701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: Parks and Recreation
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: October 5, 2026
Re: Supplemental Memo: Rainbow Softball Center Improvements
Impacted Ward: Ward 2

Executive Summary

In addition to the field improvements outlined in the initial Council memo, staff is also proposing to use funding from the capital improvement project to replace the HVAC system in the Rainbow Softball Center concession facility. The existing system received extensive repairs throughout the summer but it has been determined that replacement of the HVAC system is necessary. A combination of contract and force account labor will be used to replace the existing system. The work will be completed by spring 2027.

Discussion

The Rainbow Softball Center HVAC system, installed as part of the facility construction in 1983, required extensive repairs throughout this summer. Staff worked with a local mechanical contractor to troubleshoot the original issues and determined that repairing the existing system was no longer cost effective. Staff has worked with the mechanical contractor to determine what type of HVAC system upgrade is needed for the facility. The replacement of the existing system will ensure reliable indoor climate control, improved air quality, and long-term energy efficiency while reducing ongoing utility and maintenance costs.

Park staff is requesting to complete the installation of a new HVAC system as part of the Rainbow Softball Center capital improvement project. The total cost for the HVAC system replacement is estimated at $33,500 and will be paid for with the Park Sales Tax funding associated with the project.

The work will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Parks and Recreation staff will be responsible for making all necessary electric upgrades within the facility for the new HVAC system. The mechanical contractor will purchase and install the new HVAC system for the facility. Staff anticipates completing the HVAC system upgrades by spring 2027.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total cost of the capital improvement project is $750,000 and is funded by the Park Sales Tax. The cost for the HVAC system improvements will be included in the capital improvement project budget and no additional appropriation is needed.

Long-Term Impact: Staff anticipates a reduction in electric utility expenses and labor costs with the replacement of the existing HVAC system at the facility.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:
Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Safe Community, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:
Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Economic Development, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
3/18/2019	B61-19: Appropriating funds for the major maintenance and replacement of existing lighting and underground electrical wiring in the Rainbow Softball Center parking lot at Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area. B61-19
10/17/2011	B276-11: Authorizing construction of improvements at Rainbow Softball Center. B276-11

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Department to proceed with the capital improvement project at Rainbow Softball Center that now includes HVAC system replacement in the scope of work.