

RECOMMENDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Conclusion

As with all planning documents, the Recommended Capital Improvements Chapter is considered to be a “living document” that will be continually updated and shaped in order to meet the growing needs of Columbia’s citizens. The goal of this chapter is to identify all major maintenance and renovation projects, identify new capital projects, and identify new facility needs for future park and trail acquisition areas. Understanding that the list of projects realistically exceeds the amount of finances that are currently available, the Department felt it was important to identify park and facility capital improvement needs, as funding may become available through unknown sources, such as, private donations, grants, future ballot issues, and/or partnerships with other governmental or private parties.

Priority projects are identified in the City’s five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The plan is prepared and adjusted annually and serves as the critical component of the comprehensive City budget. Citizen input is continually sought and is officially solicited during individual park master planning sessions, Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, and various public hearings during the City of Columbia Council meetings.

Based on the information discussed in this chapter, the Department recommends the following:

- The Department recommends capital improvement projects for 50 parks and trails. These projects range in size from a new drinking fountain at Indian Hills Park to the construction of a chlorinated pool at the Twin Lakes Recreation Area.
- The Department recommends the acquisition and development of 18 new neighborhood parks.
- The Department recommends the acquisition and development of a regional park similar to the existing Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area (Cosmo Park). Amenities to be included in the new regional park include trails, nature areas, and high-use athletic complexes and support facilities such as parking lots, lights, concessions, restrooms, and maintenance areas.
- The Department recommends the continued exploration of acquisition and development projects that could be co-sponsored between the City and the Columbia Public School District, other governmental agencies, and private organizations and associations.