



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 18, 2026

Re: Authorizing agreement for use of the Boone Hospital parking lots for the 2026 Fourth of July "Fire in the Sky" celebration

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting adoption of a resolution that authorizes the City Manager to sign an agreement with the Board of Trustees of Boone County Hospital, a/k/a Boone Hospital Center, for use of their parking lots during the City's 2026 Fourth of July "Fire in the Sky" event. Community members are encouraged to attend the event and enjoy a family-friendly festive atmosphere and enjoy fireworks from the park, and surrounding areas. In order to ensure adequate parking, the past 4 years, the City has been approved by Boone Hospital Center for use of their parking lots, as well as provided public transportation to downtown parking garages via GoComo Transit. For the 2026 event, Boone Hospital Center has requested an agreement for use of the parking lots.

Discussion

Columbia's 2026 Fourth of July – "Fire in the Sky" event will return to Stephens Lake Park for its 5th year at this location. Stephens Lake Park is the preferred site for the event due to its central location, adequate space to host a safe fireworks display, proximity to downtown parking, and open space for activities and event festivities. Use of Boone Hospital Center parking lots has been vital to ensuring attendees have appropriate parking and safe access to the event.

The event is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m., with fireworks beginning at 9:15 p.m., and will be choreographed to music that will be played on BXR 102.3 radio. Activities will include children's games and crafts, inflatables, roaming entertainers, food trucks, and live music.

The event is coordinated by the Parks and Recreation Department with support of other City departments, including Public Works, Volunteer Services, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Fire and Police Departments. The event is funded by generous donations from presenting sponsors Columbia Insurance Group, Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club, KOMU8/Mid-Missouri CW, BXR 102.3 and KFRU 1400 Radio, and the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Under the terms of the agreement, Boone Hospital Center is approving use of their parking lots, west of Stephens Lake Park, beginning on July 4, 2026 at 8 am, and concluding on July



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5, 2026 at 12:00 pm. The City will inspect the parking lots after the event and clean up as needed.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None.
Long-Term Impact: None.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community, Tertiary Impact: Organizational Excellence

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action

Suggested Council Action

Adopt the legislation authorizing the agreement with the Board of Trustees of Boone County Hospital, a/k/a Boone Hospital Center for the 2026 Fourth of July "Fire in the Sky" celebration.