

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tameka Allen, Administrator

FROM: Tameka D. Williams, CPRP, CYSA, Director-Recreation & Parks

DATE: May 23, 2025

RE: Addressing Petition for Improvements to Diamond Lakes Regional Park

The Recreation and Parks Department, in collaboration with Central Services & Engineering, has conducted an assessment and provided input in response to the petition for improvements at Diamond Lakes Regional Park. Below is a summary of findings and recommendations:

1. **Park Hours**

The park currently operates from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. It is recommended these hours remain unchanged, as they are consistent with the operational hours of other parks in the system.

2. **Sidewalk Access**

The distance from Manchester Subdivision to Willis Foreman Road is approximately 1.5 miles. To enhance accessibility, it is estimated that 20 ADA-compliant handicap ramps will be needed at various intersections. Due to existing streetlights, the sidewalk should be placed approximately 2 feet from the back of the curb.

3. **Lighting**

All park lights are operational. Repairs were completed last month (April) by Hammett Electric.

4. **Streetlights**

Streetlights within the area are owned and maintained by Jefferson Energy. Since the meeting, all identified issues have been resolved with no cost incurred by the City.

5. **Benches**

For safety reasons, it is not recommended to place benches along busy park roadways. Instead, we suggest installing 8–10 benches strategically around the walking track area.

6. **Shelters**

The estimated cost of installing a 750–800 sq. ft. shelter with electric and water service reflects current material and inflation costs. While shelter additions are not immediately planned, they are recommended for inclusion in future SPLOST funding considerations.

7. **Security Cameras**

Security cameras are currently located at the community center, library, tennis center, and two towers. The estimated cost for expanding surveillance across the park includes equipment, installation, and ongoing monitoring.

8. **Traffic Calming**

Two speed humps currently exist on the main park roadway. The estimated cost to install three additional speed humps is included below. While effective for speed reduction, additional humps may slow emergency response times.

9. **Parking Lot Islands**

Adding islands to the parking area near the shelters would reduce the number of available parking spaces—approximately two per island. Given the regional use of the park and the frequency of activities/events, maintaining the current parking capacity is recommended.

Estimate Costs:

Description	Estimated Cost
Concrete Sidewalks	\$440,000
10 Benches (\$700 each)	\$7,000
3 Shelters (\$10,000 each)	\$30,000
Site Cameras	\$200,000
3 Speed Humps (\$4,000 each)	\$12,000
1 Island	\$2,000
Total	\$691,000

Please let me know if additional information or clarification is needed. Thank you.