



# News Release

P.O. BOX 6015 COLUMBIA, MO 65205 (573) 874-7460

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Contact: Tammy Miller, Columbia Parks and Recreation, 874-7460

## Federal Funding for MKT Bridge Repairs

Governor Matt Blunt announced today that the City of Columbia will receive \$95,549 in federal funding from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to replace and repair two bridges on the MKT Trail.

In 2000, the Parks and Recreation Department commissioned an engineering study to evaluate the structural integrity of the MKT Trail bridges. Bridge #6 was found to be in poor condition and identified as the highest priority for replacement. It was replaced in 2003 with funding assistance from the Recreational Trails Program in the amount of \$93,000 and a total project cost of \$155,000. Bridges #12 and #13 also received a "poor" condition rating in the evaluation due to the deteriorating condition of the wooden supports and were prioritized next in line for repair.

The RTP grant will help fund the replacement of the timber supports and re-decking of bridge #12. It will also help fund the removal of the existing 50-ft. bridge #13 and replacement of the structure with two large steel culverts. The existing bridge #13 spans a large drainage ditch that is generally dry, and the installation of the culverts will provide the most economical replacement solution.

The total project cost is \$147,000, with a City match of \$51,451 from funds reserved for bridge improvements from the 1999 quarter-cent sales tax. The bridge improvement project and acceptance of the grant are subject to City Council approval.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation 874-7460.