

**STRAWN ROAD**  
**Proposed Improvements Interested Parties Meeting**

January 16, 2014

Approximately 75 people were in attendance. 49 people returned comment sheets. The online portion of the comment process was available from January 21, 2014 to February 2, 2014. Attendees and online participants were asked to provide comments on the following statement/question:

- 1) Please comment on what you like about the proposed potential improvements. Please be concise.
- 2) What would you change about the proposed potential improvements? Please be concise.
- 3) Suggested Park Names (please circle one or suggest a name)
  - (1) Harmony – Perche Park
  - (2) Perche Park
  - (3) Harmony Park
  - (4) Strawn Park
  - (5) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please write in suggestion)

**Statement 1 Summary:**

Thirty eight (38) of the commenters responded only to the disc golf portion of the plan. All thirty eight were positive. A few of these comments further mentioned the desire to have multiple tee pads per disc golf hole and to construct a “championship level” course to be able to host tournaments and bring in competitors. Of the remaining eleven (11), five (5) supported disc golf with additional positive comments for other features shown on the proposed plans. The other six (6) focused primarily on other portions of the plan. There were seven (7) online participants that provided comments.

All comments were as follows (grouped by commenter and not edited for grammar):

- A new disc golf course to be played on by kids in the Disc Golf Club at Hickman. This course is a wonderful idea.
- I am the president of the Columbia Disc Golf Club. Disc Golf is an amazing community sport that involves all types and ages. This property is wonderful for disc golf. We work hard to preserve the natural environment and landscape. Thank you for considering this property for DG use!
- It would be great to see another disc golf. They are talking about a championship course. It would go to have another course on the west side of town. Been playing for about 20 years and would love to play another local one.
- I play disc golf and I enjoy being out there with my family and friends. It’s nice to have a place where you can be outside and enjoy the park.
- The design of the course allows use for the land that would not only improve the looks, but also bring people out to a park that is in a very convenient location

- I like the plan to add another disc golf course in Columbia. The location is good considering the locations of the other course. “Championship Level” course the potential to draw in many more people to our city.
- We like the disc golf. We think the Perche Trail connection to the North is an important link of the system.
- I am an avid disc golfer and support all efforts to the proposed improvement.
- I love the idea of 18-36 holes of disc golf. The courses we have are extremely utilized and it would be wonderful to have a variety of laces to play.
- Excited to see a potential disc golf national level draw to Columbia. Improvements to public land. Increased access and awareness of civic directions is always a good thing.
- Very glad to see a perk going into that space. Relieved to hear the Parks & Rec people confirm minimal removal of trees
- Great location for a disc golf course. Varied topography makes for interesting course layout. Connection to future Perche Creek and Harmony Creek Trails. Really great opportunity to host tournaments and attract players and people from outside Columbia.
- That it will connect to already existing trailway systems. That it will expand the trailway system and get more people out into nature. It will also foster community and family enjoyment as it offers more options for Columbia residents.
- Columbia needs a disc golf course on the West side of town. Eventually may bring more tournaments to the city and one day maybe the world!
- A new disc golf course so we can have A tier tournaments
- I am very excited that the park is going to have a championship level disc golf course. The land itself is going to be a magnificent change of scenery from most parks in Columbia. The elevation change and large fields are going to make for a unique challenge to disc golfers. The potential for the park is exciting to say the least. Benches for the disc golf course would be a nice addition with all the elevation and walking that will be done while playing this course.
- A new championship level course (disc golf) would be an excellent use of the “high ground” in the park.
- I really like the idea of 18 to 36 holes of championship disc golf course with multiple tees and pin placements.
- I like that it will provide the people of Columbia with another way to experience the outdoors through a fun sport. Also the parks department is great and they will to a terrific job!
- Disc golf is a growing sport in Missouri and the Nation. To have a championship caliber course would help to draw tourists and competitors from all over the nation and world. The sport is rapidly growing among young people, especially students at MU. To have

another disc golf course would also help alleviate crowding at other area courses. This would bring a lot of business to Columbia and surrounding area. Hotels/restaurant and shopping.

- The potential for a disc golf course is immense as the land is very amenable to challenging play. The parking and shelter and bridges are important amenities. Benches for disc golf course on tee pad will be important too.
- First off, like to thank you guys for considering another disc golf course for the city. The guys and gals around mid-Missouri are loving the sport and its growing as you know. All we want is a top notch course to rival other cities around. Plus get better ourselves as we grow the course and in the game. Please provide trash cans and benches for every hole, it's very beneficiary.
- Any added disc courses to the Columbia area would be an improvement. The sport of DG has grown immensely over the past 10 years. Every community in the central MO area now has a course Mexico, Moberly, Fulton, JC, etc. Columbia has and should be the leader of this sport in central MO.
- The championship style course concept is amazing. We definitely need more holes in Columbia to accommodate this growing sport. Really appreciate the work the city has done on this and listening to the needs of area disc golfers!
- Disk golf. We need more free sports on the Scott Blvd. side of town. Yes there is Cosmo but it can be hard to access when soccer and football are paced. Walking trails and tennis courts would be a nice extra.
- Amazing. I'm going to take this page to express my thoughts more on the greatness and success this course will be. First I would like to thank everyone that's making this possible. It's sincerely moving a lot of local hearts that love the game for what it is. Let me ask you have you ever played disc golf. What would think of your children playing disc golf. Some parents don't want their kids to be knocked around or roughed up playing football. Some may not be tall enough to play basketball. And some kids might just find baseball outright boring. I'm not gonna lie it takes about 3-7 times to get fully hooked to the sport. Once you learn the technique the game becomes more intense. I knew a man that was stage 3 diabetes with a year went to stage on diabetes. Guys that have bad backs, sore knees, cracked collar bones get together on the same field and enjoy the day of sportsmanship. We as a community amongst women, children, men, neighbors and even strangers represent the professional Midwest disc golf scene. We as a community are very grateful and blessed to receive an opportunity such as this. You would not believe the talent this City of Columbia withholds. My name is (name deleted) and over the pas three years. I've been training to the outmost max in preparation for my 2014 season. I am proud to say I am a member of Professional Disc Golf Association and none o this could be possible if courses such as Oakland and Indian Hills. I was able to take my game to the next level with club members of Columbia Disc Golf Club. They have supported me and move to chase the dream has filled my veins. I will be a future world champion and would like you to take a moment and think how many lives your moving. My goal is to get the University of Missouri to take part in Collegic College Disc Golf. With this course could be the house grounds such as the proposal. I could go on for hours my heart bleeds the game. A lot of the community would love to host the 2020 Disc Golf World Championships affiliated with the PDGA. Again thank you for

your time layout looks great only suggestion mid 9 restrooms walk path trashcans, and benches. We as a community will keep clean. God bless.

- Enjoyed the idea of getting this side of Columbia involved in disc golf.
- A new championship level disc golf course.
- I love disc golf and am looking forward to having a new course in town. The Mid-American Open brings a lot of people to town and would bring even more if we had another course to play.
- I like the idea of building a very professional course with 18 baskets and see what room is left for any more baskets. Instead of trying to just stuff 36 in the space.
- I like them. My concern is how often that area floods.
- I love the idea of a new course and new park for my family and friends to enjoy. And the change to play a championship course in my home town is incredible. I've traveled to Michigan to compete in national tournaments. So to bring that opportunity to our town with the new park is a change to bring better players to our town. The sport is growing more every day.
- Another course in Columbia would allow people to use other places to play allowing flow at Oakland to pick up from overcrowding. It also allows for more people to Columbia to play for our sport.
- Disc golf supporter. Looks great!
- Utilizing areas of Columbia that are not being used currently is going to lend a hand to growing the city as a whole. Disc golf in general will take land that is deemed "unusable" by most other business ventures and thrive. It also does so without changing the landscape or adding major permanent fixtures.
- Love it – very excited
- Disc golf course. Athletic fields. Kids play area.
- Great location for a park. Good placement of city. Good use of natural terrain. Great way to connect nature trails. Keep natural. Don't allow motorized vehicles such as 3 wheelers, etc.
- I like the use of the land to make a park near the Bellwood Subdivision. I love the trails idea and that one will reach the Katy Trail with time. I love the tennis courts. We might want to think about a playground for small children also. I am ok with the disc golf.
- Use as a park with minimal changes in topography. Potential connection of trails with existing trail system. Routine maintenance of area which now collects a great deal of flood trash. Eventual development of needed soccer, etc. practice fields. Expansion of Columbia's great park system.

- We as a disc golf community would love to have a championship golf course in Columbia. Strawn Park would be a perfect place for this. The elevation changes is a very important component compared to other cities with golf courses around the state. This is what COMO needs, it would bring money to the city with any kind of tournament that is played. Jefferson City is developing a new course as well in order for COMO to keep up we need a new course. The proposed plan is detrimental to the future of our sport to continue to grow in Columbia.
- Great plan – plenty of space between holes. Good elevation/water.
- I am for this project which I hope it is reachable (?) from our Bellwood Subdivision.
- Very interested in proposed improvements concerning championship disc golf course. Would like to see another course on the south side of I-70. Also without as much other uses mixed in with course to try and separate course from other proposed ideas so they aren't on top of each other as much as other courses in town.
- Disc golf
- Excited about the potential of a new championship grade disc golf course.
- Having a championship course in Columbia is a very exciting. Make it a destination course. Would bring in tourism dollars as well. Columbia is definitely in need of a new course. The popularity has risen enough, it is hard to play the Oakland courses when school is in session.
- Designing and planting a championship level disc golf course is a great idea. Our community would benefit a lot. Disc golf is an inexpensive sport that is rapidly growing. It is a lifetime activity with players from 10 to 65 years old are regular players. With all Columbia courses in the northeast, expanding to the west will help serve many more players.
- Like: Championship 18 hole disc golf course with a design by a member of the Disc Golf Course Designer's group.
- Multiple teepads just like a regular golf course. It's also paramount to have a 5th teepad for juniors. Color coordinate teeing areas exact same as golf (gold/wod class tournament; blue/championship; white higher handicap men; red/women & beginners; green/junior & senior)
- <http://www.pdga.com/documents/course-design-acreage-guide> us make sure its a gold championship course, not a red one
- <http://www.pdga.com/documents/par-guidelines> A course that abides by the above document as well as the 3-1 elevation factor, & fairway density (i.e., width of flight paths in fairway, not width of walking paths on fairway, as well as trouble in rough - please not another Indian Hills).
- I believe the addition of a championship caliber disc golf course is a necessity. The Indian Hills and Oakland's back courses are great but the improvements in disc design have changed the way the game is played. Those changes have made the Oakland top

course less desirable to play for a professional player like myself. Not saying there isn't a place for those type of courses in the game, just not one I would consider playing if there were a championship quality course in the area. Disc golfers, just like ball golfers are willing to travel in order to play new courses. A new course of this caliber would bring a lot of people to Columbia just to play it. It also allows us to host larger tournaments which brings in revenue from players from all over the country to our community as opposed going to other places with better quality courses. Well designed courses with multiple tee pads will allow for players of all skill levels to enjoy playing them. I have heard that this course will give us that. I helped with the installation of the Indian hills course as well as the relocation of several holes at Oakland. If this proposal is accepted I will be glad to donate my time to help with course design and installation and am genuinely hoping for the opportunity to do so. Thank you for considering to allow us expand what is an amazingly fast growing sport, loved by many young and old.

- Championship Disc Golf Course
- I like the championship disc golf course it great for community and helps utilize every sq inch of a park without demolishing the landscape
- I hope the proposed Frisbee course would result in minimal tree removal and only those that would enhance general stand structure. This is a wonderful property that I regularly enjoy and I would like to see as much natural character retained as possible.

#### **Statement/Question 2 Summary:**

Twenty-two (22) commenters provided no or minimal comments (nothing, no change, looks great, etc.). Nine (9) of the comments provided potential only improvements to the disc golf plan. These included making sure there is enough parking, plenty of trash cans, benches near tee pads, and the potential issues of having too many of the holes in the flood plain. The remaining comments included other topics/ideas. Of the seven (7) online participants, only five (5) provided comments.

All comments were as follows (grouped by commenter and not edited for grammar):

- Nothing
- Sidewalk to the park so one could ride a bicycle.
- To have shelters for the weather and restrooms available.
- I don't really like the soccer fields. Maybe something that hasn't been seen before. Archery range?
- Need a sidewalk to the park from Scott because of the higher use of that area.
- I would like to add a dog park and baseball field. A basketball court would be a nice addition.
- No suggestion
- Nothing thus far.

- Dog off leash area when not in use. Better public notification!
- Hope that a large green space buffer can be maintained in the Southwest corner between Strawn Road and Bellwood Subdivision. Thanks!
- Avoid using too much of the flood plain for course layout. The more benches and trash cans, the better. This will give people a place to rest and cut down on litter.
- I cannot think of any potential improvements.
- Nothing
- Nothing at this point
- When/if the funds are available I would like there to be a running trail around the outside.
- I would add bridges to cross Perche Creek.
- Some concern about mosquitoes.
- Just as long as you guys don't leave us in a flood zone where we can't play the course because it rains too much. Also allow local disc golf club input as we are gonna be the main users of the park. Thanks.
- The design calls for an 18 hole championship level course. I believe that having 3 separate 9 hole courses would answer our community needs more than any other idea. 3 separate 9 holes of different level ability's. Thanks Parks and Rec!
- Would move the fields....otherwise I think it's a great design and use of City land.
- I'll leave it to the planning pros.
- Nothing.
- Looks great
- Thinking that you used to start and finish the disc golf course at one time. This could be a phased project over 2-3 years to gain funding and people would be just as happy. Its starting the project that is important. It will finish itself.
- Add benches and walking trail – possibly have worlds held here in the future maybe add shelter area with grills and restrooms.
- Locate neighborhood park or provide second park closer to Strawn. Include a couple of tennis courts. Possibly utilize grade differences for a sledding hill or large slide.
- Keep all natural trees possible. Add trees when possible.
- Trees, trees and more trees. Do not allow vehicles, eg 3 or 4 – wheelers on trails.

- Not a change but rather a concern: It is imperative that the flood plain of either Perche or Harmony Creeks not be affected. Impending drainage in this area directly affects the potential flooding of my home.
- Just as long as we have enough parking I don't see any improvements that need to be implemented. The disc golf community as a whole is more than appreciative for anything the city would do to continue for the sport to grow as evolve. Thank you.
- Enough parking? Place plenty of trash cans.
- Need to get more info online.
- Hopefully any creek crossings have bridges.
- Not use the flood plain for disc golf: why? If we get 2 inches of rain parts of the course will be unusable.
- I think the plans look great. Need more trash cans at all.
- I worry a little about using too much in the flood plain. If the goal is to attract high caliber players to tournaments, flooded holes aren't optimum. Similarly raising the access road to the level of Strawn Road would be good.
- Phase E: Move the middle east ballfields to the open northwest field – which is more flat and closer to the current listed NW fields
- Would like to see preliminary course installed for 2/14 Mid-America Open.
- Phase C: Wrap the road away from the disc golf course and towards the NW(E) fields. A road through the course would severely limit the scattered landscape needed for a full professional par 67, 18 hole course.
- Put a playground near the parking lot.
- Maintain the pond on the NW side of the park.
- Please replace blue course baskets @ Albert Oakland and relocate the originals to parks adjacent to Columbia Public Middle and High Schools; all 10 such schools have incorporated disc golf into their health and physical education curriculum and need proper equipment for classes and after school programs.
- Don't put a road through Harmony creek in the center of the disc golf course. This would ruin the heart of a championship course, and pollute the Harmony creek - which is one of Columbia's cleanest creeks. Please limit parking, ball fields and playgrounds to the 4 western-most fields.
- Don't do 27 short holes with only a couple tee pads. Do 18 holes with as many pads as possible. A rec level par 67 would equate to an advanced par 54-58. An intermediate men's par 67 would also be comparable to a par 54-60 for world class players. I'd rather have 4 championship ways to play one pin than 27 average holes. The extra tees can be designed off a wide acre spread so as to create 4 good holes instead on one hole with 4 shorter ways to play it. ps- this is (name deleted), & this is my # 1 concern of paying a designer who slaps together lazy teeing areas, We need this course to give players a unique reason to come to Columbia and spend American \$ here instead of K.C., Moberly, Marshal & St. Louis Budget the application of something destructive to poison ivy. I love Mr. Ditmer, but our parks are parks, not forests. And poison ivy has no place at a park;

especially not on a course where people inevitably have bad shots (ie., Indian Hills entire back 9). I can't promote a course that people are afraid to play.

- Add more entry areas/parking lots that aren't in the flood zone
- Nothing
- I am truly sick about the loss of natural habitats for yet more soccer fields and Frisbee golf. The west side of town has so little natural areas to take dogs and children and this tract is especially nice as it is adjacent to several creeks. I would be far more interested in more natural habitat and historic interpretive markers, perhaps relating to the Boone trace and the old tavern to the west (formerly) A section near one of the creeks as a leash-free area would be a nice addition, even better if you could maintain some of the natural habitat. This could also be an outdoor classroom for nearby schools. much closer than Cosmo or Rock Bridge.... Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I did not see the notice for the public event so appreciate this option.

**Totals (Both IP and Online) for the park name suggestions are:**

Harmony – Perche Park	7	
Perche Park	6	
Harmony Park	15	
Strawn Park	21	
Write in suggestions (# of votes):		Bellwood Park (1), Harmony Creek Park (2), Ron Swanson Park (1), Rothstein Park* (1), Golden Eagle (1)
No votes or suggestions	2	

\* Comment with Rothstein suggestion: Rick Rothstein was a CoMo resident for several years, where he founded the National Charity (?) Tournament, the Ice Bowl – which raised \$300k a year. He is currently in KC Mo and is a board member for the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA).