

Council Memo

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 20, 2026

Re: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to the Parks and Recreation Fees

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

As part of the FY2027 budget process, the Parks and Recreation Department evaluated existing fees and is proposing fee changes for various recreation programs and rental facilities. The proposed fee changes are based on expenses and cost recovery goals, market research, and internal staff review. If approved, the fee increases are anticipated to generate \$9,000.00 to \$12,000.00 in revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department. The Department's philosophy is to periodically increase fees in small amounts, rather than waiting several years for a more significant increase. The need for regular fee increases is related to sustained increases in materials, supplies, and labor expenses.

Discussion

The Parks and Recreation Department's mission is to "improve our community's health, stability, beauty, and quality of life by providing outstanding, parks, trails, recreational facilities, and leisure opportunities for all Columbia citizens." This includes providing programs, activities and facilities to serve all socio-economic segments of our community. Some programs, such as those offered by Community Recreation and Special Olympics, are offered at very little or no cost to the participants. Others, such as golf course fees, private facility rentals, and sports court rentals, are priced so that they generate enough revenue to offset department expenses. Due to impacts from the increase in minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour on January 1, 2026 as well as the elevated cost of materials, supplies, fuel, and utility expenses, the department is proposing to increase fees for a small portion of recreational programs and facility rentals.

Approval of the ordinance will increase fees for private room, pool, and facility rentals at the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC), and private weekend rentals at the Armory Sports and Recreation Center. In addition, the ordinance will change the adapted recreation and ARC camps from a set fee, to a fee range.

The attached document outlines previous and current fees, as well as the proposed changes for FY27.

Activity & Recreation Center (ARC) Fees

Staff is proposing an increase to various facility rental options to offset the cost related to full and part-time staffing, utility expenses, and materials/supplies at the ARC. The proposed fee increases include:

- Staff is requesting to increase the hourly rental fee for the group exercise room from \$27.50 to \$35.
- Staff is requesting to increase the hourly meeting room rates from \$25, \$50 and \$75 to \$30, \$60 and \$90 depending on the amount of room needed.
- Staff is requesting to increase the hourly rental of a single full court in the gymnasium from \$75 to \$80.
- Staff is requesting to increase the hourly rental of two full courts from \$121 to \$140.
- Staff is requesting to increase the Water Zone 2-hour pool rental from \$160 to \$200.
- Staff is requesting to increase the facility "lock-in" fees for overnight rentals from \$1,000 to \$1,600.
- Staff is requesting to increase fees for babysitting services offered at the ARC from \$2 to \$3 for 2 hours of service.
- Staff is requesting to change the schools out camp fee from \$50 to a range of \$35 - \$155, allowing for more programming flexibility.

Staff is also proposing the removal of the gymnasium half (1/2) court rental fee. The ARC rental fees were last increased in 2009, the camp fees were last increased in 2024, and the Water Zone fees were last increased in 2025.

Adapted Recreation Fees

Staff is proposing a change from a flat fee to a fee range for adapted recreation programs. This allows staff to adjust fees based on expenses, while keeping the participant fees affordable. Program fees provide a minor cost offset and different programs will incur different expenses. Staff is proposing to increase adapted dance and recreation programs from \$5 to a range of \$5 - \$15, and adapted sports recreation programs from \$17.50 to a range of \$15 - \$100. These fees were last increased in 2022.

Armory Sports and Recreation Center Fees

Staff is proposing to establish an hourly weekend rate for private rentals of the conference room and classroom at the Armory Sports and Recreation Center. Weekend rentals require additional staff and the proposed increases are related to recovering costs of labor and supplies/materials during private facility rentals. Staff is proposing to establish a weekend hourly rate of \$32 for the conference room, and \$20 for the classroom. The current Monday through Friday hourly rental fees are \$24 for the conference room, and \$12 for the classroom. The weekday rates were increased to the current rate in 2025.

Summary

The proposed changes to the fee ordinance, if approved, are expected to generate an additional \$9,000 to \$12,000 per year in revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department.



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The proposed increase in revenue is included in the FY 2027 budget. If approved, the fee changes will be implemented at different times during the new fiscal year.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The proposed changes to the fee ordinance, if approved, are expected to generate an additional \$9,000.00 to \$12,000.00 per year in revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Long-Term Impact: The estimated annual revenue increase will impact future years as well.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Resilient Economy, Tertiary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Economic Development

Legislative History

Date	Action
08/04/2025	Ordinance #026042 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation fees
08/19/2024	Ordinance #025733 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
08/07/2023	Ordinance # 025396 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/19/2022	Ordinance # 022125 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/17/2018	Ordinance # 023636 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/18/2017	Ordinance #023302: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/16/2016	Ordinance #02291: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees



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Date	Action
09/16/2014	Ordinance #22212: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/16/2013	Ordinance #21802: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees
09/18/2012	Ordinance #21427: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation Fees

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation fees.