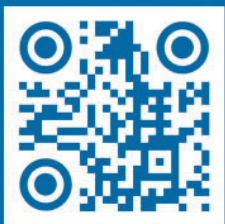




Playground Master Plan

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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 Strategic Plan update is improving and expanding recreation facilities in response to growing community demand. Goal 2 calls for the Commission to proactively acquire, allocate, develop, maintain, and protect land and facility resources to serve a diverse and growing population. Priorities include anticipating future demand, accommodating new services, and maintaining and improving existing parks and aging facilities to ensure they remain functional and accessible to residents of all ages and abilities.

This emphasis on facility investment and responsiveness to community needs prompted the development of a master plan for ICRC playgrounds. A planning committee of ICRC staff and community members assessed existing playground conditions, accessibility, amenities, and community needs while identifying priorities for future improvements, renovations, and expansion.

The resulting Master Plan provides a framework for guiding the future development, maintenance, and improvement of playground facilities throughout ICRC parks.

ICRC PLAYGROUNDS

Executive Summary

This report summarizes key findings and recommendations from the Playground Committee incorporating staff input, public feedback, and committee review of ICRC's playgrounds along with their current use and limitations.

The goal was to identify priority improvements that will guide consultants and provide a framework for ICRC's future playground development throughout the district.

INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS

An inventory and assessment of ICRC's existing playgrounds was conducted, documenting their size, location, and overall condition.

Beverly Brandes Park Playground

- The playground primarily serves children in nearby neighborhoods.
- There is limited opportunity for expansion due to the site's location and limited available parking.

Crooked Creek Park Playground

- The playground primarily serves the local community, as well as after-school and summer camp programs.
- The playground is a limited and undersized structure.
- Accessibility for this playground is limited and there is no paved sidewalk to the play area.
- Proximity to restrooms and water fountains is limited.
- The condition of the playground equipment is fair and the location has drainage issues.
- There is opportunity to expand the playground, upgrade the equipment and surfacing, and provide alternate access.

Melvin Park Playground

- The playground is centrally located in Melvin Park near ball fields, shelters, and the splash pad. The playground is used heavily during athletic seasons and when the splash pad is operating.
- The playground has limited play equipment, and is undersized. It consists of two rock like structures with attached climbing ropes.

- Accessibility for this playground is limited.
- The condition of the playground equipment is good.
- There is opportunity to expand and upgrade the playground equipment and surfacing. The current location is ideal.

Seven Oaks Park Playgrounds

- The two playgrounds primarily serve the local community, as well as after-school and summer camp programs. They also support visitors attending sports tournaments and shelter rentals.
- The two playgrounds are located in the same area.
- Both playgrounds are ADA compliant.
- The condition of these playgrounds is fair.
- There is opportunity to relocate, expand and upgrade the existing playground equipment and surfacing.

Mungo Park

- Mungo Park does not currently have a playground.
- There is opportunity to develop a playground.

Saluda Shoals Park

- Saluda Shoals Park currently has two playgrounds. Leo's Landing Inclusive Playground is the newest playground in the district and does not currently need updates or renovation. The park's second playground has also received recent renovations and is in good condition. Therefore, neither playground is currently identified as a priority for renovation or replacement.

- The playground should incorporate inclusive features that support children across a range of developmental stages and abilities.
- Traditional play elements might include slides, whirley swings, climbing apparatus, and open space.
- Non-traditional elements might include natural play elements (rocks, stumps, logs), and individual play elements (spring riders, diggers, and rope bridges).
- The suggested playground theme is Nature.
- Additional amenities might include water fountains, benches, swinging benches, fencing, and shade structures.

Melvin Park

- Expand and renovate the playground.
- Update and modernize the fall surface.
- Primary users would include ages 2-12.
- The playground should incorporate inclusive features that support children across a range of developmental stages and abilities.
- Traditional play elements might include slides, whirley swings, climbing apparatus, and swings.
- Non-traditional elements might include a zip line (possibly inclined), musical instruments, and a splash pad runoff play area.
- The suggested playground theme is the Lake.
- Additional amenities might include shade structures, a perimeter walkway around the playground, fencing, benches, swinging benches, and a picnic shelter.

PLAYGROUNDS IDENTIFIED FOR RENOVATIONS

- Crooked Creek Park
- Melvin Park
- Seven Oaks Park

KEY RENOVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Crooked Creek Park

- Expand and renovate the playground.
- Update and modernize the fall surface.
- Primary users would include children ages 2–12, with the playground designed to support both informal play and organized programming.

Seven Oaks Park

- Expand and renovate using a new location (hillside near Bluejack Shelter).
- Update and modernize the fall surface.
- Primary users would include ages 2-12, designed for informal play and organized programming.
- The playground should incorporate inclusive features that support children across a range of developmental stages and abilities.
- Traditional play elements might include slides, swings, a see-saw, rolling log, and climbing elements (Monkey Bars).
- Non-traditional play elements could include a hillside berm slide with turf surfacing, terraced or level play areas, a small water feature, and spaces designed for games, exploration, and imaginative play.
- The suggested playground theme is Forest/Tree

House or Adventure.

- Additional amenities might include shade structures, a seating area for parents (stationary and swinging), fencing, and drinking fountains.

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.

Administrative Offices

5605 Bush River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
803-772-1228

Crooked Creek Park

1098 Old Lexington Highway
Chapin, SC 29036
803-345-6181

Melvin Park

370A Eptings Camp Road
Chapin, SC 29036
803-345-8113

Michael J. and Mary Meech Mungo Park

2121 Lake Murray Boulevard
Columbia, SC 29212

Seven Oaks Park

200 Leisure Lane
Columbia, SC 29210
803-772-3336

Saluda Shoals Park

5605 Bush River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
803-772-1228

www.icrc.net