

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association

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To: Parks and Rec Board

Please consider this letter to be unanimous support from the Board of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association for the proposal to put a Splash Park into Parnell Park, located on the NW corner of 15th Street and the Burroughs Creek Trail. Not only is water recreation fun and healthful as an outdoor activity, it is essential to some residents without air conditioning as a way to get cool on our blistering hot summer days. Some background:

The long-range plan for this Park continues to be implemented over time as funds became available. The plan on the City's website, as far back as 2009, has called for a Splash Park to be added to Parnell Park. The eastern Lawrence area is under-served for outdoor water recreation. We once had the option of visiting the County Fair Swim Club, open to the public and run entirely by volunteers, but it finally closed a few years ago due to a lack of funds. Our area is now without any water recreation amenities.

Splash Parks have been around since 1986 and have become much safer over the years. There is no standing water thus no lifeguard is necessary (and lifeguard staffing costs). They also have non-slip surfaces. Pumps recirculate the water thru several filtration and disinfection steps to keep the water clean.

The kids who attend the Eastside schools (Kennedy, New York and Central) and those who live in Edgewood, Tenants to Homeowners units, and all the Eastside neighborhoods need a summer place to cool down and play. A Splash Park would also be a refreshing stop for cyclists, joggers and others using the Trail and the Lawrence Loop.

We whole-heartedly support a Splash Park located in Parnell Park for use by Eastside Children, their families, Loop and Trail users and for all the Citizens of Lawrence. A water park at this location would be a boon for the East Side as well as the whole city!

Thank you,

The Board of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association,

Phil Collison, President