



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 17, 2023

Re: Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area: Football Fields 5 & 6 Improvements

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of an ordinance authorizing improvements to football fields 5 & 6 at Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area (Cosmo Park) and appropriating donated funds for the project. The proposed improvements include the construction of a new grandstand with ADA seating area on football field 6, a new bleacher pad with ADA seating area on football field 5, and a new shelter. The proposed improvements also include the replacement of four existing goal posts, two existing scoreboards, and renovations to the existing Urban Wussler shelter/concession. The total project budget is \$428,834 and is funded by a donation from the John D. Hall Memorial Trust. In FY22, \$53,792 was appropriated as part of the budget process and staff is requesting to appropriate the remaining \$375,042 in donated funds with this Council legislation. 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 scoreboard replacements, goal post replacements, and concrete work associated with the improvements. Park staff will complete all other improvements. In order to avoid conflict with the Columbia Youth Football League (CYFL) season, which runs from September to November, portions of the improvements at Cosmo Park are scheduled to begin after City Council project approval with an anticipated completion date of summer 2023. These items include goal post replacement, scoreboard replacement, and engineering design work for the project. The concession renovations, new shelter, new grandstand, and new bleacher pad are scheduled to begin after the 2023 CYFL season, with an anticipated completion date of late summer 2024.

Discussion

Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area, located at 1615 Business Loop 70 West, encompasses 533 acres and includes a wide variety of recreational amenities including athletic fields, park shelters, playgrounds, sport courts, skatepark, RC car track and L.A. Nickell Golf Course. The park includes a portion of the Bear Creek Trail, 4.1-mile Rhett's Run Mountain Bike Trail and 1.25-mile asphalt fitness trail. The park also includes seven reservable shelters, two non-reservable shelters and seven restroom facilities. The Columbia Youth Football League (CYFL) has utilized six football fields in the park for over 30 years for their youth tackle and flag football leagues and the Mid-Missouri Lacrosse League has utilized the fields for over 15 years.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of an ordinance authorizing improvements at Cosmo Park and appropriating donated funds for the project. The proposed improvements include the construction of a new grandstand with ADA seating



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area on football field 6, a new bleacher pad with ADA seating area on football field 5 and a new 24' X 24' shelter. The proposed improvements also include the replacement of four existing goal posts, two existing scoreboards, and renovations to the existing Urban Wussler shelter/concession facility.

After park staff received notification regarding the donation of funds from the John D. Hall Memorial Trust, park planning staff discussed potential improvements with CYFL board members, recreation staff and park maintenance staff. Discussions focused on continuing to make improvements to the fields to keep them in like-new condition and improve the facility experience for players, coaches and spectators.

Park staff held two interested parties meetings to discuss the project with the community. The first meeting was held on August 7, 2022 at the CYFL equipment storage shed during their pad pick-up day and the second meeting was held at the Urban Wussler shelter/concession facility on August 29, 2022. Park staff met with citizens to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the proposed improvements. The public had an additional opportunity to provide comments about the project on [BeHeard.CoMo.gov](https://beheard.como.gov). All feedback from the public input meetings and beheard.como.gov are included with this Council memo and may also be found at [CIP Search: Cosmo Rec Area: Football Field Improvements \(como.gov\)](#)

Park staff introduced the proposed football field improvements to the Parks and Recreation Commission on September 15, 2022. After discussion of the project, the commissioners voted to endorse the proposed improvements 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 the proposed improvements represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The proposed football field improvements at Cosmo Park will include the following:

Football Field 5:

A combination of contract and force account labor will be used to make improvements to football field 5. The improvements include replacing two goal posts, one scoreboard, cedar tree removal, and the construction of a new bleacher pad with ADA seating area. The construction of the new bleacher pad will make the field more accessible and viewable for all spectators. The removal of a row of cedar trees along the east side of the field will increase the sideline area for players and coaches, improving sideline safety. The goal posts and scoreboard are over 13 years old and in need of replacement due to wear, age and failing parts in the scoreboard.

Football Field 6:

A combination of contract and force account labor will be used to make improvements to football field 6. The improvements include replacing two goal posts, one scoreboard, renovations to the existing Urban Wussler shelter/concession facility, erection of a new shelter, and the construction of a new grandstand with ADA seating area. The construction



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of the new grandstand with ADA seating area will make the field more accessible and viewable for all spectators. The proposed grandstand will have an ADA compliant upper deck area that is 142'x 20' which will be able to accommodate wheelchairs, pop-up tents, and chairs brought by spectators. Additionally the proposed grandstand will have a bleacher style seating area that is 142'x30' and able to accommodate approximately 480 people. The new grandstand will include a plaque to commemorate the donation made by the John D. Hall Memorial Trust. During the off-season months, the grandstand will be utilized by recreation staff for special events including Movies in the Park on Friday evenings. The proposed renovations to the existing Urban Wussler shelter/concession facility include enclosing the existing open air seating area and converting that space into a concession area facing football field 6. The expansion of the concession stand will allow the existing enclosed portion of the building to be utilized as a storage area for field equipment and team supplies. A new 24' x 24' shelter is proposed for construction adjacent to the existing shelter/concession facility. This shelter will be an additional ADA accessible area and will provide shade during peak sun hours. The new shelter will be named the Urban Wussler shelter upon completion. The goal posts and scoreboard will also be replaced bringing the field to a like-new condition. All of these amenities combined will make football field 6 the premier football field in Cosmo Park.

The total project budget is \$428,834 and is funded by a donation from the John D. Hall Memorial Trust. In FY22, staff appropriated \$53,792 in donated funds as part of the budget process. These funds were appropriated as part of the budget so that staff could start on the design and engineering of the proposed improvements. Staff is requesting an additional \$375,042, in donated funds from the trust, be appropriated as part of the project approval.

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 scoreboard replacements, goal post replacements, and concrete work associated with the improvements. Park staff will complete all other improvements. In order to avoid conflict with the Columbia Youth Football League (CYFL) season, which runs from September to November, staff will have to complete portions of the project at different times over the next two years. Staff will coordinate the completion of the goal post replacement, scoreboard replacement, and engineering design work for the project before the 2023 football season. The concession renovations, new shelter, new grandstand, and new bleacher pad are scheduled to begin late fall 2023 with an anticipated completion date of summer 2024.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project budget is \$428,834 and is funded by a donation from the John D. Hall Memorial Trust. Staff has already appropriated \$53,792 in donated funds to the project and is requesting Council approval to appropriate the remaining donated funds, totaling \$375,042, to the project.



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Long-Term Impact: Park staff currently maintains the two football fields at Cosmo Park including mowing, field prep, trash collection and restroom cleaning. The improvements will not have a substantial impact on maintenance responsibilities at the fields.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inclusive Community, Tertiary Impact: Resilient Economy

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Economic Development

Legislative History

Date	Action
3/18/13	B65-13: Authorizing the construction of a combined shelter and concession facility and a restroom building to serve the soccer, football and lacrosse fields at the Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area; accepting donations from the Columbia Youth Football League and the Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club; appropriating funds. https://www.como.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/council_2013_03-04_cosmo_rr_ord.pdf

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the football field improvements at Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area and appropriating donated funds for the project.