

# Q & A

## City of Columbia Southeast Regional Park

February 27, 2007  
9 a.m.

City Council Chamber  
Daniel Boone Building  
701 E. Broadway  
Columbia, Missouri

Welcome  
Bill Watkins,  
City Manager

Announcement  
Mayor Darwin Hindman

Supporting Remarks

Park Proposal  
Mike Hood, Director,  
Department of Parks  
and Recreation

Closing  
Bill Watkins,  
City Manager

Questions from  
the Press



Views of the Crane property



### ~ Money ~

#### How much does the property cost? Does the City have the money?

- The total purchase cost is \$8,075,000. That's \$8 million for 320 acres (or \$25,000 per acre) plus \$75,000 to cover the cost of issuing Special Obligation Bonds/Notes.
- **NO TAX INCREASE IS NEEDED TO BUY THE PROPERTY.**
- Funding sources are shown below. They can only be used for park purposes.

Fund Balance, Park Sales Tax*	\$3,500,000
Fund Balance, Parks Capital Fund	\$ 800,000
Financing through local banks (Special obligation bonds/notes will be repaid with Parks Sales Tax over next four years)	<u>\$3,775,000</u>
Total Funding Sources	\$8,075,000

*\*This leaves a Park Sales Tax balance of about \$500,000 for unanticipated uses or opportunities.*

#### What will it cost to develop?

- This cost will be determined by the development plan. It will be necessary to ask voters to include funds to develop the property for active use in a future parks ballot issue. The Park Sales Tax comes up for renewal in 2011.

### ~ Need ~

#### Why does Columbia need another regional park?

- Need was determined in the 2002 Park Master Plan.
- Existing ballfield facilities are at maximum capacity.
- Programs and tournaments are turning participants away or leaving Columbia due to lack of fields. This has local economic impact.
- To cope, programs have shortened their seasons, played late-night games and restricted participant numbers. This affects the quality of recreation.
- Demand will continue to increase in the future.

#### Why is the Crane property so attractive?

- Many factors converge to make this a prime park location...
  - The lay of the land and its location within the target area identified for a new regional park in the 2002 Park Master Plan.
  - Access to a growing population.
  - Access to roads, including the proposed extension of Gans Road west to Providence Road and the new Gans infrastructure.
  - Proximity to Rock Bridge State Park, Philips Park and Nifong Park.
  - Site protects and preserves a portion of the sensitive Gans Creek Watershed and the border between the Crane tract and Rock Bridge State Park.
  - Physical relationship to nearby users, including current residents; students at New Haven School; students at the new Catholic high school; Discovery Ridge employees; those who will be living in new residential developments; and customers of developing commercial areas.

### **Why is it needed now?**

- These same factors are attractive for strictly commercial purposes. This land will only get more valuable – and more expensive – as time passes.
- It takes 20 – 25 years to fully develop a regional park.

### **~ Timeline ~**

#### **How soon can people start using the park?**

- Legislation to approve the purchase will be introduced at the March 5 City Council meeting. The Council will hold a public hearing on March 19 and could vote that night.
- If the City Council approves the purchase, the City will not take possession of the property until a year after closing the sale. The Crane family may continue to reside there during that time.
- We have not evaluated the question of using the property before it's developed.



#### **When will development begin?**

- Development won't start without a thorough citizen planning process, similar to the one used for Stephens Lake Park. That process could start this fall and might continue for 18 months to two years.
- The planning process will determine the cost of development and guide a strategy for funding the improvements.

### **~ Regional Park ~**

#### **What is a “regional park”?**

- As described in the City's park master plan, a regional park provides recreational options in natural settings and in intensely developed indoor and outdoor facilities.
- It's 200 acres or more and can handle large numbers of people.
- It's close to major roads that help traffic flow in and out during peak use.
- Lighted areas and extended hours are the norm.
- The minimum service area is a radius of five miles.

#### **What options are likely to be considered?**

- Active use areas, such as fields for softball, baseball, soccer, lacrosse and football.
- Preservation and protection of natural area along the Gans Creek waterway.
- Trails linking the Crane property to Philips Park, Nifong Park and Discovery Ridge.
- Picnic and shelter facilities.
- Restrooms and concessions.
- Other options, as identified by citizens.

