

# PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

## Section II: Community Parks

### Overview - Community Parks

Community parks provide a variety of individual and organized recreation activities conveniently located for short-term visits. Community parks may be located in residential neighborhoods and suburban areas. The service area for community parks generally extends up to 3 miles. The park size typically will be 15-100 acres, serving several neighborhoods.

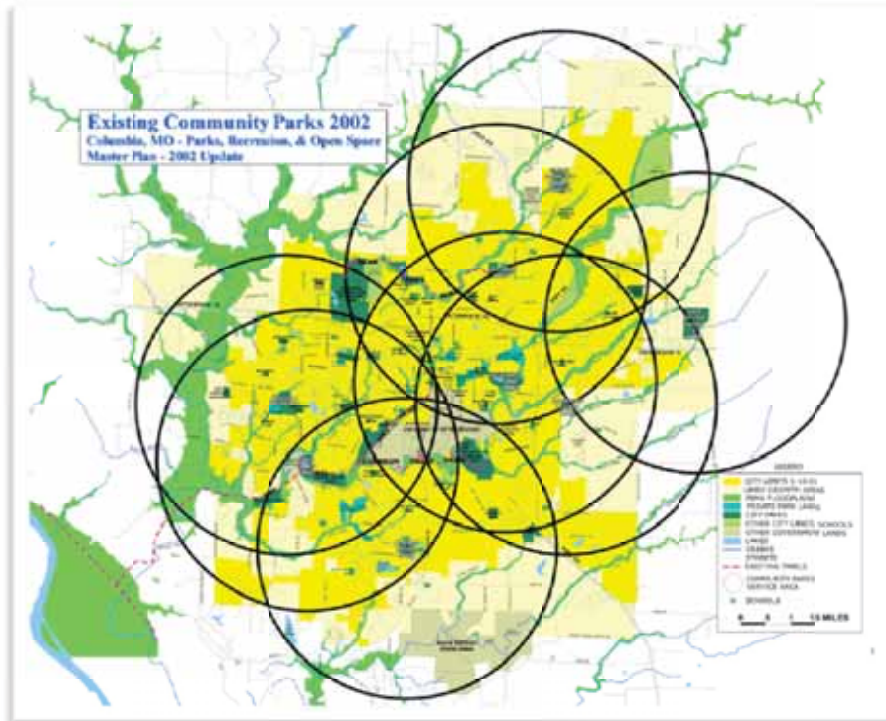


Stephens Lake Park

Facility development may include reservable picnic shelters, court facilities (tennis, basketball and/or volleyball), playgrounds, swimming pools, spraygrounds, athletic fields, trails, restroom facilities, and adequate parking.

### History - Community Parks

In 2002, the city had 8 community parks: American Legion, Cosmo-Bethel, Albert-Oakland, Smith (undeveloped), Stephens Lake, Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary (undeveloped), Lake of the Woods Recreation Area, and the Twin Lakes Recreation Area. As evident by the existing Community Park map from 2002 (below), the City was served well by community parks. There were no recommended acquisition areas for community parks.



However, since a community park can also serve in place of a neighborhood park, the Department takes advantage of opportunities to fill a neighborhood park need with a larger parcel of land when opportunities lend themselves and funding is available.

Four community parks were acquired since the *2002 Facilities Needs Update* was adopted - Atkins, Strawn Road (undeveloped), Battle Avenue (undeveloped), and Philips. Five of the existing parks have been re-classified as community parks - Clary-Shy, Douglass, Fairview, Indian Hills, and Rock Quarry.

### **Current Status - Community Parks**

Currently, the 17 parks classified as Community Parks are: Albert-Oakland, American Legion, Atkins, Battle Avenue (undeveloped), Clary-Shy, Cosmo-Bethel, Douglass, Fairview, Indian Hills, Kiwanis, Lake of the Woods Recreation Area, Philips, Rock Quarry, Smith (undeveloped), Stephens Lake, Strawn Road (undeveloped), and Twin Lakes Recreation Area.



Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center

The 2010 Park Sales Tax includes funding for phase I development at Norma Sutherland Smith and Strawn Road Parks.

### **Recommended Acquisition List - Community Parks**

There are currently no recommended acquisition areas for community parks. The existing community parks are well distributed throughout Columbia and there is ample undeveloped park land to accommodate athletic fields, reservable shelters and other amenities typical of



Lake of the Woods Recreation Area

community parks. Often community parks become available by either donation to the City or unforeseen circumstances that make a property available. This makes community park acquisition difficult to plan for. For example, the Lake of the Woods Recreation Area was a country club that was having financial trouble, Stephens College needed to sell Stephens Lake Park for financial reasons, Strawn Road Park became available as the City sewer utility changed its operation and the property was no longer needed for sewer purposes, and the Norma Smith Property was a private donation given to the City.

The Parks and Recreation Department will remain adaptable to land acquisition opportunities. When opportunities present themselves for the City of Columbia to acquire a large parcel of land, the parcel should be evaluated individually on the merits the potential park presents versus the available funding sources and other competing park and recreation needs. There is \$1,525,000 earmarked from the 2010 Park Sales Tax for park land preservation. A portion of those funds could be used to purchase for a community park should an advantageous opportunity arise.