

TIKISHLA PARK

MASTER PLAN



Online Survey: General Themes

Anchorage Parks and Recreation administered an online survey to gather information from the broader community as to what they value about Tikishla Park, what types of improvements they would like to see, and what issues they would like to see addressed. A total of 195 survey responses were collected and close to 1000 total comments were submitted. Based on the comments provided, common themes are summarized below.

What is special about Tikishla Park?

- A Neighborhood Hub: Tikishla Park is a special place for the community to gather, a park for families and all ages to come together, multi-generational
- A Balance of Developed and Natural Areas: Tikishla Park has the right balance of developed facilities and natural areas interconnected by a system of paved and soft-surface trails
- Year-round Recreation: Tikishla Park has something for everyone, the park offers a wide variety of recreational activities in all seasons
- Access and Location: Tikishla Park has many neighborhood connections and easy access to the greenbelt system and destinations beyond
- Wilderness in the City: The natural areas of Tikishla Park are highly valued for recreation, wildlife, habitat, and quiet contemplation

Describe your ideal Tikishla Park?

- As Is... Only Better: Tikishla Park is already a successful park, upgrades to existing facilities is preferred over major new development
- Safe, Clean, and Well Maintained: Safety is a major issue, eliminating drug activity and addressing homeless camps would improve park users perception of safety and would lead to a cleaner healthier park environment
- Mix of Uses: Tikishla Park is valued for its mix of developed facilities and natural areas
- Family Friendly and Accessible to All: Tikishla Park is a neighborhood hub and community gathering space, a place where people can engage in activities, sports, and events, a place that is full of people doing things together
- Natural Areas are Protected: Tikishla Park's natural areas serve important ecosystem functions and are highly valued as undeveloped wild spaces in a city that is becoming increasingly more urban

What issues or concerns would you like to see addressed through this planning effort?

1. Safety

- Several survey respondents indicated that are not visiting the park because of safety concerns
- Drug activity in/around the Tikishla parking lot
 - Possible solutions: better visibility, APD patrols, reconfigure parking lot
- Homeless camps (30 + comments) => primary concern is petty theft, drug use, safety
- Trail safety: poor visibility, no lights on spur trails
 - Community identified needs: Vegetation mgmt., Trail Lighting

2. Developed Facilities

- Playground:
 - Equipment is outdated, scattered and "weirdly spaced" in three separate zones and is not conducive to supervising children, forest near playground can be scary
- Hockey:
 - Attractive nuisance or asset worth expanding? Different perspectives and opinions on the rink – some want to add another ice rink for families while a few commented that the ice isn't being used
- Ball fields:
 - Wide agreement that the ball fields at Tikishla are under-utilized => there is a desire for more flexible multi-use open green space
- Amenities:
 - the park needs more/better amenities to support park use (mutt mitts, trash cans, benches, restrooms, bike racks)

3. Trails

- Cottonwood tree roots impacting trail surface
- Upgrade spurs for better ADA access
- Resurface bridges to eliminate dangerous slippery surface
- Add lighting to improve safety

4. Natural Areas

- Keep green, limit development, preserve natural areas
- Remove invasive species (May Day trees)
- No real consensus on whether to improve (i.e. harden) social trails or leave as-is?

5. Indoor Tennis Facility

- Survey participants overwhelmingly wish to protect the existing natural areas and do not support the development of a large indoor tennis facility

6. Other

- Community engagement - Residents have voiced that they would be willing to show up to volunteer events/community projects and park clean-ups

What types of improvements or new facilities would you like to see at Tikishla Park in the future?

List of new facilities identified in the survey:

- Community gardens
- Single track trails pump track
- Off-leash dog park
- Picnic area/pavilion
- Volleyball
- Outdoor ping pong table
- Skate park
- Permanent restrooms
- Bike repair station
- Disc golf (3 hole practice course)
- Outdoor tennis court
- Open space (i.e. soccer field)
- Wayfinding signs
- Adult exercise equipment
- Parkour
- Camper host
- BBQ
- More events/food trucks

Tikishla Park (E 20th):

- Hockey
 - Warming hut
 - Second ice sheet for families
 - More lights
 - Benches for putting skates on
- Ball Fields
 - Better as open space/multi-use
 - "re-utilization of under-used Tikishla ball field"
 - Remove fences – one or both fields?
- Playground
 - Current location is scary and unorganized (spread over three locations)
 - Better equipment for 2-5. 5-12 (adult?)
 - Update playground equipment, possibility combine with future picnic area/pavillion or other complimentary facility
 - Future playground => size, how much of a destination should it be?
 - Pros: people activate the park with positive use, improving safety
 - Cons: more traffic

Trails:

- More lights
- Re-surface dangerous slick bridges
- Wayfinding
- Maintenance: grooming in winter, sweeping in spring

Natural Areas:

- Remove May Day trees
- Preserve natural areas
- Clean up homeless camps
- Some interest in formalizing social trails with potentially boardwalks in wetland areas?

Davenport Fields:

- Improve ADA access
- New playground equipment
- Complimentary uses that add value to Davenport
 - Programming & events
- Improve parking lot surfacing (pave/no pave?)
- Controlled vehicle circulation
- Lights
- American Legion sized ball field, 50/70 field, reconfigure to meet needs
- Secure snack shack