



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 21, 2017

Re: Grant agreement with the Missouri Foundation for Health and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture for the Clary-Shy Agriculture Park

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting Council approval to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. The agreement includes grant funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health totaling \$700,000, which will be used to supplement the construction and programming costs of the Clary-Shy Agriculture Park. The grant funding will be disbursed to the Parks and Recreation Department over a 48 month period and will be used to conduct a community food assessment, assist with the capital construction costs of the agriculture park, support educational programs at the park after the completion of the urban farm and supplement labor costs associated with the urban farm and educational programs. As partners in the grant application, Columbia Parks and Recreation will work with the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture to coordinate the completion of the community food assessment survey, the construction of the urban farm and complete educational programming at the park. The agreement with the Missouri Foundation for Health will begin on September 1, 2017 and will conclude on August 31, 2021.

Discussion

On September 19, 2016, the City Council approved a resolution allowing the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Sustainable Farms and Communities, Columbia Farmers Market and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture for fundraising activities for the Clary-Shy Agriculture Park. The Friends of the Farm partnership has concentrated their efforts on raising funds for the permanent farmer's market structure, urban farm, outdoor classroom and additional amenities for the agriculture park. With initial funding provided by the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department totaling \$400,000, the Friends of the Farm has focused on raising the remaining funds needed to begin phase I construction through grant applications, corporate support and private donations. Park staff anticipates returning to the City Council during the fall of 2017 to request approval to proceed with the Clary-Shy Park Agriculture Park project and appropriate funds for the project.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA). The agreement includes grant funding totaling \$700,000, which will be disbursed over a 48 month time period beginning in September 2017. The funding will supplement the construction costs of the agriculture park



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project, fund a community food assessment survey, support educational programming at the park and offset staffing expenses for the park.

The grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health will accomplish four key goals for the Clary-Shy Agriculture Park project.

1. Through participation in a Community Food System Assessment, Columbia, Missouri community members and other stakeholders will be engaged and empowered to address community food needs through the agriculture park.
2. Columbia, Missouri community members who participate in educational experiences and training at the agriculture park will build cooking and gardening skills to increase their daily consumption of healthful fruits and vegetables.
3. Households living with limited resources in Columbia will experience reduced pressures of poverty on healthful food choices through access to fresh fruits and vegetables from the agriculture park.
4. Community members in Columbia who visit the agriculture park will be more physically active through outdoor engagement.

In order to achieve the goals proposed in the agreement with the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, the following steps will be taken over the next 48 months. The grant funding, totaling \$700,000, will be used to fund or partially-offset the expenses associated with each of these steps.

1. A community food assessment will be conducted in Columbia to identify community food assets, barriers to accessing and consuming healthful foods and practical solutions to removing barriers associated with healthy foods. The 18-months of research and community input will result in a final public document outlining the findings and recommended solutions from the advisory board in charge of the assessment. The findings and solutions will be implemented in the construction and program design of the agriculture park.
2. Funding provided by the grant from the Missouri Foundation for health will also be included in the capital construction costs of the project. Construction funds, totaling \$175,000, will focus on the development of specific areas of the agriculture park that will assist in the completion of programming outcomes. Funds will be earmarked for the construction of the outdoor classroom, urban garden and an operations complex for the farm.
3. Upon completion of the infrastructure for the Clary-Shy Agriculture Park, staff members and volunteers from the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture will begin the programming phases of the grant cycle. This will include establishing the garden space and planting trees throughout the designated park areas to begin the process of growing



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healthy fruits and vegetables. CCUA staff will coordinate with hundreds of volunteers to complete the work, and volunteers will gain practical skills that can be used to establish and maintain additional gardens at their home, school or church. The establishment and maintenance of these features is anticipated to occur over a 2.5 year period of time during the grant cycle. It is estimated that the urban farm will produce over 50,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables annually and will be donated to local hunger-relief agencies. CCUA will also begin to expand their educational opportunities at the agriculture park to increase the number of engaged individuals, families, schools and community groups. Examples of educational programs at the park include raised-bed gardening workshops, orchard education classes and second grade field trips to the agriculture park for hands-on activities.

The grant provided by the Missouri Foundation for Health will provide \$700,000 in funding for the three key components outlined in the agreement with Columbia Parks and Recreation, Missouri Foundation for Health and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. The funds will be distributed from the Missouri Foundation for Health to the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at nine designated times over the next 48 months. Park staff will be responsible for submitting all financial and project status reports to the Missouri Foundation for Health during the grant period before additional grant funding is distributed for the project time periods. Any aspects of the proposed work associated with the grant that are required to go through the bid process will be under the direction of the City's Purchasing Department and will follow all required City purchasing rules. Any portions of the proposal completed by Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture staff will require CCUA to submit invoices for payment to the Parks and Recreation Department. Upon verification of the invoices, payment to CCUA will be processed through the City's Finance Department. If approved by the City Council, the grant cycle will begin on September 1, 2017 and conclude on August 31, 2021.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Park staff is requesting Council approval to execute an agreement with the Missouri Foundation for Health and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. The agreement includes grant funding totaling \$700,000, which will be distributed to the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department in nine payments over the next 48 months. The payment schedule coincides with the three key aspects of the agreement.

Long-Term Impact: The grant period ends on August 31, 2021 and no additional funding will be provided after this date.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Social Equity, Tertiary Impact: Economy



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Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
9/19/2016	R139-16: Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with Friends of the Farm, on behalf of Sustainable Farms & Communities Inc., Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture and Columbia Farmers Market, Inc., for fund-raising activities associated with the construction of a farmers market community center and a community agriculture garden at the Clary-Shy Park located on Ash Street.

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution authorizing the execution of the agreement with the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.