



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager and Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 5, 2025

Re: Strawn Park Phase III Improvements

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of an ordinance authorizing a capital improvement project at Strawn Park. The proposed improvements include the installation of low water crossings on holes #1 and #18, drinking fountain installation, erosion and drainage improvements and maintenance access improvements. The phase III improvements at Strawn Park follow the original construction of Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course in 2014 and phase II park improvements in 2019. The project has a total budget of \$250,000 and is funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax. In addition to project approval, staff is requesting a mid-year appropriation of \$150,000 to start on portions of the project in FY2025. The improvements to the park will be completed using a combination of contract labor and force account labor. The proposed improvements at the park are scheduled to begin late spring 2025 and completed in phases by summer 2026.

Discussion

The 129.37-acre Strawn Park, located at 801 N. Strawn Road, is adjacent to the Perche Creek and Interstate 70 in Northwest Columbia. 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 and phase II improvements were approved by City Council on December 16, 2019. The park includes Harmony Bends Championship Disc Golf Course, a small shelter, restroom and parking lot. 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 since it opened in 2015. In May 2020, the course hosted the prestigious PDGA Tim Selinske United States Masters Championship and will host the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) Amateur Disc Golf World Championships in August 2025.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council approval of an ordinance authorizing phase III improvements at Strawn Park and appropriating funds for the project. The proposed improvements include the installation of low water crossings on holes #1 and #18, drinking fountain installation, erosion and drainage improvements and maintenance access improvements.

As part of the 2021 Park Sales Tax renewal, \$250,000 was allocated for improvements at Strawn Park. The focus for this project has always been to improve the four creek crossings on holes #1 and #18 to improve access during and after rain events. Along with the installation of the low water crossings, staff also has a desire to make additional improvements on the course to improve access to holes located adjacent to the Harmony and Perche Creeks,



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eliminate erosion issues related to the creeks and disc golf holes and improve playability for disc golfers.

After reviewing all plans and discussing the project budget and priorities, park staff held a public input meeting at the MU Health Care Pavilion on March 5, 2025 to discuss the improvements with the public. Staff met with citizens and members of the Columbia Disc Golf Club to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the proposed improvement project. Citizens had an additional opportunity to provide comments about the project on beheard.como.gov.

Park staff introduced the proposed Strawn Park improvements to the Parks and Recreation Commission on April 17, 2025. After discussion of the project, the commissioners voted to endorse the proposed improvements and recommended that Council approve the plans as presented. After considering all citizen comments and the P&R Commission recommendation, staff believes the proposed improvements to the park represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The proposed improvements to Strawn Park, funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax, will include the following:

1. Contract labor will be used to replace the four existing boulder crossings on holes #1 and #18 with steel low water crossings. Three of the low water crossings will be located on hole #1 and one on hole #18. The design and engineering of the low water crossings was completed by Simon & Struempf Engineering and the plans have been reviewed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The four low water crossings will be located above the ordinary high water level in the creek allowing for improved player access during and after rain events.
2. A combination of contract and force account labor will be used to install a water fountain adjacent to the tee pads for holes #9 and #18 allowing for a second option for water access for disc golf players at Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course. The city has an existing underground utility easement that will allow for the installation of the water line from the Bellwood Subdivision.
3. Contract labor will be utilized to complete boulder work on hole #8 to improve the existing tiered design of the hole. The existing hillside at the disc golf basket is anchored by logs of varying sizes and staff would like to make permanent improvements utilizing boulders to eliminate erosion on the steep slope and improve playability around the basket.
4. A combination of contract and force account labor will be used to make improvements to the maintenance gravel driveway that goes from the end of the existing parking lot to hole #8 and the driving range. This area of the park holds water during rain events and the gravel maintenance access driveway is in poor condition.



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5. Contract labor will be used to replace some of the tee pads on holes #11-14 to improve playability after rain events in this area of Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course. The tees are at grade and accumulate excess flood material requiring continued maintenance after storm events. Staff will look at different options to elevate the tees to reduce these issues.
6. Parks and Recreation Construction staff will install solar-powered LED lighting fixtures in the existing parking lot to improve visibility and safety for park patrons.

The improvement project has a total budget of \$250,000 and is funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax. The project was originally shown in the FY2026 capital improvement plan for the Parks and Recreation Department. After the City of Columbia was awarded the Disc Golf World Amateur Championships, staff has a desire to make a FY2025 mid-year appropriation, totaling \$150,000, to complete a portion of the work before the event in August 2025. The remaining \$100,000 in Park Sales Tax funding will remain as part of the FY2026 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 labor and force account labor. The proposed improvements at the park are scheduled to begin late spring 2025 and completed by summer 2026.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost is \$250,000 and is funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax. Long-Term Impact: There will be a small increase in expenses related to the ongoing use of the water fountain on hole #9. Other improvements, such as the erosion improvements, tee pad replacement and maintenance road improvements, will eliminate ongoing annual maintenance that is currently completed by park staff. The lighting in the park will be solar powered and no new electric service is planned.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

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

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
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| 12/16/19 | B376-19: Authorizing construction of the Strawn Park Phase II improvement project to include the installation of a pre-cast concrete restroom and construction of a parking lot, practice disc golf putting ring and basket, and |



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| | ADA walkways; calling for bids for a portion of the project through the Purchasing Division. B376-19 |
| 09/15/14 | R173-14: Authorizing an agreement with Circular Productions, LLC for design of a disc golf course at Strawn Park. R173-14 |
| 03/17/14 | B56-14: Naming property located at 801 N. Strawn Road "Strawn Park"; approving the Strawn Park Master Plan; determining it is in the public interest to construct improvements at Strawn Park – Phase I. B56-14 |

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing proposed phase III improvements at Strawn Park and appropriate funds for the project.