

Fountain Day 2023 Celebrating 50 years of the City of Fountains Foundation



2023

KC PARKS  
YEAR IN  
REVIEW



# 2023 KC PARKS LEADERSHIP

## BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

### COMMISSIONERS

Beth Haden-President  
 Pat Contreras  
 Tom Gorenc  
 DePrice Taylor  
 Stephenie K. Smith

### DIRECTOR

Chris Cotten

### MAYOR

Quinton Lucas



**Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners (L-R)**

Tom Gorenc, DePrice Taylor, President Beth Haden, Stephenie K. Smith and Pat Contreras.

## 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.”*

## The Year in Numbers: 2023

### Community Services

Community Center Participants	120,123
Outdoor Swim Pool Participants	66,339
Athletic Program Participants	1,789
Other Program Participants	5,356
Golf Course Participants	215,586
Lakeside Nature Center Participants	75,250

### Natural Resources/Conservation Crew

Loose Park Garden Center Participants	1,200
Bruce R. Watkins Participants	5,844
Aquatics Participants - Bay and Springs	28,379
Trees Planted	2269
Tree Pruning	1,700
Tree Removal	2,100
Native Plant Beds Planted	45
Managed Three Natural Areas for Invasive Species	270 acres
Prescribed Burns (12)	230 acres

### Marketing, Communications & Events

Facebook Fans	25,170
Twitter Followers	12,517
Instagram Followers	22,104
E-Newsletter Distribution List	49,500
Website Visits	1,062,541
Permitted Events	157
Photo Permits	556
Wedding Permits	60

### KC Parks Ambassadors

Volunteer Projects	319
Volunteers Engaged	3,297
Volunteer Hours	7,209
Volunteer Value	\$229,246
Glass Recycled	3,500 lbs
Compost Collected	2.5 tons
Honeysuckle Removed	10 acres

# Projects Completed in 2023

- 64th & Ward Parkway Stone Wall Repair
- Arno Playground
- Bent Tree Park Trail Replacement and Signage
- Black Archives Of Mid-America HVC Update, Floor and Beam Repairs
- Budd Park Shelter Masterplan
- Central Park Mini Pitches
- Clark Ketterman Demolition of Concession Stand
- Cleveland Park Asphalt Pavement repairs
- Concourse Park Slide Renovations
- Cooley Park Design Build
- David Mecklenburg Trailhead Sign Installation
- Dunbar School Parking Lot Replacement
- Happy Rock Solar Lighting Installed
- Hillcrest Community Center Foundation Repair
- Hillcrest Community Center Parking Lot Drainage System
- Independence Plaza Sidewalk Replacement
- Lykins Park Sidewalk and Shelter Pad
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park Parking Lot
- Mary Williams-Neal Community Center Sign
- Mary Williams-Neal Community Center Water Slide
- McCoy Park Curb and Sidewalk Replacement
- Minor Park Pickleball Courts
- Minor Park Golf Course- Range Tee Renovation
- Nelson C. Crews Football Field
- Platte Purchase Park Concession Building
- Plaza Tennis Center New Alarm System
- Schumaker Park Shelter Roof
- Sunnyside Park Trail Replacement
- Swope Park Speed Bumps and Rumble
- Swope Park-Blue River Connector Trail
- Troost Lake Speed Bumps
- Troost Park Soccer Field
- Troost Park Stone Wall Repair
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- White Oak Park Drainage

# Accomplishments and Awards in 2023

## Accomplishments

- Created and filled Aquatics Manager position
- Installed new fitness equipment in all 10 Community Centers
- Assisted with the implementation and success of the Championship Parade and the NFL Draft
- Introduced the Rainout Line for Community Centers, programs, and events
- Began bunker renovation at Shoal Creek Golf Course

## Awards

- Missouri Parks and Recreation Association Citation Award: KC Parks Ambassadors
- Missouri Parks and Recreation Association Associate Fellow: Jody Siemer - Manager of Recreation
- KC Parks ranked 2nd in Nation for Overall Parks & Recreation Social Media Engagement

## Grants/ Donations

- TAP 3001(017) Swope Park Trail - 63rd St to Swope Pool: \$750,000
- TAP 3001(018) Martha Truman Road Connector Segment 2: \$500,000
- TAP 3001(019) Swope Park Trail - 63rd Street to KC Pet Project: \$750,000
- TAP 3001(020) Blue River Trail – Connector to MO Pacific Railroad Corridor: \$500,000
- Bruce R Watkins Museum and Cultural Center programming and the strategic plan: \$150,000

# 2023 Special Events

## 2023 EVENTS

January 16: MLK Nature Walk along Brush Creek  
February 15: Chiefs Victory Parade  
April 2: First Sunday Concerts in Theis Park begin (first Sunday thru September)  
April 8: Arbor Day in Loose Park  
April 14: Fountain Day & 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City of Fountains Foundation  
April 19: Garment District Grooves Concert Series begins (third Wednesday thru October)  
April 21-23: Great Kansas City Clean Up  
April 22: Earth Day events  
April 27-29: NFL Draft at National WWI Museum and Memorial  
May 5: David Mecklenburg Trailhead Sign Unveiling  
May 10-11: Public Service Recognition Week Olympics and KC Parks Services Awards  
May 11: Brush Creek Film Festival  
May 12: Arno Park Playground Ribbon Cutting  
June 3: National Trails Day at Lakeside Nature Center  
June 8: Dragon Boat Festival & Races in Brush Creek  
June 14: Flag Day Observance in Washington Square Park  
June 19-August 11: Mayor's Nights Programs  
June 21: Make Music Day KC  
July 7: The Teddy Bear Picnic in Swope Park  
July 13: Minor Park Pickleball Courts Ribbon Cutting  
July 23: KC's Lawn Party in Theis Park  
August 16-20: 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethnic Enrichment Festival  
September 10: Jazz in the Roses in Loose Park  
September 10: Celebrate Ameri'Kana  
September 15-17: Brush Creek Art Walk  
September 19: Mobile Music Box Concert in Loose Park  
September 23: Harvest Festival at Shoal Creek Living History Museum  
September 26: Mobile Music Box Concert in Gillham Park  
September 27: Tiffany Hills Park Soccer Fields Ribbon Cutting  
September 27: Garment District Grooves After Hours  
October 11: Calvin Wainright and Sheron Jones Plaque Dedication at GreggKlice Community Center  
October 3: Central Park Mini-Pitch Opening  
October 8: Walktober in Swope Park  
October 13-14: Ghost Light in Roanoke Park  
October 14: Porchfest KC  
October 22: Walktober in Penguin Park/Lakewood Greenway  
October 28: Great Kansas City Clean Up  
October 31: Scare-It Halloween  
November 3-December 31: Winter Magic on Cliff Drive  
November 11: Wilderness Run in Hodge Park  
December 1: Mary Williams-Neal Community Center Renaming and Sign Unveiling  
December: Holiday Events sponsored by the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund  
December 14: Employee Holiday Party and City Service Awards  
December 21: Make Music Day Winter-Roomful of Pianos

## Preview 2024

- Ashland Park Sprayground
- Blue Valley Park Master Plan
- Budd Park Story Walk
- Chiefs Championship Parade
- Cliff Drive Gates and Signage
- Columbus Park Playground
- Gillham Park Story Walk
- Heart of America Golf Course Top Tracer Installation
- Hodge Park Golf Course Clubhouse Interior Refurbished
- Holmes Park Playground
- Hospital Hill Park Children's Mercy Story Walk and Native Plantings
- James A Reed Trail
- Minor Park Golf Course Driving Range Net Replacement
- Paseo Gateway Intersection
- Red Bridge Complete Street (Holmes to Wornall)
- Shoal Creek Golf Course Bunker Renovation
- Southeast Community Center Aquatic Upgrades
- Swope Memorial Golf Course Renovation
- Website ([kcparks.org](http://kcparks.org)) Updates and Improvements