



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 20, 2016

Re: Set Public Hearing for McKee Street Park Improvements

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of a resolution to set a public hearing for the McKee Street Park Improvements Project. This park is located in the east area of the City's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. Improvements to the park include the construction of a small shelter, replacement of the playground, ADA walkway improvements, replacement of the internal pedestrian bridge, and the addition of lighting around the playground and shelter. The total project budget is \$75,000 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 park staff will complete the construction of the small shelter, ADA walkways, bridge replacement and lighting installation. The improvements at the park are scheduled to begin late summer 2016 with an anticipated completion date of spring 2017.

Discussion

The 4.7 acre McKee Street Park is located at 1900 McKee Street and includes a playground, picnic site, walking trail, baseball backstop, basketball court and open play field. The neighborhood park serves park residents throughout the northeast area of Columbia and is located in the east area of the 2016-2019 City of Columbia Strategic Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting a public hearing be set for the McKee Street Park Improvements Project. Park staff is proposing to replace the existing playground, construct a small shelter, and add lighting around the playground and shelter. Staff will also make necessary ADA walkway improvements and replace the existing pedestrian bridge in the park that provides access to the basketball court and open playfield.

After reviewing the proposed McKee Street 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 create a park that would be utilized as a community gathering place for residents in the northeast area of Columbia. Park staff held an interested parties meeting at McKee Street Park on May 18, 2016. Park staff, strategic plan partners, and Columbia Police Department officers met with citizens to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the park and proposed improvements. Staff also provided the public with an opportunity to provide additional public comment about the project on the SpeakUpComo website.



Staff introduced the proposed improvements to the Parks & Recreation Commission at their May 19, 2016 meeting. After discussion of the project, the Commissioners voted to endorse the proposed improvement plans at the park and recommended that Council approve the plans as presented. After considering all citizen comments and the P&R Commission recommendation, staff believes that proposed improvements to McKee Street Park represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The proposed improvements at McKee Street Park will include the following:

1. The construction of a 24' by 24' small shelter adjacent to the playground at the park that will serve as a community gathering point for the neighborhood and will be used for family gatherings, birthday parties and general park use. The shelter will include four picnic tables, ADA drinking fountain and a barbecue grill for use by park patrons.
2. The replacement of the existing 25+ year old playground at the park with a new play structure, independent play features and park swings. The new ADA compliant play structure and independent play features will meet current ASTM safety guidelines, and park staff will install wood fiber mulch throughout the designated playground area.
3. Park staff will install four new LED lights to improve the lighting in the northwest corner of the park that includes the new shelter and the playground. The existing playground area only has one large cobra head street light in the vicinity that does not provide enough light to the entire area.
4. Improvements will be made to the existing walking trail in the northwest corner of the park to improve ADA accessibility to the park and eliminate existing issues, such as uneven and broken concrete. Park staff will also replace the pedestrian bridge that connects park users to the southeast corner of the park that includes the basketball court and open playfield.

The \$75,000 improvement project at McKee Street Park is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and is included in the City's FY16 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 installation of the playground, and force account labor will be used for all other portions of the project. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin late summer 2016, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by spring 2017.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost for the improvements is \$75,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff anticipates minimal increases in maintenance costs associated with the cleaning of the new shelter. Other maintenance costs will remain the same as staff



City of Columbia

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already performs trash collection, playground maintenance, and turf maintenance. Park staff will install LED lighting fixtures at the park with automatic on/off timers which will keep the utility costs to a minimum for the park lighting.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Secondary Impact: Community Facilities & Services, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Public Safety, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution to set a public hearing for the McKee St. Park Improvements Project.