

City of Columbia ~ Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project C.A.R.P. Program History

The beginnings:

In 2006, Brett O'Brien, Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Supervisor, presented his vision of C.A.R.P. to upper management with the idea on how to improve the Park Department's lake and pond aquatic plant and shoreline management plan.

C.A.R.P. volunteers would enroll and attend a short series of educational classes, which would enable them to assist the Parks horticulture crew in planting, weeding and maintaining the shorelines in the growing number of park ponds, retention basins and lakes.

The classes would feature speakers who would lecture on relevant topics concerning proper pond and lake management. Some of the added benefits to the Park Department include:

- Extra hands to help Parks Staff maintenance and improve, at little cost, the existing parks ponds and lakes.
- Improved water quality.
- Enhanced fish and wildlife habitat
- The value of knowledge that participating volunteers would acquire from the training and hands-on experience.

The program was approved and Brett met with Office of Volunteer Services staff to firm up program parameters. Beginning in summer of 2006, Parks and the Office of Volunteer Services staff went forward with lining up lecturers, designing a logo, making brochures and a web-page, and active recruiting.

The C.A.R.P. logo was designed in 2007 by a Stephens College art student.



2007 ~ Charter Year for C.A.R.P.

Public interest was great with 25 volunteers enrolled. Training was held for three consecutive Monday evenings, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at City Hall. The City of Columbia Horticulturist, Daniel Gibbins, is program manager, with communications support from the Office of Volunteer Services staff.

The training topics and instructors were:

- Program Overview ~ Brett O'Brien, City of Columbia Parks Natural Resources Supervisor
- Storm Water Management ~ Mona Menezes, City of Columbia Public Works Storm Water Educator
- Pond and Lake Ecology ~ Kevin Hampton, Missouri Department of Conservation
- Aquatic Insects ~ Celeste Mazzacano, Missouri Department of Conservation
- Aquatic Plants ~ Jim Whitley, retired Missouri Department of Conservation

Chemical Controls ~ Daniel Gibbins, City of Columbia Parks Horticulturist
March 5, 2007: The charter C.A.R.P. class began their training, which continued on March 12 and March 19.

May 1: Nine charter C.A.R.P. volunteers attended the first C.A.R.P. project at Flat Branch Park to remove invasives and to install numerous aquatic plants.

June 9: Eleven C.A.R.P. volunteers showed up at Stephens Lake Park to install shoreline plants around the lake.

August 4: Nine C.A.R.P. volunteers returned to Stephens Lake Park to install aquatic plants along the shoreline of one retention pond.

August 25: Thirteen C.A.R.P. volunteers met at Flat Branch Park to clean-up the shoreline and park proper from massive storm water damage.

September 29: Nine C.A.R.P. volunteers removed invasives and installed aquatic shoreline plants in Phase II of Flat Branch Park.

October 13: Three C.A.R.P. volunteers helped as team leaders at the annual Hinkson Clean Sweep stream cleanup.

A total of 5 TreeKeepers projects were completed in the charter year of C.A.R.P.

***2007 ~ 183 hours were served on 5 projects,
valued at \$19.51 per hour = \$3,571.***

2008

Training was held for three consecutive Monday evenings, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Parks Management Center this year. Again, City of Columbia Horticulturist, Daniel Gibbins, is program manager, with communications support from the Office of Volunteer Services staff.

The training topics and instructors were:

- Invertebrates and More ~ Amy Jungclaus, Missouri Department of Conservation
- Storm Water Management ~ Mona Menezes, City of Columbia Public Works
- Park & Recreation History ~ Brett O'Brien, City of Columbia Parks Department
- Aquatic Ecology ~ Daniel Obrecht, Missouri Department of Conservation
- Aquatic Plant Identification ~ Jim Whitley, retired Missouri Department of Conservation
- Aquatic Chemicals ~ Daniel Gibbins, City of Columbia Parks Department

On March 3, 27 new C.A.R.P. volunteers began their training on three consecutive Monday evenings.

May 3: The first of the 2008 projects was a partial aquatic and shoreline planting project at Twin Lakes Recreation Area. Sixteen C.A.R.P. volunteers assisted.

May 17: Thirteen C.A.R.P. volunteers completed the aquatic and shoreline planting project at Twin Lakes Recreation Area today.

June 7: Seventeen C.A.R.P. volunteers met at Stephens Lake Park to work on shoreline maintenance and a partial planting of the new Riechmann Rain Garden system.

August 23: How to propagate aquatic plants, and ongoing shoreline maintenance brought 17 C.A.R.P. volunteers out to the Stephens Lake Park project today.

September 6: A general park cleanup, and stream bank maintenance project was held at Flat Branch Park where 16 C.A.R.P. volunteers attending to help prepare the park for the annual Stream Extravaganza Festival.

September 23: A graduation evening picnic was attended by 21 C.A.R.P. volunteers, many of whom have completed their required 18 hours of service on planned aquatic projects. Council Person Chris Janku was the featured speaker.

September 27: Five C.A.R.P. volunteers acted as Hinkson Clean Sweep team leaders at different stream sites throughout Columbia.

A total of 6 C.A.R.P. projects were completed in 2008.

*2008 ~ 311 hours were served on six C.A.R.P. projects,
valued at \$20.03 per hour = \$6,229.*

2009

Training was held for three consecutive Monday evenings, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Parks Management Center this year. Our new City of Columbia Horticulturist, Jen Courtney, oversees and plans the projects and is program manager, with communications support from the Office of Volunteer Services staff.

The training topics and instructors were:

- Park & Recreation History ~ Brett O'Brien, City of Columbia Parks Department
- Storm Water Management ~ Mona Menezes, City of Columbia Public Works
- Invertebrates and More ~ Amy Jungclaus, Missouri Department of Conservation
- Aquatic Ecology ~ Daniel Obrecht, Missouri Department of Conservation
- Aquatic Plant Identification ~ Becky Erikson, Master Gardener

On March 2, 33 new C.A.R.P. volunteers began their training on three consecutive Monday evenings.

April 25: The first 2009 project, with 33 C.A.R.P. volunteers attending, took place in Flat Branch Park. Native grasses and vines were planted in an attempt to stabilize Flatbranch Creek stream banks, with erosion being the main goal. They also removed honeysuckle vine.

May 16: 17 C.A.R.P. volunteers showed up at Stephens Lake Park to tend to ongoing lake and retention pond maintenance, and to plant new aquatic plants for bank stabilization on the island shoreline. In addition, gravel spreading and bagged plants were installed.

May 30: A new park, Auburn Hills, retention pond was the focus of this C.A.R.P. project. Fifteen volunteers tended to an initial shoreline planting and weeding...in the drizzling rain!

June 20: Twenty five C.A.R.P. volunteers showed up at Stephens Lake Park to help with vegetation maintenance and to divide aquatic plants in the new rain garden area.

October 17: Twelve C.A.R.P. volunteers acted as stream team leaders for the Annual Hinkson Clean Sweep at two different stream locations.

In addition, C.A.R.P. was the recipient of the \$1,000 APRS (American Parks & Recreation Society) grant and scholarship in 2009. [APRS Award Letter](#)

A total of 5 C.A.R.P. projects were completed in 2009.

**2009 - 450 hours were served on five C.A.R.P.
(or C.A.R.P. related) projects
valued at \$20.25 per hour = \$9,113.**

2010

On Monday, March 1, (number here) began their C.A.R.P. three-session training. Classes were held at The ARC, on March 1, 8 and 15.

City of Columbia C.A.R.P. volunteers

We are proud to present City of Columbia C.A.R.P. volunteers, past and present, in alpha order:

Sara Arvin, Larry Barringhaus, Bryant Barry, Scott Brawner, Sherrie Brown, Ana Butron, Kathleen Cain, Katie Carr, Jeff Corrigan, George Cummins, Melanie Cusick, Sue Denny, Roger Ellingson, Elizabeth Engel, Megan Fancher, Auben Galloway, Josh Gordon, Buddy Hardwick, Cheryl Hardy, John Holmes, Greg Hrdina, Ron Koestner, Anne Kome, Bob Kunkler, Lea Langdon, Richard Leeper, Greg Leonard, Teressa Litchfield, Ted Litchfield, Justin Magill, Kevin Martin, Stephen Matthews, James McAllister, Carol McDowell, John McGraw, Jeff Melick, Vanessa Melton, Ruthie Moccia, Elfin Noce, Amanda Noel, Carol Okamura, Kay Palmer, Matt Payne, Brenda Peculis, Jon Rapp, John Reehl, Alice Anna Reese, Bill Reniker, Marsha Richins, Rocio Rivera, Julian Rowland, Jim Schepers, Frank Schmidt, Norma Shoupe, Renee Simmons, Beverly Simons, Jody Stotsky, Lia Stumbaugh, Laura Sweets, Alvin Sweezer, Katrina Thomas, Kenneth Torke, Emily Tracy-Smith, Josh Vander Veen, Pamela Venable, Julie Vornholt, Dana Willbrand, Arthur Williams and Suzanne Wright

C.A.R.P. ~ Past, Present and Future

Between 2007 through 2009, C.A.R.P. volunteers have completed 16 projects. In that time, 85 trained volunteers have 944 hours to the City of Columbia valued at \$18,913.

Though City staff has changed, seamlessly, over the years, we have an established, well-trained group to assist with aquatic and stream projects as well as outreach programs. The Parks Department staff and the City Volunteer Program staff enjoy a great working relationship with C.A.R.P. volunteers.

Special thanks given to the Missouri Department of Conservation in providing printed materials used in the training manuals each year, as well as their expertise staff instructors.

We welcome you to contact us if you would like to join the C.A.R.P. program, or have questions or comments. We can be reached at 874-7499 or volunteer@GoColumbiaMO.com You may view the C.A.R.P. webpage at: <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/Opportunities/carp.php>

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Office of Neighborhood Services