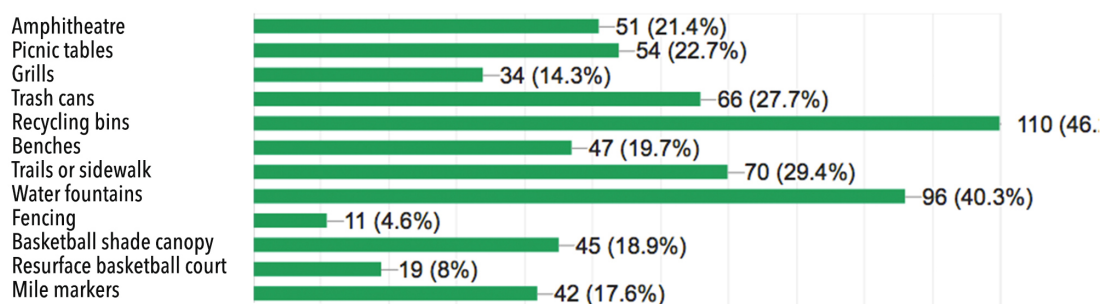
Q3. What new equipment would you like to see at Patterson Park (215 responses)



Other: 70

Skate park, dog watering fountain, carnival ride (my kids made me write this), splash pad, off leash dog run, more skateboard and bmx features, updated tennis courts, adaptive playground for special needs children, other shade structure, Little League soccer field, less is more, basic acoustic shell, fenced area for dogs, edible fruit trees, the pool open more

Q4. What new infrastructure would you like to see at the park, if any? (238 responses)



Other: 62

Water fountain, pickle ball, art, splash pad, dog park, lighting, rock climbing, no fencing or amphitheatre - things that can be used all day, no amphitheatre no grills no picnic tables please, a movement based playground that both adults and children can use and enjoy, shade for skateboard feature, path lighting, bike racks, gazebos, shades, new kiddie pool like West Enfield!, small wall or green barrier on Airport Blvd side, larger pool with diving board, soccer field, community garden, restrooms, more playground equipment, raingarden

Survey Results (summary p.3 of 6)

Q5. What new new landscaping would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any? (201 responses)



Other: 28

I would definitely like to see improvements to the landscaping. Would be nice to see the park looking more lush perhaps with some nice natural boundaries (shrubs, etc) for picnic areas; rather than take up more room, use it to accent the trails or something. Herb gardens for all to use; no butterfly garden please, it's expensive to maintain; edible plants for kids to try; labyrinth; community garden, more native plants, vegetable gardens; Annual Tree Plantings have already done so much good already. Stick to tree planting. Gardens are too maintenance heavy; stone barriers, replace logs with stone barriers; pond.

Q6. What kind of public art would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any? (90 responses)

some kind of community participation piece; Sculpture, or statues, anything colorful or whimsical; I'm open, but love public art in public spaces. Something interactive (for kids) would be great; something truly interactive for kids; Keep the picnic tables funky. That's enough; Any and all!; Turn the two tree trunks into vertical columns holding up a blacksmithed Patterson Park sign; Climb-able sculptures; Additional mosaics; none please, keep things simple and easy to maintain; Cool sculptures, mural of old East Austin; (& lots more)

Survey Results (summary p.4 of 6)

Q7. What kind of community events would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any? (219 responses)



Other: 28

All of the above, holiday festivals, tai chi, Community dances with live music, none - let people decide, skateboard contes, skateboard, dog park!, skate family cookout, Quarterly neighborhood potluck/meet up, block party, yoga classes, picnics, sure, festivals, kite, earth day.

Q8. What other improvements would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any? (91 responses)

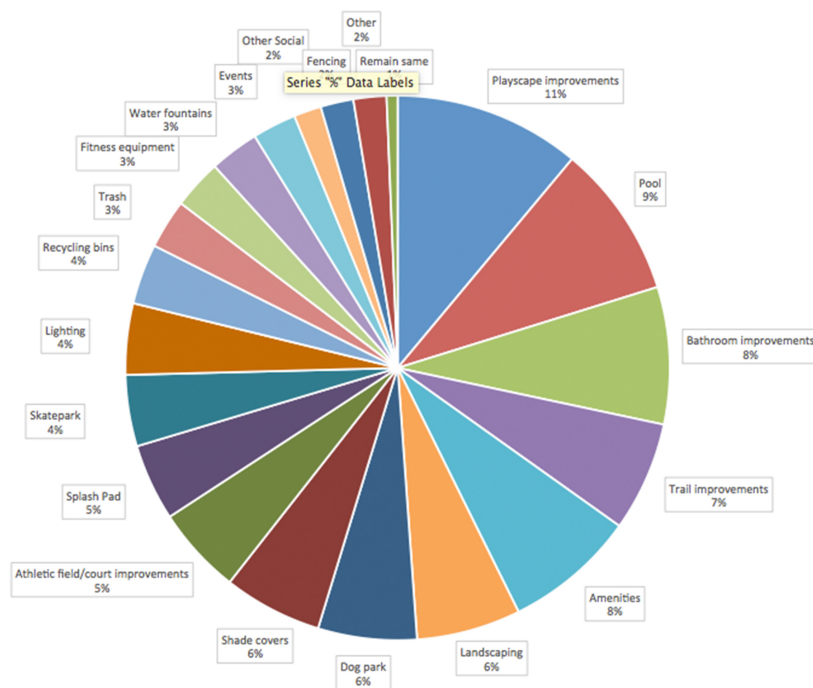
Skate park, DOG PARK!, Is there room to store tables/chairs in pavilion storage room so that neighborhood meetings could be held on the pavalion?; I really like the park the way it is. I probably like it for the reason you want to improve it, it's not very busy. It is by far the cleanest and most peaceful park in our area!; let kids play soccer; I always appreciate a fenced in playscape when we're able to find one; Inner loop extension of the trail; padded flooring on the playground needs to be replaced; an area meant for soccer, football, ultimate frisbee, etc.; larger and updated pool, lights along the trail; Pool should be open for longer hours than in summer 2015. Also, at the best time for the community to enjoy it, it is reserved for swim team 7-9pm. They could train in the morning? (& lots more)

Survey Results (summary p.5 of 6)

Q8. What other improvements would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any? (91 responses)

Skate park, DOG PARK!, Is there room to store tables/chairs in pavilion storage room so that neighborhood meetings could be held on the pavilion?; I really like the park the way it is. I probably like it for the reason you want to improve it, it's not very busy. It is by far the cleanest and most peaceful park in our area!; let kids play soccer; I always appreciate a fenced in playscape when we're able to find one; Inner loop extension of the trail; padded flooring on the playground needs to be replaced; an area meant for soccer, football, ultimate frisbee, etc.; larger and updated pool, lights along the trail; Pool should be open for longer hours than in summer 2015. Also, at the best time for the community to enjoy it, it is reserved for swim team 7-9pm. They could train in the morning? (& lots more)

Q9-11. What are the #1, #2, and #3 improvement you would like to see at Patterson Park? (147 responses)



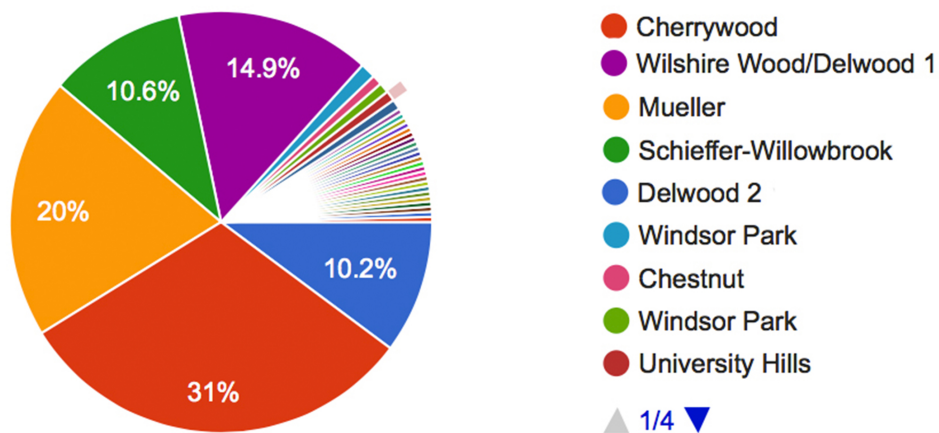
Survey Results (summary p.6 of 6)

Q12. What concerns do you have about safety, if any?

(88 responses)

The homeless and drug dealers hang out at night; the park directly abuts Airport Blvd. with no fencing or partitions in areas; tree limbs over trail; need lights at night; we walk to school everyday. I'm concerned about the lack of sidewalks along Schieffer and overgrown landscaping obscuring the view of pedestrians crossing the roads; poorly lit in evening; bathroom cleanliness; unrepaired playground surfaces; add lights. too dark. and mow the jungle please; I've never felt threatened in any way at the park; some homeless are there but never felt threatened.

What neighborhood do you live in? (255 responses)



Other: 34

Windsor Park, East Austin, JJ Seabrook, Upper Boggy Creek, Preswyck Hills, Holy Cross, Blackland, Stuccoville, Chestnut, Pecan Springs, Central East Austin, Windsor Park, Duplex Nation, South Austin, nomad, Hyde Park

Patterson Park on Google Earth



Patterson Park Activities

The following section lists desired projects based on the Community Priorities for Patterson Park. No individual project can go forward without its own approval process. To occur, a project must have demonstrated support (through public meetings, volunteer efforts, and fund raising) and approval from Austin Parks and Recreation.

Projects listed here are those with the greatest demonstrated support to date. The order in which projects will be undertaken is dependent on volunteer interest, funding availability, and PARD approval.

Infrastructure Projects:

1. Playground improvements
2. Pool improvements
3. Bathroom improvements
4. Amenities/furnishings
5. Trail improvements
6. Tree plantings
7. Shade Structures
8. Athletic field/court improvements
9. Skate ramp improvements
10. Lighting
11. Fitness Equipment
12. Other

Ongoing Activities and Participants:

Volunteer Activities:

1. It's My Park Day
2. As-needed workdays
3. Fundraising
4. Project management and outreach

City Activities:

1. Mowing
2. Watering
3. Tree maintenance
4. Infrastructure repair
5. Limited infrastructure installation (e.g. benches, trash cans, etc.)

Community Priorities and Potential Projects

1. Playground improvements

- Add freestanding play elements
- Add seating
- Add shade
- Add natural playground

2. Pool improvements

- Rebuild pool and bathhouse
- Plant shade trees

3. Bathroom improvements

- Remodel/new construction
- Add soap dispensers

4. Amenities

- Replace old picnic tables, benches, trash cans
- Add new picnic tables, benches, grills, trash cans, bike racks
- Amphitheatre (using landscaping rocks, as implemented in Mueller and Ramsey Parks)

5. Trail improvements

- Complete trail between Schieffer Ave. and Brookview Rd. roundabout
- Improved trail maintenance (add granite, remove weeds)
- Add lighting
- Add seating
- Add trail markers, map
- Transitions from concrete sidewalk to crushed granite trail at each end of the sidewalk.
- Improve connection to Mueller trail with signage, shaded seating at intersection of Wilshire Pkwy. and Airport Blvd.
- Add sidewalk on north side of Schieffer Ave. from the intersection with Cherrywood Rd. to Airport Blvd.

6. Landscaping

- Shade tree planting in groves and along trails

7. Shade covers

- Add shade structure over part of playground
- Add shade structure over basketball court

8. Athletic field/court improvements

- Resurface basketball court
- Add shade structure over basketball court
- Add lighting around basketball court
- Surface tennis court
- Replace benches and trash cans around tennis court
- Replace fencing around tennis court
- Add lighting around tennis court
- Add mulch barrier around volleyball court
- Add seating around volleyball court

9. Skate park improvements

- Resurface ramp
- Repair stairs
- Add landscaping
- Add lighting

10. Lighting

- Add solar lighting along trails
- Add lighting around athletic courts/fields

11. Fitness equipment

- Add small workout area with 2-4 pieces of equipment (e.g. pull up bar, sit up bench)

- Remove old pull up bar by playground

12. Other

- Add limestone blocks along Airport Blvd. sidewalk as seating & barrier
- Add water fountains along trail
- Add trail markers, signage, map

Infeasible

The following elements were identified as priorities in the survey but are not viable for Patterson Park.

1. Dog park. Not allowed in neighborhood parks by PARD.
2. Splash Pad. Not included in the 2017 PARD Aquatic Master Plan.

Conclusion

Patterson Park serves as a vital community nexus for the surrounding neighborhoods. Through the active involvement of Friends of Patterson Park to establish community workdays and social events, the park offers a unique opportunity to foster interaction between the neighborhoods that does not exist in any other venue. This strengthens the bonds between these neighborhoods and encourages an active participation in civic life that transcends the use of the park itself.

It is our hope that as we work together to make our plans to update, beautify and activate our park a reality in the coming years, we will also demonstrate to community members of all ages that they can make a difference in their communities.

Supporters

Friends of Patterson Park deeply appreciates the support and sponsorship from our neighbors and local businesses. We have an active and engaged community and hope to receive your continued support as we move forward with park improvement projects.

Community Partners

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association
Delwood 2 Neighborhood Association
Mueller Neighborhood Association
Schieffer-Willowbrook Neighborhood Association
Wilshire Wood/Delwood 1 Neighborhood Association
Patterson Park Community Garden
Patterson Park Families group
Patterson Piranhas Swim Team

City Partners

Austin Parks Foundation
Austin Parks and Recreation Department
TreeFolks

Business Supporters

Cynthia Soliz Law
Erin Tassoulas Design+Build
Franklin Barbecue
Thunderbird Coffee
Nature's Treasures
Nicole Cooper-NBC Realty
Urban Patchwork
Worley's Printing

Friends of Patterson Park is a fiscal client of Austin Parks Foundation. Austin Parks Foundation is a registered non-profit organization and meets the criteria as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No goods or services will be exchanged for your donation.

Appendix A

Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan and Patterson Park

The Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan was adopted in August of 2002 by the City Council. The section on Parks, Open Space & the Environment deals with Patterson Park.

The plan states that one of the neighborhood's objectives is to "raise the quality of Patterson Park to the level of other major parks in Austin. People of all backgrounds and ages should enjoy the park. Members of the community should form a "Friends of Patterson Park" organization to help implement suggested improvements. Ensure that there is continued maintenance and care for the post oaks and other trees throughout the park." This is broken down into 16 proposed action items.

- **Action Item 83.** Control the erosion on the west side of the park by installing a system of terraces or some other erosion control device and combine it with a gravel jogging path around the perimeter of Patterson Park.

Improve local access to Patterson Park

- **Action Item 84.** Install a wheelchair- and stroller-accessible path leading from the playscape area to Wilshire Boulevard on the west side of Patterson Park.
- **Action Item 85.** Complete the sidewalk at Patterson Park that is partially installed between the picnic shelter and Brookview Avenue.
- **Action Item 86.** Resurface Brookview Avenue as it enters Patterson Park.

Preserve and enhance the natural beauty and functionality of Patterson Park

- **Action Item 87.** Upgrade the playscape area at Patterson Park to promote its use by children of a variety of ages and their parents. These improvements could include:
 - Replace the sand groundcover with pea gravel.
 - Remove wooden playscape and replace it with one suitable for children ages 1-3.
 - Remove metal playscape and replace it with one suitable for children ages 4-10 (as in Shipe Park or Maplewood Elementary playground).
 - Install baby swings.
 - Keep the tire and regular swings
- **Action Item 88.** Install a shade cover over the baby pool at Patterson Park.
- **Action Item 89.** *Removed from plan.*

Improve safety conditions of Patterson Park

- **Action Item 90.** Increase police patrols of Patterson Park to enforce the parks no alcohol rule.

- **Action Item 91.** Move the electrical boxes near the swimming pool to just behind the lifeguard station and erect a new fence around it.
- **Action Item 92.** Repair the manhole cover at Wilshire Boulevard (across from Wilshire Pkwy) to prevent further accidents.

Encourage responsible enjoyment and sense of stewardship of park by all users. In particular, encourage its users to uphold standards of cleanliness

- **Action Item 93.** Raise the awareness of picnickers in Patterson Park to clean up after themselves.
- **Action Item 94.** Install a dispenser for dog waste bags and raise awareness among dog-walkers for the need to use dog waste bags from a dispenser (or to bring their own bags) and to clean up after their dogs.
- **Action Item 95.** Minimize the number of signs in Patterson Park and strategically place them in areas that will gain the greatest exposure to park users.
- **Action Item 96.** Restrict the playing of loud music at Patterson Park before 12 noon on Sundays, out of deference to Genesis Presbyterian Church.

Increase community involvement in the improvement, maintenance, and upgrading of Patterson Park

- **Action Item 97.** Conduct a survey among Patterson Park users and neighborhood residents of their perceptions of needed improvements in the park including a community/recreation center
- **Action Item 98.** Install a community bulletin board/kiosk with announcements of local events and information about the vegetation found in the park. This would be a good place for community education about picking up litter and dog waste.

Learn more about the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Contact Team at <https://upperboggycreek.com>.

Appendix B

Survey of Community Priorities for Patterson Park

Friends of Patterson Park is collecting feedback on our community's priorities for our neighborhood park. Let us know how you currently use Patterson Park and what you'd like to see there in the future! For more information, visit <https://friendsofpattersonpark.org>.

* Required



1. How often to you visit Patterson Park?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ More than once a week
- ☐ A few times a month
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ A few times a year

2. What do you usually do at the park?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ play at the playground
- ☐ attend a celebration
- ☐ jog
- ☐ play tennis
- ☐ play basketball
- ☐ play soccer
- ☐ play softball
- ☐ play other sport
- ☐ swim
- ☐ bike
- ☐ skateboard
- ☐ picnic/BBQ
- ☐ walk or play with dogs
- ☐ Other:

3. What new equipment would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ playscape
- ☐ natural playground
- ☐ adult fitness equipment
- ☐ arbor seating
- ☐ Other:

4. What new infrastructure would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ amphitheatre
- ☐ picnic tables
- ☐ grills
- ☐ trash cans
- ☐ recycling bins
- ☐ benches
- ☐ trails or sidewalks
- ☐ water fountains
- ☐ fencing
- ☐ basketball shade canopy
- ☐ resurface basketball court
- ☐ mile markers
- ☐ Other:

5. What new landscaping would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ tree plantings
- ☐ xeriscaping
- ☐ butterfly garden
- ☐ Other:

6. What kind of public art would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any?

.....

7. What kind of community events would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ music
- ☐ movies
- ☐ fitness classes
- ☐ seasonal events
- ☐ Other:

8. What other improvements would you like to see at Patterson Park, if any?

.....

9. What is the #1 improvement you would like to see at Patterson Park?

.....

10. What is the #2 improvement you would like to see at Patterson Park?

.....

11. What is the #3 improvement you would like to see at Patterson Park?

.....

12. What concerns do you have about safety, if any?

.....

13. How would you be interested in contributing to the improvement Patterson Park?
Check all that apply.

- ☐ Time/labor
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Other:

14. Become a Friend of Patterson Park! What's your email address?

.....

15. What neighborhood do you live in? *
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Delwood 2
- ☐ Cherrywood
- ☐ Mueller
- ☐ Schieffer-Willowbrook
- ☐ Wilshire Wood/Delwood 1
- ☐ Other:

Appendix C

Aerial Photo of Patterson Park

Where have you had positive and negative experiences at the park?
Annotated at June 1 Community Meeting.

- positive experiences at the park
- negative experiences at the park



Appendix D

Aerial Photo of Patterson Park

Where would you like to see furnishings added to the park?
Annotated at June 1 Community Meeting.

