

INTRODUCTION

In 1994 the Parks and Recreation Department contracted with Landplan Engineering of Missouri, Inc., to develop a parks, recreation, and open space master plan for the City of Columbia. This master plan included a community survey and an inventory of existing park and recreation facilities, recreation programs, maintenance operations, staffing, and funding sources. Based on analysis of this data, recommendations were formulated for improvements to existing parks, acquisition and development of new park lands and recreation facilities, staffing, and funding sources. The goal was to develop a ten-year implementation plan for the various recommendations to serve the parks and recreation needs of Columbia's citizens and create a logical framework for a well-balanced parks and recreation system for the city. In September 1994, the document *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* was completed and published.

In Fiscal Year 2000 the City of Columbia acquired a 90-acre farm donated by the Garland Russell family on the west side of the city. In Fiscal Year 2001 the City purchased a 111-



acre property with a lake from Stephens College in the central part of the city. The need to develop master plans for these two sizable parks was the impetus for updating the 'facility needs' portion of the *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan*. By 2002 it had been eight years since the needs of the community were assessed with overall parks and recreation master

planning in view. The population of Columbia had increased 19% since 1994, from an estimated 74,072 in 1994 to an estimated 88,291 in 2002. Since recreation interests change and new types are introduced, an analysis of nationwide and local recreation trends was needed in planning for the future. Also, an important process of master planning is obtaining citizens' and parks and recreation related focus groups' input as to their specific recreation needs and wants.



Hence, the Parks and Recreation Department has prepared this *2002 Facility Needs Update* of the *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan*. Included in the *2002 Facility Needs Update* are an analysis of recreation facilities in the Columbia area; results of a city-wide random survey and a park user survey; current recreation trends; recommendations for proposed improvements to and development of existing parks; and future land acquisitions

and subsequent developments. The *2002 Facility Needs Update* is to be considered part of the City's comprehensive *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan*, updating the Facilities Inventory and revising the Facilities Recommendations and the Agency Action Plan.

Using this master plan as a long-term strategy for the future will enable the Parks and Recreation Department to plan individual parks with the overall city-wide parks and recreation goals in view. The end result will be a well-balanced park system serving the recreation needs of the community.

Mission Statement

"The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is committed to delivering effective, courteous, and responsible leisure services. In order to assist all citizens in the proper use of leisure time, we strive to provide adequate type, quantity, and quality of leisure opportunities. In delivery of these services, participants shall be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. It is our commitment to be accountable for the maintenance, preservation and development of the natural resources which have been entrusted to us."