

Landefeld, Josh

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Good morning Parks Advisory Commission,

I would like to make a suggestion but it's a non sequitur from the dog park debate that seems to be the focus of your upcoming meeting, so I figured I'd start with an email and go from there.

The background if you're interested: my partner and I have been slowly completing the Give 365 Visit Every Park challenge, so we've been exploring all the far-flung parks of the city. This comment is the distillation of what we've noticed through this process.

There are a lot of small parks with kids' playgrounds. Great! However, most of these parks were totally empty when we visited, morning, evening, weekend, weekday notwithstanding. As child-free adults, a lot of these parks feel like weird places to hang out. One suggested improvement to mitigate the vibe that these parks are for kids (and if there are no kids, then the park is for nobody) rather than all-ages public spaces is to add outdoor gym equipment/"adult playground" setups to some of these spaces. Some examples I've seen elsewhere are pull up bars, permanent slack lines, climbing walls, even obstacle courses, etc. The popularity of parks with basketball courts such as Wheeler and West demonstrates the efficacy of having all-age equipment in addition to playgrounds. I hope we can expand along that theme and get more people enjoying these parks.

Thanks for reading,
IZS