



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 6, 2020

Re: Public Hearing: Gans Creek Recreation Area Cross Country Course – Large Shelter Construction

Executive Summary

Public hearing for the construction of facilities to support the Gans Cross Country Course located at Gans Creek Recreation Area. The proposed improvements at the park include the construction of a large shelter and connecting walkways. The 42' X 78' shelter will be located adjacent to the finish line of the cross country course and will provide space for athletes and medical/emergency personnel. The funding for the amenities is a donation in the amount of \$113,726 from University of Missouri Athletics as part of the city's partnership with Mizzou Athletics for the use of the cross country course. The donation includes \$81,220 for the construction of the shelter and a reimbursement payment of \$32,506 for the completed construction of the timing tower at the cross country course, and will be appropriated by separate legislation. Portions of the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department, and the proposed improvements will be completed using park staff. The construction of the large shelter and walkways will begin spring 2020 with an anticipated completion date of late summer 2020.

Discussion

The 320-acre Gans Creek Recreation Area (GCRA) is located at 3360 E. Gans Road and currently contains five multi-purpose athletic fields, a championship level cross country course, parking, concession/restroom facility and expanded green space across the regional park. The construction of the cross country course and update to the master plan for the park was approved by City Council on August 20, 2018. P&R staff held a dedication and inaugural race, The Gans Creek Classic, on Friday, September 27, 2019 and the first season of races on the course ended with the Missouri State High School Cross Country Championships on Saturday, November 9, 2019. As part of the partnership with University of Missouri Athletics, future improvements to the cross country course have been identified on the park master plan to accommodate large race events; television and radio broadcasts; and collegiate athletes, coaches and training staffs. The improvements include a large shelter, timing tower, indoor facility to serve as race coordinator/media headquarters and a multi-tier awards platform. The timing tower was constructed before the opening of the facility and Mizzou Athletics has been actively fundraising to raise the necessary funds to construct the remaining amenities.

The proposed improvements at the park will include the construction of a large shelter and adjoining ADA walkways.



City of Columbia

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The large shelter and walkways were included in discussions during the interested parties meeting for the proposed changes to the GCRA master plan, including the cross country course construction, on July 10, 2018. The Parks and Recreation Commission also voted to endorse the updated GCRA master plan and cross country course construction at their Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on July 19, 2018.

With funding available via donation from Mizzou Athletics, park staff is ready to proceed with the construction of the following amenities:

1. A 42' X 78' large shelter will be constructed adjacent to the finish line and timing tower. The shelter will serve as the cool down area for athletes after each race. It will provide a space for athletes to collect themselves after completing their race and, if needed, meet with doctors or emergency personnel. The construction of the shelter will include the ability to add temporary walls for privacy during race events. The shelter will also have electricity in various locations for race timing equipment and general use by staff, coaches and medical personnel. The pavilion will be similar in design to other larger shelters in the park system and could be used as a rental shelter when not in use for cross country purposes.
2. The construction of the shelter will also include necessary connecting walkways to allow for ADA accessible access to the shelter and access by park maintenance staff.

The funding provided by University of Missouri Athletics, totaling \$113,726, includes funding for the construction of the large shelter, \$81,220, and also includes a reimbursement payment, \$32,506, for the construction of the timing tower at the course. The donation will be appropriated through separate legislation. The original plan was to use contract labor for the construction of the timing tower. Due to high bid prices for construction, park staff completed a portion of the work in order to meet the deadline for completion and keep the project under budget. The reimbursement payment will be appropriated to the project account and the funding will be used to complete fencing installation, fiber communication wire installation and parking lot curbing.

The construction of the large shelter will be completed by park staff. Staff will bid portions of the materials used for the project through the City's Purchasing Department and also utilize term & supply contracts for materials needed for the project. Construction of the shelter and walkways is anticipated to begin winter 2020, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by late summer 2020.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The project will be completed using donated funds, totaling \$113,726, provided by University of Missouri Athletics.

Long-Term Impact: Park staff anticipates a small increase in annual expenses (\$1,000 to \$2,000) at the park for the seasonal use of the shelter including cleaning, utility expenses and trash pickup at the shelter.



Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

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

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
08/20/2018	(B193-18) Approving a revised Gans Creek Recreation Area Master Plan; authorizing construction of improvements at the Gans Creek Recreation area to include a cross country course, starting and finishing line structures, a parking lot and ADA walkways. https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3590779&GUID=2D6EBA2C-2250-4EFD-8D51-D88218A1C1C5&Options=&Search=
08/20/2018	(PH32-18) Public Hearing: Proposed construction of improvements at the Gans Creek Recreation area to include a cross country course, starting and finishing line structures, a parking lot and ADA walkways. https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3604220&GUID=6406E50E-B8B7-415F-BE13-E59491373818&Options=&Search=
08/06/2018	(R111-18) Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of improvements at the Gans Creek Recreation area to include a cross country course, starting and finishing line structures, a parking lot and ADA walkways. https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3590784&GUID=B7C9EC85-0305-42CF-BF9F-3CECC24E62E7&Options=&Search=

Suggested Council Action

After the public hearing, approve the ordinance authorizing construction of improvements at the Gans Cross Country Course located at Gans Creek Recreation Area and appropriating funds for the project.