

ACQUISITION

Needs Analysis - Special Purpose Parks



By definition, special purpose parks include parks that provide the community with a unique purpose. Examples include parks or sub-units of parks that are designated as a natural, historical, or cultural resource, or parks with a singular purpose - such as a park that only hosts a community recreation center.

Examples of special purpose parks in Columbia are:

Park	Special Purpose
• Grindstone Nature Area	Natural resource
• Nifong Park	Historical resource
• Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Garden	Cultural resource
• Armory Sports Center	Indoor athletic facility

Possible special purpose park acquisition needs identified in this *2002 Facility Needs Update* include:

- Youth baseball/softball complex (10 fields)
- Soccer complex (10 fields)
- Football complex (6 fields)
- Tennis complex (8 courts)
- Cooperative joint-use athletic facility (game/practice field complex)

However, if the recommendation to acquire a regional park in the southeast area of Columbia is followed, then the above needs may be met in part or whole.

It is the recommendation of the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department to pursue acquisition of a southeast regional park first. Any athletic field/court needs not met by the development of this park could be addressed by the acquisition of land for special purpose parks (in this case - athletic facilities) in the future.

As significant historical, cultural, or natural areas become available for public acquisition, individual properties and facilities should be evaluated according to suitability, need, and potential funding sources. The Department does not propose any specific acquisitions for special purpose parks, but recommends careful monitoring of land or facilities available in the future that may fit into this special purpose park category.



Wildflower & berry photos by Robin Nutall