

L. Parks, Recreation, and Greenways

This chapter details the Vision Statement, goal, and strategies developed by the Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Citizen Topic Group. They looked at four subtopics:

- Subtopic: Parks
- Subtopic: Recreation
- Subtopic: Greenways
- Subtopic: Trails

The Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Vision Statement is as follows:

“A network of attractive and safe parks and recreational amenities are connected by trails and greenways that provide area residents with access to nature, recreation, and facilities for active play, both indoors and out.”

Parks

Goal:
A variety of attractive, well-maintained parks throughout Columbia – including neighborhood parks, regional parks, nature parks, and urban parks – will ensure all residents have access to a full range of outdoor and indoor recreational opportunities.

Strategies and Action Plans

Strategy 1: Examine existing park networks and identify gaps in the different defined types of parks. (neighborhood, regional, nature, and urban.)

Strategy 2: Develop an overall plan to make sure as many park needs as possible are met without unnecessary duplication.

Strategy 3: Provide incentives to encourage public and private cooperation/collaboration to acquire and develop additional parks and facilities.

Strategy 4: Expand the program of volunteers to help support the parks. (e.g. Adopt-a-Park.)

Strategy 5: Investigate a land dedication ordinance to set aside parkland and open space in new developments.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: Parks & Recreation Department	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
City Council	Continued support of expansion of park space and additional recreational facilities
Convention & Visitors Bureau	Make sure park maps and information are available for residents and visitors to the City
Boone County Commissioners	Work with City to be proactive in development of county parks and facilities. Protect greenways during County development
City of Columbia Office of Volunteer Services	Expand program for Park volunteers for clean up, patrolling and aesthetic improvements
City Planning & Zoning	Work with incentives for public parks and greenways
Greenbelt Land Trust	Work with Parks & Recreation in identifying park areas that should be kept as natural areas
Central Missouri Development Council	Encourage park space in development
Neighborhood Association	Work with the adopt a park and stay abreast of additional needs in neighborhood parks, basketball hoops, lighting, benches, etc.
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a committee to explore options and recommend improvements to Columbia’s ordinances to support proactive cost effective acquisition of key property for parks, greenbelts and trails. The committee should consider the use of both easement requirements and easement incentives (both of which are already in use in other cities) to develop an optimal mix of ordinance improvements for Columbia parks, greenbelts and trails. • Support the parks and recreation master plan • Initiate discussion with county officials to coordinate parks and recreation planning • Parks Commission will be made aware of the vision and the visioning committee will be available for clarification

***This action plan covers all five strategies.**



Goal:
 Columbia’s recreational needs and desires will be met through effective public and private partnerships that provide outstanding, exciting, and diverse recreational facilities such as, but not limited to, an ice skating rink, golf courses, tennis courts, soccer fields, ball fields, ball parks, and swimming pools. These facilities will be placed appropriately throughout the city to allow easy access for everyone.

Strategies and Action Plans

Strategy 1: Facilitate the marriage of private and public interest groups to build recreational facilities.

Strategy 2: Be proactive in expanding facilities as Columbia grows.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: Parks & Recreation	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
Mayor’s Council on Health & Physical Fitness	Work with Parks & Recreation on expanding facilities and educating the community on activities available
Various special interest sports group, Bike Club, Baseball Councils, Hockey, Ice Skating, Lacrosse, etc.	Report to special interest coordinator about potential trends in their sports, needed facilities or space
Chamber of Commerce	Promote collaboration of outside private parties to work with Parks & Recreation for recreational facility projects
Neighborhood Associations	Provide input to the City on needed facilities or equipment in neighborhoods
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to update plans for recreational facilities • Hire a special interest coordinator to facilitate public and private collaboration

* This action plan covers both strategies.

Greenways

Goal:
 An extensive network of greenways will play a significant role in providing transportation options, protecting wildlife corridors, watersheds, and floodplains, and increasing public access to natural and open spaces.

Strategies and Action Plans

Strategy 1: Use easements and development rights to promote the preservation of green space and the development of greenways.

Strategy 2: Acquire green space and expand greenways through regular financing and acquisitions.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: Planning & Zoning and Parks & Recreation	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
Greenbelt Land Trust	Act as an oversight group to make sure that greenways and green space are identified and preserved
Boone County Fairgrounds Board	Develop an overall plan to keep part of the Fairgrounds natural
Central Missouri Development Commission	Provide input on greenways and green space
Department of Conservation	Input on how much green space should be maintained and how best to maintain in a natural state
Boone County Commission	Coordinate with the City to maintain natural buffer areas for long term growth
Department of Public Works	Identify easement areas that should be mapped as greenways
Storm Water Task Force	Identify land that should be maintained and preserved for storm water purposes and green space
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Parks and Recreation Master Plan to include a map of multi-purpose greenways • Provide incentives to promote green space • Hire an Acquisitions Agent to facilitate acquisitions of green space and parks

* This action plan covers both strategies.

Trails

Goal:
 An extensive, safe network of trails will accommodate a variety of users ranging from recreational to nonmotorized travelers. This network may include roadway and public transportation infrastructure to connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.

Strategies and Action Plans

Strategy 1: Coordinate efforts of different interest groups to develop and fund a multi-use trail network, using sidewalks where trails are not feasible.

Strategy 2: Achieve trail connectivity in new and existing developments.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: Parks & Recreation	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
PedNet Coalition & PedNet Project	Work with Parks & Recreation to develop an overall map and plan of multi-use trails and help prioritize projects
COLT	Help identify potential abandoned track that could be utilized for trails
Convention & Visitors Bureau	Publicizing trails for use by visitors and residents
Columbia Bicycle Club, Multi-Sport Club, Track Club and Mid Missouri Road Runners	Resource for best types of trails for different types of use and placement of trails for recreational activities
Planning & Zoning	Coordinate efforts of Parks & Recreation for new and existing developments to have trail connectivity
Services for Independent Living	Resource to assure that trails are accessible
Rails to Trails	Resource to find funding for abandoned rail projects
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively pursue future funding for additional trails Appoint a committee to explore options and recommend improvements to Columbia’s ordinances to support proactive cost effective acquisition of key property for parks, greenbelts and trails. The committee should consider the use of both easement requirements and easement incentives (both of which are already in use in other cities) to develop an optimal mix of ordinance improvements for Columbia parks, greenbelts and trails

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