

ACQUISITION

Needs Analysis - Community Parks



The *1994 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* identified the need for a community park in two areas of the city: 1) the southwest area, and 2) the southeast area.

Since the publishing of the *1994 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan*, the City acquired 89 acres of farmland (donated by the Garland Russell family) adjacent to Fairview Park in the southwest, the 111-acre Stephens Lake Park in the central-eastern part of the city, and a 40-acre tract (donated by the Jeff Smith family) off of Brown Station Road in the northeastern part of town.

The development of the Russell property adjacent to Fairview Park will satisfy the need for a community park in the southwest area. Stephens Lake Park will serve the eastern and southeastern portion of the city. The 40-acre tract off of Brown Station Road has the potential to serve as a community park for the northeast part of Columbia.

Each community park serves a three-mile radius. As shown by the community park map in Chapter 1 - Park and Facility Inventory, the existing community parks together with these three recently acquired properties satisfy Columbia's community park acquisition needs.

This *2002 Facility Needs Update* recommends that a regional park be purchased in the southeast part of the city. This would serve a five-mile radius of the southeast region of the community, further eliminating any need for a community park in that area.

There is no recommendation to acquire community park land within the next ten years.