

Recreation & Parks Commission Commission Report

October 13, 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

No legislation

IV. Capital Agenda Items

1. Playground Renovation 2026 – Lazelle & Warner Woods Construction (2849-2026)

Property 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. This portion of the project's construction was a rebid and includes Item 1: Lazelle Woods and Item 2: Warner Woods.

Lazelle Woods will be receiving a playground designed for Universal Accessibility. This playground will have ramps, rubber surfacing, and equipment for users with diverse play needs and varying levels of mobility. A portion of Warner Woods playground will be replaced due to subsurface conditions making the tile play surfacing inaccessible. This section will be converted to EWF surfacing and a new larger swingset with accessible swing seats will replace the equipment in the area.

This project is anticipated to issue a notice to proceed on or about November 2026 with final completion by August 2027.

Emergency Justification: To allow for the contractor to order the custom playground equipment which faces lead times of up to 16 weeks and align the construction with seasonal construction windows.

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.

Area(s) Affected: Citywide (99)

Master Plan Relation: A1: Add and improve parks and facilities where most needed. A5: Support health and wellness by promoting active lifestyles... A6: Become a leader in providing universal access to recreation and parks. B4: Expand nature-based play. C4: Design for both comfort and safety. C5: Go above and beyond physical accessibility requirements.

2. Columbus Water and Power – Driving Park Improvements (2850-2026)

Property History/Background: This green infrastructure project, executed by Columbus Water and Power (CWP), is part of the Blueprint Columbus Program that is intended to provide improvements to stormwater runoff and water quality. This CWP project consists of the construction of 35 rain gardens in several locations throughout the project area. It also includes storm sewers, manholes, inlets, waterline relocations, service line replacements, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps, and other such work as may be necessary to complete the improvements. One rain garden is slated for the north end of Driving Park. The work in Driving Park also includes the installation of sidewalk, benches, signage, and tree replacements as necessary. Extensive coordination has been done over the past several years between CWP, CRPD, and with the community at large.

Emergency Justification: To allow for the contractor to order the custom playground equipment which faces lead times of up to 16 weeks and align the construction with seasonal construction windows.

Benefits to the Public: This project will provide detention and water quality improvements so rain water that will be redirected from the sanitary sewer system, helping to prevent overflows. CWP is building rain gardens throughout the project area, one of which is slated for the north end of Driving Park.

Community Input Issues: The community has expressed the desire for improvements to stormwater runoff through public workshops, 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 prioritizing projects that help protect the environment.

V. Community Centers Agenda Items

1. FCDJFS OST Grant – Afterschool Rec Club (ARC) (2846-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance authorizes the Director of Recreation and Parks to accept a grant and enter into an agreement with the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services. This grant will provide salary support for Recreation Aides administering Afterschool Rec Club (ARC) programming. The \$40,000.00 grant will support the salaries of Recreation Aides over 9 months of afterschool programming.

Afterschool Rec Club (ARC), currently operating out of 14 CRPD community centers, is a free afterschool program that provides students in grades K-8 with a safe place to learn and engage in a variety of educational and recreational activities. Staff leverage state-of-the-art technology, field trips, and high-performance standards to bolster students' academic achievement. The beneficial outcomes of ARC programming for students include improvements in academic performance and GPA, reduction in school absences, formation of strong work habits, establishment of self-efficacy, development of pro-social skills and behaviors with peers, decreases in juvenile detention rates, and narrowing of education achievement gaps across varied family income levels.

Principal Parties:

Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services
1721 Northland Park Ave., 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43229
Joy Bivens, Director, 1-844-640-6446

Emergency Justification: N/A

Benefits to the Public:

Community Input/Issues: ARC provides afterschool enrichment opportunities for youth in grades K-8 who may not otherwise have the opportunity to receive engaging afterschool programming and care.

Area(s) Affected: 14 community centers in the City of Columbus, Ohio, youth in grades K-8.

Master Plan Relation: Afterschool Rec Club minimizes barriers to afterschool care for families in need of financial assistance, allowing CRPD to realize its vision of making Columbus a more socially equitable city.

VI. Operations and Maintenance Agenda

1. 2026 Fall Syngenta – Golf Course Pesticide Order (2847-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance will authorize the Director of Finance and Management to enter into contract with Harrell's LLC for the purchase of Syngenta golf course turf chemicals for the Recreation and Parks Department as a result of waiving the competitive bidding provisions of the Columbus City Code 329.

The waiving of Columbus City Code 329 is in the best interest of the City as the pricing structure set by Syngenta Golf Course pesticide supplier requires the same pricing to be offered by each local vendor. An Informal cost proposal has been submitted by Harrell's in the amount of \$298,694.00. The 2026 purchase includes new rebates totaling \$60,896.76.

Harrell's is the current supplier for golf course turf chemicals and has provided the product in a timely and accurate manner with no concerns or issues to the end user.

With the changes to the golf course turf chemicals application program in 2017, the Golf Division has been able to reduce the number of applications and product while producing noticeable results with improved playing conditions.

Principal Parties:

Harrell's LLC

5105 New Tampa Highway

Lakeland Fl. 33815

Contract Compliance Number: 020552

Contract Compliance Expiration Date: September 23, 2028

Bid Waiver Justification: Syngenta offers a fall purchasing program to its vendors that packages chemicals into bundles and offers deep discounts and rebates and sets pricing for all distributors resulting in equal pricing between distributors. In order to take advantage of Syngenta's fall purchasing program, the order must be placed by December 2026 to be eligible.

Emergency Justification: An emergency is being requested in order to meet the fall order purchasing program deadline of December 2026, for the preservation of the public health, peace, property, and safety.

Benefits to the Public: Golfers benefit by having better utilization of safer turf chemicals providing excellent course conditions, a great product for the customer.

Area(s) Affected: Airport, Mentel, Champions, Raymond, Turnberry, and Wilson Golf Courses.

Master Plan Relation: The Golf Courses continue to support the mission of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan by ensuring a strong customer base with successful on-going revenue producing operations.

2. Ohio Attorney General's Illegal Dumping Grant (2848-2026)

Project History/Background: This ordinance authorizes the Director of Recreation and Parks to accept a grant and enter into an agreement with the Ohio Attorney General. This grant will fund efforts to clean up the significant illegal dumping at Island View Nature Preserve. The \$95,503.70 grant will support clean-up services as well as signage to prevent future illegal dumping at the site.

Island View is a 10.25-acre nature preserve located in the Clintonville community. A property owner whose property sits adjacent to Island View has been encroaching upon City parkland with significant illegal dumping for several decades. Contents at Island View from this property owner include two abandoned cars, three boats, a car frame, a motorcycle, a partial camper, wooden pallets, tarps, tiller, metal carts, rusted metal parts, tractor parts, trailers, bricks, and other trash and debris. CRPD has been in contact with the property owner since 2007 and has issued several written notices of encroachments but has thus far been unsuccessful in having the property owner remove the dumped items.

Island View was designated as a nature preserve in 2024, serving as an environmental oasis within an urban community. The current trash and debris is significant and poses risk to the environment and nature preserve patrons. Partnering with the Ohio Attorney General's Office will allow CRPD to clean up this vital nature preserve.

Principal Parties:

The Ohio Attorney General

30 E Broad St, 14th Floor

Columbus, OH. 43215

Hannah Smith-Welsh, Paralegal II- Environmental Enforcement Section, 614-466-2766

Emergency Justification: N/A

Benefits to the Public:

Community Input Issues: Removal of the significant dumping at Island View will improve the environmental health and safety of both the nature preserve and all nature preserve patrons.

Area(s) Affected: Clintonville community surrounding Island View Nature Preserve (403 Westview Ave Columbus, OH 43214), and any other City of Columbus park patrons.

Master Plan Relation: Clean up of Island View Nature Preserve is in line with CRPD's goals of fostering a culture of belonging across parks and facilities, promoting safe parks and facilities,

and fostering community stewardship and environmental education in city parks and nature preserves.

VII. Recreation Services Agenda Items

No legislation

VIII. Youth Development Agenda Items

No legislation