

RECOMMENDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Overview

Columbia Parks and Recreation has prepared lists of capital improvement projects by category, which are included in the sections listed below. These projects, based on information gathered during the public input stages, trend analysis, and combined with Department recommendations, represent capital needs that are anticipated during the next five to ten years. This information is used to determine development and acquisition priorities that are identified annually in the City's Capital Improvement Program.



Park Construction Crew at Longview Park

It is important to note that in 2010, the Department of Justice made substantial revisions to the original 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For the nearly 20 percent of the national population with disabilities, the ADA removed architectural and social barriers that had prevented them from enjoying the same privileges of living in the United States as able-bodied citizens. The most recent revisions left facility managers facing a host of challenges in interpretation and implementation, as well as a need to fully embrace universal design.

In order to meet the ADA's March 2012 compliance deadline, the City of Columbia underwent an extensive process with an outside consultant to complete an assessment of City facilities. This report identified various compliance projects in 33 parks and recreation facilities at an estimated cost of approximately \$800,000. The projects ranged in scope from lowering bathroom mirrors to replacing sidewalks. Staff has analyzed the reports and prioritized and scheduled projects based on need, usage, feasibility, and funding. Some of the projects were started and completed in 2012. Work that does not qualify as capital improvements will be funded out of the annual park maintenance operating budget. Therefore, ADA compliance projects are not covered in this document due to the completion of and action initiated on the assessment report.

Capital Improvement projects that have secured funding (such as those funded by the 2010 Park Sales Tax Ballot) are not included in Sections I or II. Projects from the 2010 Park Sales Tax Ballot that are scheduled for funding in 2014 -2016 are included in Section III. (For a complete list of projects funded by the 2010 Park Sales Tax Ballot, consult the Parks and Recreation website at www.GoColumbiaMo.com - search: "Park Sales Tax").

Park acquisition and development is discussed in Chapter 9. Trail acquisition and development is discussed in Chapter 10. Once the property is acquired and funding is secured for development, these park and trail development projects will ultimately be included in the five-year Capital Improvement Program as part of the City's annual budget process.

Recommended capital improvements included in this chapter are divided into three sections:

Section I: Existing Facilities

Section II: New Facilities

Section III: Proposed FY 2014 Capital Improvement Program

All proposed project costs are provided as a basic budget for future planning. The “FAL” designation in the project description indicates the Department is anticipating using parks staff or Force Account Labor to conduct the work. These costs are based on 2013 dollars.

Section I summarizes needed capital improvement projects for parks and facilities that the City owns or manages and are currently unfunded. Many of these projects consist of repairs, renovations, and replacement of existing facilities. This chapter also identifies new areas or facilities that have not yet been constructed. The list of these projects are derived from existing individual park master plans or based on standard park development. These projects are organized by individual parks in alphabetical order.

Section II highlights needs for new parks and facilities. This includes proposed capital improvement projects that require further master planning efforts before a suitable park is selected. For example, there is high demand for a multi-use indoor sports field house or basketball court gymnasium where several existing parks would be suitable for this project. However, it is prudent to conduct further public input, individual park master planning, and engineering analysis prior to selecting a site.

Section II also includes projects that could be developed in cooperation with other public or private agencies or organizations. In 2001, the Columbia Public School District and the City cooperatively constructed an eight-court tennis complex. Planning efforts, land, and financial resources were shared equally by the two agencies. The final product is an excellent tennis complex that was economically constructed for the benefit of Columbia citizens. The Department is recommending that further joint-use projects be considered.

Section III is the Capital Improvement Program. This program is the primary method used by the City of Columbia to implement public improvements. While Sections I and II summarize the list of all identified possible improvement projects, it is the Capital Improvement Plan that places them in priority order. The plan is prepared and adjusted annually and serves as a critical component of the comprehensive City budget. It provides an effective planning tool for identifying current and future improvements along with funding sources. In essence, the Parks and Recreation Department’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) functions as the “Action Plan” component of this 2013 P&R Master Plan.

The Parks and Recreation CIP plan in Section III will be included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2014 City of Columbia Annual Budget (subject to revision during the Council approval process.) A well-rounded Capital Improvement Program will aid Columbia to reach the Community Visioning recreation goal as expressed below.

Imagine Columbia’s Future - Recreation Goal

“Columbia’s recreational needs and desires will be met through effective public and private partnerships that provide outstanding, exciting and diverse recreational facilities such as, but not limited to, an ice skating rink, golf courses, tennis courts, soccer fields, ball fields, ball parks and swimming pools. These facilities will be placed appropriately throughout the city to allow easy access for everyone.”