

Sunset Mini Park

History and Character

Sunset Mini Park is located on 4 Sunset Drive. There are no documented historic sites within the park.

The 0.14 acre park features a playground, small trees, a walking path, and two benches. The playground is intended for ages 2-5 and consists of standard play equipment, swings, and wood chip surface.

The park is located adjacent to a residential neighborhood and near the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, King Street-Old Town WMATA Metrorail Station, and Alexandria Union Station, which serves Amtrak and Virginia Railway Express.

Existing Conditions Map



Sunset Mini Park

Which of the following existing park elements would you like to preserve, enhance, or transform?

Playground			Benches		
Element	Count	Percent	Element	Count	Percent
Preserve it	2	33	Preserve it	3	50
Enhance it	3	50	Enhance it	3	50
Transform it	1	17	Transform it	0	0

Fence		
Element	Count	Percent
Preserve it	2	33
Enhance it	3	50
Transform it	1	17

What is currently NOT in the park that you would like to see there?

1. Exercise equipment for older kids and adults
2. Eliminate the slide assemble (Which is in poor condition), the silly little 'house' (that no one plays with), and the sit-down spinner (that few kids are attracted to for more than 30 seconds). Replace with a bigger play structure that will appeal to a wide age range and a regular stand-up spinner. The swings are fine.
3. Water fountain
4. Na

Community Feedback

In Fall 2018, staff collected community feedback to understand how the park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey and community workshop. Over 400 people responded to the survey in total, 10 of which were specific to Sunset Mini Park. Staff used the collected information to develop the draft park plans.

In 10 years, I would like this Park to...

(Top 3 rankings shown, based on a weighted score)

1. *Be a safe place for children to explore*
2. *Be a space to go exercise on my own*
3. *Be a place to relax*



The image above is an example of a city standard picnic table that may still be moved within the park. Additionally, movable seating, such as Adirondack chairs, could be used to provide additional seating.

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Which of the following existing proposed park elements do you love, like, or not like?					
Recommendation Fence Number of responses 14			Recommendation Playground Number of responses 14		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	5	36	I love it!	6	46
I like it	4	36	I like it	5	38
I don't like it	4	29	I don't like it	2	15
Recommendation Seating Number of responses 14			Recommendation Park welcome sign Number of responses 14		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	9	64	I love it!	7	50
I like it	3	31	I like it	6	43
I don't like it	2	14	I don't like it	1	7
Recommendation Access Number of responses 14			Recommendation Public art Number of responses 14		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	5	36	I love it!	8	57
I like it	8	57	I like it	5	36
I don't like it	1	7	I don't like it	1	7

In the summer of 2019 RPCA staff collected community feedback on the draft recommendations for improving this pocket park. The following information summarizes what was heard through online surveys and community feedback (see appendix for full results). Over 700 responses were collected in total, 14 of which were specific to Sunset Mini Park.

Based on information from the summer input phase, staff updated the plan to best represent current and future community needs. A major change to the draft plan was the reconfiguration of the fence to allow for multi-generational use of the park. The fence surrounds the playground and not the benches, allowing users access to the benches without being inside the playground.

Improvement Recommendations

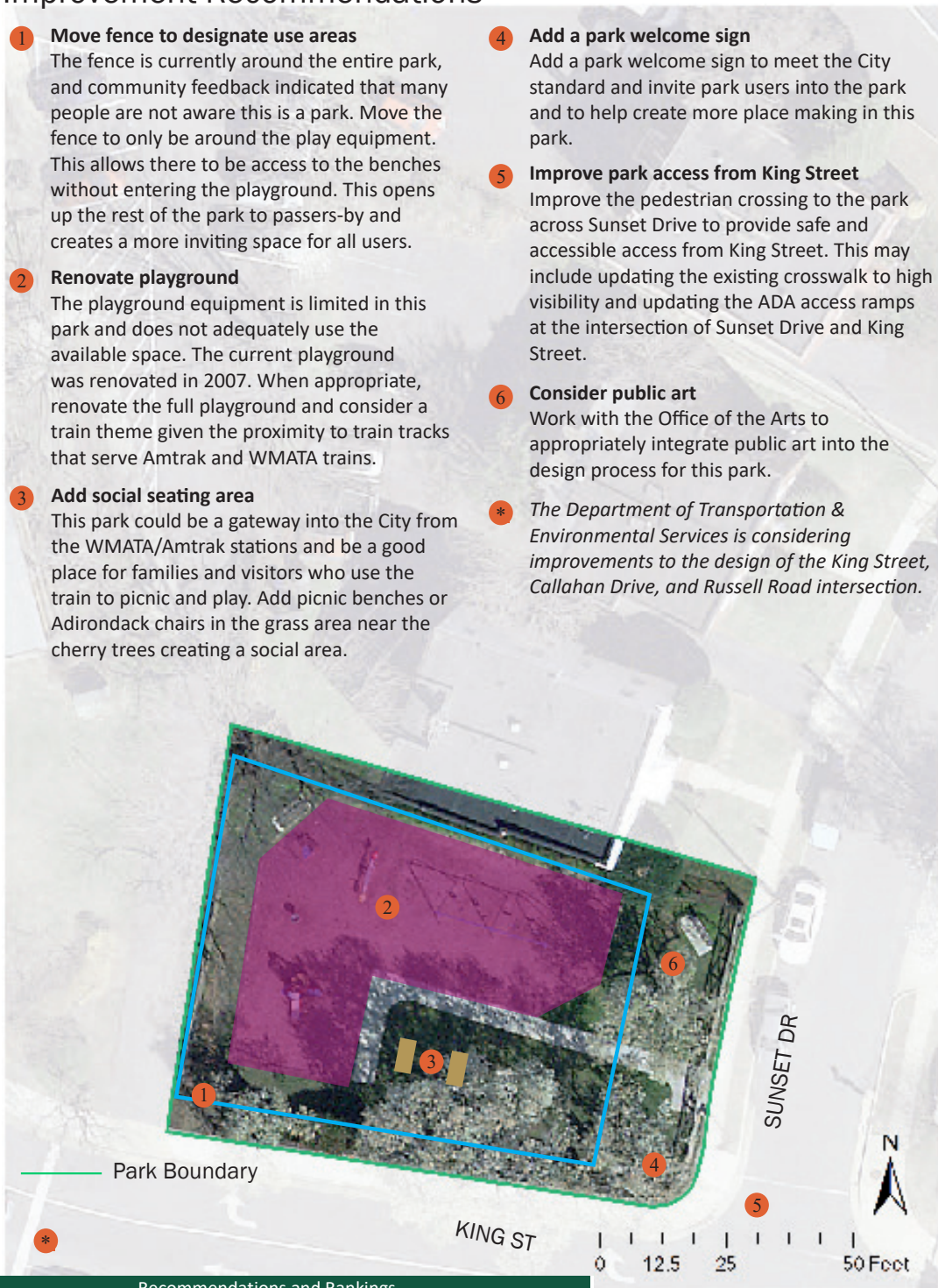
- 1 Move fence to designate use areas**
The fence is currently around the entire park, and community feedback indicated that many people are not aware this is a park. Moving the fence so that it is only around the playground opens up the rest of the park to passers-by and creates a more inviting space for all ages.
 - 2 Renovate the playground**
The playground equipment is limited in this park and does not adequately use the available space. The current playground was renovated in 2007. When appropriate to renovate the full playground, consider a train theme given the proximity to train tracks that serve Amtrak and WMATA trains.
 - 3 Add social seating area**
This park could be a gateway into the City from the WMATA/Amtrak stations and be a good place for families and visitors who use the train to picnic and play. Add picnic benches or Adirondack chairs in the grass area near the cherry trees to create a community gathering area.
 - 4 Add a park welcome sign**
Add a park welcome sign to meet the City's wayfinding standards and invite park users into the park and to help create more place making in this park.
 - 5 Improve park access from King Street**
Improve the pedestrian crossing to the park across Sunset Drive to provide safe and accessible access from King Street. This may include updating the existing crosswalk to high visibility and updating the ADA access ramps at the intersection of Sunset Drive and King Street.
 - 6 Consider public art**
Work with the Office of the Arts to appropriately integrate public art into the design process for this park.
- * *Transportation and Environmental Services is considering improvements to the design of the King Street, Callahan Drive, and Russell Road intersection.*



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Improvement Recommendations

- 1 **Move fence to designate use areas**
The fence is currently around the entire park, and community feedback indicated that many people are not aware this is a park. Move the fence to only be around the play equipment. This allows there to be access to the benches without entering the playground. This opens up the rest of the park to passers-by and creates a more inviting space for all users.
 - 2 **Renovate playground**
The playground equipment is limited in this park and does not adequately use the available space. The current playground was renovated in 2007. When appropriate, renovate the full playground and consider a train theme given the proximity to train tracks that serve Amtrak and WMATA trains.
 - 3 **Add social seating area**
This park could be a gateway into the City from the WMATA/Amtrak stations and be a good place for families and visitors who use the train to picnic and play. Add picnic benches or Adirondack chairs in the grass area near the cherry trees creating a social area.
 - 4 **Add a park welcome sign**
Add a park welcome sign to meet the City standard and invite park users into the park and to help create more place making in this park.
 - 5 **Improve park access from King Street**
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Work with the Office of the Arts to appropriately integrate public art into the design process for this park.
- * *The Department of Transportation & Environmental Services is considering improvements to the design of the King Street, Callahan Drive, and Russell Road intersection.*



Recommendations and Rankings				
#	Recommendation	Dept. Lead	Priority	Cost
1	Fence	RPCA	Medium	\$9,880 - \$13,278
2	Playground	RPCA	Medium	\$122,500 - \$164,630
3	Social seating	RPCA	Low	\$5,200 - \$6,988
4	Park welcome sign	RPCA	Medium	\$1,800 - \$2,419
5	Park access	RPCA	Medium	\$9,300 - \$12,498
6	Public art	RPCA	Medium	TBD