

STANDARDS

Overview

The 1994 Master Plan Standards Section was based on the per population standards set by the National Recreation Park Association's (NRPA) "Open Space Standards and Guidelines" from 1987 and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) "Goals for Development Projects." During the 1990's the trend to quantify community park needs based on national standards changed. The NRPA no longer recommends that communities try to formulate their own needs assessments based on a set of per population rules. For example, a community in Florida may need more tennis courts than a community in North Dakota; likewise, the North Dakota community may have a greater need for outdoor ice rinks than the Florida community. For this reason, NRPA now recommends that individual communities develop their own standards based on input at open public meetings and through discussions with recreation programmers.

This is precisely the approach that the Parks and Recreation Department has utilized to assess parks and recreation facility needs and to prepare a ten-year action plan. (See Chapter 5 - Public Input.)

This chapter will only address comparisons of Columbia's outdoor facilities to the current DNR's standards for outdoor park facilities. This comparison is included because many state and federal agencies require it on grant applications and City staff can use this comparison to note possible deficiencies. The statistics contain facilities owned by schools, universities, private agencies, and government agencies in or around Columbia and those owned and/or operated by the City of Columbia. (See Chapter 2 - Park and Facility Inventory for details.) Included in this chapter are the "DNR Goals for Development Projects" (also referred to as "Missouri Standards"), a chart comparing Columbia's facilities with those standards based on 2002's estimated population, a chart comparing both based on 2011's estimated population, and conclusions drawn from these comparisons.

The 2000 census population of Columbia was 84,531. Based on the population increase from the 1990 census to the 2000 census, the *Fiscal Year 2002 City of Columbia Annual Budget* projects a 2.2% annual population increase for 2001. The following charts use this same 2.2% annual increase to estimate the city's population in 2002 and 2011.