



PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATE

HOLLI BROWDER, CPRP, AFO, CPO OCTOBER 27, 2026

COOPER CREEK PICKLEBALL

PICKLEBALL COURTS TO BE BUILT AT COOPER CREEK PARK



\$3 MILLION FUNDED BY SPLOST AND PRIVATE DONATIONS

Engineering firm revising current drawings due to changes confirmed with CCG Engineering Department and acquiring a GEO technical report of the property.

- 12 PICKLEBALL COURTS
- NEW PARKING SPACES
- RESTROOM BUILDING

COOPER CREEK PARK RESTROOM UPDATE

RESTROOMS IN REAR OF COOPER CREEK PARK



POWER GRID UPGRADE NEEDED

Without power, the interior of the restrooms are dark.

Restrooms are currently closed due to the lack of power in the rear of the park for the health and safety of park users.

- Facility Maintenance Department received a quote from Georgia Power in the amount of \$600,000 to upgrade the power grid and reconnect power to that portion of the park.
- Funding source must be identified to move forward.

CARVER PARK AND RIGDON PARK

OPENING AND CLOSING HOURS

Hours changed by Administrative Order May 18, 2026

The City of Columbus has established seasonal operating hours for Carver Park and Rigdon Park to help address public safety concerns while allowing residents more time to enjoy the parks during the summer.

These hours were established following concerns about disruptive activities occurring after dark. The District Councilor, Mayor, and Police Chief agreed to extend park hours during the summer months when the splash pad and pool are operating.



When do the hours change?

- Carver Park: Summer hours begin when the splash pad opens. Fall/winter hours begin the first weekend after the splash pad closes.
- Rigdon Park: Summer hours begin when the pool opens. Fall/winter hours begin the weekend after the pool closes.

Park Hours

Park	Summer Hours	Fall/Winter Hours
Carver Park	6:00 AM – 8:00 PM	6:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Rigdon Park	6:00 AM – 8:00 PM	6:00 AM – 7:00 PM

RESTROOM UPGRADES

LAKE OLIVER MARINA, ALEXANDER PARK AND FLATROCK PARK



RESTROOM REPLACEMENT

PLANS APPROVED ON OCTOBER 13, 2026,
BY THE GEORGIA DEPT. OF COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS.

APPROXIMATELY 6 MONTHS FOR UNITS
TO BE BUILT, SHIPPED, AND INSTALLED
ON-SITE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Phase 1 Restrooms:

Alexander Park

Flatrock Park

Lake Oliver Marina

SHIRLEY WINSTON WORK ORDERS

Status of Work Orders in Shirley Winston Park

Complete

- **WO# 447628; Cave-in on slab inlet. We will investigate and repair.**
- **WO# 447643; Cave-in likely over storm pipe. We will investigate and repair if needed.**
- **WO# 447647; Cave-in on ball field light pole. We will investigate.**
- **WO#447675; Cave-in near playground. We will investigate and repair if needed.**
- **WO# 447681; Storm grate by dugout needs to be cleaned and blown.**
- **WO# 447702; Sidewalk repair near ADA entrance.**

Still open

- **WO# 447670; Ditch near the batting cages and walking trail needs to be cleaned. Open**
- **WO# 447696; Gravel portion of walking trail needs to be graded and resurfaced with M10. Funding needed**
- **WO# 447685; Existing playground is being fitted with new equipment. 10/21/2026 contractor onsite**
- **WO# 447683; Standing water by bleachers. In progress**
- **WO# 447699; Stump removal for two stumps. This was linked to WO# 447158. Transferred to Forestry**

PLAYGROUNDS

An ADA-accessible playground allows children to get to the playground, while an inclusive playground is designed to help all children participate in the fun.

ADA vs Inclusive Playgrounds

ADA-Accessible Playgrounds meet the minimum accessibility requirements established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), ensuring individuals with disabilities can access designated play areas and equipment.

Inclusive Playgrounds go beyond ADA requirements by providing opportunities for children of all abilities to play, interact, and participate together. These playgrounds incorporate equipment and features that accommodate a wide range of physical, sensory, cognitive, and developmental needs.



The key difference: ADA accessibility focuses on providing access, while inclusive playground design focuses on ensuring everyone has meaningful opportunities to play together.

18 ADA PLAYGROUNDS 1 INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

PLAYGROUNDS REPLACED SINCE 2015



ADA AND INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUNDS

- 29TH STREET
- ANDERSON VILLAGE
- BENNING PARK
- BOXWOOD PARK
- BRITT DAVID
- CHARLIE HILL
- COOPER CREEK
- EWART
- FLATROCK
- FLUELLEN
- LAKE HEATH
- LAKEBOTTOM
- POP AUSTIN (**INCLUSIVE**)
- PSALMOND
- RIGDON
- ROSEHILL
- SHIRLEY WINSTON
- THEO MCGEE
- TILLIS

AJ MCCLUNG TIMELINE

Actions by Council and Presentations regarding
AJ MCCLUNG

**TAD Committee must vote to approve the use of TAD funds before said funds can be utilized on any TAD project.

**February
27, 2024**



City Council Meeting

Council voted, by oral resolution, to use \$1.6 million from the Liberty District TAD Fund for AJ McClung Memorial Stadium

**January
13, 2026**



City Council Meeting

2WR presentation overview of stadium with complete replacement.

**March
10, 2026**



City Council Meeting

2WR presentation presented with cost breakout provided to council with costs broken down by Stages

FY26



FY26 Budget Process

During the FY26 budget process, Council voted, per the add/delete list, to use \$800k from the Liberty District TAD Fund for AJ McClung Memorial Stadium.

AJ MCCLUNG CONTINUED

Council Actions to date and next steps.



FY 27 Budget Process

During the FY27 budget process a debt service to satisfy an estimated \$6 million bond issuance was included for AJ McClung Memorial Stadium. Timing for these bonds are currently under discussion while next steps are being discussed.



June 16, 2026

Honorable Calvin Smyre speaks to City Council regarding ongoing discussions for renovations to AJ McClung Stadium.



Next Steps

Discussing priorities with stakeholders for AJ McClung Stadium Renovations.

CITYWIDE DRINKING WATER MODERNIZATION

BOTTLE-FILLING STATION REPLACEMENT PLAN



CITY PARKS

Inventory existing fountains. Prioritize sports fields, playgrounds and high-use gathering areas.



RIVERWALK

Replace aging units at major access points with durable outdoor bottle fillers.



REC CENTERS

Install accessible, filtered combination units in indoor public spaces.



WALKING TRAILS

Target trailheads and rest areas with existing water connections.



PHASED DELIVERY

Assess and rank sites; pilot units; roll out annually using competitive pricing and phased implementation contingent on funding.