

# PARK ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

## Section IV: Special Purpose Parks

### Overview – 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.



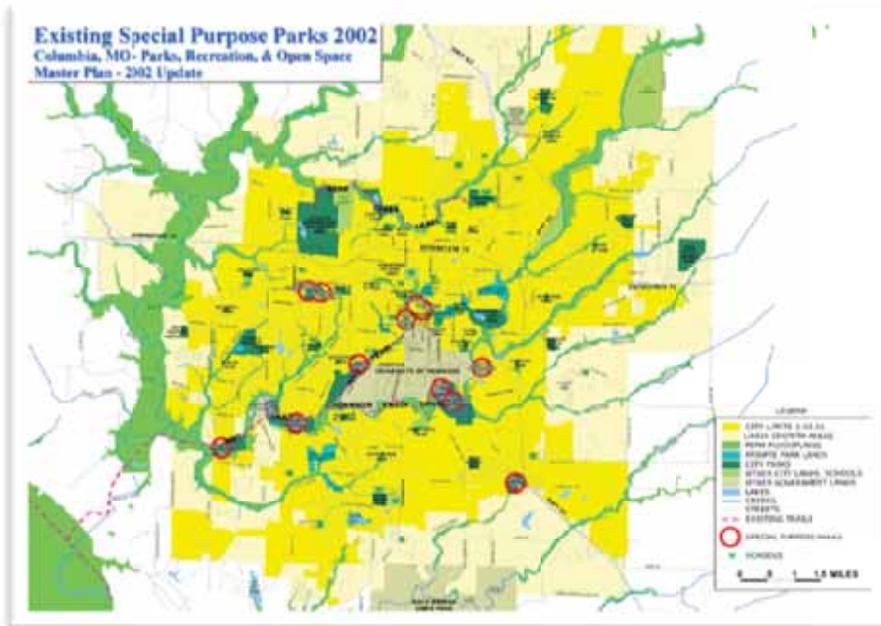
Flat Branch Park

### History – Special Purpose Parks

In 2002, the City categorized 12 parks special purpose parks in its inventory: the Armory Sports Center, Clary-Shy, Capen Park, the Activity & Recreation Center, Flat Branch Park, Forum Nature Area, Grindstone Nature Area, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Garden, MKT - Scott Blvd., Nifong Park, Old 63 Roadside Park, and Village Square Park.

The 2002 *Facility Needs Update* listed no direct needs for Special Purpose Parks. However, it recommended that as opportunities for historic, cultural or natural resources presented themselves, the City should evaluate them for acquisition merit.

No new special purpose parks have been acquired since the 2002 *Facility Needs Update* was published. However, some of the special purpose parks listed in the 2002 inventory have been reclassified. For example, the indoor Armory Sports Center is no longer classified as a “park,” as it is an indoor facility located in the downtown area with no additional green space, and nature areas have been re-classified in the new Natural Resource Parks category.



### **Current Status - Special Purpose Parks**

In 2013, the City has 6 parks classified as special purpose parks in its inventory: Flat Branch Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at Battle Garden, MKT-Scott Blvd., Nifong Park, Old 63 Roadside Park, and Village Square Park.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at Battle Garden

### **Recommended Acquisition List - Special Purpose Parks**

Special Purpose Parks serve the entire community in unique ways and often become available not as part of a planned acquisition process, but as unique opportunities become available. As significant historical, cultural, or natural areas become available for public acquisition, individual properties and facilities should be evaluated according to suitability, need, recreation or education value and potential funding sources.

Columbia's downtown area known as the District, is experiencing rapid growth in urban dwelling units. There have been several conceptual master plans created for the downtown area over the last several years that have all called for increased park land as the residential population of the downtown increases. Planners generally agree that the vision for a vibrant downtown would include permanent residents and green space to attract and serve those residents. One property that may become available for acquisition in the downtown area is the 2-acre Ameren UE maintenance facility surrounded by Ash, Park and St. James Streets.

In addition to the Ameren property, the Department recommends careful monitoring of land or facilities available in the future that may fit into this special purpose park category. 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 a special purpose park should a unique opportunity arise.