

# Appendix D: Parks & Open Space

## PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

### Existing Parks and Open Space

Although corridors such as Manchester Road have served mainly as focal points for commercial development in suburbs around the St. Louis area, primary arterials have traditionally anchored community parks and open space amenities in communities around the country. Main streets passing through small towns, for example, often serve as the location for a main “City Park” or a town square including open space and seating areas. While few parks exist directly along Manchester Road, the five communities along the corridor boast a significant number of parks and open space amenities within a short distance of the road. However, limited connections (in terms of trails, greenways, and in some cases sidewalks) exist between the Manchester Road corridor and these amenities.

The City of Manchester includes three small parks located either along Manchester Road or within a block of the street, as illustrated in the table below. Siebert Park flanks Grand Glaize Creek, along the south side of Manchester Road, and includes a small gazebo and trails along the creek. Margaret Stoecker Park is located along the hill to the north of Manchester Road along Henry Avenue. However, these parks lack recognition in the West County area at large. Wildwood’s Town Center includes a small pocket park located along Taylor Road that features a few seating areas and limited green space. The table below indicates the locations and amenities of the key park facilities located in the five communities, roughly within one-half mile of Manchester Road.

The key park facilities for Ballwin, Ellisville, Manchester, and Winchester are all located within one-half mile of the Manchester Road corridor. Bluebird Park in Ellisville, Vlasik Park and The Pointe in Ballwin, and Paul A. Schroeder Park provide significant amenities for this portion of West County and have enhanced the quality of life in the local community. In addition, a number of significant county and state

PARK / FACILITY	ACREAGE	GENERAL LOCATION	KEY AMENITIES
<b>WILDWOOD</b>			
Wildwood Town Center	less than 1	Wildwood Town Center	Seating Areas
<b>ELLISVILLE</b>			
Bluebird Park	81	East of Kiefer Creek Rd, one-half mile south of Manchester Rd	Swimming pool, amphitheater, playground, tennis courts, athletic fields, natural trails, meeting space.
Klamberg Woods	68	Immediately to the east of Bluebird Park	Seven-tenths of a mile long trail winding through natural forest.
Bobwhite	3.1	Behind Stephen Vincel Honda, just west of Reinke Road	Playgrounds and picnic areas
Robin Park	29	Behind the Home Depot off of Ellisville Town Centre Dr and Manchester Rd	Natural areas
Whippoorwill	5.27	One-eighth mile west of Kiefer Creek Rd on Pretoria Drive	Multi-use trails and natural areas
<b>BALLWIN</b>			
Vlasik Park	28.3	Just to the north of Kerrs Mill Rd and Manchester Rd	Playground, picnic areas
The Pointe	12.8	Old Ballwin Rd, about one-half mile south of Manchester Rd	Full service indoor community recreation center
Ballwin Golf Course	49.5	One-half mile north of Manchester Rd on Holloway Rd	Full service public golf course
<b>WINCHESTER</b>			
Reber Park	4.8	One-half mile south of Manchester Rd on Lindy Blvd	Pavilion, restroom facilities, 4 playground areas, 2 ballfields, multi-purpose area.
<b>MANCHESTER</b>			
Paul A. Schroeder Park	46.5	One-half mile south of Manchester Rd on Meramec Station Rd	Athletic fields, picnic sites, tennis, basketball, pool, nature trail
Margaret Stoecker Park	6.4	224 Henry Avenue (2 blocks north of Manchester Rd)	Picnic sites, play area, nature trail
Baxter Acres Park	0.7	300 Spring Meadows (a few blocks north of Manchester Rd)	Picnic sites and play area
Siebert Park	0.6	14448 Manchester Rd (south side of street)	Picnic sites and nature trail
Belle Vallee Park	0.9	151 Baxter Rd (a few blocks north of Manchester Rd)	None

Figure 24: Existing Parks and Open Space

parks in this portion of St. Louis County provide open space and preserve the natural forest and meadows native in eastern Missouri. Castlewood State Park encompasses nearly 1,800 acres just to the south of Ballwin along the Meramec River and includes numerous trails and picnic areas. Klamberg Woods, owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation and leased to the City of Ellisville, provides natural trails in deciduous woods just to the east of Bluebird Park. The state-owned Rockwoods Reservation includes 12 miles of natural trails and a Conservation Education Center on 1,800 acres along Route 109 about a mile to the south of Manchester Road in Wildwood. Around two miles to the north of Route 100 on Route 109 in Wildwood, the 2,400-acre Henry Babler Memorial State Park includes approximately 2,400 acres, including significant old growth forest areas. Over 200 picnic sites, over 13 miles of trails, and a visitor outdoor education center provide amenities to the local and regional population.

Along Route 100 the City of Wildwood has completed an asphalt trail for runners, walkers, and bicyclists on either side of the road. A grade separated bridge over Route 100 west of Westglen Farms Drive connects the trails on the north and south sides of the road. Wildwood officials report that the trail has attracted significant use over the last several years. The trail currently ends at Westglen Farms Drive, but could be extended to the east into Ellisville in the future.

In addition to these public facilities, three private athletic associations – in Ellisville, Ballwin, and Manchester - operate baseball fields and youth baseball leagues within the corridor. While these organizations primarily operate to promote youth baseball, the presence of the Athletic Associations in close proximity to Manchester Road provides additional greenspace for the surrounding communities. Furthermore, a number of subdivisions in the five communities include “common space” that is not owned by a city or the county but provides additional, small-scale open space for local residents. These spaces typically do not include formalized amenities but in many cases have sufficient space to facilitate small picnics and sunbathing.

In recent years, the five communities have moved beyond establishing new park areas to more effectively connecting different park areas and neighborhoods. Community leaders have realized that linking parks and key commercial areas such as Manchester Road with surrounding areas would increase the overall value of park and recreation systems and increase quality of life. Ballwin and Manchester collaborated in 2006 to create a unified parks and trails plan for the two communities. It called for the creation of a series of greenways and trails running along the major streams in the two communities, Fishpot Creek and Grand Glaize Creek, and connecting various park areas with nearby neighborhoods. The plan defined “greenways” as linear open space that conserves animal and plant habitat and formalizes its recognition as an ecological corridor to promote species diversity and environmental quality. Trails could include bicycle paths constructed over a prepared surface, or footpaths consisting of dirt, gravel, mulch, or asphalt. Unfortunately, Ballwin and Manchester have to date been unable to implement the majority of the recommendations in the combined trails system plan, due to objections from residents and private landowners concerning the provision of easements for the trails.



*The Pointe, Ballwin*



*Existing Pedestrian / Bicycle Trail Along Route 100 and Pedestrian Bridge, Wildwood*