



2018

YEAR IN REVIEW



Cover photo: "Big Bubbles at the Big Picnic" by Ruben Gusman

Finalist for the NRPA July 2018 magazine cover

FAREWELL

DEAR FRIENDS OF PARKS AND RECREATION,

2018 was a monumental year. Personally, as it was my last as an employee of Kansas City Parks and Recreation. And professionally, as our department continued to open new amenities and provide enhanced programs, events and initiatives for residents and visitors alike.

Reflecting on my career, I can honestly say that I enjoyed every minute of the 44 years and 7 months of service to the department and to the citizens of Kansas City, Missouri.

As I prepared for my retirement, several folks asked me, "What is the most important asset the department has?" My answer is, "the staff." Their typical follow-up question was, "What will I miss the most?" Same response, "the staff."

I want to thank every one of the faithful KC Parks employees for the good work that they do, day in and day out, to make Kansas City a great city in which to live, work and play.

I am most proud of the staff that launched their careers at KC Parks. Many have gone on to serve as parks directors in other cities and a few as department directors right here in KC. One such individual is Teresa Rynard who began her career at Kansas City Parks and Recreation in 1987. I was lucky enough to hire her back as deputy director in 2013 with the intention that she would take the reins upon my retirement. I am proud of her accomplishments and wish her the best as director of the department.

I also want to thank the hardworking volunteers that comprise the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners. I had the privilege of working with 32 Board members during my tenure. Their devotion to preserving the integrity of our system while continuing to evolve is unwavering and for that, I am grateful.

It doesn't take long to realize that KC Parks is a family. We celebrate together, we mourn together, we work together, and we play together. In 2018, we had our share of it all. Thank you for all the terrific memories and all the joy KC Parks has brought to my life. It was a Great Ride!

Sincerely,



Mark L. McHenry, KC Parks Director (2003-2018)
Kansas City, MO Parks and Recreation



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.



2018 KC PARKS LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSIONERS

Mary Jane Judy, President

Shannon Cade

Allen Dillingham

Yolanda Medina Casey

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): Shannon Cade, Allen Dillingham, President Mary Jane Judy, David Mecklenburg and Yolanda Medina Casey. **Not Pictured:** Jean-Paul Chaurand (2001-September 2018)*

@kcmoparks



MARK McHENRY'S RETIREMENT



Director Mark McHenry announced in mid-September that he would retire at the end of 2018 following 44 years and seven months of service with Kansas City Parks and Recreation, the last 15 as director. He was only the seventh director to lead the department since its establishment in 1892.

Highlights of Mark's career include adding 34 parks and 1000 acres of park land, building six community centers, doubling the size of the Kansas City Zoo, helping create the current National World War I Museum and Memorial, revitalizing Starlight Theatre, and overseeing the renovation of the Kansas City Museum.

Mark was also key in establishing The Springs Aquatics Center, The Bay Water Park, Shoal Creek Golf Course and the Tom Watson Golf Academy at the Heart of America Golf Course.

Mark worked to identify funds and navigate the challenges to develop, design and build Swope Soccer Village in partnership with Sporting Kansas City. Using a similar model, he helped establish the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy at Parade Park in partnership with the Kansas City Royals and Major League Baseball.

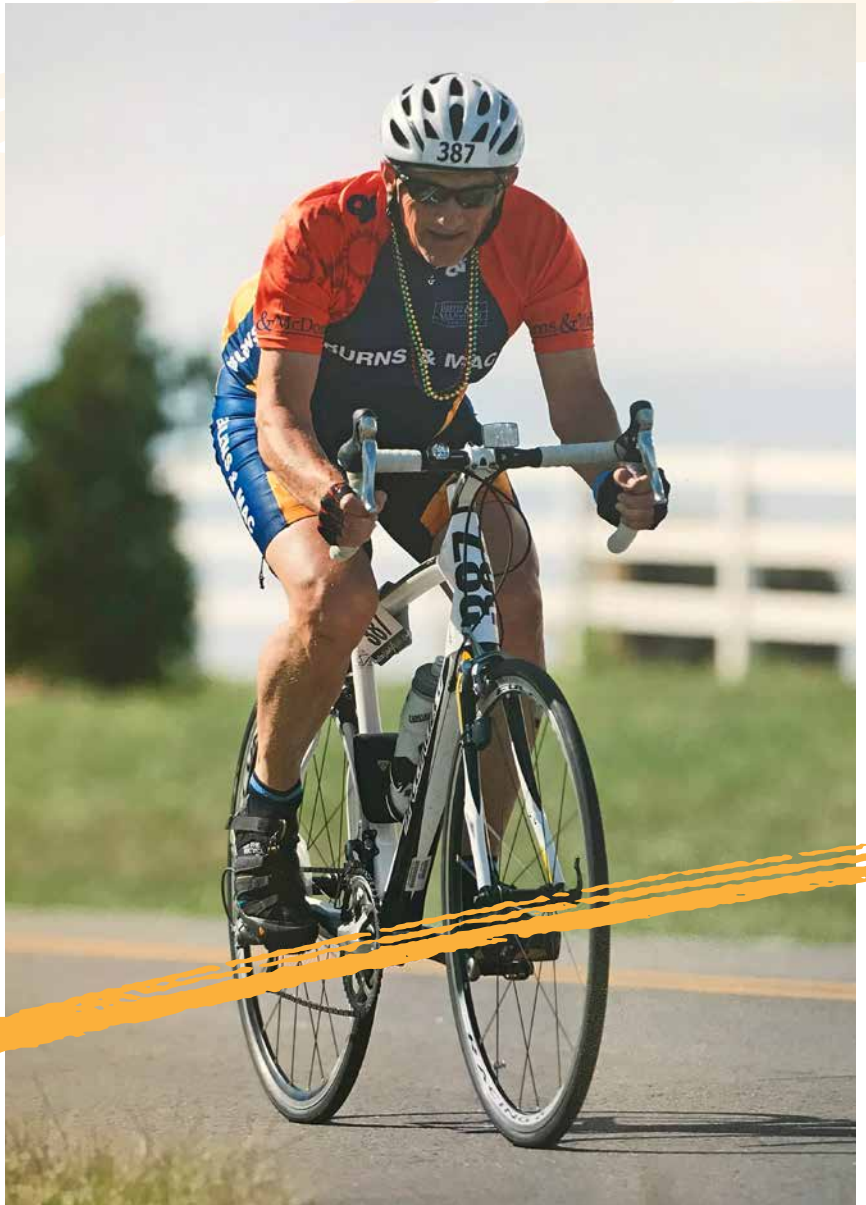
Under Mark's guidance Kansas City has been recognized by national and international organizations. In 2012, Ward Parkway was designated as one of 10 Great Streets by the American Planning Association. In 2016, "The Kansas City Parks and Boulevards Historic District" was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in Community Planning and Development and Landscape Architecture. In 2018, the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden received the Award of Garden Excellence from the World Federation of Rose Societies.



Mark's grandkids Malcolm and Edythe are excited to have a park named after their Papa.

Mark led the effort in 2012 to gain citizen support of a one-half cent dedicated sales tax for Parks and Recreation with no sunset. The tax provides a consistent, guaranteed, long-term source of revenue and helps ensure that the department remains accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.

Mark's impact on Kansas City will last much longer than the 44+ years he spent at KC Parks. His legacy is honored and will live on with the renaming of Tiffany Springs Park to Mark L. McHenry Park.



TERESA RYNARD NAMED PARKS DIRECTOR

When Director McHenry announced that he would retire at the end of 2018, the Board designated Deputy Director Teresa (Terry) Rynard as Mark's successor beginning January 1, 2019.

Terry began her parks and recreation career at Kansas City Parks in 1987 as a seasonal worker and worked her way up the ranks to Assistant Park Superintendent. She left KC Parks in 2002 to pursue opportunities at park departments in Michigan and Florida but returned to Kansas City as the Deputy Director in 2013. Terry is the first female to serve as the Director in the 127-year history of the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department.



Terry is a native of Kansas City. She attended Winnetonka High School, is a graduate of William Jewell College and holds a Master of Public Administration from UMKC. She is married with three children and two grandchildren.

Terry's and Mark McHenry's love and passion for the department and the community are very similar. They share values regarding the environment, social equity, park quality, park development and enriching programmatic experiences accessible to all. Terry is excited to be carrying on the 127-year-old tradition of KC Parks and Recreation.



LIFEX



KC Parks and the KCMO Health Department teamed up to introduce Life X, a new initiative using a place-based approach to mobilize residents from ZIP codes where 94 percent live below the Federal Poverty Level and life expectancy rates are an average of 14.9 years less than other areas of the city.

Two hundred residents from ZIP codes 64126, 64127, 64128, 64129, 64130 and 64132 received complimentary memberships to KC Parks community centers and access to healthy lifestyle and fitness classes, as well as resident leadership training exclusive to program participants.

Life X hopes to engage participants in a conversation to build a healthier Kansas City where ZIP codes no longer dictate life expectancy. The program seeks to connect the wisdom, history, and insights of residents with the resources of local government to empower individuals as advocates and catalysts for positive change in their community. Life X is funded by a grant from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City.



WHERE KC plays

#KCPARKS



PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH: WHERE KC PLAYS

To celebrate Parks and Recreation Month, KC Parks introduced a new tagline, **Where KC Plays**, in a big way!

A large mural, created by artist Ruthie Ozonoff (of the **Kansas City I'm So In Love** mural fame), debuted in July on the wall of KC Parks District 2 Headquarters, located in the West Bottoms. Employees and residents were encouraged to take selfies in front of the mural and post them to social media throughout the month.

To further highlight the new tagline, promote play, and recognize employees in a fun way, a #PlayerOfTheDay social media campaign was launched. One employee was featured each day of the month with a photo, pertinent data and their answer to, "Why do you love working at KC Parks?" The 31 selected employees were peer-nominated and represented a variety of functions within the department.

The campaign proved to be a successful way to build community and pride internally and throughout the metro by putting a face to the many and varied activities that encompass KC Parks and Recreation. In fact, the #PlayerOfTheDay campaign was such a success that both the national and state park associations featured it in their respective magazines.

Park Bench

#PlayerOfTheDay

Each day during the recently observed Park & Recreation Month, the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department named an employee the #PlayerOfTheDay and featured him or her on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. "Our tagline is "Where KC Plays," says Heidi Markle, KC Parks' manager, marketing and events, "so we wanted to focus on promoting play and recognizing employees in a fun way for Park & Rec Month."

With nearly 400 employees working at 221 parks and 10 recreation centers, this could have been an overwhelming task, but the response was seamless. The selected employees were peer-nominated and represent the variety of areas that serve KC Parks and Recreation. Markle traveled to the various locations to photograph the employees and collect pertinent data, including the answer to, "Why do you love working with parks and recreation?"

"I love watching people use parks and playgrounds that I have built and maintained," was the response Markle got from Andy Fleming, the municipal management trainee - North District who's been with KC Parks for five years. "I've even had people invite me to join their family reunion, as they use 4 grills I installed just the day before! Helping the citizens of my city enjoy their time together is rewarding and encourages me to take pride in my work," he added.

The effort proved to be an encouraging way to build community, both internally, where staff offer congratulations online and in person, as well as within the local area served, by putting a face to the many things that go on behind the scenes.

At the end of the month, the 31 employees were highlighted in one document that will be shared with the park board, as well as distributed throughout the department for one more recognition. Markle adds, "It's been very rewarding to meet the selected employees, to take their picture and get their quote. They take great pride in knowing they help make their community better." Visit www.kcparks.com/kcmoparks to see all 31 #PlayerOfTheDay employees.

- Suzanne Nathan, NRPAs Media Specialist

Nathaniel Rogers,
Labor Leader -
Central District,
20 years with
KC Parks

Andy Fleming, Municipal
Management Trainee - North
District, 5 years with KC Parks

Latoya Johnson, Sr. Recreation
Director - Tony Aguirre Community
Center, 11 years with KC Parks

Paige Crosswhite, Part-Time
Recreation Director - Kansas
City North Community Center,
3.5 years with KC Parks

Oliver Hard, Supervisor
of Recreation
- Marlborough
Community Center, 23
years with KC Parks

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OPEN SPACES KC

For 62 days last fall, Kansas City was transformed into an ever-evolving art experience. Local contemporary visual and performing artists were joined by their national and international counterparts for the first citywide arts event ever staged in Kansas City: Open Spaces – A Kansas City Arts Experience.

Swope Park served as the hub for Open Spaces and featured visual art in a wide range of media installed throughout the 1800-acre park. The Village was also housed in Swope Park. Every weekend from August 25-October 28, visitors were able to take in a dance or music performance, grab a snack, enjoy family activities or browse through custom structures designed by some of Kansas City's finest architects at the pop-up village.

Westwood Park also hosted outdoor art installations as part of Open Spaces.

Open Spaces' headline event, The Weekend, took place October 12-13 with a featured performance by the Queen of Kansas City, Janelle Monáe, at Starlight Theatre and enhancements and heightened programming at The Village, all in celebration of unity and social change through art.

Open Spaces KC put the world on notice that Kansas City is the center for artistic excellence.



GORMAN POOL OPENS



The Fourth of July was an even bigger celebration in 2018 with the opening of the Northland's newest and largest outdoor pool! Following an official ribbon cutting by the pool's namesake, Anita B. Gorman, more than 400 swimmers were able to enjoy a hot Independence Day in the cool new pool. KC Parks had acquired the former Vivion Road YMCA and outdoor pool in 2017 and proceeded to demolish the building, renovate and reopen the pool just over a year later.

Features of the outdoor aquatic facility include a 50-meter pool designed for both recreational and competitive swimming with an occupancy of 560 bathers. The bathhouse has a guardroom, concessions, restrooms, and nine exterior rinse off showers. There is a large patio area located adjacent to the bathhouse and a large parking lot with accessible parking. Facility renovations were funded with \$1,050,000 in PIAC and an additional \$1.8 million from North Oak TIF.



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 citywide 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
 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
 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
 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
 Wedgwood 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

2018 AWARDS

435 Magazine

The 10 Happiest Dog Parks in Kansas City:
West Terrace Dog Park
KC's 6 Coolest Ice Rinks: Line Creek Community
Center Ice Arena

Broadway Westport Council

James B. Nutter Community Enhancement Award

Garden Club of America 2018 Club Horticultural Commendation

Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden

Global and Multicultural Education Center

Peace Builder Award: Ethnic Enrichment
Commission

Golden Gloves Regional Tournament

Novice Division Team Champions: Garrison
Boxing Team

GolfAdvisor.com Best of 2018

#1 Course in Missouri: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Golfweek Magazine "Best You Can Play – Missouri Top 10"

#3: Swope Memorial Golf Course
#8: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Historic Kansas City Foundation – Preservation Awards

Best Preservation Practices – Meyer Circle Sea
Horse Fountain

Ingram's Kansas City Business Magazine Best of Business Awards

Best Charitable Event – Silver: Jazzoo at the
Kansas City Zoo
Best Performing Arts Venue – Silver: Starlight Theatre
Best Family Outing/Venue – Silver: Kansas City Zoo

KCMO Environmental Management Commission

Environmental Stewardship & Volunteerism
Award: William Fessler
EVERGreen Award: William Fessler



KC Parent Magazine Family Faves

Animal Attractions: #2 – Kansas City Zoo
Best Kept Secret: Shoal Creek Living History Museum
Live Show: #2 – Starlight Theatre
Museum: #2 – National World War I Museum
and Memorial
Outdoor Family Destination: #1 – Kansas City Zoo

Missouri Park and Recreation Association

Citation Award: Ethnic Enrichment Festival

Missouri Special Olympics Basketball Tournament

Third Place: Garrison Hoosiers

National Arbor Day Foundation

Tree City USA Award: City of Kansas City, Missouri

National Golf Federation

Top Five in Customer Satisfaction: Shoal Creek
Golf Course

Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce

Beautification Leadership Award

Pitch Magazine – Best of KC Awards

Golf Course: Swope Memorial
Live Theater: Starlight Theatre
Outdoor Venue: Starlight Theatre
Park: Loose Park
Scenic Spot: Liberty Memorial

Public Employee Recognition Day

Community Service Award: Terrence Williams

Snake Saturday Parade

Third Place FOGY Category: KC Parks, *Where KC Plays* float

Visit KC: Visitors' Choice Awards

Favorite Fountain: J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain
Favorite Park: Loose Park
Favorite Golf Course: Shoal Creek Golf Course
Favorite Concert/Live Music Venue: Starlight Theatre

World Federation of Rose Societies

Garden of Excellence Award: Laura Conyers Smith
Municipal Rose Garden

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS: The MELS 40 Years: City of Kansas City, MO

Robert Lawler, Engineering and Planning

35 Years: Parks and Recreation

Robert Thompson, Natural Resources

QUALITY CIRCLE AWARDS

Adriane Malone Supervisor of the Year

DeRowan Spears, South Region-Natural Resources

Employee of the Quarter

1st: Tommie Prescott (in memoriam)
2nd: Braulio Aranda Sosa
3rd: David Bogan
4th: Joe McGinnis

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION AWARDS

Outstanding New Employee: Anthony Slayden

Outstanding Customer Service: Katie Yslas

Outstanding Programmer: Lesa Lewis

Supervisor of the Year: Jody Siemer

Superintendent's Above & Beyond Award:
Ashley Allen

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS

Keith Ross, 37 years

James Allan Wood, 12 years

Patrick S. McNamara, 28 years

Michael Duckworth, 31 years

Linda Myles, 19 years

Glenn Graham, 39 years

Deborah Dawkins, 29 years

Joseph W. Kweh, 17 years

Mark L. McHenry, 44 years

Sheila R. Lewis, 22 years

Barbara Scott, 34 years

Timothy Biswell, 43 years

Alan Schmelzle, 31 years

KC Parks Names Service Awards, "The MELS," in Honor of Longtime Employee Mary Edith Lillis



In 2018, the department's biannual employee service awards were named "The MELS" in honor of former employee Mary Edith Lillis who passed away on October 19 at the age of 86. Mary Edith had worked for KC Parks and Recreation for over 50 years. Her cohorts called her MEL as an acronym of her first, middle and last names.

FORMER EMPLOYEES: IN MEMORIAM

Sidney Black, Sr., February 3

George Eib, December 25

Marci Jones, December 15

Sampson Kimble, November 22

Mary Edith Lillis, October 19

James Mack, October 23

Brenda Pouncil, December 21

Tommie Prescott, November 23

SPECIAL AWARDS - MARK MCHENRY



RETIRING DIRECTOR MARK L. MCHENRY RECEIVED WELL-DESERVED HONORS FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS IN 2018:

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

American Institute of Architects, Kansas City Chapter: 2018 Community Impact Award

Broadway Westport Council: James B. Nutter Community Enhancement Award

Friends of Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and State Museum: Appreciation Award

Friends of the Zoo

Greater Kansas City Attractions Association: Heart Of Kansas City Individual Achievement Award

Kansas City Metro Parks Directors

Key Coalition

Mid-America Regional Council Bike-Ped Advisory Committee: 12 Years of Service Award

Missouri Parks and Recreation Association: Retirement Service Award

National WWI Museum and Memorial Board of Trustees

North Kansas City Schools/Board: Extraordinary Experience Duty Award

Northland Neighborhoods Inc: Hero Award

Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce: Beautification Leadership Award

Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce Planning & Development Committee

Platte County Parks Partners: Appreciation of Leadership Award

Southtown Council: Southtown Foundation Award for Leadership

Sporting KC

Starlight Theatre Board of Directors

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

COMMUNITY SERVICES 2018

Customer Participation

Community Centers	260,537
Pools/Spraygrounds	120,447
Athletic Facilities & Programs	1,347

Youth Participation

Mayor's Night Programs	3,918
All Facilities & Programs	84,630

ATTENDANCE 2018

Golf Courses	146,401
Lakeside Nature Center	38,480
Loose Park Garden Center	35,826
Kansas City Zoo	899,714
Kansas City Northern Railroad	50,565
Kansas City Museum/Garment District Museum	12,918
National WWI Museum & Memorial	646,453
Shoal Creek Living History Museum	10,907
Starlight Theatre	285,760
Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center	10,449
Swope Soccer Village	535,000
West Terrace Dog Park	13,993
Special Events Attendance	373,666
Road Race Participation	83,853

SHELTER HOUSES 2018

Reservations	1,027
Attendance	51,058

VOLUNTEERS 2018

Number of Volunteers	7,336
Volunteer Hours	48,875
Estimated Value of Volunteers	\$ 1,054,328

NATURAL RESOURCES 2018

Trees Trimmed	4,574
Trees Planted	1,802
Trees Removed	1,867
Stumps Removed	716
Total Acreage Mowed	67,951
Graffiti Incidents Removed	236

MARKETING AND EVENTS 2018

Facebook Fans	14,565
Twitter Followers	8,426
Instagram Followers	11,183
E-newsletter Distribution List	12,980
Permitted Park Events	195
Permitted Road Races	59

MAINTENANCE HOURS WORKED 2018

Athletic Fields	2,643
Landscaping	21,102
Park Facility Repairs	37,696
Special Event Preparation	2179
Litter/Trash Removal	32,986

2018 SPECIAL EVENTS

January 15

MLK Jr. Day Nature Walk on the Brush Creek Trails

January 16

Zamboni Birthday Party at Line Creek Ice Arena

February 9-10 & 15-16

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



A tradition that began hundreds of years ago in Europe celebrated five years in Kansas City in 2018. During that time, more than 3,000 couples have "locked their love" as a sign of love and devotion to the Old Red Bridge in south KC's Minor Park.

February 10

The Art of My Life Opening at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

February 13

Sweetheart Skate at Line Creek Ice Arena

February 17

Breakfast with the Beasts at Lakeside Nature Center

February 17-18

Great Backyard Bird Count at the Trailside Center

March 10-11

4th Annual Sam Lacey Memorial Youth Basketball Tournament at Gregg/Klice Community Center

March 10

Snake Saturday and Brookside St. Patrick's Day Warm-Up Parades

March 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade on Broadway

March 18

Cash for Critters Fundraiser at Lakeside Nature Center

March 24

Spring Jamboree at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

Bone-Anza at Waggin' Trail Dog Park

March 31

KC Urban Youth Academy Grand Opening

April 3

Winnwood Park Playground Ribbon Cutting

April 7

Project Blue River Rescue in Swope Park

April 13

Show-Me State Games Torch Lighting Ceremony and Run

April 17

Fountain Day at The Spirit of Freedom Fountain

April 19

Native Sons and Daughters of KC Monument Dedication

April 21

Earth Day at Lakeside Nature Center

Arbor Day Celebration in Loose Park



A dedication was held for the new monument in Illus Davis Park honoring The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc., an organization dedicated to the historic preservation of the unique and rich heritage of greater Kansas City. History @ Monument events were held throughout the summer to raise awareness of the new marker and educate the public on Kansas City's history.

April 28

25th Anniversary of Waterwell Athletic Complex

May-September

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

Art in the Park Installations in West Terrace Park

May 4-12

KC Plein Air Festival in Penn Valley Park

May 5

The Derby Party at the Kansas City Museum

Let's Play! Festival in West Terrace/Case Park



Hundreds of baseball fans showed up at the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy to celebrate the grand opening of the \$19 million state-of-the-art facility in The Parade Park. Partners in the facility include Major League Baseball, Kansas City Royals and KC Parks.

SPECIAL EVENTS

May 12

Dig Day (Citywide)

Downtown Open Urban Golf Tournament in Washington Square Park

Poetry Reading in Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

May 19-20

Chalk Walk at The Concourse Fountain

May 19

KC Train Day Celebration at Kansas City Northern Railroad

Celebrating Urban Birds at Lakeside Nature Center

May 25-26

Illuminated Waters in Theis Park

May 25-28

Memorial Day Weekend at National World War I Museum and Memorial

May 26-September 3

Major Pools & Spraygrounds Open for Season

May 27

Bank of America Celebration at the Station

May 30, June 6, 13, 20 and 27

Art in the Park Concerts in West Terrace Park

May 30

KC Parks Employee Departmental Service Awards Breakfast in Swope Park

June 1

Cliff Drive and Spirit of KC Scenic Byways Trail Opening



Historic Northeast Kansas City celebrated with KC Parks at the official opening of the new multipurpose trail connecting Cliff Drive in Kessler Park to the River Market and the Riverfront Heritage Trail.

June 1

Jazzoo at the Kansas City Zoo

June 1, 8, 15 and 22

Children's Film Festival in Hyde Park

June 2

Party on the Prairie in Jerry Smith Park

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

June 3

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

June 9

14th Annual International Dragon Boat Festival & Races on Brush Creek

Historical Epitaphs at Union Cemetery

June 12-July 1

Heart of America Shakespeare Festival in Southmoreland Park: Much Ado About Nothing

June 14

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

June 16

Urban Kids Fishing Derby at Spring Valley Lake

Bugs! at Lakeside Nature Center

Poetry Reading in Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

June 17-23

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

June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25

TMF Summer Series Free Workout in Mill Creek Park

June 28

History @ Monument in Ilus Davis Park

June 26

KC Campus for Animal Care Groundbreaking in Swope Park

June 30

Heartland Heat Triathlon at The Springs Aquatic Center

July 1-31

National Parks and Recreation Month

July 3

Second Annual 18th & Vine Fourth of July Celebration

July 4

Gorman Pool Opening in Gorman Park

July 7

1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum

8-Leg Education: A Night with Spiders

July 13

The Teddy Bear Picnic in Roanoke Park

July 17

Trolley Trail Bike & Pet Oasis Opening



Hundreds gathered to "Raise the Woof" at a groundbreaking for the highly anticipated new animal shelter in Swope Park. Conveniently located at the corner of Elmwood & Gregory, the \$26 million project is anticipated to be completed in late 2019.

SPECIAL EVENTS

July 21

Kids, Water, Bugs, Fish at Lakeside Nature Center
Family Fun & Fit Day at The Grove

July 22

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

July 26

History @ Monument in Ilus Davis Park

July 30

Construction Kickoff for Haff Fountain

August 3-5

Annual Bonspiel at Line Creek Community Center
Ice Arena

August 4

1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum
Run For the Raptors 2018 at Lakeside Nature Center

August 9

Gillham Sprayground Opening

August 9

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

August 11

Sly's Rock the Block at Union Station

August 17-19

39th Annual Ethnic Enrichment Festival in
Swope Park

August 18

Sam Lacey Recognition Plaque Unveiling

August 18

What's Out At Night? at Lakeside Nature Center

August 23

History @ Monument in Ilus Davis Park

August 25-October 28

Open Spaces KC

August 31-September 2

Kansas City Irish Festival in Washington Square
Park/Grand Blvd.

September 1

1st Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Museum



The Gillham Sprayground opened with lots of happy faces and colorful beach balls! Located south of the Gillham Park playground, Midtown's newest sprayground features a combination of sprayers, bubblers and custom water elements, a shade structure, synthetic turf berm, benches and tables.



Sam Lacey, a former NBA Basketball player who lived in Kansas City and passed away in 2014, was honored with a plaque placed in the Gregg Klice Community Center gymnasium. Mr. Lacey was a founding member of the Gregg Klice Community Center Advisory Committee.

September 1-3

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

September 7

Red Fountains for Kansas City Chiefs Red Friday

September 8

Dippin' Dogs Swim Party at The Springs Aquatics Center

Dance in the Park in Roanoke Park

September 9

Dippin' Dogs Swim Party at The Bay Water Park

Jazz in the Garden in Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park

September 13

Feast of Fountains: A Food Truck Fest at The Concourse

September 14-16

Brush Creek Art Walk

September 15

Women's Bike Summit at Southeast Community Center

Wilma the Turtle's Birthday Party at Lakeside Nature Center

September 20

Wine & Roses Party in Loose Park Rose Garden

September 21-22

W.O.W. National Outdoor Recreation & Conservation School in Swope Park

September 22

Revolving Green Around the Blue on Indian Creek Trail

"Run for the Giraffes" Zoo Run in Swope Park

Monarch Migration Celebration in Loose Park

September 27

History @ Monument in Illus Davis Park



SPECIAL EVENTS

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September 28

Ribbon Cutting for the Urban Orchard in Swope Park

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October 7

Curling Club Open House at Line Creek Ice Arena

October 11

Feast of Fountains: A Food Truck Fest on The Great Lawn at 18th & Vine

October 12

Brush Creek Confluence Trail Opening

October 13

Harvest Fest Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

HOWLoween at Waggin' Trail Off Leash Dog Park

Magic Woods at Lakeside Nature Center

October 14-20

Customer Appreciation Week at KC Parks Community Centers

October 20

Neighborhood Connect Day at Blue Hills Park

Historical Epitaphs at Union Cemetery

October 21

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



Kansas City's largest urban orchard located in the city's largest park officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony set in the fruit trees. The orchard, located adjacent to the Off-Leash Dog Park in Swope Park, is just over an acre in size and includes 200 fruit trees that will yield more than 1 million pounds of fresh fruit over the next 20 years. The Swope Park Orchard is a partnership among KC Parks, the Kansas City Urban Farm Co-op and The Giving Grove.

October 25

End of Season Employee Appreciation Luncheon & Maintenance Rodeo

October 26

Bring Your Dog to Work Day

October 27

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

Ponies and Pumpkins at Little Blue Valley Park

Spooky Skate at Line Creek Ice Arena

October 28

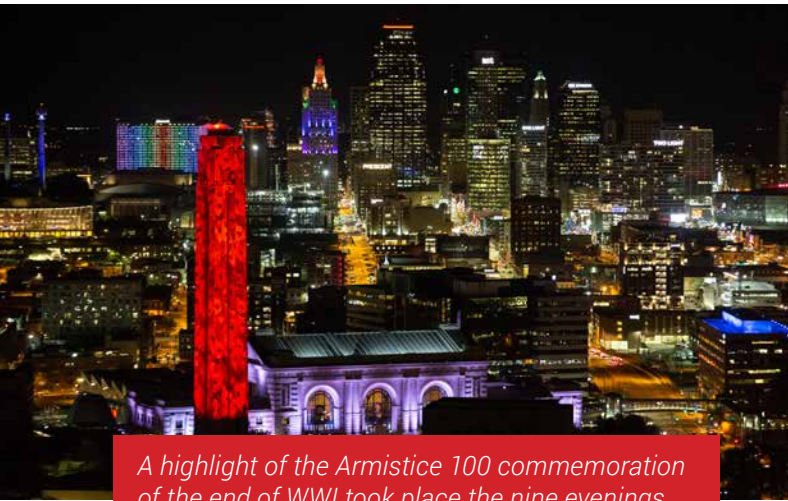
KCMO Charity Softball Tournament at KCUYA





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November 2-11

Armistice Commemoration: Peace and Remembrance



A highlight of the Armistice 100 commemoration of the end of WWI took place the nine evenings leading up to November 11 as the WWI Memorial was illuminated with more than 5,000 poppies in a massive and moving light installation in honor of the nine million soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during The Great War.

November 2 & 4

Big 12 Women's Soccer Championship 2018 at Swope Soccer Village

November 3

33rd Annual Cliff Hanger Run on Cliff Drive

The Wilderness Run at Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park

November 20

Turkey Bowling at Line Creek Ice Arena

December 1

HOLIDAZZLE at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

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

December 7

Santa's Wonderland in Gillham Park

Senior Holiday Luncheon at Brush Creek Community Center

December 7-9 & 14-16

The Fairy Princess at the KCM@HGD

December 8

Santa's Wonderland in Penguin Park

Mayor's Holiday Parties: South & Central

December 12

KC Parks Employee Breakfast & MEL City Service Awards at Union Station

December 15

Mayor's Holiday Party: North & Skate with Santa at Line Creek Ice Arena

Santa's Wonderland at The Bay Water Park

December 22

TMF Fitness Expo at Southeast Community Center

2018 COMPLETED PROJECTS

CONSTRUCTION

Gillham Park Sprayground
Gorman Pool Renovation and Bathhouse
Longfellow Park Exercise Equipment
Southmoreland Park Walkway
Tiffany Hills Park Playground Restroom

PICNIC SHELTERS

Arleta Park

PLAN/DESIGN DOCUMENTS

Assessments of Firefighters Fountain, Eighth Street Fountain and Westside Fountain
Englewood Park Playground Improvements
Gladstone Boulevard Speed Tables
Harrison Boulevard Speed Hump
Hodge Park Improvements
Ivanhoe Park Parking Lots



Jarboe Park Pool Renovation
KC North Community Center New Playground
Lewis Road Speed Humps and Speed Table
Little Blue Valley Park Master Plan Update
Observation Park
Trolley Connector Trail E. 95th to Prospect

NEW PLAYGROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Bannister Park
Hodge Park
Montgall Park
Penguin Park
James A. Reed Park

MONUMENTS & FOUNTAINS

Precious Doe Benches
Spirit of Freedom Fountain Renovation

CONSERVATION WORK

The Hiker – Penn Valley Park
KCATA/Kemper Memorial Fountain
Massasoit – Along Cleaver Blvd.



Meyer Circle Gateway and Flagpole
Pioneer Mother – Penn Valley Park
Santa Fe Trail Marker – Gillham Rd.
Spanish Cannon – On The Paseo Blvd.
George Washington Memorial

STONE WALL REPAIRS

Bruce R. Watkins Drive/Mamie Hughes
Bridge
Indian Mound – Kessler Park
Penn Valley Drive
Troost Lake

FACILITY MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

Blue River Trail at 99th St. Bank Stabilization
Repairs
Brush Creek Skylight Replacement
Budd Park Pool Restoration
Lakeside Nature Center Classroom Window
Replacement
Linwood & Paseo Traffic Signal Restoration
Oak Park Basketball Courts Resurfacing
Swope Park Pool Liner

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

Arno Park
Hibbs Park
Yvonne Starks Wilson Park (formerly Liberty Park)
Winnwood Park

TRAILS

Blue River Trail
Brush Creek Confluence Trail
Hodge Park Trail
Lakewood Greenway Trail
MPRA – Missouri Trails Project
North Troost Trail Englewood Park to NE 49th St.
Observation Park
Santa Fe Trail
White Oak Park Trail

2018 COMPLETED PROJECTS



COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECTS

Lakewood Greenway Lake Aquatic Planting
Swope Park Orchard

ATHLETIC FIELDS

Blue Valley Park
Hodge Park
Pleasant Valley Park

STREETS, CURBS AND SIDEWALKS

Broadway Streetscape from 39th to 40th St.
Gladstone Boulevard Speed Tables
Harrison Boulevard Speed Hump
Lewis Road Speed Humps and Speed Table
Oak Park Curbs

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) IMPROVEMENTS

Benton Blvd. at 31st – Replace all four corners with ADA ramps
Curb Ramps at E. 117th Terr. and Oak St., curb ramps at NE 46th St. and Norton, NE Chouteau Trafficway and Exit 9
Pleasant Valley Accessible Ballfield opportunity
Southmoreland Park access to the park with 10' wide concrete trail

PARKING LOTS

Clark Ketterman Park
Hillcrest Community Center
Hodge Park
Ivanhoe Park
Lakewood Greenway
Vivion Road

TENNIS COURTS

Martin Luther King Jr. Park Repairs

SECURITY CAMERAS AND LIGHTS

Hodge Park
Montgall Park





A blue banner for KCMOParks. It features the logo "K Parks" in white, with the handle "@kcmoparks" below it. At the bottom, there are four circular icons for social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.