

Serving Our Citizens and Promoting Tourism



*From Mike Griggs
Parks and Recreation Director*

This past year was an exciting one as we opened three major recreation facilities to serve our citizens and to promote tourism in our community.

1. The MU Health Care Pavilion, home to Columbia Farmers Market, provides healthy, locally-grown produce and draws visitors from around the region to Columbia.
2. The Columbia Sports Fieldhouse provides a space for our local Columbia Youth Basketball Association, as well as for volleyball and pickleball players.
3. The Gans Creek Cross Country Course is the home course for the University of Missouri and provides a premier, tournament-level course for other school cross country teams.

All of these recreation facilities were requested by our citizens and local agencies during the public input process of the *2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*. Thanks to our community partners and citizen support of the Park Sales Tax, these long-awaited recreation facilities are now open and ready to serve our community.

MU Health Care Pavilion Home of Columbia Farmers Market



In addition to providing a covered, year-round home for the Columbia Farmers Market, the pavilion is available to the public for rental to host other activities and events.

Included on the site is Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture's Urban Farm used to teach farm to table practices. Fresh produce grown on the farm is donated to the Central Pantry to help provide healthful foods for our citizens in need.

Columbia Sports Fieldhouse



Columbia Sports Fieldhouse is located in A. Perry Philips Park. Courts may be reserved for individual team, league, or tournament play.



This multi-use indoor sports facility features four hardwood courts, ample spectator seating, a control desk, concession area, restrooms, offices, and meeting rooms.

It was designed to not only serve our local athletes, but to draw tournament tourism dollars to Columbia.

Gans Creek Cross Country Course



In 2019, 11 college and 341 high school teams competed in the Gans Creek Classic, which brought nearly 9,000 participants and spectators to Columbia.

Columbia won the five-year bid for the MSHSAA Cross Country State Championships, which drew about 11,000 visitors to Columbia this past year.