

PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Section III: Regional Parks

Overview - Regional Parks

Regional parks provide a diversity of recreational opportunities in both natural settings and intensely developed indoor or outdoor facilities that can accommodate large numbers of people without significant deterioration of the recreation experience. The size is normally 200 acres or more, and the service area generally extends up to 5 miles.



Cosmo Park

Development may include, but is not limited to, informal picnic areas, reservable picnic pavilions for scheduled use, playgrounds, tot lots, court facilities, lighted athletic fields, running track, restroom/concession buildings, garden plots, indoor or outdoor equestrian facilities, indoor recreation center, indoor or outdoor entertainment features, amphitheater (average 150-500 capacity), 9-18 hole golf course, miniature golf, golf driving range (lighted), visitor center and interpretive exhibits, walking trails and bridle paths, and parking.

History - Regional Parks

The *2002 Facilities Needs Update* identified a need for a new regional park in the southeast portion of Columbia. That need was filled with the purchase of the 320-acre Gans Creek Recreation Area and 140-acre Philips Park. Since the two parks are individually named and separated by a road, Philips Park is classified in the park inventory as a community park and Gans Creek Recreation Area is classified as a regional park. However, the two will serve together as a regional recreation area.

Current Status - Regional Parks

There are two parks currently classified in the park inventory as regional parks: Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area (aka Cosmo Park) and Gans Creek Recreation Area. The 2010 Park Sales Tax includes funding for Phase I development of the southeast regional park - Gans Creek Recreation Area/Philips Park.

Recommended Acquisition List - Regional Parks

There are currently no recommended acquisition areas for regional parks. The two regional parks are distributed as such that their service radius covers the Columbia area, and there is ample existing undeveloped land to accommodate major sports complexes, reservable shelters and other amenities typical of regional parks. Concentration over the next ten years will be to phase in development of the southeast regional park. The Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area, Columbia's first regional park, took decades to fully develop. The same will be true of Gans Creek Recreation Area and Philips Park.