

Source:

Mike Hood



TO: City Council

FROM: City Manager and Staff

DATE: October 28, 2007



RE: Private Funding for Cosmo-Bethel Winter Trout Fishing Program

Fiscal Impact

YES

NO

Other Info.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited has agreed to provide the local funds necessary to match the Department of Conservation's contribution to continue the winter trout fishing program at Cosmo-Bethel Park. Because of budget constraints this funding had been eliminated from the Parks and Recreation Department's FY09 budget. No commitment to continue the program beyond the winter of 2008-2009 has been made at this time.

DISCUSSION: For the past five years, the City of Columbia sponsored 50% of the funding required to conduct a winter trout fishing program in Cosmo-Bethel Park. The amount of this contribution ranged from \$2,200-\$2,600. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, funding in the amount of \$2,600 was removed from the FY09 budget in a budget amendment dated September 25, 2008.

Once board members of the local Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited organization heard about the cancellation of the program, they agreed to pick-up the City's portion for the 2008-2009 program through the use of Chapter funds and private donations. The Missouri Department of Conservation agreed to continue their sponsorship of 50% of the program and together, the 2008-2009 winter trout program will proceed as originally planned. Total cost of this program ranges from \$5,000-\$6,000 depending on the number and size of the trout stocked. Payments for this program will be made directly to the vendors and not be routed through the City. The only commitment from the City is to continue to allow the program to use the lake in Cosmo-Bethel Park. The Parks & Recreation Department will proceed with installing the winter trout rules signs and include a statement that the program is sponsored by Trout Unlimited and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Funding for the 2009-2010 winter trout season is uncertain at this time. In order to provide time for the vendors to raise fish for this program a funding decision must be made prior to May 1, 2009.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTION: This report is provided for Council information only. No action is needed.