

## Media Release

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### Scioto Greenways Becomes Public Park

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department is proud to become the steward of the Scioto Greenways. This project is the culmination of a strong public private partnership, the vision of Mayor Coleman, and collaborative leadership of the many organizations including the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and Franklin County Metro Parks.

**“We see the Scioto Greenways as an extension of the Scioto Mile; an extension of our ability as a Recreation and Parks Department to have a significant impact on the quality of life and economic success of the City of Columbus. This impact can only happen with proper maintenance, creative programming and innovative marketing, which requires resources,”** said Director Tony Collins. **“We have made personnel, supply and equipment additions to our 2016 budget request to ensure the Scioto Mile and Greenways are successful. It’s important for our stakeholders, including citizens, to understand the return on this investment; it is the value of what we do as your Recreation and Parks Department.”**

The Scioto Greenways project created 33 acres of new parkland and 1.5 miles of multi-use trails that connect the Scioto Mile network of parks. In addition to expanded active and passive park space, visitors now have easy access to the river and three launch points for hand-powered watercraft. The department is currently researching and evaluating possibilities for watercraft rental opportunities.

“The Scioto Greenway, anchored by the North Bank Pavilion to the north and the Bicentennial Park to the south, is a precious crown jewel for all of Columbus, one that we are proud to maintain and protect”, said Jeff McNealey, President of the Columbus and Recreation and Parks Commission. “Completion of this project fulfills a planning goal for downtown whose roots go back more than 100 years, enhancing the urban experience for visitors, workers, and residents of our growing downtown.”

The Recreation and Parks Department will continue its Scioto Mile programming to include Grand Illumination on December 4, as well as the Rhythm on the River and FountainSide series held each summer in Bicentennial Park. More information about Scioto Mile programs can be found at [www.sciotomile.com](http://www.sciotomile.com).