



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 7, 2017

Re: Public Hearing for the Valleyview Park Improvements Project

Executive Summary

This is the public hearing for the Valleyview Park Improvements Project. The improvements at the park will include the replacement of the existing playground and baseball backstop, as well as the installation of a new ADA walkway to the playground and a drinking fountain adjacent to the playground. The total project budget is \$60,000 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 for the utility work associated with the water fountain. 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 late fall 2017. One unmet need of the neighborhood was to convert the existing gravel trail to concrete, but with a cost of \$49,000, it was not included at this time.

Discussion

The 7.8-acre Valleyview Park is located at 2210 Garden Drive and includes a small shelter, open playfield, baseball backstop, playground, basketball court and 0.43 mile trail. The park is categorized as a neighborhood park in the *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* and is heavily used by citizens in the adjoining neighborhoods.

Park staff is proposing to replace the existing playground and backstop and add a new ADA walkway to the playground and drinking fountain at the park.

After reviewing the proposed Valleyview 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 add new amenities to the park. After the completion of the proposed plans for the park, staff held an interested parties meeting at the park on June 20, 2017. Park staff met with over 25 citizens to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the park and proposed improvements. After considering all citizen comments, staff believes that proposed improvements to Valleyview Park represent a consensus of park users and staff for the allotted budget.



The proposed improvements at Valleyview 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 and swings. The new ADA compliant play structure will meet current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) safety guidelines and will include swings designed for ages 2-5 and ages 5-12. Park staff will install the concrete border around the playground and install the wood fiber mulch throughout the designated playground area.

Park staff participated in the 2017 Show Me Healthy Communities Statewide Training and Funding Initiative as part of the selection of the playground for Valleyview Park. The initiative provided training for five park staff in the areas of playground design, programming and research-based best practices for playgrounds in communities. The initiative also provides matching funds from GameTime, Inc., totaling \$30,000, for the purchase of the playground at Valleyview Park. The funds will be given as a credit toward the purchase of the final playground selected for the park. The playground installed at the park will be designated as a GameTime national demonstration site for data collection. The data will contribute toward the publication of a White Paper to highlight best practices and outcomes achieved at park sites throughout Missouri in an effort to encourage children and families to be more active and increase usage of parks in Missouri.

2. A combination of park staff and contract labor will be used to install a water fountain adjacent to the new playground at the park. Contract labor will be used to install all necessary water lines and the water meter for the fountain. Staff will complete the final installation of the water fountain upon completion of the water lines and a concrete pad for the fountain.
3. Park staff will install a 6' ADA walkway connecting the sidewalk along Garden Drive to the existing one table shelter and the new playground.
4. Park staff will install a new baseball/softball backstop in the open playfield at the park and move the soccer goal to the southwest corner of the playfield. The backstop shows visible signs of age and is in need of replacement. Relocating these amenities in the park will create the needed space for the playground and improve the usability of the amenities due to the park topography.

At the public input meeting for the park, multiple citizens commented about improvements to the existing 0.43 mile walking trail. Citizens requested that the remaining portions of the gravel surface trail be converted to concrete to improve ADA accessibility and eliminate the washouts of the trail that occur with rain events. The Parks and Recreation Department does not have the funding at this time to complete this work at the park, but wanted to make the City Council aware of the request by citizens in the neighborhood. Staff estimates that the conversion of the gravel surface portion of the trail to a 6' concrete surface would cost an additional \$49,000.



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The \$60,000 improvement project at Valleyview 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 for the utility work associated with the drinking fountain. 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 late fall 2017.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total cost of the project is \$60,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff anticipates a small increase in annual expenses of approximately \$200 associated with the proposed park improvements. This increase is due to the annual water expenses for the drinking fountain. Staff already completes trash removal, general maintenance, and mowing at the park.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Secondary Impact: Community Pride & Human Relations, 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
NA	NA

Suggested Council Action

After the public hearing, approve the ordinance authorizing the Valleyview Park Improvements Project.