Dear Friends of Parks and Recreation,

In 2017, Kansas City Parks and Recreation celebrated a milestone—our 125th anniversary!

In 1892, our department started with a handful of parks connected by a few boulevards. It has since grown into a 12,000-acre system that encompasses 221 parks and 135 miles of parkways and boulevards punctuated with 48 fountains and 122 monuments. Through the years, recreational opportunities—playgrounds, swimming pools, ball fields, golf courses, community centers and active programming—were added, along with a zoo, amphitheaters, museums and a national memorial. We are proud of this growth and of our accomplishments during our 125 year history.

Fittingly, this past year was an exciting blend of old and new, traditional and topical. KC Parks continued doing what we do best while adding new initiatives, projects and events—all of which you can read about in detail in this publication.

I am thankful that 125 years ago the Board of Parks Commissioners was established. Our volunteer Commissioners have always provided strong leadership, advocacy and stewardship. I applaud our five current Commissioners and the 100 public-spirited citizens before them for their devotion to preserving the integrity of our system while continuing to make advancements.

Thank you also to the faithful employees and supportive citizens that have allowed KC Parks to succeed for more than 125 years. We look forward to many more!

Sincerely,

Mark L. McHenry, Director
Kansas City, Mo. Parks and Recreation
OUR MISSION:
To improve the quality of life, health and wellness of our community by providing socially equitable, community-driven programming and environmentally sound natural-resource management.
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSIONERS
Jean Paul Chaurand, President
Shannon Cade
Allen Dillingham
Mary Jane Judy
David Mecklenburg

DIRECTOR
Mark L. McHenry

CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MO OFFICIALS

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Sylvester “Sly” James

CITY MANAGER
Troy Schulte

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First District
Scott Wagner, Heather Hall
Second District
Teresa Loar, Dan Fowler
Third District
Quinton Lucas, Jermaine Reed
Fourth District
Katheryn Shields, Jolie Justus
Fifth District
Lee Barnes, Jr., Alissia Canady
Sixth District
Scott Taylor, Kevin McManus

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners (L-R): Allen Dillingham, Mary Jane Judy, President Jean Paul Chaurand, Shannon Cade and David Mecklenburg.
On April 6, 1917, the United States officially entered World War I, a war that changed the nation and the world forever. On April 6, 2017, thousands in attendance, as well as those watching video across the nation and around the world, joined the United States in commemorating this historical turning point. This ceremony, “In Sacrifice for Liberty and Peace: Centennial Commemoration of the U.S. Entry into World War I”, was hosted by the United States World War One Centennial Commission at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Penn Valley Park.

This international ceremony consisted principally of the reading of passages from significant and representative American writings of a century ago about the U.S. decision to enter the war. Selections included speeches, journalism, literature, poetry and performance of important music of the time. Heads of State from eight nations read passages reflecting the reaction of their respective nations to the U.S. entry into the war in 1917. Historic images and music of the period were adapted into a 90-minute mixture of live performance and film broadcast on two giant screens.

The colorful and awe-inspiring ceremony also included commemorative flyovers by U.S. aircraft and Patrouille de France, the precision aerobatic demonstration team of the French Air Force. Also supporting the event were the U.S. First Infantry Division Band and Color Guard, Native American Color Guard, Army and Air Force legacy units that served during World War I.
The National World War I Museum and Memorial continues its centennial commemoration of the Great War with a series of special exhibitions, programs and events through 2019. For details, visit theworldwar.org.
Kansas City Museum: #MakingAMuseumKC

Kansas City Parks and Recreation began operations and management of the Kansas City Museum in 2014 with the objective to develop, implement, and lead a renovation project to create a premier local and regional history museum about Kansas City and its people. Significant strides were made toward that goal in 2017.

In March 2017, City officials, KC Parks, Kansas City Museum, and Kansas City Museum Foundation leadership announced the launch of “Making A Museum KC”, a capital campaign initiative developed by the Kansas City Museum Foundation to raise private funds for the Kansas City Museum’s multi-year restoration and renovation project. Mr. Bill Dunn, Sr., Mr. Henry Bloch, and Mr. Edward T. Matheny, Jr., were introduced as Honorary Chairs of the capital campaign with another legendary trio: former KC Parks Commissioners Mrs. Anita Gorman, Mr. Ollie Gates, and Mr. Carl J. DiCapo—serving as Honorary Members.
In April 2017, Kansas City voters approved $800 million in GO KC bonds to fund multiple city-wide capital improvement projects, including $8 million toward the Museum’s Stage I Construction costs, totaling $12 million. Additional funds were secured from the City’s Museum Mill Levy, ensuring that the Stage I Construction costs were fully secured by public funding.

With the public-private funding partnership in place—City officials, KC Parks, Kansas City Museum, and Kansas City Museum Foundation leadership—once again gathered for a kickoff ceremony to celebrate the commencement of construction on October 10, 2017.

Stage I Construction includes restoring and renovating all four floors of Corinthian Hall (the mansion) and will result in the creation of a leading-edge, 21st-century museum of Kansas City’s history and cultural heritage. Amenities include exhibition galleries, café, retail store, theater/auditorium, classroom/meeting room, Billiards room, and a new interpretation of the much beloved Soda Fountain space. When the Museum reopens in 2019, general admission will be free for all residents of Kansas City, Mo.

While under construction, Museum operations have moved to a new space located at 800 Broadway and adjacent to Garment Park. Kansas City Museum at the Historic Garment District (KCM@HGD) will continue to present events on the Kansas City Museum grounds and in Kessler Park as well as host special exhibitions, programs and events off-site in the community and at the Historic Garment District Museum (located at 801 Broadway).

Support the #MakingAMuseumKC capital campaign and stay up to date on construction progress at makingamuseumkc.org.
Kansas City’s newest off-leash dog park, West Terrace Dog Park, opened with a Yappy Hour Celebration on July 29. Several hundred dogs and their humans enjoyed the new 1.5 acre park and activities including a photo booth, agility course, dog splash pool, canine art and, of course, lots of treats and cake!

West Terrace Dog Park is KC Parks’ first members-only park and our only off-leash area located downtown. Park amenities include benches, park stairs, picnic tables, controlled entry, disposal bags/receptacles and two drinking fountains. Stunning views of Charles B. Wheeler Airport, the Missouri River and KC’s West Bottoms are a bonus.

The park’s central feature is a shade pavilion that emulates the Union Depot located in the West Bottoms during the 1800s. The pavilion features custom locally fabricated roof panels that use perforations to re-create the image of the former Depot, providing not only a comfortable spot to sit, but also a connection to history.

The development of the park was triggered by a boom in KC’s downtown population with new housing that has minimal or no yard/green space. Seeing a need for a location where pets can play, KC Parks implemented the City’s Dog Park Task Force 2010 recommendation for an off-leash area in West Terrace Park. At the close of 2017, the park had close to 250 members of which more than half live within a mile.

For membership information, visit kcparks.org/parks/wtdp.
One iconic Kansas City Fountain was reenergized in 2017 while another began its renovation journey.

On October 25, neighbors, community leaders and fountain enthusiasts joined in celebration at the long-awaited rededication of the Meyer Circle Sea Horse Fountain. A grass-roots, bi-state, neighborhood fundraising initiative that began in 2016 raised nearly $600,000 in donations to establish an endowment and supplement the City’s $660,000 for rehabilitation of this highly visible Ward Parkway fountain.

The fountain, which was dormant for two years, required extensive repairs—rebuilding the vault and refurbishing/replacing the circular pool basin, water pipes, jets and masonry. With the addition of perimeter rope lighting, LED fountain lighting, improved waterproofing for the basin, and a heavy-duty door for the underground pump room, renovations were complete.

The statuary portion of the historic fountain weighs 16,000 lbs. and dates back to the 1700s where it stood for 300 years in a Venetian square. The figures were brought over from Italy in the early 1920s. An 80-foot diameter
pool was constructed and the statuary mounted on the central pedestal in 1925. The fountain is named for the three mythological sea horses perched atop the stone pyramid.

On December 8, the Spirit of Freedom Fountain’s 5,000 lb. center sculpture was removed to commence fountain repairs. The $865,000 renovation is funded by $750,000 in GO bonds, with the remaining money coming from the Public Improvement Advisory Committee and private donations. The project is one of several approved by the City Council for the first year of the $800 million in GO bonds which voters approved in April.

Renovations include cleaning of the sculpture and replacement of the fountain pump, piping and lighting in and around the fountain. Additionally, the sub-structure will be strengthened, granite steps cleaned and replaced where needed, new bubblers placed in the fountain basin, and ADA access updated to current standards.

Located at Emanuel Cleaver II Boulevard at Cleveland Avenue, the Spirit of Freedom Fountain features a metallic free-form sculpture designed by Richard Hunt. The monument sits on a pedestal in the middle of an elliptical-shaped retaining pool with raised platforms that support the artwork. Water pours from the base of the platform and there are six clusters of water jets in the interior of the basin. It was dedicated in 1981 to honor the contributions of African-Americans in Kansas City and in memory of former City Councilman Bruce R. Watkins.

The renovations will be completed and the sculpture returned in time for Fountain Day 2018.

For more information, visit kcfountains.org.
In May, KC Parks announced a goal of teaching 1,125 area youth to swim in 2017. By the end of the summer, more than 1,300 kids had learned to swim, thanks to the new KC Parks free swim lessons initiative.

The first two skill levels of Learn-to-Swim lessons were offered at no cost to youth at outdoor water parks, major pools and indoors at Gregg/Klice, Southeast and Tony Aguirre Community Center pools.

KC Parks’ intention in offering free beginning lessons is to lower the possibility of water-related incidents and to increase basic water safety knowledge. The safety of Kansas City’s children is paramount to KC Parks, and water safety is of the utmost importance. The hugely successful program will be repeated in 2018.
## THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

### COMMUNITY SERVICES 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Customer Participation</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Centers</td>
<td>468,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pools/Spraygrounds</td>
<td>124,345</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletic Facilities &amp; Programs</td>
<td>729,792</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Participation</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor’s Night Programs</td>
<td>13,156</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Facilities &amp; Programs</td>
<td>721,905</td>
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### ATTENDANCE 2017

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<tr>
<td>Golf Courses</td>
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<td>Lakeside Nature Center</td>
<td>31,563</td>
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<td>Loose Park Garden Center</td>
<td>22,910</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas City Zoo</td>
<td>951,469</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas City Northern Railroad</td>
<td>59,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas City Museum</td>
<td>17,901</td>
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<td>National WWI Museum &amp; Memorial</td>
<td>227,242</td>
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<td>Starlight Theatre</td>
<td>296,732</td>
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<td>Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center</td>
<td>10,799</td>
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<td>Swope Soccer Village</td>
<td>495,000</td>
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<td>Special Events Attendance</td>
<td>399,069</td>
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<td>Road Race Participation</td>
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### NATURAL RESOURCES 2017

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<th>Resource</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trees Trimmed</td>
<td>8,367</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trees Planted</td>
<td>4,509</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trees Removed</td>
<td>2,313</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stumps Removed</td>
<td>814</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Acreage Mowed</td>
<td>75,051.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cubic Yards of Snow Removed</td>
<td>917,564</td>
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<td>Graffiti Incidents Removed</td>
<td>235</td>
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<td>Citizen 311 Action Center (Resolved)</td>
<td>6,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Acquisition in Acres</td>
<td>2.94</td>
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### MARKETING AND EVENTS 2017

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<th>Platform</th>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook Fans</td>
<td>11,126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter Followers</td>
<td>7,323</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instagram Followers</td>
<td>8,274</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-newsletter Distribution List</td>
<td>13,191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permitted Park Events</td>
<td>265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permitted Road Races</td>
<td>68</td>
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### MAINTENANCE HOURS WORKED 2017

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<th>Task</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Fields</td>
<td>5,103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>39,090</td>
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<td>Park Facility Repairs</td>
<td>13,776</td>
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<td>Special Event Preparation</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<td>Litter/Trash Removal</td>
<td>41,729</td>
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### SHELTER HOUSES 2017

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<thead>
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<th>Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reservations</td>
<td>1,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>56,851</td>
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### VOLUNTEERS 2017

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<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Volunteers</td>
<td>6,384</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>64,909</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated Value of Volunteers</td>
<td>$1,400,087</td>
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</table>
**PARTNERS**

*KC Parks has partnerships established with neighborhood, community, business and not-for-profit organizations. These alliances allow our department to leverage resources and generate city-wide interest and support for our system facilities, programs and events. We appreciate your support!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heartland Conservation Alliance</th>
<th>Mid-America Regional Council</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart of America Council/Boy Scouts</td>
<td>Mid-Continent Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart of America Shakespeare Festival</td>
<td>Midwest Pool Management</td>
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<td>Historic Kansas City Foundation</td>
<td>Mill Creek Park Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical Society of New Santa Fe</td>
<td>Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trailside Center</td>
<td>Missouri Department of Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hyde Park Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>Missouri Department of Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Independence Avenue CID</td>
<td>Missouri Department of Transportation</td>
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<td>Independence Plaza Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial Committee</td>
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<td>Indian Mound Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>Missouri Master Gardeners</td>
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<td>Jackson County Parks + Recreation</td>
<td>Missouri Parks &amp; Recreation Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>JE Dunn Construction Company</td>
<td>Monarchs on the Move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just Off-Broadway Theatre</td>
<td>Monnett Battle of Westport Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KABOOM!</td>
<td>National Park Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas City Carriage Company</td>
<td>National Recreation &amp; Parks Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas City Chiefs</td>
<td>Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc.</td>
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<td>Kansas City Art Institute</td>
<td>Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art</td>
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<td>Kansas City Community Gardens</td>
<td>North Bennington Neighborhood Association</td>
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<td>Kansas City Cricket Club</td>
<td>North Kansas City Area Baseball Association</td>
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<td>Kansas City Design Center</td>
<td>North Kansas City School District</td>
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<td>Kansas City Flying Disc Club</td>
<td>North Suburban Youth Football League</td>
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<td>Kansas City Metro Jr. Golf Club</td>
<td>Northeast Arts KC</td>
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<td>Kansas City, Missouri Police Department</td>
<td>Northeast Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Kansas City, Missouri School District</td>
<td>Northeast Kansas City Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas City Museum Foundation</td>
<td>Northern Knights Model Airplane Club</td>
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<td>Kansas City Native Plant Initiative</td>
<td>Northland Animal Welfare Society (NAWS)</td>
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<td>Kansas City Northern Railroad</td>
<td>Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.</td>
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<td>Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Kansas City Rose Society</td>
<td>Northland Rugby Football Club</td>
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<td>Kansas City Royals</td>
<td>Orion Management Solutions, Inc.</td>
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<td>Kansas City Rugby</td>
<td>Park Hill School District</td>
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<td>Kansas City Sports Commission</td>
<td>Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association</td>
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<td>Kansas City WildLands</td>
<td>Penn Valley Park Conservancy</td>
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<td>KCATA</td>
<td>Pilgrim Center</td>
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<td>KC Creates</td>
<td>Platte County Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</td>
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<td>Platte County Parks and Recreation</td>
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<td>KC Sport and Social</td>
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<td>KC United Tennis (KCU)</td>
<td>Plaza Rotary Club</td>
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<td>KCPD Mounted Patrol</td>
<td>Police Athletic League (P.A.L.)</td>
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<td>Liberty, Mo. Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association</td>
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<td>South Kansas City Alliance</td>
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<td>Southern Platte County Athletic Association dba Northland Sports Alliance</td>
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<td>The Bloch Foundation</td>
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<td>Blue River Relief</td>
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<td>HAVEN Bee Hives</td>
<td>KC Creating</td>
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2017 AWARDS

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration
The Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal:
Anita B. Gorman, former Parks Commissioner

American Society of Landscape Architects: Prairie Gateway Chapter
Kessler Legacy Award: Loose Park

Arts KC
Advocate Award: Mark L McHenry, Director

The First Tee of Greater Kansas City
Partnership of the Year Award: Kansas City Parks and Recreation

GolfAdvisor.com
#1 Course in Missouri: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Golfweek Magazine “Best You Can Play - Missouri Top 5”
#2: Swope Memorial Golf Course
#5: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Historic Kansas City Foundation - Preservation Awards
Community Catalyst - Excellence: Waldo Water Tower
Community Catalyst - Merit: Black Archives Building

Ingram’s Kansas City Business Magazine Best of Business Awards
Best Charitable Event - Gold: Jazzoo at the Kansas City Zoo
Best Theater - Bronze: Starlight Theatre
Best Family Outing/Venue - Silver: Kansas City Zoo
Best Museum - Silver: National World War I Museum and Memorial

KC Dog Club
Best “Hike with Hounds”: Blue River Greenway

KC Parent Magazine Family Faves
Favorite Animal Attractions: #2 - Kansas City Zoo
Favorite Museum: #2 - National World War I Museum and Memorial
Favorite Outdoor Family Destination: #1 - Kansas City Zoo

Liberty Tribune
Readers’ Choice - Best of the Northland: Shoal Creek Living History Museum

Missouri Park and Recreation Association
Cunningham Recreation Leadership in Inclusion Award:
Tiffany Hills Park All-Inclusive Playground,
Richard Allen, Project Manager

National Arbor Day Foundation
Tree City USA Award: City of Kansas City, Mo.

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.
Richard Noll Excellence in Public Service Award:
Kevin Evans, North District Parks Superintendent

Pitch Magazine - Best of KC Awards
Best Golf Course - Readers’ Choice: #1 - Swope Memorial;
#2 - Minor Park; #3 - Hodge Park

Trip Advisor: Attractions in Kansas City
#1: National World War I Museum and Memorial

Pugsley Medal winner Mrs. Anita B. Gorman in front of the Northland Fountain in the park that bears her name.
Visit KC: Visitors’ Choice Awards
Favorite Fountain: J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain
Favorite Park: Loose Park
Favorite Golf Course: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Wedding Spot
Best of Missouri: Swope Memorial

Weddingwire.com
Couple’s Choice Award Winner: Shoal Creek Golf Course

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

35 Years: City of Kansas City, Mo.
Keith Ross, Natural Resources - South Region

35 Years: Parks and Recreation
Robert Thompson, Natural Resources, Contract Inspector

Employee Retirements
Jocelyn Bail-Edson, 21 years
Mark Bowland, 22 years
Mark Danielsen, 24 years
Joe Evans, 26 years
Daniel Hambrick, 28 years
Josephine Hart, 23 years
April McCrary, 31 years
Lisa Nichols, 11 years
Sylvester Primers, 24 years
Helston Singleton, 32 years
Teresa Ann Toth, 24 years
Sherry VanWinkle, 23 years

KC Parks Employees Service Awards
QUALITY CIRCLE AWARDS

Adriane Malone Supervisor of the Year
Natural Resource: Ed Shaw, Maintenance Supervisor
Community Services: Kimberly Hess, Lakeside Nature Center

Employee of the Quarter
Eddie Jackson, Tree Services
Henry Cooper, North District
Jamal Wynn, South District
Larry Wallace, Central District

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION AWARDS
Outstanding New Employees: Katherine Williams, Stanley Vaughans
Outstanding Customer Service: Tamara Goff
Outstanding Programmer: Paige Crosswhite
Supervisor of the Year: Donald Strother
Superintendent’s Above & Beyond Awards: Jillian Haynes, Jody Siemer

Director Elected to Lead National Organization

In September, Director Mark L. McHenry was installed as President of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA). He has been a member of the AAPRA since 2004 and is the first and only director from Kansas City to lead this prestigious national organization.

AAPRA is a group of distinguished practitioners and educators who are leaders in the field of park and recreation. Members must have served for at least 15 years in a high level of administration in a park and recreation agency or as a recognized educator in parks and recreation administration; or they must manage a park and recreation department for an agency with a population of more than 500,000.

The Academy is limited to 125 active members.
January 16
MLK Jr. Day Nature Walk on the Brush Creek Trails

February 10 - 11 & 17 - 18
Lock Your Love: Valentine’s Day on the Old Red Bridge

February 18
Breakfast with the Beasts at Lakeside Nature Center

February 18 - 19
Great Backyard Bird Count at the Trailside Center

February 22
Santa Fe Trail Panel Dedication in Penn Valley Park

March 17
St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Broadway

March 18 (rescheduled)
Brookside St. Pat’s Warm-Up Parade
Cash for Critters Fundraiser at Lakeside Nature Center

March 21
Vivion Road YMCA Ceremonial Demolition

March 27
Garrison Community Center Boxing Center Opening

April 1
Project Blue River Rescue in Swope Park

April 6
Centennial Commemoration of U.S. Entry into WWI at National WWI Museum & Memorial

April 7
Show-Me State Games Torch Run in Ilus Davis Park

April 8
Kids Spring Jamboree at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park
Bone-Anza at Waggin’ Trail Dog Park

April 12
Fountain Day at The Concourse Fountain in Kessler Park

April 22
Spring Discover Day at KC Parks Community Centers
Earth Day at Lakeside Nature Center
Arbor Day Celebration in Loose Park

KC Parks, city officials and neighborhood leaders held a ceremonial demolition of the former Vivion Road YMCA on March 21. Kansas City Parks and Recreation acquired the YMCA and removed the building with plans to renovate and reopen the outdoor swimming pool in late summer of 2018.
May - September
Kansas City Northern Railroad Open for Season
(Weekends and Holidays)

May - October
KC Organics and Natural Market in Minor Park Open for Season (Saturdays)

May 1
Melanoma Monday at J.C. Nichols Fountain

May 5

Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence Exhibition Opening in Theis Park

May 11
Free Swim Lesson News Conference at Gregg/Klice Community Center

May 5 - 13
KC Plein Air Festival in Penn Valley Park

May 6
1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park
The Derby Party, Kansas City Museum
Reading in the Roses, Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

May 13
Dig Day (Citywide)
Downtown Open Urban Golf Tournament in Washington Square Park
KC Train Day Celebration at Kansas City Northern Railroad

May 18, 25 and June 1, 8, 15 & 22
Thimble Thursday Concerts in Garment Park

May 19 - August 5
Mayor’s Nights/Club KC Events

May 20
Celebrating Urban Birds at Lakeside Nature Center
Orange Fountain for National Orange Popsicle Week at J.C. Nichols Fountain

May 26 - 27
Illuminated Waters in Theis Park

May 27 - September 4
Major Pools & Spraygrounds Open for Season

May 27
Memorial Day Service at Union Cemetery

May 27 - 29
Memorial Day Activities at National World War I Museum and Memorial
May 28
Kansas City Symphony’s Celebration at the Station

May 29
Memorial Day Activities at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fountain

May 30
Native Plant Gardens at Loose Park

May 31
KC Parks Employee Departmental Service Awards Breakfast at Southeast Community Center

June 2
Jazzoo at the Kansas City Zoo
KC Park Plein Air Festival Exhibition Opening & Sale at Buttonwood Gallery

June 2, 9, 16 and 23
Children’s Film Festival in Hyde Park

June 3
Party on the Prairie in Jerry Smith Park

June 4
Rose Show & Rose Day at Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

June 7
Storytime in the Park in Hidden Valley Park

June 9
Summer Concert Series at the Kansas City Museum

June 10
Dragon Boat Festival & Races on Brush Creek
Artzpaloosa in Marlborough
Reading in the Roses at Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

June 13 - July 2
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival in Southmoreland Park: Twelfth Night

June 14
Flag Day Celebration at Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington Square Park

June 17
Urban Kids Fishing Derby at Spring Valley Lake
Bugs Extravaganza at Lakeside Nature Center

June 18 - 24
Taps at the Tower at the National World War I Museum and Memorial

June 21
Storytime in the Park in Chouteau Greenway Park

July 1
1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

KC Parks observed National Trails & Prairie Day with a Party on the Prairie in Jerry Smith Park on June 3. Several hundred attendees participated in family and environmentally friendly activities amidst the flora and fauna of Jackson County’s only remnant prairie. Guided trail hikes, bird walks, horse-drawn hay rides, plein air painters, scavenger hunts, live music and hot dogs were enjoyed by all!
July 1 - 31
National Parks and Recreation Month

July 5
Storytime in the Park in Winnwood Park

July 7
The Teddy Bear Picnic at the Kansas City Museum

July 13
Summer Concert Series at the Kansas City Museum

July 19
Storytime in the Park in Penguin Park

July 20
Groundbreaking for Native Sons & Daughters of Kansas City Monument in Ilus Davis Park

July 22
Kids, Water, Bugs, Fish at Lakeside Nature Center

July 23
Kansas City’s Big Picnic and Quick Paint Contest in Theis Park

July 29
West Terrace Off Leash Dog Park Opening

August 5
1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum
Youth Sports Festival at Zona Rosa

August 10
Feast of Fountains: A Food Truck Fest at the Northland Fountain

August 11
Summer Concert Series at the Kansas City Museum

August 12
Sly’s Rock the Block at Washington Square Park

August 18 - 20
Ethnic Enrichment Festival in Swope Park

August 19
What’s Out At Night? At Lakeside Nature Center

August 15
City Hall Selfie Day

A groundbreaking for a new monument honoring of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City (NSDKC) was held on July 20. NSDKC is an organization dedicated to the historic preservation of the unique and rich heritage of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, both in Missouri and Kansas, through advocacy, education and restoration. The monument, located north of City Hall on the west side of Ilus Davis Park, is expected to be complete in the Spring of 2018.
August 21
Total Eclipse of the Park Viewing Party at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

On August 21, several thousand people celebrated with KC Parks at a Total Eclipse of the Park Viewing Party held at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park, a village comprised of authentic 19th century buildings. Attendees experienced “totality” for 2 minutes, 2.3 seconds beginning at 1:07:50 p.m.

September 10
Dippin’ Dogs Swim Party at The Bay Water Park

September 14
Feast of Fountains: A Food Truck Fest at The Concourse

September 15
Red Fountains for Kansas City Chiefs Red Friday

September 15 - 17
Brush Creek Art Walk

September 17
Revolving Green Around the Blue on Indian Creek Trail
Wilma the Turtle’s Birthday Party at Lakeside Nature Center

September 20
Pilgrim Labyrinth Garden Dedication in Hyde Park

September 21
Wine & Roses Party in Loose Park Rose Garden

September 22
South Kansas City Time Capsule
Burial & Ribbon Cutting for Parking Lot at the Trailside Center

September 22
KC Parks Employee Appreciation Picnic in Penn Valley Park

September 22 - 23
Wonders of Outdoor Wildlife at Camp Lake of the Woods in Swope Park

September 1 - 3
Gold Fountain for Childhood Cancer Awareness at J.C. Nichols Fountain
Kansas City Irish Festival in Washington Square Park/Grand Boulevard

September 2
1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum
Heartland Heat Triathlon at The Springs Aquatics Center

September 9
Dippin’ Dogs Swim Party at The Springs Aquatics Center
Dance in the Park in Roanoke Park
September 23
Rvolving Green Around the Blue on Indian Creek Trail
Picnic in Elmwood Cemetery
Kansas City Zoo Run/Walk: Run for the Elephants
Reading in the Roses at Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

October 3
Brush Creek Art Walk Awards and Exhibition Opening at Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center

October 6 - 8
USTA MV Open & NTRP Sectional aka National Public Parks Championships

October 7
WaterFire KC on Brush Creek
Graveyard 5K Run & Walk in Elmwood Cemetery
Fall Discover Day at Westport Roanoke Community Center

October 10
Kansas City Museum Construction Kickoff

October 12
Feast of Fountains: A Food Truck Fest at National WWI Museum & Memorial

October 14
13th Annual Harvest Festival at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park
HOWLoweent Pooch Parade at Waggin’ Trail Dog Park
Magic Woods at Lakeside Nature Center

October 19
Little Blue Trace Extension Ribbon Cutting at Phelps Road Trailhead

October 21
Pooches & KC Kids Compassion Project PET EXPO at Penn Valley Dog Park
Fright Night Tours at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

On September 22, community leaders celebrated South Kansas City at a time capsule burial ceremony and ribbon cutting for the newly constructed 31-space parking lot at the Trailside Center. The time capsule, filled with South KC memorabilia, was buried adjacent to the parking lot. It is intended to be dug up in 2067.
October 22
Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead Celebration at Kansas City Museum

October 25
Meyer Circle Sea Horse Fountain Rededication

October 28
Spooky Skate at Line Creek Ice Arena
Kid Safe Halloween at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park
Ponies and Pumpkins at Little Blue Valley Park
LilyPalooza and Garden Faire at Loose Park Garden Center

November 1, 3 & 5
Big 12 Women’s Soccer Championship Tournament at Swope Soccer Village

November 4
The Wilderness Run at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

November 4 - 5
Orchid Society of GKC Flower Show and Sale at Loose Park Garden Center

November 9
Little Blue Trace Extension Opening in Little Blue Valley Park

November 10 - 12
Veterans Day Weekend at National World War I Museum and Memorial

November 11
Turkey Bowling on Ice at Line Creek Ice Arena

November 18
Kris Kringle & K-9s at Waggin’ Trail Off Leash Dog Park

November 22
Turkey Buster at Southeast Community Center in Swope Park

November 24 - January 1, 2018
Downtown Dazzle Holiday Lights in Washington Square Park

Colorful lights twinkled and danced to everyone’s favorite festive tunes for the first time this year in Washington Square Park as part of Downtown Dazzle. The park, which neighbors Crown Center, was lit up nightly from dusk to sunrise throughout the holiday season.
**November 30 & December 2**  
NCAA Division II Men’s & Women’s Soccer Championship Tournament at Swope Soccer Village

**December 1**  
Santa’s Wonderland in Gillham Park

**December 1 - 16**  
Mayor’s Holiday Parties at Community Centers

**December 2**  
Santa’s Wonderland in Penguin Park  
A Visit from St. Nicholas at Shoal Creek Living History Museum  
The Songs From the Soul Gala at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

**December 8**  
News Conference for Spirit of Freedom Fountain Renovations

**December 9**  
Kris Kringle 5K Run in Swope Park  
HOLIDAZZLE at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

**December 13**  
KC Parks Employee Breakfast & City Service Awards at Union Station

**December 13 - 17**  
The Fairy Princess at the KCM@HGD

**December 15**  
Senior Holiday Luncheon at Tony Aguirre Community Center

**December 16**  
Skate with Santa at Line Creek Ice Arena  
Santa’s Wonderland at The Bay Water Park
CONSTRUCTION
Arbor Villa Park Arbor Reconstruction & Landscaping
Bannister Park Improvements – trail, play equipment and exercise equipment
Garrison Community Center Boxing Club
Grove Park Pool Repairs
James A. Reed Park Improvements – play equipment and nature trail
Kansas City Urban Youth Academy
Lakewood Greenway Lake Construction
Loose Park Lighting at Lake
Pilgrim Labyrinth Garden in Hyde Park
Swope Park Basketball Courts
Swope Park Pool Pump Pit Relocation
Terry L. Dopson Administrative Building HVAC Replacement
Town Fork Creek Improvements
West Terrace Park Off Leash Dog Park

PICNIC SHELTERS
Liberty Park Shelter

PLAN/DESIGN DOCUMENTS
Chaumiere Woods Park Master Plan
Cooley Park Master Plan
Lakewood Greenway Trail Master Plan
Little Blue Valley Park Master Plan
North Troost Trail Phase II and III Construction Plans
Swope Park Loop Trail Conceptual Plan
White Oak Park Construction Plans and Master Plan
NEW PLAYGROUNDS & EQUIPMENT
Cleveland Park Swing Set
Iser Park Playground
Karnes Blvd. Playground Shade Structure in Roanoke Park
Mill Creek Park Exercise Equipment
Westwood Park Playground

MONUMENTS & FOUNTAINS
Adam & Eve Fountain Repair in Loose Park
Cancer Survivor’s Park Fiberglass Replacement
Linwood and The Paseo Stoplight Restoration
Meyer Circle Sea Horse Fountain
Sculpture Restorations:
  • The Hiker
  • Massasoit
  • Meyer Circle Gateway
  • Pioneer Mother
  • George Washington Memorial

STONE WALL REPAIRS
Camp Lake of the Woods
Case Park and Stair Repair
Independence Plaza Park Column Repair
Loose Park
Sheila Kemper Dietrich Park
Swope Park Golf Course
Troost Lake

FACILITY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
Lakeside Nature Center Roof
Shoal Creek Living History Museum – Log Replacement
and Doctor’s Office Roof

PARK BUILDINGS FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS REPAIR & UPGRADE
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
Brush Creek Community Center
Garrison Community Center
Hillcrest Community Center
KC North Community Center
Lakeside Nature Center
Line Creek Community Center
Marlborough Community Center
Plaza Tennis Center
Southeast Community Center
Tony Aguirre Community Center
Westport-Roanoke Community Center

SIGNAGE
Parade Park
TRAILS
Cliff Drive & Spirit of KC Scenic Byways Trail
Iser Park Trail
Little Blue Trace Extension at Phelps Road Trailhead
Little Blue Trace Extension/South Bridge Connector in Little Blue Valley Park
North Troost Trail Phase I Improvements in Englewood Park
Union Cemetery Asphalt Trail Overlay

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECTS
Westside CAN Center
Kansas City Community Gardens in Swope Park

ATHLETIC FIELDS
Central Park Improvements to Track and Football Field

STREETS, CURBS AND SIDEWALKS
Cancer Survivors Park Sidewalk Replacement
Emanuel Cleaver Blvd. & The Paseo Turning Lane and Traffic Signal Improvement
Grand Boulevard Sidewalk Repair
Grove Park Sidewalk Replacement
Minor Park Golf Course Clubhouse Concrete Paths Replacement

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) IMPROVEMENTS
Swope Park Pool
Terry R. Dopson Administration Building

PARKING LOTS
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
Tower Park South Lot
Trailside Center

TENNIS COURTS
Martin Luther King Jr. Park Repairs

SECURITY CAMERAS AND LIGHTS
Seven Oaks Park