



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 1, 2024

Re: Missouri Department of Agriculture Agreement – Northeast Regional Park

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Missouri Department of Agriculture. The MOA outlines one-time funding, totaling \$2,500,000, for the development of agriculture facilities at Northeast Regional Park to support the Boone County Fair. Staff is also requesting City Council to appropriate the funds to the capital improvement project account for the park. The funding is being provided to the City of Columbia from a Fiscal Year 2024 budget appropriation from the Missouri General Assembly to the Department of Agriculture. The funding will be used to construct new facilities to support the Boone County Fair including a covered outdoor arena with attached open-air livestock barn, livestock sales and fair office with storage, hard surface event space and parking. The funds will also allow for the renovation of an existing concession facility and restroom facility. Staff will return to City Council for the approval of proposed plans for the park and construction project approval after park staff completes the public input process for the proposed development of the park.

Discussion

On January 6, 2020, City Council approved a memorandum of understanding with Boone County establishing guidelines that would allow Boone County to transfer the County Fairgrounds Property to the City of Columbia. City Council approved the contract for sale of real estate between the City of Columbia and Boone County for the property on May 4, 2020. After the property closing, the 135-acre property was incorporated into the park system managed by the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department. There was no cost for the transfer of the property.

As part of the agreement, the City is required to allow for the continued use of 23 acres of the property for the Boone County Fair for a period of at least ten (10) days per year. In 2021, the Boone County Fair returned to Northeast Regional Park and has been held annually at the park. In an effort to support the Boone County Fair and move forward with the implementation of the proposed park master plan, park staff was tasked with identifying funding opportunities to construct new agri-tourism facilities within the 23-acre area of the park designated for the Boone County Fair.

In May 2023, city staff was notified that the State of Missouri Fiscal Year 2024 budget would include \$2,500,000 in appropriated funds for the construction of agri-tourism facilities at Northeast Regional Park. This was done through House Bill 20 (2023), Section 20.318 (Fiscal Year 2024) and represents an appropriation of funds from the Missouri General Assembly to



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the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA). City staff and MDA staff have created this agreement to finalize the one-time funding, totaling \$2,500,000, and outline what the city will accomplish with the funding. The funding will be used to construct a covered outdoor arena with attached open-air livestock barn, livestock sales and fair office with storage, hard surface event space and parking. The funds will also be used for the renovation of an existing concession facility and restroom facility. Any remaining funds will be used to construct a lighted outdoor event space and grandstand seating area within the 23-acre area designated for the Boone County Fair.

Preliminary proposed development plans have been approved by MDA staff and park staff will share all final plans with MDA staff for final approval before construction starts at the park. City staff will be responsible for providing reports to MDA detailing expenditures for the project funding by the state appropriation and will report performance measures outlining program goals once the facilities are constructed and in use by the Boone County Fair.

Staff will return to City Council at a later date for the approval of proposed plans for the park and construction project approval after park staff completes the public input process for the proposed development of the park.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Park staff is requesting City Council approval to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Missouri Department of Agriculture to accept one-time funding, totaling \$2,500,000, for the construction of improvements at Northeast Regional Park and to appropriate the funds to the capital improvement project for the park.

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Resilient Economy, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Tertiary Impact: Economic Development

Legislative History

Date	Action
05/04/2020	B100-20: Authorizing a contract for transfer of real estate with Boone County, Missouri related to the County Fairgrounds Property located east of Highway 63 and Oakland Gravel Road. City of Columbia, Missouri - File #: B100-20 (legistar.com)



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01/06/2020	B390-19: Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with Boone County, Missouri relating to the transfer of ownership of the County Fairgrounds Property located east of Highway 63 and Oakland Gravel Road. City of Columbia, Missouri - File #: B390-19 (legistar.com)
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Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Missouri Department of Agriculture and appropriate the funds to the Northeast Regional Park capital improvement project.