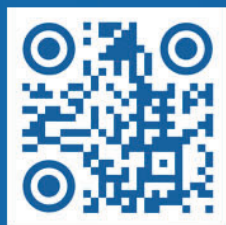




Mungo Park Master Plan

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STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission's 2020–2030 Strategic Plan provides a framework for guiding parks, recreation programs, facilities, operations, and capital improvements. The original plan was developed through an extensive community engagement process involving more than 1,600 participants.

A mid-plan update was initiated in late 2024 to assess progress, incorporate current community input, and identify emerging facility and program priorities.

A key focus of the update is improving and expanding recreation facilities in response to growing community demand. **Goal 2** in the Strategic Plan calls for the Commission to proactively acquire, allocate, develop, maintain, and protect land and facility resources to serve a diverse and growing population.

The Strategic Plan emphasizes continued investment in existing parks and aging facilities to ensure they remain vibrant, functional, and responsive to community needs. It also promotes walkable and bikeable infrastructure to support healthy, active lifestyles and calls for expanded outdoor recreation opportunities at Mungo Park.

In response to these goals, the Mungo Park master planning process brought together by ICRC staff, community members, and residents to assess existing conditions, identify needs and constraints, and establish priorities for future improvements.

Key priorities include improvements to Meech House, trails and connectivity, parking and access, safety and security, restrooms, wayfinding, and expanded opportunities for community use and programming. The plan also considers conservation easements, maintenance capacity, neighborhood concerns, and the need to preserve Mungo Park's natural character.

The results of these efforts are outlined in this Master Plan, providing a framework to guide future improvements, programming, and investment at Mungo Park.

MICHAEL J. AND MARY MEECH MUNGO PARK

Executive Summary

This report summarizes key findings and recommendations from the Mungo Park planning discussions, incorporating staff input, public feedback, and committee review of the Park's current use and opportunities.

The goal was to identify priority improvements that will guide consultants and provide a framework for Mungo Park's future development.

INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING FACILITIES

An inventory and assessment of Mungo Park was conducted, documenting the current amenities, existing facilities, size, location, conservation easement areas, and overall condition of the park.

Major Themes Identified

- **Park Access, Parking, and Connectivity**
Adding connectivity and improving parking at Mungo Park was identified as an important priority, while balancing stakeholder concerns about additional vehicle access and development. This includes evaluating existing and potential access points, including a possible Coldstream Road connection, addressing parking deficiencies at the Meech House and informal neighborhood parking, and improving pedestrian connections. Crosswalks should be enhanced where trails cross roadways, and a future connection to the Saluda Shoals Riverwalk should be considered while remaining sensitive to neighborhood concerns.
- **Meech House Facility Improvements**
Stakeholders identified the need to prioritize improvements to existing facilities before pursuing significant new development within the park. Improvements to existing park elements should be evaluated to extend their useful life and functionality.
- **Natural Character and Appropriate Level of Development**
Public feedback strongly emphasized preserving Mungo Park's natural character and limiting unnecessary development. Stakeholders

expressed varied preferences for management of natural areas, ranging from more natural landscapes to more highly maintained spaces. Future improvements should focus on enhancing existing facilities and infrastructure while carefully considering the impacts of new development. Conservation easements and adjacent property conditions should also guide future improvements.

- **Restrooms, Amenities, and Visitor Support**
Public feedback indicated strong support for adding restrooms to better serve park visitors and accommodate increased recreational use. Additional amenities should be evaluated based on anticipated casual and programmed use. Improved trail mapping, signage, and kiosks would enhance the visitor experience. Future amenities should be carefully located to support park use while preserving natural setting and conservation priorities.
- **Expanded Recreation and Community Use**
Staff recognized an opportunity to increase the use of Mungo Park and offer more opportunities for community events and recreational programs. Future planning should consider ways to expand casual and programmed use through improvements to existing amenities, facilities, and trails while maintaining the park's natural character.
- **Maintenance and Long-Term Operations**
Staff identified maintenance capacity and available resources as important considerations when evaluating new amenities, facilities, and programming. The master plan should account for both the operational and maintenance needs of any planned improvements.

Operational Observations

- Staff and the public both support enhancing Mungo Park through improvements to amenities, existing facilities, and trails.
- Maintenance capacity and available staff resources should be considered when evaluating new amenities, facilities, and programming.
- Access, parking, and security improvements should be balanced with neighborhood concerns and maintaining the park's natural character.
- Improved wayfinding, kiosks, and mapping would enhance the visitor experience.

PROGRAMMATIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Nature/Bird walks
- Art festivals
- Farmer's markets
- Yoga/fitness classes/group fitness training
- Bike trails
- Community walks and races
- Gardening classes/Environmental education
- Volunteer park groups

ADDITIONAL AMMENITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Picnic shelters (easily accessible)
- Gardens (different types)
- Fitness elements
- Restroom facility
- Natural areas (non-paved)
- Trail short cuts
- Trail markers
- Picnic tables
- Water stations
- Benches along trails
- Trash cans at trail heads
- Dog stations w/ baggies

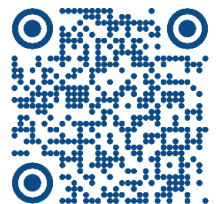
ACTION PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Develop a Conceptual Plan.
- Estimated costs and seek potential funding sources (e.g., grants, bonds, partnerships).
- Develop full construction documents and pursue permitting.

APPENDIX

Technical data, detailed maps, and drawings.

For additional information on the planning process, please scan the QR code or visit icrc.net.



IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION

The Commission acknowledges and expresses appreciation for the commitment of staff, focus group and task force members, community members and stakeholders who have contributed to this plan. We have confidence that the collective voice of the community is reflected in this document and are committed to the goals that have been established through this process.

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