

Source:

Mike Hood



**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** City Manager and Staff  
**DATE:** February 16, 2006  
**RE:** Outdoor Basketball Courts



**SUMMARY:** At the January 17 City Council Meeting, the Council requested a report on the status of outdoor basketball courts within the City's park system, and in particular what opportunities exist and what the cost would be to light additional outdoor basketball courts. This report summarizes the current condition of the system's existing courts, outlines improvements planned over the next five years, and suggests possibilities for future lighted courts.

Fiscal Impact

YES

NO

Other Info.

**DISCUSSION:** Columbia's park system currently has outdoor basketball courts located in thirteen of the City's fifty-eight parks. An additional four parks have outdoor basketball courts located on Columbia Public School properties immediately adjacent to the park. Of the thirteen parks having basketball courts, eleven are classified as neighborhood parks. In accordance with our policies for development of neighborhood parks, none of the eleven courts are lighted, thus eliminating concerns about late night play and noise within the residential neighborhoods. The two community level parks with outdoor courts are Douglass and Oakland. Douglass features two full sized outdoor courts which are lighted and are heavily used for evening and nighttime play including the very popular summertime Moonlight Hoops program. The Oakland basketball court is a full sized court located immediately south of Oakland Junior High School and is often used by the school as well as park users.

**Proposed Improvements:** The Department's current Capital Improvement Program(CIP) includes a significant number of projects to renovate existing and/or construct new outdoor basketball facilities. Projects currently under construction include new half-court basketball facilities at Paquin and Highpointe Neighborhood Parks. Construction of both of these courts should be completed during the 2006 construction season. Courts are also being planned for the new Smith-Manhasset and Longview Neighborhood Parks, both of which should be under construction sometime in 2006.

Staff is recommending that seven of the park system's existing courts receive resurfacing as part of Department's 2006 asphalt paving project. Those courts are in Again, Bear Creek, Mckee, Oakland, Oakwood Hills, Rockbridge, and Woodridge Neighborhood Parks.

The park sales tax ballot issue which passed in November included funding for two outdoor basketball court projects. The complete

re-construction of the two courts in Douglas Park is currently scheduled to receive funding in the City's FY 07 budget. The construction of a new outdoor basketball court in Rock Quarry Park is scheduled to receive funding in the City's FY 09 budget.

Lighting. The cost to light one outdoor basketball court to a level that would allow quality recreational play is estimated to be \$30,000 - \$35,000. This estimate is based on the assumption that electrical service is readily available within the park in which the court is located.

As note earlier in this report, it has been the City's policy to not light courts located in neighborhood parks. If the City continues with that policy, then staff would recommend that only two courts be considered for lighting. Those would be the court located in Oakland Park and the new court planned for Rock Quarry Park. Staff would suggest that the possibility of lighting the Rock Quarry court be fully evaluated at the time detailed plans are prepared for that project. Should the Council wish to consider lighting for the Oakland Park court, staff should be directed to prepare detailed plans, finalize cost estimates, and identify a possible funding source for the project. Such a project would need to be incorporated into Department's existing CIP, but possibly could be targeted for FY 07 or FY08.

Much of the demand for outdoor basketball courts is generated by youth and young adults of high school and college age. The University has recently removed many of the outdoor courts previously used by university students, possibly creating a shortage of such courts in and around the University campus. Staff believes that there may be a need for a two or four court lighted basketball complex located such that the above target population would have easy access. However, at this time there does not appear to be any existing site within the park system that would be both large enough for such a development and be located appropriately.

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTION:** Accept report. Provide staff with direction if the Council wishes to pursue any future action with respect to outdoor basketball courts.