



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 21, 2025

Re: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to the Parks and Recreation Fees

Executive Summary

As part of the FY2026 budget process, the Parks and Recreation Department evaluated existing fees and is proposing fee changes for various recreation programs and rental facilities. The proposed fee changes are based on market research, recovery goals, and internal staff review; and if approved, are anticipated to generate \$200,000 to \$225,000 per year in revenue for the Parks and Recreation Fund. The Department's philosophy is to periodically increase fees at small amounts instead of waiting several years for more significant fee increases for programs and rental facilities.

Discussion

The Parks and Recreation Department's mission is to "improve our community's health, stability, beauty, and quality of life by providing outstanding, parks, trails, recreational facilities, and leisure opportunities for all Columbia citizens." This includes providing programs, activities and facilities to serve all socio-economic segments of our community. Some programs, such as those offered by Community Recreation and Special Olympics, are offered at very little or no cost to the participants. Others, such as golf course fees and sports court rentals, are priced so that they generate enough revenue to offset expenses. Due to the increase in minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour on January 1, 2026, rising cost of materials/supplies, fuel increases, and increases in utility expenses, the department is proposing to increase fees for some recreational programs and facility rentals. The department historically has chosen to make minor fee increases on an annual basis instead of significant fee increases every 5 to 10 years.

Approval of the ordinance will increase fees for summer camps, aquatic facility fees, Hillcrest Community Center membership fee, indoor facility rental fees, golf course green fees and rentals, Columbia Sports Fieldhouse court rental fees, Armory Sports and Recreation Center fees, participant fees at Gans Creek Recreation Area and admission fees to the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC). The ordinance will also increase the range for the activity fee and set pricing for rental of the Albert-Oakland pickleball courts for special events and tournaments.

The attached document outlines previous and current fees, as well as the proposed fee changes for FY 2026.

Camp Como Kidz Registration Fees

Staff is requesting to increase the cost of attending the summer day camp from \$135 to \$155 per week. This fee has not increased since 2023. The fee increase is necessary to cover rising



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costs related to wages for part-time staff and camp supplies. Staff is also requesting to establish a non-refundable registration fee of \$75 for weeks 5 – 10. The non-refundable registration fee of \$50 for weeks 1-4 will not change at this time.

Hillcrest Community Center Membership

Staff is requesting to increase the annual membership from \$36 to \$42. The fee increase is necessary to cover rising costs related to wages for staff, facility utility expenses and program costs.

Activity & Recreation Center (ARC) Daily Admission Fees

Staff is proposing a minimal increase for all types of admission (daily, monthly, and annual) into the ARC to help offset increases in costs related to full and part-time staffing, utility expenses and supplies/materials at the ARC. The daily admission fee for youth and seniors will increase from \$4.25 to \$4.50 and the fee for adults will increase from \$6.75 to \$7.00. The last increase to daily admission fees was in 2024. The fees for monthly and annual passes are based on the daily admission fee and will be increased accordingly.

Indoor Facility Rentals

Staff is proposing to increase the hourly rental fee from \$30 to \$36 for the Hillcrest Meeting Room, Maplewood Barn, Rock Quarry House and Waters House. Staff is also proposing to increase the hourly rental fee for Moss Building from \$45 to \$54 and the daily fee for the MKT Trailside Building from \$45 to \$54. The fee increases for the indoor facilities will help offset expenses related to utility costs and wages for full-time custodial staff.

Staff is proposing to increase the half day, full day, weekend and wedding special rental fees for Riechmann Pavilion at Stephens Lake Park. These fees have not been increased since 2020. Examples of the fee increase will include the weekday full day rental fee moving from \$400 to \$430 and a Saturday full day rental increasing from \$650 to \$750.

Aquatics Daily Fees, Season Passes and Facility Rentals

Staff is proposing to increase the daily fee for admission at Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center for youth from \$3 to \$4 and for adults from \$4.25 to \$6. Staff is also proposing to increase fees at Lake of the Woods Pool for youth from \$2 to \$3 and for adults from \$3.25 to \$4.25. Fee increases are also proposed for Douglass Family Aquatic Center and will increase the daily admission for youth from \$1.50 to \$2 and for adults from \$1.50 to \$3.

These fees have not been increased since 2020. The increase in fees will help offset increases associated with wages for part-time staffing, pool supplies and utility expenses. The increase in fees also coincides with the infrastructure improvements at each facility.

Staff is also proposing to increase the outdoor pool season pass from \$70 to \$85 for youth, \$115 to \$127 for adults and \$220 to \$248 for families. The cost of an outdoor pool season pass has not increased since 2008.



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The final increase related to aquatic facilities is a proposed increase to the hourly rental fee for the ARC Water Zone. Staff is proposing to increase the hourly rental fee from \$140 to \$160 for rentals that include 1 to 100 patrons. The fee will also increase for larger rental groups based on number of patrons. This fee has not been increased since 2017.

Golf Course Rental Fees

The proposed increase for 18-hole green fees is \$2.00 and \$1.00 for 9-hole green fees (example: weekday 18 holes - from \$24 to \$26). All other pass and membership fees are based on the basic green fee rate and will be increased accordingly. Green fees for 18 holes and 9 holes of golf were last increased in 2024. The increase in fees will help offset increases in costs associated with the increase in minimum wage for part-time staff, materials and supplies for the golf course clubhouses and course maintenance and utility expenses. The fee increases will allow staff to continue to offer high quality, affordable municipal golf courses for our patrons.

Staff is proposing to increase the price for an 18-hole golf cart rental from \$18.00 to \$20.00 and a 9-hole golf cart rental from \$9.00 to \$10.00. With the increase in golf cart rental fees, the full season cart rental fee and trail fee for outside golf carts will increase accordingly. The increase will allow staff to add the Visage GPS system to the fleet of golf carts at each golf course. Visage is a mobile golf information system designed to enhance the golfer experience and cart management system for staff. It provides real-time GPS data, interactive course maps, and various features for communication and cart control.

Columbia Sports Fieldhouse Fees

Staff is proposing to increase the hourly and daily rental fees for courts at the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse. These fees have not increased since 2019 and the fee increases coincide with the opening of phase II of the facility in October. Staff is proposing to increase the hourly rate for one court from \$50 to \$60. The full day rate (up to 16 hours) for one court will increase from \$720 to \$864. All other rates for multiple courts (1, 2, 4 or 8 full courts) are based on these court fees and will be adjusted accordingly. The increase in fees will help offset increases associated with wages for part-time staffing at the 8-court facility and increases in utility expenses.

Armory Sports and Recreation Center Fees

Staff is proposing to increase the hourly and daily rates for rental of the Armory Gym. The hourly rate will increase from \$30 to \$35 and the daily rate will increase from \$180 to \$281. The hourly rate for the conference room will increase from \$20 to \$24 and the classroom rental rate will increase from \$10 to \$12 per hour. The rates for all spaces at the Armory Sports and Recreation Center have not increased since 2012.

Gans Creek Recreation Area Participant Fees

Staff is proposing to increase the fee per participant at Gans Creek Recreation Area for events with 0-100 participants from \$2.40 to \$2.60. The fee per participant will also increase at a sliding scale for large events depending on the number of participants. For example, the



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fee per participant for an event with over 500 participants will increase from \$1 to \$1.09. This fee has not increased since 2023.

Albert-Oakland Pickleball Court Complex Rental Fees

Staff is requesting to establish a daily fee for the rental of the pickleball court complexes for special events or fundraisers. Once the capital improvement project at the courts is completed in spring 2026, the park will include a 6-court complex and a 10-court complex. Staff is proposing \$1,920 for the all day fee (7+ hours) for the 10-court complex and \$1,224 for the all day fee for the 6-court complex. Staff is also proposing fees for part day (0-6 hours) court complex rentals (0-6 hours). Staff is not proposing any type of hourly fee for daily play and the courts will remain first come, first serve. This fee is only associated with a group that submits a Park Special Use Permit for large tournaments, special events and fundraisers.

Summary

The proposed changes to the fee ordinance, if approved, are expected to generate an additional \$200,000 to \$250,000 per year in revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department. The proposed increase in revenue is included in the FY 2026 budget. If approved, the fee changes will be implemented at different times during the new fiscal year.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The proposed changes to the fee ordinance, if approved, are expected to generate an additional \$200,000 to 225,000 per year in revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department. The proposed increase in revenue has already been included in the proposed FY2025 budget.

Long-Term Impact: The estimated annual revenue increase will impact future years as well.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Economy, Tertiary Impact: Infrastructure

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Economic Development

Legislative History

Date	Action
08/19/2024	Ordinance #025733 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
08/07/2023	Ordinance # 025396 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees



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09/19/2022	Ordinance # 022125 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/17/2018	Ordinance # 023636 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/18/2017	Ordinance #023302: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/16/2016	Ordinance #02291: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/16/2014	Ordinance #22212: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/16/2013	Ordinance #21802: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/18/2012	Ordinance #21427: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation fees.