



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: December 2, 2019

Re: Setting a Public Hearing: Strawn Park Phase II Improvement Project

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of a resolution to set a public hearing for the construction of phase II improvements at Strawn Park. The proposed improvements at the park include the addition of a pre-cast concrete restroom facility, 26-car parking lot, practice disc golf basket and ADA walkways. The proposed improvements at the park will support the use of the #1 disc golf course in the United States (according to dgcoursereview.com), Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course, by Columbia citizens and visitors. The total project budget is \$200,000 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 utilities associated with the prefab restroom, site grading, asphalt construction and parking lot striping. All other work will be completed by park staff. Improvements at the park are scheduled to begin winter 2020, with an anticipated completion date of May 2020 for the PDGA Tim Selinske US Masters Championship.

Discussion

The 129.37-acre Strawn Park, located at 801 N. Strawn Road, is adjacent to the Perche Creek and just south of Interstate 70. The master plan for the park and approval of phase I construction at the park was authorized by the City Council on March 17, 2014. Phase I development at the park included the construction of Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course, 19-car parking lot and small shelter. Park Staff held a dedication on June 23, 2016 to officially open the new 18-hole championship disc golf course. In 2017, Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course was named the course of the year by Disc Golf Course Review and has hosted multiple amateur and professional tournaments over the past three years. In December 2018, the course was selected to host the prestigious PDGA Tim Selinske United States Masters Championship to be held in May 2020.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of a resolution to set a public hearing for the Strawn Park Phase II Improvement Project. The proposed improvements at the park will include the installation of a pre-cast concrete restroom facility, 26-car parking lot, practice disc golf basket and ADA walkways.

After reviewing the Strawn Park master plan, staff focused internal discussions on improving the park infrastructure and amenities to support the use of the Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course. After the review, park planning staff created a proposed plan focusing on improvements at the park entrance adjacent to holes #1 and #18.



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Park staff held an interested parties meeting at the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC) on Wednesday, November 20. Staff met with over 20 citizens from the community to discuss the proposed plans and gathered feedback about the park, disc golf course and proposed improvements. The public had an additional opportunity to provide comments about the project via an online survey at como.gov from November 13, 2019 to November 25, 2019. All feedback from the public input meetings and online como.gov surveys are included with this Council memo and may also be found online at:

<https://www.como.gov/parksandrec/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2019/11/Strawn-Park-Phase-II-IP-Meeting-Comments.pdf>

Park staff introduced the proposed phase II plans for Strawn Park to the Parks and Recreation Commission on Thursday, November 21, 2019. 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 Strawn Park represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The proposed improvements at Strawn Park will include the following:

1. A combination of contract and force account labor will be used to install a pre-cast concrete restroom adjacent to the small shelter at the entrance to the park. The restroom design is similar to the restroom facilities located at the MKT Trailheads and commonly found in Missouri State Parks. Contract labor will be used to install necessary sewer and water lines for the restroom, and park staff will install the electric needed for the restroom. Park staff will set the restroom in place and complete final utility connections.
 - a. Electric options. One item requested by several disc golfers was access to electrical outlets for various tournaments. Staff is investigating options to either add electrical outlets to the restroom or work with Community Development on best practices that would allow for the safe installation of outlets with flood protection.
2. Contract labor will be used to construct a new 26-car parking lot at the park. Contract labor will be used for site grading, base construction, asphalt construction and parking lot striping. Park staff will add ADA walkways along the north and south sides of the parking lot that will also serve as the curb for the parking lot.
3. Park staff will install a concrete ADA walkway from the existing parking lot to the new restroom and install a set of concrete stairs with railing from the shelter to the restroom.
4. Many tournaments require a putting ring and basket. Currently, there is a practice basket, but due to overuse, the turf gets beat out and often becomes too muddy to use. Staff will relocate the current practice basket within a concrete putting ring



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adjacent to the shelter. This will have a gravel base and then be covered with mulch to prevent damage to discs.

The \$200,000 improvement project at Strawn Park is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and is included in the City's FY20 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 2020, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by summer 2020.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$200,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff anticipates a small increase in annual expenses (\$1,000 to \$2,000) at the park for the seasonal use of the restroom including utility expenses and restroom cleaning.

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
03/17/2014	B56-14: Authorizing construction of Strawn Park – Phase I. https://www.cmo.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=12824

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution to set a public hearing for the Strawn Park Phase II Improvement Project.