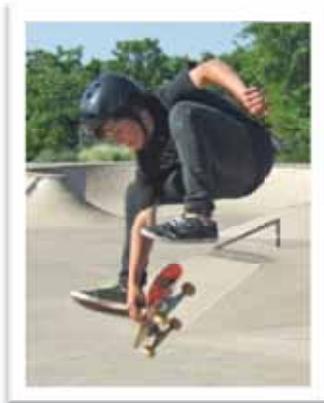


# PARK AND FACILITY INVENTORY

## Overview

Columbia Parks and Recreation manages over 3,000 acres of park land with 65 active parks and seven indoor recreation facilities. Included in the active parks are six major trails.



Columbia Skate Park

The largest of the parks is the 533-acre Cosmopolitan Recreation Area, also known as Cosmo Park. Along with traditional park features, Cosmo Park is home to the 8-field Antimi Sports Complex, 6-field Rainbow Softball Center, Rhett's Run Mountain Bike Trail, Cosmo Fitness Trail, Columbia Skate Park, L. A. Nickell Golf Course, and the only lighted and/or irrigated soccer and football fields in the park system.

**Over 3,000 acres of park land**

In accord with the 2002 Facility Needs Update, the City purchased the 320-acre Gans Creek Recreation Area located in southeast Columbia to serve as the Columbia's second regional park. The development of this park will be phased in over many years.

With the passing of the Park Sales Tax extension in 2005, the development of a tournament-level baseball complex at Atkins Park was initiated. To date, the complex consists of three lighted and irrigated baseball fields, a picnic shelter, and a concession/restroom building. This baseball complex together with all the other sports facilities in the park system enables Columbia to reap the economic benefits of drawing state, regional, and local tournaments, as well as serve as the host city for the Show Me State Games.



Atkins Park



MKT Trail

Columbia Parks and Recreation maintains over 50 miles of trails to serve its citizens. In 2006, Columbia was selected as one of four communities in the nation to participate in the Federal Highway Administration's Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot program.

Columbia's designation as a pilot city came with \$22.4 million in federal funds, of which about \$8 million was earmarked for development of trails and trail connections. County House Trail, South Providence Trail, and Hinkson

Creek Trail Phase II

**Over 50 miles of trails**

were three of the federally-funded trail projects. These new trails were constructed in concrete to reduce maintenance costs and prevent washout problems.



ARC Water Zone

The Activity & Recreation Center (ARC), completed in December 2002, is Columbia's full-service rec center and features an indoor leisure pool, two gymnasiums, indoor walking/jogging track, cardio and strength training areas, group exercise classroom, a drop-in child care facility, and reservable meeting and party rooms. The ARC serves over 300,000 visitors each year. The Armory Sports Center has the only other indoor gymnasium in the park system.

The City of Columbia has preserved 321 acres for nature areas. Some of the natural features on these lands include wetlands, woods, bluffs, creeks, and prairie.

**The ARC serves over 300,000 visitors each year.**



Flat Branch Spraygrounds

The City's park system also includes two 18-hole golf courses, nine fishing lakes, three outdoor swimming pools, two outdoor water play areas, three spraygrounds, and cooperative use of one indoor pool. Other park amenities include an archery range, outdoor hockey rink, and three 18-hole disc golf courses. Citizens and visitors also enjoy visiting the historical buildings and museums at Nifong Park and the lovely, award-winning Battle Garden that is home to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

The citizens of Columbia not only benefit from the parks and recreation facilities provided by the

**The City of Columbia has preserved 321 acres for nature areas.**

City of Columbia, but also from the facilities provided by other local agencies. Columbia is home to the University of Missouri, Stephens College, and Columbia College. Residents have access to county, state, and federal facilities. The private sector also provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

In determining the recreational facility needs in a community, all facilities available to the public are taken in consideration. Hence, along with the inventory of the City of Columbia's parks, facilities, and amenities, this chapter includes an inventory of other local agencies' recreation facilities.

The Department's inventory in this document includes parks and facilities that the Department owned and/or maintained as of the end of calendar year 2012.



Capen Park

*(Detailed information on individual City-owned parks and facilities can be found in Appendix A.)*