

2010 Year in Review



Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation

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.

KC Parks Strategic Initiatives

1

Marketing & Communications

- Develop our brand and communicate the benefits and value of the parks system
- Develop effective marketing partnerships with government and community organizations
- Engage in marketing of parks as an essential service by promoting youth services, health, and fitness

2

Financial Sustainability

- Address deferred maintenance needs with increased operating and capital improvement funds
- Increase number of partnerships
- Ensure equal resources for the entire community

3

Youth Development

- Establish quality recreation programs and facilities
- Focus on our role in “building better kids”
- Promote partnerships that make it possible to forge a shared vision for community youth opportunities

4

Green Solutions

- Green Solutions should be part of the planning and development process of all Parks and Recreation projects
- Position Parks and Recreation as a lead agency for Green Initiatives and creating a sustainable environment

5

Procurement

- Improve systems, procedures, opportunities and diversity
- Engage in opportunities to encourage and contract with Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE)
- Develop plans, strategies and work procedures to increase economic achievement for MBE/WBE companies in Kansas City, Missouri

A Message from the Director

Dear Friends of Parks and Recreation:

2010 was another in a series of challenging years for Kansas City Parks and Recreation. But just as we have done in the past, our department met these challenges head on. I am especially proud of the many accomplishments you will read about in this Year in Review.

While our department does not always have the resources necessary and many obstacles are placed before us, the dedicated employees of Parks and Recreation led by our volunteer Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, continue to deliver.

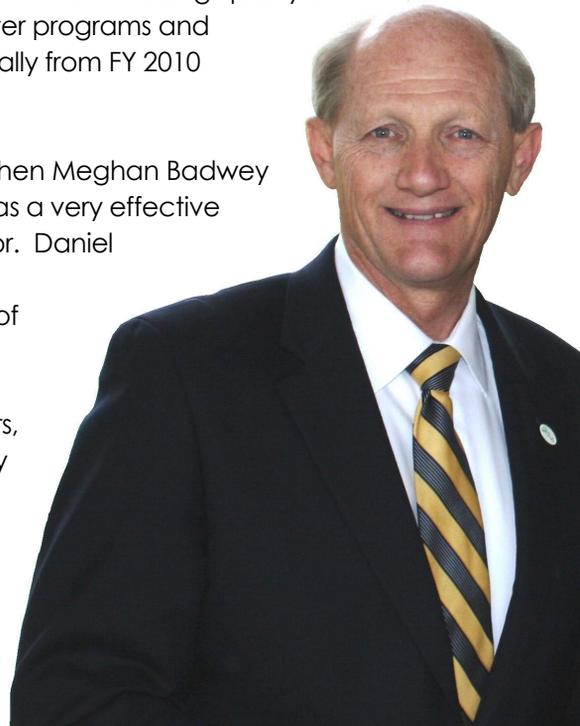
Our department is driven by five Strategic Initiatives that serve as our guide in everything we do. You will see them listed on the inside cover. In 2010, we made great progress achieving these priorities. In order to better market our programs and services, we collaborated with City Communications to develop Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter Activities Guides. The guides were inserted in the KC Star and distributed throughout the city. Through our new Make A Splash program, we continue to develop quality recreational opportunities to better serve our youth. In keeping with our Green Solutions priority, we were instrumental in the development and implementation of KC Green, a city-wide program to make KC a truly sustainable city. Our procurement goal of encouraging MBE/WBE success was met through the development of a first-of-its-kind KC Parks Mentorship program that began last summer.

It is encouraging that Kansas City residents are noticing our progress. According to third quarter results from the FY 2011 Citizens Survey, satisfaction in a number of areas including quality of outdoor athletic fields, walking and biking trails, community center programs and activities, and ease of online registration has increased substantially from FY 2010 results. I look forward to continuing this positive trend.

We did experience some transition in leadership this past year when Meghan Badwey Conger resigned from the Parks Board. Commissioner Conger was a very effective board member and we wish her all the best in her new endeavor. Daniel Morton was appointed by Mayor Funkhouser to replace Commissioner Conger and we are pleased to have him as part of our team.

In concert with the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, I applaud the hundreds of volunteers who assist us and the many Parks Partners that allow us to succeed. Together, we achieve our vision of healthier citizens, a desirable community, sustainable environment and a prosperous future.

Mark L. McHenry, Director





Black Veterans Memorial

Military Memorials

Parks and Recreation maintains a number of monuments dedicated to the men and women who have served our country.

The newest memorial, honoring African-American military veterans, was dedicated on September 12. The **Black Veterans Memorial** was made possible through a partnership with a group of local businessmen known as The Enshriners. It is located in the median of The Paseo from The Terrace at 12th Street to 11th Street. At the north end of the site a polished granite monument commemorates the service of black veterans throughout United States history. On the south end, a large U.S. flag flies atop a 50' pole set in a granite base. A wide sidewalk down the center of the block links the monument to the flagpole and is lined with benches and ornamental lights. In the center of the walk is a 4' wide panel featuring dedicatory granite bricks etched with the names of veterans and/or military units. Commemorative bricks can be purchased to assist with the maintenance of the Plaza as well as offering veterans, friends and family the opportunity to honor the soldiers who fought valiantly for our nation.

Recognized by Congress as our country's only World War I monument, the **Liberty Memorial** has the largest and most comprehensive collection of WWI artifacts, relics and archival materials in the world. In 2010, Gould Evans Architects was hired to determine the needs at Liberty Memorial in order to preserve the memorial for generations to come. Recommendations were made and work on the national monument in the areas of security, irrigation, building energy upgrades, drainage, exterior building and stonework will begin in 2011.



The **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fountain**, located at Broadway Boulevard and 42nd Street, was designed to honor the 385 Kansas City area veterans who gave their lives or have been declared Missing-In-Action. It was dedicated in 1986. The fountain symbolizes the mending of the nation's division that the war caused and the flowing water symbolizes the cleansing and

healing that continues to take place. In 2010, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 317 secured \$126,000 to use for repairs to the Memorial.

On November 11, observance ceremonies were held at all three memorials to honor the significance of Veterans' Day.

Penguins and Polar Bears

The month of August brought updates and upgrades to a popular Northland park and a new resident to the Kansas City Zoo.

Penguin Park, located at Vivion Road and North Norton Avenue, began as part of Lakewood Greenway which was acquired by the Parks Department in 1957. In 1964, Vernon Jones, who was the district supervisor for the Kansas City North parks district, decided to build a big penguin. The penguin was placed on the northern area of Lakewood Greenway and was a huge hit. Jones created additional animals for the site such as a giraffe, elephant and kangaroo. While unofficially known as "Penguin Park" for years, the corner of Lakewood Greenway was officially renamed Penguin Park in December 1998.



In 2010, Penguin Park was the site of a dedication celebrating \$360,000 worth of improvements as well as the installation of informative panels depicting the history of the park, its creator, and recognition of contributors. In addition to the three panels, play equipment was

replaced and new equipment purchased and installed by the North Region including one spinner, a Whirly Gig, two motorcycle spring toys, one Regal Play System, a tire swing, 4-way buck-a-bout with penguins and one baby swing. New rubberized surfacing was also installed.

Also in 2010, Nikita, a 700+ pound male polar bear, made his public debut in Kansas City. Nikita was born on November 21, 2006 at the Toledo Zoo and named after a Russian Polar Bear researcher. He now happily resides in the Zoo's newest exhibit—**Polar Bear Passage**.

The nearly 10,000 square foot customized exhibit space includes a 140,000 gallon, 65 degree pool complete with diving ledges and a waterfall; a 105-ton sand box for digging; recreated glaciers and grassy areas.

For guests, the awesome Arctic adventure has a climate-controlled tiered seating viewing building with electronic graphics, an outdoor picnic area and a 14-foot tall polar bear statue that makes for perfect photo opportunities.

The \$11 million world-class project is thanks to the Kansas City, Missouri voters who passed a bond package in 2004 with the promise of bringing the large white bears back to the Zoo. Penguins are planned for the Zoo's next addition in 2011.



Polar Bear Passage



Make A Splash Program

Splashing Success

A new swim program, an amazing artistic event in Brush Creek, and an expanded swim party for dogs made a splash for KC Parks in 2010.

Make A Splash, a program to teach urban and underserved young people how to swim, kicked off in July. In anticipation of breaking the cycle and creating generations of parents-to-be who will know how to swim, 15 new Water Safety Instructors (WSI) were trained in May and June. A grant from the Black Community Fund allowed for materials for the new group of WSIs and for lessons to be offered to 103 youth at Swope Park and Gillham Park pools.

Summer camp participants at Don Bosco Youth Development Center took advantage of Make A Splash as 95 participants received free group lessons. The vast majority of the kids, ranging in age from 5 years to 14 years, had never received formal training. Working in small groups of six to ten based on age and ability, participants learned to put their face in the water, how to breathe out, float and glide on their back and stomach. Many progressed to rudimentary stroke development of the breast stroke, elementary back stroke and free style. Every single child advanced in knowledge of safe swimming. Group lessons were also



given to a dozen Willow Woods Child Development Center preschoolers.

All of the children eagerly participated in lessons and began the life long, positive activity of recreational swimming. Additionally, tied into every swim lesson was instruction on how to be safe in and around the water.

Classes continued during the fall at community centers with indoor pools: Gregg Klice, Tony Aguirre and Southeast. Through Make A Splash, KC Parks was able to offer reduced rate swimming lessons for the largely Hispanic Westside, the majority of whom had also never been formally instructed in how to swim.

This Park and Brush Creek were home to colossal puppets in a celebration by Stonelion Puppet Theatre in May. The giant puppet pageant, **Mother's Day for Mother Earth: Pirates of Pollution**, featured puppets ranging in size from 12' to 85' and included huge puppets floating down the creek. Thousands turned out to experience this unique first time event.

The Springs Aquatics Center was saturated with dogs when **Dippin' Dogs** took place in September. The annual event was moved to a Saturday in 2010 resulting in record attendance and furry wet fun for everyone. Proceeds from the swim party, sponsored by 810 Sports Radio, support KC Parks and the Northland Animal Welfare Society (NAWS).

Mentor/Mentees

The Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners recognizes the importance and long-term benefits of using Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises (MWBEs) in the maintenance and continued evolution of our system. As such, a unique program designed to educate, develop, and economically empower MWBEs was introduced in 2010.

Eleven companies/individuals signed up to participate in the inaugural **KC Parks Mentorship Program** that was introduced in July.

The mentorship initiative is designed to afford interested minority- and women-owned businesses exposure to increased opportunities by creating working relationships with senior Parks and Recreation employees and other business persons in the area.

Each participant is assigned to one Parks and Recreation staff person who serves as their mentor for one year. Staff meets with participants on a regular basis to facilitate opportunities and create productive business relationships.

Activities of the program have included lunch time "meet and greets" for the participants to meet with majority businesses that have a historic working relationship with the City. In addition, participants accompany Parks and

Recreation staff to networking events in order to further the opportunities for creating business relationships.

Staff also facilitated training sessions for the participants to address issues which may be specific to public contracts and have provided tours of Parks and Recreation facilities,

Anticipated benefits for mentorship participants include developing a better understanding of City contracting requirements, exposure and access to City resources and expertise, and opportunities to enhance business strength and skills.

Human Powered Progress

In 2010, Kansas City made great strides in becoming more bike/pedestrian friendly with several major trail openings, expansions and new events.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies in the fall marked the opening of bicycle and pedestrian lanes crossing the Missouri River on two bridges—the Heart of America and the Chouteau.

The \$2.88 million **Heart of America Bridge** project includes a 10-foot wide, barrier-protected, multi-use path for bicycles and pedestrians connecting Downtown Kansas City with North Kansas City via Route 9.



Mother's
Day for
Mother
Earth



City of Fountains Bicycle Tour

The **Chouteau Bridge** project includes eight-foot wide, traffic separated, shared path lanes on both sides of the bridge and sidewalks connecting through the interchange with 210 which runs just north of the bridge.

The first phase of **Line Creek Trail** in the Northland was opened in April. The one-mile segment, complete from NW Platte Brooke Drive to NW 68th Street, is part of a regional trail system that will eventually connect Riverside, Parkville, and Smithville. Also in the Northland, a ground breaking for upgrades to the existing nature trail within **Briarcliff Greenway** was held in June. The improvements, completed in the fall, provide a connection from the neighborhood to Briarcliff Elementary School.



participated in one of three races—half marathon, 10K and 5K—as part of the inaugural **Rock the Parkway** event.

A new partnership with the Kansas City Bicycle Club (KCBC) and Trails KC resulted in the **City of Fountains Bicycle Tour** held on Father's Day. Close to 300

participated in the family-friendly ride that traveled past many of Kansas City's historic fountains and other landmarks such as the Kansas City Museum, the Plaza, Liberty Memorial, and Cliff Drive. Proceeds from the annual ride benefit the KCBC, Friends of the Fountains and Friends of the Trails.

Promising Partnerships

Developing public/private partnerships is a trend that is sweeping the nation as organizations join together to help leverage the resources of their local parks department.

Further south, a 3.1 mile nature trail in **Jerry Smith Park** was dedicated as part of a National Trails Day celebration in early June. And in Swope Park, the **Earth Riders Trail Association** (ERTA) trails doubled in size with help from ERTA volunteers and the Urban Rangers Corps. There are now seven miles of single-track mountain biking trails located at Camp Lake of the Woods.

Despite the more than 600 athletes competing in the Northeast Soccer League, the fields at their home base in **Belvidere Park** didn't even have field lines, level playing fields, or bleachers. That all changed in June when Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) staff members and FBI National Citizens' Academy Alumni Association

A new run showcasing Kansas City's famed Ward Parkway took place in late March. More than 4,000

conference attendees chose the park for their annual In-Service training project. More than 225 volunteers helped line the fields, clear brush, install barbecue grills and bleachers, and plant trees.

The day concluded with a dedication featuring local dignitaries as they celebrated a new beginning for the area. A soccer clinic/scrimmage hosted by the Kansas City Wizards for players from the Northeast Soccer League followed. In 2011, the FBI plans to complete Phase II of the Belvidere Park project with the installation of sprinklers, artificial turf, drinking fountains and bleacher pads.

Roanoke Park, Valentine to 34th & Karnes Boulevard, is part of George Kessler's original Parks and Boulevards system plan.

Throughout the year, more than 100 Roanoke area residents worked with staff on a massive cleanup and planning initiative to "honor the history and plant the future" of the park. Participants walked and talked to neighborhood groups, worked in the park, donated funds to hire workers, fed the troops and attended meetings. Honeysuckle warrior skirmishes took place most every Saturday morning to eradicate bush honeysuckle and volunteer junk trees revealing beautiful and dramatic rocky bluff formations not seen for the last 50-75 years.

Additional honeysuckle brigades were led by community volunteers in Penn Valley Park, Gillham Park, Swope Park and along Cliff Drive.

In October, KC Parks teamed up with the Water Services department and JE Dunn Construction to install a butterfly garden on the southeast corner of **Ilus Davis Park**, 11th and Locust Streets. The garden includes more than 700 native plants—including liatris, coreopsis, blue false indigo, blue lobelia, rudbeckia and soft rush—a butterfly house, butterfly sunbathing area and a park bench. As the sponsor of the garden, the employees of JE Dunn are thrilled to contribute to the beautification of downtown while maintaining a commitment to sustainability and environmental awareness. The garden is one of the inaugural KC Green projects.



Local pet food manufacturers, Nutro/Greenies Company, hosted a **Room to Run** Dog Park Appreciation Project at Penn Valley Off-Leash Dog Park in June. Company volunteers, along with community and Dogpark Improvement Group (DIG) members, installed a doggie drinking fountain, planted shrubs and grass, put down rock and mulch, painted, and trimmed low hanging tree branches. Room to Run is a national campaign to enhance and revitalize dog parks in 30 cities across the United States and Canada.



Belvidere
Park
Cleanup



Weekends

Car Free Weekends on Cliff Drive

February 10, 17 & 25

Black History Month at Bruce R, Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

February 19-21

Flower, Lawn & Garden and Home Show

March 6

Ethnic Enrichment Commission Diplomatic Ball

March 12

BoomerWagon Dedication

March 13

Brookside St. Pat's Warm-Up Parade

March 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade on Broadway

March 17

Green Exposures Photography Contest KickOff

March 26

KC Parks Partners Breakfast

March 27

Rock the Parkway Half Marathon

March 27

Project Blue River Rescue in Swope Park

April 1

Snakes Alive Exhibit Opening at the KC Zoo

April 6

Fountain Day at Swope Memorial Fountain

April 10

Arbor Day Planting in Loose Park

April 11

Earth Walk and Green Days Festival in This Park

April 24

Arbor Day Activities

April 24

EarthDay Celebration at Lakeside Nature Center

April 24

Global Youth Service Day

April 24

Line Creek Trail Dedication

April 24-25

Chalk Walk in the Historic Northeast, The Concourse

April 29

National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) KC Wizards Sports Camp

May 1-October 16

KC Organics and Natural Market in Minor Park

May 8

San Rafael Park Trail Ribbon Cutting

May 8

Breakfast with the Beasts at Lakeside Nature Center

May 9

Mother's Day for Mother Earth in This Park

May 13, 20 & 27

Thimble Thursday Concerts in Garment Park

May 16

Sunday Parkways on Cliff Drive *(Rained Out)*

May 19

KC Parks Employee Departmental Service Awards Breakfast

May 22

Concert in the Park at Brookside Triangle Park

May 31

Memorial Day at Liberty Memorial and Union Cemetery

June 3-October 28

Downtown Farmers Market in Ilus Davis Park

June 3, 10, 17 & 24

Thimble Thursday Concerts in Garment Park

June 5

National Trails Day in Swope Park and Jerry Smith Park Trail

June 5

Concert in the Park at Spring Valley Park

June 6

Rose Day at Loose Park

June 6

Cancer Survivors Rally in Bloch Cancer Survivors Park

June 12

Dragon Boat Festival & Races on Brush Creek *(Rained Out)*

June 12

Gregg-Klice All Star Boxing Mania

June 15-July 3

Heart of America Shakespeare Festival in Southmoreland Park

June 19

Room to Run at Penn Valley Off-Leash Dog Park

June 19

Celebrating Urban Birds at Lakeside Nature Center

June 19

Urban American Outdoors Fishing Derby at Spring Valley

June 19

Mayor's Night Hoops Summer Tip Off

June 20

City of Fountains Bike Tour

June 21

NSCD KC Chiefs Sports Camp

June 24

Briarcliff Nature Trail Groundbreaking

June 26

Children's TLC Duck Derby on Brush Creek

June 26

Concert in the Park at Seven Oaks and Ashland Square Parks

June 28

FBI In-Service Project in Belvidere Park

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June 28
NSCD KC Royals Sports Camp

July 1-31
National Parks and Recreation Month

July 2
Clips of Faith Beer & Film Tour in Theis Park

July 6-August 17
Mayor's Night Kicks Tournament in Swope Park

July 7-8
Rockfest Open Houses

July 9, 16, 23 & 30
Hyde Park Children's Film Festival

July 14
Moon Glow Madness Teen Swim Party at The Springs

July 17
Concert in the Park at Gillham Park

July 24
Party in the Park at Swope Park

July 25
Concert in the Park at Oak Park

July 29
Mentorship Program Kick-Off

July 31
Pass Holder Appreciation Beach Bash at The Springs

August 7
Buggin' the Fishes at Lakeside Nature Center

August 8
Opening of the Polar Bear Passage at the KC Zoo

August 20-22
Ethnic Enrichment Festival in Swope Park

August 21
Mayor's Night Kicks Final at Community America Ballpark

August 25
Historic Panel Dedication at Penguin Park

September 3-5
KC Irish Fest in Washington Square Park

September 4
Concert in the Park at Russell Majors and Waddell Park

September 8
Concert in the Rose Garden at Loose Park

September 11
Dippin' Dogs Swim Party at The Springs

September 12
Black Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony

September 13
Gates/Enshriners' Golf Tournament at Swope Memorial

September 16
KC Green Kick-Off in Illus Davis Park

September 17-19
Kansas City Cup at Camp Lake of the Woods

September 18
KC Zoo Run/Walk: Run for the Polar Bears

September 18
Concert in the Park at Mill Creek Park

September 18
WaterFire Kansas City on Brush Creek

September 20
NSCD Golf Classic at Swope Memorial

October 2-12
KC Cancer Center Pink Fountains

October 8-9
Magic Woods at Lakeside Nature Center

October 9
Butterfly Garden planting at Illus Davis Park

October 9
Harvest Festival at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

October 9-10
KC Indian Art Market in Frank Vaydik Park

October 12
Ruthanne Harper Memorial Dedication on Cliff Drive

October 16
Kansas City Marathon

November 5
The Cliffhanger Run on Cliff Drive in Kessler Park

November 6
The Wilderness Run at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

November 11
Veterans Day Observances

November 13
Turkey Bowl at Line Creek Ice Arena

December 3
Senior Holiday Luncheon

December 3
Santa's Wonderland in Gillham Park

December 4
Santa's Wonderland in Penguin Park

December 4
A Visit from St. Nicholas at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

December 4, 10, 11, 13 & 18
Mayor's Holiday Parties

December 11
Kris Kringle 5K Run in Swope Park

December 12
Santa's Wonderland at Longview Tract

December 15
KC Parks Employee City Service Awards Breakfast

December 18
Maplewoods Parkway Dedication

December 18
Skate with Santa at Line Creek Ice Arena

**Playgrounds and
Spraygrounds**

Askew Park Playground
 Askew Elementary School Playground
 Brookside Triangle Park Play Area
 Budd Park Playground
 Central Park Playground and Water Play Area Surfacing
 Gambriil Tract Playground
 Highland View Park Playground
 Penguin Park Playground
 Sunnyside Park Sprayground Improvements
 Tiffany Springs Park Playground
 Winner Park Playground

Trails

Briarcliff Greenway Trail Construction
 Gambriil Tract Trail
 Gorman Park Trail
 Hodge Park Trail, N.96th to NE Barry Road
 Indian Creek Trail, 99th to Union Pacific Railroad
 Ivanhoe Park Trails and Sidewalks
 Jerry Smith Park Trail
 Noble Park Walking Trail Lighting
 Platte Purchase Walking Trail
 San Rafael Park Pavement & Walkway Improvements
 Town Fork Greenway Trail Overlay, 51st to 55th

Tennis Courts

Minor Park Court Resurfacing
 Plaza Tennis Center Courts

**Planning and
Master Plans**

Independence & Benton Intersection
 Climate Sustainability Center Feasibility Study
 Spring Valley Park Master Plan
 Tower Park Water Tower Restoration Preservation Study

**Monuments and
Fountains
Conservation**

Children's Fountain Sculpture Conservation
 Cliff Drive Interpretive Panels-Ruthanne Harper Memorial
 Drips Memorial Restoration
 Firefighters Memorial Fountain Sculpture Conservation
 Loose Memorial Flagpole Restoration
 Meyer Circle Fountain Sculpture Repair and Cleaning
 Powell Memorial Fountain Sculpture Conservation
 Royster Memorial Conservation
 The Eagle Sculpture Conservation
 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fountain Restoration

Acquisition

3.0 Acre Addition to Tiffany Hills Park
 3.9 Acre Addition to Big Shoal Greenway
 4.3 Acre Central Region Maintenance Facility
 7.6 Acre Addition to Frank Vaydik Park



Ruthanne Harper Memorial on Cliff Drive



Jerry Smith Trail

Boulevard Curbs and Walks

Sidewalks

29th & Wyandotte Curb, Walk and ADA Corners Improvement
 31st and Broadway ADA Corners, Intersection Improvement
 51st & Swope Parkway Sidewalk and ADA Corner Improvement
 Rockhill Road, 44th ADA corners and Sidewalk improvements
 Rockhill Road, 53rd to 55th Curb, Walk, & ADA Ramp Improvements-Phase I & II

Parking Lots

Blue River Athletic Field - Service Road and Site Improvement
 Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center Parking Lot Lighting
 Hodge Park Parking Lots and Service Roads Restoration
 Minor Park Service Road Restoration
 Platte Purchase Park
 Tiffany Springs Park - New Parking Lot Improvements
 Swope Park - Mall Drive Service Road Restoration

Stone Wall and Stair Repairs

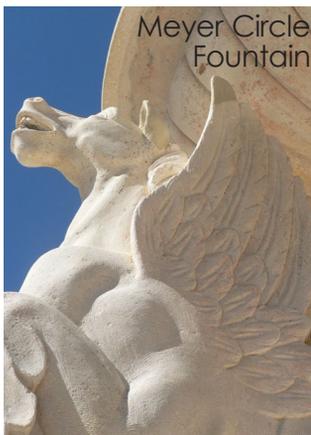
Brookside Boulevard
 Bruce R. Watkins Drive Masonry Repairs
 The Colonnade at The Concourse
 Hyde Park
 Meyer Boulevard Columns
 Southmoreland Park
 Troost Lake
 Ward Parkway at 64th

Facility Maintenance and Repairs

Gorman Park Bridge
 Heritage Fountain Demolition
 Jarboe Park Pool Restoration
 Lakewood Greenway Bridge Replacement
 Shoal Creek Living History Museum Roof Replacement and Mule Barn Demolition

Other Projects

Black Archives of Mid-America, 17th Terrace Building Renovation
 Black Veterans Memorial
 Briarcliff Parkway Phase I Street Improvements
 Ivanhoe Park Renovations and Improvements
 Kansas City Zoo Polar Bear Exhibit
 Line Creek Parkway Street Lighting
 Maplewoods Parkway from Missouri Route 152 south to NE Barry Road
 Mulkey Square Park Sports Field Lighting
 Platte Purchase Park Sports Lighting on Six Fields
 Satchel Paige Memorial Stadium Renovation
 Sunnyside Park Shelter
 Swope Pool Floor Resurfacing
 The Grove Shelter
 Tiffany Springs Park T-Ball Field Renovation and Concession Room Flooring
 Troost Lake Shelter



Kansas City Parks and Recreation has formal partnerships established with neighborhood, community, business and not-for-profit organizations. These partnerships allow our department to leverage resources and generate city-wide interest and support for our system facilities, programs and events.

- Bass Pro, Wonders of Wildlife
- Black Archives of Mid-America Inc.
- Blue River Watershed Association
- Blue Valley Neighborhood Association
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Broadway/Westport Council
- Brookside Business Association
- Brookside Roller Hockey
- Brookside Soccer
- Brush Creek Community Partners
- Budd Park Committee
- Center for Equitable Education
- Center School District
- Center Planning
- Chaumiere Neighborhood Association
- Children's Mercy Family Health Partners
- Children's Mercy Hospital
- City of Fountains Foundation
- Clay County Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Clay County Parks Partners Committee
- Clay County Veterans Memorial Committee
- Clay-Platte Baseball League Inc.
- Cliff Drive Scenic Byway Corridor Management Committee
- Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County-EITAS
- Dogpark Improvement Group (DIG)
- Don Bosco Youth Development Center
- Downtown Council of Kansas City, MO
- Earth Riders Trail Association (ERTA)
- Economic Development Corporation
- The Enshriners
- EPIC Entertainment
- Ethnic Enrichment Commission
- FBI KC Citizen Academy Alumni Association
- Federal Reserve Bank
- First Tee of Greater Kansas City
- Friends of Amity Woods Nature Park
- Friends of Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
- Friends of Lakeside Nature Center
- Friends of the Zoo (FOTZ)
- Friends of Riverfront Park
- Full Employment Council (FEC)
- Garden Center Association
- Garrison Community Center Youth Advisory Board
- Gillham Road Advisory Committee
- City of Gladstone Parks and Recreation
- Golden Oaks Neighborhood Association
- Gracemor Randolph Neighborhood Assoc.
- GreenWorks of Kansas City
- Guadalupe Center Inc.
- Heart of America Council/Boy Scouts
- Heart of America Shakespeare Festival
- Hickman Mills School District
- Hills of Walden Home Owners Association
- Hispanic Football Soccer Association
- Historical Society of New Santa Fe Trailside Center
- Home Builders Assoc.of Greater Kansas City
- Jackson County Parks and Recreation
- Jazz District Redevelopment Corporation
- JE Dunn Construction
- Just Off-Broadway Theater
- Kansas City Art Institute
- Kansas City Bicycle Club
- Kansas City Community Gardens
- Kansas City Convention & Visitors Association
- Kansas City Cricket Club
- Kansas City Flying Disc Club
- Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
- Kansas City, Missouri School District
- Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall
- Kansas City Northern Railroad Inc.
- Kansas City Organics & Natural Market
- Kansas City Pop Warner Football
- Kansas City Rose Society
- Kansas City Royals
- Kansas City Rugby
- Kansas City United Tennis
- Kansas City Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Kansas City WildLands
- Kansas City Wizards/On Goal/Sporting KC
- KC North Community Center Advisory Board
- KCPD Mounted Patrol
- KCWE Channel 29
- KPRS Hot 103 JAMZ
- Kessler Society of Kansas City
- Liberty Memorial Association
- Lykins Neighborhood Association
- Martin City CID
- MAST Ambulance
- Mattie Rhoades
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
- Mid-Continent Public Library
- Mill Creek Park Association
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Missouri Department of Transportation
- Missouri Highway & Transportation Commission
- Missouri Master Gardeners
- Missouri Master Naturalists
- Missouri Parks & Recreation Association
- Missouri State University
- Monnett Battle of Westport Fund Inc.
- Mosaic Brain
- National Center for Indigenous American Cultures at Line Creek Inc. (NCIAC)
- National Park Service
- National Recreation & Parks Association
- National Sports Center for the Disabled
- Noble Homes Association
- Northeast Arts KC
- North Kansas City Area Baseball Association
- North Kansas City School District
- North Suburban Youth Football League
- Northeast Inter Soccer League Boosters
- Northern Knights
- Northland Community Alliance
- Northland Girls Softball
- Northland Neighborhoods Inc.
- Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Northland Rugby Football Club
- Northland Sports Alliance dba SPCAA
- Optimist Athletic Association
- Park Hill School District
- Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
- Penn Valley Park Conservancy
- Platte County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Platte County Parks and Recreation
- Platte County Parks Partners
- Platte County Trails Coordination Committee
- Plaza Rotary Club
- Police Athletic League (PAL) Blue Valley
- Port Authority of Kansas City, Missouri
- Riverfront Heritage Trail
- Rockhill Homes Association
- Rockhurst High School
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Assoc.
- Sheffield Neighborhood Association
- Shoal Creek Association
- The Sierra Club
- Sister City Association of Kansas City
- Society for Friendship with China
- South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
- SE Community Center Advisory Board
- Southern Communities Coalition
- Southtown Council
- Starlight Theatre Association
- StoneLion Puppet Theatre
- St. Pius X High School
- The Ali Kemp Educational Foundation
- Tiffany Springs Parks Partners
- 3 – Trails CID
- 3 & 2 Baseball
- Tony Aguirre Community Center Advisory Committee
- University of Missouri, Kansas City
- Union Cemetery Historical Society
- Union Station
- USA Swimming
- US Army Corp of Engineers
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Verona Hills Homes Association
- Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 317
- Vivion Road Gang
- Waldo Area Business Association
- Ward Family Foundation
- Ward Parkway Homes Association
- Westport-Roanoke Neighborhood Association
- The Whole Person
- Winnwood-Sunnybrook Neighborhood Association

Facts & Figures

Total Participation: **4,129,875**

Youth Participation: **1,942,121**
All facilities and programs

Customer Participation: **510,608**
Community Centers

Customer Participation: **161,304**
Pools/Spraygrounds

Customer Participation: **1,643,332**
Athletic facilities and programs



Natural Resources

Trees trimmed: 8,671
Trees removed: 1,777
Stumps removed: 1,492

Total acreage mowed: **61,429**

Cubic feet of snow removed:
7,786,000

Graffiti incidents removed: **1,290**

Citizen 311 Action Center: **4,658**
Requests Resolved

Marketing and Events

Facebook Fans: 1,026
Newsletter Distribution:
5,868
Number of Events: 194
Event Attendance:
490,127



Volunteers

Number of Volunteers: 8,352
Volunteer hours: 800,514
Estimated value of volunteers: \$16,210,415



Attendance

Golf Courses: 133,321
Lakeside Nature Center: 21,544
Loose Park Garden Center: 14,746
Kansas City Zoo: 622,552
National WWI Museum: 136,156

Shoal Creek Living History Museum: 76,209
Starlight Theatre: 221,081
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center: 13,330

Maintenance Hours Worked

Athletic field: 4,737
Landscape: 29,417
Park facility repairs: 12,102
Special event preparation: 6,075
Litter/trash removal: 39,176



Shelter Houses

Reservations: 704
Attendance: 54,940

SHAPE Report

(Safe, Healthy, Attractive, Public Environments)
The SHAPE provides up-to-date information on the overall conditions of our parks and facilities. Inspectors rate and report conditions immediately.

1,197 park inspections conducted

192 park sites involved

Park acceptability rating: **89%**

157 facility inspections conducted

21 facilities involved

Facility acceptability rating: **97%**



Honors & Awards

Arbor Day Foundation: Tree City USA
City of Kansas City, Missouri-22 years

Audubon International:
Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary
Shoal Creek Golf Course

City of Kansas City, Missouri:
Distinguished Trade/Craft Service Award
Bryan Cameron, South District Maintenance Mechanic

Commuter Advertising Creative Award:
Best Event Audio Advertising
Ethnic Enrichment Festival

Economic Development Council:
Cornerstone Award-Public Projects
Zoo Tropics building in Swope Park-Finalist

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri: Exceptional ReLeaf Award
Birmingham Farm Tree Planting

Ingram's Magazine: Best of Business Awards
Best Charitable Event: Jazzoo, Silver
Best Theater: Starlight Theatre, Silver
Best Family Outing: Kansas City Zoo, Silver
Best Museum: National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial, Gold
Best Performing Arts Venue: Starlight Theatre, Gold

Kansas City Convention & Visitors Association:
Visitors' Choice Awards
Favorite Performing Arts Venue : Starlight Theatre
Favorite Kids Attraction: Kansas City Zoo
Concert/Live Music Venue: Starlight Theatre
Overall Attraction: Kansas City Zoo
Golf Course: Swope Memorial Golf Course

Kansas City Star Magazine's 20 Tens: Twenty People, Places and Things We are Proud to Have in Kansas City
Cheetah Exhibit, Kansas City Zoo
Exercise Trail, Loose Park
Remnant Prairie, Jerry Smith Park

KC Government Contracting & Procurement Forum
Outstanding City Department In Small Business Development

Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation:
Preserve Missouri Award
Black Archives Museum

National Institute on Recreation Inclusion:
Excellence in Inclusion Award
Mark Bowland, Community Services Manager

The Southtown Beautification March Sparkle Award
Southeast Community Center in Swope Park

In 2010, the Kansas City Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners recognized several **KC Parks Partners** for their volunteer contributions to parks and recreation:

Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City for a demonstration garden at the Southeast Community Center

Dona Boley for her efforts to remove brush honeysuckle in Gillham Park

Greg Suttington for his work with the Golden Gloves program at Gregg/Klice Community Center

The **Kansas City Illusion** synchronized ice-skating team for bringing recognition to the Line Creek Community Center

The **Kansas City Wizards** for their work with the Mayor's Night Kicks program

Wolfgang Bucher and **Mosaic Brain** for art partnerships

Employee Years of Service Awards 30 Years: City of Kansas City, Missouri

Lafayette Bush, Park Facility Maintenance

Leo Collins, South Region-Park Maintenance

Peter Jolly, Park Facility Maintenance

Nate Logan, Loose Park Gardens

Terry Stovall, North Region-Park Maintenance

Holly Weddington, Community Services-Community Centers

Employee Retirements

Burnetta Burlin, 29 years and 8 months of service

Daryl Duffett, 25 years and 3 months of service

Wayne Gaye, 22 years and 3 months of service

Richard (Dick) Nogosek, 17 years and 4 months of service

Terry Stovall, 30 years and 4 months of service

John Williams, 24 years and 3 months of service

President Fierro Appointed to National Board

In October, **John Fierro** was elected to the Board of Directors for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people.

Through its network of roughly 21,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

The NRPA Board is responsible for the formulation of policies that control and direct the affairs of the association. Board members are elected to three-year terms.

Former/Current Employees Who Passed Away in 2010

Terry Dopson, February 23

Adrian Malone, December 20

Pearlie Mae Patterson, March 11

William Penn, February 26

Eddie Shelton, February 28

In Memory

Terry Dopson, Former Parks Director

Terry Dopson, director of the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department for 15 years, died of pneumonia on February 23, 2010, at a hospital in Texas.

Mr. Dopson was the sixth director in the history of the Kansas City Parks Department and he tended to the legacy of its visionary, George Kessler. He was hired from approximately 100 applicants in 1988 to replace Jerry Darter upon his retirement.



During his tenure, the Parks Department

expanded and renovated the Kansas City Zoo with \$50 million in bonds approved by voters. The department also restored the Liberty Memorial, which had been closed for safety reasons. In addition, Dopson was director during the beautification of Brush Creek as part of a flood control project.

Although Dopson retired to Texas in 2003 he returned to Kansas City every year for the Enshriners' golf tournament.

Adrian C. Malone, Area Supervisor

Adrian Malone, area supervisor—Park Facility Maintenance, passed away on December 20, 2010, from complications with diabetes.

Adrian worked for the City of Kansas City, Missouri for 22 years, first in Aviation, before moving to Parks and Recreation in 1994 where he worked until his death.

He was responsible for the City's monuments and memorials, community centers, swimming pools and spraygrounds.



His highest profile job was keeping Kansas City's 47 iconic fountains operating. He was the behind-the-scenes guy that made sure the fountains flowed. He was considered an expert and received numerous calls from all over the country to consult on how to maintain and operate fountains.

Adrian was born November 10, 1955, the second of four children of Berron Sr. and Lida Eloise Malone. He married Mary DeLoney in 1983 and had two children—Justin Cliff and Jessica Marie.

BoomerWagon Dedication: March 12, 2010

On March 12, 2010, KC Parks employees, friends and family gathered for the official unveiling and renaming of the ShowWagon to the BoomerWagon.

Charles LeRoy "Boomer" Grant worked for the City of Kansas City, Missouri for 39 years with service to Parks and Recreation as a senior equipment operator for the last 29. He passed away in August of 2009. The newly repainted, redecaled, and renamed BoomerWagon was dedicated in his memory.





City of Kansas City, Missouri Officials

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

John Fierro, *President*
Tyrone Aiken
Daniel T. Morton
Aggie Stackhaus
Ajamu K. Webster

MAYOR

Mark Funkhouser

CITY COUNCIL

Deb Hermann, *First District-At-Large*
Bill Skaggs, *First District*
Ed Ford, *Second District-At-Large*
Russ Johnson, *Second District*
Melba Curls, *Third District-At-Large*
Sharon Sanders Brooks, *Third District*
Beth Gottstein, *Fourth District-At Large*
Jan Marcason, *Fourth District*
Cindy Circo, *Fifth District-At-Large*
Terry Riley, *Fifth District*
Cathy Jolly, *Sixth District-At-Large*
John A. Sharp, *Sixth District*

Commissioner

Meghan Badwey Conger 2008-2010

In 2010, Commissioner Meghan Badwey Conger resigned from the Parks Board to accept a position as Aide to Councilman Russ Johnson.

Commissioner Conger was appointed to the Board by Mayor Mark Funkhouser in July 2008.



Commissioner Daniel T. Morton

Daniel Morton was appointed by Mayor Mark Funkhouser to replace Commissioner Conger. Commissioner Morton was officially sworn in at the November 9, 2010, Board meeting. He is the first Parks Commissioner to be appointed from Platte County.



In the late 19th century, Kansas City had few paved streets and even fewer sidewalks, but the town was booming. As the population continued to grow and the city land size increased, the main focus remained on commerce and building places for people to live and work. There was, however, a group of citizens who saw the need for creating a better quality of life and improving the city's appearance through the development of municipal parks, and later, a boulevard system.

The fledgling park movement continued to gather momentum until one of its firmest supporters, William Rockhill Nelson, moved to town and took up the cause. As the editor of the evening newspaper, *The Star*, Mr. Nelson used his position to campaign for paved roads and streets. He also advocated for improved sidewalks and sewers, decent public buildings, better streetlights, and more fire and police protection. His most enduring legacy, however, was the city's park and boulevard system which he promoted with August Meyer, local businessman and president of the 1892 Park Board, predecessor to the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners. The Park Board hired landscape architect George E. Kessler to design a boulevard and park system master plan that would provide for a "city within a park."

Work on the boulevard system began in 1893 with the development of Independence and Gladstone Boulevards. Acquisition of properties began in earnest when, in 1895, the city approved a charter amendment to give the Park Board power to condemn land, issue bonds and receive special taxes. North Terrace Park (now Kessler Park), West Terrace Park and later Penn Valley Park were among the first developments. A milestone was achieved with a gift of property from Col. Thomas H. Swope, a pessimistic "knocker" of the parks plan. In 1896, Swope deeded to the city more than 1,300 acres, which became the park that bears his name and the largest park in the system. Another important gift to the city was that of Loose Park in 1927, donated by Ella Loose in memory of her husband, Jacob.

Since then, hundreds of additional parks and boulevards have been developed throughout the greater Kansas City area. In 1967, the Park Department and Recreational Division of the city's Welfare Department were combined into the present-day Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department. Thanks to the foresight of city leaders and advocates, Kansas City is internationally known for its beautiful parks and boulevards system. Today's Parks, Recreation and Boulevards Department honors the past while continuing to grow and make improvements for the future.

Photo Credits:

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Paul McMillian, Van Deusen Photography

Heidi Downer, Jesse Frazier, Melinda Minks, KC Parks Marketing



Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation

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