

Recreation & Parks Commission Commission Report

August 11, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.

Jerry Hammond Building, 1111 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205

I. Consent Agenda Items

No legislation

II. Administration Agenda Items

No legislation

III. Arts, Rentals and Events Agenda Items

1. Film Code Chapter 924 (2206-2026)

Project History/Background: The City of Columbus is a film-friendly location. The City desires to make it easier to film in Columbus as it brings employment opportunities, tourism, hotel occupancy, and general economic development to the community.

The Department of Recreation and Parks have implemented an online City permit process. The new application platform allows for greater accessibility to City department representatives and the permitting requirements for commercial and non-commercial filming/photography. The Department of Recreation and Parks seek to adopt code to formalize current processes as they have been done in other major cities.

The Department of Recreation and Parks seek to adopt a new Chapter 924- Film Permits to allow administration of film specific permits by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Chapter 924 Film Permits

924.01 Definitions

For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(A) “Appeal Team” means: the interdepartmental team comprised of representatives of City departments that participate in review and approval of film permit applications.

(B) “City Property” means: real property owned or leased by the City and/or which is legally under City control.

- (C) “Commercial Activity” means: the ordinary activities of trade and commerce where the profit motive is the primary purpose. Commercial Activity does not include sales of materials which are intended to convey information and ideas, or which espouse causes or beliefs protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, whether in the form of books, pamphlets, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts or the like.
- (D) “Department” means: the Department of Recreation and Parks
- (E). “Director” means: the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, or their designee.
- (F). “Film Permit” is an official authorization required to film on city-owned property, public streets, or sidewalks. It ensures that production crews—both independent and commercial—abide by public safety, traffic, and noise regulations while minimizing disruption to local businesses and residents
- (G). “Filming Activity” means: the staging, shooting, filming, videotaping, photographing, or other similar process conducted for the making of still photographs, motion pictures, television or video series, pilots, feature films, documentaries, commercials, music videos, infomercials and public service announcements, whether the final product is intended for commercial use or not.
- (H) “Journalist” means a person engaged in, connected with, or employed by, any news media, including a newspaper, magazine, press association, news agency, or wire service, a radio or television station, or a similar media, for the purpose of gathering, processing, transmitting, compiling, editing, or disseminating news for the general public.
- (I). “News Coverage” means: Filming Activity done for the purposes of reporting by journalists on persons, events, or scenes for newspapers, television news, and other news media.
- (J). “Person” means: any natural person or any legal entity defined as a person in Section 1.59 of the Revised Code and any body politic, except the United States and this state, and includes any agent, trustee, executor, receiver, assignee, or other representative thereof.
- (K). “Photography” means: the process of crafting a visual story including, but not limited to, photo shoots
- (L). “Right -of -Way” means: as defined in Columbus City Codes, Section 900.06(b), a general term denoting land, property or the interest therein, usually in the configuration of a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes. When used in this context, right of way includes the roadway, shoulders or berm, ditch and slopes extending to the right-of-way limits under the control of the state or local authority
- (M). “Special Weapons Props” means any replica of a weapon, a real weapon, or a real weapon that has been modified to be non- functional, including, but not limited to, firearms, knives, swords, tasers or explosive devices.
- (N). “Filming Street Closure” means: the closing of one (1) or more lanes of a public street between one (1) or more intersections for the purpose of a filming activity.

924.02 Authority

- (A). The Director shall have the authority to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including application requirements and provisions for interdepartmental review.
- (B). Every law enforcement officer may enforce the provisions of this chapter as well as rules adopted by the Director pursuant to this chapter.

924.03 Film Permit requirements

- (A). No person shall conduct Filming Activity within or above City Property or on a public Right-of-Way without first applying for and obtaining a Film Permit from the Department.
- (B). No person shall bring about a Street Closure or other closure of public Right-of Way, for the purpose of filming without first closing the public property by the use of barricades meeting the standards set forth by the Director of the Department of Public Service, or their designee.
- (C). No permit shall be issued by the Department for filming requiring a Street Closure, or other closure of public Right-of Way, without first obtaining the documented approval of the Department of Public Safety, and the Columbus Department of Public Service.
- (D). No Film Permit shall be issued for more than five (5) consecutive days without prior written permission from the Director, or their designee.
- (E). No Film Permit shall be issued allowing for conduct between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 6:00a.m. without prior written permission from the Director, or their designee.
- (F). In addition, to the requirements of this Chapter, Filming Activity taking place in city parks and on waters of the city must adhere to the laws set forth in City Code Chapters 919, 921, 923, 1117 and 2323.54, as applicable.
- (H). No person shall utilize a drone or other remotely piloted aircraft for the purposes of filming unless in compliance with FAA requirements.
- (I). No person shall utilize pyrotechnics, special effects or open flame without first consulting with and receiving permission from the Columbus Division of Fire and the Columbus Division of Police.
- (J). No Person shall include gunfire, or other Special Weapons Props without first obtaining permission from the Columbus Division of Police.

Exemptions:

- (A). No Film Permit is required for News Coverage when the Filming Activity involves reporting by journalists for the purpose of a live news program, provided it is done in

compliance with Section 924.04.

924.04 Standards for issuance of a Film Permit

The Director may issue a Film Permit when, from the consideration of the application and from other information as may otherwise be obtained, it appears that:

- (A). The conduct of the Film Permit will not substantially interrupt the safe and orderly movement of other pedestrian or vehicular traffic in or contiguous to the location of the filming.
- (B). The concentration of persons, animals, equipment, and/or vehicles during filming will not interfere unduly with proper fire and police protection of, or ambulance service to, areas contiguous to the assembly area or other areas of the City.
- (C). The conduct of the filming will not result in noise at a level inappropriate to the area surrounding the area.
- (D). The applicant has secured the police officers and fire personnel required under Section 924.06 and prepaid the expense therefor.
- (E). The filming will not interfere with previously scheduled activities or events, or with scheduled maintenance or repair work on the streets or thoroughfares requested to be used or closed.
- (F). The applicant has met the requirements of all relevant applications and paid the required fees.
- (G). The applicant has executed the indemnity agreement required under Section 924.05

924.05 Indemnification and hold harmless agreement

The applicant for a Film Permit shall agree in writing to indemnify and hold the City of Columbus, its officers, directors, employees, agents, boards, and commissions, harmless from liability and defend it against claims of injury or damage to persons or property arising from the issuance of the Film Permit and from the intentional, reckless, or negligent acts or conduct of the applicant or participants.

924.06 Division of fire and division of police personnel

In reviewing the application for a Film Permit, the Director of the Department of Public Safety shall determine if personnel from the Division of Fire and/or the Division of Police are necessary for the safe conduct and operation of the filming. In making the determination, the Director of the department of Public Safety shall consider the time, date, location(s), duration, complexity of the production, the likelihood of fires or explosions from planned use of pyrotechnics, flame

effects and special effects during the filming; the need for emergency and medical services; the anticipated number in attendance at the area by both participants and observers; and the ability of the Division of Fire and Division of Police to respond to a call for service from a location outside of the production footprint.

If the Director of the Department of Public safety determines that Division of Fire and/or Division of Police personnel are necessary for the safe conduct and operation of filming, then the applicant for the Film Permit shall be informed of the necessary number of Division of Fire and Division of Police personnel and the cost to secure same. The Director of the Department of Public Safety's decision regarding the necessary number of Division of Fire and/or Division of Police personnel required for filming shall be final.

924.07 Clean-up costs and city services

The applicant shall provide for the collection and removal of all trash, garbage, and litter caused by or arising out of the issuance of a Film Permit. A service fee may be assessed for any clean-up costs incurred by the city as a result of the Film Permit.

924.08 Notice of disapproval of application for a permit

If the Director disapproves of an application, the Director shall make a reasonable effort to notify the applicant of the reason for disapproval by phone, email, or regular mail, within twenty-four (24) hours of the disapproval.

924.09 Appeal of permit disapproval

- (A). If a Film Permit application is disapproved, the applicant may appeal to the Appeal Team.
- (B). The applicant must provide written notification that it intends to appeal disapproval to the Director no later than (7) business days after the applicant is notified that the application was disapproved.
- (C). The Appeal Team shall act on the appeal within (7) business days and may uphold, modify, or reverse the denial.
- (D). In considering the appeal, the Appeal Team shall apply the criteria provided for in Sections 924.03 and 924.04.

924.10 Severability

The provisions of this chapter shall be deemed severable; and, if any such provision shall be held unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not impair any of the remaining provisions.

924.99 Violations-Penalties

- (A). Whoever recklessly violates Section 924.03 (A) is guilty of conducting Filming Activity without a permit, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (B). Whoever recklessly violates Section 924.03 (B) is guilty of conducting Filming Activity without proper barricades, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (C). Whoever knowingly violates any term or condition stated in the Film Permit issued to that person is guilty of a _____ degree misdemeanor.
- (D). Organizational criminal liability as provided for in Section 2301.23 applies.

2. Ohio Arts Council Arts Partnership Grant 2026 (2215-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance will enable the Director of Recreation and Parks to accept an Arts Partnership grant in the amount of \$14,372.00 from the Ohio Arts Council for funding to support Arts programming for older adults at the Fran Ryan Center. Activities will include 1) selection of skilled and experienced teaching artists; 2) hands-on visual arts, music, dance, and theatre classes; 3) a creativity-oriented computer literacy program; 4) wellness programs; and 5) program evaluation.

Principal Parties:

Ohio Arts Council
30 East Broad Street, 33rd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Donna S. Collins – 614-728-4445

Emergency Justification: Emergency action is requested as this grant will support fall programming at the Fran Ryan Center.

Community input/issues: The grant will allow CRPD to continue its long-standing commitment to arts education and enrichment at its community centers.

Benefits to the Public: The grant will allow more opportunities for involvement and artistic involvement from the City's older adult community.

Area(s) Affected: Near East and surrounding areas.

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by encouraging arts involvement and enriching community members through artistic expression, involvement and appreciation.

3. Ohio Arts Council Sustainability Grant 2026 (2216-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance will enable the Director of Recreation and Parks to accept a Sustainability grant in the amount of \$30,848.00 from the Ohio Arts Council for funding to support general operations at the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center.

Principal Parties:

Ohio Arts Council
30 East Broad Street, 33rd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Donna S. Collins – 614-728-4445

Emergency Justification: Emergency action is requested as this grant will support fall programming at the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center.

Community input/issues: The grant will allow CRPD to continue its long-standing commitment to arts education and enrichment at its community centers.

Benefits to the Public: The grant will allow more opportunities for artistic involvement from members of the community around the city.

Area(s) Affected: Downtown Columbus and surrounding areas.

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by encouraging arts involvement and enriching community members through artistic expression, involvement and appreciation.

IV. Capital Agenda Items

1. Marion Franklin Exterior Improvements - Construction (2197-2026)

Property History/Background: Marion Franklin community center is located at 2801 Lockbourne Rd., Columbus, OH 43207. The center is located in the far south community.

Marion Franklin Community Centers building envelope is deteriorating causing water infiltration and damage to the building. This construction contract will not only improve the aesthetics of the building but will restore the envelope to improve longevity of life. The exterior improvements are to include; new storefront windows, power washing, tuck-pointing, painting and sealing the exterior, replacing and re-caulking vertical windows on the roof, resurfacing and seal the parking lot. As well as updating the security camera system at both Marion Franklin Community Center and the Marion Franklin Pool

Along with the improvements at Marion Franklin, this Project will be upgrading the glass block at Lazelle Woods Community Center to new storefront windows. These older style glass blocks

are an almost impossible to maintain, in the event of one breaking there is no way to replace the single pane and the entire wall would need to be replaced.

Principal Parties:

Berglund Construction Company
8410 S South Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60617
John McHugh 773-374-1000

Contract Compliance Number: 007180, Contract Compliance Expiration Date: 7/15/27

Emergency Justification: Emergency action is being requested to substantially complete this project (exterior coating and sealing) within the 2026 construction season prior to the arrival of cold weather.

Area(s) Affected: Far South (64), Far North (32)

Benefits to the Public: The project will continue the department's long range plan to maintain and improve departmental facilities for continued use and enjoyment by the public for many years.

Community Input/Issues: The community has expressed the desire for well-kept facilities and amenities through public workshops, social media, and direct contact with City staff.

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the mission of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by updating and renovating existing park facilities.

2. Marion Franklin Pool – Construction Management and Inspection Services Modification (2198-2026)

Property History/Background: This ordinance authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to modify the existing contract with CTL Engineering for the Marion Franklin Pool Replacement project. The total amount being authorized by this ordinance is \$200,000.00. CTL Engineering, Inc. is required to extend the duration of their services through December of 2026. The extension of the project's duration is the result of two situations. The first is due to additional requirements for our Programming and Operations team not realized during the original design. The second is that Marker Construction too has also caused delay in executing their work. Part of this fee (approximately 52%) is considered a damage and we are taking steps to recover Marker's portion by project's end.

Amount of Additional Funds: \$200,000.00

Fees:

Original Contract Amount:	\$ 321,124.00	Original Contract: 1938-2025
Original Contract Contingency:	\$ 125,000.00	Modification #1:
<i>Previously Approved Modification:</i>		Modification #2:
Modification #1:	\$ 446,124.00	

Modification #2:	\$
Modification #3:	\$
Modification #4:	\$
Previous Contract Total:	\$12,278,876.00
New Modification Inspection Fees & Prevailing Wage:	\$
New Modification Amount:	\$185,568.33
New Contingency Amount:	\$ 14,431.67
Total Being Requested for this Legislation:	\$ 200,000.00

Principal Parties:

CTL Engineering
7400 W. Campus Rd, STE 250
New Albany, OH 43054
Brent Robbins, 614-738-8641
Contract Compliance #004209, Contract Compliance Expiration Date: 04/21/28

Why Additional Services Were Not Foreseen: The delays imposed by the regulatory requirements of the Ohio Department of Health were also unforeseen at the time of the original legislative request. It was also not known at the time of the original contract that our builder too was going to suffer delays in their ability to execute their work.

Why It Is Not In The Best Interest For The City To Award Additional Services Through Another Procurement Process: Services are already being provided by CTL, Inc. Another procurement would delay and add costs to a project which is already established and in progress.

How The Price For The Additional Services Was Determined: Existing rates already established in CTL's contract were multiplied by the anticipated hours required to complete this project.

Area(s) Affected: Far South (64)

Benefits to the Public: Renovating the pool will improve swimming amenities and accessibility for the surrounding community.

Community Input/Issues: As part of the Recreation and Parks Department's Aquatics Capital Improvement Plan, residents in the service areas of these swimming pools will be engaged through their neighborhood associations and commissions.

Master Plan Relation: This project supports the department's Master Plan by continuing to improve existing aquatics facilities.

3. Marion Franklin Pool Replacement – CMR Modification 2 (2200-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance authorizes the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to modify the existing contract with Marker Construction for the Marion Franklin Pool Replacement project. The total amount being authorized by this ordinance is \$1,009,727.00.

Design modifications were implemented after the start of construction for the efficient operation and safe winterization of the two pool structures. The original pool system was designed without draining to dry conditions in summer or winter use. Operational constraints required full draining of the pool system during summer use. Safety constraints required the pool system to empty throughout the winter without oversight. The pool system was redesigned to capture these operation and safety requirements while in construction. These changes resulted in additional costs and time.

The anticipated start of construction was also delayed from October 13th to January 13th due to the withholding of the Ohio Department of Health Pool permit by that authority. Multiple rounds of revisions and clarifications were presented to the Ohio Department of Health to produce an approved design. These delays resulted in additional charges from the contractor.

Principal Parties:

Marker Construction
2011 Riverside Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43201
Gary Schmitt, 614.754.8349

Contract Compliance Number: 006989, Contract Compliance Expiration Date: 9/27/26

Fees:

Original Contract Amount:	\$ 3,000,000.00	Original Contract: 0672-2025
Original Contract Contingency:	\$	Modification #1: 1935-2025
<i>Previously Approved Modification:</i>		Modification #2:
Modification #1:	\$ 9,278,876.00	
Modification #2:	\$	
Modification #3:	\$	
<u>Modification #4:</u>	<u>\$</u>	
Contract Total:	\$12,278,876.00	

New Modification Inspection Fees & Prevailing Wage:	\$ 3,000.00
New Modification Amount:	\$743,711.00
New Contingency Amount:	\$263,016.00
Total Being Requested for this Legislation:	\$1,009,727.00

Emergency Justification: Emergency action is requested to maintain services that are currently ongoing at Marion Franklin Pool.

Amount of Additional Funds: \$1,009,727.00

Why Additional Services Were Not Foreseen: This modifications to accommodate our Operation and Aquatic Teams were not realized until after the design was complete and construction had started. Furthermore, the delays imposed by the regulatory requirements of the Ohio Department of Health were also unforeseen at the time of the original legislative request.

Why Is It Not In The Best Interest For The City To Award Additional Services Through Another Procurement Process: Modifying the CMR contract will ensure the best outcome for the City since the project is currently in construction. Lead time for an additional procurement would result in time lost that would impact opening the pool in for the 2027 swim season with an extensive cost increase.

How The Price For Additional Services Was Determined: The price for additional services are determined by the vendor providing costs which are reviewed by our Professional Service vendors and historical pricing on similar work.

Area(s) Affected: Far South (64)

Benefits to the Public: This project will benefit the public by improving two important recreational facilities that have served their respective communities for over 50 years. Improvements to our parks and facilities provide significant benefits to the quality of life in the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Community Input/Issues: As part of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Aquatic Capital Improvement Plan, residents in the service areas of these swimming pools will be engaged through their Associations and Commissions.

Master Plan Relation: This project supports the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's Master Plan by improving existing aquatics facilities and helping to ensure that facilities remain safe and user friendly.

4. Greenways Improvements 2025-2026 – Construction (2199-2026)

Project History/Background: Recreation and Parks has built and owns approximately 130+ miles of greenway trail. This project is the second iteration of the Department's greenway hard surface program which uses pavement condition data collected for major trails in 2023 along with 311 requests and staff reports to prioritize safety and stabilization improvements. This project will utilize ODOT TAP grant funding in addition to local match.

This project will improve 4 sections of the Olentangy Trail and 1 section of the Scioto Trail: Antrim Park to Confluence Park. In addition to the Maintenance of Traffic requirements of the

contractor, Recreation and Parks will continue to coordinate internally and with Metro Parks to provide appropriate trail closure and routing information to residents.

With legislative approval and no unforeseen circumstances, this project will begin this September, reach interim completion at Antrim Park and Olentangy Wetland by October 30, 2026, and be completed by June 1, 2027.

Principal Parties:

CAP-STONE & Associates, Inc.
5715 Westbourne Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43213
Mary Sharrett
CC #004933, CC Exp. Date: 5/7/28

Fees:

Base Bid/Fee (Including Allowances):	\$ 451,880.19	Alternates 1, 2 and 3
Alternates Total:	\$ 266,960.05	Additive Alt. 1: Antrim Park
Contingency:	\$ 71,811.72	paving. (\$29,511.88)
Contract Total:	\$ 789,928.93	Additive Alt. 2: Sect. 4 – 3 rd
		Ave. to Goodale St (\$236,725.14)
Inspection Fees & Prevailing Wage:	\$ 12,500.00	
	\$802,42,380.14	

Emergency Justification: An emergency exists in that it is immediately necessary to enter into contract with CAP-STONE Inc so that work may begin to meet ODOT TAP grant deadlines, minimize impacts to trail users, and expeditiously provide safety improvements to reduce the risk of falls, crashes, and pavement deterioration along the Olentangy Trail and Scioto Trail.

Area(s) Affected: Citywide (99)

Benefits to the Public: This project will help minimize the risk of falls, crashes, or accidents by removing obstructions thereby improving the level of service provided to all residents by the trail pavement along these sections of the Olentangy Trail and Scioto Trail.

Community Input/Issues: This project used 311 submissions, staff reports, and department pavement condition data collected in 2023 to prioritize these sections of the Olentangy Trail and Scioto Trail.

Master Plan Relation: A. Nurture an Active and Healthy Community: A1.2, A1.3, A1.4, A1.8
F. Become Trailblazers in Operations: F6.4, F7.6

5. Playground Renovations 2025-2026 – Construction (2201-2026)

Project History/Background: The Playground Renovations program is a yearly construction project that focuses on replacing and improving parks that are beyond their service life in the City. The 2026 project is focused on providing safe and accessible play for children throughout the city and also provides healthy fitness opportunities for adults in one location (Tuttle Park). This construction includes the following five (5) parks with varying renovation sizes: Item 1: Dexter Falls Park, Item 2: Olde Sawmill Park, Item 3: Schiller Park, Item 4: Tuttle Park, and Dodge Park.

More specifically - Dexter Falls will be receiving a new 2-5 and 5-12 playground to replace the current one that is beyond its service life. Dodge Park will be receiving a small shade structure in collaboration with Sustainable Columbus in order to help reduce climate-related heat injury. Olde Sawmill's 2-5 playground was demolished due to age in 2023 and is in need of replacement. Schiller Park has equipment beyond its service life and is in need of replacement. Tuttle Park will be receiving a sensory garden alongside its new playground and adult fitness equipment to facilitate nature play.

This project is anticipated to issue a notice to proceed on or about September 2026 with total completion expected around June 2027.

Principal Parties:

2K General Company
19 Gruber St, Building B
Delaware, OH 43015
Clayton Morgan, 740.417.9195
CC# 005739, CC Exp. Date: 8/25/27

Area(s) Affected: Citywide (99)

Benefits to the Public: Safe and accessible playgrounds are one of the core priorities of the Recreation and Parks Department. The Department monitors the life span of play spaces routinely to make sure that safe, quality equipment is provided to the public.

Community Input/Issues: There have been community requests from residents as well as Area Commission meetings to discuss playground improvements to provide more up to date equipment that allow for increased accessibility and socialization.

Master Plan Relation: A1: Add and improve parks and facilities where most needed. A5: Support health and wellness by promoting active lifestyles... B4: Expand nature-based play. C4: Design for both comfort and safety.

6. McCoy Park, Greenleaf Park, and Berliner Park Improvements – Design Modification 3 (2204-2026)

Project History/Background: In June of 2023, Ordinance 1418-2023 authorized the Director to enter into contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates to provide architectural and engineering services for Gender Road Park and McCoy Park Improvements Project in the amount of \$413,402.82. The project involved master planning, conceptual design, park programming, and

public engagement. The contract had a planned first modification in June of 2024 (Ordinance 1031-2024) for an additional \$1,200,000 to complete the detailed design phase and construction documents of these two parks.

In April of 2026, a second modification (Ordinance 1047-2026) revised the scope of work to be completed using the remaining \$449,204.60 on the contract to provide master planning, conceptual design, park programming and public engagement related to McCoy Park, Greenleaf Park, and Berliner Park Adaptive Softball Field where community park amenities can be provided in Southwest Columbus. This legislation is a planned third modification to finish construction designs of these 3 parks in order to meet the expedited 2027 start of construction time frame set by the City and the Southwest community.

Principal Parties:

Kimley-Horn and Associates
7965 North High Street, Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Chris Hice, 380.215.0732

Contract Compliance Number: 024725, Contract Compliance Expiration Date:

Fees:

Original Contract Amount:	\$ 345,245.28	Original Contract:
Original Contract Contingency:	\$ 68,167.54	Modification #1:
<i>Previously Approved Modification:</i>		Modification #2:
Modification #1:	\$ 1,200,000.00	
Modification #2:	\$	
Modification #3:	\$ 941,941.53	
<u>Modification #4:</u>	<u>\$</u>	
Contract Total:	\$2,555,354.35	

New Modification Inspection Fees & Prevailing Wage:	\$
New Modification Amount:	\$941,941.53
New Contingency Amount:	\$
Total Being Requested for this Legislation:	\$941,941.53

Emergency Justification: The contract modification is immediately necessary in order to provide additional design services for the Department based on commitments from the working group established by Ordinance 1112-2026 Development Agreement for NWSL. The modification provides for the final design of McCoy Park, Greenleaf Park, and an adaptive softball field at Berliner Park.

Amount of Additional Funds: \$941,941.53

Why Additional Services Were Not Foreseen: At the time of the original contract and its first planned modification, McCoy Park was parkland within Columbus Recreation and Parks portfolio and was the site for one of two planned park improvements scoped within the contract.

It was not until the passing of Ordinance 1112-2026 which converted McCoy Park to the site of a new professional Women's Soccer training facility, that McCoy Park became unavailable for all of the planned improvements. It is now necessary to develop plans for Greenleaf Park, a reformatted community park for McCoy Park, and a new adaptive softball field for Berliner Park.

Why Is It Not In The Best Interest For The City To Award Additional Services Through Another Procurement Process: Ordinance 1112-2026, which state that the Director of Recreation and Parks shall form a working group within fifteen (15) days of acquisition (of an NWLS franchise) to develop plans to fulfill the expanded recreation and park opportunities and therapeutic recreation concepts originally envisioned for McCoy Park, in Southwest Columbus. And that the working group shall issue a public report of options or plans to Columbus City Council within sixty (60) days of formation, which shall outline subsequent ordinances and actions to allow for initial groundbreaking of some recreation and parks opportunities by the end of 2026 and completion of the full concept by the end of 2027.

If the department were to follow a traditional procurement schedule, the legislation could not be approved before the July Council recess, which would result in an immediate failure to meet the above timeframe. It is also impractical to select another professional service provider, as Kimley-Horn is already in the midst of the design development for many of the same amenities that will now be planned at alternative sites. This modification will allow design to progress without interruption.

How The Price For Additional Services Was Determined: The contract modification will use the established hourly rates in the existing contract.

Area(s) Affected: Southwest (59), Citywide (99)

Benefits to the Public: The park improvements will provide new therapeutic recreation amenities that have Citywide benefit and new park opportunities for residents in the Southwest Columbus Community, which currently is underserved by recreation and park amenities and which has some of the highest rates of poverty and lowest life expectancies in the City of Columbus.

Community Input/Issues: The Southwest Community and Therapeutic Recreation participants were heavily involved in master planning and design phases for the original plans at McCoy Park. They have been extensively involved with input on these three sites.

Master Plan Relation: The project meets the Playbook Columbus Vision Plan goal: Nurturing an Active & Healthy Community by expanding programs and places that foster wellness, addressing health vulnerabilities and disparities and developing space for adaptive and therapeutic recreation programs.

7. Big Walnut Trail – Airport to Whitehall – MORPC Grant Application (2205-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance is to authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to submit a grant application to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) for Transportation Alternative Program construction funding which will be used to build a section of the Big Walnut Trail, from the south edge of Gahanna to the Far East community of Columbus with a connector to Whitehall; and to declare an emergency.

The project will build 1.5 miles of significant trail infrastructure for the Big Walnut Trail, closing a critical gap in the 24 mile regional path between Gahanna and Whitehall. Over 3,000 Columbus residents live in neighborhoods served by this new trail section. Once completed, the path will connect residents to parks, community services, major commercial centers, jobs, and affordable housing. The project will overcome significant barriers to trail connectivity for the Far East community and the entire Central Ohio region, including John Glenn Airport, I-270, Airport Golf Course, and an active railroad. The project dovetails with 9 current MORPC and Linkus funded Big Walnut Trail projects completing over 13.5 miles of the trail.

This ordinance authorizes an application for grant funds only and is not a commitment to expend City funds. If funded, future legislation will follow to authorize acceptance, appropriation, and expenditure of City funds.

Principal Parties:

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 East Liberty Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
William A. Murdock, Executive Director

Emergency Justification: The legislation needs to be emergency in order to be submitted with the grant application package to MORPC by the September 25, 2026 deadline.

Area(s) Affected: Far East (58)

Benefits to the Public: Cycling, walking, running, and active trail uses provide highly recognized year-round benefits to urban lifestyles. Access to trails and to key destinations is one of the top rated priorities noted by Columbus residents.

Community Input/Issues: Public engagement about the Big Walnut Trail has been ongoing since 2020, including communication with area commissions, civic groups, and surrounding cities. The project will include a full public engagement outreach process.

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the mission of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan to provide quality recreational parks, trails, and easy, all-age connectivity for Columbus residents.

8. Clean Ohio Conservation Fund – Fiscal Year 2027 Grant Applications (2203-2026)

Project History/Background: To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to apply for grant funding to acquire two (2) properties for preservation of the City's

natural resources and future parkland; and to declare an emergency. The Ohio Public Works Commission's Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is accepting 2027 applications for funding to preserve natural areas and green spaces. The application requires a resolution of support from the Commission and City Council.

If awarded funding, a separate piece of legislation will be submitted at a later date to enter into a grant agreement, accept the grant funds, and allocate the local match funds.

Sites 1---Southern Meadows

Inland Products Site

The project would acquire approximately 51 acres in the Southwest community of the city. The site is a high quality landscape of meadow and woodlands. If successful with the grant and subsequent acquisition, the property would become a significant centrally located greenspace for the surrounding neighborhoods. Southwest community is one of the city's most underserved areas for protected natural areas and parkland.

Site 2---Hague Ravines

Vandervort Property

This project would acquire 5 acres of high-quality greenspace in the City's West Scioto community along Hague Avenue. The natural features of the site include a wooded ravine and stream, and preservation a key property along a tributary flowing from Raymond Golf Course to the Scioto River. The Hague Avenue corridor is one of the city's fastest developing neighborhoods, and this is one of the last remaining significant natural sites.

Principal Parties:

Ohio Public Works Commission
77 South High Street, Ste. 1846
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Abbey Dehart, 614-752-6829

Emergency Justification: An emergency is being requested as the legislation is required as part of the grant application, which is due August 28, 2026. These applications require a resolution of support from the Commission and City Council.

Area(S) Affected: Southwest (59), West Scioto (37)

Benefits to the Public: Protection of the City's high quality natural resources, inner city park space, greenway corridors, ravines, and urban forests. Protecting these sites proposed in the application relies heavily upon outside funding assistance to be acquired.

Community Input/Issues: The Southwest and West Scioto communities are being actively involved in the two projects, and have expressed strong support for preserving sites for greenspace, parkland, and conservation.

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the mission of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan to protect and expand tree canopy, provide quality recreational parks, trails, and easy, all-age connectivity for Columbus residents.

V. Community Centers Agenda Items

No legislation

VI. Operations and Maintenance Agenda

1. Tree Assistance Program – FSWCD 2026 Agreement (2206-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance authorizes the Director of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to support the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department’s Tree Assistance Program in the amount of \$62,200.00. The Columbus Tree Assistance Program (TAP) is an intergovernmental collaborative project between Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. TAP allows private landowners to apply for funds to plant trees on their private property.

Principal Parties:

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Governmental Organization, subdivision of the State of Ohio
1404 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43212
Jennifer Fish, Director 614-486-9613
Contract Compliance Number: 004386
Contract Compliance Expiration Date: March 5, 2027

Benefits to the Public: This project will increase the Urban Tree Canopy which reduces storm water runoff, reduces utility costs to nearby homes and businesses, and reduces air pollution. The plantings will add to the total overall canopy levels and help to reduce storm water runoff, heat-island effects and replace trees lost due varying causes of tree mortality.

Community Input/Issues: Columbus has an ambitious Urban Forestry Master Plan, with an overarching goal of reaching 40% tree canopy coverage across the city by 2050. A recent assessment found that only 22% of Columbus has tree canopy coverage. Though the City and our partners plant trees on public land, most land (and therefore the majority of the opportunity for increasing the tree canopy) in Columbus is privately owned. Through TAP, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department can provide needed funds to Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to cover the cost of trees, planting supplies, labor, and administrative costs to plant trees on private property. The program has demonstrated success since its pilot year in 2024, mobilizing neighbors, HOAs, civic associations, schools, and nonprofits to complete planting projects.

Area(s) Affected: Citywide (99)

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by planting trees intended to both replace and add to the City of Columbus' Urban Tree Canopy.

VII. Recreation Services Agenda Items

No legislation

VIII. Youth Development Agenda Items

No legislation