

Introduced by _____ Council Bill No. R 195-13

A RESOLUTION

declaring the necessity for construction of the Children's Grove at Stephens Lake Park; stating the nature of and the estimate of the cost of the improvement; providing for payment for the improvement; providing for compliance with the prevailing wage law; and setting a public hearing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council deems the construction of the Children's Grove at Stephens Lake Park, to include the installation of five drystack stone walls and planting 41 trees along the top of each wall, necessary to the welfare and improvement of the City.

SECTION 2. The nature and scope of the improvement shall consist of furnishing all labor, materials, transportation, insurance and all other items, accessories and incidentals thereto necessary for the complete construction of the improvements.

SECTION 3. The estimated cost of this improvement is \$20,000.00.

SECTION 4. Payment for this improvement shall be made from donated funds and such other funds as may be lawfully appropriated.

SECTION 5. Any work done in connection with the construction of the improvement specified above shall be in compliance with the provisions of the prevailing wage laws of the State of Missouri.

SECTION 6. A public hearing in respect to this improvement will be held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall Building, 701 E. Broadway, Columbia, Missouri, at 7:00 p.m. on October 21, 2013. The City Clerk shall cause notice of this hearing to be published in a newspaper published in the City.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2013.

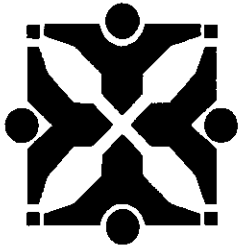
ATTEST:


City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


City Counselor



Source: Parks and Recreation 

Agenda Item No:

To: City Council

From: City Manager and Staff 

Council Meeting Date: Oct 7, 2013

Re: The Children's Grove at Stephens Lake Park

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Parks & Recreation Department is requesting Council approval to proceed with the construction of the Children's Grove at Stephens Lake Park and to appropriate \$20,000.00 in donations for the project. The funding was raised by members of the "Putting Kids First" organization to provide a safe environment for children's play and act as a site of natural resource education for children. The proposed improvements will be constructed in the northeast section of the park adjacent to the Council Ring of the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Gardens. The improvements will include five drystack stone walls, the addition of forty-one trees planted along the five stone walls and informational signage to explain the unique purpose of the Children's Grove. Materials for the project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department and all construction will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Construction is expected to begin in late fall 2013, with an estimated completion in spring of 2014.

DISCUSSION:

The Stephens Lake Park Master Plan calls for the theme of Stephens Lake Park to be a combination "Arboretum and Park," and the construction of the Children's Grove will further enhance the Arboretum aspect (Attachment A). The proposed Children's Grove improvements (Attachment B) will take place on the northeast side of Stephens Lake Park located near the East Walnut Street entrance to the park. The 116-acre park was opened for public use in 2001 and has undergone a variety of improvements over the last 12 years, including park amenity installation, landscaping improvements, swimming access and the addition of an amphitheater. After initial discussions between Park staff and members of the "Putting Kids First" organization, the decision was made to raise money to create a space at Stephens Lake Park that would serve as a safe, inviting site for children of Boone County. "Putting Kids First" is a county-wide initiative to promote and support the mental health and well-being of our children and youth. The Children's Grove will symbolize Columbia's effort to protect and provide for children of our community. The funding for the Children's Grove at Stephens Lake Park was raised by members of the organization with a goal of similar areas being constructed in other parts of the city and county. After discussions between Park planning staff and members of the fundraising group, Park Planners developed a proposed design that would improve the site aesthetics, function as a safe environment for children's play and act as a site of natural resource education for children. The Children's Grove will serve as an arborculture community for children of Boone County that will act as a symbol of love, safety and community union.

The proposed improvements to the Stephens Lake Park site will focus on a variety of landscaping improvements, including the addition of five drystack walls and 41 trees that will be planted along the top of each wall. Each of the walls will be 6 to 14 inches tall and all tree varieties will be species with lower canopy heights. The space between the ground and lower portion of the tree canopy will average between 3 to 5 feet in height which will create a forest-like feel for children. The concept of the lower stone wall infrastructure and trees with lower canopy heights is to create an environment that will only allow child-size visitors to pass through without obstruction. The Children's Grove will contain a collection of 30 magnolia trees of three different species that will provide different flowering colors throughout the grove. The remaining 11 trees within the Children's Grove will be a flowering crabapple variety that will complement the growth habit and look of the Magnolia trees. The unique planting and construction is designed to promote creativity, play and provide a safe environment for children within the larger Stephens Lake Park.

The selection of the location of the Children's Grove was made in large part due to the proximity to the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Gardens. Park Staff and members of the fundraising committee felt that the Children's Grove should also have a natural resources educational component at the location. This will give children and their parents the opportunity to explore the multiple gardens within the Hindman Discovery

Gardens and experience the unique design and tree species located within the Children's Grove. Informational signage at the Children's Grove will be designed to match the educational signs at the Discovery Gardens and will provide information regarding the purpose of the Children's Grove and the goals of the "Putting Kids First" organization.

The project is scheduled to begin construction in November with the site grading, drystack wall installation and turf improvements. The construction of the Children's Grove will require staff to remove two trees with a diameter-at-base height of less than 12 inches from the location to complete the project. The 41 trees will be planted following completion of the grading and stone wall construction at the site in December, weather permitting. The project will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Grading and drystack wall construction will be completed using contract labor with the remaining aspects of the project completed by Park staff. A dedication of the Children's Grove is anticipated to take place in Spring 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total project budget is \$20,000.00 and is funded by private donations. Park staff anticipates minimal additional maintenance costs associated with the planting bed maintenance as Park staff already maintains plantings and trees at Stephens Lake Park.

VISION IMPACT:

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionimpact.php>

12.1 Goal: A variety of attractive, well-maintained parks throughout Columbia-including neighborhood parks, regional parks, nature parks, and urban parks-will ensure all residents have access to a full range of outdoor and indoor recreational opportunities.

12.2 Goal: Columbia's recreational needs and desires will be met through effective public and private partnerships that provide outstanding, exciting, and diverse recreational facilities such as, but not limited to, an ice skating rink, golf courses, tennis courts, soccer fields, ball fields, ball parks, and swimming pools. These facilities will be placed appropriately throughout the city to allow easy access for everyone.

Implementation task #40: Fund and complete capital improvement program projects (parks).

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Approve the legislation setting a public hearing for the proposed project. Following the public hearing, approve the ordinance authorizing the project to proceed and appropriating the necessary funds for the project.

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:					
City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply		Program Impact		Mandates	
City's current net FY cost	\$20,000.00	New Program/ Agency?	No	Federal or State mandated?	No
Amount of funds already appropriated		Duplicates/Epands an existing program?	No	Vision Implementation impact	
Amount of budget amendment needed	\$20,000.00	Fiscal Impact on any local political subdivision?	No	Enter all that apply: Refer to Web site	
Estimated 2 year net costs:		Resources Required		Vision Impact?	Yes
One Time	\$20,000.00	Requires add'l FTE Personnel?	No	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	12.1
Operating/ Ongoing	\$0.00	Requires add'l facilities?	No	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	12.2
		Requires add'l capital equipment?	No	Fiscal year implementation Task #	40

Attachment A

Stephens Lake Park





CHILDREN'S GROVE
STEPHENS LAKE PARK
2001 EAST BROADWAY

DATE: 10/21/13
1.0



Attachment B

PROPOSED PLAN LAYOUT