



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 19, 2021

Re: 2021 Park Sales Tax Renewal – Revisions to Priority 1 and Priority 2 Project List

Executive Summary

On August 2, 2021, Council approved an ordinance placing the proposed extension of the 1/8-cent Park Sales Tax on the November 2, 2021 general election ballot extending the Park Sales Tax for ten years. The Finance Department estimates the tax will generate a total of approximately \$30.9 million over this timeframe. P&R staff presented a list of projects for Council consideration at the August 16, 2021 meeting. After the public hearing, Council requested that Parks and Recreation staff revise the Priority 1 and Priority 2 list of projects in order to add two additional trail projects and consider increasing the amount of funds available for land acquisition. Staff is proposing the following:

2021 PST Priority 1 Changes

Sports Fieldhouse Expansion \$1,500,000 (reduced by \$4,300,000)

NE Regional Park \$3,775,000 (reduced by \$500,000)

COLT Trail (Phase I College to Brown Station Road) (2.2 mile) \$3,000,000

Bear Creek Trail (Lange to Fairgrounds/Atkins Park) (1.1 mile) \$1,300,000

Annual Land Acquisition \$2,575,000 (increased by \$500,000)

2021 PST Priority 2 Changes

COLT Trail (Phase II Brown Station Rd to Waco Rd: Hwy 63 bridge) \$3,500,000

Council also asked staff to consider alternate funding sources so that the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse expansion would be able to proceed. The attached Priority 1 and Priority 2 projects have been revised for Council consideration.

Discussion

Staff is proposing to increase the funding for **land acquisition by \$500,000** and include two additional trail projects in the proposed Park Sales Tax Priority 1 funding as noted below:

1. COLT Trail Phase I: Rogers/College to Brown Station Road (2.2 miles) \$3,000,000

- This will be a parallel trail allowing the COLT Railroad to continue to operate. The additional cost includes funds for a separate bridge over Business Loop 70 and either an additional bridge or a cantilevered bridge over Interstate 70. The issue of going further with a parallel trail beyond Brown Station Road is crossing over Highway 63. The existing railroad bridge is 500 feet long and there is not room for a parallel trail so a new one or a cantilevered bridge would have to be added. That cost alone could range from \$2,000,000-\$3,000,000. Staff is showing this as a Priority 2 project called COLT Trail: Brown Station to Waco Road at a cost of \$3,500,000.



2. Bear Creek Trail: Lange to Fairgrounds/Atkins Park (1.1 mile) \$1,300,000

- Staff is proposing this trail as an alternate to the suggested Bear Creek Trail from Albert-Oakland Park to the Fairgrounds/Atkins Park. In the 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the Bear Creek Trail was broken down into two primary sections:
 - i. Blue Ridge Road (A/O Park) to Smiley Lane (Lange School) 1.2 miles
 - ii. Smiley Lane (Lange School) to Fairgrounds/Atkins Park. 1.1 miles
- Starting at the City-owned Fairgrounds/Atkins Park, the Bear Creek Trail will be routed underneath Highway 63 and follow Bear Creek to Lange Middle School. This provides a safe trail route for families and inexperienced cyclists.
- From Lange School, cyclists may use existing bike lanes and sidewalks to access Albert-Oakland Park and continue on the Bear Creek Trail to Cosmo Park if so desired.
- If the trail was built from Albert-Oakland to Lange, the route to the Fairgrounds/Atkins Park via existing streets may prove to be difficult for families and inexperienced cyclists due to traveling on high speed streets such as the Highway 63 interchange.
- By doing this project first, P&R staff has time to work with property owners in the Albert-Oakland to Lange section of the Bear Creek Trail so that it is a mutually agreed upon project and not one where condemnation may have to be used.
- This project is also part of the high priority 30-mile loop around Columbia.

To fund the proposed \$4,800,000 increase in changes, staff is recommending that the Sports Fieldhouse Expansion project be reduced by \$4,300,000 to \$1,500,000. The Sports Fieldhouse will remain as a future project with the remaining funding coming from a combination of Sports Tourism Development Funds, general fund balance over reserves, and Park Sales Tax fund balance. If Park Sales Tax fund balance is utilized, it will not impact the restoration of the 2015 amounts for land acquisition or the Perche Creek Trail Chapel Hill connector project. This will allow the Sports Fieldhouse project to begin in 2022-23 which will allow sports tourism staff to begin soliciting larger tournaments for the 2024-25 indoor season versus starting construction in 2024 and not being able to host tournaments until 2026. The NE Regional Park will be reduced by \$500,000 to \$3,775,000. Staff will seek to replace that funding with either grants or through additional Park Sales Tax funds if Columbia passes a Use Tax.

If these projects are funded, staff will begin the detailed planning, engineering and cost estimates for each specific project. Staff will also seek federal grants for all of the trail projects and if successful, may be able to extend the trail projects. As with all projects, park planning staff will conduct interested party meetings for each project; staff will conduct a public hearing and seek a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission for each project; and return to City Council for a public hearing and final approval. This provides an opportunity for residents and user groups to provide final input on each of the individual projects.



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Short-Term Impact: NA

Long-Term Impact: NA

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Resilient Economy, Tertiary Impact: Inclusive Community

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Economic Development

Legislative History

Date	Action
8/16/21	(R141-21) Declaring the intent of the City Council on utilization of the funds anticipated to be generated by the proposed ten (10) year extension of the one-eighth of one percent local parks sales tax; declaring priorities for expenditure of funds for additional parks projects in the capital improvement plan if additional funds become available. https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5084715&GUID=088C6BBF-2D3E-4D74-8A62-B509601FDC32&Options=&Search=
8/2/21	(B233-21) Calling a special election in the City of Columbia, Missouri, to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, on the question whether to extend the one-eighth of one percent local parks sales tax. https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5032263&GUID=6B213AA2-88FF-4745-8C39-D56CA730BA61&Options=&Search=
5/3/21	(R73-21) Directing the City Manager to proceed with the development of a capital improvement project list to be funded by the proposed extension of the one-eighth of one percent local parks sales tax for a period of ten (10) years. https://gocolumbiamo.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4928167&GUID=FC620DA5-961A-45EE-A1C6-A620CD818B43&Options=&Search=
8/17/15	(R135-15) Specifying how the City Council intends to use funds that would be generated by the proposed extension of the one-eighth of one percent local parks sales tax. https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=18568

Suggested Council Action

Direct staff to prepare a final Priority 1 and Priority 2 list of projects for the September 7, 2021 Council meeting.