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Free WiFi in Columbia Parks

Park users can now get WiFi Internet access for free in Flat Branch and Stephens Lake Parks. Coverage is available for both blocks of Flat Branch Park and selected areas of Stephens Lake Park around the park shelters, beach area, and Riechmann Pavilion.

"We are very pleased that we are able to offer this free service to our residents and visitors who may want to surf the Internet or finish some work while watching their children playing at the park," said Mike Griggs, Park Services Manager.

The only equipment required to access the free service is a laptop and a WiFi card that is compatible with the 802.11(x) standard. On the laptop, search for available WiFi networks, select the "(park name)" and click on "connect." Users will be redirected to a welcome page. On the welcome page, click on the "connect" link to access the Internet.

Providing free Wi-Fi in the parks was an initiative by the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Department to help keep people connected and have Internet available for park events. The project was funded by the Park Sales Tax and cost $5,625. iZones is a sponsor for the project and has donated the monthly Internet costs as a way to give back to the city and attract more people to use the park resources.

For more information about wireless Internet, contact iZones at 573-499-6637 or www.izones.net. For more information about WiFi in the parks, contact Parks and Recreation at 573-874-7460 or www.GoColumbiaMo.com.