A RESOLUTION

declaring the necessity for construction of the Douglass Park – Phase I improvement project to include construction of an outdoor amphitheater and small shelter, parking improvements, the installation of new signage, construction of walkways, and additional landscaping, storm water and forestry improvements; 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 Douglass Park – Phase I improvement project necessary to the welfare and improvement of the City. Specific improvements include construction of an outdoor amphitheater and small shelter, parking improvements, the installation of new signage, construction of walkways, and additional landscaping, storm water and forestry improvements.

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 improvement.

SECTION 3. The estimated cost of this improvement is $100,000.00.

SECTION 4. Payment for this improvement shall be made from park sales tax 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 December 2, 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
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
The Parks & Recreation Department is requesting Council approval to proceed with improvements to Douglass Park and approve a new comprehensive park plan for the property. As shown in the FY-2014 CIP, park staff is proposing multiple improvements including an outdoor amphitheater, parking improvements, an additional small shelter and new walkways within the park. The proposed changes to the park focus on the creation of more green space, a new park entrance, and increasing recreation opportunities. The phase I improvements will prepare the site for future renovations to complete the comprehensive plan. Park staff has held multiple park planning meetings with the community and feels that the comprehensive plan and phase I improvements represent a consensus of park users and staff. The project budget is $100,000 and is funded through the 2010 Park Sales Tax ballot. The project will be bid through the City's Purchasing Department and will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Work is scheduled to begin this winter with an anticipated completion date of fall 2014.

DISCUSSION:
The 6.8 acre Douglass Park is located at 400 North Providence Road and provides citizens with a variety of amenities including the Douglass Family Aquatic Center, a medium-sized shelter, playground, baseball field and basketball courts. The park also serves the community through multiple recreation and program opportunities including the P&R Easter Egg Hunt, Kite-Flying Day, Black and White Ball, sports leagues and outdoor music events. The initial construction of the park began in the 1960’s with multiple capital improvements occurring within the park property over the decades. As identified in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan - 2002 Facility Needs Update, the Parks and Recreation Department, over the past seven years, have acquired 3 adjacent lots on 5th Street, that will provide citizens with additional park space. With this additional park land, the need for park improvements and the development of a new comprehensive plan is necessary to incorporate and utilize this space within the park.

In the spring of 2012, park staff began the process of discussing park improvements with citizens of the community and other City Departments. After hosting multiple informational meetings concerning park improvements, safety, and usage of the park, park staff held the first park comprehensive planning meeting on August 23, 2012 at the Armory. Attendees at the meeting were provided with a variety of park amenities and were tasked with developing a new concept for the overall park layout of Douglass Park. The results of that meeting were six different park plans with a variety of concepts and design characteristics. Throughout the course of the next eight months, park staff discussed the different options for the park and were able to narrow down the six concept plans into two proposed comprehensive plans. An Interested Parties Meeting to discuss the two plans and ask for citizen feedback was held on October 24, 2013. Park staff spoke with over 35 individuals and collected 30 comment forms. Staff also posted the proposed improvement plans on the city website and solicited comments via a web-based survey in order to allow citizens unable to attend the meeting the opportunity to comment on the proposed improvements. The survey was available from 10/25/13 to 11/6/13 and collected 9 additional comment forms which were added to the Douglass Park Improvements page of the City of Columbia website. These comments may be found at:


Park staff also introduced the Douglass Park comprehensive plan and phase I options to the Parks & Recreation Commission at their October 17th, 2013 meeting. After discussion, the P&R Commissioners voted to recommend the adoption of Plan A and related phase I improvements with the recommendation that funding for the remaining improvements may be included in the next Park Sales Tax ballot issue.
After collecting all public comments, 29 out of 43 respondents favored comprehensive Plan A and phase I improvements with 4 citizens favoring comprehensive Plan B. Ten citizens did not vote on a plan as they just wanted to see a specific amenity in the park and didn’t care which plan got approved. After considering all citizen comments and the P&R Commission recommendation, staff believes that Comprehensive Plan A and Phase I improvements represent a consensus of park users and staff.

The Phase I Improvement Plan (Attachment 1) for Douglass Park includes the following renovations:

1. The construction of an outdoor amphitheater, located on the east side of the park, which will be comprised of a circular concrete stage and a mixture of concrete, stone and grass seating for small concerts and speeches.
   2. A small non-reservable 15' X 15' shelter will be constructed near the amphitheater, which will have three to four picnic tables and a small BBQ grill for park users.
   3. The construction of 23 new pull-in style parking spaces located on the west side of 5th Street and the removal of the existing parking lot located off Rogers St. Seventy-five percent of the parking spaces will be constructed out of porous pavers to assist with stormwater controls. The portion of the spaces adjoining 5th Street will be constructed out of asphalt to avoid snow removal issues. The movement of the parking spaces will result in the addition of approximately 8,900 square feet of green space after the removal of the existing parking lot. The additional green space, located near the center of the park, will serve as an open playfield for activities, sports and recreation programs. The existing parking lot also has a direct storm water pipe that drains into the underground headwaters of Flat Branch Creek. Relocating the parking lot will allow the department to properly manage the storm water which will improve the Flat Branch Creek TMDL rating.
   4. A new Douglass Park sign will be installed at the corner of 5th Street and Rogers Street. The new park sign area will include landscaping and serve as one of the two main entrances to Douglass Park.
   5. The installation of a new primary 10' concrete walkway that will run from the east side of the park to the Douglass Family Aquatic Center and additional secondary 6’ walkways throughout the park.
   6. A new bicycle rack will be installed next to the Douglass Family Aquatic Center to serve park and aquatic facility patrons.
   7. Park staff will also complete additional landscaping, stormwater and forestry improvements to the park including the addition of 20 new trees within the park. The addition of the new trees will mitigate the removal of five to eight trees located on the 5th Street properties. The trees to be removed have a DBH of 6’ to 18’ and require removal so that proper grading can be completed on the east side of Douglass Park.
   8. Park staff will make the necessary improvements to the park to address all areas and amenities that are not in current ADA compliance.

The Douglass Park Comprehensive Plan (Attachment 2) includes additional amenities that will be phased in over time as funding becomes available through future ballot issues, grant opportunities or other funding sources. The following park features are currently unfunded and recommended for future additions to Douglass Park:

1. A new ADA universally accessible playground and tot area to replace the current playground structures at the park.
   2. The addition of a new regulation handball court located on the north side of the park.
   3. An 8,500-square-foot skate spot, located in the southeast corner of the park, that will serve as Columbia’s second skateboarding facility. Smaller than a standard skate park, a skate spot incorporates skating features and landscaping into the design to create a functional skate park with aesthetic value to the community.
   4. The construction of a new medium-sized reservable shelter next to the existing restrooms and the addition of a 15' X 15' shelter at the park to serve patrons using the playground. The existing shelter will be removed upon completion of the new medium sized shelter and restored to green space.
   5. Renovation of the current aquatic facility staff parking lot including the addition of 5 new parking spaces.
   6. The addition of a canvas shade canopy that will cover the outdoor amphitheater area to protect park patrons during inclement weather.

Park staff omitted two amenities requested by citizens during the interested parties meetings. A multi-purpose building was proposed on the southeast corner of the property, but due to the size of the building and the estimated number of parking spaces needed for the facility, park planners felt that it would not be appropriate for this location. Park staff believes that a multi-purpose building would be better suited adjacent to the Armory Sports and Recreation Center, located at 701 East Ash Street. The other amenity that was not included was the addition of a fenced dog park. Staff believes that there is not enough space
for a dog park without the reduction of several other more desirable amenities. For example, Garth Dog Park is approximately 3 acres and the entire Douglass Park property is 6.8 acres. If a dog park space was created, it would be very small and probably not be the desired amenity users want.

The proposed phase I renovations to Douglass Park are included in the City’s FY-14 capital improvement program with construction scheduled to begin in the winter of 2014. Different aspects of the renovations will be initiated throughout the upcoming winter and spring with an anticipated completion date of fall 2014.

The work will be bid through the City’s Purchasing Department and will be completed using a combination of contract and force account labor. Contract labor will be used for site grading and parking improvements. Park staff will construct the small shelter, outdoor amphitheater and the other facets of the project. Work is expected to begin this winter, as weather allows, with a goal of completion during the fall of 2014.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**
The total project budget is $100,000 and is funded through the 2010 Parks Sales Tax. Park staff anticipates minimal additional maintenance costs with the landscaping bed maintenance and small shelter as Park staff already maintains the park and amenities.

**VISION IMPACT:**
http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionsupport.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 resolution setting a public hearing for the proposed project. Following the public hearing, approve the ordinance authorizing the project to proceed.
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<th><strong>Program Impact</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mandates</strong></th>
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