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First Reading 7-19-21

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Ordinance No. 024718

Council Bill No. B 233-21

AN ORDINANCE

calling a special election in the City of Columbia, Missouri, to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, on the question whether to extend the one-eighth of one percent local parks sales tax; directing notification of the election authority; describing the form of the notice of election; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. A special election is hereby ordered to be held in the City of Columbia, Missouri, on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, on the following question:

PROPOSITION 1

Shall the municipality of Columbia, Missouri impose a sales tax of one-eighth of one percent, for a period of ten (10) years, for the purpose of funding capital improvements which may include the retirement of debt under previously authorized bonded indebtedness?*

- YES
- NO

The current one-fourth of one percent local parks sales tax is scheduled to be reduced to one-eighth of one percent on March 31, 2022. Approval of this proposition would keep the local parks sales tax rate at one-fourth of one percent for an additional ten (10) years.

The City intends to use this sales tax to fund land acquisition for parks, greenways and natural areas, maintenance improvements to existing parks and facilities, annual funding for equipment replacement and program scholarships, new facility and park development, land acquisition for trails and greenbelts and capital improvement projects for such, and contingency purposes.

*This language is required by state law. The City does not intend to use sales tax funds to retire debt under previously authorized bonded indebtedness.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Clerk of the County Commission of Boone County, Missouri, of the adoption of this ordinance no later than 5 o'clock p.m. on August 24, 2021, and to include in the notification all of the terms and provisions required by Chapter 115, RSMo. as amended.


SECTION 3. The form of the notice of election shall be substantially as set forth on "Exhibit A" attached hereto.

SECTION 4. The election shall be held and conducted, and the results thereof canvassed and returned, in all respects in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Columbia, Missouri.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED this 2nd day of August, 2021.

ATTEST:




City Clerk



Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Counselor

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
City of Columbia, Missouri

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the City of Columbia, Missouri, that the City Council of the City has called an election to be held in the City on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, commencing at six o'clock a.m. and closing at seven o'clock p.m., on the question contained in the following sample ballot:

OFFICIAL BALLOT
Special Election
City of Columbia, Missouri
Tuesday, November 2, 2021

PROPOSITION 1

Shall the municipality of Columbia, Missouri impose a sales tax of one-eighth of one percent, for a period of ten (10) years, for the purpose of funding capital improvements which may include the retirement of debt under previously authorized bonded indebtedness?*

YES

NO

The current one-fourth of one percent local parks sales tax is scheduled to be reduced to one-eighth of one percent on March 31, 2022. Approval of this proposition would keep the local parks sales tax rate at one-fourth of one percent for an additional ten (10) years.

The City intends to use this sales tax to fund land acquisition for parks, greenways and natural areas, maintenance improvements to existing parks and facilities, annual funding for equipment replacement and program scholarships, new facility and park development, land acquisition for trails and greenbelts and capital improvement projects for such, and contingency purposes.

*This language is required by state law. The City does not intend to use sales tax funds to retire debt under previously authorized bonded indebtedness.

If you are in favor of the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "YES". If you are opposed to the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "NO".

The election will be held at the following polling places in the City:

[Polling places to be added by election authority.]

[Date to be added by election authority.]

[Name and title of election authority to be added by election authority.]



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 19, 2021

Re: Putting the Park Sales Tax Extension on November 2, 2021 Ballot

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council approval of an ordinance placing the extension of the 1/8-cent Park Sales Tax on the November 2, 2021 ballot. This 1/8-cent tax is currently used to fund capital improvements to the City's park and trail system and is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2022. Based on recommendations from city surveys, multiple city commissions, P&R partner agencies and City Council, the recommendation is to extend the 2021 Park Sales Tax for a 10-year period. It is estimated that the tax will generate \$30.9 million dollars over the 10-year period.

Based on significant public, user group and commissions' input, staff is recommending that the funding be used for existing park maintenance and improvements (55%), new park development (20%), trails and greenbelts (14%), land acquisition/preservation (7%) and annual funding for equipment replacement and program scholarships (4%). A detailed proposal as to how those funds will be allocated is shown on the attached Park Sales Tax Fact Sheet and will be brought to Council on August 2, 2021 in a companion resolution for review and approval.

Discussion

The Park Sales Tax (PST) is the department's primary source of funding for capital improvement projects, including major maintenance and improvements to existing parks, land acquisition, trail improvements and new park and facility development. Prior to the passing of the PST in 2000, park capital improvements were included in the City's 1/4-cent sales tax ballot. For example, in 1996, P&R received 9.3% of the City's 1/4-cent sales tax and in 1999, P&R received 71%, as that ballot included \$10.5 million dollars for the Activity & Recreation Center construction. When Stephens Lake Park was threatened with development, Council proposed a dedicated Park Sales Tax with 1/8-cent being permanent and used for operating expenses (after paying off the purchase of Stephens Lake Park) and 1/8-cent being renewable and used for capital improvements. With a dedicated tax for parks and trails, all of the City's 1/4-cent sales tax is available for streets, sidewalks, public safety and general government improvements. In 2000, voters approved the dedicated Park Sales Tax with 53.7% of the vote in favor. The tax has been extended three additional times, in 2005 (53.15%), 2010 (64.3%) and 2015 (70.71%).

In early 2021, ETC Institute conducted a Parks and Recreation Survey for the City of Columbia. The survey questioned residents regarding their opinion of the Park Sales Tax and how the funds should be used for capital projects, land acquisition and future development. Key findings related to residents' support for the extension of the Park Sales Tax are as follows:



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of respondent households indicated they have visited City of Columbia parks over the past 12 months.
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of respondents are either “very supportive” or “somewhat supportive” of the renewal of the 1/8-cent Park Sales Tax.
- Eighty percent (80%) of respondents are “very supportive” or “somewhat supportive” of extending the length of the 1/8-cent park sales tax for 10 years.

The entire report may be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.como.gov/parksandrec/about-us/parks-recreation-citizen-surveys/#twentyonesurvey>

Based on the results of this survey, staff is recommending that the Park Sales Tax be extended for a period of ten years. This time period allows the department to make key improvements to aging parks and facilities, develop new facilities needed in the community and continue to develop key portions of the 30-mile trail loop. The time period also allows staff to solicit and match federal, state and private grants, many of which take multiple years for approval and implementation. The department will also have time to seek and develop agreements with co-sponsored organizations, private sponsors and partners for various projects.

The Parks and Recreation Department solicits a variety of public input regarding how Park Sales Tax funds will be used for future capital improvements. In addition to the 2021 Parks and Recreation Survey, park staff utilizes the 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan as the guiding document for capital improvement projects.

Park staff will return to Council at the August 2 meeting with a resolution asking Council to review and approve a list of proposed projects to be completed if voters approve the Park Sales Tax. This will include a list of Priority 2 projects that pending available resources, may be brought forward for completion.

Developing a list of projects as a part of the ballot issue is important, as it provides transparency for the voters. The Department has prided itself on committing to a project list and then accomplishing those projects. On November 3, 2015, Columbia voters passed a ballot measure extending the existing 1/8-cent Park Sales Tax from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2022. The projects identified in the 2015 ballot have been completed or are in various stages of construction, with the exception of one project that was postponed and unfunded due to sales tax revenue concerns due to COVID-19. It is anticipated that all of remaining funded 2015 ballot projects will be substantially completed prior to April 2022.

The Park Sales Tax is extremely important for a variety of reasons related to quality of life in Columbia. Key components related to the Park Sales Tax are maintaining the infrastructure and facilities in the existing park and trail system, preserving green space in the City of Columbia, continuing the development of the Columbia Trail System, and supporting the local economy through the development of sports tourism facilities and local attractions such as the MKT Trail.



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Placing the ballot issue on the November general election will require the City to pay for a portion of the election. The cost of the election is unknown at this time, as it will depend on the number of items ultimately placed on the ballot.

Long-Term Impact: Should the proposal to extend the 1/8-cent Park Sales Tax be approved by voters, approximately \$30.9 million dollars will be generated for improvements to the City's parks and recreation system over the ten-year period.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Economy, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
5/3/2021	(R73-21) Directing the City Manager to proceed with the development of a capital improvement project list to be funded by the proposed extension of the one-eighth of one percent local parks sales tax for a period of ten (10) years. https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4928167&GUID=FC620DA5-961A-45EE-A1C6-A620CD818B43&Options=&Search=
8/17/2015	(B226-15) Calling a special election on the question whether to extend the one-eighth of one percent local park sales tax. https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=18505
8/17/2015	(R135-15) Specifying how the City Council intends to use funds that would be generated by the proposed extension of the one-eighth of one percent local park sales tax. https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=18505

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance placing the proposed extension of the 1/8-cent Park Sales Tax on the November 2, 2021 general election ballot.



CITY OF COLUMBIA

www.como.gov (Search: Park Sales Tax)

Park Sales Tax Fact Sheet

1. What is the Park Sales Tax?

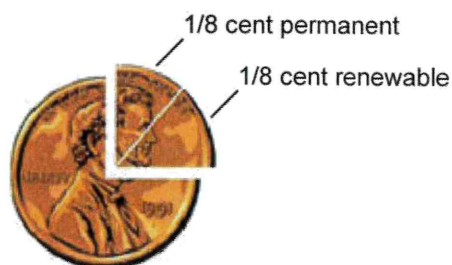
The Columbia Park Sales Tax is a dedicated sales tax for local parks applied to all retail sales made within the city of Columbia that are subject to taxation under the provision of Sections 144.010 to 144.525 RSMo. All revenue received from the local Park Sales Tax is used...

"solely for local parks for the City, in order to purchase, improve and manage parks, trails and natural lands for water quality, wildlife, tree preservation, and recreation purposes."

2. What is the Park Sales Tax rate in Columbia and how much revenue does it generate?

The current Park Sales Tax rate in Columbia is $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1%, or simply $\frac{1}{4}$ of one penny. This $\frac{1}{4}$ -cent is further divided into two separate categories.

- 1/8 of 1 cent - Permanent.
Generates about \$3.1 million/year.
- 1/8 of 1 cent - Renewable with a sunset.
This 1/8-cent sales tax is scheduled to expire March 31, 2022 unless Columbia voters approve its extension at the November 2, 2021 general election. Generates about \$3.1 million/year and is projected to generate about \$31 million over a ten-year period.



3. What is the Park Sales Tax used for?

Permanent 1/8 cent Park Sales Tax - Primarily used to support the Parks and Recreation Department's operations budget and to pay off long-term debt from park land purchases.

Renewable 1/8 cent Park Sales Tax - Main funding source for Parks and Recreation capital improvement projects. Capital projects are maintenance, renovation, improvement, development, and acquisition projects that cost \$5,000 and greater. The Park Sales Tax is also used as matching funds for federal and state grants, which supplement Parks and Recreation development projects.

The renewable 1/8 cent Park Sales Tax is used to fund:

- Green Space Preservation - The Park Sales Tax is the only dedicated source of funding the City of Columbia has for preserving green space. It is used to purchase land for parks, greenbelts, stream buffers, and natural areas.
- Maintaining Existing Parks - The Park Sales Tax funds the major repairs, renovations, and replacements to Columbia's existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities.
- Improving Existing Parks - The Park Sales Tax is used to add amenities in existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities. Past examples include the development of the Gans Creek Cross Country Course; the addition of a restroom at Strawn Park; and the development of the Cosmo Corner in the southeast corner of Nifong Park, which added a shelter, water fountain, playground, parking lot, sidewalks, and an ADA fishing bulbout.
- New Development - The Park Sales Tax funds the development of new parks, trails, and recreation facilities.

4. What is the proposed extension time frame? Ten years.

5. If the Park Sales Tax is renewed, will this change Columbia's current sales tax rate?

No. If renewed, Columbia's sales tax rate will remain the same, it will NOT increase.

6. Can the Park Sales Tax be used to fund street improvements, Fire, or Police?

No, by law the Park Sales Tax can only be used for local parks. Whenever the 1/8-cent Park Sales Tax comes up for renewal, voters can opt to extend the Park Sales Tax or not, but the funds cannot be diverted for non-park use. However, having a dedicated funding source for parks frees up more funding for street improvements, Fire, and Police from the General Fund and $\frac{1}{4}$ -cent Capital Improvement Tax.



CITY OF COLUMBIA

www.GoColumbiaMo.com (Search: Park Sales Tax)

7. What projects will be funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax, if its extension is approved by voters?

The following list of projects are proposed for funding by the 2021 Park Sales Tax.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT AMOUNT	CATEGORY AMOUNT
Acquisition/Land Preservation		\$2,075,000
Annual Land Acquisition: Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas	\$2,075,000	
Maintenance/Improvements to Existing Parks and Facilities		\$16,740,000
Annual Park Improvements	\$1,500,000	
Annual City/School Playground Improvements	\$200,000	
Annual Roads and Parking Improvements	\$1,500,000	
ADA Improvements	\$250,000	
ARC Improvements	\$650,000	
Albert-Oakland Park Improvements	\$640,000	
Antimi Sports Complex Improvements	\$200,000	
Atkins Baseball Complex Improvements	\$150,000	
Battle Park Phase II Development	\$150,000	
Clary-Shy Park Improvements	\$250,000	
Cosmo-Bethel Park Improvements	\$300,000	
Cosmo Rec Area: Quarry Improvements	\$225,000	
Cosmo Rec Area: Shelters	\$300,000	
Cosmo Rec Area: Parks Management Center Improv.	\$200,000	
Columbia Sports Fieldhouse Phase II	\$5,800,000	
Douglass Park Improvements	\$225,000	
Field Park Improvements	\$100,000	
Gans Creek Recreation Area Improvements	\$225,000	
Lake of the Woods Recreation Area	\$700,000	
MLK Jr. Memorial @ Battle Gardens Improvements	\$100,000	
Rainbow Softball Improvements	\$750,000	
Rock Quarry Park Improvements	\$350,000	
Rothwell Park Improvements	\$125,000	
Shepard Park Improvements	\$150,000	
Smithton Park	\$100,000	
Strawn Park Improvements	\$250,000	
Stephens Lake Park Improvements	\$675,000	
Twin Lakes Recreation Area Improvements	\$350,000	
Westwinds Park Improvements	\$150,000	
Waters-Moss Memorial Wildlife Area Improvements	\$175,000	
Annual Funding		\$1,295,000
Annual Maintenance Equipment Replacement	\$795,000	
Annual Scholarship Program	\$500,000	
New Facility/Park Development		\$5,875,000
Creek Ridge Park Development	\$125,000	
Gates Nature Area Development	\$200,000	
Northeast Regional Park Development	\$4,275,000	
Sinclair Park Development	\$150,000	
Nature Area Development: Northeast Columbia	\$375,000	
Silver Mill Park Development	\$150,000	
Whitegate Park Development	\$200,000	
Joint City/School Improvement Project	\$200,000	
Downtown Park Improvement Project	\$200,000	
Trails and Greenbelts		\$4,165,000
Annual Trails: Acquisition, Improvements, and Grant Match Funding	\$1,000,000	
Perche Creek Trail Phase II	\$1,300,000	
Grindstone Nature Area Trailhead Improvements	\$125,000	
Hinkson Creek Trail - Clark Lane to Vandiver	\$1,240,000	
Stephens Lake Park Trailhead Improvements	\$125,000	
Cosmo Rec Area: Fitness Trail Improvements	\$100,000	
MKT Bridge Replacements	\$275,000	
Contingency		\$750,000
TOTAL 10 YEAR PARK SALES TAX FUNDING		\$30,900,000