

Evaluation of Proposed Park Improvements from 2012 La Plaza Vieja Draft Plan

Recommendation 2.1: Old Town Springs Park



From Lower Coconino Ave.



From W. Coconino Ave.

2012 Recommendation	2014 Evaluation
The original Old Town Spring needs historical recognition.	Interpretive signs could be improved and the spring in the park could be restored ecologically, to some extent by improved drainage features and switching to wetland-appropriate forbs to replace grass. Irrigation would be needed for establishment of new plants. The City Parks department would need assistance to make this possible.
Design & install a more pedestrian friendly entrance from West Coconino Avenue.	The terrain, property ownership, and placement of the basketball court make this difficult to achieve. When the sign for the park is replaced, it could be moved closer to the entrance ramp. There could also be more attractive and native ground cover plants or xeriscaping in this area.
Add solar-powered dark-sky compliant lights inside the Ramada, powered by a motion detector.	Could be done but lights would not be able to turn on after 10pm to protect dark skies. Current lighting is pedestrian scale and dark-skies compliant.
Replace the over-grown vegetation with slope tolerant northern Arizona deciduous trees and perennials.	Yews could replace juniper. Irrigation would be needed for establishment of new plants. The City Parks department would need assistance to make this possible.
Plant shade trees on the south perimeter of the play area.	Not possible, because children’s playground equipment requires “clear zones” and the area that is available between the curb and playground equipment is a poor site for tree establishment.
The east side of the park, next to the Old Town Spring, needs to be user friendly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East side of park provides the accessible entrance to the park, a handicapped parking space and port-a-potties. • Wood railing is being replaced currently with “FUTS” design railing. • Other improvement could be more attractive fencing around the port-a-potties.
Add on-street parking, bicycle racks and street lights to ensure pedestrian safety and access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Flagstaff does not stripe on street parking on local streets per a City-wide policy. On-street parking is permitted on both Lower and Upper Coconino. • Bike rack could be installed. • Current lighting in the park is pedestrian scale and dark-skies compliant.

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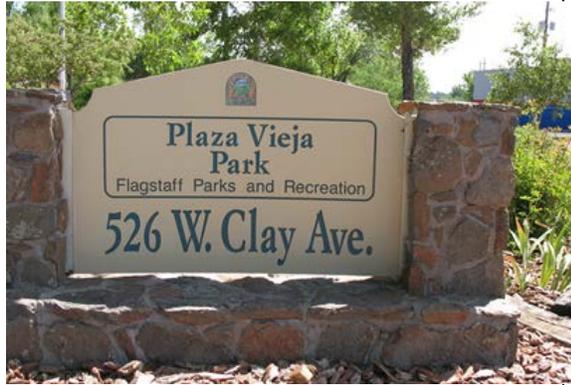
Recommendation 2.2: Clay Avenue Ball Park



2012 Recommendation	2014 Evaluation
Redesign parking to be more efficient	The parking area is currently a dirt lot. It could be paved and striped with parking spaces. On-street parking is available in addition to the lot.
Allow pedestrian access from south	Would require agreements with property owners, and an easement would be needed for pedestrian access across parcels. This issue could be considered along with improvements to FUTS access in the neighborhood.
Shared parking with apartments to the south?	This would require agreement with the apartment complex owner, and an easement would be needed for vehicle/pedestrian access between the two parcels. Also, peak hours for the park and the apartment complex coincide, so parking might not be available when needed.
Install flushing toilet facilities (not a port potty)	Determine if the porta-potties are an aesthetic issue or if a full amenity is desired. If a full amenity is desired, consider safety and maintenance issues: cost of heating the building so water pipes don't freeze, increased vandalism, vagrants staying overnight, etc. In the last few years there were complaints about the service vendor, but the City has since secured a new vendor.
Plant shade trees for playground area	Shade trees within the designated playground area are not possible, because the playground equipment requires "clear zones". There are spacing requirements for new shade trees that could make this difficult to achieve given the playground's proximity to private property. Also consider the tradeoff if space were to be taken from the parking area for planting.
Install dark-sky friendly lighting for evening games	Dark-sky friendly lighting is an opportunity at this park location. Funding would most likely need to be supplemented in addition to what Parks & Rec could provide.

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Recommendation 2.3: Plaza Vieja Park



2012 Recommendation	2014 Evaluation
Redesign walkways and amenities to provide a shady area, possibly a ramada or gazebo, for eating and relaxing.	Limited space for a structure, perhaps a picnic table would be well suited for this space.
Replace some of the blue rug junipers with Northern Arizona perennials.	Yews could replace juniper. Irrigation would be needed for establishment of new plants. The City Parks department would need assistance to make this possible.
This is an ideal location for public art in which the neighborhood is allowed to participate in the selection process.	Still a valid option. Coordinate with the Beautification and Public Art Commission.
Architecturally sensitive fencing around so that children can come to the park.	Ornamental fencing can be 3' tall maximum. A landscape wall may suit the location better than a slatted gate/fence. It's possible to incorporate seating into a landscape wall that could serve as a barrier from the street.