

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN
DRAFT – PARKS, TRAILS, and NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION GOALS

Goal / Outcome	Strategy	Action Steps	Responsible Party/Priority
DRAKE PARK GOALS			
Improve the family friendliness and functionality of Drake Park.	Identify and address the short term needs of Drake Park.	Pursue grants to aid in the funding of smaller improvements. (i.e. <i>KaBoom</i> to update play equipment.)	DNA 2 yrs
		Install additional trash cans in the park.	Parks <1 yr
		Install bike racks in Drake Park.	Parks <1 yr
		Parks Dept. and DNA Beautification Committee will partner to do minor landscape improvements where appropriate (native plantings).	DNA/Parks 1 yr
	Develop a plan to address larger, long term improvements at Drake Park.	DNA will work with Parks Dept. to develop a site plan for Drake Park.	DNA/Parks 3 yrs
		If necessary, DNA will pursue private funding to implement park improvements.	DNA 2-3 yrs
		Update the wading pool and add a water feature. If necessary DNA will pursue grants to aid in the funding.	DNA/Parks 3-5 yrs
		DNA will work with Parks Dept. to analyze/address the lack of off-street parking at Drake Park.	DNA/Parks/Traffic 3-5 yrs
Ensure Drake Park is a safe place for people of all ages to gather and play.	Address existing safety issues and concerns at Drake Park.	DNA will work w/ NBSD team to analyze/address safety concerns in Drake Park.	DNA/NBSD/Parks <1 yr
		Consider security lighting in the park, including in/around the shelter (dark sky compliant).	DNA/Parks 1 yr
		Look at improving sight lines into Drake Park from 24 th Street.	DNA/Parks 3-5 yrs
Preserve the historical significance of Drake Park for future generations.	Educate park visitors on the history of Drake Park.	Develop historic boards / informational signage to tell the history of the neighborhood and the park.	DNA 2 yrs
	Improve awareness/marketing of Drake Park.	Utilize the DNA and Parks Dept. websites to better promote the amenities of the park.	DNA/Parks <1 yr
		Organize special events in the park/explore alternative uses to increase usage of the park.	DNA/Parks 1 yr
WITMER PARK GOALS			
Restore the native character of Witmer Park while maintaining its family friendliness and functionality.	Identify and address the short term needs of Witmer Park.	Maintain tennis courts in playing condition at Witmer Park, as they are frequently used.	Parks 2 yrs
		Address maintenance issues in Witmer Park such as: walking path, aeration system in the pond, and waterfront accessibility to the pond.	Parks 1 yr
		Parks Dept. and DNA Beautification Committee will partner to do minor	DNA/Parks 1 yr

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		landscape improvements where appropriate (native plantings).	
	Develop a plan to address larger, long term improvements at Witmer Park.	DNA will work with Parks Dept. to develop a site plan for Witmer Park.	DNA/Parks 3 yrs
		If necessary, DNA will pursue private funding to implement park improvements.	DNA 2-3 yrs
		Analyze the need to replace the recently removed shelter with an appropriate shelter.	DNA/Parks 3-5 yrs
		Evaluate storm water collection facilities within the park and assess alternative solutions (Closes Creek).	DNA/Parks/Public Works 1 yr
		Study alternative parking solutions, including the possibility of closing Witmer Pkwy at 34 th St to provide addition/better off-street parking.	DNA/Parks 3-5 yrs
	Utilize Witmer Park year around.	Allow winter recreational activities in Witmer Park such as ice skating, XC skiing, sledding, snow shoeing, etc.	Parks <1 yr
		Host a winter carnival event to promote Witmer as a park of four seasons.	DNA/Parks 2 yrs
Ensure Witmer Park is a safe place for people of all ages to gather and play.	Address existing safety issues and concerns at Witmer Park.	DNA will work w/ NBSD team to analyze/address safety concerns in Witmer Park.	DNA/NBSD/Parks <1 yr
		Research security lighting for Witmer Park (dark sky compliant).	DNA/Parks 1 yr
Preserve the historical significance of Witmer Park for future generations.	Educate park visitors on the history of Witmer Park.	Develop historic boards / informational signage to tell the history of the neighborhood and the park.	DNA 2 yrs
	Improve awareness/marketing of Witmer Park.	Utilize the DNA and Parks Dept. websites to better promote the amenities of the park.	DNA/Parks <1 yr
RECREATION & BICYCLING GOALS			
Increase passive recreational opportunities in the Drake Neighborhood.	Encourage biking, running, and walking in the Drake Neighborhood.	Establish/expand recreational bike routes within Drake and the surrounding neighborhoods.	DNA/Parks 1-2 yrs
		Develop running and walking routes within the neighborhood.	DNA <1 yr
		Publish bicycle, running, walking route maps w/ distance measurements on Parks Dept. and DNA websites.	DNA/Parks 1-2 yrs
Increase the use of bicycling as an accepted form of transportation for recreation and commuter uses.	Encourage bicycling as an alternative form of transportation for short trips within the neighborhood and for commuter trips on a regular basis.	DNA will work with the City's Bicycle Master Plan Consultant to review and make recommendations for bicycle and trail facilities within the Drake Neighborhood.	DNA <1 yr
		DNA will work with Parks Dept. and DABA to identify appropriate locations for additional bike parking in	DNA/DABA/Parks 1-2 yrs

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		neighborhood commercial areas.	
		Work with Drake University to add bicycle parking to the campus at all buildings.	Drake/DNA/Parks 1-2 yrs
	Tie the Drake Neighborhood into the greater Des Moines trail and bikeway system.	Develop Forest Avenue as a bicycle corridor with a dedicated bike lane.	Parks 2-3 yrs
		Work with Parks Dept. to improve the linkage between Beaverdale, Drake, Sherman Hill, Downtown, as well as Witmer Park and Drake Park.	DNA/Parks 2-3 yrs
		Explore way finding signage along dedicated bike routes.	DNA/Parks 2-3 yrs
		Identify commuter bike routes to downtown and other destinations.	DNA 1-2 yrs
	Work to create a “bike culture” in the Drake Neighborhood.	Organize bicycle events such as a “bike night” at the Drake Farmers Market or Dogtown.	DNA/DABA <1 yr
		Support existing bike events in the neighborhood like “Cranksgiving” and others.	DNA/DABA <1 yr
NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION GOALS			
Maintain a clean, attractive, and desirable neighborhood.	Establish a long-term maintenance plan for DNA sponsored neighborhood plantings and green space.	Expand the existing beautification committee to oversee Parks, Trails, and Neighborhood Beautification efforts.	DNA <1 yr
		Recruit resident volunteers to assist in ongoing maintenance of DNA sponsored neighborhood plantings.	DNA <1 yr
		Acquire a meter box from Des Moines Water Works that will allow the DNA to connect to a fire hydrant when watering.	DNA <1 yr
	Increase awareness of DNA beautification efforts.	Install signs in the boulevard planting beds promoting the DNA’s efforts.	DNA 1 yr
		Utilize the DNA website and newsletter to increase awareness and recruit resident volunteers.	DNA <1 yr
	Explore additional neighborhood beautification efforts.	Coordinate with the DABA on beautification efforts in Dogtown and the Roosevelt District.	DNA/DABA 1-2 yrs
		Form a neighborhood Garden Club.	DNA 1 yr
		Organize a garden tour, like the house tour, as a fundraiser for the DNA.	DNA 2 yrs
	Create community garden opportunities within the Drake Neighborhood.	Work with Parks Dept. to review possible locations for community gardens in Drake Park and Witmer Park.	DNA/Parks 1-2 yrs
	Educate homeowners on tree planting, maintenance, and preservation.	Utilize the DNA website as a resource to post tree related information, tips, and tutorials.	DNA 1 yr

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Create opportunities for students, churches, non-profits, etc. to get involved in the Drake Neighborhood.	Utilize volunteer services/labor for neighborhood beautification projects.	Work with Student Life Volunteer Coordinator at Drake University to develop a strategy/process for volunteer projects.	DNA 1 yr
		Lead volunteer groups on beautification projects (installation and maintenance).	DNA 1 yr

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