Mission

To improve the quality of life by providing recreational, leisure, and aesthetic opportunities for all citizens, and by conserving and enhancing the environment.

We will accomplish this mission by providing quality programming, making the best use of existing resources, developing a supportive and influential constituency, developing effective collaborations and partnerships, and acquiring and preserving natural features.

Dear Friends of Parks and Recreation,

When I think about this past year, the first words that come to mind are THANK YOU! Thank you for your confidence and commitment to KC Parks and Kansas City as evidenced by the 63% approval of Question #1 last August. The funds that Parks and Recreation receive from this sales tax enable our department to proactively plan for the future and enhance our services and amenities to better serve our residents.

Thank you to our Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, both past and present, who unite for the campaign to successfully promote the passage of Question #1. I am also thankful for quality employees who deliver on promises. Their top-notch service, strong work ethic and past performance, enabled our citizens to confidently vote “yes”.

Although the sales tax initiative was clearly our greatest accomplishment, we had other notable achievements in 2012 which are highlighted in this Year in Review including the opening of The Bay Water Park and the 9th & Van Brunt Athletic Complex, MLB All-Star Week activities, Club KC, and improvements to Spring Valley Park. But there is more.

In 2012, we began a much needed multi-million dollar facelift to one of our oldest and most highly visible parks, Penn Valley Park. In our largest park, Swope Park, we opened our second dog park, added just over one-mile of exercise trails, and initiated installation of an improved signage system. A new event, Brush Creek ArtWalk, took place on four-miles of lush tree-lined walks along the creek banks. Over the creek, the new Troost Bridge was opened with a grand celebration in May.

In an effort to promote clean air and good health, we launched a pilot program in 13 parks instituting smoke-free zones focusing on areas where children play. These zones will be expanded in 2013. Recycling programs began for visitors to our community centers and select parks. Since the program’s launch last summer, more than three tons of materials have been diverted from the landfill.

Kansas City’s historic Boulevard and Parkway system expanded in the Northland with the opening of the new Highway 169 Interchange at Tiffany Springs Parkway (formerly NW 96th Street). A similar interchange at 108th Street is undergoing construction and will open in 2013 as an extension of Shoal Creek Parkway. And in recognition of our world-class system, the American Planning Association announced the designation of Ward Parkway as one of 10 Great Streets for 2012 under their Great Places in America program.

It seems that our work is not going unnoticed. Major improvements for KC Parks were seen in four areas of the Citizen Satisfaction survey including park maintenance, quality of park facilities, maintenance of boulevards/parkways, and community centers. Significant areas of improvement were reflected in the quality of outdoor athletic fields, walking and biking trails, and ease of registering for programs.

The end of an era in leadership came to a conclusion in 2012 with the retirement of our Deputy Director Steve Lampone. Steve was a force with KC Parks for 35 years and served as deputy director for the past nine years. His energetic, entrepreneurial “can do” spirit, unassuming leadership style and historical knowledge will be missed.

KC Parks continues to listen to our residents in order to provide the programs, services and amenities to best serve our public. We look forward to new opportunities in 2013 and appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mark L. McHenry
Director
When The Bay Water Park opened in south Kansas City’s Longview Park on May 25, it was a triumphant moment for a part of the city that had been void of public water facilities for more than a decade.

The $8 million state-of-the-art facility features 350,000 gallons of water loaded with amenities including a six-lane lap pool, zero depth entry leisure pool, water playground, family slide, 900-foot lazy river with waves, two tube slides, and a swirl bowl slide.

There are 23 sun shades, reasonably priced concessions, and a bath house constructed from Ipe wood—an extremely durable and sustainable hardwood from Brazilian rainforests—that includes two family changing rooms. One hundred and thirty seasonal employees helped operate the facility which was open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Capacity is 1,000 patrons.

Programs and events offered at The Bay included Splash and Play, group and private swim lessons, Jr. Lifeguard program, Water Safety Awareness Clinics, River Walking, Aqua Camp and family and teen parties. Private pool rentals and Birthday Party packages were also available.

Thousands of patrons visited the new facility during its inaugural season plus 50 dogs who attended The Bay’s first Dippin’ Dogs swim party after the pool closed for the season.

The Bay Water Park is adjacent to a large spray ground and play ground. The rest of the 19-acre Longview Park features two football fields, a walking trail, basketball courts and a shelter house.

First Class Recreation Amenities Open up South
Completed Projects

Construction Projects

Broadway Streetscape Repairs, 39th to Armour Blvd.

Broadway /Westport Streetscape

Central Region Fueling System Facility

Kansas City Zoo Neon Tiger Exhibit

Kansas City Zoo Sea Lion Exhibit Shade Structure

Longview Tract Outdoor Aquatics, The Bay Water Park

Observation Park Phase I

Penner Valley Park Road and Lake Improvements

Playgrounds

Budt Park

Platte Purchase Park

San Rafael Park

Sheila Kemper Dietrich Park

Trails

Blue River Trail

Daniel Morgan Boone Trail

Brandiff Greenway Trail

Bruce Creek Trail

Dunn Park Trail

Margaret Kemp Park Trail

Roanoke Park Mountain Bike Trail

Swope Park Trails

Athletic Fields

9th & Van Brunt Athletic Complex /Soccer Fields

Clark Kettnerman Park Baseball Field Improvements

Cleveland Park Baseball Field Improvements

Mulkey Square Park Baseball Field Improvements

Oak Park Baseball Field Improvements

Police Athletic League (PAL) Center Football Fields

Spring Valley Park Baseball and Football Fields

Waterwell Park Baseball Field Improvements

Master Plans

Byram’s Ford Big Blue Battlefield

Anne Gaimey Park

Garrison Community Center

Grand Boulevard Streetscape

Hodge Park

Little Blue Valley Park

Pleasant Valley Park

Monuments & Fountains Conservation

Hu Dears Memorial Statue

Marlborough Fountain

Meyer Circle Seahorse Fountain

Bernard Powell Fountain

Parking Lot Improvements

Liberty Park

Kansas City Zoo

Gregg Klice Community Center

Loose Park Garden Center

Minor Park Tennis Court Complex

Tiffany Hills Park

Stone Wall Repairs

Mulkey Square Park

Observation Park

Southmoreland Park

Tennis Court Resurfacing

Gilham Park

Loose Park

Facility Maintenance & Repairs

Ashland Park Shelter

Cleveland Park Landscaping

Grove Park Restrooms

Montgall Park Shelter Improvements

Land Acquisition

Longview Tract addition, 1.96 acres

Marlborough Community Center, .31 acres

Other Projects

Noble Park Lighting, Trail & Bridge repairs

Red Bridge Art Panel Installation

Swope Park Off-Leash Dog Park

Swope Park Signage Phase I

Troost Lake Lighting

Vineyard Gardens Drainage Improvements

Westwood Park Lighting

Monuments & Fountains Conservation

Hu Dears Memorial Statue

Marlborough Fountain

Meyer Circle Seahorse Fountain

Bernard Powell Fountain
For more than a year, KC Parks worked to transform the intersection of 9th & Van Brunt into a community gathering place and soccer complex. A ribbon cutting ceremony and community picnic was held June 29 to celebrate the completion and officially kick-off the Mayor’s Night Kicks youth soccer league.

Sitting on a 12.4 acre site, the athletic fields include a new artificial turf soccer field, two natural turf practice fields, decorative and stadium lighting, an amphitheater/plaza that seats 360, concession building with restrooms, paved parking lot, a 1/2-mile walking trail surrounding the fields and landscaping. Other improvements include a brick wall sound barrier and new sidewalks and curbs along 9th Street.

Prior to the transformation, the site once housed the headquarters of the Area Transportation Authority as well as its street cars. When ATA ceased using the land, the intersection became an eyesore with broken asphalt and growing weeds. It became a place to dump and an area that attracted negative activity.

A number of community, city and federal partners made the athletic complex possible. A portion of the project funding was made possible through a $2.5 million HUD Economic Development Initiative-Special Project Grant. The remaining funding came from City PIAC funds, and a $200,000 grant from the United States Soccer Foundation and Sporting Kansas City allowed for the installation of high quality artificial turf. The soccer fields are operated, maintained and programmed in partnership with the Mattie Rhodes Center.

As the new home for the revamped Mayor’s Night Kicks program, the 9th & Van Brunt complex proved to be extremely successful in uniting and celebrating the international flavor of the historic Northeast. Twenty teams, comprised of 200 athletes, participated in the 7-week long Mayor’s Night Kicks tournament to the enjoyment of more than 2,800 spectators.
2012 Events Calendar

Weekends
Car Free Weekends on Cliff Drive

Through February 29
Green Exposures Photography Exhibit at the Central Library

February 4
Breakfast with the Beasts at Lakeside Nature Center

March 10
Brookside St. Pat’s Warm-Up Parade

March 12
Groundbreaking for Route 169 Parkway Interchanges

March 17
St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Boulevard

March 23-25
Flower, Lawn & Garden and Home Show

March 26
Red Bridge Decorative Panels News Conference

March 31
Project Blue River Rescue in Swope Park

April 1
Groundbreaking for Chouteau Parkway improvements

April 2
Ribbon Cutting for Shoal Creek Trail extension

April 7
Arbor Day Tree Planting at Loose Park

April 16
Groundbreaking for Chouteau Parkway improvements

April 21
Earthwalk: Celebration of the Planet Festival

April 28
Fit & Fabulous Family Sports Festival at Minor Park

April 28-29
Clash Walk in the Historic Northeast

May

May 5
Dedication of Spring Valley Park Improvements & Frank White SK Run/Walk

May 6
Trost Bridge Celebration

May 12
Celebrate Urban Birds at Lakeside Nature Center

May 13
Mother’s Day for Mother Earth in Shawnee Park

May 13-19
Kansas City Bike Week Events

May 15
Ribbon Cutting for Shoal Creek Trail expansion

May 17-24 & 31 and June 7, 14 & 21
Thimble Thursday Concerts in Garment Park

May 23
KC Parks Employee Departmental Service Awards Breakfast

May 24-26
Jazzie Jam Festival at Crown Center and Grand Boulevard

May 26-September 3
Major Parks & Spraygrounds Open for Season

May 28
Memorial Day Observances at National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial and Union Cemetery

May 31
Clips of Faith Film Tour in Shawnee Park

June

June 1
Jazzoo at the Kansas City Zoo

June 1-3
KC Wide Open Professional Disc Golf Championships

June 2
National Trail Day on the Blue River Trail

June 3
Rose Show & Rose Day at Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

June 4
Cancer Survivors Rally in Bloch Cancer Survivors Park

June 9
Journey to the Ocean at Grand Boulevard

June 10
Heartland Heat Triathlon at Tiffany Hills Park

June 12-August 7
Junior Pools Open for the Season

June 15-August 11
Mayor’s Nights/Club KC Events

June 16
Urban American Outdoors Fishing Derby at Spring Valley

June 17
Ride the Fountains: City of Fountains Bike Tour beginning and ending at Washington Square Park

June 18
National Parks & Recreation Month

June 19-21
The Picnic Project Workshop at Washington Square Park

June 21
Party in the Park at Swope Park

June 21-22
Hot to Trot 5K in Hodge Park

June 21-22
Ride the Fountains: City of Fountains Bike Tour

June 22
Mayor’s Night’s Kicks Tournament Kick-Off

June 23
The Picnic Project Workshop at Swope Park

June 26
Dedication of Interpretive Panels on Red Bridge

June 29
Mayor’s Night’s Kicks Tournament Kick-Off

June 30
Grand Opening of Off-Leash Area in Swope Park

July

July 1-31
National Parks and Recreation Month

July 6
Dedication for Baseball Field Renovations at Mulley Square Park

July 7
Dedication of Athletic Fields at 9th & Van Brunt

July 9
The Picnic Project Workshop at Swope Park

July 10
Dedication for Baseball Field Renovations at Mulley Square Park

July 16
Heartland Heat Triathlon at Tiffany Hills Park

July 19
The Picnic Project Workshop at Washington Square Park

July 20
Mayor’s Nights/Club KC Events

July 24
Recreation Express in Pungo Park

July 27
Dedication of Interpretive Panels on Red Bridge

July 29
Mayor’s Night’s Kicks Tournament Kick-Off

July 30
Grand Opening of Off-Leash Area in Swope Park

August

August 2
Recreation Express in Noble Park

August 7
Question #1 Ballot InitiativeApproved

August 10
Mayor’s Night’s Kicks Championship Games at 9th & Van Brunt Athletic Fields

August 17-19
Ethereal Enrichment Festival in Swope Park

August 23-September 4
Brush Creek ArtWalk Exhibit at UNK’s Gallery of Art

August 25
Zoological District Free Day at the Kansas City Zoo

August 28
Dippin’ Dogs Swim Party at The Springs Aquatics Center

August 31-September 6
Purple Fountains for Alzheimer’s Awareness

September 1-3
KC Irish Fest in Washington Square Park

September 6
Dippin’ Dogs Swim Party at The Bay Water Park

September 6
Kansas City Chiefs Red Friday

September 8
Dippin’ Dogs Swim Party at The Springs Aquatics Center Dance in the Park in Roanoke Park

September 9
Jazz in the Garden at Loose Park Rose Garden
2012 Events Calendar (continued)

September 10
Enshriners Golf Tournament at Swope Memorial

September 14-23
Teal Fountains for Ovarian Cancer Awareness

September 21-22
Minor Park Open Tennis Tournament
Wonder of Outdoor Wildlife at Camp Lake of the Woods

September 28
First Anniversary Celebration for the Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington Square Park

September 29
Zoological District Free Day at the Kansas City Zoo

September 29-October 10
Pink Fountains for Breast Cancer Awareness

October 2
Ward Parkway designated 2012 Great Places in America: Great Street by American Planning Association

October 4
Wine & Roses Garden Party in Loose Park Rose Garden

October 6
Community Center Fall Open Houses

October 6-7
KC Indian Art Market in Frank Vaydik Park

October 12-13
Magic Woods at Lakeside Nature Center

October 13
Harvest Festival at Shawl Creek Living History Museum Rhythm & Ribs at 18th & Vina

October 20
Ability Day at Southeast Community Center
Kansas City Marathon in Washington Square Park

October 25
Ribbon Cutting for Sheila Kemper Dietrich Park Renovations

October 27
WaterFire Kansas City on Brush Creek

October 30
Scary Skate at Line Creek Ice Arena

November 2
Ribbon Cutting for Route 169 Interchange Opening at Tiffany Springs Parkway

November 3
The Wilderness Run at Shawl Creek Living History Museum

November 4
The Cliffhanger Run on Cliff Drive in Kessler Park

November 11
Veterans Day Observances at National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial & Vietnam Veterans Memorial

November 17
Turkey Trot at Line Creek Ice Arena

November 28
Controled Prairie Burn at Jerry Smith Park

November 16, 30 & December 7, 14, 21 & 28
Healthy Hour Fridays at KC Parks Fitness Centers

December 1
A Visit from St. Nicholas at Shawl Creek Living History Museum

December 6
Tree Lighting in Brookside Court Park

December 7
Senior Holiday Luncheon at Brush Creek Community Center
Santa’s Wonderland in Gilham Park
Motown Christmas at Bruces R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

December 7, 8, 12, 13 & 15
Mayor’s Holiday Parties at Community Centers

December 8
Santa’s Wonderland in Penguin Park

December 9
Santa’s Wonderland at Longview Tract

December 12
KC Parks Employee Breakfast & City Service Awards

December 15
Kris Kringle 5K Run in Swope Park
Holidazzle at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

December 22
Skate with Santa at Line Creek Ice Arena

On August 7, Kansas City voters overwhelmingly said “yes” to Question #1 which removed several property taxes and the motor vehicle licensing fee and approved a half-cent sales tax increase to bolster parks, community centers and streets. Additionally, the sales tax reduced the City’s General Fund support dedicated to the Parks Department and redirected those funds for street maintenance.

While the additional funds are not a windfall, the sales tax does provide the department with a stable funding source and ensures that Kansas City can continue to have one of the best parks and recreation systems in the country.

More improvements are planned for the funds from Question #1 when they become available during the City’s new fiscal year beginning in May 2013. These include adding operating hours and programming in community centers where the need is found to exist; enhanced marketing efforts featuring a new website; increasing plantings from 46 to 90 flower beds situated geographically throughout the City; expanding summer enrichment camps and athletic programs; additional fountain cleanings, mowings, and more timely removal of graffiti and litter.
## Facts and Figures

### Total Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Facilities and Programs</td>
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### Youth Participation

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<td>All Facilities and Programs</td>
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### Customer Participation

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<tr>
<td>Community Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pools/Spraygrounds</td>
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<td>Athletic Facilities and Programs</td>
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### Attendance

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<td>Golf Courses</td>
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<td>Lakeside Nature Center</td>
<td>29,701</td>
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<td>Loose Park Garden Center</td>
<td>17,438</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas City Zoo</td>
<td>824,217</td>
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<td>National WWI Museum</td>
<td>136,230</td>
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<td>Shoal Creek Living History Museum</td>
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<td>Starlight Theatre</td>
<td>230,488</td>
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<td>Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center</td>
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### Shelter Houses

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<td>Reservations</td>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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### Volunteers

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<td>Number of Volunteers</td>
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<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
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<td>Estimated Value of Volunteers</td>
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### Natural Resources

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<td>Trees Trimmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trees Removed</td>
<td>1,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stumps Removed</td>
<td>1,216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Acreage Mowed</td>
<td>50,584</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cubic Feet of Snow Removed</td>
<td>1,032,532</td>
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<td>Graffiti Incidents Removed</td>
<td>891</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizen 311 Action Center (Requests Resolved)</td>
<td>3,957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Acquisition in Acres</td>
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### Marketing and Events

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<td>Facebook Fans</td>
<td>1,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENewsletter Distribution List</td>
<td>8,479</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Park Events</td>
<td>234</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Event Attendance</td>
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### Maintenance Hours Worked

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<td>Athletic Field</td>
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<td>Landscape</td>
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<td>Park Facility Repairs</td>
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<td>Special Event Preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Litter/Trash Removal</td>
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The 83rd MLB All-Star Game and Major League Baseball made a major impact on Kansas City when the mid-summer classic came to town in early July. Together with the Kansas City Royals, MLB unveiled the most extensive lasting legacy endeavor in history through projects that benefit the KC community and beyond. MLB and the Royals donated nearly $4 million from a portion of the proceeds from Gatorade All-Star Workout Day to a variety of local and national organizations and projects. KC Parks, specifically, was the beneficiary of several baseball field renovations and upgrades.

The opening ceremony for the fourth annual Jr. RBI Classic was held at Satchel Paige Stadium, which had its field completely renovated thanks to MLB All-Star Legacy funding and product donations by The Scotts Company, LLC, the Official Lawn Care Company of Major League Baseball. Renovations included the installation of a new irrigation system and scoreboard, infield and outfield maintenance, fencing construction and installation, backstops, dugouts and other improvements to the general facility surrounding the field.

Renovations at Cleveland Park, which serves nearly 800 players in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City RBI league, were also unveiled. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) awarded a grant to provide funding for the renovations, which included infield mix, laser grading and drainage surrounding the four fields at the park. The MO-KAN Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association recommended the renovations and provided volunteer labor to complete the project. City PIAC funds assisted with landscaping and repairs to the scoreboard.

Rearranging the baseball field in Mueley Square Park included the installation of a new irrigation system and scoreboard, infield and outfield maintenance, new infield skin, fencing construction and installation, backstops, dugouts and other improvements to the facility surrounding the field. Product donations by the Scotts Company contributed to the completion of this project as well. G.O. Bonds and PIAC funds paid for additional enhancements to the fields and park.

Other exciting All-Star Week events that took place in partnership with KC Parks included the Red Carpet Parade on the Country Club Plaza, several fountains dyed “Major League Baseball Blue”, “FANATIKC” street graphics placed on high profile boulevards and parkways, and an All-Star Game watch party held at the Kansas City Zoo in Swope Park.

MLB All-Star Week
The sounds of teenage laughter and pop music permeated Brush Creek, Gregg Klice and Tony Aguirre Community Centers late into the evening this past summer, as 7,500+ youth spent their weekend nights from mid-June through August hanging out at Club KC.

Club KC, a partnership between the Mayor’s office and Kansas City Parks and Recreation, provided free, fun and safe summer weekend nightlife activities for youth ages 12-18, including DJs, dancing, video games, swim parties and basketball.

Club KC was a response to the growing need for safe and fun activities for the youth of Kansas City during their summer vacation. In 2011, Kansas City, like many urban cities, saw an influx of youth gather in public places late into the evening. When violence occurred on the Plaza, the Mayor and City Council responded by implementing a curfew on City’s entertainment districts.

While the curfew was an effective tool, City leaders wanted to understand why youth participated in flash mobs and what the City could do to prevent them. A study initiated by the Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners and conducted by the Kansas City Area Research Education Consortium determined that if a curfew is initiated, there should be a safe place for youth to go and that youth are looking for ways to express themselves, and activities should allow for that expression. Enter Club KC.

Club KC was just one component of the Mayor’s Nights youth activity initiative which is comprised of other ongoing KC Parks programs including Mayor’s Night Kicks, Mayor’s Night Hoops and Mayor’s Night Nats.
Our Partners

Kansas City, Missouri

for your support of Question #1!
In May of 2011, ground was broken for improvements to Spring Valley Park and the adjacent Crews Square in Kansas City’s urban core. On May 5 of 2012, KC Parks and the Key Coalition neighborhood hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the enhancements and to kick-off the first Frank White Memorial Fun Run/Walk and Art Festival.

The $1 million project provided for major renovation to the parks including construction of a 1-mile walking trail, new football field, repairs to the Bernard Powell Memorial Fountain, upgrades to two baseball fields, installation of a new playground and five park benches. In addition, the 2-acre Spring Valley Lake was completely restored through dredging, bank stabilization and the addition of new walkways. The updates retain the features that give Spring Valley Park and Crews Square their distinct ambience with natural springs, grassy knolls, glens, wooded slopes, a rock quarry, and stunning views of downtown.

Former KC Royals player and coach, Frank White, grew up in the area and played baseball every day in Spring Valley Park as a child. In recognition of all that Frank White has done for Kansas City, the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and the Key Coalition officially named the newly renovated and upgraded baseball fields at Spring Valley Park the “Frank White Jr. Ball Fields” on June 19.

City Of Kansas City, Missouri Officials

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners
Jean Paul Chaurand, President
McClain Bryant
Allen Dillingham
Aimee Gromowsky
David Mecklenburg

Mayor
Sylvester “Sly” James

City Council
First District
Scott Wagner, Dick Davis
Second District
Ed Ford, Russ Johnson
Third District
Melba Curtis, Jermaine Reed
Fourth District
Jim Glover, Jan Marcason
Fifth District
Cindy Croo, Michael Brooks
Sixth District
Scott Taylor, John A. Sharp

2012 Highlights

Groundbreaking for Chouteau Parkway Improvements
Kansas City’s Professional Skateboarder, Sean Malto, at the opening of Penn Valley Park Skate Plaza