

Special Thanks

The Citizens of Columbia
F. Garland Russell Sr. and the Russell family
Mayor Bob McDavid
Columbia City Council
City Manager Mike Matthes
Deputy City Manager Tony St. Romaine
Former City Council: Fred Schmidt, Paul Sturtz, Jason
Thornhill, Gary Kespohl, Daryl Dudley and Helen Anthony
Former City Manager Bill Watkins
Former Parks and Recreation Director Mike Hood
Columbia Public Works
Parks and Recreation Commission
Columbia Audubon Society
University of Missouri Raptor Rehabilitation Project



Dedication of

Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary
and Scott's Branch Trail

April 22, 2014



Fairview students walk to school on the Scott's Branch Trail

Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary is a natural, 89.5-acre park that provides an urban sanctuary for native plants and wildlife, as well as a beautiful nature preserve for Columbians to enjoy.

The property was donated to the City of Columbia by F. Garland Russell Sr. on behalf of the Russell family. Generations of the family grew up on the farm, which was originally purchased by Francis T. Russell, a Union officer in the Civil War.



Russell family and their home

Plans for the Bonnie View property were brought forward in 2003, but were delayed by the proposed Cunningham Road extension through the property. After some opposition, the Cunningham extension was dropped by City Council and the planning process began again in 2009. After several months of gathering input through interested parties and focus group meetings, a new master plan for the park was prepared and approved by Council in 2011.

Funding for Bonnie View was provided through the voter-approved Park Sales Tax. Bonnie View features the usual park amenities: a shelter, restrooms, drinking fountain, parking lot, rain gardens and open field area. However, the prairie restoration area, nature trail and prairie education trail are what makes it a Nature Sanctuary. There are also special restrictions in place at Bonnie View to preserve the natural habitat: amplified music is not allowed, bikes are not allowed on the nature trail and dogs are not allowed at the shelter or west of the Scott's Branch Trail.

Bonnie View serves as trailhead for the Scott's Branch Trail, which takes trail users to Scott Boulevard, north of Chapel Hill Road. A trail connector through Fairview Park provides a safe, beautiful route for students walking to Fairview Elementary School. There is also access to Scott's Branch for surrounding neighborhoods. The trail offers beautiful, wooded views from a boardwalk and pedestrian bridge. From Scott Boulevard, trail users are able to travel west to the Chapel Hill Pedway via the Scott Boulevard underpass. Or, trail users wishing to use the MKT Trail can get there via the Scott Boulevard pedway. Scott's Branch Trail is a valuable piece of the Columbia trail system designed to connect thousands of residents. As with the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary, funding for the Scott's Branch Trail was provided by the Park Sales Tax.

We appreciate the support shown by Columbia residents for both these projects! Thank you for being here today to celebrate their completion.

Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary and Scott's Branch Trail

Dedication Ceremony
6 p.m., April 22, 2014

Welcome ~ Mike Griggs, Director, Columbia Parks and Recreation

Remarks ~ Mayor Bob McDavid, City of Columbia

Remarks ~ Bill Mees, Columbia Audubon Society

"Vine" Cutting

City Council

Bob McDavid, Mayor
Ginny Chadwick
Michael Trapp
Karl Skala
Ian Thomas
Laura Nauser
Barbara Hoppe

Mike Matthes, City Manager

Tony St. Romaine, Deputy City Manager

Mike Griggs, Parks and Recreation Director

Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission

Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Terry Kloeppel, Bill Pauls,
Dan Devine, Meredith Donaldson, Linda Hutton