



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 19, 2020

Re: Setting a Public Hearing: Rock Bridge Park Improvements

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting Council approval of a resolution to set a public hearing for the construction of improvements at Rock Bridge Park. The proposed improvements are maintenance related and include replacement of the existing playground equipment, small shelter, softball/baseball backstop, and the large park sign; and improvements to the ADA walkway and basketball court. The total project budget is \$125,000 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, basketball court improvements, and ADA walkway installation. Park staff will complete all other work. Improvements at the park are scheduled to begin winter 2020, with an anticipated completion date of late summer 2021.

Discussion

Rock Bridge Park, located at 201 Miramar Lane, is a 3-acre neighborhood park that includes a small shelter, playground, basketball court, baseball backstop and open playfield.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of a resolution to set a public hearing for the construction of improvements at Rock Bridge Park. Park staff is proposing to replace the playground equipment, construct a new 20' x 20' shelter, replace the baseball backstop, complete basketball court improvements, add necessary ADA walkways and replace the park sign.

After reviewing the proposed Rock Bridge 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 allow the park to serve as a key neighborhood park in this area of southwest Columbia. Park staff held two interested parties meetings at the park on August 11, 2020 and September 15, 2020. The first meeting was cancelled after approximately 30 minutes due to lighting in the area, so staff held a second meeting to make sure ample opportunity was given for citizens to provide public comment about the project. Park staff met with citizens to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the park and proposed improvements. The public had an additional opportunity to provide comments about the project via an online survey at como.gov from August 13, 2020 to September 16, 2020. 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:



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<https://www.como.gov/parksandrec/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2020/09/IP-meeting-comments-Rock-Bridge-Park-Improvements.pdf>

Park staff introduced the proposed plans for improvements to Again Street Park to the Parks and Recreation Commission on September 17, 2020. After discussion of the project, the commissioners voted to endorse the proposed improvement plans to Rock Bridge Park and recommended that Council approve the plans as presented. After considering all citizen comments and the P&R Commission recommendation, staff believes that the proposed park improvements represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The proposed improvements at Rock Bridge Park will include the following:

1. Contract labor will be used to replace the existing playground structure and swings located in the northwest corner of the park with a new play structure and swings. Park staff will specify a playground to serve 5-12 year olds in the playground bid. The new ADA compliant play structure will meet current ASTM safety guidelines, and park staff will install certified wood fiber mulch throughout the designated playground area. Park staff will also replace the existing retaining walls around the playground and two benches due to age and current condition.
2. Contract labor will be used to complete an asphalt overlay and restriping of the full-size basketball court located at the park. The asphalt improvements and striping will bring the court back to like-new condition. Park staff will shift the basketball court approximately 15 feet to the east in order to provide necessary space for the new playground and to move it away from a large oak tree adjacent to the basketball court. Four new backboards and rims will be installed during the court renovation.
3. Park staff will construct a new 20' x 20' shelter in the location of the existing playground swings. The relocation of the shelter will eliminate the current drainage and mud issues associated with the location of the current shelter. The new shelter will include three standard picnic tables, one ADA accessible picnic table and a small barbecue grill.
4. Contract labor will be used to install new 5-foot concrete walkways from the existing ADA walkway within the park to the new shelter and playground to improve access to the park amenities.
5. Park staff will complete miscellaneous improvement projects at the park as part of the improvement project, including park sign replacement, installation of bike racks and replacement of the baseball backstop.

The \$125,000 improvement project at Rock Bridge Park is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and is included in the City's FY2021 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, basketball court improvements, and ADA walkway installation. All other work will be completed by park staff.



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Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin winter 2020, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by late summer 2021.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost is \$125,000 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.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Public Safety, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution to set a public hearing for the construction of improvements at Rock Bridge Park.