



Source: Parks and Recreation *MBJ*

Agenda Item No: REP 52-13

To: City Council  
From: City Manager and Staff *MM*

Council Meeting Date: Apr 15, 2013

Re: Report: 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Draft Plan

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Parks & Recreation staff has completed the first draft of the 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and is requesting authorization to proceed with the final round of public input. Staff is planning on soliciting public input by placing draft copies of the plan at the Daniel Boone Regional Library and at various P&R facilities. Staff will also conduct an interested parties meeting at the ARC on April 24 from 5:00-7:00 pm where park planners will be available to discuss the plan. The plan will be posted on the department's website with an online comment form. Staff is also recommending that Council send the plan to various City Commissions for their comments. Once this round of public input is complete, staff will return to Council with a report that documents public and commission input and request a public hearing. Following the public hearing, a final plan will be presented to Council for final approval. Council may find a copy of the plan online at [http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/2013\\_Master\\_Plan/index.php](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/2013_Master_Plan/index.php). If a Council member prefers a hard copy, please inform staff and a hard copy will be made available.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Park planning staff officially began soliciting public input on the plan with a meeting on October 18, 2011. Since that initial meeting, Department staff communicated with a total of 58 park user groups (over 325 citizens) at 45 separate meetings throughout an eleven-month time period. Input was obtained in a variety of forums: community-wide meetings, small focus group meetings and boards and commission meetings. In addition to public meetings, the Department conducted both a citywide citizen survey and a park user survey in order to help provide insight into the community's desire for public facilities and recreation programming. ETC Institute/Leisure Vision was contracted to conduct a random citizen survey in March and April 2010 and obtained 753 completed household surveys. Based on input received from the random survey, staff conducted a similar online park user survey in November and December 2011. The Department received a total of 786 completed park user surveys that were analyzed by the University of Missouri's, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department. The survey instrument and charts/graphs from both surveys can be found in Appendix B of the draft 2013 Parks & Recreation Open Space Master Plan.

Highlights of the draft 2013 P&R Master Plan include:

- Record number of citizen input (1,539 completed surveys plus 325 citizens representing 58 park user groups)
- Includes two new chapters: Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan and an Accomplishments chapter that highlights what projects were completed since the 2002 P&R Master Plan.
- Visioning goals and strategies are discussed in respective areas such as acquisition, development and improvement of parks, trails and facilities.
- Trend chapter has three sections: Section I reviews national trends that have an impact on the Department as a whole. Section II reviews local municipal parks and recreation policy and operating trends and Section III reviews facility and program trends that directly relates to the field of parks and recreation.
- Walking and biking trails ranked as the number one facility need (76%). Walking and biking trails also ranked first as the most important recreation facility (37%), and 70% of respondents indicated a recent visit.
- The proposed 2013 Trails Master Plan identifies 5 priority trail acquisition and development projects that are further divided into smaller sections.
- Neighborhood parks, community parks, playground equipment/play areas, and park shelters/picnic areas were the second, third, fourth, and sixth (respectively) most important facilities to survey respondents.
- The proposed 2013 Neighborhood Parks Plan is recommending 5 new parks for priority acquisition.
- The majority of survey respondents expressed a need for parks shelters/picnic areas (70%), neighborhood

parks (68%), community parks (66%), and playground equipment/play areas (51%).

-The survey revealed that the vast majority (87%) of Columbia citizens use the parks, significantly more than the national benchmarking average of 72%. The majority of respondents (77%) felt City officials should place a high or very high priority on maintaining the existing parks, trails and recreation facilities.

-The number one recreation program most important to households (29%) and that households participate in most often (25%) was special events/festivals. Survey respondents ranked special events/festivals as the top recreation program need (46%). Youth and teen sports programs were the second most important (15%) in terms of participation and third in overall importance (12%).

-Recommended Capital Improvements chapter includes an analysis of needed improvements for existing parks, trails and facilities; new facilities in categories such as tourism development and community based; and those facilities that may be developed by two or more agencies or private partners.

-The plan includes the proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP serves as an effective planning tool for identifying current and future capital projects and funding sources. The plan is prepared and adjusted annually and serves as a critical component of the City's budget.

-The renewable 1/8-cent Park Sales Tax is the Department's primary source of funding for capital projects and for implementation of the 2013 P&R Master Plan.

For this next round of public input, park staff will place copies of the plan at the multiple parks and recreation facilities, the Daniel Boone Regional Library, and online at the parks and recreation website. The specific link is: [http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/2013\\_Master\\_Plan/index.php](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/2013_Master_Plan/index.php)

Readers of the plan will be encouraged to complete comment forms at the various sites or submit their comments via email or through an online survey. Staff is also planning on conducting an interested party meeting on Wednesday, April 24 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Activity and Recreation Center where park planners will be available to answer questions about the proposed plans.

Park planners will also attend various programs, events and functions that provide additional opportunities for public comments. These include recreation programs such as the Family Fun Fest, neighborhood meetings, fairs, or any other functions that provide the opportunity for staff to discuss the plan with groups or individuals.

Staff is also recommending that the Council consider directing staff to solicit comments from the following commissions at either their April or May meetings: Parks & Recreation, Bike and Pedestrian, Disabilities, Historic Preservation, and the Energy and Environment. Staff will provide each commissioner with a digital copy and provide each commission one hard copy if so requested.

Once this round of public feedback has been completed, park staff will return to Council with a request to host a public hearing. As part of this public hearing, staff will prepare a report documenting any proposed changes to the plan based on public and commission input. At the end of the public hearing it is recommended that Council direct staff to proceed with a final 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan with the revisions as noted by staff, public and Council. At a follow-up meeting, staff will return to Council with a resolution that accepts the plan.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact with this report.

**VISION IMPACT:**

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionimpact.php>

12.1 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.

12.1.1 Strategy: Examine existing park networks and identify gaps in the different defined types of parks.

12.1.2 Strategy: Develop an overall plan to make sure as many park needs as possible are met without unnecessary duplication.

5 Vision Statement, Development: Columbia, Boone County and the surrounding region, protect and preserve the natural environment, agricultural areas, and cultural resources; provide adequate infrastructure; included diverse, mixed-use, walkable and bicycle friendly neighborhoods; and develop in ways that positively contribute to and sustain community culture, heritage, and character. Our community accomplishes these ends through an open, inclusive, transparent, predictable, and accountable planning process with fair allocation of costs.

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

If Council concurs that public review of the 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan should occur, please direct staff to proceed.

<b>FISCAL and VISION NOTES:</b>					
<b>City Fiscal Impact</b> Enter all that apply		<b>Program Impact</b>		<b>Mandates</b>	
City's current net FY cost	\$0.00	New Program/ Agency?	No	Federal or State mandated?	No
Amount of funds already appropriated	\$0.00	Duplicates/Expands an existing program?	No	<b>Vision Implementation impact</b>	
Amount of budget amendment needed	\$0.00	Fiscal Impact on any local political subdivision?	No	Enter all that apply: Refer to Web site	
Estimated 2 year net costs:		<b>Resources Required</b>		Vision Impact?	Yes
One Time	\$0.00	Requires add'l FTE Personnel?	No	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	12, 12.1, 12.2
Operating/ Ongoing	\$0.00	Requires add'l facilities?	No	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	5
		Requires add'l capital equipment?	No	Fiscal year implementation Task #	39