



2017

YEAR IN REVIEW



Dear Friends of Parks and Recreation,

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

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

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

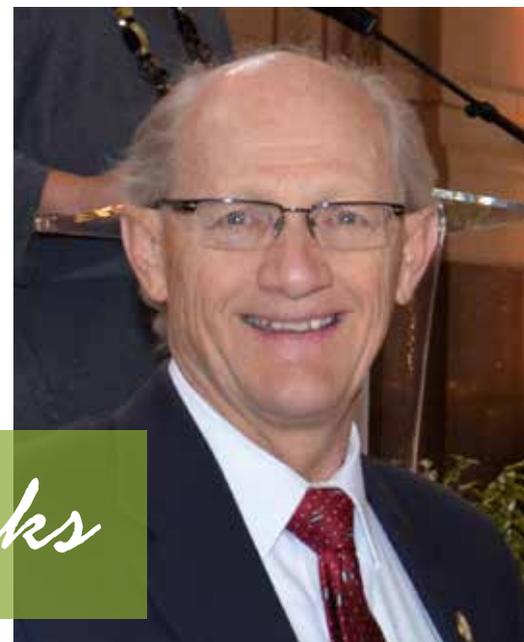
I am thankful that 125 years ago the Board of Parks Commissioners was established. Our volunteer Commissioners have always provided strong leadership, advocacy and stewardship. I applaud our five current Commissioners and the 100 public-spirited citizens before them for their devotion to preserving the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

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

Sincerely,



Mark L. McHenry, Director
Kansas City, Mo. Parks and Recreation



FROM THE DIRECTOR

OUR MISSION:

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



KC PARKS LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSIONERS

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

DIRECTOR

Mark L. McHenry

CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MO OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Sylvester "Sly" James

CITY MANAGER

Troy Schulte

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



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

@kcmoparks



CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION of the U.S. Entry into World War I

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On April 6, 1917, the United States officially entered World War I, a war that changed the nation and the world forever. On April 6, 2017, thousands in attendance, as well as those watching video across the nation and around the world, joined the United States in commemorating this historical turning point. This ceremony, "In Sacrifice for Liberty and Peace: Centennial Commemoration of the U.S. Entry into World War I", was hosted by the United States World War One Centennial Commission at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Penn Valley Park.

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

The colorful and awe-inspiring ceremony also included commemorative flyovers by U.S. aircraft and Patrouille de France, the precision aerobatic demonstration team of the French Air Force. Also supporting the event were the U.S. First Infantry Division Band and Color Guard, Native American Color Guard, Army and Air Force legacy units that served during World War I.



*The National World War I Museum and Memorial continues its centennial commemoration of the Great War with a series of special exhibitions, programs and events through 2019. For details, visit **theworldwar.org**.*



Kansas City Museum: #MakingAMuseumKC

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

In March 2017, City officials, KC Parks, Kansas City Museum, and Kansas City Museum Foundation leadership announced the launch of “Making A Museum KC”, a capital campaign initiative developed by the Kansas City Museum Foundation to raise private funds for the Kansas City Museum’s multi-year restoration and renovation project. Mr. Bill Dunn, Sr., Mr. Henry Bloch, and Mr. Edward T. Matheny, Jr., were introduced as Honorary Chairs of the capital campaign with another legendary trio: former KC Parks Commissioners Mrs. Anita Gorman, Mr. Ollie Gates, and Mr. Carl J. DiCapo—serving as Honorary Members.



In April 2017, Kansas City voters approved \$800 million in GO KC bonds to fund multiple city-wide capital improvement projects, including \$8 million toward the Museum's Stage I Construction costs, totaling \$12 million. Additional funds were secured from the City's Museum Mill Levy, ensuring that the Stage I Construction costs were fully secured by public funding.

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

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

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

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*Support the **#MakingAMuseumKC** capital campaign and stay up to date on construction progress at **makingamuseumkc.org**.*



WEST TERRACE DOG PARK

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Kansas City's newest off-leash dog park, West Terrace Dog Park, opened with a Yappy Hour Celebration on July 29. Several hundred dogs and their humans enjoyed the new 1.5 acre park and activities including a photo booth, agility course, dog splash pool, canine art and, of course, lots of treats and cake!

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

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

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

For membership information, visit kcparks.org/parks/wtdp.



FOUNTAIN RENOVATIONS

One iconic Kansas City Fountain was reenergized in 2017 while another began its renovation journey.

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

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

The statuary portion of the historic fountain weighs 16,000 lbs. and dates back to the 1700s where it stood for 300 years in a Venetian square. The figures were brought over from Italy in the early 1920s. An 80-foot diameter



pool was constructed and the statuary mounted on the central pedestal in 1925. The fountain is named for the three mythological sea horses perched atop the stone pyramid.

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

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

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

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

For more information, visit kcfountains.org.



Free Beginning **SWIMMING LESSONS**

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

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

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

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

COMMUNITY SERVICES 2017

Customer Participation

Community Centers	468,265
Pools/Spraygrounds	124,345
Athletic Facilities & Programs	729,792

Youth Participation

Mayor's Night Programs	13,156
All Facilities & Programs	721,905

ATTENDANCE 2017

Golf Courses	148,095
Lakeside Nature Center	31,563
Loose Park Garden Center	22,910
Kansas City Zoo	951,469
Kansas City Northern Railroad	59,912
Kansas City Museum	17,901
National WWI Museum & Memorial	227,242
Starlight Theatre	296,732
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center	10,799
Swope Soccer Village	495,000
Special Events Attendance	399,069
Road Race Participation	111,469

SHELTER HOUSES 2017

Reservations	1,025
Attendance	56,851

TOTAL PARTICIPATION 2017 4,919,576

NATURAL RESOURCES 2017

Trees Trimmed	8,367
Trees Planted	4,509
Trees Removed	2,313
Stumps Removed	814
Total Acreage Mowed	75,051.9
Cubic Yards of Snow Removed	917,564
Graffiti Incidents Removed	235
Citizen 311 Action Center (Resolved)	6,945
Land Acquisition in Acres	2.94

MARKETING AND EVENTS 2017

Facebook Fans	11,126
Twitter Followers	7,323
Instagram Followers	8,274
E-newsletter Distribution List	13,191
Permitted Park Events	265
Permitted Road Races	68

MAINTENANCE HOURS WORKED 2017

Athletic Fields	5,103
Landscaping	39,090
Park Facility Repairs	13,776
Special Event Preparation	2,800
Litter/Trash Removal	41,729

VOLUNTEERS 2017

Number of Volunteers	6,384
Volunteer Hours	64,909
Estimated Value of Volunteers	\$1,400,087

PARTNERS

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

aSTEAM Village
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 League
Brookside Soccer Club
Burns & McDonnell
Campfire USA
Chaumiere Neighborhood Association
Children's Mercy Hospital
Chouteau Heritage Fountain Committee
City of Fountains Foundation
City of North Kansas City Parks & Recreation
Clay County Parks and Recreation
Cliff Drive Scenic Byway Corridor Management Committee
Cycling Kansas City
Dogpark Improvement Group (DIG)
Downtown Council
DST Realty/State Street Bank
Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City
EITAS
El Centro, Inc.
Elmwood Cemetery Society
The Enshriners
Ethnic Enrichment Commission
First Tee of Greater KC
Friends of Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
Friends of Lakeside Nature Center
Friends of the Zoo
Friends of West Terrace Park
Full Employment Council
Gardeners Connect
The Giving Grove
Gladstone American Legion
City of Gladstone Parks and Recreation
Go Ape! Treetops Adventure Course
Gracemor Randolph Neighborhood Association
Greater Kansas City Health Care Foundation
GreenWorks of Kansas City
Guadalupe Center, Inc.
HAVEN Bee Hives
Heartland Outside

Heartland Conservation Alliance
Heart of America Council/Boy Scouts
Heart of America Shakespeare Festival
Historic Kansas City Foundation
Historical Society of New Santa Fe Trailside Center
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association
Independence Avenue CID
Independence Plaza Neighborhood Association
Indian Mound Neighborhood Association
Jackson County Parks + Recreation
JE Dunn Construction Company
Just Off-Broadway Theatre
KABOOM!
Kansas City Carriage Company
Kansas City Chiefs
Kansas City Art Institute
Kansas City Community Gardens
Kansas City Cricket Club
Kansas City Design Center
Kansas City Flying Disc Club
Kansas City Metro Jr. Golf Club
Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
Kansas City, Missouri School District
Kansas City Museum Foundation
Kansas City Native Plant Initiative
Kansas City Northern Railroad
Kansas City Organics & Natural Market
Kansas City Rose Society
Kansas City Royals
Kansas City Rugby
Kansas City Sports Commission
Kansas City WildLands
KCATA
KC Creates
KC Crew
KC Sport and Social
KC United Tennis (KCUT)
KCPD Mounted Patrol
Kemper Sports Management, Inc.
William T. Kemper Foundation
Kessler Society of Kansas City
Key Coalition
Liberty Memorial Association/National World War I Museum and Memorial
Liberty, Mo. Parks and Recreation
Literacy Kansas City
Lykins Neighborhood Association
MainCor
Marlborough Neighborhood Coalition
Mattie Rhodes Center
Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries

Mid-America Regional Council
Mid-Continent Public Library
Midwest Pool Management
Mill Creek Park Association
Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Department of Transportation
Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial Committee
Missouri Master Gardeners
Missouri Parks & Recreation Association
Monarchs on the Move
Monnett Battle of Westport Fund
National Park Service
National Recreation & Parks Association
Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc.
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
North Bennington Neighborhood Association
North Kansas City Area Baseball Association
North Kansas City School District
North Suburban Youth Football League
Northeast Arts KC
Northeast Chamber of Commerce
Northeast Kansas City Historical Society
Northern Knights Model Airplane Club
Northland Animal Welfare Society (NAWS)
Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.
Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce
Northland Rugby Football Club
Orion Management Solutions, Inc.
Park Hill School District
Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association
Penn Valley Park Conservancy
Pilgrim Center
Platte County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Platte County Parks and Recreation
Platte County Sports Commission
Plaza Rotary Club
Police Athletic League (P.A.L.)
Port KC
Recreation Council of Greater Kansas City
Roanoke Park Conservancy
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Ruskin Heights Homes Association

Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association
Sheffield Neighborhood Association
Shepherd's Center of KC Central
Shoal Creek Living History Museum Association
Sister Cities Association of Kansas City
Skywalk Memorial Foundation
Society for Friendship with China
South Kansas City Alliance
Southern Platte County Athletic Association dba Northland Sports Alliance
Southtown Council
Sporting Club & Sporting Kansas City
Starlight Theatre Association
StoneLion Puppet Theatre
Swope Park Rangers
Theater League
3&2 Baseball
3-Trails West
Tony Aguirre Community Center Advisory Committee
Trailside Center
12th Street Heritage
Unity Ridge Home Owners Association
University of Missouri, Kansas City
Union Cemetery Historical Society
Union Station Kansas City, Inc.
Urban American Outdoors
Urban Trail Co.
Frank and Ann Uryasz
USA Swimming
US Army Corp of Engineers
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Verona Hills Homes Association
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 317
Visit KC
Vivion Road Gang
Waldo Area Business Association
Waldo Tower Historic Society
Ward Family Foundation
Wedgewood Pointe Property Owners Association
West Plaza Neighborhood Association
The Westport Garden Club
Westport Historical Society
Westside CAN Center
Winnwood-Sunnybrook Neighborhood Association
Wornall Homestead Homes Association
The Wornall/Majors House Museums
Wonders of Wildlife
Zona Rosa

2017 AWARDS

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

The Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal:
Anita B. Gorman, former Parks Commissioner

American Society of Landscape Architects: Prairie Gateway Chapter

Kessler Legacy Award: *Loose Park*

Arts KC

Advocate Award: *Mark L McHenry, Director*

The First Tee of Greater Kansas City

Partnership of the Year Award: *Kansas City Parks and Recreation*

GolfAdvisor.com

#1 Course in Missouri: *Shoal Creek Golf Course*

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

#2: *Swope Memorial Golf Course*

#5: *Shoal Creek Golf Course*

Historic Kansas City Foundation - Preservation Awards

Community Catalyst - Excellence: *Waldo Water Tower*

Community Catalyst - Merit: *Black Archives Building*

Ingram's Kansas City Business Magazine

50 Missourians You Should Know: *Mark L. McHenry, Director*

Ingram's Kansas City Business Magazine Best of Business Awards

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

Best Theater - Bronze: *Starlight Theatre*

Best Family Outing/Venue - Silver: *Kansas City Zoo*

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

KC Dog Club

Best "Hike with Hounds": *Blue River Greenway*

KC Parent Magazine Family Faves

Favorite Animal Attractions: #2 - *Kansas City Zoo*

Favorite Museum: #2 - *National World War I Museum and Memorial*

Favorite Outdoor Family Destination: #1 - *Kansas City Zoo*

Liberty Tribune

Readers' Choice - Best of the Northland: *Shoal Creek Living History Museum*

Missouri Park and Recreation Association

Cunningham Recreation Leadership in Inclusion Award:

Tiffany Hills Park All-Inclusive Playground, Richard Allen, Project Manager

National Arbor Day Foundation

Tree City USA Award: *City of Kansas City, Mo.*

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.

Richard Noll Excellence in Public Service Award:

Kevin Evans, North District Parks Superintendent

Pitch Magazine - Best of KC Awards

Best Golf Course - Readers' Choice: #1 - *Swope Memorial*;

#2 - *Minor Park*; #3 - *Hodge Park*

Trip Advisor: Attractions in Kansas City

#1: *National World War I Museum and Memorial*



Pugsley Medal winner Mrs. Anita B. Gorman in front of the Northland Fountain in the park that bears her name.

Visit KC: Visitors' Choice Awards

Favorite Fountain: *J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain*

Favorite Park: *Loose Park*

Favorite Golf Course: *Shoal Creek Golf Course*

Wedding Spot

Best of Missouri: *Swope Memorial*

Weddingwire.com

Couple's Choice Award Winner: *Shoal Creek Golf Course*

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

35 Years: City of Kansas City, Mo.

Keith Ross, Natural Resources - South Region

35 Years: Parks and Recreation

Robert Thompson, Natural Resources, Contract Inspector

Employee Retirements

Jocelyn Ball-Edson, 21 years

Mark Bowland, 22 years

Mark Danielsen, 24 years

Joe Evans, 26 years

Daniel Hambrick, 28 years

Josephine Hart, 23 years

April McCrary, 31 years

Lisa Nichols, 11 years

Sylvester Primers, 24 years

Helston Singleton, 32 years

Teresa Ann Toth, 24 years

Sherry VanWinkle, 23 years



KC Parks Employees Service Awards

QUALITY CIRCLE AWARDS

Adriane Malone Supervisor of the Year

Natural Resource: *Ed Shaw, Maintenance Supervisor*
Community Services: *Kimberly Hess, Lakeside Nature Center*

Employee of the Quarter

Eddie Jackson, Tree Services
Henry Cooper, North District
Jamal Wynn, South District
Larry Wallace, Central District

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION AWARDS

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



Adriane Malone Supervisor of the Year Awards



Director Elected to Lead National Organization

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

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

The Academy is limited to 125 active members.

SPECIAL EVENTS

January 16

MLK Jr. Day Nature Walk on the Brush Creek Trails

February 10 - 11 & 17 - 18

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

February 18

Breakfast with the Beasts at Lakeside Nature Center

February 18 - 19

Great Backyard Bird Count at the Trailside Center

February 22

Santa Fe Trail Panel Dedication in Penn Valley Park

March 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade on Broadway

March 18 (rescheduled)

Brookside St. Pat's Warm-Up Parade

Cash for Critters Fundraiser at Lakeside Nature Center

March 21

Vivion Road YMCA Ceremonial Demolition

March 27

Garrison Community Center Boxing Center Opening

April 1

Project Blue River Rescue in Swope Park

April 6

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

April 7

Show-Me State Games Torch Run in Ilus Davis Park

April 8

Kids Spring Jamboree at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

Bone-Anza at Waggin' Trail Dog Park

April 12

Fountain Day at The Concourse Fountain in Kessler Park

April 22

Spring Discover Day at KC Parks Community Centers

Earth Day at Lakeside Nature Center

Arbor Day Celebration in Loose Park



KC Parks, city officials and neighborhood leaders held a ceremonial demolition of the former Vivion Road YMCA on March 21. Kansas City Parks and Recreation acquired the YMCA and removed the building with plans to renovate and reopen the outdoor swimming pool in late summer of 2018.

May - September

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

May - October

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

May 1

Melanoma Monday at J.C. Nichols Fountain

May 5

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

May 11

Free Swim Lesson News Conference at Gregg/Klice
Community Center

May 5 - 13

KC Plein Air Festival in Penn Valley Park

May 6

1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in
Hodge Park

The Derby Party, Kansas City Museum

Reading in the Roses, Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden
in Loose Park

May 13

Dig Day (Citywide)

Downtown Open Urban Golf Tournament in Washington
Square Park

KC Train Day Celebration at Kansas City Northern Railroad

May 18, 25 and June 1, 8, 15 & 22

Thimble Thursday Concerts in Garment Park

May 19 - August 5

Mayor's Nights/Club KC Events

May 20

Celebrating Urban Birds at Lakeside Nature Center

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

May 26 - 27

Illuminated Waters in Theis Park



The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and KC Parks opened a joint temporary exhibition, Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence on May 5. The free exhibition featured seven large-scale sculptures by internationally esteemed Spanish sculptor, Eduardo Chillida (1924-2002). Four sculptures were on view in Theis Park and three on display in the Donald J. Hall through early December. James B. Nutter was the presenting sponsor of the installation.

May 27 - September 4

Major Pools & Spraygrounds Open for Season

May 27

Memorial Day Service at Union Cemetery

May 27 - 29

Memorial Day Activities at National World War I Museum
and Memorial

May 28

Kansas City Symphony's Celebration at the Station

May 29

Memorial Day Activities at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fountain

May 30

Native Plant Gardens at Loose Park

May 31

KC Parks Employee Departmental Service Awards Breakfast at Southeast Community Center

June 2

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

June 2, 9, 16 and 23

Children's Film Festival in Hyde Park

June 3

Party on the Prairie in Jerry Smith Park



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

June 3

1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

June 4

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

June 7

Storytime in the Park in Hidden Valley Park

June 9

Summer Concert Series at the Kansas City Museum

June 10

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

June 13 - July 2

Heart of America Shakespeare Festival in Southmoreland Park: Twelfth Night

June 14

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

June 17

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

June 18 - 24

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

June 21

Storytime in the Park in Chouteau Greenway Park

July 1

1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

July 1 - 31

National Parks and Recreation Month

July 5

Storytime in the Park in Winnwood Park

July 7

The Teddy Bear Picnic at the Kansas City Museum

July 13

Summer Concert Series at the Kansas City Museum

July 19

Storytime in the Park in Penguin Park

July 20

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

July 22

Kids, Water, Bugs, Fish at Lakeside Nature Center

July 23

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

July 29

West Terrace Off Leash Dog Park Opening

August 51st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum
Youth Sports Festival at Zona Rosa**August 10**

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

August 11

Summer Concert Series at the Kansas City Museum

August 12

Sly's Rock the Block at Washington Square Park

August 18 - 20

Ethnic Enrichment Festival in Swope Park

August 19

What's Out At Night? At Lakeside Nature Center

August 15

City Hall Selfie Day



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

August 21

Total Eclipse of the Park Viewing Party at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park



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

September 1 - 3

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

September 2

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

September 9

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

September 10

Dippin' Dogs Swim Party at The Bay Water Park

September 14

Feast of Fountains: A Food Truck Fest at The Concourse

September 15

Red Fountains for Kansas City Chiefs Red Friday

September 15 - 17

Brush Creek Art Walk

September 17

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

September 20

Pilgrim Labyrinth Garden Dedication in Hyde Park

September 21

Wine & Roses Party in Loose Park Rose Garden

September 22

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

September 22

KC Parks Employee Appreciation Picnic in Penn Valley Park

September 22 - 23

Wonders of Outdoor Wildlife at Camp Lake of the Woods in Swope Park

September 23

Revolving Green Around the Blue on Indian Creek Trail Picnic in Elmwood Cemetery
Kansas City Zoo Run/Walk: Run for the Elephants
Reading in the Roses at Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

October 3

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

October 6 - 8

USTA MV Open & NTRP Sectional aka National Public Parks Championships

October 7

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

October 10

Kansas City Museum Construction Kickoff

October 12

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

October 14

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

October 19

Little Blue Trace Extension Ribbon Cutting at Phelps Road Trailhead

October 21

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



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

October 22

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

October 25

Meyer Circle Sea Horse Fountain Rededication

October 28

Spooky Skate at Line Creek Ice Arena

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

Ponies and Pumpkins at Little Blue Valley Park

LilyPalooza and Garden Faire at Loose Park Garden Center

November 1, 3 & 5

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

November 4

The Wilderness Run at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

November 4 - 5

Orchid Society of GKC Flower Show and Sale at Loose Park Garden Center

November 9

Little Blue Trace Extension Opening in Little Blue Valley Park

November 10 - 12

Veterans Day Weekend at National World War I Museum and Memorial

November 11

Turkey Bowling on Ice at Line Creek Ice Arena

November 18

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

November 22

Turkey Buster at Southeast Community Center in Swope Park

November 24 - January 1, 2018

Downtown Dazzle Holiday Lights in Washington Square Park



Colorful lights twinkled and danced to everyone's favorite festive tunes for the first time this year in Washington Square Park as part of Downtown Dazzle. The park, which neighbors Crown Center, was lit up nightly from dusk to sunrise throughout the holiday season.



November 30 & December 2

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

December 1

Santa's Wonderland in Gillham Park

December 1 - 16

Mayor's Holiday Parties at Community Centers

December 2

Santa's Wonderland in Penguin Park

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

The Songs From the Soul Gala at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

December 8

News Conference for Spirit of Freedom Fountain Renovations

December 9

Kris Kringle 5K Run in Swope Park

HOLIDAZZLE at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

December 13

KC Parks Employee Breakfast & City Service Awards at Union Station

December 13 - 17

The Fairy Princess at the KCM@HGD

December 15

Senior Holiday Luncheon at Tony Aguirre Community Center

December 16

Skate with Santa at Line Creek Ice Arena

Santa's Wonderland at The Bay Water Park



2017 COMPLETED PROJECTS

CONSTRUCTION

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

PICNIC SHELTERS

Liberty Park Shelter

PLAN/DESIGN DOCUMENTS

Chaumiere Woods Park Master Plan
Cooley Park Master Plan
Lakewood Greenway Trail Master Plan
Little Blue Valley Park Master Plan
North Troost Trail Phase II and III Construction Plans
Swope Park Loop Trail Conceptual Plan
White Oak Park Construction Plans and Master Plan



Kansas City Urban Youth Academy



Pilgrim Labyrinth Garden in Hyde Park

NEW PLAYGROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Cleveland Park Swing Set

Iser Park Playground

Karnes Blvd. Playground Shade Structure in Roanoke Park

Mill Creek Park Exercise Equipment

Westwood Park Playground

MONUMENTS & FOUNTAINS

Adam & Eve Fountain Repair in Loose Park

Cancer Survivor's Park Fiberglass Replacement

Linwood and The Paseo Stoplight Restoration

Meyer Circle Sea Horse Fountain

Sculpture Restorations:

- *The Hiker*
- *Massasoit*
- *Meyer Circle Gateway*
- *Pioneer Mother*
- *George Washington Memorial*

STONE WALL REPAIRS

Camp Lake of the Woods

Case Park and Stair Repair

Independence Plaza Park Column Repair

Loose Park

Sheila Kemper Dietrich Park

Swope Park Golf Course

Troost Lake

FACILITY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

Lakeside Nature Center Roof

Shoal Creek Living History Museum – Log Replacement and Doctor's Office Roof



PARK BUILDINGS FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS REPAIR & UPGRADE

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

Brush Creek Community Center

Garrison Community Center

Hillcrest Community Center

KC North Community Center

Lakeside Nature Center

Line Creek Community Center

Marlborough Community Center

Plaza Tennis Center

Southeast Community Center

Tony Aguirre Community Center

Westport-Roanoke Community Center

SIGNAGE

Parade Park

TRAILS

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



Opening of Little Blue Trace Extension in Little Blue Valley Park with Jackson County Parks + Rec

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECTS

Westside CAN Center
Kansas City Community Gardens in Swope Park

ATHLETIC FIELDS

Central Park Improvements to Track and Football Field

STREETS, CURBS AND SIDEWALKS

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

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) IMPROVEMENTS

Swope Park Pool
Terry R. Dopson Administration Building

PARKING LOTS

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

TENNIS COURTS

Martin Luther King Jr. Park Repairs

SECURITY CAMERAS AND LIGHTS

Seven Oaks Park





K Parks

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