



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 17, 2017

Re: Indian Hills Park Improvements

## Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting an ordinance authorizing the construction of improvements at Indian Hills Park, located in the east area of the City's 2016-2019 Strategic Plan. These improvements are maintenance related and consist of renovations to the existing playground, restroom, baseball field, and the disc golf course. Staff will also add new ADA walkways and new lights in the parking lot per federal requirements and citizen requests. The total project budget is \$100,000 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 ADA walkway improvements. All other work will be completed by park staff. Improvements at the park are scheduled to begin spring 2017, with an anticipated completion date of late fall 2017.

## Discussion

The 40-acre Indian Hills Park is located at 5009 Aztec Boulevard and includes multiple playgrounds, walking trail, baseball backstop, basketball court, disc golf course, and a small shelter. The community park serves 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 approval of an ordinance authorizing improvements at Indian Hills Park. Park staff is proposing to complete playground improvements, restroom renovations, ADA walkway improvements, baseball field renovations, disc golf improvements, and install new lighting in the parking lot.

After reviewing the proposed Indian Hills 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 continue to make the park a community gathering place for residents in the northeast area of Columbia. Park staff held an interested parties meeting at the Activity and Recreation Center on November 17, 2016. Park staff 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 comments about the project on the *SpeakUpComo* website. Staff introduced the proposed improvements to the Parks & Recreation Commission at their November 17, 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 Indian Hills Park represent a consensus of park users and staff.

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

1. The replacement of the existing 25+ year old playground located in the southwest corner of the park with a new play structure and tot swings. The new ADA compliant play structure will meet current ASTM safety guidelines, and park staff will install wood fiber mulch throughout the designated playground area. Park staff will specify a playground to serve 2-5 year olds in the playground bid, as there are two newer playground systems in other areas of the park that serve 5-12 year olds.
2. Pending budget availability, park staff will install two or three new LED lights to improve the lighting in the existing parking lot and walkway to the shelter. The parking lot currently does not have lights, and the park has three large cobra head street lights in the area of the shelter and playgrounds.
3. Contract labor will be used to make ADA walkway improvements at the park. The improvements will include a new 10-foot-wide concrete walkway from the parking lot to the small shelter. This improvement will allow for improved access for park users, as well as for maintenance vehicles accessing the small shelter. Contract labor will also be used to convert a portion of the park trail from the current gravel surface to a 10-foot-wide concrete trail. The conversion of the trail will improve ADA access to the dog park, playgrounds, and the first hole of the disc golf course. The conversion to a concrete surface will also reduce the necessary maintenance of this portion of the trail, as it experiences frequent washouts after heavy rains.
4. Park staff will complete renovations to the park restroom, including new restroom fixtures, lighting, and roof replacement. The improvements will bring the restroom into ADA compliance.
5. A combination of park staff and contract labor will be used to make improvements at the playground located in the northwest corner of the park. Improvements include the addition of a new swingset, improved ADA access, and the addition of a curb around the playground area to contain the wood fiber mulch. The playground system is approximately 10 years old and does not require replacement at this time.
6. Park planning staff has also spoken with members of the Columbia Disc Golf Club (CDGC) and will make improvements to the disc golf course as part of the project. Park staff is proposing to add a single-table shelter, message board, and bench seating at the first tee of the disc golf course. This request by members of the CDGC will assist with promotion of the disc golf course and serve as the tournament headquarters for events on the disc golf course. Other disc golf course improvements will include bridge replacement, tee box improvements, and improved signage on the disc golf course.



7. Park staff will complete improvements to the baseball/softball field at the park to improve the playing conditions of the field and create a more suitable practice field for area baseball and softball teams. Staff will remove the existing infield surface and replace it with an aqlime surface similar to the practice field at Cosmo-Bethel Park. The infield material is easier to maintain by sports field staff and is the preferred playing surface of local teams.

The \$100,000 improvement project at Indian Hills Park is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and is included in the City's FY17 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 replacement of the playground and ADA walkway improvements. All other work will be completed by park staff. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin spring 2017, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by late fall 2017.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total cost of the project is \$100,000 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. Staff already completes trash removal, general maintenance and mowing at the park. The addition of LED lighting at the park will have a minimum impact on park expense, and the conversion of a portion of the trail to a concrete surface will help to reduce annual maintenance and repairs to the trail.

## Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

### Vision Impacts:

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

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Social Equity, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

## Legislative History

03/15/10

Ord. # 20585 – Authorizing improvements to the east side of Indian Hills Park  
[http://gocolumbiamo.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=195&meta\\_id=13350](http://gocolumbiamo.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=195&meta_id=13350)

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance to authorize the Indian Hills Park Improvements Project.