

## Special Thanks:

The Citizens of Columbia  
Mayor Darwin Hindman  
Columbia City Council  
Former Councilman Bob Hutton  
Former Councilman Jim Loveless  
Former City Manager Ray Beck  
City Manager Bill Watkins  
City of Columbia TreeKeepers  
City of Columbia Office of Volunteer Services  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Recreational Trails Program  
Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission

In appreciation to the following who  
contributed to the success of this project:

Roy and Rick Richardson Excavation

*A special thank you to the Parks Services staff for their efforts  
in the development of this facility.*



## *The Dedication of the Garth Nature Area*

*May 12, 2007*



The 52-acre Garth Nature Area offers a beautiful place for families to exercise and enjoy their surroundings. A .9 mile gravel trail and several small wetland cells were completed in 2006. A fenced leash-free area was completed in the spring of 2007 allowing pet owners and their dogs a place to roam freely.

The newest portion of the trail and adjacent wetlands were funded by a Missouri Recreational Trails Program grant in the amount of \$42,000 and \$28,000 from the park sales tax. The leash-free area was funded by \$14,400 from the park sales tax.

The site of the Garth Nature Area was initially used as a sewage treatment facility for the City. In fact, a portion of the trail in the Nature Area was developed from an access road to the old wastewater lagoons. One of the former lagoons was actually transformed into a wetlands area which is located in the north portion of the Nature Area.

An existing trail loops from the Bear Creek Trail to this north part of the Nature Area, then encircles the initial wetlands area. An abundance of birds and wildlife make this walk an interesting one for nature-lovers. The Columbia TreeKeepers in the spring planted 26 trees and 400 seedlings to add to the natural environment of the entire site. The existing section of .6 miles of nature trail combines with the new .9 miles of trail for a total of 1.5 miles of nature trails. In addition, a portion of the Bear Creek Trail extends through the site.

The City of Columbia appreciates the support shown by the community for Garth Nature Area. Thank you for being here today to share in the dedication ceremony.

## DEDICATION PROGRAM

**Garth Nature Area**  
**10 a.m., Saturday, May 12, 2007**

Welcome and Introductions ~ Mr. Mike Hood, Director, Columbia  
Parks and Recreation Department

Remarks ~ Mr. Bill Watkins, Manager, City of Columbia

Mayor Introduction ~ Councilman Chris Janku

Remarks ~ Mayor Darwin Hindman, City of Columbia

Ribbon Cutting

### **City Council**

Darwin Hindman, Mayor  
Almeta Crayton  
Chris Janku  
Karl Skala  
Jerry Wade  
Laura Nauser  
Barbara Hoppe

Bill Watkins, City Manager

Mike Hood, Parks and Recreation Director

### **Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission**

Bill Pauls, Terry Kloeppel, Dennis Knudson, Julia Grus,  
Marin Blevins, Mike Jones, and Dan Devine