



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 4, 2024

Re: Fairview Park Improvements

Executive Summary

Public hearing to authorize improvements to Fairview Park and approve the updated master plan for the park. The proposed improvements include the installation of a 9-hole disc golf course designed for beginners and youth. The proposed project will include the construction of nine concrete tee pads and the installation of nine disc golf baskets. The project has a total budget of \$15,000 and will utilize remaining funds from the FY2020 Fairview Park/Bonnie View Phase II Improvement project. Portions of the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department with contract labor completing the concrete tee pad construction. All other work will be completed by park staff. The tee pad construction and basket installation are scheduled to begin spring 2024, with an anticipated completion date of fall 2024.

Discussion

Fairview Park, located at 1001 S. Fairview Road, is a community park adjacent to Fairview Elementary School. The park includes four tennis courts, a reservable shelter, restroom, garden plots (available for rent), playground, and soccer practice fields. The park has two parking lots located at the end of Plymouth Drive and a shared parking lot with the school on the north side of the park. The east side of the park is heavily wooded, with open space on the west side. The park also has a connection to Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary and the Scott's Branch Trail.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council approval of an ordinance authorizing the construction of a 9-hole disc golf course designed for beginners and youth. The proposed project will include the construction of nine concrete tee pads and the installation of nine disc golf baskets.

Park staff was initially contacted by a neighbor of Fairview Park and asked if the large open space could be better utilized as a disc golf course. Park staff identified the lack of a beginner course in Columbia and the need to foster interest in the sport for youth and beginners. This largely unused space is correctly sized for a beginner 9-hole disc golf course and already has necessary amenities including parking and access to park restrooms. Throughout the planning process, Park staff noticed that the space was already being used as an informal disc golf course by neighbors of the park, which further solidified the decision to pursue the disc golf improvements as an addition to the park.

The beginner disc golf course provides an opportunity for adults and youth to be introduced to the sport of disc golf with course features that are planned to this level of experience and



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skill. This includes the total length of the course, length of each hole, basket locations and adjacent tree plantings. For example, the upper course at Albert-Oakland Park has an average hole length that is approximately 60 feet longer than the proposed hole length on the course at Fairview Park and has trees that impact shots on nearly every hole. The average distance of the red tees at Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course at Strawn Park is approximately 146 feet longer than the proposed average hole length at the Fairview Park course.

Park staff held a public input meeting at Fairview Park on May 24, 2023 to discuss the project with the community. Staff met with citizens to discuss the proposed plans and gain feedback about the proposed improvements. The public had an additional opportunity to provide comments about the project via BeHeardCoMo from May 4, 2023 to October 17, 2023. All feedback from the public input meetings and BeHeardCoMo.gov are included with this Council memo and can be found at the [CIP web page](#). The comments received were predominantly in support of the project and concerns raised were taken into account and addressed by revising the course layout.

Park staff introduced the proposed improvements at Fairview Park to the Parks and Recreation Commission on August 10, 2023. After discussion of the project, the commissioners voted to endorse the update to the master plan and the addition of the beginner 9-hole disc golf course and recommended that Council approve the plans as presented.

The proposed improvements at Fairview Park will include the following:

1. A combination of park staff and contract labor will be used to install a 9-hole disc golf course on the west side of the park. Contract labor will be used to pour nine new concrete tee pads. Park staff will install nine new disc golf baskets and hole signage. Park staff will also complete all necessary tree and brush removal, tree plantings and the installation of two new benches as part of the course.

The disc golf course will be supported by existing park amenities including the porous paver parking lot at the end of Plymouth Drive, restroom facility, bike racks and water fountains located in multiple park locations.

The improvements at Fairview Park have a total cost of \$15,000 and are funded by 2015 Park Sales Tax. Materials and contract services for the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department. The tee pad construction and basket installation are scheduled to begin spring 2024, with an anticipated completion date of fall 2024.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project budget is \$15,000 and is funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax. The funding is the remaining balance from the FY2020 Fairview Park/Bonnie View Phase II Improvement project.



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Long-Term Impact: Park staff anticipates minimal long-term expenses associated with the park as staff already mow the area proposed for the course and complete refuse collection at the parking lot.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
11/2/2020	B298-20: Authorizing construction of improvements at Fairview Park and the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary to include replacement of pedestrian wooden walking bridges, reconstruction of wooden benches, installation of educational signage along the trail system, expansion of the garden plot area, installation of water hydrants and a gravel walking path to the garden plots at Fairview Park, and parking lot improvements and lighting upgrades, installation of a play structure and a wooden pedestrian bridge across Scott's Branch Creek, and construction of pools to slow the flow of water and the installation of bouldering to prevent erosion along the Scott's Branch Creek at the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division for a portion of the project. City of Columbia, Missouri - File #: B298-20 (legistar.com)

Suggested Council Action

After the public hearing, approve the ordinance authorizing the improvements to Fairview Park and updating the master plan for the park.