



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 16, 2017

Re: Public Hearing for the Antimi Sports Complex Improvements Project

Executive Summary

This is the public hearing for the Antimi Sports Complex Improvement Project located in Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area. The improvements at Antimi Sports Complex will include the replacement of the sports field fencing, expansion of dugouts, installation of irrigation and improved spectator shade on the four fields surrounding the concession stand. Other improvements include improved ADA walkways and maintenance access drives to the complex, batting cage and bullpen improvements, infield soil improvements, and fencing replacement at the t-ball fields. The total project budget is \$450,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax. Portions of the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department, and the project will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Contract labor will be used for the installation of the chain-link fencing on the four fields and grading will be completed using an existing term and supply contract. Park staff will complete all other work associated with the improvement project. The improvements are scheduled to begin this fall, with an anticipated completion date of summer 2018.

Discussion

Antimi Sports Complex is located in Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area (Cosmo Park) and is comprised of six baseball/softball fields, two small t-ball fields, concession/restroom facility and parking for the complex. The facility hosts the youth baseball and softball programs co-sponsored by the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department and Diamond Council of Columbia. The facility also hosts multiple private tournaments, Columbia College softball team practices and games, and the Show-Me State Games. Originally a four-field complex built in the 1970's, the Antimi Sports Complex has undergone a variety of capital improvements, including the addition of the black and gold fields located at the south end of the complex and the Otho Smith Memorial, all within the past 10 years.

Park staff is proposing to replace the existing chain-link fencing, expand the dugouts, install irrigation, and add new spectator shade structures to the four fields surrounding the concession stand. Other improvements at the complex will include improved ADA walkways and maintenance access drives to the complex, batting cage and bullpen improvements, and fencing replacement at the t-ball fields.

During the public input process for the *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*, park staff discussed potential park improvements with a variety of groups that utilize different park facilities and amenities. Staff met with board members from Diamond Council, and



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improvements to Antimi Sports Complex was identified as one of the highest needs for their program. The information provided by the group was included in the master plan, and Antimi Sports Complex was included as a project in the 2015 Park Sales Tax ballot. Park staff began the public input process for the project by presenting the proposed plans to the board of directors for Diamond Council on February 27, 2017. After reviewing feedback from the meeting, park staff held two interested parties meetings on April 3 and 4, 2017 during the spring coaches meetings for Diamond Council. Park staff was able to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback from coaches, parents and players from all age groups that utilize the fields throughout the playing season. Staff introduced the proposed improvements to the Parks & Recreation Commission at their April 20, 2017 meeting. After discussion of the project, the commissioners voted to endorse the proposed improvement plans at the sports complex and recommended that Council approve the plans as presented. After considering all user and citizen comments and the P&R Commission recommendation, staff believes that proposed improvements to Antimi Sports Complex represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The proposed improvements at Antimi Sports Complex will include the following:

1. On the original four fields surrounding the concession/restroom facility, all existing chain-link fencing will be removed by park staff and new chain-link fencing, dugouts and backstops will be constructed for each field. The four fields, labeled red, blue, green and purple, will be reconfigured to increase spectator space behind each backstop, expand the dugouts for players and coaches, and the distance from home plate to the outfield fences will move from 250 feet to 220 feet. The decrease in field distance allows each field to meet NCAA softball requirements for sanctioned tournaments and still accommodate all age groups for baseball games on the fields. The expanded dugouts and netted backstops will be similar in appearance and size to the dugouts and backstops at American Legion Park. Park staff will also install new foul poles on the blue, red, green and purple fields. The chain-link fencing will be installed using contract labor and park staff will complete the installation of the backstop poles, netting and dugout covers.
2. Park staff will install irrigation on the four fields surrounding the concession stand. The irrigation system installation will allow for improved turf through the control of water on the fields, ability to avoid drought conditions to the turf, and create a dense, even stand of turf allowing for better playability and improved safety.
3. Park staff will complete multiple ADA walkway improvements throughout the park to improve accessibility and provide better maintenance access for park staff. Staff will replace the existing gravel driveways between the purple and red fields and the purple and green fields with 12-foot-wide concrete driveways. This will improve access for pedestrians and vehicles in the complex. Staff will also widen the walkway from the west parking lots into the main entrance of the sports complex. The existing walkway has extensive damage and is not wide enough to accommodate the traffic generated at the complex. As part of the project, park staff will also add necessary



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ADA walkway connections from the Otho Smith Memorial to the gold field and ADA walkway connections to the t-ball fields and batting cages.

4. As part of the expanded spectator viewing area, park staff will install new shade structures on green, blue, red and purple fields. Staff will install a forty-foot long shade structure behind each backstop and two twenty-foot long shade structures down each side of the spectator viewing area.
5. Improvements to the t-ball fields will be completed once the improvements to the four fields surrounding the concession stand are completed and in operation. Park staff will repair damaged existing fence and poles and add dugout covers over the four dugouts on the t-ball fields for improved player and coach shade.
6. Park staff will construct two new batting cages at the sports complex once the fencing is completed on the four fields and also strategically add bullpens to the four fields to accommodate warm up pitchers on the fields.
7. As part of the improvement project, the Columbia College softball team will move their home field from black field to blue field. The change in fields allows them closer access to the restrooms and concession facility and increases the amount of spectator space they have for their games. Park staff will convert the infield on blue field from an aglime surface to DuraEdge engineered soil. The soil infield is more consistent with collegiate softball requirements and will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to convert the black and gold fields to aglime playing surface. The conversion of the two fields allows for a reduction in soil infields and the daily maintenance required of the fields and allows staff to return the fields to playing condition after rain events much more quickly.

The \$450,000 improvement project at Antimi Sports Complex is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and is included in the City's FY18 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 chain-link fencing on the four fields and necessary grading will be completed using one of the City's existing term and supply contracts. Park staff will complete all other work associated with the improvement project. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin fall 2017, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by summer 2018.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total cost of the project is \$450,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff does not anticipate any increase in expenses associated with the complex improvements. Staff already maintains the facility including trash removal, field maintenance, mowing and general maintenance at the sports complex.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

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
NA	NA

Suggested Council Action

After the public hearing, approve the ordinance authorizing the Antimi Sports Complex Improvement Project.