



News Release

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Parks and Recreation, 3M Teaming Up for Urban Ecology Restoration Project

Columbia Parks and Recreation is coordinating with 3M Corporation and community environmental organizations for the Urban Ecology Restoration Project. The project, which is being partially funded by a \$40,000 3M Foundation Environmental Stewardship Grant, will help restore the natural habitat around the MKT Trail at Hinkson Creek.

The Hinkson Creek area was the site of the City's second sewer treatment plant. The main goal of the Restoration Project is to restore the site to its original wildlife habitat. Plans include removing invasive exotic plant species to allow native plants and wildlife to thrive. Even though the MKT Trail is a popular destination, the area near the Hinkson is not as commonly used. The improvements to the area should increase participation and traffic of trail users.

Parks and Recreation is partnering with agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, the Columbia Audubon Society and Missouri Native Plant Society for technical assistance and community support in the project.

Parks and Recreation staff, along with volunteers from the City's Treekeeper and CARP (Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project) programs will do the physical work of planting, as well as preparing informational signs once the project is complete.

Work on the project is expected to begin this fall. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460.