

Southeast Regional Park Master Plan

February 18, 2010

*Developing a master plan for the
A. Perry Philips Park and Gans
Creek Recreation Area*



Southeast Regional Park Planning Goals

- Conduct an in-depth, interactive, interdisciplinary planning process which results in a:
 - comprehensive, **community acceptable** regional park **master plan**;
 - incorporates **state-of-the-art** best management practices (**BMP**) to **protect and enhance** the **environment**;
 - that **supports high use, active recreation** facilities and programs.



2010 Southeast Regional Park Master Plan
A. Perry Philips Park & Gans Creek Recreation Area



Regional Park Definition

- **Size: 200 acres** or more
- **Diversity of recreational opportunities**
 - **natural settings** for passive use
 - intensely developed indoor or outdoor facilities for **competitive/active** uses.
 - **accommodate large numbers** of people without significant deterioration of the recreation experience
- **Proximity to major highways** to handle large volumes of traffic









Typical Features of Regional Parks

- Competition level **athletic fields** with lights
- **Natural/Open Space** areas
- **Protect cultural/sensitive environment** areas
- Picnic **shelters and playgrounds**
- Nature and multi-use **trails.**
- Connection to **city-wide trail system**
- **Unique facilities** such as dog parks, pools, ice rink, indoor sports arenas, etc)
- Adequate **support amenities** (parking, restrooms, concessions)
- Typically, **development phased** over time, often 5, 10, or 20 years.







Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan 2002 Facility Needs Update

- Identified need for acquisition and development of a regional park in southeast Columbia
- Master Plan recommended:
 - “Amenities to be included in the new regional park include trails, nature areas, and high-use athletic complexes and support facilities, such as, parking lots, lights, concessions, restrooms, and maintenance areas.”

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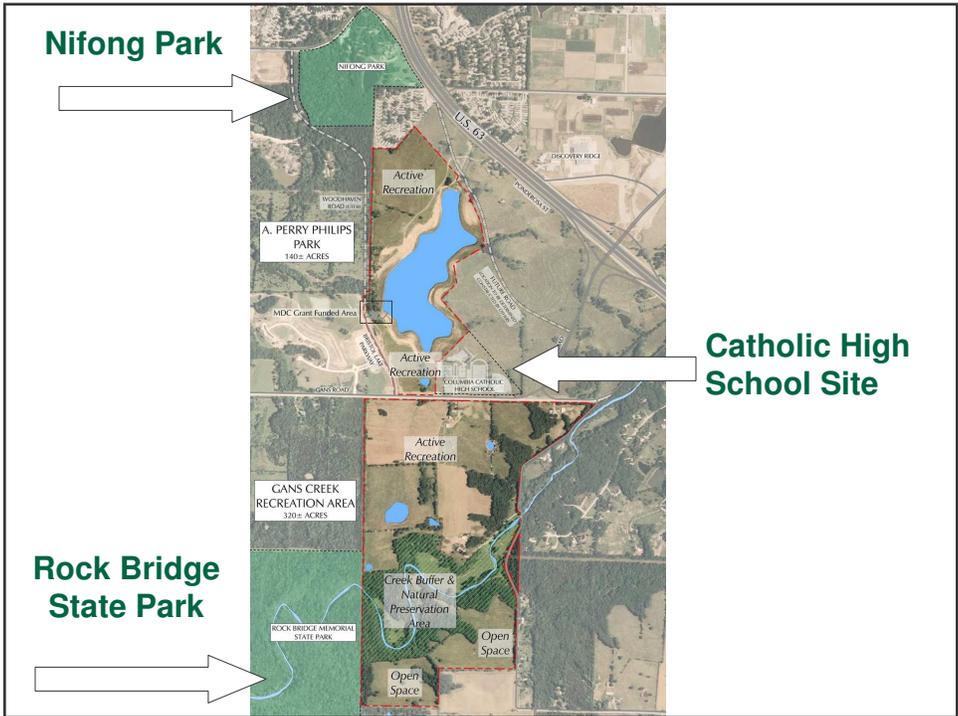


Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan 2002 Facility Needs Update

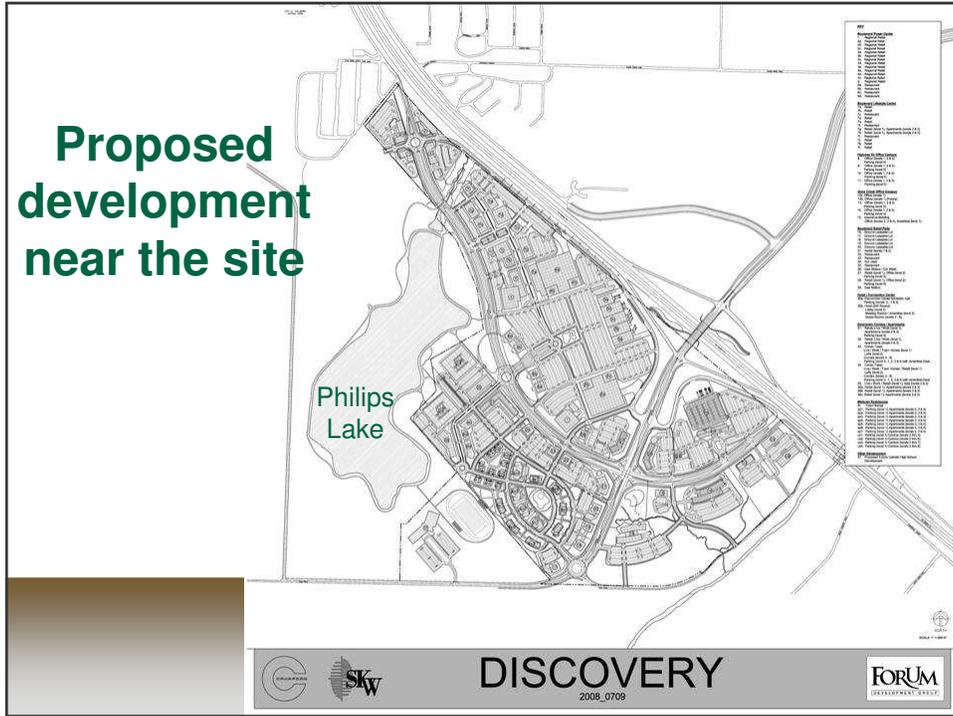
Identified needs for the following facilities:

- 10 fields, youth baseball/softball complex
- 10 fields, soccer complex
- 6 fields, football complex
- 8 courts, tennis complex
- 18-hole golf course
- Indoor basketball/volleyball courts
- Nature/interpretive center
- Chlorinated swimming area in south Columbia
- Indoor ice rink
- Other recreation facilities (such as, dog park, paintball field, BMX track, etc.)

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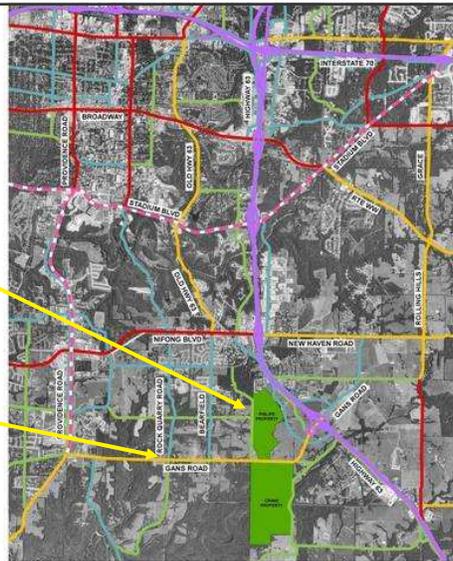


Proposed development near the site



Road Improvements Planned

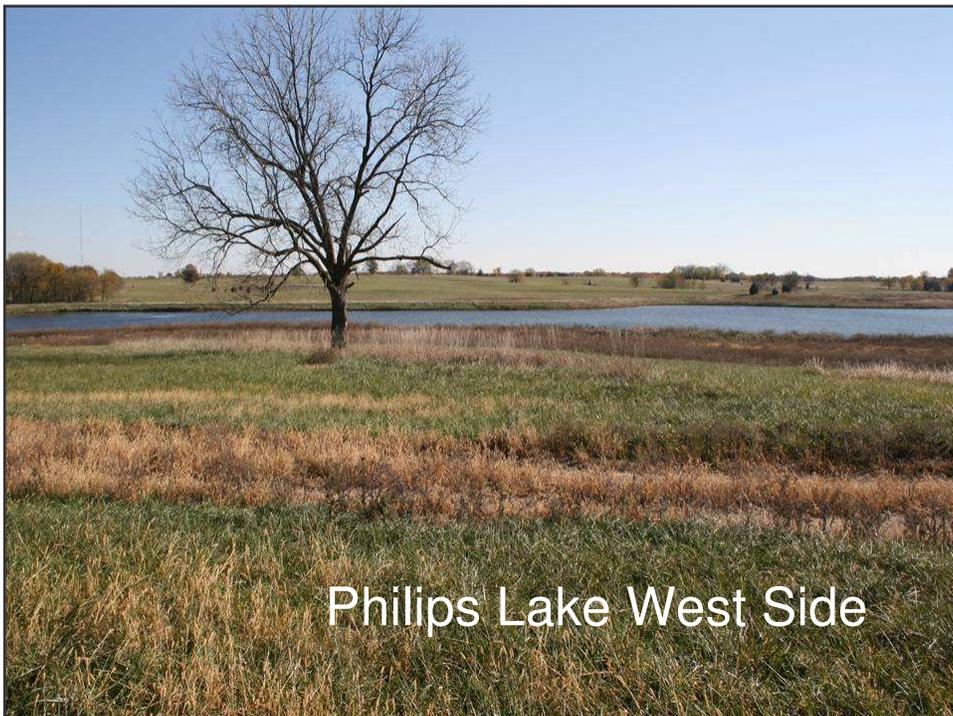
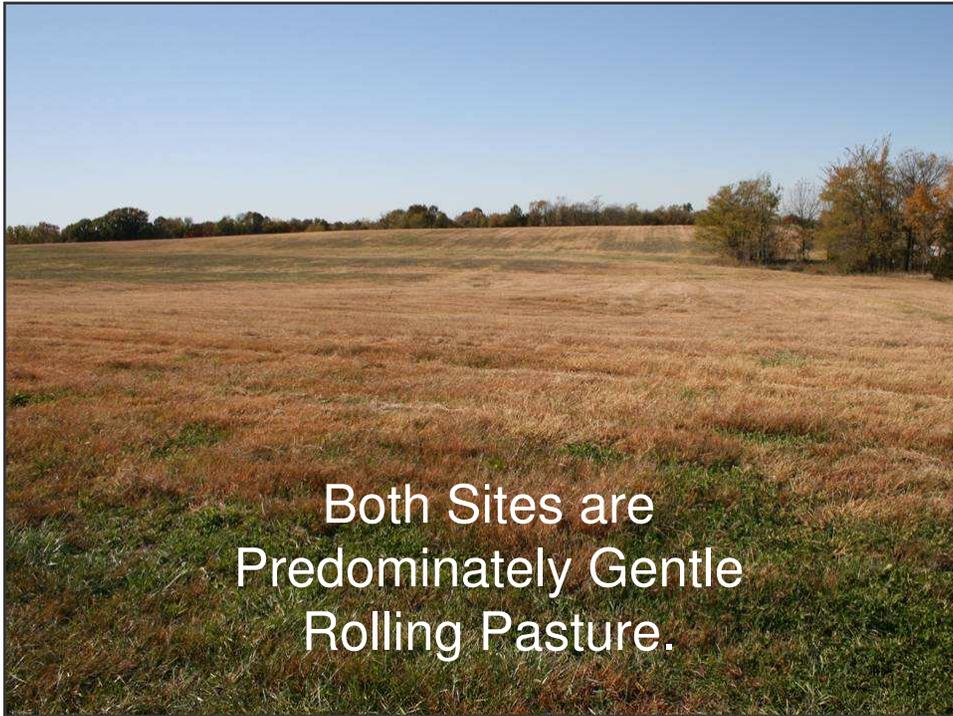
- Extension of Bristol Lake Parkway north along Philips west boundary;
- Gans Road from Providence Road to Highway 63.



NOTE: THE GANS ROAD INTERCHANGE AND ASSOCIATED ALIGNMENTS ARE PROPOSED AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Major Roadway Plan





Philips South Side



Gans Northwest Fields



Gans North Buildings



Adjacent to Gans Road



Gans Lake



North of Gans Creek





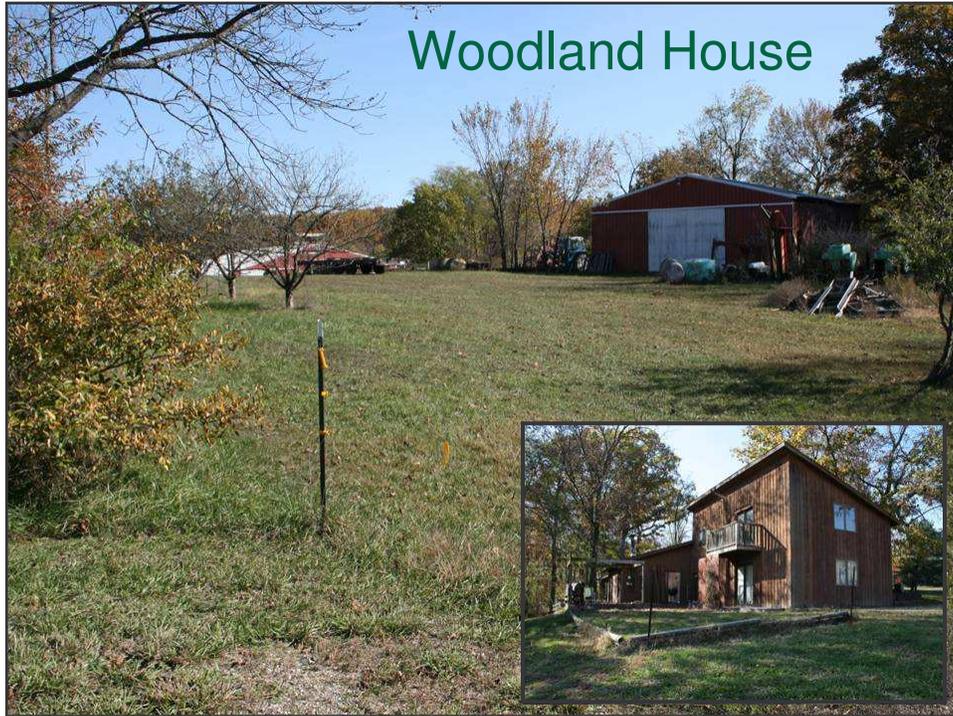


Gans Creek



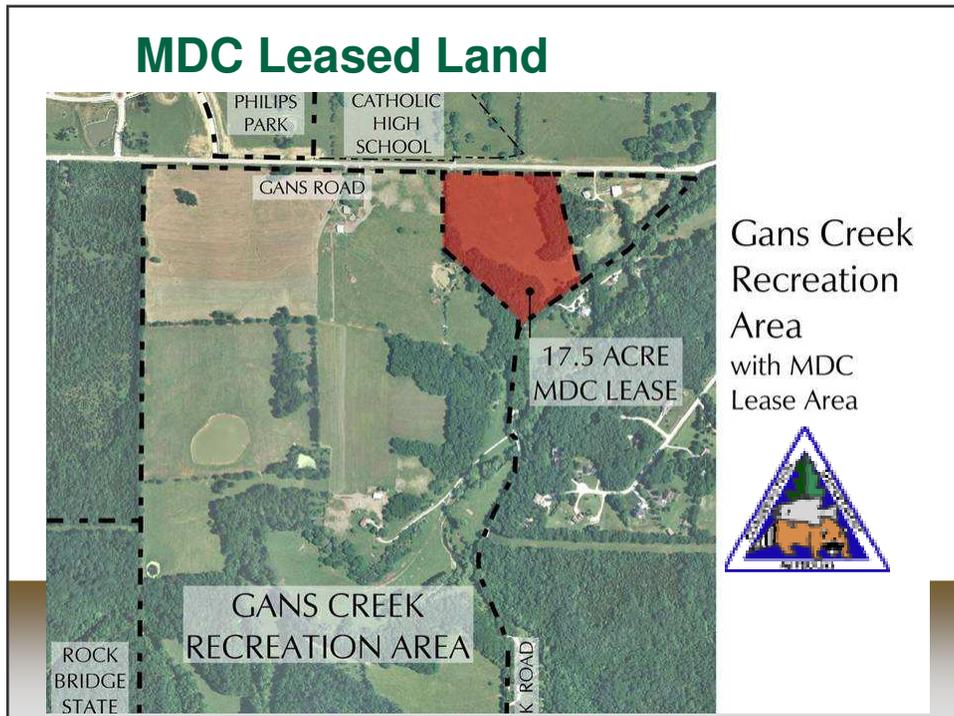
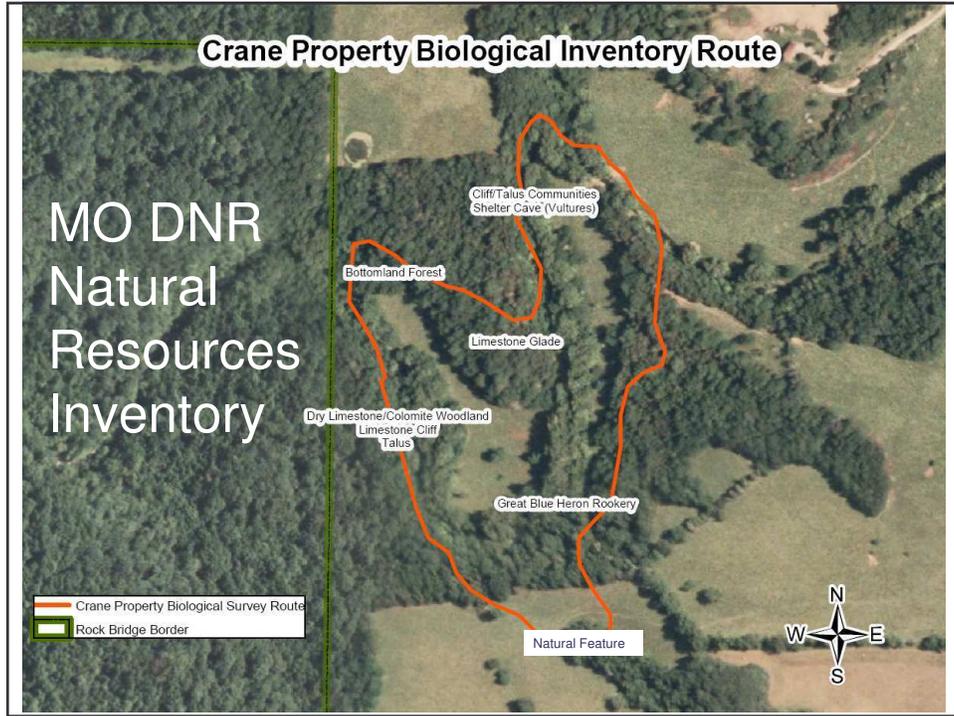
Bluff Top Buildings

Woodland House



South Fields







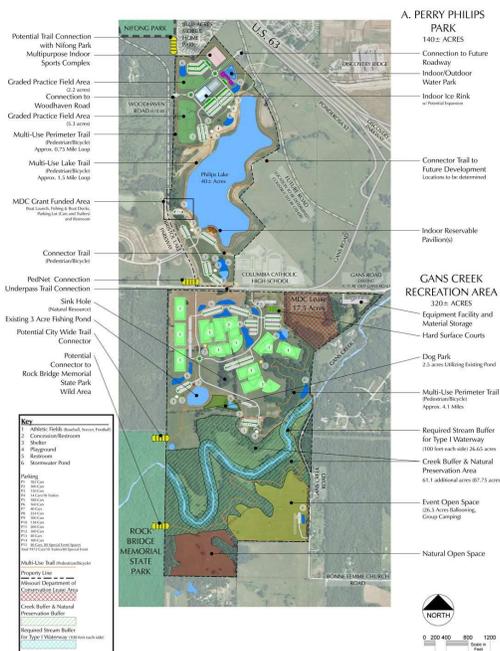
Regional Park Planning Process

- November 8, 2007 - Public Meeting, ARC
- November 12, 2007 - Public Meeting, Rock Bridge High School
- Focus Group or Special Interest Group Meetings ARC
 - December 11, 2007
 - January 14, 2008
- Web Survey
 - November 2007 thru January 2008
- Two draft master plan options prepared
 - Presented at 2 meetings: 12/10/08 and 01/07/09
 - Public Comment Survey conducted from Dec 2008 to January 31, 2009
- One draft master plan prepared
 - Presented at 2 meetings: 09/15/09 and 09/23/09
 - Public Comment Survey conducted from 09/15/09 to 10/01/09
- **Master Plan prepared for City Commissions and Council Approval**

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2010 Southeast Regional Park Master Plan

2010 Southeast Regional Park Master Plan A. Perry Phillips Park & Gans Creek Recreation Area

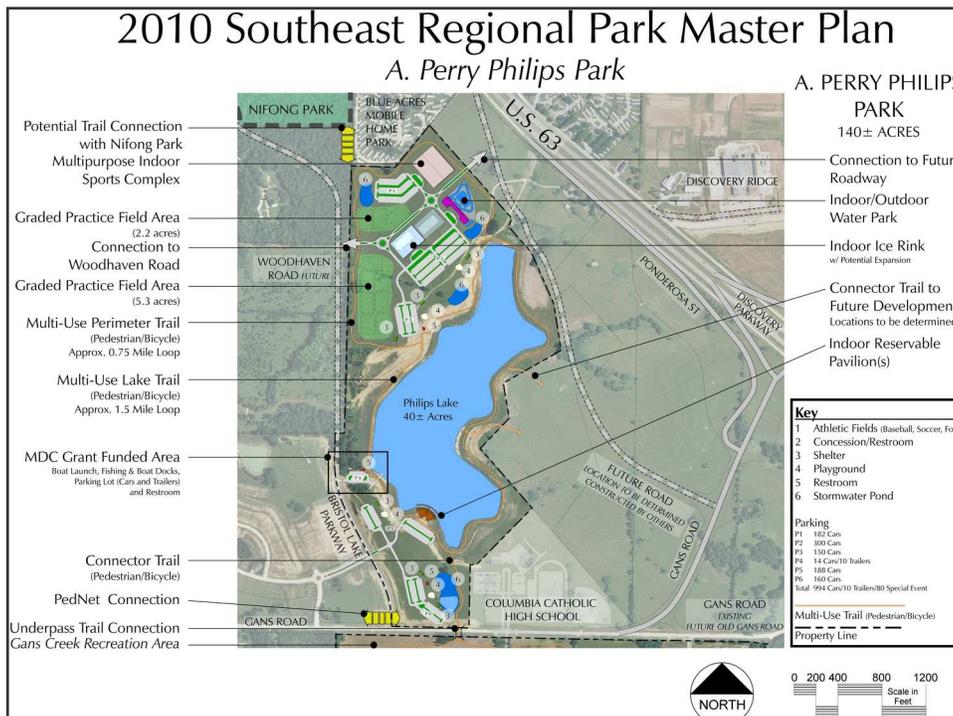




Highlights of Proposed Plan A. Perry Philips Park

- Fishing Amenities (docks, boat ramp, parking, restroom)
- Trails
 - Nature and Fitness Trails
 - Connectivity to others
- Standard Park Amenities (shelters, playgrounds, restrooms, etc.)
- Indoor facilities
 - Ice Rink, Sports Center, Aquatics
- Graded Practice Areas
- Indoor Pavilion
- Outdoor Aquatic Facility

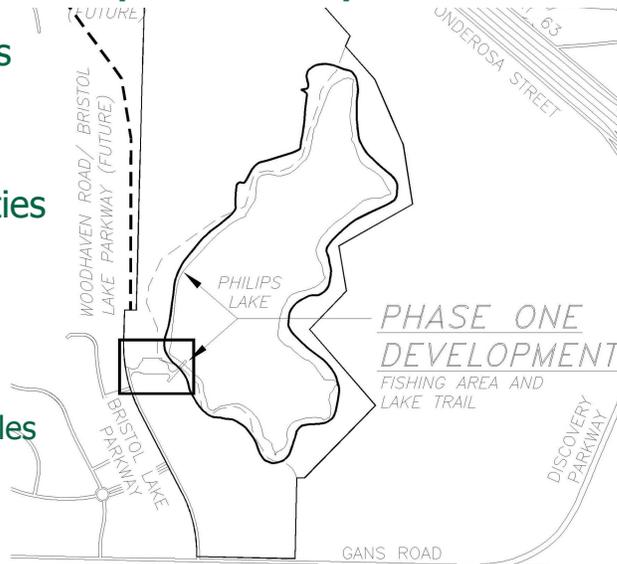
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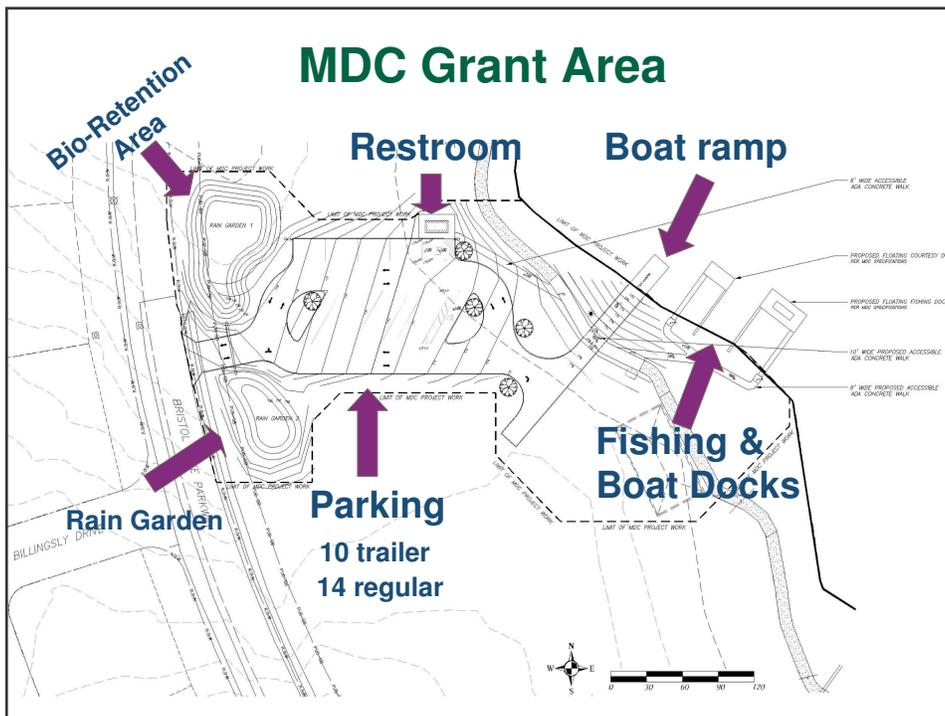
Philips Lake Phase I Development

City has \$407,500 in Park Sales Tax funds and a MDC Grant for Phase I development of Philips Lake Park.

- Fishing Facilities
- Lake Perimeter Trail
- Support Amenities
 - Parking
 - Restroom
 - Walkways
 - Detention basins/Bio-swales



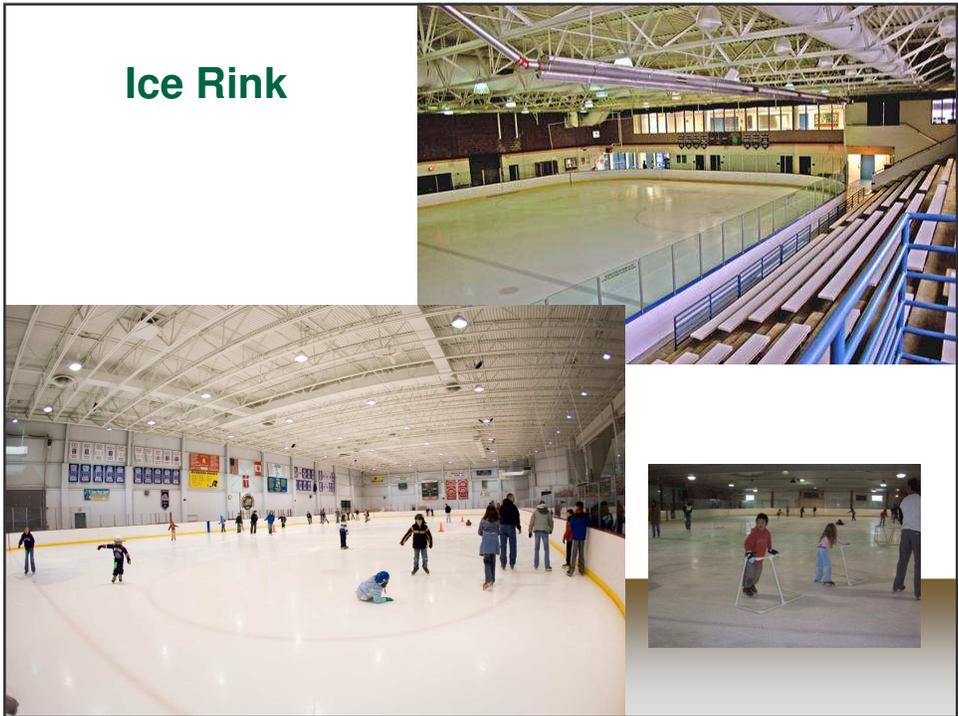
MDC Grant Area









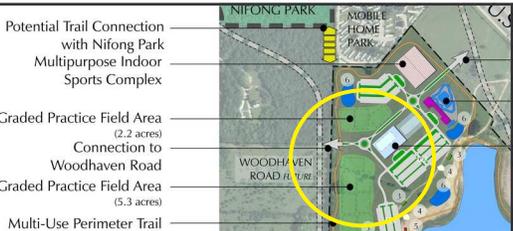




Indoor Athletic Facilities

Graded Practice Field Area (7.5 ac)

- Area that may be used for athletic practices (soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.) or used for special tournaments (soccer, football, rugby, ultimate frisbee, etc.)



2010 Modifications to Philips Plan Added Connection to Woodhaven Road



Highlights of Proposed Plan Gans Creek Recreation Area

- Trails
 - Nature and Fitness Trails
 - Connectivity to others
- Standard Park Amenities (shelters, playgrounds, restrooms, appropriate parking, etc.)
- Hard surface courts
- Outdoor Game/Tournament Athletic Fields (flexible on type)
- Natural Preservation/Creek Buffer
- Dog Park
- Event Open Space (balloons, group camping, etc)



Hard Surface Courts

Basketball

Tennis

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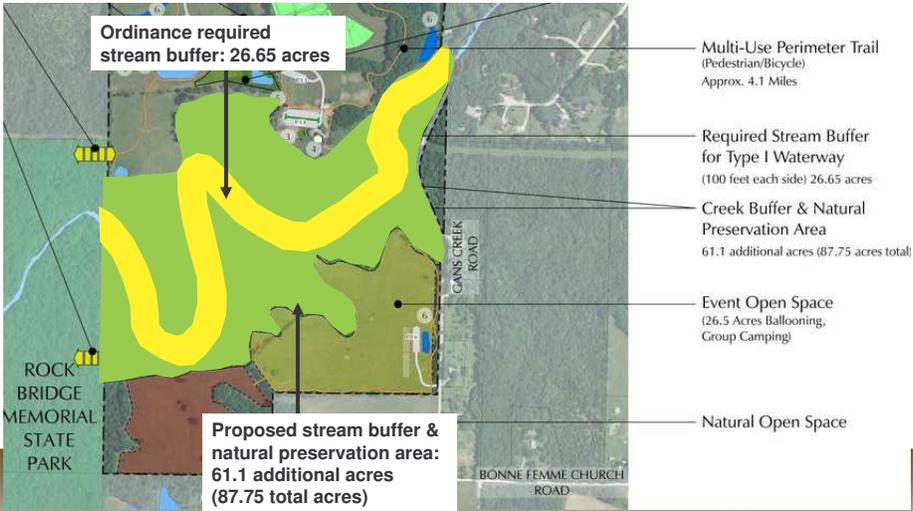


Outdoor Sports Fields

Designed for flexibility to meet future demand



Natural Preservation Areas







**Open Space for
Practice Fields,
Special Events
or Group
Camping**

Modifications to Gans Creek Recreation Area

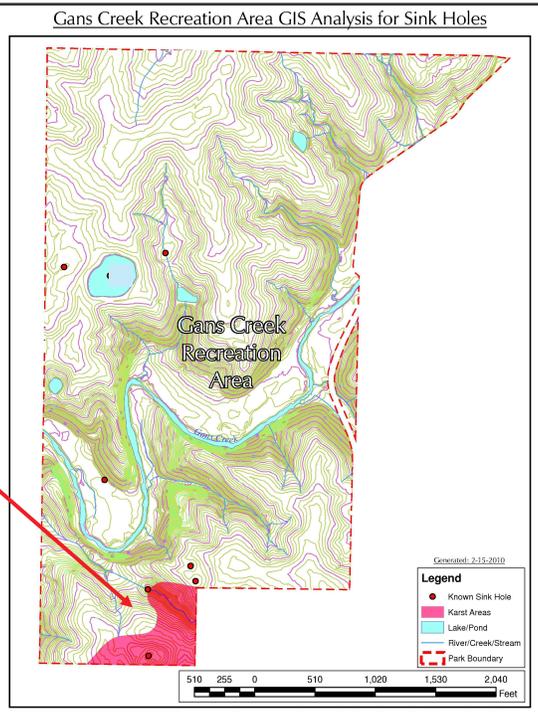
- A draft proposed master plan was introduced to public via two public meetings on 09/15/09 & 09/23/09 as well as by accepting comments through a web based survey.
- Plan was well received by the public with the exception of the proposed 17 acre equestrian area.
- Public comments were about evenly split between those that supported the equestrian areas and those that were against.
- Many of the comments that supported equestrian use, also expressed a desire for more than the proposed 17 acre site.
- Missouri Division of State Parks and the staff at Rock Bridge State Park had no official comment regarding the addition of equestrian facilities at Gans Creek Recreation Area.
- Comments were related to the karst topography of the site.

Gans Creek – Karst Topography

- Concerns about equestrian use related to the karst topography and sinkholes.
- Proposed equestrian area is located within designated karst area.
- Detailed mapping of existing sinkholes has not been completed, however research has confirmed the existence of multiple sites.



Gans Creek Recreation Area Known Karst Areas (shown in red)





Concerns with Equestrian Use & Karst Topo

- Best management practices (BMPs) exist to help protect the environment from storm water runoff from parking lots, buildings, athletic fields & other traditional recreation amenities.
- Protection of water that is enriched with waste from horses is more difficult to manage due to the wide open and dispersed nature of the activity.
- Horseback riding in an area that has sinkholes poses potential risks to horses and riders as tall grass obscures shallow sinkholes and new depressions or holes can develop overnight. Very difficult to keep sinkholes identified.

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Concerns with Equestrian Use & Karst Topography

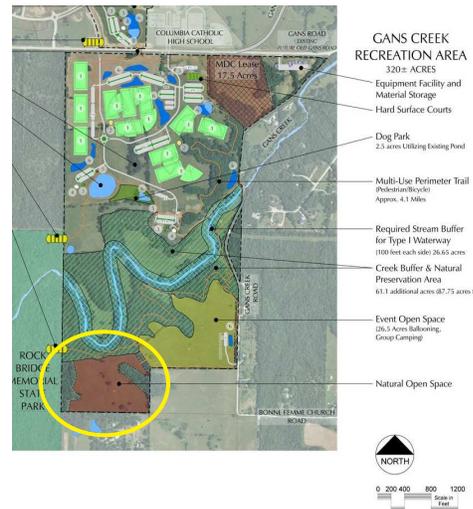
- Rains can carry horse waste short distances overland to such sinkholes and down through cracks in the limestone.
 - Water enriched with waste may enter caves and springs and can result in high nutrient levels that are known to cause algae growth and low oxygen levels which can cause harm to sensitive aquatic animals and increase bacteria levels.
- The springs and drainages on the Gans Creek property input water into the Gans Creek which flows into Rock Bridge State Park (only home of the endangered pink planarian).
- In addition to the potential for adverse impacts to the water, horse droppings can also introduce invasive and/or exotic species into an area.
- Horses crossing a stream can cause bank erosion introducing unwanted soil sediments into the stream.

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2010 Modification to GCRA Elimination of Equestrian Area

- Ultimately, park planning staff felt that equestrian use at Gans Creek Recreation Area presents more concerns and risks than potential benefits and is not included in the plan.
- Area is now designated as a “natural/open space” area.



Completing the Master Plan

- Master Plan report submitted to Council on Feb 1, 2010.
- Council forwarded master plan to the P&Z and P&R Commissions for their comment and recommendation.
 - Commissions may recommend plan as proposed or recommend modifications.
- After commission recommendations, Council will schedule a public hearing and approve final plan as proposed by staff/commissions or with modifications of their own.



How will the park be developed?

- Presently, the dept has \$407,500 in Park Sales Tax funds and a MDC Grant for Phase I development of Philips Lake Park.
- There are no other funds available for further development.
- One goal of the master plan is to provide a priority list of projects for future funding opportunities.
- The 2005 Park Sales Tax expires March 31, 2011 and presently those funds are committed to other projects.
- The renewal or extension of the Park Sales Tax provides the next best opportunity for regional park development funding.
- Council will have final decision on when and what projects are funded with the Park Sales Tax.

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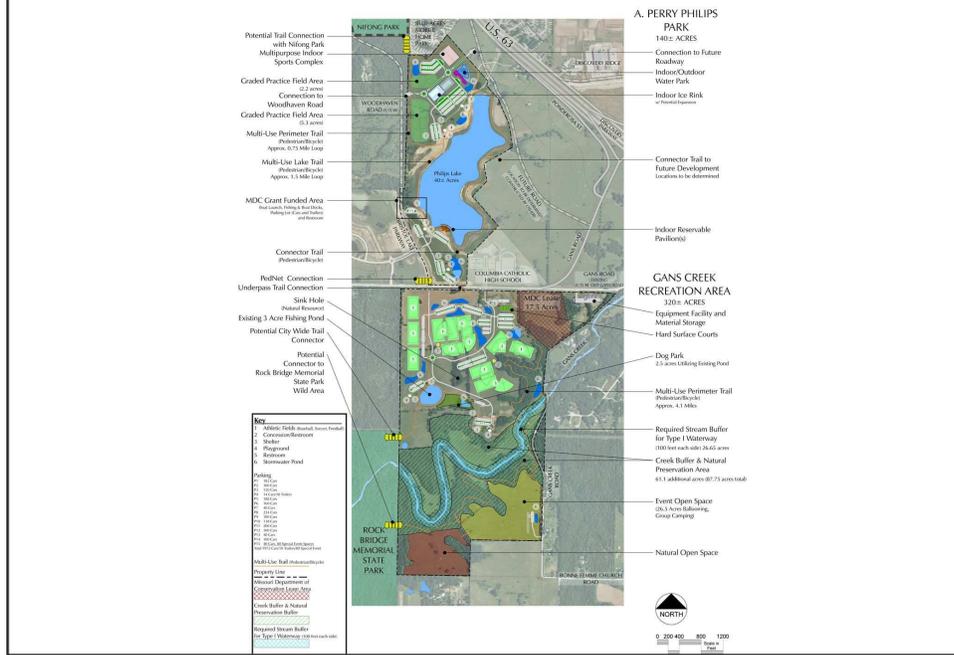


Concludes Staff Presentation

- Staff available for questions from Commissioners.
- Commission Public Hearing
 - Speakers state their name and address
 - Sign in either before or after speaking
 - Limit comments to 3 minutes
 - Please express new ideas and try not to repeat what others have already stated

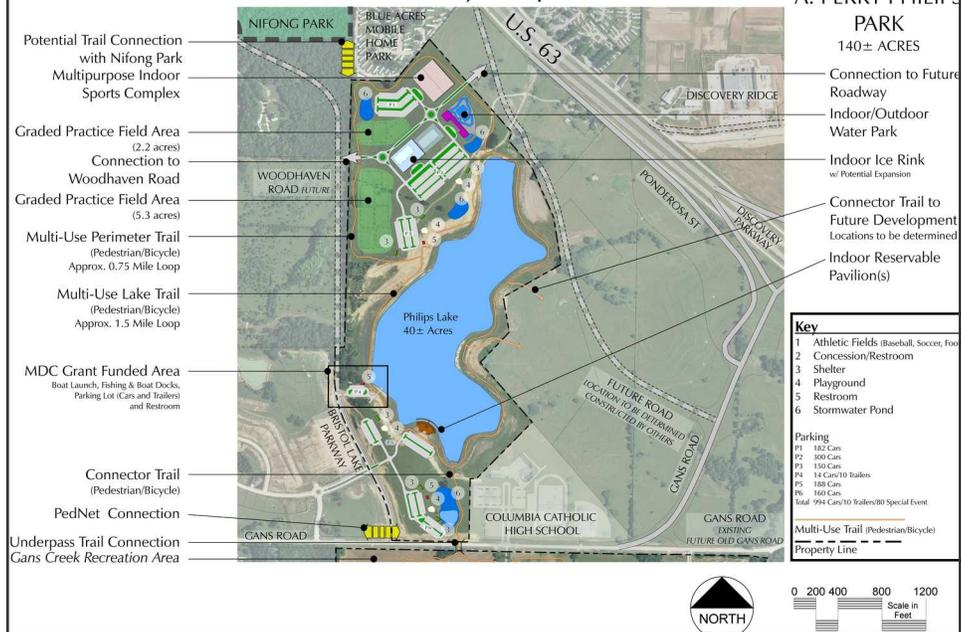
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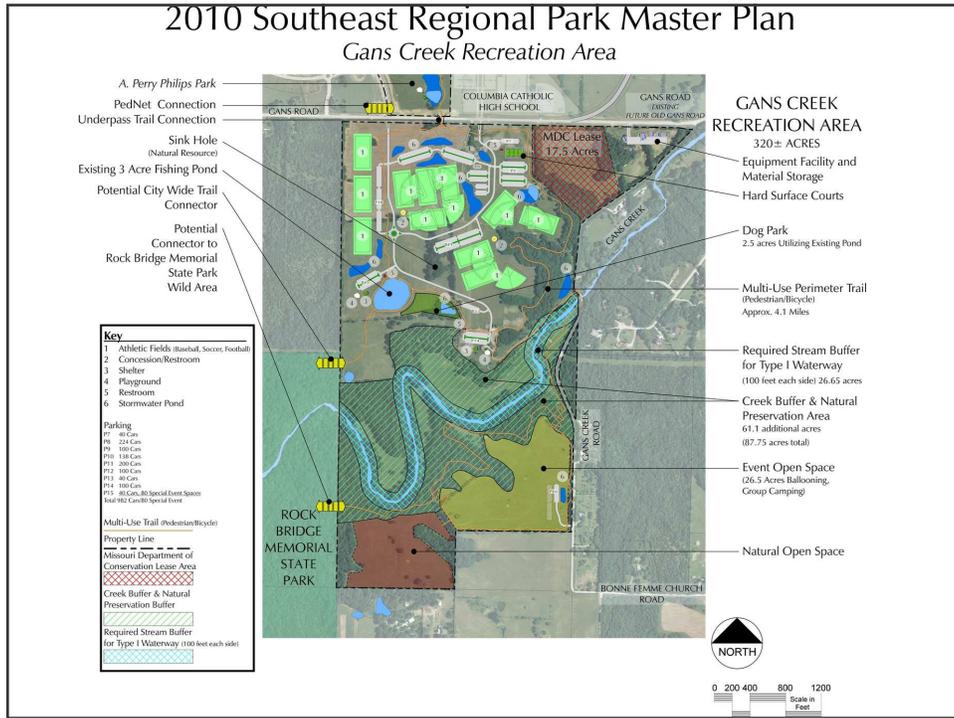
2010 Southeast Regional Park Master Plan A. Perry Philips Park & Gans Creek Recreation Area



2010 Southeast Regional Park Master Plan

A. Perry Philips Park





Following Public Hearing

- Commissioners may choose to:
 - Recommend approval of plan as proposed to City Council;
 - Recommend approval of plan with Commission changes to City Council;
 - Take plan and comments under advisement and make recommendation at future meeting.