



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 21, 2022

Re: Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area: Fitness Trail Improvements

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting Council approval of a resolution to set a public hearing for improvements to the 1.25 mile fitness trail at Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area (Cosmo Park). The proposed improvements include repairs and an asphalt overlay of the existing fitness trail, memorial/heritage bench improvements, signage replacement and bollard replacement. The total project budget is \$100,000 and is one of the projects identified and funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax. Portions of the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department, and the proposed improvements will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Contract labor will be used for the asphalt overlay of the trail and all other work will be completed by park staff. Improvements at the park are scheduled to begin spring 2022, with an anticipated completion date of fall 2022.

Discussion

Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area, located at 1615 Business Loop 70 West, encompasses 533 acres and includes a wide variety of recreational amenities including athletic fields, park shelters, playgrounds, sport courts, skatepark, RC car track and L.A. Nickell Golf Course. The park also includes a trailhead for the Bear Creek Trail and 1.25-mile fitness trail. The fitness trail is located in the southwest corner of the park and is the only asphalt trail located within the park system.

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting approval of a resolution to set a public hearing for the improvements to the fitness trail at Cosmo Park. Improvements to the fitness trail include repairs and asphalt overlay of the existing fitness trail, memorial/heritage bench improvements, signage replacement and bollard replacement.

After reviewing the proposed Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area improvements in the *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*, staff discussed potential improvements to the fitness trail that would return the trail to like-new condition and resolve ongoing maintenance issues. Park staff held an interested parties meeting at the Activity & Recreation Center on Jan. 18, 2022. Park 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 an online survey at [CoMo.gov](https://www.como.gov) from Jan. 5, 2022 to Jan. 25, 2022. All feedback from the public input meetings and online [como.gov](https://www.como.gov) surveys are included with this Council memo and may also be found online at https://www.como.gov/webapps/cipweb/display_project.php?project_id=2303.



Park staff introduced the proposed Cosmo Park fitness trail improvements to the Parks and Recreation Commission on Jan. 20, 2022. After discussion of the project, the commissioners voted to endorse the proposed improvements and recommended that Council approve the plans as presented. After considering all citizen comments and the P&R Commission recommendation, staff believes the proposed improvements to the fitness trail represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The proposed improvements will include the following:

1. Park staff will use contract labor to complete a 2-inch asphalt overlay of the existing 10-foot wide trail at the park. The contractor will also be responsible for any necessary repairs to the gravel base of the asphalt trail before the asphalt overlay.
2. Park staff will add concrete pads for the 10 existing memorial/heritage benches located along the 1.25-mile trail. The benches are currently direct bury which requires weekly trimming under each bench. Converting the benches to surface mount on concrete pads will eliminate this maintenance item for staff. All benches will be located in the exact same location and three bench pads will include extended concrete for ADA space adjacent to the bench. Staff will also update three of the benches from their original wood planks to recycled plastic planks with zinc plaque.
3. Park staff will replace the 10 existing bollards, located at the 5 road crossings, with new removable bollards and will update any necessary signage along the trail as part of the project.

The \$100,000 improvement project at Cosmo Park is funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax and is included in the City's FY2022 Capital Improvement Program budget. Portions of the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department, and the proposed improvements will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Contract labor will be used for the repairs and overlay of the asphalt trail. All other work will be completed by park staff. Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin spring 2022, and staff anticipates the park improvements will be completed by fall 2022.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost is \$100,000 and is funded by the 2021 Park Sales Tax.
Long-Term Impact: Park staff currently maintains the fitness trail at Cosmo Park and does not anticipate any increase in expenses related to the improvements.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

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



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution to set a public hearing for fitness trail improvements at Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area.