

Progress Report

From Mike Griggs

Parks and Recreation Director

In 2015, Columbia Parks and Recreation and the City Council provided citizens with a list of capital improvement projects that would be accomplished if the 1/8-cent temporary Park Sales Tax was renewed. Happily, Columbia citizens voted to renew the Park Sales Tax for another six years. We appreciate the confidence voters have placed in us and would like to keep you informed on the progress to date made on the list of capital improvement projects funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax ballot.



We are pleased to report that we have completed 14 projects since the scheduling of these ballot projects began in the City's Fiscal Year 2016. A sampling of the completed projects are reflected in the photos to the right.

In various older parks, playgrounds that had reached the end of their life cycles were renovated, worn out restroom fixtures were replaced, parking lot and sidewalk lighting was improved, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalks were added, and trail bridges with damaged support structures were replaced. These maintenance projects reinforce the safety and security of our park visitors.

As part of our dual responsibility of providing quality facilities for our citizens and to attract out-of-town visitors, we completed the last two fields of the five-field Atkins Ballfield Complex, new multi-purpose athletic fields at Gans Creek Recreation Area, and the final two pickleball courts and shelter at the six-court complex at Albert-Oakland Park. Our sport complexes not only support our local athletes, but also host the Show Me State Games and other regional and state tournaments that draw much needed tourism dollars to Columbia.

By leveraging Park Sales Tax dollars, we were able to secure \$180,000 in grants and \$125,000 in donations to support the projects completed to date, making our tax dollars go even farther.

Other capital improvement projects are already underway and we have more exciting projects scheduled in the next few years. We have applied for grants and solicited donations for these future projects, as well. We will keep you apprised of their progress. And, as always, we thank you for your continued support of the Park Sales Tax. It certainly helps make Columbia "the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play."

Douglass Park Improvements



Completed Atkins Ballfield Complex

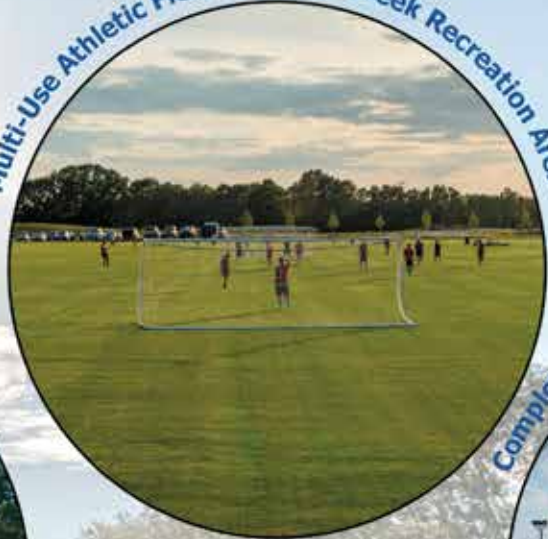


Indian Hills ADA Sidewalk Improvements



These projects were

Multi-Use Athletic Fields at Gans Creek Recreation Area



Completed Albert-Oakland Pickleball Court Complex



McKee St. Park Improvements



Development of Cosmo Corner at Nifong Park



MKT Bridges 5, 7, & 8 Replacements



New Playground at Paxton Keeley Elementary School



Numbers Tell the Story

\$305,000

Amount of grant funds and donations obtained to help fund these projects

funded in whole or in part by the Park Sales Tax