

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

KCPARKS





DEAR FRIENDS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

When reflecting on 2015 the word that comes to mind is “champion”. This past year was a championship year for our city and for Kansas City Parks and Recreation.

Clearly, the highlight was in November when the Kansas City Royals became the World Series Champions. What a thrill it was for our department to play such an important supporting role during the World Series run and ensuing city-wide celebration. Our magnificent fountains flowed blue and Royals flags flew high throughout post season play. Additionally, our world-class Boulevard and Parkway system was showcased as the Royal Celebration Parade made its way down Grand Boulevard and Pershing Road to the delight of 800,000 adoring fans, many of whom were watching from Penn Valley Park.

In October, The FC Kansas City Blues, our women’s professional soccer team, won their second back-to-back NWSL championship. Blue madness then turned to red when the Kansas City Chiefs went on an 11-game winning streak resulting in a franchise record for most consecutive victories in a row and earning their first playoff win in 22 years.

Kansas City received more accolades when KC Parks was one of only four departments in the country chosen as a finalist for the prestigious National Parks and Recreation Association’s 2015 Gold Medal Award. Although we did not take the top honor, we are still considered among the nation’s elite agencies and champions in our own right.

The Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall celebrated 75 years as a public museum and made great strides in planning for the future as preliminary design concepts and space applications for a site-wide restoration and rehabilitation were completed. Furthermore, operation of the Historic Garment District Museum on Broadway was assumed by the Kansas City Museum and the collection of locally-made garments and accessories acquired by KC Parks.

Several attractions and amenities within the KC Parks system enjoyed record-breaking annual attendance including the Kansas City Zoo with 911,000 and the National World

War I Museum and Memorial with 282,588. More than 3,200 animals were rehabilitated at the Lakeside Nature Center, and KC Parks Athletics programs experienced a 42% increase in participation.

Our distinguished “City of Fountains” heralded the completion of an extensive renovation to the iconic J.C. Nichols Fountain and we were delighted to reenergize the Seville Light Fountain--after a seven-year sabbatical--on Fountain Day. Donations continue to flow in to the Wish Upon A Fountain campaign to support our fountains with the most critical restoration needs.

Together with the citizens of Kansas City, we completed work on our department’s plans for the next five years. The Strategic Business Plan for the Parks and Recreation addresses our community’s changing demographic profile, economic challenges, enhanced needs for open space, protection of natural resources and the growing demand for quality parks, facilities and services.

As a testimony to our outstanding employees, the City’s citizen satisfaction scores improved in three major categories including maintenance of parks, maintenance of Boulevards and Parkways and maintenance of athletic fields. We continue to listen and respond to our residents in order to provide top-notch programs and amenities that best serve our public and champion our cause.

I’d like to thank our Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners who as dedicated volunteers provide strong leadership and advocacy for our department. We are very proud of our accomplishments in 2015 and encourage you to read more about them in this Year in Review.

Your ongoing support is appreciated and I look forward to another championship year in 2016.

SINCERELY,
MARK L. MCHENRY



Board of Parks and Recreation

Commissioners

Jean Paul Chaurand , *President*
Amber Hackett Crosby
Allen Dillingham
Mary Jane Judy
David Mecklenburg

Mayor

Sylvester "Sly" James

City Council

First District

Scott Wagner, Heather Hall

Second District

Teresa Loar, Dan Fowler

Third District

Quinton Lucas, Jermaine Reed

Fourth District

Katheryn Shields, Jolie Justus

Fifth District

Lee Barnes Jr., Alissia Canady

Sixth District

Scott Taylor, Kevin McManus



MISSION

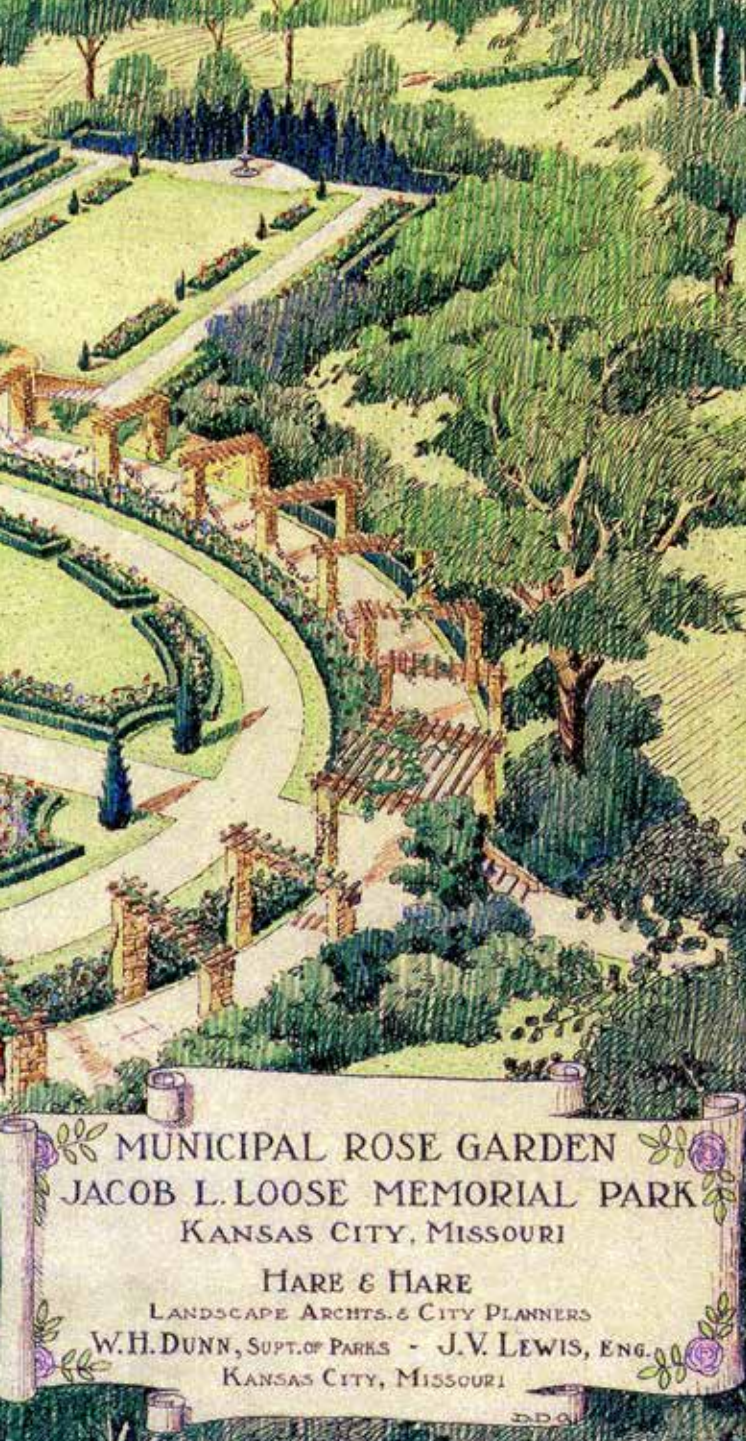
To improve the quality of life, health and wellness of our community by providing socially equitable, community-driven programming and environmentally sound natural resource management.

The purpose of the renovation was to restore the entire rose garden to reflect the original 1931 design.

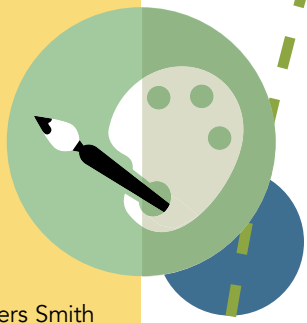


CUTLINE FOR PHOTOS





LOOSE PARK ROSE GARDEN PROJECT COMPLETED



A commemoration of the completion of the Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden 14-year restoration project was held on May 31 as part of the Kansas City Rose Society's annual Rose Day festivities.

This fourth and final phase of the process included the restoration of all 64 stone pillars encircling the rose garden and the installation of new redwood cedar pergolas atop the structures. Additionally, the bronze plaques announcing the garden that had been stolen in the 1940s were replicated and placed at each main garden entry. Previous improvements, which began in 2002, included the installation of the Italian limestone fountain; new grading, drainage, irrigation, and sod; construction of the north and east gardens; installation of an interior circular walking path and the planting of 1,200 new roses in the re-defined beds; new name tags for all the rose plants and installation of viburnums in the northeast quadrant of the main garden.

The purpose of the renovation was to restore the entire rose garden to reflect the original 1931 design developed by the firm of Hare & Hare. Corporations, Foundations, trust funds and individuals contributed \$2 million to fund the endeavor. Funds raised from Rose Society events, such as the annual Wine & Roses Garden Party, also helped support the project.

Established in 1931, the collaboration between the Kansas City Rose Society and the Kansas City, Missouri, Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners is KC Parks longest running partnerships.



MEMORIALS DEDICATED

FIREFIIGHTERS FOUNTAIN AND MEMORIAL

A new 1% for the Arts project was dedicated on September 11 at the Firefighters Fountain and Memorial in Penn Valley Park. Arizona artist Barbara Grygutis' artwork consists of two large curved walls of perforated aluminum panels mounted on a low limestone wall. Solid aluminum plaques are etched with the names of fallen firefighters and are lit from inside with blue LED lights to create a peaceful atmosphere and to symbolize knowledge, integrity, seriousness, reliability and trust. The original granite bases remain in the circle and have new metal panels attached which describe significant events in the history of Kansas City's Fire Department.

SKYWALK MEMORIAL PLAZA

After breaking ground for the project in July, the long-awaited Skywalk Memorial Plaza was dedicated in Hospital Hill Park on November 12. The memorial, located across the street from the former Hyatt (now Sheraton) Hotel, honors the first responders and victims of the Hyatt skywalk collapse on July 17, 1981 that claimed the lives of 114 people and injured more than 200 others. The plaza is designed to provide a place of reflection for those affected by the tragic event and includes a sculpture created by international award winning artist and Kansas City native Rita Blitt. The 24-foot tall sculpture, "Sending Love," evokes the spirit of two people dancing and resides on a base that lists the names of the 114 people who lost their lives in the collapse while attending the Tea Dance.





William J. Craig	03-07-1881
William J. McArdle	11-02-1889
Bernard M. McBreen	09-03-1889
Edward M. Carroll	06-22-1891
Patrick O'Reilly	10-12-1891
Joseph McArdle	02-23-1892
Thomas Dwyer	01-05-1893
Alvin E. Canaday	10-05-1895
Fred D. Goodhue	09-27-1897
James F. McVelle	05-10-1897
Charles O. Peterson	10-24-1897
Michael J. Maloney	10-13-1898
Michael T. Haney	04-28-1902
George L. Stapleton	08-18-1902
Arthur W. Hendricks	







CYCLE IN THE CITY

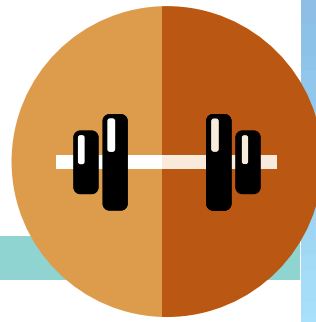
On the afternoon of May 16, thousands of walkers, cyclists, skaters and skateboarders took over a portion of Ward Parkway for Cycle in The City, an inaugural, open streets festival presented by the City's Bike KC program.

Cycle in the City was designed to encourage urban exploration in an innovative, healthy, social and fun environment without the interference of motor vehicle traffic. Attendees had the opportunity to bike, walk, roll, stroll, jog and play on one of Kansas City's most beautiful thoroughfares. Family-friendly entertainment was stationed throughout the two-mile course loop and included a DJ, climbing wall, yoga and dance classes, BMX demonstrations, food stands, lawn games and more.

Cycle in the City was inspired by similar, highly-popular events held in cities around the world, commonly known as Ciclovias. The event was paid for with a federal transportation grant and local sponsorships.



COMPLETED KEY PROJECTS 2015



CONSTRUCTION

Anne Garney Park Entrance Road, Trailhead Parking and Parking Lot
Boulevard Sidewalk and Curb Improvements Project
Dunbar Park Amenities and Lighting
Emergency Generators at Brush Creek and Tony Aguirre Community Centers
Garrison Community Center Safe Room and Gymnasium
Gregg/ Klice Community Center Gym Floor Refinishing and Repair
Jarboe Park Exercise Equipment
Kansas City North Community Center Tennis Court Reconditioning
Longview Tract Entrance Drive, Parking Lot and Lighting
Maple Park Parking Lot
Swope Soccer Village Locker Rooms and Meeting Space
Water Services Swope Campus Upgrades

NEW SHELTERS

Hibbs Park
Hidden Valley Park
Marlborough Park



TRAILS

Davidson Park
Hillcrest Community Center, .38 miles
Migliazzo Park Trail widened and resurfaced
Minor Park Connector, 1.1 miles
Oak Park, .44 miles
Roanoke Park, South Meadow
Santa Fe Trail Extension, .28 miles

NEW PLAYGROUNDS

Davidson Park
Migliazzo Park

MONUMENTS & FOUNTAINS

JC Nichols Memorial Fountain Restoration
Seville Light Fountain Repairs
Firefighters Fountain and Memorial
1% for the Arts Installation
Jackson County American War
Mothers Memorial Conservation
Rhino and Hippo Zoo Gates Conservation
Skywalk Memorial Plaza
Venetian Relief Conservation
Kemper Memorial Fountain Repairs and Conservation





STONE WALL REPAIRS

- Cliff Drive
- Kessler Park
- Loose Park
- Union Cemetery

FACILITY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

- Converted 50 metal halide lighting fixtures to LED lighting
- Expanded Parks Facility Maintenance work order system
- Upgraded building automation systems at Southeast, Hillcrest, Greg Klice, and Line Creek Community Centers



SIGNAGE

- Cliff Drive
- Ethnic Enrichment Commission Interpretive Panel in Swope Park
- Waggin' Trails Off Leash Dog Park



PLAN/DESIGN DOCUMENTS

- Boulevard and Parkway Standards
- Kessler Park Master Plan and Phase One Design
- Kessler Park Reservoir Design Concepts
- Strategic Business Plan for Parks and Recreation 2015-2020
- 3 Trail Corridor Segment E (a-1) Design

ATHLETIC FIELDS

- Longview Tract-Football Field Bleacher Pad
- Maple Park- Two Soccer Fields
- Pleasant Valley Park- Football Field Improvements and Lighting





Trail mix, granola bars and protein bars were the top snack choices.

HEALTHY FOOD PROGRAMS OFFERED AT COMMUNITY CENTERS

Vending machines were removed from all ten KC Parks Community Centers in February to allow for a transition to concession sales which provided healthier snack options. Prior to the removal, center patrons were surveyed to determine their interest and preferred snack choices. More than 80% of the respondents felt that healthier options were important with motivators for purchasing being affordability, convenience and nutrition. Trail mix, granola bars and protein bars were the top snack choices.

The healthier concessions program is a partnership with MU Extension and the City of Kansas City, MO Health Department to pilot Eat Smart in the Parks programs at all KC Parks Community Centers. The program is partially funded by a Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) grant the Health Department received from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

An additional grant, also from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, made it possible for all KC Parks Community Centers to implement a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The program helped assure that eligible populations would have access to nutritious meals during the summer months, thereby reducing the risk for health problems and enhancing learning capacities in areas of economic need. KC Parks Community Centers served more than 20,000 SFSP meals during the summer of 2015.

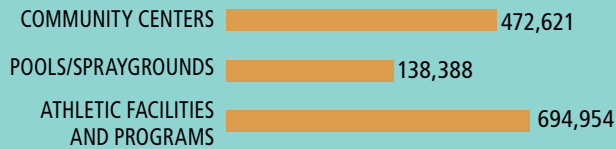


THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

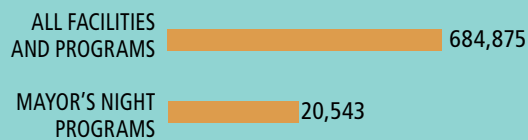
TOTAL PARTICIPATION 5,116,092

COMMUNITY SERVICE

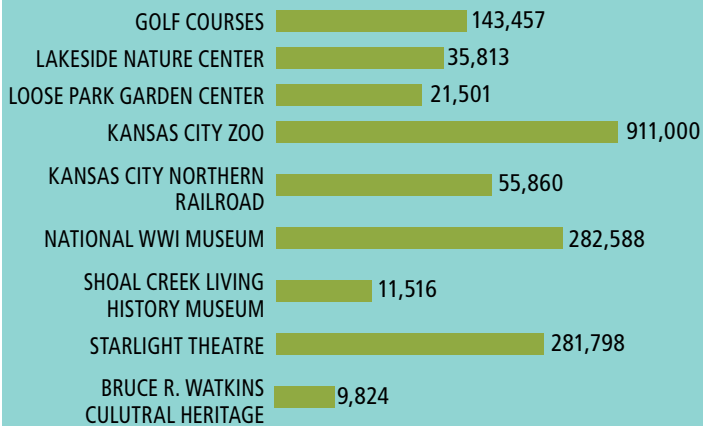
CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION



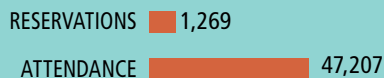
YOUTH PARTICIPATION



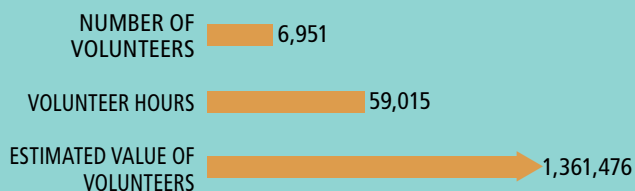
ATTENDANCE



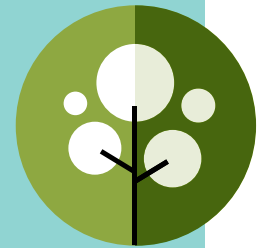
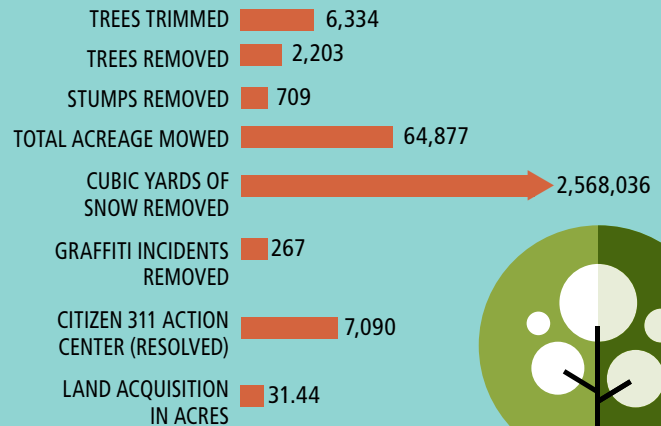
SHELTER HOUSES



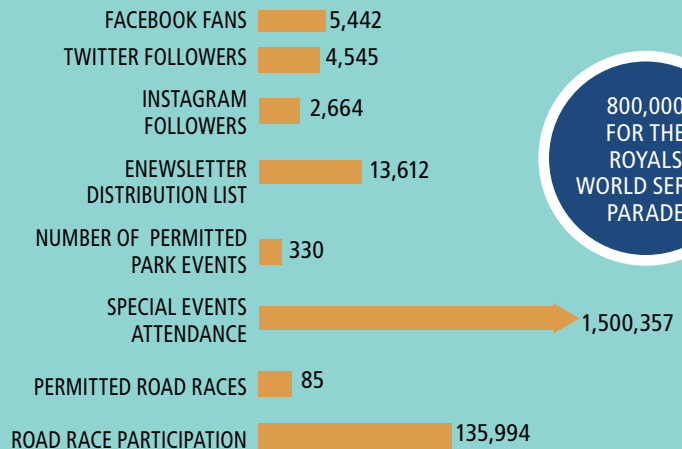
VOLUNTEERS



NATURAL RESOURCES

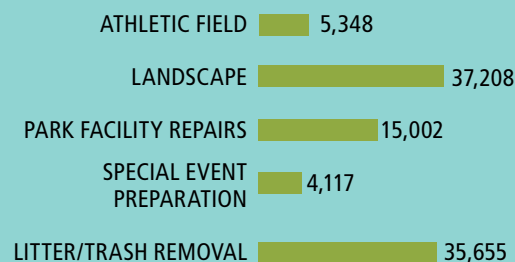


MARKETING AND EVENTS



800,000 FOR THE ROYALS WORLD SERIES PARADE

MAINTENANCE HOURS WORKED

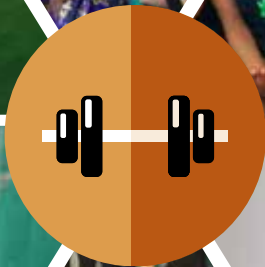


2015 PARTNERS

Alexander Majors House
ArtsTech
Black Archives of Mid-America Inc.
The Bloch Foundation
Blue River Relief
Blue River Watershed Association
R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation
Boys & Girls Clubs of Kansas City
Bridging the Gap-Heartland Tree Alliance
Brookside Business Association
Brookside Roller Hockey
Brookside Soccer Club
Burns & McDonnell
Chaumiere Neighborhood Association
Children's Mercy Hospital
City of Fountains Foundation
City of North Kansas City Parks & Recreation
Clay County Parks and Recreation
Clay-Platte Baseball League
Cliff Drive Scenic Byway Corridor Management Committee
Cycling Kansas City
Della C. Lamb
Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County-EITAS
Dogpark Improvement Group (DIG)
Downtown Council
DST Realty/State Street Bank
Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City
El Centro, Inc.
Elmwood Cemetery
The Enshriners
Ethnic Enrichment Commission
First Tee of Greater KC
Friends of Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
Friends of Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall
Friends of Lakeside Nature Center
Friends of the Zoo
Full Employment Council
Gardeners Connect
The Giving Grove
Gladstone American Legion
City of Gladstone Parks and Recreation
Gracemor Randolph Neighborhood Association
Grand Construction
GreenWorks of Kansas City
Guadalupe Center Inc.
HAVEN Bee Hives
Heartland Conservation Alliance
Heartland Tree Alliance
Heart of America Council/Boy Scouts
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival
Hickman Mills School District
Historic Garment District Museum
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 Theater
KABOOOM!
Kansas City Carriages
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 WildLandsKC Crew
KC Hoops
KC Sport and Social
KC United Tennis (KCUT)
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
LiveKC
Lykins Neighborhood Association
MainCor
Marlborough Neighborhood Coalition
Mattie Rhodes Center
Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries
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
Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial Committee
Missouri Master Gardeners
Missouri Parks & Recreation Association
Monnett Battle of Westport Fund
National Park Service
National Recreation & Parks Association
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

Nuestra Herencia
Park Hill School District
Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association
Penn Valley Park Conservancy
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
Recreation Council of Greater Kansas City
Roanoke Park Conservancy
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association
Sheffield Neighborhood Association
Shepherd's Center of KC Central
Shoal Creek Living History Museum Association
Silvertooth-Fahey Home Owners Association
Sister City Association of KC
Skywalk Memorial Foundation
Society for Friendship with China
South Kansas City Alliance
South Suburban Junior Football League
Southern Platte County Athletic Association dba Northland Sports Alliance
Southtown Council
Sporting Club & Sporting Kansas City
Starlight Theatre Association
StoneLion Puppet Theatre
Theater League
3 & 2 Baseball
Three – Trails CID
Tony Aguirre Community Center Advisory Committee
12th Street Heritage
Urban Trail Co.
Unity Ridge Home Owners Association
University of Missouri, Kansas City
Union Cemetery Historical Society
Union Station Kansas City Inc.
Urban American Outdoors
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
Water's Edge Aquatic Design
Wedgewood Pointe Property Owners Association
West Plaza Neighborhood Association
Westside CAN Center
Winnwood-Sunnybrook Neighborhood Association
Wornall Homestead Homes Association
Wonders of Wildlife
Zona Rosa



2015 AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

American Royal Parade

First Place-Specialty Division: Ethnic Enrichment Commission

American Society of Landscape Architects-Prairie Gateway Chapter

Merit Award-Communications: Kansas City's Parks and Boulevards book by Patrick Alley and Dona Boley

Clay County Economic Development Council

Look North Award: Mark L. McHenry, Director

Economic Development Corporation

Cornerstone Award-Public Projects: Swope Soccer Village

Golfweek Magazine "Best You Can Play-Missouri Top 5"

#2-Shoal Creek Golf Course

#4- Swope Memorial Golf Course

Ingram's Magazine Best of Business Awards

Best Charitable Event-Gold: Jazzoo at the Kansas City Zoo

Best Theater- Silver: Starlight Theatre

Best Family Outing/Venue-Gold: Kansas City Zoo

Best Golf Course-Bronze: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Best Museum-Silver: National World War I Museum and Memorial

Best Performing Arts Venue-Silver: Starlight Theatre

Kansas City Business Journal

Capstone Award-Community Impact: Swope Soccer Village

Capstone Award-Infrastructure: Chouteau Parkway Improvements

Kansas City Environmental Management Commission

Environmental Achievement Award: Rocky Pointe Glade Restoration, KC Conservation Corp.

Environmental Achievement Award: Emerald Ash Borer Management Program, Forestry Operations

Missouri Park and Recreation Association

Hall of Fame Induction: Anita B. Gorman

Citation Award: Liberty Memorial Association

National Arbor Day Foundation

Tree City USA Award: City of Kansas City, Missouri

Pitch Magazine Best of KC Awards

Best Underused Public Amenity: Brush Creek Trail

Best Place to Get Wet: The Bay Water Park

Best Golf Course-Readers' Choice: Swope Memorial Golf Course

Best Fountain-Readers' Choice: J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain

Best Landmark-Readers' Choice: Liberty Memorial

Best Park-Readers' Choice: Loose Park

Best Outdoor Music Venue-Readers' Choice: Starlight Theatre

Best Live Theater-Readers' Choice: Starlight Theatre

Public Relations Society of America:

Greater Kansas City Chapter

Prism Award: 2015 Spring & Summer Fun Guide

United States Tennis Association-Heart of America District

Junior Team Tennis Organizer of the Year Award: Scott Hanover, Plaza Tennis Center

Junior Tournament of the Year: USTA-MV Futures, Plaza Tennis Center

Event of the Year: Camp WIN for KC tennis Clinics, Plaza Tennis Center

United States Tennis Association-Missouri Valley Section

President's Award: Scott Hanover, Plaza Tennis Center

Visit KC: Visitors' Choice Awards

Favorite Fountain: J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain

Favorite Golf Course: Swope Memorial Golf Course

Favorite Museum: The National World War I Museum and Memorial

Favorite Landmark/Monument: Liberty Memorial

GOLD MEDAL AWARD FINALIST



The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association, selected Kansas City, MO Parks and Recreation as one of four Class I category finalists for the 2015 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

The three other finalists included: Cleveland, Ohio Metroparks; Mesa, Arizona Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities; and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who ultimately received the Grand Plaque.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Awards program honors communities in the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Applications are separated into seven classes, with five classes based on population, one class for armed forces recreation and one class for state park systems awarded on odd numbered years. Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

"We are always pleased to be among the elite agencies competing for the top honor," said KC Parks Director Mark L. McHenry. Also a finalist in 2011, KC Parks has never won the Gold Medal Award.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

30 Years: Parks and Recreation

Barbara Scott, Planning/Design Services -Park Facility Maintenance

30 Years: City of Kansas City, MO

David "Dirty" Richardson, Natural Resources –Central Region

Daniel Eiken, Natural Resources –North Region

April McCrary, Natural Resources –Park Landscaping

William Warren, Planning/Design Services-Planning/Engineering

35 Years: City of Kansas City, MO

Holly Weddington, Community Services-Community Centers

Nathaniel Logan, Natural Resources –Loose Park Gardens

40 Years: Parks and Recreation

Mark L. McHenry, Administration-Director



DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CITY

KC Parks employees honored Director Mark McHenry for 40 Years of Service to Kansas City, MO Parks and Recreation at an Awards Breakfast held May 20 at the Swope Park Bandstand.

More than 200 employees unveiled specially-designed T-shirts featuring a caricature of Director McHenry in a surprise tribute.

Special guests– including current and former Parks Board Commissioners, City Manager Troy Schulte, and National World War I Museum and Memorial Director Matt Naylor–commented on Mark's accomplishments, leadership and dedication to our City and KC Parks.

Deputy Director Terry Rynard summarized, "Mark started as a summer intern and helped Vernon Jones build the original animals at Penguin Park. He was also responsible for the construction of the new Zoo, eight new community centers, the Village at Shoal Creek, the improvements to Brush Creek, I am not sure how many fountains–but certainly the first two up north and the Bloch Fountain–renovations to Liberty Memorial and World War I Museum. He averages 75 hours of work a week so in man-hours he has really worked 75 years!"



EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS

- Susan Bray, 32 years
- Clarence Brown, 20 years
- Leo Collins, 35 years
- Daniel Eiken, 30 years
- Norma Haynes, 25 years
- Eugene Kotlinski, 28 years
- John Ofaherty, 26 years
- Michael John Oliver, 15 years
- Denise Phillips, 17 years
- Paul Townsel, 25 years

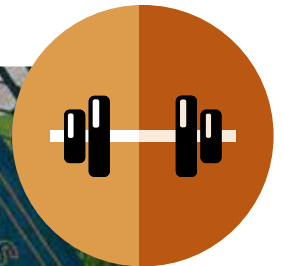
QUALITY CIRCLE AWARDS

Adrian Malone Supervisor of the Year

Dave Stark, General Supervisor, North Region
Park Maintenance

Employee of the Quarter

Second Quarter: James Smith, Maintenance
Mechanic, Park Facility Maintenance
Fourth Quarter: Christi Huffhines, Florist,
Loose Garden Center



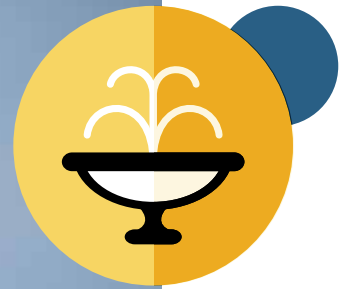
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHILDREN'S FOUNTAIN

The Children's Fountain was dedicated on June 21, 1995 and on June 19, 2015, a celebration was held to observe the 20th anniversary and to announce that \$250,000 for fountain restoration had been raised through the City of Fountains Foundation's Wish Upon A Fountain campaign.

"Playful, happy, challenging, thoughtful" are all terms used to describe this iconic Northland fountain which was designed to celebrate children. The six bronze sculptures, created by local artist Tom Corbin, were modeled after real children who lived in the Northland, several of whom made it back for the festivities.

The statues were removed in the fall in order for the lighting and concrete pedestals to be replaced, the basin to be waterproofed and electrical components, fountain walls and surrounding pavement to undergo much needed and overdue repairs. The restoration will be complete and the fountain reenergized for the 2016 season.





"Playful, happy, challenging, thoughtful" are all terms used to describe this iconic Northland fountain which was designed to celebrate children.



CLIFF DRIVE AND LOCKTOBER

On October 17, celebrations were held at opposite ends of the city observing the opening of two new and improved byways.

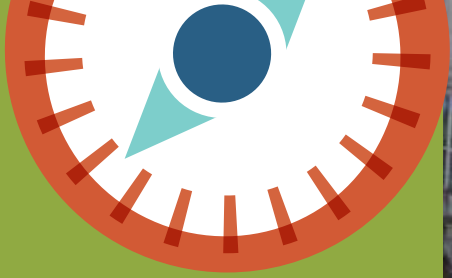
Cliff Drive, a winding 4-mile roadway located in historic northeast Kansas City, officially reopened to one-way vehicular traffic. The drive had been closed since November 2014 for construction projects that included renovation of stairs and overlooks, road striping and improvements to bike trails. During the closure, stakeholder meetings were held which determined that upon reopening, a single eastbound lane of traffic would be accessible to vehicles and the westbound lane dedicated as bike and pedestrian only. A flexible bollard system and signage were installed to separate the lanes.

The drive closes to vehicles at dusk each weekday evening and reopens each the morning. Car Free Weekends continue with the gates closed to traffic every Friday evening and reopening on Monday morning.

On the same day in south Kansas City, a ribbon cutting for the newly completed Minor Park Connector Trail was held in conjunction with "Locktober" on the Old Red Bridge. Attendees biked or walked the 1.1 mile trail which runs along the Blue River Greenway from Alex George Lake to Minor Park Tennis Courts and then headed over to the Old Red Bridge for complimentary refreshments. A craft station was also available for participants to decorate locks before adding them to the ever-growing collection of love locks on the bridge.







January 19

MLK Jr. Day Nature Walk on the Brush Creek Trails

February 13

A Jazzy Affair at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

February 14

Lock Your Love: Valentine's Day on the Old Red Bridge

February 14-15

Great Backyard Bird Count at the Trailside Center

February 28

Breakfast with the Beasts at Lakeside Nature Center

March 14

Brookside St. Pat's Warm-Up Parade
Jim Bridger's 211th Birthday Celebration

March 15

Cash for Critters Fundraiser at Lakeside Nature Center

March 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade on Broadway

March 21

Confederate Muster at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

March 28

25th Annual Project Blue River Rescue in Swope Park

April 4

Bone-Anza at Waggin' Trail Dog Park

April 10

MAPIT Mural Unveiling at KC North Community Center

April 11

Spring Discover Day at KC Parks Community Centers

April 14

Fountain Day at J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain

April 18

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

April 20

MAPIT Mural Unveiling at Brush Creek Community Center
Show-Me State Games Torch Run in Mill Creek Park

April 24

Arbor Day Edible Tree Garden Planting in Harmony Park

April 25-26

Chalk Walk in the Historic Northeast

May-September

Kansas City Northern Railroad Open for Season (Weekends and Holidays)

May-October

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

May 1-3

Brookside Art Annual
USTA Husband & Wife Mixed National Hard Court Championships at Plaza Tennis Center

May 4

Ribbon Cutting for Hidden Valley Park Shelter

May 8

Summer Concert Series at the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall

May 9

Celebrate Urban Birds at Lakeside Nature Center
National Train Day Celebration at Kansas City Northern Railroad

May 13-16

Penn Valley Park Plein Air Fest

May 14, 21, 28 and June 4, 11 & 18

Thimble Thursday Concerts in Garment Park

May 16

Cycle in the City on Ward Parkway

May 20

KC Parks Employee Departmental Service Awards Breakfast at Swope Pavilion

May 22

Orange Fountain for National Orange Popsicle Week at J.C. Nichols Fountain

May 22-August 8

Mayor's Nights/Club KC Events

May 24

Kansas City Symphony's Celebration at the Station

May 25

Memorial Day Observances at National World War I Museum and Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fountain

May 29-30

Tour of Kansas City on Cliff Drive

May 30

Kansas City Microbrews and BBQ Festival at the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall

May 30-September 7

Major Pools & Spraygrounds Open for Season

May 31

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

June 3

Storytime in the Park in Englewood Park

June 5

Jazzoo at the Kansas City Zoo
Penn Valley Park Plein Air Exhibit & Sale at Buttonwood Gallery

June 5, 12, 19 & 26

Children's Film Festival in Hyde Park

June 6

Bugs Extravaganza at Lakeside Nature Center
National Trails Day: Little Blue Valley Park Trail Dedication
1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

June 10

Storytime in the Park in Hidden Valley Park

June 12

Summer Concert Series and Plein Air Quick Paint Contest at the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall

June 13

Dragon Boat Festival & Races on Brush Creek

June 14

Flag Day Celebration at Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington Square Park
Ride the Fountains Bicycle Tour at Memorial Hill

June 16-July 5

Heart of America Shakespeare Festival in Southmoreland Park: King Lear

June 19

20th Anniversary of the Children's Fountain

June 19-21

Kansas City Wide Open at KC Parks Disc Golf Courses

June 20

Urban Kids Fishing Derby at Spring Valley Lake

June 21-27

Taps at the Towner at the National World War I Museum and Memorial

June 27

Volkerfest in Roanoke Park

July 1-31

National Parks and Recreation Month

July 1

Storytime in the Park in Cooley Park

July 4

1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

July 10

National Teddy Bear Picnic Day at the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall
Summer Concert Series at the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall

July 14

Waldo Water Tower Restoration Kickoff in Tower Park

July 17

Skywalk Memorial Groundbreaking in Hospital Hill Park

July 18

Kids, Water, Bugs, Fish at Lakeside Nature Center

July 19

Kansas City's Big Picnic and Quick Paint Contest in Theis Park





July 20-22

KC Parks Strategic Master Plan Public Meetings

July 22

Storytime in the Park in Penguin Park

July 29

Storytime in the Park in Chouteau Greenway Park

August 1

1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum
Invitational Memorial Game Honoring Former Mexican American Ball Players in Penn Valley Park

August 7

Kansas City's Big Picnic Quick Paint First Friday Art Exhibit

August 8

Youth Sports Festival at Zona Rosa

August 14

Summer Concert Series at the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall

August 15

4th Annual Sly's Rock the Block at Union Station
What's Out at Night? at Lakeside Nature Center
Family Art Day in Swope Park and the Kansas City Zoo

August 21-23

Ethnic Enrichment Festival in Swope Park

August 22

Run with Hart on the Brush Creek Trails

August 29

City Manager's Employee Appreciation Picnic at The Bay Water Park

August 30

Jazz in the Roses at Loose Park Rose Garden

September 1-3

Gold Fountain for Childhood Cancer Awareness at J.C. Nichols Fountain

September 4-6

Kansas City Irish Festival on Grand Boulevard

September 5

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

September 10

Art in the Square Opening in Washington Square Park

September 11

Firefighters Fountain and Memorial Panel Dedication in Penn Valley Park

September 12

Dippin' Dogs Swim Party at The Springs Aquatics Center
Dance in the Park in Roanoke Park

September 13

Dippin' Dogs Swim Party at The Bay Water Park
Ribbon Cutting for Arbor Villa Park Tennis Courts

September 17

Red Fountains for Kansas City Chiefs Red Thursday
KC Green Fair in Ilus Davis Park

September 18-19

Wonders of Outdoor Wildlife at Camp Lake of the Woods

September 18-20

Minor Park Open Tennis Tournament
Brush Creek Art Walk

September 24

Wine & Roses Party in Loose Park Rose Garden

September 26

Kansas City Zoo Run/Walk: Run for the Orangutans
Living History Day at the Battle of Westport Museum in Swope Park

September 29

Honoring the Historic Garment District

October 3

Fall Discover Day at KC Parks Community Centers
Garden Faire at Loose Park Garden Center
WaterFire KC on Brush Creek

October 5-November 3

Blue Fountains for the Royals World Series Run at Multiple Fountains

October 6

Brush Creek Art Walk Awards and Exhibit Opening at Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center

October 9

75th Anniversary Benefit for the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall

October 10

HOWloween Pooch Parade at Waggin' Trail Off Leash Dog Park
Magic Woods at Lakeside Nature Center

October 10-11

Civil War Days at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

October 17

Locktober Lock & Roll on the Old Red Bridge and Opening of the Minor Park Connector Trail
Ribbon Cutting for Reopening of Cliff Drive

October 24

Halloween Events at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

October 25

Day of the Dead Celebration at Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall

October 31

Spooky Skate at Line Creek Ice Arena

November 3

Royal Celebration: World Series Parade and Rally

November 4, 6 & 8

Big 12 Women's Soccer Championship Tournament at Swope Soccer Village

November 6

StoneLion Puppets Calacas Illuminated Parade on West Pennway

November 7

The Wilderness Run at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

November 11

Veterans Day Observances at National World War I Museum and Memorial & Vietnam Veterans Memorial

November 12

Skywalk Memorial Dedication in Hospital Hill Park

November 14

Turkey Bowling at Line Creek Ice Arena

November 21

Kris Kringle & K-9s at Waggin' Trail Off Leash Dog Park

November 23

Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Ethnic Enrichment Commission Historical Marker Dedication in Swope Park

December 2

Ribbon Cutting for Santa Fe Trail Extension

December 3

Neighborhood Holiday Open House and Lighting at the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall

December 4

Santa's Wonderland in Gillham Park
Senior Holiday Luncheon at Gregg Klice Community Center

December 4-5

NCAA Division III Men's & Women's Soccer Championship Tournament at Swope Soccer Village

December 5

Santa's Wonderland in Penguin Park
A Visit from St. Nicholas at Shoal Creek Living History Museum
HOLIDAZZLE at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

December 5-6, 12-13 & 19-20

The Fairy Princess at the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall

December 5-19

Mayor's Holiday Parties at Community Centers

December 11

Tis the Season Gala at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

December 12

Kris Kringle 5K Ugly Sweater Run in Swope Park

December 16

KC Parks Employee Breakfast & City Service Awards

December 19

Skate with Santa at Line Creek Ice Arena





Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation

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