City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation
To: City Council
From: City Manager and Staff
Council Meeting Date: August 4, 2025
Re: Cosmo-Bethel Park – Tennis Court Renovations and CPSD Agreement

Executive Summary

Public hearing authorizing maintenance related improvements to the tennis courts at Cosmo-Bethel Park. Staff is also requesting Council authorization allowing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Columbia Public School District (CPSD) for the resurfacing of the 12 tennis courts, which are located on both City and CPSD properties. In addition to the court resurfacing, park staff will install new LED lighting fixtures on tennis courts 1-4. The total project budget is $155,000 and is funded by the Park Sales Tax. The Parks and Recreation Department will pay for 2/3 of the total cost and CPSD will reimburse the city for the remaining 1/3 of the total cost of the project. The resurfacing, crack repair and line painting of the tennis courts will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department with contract labor completing the specified work on all 12 tennis courts. The tennis court improvement project is scheduled to start immediately, with an anticipated completion date of spring 2026. Parks and Recreation staff will work with CPSD staff to minimize court disruptions for park patrons and student athletes while the work is being completed by the contractor.

Discussion

The 40-acre Cosmo-Bethel Park, located at 4500 Bethel Street, offers a wide variety of park amenities to multiple user groups and is identified in the *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* as a community park. Park features include 3 shelters, 12 tennis courts, open playfield, baseball field, playground and 0.46 mile concrete walking trail. The park property was purchased in 1971 and initial park development was completed in 1979. The park has undergone additional improvements and renovations since the initial opening, including a rededication of the park in 2008.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of an ordinance that would authorize the Cosmo-Bethel Park tennis court improvement project and to allow the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Columbia Public School District (CPSD). The proposed improvements at the park will include resurfacing, crack repair and line striping of the 12 tennis courts located at the park and Gentry Middle School and installation of new LED lighting fixtures on courts 1-4.

Parks and Recreation staff met multiple times with Columbia Public School District staff in 2024 and 2025 to discuss the tennis court renovation project, cooperative agreement and project funding. Park staff collected online feedback about the tennis court renovation project on BeHeardComo from June 13, 2025 to July 3, 2025. In addition to the online public input, park staff discussed the tennis court maintenance project with the Parks and Recreation Commission on June 18, 2025.

The proposed improvements at Cosmo-Bethel Park will include utilizing contract labor to resurface the 12 tennis courts located at the park and Gentry Middle School. The contractor for the tennis court resurfacing project will be required to keep four of the 12 tennis courts open at all times within the timeframe for the project. This will allow for daily play on four courts throughout the resurfacing project. The steps included in the tennis court resurfacing process include cleaning all court surfaces, repairing all asphalt cracks using a specialized process to seal all existing cracks, leveling all low areas using a high tensile acrylic court leveler and applying three coats of acrylic court surfacing product to restore the tennis courts to the desired condition of Columbia's tennis users. The final step in the process is to repaint the tennis court lines on each court based on United States Tennis Association specifications. The contractor will keep the courts closed for 48 hours after line painting is completed and will reinstall court nets before the courts are opened back up for use.

In addition to the tennis court resurfacing project, park staff will convert the existing lighting fixtures on courts 1-4 to LED lighting fixtures. Staff will purchase the lighting equipment and the parks and recreation electrician will complete the installation of the lights.

Parks and Recreation staff also met with representatives from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) to discuss potential grant funding for the project. The USTA grant funding opportunity could fund 50% of the total project cost. Staff will be submitting an application for grant funding and will return to Council at a later date if an award is provided to the department.

The $155,000 improvement project at Cosmo-Bethel Park is funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax. The tennis court renovation project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department and will be completed utilizing contract labor. The LED lighting fixtures will be installed by park staff. The project is scheduled to begin after City Council approval and will be completed by spring 2026. CPSD will reimburse the city for their share of the total project cost once all work is completed at the tennis courts.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost is $155,000 and is funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax.
Long-Term Impact: Minimal fiscal impact as staff is already providing maintenance and paying the utilities for the existing courts. The conversion to LED lighting will provide a small cost savings related to electrical expenses.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:
Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable
Comprehensive Plan Impacts:
Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

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Legislative History

Date	Action
4/14/2019	B90-19: Authorizing construction of the Cosmo-Bethel Park improvement project to include the renovation of eight (8) tennis courts, installation of a new park entry sign and renovations to the north parking lot; appropriating funds; authorizing an agreement with Columbia School District No. 93. B90-19

Suggested Council Action

Following the public hearing, approve the ordinance authorizing the Tennis Court Improvement Project at Cosmo-Bethel Park and Gentry Middle School and authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with Columbia Public School District.