

Bear Creek Trail Funding

The entire Bear Creek Trail project was funded with a series of federal transportation enhancement grants as well as revenues from the City's existing 1/4 cent capital improvement sales tax. Phase IV of the trail was built by Aplex, Inc. of Linn, Missouri, at a contracted cost of \$459,146. Total project budget for Phase IV including engineering and design fees, right-of-way acquisition, and trail construction, was \$622,740. Funding for Phase IV was provided through a \$313,781 Federal Surface Transportation Enhancement Fund grant and \$308,959 from the City's 1/4 cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax.



Bear Creek Phase IV Bridge

Columbia Parks and Recreation Bear Creek Trail Phase IV from Hwy 763 to Oakland Park

Dedication
November 4, 2001



Bear Creek Trail
Columbia, Missouri

Bear Creek Trail

For the past two decades, the City of Columbia has been pursuing the development of a trails system which encourages our citizens to pursue active, healthy lifestyles by walking, jogging, and biking. One of the major trail projects is the Bear Creek Trail. This trail system, located in northern Columbia, links two of the City's most popular community parks, the 520 acre Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area and the 75 acre Oakland Park. In general, the trail follows the natural drainage system of the Bear Creek and runs in an east/west direction across the northern part of the City. The trail is approximately 4.3 miles in length. Construction of the trail began in 1996 and was divided into four phases.

The first phase is approximately one-mile from Garth Avenue to Creasy Springs Road. A 450-foot boardwalk built on the face of a steep hillside and a bridge over Bear Creek provide spectacular views of the creek below and close-up views of the beautiful flora that grows on the Missouri limestone bluffs.

Phase two provides the connection from Creasy Springs Road into Cosmo Park with a trailhead near the Skate Park. This section stretches through the Bear Creek Nature Area where one can frequently see beavers and other wetland wildlife.

Phase three is the section between Garth Avenue and State Highway 763. Phase four completes the project by connecting Hwy 763 to Oakland Park and includes two bridges over the Bear Creek. Much of phase four closely parallels the creek offering attractive views of the waterway and its limestone outcroppings.

In addition to the main trail, a short loop trail has also been developed which encircles a wetland area developed from the city's old waste water lagoons off Garth Avenue. The wetland attracts an abundance of birds.

Dedication Program

- I Welcome & Introductions - Michael Hood, Parks and Recreation Director
- II Remarks - Raymond Beck, City Manager
- III Remarks - Darwin Hindman, Mayor
- IV Remarks - Tom LaFontaine, Co-Chairperson, Judy Knudson, Member, Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health
- IV Ribbon Cutting - Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors

City Council

Darwin Hindman, Mayor

- 1st Ward - Almeta Crayton, 2nd Ward - Christopher Janku,
3rd Ward - Bob Hutton, 4th Ward - Jim Loveless,
5th Ward - John John, 6th Ward - John Coffman

Raymond A. Beck, City Manager
Michael Hood, Parks and Recreation Director

Parks and Recreation Commission

Dan Devine, Ann Gowans, Julia Grus, Larry Hine,
Kory Kaufman, Terry Kloepfel, Dennis Knudson,

This trail is presented to the Columbia City Council and the Citizens of Columbia from the City of Columbia and the Columbia Parks and Recreation Staff and Commission in appreciation for making this possible.