



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 17, 2017

Re: American Legion Park Improvements Project

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting an ordinance authorizing the construction of improvements at American Legion Park. The improvements at the park will include the replacement of the existing playground and shelter, lighting improvements, fire pit installation, and improved ADA walkways within the park. The total project budget is \$100,000 and is one of the projects identified and funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax. Portions of the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department, and the proposed improvements will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Contract labor will be used for the replacement of the playground and ADA walkway improvements. All other work will be completed by park staff. Improvements at the park are scheduled to begin summer 2017, with an anticipated completion date of spring 2018.

Discussion

The 16.6-acre American Legion Park is located at 602 South Legion Lane and includes a medium shelter, playground, two baseball/softball fields, concession/restroom building, archery range, fishing pond, and parking for the amenities. The community park has had multiple renovation projects during the past five years, including renovations to the two baseball/softball fields, archery range, and asphalt parking lot improvements.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of an ordinance authorizing improvements at American Legion Park. Park staff is proposing to replace the existing playground and shelter, add LED lighting to the parking lots, construct a fire pit at the park, and improve ADA walkways at the park, including access to the fishing pond.

After reviewing the proposed American Legion Park improvements in the *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*, staff discussed potential improvements to the park that would update existing facilities and continue to make the park a community gathering place for Columbia residents. Park staff held an interested parties meeting at the American Legion Hall on January 10, 2017. Park staff met with citizens to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the park and proposed improvements. Staff also provided the public with an opportunity to provide additional comments about the project via an online survey at como.gov. Staff introduced the proposed improvements to the Parks & Recreation Commission at their January 19, 2017 meeting. After discussion of the project, the commissioners voted to endorse the proposed improvement plans at the park and recommended that Council approve the plans as presented. After considering all citizen comments and the P&R Commission recommendation, staff believes that proposed improvements to American Legion Park represent a consensus of park users and staff.



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

The proposed improvements at American Legion Park will include the following:

1. Contract labor will be used to replace the existing 25+ year old playground structure and swings with a new play structure, independent play features, and swings. The new ADA compliant play structure will meet current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) safety guidelines, and park staff will install wood fiber mulch throughout the designated playground area.
2. Park staff will remove the existing medium shelter (26' x 45') at the park and replace it with three smaller shelters in designated areas to serve different park activities. Park staff will install a 24' X 24' shelter next to the concession/restroom facility adjacent to the baseball fields to serve park patrons, as well as provide a space for coaches, players, and families utilizing the baseball/softball fields for leagues and tournaments. A 15' X 15' shelter will be installed next to the new playground to provide a shaded sitting area for park patrons utilizing the playground and swings. The third shelter is another 15' X 15' and will be located near the area of the original shelter to provide park patrons with an area for picnics and small gatherings throughout the summer. It will also serve as a gathering place for individuals utilizing the fire pit and hill for sledding during the winter months. The fire pit will be constructed adjacent to the shelter and operate in similar fashion to the fire pit at Stephens Lake Park.
3. Park staff will install LED lighting throughout the two parking lots located at the park to complete the parking lot improvement project. In 2016, the parking lots received an asphalt overlay, but funding was not available for lighting improvements. The installation of LED lighting will allow staff to remove the existing cobra overhead lights located at the park.
4. Contract labor will be used to make ADA walkway improvements at the park. Sidewalks will be installed adjacent to the parking lot to provide access to the shelters and playground. An ADA walkway will also be installed to provide access from the parking lot to the fishing lake.

The \$100,000 improvement project at American Legion Park is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and is included in the City's FY17 Capital Improvement Program budget. Portions of the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department, and the proposed improvements will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Contract labor will be used for the replacement of the playground and ADA walkway improvements. All other work will be completed by park staff. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin summer 2017, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by spring 2018.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total cost of the project is \$100,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff does not anticipate any increase in expenses associated with the park improvements. Staff already completes trash removal, general maintenance and mowing at the park. The addition of LED lighting at the park will have a minimum impact on park expense as the lighting improvements will allow for the removal of the existing cobra lighting at the park. The loss of revenue from the rental of the medium shelter will be offset by rental fees generated by future shelter rentals at Norma Sutherland Smith Park and Gans Creek Recreation Area.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Social Equity, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
12/07/2015	Ord# 022691 – Authorizing the American Legion Park Archery Range Improvements Project http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=20016
12/16/2013	Ord #021931 – Authorizing the Addition of Lights on East Baseball/Softball Field at American Legion Park http://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=11893

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance to authorize the American Legion Park Improvements Project.