



# News Release

---

P.O. Box 6015 • Columbia, MO 65205 • (573) 874-7460 • [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com)

Date: July 22, 2008

Contact: Tammy Miller, Parks and Recreation, 874-7465

## Parks and Recreation Deals with Storm Damage

Staff from the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department was busy as storms moved through the area early this morning.

Starting first thing this morning, park staff responded to reports of trees down across the MKT Trail and several sections of trails that were flooded. As the flood waters recede, the department anticipates that several sections of the MKT, Hinkson and Bear Creek Trails will have damage to the gravel surface.

Due to the popularity of the trails, the department is not closing the trails, but is asking all trail users to be cautious. Potential problems include debris washed upon the trail; surface rock removed exposing the large 4-6 inch base rock; and wash-out areas that may cause trip or spill hazards. Once the flood waters have receded and the rain stops, certain sections of the trail may be closed during park repair activities. The department's priority is to concentrate on cleaning out the tunnels or underpasses and then proceed with repairs to the trail surface.

The department is also busy with lightning strikes that may have caused damage to the electrical systems in the parks. This may impact the use of athletic field lights, scoreboards, security lights and power to facilities such as shelters, spraygrounds, restrooms and pools. Park staff is in the process of checking all of these facilities.

An indirect impact from the heavy rains is the problems associated with construction projects and operational issues such as delays to the department's mowing schedule and further cancellation of adult and youth sports leagues. A heavy rain such as what was experienced today may cause 2-3 days of delays to construction projects especially those requiring earthwork (Atkins baseball, Nifong Park lake, Bethel Tennis Courts, Bethel Shelter, Cosmo restrooms, etc). The department strives to keep all projects on schedule, but recognize that some delays will occur during inclement weather.

On a positive note, storm water control measures such as rain gardens that have been installed at Stephens Lake, Longview and Louisville Parks handled all of the water and prevented erosion in the parks. These rain gardens are great examples of alternate methods used to control storm water.

If park users observe downed trees or other storm-related damage or issues in the parks, they should call the Parks and Recreation Department at 874-7460.