

# 2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation





Thomas Lin  
*Liberty Memorial on a String III*  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Landmarks, Monuments and Fountains



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Parks and Recreation,

2011 was an exciting year of change and accomplishment. The election of a new Mayor and Council in March led to the appointment of a new Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners— President Jean Paul Charaund, McClain Bryant, Allen Dillingham, Aimee Gromowsky and David Mecklenburg— in July. Our entire department has enjoyed getting to know our new leadership, educating them on the extent of Kansas City Parks and Recreation, and gaining fresh insight from new perspectives.

I would like to extend a special “thank you” to our previous Board of Commissioners. It is their commitment and vision that, together with our staff’s expertise, enabled our department to be recognized as one of four finalists for the National Recreation and Park Association’s prestigious 2011 Gold Medal Award. Although we did not take the top honor, I am very proud that KC Parks is considered one of the nation’s elite agencies.

Another exciting honor for our department came in June as the KC Parks Dragon Boat Racing Team “Blazing Paddles”, were crowned champions of the Business Division in the Dragon Boat Festival & Races on Brush Creek. It was a well deserved and thrilling win that is testament to our department’s teamwork and talent.

As you read about all our achievements in this Year in Review, please take note of the photographs featured throughout. Our inaugural photography contest and exhibit was yet another 2011 success. We are very pleased to have our events, amenities and landmarks documented in such a professional manner.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to an all-star year in 2012!

Sincerely,  
Mark L. McHenry, Director



## 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.

## GOLD MEDAL FINALIST

In 2011, KC Parks received recognition as a National Gold Medal Award finalist by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association. Kansas City’s Parks and Recreation Department was one of only four communities to receive this prestigious designation within the “Class I” category, which included all U.S. parks and recreation departments serving populations of 250,000 or more. The Gold Medal Awards program honors U.S. communities that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition.



## Cover Image

Ruben Gusman  
*The Journey* (Pioneer Mother), Penn Valley Park  
Best of Show





Dylan Lehrbaum  
*Driptorch*, Rocky Point Glades, Swope Park  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Activities and Events

# CONNECTIONS

KC Parks unites communities via our boulevards and parkway system; we link our residents to nature with our trails; and neighborhoods come together through our community center programs. All of these connections aid in our mission to improve the quality of life for all Kansas City area residents.



## Trail Expansions

On June 4, in celebration of National Trails Day, KC Parks and the EarthRiders Trails Association (ERTA) opened an additional 1.75 mile segment of single track mountain bike and hiking trails in Swope Park. This addition brings the total ERTA Swope Trails system to 8.5 miles.

On the same day, a ribbon cutting was held in partnership with Platte County and the City's Public Works Department for the opening of a new trailhead and section of the Line Creek Trail.

Other KC Parks trails that were expanded or added in 2011 include: Blue River Trail from Alex George Lake to I-435; Indian Creek Trail from Lydia Avenue to the Blue River; and Phase I of the Cleaver II Trail project from Chelsea to the Brush Creek Trail.

## Shoal Creek Parkway

June 16 marked the opening of the the Shoal Creek Parkway expansion from 96th Street west to I-435 in the Northland. A \$10 million public/private partnership funded improvements to this 1-mile long east-west transportation corridor.

The Shoal Creek Parkway is now fully developed as a landscaped four-lane divided parkway with median, parkway lighting, sidewalks, and a 10' wide shared use path. This capital investment not only dramatically improves safety but also provides a backbone on which future residential, commercial and recreational systems can flourish.

This extension expands the total number of parkways located north of river to 13 miles.

## Snack Backpack Program

KC Parks was one of 30 parks and recreation agencies chosen by the National Recreation and Park Association to receive a \$50,000 grant to support the new Snack Backpack Program in Kansas City, Missouri.

The program provided weekly backpacks of food for 100 qualified children to take home for the weekend to combat hunger during the summer. Harvesters provided the food, and KC Parks provided the backpacks and volunteers to pack them with food.

Backpacks were distributed at participating KC Parks community centers on Friday to kids who brought them back on Monday to start the process again. Each backpack contained enough nutritious food for four complete meals.

## We Are the Future: West Side Health and Fitness Coalition

A partnership between the Tony Aguirre Community Center and the west side based social service agency, the Guadalupe Center, is reshaping bodies and attitudes toward healthy eating and physical activity.

Professional instructors lead Guadalupe students in nutrition education classes and alternative exercise opportunities such as Brazilian Martial Arts, Hip Hop and Zumba at the Tony Aguirre Community Center.

Funded by the Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City, the West Side Health and Fitness Coalition teaches kids and families to be fit and have fun, thereby building a healthy foundation for future generations.



Kathy Disney  
*In the Mist*, Gillham Park  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Nature and Wildlife



# IMPROVEMENTS

“To improve” is first and foremost in the mission of KC Parks. Our improvements enhance the livability of Kansas City by providing benefits such as beauty and aesthetics, recreation, leisure, entertainment, and physical activity as well as opportunities for social interaction.



## Hospital Hill, Blue Hills, and Jarboe Parks

Three parks hosted celebrations in acknowledgement of major improvements that were completed in 2011.

Hospital Hill Park was officially dedicated, in partnership with Children’s Mercy Hospitals & Clinics, on May 24. The improved park features a walking trail, stretching station, canopies, picnic tables, benches and basketball court complete with gorgeous views of Kansas City’s downtown skyline.

The Blue Hills Neighborhood Association hosted a ribbon cutting on June 4 for the \$500,000 of improvements to Blue Hills Park that include a half-mile walking trail, new basketball court, new lighting, bathrooms and shelter.

The West side celebrated Jarboe Parks’s new state-of-the-art playground and spacious picnic area with a neighborhood pool party and picnic on June 18.



## Historic Cliff Drive Restoration

In November, the installation of 1,200 feet of stone curbing and additional drains to re-route a natural spring that continually washed out a large section of the 4.27 mile roadway was completed.

The curbing project, valued at \$650,000, also included the placement of decorative gates to help deter traffic from using Cliff Drive on the weekends when it is “car-free”. An additional \$642,000 grant from the National Scenic Byways Program was awarded to improve Cliff Drive’s stone and concrete pedestrian walking trails and steps, remove overgrowth and obstacles from the many scenic vistas along the drive, and add benches, safety fencing, and directional signage to enhance the visitor experience along Cliff Drive.

Also in November, the Northeast Community Leadership Action Team unveiled “Constrained Chaos”, a sculptural bicycle rack, designed by Dick Jobe and Beth Nybeck, installed in the Concourse.



## Natural Resources Division “Park Blitzes”

From late summer through early fall, the Natural Resources division maintenance staff conducted one park blitz in each of the three parks regions. The parks were chosen based on need for improvements and maintenance, and high citizen usage.

On July 13, shrubs were planted, trees trimmed, shelter repairs made, and ballfields upgraded in Blue Valley Park.

Tower Park followed on September 14 where trees and shrubs were trimmed, a new roof was installed on a shelter, benches replaced, and fencing/backstops and bleachers repaired at the ballfield.

At Chaumiere on October 12, trees and shrubs were trimmed, and woody vegetation and illegally dumped trash were removed.

The one-day blitzes had an immediate effect on the appearance and usability of each park; more are planned for 2012.

Krista Culberson  
*Fly Away*, Loose Park  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Landmarks,  
Monuments and Fountains



Mary Littler  
*Geese in Discussion*, Loose Park  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Nature and Wildlife



James Rendina  
*Little Boy and Nikita*,  
Kansas City Zoo  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Activities and Events



# OPENINGS

KC Parks is proud to be involved in several significant openings that took place in 2011 including honoring our veterans with a new memorial, building a functional and decorative bridge crossing, raising the curtain on a renovated theatre, and setting up shop in a new workspace for our employees.



## Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington Square

Close to 400 veterans, dignitaries and VIPs attended the dedication of the Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington Square Park on September 28.

The memorial, a public/private partnership, honors the legacy of Korean War Veterans and more than 900 from the State of Missouri who paid the supreme sacrifice by giving their lives in defense of South Korea.

The memorial is constructed of interlocking Tilt-Up concrete panels that create shade and shelter while providing transparency. The exterior walls have a rough texture provided by local aggregate present in the concrete mixture. The interior walls are highly polished concrete with plaques that include the list of Missourians, by military branches, who died in the war.



## Red Bridge Boulevard

The updated bridge on Red Bridge Road was dedicated and opened on November 18.

The 18-month construction project was completed with the Capital Projects Department ahead of schedule and under budget. It improves Red Bridge Road between Holmes Road and Blue River Road by adding curbs, sidewalks and other amenities to the south Kansas City arterial.

Additionally, the project replaces the decades-old covered bridge on Red Bridge Road over the Blue River with a new structure more suited to the traffic needs of the area.

The new Red Bridge was officially lit up in a lighting ceremony held December 28. Decorative engravings and interpretive panels will be installed in 2012.



## Just Off Broadway Theatre

On September 8, after almost a year of renovations, the Just Off Broadway Theatre reopened with a brand new season of performing arts from some of the best talent in Kansas City.

The enhanced theatre, located in Penn Valley Park, features an eye-catching new front façade, a greatly enlarged lobby with box office and concession area, “equity” standard dressing rooms, a production office, increased storage and work areas, all new HVAC and a new rehearsal and multipurpose meeting space, the Penn Valley Room.

The theatre building is owned by Kansas City Parks and Recreation and operated by the Just Off Broadway Theatre Association.



## KC Parks Central Region Maintenance Facility

All KC Parks employees celebrated the opening of the department’s new Central Region (D2) Maintenance Facility with a ribbon cutting on April 27.

KC Parks purchased the former Capital Electric building located in the West Bottoms at 1520 West Ninth Street in 2010. The building has about 28,000 square feet and sits on four acres.

After renovations, the Central Region staff was able to move from the historic stone building at 39th Street and Gillham Road, and into the new facility in early Spring. Street Tree Services and the Brush Creek Maintenance divisions also moved their offices into the new facility.



Brian Smarker  
*Shoal Creek Living History Museum*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Landmarks, Monuments and Fountains



Debbie Abbott Elias  
*The Burlesque Dancer*, Eastwood Park  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Nature and Wildlife



Thomas Kimble  
*Lady in Orange*, Ethnic Festival, Swope Park  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Activities and Events



# COMING SOON

Groundwork was laid and ground broken for several new major projects that will come to fruition in 2012. Our coming attractions include an outdoor aquatics center in south Kansas City, transformation of an eyesore intersection in the Northeast, and enhancement of a historic park in the urban core.



## Longview Tract Outdoor Aquatics Center

Beginning Memorial Day weekend of 2012, area residents will have a brand new aquatics center in which to cool off.

Local officials formally broke ground for the \$7 million facility on July 18. The new outdoor aquatics center is located on the site of the former YMCA and current Longview Tract park and spraygrounds at 7101 Longview Road in southeast Kansas City.

Plans for the expanded aquatics facility include a zero entry pool, six-lane lap pool, a 462-foot long lazy river, plunge area and swirl bowl slide pool. Grass and concrete deck areas, a bathhouse and concession stands are also included in the plans.

Several phases of improvements had previously been made to the 19.5-acre Longview Tract including a playground, multi-use sports fields, concession stands, walking trails, picnic facilities and a parking lot.



## 9th & VanBrunt Athletic Fields

A groundbreaking was held on March 14 for site improvements to a 12-acre property located in historic Northeast Kansas City. The site, located at the intersection of 9th & VanBrunt, previously housed the headquarters for the Area Transportation Authority.

Project amenities include grading and landscaping as well as construction of a new parking lot, an event plaza with outdoor amphitheatre, concession building with restrooms, walking trail, two practice soccer fields, and one competitive all-weather sports turf soccer field with stadium lights.

Decorative lights will also be placed along the 1/2 mile walking trail and a sound and visual barrier will be built alongside the railroad tracks.

Plans are to have the new and improved green space open by the summer of 2012.



## Spring Valley Park Improvements

On May 13, a groundbreaking commenced improvements to Spring Valley Park and the adjacent Crews Square at East 27th Street & Woodland Avenue.

The project provides for a major renovation to the parks including construction of a 5,000 linear foot walking trail, new football field, upgrades to two baseball fields, installation of a new playground and five park benches. In addition, the 2-acre Spring Valley Lake will be completely restored through dredging, bank stabilization and new walkways.

George Kessler and the Park Board decided in 1901 that the attractiveness of the area including the springs, knolls, glens, trees and a rock quarry would make a good property to add to the Kansas City park system.

The update retains the original materials and features that give Spring Valley Park and Crews Square their distinct ambience. A dedication will be held in the spring of 2012.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Weekends

Car Free Weekends on Cliff Drive

## February 5

Breakfast with the Beasts at Lakeside Nature Center

## March 12

Brookside St. Pat's Warm-Up Parade

## March 14

Groundbreaking for 9th & Van Brunt Site Improvements

## March 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade on Broadway

## March 25-27

Flower, Lawn & Garden and Home Show

## April 2

Rock the Parkway Half Marathon on Ward Parkway

Project Blue River Rescue in Swope Park

Ethnic Enrichment Commission Diplomatic Ball

## April 12

Fountain Day at Firefighters Memorial Fountain

## April 16

Earth Walk in Theis Park

## April 23-24

Chalk Walk in the Historic Northeast

## April 27

KC Parks Employee Departmental Service Awards Breakfast

Ribbon Cutting for new Parks Central Maintenance Facility

## April 30

Arbor Day Tree Plantings in Loose Park and Union Cemetery

## May-October

KC Organics and Natural Market in Minor Park (Saturdays)

Downtown Farmers Market in Ilus Davis Park (Thursdays)

## May-June

Crowned in Glory Exhibit at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

## May 7

Mayor's Inauguration Celebration at Starlight Theatre

## May 8

Mother's Day for Mother Earth in Theis Park

## May 13

Groundbreaking for Spring Valley Park and Crews Square Improvements



## May 14

Celebrate Urban Birds at Lakeside Nature Center

## May 19 & 26

Thimble Thursday Concerts in Garment Park

## May 24

Ribbon Cutting for Hospital Hill Park Improvements

## May 26

Clips of Faith Beer and Film Tour in Theis Park

## May 28

Major Pools & Spraygrounds Open for Season

## May 28-29

Jiggle Jam Festival at Crown Center and Grand Boulevard

## May 29

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

## June 2, 9, 16 & 23

Thimble Thursday Concerts in Garment Park

## June 3

Jazzoo at the Kansas City Zoo

## June 4

Ribbon Cutting for Swope Trails Expansion

Ribbon Cutting for Blue Hills Park Improvements

Ribbon Cutting for Line Creek Trail Extension

## June 5

Rose Day at Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

Cancer Survivors Rally in Bloch Cancer Survivors Park

## June 8

Rob Dyrdek Skate Board Pro Tour: Penn Valley Skatepark Plaza Expansion Announcement

## June 10-12

KC Wide Open Disc Golf Championships

## June 11

Mayor's Night Hoops Tip Off at Southeast Community Center

## June 14

Junior Pools Open for the Season

## June 14-July 3

Heart of America Shakespeare Festival in Southmoreland Park

## June 16

Ribbon Cutting for Shoal Creek Parkway Expansion





**June 18**  
Ribbon Cutting for Jarboe Park Improvements  
BUGS! at Lakeside Nature Center  
Urban American Outdoors Fishing Derby at Spring Valley  
Celebration & Family Day at Ivanhoe Park

**June 19**  
City of Fountains Bike Tour beginning and ending at  
Washington Square Park

**June 25**  
Dragon Boat Festival & Races on Brush Creek

**June 26**  
Children's TLC Duck Derby on Brush Creek

**June 30**  
Mayor's Night Kicks Tournament Kick-Off in Swope Park

**July 1-31**  
National Parks and Recreation Month

**July 1**  
Ribbon Cutting for Front Street Improvement Project

**July 8, 15, 22 & 30**  
Children's Film Festival in Hyde Park

**July 9**  
Party in the Park at Swope Park  
Rededication of Loose Flagpole in Swope Park

**July 12-15**  
Employee Appreciation Ice Cream Socials

**July 13**  
Blue Valley Park Blitz

**July 17**  
Celebration of Life & Spirit in Hospital Hill Park

**July 18**  
Groundbreaking for Longview Tract Aquatics Center

**July 23**  
"Make A Splash" AquaZumbathon at Swope Park Pool

**July 30**  
Pass Holder Appreciation Beach Bash at The Springs

**August 7**  
Buggin' the Fishes at Lakeside Nature Center

**August 12**  
Groundbreaking for the Missouri Korean War Veterans  
Memorial in Washington Square Park

**August 13**  
Spoke Pony Showdown 3/6 at Camp Lake of the Woods



**August 19-21**  
Ethnic Enrichment Festival in Swope Park

**August 20**  
"In the Pink of the Evening" Concert at the Collonade

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

**September 2-4**  
KC Irish Fest in Washington Square Park

**September 2-October 16**  
IOU/USA art installation in Penn Valley Park

**September 8**  
Reopening of Just Off Broadway Theatre in Penn Valley Park

**September 9**  
Kansas City Chiefs Red Friday

**September 10**  
Dippin' Dogs Swim Party at The Springs

**September 11**  
Concert in the Rose Garden at Loose Park  
Picnic on the Prairie at Lakeside Nature Center  
Dedication of Benches at Enshriners Memorial Plaza

**September 14**  
Tower Park Blitz

**September 17**  
KC Zoo Run/Walk: Run for the Polar Bears

**September 22**  
KC Green Fair in Ilus Davis Park

**September 23-24**  
Wonders of Outdoor Wildlife at Camp Lake of the Woods

**September 28**  
Dedication of the Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial in  
Washington Square Park

**October 1-2**  
KC Indian Art Market in Frank Vaydik Park

**October 1-10**  
University of Kansas Cancer Center Pink Fountains

**October 6**  
Wine & Roses Garden Party in Loose Park Rose Garden

**October 7-8**  
Magic Woods at Lakeside Nature Center  
Minor Park Open Tennis Tournament



**October 8**  
Harvest Festival at Shoal Creek Living History Museum  
Rhythm & Ribs at 18th & Vine

**October 12**  
Chaumiere Park Blitz

**October 15**  
City of Fountains Kansas City Marathon

**October 22**  
WaterFire Kansas City on Brush Creek

**October 24**  
Green Exposures Photography Exhibit Opening & Reception

**November 5**  
The Wilderness Run at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

**November 6**  
The Cliffhanger Run on Cliff Drive in Kessler Park

**November 11**  
Veterans Day Observances at National World War I Museum at  
Liberty Memorial, Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial,  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial & Black Veterans Memorial

**November 12**  
Turkey Bowl at Line Creek Ice Arena

**November 18**  
Ribbon Cutting for the Opening of Red Bridge

**December 2**  
Senior Holiday Luncheon at Tony Aguirre Community Center  
Santa's Wonderland in Gillham Park

**December 3**  
Santa's Wonderland in Penguin Park  
A Visit from St. Nicholas at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

**December 4**  
Santa's Wonderland at Longview Tract

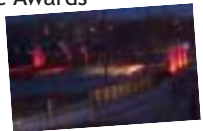
**December 9, 10, 11, 16 & 17**  
Mayor's Holiday Parties at Community Centers

**December 10**  
Kris Kringle 5K Run in Swope Park  
Holidazzle at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

**December 14**  
KC Parks Employee Breakfast & City Service Awards

**December 17**  
Skate with Santa at Line Creek Ice Arena

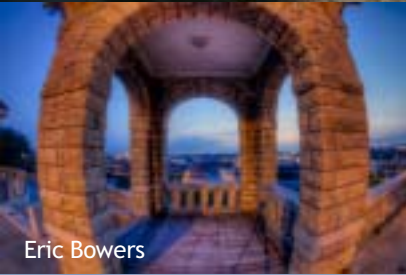
**December 28**  
Lighting Ceremony for Red Bridge



# COMPLETED PROJECTS



Bruce Mathews



Eric Bowers



Bruce Mathews



David Remley

## Park Renovation & Improvements

12<sup>th</sup> St. Streetscape Improvements Phase I - from The Paseo to Virginia  
Ashland Square Park  
Blue Hills Park Improvements  
Hospital Hill Park Improvements  
Ivanhoe Park Improvements  
Longview Tract Site and Buildings Package  
Loose Park Pavilion Restoration  
Spring Valley Park Improvements

## Playgrounds, Spraygrounds & Pools

Ashland Pool Liner  
Blue Valley Park Sprayground  
Jarboe Park Playground  
Lykins Square Sprayground  
Spring Valley Park Playground  
Swope Park Pool Improvements  
Swope Park Pool Roof & Window Replacement

## Trails

Blue River Trail-Alex George Lake to I-435  
Cleaver II Trail-Chelsea to Brush Creek Trails  
Fairfield Park Trail  
Indian Creek Trail-Lydia Avenue to the Blue River  
Parade Park - Walking/Running Track  
Swope Park Cross Country Course  
Town Fork Greenway Trail - 57<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & Agnes

## Planning & Master Plans

Blue River Channel Native Plantings at Byram's Ford  
Independence and Benton Intersection  
Lakewood Greenway Study  
Making Grand Boulevard "Grand"  
Roanoke Park Master Plan  
West Penway Streetscape Plan

## Monuments & Fountains Conservation

Adam & Eve Fountains  
Bernard Powell Memorial Fountain  
Children's Fountain  
Cliff Drive Interpretation Panels  
Delbert Haff Memorial  
J. C. Nichols Fountain  
John F. Kennedy Memorial  
Main & Concord Monument Marker Restoration  
Rev. John W. Williams Memorial  
Santa Fe Trail Stone Monument Signs and Stone Markers  
Scout Medallions  
Seahorse/Meyer Circle Fountain  
Swope Memorial Golf Course Dedicatory Plaque  
Statue of Liberty  
The Scout  
Women's Leadership Fountain  
William Royster Memorial



### Parking Lot Improvements

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center  
Brush Creek Community Center  
Line Creek Community Center  
PACCAR Parking Lot & Drive  
Penn Road (Penn Valley Park)  
KC Zoo Parking Lot and Drive  
Shoal Creek Golf Course  
Water Works Park

### Facility Maintenance & Repairs

Central Region Maintenance Facility  
Security and Fire Alarm Systems  
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center Sound and Video System  
Chouteau Park Slide Repair  
Cliff Drive Restoration-Phase 3  
Colonnade Roof Repair  
Gregg Klice Community Center Improvements  
Grove Park Restroom  
Hillcrest Community Center Water Proofing  
Lakewood Greenway Bridge  
Meyer and Indiana Curb Inlet Improvement  
Plaza Tennis Center Locker Room, Fire & Security System  
Pleasant Valley Culvert Repair  
Shoal Creek Living History Museum Jail Renovations  
Tiffany Springs Park - Batting Cages Replacement  
Woodbrooke Park Slope Stabilization



David Remley



Bruce Mathews

### Tennis Court Resurfacing

Minor Park Tennis Courts  
Plaza Tennis Courts

### Acquisition

50 year lease for school property at Jarboe Park  
93 acre parcel in the Little Blue Valley-east side of Noland Road

### Major Projects

Enshriners Plaza - flagpole, walk, planting and memorial benches  
Just Off Broadway Theatre Renovation  
Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial  
Sea Lion Exhibit Pool Restoration  
Shoal Creek Parkway - from 96<sup>th</sup> Street to I-435



Eric Bowers

# FACTS & FIGURES



Eric Bowers



Bruce Mathews



David Remley



Eric Bowers

## Participation

Total Participation: **4,069,608**

Youth Participation: **1,227,862**

*All facilities and programs*

Customer Participation: **501,569**

*Community Centers*

Customer Participation: **198,894**

*Pools/Spraygrounds*

Customer Participation: **1,438,479**

*Athletic facilities and programs*

## Marketing and Events

Facebook Fans: **1,367**

Newsletter Distribution: **7,456**

Number of Events: **211**

Event Attendance: **744,330**

## Shelter Houses

Reservations: **794**

Attendance: **41,075**

## Volunteers

Number of Volunteers: **10,647**

Volunteer hours: **1,063,306**

Estimated value of volunteers:

**\$21,531,952**

## Attendance

Golf Courses: **138,141**

Lakeside Nature Center: **34,069**

Loose Park Garden Center: **13,942**

Kansas City Zoo: **682,133**

National WWI Museum: **141,323**

Shoal Creek Living History  
Museum: **10,090**

Starlight Theatre: **244,182**

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage  
Center: **7,508**

## Natural Resources

Trees trimmed: **6,541**

Trees removed: **1,770**

Stumps removed: **1,518**

Total acreage mowed: **56,324**

Cubic feet of snow removed:

**8,340,000**

Graffiti incidents removed: **1,670**

Citizen 311 Action Center: **4,289**

*Requests Resolved*

## Maintenance Hours Worked

Athletic field: **3,082**

Landscape: **25,616**

Park facility repairs: **11,214**

Special event preparation: **3,118**

Litter/trash removal: **34,064**



# ACCOLADES

**American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration**  
Finalist: National Gold Medal Award

**American Royal Parade**  
1st Place, Float: Ethnic Enrichment Commission

**Arbor Day Foundation**  
Tree City USA: City of Kansas City, Missouri-23 years

**Bank of America**  
Local Hero Award: Bill Fessler, *Conservation Corps Crew*

**City of Kansas City, Missouri: Rich Noll Pacesetter Award**  
Henry Cooper, *South Region Park Maintenance Worker*  
Dan Smith, *Line Creek Community Center Director*

**Concrete Promotional Group**  
Overall Concrete Division-Excellence in Concrete Award:  
Polar Bear Passage at the KC Zoo

**Environmental Management Commission**  
Environmental Achievement Award: Lakeside Nature Center

**Federal Executive Board Public Service Recognition Week**  
Distinguished Leadership Award: Sherry VanWinkle, *CFO*

**Greater Kansas City Area Chamber of Commerce**  
ACE Award: Kevin Evans, *North Region Park Maintenance Area Superintendent*

**Historic Kansas City Foundation**  
Preservation Award: Roanoke Park Conservancy

**Ingram's Magazine: Best of Business Awards**  
Best Charitable Event-Silver: Jazzop  
Best Theater-Silver: Starlight Theatre  
Best Family Outing-Gold: Kansas City Zoo  
Best Museum-Silver: National WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial  
Best Performing Arts Venue-Gold: Starlight Theatre

**Kansas City Convention & Visitors Association: Visitors' Choice**  
Favorite Fountain: JC Nichols Memorial Fountain  
Favorite Performing Arts Venue: Starlight Theatre  
Favorite Kids Attraction: Kansas City Zoo  
Favorite Concert/Live Music Venue: Starlight Theatre  
Favorite Museum: National WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial  
Favorite Arts Performance: *Mamma Mia!* at Starlight Theatre

**KC Government Contracting & Procurement Forum**  
Outstanding Advocate: Denise Phillips, *Contract Administrator*

**Missouri Park and Recreation Association**  
Citation Award: KC Friends of the Zoo  
State Public Official Achievement Award:  
Representative Chris Molendorp

**Northland Neighborhoods Inc.**  
Rich Noll Excellence in Government Service Award:  
Mark L. McHenry, *Director*

**Pitch Magazine "Best of Kansas City"**  
Best Comeback: Roanoke Park

**Professional Golfers Association- Midwest Section**  
Clubfitter of the Year: Matt Roberts, Swope Memorial GC  
Merchander of the Year-Public: Brett Plymell, Shoal Creek GC

**Society for Friendship with China**  
Dragon Partner Award  
Dragon Boat Races: Business Division Champions

**Southtown Council**  
New Construction Award: Polar Bear Passage at the KC Zoo

**United State Tennis Association-Heart of America District**  
Facility of the Year: Minor Park Tennis Courts  
Member Organization of the Year: Plaza Tennis Center (PTC)  
Junior Tournament of the Year: USTA MO Valley Futures at PTC  
Family of the Year: Kevin and Ann Neilson, PTC General Manager  
Outstanding Contributor to High Performance Coaching:  
The Rand, KC United Tennis/PTC Operators

## EMPLOYEE SERVICE

**Employee Service Awards**  
**30 Years: City of Kansas City, MO**  
Keith Ross  
*Natural Resources Division-South Region*  
**Theresa Brucks**  
*Natural Resources Division-Tree Service*

**Employee Service Awards**  
**30 Years: Parks & Recreation**  
**Holly Weddington**  
*Community Services-Community Centers*  
**Nathaniel Logan**  
*Natural Resources Division-Loose Park Gardens*

**Quality Circle:**  
**Supervisor of the Year**  
**April McCrary**  
*Brush Creek Maintenance Superintendent*

**Employee Retirements**  
George Biswell, *21 years and 2 months*  
Lafayette Bush, *31years and 6 days*  
Harold Ervins, *22 years and 6 months*  
Karen Kline, *28 years and 1 month*  
Odie Moore, *14 years*



Eric Bowers



Kansas City Parks and Recreation has formal partnerships established with neighborhood, community, business and nonprofit organizations. These partnerships allow our department to leverage resources and generate city-wide interest and support for our system facilities, programs and events.



David Remley

The Ali Kemp Educational Foundation  
Bass Pro, Wonders of Wildlife  
Black Archives of Mid-America Inc.  
Blue River Relief  
Blue River Watershed Assn.  
Blue Valley Neighborhood Assn.  
R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation  
Boys & Girls Clubs  
Boy Scout Troop 260/Cub Scout Pack 260  
Broadway/Westport Council  
Brookside Business Assn.  
Brookside Roller Hockey  
Brookside Soccer  
Brush Creek Community Partners  
Budd Park Committee  
Center for Equitable Education  
Center School District  
Center Planning  
Chaumiere Neighborhood Assn.  
Children's Mercy Family Health Partners  
Children's Mercy Hospital  
City of Fountains Foundation  
Clay County Parks and Recreation  
Clay County Veterans Memorial Committee  
Clay-Platte Baseball League

Cliff Drive Scenic Byway Corridor Management Committee  
Countryside Homeowners Assn.  
Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County-EITAS  
Dogpark Improvement Group  
Downtown Council  
DST Realty/State Street Bank  
Earth Riders Trail Association  
Economic Development Corporation  
The Enshriners  
Ethnic Enrichment Commission  
FBI KC Citizen Academy Alumni Assn.  
Federal Reserve Bank  
First Tee of Greater KC  
Friends of Amity Woods Nature Park  
Friends of Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center  
Friends of the Fountains  
Friends of Lakeside Nature Center  
Friends of the Zoo  
Friends of Riverfront Park  
Full Employment Council  
Garden Center Association  
Garrison Community Center Youth Advisory Board  
Gillham Road Advisory Committee

City of Gladstone Parks and Recreation  
Golden Oaks Neighborhood Assn.  
Gracemor Randolph Neighborhood Assn.  
GreenWorks of Kansas City  
Guadalupe Center Inc.  
Heart of America Council/Boy Scouts  
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival  
Hickman Mills School District  
Hispanic Football Soccer Assn.  
Historical Society of New Santa Fe Trailside Center  
Home Builders Assn. of Greater Kansas City  
Hyde Park Neighborhood Assn.  
Jackson County Parks and Recreation  
Jazz District Redevelopment Corp.  
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 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 at Corinthian Hall  
Kansas City Northern Railroad  
Kansas City Organics & Natural Market  
Kansas City Pop Warner Football  
Kansas City River Trails Inc.  
Kansas City Rose Society  
Kansas City Rugby  
Kansas City United Tennis  
Kansas City WildLands  
KC North Community Center Advisory Board  
KCWE Channel 29  
KPRS Hot 103 JAMZ  
William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank Trustee  
Kessler Society of Kansas City  
Liberty Memorial Association  
Lykins Neighborhood Assn.  
MainCor  
Marlborough Neighborhood Assn.  
Mattie Rhoades Center  
Mid-America Regional Council  
Mid-Continent Public Library  
Mill Creek Park Association  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Missouri Department of Transportation



# CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI OFFICIALS

Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial Committee

Missouri Master Gardeners

Missouri Master Naturalists

Missouri Parks & Recreation Assn.

Monnett Battle of Westport Fund

National Center for Indigenous American Cultures at Line Creek Inc.

National Park Service

National Recreation & Parks Assn.

National Sports Center for the Disabled

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Noble Homes Assn.

North Kansas City Area Baseball Assn.

North Kansas City School District

North Suburban Youth Football League

Northeast Arts KC

Northeast Community Leadership Action Team

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

On Goal/Sporting KC

Optimist Athletic Association

Park Hill School District

Paseo West Neighborhood

Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Assn.

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

Port Authority of KCMO

Roanoke Park Conservancy

Rockhill Homes Association

Ronald McDonald House Charities

Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Assn.

Sheffield Neighborhood Assn.

Shoal Creek Association

Skywalk Memorial Foundation

The Sierra Club

Sister City Association of KC

Society for Friendship with China

South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

SE Community Center Advisory Board

Southern Communities Coalition

South Suburban Junior Football League

Southtown Council

Starlight Theatre Assn.

StoneLion Puppet Theatre

Tiffany Springs Parks Partners 3 - Trails CID

3 & 2 Baseball

Tony Aguirre Community Center Advisory Committee

University of MO, Kansas City Union Broadcasting

Union Cemetery Historical Society

Union Station Kansas City Inc.

University of Kansas Cancer Center

Frank and Ann Uryasz

USA Swimming

US Army Corp of Engineers

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Verona Hills Homes Assn.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 317

Vivion Road Gang

Waldo Area Business Assn.

Waldo Tower Historic Society

Ward Family Foundation

Ward Parkway Homes Assn.

West Plaza Neighborhood Assn.

Westport-Roanoke Neighborhood Assn.

The Whole Person

Winnwood-Sunnybrook Neighborhood Assn.

Wornall Homestead Homes Assn.



## Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

David Mecklenburg; Aimee Gromowsky; Jean Paul Chaurand, *President*; McClain Bryant and Allen Dillingham

## Mayor

Sylvester "Sly" James

## City Council

*First District*

Scott Wagner, Dick Davis

*Second District*

Ed Ford, Russ Johnson

*Third District*

Melba Curls, Jermaine Reed

*Fourth District*

Jim Glover, Jan Marcason

*Fifth District*

Cindy Circo, Michael Brooks

*Sixth District*

Scott Taylor, John A. Sharp

## Previous Mayor

(thru April 2011)

Mark Funkhouser

## Previous Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

(thru July 25, 2011)

John Fierro, *President*

Tyrone Aiken

Daniel Morton

Aggie Stackhaus

Ajamu K. Webster

The photographs in the *Green Exposures* exhibit, held October-December 2011 at the Central Library, were chosen from entries in a 14 month-long photography contest. The goal of the contest was to capture fresh new scenes to use in promoting the city's parks and recreational amenities. In addition to the contest, three local photographer--Eric Bowers, David Remley and Bruce Mathews--were commissioned to provide their images as well.

The ten photographs below are the winning submissions. They, along with the commissioned images, are highlighted and credited in this publication.



Kansas City, Missouri  
Parks and Recreation  
4600 East 63rd Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64130  
816-513-7500

[kcmo.org/parks](http://kcmo.org/parks)

