



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 7, 2022

Re: Prescribed Burn Cost Share Agreement – Missouri Department of Conservation

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to sign a cost share agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The cost share agreement will reimburse the City 75% of the total invoiced cost for contract labor for prescribed burning at three park properties. The prescribed burning at Gans Creek Recreation Area, Grindstone Nature Area and Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary will be completed by the City's term & supply contractor, Timmermann Wildland Fire Services. Staff anticipates 22.74 acres will be included in the prescribed burning that will be completed by late spring 2023. All three of the park sites are already under restoration management, and the use of prescribed fire in these locations will be beneficial to the native grasses, flowers and forbs, which are establishing on these sites.

Discussion

Prescribed fires, also known as prescribed burns, refer to the controlled application of fire by trained fire experts under specified weather conditions to restore health to ecosystems. For the City's application, prescribed burning will help to remove unwanted species that threaten species native to our ecosystem, recycle nutrients back to soil, improve habitat for wildlife and promote the growth of trees, wildflowers and other plants.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a cost share agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for prescribed burning on three park properties; Gans Creek Recreation Area, Grindstone Nature Area and Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary. Staff anticipates 22.74 acres will be included in the prescribed burning that will be completed by late spring 2023.

The cost share agreement will reimburse the City 75% of the total invoiced cost for contract labor for prescribed burning at the three park properties. Staff estimates the total cost for the prescribed burning will be approximately \$3,100 and the MDC cost share will reimburse the City for approximately \$2,325. The prescribed burning will be completed by the City's term & supply contractor, Timmermann Wildland Fire Services.

Staff will return to City Council at a later date to appropriate the funds reimbursed to the City by the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total estimated cost for the prescribed burning by the contractor is \$3,100 and the City will be reimbursed for 75% of the total cost through the cost share agreement with MDC. Staff will return to City Council to appropriate the reimbursed funds.
Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Land Use & Growth Management, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute the cost share agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation.