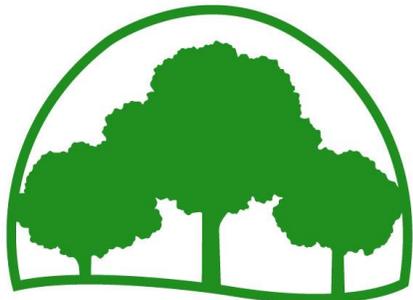


Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities

Annual Report 2019



PARKS, RECREATION,
& CIVIC FACILITIES

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

1920 Grand Avenue
St. Joseph MO 64505
(816) 271-5501

City of
St. Joseph
Missouri

From the Director:

2019 was an extremely busy year for the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department. Along with several major projects, departmental resources were tasked with dealing with significant and impactful flood events along the riverfront.

To continue making progress on the community's 2018-2023 strategic plan for The department, we continue to work on specific projects, programs, and actions to achieve those primary five goals listed below.



Maintain and Improve Existing Infrastructure

New playgrounds at six park locations helped accomplish this goal. The playground equipment in these six neighborhood parks had not been replaced in decades. Most had deteriorated to the point of removal. Renovation of eighteen tennis courts across town also fell into this goal category. Even with the decrease in recreational tennis in St. Joseph, the tennis courts play an important role in high school programs, youth programs, and Missouri Western's women's tennis team.

Increase Recreational Opportunities

The addition of the disc golf course on Southwest Parkway filled a gap in recreational programming. This project had been considered and requested for several years by various members of the community. Due to creative planning and funding, this was able to become a reality. Recreation management staff at all park facilities continue to try and fill recreation programming gaps to provide new opportunities to youth and adults.

Improve Park Security

2019 saw minimal improvements in this area, but minor improvements to security at the REC Center in the addition of cameras around the fitness room improved the situation at that location. The Downtown Community Improvement District also requested funds to install decorative gates at three intersections around Felix Street Square which improved safety for patrons attending events at the park.

Manage Use of Technology and Equipment to Increase Efficiency

We continue to try and transition the department into a better situation in both traditional and non-traditional media platforms. The use of programs such as Projectmates, Cartegraph, and ArcGIS mapping software are all in the infancy stages, but we are hopeful 2020 will be the year we are fully integrated in those programs. We also have transitioned into an updated version of RecTrac which is the recreation management software program used by the parks department. This upgrade immediately benefits the REC Center and administrative office functions and could lead to easier transition into point of sale software for additional park operations.

Identify Additional Funding Opportunities and Options

Staff is always looking for opportunities for grants, donations, and new fee-based programs and activities. This past year, the CDBG funds provided by the Planning & Community Development Department for six new playgrounds was \$615,000. We also received an annual donation from Leaverton Trust for park maintenance in the amount of \$78,869 and another donation from the Colonel William Morgan Trust in the amount of \$75,000, the latter being the second year of a multi-year donation for the purpose of a future public art project.

With the early phases of planning in 2019 continuing into 2020 for a new splash park at Hyde Park, renovations at the aquatic park, planned improvements at historic properties such as the Missouri Theater and Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, and future riverfront development projects, it ensures the continued development and improvement of the parks system.

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Administration

The mission of the Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department are to provide a variety quality of life programs and services to promote a healthy community through fitness, recreation and entertainment. The department believes in the same focus as the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) in the areas of health and wellness, resource conservation, and social equity. Services provided by the parks department are extremely diverse.

The St. Joseph park system listed on the National Register of Historic Places is comprised of approximately 1,500 acres, 26 miles of parkways and boulevards, and contains 53 parks and related facilities. Much of the parks system, including the three largest parks are connected by the historic parkway system. This beautiful corridor which winds down the center of the city includes Krug Park, Northside Complex, Corby Grove, Noyes Tennis Complex, the Aquatic Park, Mary Park, Bartlett Park, Fairview Golf Course, the REC Center, Phil Welch Stadium, Bode Ice Arena, South Park/Drake Complex, and Hyde Park. The parks department also has multiple facilities along the Missouri River, including Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park, Remington Nature Center, and Robidoux Landing at Downtown Riverfront Park. These properties are connected by the 2.1 mile Riverwalk trail. There is also a significant park department presence in downtown St. Joseph; Civic Center Parks, the JRP 50+ Activities Center, Coleman Hawkins Park at Felix Street Square, Civic Arena, and Missouri Theater.

The city continues to develop its urban hike & bike trail system. New sections are created each year with expansions of the trails winding throughout the city, much of which is adjacent to the parkway system.

A parks advisory board meets once per month throughout the year. Staff reports activities and projects to the board and relies on board members to provide opinions, ideas, and recommendations to the City Council. The 2019 board consisted of Jerry Wilkerson (Chairperson), Wonda Berry, Valerie Brandt, Darrell Grace, Pam Nelson, Chris Clark, David Cripe, Mary Supple-Bish, and Michael Heim.

Several significant additions to parks department programs were realized in 2019. Completion of the last of the 2013 CIP Program projects occurred when renovations at Hyde Complex, Northside Complex, and Noyes Tennis Complex were finalized. The tennis courts at Hyde and Northside benefited from the work of Riggs Recreation on the ProBounce surface system. This surfacing was placed on top of the old asphalt surface and is best described as a floating surface. The surface is installed one layer at a time, interconnecting with the previous layer to create one solid three-court surface. This application is supposed to have an extended life expectancy to courts where championship level tennis is not conducted. The fences at both Hyde and Northside were repaired and repainted by park maintenance staff. The courts at Noyes Complex were renovated in a more traditional method, with a complete demolition and asphalt rebuild. This project included new subsurface and underdrains, new fencing, sidewalks, and a newly surfaced parking lot. All courts were outfitted with new tennis hardware including net posts and nets. Windscreens will be installed in the spring of 2020. The design professional for the Noyes Complex project was Snyder & Associates with Herzog Construction serving as the general contractor and performing all the asphalt work.



Administration



The new disc golf course along Southwest Parkway between Bartlett Park and the REC Center was also completed in 2019. Park maintenance staff performed all the installation work which included pouring concrete tee pads and installation of target baskets and signage. A group of Benton High School student government students assisted park staff in the schematic design of the course before being sent to a professional sign maker.

Very late in 2018, parks staff was informed by Planning & Community Development staff of the availability of CDBG funds to purchase and install playground equipment at six neighborhood parks in St. Joseph. The six parks met eligibility requirements for the CDBG funding. This notification kicked off a very quick process of environmental review, Request for Proposal process, review of proposals from several playground manufacturers, and selection of appropriate equipment for each park. Four different manufacturers were selected to provide equipment at six parks which consisted of Rest Square Park, Seitz Park, Mary Park, Patee Park, College Hill Park, and Hochman Park. The equipment at Rest Square, Mary, and Patee were installed by professional installation companies while the equipment at Hochman, Seitz, and College Hill were installed by park maintenance staff.

An enormous department-wide effort took place from the middle of March through the fall in a variety of flood-related work. Due to two separate flood events, preparation, cleanup, and restoration efforts intermingled over the course of several months. Sandbagging, relocation of equipment and supplies, repairs of damaged ground, removal of large amounts of debris and silt, pumping operations, security of facilities were all prominent daily activities for several months. Even with all the work that was completed, the restoration work at Heritage Park and on the Riverwalk trail between the nature center and downtown will continue well into the spring of 2020, and possibly longer.

Riverfront Development planning continued to move forward. With the completion of the master plan by SWT Design, multiple public meetings were held with St. Joseph stakeholders to determine a plan and priority list for moving forward with enhancements along the Missouri River. By the end of 2019, the Public Works Department had completed the design aspect of sewer extensions to the north along Waterworks Road and began preparation for construction of that extension during the construction season of 2020. The St. Joseph Tourism Commission had also approved the concept of trail development along the river bluffs from Wyeth Hill to an area approximately a half mile north of MacArthur Drive. The commission also approved funding to move forward with preliminary design of improvements at Robidoux Landing. Those improvements could include a playground, splash park, restrooms, plaza area, and entertainment infrastructure.

The energy saving projects throughout parks facilities continued and came to completion in 2019. The Missouri Theater, REC Center, Bode Ice Arena, Phil Welch Stadium, and Parks Administration building all benefited from energy efficiency efforts which included new LED lighting, building envelope improvements, plumbing enhancements, and installation of new HVAC technology.

Administration

In the latter part of the year, the design process became more of a reality for the Hyde Park Splash Park; a project in the 2019 CIP Program. Prior to July 1, most of the design effort had been conceptual, but after the beginning of a new fiscal year, funding became available to execute the more detailed schematic and final design. Parks and city engineering staff have been working closely with the design team of Ellison-Auxier Architects, Landworks Studio, and Water's Edge to complete the design phase of the project. This project is expected to be completed before the 2021 swim season.

An extremely large tree planting project occurred in the fall of 2019. This effort was directly related to the trees which were lost during the Blacksnake Creek Stormwater project. Part of the project objective was to make certain the parks and parkway system affected by the public works project were not negatively impacted. The trees were planted from the Corby Pond area extending both west and north along the parkway into the Maple Leaf Park and Northside Complex areas. There were also several trees planted in the area of Heritage Park on the north riverfront. In total, over 1,000 trees were planted of various species.

Daily duties in the administrative office include communications - both traditional and via social media, customer service activities, budget monitoring, shelter management, special event planning, human resource activities, staff training, planning, and project initiation and monitoring. The administrative staff also communicates and supports the satellite operations of the parks department, which are numerous.

The department is a member of the National Recreation & Parks Association, Missouri Parks & Recreation Association, United States Tennis Association, USA Softball, United States Figure Skating, and the Professional Golf Association.



Park Maintenance

The Parks Maintenance crews are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the functionality and beauty of the park system in order to increase the enjoyment of the city parks and facilities.

Maintenance crews maintain

1,500+ acres	26 miles of parkway	46 parks
7+ facilities	18 Lighted Horseshoe Courts	23 Lighted Softball and Baseball Fields
21 Lighted Tennis Courts	16 Lighted Basketball Courts	2 Municipal Swimming Pools
3 skate parks	20+ miles of Hike-n-Bike Trails	80+ restrooms
112 picnic tables	19 concession stands	18 picnic shelters
16 playgrounds	3 ponds	

They also provide direct and indirect support to the planning, set-up, operation and clean-up of various festivals. In 2019, we aided numerous festivals, walks, runs, weddings and other special events. Maintenance crews also assist with events that occur in city parks and facilities. Annually, the maintenance staff facilitates event organizers for Apple Blossom BBQ, Southside Fall Festival, Juneteenth, and many other annual festival events.

During our busiest season, crews trim and maintain 1,500 acres on a nine-day mowing cycle. Additionally, maintenance staff are also responsible for removing trash and debris from park properties.

In addition to routine maintenance of our parks, facilities and trails, as well as other park properties, the maintenance staff strive to save taxpayer dollars by completing numerous in-house projects. There are many skilled, talented and specialized crew members. In 2019, park maintenance staff saved tens of thousands of dollars by installing several new playgrounds in the neighborhood parks, as well as cleaning up debris from flooding at several locations.

The 39th anniversary of “Holiday Park” at Krug Park was celebrated in 2019. This popular holiday lighting display has grown to be the largest of its kind in the area. Lights were also prepared and installed for the Christmas lighting display at the “South Pole” (Hyde Park), located at 401 E Hyde Park. Opening ceremonies for both parks were held on the Friday after Thanksgiving and remained open 4 hours nightly through the New Year.

The City of St. Joseph’s Park Maintenance staff is committed to the continued improvement of our park assets.



Recreation Programs



The recreation program of the St Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department offers a variety of recreational and sports opportunities to citizens and visitors of St. Joseph. The objective is to provide options to meet the diverse needs of a variety of people. The division operates the grade school basketball program for 4th – 6th graders, youth tennis program for 5 – 10-year old's, collaborates with the Health Department on St. Joe Fit, offers the Outlaw Adventure 5k Run, adult cornhole leagues, and St. Joseph Senior Games. Recreation staff also provides support and consultation for various community recreation events.

The youth basketball program is an educational program of the department that allows both team and individual registration for all children who have an interest in playing recreational basketball. In 2019 there were 30 teams in the league, a decrease from 40 in 2018. (The girl's league numbers were as follows; 4th– 6; 5th–6th grade – 7 for a total of 13 teams. The boy's league numbers were; 4th grade – 6; 5th grade – 6; 6th grade – 5 for a total of 17.) The formation of additional leagues by other entities as well as a regular circuit of tournament play continues to be attractive to youth teams in the area.

There were 7 total participants in the summer youth tennis program held in June. In 2018 there were 28 participants. Summer school enrollment has played a factor in the program's participation during the summer months. Renovations were made in 2019 to Noyes, Hyde, and Northside Tennis Courts. Improvements to all tennis courts will hopefully lead to additional programming, tournaments, and overall usage of the courts.

On Saturday, March 23rd, 2019 the department hosted the 2nd Annual Outlaw Adventure 5k Run at Krug Park. This event incorporates a 5K run with the challenge of maneuvering around, over, and under various obstacles along the expansive trail system at Krug Park. The adventure run gave participants a scenic look at one of St. Joseph's largest parks. The course was full of a wide variety of obstacles and trails that participants of all ages were able to explore. Each participant was challenged to conquer obstacles as they followed the path that winds its way through the unimproved trails of Krug Park, down around the amphitheater, lagoon, and along the roadway around the park. Eighty participants registered for the event, twenty-seven of which traveled to St. Joseph from outside the city limits. Runners traveled in from as far as Sheridan, MO and Lenexa, KS. Forty-one participants were females while thirty-nine participants were males. The youngest participant was nine years old. There were fourteen participants eighteen years of age or younger, twenty-two participants between the ages of 19 and 29, twenty-two participants between the ages of 30 and 39, nineteen participants between the ages of 40 and 49, and three participants were over the age of fifty. The oldest participant was sixty-four years old. The 2nd Outlaw Adventure 5k Run was a success. We received a lot of feedback that will help us make the run even better in the future. We look forward to hosting many returning and new participants for years to come.

St. Joe Fit 2019 kicked off in April and ran through October. Participants could walk, run, or bike a small section of the urban trail system each Thursday evening. This year was the first year that we split the season into two parts. This allowed a break from the hot months in the summer but in turn we had less turnout once we returned in the fall. 500 participants registered for St. Joe Fit.

Recreation Programs

The 2nd St. Joseph Missouri Senior Games were held October 2-3, 2019 sponsored by the department. 36 athletes 50 years of age and over participated in the games. Fun walk/run, pickleball, cornhole, fishing, and mini golf events were held at various locations in St Joseph. The St Joseph REC Center, Fairview Golf Course, Krug Park lagoon, and JoeTown Mini Golf were all hosting venues for the games.

One trending sport had huge success in the Parks Department in 2019 and that was doubles cornhole league. This league was originally played only on Wednesday evenings. Due to popular demand a new season launched at the Fairview Golf Course Banquet Room on Tuesday and Wednesday nights during the off season for golf. Thus far, the league is a huge success and we look forward to hosting many more leagues.

The newest recreation project in the Parks Department in 2019 was the completion of the Bartlett Park Disc Golf Course. The course is located on both sides of the Southwest Parkway just south of Bartlett Park and ending before the REC Center. The 18-hole disc golf course is the only city owned disc golf course and is a great asset to bring more recreational opportunities to the city.

Moving forward, we are excited to consider other recreational opportunities. Some considerations include bocce and Spikeball. Along with these considerations, we look forward to continuing and enhancing the current department recreation programs and events.



Softball/Baseball

One of the primary challenges in 2019 was the multiple flooding events that occurred along the Missouri River that impacted the Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park. Two separate flooding events, one in March and another in May, prevented all but a few weeks of adult softball leagues to be held at the complex. The complex was closed for the season after the flooding in May as the damage to the turf and playing surfaces was deemed too severe to allow play the remainder of the season. Tournaments were moved to other locations in St Joseph to accommodate groups as needed as the year progressed. These included corporate tournaments as well as high school events during the fall of 2019. 46 teams participated in summer leagues in 2019, while 19 teams played in the fall league. The St Joseph Baptist Association also conducted a summer league in 2019 with 12 teams participating.

Pitching mound and home plate renovations were completed by Park Maintenance staff during 2019 at both Hyde Park field 6 as well as Lower Bartlett baseball fields. This process will allow for a safer playing surface as well as more efficient field prep procedures at both locations. Fertilization and seeding were also completed at various baseball and softball fields in St Joseph.

During 2019, local high schools, Pony Express Baseball, Midland Empire Sports Association, the St. Joseph Mustangs, Wood Bat Baseball, American Legion, the YMCA, and other local youth and adult teams utilized various baseball and softball fields for practice and league play. The parks department works with these groups as well as other users on a regular basis in various capacities to conduct leagues, practices, and special events. Be it either through user group arrangement or just a one-time rental occasion, the department connects with many people through the softball and baseball division. A highlight of 2019 was the hosting of the USA Softball Men's Major Fastpitch National tournament in late July in partnership with the St Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau as well as the St Joseph Softball Association. 12 of the best men's teams from around the country and players from around world converged on Hyde Park in St Joseph for the weekend event. The economic impact the event had locally as well as the national attention it brought to the city were both bright spots for St Joseph!

Overall, the Parks and Recreation department softball and baseball programs provides programming for adult softball leagues, youth and adult championship level tournaments, as well as provides facilities and services to support youth baseball and softball, high school baseball and softball, and adult baseball. Several improvement projects are being discussed for the coming year at various facilities as we look to maintain our venues at a high level for all groups to utilize and enjoy!



Aquatics –

Aquatic Park: 402 S Noyes Blvd, Krug Pool: 3541 St Joseph Ave

The Aquatic Park is a full service facility, open seven days a week, that includes:

- 300' lazy river
- zero depth beach entry
- two water slides
- diving well
- children's play structure
- waterfall
- sun deck
- concessions

Krug Pool is a traditional swimming pool, open three days of the week, with:

- swimming pool
- children's pool
- diving board
- sun deck
- concession stand

The Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool is owned by Missouri Western State University (MWSU). Through a partnership with the University, we are able to provide public hours and programming at their indoor pool. Hours of operation vary by semester.

The Aquatic Park had **9,006** visitors during the 2019 pool season from June 9th – August 12th, while Krug Pool had **1,006** visitors from June 14th – August 1st.



Bode Ice Arena/Bode Sports Complex – 2500 SW Parkway

The construction of the Bode Ice Arena in 1975 was the first major project benefitting from the George Bode Benevolent Trust Fund. George Bode Jr. was a local banker for many years in St. Joseph and left his entire estate to the City when he died, establishing the George Bode Benevolent Trust Fund. In 1999, the Bode Sports Complex was developed around the Bode Ice Arena and constructed using Bode Trust money. The entirety of the complex includes the ice arena, six outdoor lighted basketball courts, an inline skate rink, and skateboard park.

The Bode Ice Arena is an important and unique facility for a city the size of St. Joseph. In 2019, over **110,000** people visited the ice arena. Ice arena programming includes hockey, a variety of figure skating options, curling, public skate sessions, bubble hockey and special parties. Bode Ice Arena is involved in several special events and activities each year. January is National Skating Month and Bode hosted a two-hour open house during the promotion with over **250** skaters participating. Door prizes, instruction and give-away items were distributed during the event. Bode Ice Arena participated in *Try Hockey for Free Day*, which is a national effort through USA Hockey to increase participation and awareness specific to that sport. The *Learn to Ice Skate* program held steady from last season. The Thursday morning *Homeschool Learn to Skate* class has continued to add members which generated interest and has continued to increase the Thursday morning homeschool public session. Bode also continues a Thursday morning *Beyond Basics* class as an additional class to the homeschool community. Additionally, **409** families hosted private birthday parties at the facility.

- The 70th Annual Mayor's Children's Christmas Party was hosted in December. *Cosentino's Price Chopper* made a significant and generous donation to the event allowing the participants to receive t-shirts and food during the party. The attendance for the event was over **300** children, accompanied by adults. The two-hour party included a short show by the Griffon Gliders Synchronized skating teams, free ice skating and a visit from skating Santa.
- The 30th annual *Heartland Winter Games* in January allowed special needs skaters to compete during this special event. The competition is staffed by Special Olympics Kansas and hosted at Bode Ice Arena. Skaters from Kansas and Missouri competed in figure skating and speed skating events.
- Bode Ice Arena's Griffon Gliders continued growth in 2019 with the three synchronized skating teams that call Bode home. The Griffon Gliders Black team is comprised of skaters ranging from 4 – 8 years of age. The Griffon Gliders Silver team ranges in age from 8 – 14 years of age. The original synchronized ice-skating team, the Griffon Gliders Gold, with skaters ranging from 12 – 17 years of age.
- The St. Joseph Figure Skating Club (SJFSC) hosted their 39th annual *Pony Express Figure Skating Competition*, a four-day event, involving over 320 competitors from nine states. The club held their annual spring ice show titled "Alice through the Frosty Looking Glass" with nearly **2,000** people attending the three performances. The Griffon Gliders also presented three Christmas performances titled "Believe"; with over **600** people attending the three performances. The figure skating club continues to see upward growth in their association.
- The Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association begins their programming in October and runs through February. They have teams from 8 and under to high school age, serving almost **100** area youth, both boys and girls. This season the High School team merged with Topeka so the high school could continue a team. In addition to regular practice and league activities, an end-of-year tournament in February is held at Bode.
- The St. Joseph Curling Club offers curling leagues in the fall and spring. The MWSU *Learn to Curl* class is meeting during the curling league. The league increased their member numbers to approximately **65** in 2019.



Bode Ice Arena/Bode Sports Complex – 2500 SW Parkway



The outdoor programs at the Bode Sports Complex include pickleball, skateboarding, and youth basketball.

Inter-Serv rented the Bode Sports Complex courts for their annual *Summer Jam* program. Games were played on Monday, and Thursday evenings for eight weeks. This program serves approximately **200** area youth. Besides regular programming, the outdoor courts are used for practices and open court time.

Bode Sports Complex is a partner facility with The Remington Nature Center with their Recreation Education package. This very popular recreation/education program providing groups the ability to spend an entire day at parks facilities, half day for educational activities at the nature center and the other half involved in recreation at the ice arena.

The Bode Sports Complex, in particular, the ice arena continues to offer unique programs, activities, and services. It brings visitors to the city for events typically hosted in much larger communities. Strong relationships with the Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association, St. Joseph Figure Skating Club, MWSU, and Inter-Serv play a significant role in the success of the operation.

Civic Arena – 100 N 4th St

Missouri Theater – 715 Edmond St

The Civic Arena and Missouri Theater are major contributors to the overall enhancement of the quality of life in St. Joseph. Both venues offer various types of local and national entertainment events for the benefit of our citizens and surrounding communities.

The St. Joseph Civic Arena opened in October of 1980 so we will be celebrating 40-Years in 2020! The opening week was very eventful with the Kansas City Kings basketball game and the Little River Band concert. The Civic Arena staff works closely with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Missouri Western State University and numerous other entities to bring major events to our community.

Today the Civic Arena boasts a wide range of events from local trade shows such as The Farm, Ag and Lifestyle Show - The Holiday Mart - The Antique Show - The Shop Small St. Joseph - The St. Joseph Distributing Food Trade Show.

The Civic Arena has been transformed to a basketball arena for The Harlem Globetrotters - MSHAA Basketball Sectionals and Quarterfinals - Small College Hall of Fame - MWSU Hillyard Classic

The Arena has been a beautiful banquet scene for events such as Pivotal Point Housing - Noyes Home “Take A Seat” - YWCA Women of Excellence - Mayor’s Thanksgiving Dinner

The Civic Arena is also great for dog shows - dance recitals - youth wrestling tournaments - car shows - bull riding - circus events - chili challenges - weddings/receptions – meetings - training

In addition to these events, the Civic Arena hosted the MOMOM Dental Clinic - Military Ball - Edge Factor - Catfish Banquet

Total attendance for the Civic Arena in 2019 was estimated at **89,446** with the Moila Shrine Circus bringing in the highest attendance of **14,236** of three days featuring six performances.

The Civic Arena continues to show it has aged over the last 40 years and has a multitude of infrastructure and equipment issues. These include but are not limited to drainage and plumbing system failures, aging and complex seating system, lighting fixtures and switchboard panel, electrical deficits and outside sidewalks and curbing issues. There is also a need for upgraded staging and access ramp, basketball equipment, and sound equipment as well as floor port repair/replacement.



Civic Arena – 100 N 4th St

Missouri Theater – 715 Edmond St

The Missouri Theater was designed by the Boller Brothers with sculptural work designed and created by Waylande Gregory and is a true architectural masterpiece. The theater opened in June of 1927 as a 1,200-seat movie palace. The first feature was “Rough House Rosie” which was a silent film and had a \$.25 admission fee. The City of St. Joseph purchased the theater in 1978 for the purpose of transforming it into a performing arts center. In 1979, the Missouri Theater was added to the National Register of Historic Places. St. Joseph is proud of the unique building and its beautiful sculptural work.

Today, the Missouri Theater hosts local arts organizations, showcasing their talents in all art forms. These include the Allied Arts Council - Robidoux Resident Theatre - Performing Arts Association - St. Joseph Symphony - Creative Arts Productions - Dance Arts Center - New Generation Singers - Inspiration Dance Center - Studio Psalms Dance

New events to the theater for 2019 included Dance Arts Center performance of “The Dark Fairy” - Oak Ridge Boys Concert - Gordon Lightfoot Concert - Charlie Daniels Concert - Grace Evangelical Church presenting Comedian Dustin Nickerson - USAF Military Jazz Ensemble

Total attendance at the Missouri Theater for events in 2019 was an estimated **40,164**.

The theater staff work extremely well with the Allied Arts Council and local arts organizations to bring a multitude of events featuring local, national and international artists to the Missouri Theater.

The Missouri Theater Complex includes the Missouri Theater as well as several office spaces that house several of the local arts organizations as well as Moonlight Leather and Café Pony Espresso.

The Missouri Theater has seen some much needed repair work over the last several months which include repairs to the façade, sound system, green room and dressing rooms, heating and cooling, and installation of LED lighting.



Fairview Golf Course – 3302 Pacific St

Fairview Golf Course was established in 1925. Situated on more than 200 acres, it is one of the oldest golf courses in Northwest Missouri. The 18-hole course measures over 6,300 yards, challenging to players of all abilities. The course is used by residents of St Joseph and surrounding communities. It also serves as the home of local area high school golf teams.

Annual memberships provide golfers with a discount on the cost of daily golf fees.

Memberships by category were:

- 18 single
- 3 families (11 members)
- 8 couples (16 members)
- 47 seniors
- 4 college
- 39 juniors/ high school
- 112 corporate memberships

Off season memberships totaled \$6,068 in 40% off after July promotion and end of season in September.

Annual rounds played January through December 2019 totaled **16,083**. Weather really hampered course usage during 2019. Snow-covered conditions resulted in minimal numbers in January (118 rounds) and February (0 rounds). Additionally, wet conditions in the spring continued to decrease opportunity for play. During the inclement weather, the clubhouse and maintenance staff repainted the entire banquet room and installed 2 large whiteboards.

The Golf Simulator wasn't functioning properly all winter and had to be taken down as the company who sold it to us seems unable to repair it. Revenues were down significantly in 2019 due to the malfunction of the simulator. Simulator fees collected totaled \$1,754 for 2019 - down from 2018 totals of \$4,603. Less simulator action resulted in less gift certificate and concessions revenues, as well.

The Wednesday Men's League continues to be our most popular league; running 18 weeks and generating **112** players per week.

Our Two Ladies League(s) brings in on average 25-30 ladies to the course for 30-32 weeks out of the year. Each league also hosts an invitational tournament at Fairview, bringing in visitors to the course and boosting revenues.

The Men's Club hosted 8 events in 2019 bringing in **352** players. This is a volunteer group of 69 members who enjoy hosting events to promote the course and give back each year in the form of a donation to an individual improvement.



Fairview Golf Course – 3302 Pacific St



Couples/coed golf took on a new twist during the 2019 season. Fairview partnered with Duncan Hills in Savannah and created a 6 round league for couples/coed with 3 scheduled events at each course. Weather again was a downfall as we had to cancel 2 events at Fairview and 1 event at Duncan Hills. But, the seed has been planted and we expect this only to get more popular in 2020!

Cross Country Golf event was held again in November 2019 and had **36** participants. This format is popular as it utilizes a new approach on the old layout and combines holes to set up a longer 9-hole event.

A single Night Golf event was held at Fairview in 2019 with **62** players participating. Two more events were scheduled but had to be canceled due to weather conditions. This is always popular and if weather had cooperated it would have been very successful again.

The Fairview Invitational only had **46** players in 2019 due to cold, dreary weather.

Always a big hit, the Annual 2-Person City Tournament had a nice turnout with **92** participants. This event is played at St Joseph Country Club, Moila Country Club, and finishes each year at Fairview Golf Course. It is a fun, yet challenging format. Weather once again played havoc during one day, but all in all it was a fun tournament for everyone.

September 2019 saw a major revenue loss in cancelation of three tournaments. Altec and Johnson Controls corporate events were canceled by the company due to internal reasons at the company and the Riverside BB tournament canceled due to lack of interest. None of these cancelations were the fault of Fairview. Loss of the said events from previous year totals was \$14,670.

Off season revenues were increased in concessions with the introduction of the Cornhole League(s) in the banquet room. Sessions for cornhole were played in late winter and again in the fall. These leagues were held on Tuesday and Wednesday nights running 6 weeks with a 2-3 week break between sessions. Fairview hosted a one-day Cornhole tournament with **16** teams in March. Revenues for the tournament through entry fees and concessions were **\$1,168**.

The banquet room and catering section of Fairview continued to rise in events hosted. The room hosted **202** events (up 23 events from previous year) throughout the year with 95 of those utilizing our catering and/or bar services. The Banquet room revenues were **\$24,015** from calendar year January through December. This seen an increase of \$5,605 from 2018.

Junior program partnership through MWSU PGA Instructor Greg Dillon hosted 10 juniors and 6 college class credit participants.

The only rough mower the maintenance crew had burnt up in late March. The Parks Department sent out a Toro 580D rough mower and the crew used it the remainder of the year. It will remain here until a new one is purchased in the future.

Driving range net has seen better days and four new sections of netting were purchased late season. The crews will hold off installing until any threat for ice storms is over in Spring 2020.

REC Center – 2701 SW Parkway

The Recreation, Exercise, and Community (REC) Center is a tremendous quality of life facility for the enjoyment of the entire community. Constructed in 2012, this community facility hosts a variety of special events and tournaments along with regularly scheduled programming.

The REC Center's amenities include:

- a full service fitness center
- three gymnasiums
- a 1/11th mile elevated walking track
- exercise rooms
- adult fitness classes
- adult and youth leagues
- private bathrooms with showers
- free wi-fi
- concessions and protein shakes
- special event packages

The REC Center sold **2,190** fitness memberships, with an additional **4,757** day passes issued. Fitness class participants in 2019 totaled **5,113**.



Remington Nature Center – 1502 MacArthur Drive

The Remington Nature Center opened its doors in the fall of 2008 with the goal of providing information, exhibits, hands-on displays, education, and programming committed to interpretation of nature and conservation relative to the significance of the Missouri River and Northwest Missouri. The nature center has many displays related to nature and the history of this region. The gardens and grounds surrounding the nature center are an extension of our goal, with plants and trees typical to this part of the country.

Remington Nature Center amenities include:

- 7,000 gallon aquarium stocked with fish species native to this region
- major collection of Native American artifacts
- displays and artifacts specific to the Civil War
- featured exhibits of animal habitat, barbed wire, rocks, fossils, animal pelts, taxidermy, trapping, pottery, the woolly mammoth, and a seasonal beehive
- programming for all ages
- conference room rentals
- party packages
- memberships
- gift shop
- visitor information
- covered outdoor picnic area
- bicycle rack
- large parking area

The nature center has welcomed visitors from all 50 states, as well as international visitors. In 2019, the nature center continued being one of the most often attended St. Joseph museums, making it another busy year with **19,490** total visitors, with over 1/3 of those visitors ages 15 and younger. The nature center also maintained its popularity as a venue for business meetings, community events, and private parties, having a total of **5,050** visitors attend an event in the conference room. In addition to the in-house programming, staff provided outreach programs for community groups, service organizations, nursing homes, and schools.

The nature center continued its partnership with Bode Ice Arena for the Recreation Education package. Additionally, the nature center has developed and maintained mutually beneficial relationships with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Creatures by Theresa.

It was a fairly busy year at the Remington Nature Center.

- ❖ In January our naturalist did outreach at Super Science Saturday, sponsored by The St. Joseph Museum and Missouri Western State University, and made contact with almost **1,800** people.
- ❖ Our naturalist did outreach at the Savannah FFA Entomology Contest in March and reached well over **100** students.
- ❖ In April we had 3 Recreation Education packages. We also participated at the Children's Fair and made contact with over **2,000** people.
- ❖ We had **20** schools visit the nature center in May, including two Recreation Education packages. We held seven outreach events; in particular snake programming at Safety Acres, sponsored by the St. Joseph Safety & Health Council, and made contact with over **200** students.
- ❖ June is Herp-o-Rama time and we had well over **600** guests visit the nature center to visit with snakes, frogs, turtle, and other delightful herps.



Remington Nature Center – 1502 MacArthur Drive



- ❖ In spite of the flooding, July had the highest admission numbers this year; due in large part to the Animal Safari event that drew in over **1,000** guests in 4 hours.
- ❖ August brought quite a few vacationing families from out of our area. The kids really enjoy the scavenger hunt, as do the parents as it helps keep the kids a little bit more focused on the exhibits; some local families come back every month just to participate in the scavenger hunt.
- ❖ September was a busy month with numerous events and quite a bit of outreach. We had **150** guests for our annual Insect-o-Rama and **698** guests for Smithsonian Museum Day (admission was free). We reached **300** people at the Platte County Glow Fun Walk and made contact with **225** people at Albany Heritage Days.
- ❖ During the month of October, RNC staff made contact with over **900** people through two outreach events: Tiny Tot Town and Weston Bend State Park.
- ❖ In November, our naturalist held 4 outreach events with programming and made contact with almost **200** children, seniors, and adults. Friday Fish Feeding Frenzy remains popular, there are always have a few children participate, and on occasion a school group will join in.
- ❖ Admissions for December were the highest in the past 3 years. We hosted two Creatures By Theresa Birthday Party Packages and our naturalist held two outreach programs; one at Laverna Heights nursing home and one at Midtown Head Start.

JRP 50+ Activity Center



The Joyce Raye Patterson Senior Center, a 22,000 square foot facility in downtown St. Joseph, began operations on October 16, 1978. Community Development Block Grant funds were used to construct the facility, which cost approximately \$750,000. When first opened, was listed as non-departmental in the City of St. Joseph's budget. It was officially made a division of the Parks Department in 1985. The Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center is supported by the Senior Citizens Foundation, Inc. The foundation is a charitable organization that benefits the center exclusively. The foundation advises the City Council and the Parks, Recreation, and Civic Facilities Director on the administration of the Robert V. Werst bequest and sponsors the annual Thanksgiving Day luncheon at the center. The center's mission is to provide space for recreational, social, and educational activities and opportunities, information and referrals for people 50 and older and those with disabilities.

Senior Center amenities include:

- cafeteria • fitness center • exercise classes • billiards, 8-ball, snooker, table tennis and shuffleboard tables
- library • DVD movies • large meeting rooms • stage • elevator • free off-street, 5-hour parking • card groups • retirement groups • blood pressure screenings • Medicare consultations • JRP Kitchen Band • volunteer opportunities • dances • information and referral • free wi-fi

In 2019, **72** groups and organizations used the facility for regular meetings and activities. Some of the groups have their own membership fees, but the center itself does not charge a membership fee for daily users. The fitness center, however; does have a membership fee. The center offers a variety of fitness classes in conjunction with the fitness center. In 2019, those classes included Tai Chi, Step Conditioning, Yoga, Exercise with Kelly, Body Conditioning, and the most popular class, Total Body Workout.

Attendance for all activities hosted at the senior center in 2019 equaled **57,373** visitors. The three largest user groups are specific to fitness, dances and card groups and account for over 60% of all senior center users.

A popular area of the center is the fitness center, a 2,288 square foot area with 24 pieces of strength and cardio equipment. In 2019 the Fitness Center had **781** persons ages 50 and older with fitness center memberships. In August, the Fitness Center acquired one of our most popular pieces of workout equipment, an additional NuStep machine. This was a welcome addition to the variety of equipment available at the JRP which includes treadmills, step machines, stationary bicycle, rowing machines, NuStep machines and Nautilus equipment. As an exciting benefit to some of our users, the Fitness Center became a Silver Sneakers program provider in 2019. In our first year the JRP had **14** Silver Sneakers members that used our fitness center a total of **323** times.

The senior center cafeteria provides meals Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. The basic cost of the meal is \$6.00, which includes an entrée, side, bread, and a beverage. The cafeteria is open to all ages with **7,038** meals served at the cafeteria in 2019.

JRP 50+ Activity Center

In May, parking spaces were made available on the east side of the building along S 10th Street when the City Council approved increasing the parking time limit. This addition to parking spaces has brought many positive comments from our patrons. Schneider Electric also weatherized the building and replaced the lighting to make the building more energy efficient.

In 2019, the Strategic Planning Committee followed up with the City Council to make a formal name change for the facility. In and around the community, there was confusion for some about the purpose of the senior center. With some community members thinking the senior center was an adult daycare, a retirement village, or a nursing home facility, the committee felt that it was important to name the facility something that more closely represents the activities within. In May, the council voted down the measure. Members of this committee felt that the name change was important and met with the City Council in a work session to present information and address the council's previous concerns. After careful consideration, the council adopted a new name for the facility; the Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center.

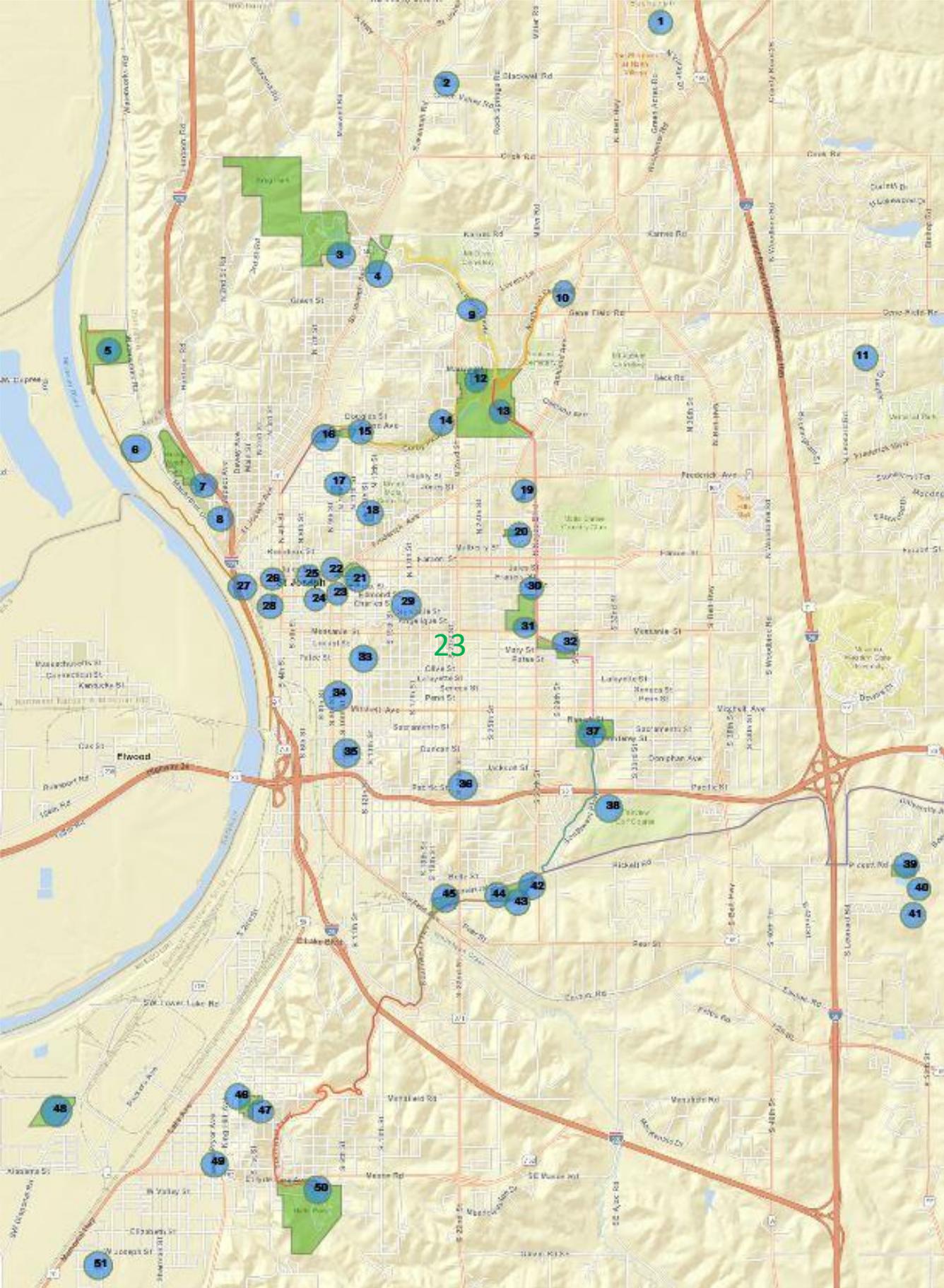
Early November, just in time for Veteran's Day, a temporary exhibit was opened for all ages of the public to visit. A Veteran's Day and exhibit ribbon cutting ceremony was held to officially launch the opening. Items in the Veteran's Legacy and Reading Room were loaned to the center by Milt and Jan Toratti. The exhibit features veteran's personal stories, written in their own words by Milt and provided to the veteran to give to their loved ones to continue their legacy. Alongside the stories are military memorabilia dating back from pre-civil war through the war of Afghanistan.

The annual Thanksgiving luncheon was held on November 21, 2019. This annual event is sponsored by the Senior Center Foundation Board. A total of **250** lunch guest enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal catered by Chaun's Catering. Musical entertainment was provided by the Kitchen Rhythm Band, which helped liven up the atmosphere and provide an enjoyable experience for those attending.

Highlights of 2019 include adding **123** fitness center memberships, gaining a pinochle group, a Chinese Mah Jong group, monthly classes for crafts, health, and gardening, a six week Walk with Ease class, bingo, a monthly veterans support group, a table shuffleboard group, a 4th Friday cornhole tournament, and the Black Angus held a meeting. Two-hour parking was opened on the front side of the building, and the HVAC over the conference room was repaired.



Parks Map



Park Resources & Directory

Map #	Park / Facility	Location	Shelters	Bandstand	Picnic Tables	Ballfield (*) lights	Tennis Courts	Open Playfield	Pickle Ball Courts	Basketball Courts	Playground	Horseshoe Courts	Shuffleboard	Swimming Pool	Concessions	Restrooms	Scenic Overlook	Landscape	Pond/Lagoon	Hike / Natural Trail	Football Field	Golf Course	Indoor Ice Rink	Bicycle / Exercise	Fitness	Theater	Skateboard Area	Meeting Facilities
31	Aquatic Park	402 S Noyes			x									x	x	x												
11	Arrowhead Park	Arrowhead Dr				x		x																				
37	Bartlett Park	3010 Duncan	x		x	2*		x			x				x	x		x						x				
44	Bode Sports Complex	2500 SW Parkway			x				3*	6*				x	x			x					x	x			x	x
26	Civic Arena	100 N 4th St		x						x					x	x		x								x		x
21	Civic Center Park	1100 Frederick Ave						x										x										
18	College Hill Park	12th / Henry			x	x		x		x	x							x										
13	Corby Grove	22nd/26th/Pkwy			x		3*	x							x			x	x	x				x				
12	Dog Park	SW Pkwy/Marion						x													x							
10	Eugene Field Marker	Lovers Ln/NW Pkwy																x						x				
38	Fairview Golf Course	33rd/Pacific	x	x											x	x		x	x			x						x
19	Farleigh Terr Park	2700 Farleigh Terr																x										
25	Felix Street Park	7th / Felix	x	x				x										x						x				
8	Fort Smith	Bellvue / Michel St															x	x										
20	France Park	26th / Clay						x																				
49	Gordon Park	Pryor / Alabama						x										x										
5	Heritage Park	2202 Water Works Rd	x	x	5*					x				x	x			x						x				
39	Hochman Park	4700 Pickett Rd	x	x	1*		x			x				x	x													
7	Huston Wyeth Park	Poulin to Elwood	x	x			x			x							x											
50	Hyde Park Complex	8th /E Hyde Park	x	x		6*	3*	x		x	x	3		x	x			x			x			x			x	
29	John Lucas Recreation	18th / Charles	x	x						x	x	x					x											
23	JRP Senior Center	100 S 10th															x								x	x		x
41	Katherine Park	5107 Shawnee			x	x		x		x	x																	
46	King Hill Overlook	SW Pkwy / Mansfield															x	x										
3	Krug Park	3500 St. Joseph Ave	x	x	x			x			x							x	x	x				x		x		
4	Krug Pool	St. Joseph Ave/NW Pkwy			x									x	x	x		x										
40	Leonard Road Acres	4600 Cheyenne						x													x							
15	Lions Field	11th / Grand				1*									x	x												
9	Lura M Story Sitting Park	2900 Ashland Ave																x										
16	Maple Leaf Park	Grand / Richardson			x			x			x													x			x	
12	Marion / Goff Ballfield	2500 Marion				2*									x	x												
32	Mary Park	5 28th / Parkway A	x		x	x		x			x													x				
24	Missouri Theater	717 Edmond St													x	x										x		x
35	Mitchell Park	10th / Duncan						x										x										
47	Native American Burial Site	1st / Prindle																										
1	Northeast Park	North Shoppes	x	x			x											x		x				x	x			
4	Northside Complex	St. Joseph Ave/NW Pkwy	x	x	1*	3*	x		2*	x	4	2	x	x	x			x			2							
30	Noyes Complex	26th / Noyes			x	1*	12	x				x			x	x		x			x			x				
48	Outdoor Nature Center	5402 Diagonal																			x							
14	Park Administration	1920 Grand Ave																										
32	Parkway A	28th / Parkway A			x			x			x														x			
34	Patee Park	9th / Penn	x		x						x																	
43	Phil Welch Stadium	2500 SW Parkway			x	x									x	x		x						x				
23	Pony Express Monument	10th / Francis																										
42	REC Center	2701 SW Parkway							3	3					x	x								x	x			x
6	Remington Nature Center	2502 McArthur Dr			x												x	x	x	x				x				x
36	Rest Square Park	2200 Pacific						x			x																	
27	Riverfront Park	1st / Francis	x		x												x	x						x				
51	Seitz Park	6800 Esther						x			x																	
45	Southpark / Drake Field	22nd / Commercial				3*					x				x	x								x				
17	Urban Outdoor Nature	10th Powell	x															x			x							
28	Western Gateway Park	3rd / Edmond																x										
2	Westminster Park	Blackwell / Savannah Ave						x																				
33	William & Louis Park	13th / Patee						x									x											