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City Appoints New Recreation and Parks Director

The City of Columbus' Recreation and Parks Commission today appointed Tony Collins as its new director of Recreation and Parks, effective June 11, 2015. In this position, he will be responsible for managing the City's parks and recreation centers, directing Recreation programs and managing the department's budget.

"We had many qualified applicants for this position, but Tony Collins is the best choice to be the next director of Recreation and Parks in the City of Columbus," said Mayor Coleman. "He is a strong leader with an extensive background in recreation and parks and city administration."

Collins comes from the City of Gahanna, where he served as the Director of Recreation and Parks for eleven years. He provided leadership for city administration and within department communications and project efforts with city council, boards, civic groups, and other community partners.

"Columbus is an unbelievable city, creating incredible opportunities for residents, businesses and visitors," said Tony Collins. "I am excited to be joining the team that is working hard to serve the people of this great city."

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department has more than 200 parks on 10,000 acres, 30 community centers, 6 golf courses, 51 miles of trails, and a wide range of programs for residents of all ages.

"We were pleased with the applicant pool from all over the United States which was inclusive, diverse and talented," said Jeff McNealey, Columbus Recreation and Parks Chair. "The Commission readily reached consensus on Tony Collins and are most pleased that he has come to lead our Department."

"Tony Collins has the right combination of passion, knowledge, vision, leadership skills and experience to lead our Recreation and Parks Department and its many programs that reach into all neighborhoods, to the next level of national prominence," said Columbus Recreation and Parks Commissioner Kathy Espy.

Collins will succeed current director Alan Mcknight, who will retire beginning May 31, after 38 years with the department.