



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 5, 2020

Re: Community Assistance Program Agreement – Missouri Department of Conservation

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to sign a community assistance program (CAP) agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The CAP agreement grants the Missouri Department of Conservation legal authority to manage the fish population and enforce all conservation rules and regulations related to fishing at selected lakes in Columbia's park system. MDC staff will also assist Columbia Parks and Recreation with the creation of a general management plan for the fishery resources in the lakes, provide the Department with fish community surveys and analysis, coordinate necessary fish stocking, and manage the winter trout program at Cosmo-Bethel Park. The Department agrees to provide free public access to the lakes designated in the agreement and maintain all areas for proper fish habitat and public access. The Department will also continue to provide 50% reimbursement for the cost of the winter trout fishing program at Cosmo-Bethel Lake.

Discussion

In 1992, the City of Columbia and the Missouri Department of Conservation entered into a 25-year agreement allowing MDC to manage the fish populations in lakes at Cosmo Park, Lake of the Woods Recreation Area and Cosmo-Bethel Park. Since the original agreement in 1992, the agreement has been amended multiple times to add additional lakes at Twin Lakes Recreation Area, Stephens Lake Park, Nifong Park, and A. Perry Philips Park to the CAP program. Over the past year, city staff and MDC staff have been working on a new 25-year agreement for the Community Assistance Program provided by MDC. The new agreement will include the lakes listed in the previous agreement and will also include a 2-acre lake at Norma Sutherland Smith Park and the 11-acre lake at the Vineyards park property.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation to implement a Community Assistance Program for the management of fish populations within designated lakes in the Columbia park system.

As part of the agreement, the City agrees to allow free public access and full use of the designated areas for fishing and related recreational activities. The City agrees to maintain the areas to ensure they are clean, safe, ADA accessible, and usable by the public. The City will provide adequate law enforcement, recognize the Missouri Department of Conservation at each site, and prohibit any unauthorized fish stocking. The City will also continue to provide 50% reimbursement for expenses related to the Cosmo-Bethel trout fishing program. The City's portion runs \$2,500 - \$3,000 annually.



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The Missouri Department of Conservation agrees to provide a general management plan for the fishery resources at each lake, provide the City with periodic fish community surveys and analysis and manage fish stocking and inventory. MDC will assist with enforce appropriate fishing rules and regulations, provide necessary fishing signage at each lake and manage the winter trout fishing program at Cosmo-Bethel Park, including 50% of the total cost of the program.

The 25-year agreement will become effective upon execution by both parties and will automatically renew for successive terms of one year after the initial 25-year agreement, unless the City or MDC provides written intent to terminate the agreement.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The annual cost to the City for the Cosmo-Bethel trout fishing program is \$2,500 to \$3,000. This has been included in Parks and Recreation's budget since the inception of the program in 2003. No increase in the operating budget is needed for this agreement.

Long-Term Impact: \$2,500 to \$3,000 annually for the Cosmo-Bethel trout fishing program for the length of the agreement or termination of the program.

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: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
03/06/2006	R61-06: Authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) which will add A. Perry Philips Lake to the MDC Community Assistance Program.

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute the Community Assistance Program (CAP) agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation.