1. What are the 3 words or features that best describe Norman D Park? - Responses

Answer

Clean, small, close
Shady (as in summer afternoon shade), Great grassy areas, Fun natural areas
bike path adjacent, shady, huge field
Openness-(It is open enough to allow the kids to play while adults throw a frisbee in the middle and a group holds a party in the front), Community Friendly- (It has space for people living all types of life styles), Comfortable- (You don't have to worry about the environment).
Trees are the best part, shady, Quiet and peaceful
Friendly, quaint, fun
Close to home, Shady in the afternoon, Good for small kids
Tucked away, peaceful, nice
A local park for the neighbors to meet up. A place to play ball. A place to dig in the sand
climbing tree, lots of grass, swings
Quiet park, huge grass field, little playground
1. nice grassy area for running 2. big shade trees 3. away from streets, nice trail access
Playground structure, Grassy field, Pavilion
grass, grass, grass
Swings, slides and fun
Neighborhood, quiet, serene
Convenient Fun. Safe
safe, secluded and easy access.
Grassy, open, kid friendly!
accessible, lots of good grassy areas and trees, safe
Open. Shaded. Accessible to all.
Well shaded, lots of space-open space and playground, convenient.
Nature, Unique, Simple
secluded, spacious, a "neighborhood" park as opposed to a "city" park
1. Open Space or Spacious 2. Local/Community Oriented 3. Great trees and Shade
Green, Shady, Undeveloped. Please keep the park undeveloped with lots of grass. The playground equipment updating will be nice.
Low density, mountain views, peaceful
Shade
Shade, quiet, open grass to run & play with kids & dogs
Close, small playground, open field
Shady, Accessible, fun
quiet, peaceful, simple
2. What are the 3 best things about Norman D Park playground today? - Responses

Answer

Variety of play equipment for different ages, The "tunnel" natural area, Nice grassy area for playing
Large park in North Golden, truly a neighborhood amenity, right off the bike path
It is in the back away from the street (making it safer, allowing the kids to throw balls and not have concern with cars), It has a great deal of shade (which is great in the summer to draw families outside), It has many types of activities (including the pine tree on the North edge of the play area the kids climb and use as a playhouse).
Always being used. Safe area. Easy neighborhood access
Baby swings. Three different slide sizes. The climbing tree next to the playground
Trees (for shade and for climbing). Sand for digging. An open area for playing ball.
great trees for climbing, shade (please leave the trees!), lots of grass to run around on
Gazebos for parties. Awesome slide. Shady park with trees that kids can climb on and play underneath

1. balance beam 2. Tunnel 3. Terrain

Playground structure. Close to neighborhood. Grassy field
gas, grass, grass
Swings, slides and jungle Jim
Not crowded. Trail access. Great slide & teeter-totter
Fun for a variety of ages. Conveniently located. Safely away from traffic.
1. The playground is long and has the kid structure set back within the park helps to feeling like they are playing a safe distance from the road.
2. The big open grassy area near the playground is great for soccer/baseball etc as well.
3. can't drive into where the play area is, so, its nice and feels like that keeps the traffic down.

The play structure, shade in the summer, gravel to dig in.
ever crowded, safe, the park area around it (trees, etc)
Open space. Community gathering together. Bike path.
Large trees, room for dogs to play, access
1) I like the unique features at the park such as the cement tube and the snake balance beam. 2) I like the way there are several ways for kids to become engaged in the environment such as the sandbox in the play structure area, the wide open spaces and the creek that runs by the park. 3) I like that the structures are simple. Imagination runs wild!
-large interesting play structure
-lot's of shade
-far from any roads/cars
1. Slides are OK 2. Baby Swings 3. nice benches
Set back from the road. Quiet. Shady
Good for younger children, enjoying setting along walking path, open play field.
Shade
Balance "beam" (words of my 11 yr old)
Big & little slides
Close, open field, fun natural feature with the tunnel
The shade around the park (very rare at most city parks), the sand for digging, lots of grass area
Integral part of nearby neighborhoods. Open grass area. Trees/shade
location - it's hidden away from the road and it an unseen gem. it's also quiet and peaceful. finally, it has a simple structure with simple sand which provides hours of imagination induced play.
3. What is your #1 concern should improvements be made to the playground? - Responses

Answer

More playground equipment for older kids, such as swings. Also, more benches. A basketball hoop would also be nice.

Maintain the shade and cooler sandy surface.

Keep the grass areas adjacent to playground for ball/frisbee play.

Keep it friendly for young kids.

Add more variety to appeal to a larger age range of kids.

It's not friendly to younger or older kids/teens. Teens trash the swings by standing in them. Small children have very little they can play on beyond a single swing and slide. It needs to be more well rounded for the entire family. Also there aren't pavilions near the playground, it would help with the many parties thrown in summer.

Updated, include swing set and equip for older children.

Don't get rid of the big trees, I like the sand.

Add swings for older kids.

I would like to keep some open space to kick the soccer ball around or throw a football.

don't cut any more trees down! and don't get rid of too much grass please!

Keep it shady or make it even more shady.

I think more explorative play features should be in place...encourage imaginative play....

That improvements won't be adequate in meeting the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods didn't exist when park was last updated. There are more than 60 kids in the Canyon View neighborhood alone. The park is an important meeting and play place for these children and their families.

elimination of grassy areas

How long will it be closed?

The playground equipment should accommodate a wider range of ages. In particular, the no elements of climbing and sliding apparatus were suitable for our 2-year-old grandchildren - they tried, but found it too high or too steep or too scary.

More people finding it and taking away from the neighborhood aspect. Parking problems.

that the play structures would be moved close to the road.

Would like to see regular swings added as well as the infant swings.

no concerns, but maybe parking and noise for the neighbors near the playground.

More "big kids" stuff. Maybe a big kid swing or half court basketball. Right now the park is suited for little kids as far as the play ground is concerned.

Upgrade equipment for all ages.

I'm concerned that a unique and quaint little park will be turned into a destination with conventional structures and surfaces that limit imagination rather than encourage it.

My biggest concern is that the entire playground is replaced. Most of it is in great shape - what a waste of money. The slides and platforms could be replaced to make the whole set look brand new. The saved money could be used for a rubberized surface, a few other play elements, and a small basketball court at the front edge of the park.

I wouldn't want to see improvements cause large mature trees to be cut down, or open space to be materially affected. There's plenty of space for an improved playground w/out reducing these two great features of the park. I also don't think we should make this a destination park. This would create parking issues. Should remain a "walk to" park.

Too much development.

Please stay within the footprint that is already there.

Keep the trees and quiet, set-back nature of the park.

Please don't over-develop this park.

Don't increase use levels by increasing capacity of equipment or other facilities.

More variety in play structures and picnic table closer to the play area.

Loss of the open grassy space & quietness.

Do not make the features too safe.  http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/19/science/19tierney.html?_r=0

If this link does not work, please type "can a playground be too safe?" into google web browser for
NY Times article.
In addition, please leave the large field as is. If a shade structure is to be built, please do not place this in the field.

This is a second article, this one in WSJ. I agree, don't make the features so safe they are boring:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323622904578129063506832312.html
That it loses its unique character
Needs to cater more to older kids
Retain a substantial amount of open grass areas
increased use

4. If the playground were improved, what play elements would you like to see? - Other responses
   Answer
   - basketball hoop
   - Skate park, or at least a half pipe
   - Basketball and/or tennis court
   - Basketball court
   - sculpture features for playing on
   - the balance beam needs to be refurbished/replaced
   - Like the sand, no rubber
   - If space allows: "big kid" structure & "little kid" structure
   - sand toy (digger)

5. What skill components would you like to see included in an upgraded playground? - Other responses
   Answer
   - Lighting
   - Skating
   - Hand eye coordination
   - imagination

7. Are there any additional site furnishings you would like to see at Norman D Park? - Other responses
   Answer
   - Cans along trail to make for easy dog patrol for walkers.
   - seasonal community pool
   - Better/ More Lighting
   - Natural feeling seating for adults to enjoy nature also (rocks or wood etc)
   - Halfpipe
   - division of age groups
   - a cement path from the trail
   - small basketball court with no lighting
   - No more picnic areas please
   - Can a picnic bench be put up by the playground without a whole big pavillion?
   - Circular path so kids can ride scooters/bikes around while parents watch

9. Did we miss anything? Please write additional comments here. - Responses
   Answer
I don't want the footprint to grow much, but adding "big kid" swings would be great
Parking is pretty limited
The play area could expand but keep some of the east side grass space open for other play like soccer
and Frisbee. The Cedarworks Structures would be beautiful and long lasting.
http://www.cedarworks.com/product/view/serendipity_1
The Park gets very dark and could use more lighting for walking the trail in dusk and at night safely.
Kid sized picnic table
Is there a way to improve maintenance of the tunnel? Sometimes we find used condoms there.
If the rumors about taking out the ulysseas skatepark are true then this would be a nice spot in northern
golden to put a place for kids in the neighborhood to learn how to skate. Skating not only teaches
coordination but leads to good social skills.
My grandchildren spent a lot of time in Norman D until school age, less since being in school, but still it
is a favorite park for them
A tennis court or basketball court is needed on the north side of Golden. The Mountain View basketball
courts are in severe disrepair. The closest tennis courts are by Lions Park and are often full.
please let us run around
Much of the nice part about the park is that there is quite an open space for playing ball/field sports,
hopefully this won't change too much and both can be accomodated!
additional benches by the playground would be nice
I love the green spaces of the park. I never use the picnic pavilion. I'm down there 1-4 days per week
in the summer and we always meet and congregate at the play area. I'd suggest a b-ball court next
to the parking lot but don't change green space.
The natural features, such as the tunnel, and trees are great "play structures." Expand them!
In order to preserve the unique and quiet woodsy feel of the current play area, perhaps a second play
area or a specific feature that is closer to the parking lot and pavilions could be added to the design.
A small basketball court would be nice to have (half-court). The nearest hoop is over 1 mile away. It
could be placed near the parking area to preserve the open spaces and so it doesn't disturb
neighbors. It should be without lighting to maintain the quiet at night. I want to further emphasize
how wasteful it is to replace the entire playset.
I responded that I feel the footprint should be larger for the playground, but want to clarify that I believe
the footprint could/should expand w/out materially affecting the openness of Norman D. Also, I
believe we should include some adult features like horeshoe pits or ping pong tables. We're really
excited about these improvements!
Please don't over-develop this park! It is great the way it is, but new playground equipment within the
existing footprint would be nice. Thanks.
Please do not increase parking capacity or capacity of picnic pavilions, current size allows for group
sizes appropriate for quiet neighborhood setting.
Look into improving safety of sidewalks along ford street, utility poles make sidewalk widths very unsafe
for children given traffic only inches away on road. Really need wider passage space.
It would be nice, if not here, to see Golden install an updated skate park. While APEX skate park in
Arvada would be ideal, something similar would be appreciated in Golden. This seems to be a trend
across city parks. It would be nice to see Golden follow suit.
Just slightly larger to accommodate some updates: swings
We love the park just the way it is and hope that just minor improvements/updates are made. We have
3 children: 4, 11 & 15 yrs old.
In addition, the sidewalk to get to the park is very small along Ford, and the cars drive very fast around
the speed control boxes. The speed control boxes push the cars closer to the sidewalk, which
makes this a very dangerous walk to the park from Idaho st. This is almost a recipe for disaster.
The park is a wonderful amenity for the surrounding neighborhoods, but more features for older kids are
needed. I’d like to see the playground area expanded slightly and refreshed with new equipment
and a soft rubber surface. A few large boulders for climbing would also be a nice addition, but
please retain the majority of the grassy open areas.