



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 2, 2022

Re: Frank W. Morris Memorial Trust Agreement and Appropriation

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with the Frank W. Morris Memorial Trust. The agreement will provide the Department with a donation of \$500,000 to assist with the development of three capital improvement projects in the park system. The agreement will provide \$300,000 for the planning and development of the Cosmo Bike Park; \$125,000 for the development of the Gans Creek Recreation Area natural surface trail; and \$75,000 for the development of the Stephens Lake Park trailhead. Each of the three projects also includes Park Sales Tax funding in FY2023 or FY2024 and these donated funds will be used to enhance the proposed projects. Staff is also requesting an appropriation of \$25,000 to be used for the planning and design of the Cosmo Bike Park with a goal of creating a premiere destination site similar to facilities like the Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course and Gans Creek Cross Country Course. Staff will return to City Council for individual project approval after the public input process is completed for each project and Park Sales Tax funding and donated funds have been allocated to the project through the budget process.

Discussion

In November 2021, park staff met with members of the Frank W. Morris Memorial Trust to discuss different cycling-related capital improvement projects within the Department's park and trail system. The members of the Trust expressed interest in providing funding to assist with capital improvement projects in the park system that focused on different types of cycling in the community. The Trust has specific guidelines related as to how the funding can be used and staff presented multiple projects that focused on the promotion of cycling, programming for cycling events, and creating improved access for beginner cyclists. The agreement outlines funding for three capital improvement projects in the park system.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with the Frank W. Morris Memorial Trust and appropriate funds totaling \$25,000. The agreement outlines how donated funds from the trust will be used for improvements at Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area (Cosmo Park), Gans Creek Recreation Area and Stephens Lake Park. The appropriation of funds will be used for the planning and design of the Cosmo Bike Park.

The Frank W. Morris Memorial Trust will provide donated funds, totaling \$500,000, to assist with the construction of capital improvement projects at three park locations. Each of the projects will support different types of cycling including \$300,000 for the planning and development of the Cosmo Bike Park, \$125,000 for the development of the Gans Creek



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Recreation Area natural surface trail and \$75,000 for the development of the Stephens Lake Park trailhead. As part of the donation agreement, the Frank W. Morris Memorial Trust members will work with park staff to determine naming recognition for features or facilities at each park location to honor Mr. Morris. This could include a mounted plaque at one of the locations or naming a park shelter or trailhead after Mr. Morris.

Each of the three capital improvement projects were included as projects as part of the 2021 Parks Sales Tax renewal. The development of the Cosmo Bike Park includes FY2023 PST funding totaling \$225,000, the Gans Creek Recreation Area improvement project includes FY2024 PST funding totaling \$225,000 and the Stephens Lake Park improvement project includes \$125,000 in PST funding available in FY2023. The Cosmo Bike Park also includes a \$250,000 donation provided by the Columbia Trail Association (COMOTA) and Veterans United Foundation.

Staff will use the \$25,000 appropriation of funds for the initial planning and design of the Cosmo Bike Park. The bike park will include multiple features including an asphalt pump track, bike playground, mountain bike skills course, cyclocross event space and trailhead from Rhett's Run Mountain Bike Trail. This facility will be designed to be a sports tourism destination for cyclists, and staff felt that it would be important to complete the planning process for the 10-acre facility before going through the public input process, Parks and Recreation Commission approval and City Council approval of the project. The selection of a vendor for the design process will be done through the City's Purchasing Department and members of the community and park staff will participate in the planning process during the summer of 2022.

Staff will return to City Council for individual project approval after the public input process is completed for each project, and the Parks and Recreation Commission has recommended the project for City Council approval. This planning and approval process will align with the fiscal year in which Park Sales Tax funding is available for the project.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The donated funds, totaling \$500,000, will be used for the designated capital improvement projects as outlined in the agreement. The donated funds will be provided to the City at specific dates that coordinate with the capital improvement project approval by the City Council.

Long-Term Impact: None



Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Resilient Economy, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
None	None

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Frank W. Morris Memorial Trust and appropriate funds.