



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 21, 2022

Re: Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area: Tot Lot Playground Replacement

Executive Summary

Public hearing for improvements to the tot lot playground at Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area (Cosmo Park). The proposed improvements include replacement of the playground designed for 2 to 5 year old children, adding new seating adjacent to the playground and construction of new walkways to improve ADA accessibility. Staff is proposing to relocate the playground from the north side of the existing parking lot adjacent to Nickell Shelter to the south side of the existing parking lot adjacent to Lamb Shelter. The total project budget is \$72,000, which includes \$47,000 in 2015 Park Sales Tax funding and a \$25,000 donation from the Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club. 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 installation of the playground equipment and all other improvements will be completed by park staff. Improvements at the park are scheduled to begin in spring 2022, with an anticipated completion date of fall 2022.

Discussion

Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area, located at 1615 Business Loop 70 West, encompasses 533 acres and includes a wide variety of recreational amenities including athletic fields, park shelters, playgrounds, sport courts, skatepark, RC car track and L.A. Nickell Golf Course. The park also includes a trailhead for the Bear Creek Trail and 1.25-mile fitness trail. The 2-acre Steinberg Playground was renovated in 2015 but the tot lot playground was not replaced at that time due to lack of funding.

Improvements to the tot lot playground include replacement of the playground designed for 2 to 5 year old children, adding new seating adjacent to the playground and construction of new walkways to improve ADA accessibility.

After reviewing the proposed Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area improvements in the *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*, staff discussed potential improvements to the tot lot playground that would replace the existing equipment, correct drainage issues in the playground and provide improved ADA access to the playground. Park staff held an interested parties meeting at the Activity & Recreation Center on Jan. 18, 2022. Park staff met with citizens to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the proposed improvements. The public had an additional opportunity to provide comments about the project via an online survey at CoMo.gov from Jan. 5, 2022 to Jan. 25, 2022. All feedback from the public input meetings and online como.gov surveys are included with this Council



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

memo and may also be found online at

https://www.como.gov/webapps/cipweb/display_project.php?project_id=2303.

Park staff introduced the proposed Cosmo Park tot lot playground improvements to the Parks and Recreation Commission on Jan. 20, 2022. After discussion of the project, the commissioners voted to endorse the proposed improvements and recommended that Council approve the plans as presented. After considering all citizen comments and the P&R Commission recommendation, staff believes the proposed improvements to the tot lot playground represent a consensus of park users and staff.

Staff is proposing to relocate the playground from its existing location adjacent to Nickell Shelter on the north side of the parking lot. This location has significant issues with drainage during heavy rains resulting in continued maintenance of the wood fiber mulch safety surfacing. The existing playground location does not allow for an expanded play area and does not have ADA access to the playground. Staff is proposing to relocate the playground to the south side of the existing parking adjacent to Nickell Shelter. This area currently has a sand volleyball court that sees very little use. Relocating the playground to this location will allow for improved ADA accessibility, expanded space for a larger playground structure and eliminate issues related to drainage and water running through the playground during rain events.

The proposed improvements in the new location will include the following:

1. Staff is proposing to use contract labor to install a new playground structure, independent play structure and two bay swing set. This playground will be designed specifically for children ages 2 to 5 years old. The type of equipment and height of play equipment are designed specifically for children within this age group to promote the development of skills and provide a safe area for play. After installation of the playground equipment, park staff will complete the concrete curb around the playground and install wood fiber mulch for the playground safety surfacing.
2. Park staff will install one permanent picnic table and one 6-foot bench within the playground area to provide seating for families visiting the playground. The bench is a recycled plastic heritage bench that will be relocated from the existing playground area.
3. Park staff will add connecting walkways from the east and west side of the playground to allow for ADA accessibility and a connection to the playground from Lamb Shelter and Steinberg Playground. Staff will also convert three existing asphalt parking spaces to two concrete ADA parking spaces at the end of the parking lot to provide accessible parking adjacent to the playground.

The \$72,000 improvement project at Cosmo Park is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and donated funds from the Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club. The project is included in the City's FY2022 Capital Improvement Program budget. Portions of the project will be bid



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

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 installation of the playground equipment and swing set. All other work will be completed by park staff. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin spring 2022, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by fall 2022.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost is \$72,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and donated funds from the Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff currently maintains the existing playground at Cosmo Park and does not anticipate any increase in expenses related to the improvements.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable 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
08/13/2013	Steinberg Playground Renovation https://www.cmo.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=10498

Suggested Council Action

After the public hearing, approve the ordinance authorizing tot lot playground improvements at Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area and appropriating funds for the project.