

Special Thanks:

The Citizens of Columbia
Mayor Darwin Hindman
Columbia City Council
City Manager Bill Watkins
Former City Manager Ray Beck
Former Councilman Bob Hutton
Former Councilman Jim Loveless
United States Tennis Association
Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission

In appreciation to the following who
contributed to the success of this project:

Roy and Rick Richardson Excavation
APAC, Inc.
Barton Electric, Inc.



The new courts at Fairview Park



The Dedication of the Thomas H. Rapp Tennis Courts at Cosmo Park

May 15, 2007



Tennis players in Columbia have some new places to play! The Thomas H. Rapp Courts at Cosmo Park and the Fairview Park Tennis Courts were completely rebuilt late in 2006 and are now open for play.

Both tennis court projects were on the list of parks projects approved by voters in November 2005, when the parks sales tax was extended. The two complexes were more than 25 years old and in need of complete renovation. Fencing, asphalt, and drainage systems were removed first, then the rebuilding process started. The improvements include totally new courts with fencing, net posts, backboards and windscreens. New lighting is currently being installed at the Cosmo courts.

Four new courts were built at Fairview Park and eight new courts were built at Cosmo. The Cosmo courts were reconfigured; instead of one row of eight courts, there are two rows of four, which makes tournament planning simpler. Another improvement at both complexes is the installation of the "California corners" fencing configuration, which minimalize ball movement and eliminate the rigid appearance of ordinary square fencing.

A portion of the projects was funded by a \$100,000 Public Facility Funding Grant from the United States Tennis Association (USTA). The remainder of the project--\$650,000--was funded by the parks sales tax.

The newly renovated courts in part has led to the Parks and Recreation Department being named a 2007 Tennis in the Parks (TIP) community by the National Recreation and Parks Association and the USTA. This status is given to agencies that provide access to quality public tennis facilities and opportunities for the public to enjoy the sport by advancing the latest tennis innovations for all program types. In order to be considered for the facility funding grant, a community must qualify as a TIP community.

The City of Columbia appreciates the support shown by the community for the Cosmo and Fairview Park tennis courts. Thank you for being here today to share in the dedication ceremony.

DEDICATION PROGRAM

Thomas H. Rapp Tennis Courts

6:15 p.m., Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Welcome and Introductions ~ Mr. Mike Hood, Director, Columbia Parks and Recreation Department

Remarks ~ Mr. Bill Watkins, Manager, City of Columbia

Remarks ~ Mayor Darwin Hindman, City of Columbia

Remarks ~ Ms. Mary Buschmann, Executive Director, USTA Missouri Valley Section

Ribbon Cutting ~ Columbia Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors

City Council

Darwin Hindman, Mayor

Almeta Crayton

Chris Janku

Karl Skala

Jerry Wade

Laura Nauser

Barbara Hoppe

Bill Watkins, City Manager

Mike Hood, Parks and Recreation Director

Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission

Bill Pauls, Terry Kloeppe, Dennis Knudson, Julia Grus,

Marin Blevins, Mike Jones, and Dan Devine