

Kessler Park Advisory Committee Meeting #3 (Final)  
 Northeast Public Library  
 11.17.22

**Kessler Park Advisory Committee Meeting Attendance**  
*Names highlighted in green were in attendance*

Advisory Committee Members		
First and Last Name	Email	Organization
Amanda Kranz	presidentelect@scarrittkc.org	Scarritt Renaissance
Amanda Wilson	AWilson@lisc.org	Indian Mound
Andrew Potter	andrew@climbkc.com	ROKC/Exploring Roots
Anna Marie Tutera	atutera@kansascitymuseum.org	Kansas City Museum
Anthony Barnes	anthony.barnes@kcmo.org	KCMO
Austin Strassle	austin.strassle@gmail.com	Children's Mercy/KC Health Commission
Bailey Waters	bailey.waters@kcmo.org	KCMO
Barry Baker		Columbus Park
Bethany Alzanadi	hello@artgardenkc.org	PH Art Garden
Bobbi Baker Mike Spady	bobbibaker@nekcchamber.com ; mikespady@indieavecid.com	NEKC Chamber of Commerce
Christopher Cotten	christopher.cotten@kcmo.org	KCMO
Christopher Lowrance	clowr001@gmail.com	Indian Mound
Cynthia Herington	Herrington.cyn@gmail.com	Independence Plaza
Dana Knapp	knapp@artskc.org	Arts KC
Derowan Spears		KCMO Parks and Rec
Eric Bunch	eric.bunch@kcmo.org	KCMO
Evie Craig	evie@theartsasylum.org	Paseo West
Garet Steinmetz	gsteinenduro@gmail.com	Go Cycle City
Gerald Williams	gerald.williams@kcmo.org	KCMO Planning
Jack Lowe	jlowekc@att.net	Disc Gold and Cliff Drive Corridor
James Martin	james.martin@kcmo.org	KCMO
Jared Campbell	jared@downtownkc.org	DTC, Greenline
Jared Coleman	jared_coleman@yahoo.com	Park Ambassador

John Strada	<a href="mailto:jstreet8383@yahoo.com">jstreet8383@yahoo.com</a>	Columbus Park
Jon Cokely	<a href="mailto:jon.cokely@gmail.com">jon.cokely@gmail.com</a>	
Josh Henges	<a href="mailto:joshua.henges@kcmo.org">joshua.henges@kcmo.org</a>	KCMO Homeless Coordinator
Kate Barsotti	<a href="mailto:kate.barsotti@gmail.com">kate.barsotti@gmail.com</a>	Columbus Park
Kari Thompson	<a href="mailto:Kari.Thompson@kcpd.org">Kari.Thompson@kcpd.org</a>	Neighborhood CIO
Keith Schoen	<a href="mailto:kschoen@guadalupecenters.org">kschoen@guadalupecenters.org</a>	Guadalupe Centers Academy
Kevin Evans	<a href="mailto:kevin.evans@kcmo.org">kevin.evans@kcmo.org</a>	KCMO Parks
Kyle Elliott	<a href="mailto:Kyle.Elliott@kcmo.org">Kyle.Elliott@kcmo.org</a>	KCMO Housing
Linda Lehrbaum	<a href="mailto:linda@bridgingthegap.org">linda@bridgingthegap.org</a>	Bridging the Gap
Logan Heley	<a href="mailto:logan@heartlandconservationalliance.org">logan@heartlandconservationalliance.org</a>	Heartland Conservation Alliance
Mariah Randell	<a href="mailto:mrandell@kcdesigncenter.org">mrandell@kcdesigncenter.org</a>	KCDC
Marqueia Watson	<a href="mailto:mwatson@gkcceh.org">mwatson@gkcceh.org</a>	GKCCEH
Melissa Estelle	<a href="mailto:M.estelle1@gmail.com">M.estelle1@gmail.com</a>	Urban Trail steward
Melissa Kozakiewicz	<a href="mailto:melissa.kozakiewicz@kcmo.org">melissa.kozakiewicz@kcmo.org</a>	Asst City Mgr/CIO
Melvin Brown	<a href="mailto:mbrown1@kcpublicschools.org">mbrown1@kcpublicschools.org</a>	Northeast high school
Michael Shaw	<a href="mailto:michael.shaw@kcmo.org">michael.shaw@kcmo.org</a>	KCMO Public Works
Morgan Pemberton	<a href="mailto:morgan.pemberton@kcmo.org">morgan.pemberton@kcmo.org</a>	KCMO Planning
Nathan Hoylman	<a href="mailto:nathanhoylman@gmail.com">nathanhoylman@gmail.com</a>	Pendleton Heights
Nathanaeli Leno	<a href="mailto:Nathanaeli@phkc.org">Nathanaeli@phkc.org</a>	Pendleton Heights
Nicolas Bosonetto	<a href="mailto:nicolas.bosonetto@kcmo.org">nicolas.bosonetto@kcmo.org</a>	KCMO Public works
Nicole Goodman	<a href="mailto:ngoodman@svncharter.org">ngoodman@svncharter.org</a>	Scuola Vita Nuova
Officer Gordillo and Commander Kari Thompson	<a href="mailto:Edwin.Gordillo@kcpd.org">Edwin.Gordillo@kcpd.org</a> , <a href="mailto:Kari.Thompson@kcpd.org">Kari.Thompson@kcpd.org</a>	KCPD Neighborhood CIO
Randy Alewine	<a href="mailto:Randy.Alewine@kcmo.org">Randy.Alewine@kcmo.org</a>	KCMO Public Works
Richard Allen	<a href="mailto:richard.allen@kcmo.org">richard.allen@kcmo.org</a>	KCMO Parks and Rec
Sean Arkin		Pendleton Heights
Scott Wagner	<a href="mailto:swagner@mattierhodes.org">swagner@mattierhodes.org</a>	Mattie Rhodes/NEAT
Shatomi Luster-Edward	<a href="mailto:lusters@missouri.edu">lusters@missouri.edu</a> ,	MU Extension/Lake Restoration
Stacia Stelk	<a href="mailto:stacia@deeprootskc.org">stacia@deeprootskc.org</a>	Deep Roots

Stephen Van Rhein	<a href="mailto:Stephen.VanRhein@kcmo.org">Stephen.VanRhein@kcmo.org</a>	KCMO
Steven Tucker	<a href="mailto:stucker@hakc.org">stucker@hakc.org</a>	HAKC
Tamara Real	<a href="mailto:reallt@missouri.edu">reallt@missouri.edu</a>	MU Extension/Lake Restoration
Terrence Williams		KCMO Parks and Rec
<b>Tim Saxe</b>	<a href="mailto:tsaxe@kansascity.edu">tsaxe@kansascity.edu</a>	<b>Kansas City University</b>
Todd Lieberman	<a href="mailto:toddl@brinshore.com">toddl@brinshore.com</a>	Brinshore/Choice Neighborhoods
<b>Wil Oden</b>	<a href="mailto:willerific@aol.com">willerific@aol.com</a>	<b>Conservation volunteer</b>

On November 17 , 2022, the third Advisory Meeting for the Kessler Park Master Planning Process was held. This meeting was held at the Northeast Library from 5:30 to 7:30. The meeting's purpose and agenda are below.

**Meeting Purpose:**

- Receive feedback on near-term priorities
- Establish ad hoc group to explore Conservancy

**Agenda:**

1. Review of Community Feedback
2. Priority topics and park-wide application
3. *DIALOGUE* on near-term project priorities
4. Description of conservancy model for Kessler Park
5. Funding sources
6. *DIALOGUE* on key partners for conservancy group and roles
7. Plan Outline, including conservation plan and O&M structure
8. Next steps and Community Open House outreach

[Presentation available here](#)

**DIALOGUE on near-term project priorities:**

***Group 1 Dialogue***

Park-wide priorities:

- Safety
- Unhoused population
- Environmental restoration-remove honeysuckle because it blocks viability, and traps trash.
- Traffic

- Circulator (Barley Bus- J. Rieger & Co. and graffiti tours)
- Educational programming/technical programs
- Emergency response- deescalate DTC CID people “bumble bees”
- Find money for public art
- Sidewalk improvements
- Residency promoting park-based programs
- Focus on places that haven't gotten a lot of attention- Maple Park (could KC Current sponsor a soccer field?)

#### Reservoir

- Safety, areas should be open and accessible
- Manage for more traffic, and permit only parking
- Art garden (Margarita)
- Need restroom and signage

#### North Terrace Lake area

- Needs signage, parking, and entrance/exit gates

#### Concourse Park

- Gladstone design is well-supported
- Colonnade views should be restored by taking care of vegetation and removing honeysuckle
- Splash park needs maintenance and improvements, access to restrooms, wayfinding signage beginning to end in the park, and a mobility hub is needed

#### KC Museum

- Environmental restoration (use of goats)
- Open space for additional parking south of gate 4, and traffic calming from the Concourse to KC museum

### ***Group 2 Dialogue***

#### Park-wide priorities:

- Trash removal
- Safety
- Invasive species removal- not just once, but every year, use existing remnant and seeds to see what grows
- Recycle - Ripple Glass
- Clear signage to designate bike lanes, and where bikes are allowed
- Crushed rock trail (cheaper first phase)
- Create an easy pedestrian path from the Reservoir to the Lake
- Wide sidewalk from Maple Park to Indian Mound ( 10ft and continuous )
- Add cameras to streetlights
- Road repair on Cliff Dr (sinkholes/switchbacks)

- Gate parking
- Replace and expand existing signage
- Move pedestrian infrastructure to the back of the neighborhood road at Maple Park
- Add sidewalk to Maple Park

#### Reservoir

- Pull the sidewalk a bit more toward the park
- Eliminate gate 2; residents don't need it, it feels unsafe, it could become a pedestrian entrance and bike only path

#### North Terrace lake

- Needs more boardwalk around the lake rather than concrete

#### Concourse park

- Needs updates to the splash pad
- Make sure Gladstone closure feels intentional (ASAP)
- Wide sidewalks with bike lanes
- Bike lanes could cut through neighborhood instead
- Bike hub location at the KC Museum
- Bike lane ideal on Gladstone rather than shared use lane
- More bump-out parking in the park by the museum

### ***Group 3 Dialogue***

#### Park-wide Priorities:

- Overall connectivity
- More protection for pedestrians and bikers along Lexington Avenue
- Connect other parts of the neighborhood along St. John Ave and parts between Independence Ave and Cliff Dr. (need community engagement, outreach, and education).
- The shared-use path along Lexington Ave is very well supported.
- Environmental restoration is well supported, but a huge neighborhood effort must occur.
- Need a serious/full-time crew to deal with honeysuckle
- Invasive species and native restoration go hand in hand

#### Cliff Dr

- Clear out brush- will help visibility and sense of safety
- Safety is the number one concern
- Lighting is important would help with safety
- Manage stormwater and take care of roads
- Have a strategy to manage the trash

- Gates at entrances are supported

#### Maple Park

- Concern of traffic, trash, and trees in the park
- Need infrastructure to support overall cleanliness and safety

#### Reservoir

- Need infrastructure repair
- Road diet
- Clear out brush
- KCDC concept should be a later phase in the plan

#### North Terrace Lake

- Agriculture use is supported
- Additional parking is supported
- All attempts to improve the lake should impact safety

#### Concourse Park

- A pilot program of closing Gladstone blvd is a supported idea, but public engagement and outreach is needed
- Make the splash pad safer and establish its use as an actual splash pad

#### KC Museum

- Path across the Museum should be accessible provide art and programming
- Concerns about parking near Museum- additional parking would be fought against by residents
- If traffic is improved safety could be enhanced
- Metered parking could help finance Museum, park programming or facilities

#### Indian Mound

- Need something to prevent cars from driving on the mound
- Suggested Savannah restoration near east retaining wall
- Native plants that are low maintenance
- Clear view looking east along retaining wall

## Group 4 Dialogue

### Park-wide Priorities:

- Parkwide
- Turf conversion
- Gladstone/shared use- more safety vs nature trails
- Trail access points from the neighborhood
- Clear vistas/ invasive species removal

### Maple Park

- Concern about local sports fields closing. Add/improve sports courts

### Reservoir

- Extending conservation to areas volunteers can't do
- Road diet

### Concourse

- Improve accessibility and safety in Concourse area
- Fountain could be a quick improvement
- Temporary Gladstone closure; would need to think about the impact on neighborhood residents.

### Lake

- Chestnut road diet (include parking)- includes a barrier control between Chestnut and Cliff Drive
- Lake bank stabilization
- Urban agriculture

### Indian Mound

- Raised crosswalks/pedestrian safety
- Sidewalks and shelters
- Clear views/invasive species removal
- 

## **DIALOGUE on key partners for conservancy group and roles:**

- New Bond \$80 million
  - 75% to council districts
  - Districts establish priority projects
  - Kessler is in 3rd and 4th districts
- Oversight group could provide direction to council districts
- Neutral voice to help guide
- Capacity in neighborhoods is slim
- Need a paid position to spearhead
- Northeast Alliance Together (NEAT) and Mattie Rhodes could help coordinate

- Use grant writer from KC Parks
- Create board then subgroups
- Go beyond PIAC

Circulated a sign-up for a working group to further discuss oversight organization. 16 signed up. A meeting with this group will be scheduled for early 2023.

### **Synthesis of conversation for near term project priorities**

The near-term projects that were prioritized out of the four groups for each area of the park include:

**Maple Park:** Splash Pad, pavilion and restroom, pedestrian connectivity with tree plantings, park signage, and public art. Overall focus on connectivity and accessibility for pedestrians and bike riders as well as overall cleanliness in the park. Build upon what is working and focus here in the near term.

**Reservoir:** Reservoir Improvements -access and stabilization, road diet, park, parking, resurfacing, public art, pedestrian access via sidewalks/ paths, and signage and restrooms

**North Terrace Lake:** Lake signage, parking, creating a pedestrian path from the reservoir to the lake, path and boardwalk, lake edge restoration, urban agriculture, and public art. All attempts to improve the lake should impact safety, Chestnut road diet (including parking)- includes a barrier control between chestnut and cliff drive Lake bank stabilization.

**Concourse:** Gladstone closure, landscape/restoration, mobility hubs, park signage, shelters, splash pad, 10' shared use path, pedestrian and bicyclist access, reconfigure Bellefontaine and parking

**Kansas City Museum:** Landscape/environmental restoration, mobility hubs, park signage, public art, additional parking (bump outs), traffic calming, and park programming.

**Indian Mound:** Landscape restoration, mobility hubs (Gate 4 and Indian Mound Park), park signage, public art, shelter, wide sidewalk from Maple Park to Indian Mound ( 10ft and continuous ), and raised crosswalks.