Cover photo: “Big Bubbles at the Big Picnic” by Ruben Gusman
Finalist for the NRPA July 2018 magazine cover
DEAR FRIENDS OF PARKS AND RECREATION,

2018 was a monumental year. Personally, as it was my last as an employee of Kansas City Parks and Recreation. And professionally, as our department continued to open new amenities and provide enhanced programs, events and initiatives for residents and visitors alike.

Reflecting on my career, I can honestly say that I enjoyed every minute of the 44 years and 7 months of service to the department and to the citizens of Kansas City, Missouri.

As I prepared for my retirement, several folks asked me, "What is the most important asset the department has?" My answer is, "the staff." Their typical follow-up question was, "What will I miss the most?" Same response, "the staff."

I want to thank every one of the faithful KC Parks employees for the good work that they do, day in and day out, to make Kansas City a great city in which to live, work and play.

I am most proud of the staff that launched their careers at KC Parks. Many have gone on to serve as parks directors in other cities and a few as department directors right here in KC. One such individual is Teresa Rynard who began her career at Kansas City Parks and Recreation in 1987. I was lucky enough to hire her back as deputy director in 2013 with the intention that she would take the reins upon my retirement. I am proud of her accomplishments and wish her the best as director of the department.

I also want to thank the hardworking volunteers that comprise the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners. I had the privilege of working with 32 Board members during my tenure. Their devotion to preserving the integrity of our system while continuing to evolve is unwavering and for that, I am grateful.

It doesn’t take long to realize that KC Parks is a family. We celebrate together, we mourn together, we work together, and we play together. In 2018, we had our share of it all. Thank you for all the terrific memories and all the joy KC Parks has brought to my life. It was a Great Ride!

Sincerely,

Mark L. McHenry, KC Parks Director (2003-2018)
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 (L-R): Shannon Cade, Allen Dillingham, President Mary Jane Judy, David Mecklenburg and Yolanda Medina Casey. 

Not Pictured: Jean-Paul Chaurand (2001-September 2018)

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners (L-R): Shannon Cade, Allen Dillingham, President Mary Jane Judy, David Mecklenburg and Yolanda Medina Casey. 

Not Pictured: Jean-Paul Chaurand (2001-September 2018)
MARK McHENRY’S RETIREMENT

Director Mark McHenry announced in mid-September that he would retire at the end of 2018 following 44 years and seven months of service with Kansas City Parks and Recreation, the last 15 as director. He was only the seventh director to lead the department since its establishment in 1892.

Highlights of Mark’s career include adding 34 parks and 1000 acres of park land, building six community centers, doubling the size of the Kansas City Zoo, helping create the current National World War I Museum and Memorial, revitalizing Starlight Theatre, and overseeing the renovation of the Kansas City Museum.

Mark was also key in establishing The Springs Aquatics Center, The Bay Water Park, Shoal Creek Golf Course and the Tom Watson Golf Academy at the Heart of America Golf Course.

Mark worked to identify funds and navigate the challenges to develop, design and build Swope Soccer Village in partnership with Sporting Kansas City. Using a similar model, he helped establish the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy at Parade Park in partnership with the Kansas City Royals and Major League Baseball.

Under Mark’s guidance Kansas City has been recognized by national and international organizations. In 2012, Ward Parkway was designated as one of 10 Great Streets by the American Planning Association. In 2016, “The Kansas City Parks and Boulevards Historic District” was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in Community Planning and Development and Landscape Architecture. In 2018, the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden received the Award of Garden Excellence from the World Federation of Rose Societies.

Mark led the effort in 2012 to gain citizen support of a one-half cent dedicated sales tax for Parks and Recreation with no sunset. The tax provides a consistent, guaranteed, long-term source of revenue and helps ensure that the department remains accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.

Mark’s impact on Kansas City will last much longer than the 44+ years he spent at KC Parks. His legacy is honored and will live on with the renaming of Tiffany Springs Park to Mark L. McHenry Park.

Mark’s grandkids Malcolm and Edythe are excited to have a park named after their Papa.
TERESA RYNARD NAMED PARKS DIRECTOR

When Director McHenry announced that he would retire at the end of 2018, the Board designated Deputy Director Teresa (Terry) Rynard as Mark’s successor beginning January 1, 2019.

Terry began her parks and recreation career at Kansas City Parks in 1987 as a seasonal worker and worked her way up the ranks to Assistant Park Superintendent. She left KC Parks in 2002 to pursue opportunities at park departments in Michigan and Florida but returned to Kansas City as the Deputy Director in 2013. Terry is the first female to serve as the Director in the 127-year history of the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department.

Terry is a native of Kansas City. She attended Winnetonka High School, is a graduate of William Jewell College and holds a Master of Public Administration from UMKC. She is married with three children and two grandchildren.

Terry’s and Mark McHenry’s love and passion for the department and the community are very similar. They share values regarding the environment, social equity, park quality, park development and enriching programmatic experiences accessible to all. Terry is excited to be carrying on the 127-year-old tradition of KC Parks and Recreation.
KC Parks and the KCMO Health Department teamed up to introduce Life X, a new initiative using a place-based approach to mobilize residents from ZIP codes where 94 percent live below the Federal Poverty Level and life expectancy rates are an average of 14.9 years less than other areas of the city.

Two hundred residents from ZIP codes 64126, 64127, 64128, 64129, 64130 and 64132 received complimentary memberships to KC Parks community centers and access to healthy lifestyle and fitness classes, as well as resident leadership training exclusive to program participants.

Life X hopes to engage participants in a conversation to build a healthier Kansas City where ZIP codes no longer dictate life expectancy. The program seeks to connect the wisdom, history, and insights of residents with the resources of local government to empower individuals as advocates and catalysts for positive change in their community. Life X is funded by a grant from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City.
To celebrate Parks and Recreation Month, KC Parks introduced a new tagline, **Where KC Plays**, in a big way!

A large mural, created by artist Ruthie Ozonoff (of the Kansas City I’m So In Love mural fame), debuted in July on the wall of KC Parks District 2 Headquarters, located in the West Bottoms. Employees and residents were encouraged to take selfies in front of the mural and post them to social media throughout the month.

To further highlight the new tagline, promote play, and recognize employees in a fun way, a #PlayerOfTheDay social media campaign was launched. One employee was featured each day of the month with a photo, pertinent data and their answer to, “Why do you love working at KC Parks?” The 31 selected employees were peer-nominated and represented a variety of functions within the department.

The campaign proved to be a successful way to build community and pride internally and throughout the metro by putting a face to the many and varied activities that encompass KC Parks and Recreation. In fact, the #PlayerOfTheDay campaign was such a success that both the national and state park associations featured it in their respective magazines.
For 62 days last fall, Kansas City was transformed into an ever-evolving art experience. Local contemporary visual and performing artists were joined by their national and international counterparts for the first citywide arts event ever staged in Kansas City: Open Spaces – A Kansas City Arts Experience.

Swope Park served as the hub for Open Spaces and featured visual art in a wide range of media installed throughout the 1800-acre park. The Village was also housed in Swope Park. Every weekend from August 25-October 28, visitors were able to take in a dance or music performance, grab a snack, enjoy family activities or browse through custom structures designed by some of Kansas City’s finest architects at the pop-up village. Westwood Park also hosted outdoor art installations as part of Open Spaces.

Open Spaces’ headline event, The Weekend, took place October 12-13 with a featured performance by the Queen of Kansas City, Janelle Monáe, at Starlight Theatre and enhancements and heightened programming at The Village, all in celebration of unity and social change through art.

Open Spaces KC put the world on notice that Kansas City is the center for artistic excellence.
GORMAN POOL OPENS

The Fourth of July was an even bigger celebration in 2018 with the opening of the Northland’s newest and largest outdoor pool! Following an official ribbon cutting by the pool’s namesake, Anita B. Gorman, more than 400 swimmers were able to enjoy a hot Independence Day in the cool new pool. KC Parks had acquired the former Vivion Road YMCA and outdoor pool in 2017 and proceeded to demolish the building, renovate and reopen the pool just over a year later.

Features of the outdoor aquatic facility include a 50-meter pool designed for both recreational and competitive swimming with an occupancy of 560 bathers. The bathhouse has a guardroom, concessions, restrooms, and nine exterior rinse off showers. There is a large patio area located adjacent to the bathhouse and a large parking lot with accessible parking. Facility renovations were funded with $1,050,000 in PIAC and an additional $1.8 million from North Oak TIF.
KC Parks has partnerships established with neighborhood, community, business and not-for-profit organizations. These alliances allow our department to leverage resources and generate citywide interest and support for our system facilities, programs and events. We appreciate your support!

aSTEAM Village
Black Archives of Mid-America Inc.
The Bloch Foundation
Blue River Relief
Blue River Watershed Association
Boys & Girls Clubs of Kansas City
Bridging the Gap Heartland Tree Alliance
Brookside Business Association
Brookside Roller Hockey League
Brookside Soccer Club
Burns & McDonnell
Campfire USA
Chauti Nieme Neighborhood Association
Children’s Mercy Hospital
Chouteau Heritage Fountain Committee
City of Fountains Foundation
City of North Kansas City Parks & Recreation
Clay County Parks and Recreation
Cliff Drive Scenic Byway Corridor Management Committee
Cycling Kansas City
Dogpark Improvement Group (DIG)
Downtown Council
DST Realty/State Street Bank
Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City
eitas
El Centro, Inc.
Elmwood Cemetery Society
The Enshriners
Ethnic Enrichment Commission
First Tee of Greater KC
Friends of Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
Friends of Lakeside Nature Center
Friends of the Zoo
Friends of West Terrace Park
Full Employment Council
Gardening Connect
The Giving Grove
Gladstone American Legion
City of Gladstone Parks and Recreation
Go Ape! Treetops Adventure Course
Gracemor Randolph Neighborhood Association
Greater Kansas City Health Care Foundation
GreenWorks of Kansas City
Guadalupe Center, Inc.
HAVEN Bee Hives
Heartland Outside
Heartland Conservation Alliance
Heart of America Council/Boy Scouts
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival
Historic Kansas City Foundation
Historical Society of New Santa Fe Trailside Center
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association
Independence Avenue CID
Independence Plaza Neighborhood Association
Indian Mound Neighborhood Association
Jackson County Parks + Recreation
JE Dunn Construction Company
Just Off-Broadway Theatre
KABOOM!
Kansas City Carriage Company
Kansas City Chiefs
Kansas City Art Institute
Kansas City Community Gardens
Kansas City Cricket Club
Kansas City Design Center
Kansas City Flying Disc Club
Kansas City Metro Jr. Golf Club
Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
Kansas City, Missouri School District
Kansas City Museum Foundation
Kansas City Native Plant Initiative
Kansas City Northern Railroad
Kansas City Organics & Natural Market
Kansas City Rose Society
Kansas City Royals
Kansas City Rugby
Kansas City Sports Commission
Kansas City WildLands
KCAT
KC Creates
KC Crew
KC Sport and Social
KC United Tennis (KCU)
KCPD Mounted Patrol
Kemper Sports Management, Inc.
William T. Kemper Foundation
Kessler Society of Kansas City
Key Coalition
Liberty Memorial Association/National World War I Museum and Memorial
Liberty, MO Parks and Recreation
Literacy Kansas City
Lykins Neighborhood Association
MainCor
Marlborough Neighborhood Coalition
Mattie Rhodes Center
Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries
Mid-America Regional Council
Mid-Continent Public Library
Midwest Pool Management
Mill Creek Park Association
Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Department of Transportation
Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial Committee
Missouri Master Gardeners
Missouri Parks & Recreation Association
Monarchs on the Move
Monnett Battle of Westport Fund
National Park Service
National Recreation & Parks Association
Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc.
Nelson Atkins Museum of Art
North Bennington Neighborhood Association
North Kansas City Area Baseball Association
North Kansas City School District
North Suburban Youth Football League
Northeast Arts KC
Northeast Chamber of Commerce
Northeast Kansas City Historical Society
Northern Knights Model Airplane Club
Northland Animal Welfare Society (NAWS)
Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.
Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce
Northland Rugby Football Club
Orion Management Solutions, Inc.
Park Hill School District
Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association
Penny Valley Park Conservancy
Pilgrim Center
Platte County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Platte County Parks and Recreation
Platte County Sports Commission
Plaza Rotary Club
Police Athletic League (P.A.L.)
Port KC
Roanoke Park Conservancy
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Ruskin Heights Homes Association
Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association
Sheffield Neighborhood Association
Shepherd’s Center of KC Central
Shoal Creek Living History Museum Association
Sister Cities Association of Kansas City
Skywalk Memorial Foundation
Society for Friendship with China
South Kansas City Alliance
Southern Platte County Athletic Association dba Northland Sports Alliance
Southtown Council
Sporting Club & Sporting Kansas City
Starlight Theatre Association
StoneLion Puppet Theatre
Swede Park Rangers
Theater League
3&2 Baseball
3-Trails West
Tony Aguirre Community Center Advisory Committee
Trailside Center
12th Street Heritage
Unity Ridge Home Owners Association
University of Missouri, Kansas City
Union Cemetery Historical Society
Union Station Kansas City, Inc.
Urban American Outdoors
Urban Trail Co.
Frank and Ann Uryasz
USA Swimming
US Army Corp of Engineers
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Verona Hills Homes Association
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 317
Visit KC
Vivion Road Gang
Waldo Area Business Association
Waldo Tower Historic Society
Ward Family Foundation
Wedgewood Pointe Property Owners Association
West Plaza Neighborhood Association
The Westport Garden Club
Westport Historical Society
Westside CAN Center
Winnwood-Sunnybrook Neighborhood Association
Wornall Homestead Homes Association
The Wornall/Majors House Museums
Wonders of Wildlife
Zona Rosa

KC PARK & REC 2018 year in review
2018 AWARDS

435 Magazine
The 10 Happiest Dog Parks in Kansas City:
West Terrace Dog Park
KC’s 6 Coolest Ice Rinks: Line Creek Community Center Ice Arena

Broadway Westport Council
James B. Nutter Community Enhancement Award

Garden Club of America 2018 Club Horticultural Commendation
Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden

Global and Multicultural Education Center
Peace Builder Award: Ethnic Enrichment Commission

Golden Gloves Regional Tournament
Novice Division Team Champions: Garrison Boxing Team

GolfAdvisor.com Best of 2018
#1 Course in Missouri: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Golfweek Magazine “Best You Can Play – Missouri Top 10”
#3: Swope Memorial Golf Course
#8: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Historic Kansas City Foundation – Preservation Awards
Best Preservation Practices – Meyer Circle Sea Horse Fountain

Ingram’s Kansas City Business Magazine Best of Business Awards
Best Charitable Event – Silver: Jazzoo at the Kansas City Zoo
Best Performing Arts Venue – Silver: Starlight Theatre
Best Family Outing/Venue – Silver: Kansas City Zoo

KCMO Environmental Management Commission
Environmental Stewardship & Volunteerism Award: William Fessler
EVERGreen Award: William Fessler

KC Parent Magazine Family Faves
Animal Attractions: #2 – Kansas City Zoo
Best Kept Secret: Shoal Creek Living History Museum
Live Show: #2 – Starlight Theatre
Museum: #2 – National World War I Museum and Memorial
Outdoor Family Destination: #1 – Kansas City Zoo

Missouri Park and Recreation Association Citation Award: Ethnic Enrichment Festival

Missouri Special Olympics Basketball Tournament
Third Place: Garrison Hoosiers

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

National Golf Federation Top Five in Customer Satisfaction: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce Beautification Leadership Award

Pitch Magazine – Best of KC Awards
Golf Course: Swope Memorial
Live Theater: Starlight Theatre
Outdoor Venue: Starlight Theatre
Park: Loose Park
Scenic Spot: Liberty Memorial

Public Employee Recognition Day Community Service Award: Terrence Williams
Snake Saturday Parade
Third Place FOGY Category: KC Parks, Where KC Plays float

Visit KC: Visitors’ Choice Awards
Favorite Fountain: J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain
Favorite Park: Loose Park
Favorite Golf Course: Shoal Creek Golf Course
Favorite Concert/Live Music Venue: Starlight Theatre

World Federation of Rose Societies
Garden of Excellence Award: Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS: The MELS
40 Years: City of Kansas City, MO
Robert Lawler, Engineering and Planning

35 Years: Parks and Recreation
Robert Thompson, Natural Resources

QUALITY CIRCLE AWARDS
Adriane Malone Supervisor of the Year
DeRowan Spears, South Region-Natural Resources

Employee of the Quarter
1st: Tommie Prescott (in memoriam)
2nd: Braulio Aranda Sosa
3rd: David Bogan
4th: Joe McGinnis

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION AWARDS
Outstanding New Employee: Anthony Slayden
Outstanding Customer Service: Katie Yslas
Outstanding Programmer: Lesa Lewis
Supervisor of the Year: Jody Siemer
Superintendent’s Above & Beyond Award: Ashley Allen

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS
Keith Ross, 37 years
James Allan Wood, 12 years
Patrick S. McNamara, 28 years
Michael Duckworth, 31 years
Linda Myles, 19 years
Glenn Graham, 39 years
Deborah Dawkins, 29 years
Joseph W. Kweh, 17 years
Mark L. McHenry, 44 years
Sheila R. Lewis, 22 years
Barbara Scott, 34 years
Timothy Biswell, 43 years
Alan Schmelzle, 31 years

KC Parks Names Service Awards, “The MELs,” in Honor of Longtime Employee Mary Edith Lillis
In 2018, the department’s biannual employee service awards were named “The MELs” in honor of former employee Mary Edith Lillis who passed away on October 19 at the age of 86. Mary Edith had worked for KC Parks and Recreation for over 50 years. Her cohorts called her MEL as an acronym of her first, middle and last names.

FORMER EMPLOYEES: IN MEMORIAM
Sidney Black, Sr., February 3
George Eib, December 25
Marci Jones, December 15
Sampson Kimble, November 22
Mary Edith Lillis, October 19
James Mack, October 23
Brenda Pouncil, December 21
Tommie Prescott, November 23
RETIRING DIRECTOR MARK L. MCHENRY RECEIVED WELL-DESERVED HONORS FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS IN 2018:

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration
American Institute of Architects, Kansas City Chapter: 2018 Community Impact Award
Broadway Westport Council: James B. Nutter Community Enhancement Award
Friends of Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and State Museum: Appreciation Award
Friends of the Zoo
Greater Kansas City Attractions Association: Heart Of Kansas City Individual Achievement Award
Kansas City Metro Parks Directors
Key Coalition
Mid-America Regional Council Bike-Ped Advisory Committee: 12 Years of Service Award
Missouri Parks and Recreation Association: Retirement Service Award
National WWI Museum and Memorial Board of Trustees
North Kansas City Schools/Board: Extraordinary Experience Duty Award
Northland Neighborhoods Inc: Hero Award
Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce: Beautification Leadership Award
Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce Planning & Development Committee
Platte County Parks Partners: Appreciation of Leadership Award
Southtown Council: Southtown Foundation Award for Leadership
Sporting KC
Starlight Theatre Board of Directors
# Community Services 2018

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Customer Participation</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community Centers</td>
<td>260,537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pools/Spraygrounds</td>
<td>120,447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletic Facilities &amp; Programs</td>
<td>1,347</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Youth Participation</th>
<th>2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor's Night Programs</td>
<td>3,918</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Facilities &amp; Programs</td>
<td>84,630</td>
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# Attendance 2018

| Golf Courses | 146,401 |
| Lakeside Nature Center | 38,480 |
| Loose Park Garden Center | 35,826 |
| Kansas City Zoo | 899,714 |
| Kansas City Northern Railroad | 50,565 |
| Kansas City Museum/Garment District Museum | 12,918 |
| National WWI Museum & Memorial | 646,453 |
| Shoal Creek Living History Museum | 10,907 |
| Starlight Theatre | 285,760 |
| Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center | 10,449 |
| Swope Soccer Village | 535,000 |
| West Terrace Dog Park | 13,993 |
| Special Events Attendance | 373,666 |
| Road Race Participation | 83,853 |

# Volunteers 2018

| Number of Volunteers | 7,336 |
| Volunteer Hours | 48,875 |
| Estimated Value of Volunteers | $1,054,328 |

# Natural Resources 2018

| Trees Trimmed | 4,574 |
| Trees Planted | 1,802 |
| Trees Removed | 1,867 |
| Stumps Removed | 716 |
| Total Acreage Mowed | 67,951 |
| Graffiti Incidents Removed | 236 |

# Marketing and Events 2018

| Facebook Fans | 14,565 |
| Twitter Followers | 8,426 |
| Instagram Followers | 11,183 |
| E-newsletter Distribution List | 12,980 |
| Permitted Park Events | 195 |
| Permitted Road Races | 59 |

# Maintenance Hours Worked 2018

| Athletic Fields | 2,643 |
| Landscaping | 21,102 |
| Park Facility Repairs | 37,696 |
| Special Event Preparation | 2179 |
| Litter/Trash Removal | 32,986 |

# Shelter Houses 2018

| Reservations | 1,027 |
| Attendance | 51,058 |
2018 SPECIAL EVENTS

January 15
MLK Jr. Day Nature Walk on the Brush Creek Trails

January 16
Zamboni Birthday Party at Line Creek Ice Arena

February 9-10 & 15-16
Lock Your Love: Valentine’s Day on the Old Red Bridge in Minor Park

February 10
The Art of My Life Opening at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

February 13
Sweetheart Skate at Line Creek Ice Arena

February 17
Breakfast with the Beasts at Lakeside Nature Center

February 17-18
Great Backyard Bird Count at the Trailside Center

March 10-11
4th Annual Sam Lacey Memorial Youth Basketball Tournament at Gregg/Klice Community Center

March 10
Snake Saturday and Brookside St. Patrick’s Day Warm-Up Parades

March 17
St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Broadway

March 18
Cash for Critters Fundraiser at Lakeside Nature Center

March 24
Spring Jamboree at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

Bone-Anza at Waggin’ Trail Dog Park

March 31
KC Urban Youth Academy Grand Opening

A tradition that began hundreds of years ago in Europe celebrated five years in Kansas City in 2018. During that time, more than 3,000 couples have “locked their love” as a sign of love and devotion to the Old Red Bridge in south KC’s Minor Park.
April 3
Winnwood Park Playground Ribbon Cutting

April 7
Project Blue River Rescue in Swope Park

April 13
Show-Me State Games Torch Lighting Ceremony and Run

April 17
Fountain Day at The Spirit of Freedom Fountain

April 19
Native Sons and Daughters of KC Monument Dedication

April 21
Earth Day at Lakeside Nature Center
Arbor Day Celebration in Loose Park

April 28
25th Anniversary of Waterwell Athletic Complex

May-September
Kansas City Northern Railroad Open for Season (Weekends and Holidays)
Art in the Park Installations in West Terrace Park

May 4-12
KC Plein Air Festival in Penn Valley Park

May 5
The Derby Party at the Kansas City Museum
Let’s Play! Festival in West Terrace/Case Park

A dedication was held for the new monument in Ilus Davis Park honoring The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc., an organization dedicated to the historic preservation of the unique and rich heritage of greater Kansas City. History @ Monument events were held throughout the summer to raise awareness of the new marker and educate the public on Kansas City’s history.

Hundreds of baseball fans showed up at the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy to celebrate the grand opening of the $19 million state-of-the-art facility in The Parade Park. Partners in the facility include Major League Baseball, Kansas City Royals and KC Parks.
SPECIAL EVENTS

May 12
Dig Day (Citywide)
Downtown Open Urban Golf Tournament in Washington Square Park
Poetry Reading in Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

May 19-20
Chalk Walk at The Concourse Fountain

May 19
KC Train Day Celebration at Kansas City Northern Railroad
Celebrating Urban Birds at Lakeside Nature Center

May 25-26
Illuminated Waters in Theis Park

May 25-28
Memorial Day Weekend at National World War I Museum and Memorial

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

May 27
Bank of America Celebration at the Station

May 30, June 6, 13, 20 and 27
Art in the Park Concerts in West Terrace Park

May 30
KC Parks Employee Departmental Service Awards Breakfast in Swope Park

June 1
Cliff Drive and Spirit of KC Scenic Byways Trail Opening

June 1
Jazzoo at the Kansas City Zoo

June 1, 8, 15 and 22
Children’s Film Festival in Hyde Park

June 2
Party on the Prairie in Jerry Smith Park
1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

Historic Northeast Kansas City celebrated with KC Parks at the official opening of the new multipurpose trail connecting Cliff Drive in Kessler Park to the River Market and the Riverfront Heritage Trail.
June 3
Rose Show & Rose Day at Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

June 9
14th Annual International Dragon Boat Festival & Races on Brush Creek
Historical Epitaphs at Union Cemetery

June 12-July 1
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival in Southmoreland Park: Much Ado About Nothing

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

June 16
Urban Kids Fishing Derby at Spring Valley Lake
Bugs! at Lakeside Nature Center
Poetry Reading in Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

June 17-23
Taps at the Towner at the National World War I Museum and Memorial

June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25
TMF Summer Series Free Workout in Mill Creek Park

June 28
History @ Monument in Ilus Davis Park

June 30
Heartland Heat Triathlon at The Springs Aquatic Center

July 1-31
National Parks and Recreation Month

July 3
Second Annual 18th & Vine Fourth of July Celebration

July 4
Gorman Pool Opening in Gorman Park

July 7
1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum
8-Leg Education: A Night with Spiders

July 13
The Teddy Bear Picnic in Roanoke Park

July 17
Trolley Trail Bike & Pet Oasis Opening

June 26
KC Campus for Animal Care Groundbreaking in Swope Park

Hundreds gathered to “Raise the Woof” at a groundbreaking for the highly anticipated new animal shelter in Swope Park. Conveniently located at the corner of Elmwood & Gregory, the $26 million project is anticipated to be completed in late 2019.
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**July 21**  
Kids, Water, Bugs, Fish at Lakeside Nature Center  
Family Fun & Fit Day at The Grove

**July 22**  
Kansas City’s Big Picnic and Quick Paint Contest in Theis Park

**July 26**  
History @ Monument in Ilus Davis Park

**July 30**  
Construction Kickoff for Haff Fountain

**August 3-5**  
Annual Bonspiel at Line Creek Community Center Ice Arena

**August 4**  
1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum  
Run For the Raptors 2018 at Lakeside Nature Center

**August 9**  
Gillham Sprayground Opening

**August 9**  
Feast of Fountains: A Food Truck Fest at the Northland Fountain

**August 11**  
Sly’s Rock the Block at Union Station

**August 17-19**  
39th Annual Ethnic Enrichment Festival in Swope Park

**August 18**  
Sam Lacey Recognition Plaque Unveiling

**August 18**  
What’s Out At Night? at Lakeside Nature Center

**August 23**  
History @ Monument in Ilus Davis Park

**August 25-October28**  
Open Spaces KC

**August 31-September 2**  
Kansas City Irish Festival in Washington Square Park/Grand Blvd.

**September 1**  
1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

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The Gillham Sprayground opened with lots of happy faces and colorful beach balls! Located south of the Gillham Park playground, Midtown’s newest sprayground features a combination of sprayers, bubblers and custom water elements, a shade structure, synthetic turf berm, benches and tables.
September 1-3
Gold Fountain for Childhood Cancer Awareness at J.C. Nichols Fountain

September 7
Red Fountains for 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
Dippin’ Dogs Swim Party at The Bay Water Park
Jazz in the Garden in Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

September 13
Feast of Fountains: A Food Truck Fest at The Concourse

September 14-16
Brush Creek Art Walk

September 15
Women’s Bike Summit at Southeast Community Center
Wilma the Turtle’s Birthday Party at Lakeside Nature Center

September 20
Wine & Roses Party in Loose Park Rose Garden

September 21-22
W.O.W. National Outdoor Recreation & Conservation School in Swope Park

September 22
Revolving Green Around the Blue on Indian Creek Trail
“Run for the Giraffes” Zoo Run in Swope Park
Monarch Migration Celebration in Loose Park

September 27
History @ Monument in Ilus Davis Park

Sam Lacey, a former NBA Basketball player who lived in Kansas City and passed away in 2014, was honored with a plaque placed in the Gregg Klice Community Center gymnasium. Mr. Lacey was a founding member of the Gregg Klice Community Center Advisory Committee.
SPECIAL EVENTS

September 28
Ribbon Cutting for the Urban Orchard in Swope Park

October 7
Curling Club Open House at Line Creek Ice Arena

October 11
Feast of Fountains: A Food Truck Fest on The Great Lawn at 18th & Vine

October 12
Brush Creek Confluence Trail Opening

October 13
Harvest Fest Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

HOWLoween at Waggin’ Trail Off Leash Dog Park
Magic Woods at Lakeside Nature Center

October 14-20
Customer Appreciation Week at KC Parks Community Centers

October 20
Neighborhood Connect Day at Blue Hills Park
Historical Epitaphs at Union Cemetery

October 21
Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead Celebration at Kansas City Museum

October 25
End of Season Employee Appreciation Luncheon & Maintenance Rodeo

October 26
Bring Your Dog to Work Day

October 27
Kid Safe Halloween at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

Ponies and Pumpkins at Little Blue Valley Park
Spooky Skate at Line Creek Ice Arena

October 28
KCMO Charity Softball Tournament at KCUYA
November 2-11
Armistice Commemoration: Peace and Remembrance

A highlight of the Armistice 100 commemoration of the end of WWI took place the nine evenings leading up to November 11 as the WWI Memorial was illuminated with more than 5,000 poppies in a massive and moving light installation in honor of the nine million soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during The Great War.

November 2 & 4
Big 12 Women’s Soccer Championship 2018 at Swope Soccer Village

November 3
33rd Annual Cliff Hanger Run on Cliff Drive
The Wilderness Run at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

November 20
Turkey Bowling at Line Creek Ice Arena

December 1
HOLIDAZZLE at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
A Visit From St. Nicholas at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

December 7
Santa’s Wonderland in Gillham Park
Senior Holiday Luncheon at Brush Creek Community Center

December 7-9 & 14-16
The Fairy Princess at the KCM@HGD

December 8
Santa’s Wonderland in Penguin Park
Mayor’s Holiday Parties: South & Central

December 12
KC Parks Employee Breakfast & MEL City Service Awards at Union Station

December 15
Mayor’s Holiday Party: North & Skate with Santa at Line Creek Ice Arena
Santa’s Wonderland at The Bay Water Park

December 22
TMF Fitness Expo at Southeast Community Center
2018 COMPLETED PROJECTS

CONSTRUCTION
Gillham Park Sprayground
Gorman Pool Renovation and Bathhouse
Longfellow Park Exercise Equipment
Southmoreland Park Walkway
Tiffany Hills Park Playground Restroom

PICNIC SHELTERS
Arleta Park

PLAN/DESIGN DOCUMENTS
Assessments of Firefighters Fountain, Eighth Street Fountain and Westside Fountain
Englewood Park Playground Improvements
Gladstone Boulevard Speed Tables
Harrison Boulevard Speed Hump
Hodge Park Improvements
Ivanhoe Park Parking Lots

NEW PLAYGROUNDS & EQUIPMENT
Bannister Park
Hodge Park
Montgall Park
Penguin Park
James A. Reed Park

MONUMENTS & FOUNTAINS
Precious Doe Benches
Spirit of Freedom Fountain Renovation

CONSERVATION WORK
The Hiker – Penn Valley Park
KCATA/Kemper Memorial Fountain
Massasoit – Along Cleaver Blvd.
Meyer Circle Gateway and Flagpole
Pioneer Mother – Penn Valley Park
Santa Fe Trail Marker – Gillham Rd.
Spanish Cannon – On The Paseo Blvd.
George Washington Memorial

**STONE WALL REPAIRS**
Bruce R. Watkins Drive/Mamie Hughes Bridge
Indian Mound – Kessler Park
Penn Valley Drive
Troost Lake

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS**
Blue River Trail at 99th St. Bank Stabilization Repairs
Brush Creek Skylight Replacement
Budd Park Pool Restoration
Lakeside Nature Center Classroom Window Replacement
Linwood & Paseo Traffic Signal Restoration
Oak Park Basketball Courts Resurfacing
Swope Park Pool Liner

**PARK BUILDINGS FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS REPAIR & UPGRADE**
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
Brush Creek Community Center
Garrison Community Center
Hilcrest 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**
Arno Park
Hibbs Park
Yvonne Starks Wilson Park (formerly Liberty Park)
Winnwood Park

**TRAILS**
Blue River Trail
Brush Creek Confluence Trail
Hodge Park Trail
Lakewood Greenway Trail
MPRA – Missouri Trails Project
North Troost Trail Englewood Park to NE 49th St.
Observation Park
Santa Fe Trail
White Oak Park Trail
COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECTS
Lakewood Greenway Lake Aquatic Planting
Swope Park Orchard

ATHLETIC FIELDS
Blue Valley Park
Hodge Park
Pleasant Valley Park

STREETS, CURBS AND SIDEWALKS
Broadway Streetscape from 39th to 40th St.
Gladstone Boulevard Speed Tables
Harrison Boulevard Speed Hump
Lewis Road Speed Humps and Speed Table
Oak Park Curbs

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) IMPROVEMENTS
Benton Blvd. at 31st – Replace all four corners with ADA ramps
Curb Ramps at E. 117th Terr. and Oak St., curb ramps at NE 46th St. and Norton, NE Chouteau Trafficway and Exit 9
Pleasant Valley Accessible Ballfield opportunity
Southmoreland Park access to the park with 10’ wide concrete trail

PARKING LOTS
Clark Ketterman Park
Hillcrest Community Center
Hodge Park
Ivanhoe Park
Lakewood Greenway
Vivion Road

TENNIS COURTS
Martin Luther King Jr. Park Repairs

SECURITY CAMERAS AND LIGHTS
Hodge Park
Montgall Park