

# Keeping Our Promises

*From Mike Griggs*

*Parks and Recreation Director*

In 2010, Columbia citizens voted to extend the Park Sales Tax for another five years to continue preserving and protecting green space; maintaining and improving our existing park system; and building new parks, trails, and recreation facilities. We provided the public with a list of projects we would accomplish with the 2010 Park Sales Tax Ballot funding. For my staff and me, keeping our promises to our citizens is our highest priority.



I am happy to report that all of the projects promised with the 2010 Park Sales Tax Ballot and funded to date have either been completed or are currently underway. As a result, many of our older parks received much needed renovations, new restrooms replaced port-a-pots to better serve our park and trail users, new sports facilities were built that will help increase tourism in Columbia, and more neighborhoods will be connected to our incredible trail system. A sampling of what has been accomplished is reflected in the photos to the right.

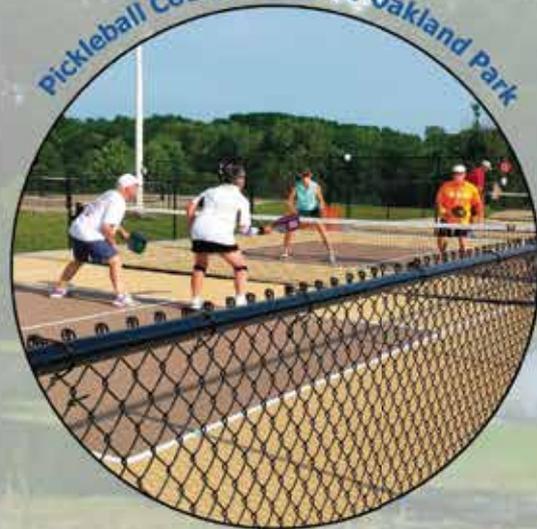
I am so proud to work for a community that understands the benefits a quality park and trail system can provide for its citizens and am grateful for all those that demonstrate their support by providing the funding needed through the Park Sales Tax.

Our 2015 citizen survey revealed that the vast majority of Columbia households are using our parks and trails. Eighty-two percent use our trails and ninety-two percent use our parks! That's well above the national average. So as we continue to maintain and improve our park system, I encourage you to take some time with your family and friends to get outdoors and enjoy all that Columbia's park system has to offer.

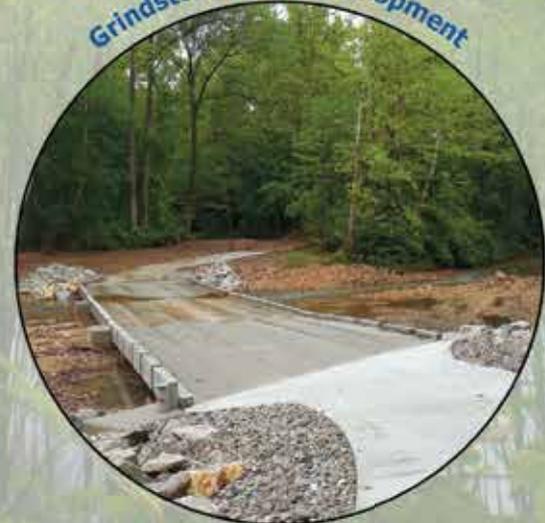
Steinberg Playground Renovation at Cosmo Park



Pickleball Courts at Albert-Oakland Park



Grindstone Trail Development

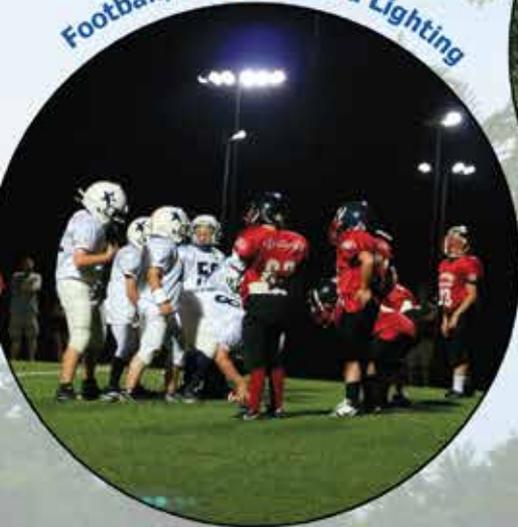


*These projects were*

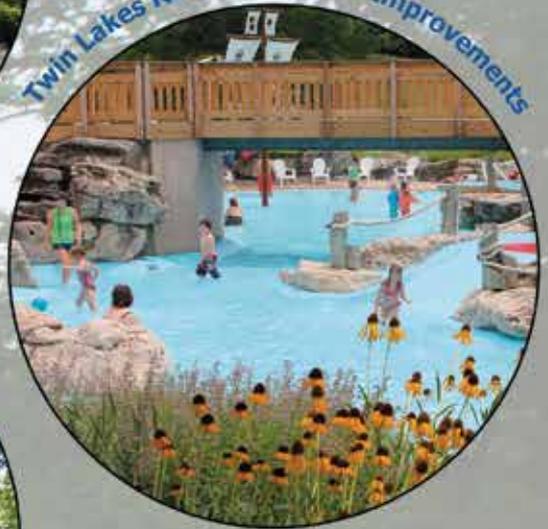
Hinkson Creek Trail Bridge Replacement at Capen Park



Football/Lacrosse Field Lighting



Twin Lakes Recreation Area Improvements



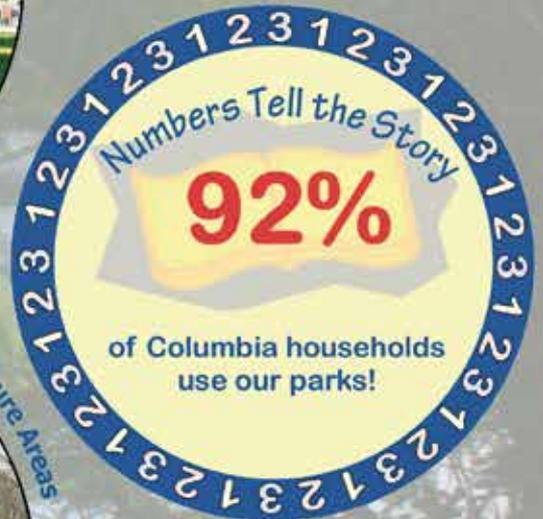
Fairview Shelter Replacement



Park Development at Jay Dix Station



New restrooms at Grindstone and Garth Nature Areas



*funded in whole or part by the Park Sales Tax*