

PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Conclusion

The adoption of this *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* by the City Council also includes the adoption of the 2013 Neighborhood Parks Plan. Having an approved Neighborhood Parks Plan provides local developers with the information they need when platting a new neighborhood development. An approved Neighborhood Parks Plan enables the Parks and Recreation Department to request developers to consider donating or setting aside a portion of their development for park land at the City of Columbia's concept review stage. It also helps developers to use planned future parks to attract buyers for their development.

Because acquiring land is less expensive and less intrusive before an area is developed, a proactive approach is needed to acquire the land needed for future park development. The Department should focus on obtaining key parcels in the primary targets, while paying attention to opportunities that may become available for secondary and tertiary targets in the 2013 Neighborhood Parks Plan.

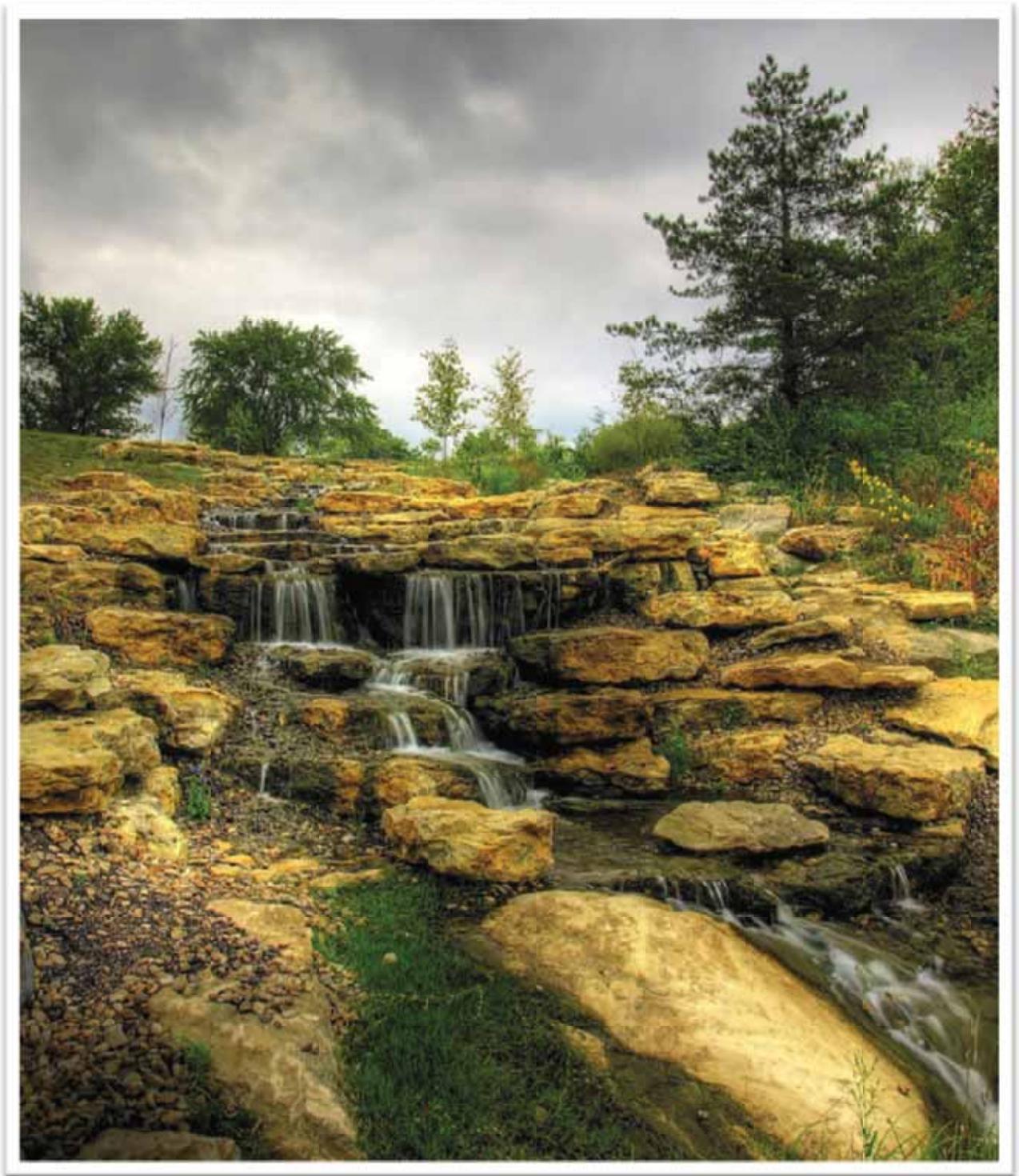
The plans for park acquisition and development as outlined in this *2013 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* will enable the community to attain the Community Visioning Goal for parks as expressed below.



P&R Staff Work Day at Stephens Lake Park

Imagine Columbia's Future - 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.”



Waterfall at Stephens Lake Park - Photo by Randy Hughes