

## ACQUISITION

### *Needs Analysis - Regional Parks*



The 1994 *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* did not include a regional park classification. This new classification came about as a recognition of the unique part that Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area (CCRA) plays in the Columbia park system. Due to CCRA's large size and the type and number of facilities, it draws users from across the community, county, and region.

Two factors indicate a need for a second regional park in the Columbia area. First, the user radius of a regional park is five miles. As shown on the accompanying map, the user radius adequately covers the northern and western portions of the city. However, a need exists for a similar facility to ensure coverage in the southern and eastern parts of Columbia. Second, CCRA, the only regional park in the system, will soon be fully developed. This is especially true for athletic fields. As discussed in Chapter 5 - Public Input, many athletic organizations expressed the definite need for additional athletic complexes in Columbia.

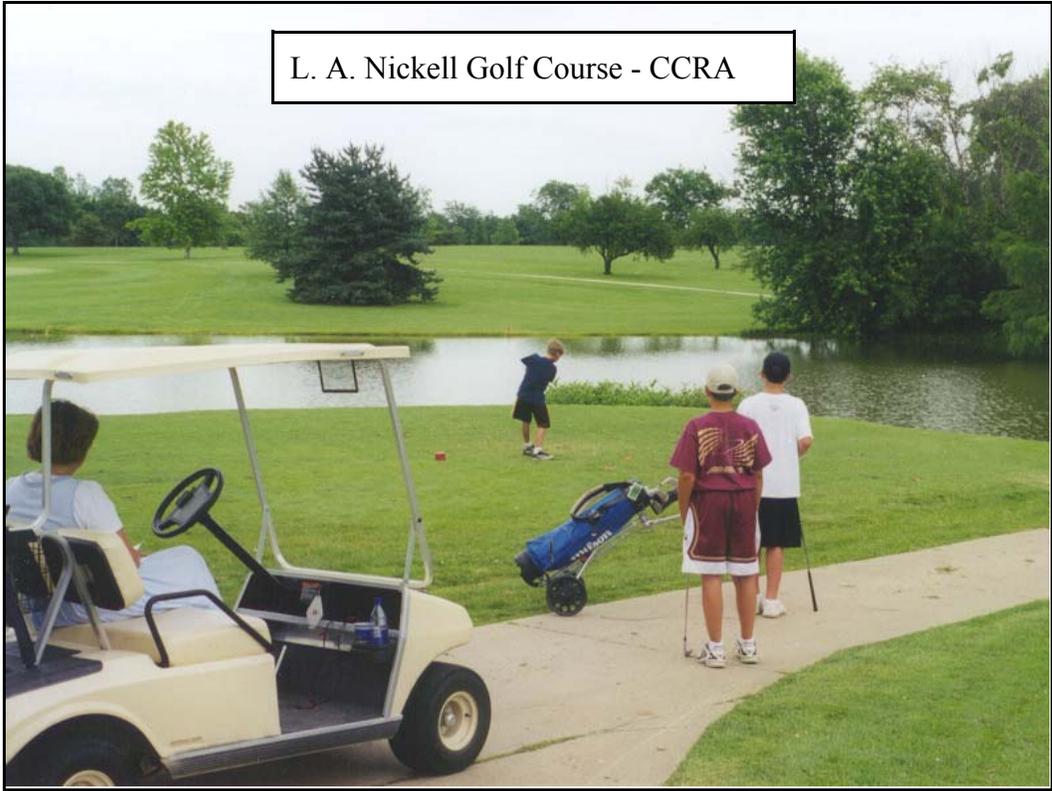
Like CCRA, this new regional park would provide an extensive number of athletic fields, both lighted and unlighted, for organized sports. In addition to athletic fields, a new regional park should provide opportunity for less structured recreation. The new park should have enough space for future expansion of facilities. This space can be used for the addition of fields, other recreation opportunities, or new facilities meeting future needs not yet determined.

Several considerations will help determine the location of a new regional park. First, a regional park can generate very heavy traffic at times, especially during league play and tournaments. Therefore, the location should have access to major highways and arterial roads and not be located within an existing residential area. Second, at least some of the athletic fields will be lighted. The tract should be able to accommodate lighted athletic fields in a location that would not have a negative affect on residential areas. Third, a large area will be needed to provide all the desired amenities. Typically, a regional park is 200 acres or more. Fourth, user radius indicates a need for such a facility in the southeast side of Columbia. Because of the cost of a 200+ acre tract, advanced financial planning is necessary

to facilitate purchasing land for a regional park. As the following regional park plan shows, acquisition and development of a regional park in the southeast part of the city would balance the park system in Columbia and provide the acreage required for a much needed athletic complex.

The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department therefore recommends that a 300-500 acre tract be purchased in the southeast portion of Columbia. The estimated cost is \$5,000,000 - \$8,000,000.

L. A. Nickell Golf Course - CCRA



Rainbow Softball Center - CCRA

