

**ITEM #:** 27  
**DATE:** 09-10-24  
**DEPT:** Parks and Recreation

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:** CARR PARK AGILITY COURSE AND SHELTER/RESTROOM PROJECTS

**BACKGROUND:**

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As part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Parks and Recreation Department makes an effort to diversify the play equipment offerings in the parks. In October of 2021, City Council approved the placement of agility course equipment in Carr Park, 1704 Meadowlane Avenue. An agility course consists of multiple pieces of equipment that allows individuals (youth and adults) to utilize their upper and lower body strength to complete multiple activities which may include cargo nets, over-head ladders, balance beams, ledge hanger, spider walk, and others. There is currently \$342,260 available to complete the agility course project which includes engineering, equipment, poured-in-place safety surfacing, and sidewalk connections.

A second CIP project for Carr Park is the addition of a shelter-restroom structure with funding being allocated in the FY 2022-23 (Engineering and Design \$45,000) and FY 2023-24 (Construction \$350,000) CIP. Current available funding for this project is \$393,208. Between these two projects, available funding is \$735,468.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Agility Course	\$342,260
Shelter/Restroom	\$392,208
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$735,468</b>

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

Prior to Council approving placement of the agility course equipment in Carr Park in October of 2021, staff held two public meetings. Approximately 180 households in the Carr Park neighborhood received a postcard for the first meeting which was held virtually on August 11, 2021. Staff explained the project to the approximately eight individuals who attended the meeting. Shortly after the initial meeting, staff started receiving emails and phone calls from neighbors indicating they heard about the proposed project but did not know about the meeting. Feedback from these calls included comments in favor and opposed to the addition of the agility course in Carr Park.

After receiving the additional feedback, staff determined a second meeting was necessary. To make neighbors aware of the meeting and the project, an informational letter with pictures and links to similar equipment as to what was being proposed was sent to approximately 400 homes surrounding the Carr Park neighborhood. The second meeting was held in late August of 2021 at Homewood Golf Course.

Staff again presented information about the agility course, as well as, addressed the questions and concerns that were received from the email and phone correspondence.

Several concerns staff committed to working on included: demolishing the bathhouse (done); add sidewalk in order to make a continuous walkway along Meadowlane Ave. (included in the agility course design); complete regular maintenance on the agility course equipment (will be done); review the parking lot to ensure efficient use of the lot (will be done); and work with the neighborhood in providing equipment with colors that fit into the existing landscape of the park (another public meeting will be scheduled to review the final design and colors before the project is bid).

**COST OPINIONS:**

With two projects in the same park, staff contracted with Snyder and Associates, Ankeny, Iowa to develop a site plan and cost opinion which included the agility course and the shelter/restroom. It was noted to Council in October 2021 that staff would work on addressing the concerns of the neighbors as it relates to these projects. One concern entailed adding sidewalk in order to make a continuous walkway along Meadowlane Ave. This has been included in the cost estimates shown below.

**AGILITY COURSE, SAFETY SURFACING, CONCRETE BORDER AND SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS**

Engineering and Design	\$ 16,650
Mobilization	\$ 25,000
Earth Work and Site Utilities	\$ 62,510
Agility Equipment and Surfacing	\$ 406,740
<b>Agility Course Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 508,400</b>
Contingency (10%)	\$ 50,840
<b>Agility Course Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 559,240</b>

**SHELTER/RESTROOM**

Design	\$ 45,000
Utility installation and connection	\$ 43,240
Pavement	\$ 16,150
Shelter/Restroom Building	\$ 400,000
<b>Shelter/Restroom Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 504,390</b>
Contingency (10%)	\$ 50,439
<b>Shelter/Restroom Building Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 554,829</b>

**BOTH PROJECTS**

Agility Course	\$ 559,240
Shelter/Restroom	\$ 554,829

<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,114,069</b>
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**The combined total cost estimate for both projects is \$1,114,069. Total available funding for both projects is \$735,468, leaving a shortfall of \$378,601. Since there is insufficient funding to do both projects in their entirety, staff is proposing to move forward with the Agility Course, Safety Surfacing, Concrete Border, and Sidewalk Connections, and a shelter with concrete pad. The shelter would require an additional \$61,765 (shelter - \$40,000; concrete pad - \$16,150; contingency - \$5,615). This would bring the total estimated cost to \$621,005. The restroom would not be constructed at this time but could be programmed into a future CIP if it still has merit.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the construction of the Agility Course, safety surfacing, concrete border, sidewalk connections, and shelter and reallocate funds from the Carr Park Shelter/Restroom Project to cover the shortfall to complete the project.

*This alternative eliminates the restroom at this time.*

2. Approve the construction of only the Agility Course, safety surfacing, concrete border, and sidewalk connections and reallocate funds from the Carr Park Shelter/Restroom Project to cover the shortfall to complete the project.

*This alternative eliminates the restroom and shelter at this time.*

3. Approve the construction of the Agility Course, safety surfacing, concrete border, sidewalk connections, and the Shelter/Restroom.

*This alternative includes all of the originally planned features (agility course, shelter, and restroom), but will require additional funding of \$378,601.*

4. Refer back to staff.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**The agility course provides a diverse type of play equipment that is not offered anywhere else in the parks. However, the estimated cost of adding this type of equipment has increased significantly since 2021 due to increased material and labor costs. Also, with the estimated cost of the Shelter/Restroom project being so high, there is a funding shortfall to complete both projects.**

**Based on the aforementioned information, staff's priority is to complete the agility course, safety surfacing, necessary pavement, sidewalk connections and only construct a park shelter similar to others that are in neighborhood parks throughout the City. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, as noted above.**

If Alternative #1 is approved, the staff will move forward with soliciting bids this fall for the construction of the Agility Course, safety surfacing, concrete border, sidewalk connections, and a

shelter. Funding of \$735,468 will be available for the project, with an estimated cost of \$621,005. The restroom would not be constructed at this time, but could be programmed into a future CIP if it still has merit.