



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 18, 2020

Re: Setting a Public Hearing: Worley Street Park Improvements

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of a resolution to set a public hearing for the construction of improvements at Worley Street Park. The proposed improvements primarily consist of replacing existing amenities, including the replacement of two playgrounds, installation of a new drinking fountain, fencing improvements, bench replacement and basketball court striping. Park staff will also make any necessary ADA improvements at the park. The total project budget is \$75,000 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 two playgrounds, fencing improvements and to restripe the basketball court. All other work will be completed by park staff. Improvements at the park are scheduled to begin summer 2020, with an anticipated completion date of spring 2021.

Discussion

The 1.4-acre Worley Street Park is located at 503 W. Worley Street. The park includes two playgrounds, one designed for 5-12 year olds and the other designed for 2-5 year olds, a basketball court, drinking fountain, park benches and two outdoor concrete picnic tables. The park has a single ADA walkway through the park allowing citizens to access the park from Worley Street and Donnelly Avenue.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of a resolution to set a public hearing for the construction of improvements at Worley Street Park. Park staff is proposing to replace both playgrounds, install a new drinking fountain, restripe the basketball court and complete fencing improvements and bench replacement.

After reviewing the proposed Worley Street 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 allow the park to serve as a key neighborhood park for the west-central area of Columbia. Park staff held an interested parties meeting at the Activity and Recreation Center on February 27, 2020. Park staff met with citizens to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the park and proposed improvements. The public had an additional opportunity to provide comments about the project via an online survey at como.gov from February 12, 2020 to March 5, 2020. All feedback from the public input meetings and online como.gov surveys are included with this Council memo and may also be found online at:



<https://www.como.gov/parksandrec/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2020/03/IP-meeting-comments-Worley-Street-Park.pdf>

The original budget for this project was \$105,000, which included \$30,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the grant funding had to be moved from this project to support assistance programs for individuals in need due to the pandemic. During the public input process, park staff showed lighting improvements at the park that would have been funded by the \$30,000 CDBG funding. The lighting upgrades will not be completed as part of this project now that the project budget has been reduced. Park staff anticipates applying for future CDBG funding for the installation of new lighting in the park.

Also due to the current emergency order related to COVID-19, the Parks and Recreation Commission did not hold their regular scheduled meetings in March or April and will not hold their meeting in May, 2020. Therefore, this project is proposed to go through the City Council approval process without having been reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. This will allow construction to start in June and the project to remain on schedule.

After considering all citizen comments and in consideration of the reduced budget, staff believes that proposed improvements to Worley Street Park represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The proposed improvements at Worley Street Park will include the following:

1. Contract labor will be used to replace the existing playground structure located in the middle of the park with a new play structure. Park staff will specify a playground to serve 5-12 year olds in the playground bid for this location. The new ADA compliant play structure will meet current ASTM safety guidelines, and park staff will install wood fiber mulch throughout the designated playground area. Park staff will also replace the existing landscape block retaining wall on the south side of the playground with a new manufactured stone retaining wall. Park staff will leave the existing swings located in the playground area as they were replaced less than five years ago.
2. Contract labor will be used to replace the existing playground equipment located at the Worley Street entrance to the park with a new play structure. Park staff will specify a playground to serve 2-5 year olds in the playground bid for this location. The new ADA compliant play structure will meet current ASTM safety guidelines, and park staff will install wood fiber mulch throughout the designated playground area. Park staff will also replace the existing landscape block playground border with a concrete curb.
3. A combination of park staff and contract labor will be used to complete miscellaneous improvement projects at the park including replacement of the existing drinking fountain, restriping of the basketball court, fencing improvements and replacement of slats on the existing park benches. The fencing improvements will include the replacement of the 8-foot-tall wood fence located on each side of the existing 2-5 year old playground



equipment and the basketball court. Staff is proposing to install 4 foot or 6 foot wood fencing at the playgrounds and 6-foot-tall chain link fence at the basketball court.

The \$75,000 improvement project at Worley Street Park is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and is included in the City's FY2020 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 two playgrounds, fencing improvements and restriping of the basketball court. All other work will be completed by park staff. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin summer 2020, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by spring 2021.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost is \$75,000 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.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

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

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution to set a public hearing for the construction of improvements at Worley Street Park.