

Cost estimate for the creation of the Discovery Garden is \$60,000. Fund raising will continue, over time, until necessary funds are secured.

**Checks should be made to:  
New Century Fund:  
Discovery Garden Project  
P. O. Box 6015  
Columbia, MO 65205**

The New Century Fund was established by and is managed by the City of Columbia. Donors will be perpetually recognized by name within the Discovery Garden site. Contributions are tax deductible. The City will provide each contributor with a gift acknowledgment that can be used for tax purposes.

From top to bottom: Ellen Thomas and her dad at his induction to the Missouri Recreation and Parks Hall of Fame, 2009; Mayor Hindman at 2003 press conference; Welcoming Senator Kit Bond at the MKT Trailhead dedication at Providence & Stewart



Graphic design by Dory Colbert

# The Discovery Garden at Stephens Lake Park honoring Darwin Hindman



Photo by Kayla Huett

His boundless enthusiasm for all-things-Columbia is legendary. He is ebullience. His eternal smile and always kind, always supportive words reverberate throughout the community. He is warmth. His embrace of vigorous, intelligent, but always civil, community discourse is instructive. He is respect. His commitment to helping people live healthy, productive lives is inspiring. He is devotion. His vibrant vision for a better tomorrow is insightful, wise and real. He is optimism. His love of nature and beauty is wound inextricably into all he does. He is wonder. And we, the citizens of Columbia, the primary beneficiaries and the literal canvas of his life's work, are grateful.

As former Governor Roger Wilson said recently, "Because Darwin so clearly loved all of us, we loved him in return." And now, we want to make sure he knows how we feel and that we, and future generations, remember this unique soul.

Left: Darwin Hindman delivering purchases from the Farmers' Market



As our community's longest serving mayor, Darwin has touched our lives in many, many ways. However, we will remember him most for his commitment to parks, trails, recreation and active living. Consequently, it seems appropriate to commemorate Darwin's service by helping to complete the development of Stephens Lake Park, a project near and dear to his heart.

Stephens Lake Park was acquired following voter approval in November, 2000 and has been gradually developed ever since. Its master plan calls for the majority of the park to host a variety of botanical gardens and related amenities, several of which are already in place. The Discovery Garden, created to honor Darwin, will be one of the loveliest in the park.

The Discovery Garden will inform and inspire visitors by demonstrating how the botanical world connects and resonates in both our lives and community. It will feature three theme gardens and a Native American-style council ring, all connected via a crushed granite trail. The three garden themes will explore and display separate ideas and concepts through the use of signage and plants. The Discovery Garden will be located just east of the Riechmann Pavilion and will be connected to the walking trail that rings Stephens Lake Park and the upcoming extension of the Hinkson Trail. We hope that a visit to the Discovery Garden will always serve as a fitting reminder of Darwin and his contributions to our fair city.

Photos top to bottom: Darwin Hindman takes the microphone at 'Thank you, Mayor Hindman' celebration on March 27th, 2010; Darwin and wife Axie riding Amtrak, a favorite way to travel; In his favorite canoe at Hungry Jack Lake Minnesota.

## THE DISCOVERY GARDEN



As currently planned, it will have several educational themes and beautiful garden areas.

### Council Ring

Based on designs by turn-of-the-century landscape architect Jens Jensen, the council ring was inspired by Native American council fire rings, and embraces the idea that all people come together as equals. It is a place where groups could gather for discussion or as a place for solitary reflection.

### Grow to Know Your World

The Grow to Know Your World garden area will include plant collections that have influenced Missouri from China, Africa, South America and beyond. Its purpose is to illuminate the origins and incredible history of how plants traveled from their native lands and became integrated into our gardening practices.

### What did Daniels See?

Francis Potter Daniels, University of Missouri botany professor circa 1907, inventoried native plant communities in Boone County and his work, today, provides a vivid reminder of the impact contemporary society has had on our local landscape. This garden will seek to recreate aspects of Columbia's pre-European native plant community.

### Eye for Improvement

This garden exhibit will demonstrate the value and purpose of plant selection and hybridizing. Its focus will be on significant contributions in hybridization that have had a major impact on how humanity grows and develop plants featuring strawberries, lilies, peppermint, London Plane Tree and much more.