



DRAFT NOT FOR RELEASE

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U City Receives Grant to Create New High School Regulation Baseball Field in Millar Park

Nov. 28, 2023, University City – The City of University City has received a grant of \$575,000 from the Municipal Park Grant Commission and the University City Council approved on November 27 using the grant to refurbish the east baseball field in Millar Park to meet professional standards for high school baseball fields. In addition to complying with exact field dimensions, work will include new dugouts, new backstop, fencing, new engineered soil, sod, infield and outfield irrigation and warning track, as well as regulation positioning for the professional pitcher's mound and Homeplate.

The new field will become the official field of the University City Lions baseball team. Previously, the high school used Jack Buck Field in Heman Park, which was extensively damaged in the flood in summer 2022 and determined by FEMA to be in a flood plain and could not qualify for refurbishment for high school sports.

Work will begin immediately after the University City High School Lions' spring 2024 baseball season ends and is expected to take several months to complete, as well as several months over the winter 2024-2025 for the new soil to settle and be ready for the spring 2025 baseball season.

Located at 7603 Carleton Ave. and bounded by Canton Ave. and North & South Rd., the 12.19-acre Millar Park is one of University City's larger neighborhood parks featuring a picnic pavilion with restrooms, a playground, football, and soccer fields, a half-mile jogging trail with fitness station, and two baseball fields including the larger east field that will be refurbished.

"It will be exciting to have the University City High School Lions practice and play games at Millar Park and we are pleased to have the opportunity to bring the field up to high school regulation standards thanks to the Municipal Park Grant Commission," said Darin Girdler, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Areas Maintenance for University City.

About University City: *University City was incorporated on September 4, 1906, by founder Edward Gardner Lewis as a city of learning, culture, and beautiful neighborhoods. This diverse community of approximately 35,000 residents provides welcoming neighborhoods and thriving business districts and is a great place to live, learn, work, and be entertained. More information is available at www.ucitymo.org.*