



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 16, 2026

Re: Rothwell Park Improvements

Impacted Ward: Ward 5

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council authorization for the City Manager to sign a tennis venue services grant application with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) for partial funding for the tennis court resurfacing project at Cosmo-Bethel Park. The USTA grant would provide an additional \$60,000 for the capital improvement project that is scheduled to be completed by August 2026. In addition to the grant agreement, staff is requesting an appropriation of funds, totaling \$212,235, to complete the resurfacing project at the 12 tennis courts at the park and school. A full breakdown of the funding needed for the project is included in the discussion portion of the memo.

Discussion

Cosmo-Bethel Park, located at 4500 Bethel Street, includes eight regulation tennis courts as part of the amenities located within the park. An additional four tennis courts are located on adjacent Gentry Middle School property to create the twelve-court tennis complex. On August 4, 2025, City Council approved an ordinance for the Parks and Recreation Department to proceed with a tennis court resurfacing project at Cosmo-Bethel Park and to enter into a cost share agreement with Columbia Public School District to resurface the four tennis courts at Gentry Middle School.

Staff informed City Council that the next step in the process for the project was to engage United States Tennis Association (USTA) staff regarding potential grant funding for the resurfacing project. Park staff has been working on determining final project costs and the development of the USTA tennis venue services grant application.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting Council approval of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to sign a tennis venue services grant application with the United States Tennis Association. Park staff is also requesting an appropriation of funds, totaling \$212,235, to complete the entire scope of the 12-court resurfacing project.

The total estimated cost for the tennis court resurfacing project is estimated to be \$271,240 with armor crack repair installed on all visible cracks and a 10% project contingency. The USTA grant funding is for resurfacing only and does not include the armor crack repair or contingency funding. The breakdown of funding for the project includes:

Park Sales Tax: \$84,505

Columbia Public Schools funding: \$42,503

United States Tennis Association National Grant: \$60,000



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United States Tennis Association Missouri Valley Grant: \$12,000

Annual City/School Projects – Park Sales Tax funding: \$72,232

The appropriation of Park Sales Tax, totaling \$212,235, will allow the department to move forward with grant funding and awarding the contract for the improvements. Staff anticipates receiving approximately \$114,503 from USTA grants and Columbia Public Schools upon completion to offset part of the appropriation.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost is estimated at \$271,240 and staff is requesting an appropriation of Park Sales Tax funds, totaling \$212,235, to proceed with the project. Staff anticipates up to \$114,503 reimbursed to the department from Columbia Public Schools and the USTA grants.

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
8/4/25	B117-25: Authorizing construction of the Cosmo-Bethel Park tennis court resurfacing project; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division; authorizing an agreement with Columbia School District No. 93.

Suggested Council Action

Approve the Council legislation authorizing the City Manager to sign the USTA tennis venue services grant application and appropriate additional funding.