



QUALITY OF LIFE
PARKS/TRAILS/LANDSCAPE/STREAMS

Parks

Overview

Herculaneum is blessed with a beautiful landscape. The topography consists of hills, flat areas, bluffs and valleys. Recreational activities can be carried out at many locations in Herculaneum. Currently the City contains five distinguished parks including one Missouri State park.

Dunklin’s Gravesite, located at the end of Dunklin Drive, is a small park established in 1965 to recognize Governor Daniel Dunklin. The site houses the grave of Dunklin, Missouri’s fifth governor. The information provided at the site interprets the role of Gov. Dunklin as the “Father of Public Schools”. The park includes a path extending from Dunklin Drive to the gravesite and provides a scenic overlook of the Mississippi River. However, no lighting, seating or landscaping adds to the functionality of the space. This park is maintained by the State of Missouri Park Service.



Dunklin Grave



Shot Tower Park

Shot Tower Park located at the intersection of Main Street and Dunklin Drive is dedicated to the history of the shot tower that made Herculaneum a vibrant community in the early 1800s. The Historical Society sponsors a commemorative brick program open to anyone who wishes to purchase and engrave a brick with a saying of their choice. These bricks line both sides of the sidewalk leading from Dunklin Drive to the seating area in the center of the

park. The seating area consists of two park benches partly surrounded by a retaining wall. The rest of the park consists of open spaces with minimal landscaping. Parking is minimal with a capacity of approximately two cars.

Dunklin-Fletcher Park, located on Main Street overlooking the Mississippi River, is dedicated to the two Missouri State Governors that lived in Herculaneum. Governor Daniel Dunklin (1790-1844) was Missouri’s fifth governor. Born in Herculaneum, Governor Thomas Fletcher (1827-1899) was Missouri’s nineteenth governor and the first native-born governor in the state of Missouri. This park provides a scenic overlook of the Mississippi River and contains two



Dunklin & Fletcher Park Entrance

benches and two picnic tables. Parking is limited and can only be obtained on Main Street or along the half-circle drive.

Haggard Memorial Park, located behind the current City Hall at #1 Parkwood Court, is dedicated to Harry "Took" Haggard. This park contains a tennis court and a basketball court. These courts are not currently used due to the proximity to the Doe Run Company. Any improvements to this park will depend on the future land use of the buyout zone as decided by The Doe Run Company, EPA, DNR and the City of Herculaneum.



Bates Park

Bates Memorial Park is the largest park in Herculaneum located on both sides of the Joachim Creek. This park is dedicated to Nick Bates, the first municipal judge. The area of the park on the east side of the Joachim Creek contains a pavilion, boat ramp and fishing areas. On the west side of the Joachim Creek, the park consists of baseball and softball fields used mostly by the Little League. Also, large open spaces extend along both sides of the creek. Adequate parking exists on both sides of the park.

Park Needs

According to the community survey, the parks in the community were ranked as a number one issue of importance over other quality of life issues. The parks in Herculaneum today are plentiful in proportion to the square miles of the town. These parks offer many possibilities for recreational activities once planned and updated. Currently, the parks lack function and basic necessities, such as trash collectors, adequate parking, lighting and seating. More activities need to be encouraged in our parks. For example, various sports facilities, exercise stations, a pool or water splash zone, playground equipment and activities for seniors should be considered for additions to the park system. Additions should be well planned and designed with the assistance of a landscape architect so all aspects coincide with Herculaneum's identity.

Parks today lack hours of operation and posted rules. Hours of operations and rules for each park should be established to ensure the park system is kept orderly and safe for all visitors.

Repairs need to be completed at the Little League complex, including every aspect of this facility from the fields themselves to the various buildings used for concessions, restrooms and pavilions. This update will accomplish two main objectives:

- with better facilities the attendance of children wanting to participate in the sport will increase.
- with newer materials, a safe environment can be provided for children to play with fewer injuries.

The boat ramp at Bates Memorial Park is another area that can be greatly improved. Many residents and visitors utilize this area to fish from the bank and launch boats. During the design of the replacement bridge on Joachim Avenue, this area should be graded to accommodate concrete fishing platforms and a wider boat ramp at less of an angle for safer access. These improvements will attract more residents and visitors to the park to enjoy water recreation and access to the Mississippi River.



Concerts are another form of entertainment that individuals have shown interest to include in the Herculaneum Park System. A concert venue would provide another way to unite the citizens in the town and bring tourists and revenue to the City. The most desired and unique place to hold these events would be an area that overlooks the Mississippi River. Research needs to be done to determine the type and size of entertainment that the area can support. Designs and operation of other outdoor facilities of this caliber should be used as guidelines for construction and use if the City decides to pursue this idea.

In addition to the parks that currently exist in Herculaneum, at least one additional park needs to be added to the west side of Commercial Boulevard (US Highway 61/67). Since this is a prime area for commercial growth, the location will need to be planned so that the area can tie into the suggested trail system and be a peaceful place to enjoy the outdoors.

Park Board



Currently a park board, consisting of 9 members, has been approved by the City Council. Citizens have been appointed for staggering terms of 3, 2 and 1 years. The Park Board will be in charge of planning the uses and updates that will be completed throughout the parks, with the approval of the City Council. The Park Board should include citizens who want to be involved in the planning of these parks and programs. Today, the parks are maintained by the street department. In the future, when the number of parks grows and the trail system is established, the need will arise for a separate park department. The number of employees will

have to be determined by the growth of the parks and the level of maintenance and expansion that is desirable.

Recommendations

- Work with a landscape architect to plan the landscape, materials to be used and the function of each park.
- Involve citizens in a town hall meeting to gain input on what they want in their parks.
- Update signs identifying each park and its function.
- Update parking in all of the parks.

- Establish multigenerational activities in the parks where adults and children can play and exercise.
- Install trash receptacles to maintain cleanliness in the parks.
- Establish a set of rules for each park and hours of operation.
- Upgrade the Little League complex.
- Investigate the possibility of a complex to house concerts.

Trails

Overview

The benefits of exercise are far-reaching. Clinical and epidemiological studies have demonstrated that regular aerobic exercise reduces the risk of death due to heart disease and stroke, aids in reducing weight, helps prevent diabetes mellitus, strengthens bones, and enhances immune function. The citizens of Herculaneum the past few years have voiced their opinions about this topic of health and fitness. The committee has looked at various data collected and aside from a better park



system the community wants to establish a multi-use trail system. The high school track currently is the only facility that provides a safe place for citizens to run and walk. This space is not always available due to school functions, such as track and football. A trail system will help in several ways to promote health and help form a sense of community. It will provide the opportunity to exercise and promote a healthier community. The trails will also link different parts of the town together and allow people throughout the community to walk through their town and meet their neighbors. Once the trail system is complete, the various historical sites, such as the Dunklin Grave, Shot Tower Park and the old dam, will be more accessible on foot as people utilize the trails.



Early in 2005, the organization of Herculaneum Today and Tomorrow, working with Doe Run, the City, EPA, and Lewis Sites, created a map with 12.5 miles of possible trail sites that span all over the City. After planning was completed, the decision was made to try to implement this project. With help from the EPA and Lewis Sites, a grant application was submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. In

the fall of 2005, the City was selected as a grant recipient. The grant consists of \$110,000 for a mile-and-a-half section of the over-all proposed trail. The trail, named The Joachim Loop Trail, will start at the south end of the Little League fields and meander through the woods until the trail loops back to the original starting place.



Construction

Construction of the entire trail system will vary depending on its location. Most of the proposed trail system is in the

wooded area of the town and along the Joachim Creek and Mississippi River. The first section of the trail, located in the wooded area, will be 6-10 foot wide, ADA accessible and constructed of a material of dirt and polymer to create a surface known as poly-pavement. This type of application will provide users the look of being on a natural dirt path but have a harder surface that will shed water instead of soaking in. Since a majority of the trails are located in flood plain, or in heavily wooded areas, this poly-pavement will allow users to use the trail in dry or wet conditions. The trail system also utilizes some areas that are not wooded. These areas are mostly along City streets and will utilize paved roads or sidewalks to connect various areas of the town. The addition of benches, signs and trash receptacles throughout the trail system must match the identity chosen by citizens and approved by the park board and City officials for the entire park system in Herculaneum.

Safety

The trail system has been designed to accommodate many forms of exercise due to the 10-foot-wide pavement. Both pedestrian and bicycle traffic will be able to utilize this trail simultaneously. The use of motorized vehicles should be prohibited on the trails unless it is in response to an emergency. Concerns have been raised regarding the trails being used by motorized recreational vehicles, such as ATVs and motorized scooters. Although the police can enforce trespassing laws on these trails, enforcement will be difficult. If the motorized recreational vehicles become a safety issue the Park Board should work with local law enforcement on further restrictions of these vehicles. An additional concern that needs to be addressed is the response to medical and fire emergencies on the trail. With the addition of people in these wooded areas, the occurrence of fire and medical emergencies will increase. The mile-and-a-half Joachim Loop Trail, being constructed at this time, will be manageable for responding to incidents by the fire department and ambulance district, because of the easy access and flat terrain. However, upon further expansion of the trail, the Park Board will need to review plans with emergency services to make certain that they have enough resources and equipment to mitigate incidents that occur in these areas. For further information on safety of the trails see the public safety section of the master plan.



Recommendations

- Where terrain permits, ensure portions of the trail system are ADA accessible.
- Ensure trails system and accessories follow the identity chosen for the City of Herculaneum.
- Construct all main trails with a minimum width of 10 feet and secondary trails with a minimum width of 6 feet.
- Ensure emergency services are educated and prepared for the expansion of the trail system throughout Herculaneum.

Landscape

Overview

A City's landscaping reinforces the identity of the area and encourages citizens to beautify their own property. Currently minimal landscaping is utilized throughout the City of Herculaneum. Although zoning regulations for commercial and industrial areas reference required vegetation in non-paved areas, many businesses do not follow these regulations. The following zoning regulations should be enforced:



Section 410.100

C. Other provisions and Requirements

5. Each use established in this zone shall set aside at least twenty (20) feet in width immediately adjacent to any street upon which the lot has frontage, and extending for the full frontage of the lot, for the purpose of providing for proper site distance and buffering from the public road. Within such area, the owner shall establish and maintain a planting of grass and/or horticultural ground cover. Other landscape materials may be incorporated provided that there is no obstruction to vision other than a tree trunk, in the area between two (2) feet and seven (7) feet above ground level. No other use shall be made of this buffer area other than for a single driveway to provide access to the use for each one hundred (100) feet of frontage upon a public road. Such driveway shall not exceed thirty-two (32) feet in width.
6. Wherever the property line of a use in this zone abuts the boundary of a residential zone, an area of not less than twenty (20) feet in width shall be set aside as a buffer area and used for no other purpose. Said buffer shall be planted with a screen of evergreen shrubs which, in the opinion of the planning commission, will be sufficient to preclude any adverse affect of the use upon adjacent residential property or form the transmission of headlight glare across the property line. In addition to the landscape screen, the area shall be adequately planted with other landscape materials, grass, and/or ground cover to present an attractive appearance.
7. All parking lots and roadways, or other service intended for the placement or operation of motorized vehicles, shall be paved with either concrete, asphalt or other substance which is impervious to moisture. No parking lots or roadways shall consist of dirt, gravel, chat, rock, cinders or other such substance. Any and all space not utilized by structure or paved roadways shall be landscaped with grass or other sod lawn, shrubs or other similar decorative vegetation.

Section 410.130

C. Other Provisions and Requirements

6. Each use established in this zone shall set aside ten percent (10%) of the tract for seeding and landscaping, and use this area for no other purpose.
9. Along the residence district boundary line, a buffer yard shall be provided which shall be less than one hundred (100) feet in width. This required yard shall be measured from the boundary line, or the front of the street line where the street constitutes the boundary. The thirty (30) feet of such yard space nearest the

district boundary line shall be used only as an evergreen buffer planting strip, on which shall be placed shrubbery and/or trees. Where a street constitutes a boundary, a screen effect will not be required.

Recommendations

- Enforce zoning regulations for landscaping in current business and commercial areas.
- Create landscaped areas around City buildings and easements.
- Maintain community identity in all construction and landscaping.

Rivers & Streams

Overview

Herculaneum is located on the bank of the Mississippi River. Herculaneum contains approximately 2.1 miles of riverfront. A majority of this riverfront is owned by The Doe Run Company. The remaining riverfront property is residential area where residents enjoy the view of the river. Recreation along the River at this time is mostly fishing and recreational boating. Currently, commercial use of the riverbank is only utilized by Doe Run. Since the Mississippi River carries the largest amount of commercial transportation in the world, tapping into this resource is a possibility that should be researched. In addition to the River, another great stream



runs through the heart of Herculaneum. The Joachim Creek, a tributary to the Mississippi River, meanders from the west side of the City to the east where it empties into the Mississippi River approximately 4.5 miles later. These two waterways enhance Herculaneum’s ability to attract commerce, business and recreation and should be promoted in a positive manner.

Uses

The Mississippi River has many uses that can benefit the City of Herculaneum. The City should develop a plan for the economic development of the area along the River to enhance the use and economic benefits for the City. Commerce, business and recreation opportunities in this area should be included in the plan. If these opportunities are developed for recreation on the water or along the banks, citizens and visitors will gain access to enjoy the beauty of the Mississippi River. Aside from being a source of income and recreation, the water source for the citizens of Herculaneum is drawn from the Mississippi River by the water treatment plant. This use demands that the water quality be monitored and managed both in the Mississippi River and in the Joachim Creek. The City of Herculaneum itself cannot control the water quality of the

waterways, but should take part in educating citizens and developing regulations to ensure the watershed does not contribute to the pollution.

The Joachim Creek provides another opportunity for recreation. Due to the construction of a dam early in Herculaneum's history, to allow the lead smelter to obtain water for their process, the increase in water level also created a great opportunity for water recreation. The Joachim Creek divides Bates Park and is used for recreational fishing and as a location for boats to enter the Mississippi River when the water is high enough for a boat to pass over the dam. During the design of the replacement bridge on Joachim Avenue, the design of Bates Memorial



Park in the area of the boat ramp should also be reviewed to improve recreation in this area and attract more residents and visitors. The slope of the bank should be altered to accommodate platforms for recreational fishing and an improved boat ramp. Also, rock and trees should be added to the banks of the Joachim Creek to decrease the erosion that is currently occurring.

Recommendations

- Work with the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation to research possible commerce, business and recreation opportunities along the Mississippi River, where commercial activity already exists.
- Distribute educational information promoting proper techniques by homeowners to decrease watershed pollution through lawn care, trash management, water conservation, etc.
- Improve City services and enforce illegal dumping regulations to decrease the contamination of the waterways from the sewer system, storm-water runoff, salt storage, etc.
- Improve the boat ramp and surrounding area in Bates Memorial Park for safer water recreation.
- Add rock and trees to the banks of the Joachim Creek to decrease erosion.