



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: May 5, 2025
Re: Report – Douglass Park Engagement Plan

Executive Summary

At the February 17, 2025 City Council meeting, the Parks and Recreation Department was asked to provide a report to the City Council and Columbia citizens about the basketball court improvements associated with the Douglass Park improvement project that was approved by City Council on November 6, 2023. After multiple discussions with citizens, city staff and project donors, staff with the City Manager's Office and Parks and Recreation Department would like to move forward with a public engagement process that will include multiple meetings about Douglass Park. Once these meetings are completed, parks and recreation staff will host at least one additional public input meeting to gain direct feedback related to revised plans for the basketball courts at Douglass Park.

Discussion

Over the past two months, the Parks and Recreation Department has been working with the City's Engagement Coordinator and community members to develop a plan to engage citizens to gather feedback about Douglass Park, the capital improvement project approved for the park and surrounding neighborhood.

At the February 17, 2025 City Council meeting, citizens expressed concerns about the final plans for the two basketball courts at the park and the public input process that led to the final approval of the plans. City Council made a motion for staff to evaluate the final design of the two basketball courts and prepare a report outlining the process to collect additional public input about the project. After the Council meeting, city staff met with community members to have additional conversations focused specifically on the basketball court improvement project. During these meetings, it became apparent that a more widespread approach to engaging citizens was needed for the park and surrounding area.

City staff would like to host three separate engagement meetings with the public to discuss all facets of the park. Multiple staff members from the City of Columbia will attend each meeting to gather citizen feedback and provide answers related to questions or concerns presented at the meetings. Staff will provide the same content at each meeting and the meetings will be planned at different days and times. This schedule was created to provide multiple options for citizens to attend one of the meetings. Staff will document comments made at the meetings to include in future plans and Council legislation related to the park.



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The date, time and location for each meeting is listed below:

1. Meeting #1 will take place at the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC), 701 W. Ash St. on Tuesday, May 27 from 6 to 8 p.m.
2. Meeting #2 will take place in meeting rooms 1A/1B at Columbia City Hall, 701 E. Broadway on Wednesday, May 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
3. Meeting #3 will take place in meeting rooms 1A/1B at Columbia City Hall, 701 E. Broadway on Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The information gathered at the meetings will be incorporated into the discussions about revised plans for the basketball court improvement project. Park staff will present the revised plans for the basketball courts at an additional public input meeting that will be set for a future date. Staff will promote the date, time and location of this meeting through multiple media channels including a press release, social media notification, post card mailing and signage at the park.

In addition to feedback provided by citizens regarding the basketball court project, staff also anticipates collecting additional information about existing park amenities and future improvements. Staff will address immediate concerns presented at the meetings, such as trash pickup or mowing, and also use this information will be used for long-term planning for the park. Staff with the Parks and Recreation Department will start the process to update the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan in 2026 and information gathered at these meetings will be incorporated as initial public input for Douglass Park as part of this plan.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: N/A

Long-Term Impact: N/A

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Safe Community, Tertiary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
11/6/2023	B252-23: Authorizing construction of improvements at Douglass Park to include Phase II construction of a skate park, basketball court improvements and



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	<p>renovations to the aquatic center; calling for bids for a portion of the project through the Purchasing Division; authorizing an agreement with The Curators of the University of Missouri for the limited use of a trademark.</p> <p>https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6380737&GUID=23DADF4C-0DD7-4D97-AD1E-C3D7B22F1489&Options=&Search=</p>
6/20/2023	<p>B134-23: Authorizing a grant agreement with the Missouri Department of Economic Development associated with the Missouri ARPA Community Revitalization Grant Program for the Douglass Park improvement project; amending the FY 2023 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.</p> <p>City of Columbia, Missouri - File #: B134-23 (legistar.com)</p>
2/6/2023	<p>B20-23: Authorizing a 2022 donation agreement with Veterans United Foundation and Community Foundation of Central Missouri associated with renovations to the basketball courts at Douglass Park.</p> <p>City of Columbia, Missouri - File #: B20-23 (legistar.com)</p>
2/15/2016	<p>B23-16: Authorizing construction of the Douglass Park - Phase II improvement project to include construction of shelters, replacement of playground equipment, construction of a skate spot, ADA walkway improvements, the installation of new signage and park lighting improvements; calling for bids for a portion of the project through the Purchasing Division.</p> <p>downloadfile.php (como.gov)</p>
12/2/2013	<p>B351-13: Approving the Douglass Park Comprehensive Plan; authorizing construction of the Douglass Park – Phase I improvement project to include construction of an outdoor amphitheater and small shelter, parking improvements, the installation of new signage, construction of walkways, and additional landscaping, storm water and forestry improvements; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division.</p> <p>downloadfile.php (como.gov)</p>

Suggested Council Action

This report is informational only. No action required at this time unless directed by City Council.