



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 19, 2018

Re: Setting a Public Hearing - Oakwood Hills Park Improvement Project

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting a resolution to set a public hearing for the Oakwood Hills Park Improvement Project. The proposed improvements at the park represent an overall renovation project, and specific improvements include the replacement of the existing playground, adding new swings and a new climbing structure, basketball court improvements, retaining wall renovations, replacement of three benches, a new park sign, walking trail improvements, and extending the ADA walkway from Burrwood Drive to the playground. The total project budget is \$125,000 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 installation of the playground, climbing structure, swings, basketball court renovations and ADA walkway extension. All other work will be completed by park staff. Improvements at the park are scheduled to begin winter 2018, with an anticipated completion date of fall 2019.

Discussion

The 9.9-acre Oakwood Hills Park is located at 2421 Lynnwood Drive and includes a 0.33 mile trail, playground, basketball court, and exercise equipment.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting a resolution to set a public hearing for the Oakwood Hills Park Improvement Project. The proposed improvements at the park will include replacement of the existing playground, adding new swings and a new climbing structure, basketball court improvements, retaining wall renovations, replacement of three benches, a new park sign, and extending the ADA walkway from Burrwood Drive to the playground.

After reviewing the Oakwood Hills Park proposed improvements in the *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*, staff focused internal discussions on the replacement of the playground, need for exercise equipment and improving ADA accessibility within the park. After the review, park planning staff created a proposed plan focusing on the existing playground, basketball court renovations, adding swings and a climbing structure and improving secondary amenities such as the ADA walkways, benches and retaining walls.

Park staff held an interested parties meeting at the park shelter on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Park staff met with citizens from the neighborhood to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the park and proposed improvements. It was during this meeting that



City of Columbia

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park staff included a plan to improve the perimeter hiking trail. Staff also provided the public with an opportunity to provide additional comments about the project via an online survey at como.gov from October 4, 2018 to October 28, 2018. All feedback from the public input meeting and online como.gov survey can be found at:

<https://www.como.gov/parksandrec/cip/capital-improvement-project-oakwood-hills-park-improvements-2/>

Park staff introduced the proposed plans for Oakwood Hills Park to the Parks & Recreation Commission on Thursday, October 18, 2018. 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 Oakwood Hills Park represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The proposed improvements at Oakwood Hills Park will include the following:

1. Contract labor will be used to replace the existing playground structure located at the park. The new playground structure will be designed for children 5-12 years old and, at the request of citizens in the neighborhood, have a natural color theme with varying shades of brown and green. The new playground structure will be installed in the space that has the existing exercise equipment. Staff proposed a plan to the neighborhood that eliminated the exercise equipment in the park, and feedback from the attendees at the interested parties meeting reaffirmed the decision to remove the exercise equipment from the park. After the installation of the playground structure, park staff will complete the playground improvements with the replacement of a retaining wall on the west side of the playground structure, installation of the wood fiber mulch surfacing, and installation of a new park bench and picnic table adjacent to the playground.
2. Contract labor will be used to install a new climbing structure and set of swings in the space where the existing playground structure is located in the park. The addition of the climbing structure and swings will increase the play opportunities for children in the park. After the installation of the climbing structure and swings, park staff will complete the playground improvements with the replacement of a retaining wall on the west side of the playground structure and installation of the wood fiber mulch surfacing and new park bench adjacent to the playground.
3. Contract labor will be used to resurface the existing basketball court located at the park. The contractor will overlay the existing asphalt playing surface and paint new basketball lines on the court. Park staff will repaint the two existing backboards and replace the park bench located at the basketball court.
4. Contract labor will be used to extend the existing ADA concrete walkway from Burrwood Drive to the basketball court and new playground structure. The existing



concrete walkway only extends past the private property on Burrwood Drive. The extension of the five-foot concrete walkway will improve accessibility to the basketball court, new playground structure and picnic table located within the park.

- Park staff will replace the existing park sign and entry gate at the Lynnwood Drive entrance to the park. The new entry gate will improve ADA accessibility to the park and continue to limit vehicles from entry into the park. Staff will also construct improvements to the park's hiking trail reducing some of the steeper areas that are prone to washouts.

The \$125,000 improvement project at Oakwood Hills Park is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and is included in the City's FY19 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. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin winter 2018, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by fall 2019.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total cost of the improvement project is \$125,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff does not anticipate any increase in expenses associated with the park improvements. Park maintenance and trash removal is already completed at the park.

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: Not applicable, 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 Oakwood Hills Park Improvement Project.