

Recreation & Parks Commission Commission Report

September 8, 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. Winter Lighting 2026 (2459-2026)

Project History/Background: The Department of Recreation and Parks supports the installation of temporary winter lighting each year to illuminate Bicentennial Park and the Promenade along the Scioto River. This tradition enhances the downtown public park space for residents and visitors to enjoy at a time when landscape features are dormant. Local businesses benefit from the increased foot traffic and the unique experience that the lighting provides.

Principal Parties:

Columbus Downtown Development Corporation (dba Downtown Columbus Inc.)
150 South Fourth Street, Suite 210
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Nick Stefanik. (614) 545-4700
Contract Compliance Number: 010217
Contract Compliance Expiration Date: Non Profit, Does not expire

Emergency Justification: N/A

Benefits to the Public: This annual tradition enhances the downtown public park space for residents and visitors to enjoy during the winter months. Local businesses benefit from the increased foot traffic generated by this annual tradition.

Community Input/Issues: Downtown Columbus Inc. has been a long-time partner in this annual tradition. Our shared interest in enhancing downtown public space will be further strengthened by maintaining this tradition.

Area(s) Affected: Bicentennial Park and Promenade

Master Plan Relation: Enhance public parks, develop relationships with local organizations, encourage economic growth.

Exhibit A – Bicentennial Park & Promenade



Exhibit B- Operational Timeline

1. Contractor mobilization to commence on 10/7/26
2. Installation begins 10/23/25
3. Installation complete by 11/2/26
4. Illumination 11/20/26- 2/14/27
5. Removal 2/15/27-2/28/

IV. Capital Agenda Items

1. Recreation and Parks CIP Equipment 2026-2027 (2460-2026)

Property History/Background: This ordinance authorizes the City Auditor to set up a certificate in the amount of \$790,750.00 for the purchase of equipment for the Recreation and Parks Department. These purchases will be made through the City of Columbus Purchasing Office. All bids will be obtained and contracts awarded in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Columbus City Code, Chapter 329. This ordinance will set up all of the funding required to enter into contracts with the vendors on an as-needed basis. Competitive bids will be solicited and opened by the Purchasing Office, obtained through any current universal term contract, or state term contract as authorized by ordinance number 582-87. The new equipment will replace aging equipment used by the Golf, Parks Maintenance, and Sports Sections of the Recreation and Parks Department.

The list below outlines the equipment expected to be purchased as soon as possible as a result of this ordinance:

Golf:

Fairway Mowers (Quantity - 2) – Estimated expenditure \$132,000.00

Greens Mower (Quantity - 1) – Estimated Expenditure \$49,000.00

Tractor (Quantity - 1) – Estimated expenditure \$46,000.00

Rough Mower (Quantity - 1) – Estimated expenditure \$57,000.00

Greens Roller (Quantity - 1) – Estimated Expenditure \$28,500.00

Golf Estimated Total: \$312,500.00

Parks Maintenance:

Zero-Turn mowers (Quantity - 15) – Estimated expenditure \$245,250.00

Parks Estimated Total: \$245,250.00

Sports:

ABI Field Grooming Machine (Quantity - 1) – Estimated Expenditure \$48,000.00

Jacobsen H600 Rotary Mower (Quantity - 1) – Estimated Expenditure \$105,000.00

Toro 144 Mower (Quantity - 1) – Estimated Expenditure \$80,000.00

Sports Estimated Total: \$233,000.00

Emergency Justification: Emergency action is being requested so aged equipment at the end of useful life can be replaced at the earliest possible time, avoiding situations where needed equipment is unavailable for staff to properly care for parks, golf courses, and sports fields.

Benefits to the Public: Parkland, golf courses, and sports fields maintained by the city enhance the quality of life of our citizens. This equipment will allow for the continued maintenance and upkeep of these amenities.

Community Input Issues: The community has expressed a desire for accessible and well-maintained parkland, golf courses, and sports fields.

Area(s) Affected: Citywide (99)

Master Plan Relation: This certificate and resulting purchases support the Recreation and Parks Department's Master Plan by helping to ensure that parkland, golf courses, and sports fields remain accessible, safe, user friendly, and well maintained.

2. Storm Damage – August 2026 – Mayor's Emergency Letter – Funding Correction (2461-2026)

Property History/Background: This ordinance authorizes the various fiscal actions needed as a result of various emergency expenditures for labor, materials, and equipment which are directly related to the remediation of storm damage at Barack Community Center, Busch Park, Berliner Park, and the Fran Ryan Center. Per the attached Mayor's Emergency Letter and accompanying commitment to draft this ordinance, there is a need to appropriate, transfer, and amend the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) as a result of this emergency.

In order to expedite the efforts needed to get all of these locations back up and running as soon as possible, a total of \$2,500,000.00 was immediately needed to meet the obligations for various expenditures for labor, materials, and equipment which are directly related to the remediation of storm damage at Barack Community Center, Busch Park, Berliner Park, and the Fran Ryan Center. This amount was not appropriated and/or in a suitable project for the expenditures, at the time it was needed, so the Recreation and Parks Department committed to submitting this ordinance which is intended to authorize the appropriation and transfer these funds as soon as possible. A CIB Amendment is also necessary. In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Columbus City Codes, Title Three, Chapter 329, Section 329.15, a Mayor's Letter of Emergency was executed, authorizing the City Auditor, on behalf of the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department, to set up certificate ACPO013806, in the amount of \$2,500,000.00, for the remediation of storm damage at Barack Community Center, Busch Park, Berliner Park, and the Fran Ryan Center.

Barack Community Center, located within Lincoln Park in the South Side Community of Columbus, experienced major damage as a result of the storms. There is extensive roof and HVAC damage at this facility. There is also significant damage as a result of water infiltration. While the long term plans to rebuild the damaged portions of Barack Community Center are put together, it was crucial for the Recreation and Parks Department to immediately work with a builder contractor to mitigate all water in the facility and accomplish other critical remediation related tasks that will lead to the eventual restoration of the facility. There is also a need to work with design professionals to help assess the overall damage to the building, finalize a scope of work for the builder's restoration of the center, and begin efforts to procure permits from Building and Zoning Services. Schooley Caldwell Associates, Inc. has been identified from

Recreation and Parks' prequalified list of vendors, as authorized by 2486-2024 and 1951-2025, to perform this assessment due to their extensive experience working on older buildings that have needed emergency renovations. This contract, with Schooley Caldwell Associates, Inc., is to be completed using the existing funding, certificate ACPO012342, authorized by 1951-2025.

The Recreation and Parks Department has worked with three builders on the initial assessment of the storm damage and asked each for a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) proposal. A ROM is an early, high-level estimate used to approximate a project's cost, timeline, and resources needed before detailed planning begins. Elford, Inc., Smoot Construction Company of Ohio, and 2K General Co. have all submitted ROM proposals. The Recreation and Parks Department is recommending entering into contract with 2K General Co. to stabilize and restore Barack Community Center. The most significant reason that the Recreation and Parks Department is recommending entering into contract with 2K General Co. for this project is due to the fact that they have proposed JB Roofing LLC as a sub-contractor. JB Roofing LLC is a vendor who has always performed well on Recreation and Parks' roofing projects and they are also the vendor who's staff renovated this roof in 2006, demonstrating direct experience with this type of roof. 2K General Co. has provided a rough order of magnitude (ROM) that estimates it will cost approximately 5 million dollars to restore the facility.

In order to perform emergency mitigation and remediation at Barack Community Center immediately, it was necessary to authorize the associated expenditures so that work can be completed as soon as possible. Barack Community Center is used for community programming, including after school programs and food programs. The center is also used as a cooling and warming center. The emergency response and services authorized will help keep the impact to customers, events, and programming to a minimum as the Recreation and Parks Department looks to restore the facility as soon as possible. For the immediate need to mitigate water in the facility, accomplish other critical remediation related tasks, and fully determine the extent of the damage at Barack Community Center, the Recreation and Parks Department has entered into contract with 2K General Co., in the amount of \$2,000,000.00. This will allow critical tasks to begin and have materials procured. The additional funds to complete the project will be requested in the future, once the full facility assessment is complete, the estimates are verified, and the plans approved.

Other Recreation and Parks locations that have experienced extensive damage include Busch Park's recently constructed pickleball complex, Berliner Sports Park, and the Fran Ryan Center. Lighting and the electrical panel at Busch Park has been destroyed and is in need of replacement so the complex can be reopened. At Berliner Sports Park, the storm events destroyed a large number of light poles and electrical infrastructure that will need to be replaced in order to resume programming at this highly used sport park. An exterior "hot box" at the Fran Ryan Center was also ripped to shreds by the storm. This structure is a small heated weatherproof building that houses the main water supply valves and backflow to the building. This structure was custom built and will need to be custom built again, resulting in a long lead time. The hot box needs heat prior to freezing temperatures, making this especially urgent. Early estimates for restoring these

items at these locations are roughly \$100,000.00 for Busch Park, \$400,000.00 for Berliner Park, and \$50,000.00 for the Fran Ryan Center. Other than the initial \$2,000,000.00 intended for the contract with 2K General Co. for the efforts at Barack Community Center, the emergency letter and this accompanying ordinance does not identify specific contractors or vendors for the expenditure purposes authorized herein and hereby delegates sole and final contracting decisions relative to the determination of lowest, best, most responsive and most responsible vendor(s) to the Director of Recreation and Parks so that these facilities can be reopened to the public as soon as possible.

Emergency Justification: Emergency action is being requested in order to have the various fiscal actions needed as a result of this emergency expenditure executed immediately in order to correct budget errors that exist as a result of the emergency expenditure.

Benefits to the Public: These emergency remediation services will benefit the community by helping to ensure that the impacted locations are safe and reopened to the public as soon as possible.

Community Input Issues: The community has expressed the desire for these locations to be restored as soon as possible through social media and direct contact with City staff.

Area(s) Affected: Citywide (99)

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by helping to ensure that facilities remain safe.

3. General Design, Engineering, Construction, and Planning Services AC 2026-2028 (2462-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance is to authorize the establishment of an ACPO in the amount of \$500,000 for the future award of contracts for professional services in conjunction with park, trail, and facility capital improvement projects managed by the Strategic Planning and Design and Construction sections of the Recreation and Parks Department. Contracts will be awarded to consultants that have been pre-qualified in accordance with Columbus City Code, Title 3, Section 329.27. Services that will be provided may include, but are not limited to:

- Site planning, Architectural Design, Landscape Architecture including Golf Course Design
- Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing/HVAC Engineering
- Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering and Services, and Structural Engineering
- Construction Management and Inspection, and Surveying

This ordinance will also waive the competitive bidding provisions of Columbus City Code Chapter 329, authorizing the Department of Recreation and Parks to enter into contracts on behalf of the City for the professional services mentioned herein so long as total expenditures

under any contract do not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00). Ordinance 2453-2018 authorized a similar arrangement of pre-qualified vendors for the period of 2018 to 2020, followed by ordinances 2050-2020, 2467-2022, and 2486-2024. Therefore, this ordinance will renew this pre-qualified arrangement for the period of 2026 to 2028.

Proposals were advertised through Vendor Services, in accordance with City Code Section 329, on June 9, 2026 and received by the Recreation and Parks Department on July 3, 2026. The City received 66 total responses.

In accordance with City Code, a selection team evaluated the proposals and recommends that the firms identified below (addendum page) be selected to perform the work. The firms were chosen based on their location, experience, qualifications, availability, understanding of department needs, and ability to control costs. Multiple contracts will be awarded to various companies that were deemed to be prequalified through the evaluation process.

Selected Firms:

Accenture Infrastructure & Capital Projects, LLC; Advanced Engineer Consultants; Ameresco, Inc.; Ascension Construction Services; Burgess & Niple, Inc; Carpenter Marty Transportation; CESO, Inc; Cha Consulting, Inc; Chagrin Valley Engineering; Civic Uplift; Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc; CTL Engineering, Inc; DesignLevel; Designing Local; DLZ; Dynotec, Inc; EDGE; E.L. Robinson Engineering; EMH&T; Fanning Howey; Fishbeck; G. Stephens, Inc; GAI Consultants, Inc; GPD Group; Jacobs Engineering; Karpinski Engineering; Kimley Horn and Associates; Korda-Nemeth Engineering, Inc; KPFF Consulting Engineers; KramerEngineers; Legat Architects, Inc; LSSE Civile Engineers and Surveyors, Inc; McKim & Creed, Inc; Meyers+Associates Architecture; Moody Engineering; MS Consultants, Inc; OHM Advisors; Osborn Engineering; Quality Control Inspection, Inc; Resource International, Inc; Ribway Engineering Group, Inc; Schooley Caldwell; Schorr Architects; Smoot Construction; Star Consultants, Inc; T&M Associates; Terracon Consultants, Inc; The Collaborative; The Ruhlin Company; Toole Design Group, LLC; Triad Architects; V3 Companies, Ltd; Woolpert, Inc; XYZ Professional Services, LTD

Principal Parties: Various

Emergency Justification: N/A

Area(s) Affected: Citywide (99)

Benefits to the Public: Having this funding in place for needs as they arise will benefit the community by helping to ensure that parks, trails, and facilities remain accessible, safe, updated, and user friendly.

Community Input/Issues: Community input has not been obtained on this legislation because it is being mainly used for staff augmentation needs and unanticipated and/or emergency needs. However, community input will be sought as appropriate for work that results from contracts awarded through this ACPO.

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the mission of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by helping to ensure that the parks, trails, and facilities remain accessible, safe, updated, and user friendly.

4. Willow Creek Park Improvements (2463-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance authorizes the Director of Columbus Recreation and Parks to enter into contract with Ironsite, Inc. for the Willow Creek Park Improvements Project. The contract includes the base bid of \$2,801,660.68 with a contingency of \$280,166, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$3,081,826.68. Internal Prevailing Wage fees make a total legislation amount not to exceed \$3,083,826.68.

This contract is for the construction of the Willow Creek Park Improvements Project, which renovates the existing community park by providing new playgrounds, sports courts, shelter and parking lot, as well as adds an additional park entrance at Gantz Road and expands the park's amenities into the currently undeveloped natural area. New offerings at the natural area will include a crushed limestone path with a lookout onto Big Run Creek, native plantings, and a nature play area.

Principal Parties:

Ironsite, Inc.
72 Holmes Street
Galena, Ohio 43021
Dan Stainer 740-965-4616
CC #005926

Emergency Justification: N/A

Area(s) Affected: Southwest (59)

Benefits to the Public: This project renovates and improves the existing Willow Creek Park, which is one of the primary community parks available to the Southwest Community. The

project opens up additional access to blueways and natural areas as well as improves active park amenities.

Community Input/Issues: Improvements to Willow Creek were first considered due to letters of interest received from the Southwest Area Commission. Through the master planning and design process, CRPD held three open houses and community meetings.

Master Plan Relation: This project supports the Department's Master Plan by renovating neighborhood and community parks. It provides an expansion of access to quality parks and natural areas for a community underserved by the park system.

5. Hoover Amenities Project – CWP Expenditure Correction (2201-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance authorizes an expenditure correction in the amount of \$270,113.97 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund 7702 to the Water Bond Fund 6006 to be applied towards the costs of the Hoover Amenities Project.

In 2024, the Recreation and Parks Department entered into contract with Smoot Construction Company of Ohio for the Hoover Amenities Project. The original contract, authorized by Ordinance 0722-2024, was in the amount of \$3,000,000.00. The Recreation and Parks Department delivered this project using a Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) format and a planned modification to allow progress to the next phase of the project was authorized by Ordinance 2388-2025, adding \$2,137,754.93 to the contract. The aggregate total amount authorized was \$5,137,754.93.

The Recreation and Parks Department applied for and was awarded a grant of \$1,500,000.00 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) that was intended for boat ramp removal and reconstruction as part of the Hoover Amenities Project. The Columbus Department of Water and Power (CWP) also confirmed a contribution of up to \$950,000.00 in funds for shoreline stabilization and parking lot improvements near the Walnut Street Boat Ramp. When the modification was legislated via 2388-2025, there was a need to capture using the grant funding from ODNR. Since the modification was only \$2,137,754.93, the full contribution from CWP could not be included at that time of the modification. As a result, CWP contributed \$637,754.93 of their commitment in the modification legislation. Also, the CWP commitment included \$42,131.10 in contingency funding and it was agreed upon that the Recreation and Parks Department would reconcile with CWP at the conclusion of the project. Now that the project has been completed and the CWP contingency was confirmed as not needed, the CWP share of the project was finalized at \$907,868.90. This means that the balance of the CWP commitment owed to the project is \$270,113.97. This ordinance is intended to authorize an expenditure correction that will allow the Recreation and Parks Department to recoup this \$270,113.97.

Principal Parties:

Smoot Construction Company of Ohio
1907 Leonard Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43219
Greg Palmer, (614) 253-9000
Contract Compliance Number: 004871
Contract Compliance Expiration Date: March 7, 2027

Benefits to the Public: Hoover Reservoir provides countless recreational opportunities to Columbus residents that include birding, hiking, boating, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and more. The amenities included in this project provide additional opportunities to experience the reservoir and also promote improved participant accessibility.

Community Input Issues: Multiple citizens reached out to the City of Columbus to express the desire for more accessibility for those utilizing the boat ramps and other amenities located at Hoover Reservoir.

Area(s) Affected: Citywide (99)

Master Plan Relation: This project supports the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by making needed upgrades to infrastructure.

V. Community Centers Agenda Items

No legislation

VI. Operations and Maintenance Agenda

1. CAC Elevator Repair (2490-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance authorizes the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into contract with Otis Elevator Company for elevator repair and modernization services. The amount being authorized by this ordinance is \$115,540.00 and a contingency of \$20,000, for a total of \$135,540.00. The elevator at the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center is currently inoperable. A vital component to the power systems of the elevator has broken down unexpectedly. The elevator is inoperable until the systems are repaired. Due to the age of the elevator, it is necessary to replace and modernize numerous components and systems to provide for safe operation. The estimated lead time to perform necessary services is up to 18 weeks.

Vendor Bid/Proposal Submissions: The City has solicited informal proposals via the vendor services portal for elevator repair services according to RFQ033583. The City received two written informal bid proposals from the following companies:

Otis Elevator Company \$115,540.00
Fujitec America, Inc. \$143,235.00

After reviewing the bids that were submitted, Otis Elevator Company has been selected to provide elevator repair and modernization services. It is necessary to waive competitive bidding provisions of City Code 329 to enter into contract with Otis Elevator Company for elevator repair services.

Principal Parties:

Otis Elevator Company
777 Dearborn Park Lane Suite L
Columbus, OH 43085
Contract Compliance Number: 000720
Contract Compliance Expiration Date: February 18, 2028

Emergency Justification: Emergency action is requested to immediately enter into contract to provide necessary repairs to the elevator at the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center, so the facility is accessible for all as soon as possible.

Benefits to the Public: This contract will provide necessary repairs and modernization to the elevator at the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center.

Community Input/Issues: The community has expressed a desire for safe and well-maintained city facilities.

Area(s) Affected: Downtown (55)

Master Plan Relation: This project will support the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by helping to ensure that buildings and facilities remain safe, updated, and user friendly.

VII. Recreation Services Agenda Items

No legislation

VIII. Youth Development Agenda Items

No legislation