

*Symphony Woods Vision Statement (as approved on 13 Oct 2011)*

Symphony Woods Park will be Columbia's central park and will serve as a breathtaking gateway to Merriweather Post Pavillion. It will be a meeting ground for people and a place that celebrates music, arts and nature. An inviting and beautiful woodland gathering place, it will provide venues for energetic, creative activities such as community fairs, cultural events, art & craft vendors, local artists and spaces for reflective respite.

Improvements will be designed to ensure a sustainable environment while creating attractive and desirable park features. An environmental approach to park design will continue to optimize portions of SWP as heavily wooded and natural. The path created within the park design (and surrounding Merriweather Post Pavillion) will encourage pedestrians and bikers to enjoy the park's natural ambiance while viewing occasional sculpture and art. Additionally, the park will have adequate seating to provide rest and reflection of the park's beauty.

The park will function in a variety of ways in the life of the community and it will provide:

- A place that reflects love of nature, arts and music through its design and its future development.
- A gathering space and setting for cultural and community events and fairs.
- A location for local artists to display their artistic, musical and theatrical performances.
- A popular place to find craft and food vendors on weekends.
- A natural place that provides respite and the opportunity for reflection, peace and appreciation of the environment;
- A destination for active living offering extensive pathways that will wind through the park;
- A place for casual social interaction and people-watching, enlivened by the attraction of park activities
- A fountain that serves as a central focus to the Park and fills the area with the sounds of children's laughter, family and community.
- A breathtaking gateway to Merriweather Post Pavilion that will enhance the experience of attending that venue
- A connector for downtown Columbia activity centers and other downtown gathering spaces and amenity areas.