



ST. JOSEPH PARKS, RECREATION, AND CIVIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Annual Report



2022

WE CREATE COMMUNITY



A mountain biker shows off his bunny hop skills at the WPA shelter building in the River Bluff Trails Park.

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A view from Felix Street across Smith Park to Civic Center Park.



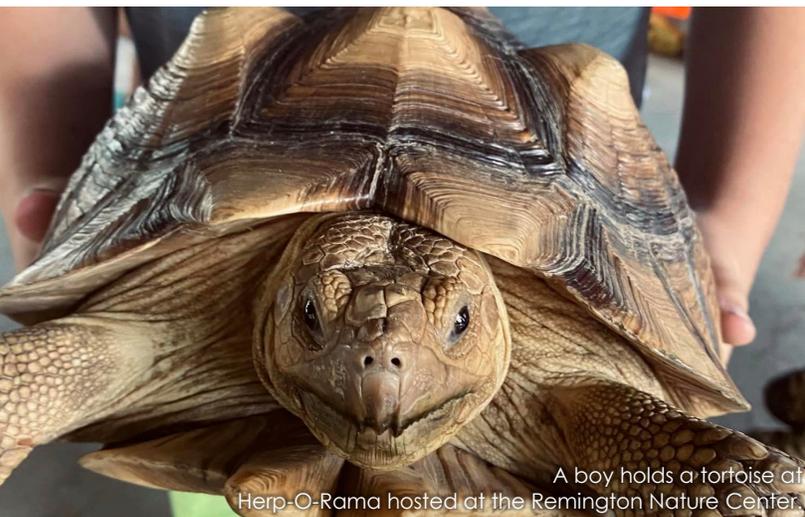
Friends smile before they hit the trails at River Bluff Trails Park. Photo courtesy of John Bachman.



A participant of the youth tennis program practices her swing.



A third grade class from Lindbergh Elementary School helps pick up Northside Complex on Earth Day.



A boy holds a tortoise at Herp-O-Rama hosted at the Remington Nature Center.



Community members partake in a pickleball open gym at the REC Center.

WHO WE ARE



A runner at the Outlaw Adventure Run makes his way across the rope walk at Heritage Park.

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



MISSION

Provide a variety of quality of life programs and services to promote a healthy community through fitness, recreation, and entertainment.



BOARD LEADERSHIP

Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities

Chris Clark, Chair

Annette Lanham

Scott Mooney

Pam Nelson

Dr. Scott Nelson

Mary Supple-Bish

Patti Luedtke

Michael Heim

Eric Montegna



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

With the exception of a few programs, 2022 was the first year the Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department returned to “normal” operations in the wake of COVID-19. Lower attendance continued to impact our civic facilities at large events compared to attendance prior to the pandemic. Operations at swimming facilities also remained impacted primarily due to the nature of “close contact” during aquatic programming. The department also discovered some benefits from programming modifications created by COVID-19, and those maintained in place during 2022. The main benefit was a transition to “session” swimming. This strategy allowed more people to use the pools for shorter periods of time, thus increasing the overall attendance while reducing the number of people in the facility at a given time. The good that came from the pandemic was a much higher awareness to health and safety concerns through improved cleaning and sanitization methods.

In 2022, the parks department continued to be affected by fewer available and/or interested people who want to be involved in seasonal labor activities. The department relies heavily on seasonal labor for aquatics, ball field maintenance, golf course maintenance, and park and parkway maintenance. One positive in 2022 was a full return of available offender labor. This resource provides most of the push mowing, trimming, and trash and debris removal throughout the park system.

Administrative staff began the process of executing and administering projects to be funded by the half-cent park sales tax. Even though it was the first year of the campaign, several projects were initiated, a few were completed, and several pieces of equipment were ordered and received.

Aside from future park tax projects, the department continues to process other improvements funded by the CIP tax, American Recovery Program Act (ARPA) funds, and riverfront funding mechanisms.

New and ongoing projects in 2022 involved the continued development of River Bluff Trails Park and exterior renovations at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion.

As in past years, many of these projects helped the department achieve milestones in the five primary goals established by the St. Joseph community for the parks department in the 2018 – 2023 strategic plan. The ten-year park tax will ensure the parks department and St. Joseph community will continue to improve its parks and park facilities for many years.

- Maintain and Improve Existing Infrastructure
- Increase Recreational Opportunities
- Improve Park Security
- Manage Use of Technology and Equipment to Increase Efficiency
- Identify Additional Funding Opportunities and Options

As in past years, the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department has continued efforts to operate safely and effectively while providing much needed programs, activities, and events for our community.

Chuck Kempf, CPRP
Director



A family looks at the original blue prints of Krug Castle at the centennial jubilee celebration.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

On August 7, 2018, voters approved the continuation of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) half-cent sales tax. The CIP has been in existence since 1989, and it is a source of funding for major public infrastructure in the city of St. Joseph.

Several projects were completed in 2022 for the parks department.

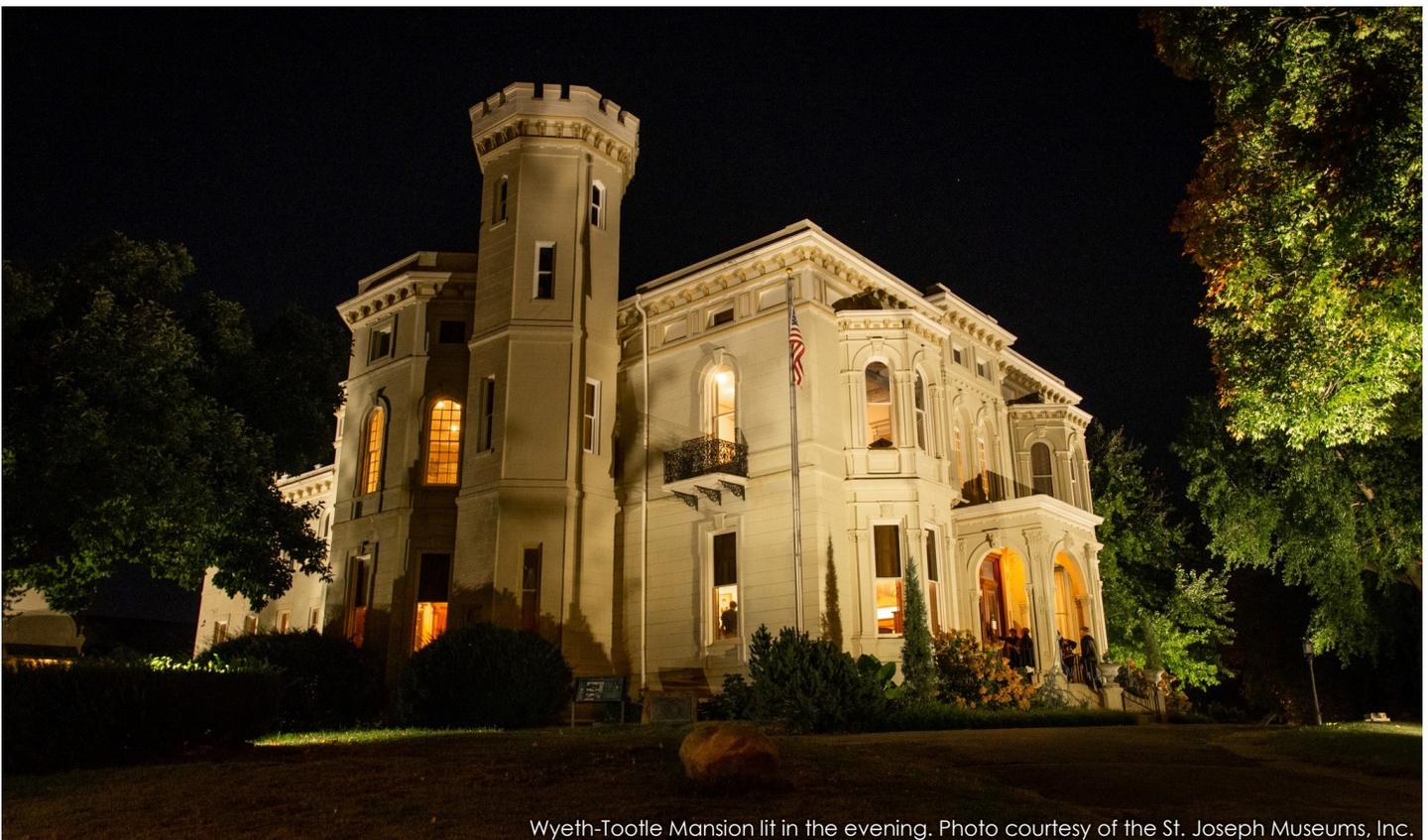
The Wyeth-Tootle Mansion received restoration to its exterior to help bring its façade back to its original appearance and condition. This work was completed by Goldberg Group Architects, design and engineering, and the contractor Fritz Ambrozi with GDS, LLC.

Several projects were completed at the Missouri Theater. The restrooms on the main level of the theater entryway were updated and renovated to make them

more accessible. The existing lighting was also replaced with LED instruments. Additionally, the theater replaced its existing brocade curtain which was from the old city auditorium.



The new brocade curtain funded by the CIP tax.



Wyeth-Tootle Mansion lit in the evening. Photo courtesy of the St. Joseph Museums, Inc.

ADMINISTRATION

The objectives of the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department are to provide a variety of services, activities, programs, facilities, and infrastructure to enhance the quality of life for its citizens and visitors. The department believes in the same core 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 parks system, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is comprised of approximately 1,500 acres, 26 miles of parkway, and boulevards, and contains 53 parks and related facilities. Much of the park system, including the three largest parks, connect by the historic parkway system. This beautiful corridor winds down the center of the city and includes Krug Park, Northside Complex, Corby Grove, Noyes Tennis Complex, the Aquatic Park, Mary Park, Bartlett Park, Bartlett Parkway Disc Golf Course, Fairview Golf Course, the REC Center, Phil Welch Stadium, Bode Ice Arena, South Park/Drake Complex, and Hyde Park. The parks department also maintains multiple facilities along the Missouri River, including Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park, Remington Nature Center, and Robidoux Landing at the Downtown Riverfront Park. These properties connect by the 2.1-mile Riverwalk trail. There is also a significant parks department presence in downtown St. Joseph: 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 and bike trail system. New sections are created each year which have expanded the system that winds throughout the city with a majority 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 2022 board consisted of Chris Clark

(chairperson), Annette Lanham, Pam Nelson, Dr. Scott Nelson, Mary Supple-Bish, Patti Luedtke, Michael Heim, Eric Montagne, and Scott Mooney.

In 2022, Danielle Muff joined the administrative team as the recreation coordinator, a newly created position involved in the administrative functions but also provides support for outdoor recreation activities.

Daily duties in the administrative office include communications (both traditional and social), customer service activities, budget monitoring, financial management, park reservations, special event coordination, human resource activities, staff training, planning, and project management. 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 Parks & Recreation Association, Missouri Parks & Recreation Association, United States Tennis Association, USA Softball, United States Figure Skating, and the Professional Golf Association.



Rain art at the Remington Nature Center bridge.

On January 1, 2022, the city began collecting the new half-cent sales tax, which voters approved the previous August to financially support capital projects throughout the park system. To expedite some projects, City Council approved a general obligation bond in the amount of \$5.4 million. The projects targeted with the bond proceeds included ponds and bridges at Fairview Golf Course, a new roof over the Missouri Theater, Remington Nature Center HVAC, floor port renovations at the Civic Arena, a variety of renovations at Krug Park, and a new lap pool for the Aquatic Park. By the end of 2022, all of these projects were in some form of progress, with only the Missouri Theater roof completed.

Several other park tax projects were also completed or in progress. Completed projects included interior painting at the JRP 50+ Activity Center, Missouri Theater cove lighting, two new docks at Corby Pond, sidewalk replacement around the entire exterior perimeter of the Civic Arena, and new ball field lighting at Eagles Complex (two fields), South Park Complex (three fields), and Noyes Field.

Projects in progress into 2023 included two new shelters (one at Bartlett Park and one at Patee Park), grandstand roof replacement at Phil Welch Stadium, and several projects at the Civic Arena including performance area lighting and seating. The American Re-

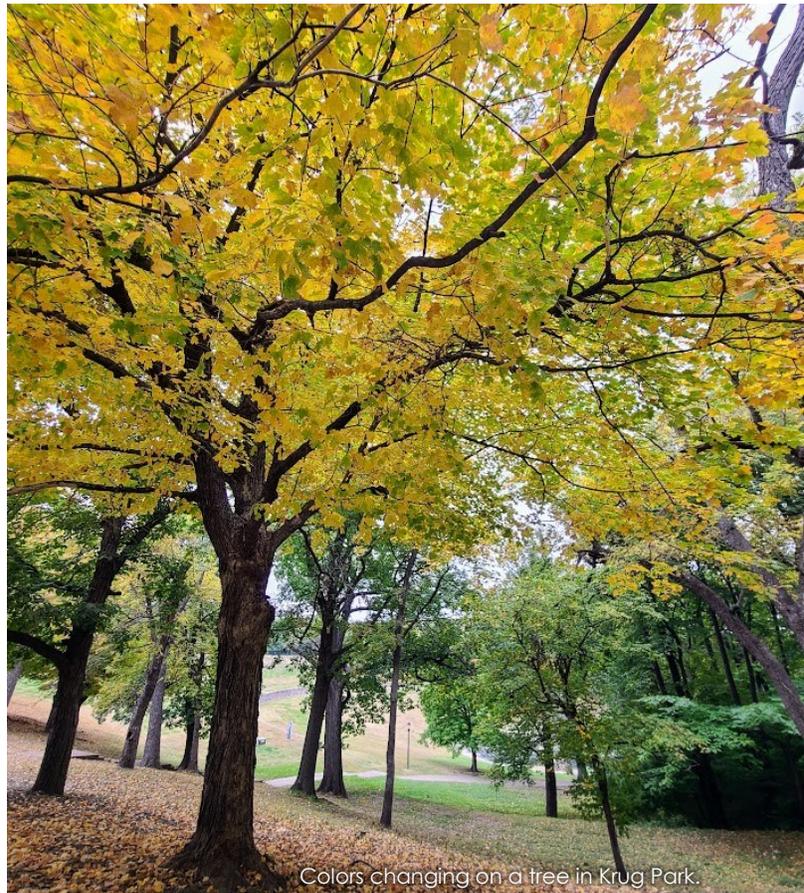
covery Program Act (ARPA) fund supported the seating replacement. A new scoreboard, basketball goals, and digital score tables were also in progress and funded fully or partially with ARPA funds. The scoreboard purchase was supported with ARPA funds (\$79,000) but primarily funded by the Bode Trust in the amount of \$375,000.

In addition, the department worked throughout 2022 using park tax funds to purchase new equipment and rolling stock. By the end of the year, 25 new pieces of equipment had been purchased and delivered, which included a new compactor trash truck, 13 mowers of various types, and a Jon boat. 14 additional pieces of equipment had been ordered but not delivered by the end of 2022.

Work continued on the exterior of the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion. Goldberg Group Architects provided the design and engineering while GDS was the contractor. At the end of December 2022, work neared completion.



Parks department staff pose for a holiday photo.



Colors changing on a tree in Krug Park.

ADMINISTRATION

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Development of River Bluff Trails Park continued through 2022. Construction on this new park began in the fall of 2020 and will continue into 2023. Even though the entire trail system won't be complete and open for use until later in 2023, the system opened to the public on May 27, 2022. The opening was signified by a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, May 27, and the parks department hosted a weekend festival on the property near the Remington Nature Center. Nomad Trails Development and the Saint Joseph Trail Alliance also hosted several scheduled bike rides throughout the park and other trails throughout St. Joseph. The park of trails, originally intended to be located almost entirely north of Highland Avenue, east of Waterworks Road, west of I-229, and south of the county line, ended up migrating south of Highland Avenue to Huston-Wyeth Park. A looped trail system was created in the forested area around the perimeter of the park with a crushed rock trail installed from the parking area to Highland Avenue. A bike skills park and pump track were also constructed to enhance the mountain bike experience in the area. To connect the trails on the south side of Highland Avenue with the more extensive trail system to the north, a significant pedestrian bridge was constructed. Cost of the bridge

was approximately \$1.5 million. After completion, this bridge was named in honor of community historian and activist Bob Simpson. A naming ceremony was held in September to officially open the bridge. The opening of the new park had an immediate and significant impact on tourism. This design/build project was awarded to Ideker Construction of St. Joseph. They worked closely with Nomad Trails Development, a national leader in mountain bike trail development.



Community members listen to remarks at the Bob Simpson Pedestrian Bridge ribbon ceremony.



A family enjoys the River Bluff Trails Park opening weekend festivities.



Mountain bikers pose for a photo at the Loki Enduro event held in the trails. Photo courtesy of John Bachman.



A mountain biker takes in the sunset at River Bluff Trails Park. Photo courtesy of Isaac Sykes.



Photo courtesy of Up Down Imagery. 

HALF-CENT SALES TAX

In August 2021, St. Joseph voters overwhelmingly approved a ten-year half-cent sales tax increase for the sole purpose of improving parks, park facilities, and replacing or enhancing the equipment used to properly and effectively maintain park property and facilities. The process began in the spring of 2021 when the City Council supported the initiative and voted to place it on the August ballot. Initially, park staff reviewed an existing capital needs list, prioritized the projects, and presented nearly \$90 million to a city council-appointed citizen’s committee. The committee received project information from staff, reviewed the project list, and selected almost 90 projects totaling \$61 million. A grassroots campaign was then initiated

by the citizen’s committee, which culminated in August when the park tax was passed by St. Joseph voters with over 71% of the votes. Park sales tax dollars began accumulating on January 1, 2022. To increase the initial available funding and expedite some of the projects, City Council approved a \$6.75 million Special Obligation Improvement Bond on January 31. That amount, along with an anticipated annual accumulation of sales tax funds of \$5 million, helped establish a project list for the ten-year program.

Year one of the program saw a number of projects completed, several more initiated, and numerous pieces of equipment purchased.

Completed Park Sales Tax Projects		
Project	Location	Park Tax \$ Spent
Interior Painting	JRP 50+ Activities Center	\$25,000
Sidewalk Replacement	Civic Arena	\$150,503
Cove Lighting Replacement	Missouri Theater	\$22,651
Dock Purchase & Installation	Corby Pond	\$82,212
Replace Field Lighting	South Park/Drake Complex	\$392,571
Replace Field Lighting	Eagles Complex	\$296,000
Replace Field Lighting	Noyes Field (Softball Field)	\$158,000
Replace Roof	Missouri Theater (Theater Building)	\$336,710

Park Sales Tax Projects in Progress	
Project	Location
Pond & Bridge Renovations	Fairview Golf Course
Floor Port Replacement	Civic Arena
Grandstand Roof Replacement	Phil Welch Stadium
Seating Replacement	Civic Arena
Lighting/Switchboard Replacement	Civic Arena
Shelter Replacement	Patee & Bartlett Parks
Center-Hung Scoreboard Replacement	Civic Arena

ARPA Projects			
Project	Location	Status	ARPA Funds
Center-Hung Scoreboard Replacement	Civic Arena	Equipment Ordered	\$79,000
Basketball Goals	Civic Arena	Received	\$70,845
Digital Score Tables	Civic Arena	Equipment Ordered	\$74,982
Seating Replacement	Civic Arena	In-Progress	\$740,475
Lighting/Switchboard Replacement	Civic Arena	In-Progress	\$34,698

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES—2022

QTY	Equipment Description	Reason for Purchase	Unit Cost	Division	Total Cost
2	Turfc0 Torrent Blower	Add new equipment	\$9,500	Fairview	\$19,000
1	96" eXmark Zero Turn Rough Mowers	Replace existing equipment	\$28,399	Fairview	\$28,399
1	96" eXmark Zero Turn Rough Mowers	Replace existing equipment	\$28,399	Fairview	\$28,399
1	Greens Mower - Precision Cut Tri-Plex	Replace existing equipment	\$48,946	Fairview	\$48,946
1	Greens Roller	Replace existing equipment	\$22,500	Fairview	\$22,500
4	4WD KubotaTractor with Belly Mower	Replace existing equipment	\$23,642	Maintenance	\$94,568
1	18' Tilt-Bed Trailer	Add new equipment	\$8,640	Maintenance	\$8,640
1	Compactor Trash Truck	Replace existing dump truck	\$99,496	Maintenance	\$99,496
2	72" Zero Turn Mower	Replace existing equipment	\$14,712	Maintenance	\$29,424
1	Diesel Air Compressor	Replace existing equipment	\$25,644	Maintenance	\$25,644
1	Aerator - 48"	Add new equipment	\$380	Maintenance	\$380
1	16' Aluminum Tracker Jon Boat & Trailer	Replace existing equipment	\$7,590	Maintenance/ Ponds	\$7,590
2	Utility Cart	Replace existing equipment	\$17,671	Ball Fields	\$35,342
2	72" Zero Turn Mower	Replace existing equipment	\$14,712	Ball Fields	\$29,424
1	Jacobsen Riding Reel Mower	Replace existing equipment	\$34,605	Ball Fields	\$34,605
1	Spartan 61" Zero Turn Mower	Replace existing equipment	\$8,914	Ball Fields	\$8,914
1	Ice Skate Sharpener	Replace existing equipment	\$19,711	Bode Ice Arena	\$19,200
1	Golf Cart	Add new equipment	\$9,284	Admin/Events	\$9,284
1	Golf Cart	Replace existing equipment	\$4,500	Civic Arena	\$4,635
26				Total Department	\$554,390

EQUIPMENT ORDERED IN 2022 BUT NOT RECEIVED

QTY	Equipment Description	Reason for Purchase	Unit Cost	Division	Total Projected Cost
1	Case Fork-Lift	Replace existing equipment	\$33,701	Civic Arena	\$33,701
1	Jacobsen Turf Truckster	Replace existing equipment	\$33,000	Fairview	\$33,000
1	Utility Cart	Replace existing equipment	\$17,940	Maintenance	\$17,940
2	Walk-Behind Mowers	Replace existing equipment	\$6,535	Maintenance	\$13,070
2	½ Ton 4WD Pickup	Replace existing equipment	\$37,511	Maintenance	\$75,022
3	¾ Ton 4WD Pickup	Replace existing equipment	\$49,468	Maintenance	\$148,404
2	Small Dump Trucks	Replace existing equipment	\$89,878	Maintenance	\$179,756
1	Backhoe	Add new equipment	\$155,260	Maintenance	\$155,260
1	Stationary Shop Air Compressor	Replace existing equipment	\$3,750	Maintenance	\$3,750
14				Total Department	\$659,903

HALF-CENT SALES TAX

2021 PARKS TAX CITIZENS COMMITTEE PROPOSED PROJECT LIST

CATEGORY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT COST	TOTAL
Aquatics			
Aquatic Park	Aquatic Park Lap Pool	\$7,700,000	
Northside Complex	Northside Splash Park	\$2,000,000	\$9,700,000
Equipment			
Park Maintenance	Equipment and Rolling Stock	\$4,200,000	
Phil Welch Stadium	Phil Welch Scoreboard Matching Funds	\$65,000	\$4,265,000
Green Space			
Bode Sports Complex	Pickle Ball Court and Outdoor Basketball Court Surfaces	\$770,000	
Corby Grove	Fishing Docks at Corby Pond	\$100,000	
Disc Golf	New Disc Golf Course	\$27,500	
Eastside Park	Eastside Park including Dog Park	\$2,400,000	
Fairview Golf Course	Ponds and Bridges and Fairway Sprinkler Renovations	\$1,500,000	
Hyde Park Ball Fields	Hyde Field #6	\$750,000	
Krug Park	Children's Circus, Park Shelters and Upper Playground	\$1,535,000	
Lighting	Bartlett Upper Ball Field, Eagles Ball Fields, Hochman Ball Field, Hyde Tennis Courts, Lion's Ball Field, Northside Complex Tennis Courts, Noyes Horseshoe, Noyes Tennis, Noyes Ball Field, and South Park Ball Fields	\$2,048,000	
Park Maintenance	Parkway and Park Native Planting	\$30,000	
Playgrounds	Hyde Park and John Lucas Park Playgrounds	\$500,000	
Shelters	Bartlett Park Shelter, Hochman Park Shelter, Huston-Wyeth Park Shelter, Hyde Park Shelters, Northside Park Shelter and Building, and Patee Park Shelter and Gazebo	\$760,000	
Sidewalks	Park Sidewalks	\$1,000,000	
Stabilization	Bartlett Stadium Baseball Field Hillside and College Hill Retaining Wall, Fencing and Amenities	\$550,000	\$11,971,000
Indoor Infrastructure			
Bode Sports Complex	Ice Arena Floor, Refrigeration System, Roof and Insulation	\$2,308,000	
Civic Arena	Floor Ports, Lighting and Switchboard System, Roof and Civic Arena Matching Funds	\$2,120,000	
Joyce Raye Patterson	Kitchen Equipment	\$99,600	
Missouri Theater	Cove and Ceiling Lighting, Fly System for Main Curtain, Marquee, and Roof	\$737,500	
REC Center	Parking	\$250,000	
Park Maintenance	Mechanic's Building and Storage Space	\$295,000	
Remington Nature Center	HVAC System	\$360,000	\$6,170,100
Maintenance			
Joyce Raye Patterson	Building Painting	\$25,000	
Krug Park	Parking Lot Retaining Wall, Rock/Stone Walls and Upper Tunnel	\$2,165,000	
Remington Nature Center	Aquarium Filtering System, Beam Replacement and Carpet	\$569,000	\$2,759,000
Outdoor Infrastructure			
Felix Street Square	Gazebo and Stage Replacement	\$1,000,000	
Holiday Lighting	Holiday Park and South Pole	\$40,000	
Hyde Park	Hyde Pool House	\$1,500,000	
Krug Park	Amphitheater Building and Stage, Castle, Castle ADA Solution, Castle Restrooms and Upper Restrooms	\$9,075,000	
Northside Complex	Electrical Service	\$110,000	
Phil Welch	Grandstand Concrete, Grandstand Roof and Pressbox, Grandstand Seating, and Outfield Fencing	\$1,585,000	
Restrooms	John Lucas Park, Lion's Field, Noyes Complex, and South Park Complex	\$1,660,000	\$14,970,000
		TOTAL	\$49,835,100

2021 PARKS TAX CITIZENS COMMITTEE PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT LIST

PROJECT DESCRIPTION		PROJECT COST
Bode Sports Complex Fields and Courts	Renovation Bartlett Youth Field, Corby Grove Courts and Northside Ball Field	\$3,400,000 \$1,160,000
Horace Mann	HVAC (School) and Restrooms	\$2,350,000
Hyde Park	Aquatics Phase II and Recreation Corridor	\$3,525,000
Patee Park	Fountain	\$150,000
REC Center	Parking	\$250,000
Remington Nature Center	Outside Restrooms	\$330,000



Smithco Greens Roller—Fairview Municipal Golf Course



Equipment Trailer—Maintenance

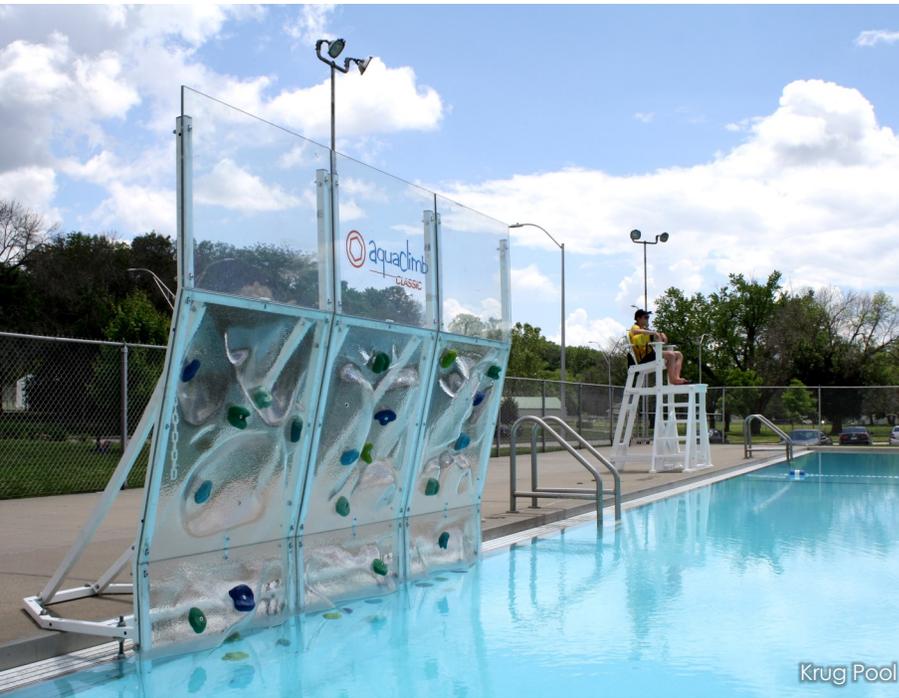


Rahn Field Groomer—Field Maintenance



Golf Cart—Civic Arena

AQUATICS



The 2022 season saw full operation of Krug Pool, the Aquatic Park, Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park, and the continued partnership with Missouri Western State University's Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool. The Aquatic Park had a total attendance of 10,188, down from 11,200 in 2021, and Krug Pool had 2,032, down from 2,322. The splash pad remained a highly-popular water destination.

Due to the success in 2021, daily swim options were divided into two different swim sessions, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM or 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM (Monday through Friday at both the Aquatic Park and Krug Pool, and only the Aquatic Park on Saturday) and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Sundays at the Aquatic Park to allow controlled attendance numbers but still offer adequate swimming opportunities for the community we serve. We received overwhelming positive feedback from our families regarding the swim sessions. Parents appreciated the facilities being far less crowded and were very pleased with the three-hour sessions.

Aquatic Park

- 300' Lazy River
- Zero Depth Beach Entry
- Children's Play Structure
- Waterfall
- Sun Deck
- Concessions

Krug Pool

- Swimming Pool
- Climbing Wall
- Diving Board
- Sun Deck
- Concessions





Children play in the jets at the splash park.



A little girl plays with a beach ball at the splash park.

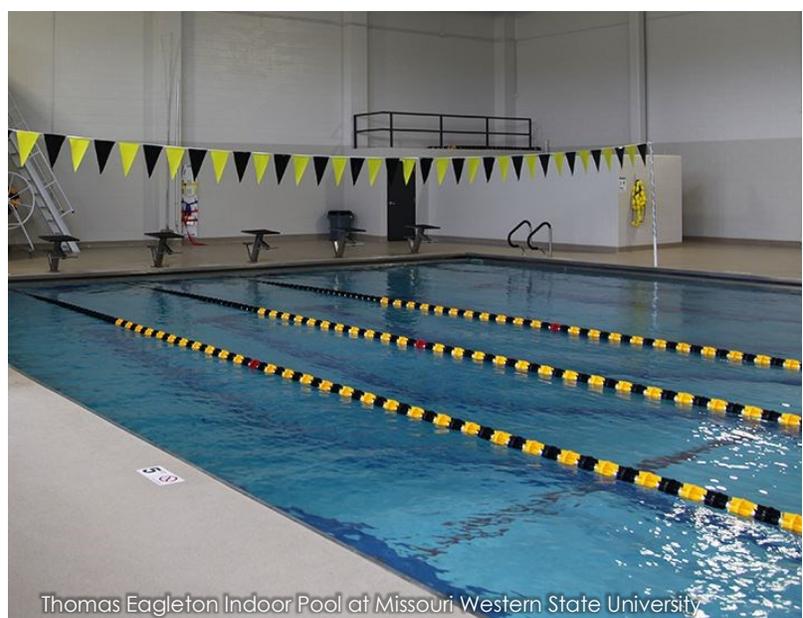


Liberty Oak Splash Park



Staffing continued to be a challenge for both the outdoor pools and at Missouri Western. Out of 66 American Red Cross lifeguard pre-tests, 43 lifeguards were certified throughout the year.

Programming at the Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool at Missouri Western State University remained steady. There was a total of 938 water fitness class participants. Swim lessons continued in high demand in 2022 with a total of 438 total lesson participants and classes filling almost immediately due to high demand. The pool also saw 1,205 KCSA swimmers and multiple swim teams: 81 Central High School girls, 30 Savannah High School girls, 6 Bishop LeBlond High School girls, 96 Special Olympic swimmers, and 35 Barracuda Swim Team members as the Barracudas returned to the parks department in 2022. In total, the Tomas Eagleton Indoor Pool saw a total of 8,857 swimmers.



Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool at Missouri Western State University

BODE SPORTS COMPLEX & ICE ARENA

Following George Bode Jr.'s death, the St. Joseph banker left his entire estate to the city, establishing the George Bode Jr. Benevolent Trust Fund. When the Bode Ice Arena was built in 1975, it became the first major project to benefit from the fund. Then, in 1999, the Bode Sports Complex was developed around the arena to create a more immersive experience for St. Joseph residents. The entirety of the complex includes an indoor ice arena, six outdoor lighted basketball courts, pickleball courts, and a skateboard park. Active programming at the ice arena includes hockey, multiple figure skating options, open skate, curling, and special parties.

The ice arena is an important and unique facility for a city the size of St. Joseph. In a typical year, over 75,000 people visit the ice arena between August and May.

Bode Sports Complex, especially the ice arena, continues to offer unique programs, activities, and services to the surrounding community. It has maintained strong relationships with the Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association, St. Joseph Figure Skating Club, St. Joseph Curling Club, MWSU, and Inter-Serv.



Ozzie getting ready for his Learn to Skate class.

Bode Ice Arena is also heavily involved in several special events and activities each year.

January is National Skating Month with over 120 skaters participating in the event. In November, Bode Ice Arena participated in the national Try Hockey for Free Day to increase participation and awareness specifically to that sport. The 33rd Annual Heartland Winter Games in January was not held. However, Inter-Serv was able to utilize the Bode Sports Complex for their annual Summer Jam program but had a limited number of participants, and the program only played one evening per week.

The Griffon Gliders practiced with two teams starting in August, the Griffon Gliders Gold and Griffon Gliders Silver, with skaters ranging from 8 -18 years of age. They resumed their competitive season in January 2022.



"Tis the Season to be Freezin" performance cast

The St. Joseph Figure Skating Club held its annual spring ice show titled “Aladdin” with nearly 1,200 people in attendance, up from 1,000 the previous year. The St. Joseph Figure Skating Club (SJFSC) was able to host its annual Pony Express Figure Skating Competition. The club had close to 185 competitors. The competition resumed for the typical four days. The club also hosted three Christmas performances titled “’Tis the Season to be Freezin.” Over 900 people attended the three performances. The figure skating club has almost doubled in size from last year.

The Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association began its programming in September, which will run through February of the following year. They have teams from those eight and under up to high school students, and they serve almost 120 area youth, both boys and girls. The Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association has increased participants and added an additional U8 team.

The Mayor’s Children’s Christmas Party was hosted in December 2022. Close to 200 children participated in the event.

Tom Zakrajesk, an Olympic figure skating coach, held a two-day seminar at Bode Ice Arena in December, which was an exciting program for all in attendance.

Learn to skate classes resumed with record number attendance. Missouri Western State University (MWSU) traditionally offers Learn to Curl and figure skating classes but did not in 2022. The St. Joseph Curling Club resumed it’s league in the spring.



Members of the curling club take the ice. Photo courtesy of Dan’s Action Photos.



The goalie of the high school hockey team blocks the puck. Photo courtesy of Dan’s Action Photos.



Members of the U8 White team supporting the U8 Blue team.



One of the smallest members of the St. Joseph Figure Skating Club takes the ice for the Christmas performance. Photo courtesy of Dan’s Action Photos.

CIVIC ARENA

The St. Joseph Civic Arena opened in October of 1980 with first-week events including a Kansas City Kings Basketball Game and the Little River Band Concert. Concerts, sporting events, banquets, trade shows, conventions, dog shows, circus events, bull riding, and much more have been major attractions over the last 40-plus years. Although some events have come and gone, these types of events remain consistent and have brought and continue to bring enjoyment to countless patrons throughout the years.

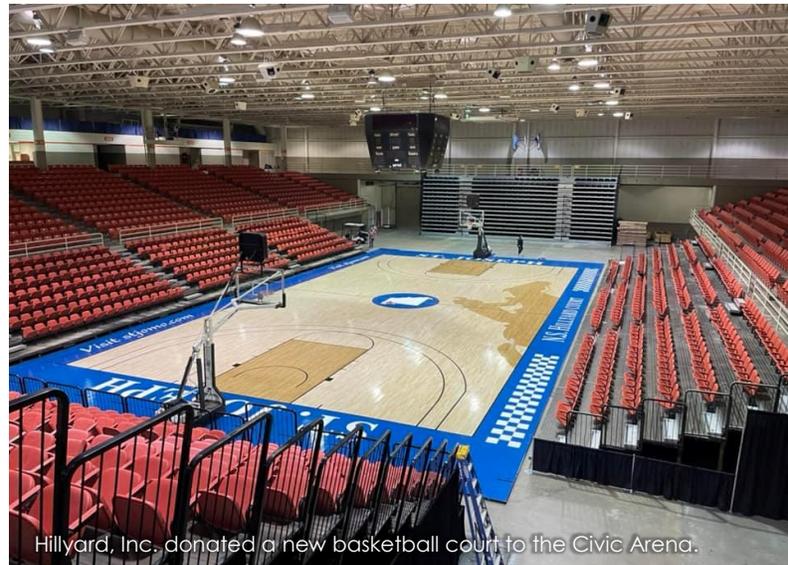
The Civic Arena staff works closely with several organizations to ensure a wide variety of events are available to our community. Some of these outreach organizations include the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the newly re-formed Sports Commission, Missouri Western State University, as well as numerous non-profit organizations.

As the Civic Arena is a multi-use facility, we can see a fancy, decorated arena for a formal banquet one weekend, and the very next weekend it is transformed into a basketball arena for The Harlem Globetrotters. Or, we are hosting the Amped Up Bull Riding one week, and the very next week we are having a food trade show with St. Joseph Distributing. There are countless other scenarios where we move from one event to another which is challenging and exciting at the same time.

The Civic Arena began seeing some major changes thanks to several funding sources in 2022. Those included refurbishing of the basketball floor, replacement of the auditorium seating, new lighting, purchase of a new scoreboard, and more. These improvements will enhance the patron experience in addition to drawing in new promoters and usages of our facility. Renovations will continue into 2023.



Riders stand ready for the beginning of the bull riding competition. Photo courtesy of Amped Up Bull Riding.



Hillyard, Inc. donated a new basketball court to the Civic Arena.



A girl waits excitedly for the Moilla Shrine Circus to start after getting her face painted.

FACILITY FEATURES

- Box office
- Flexible seating capabilities
- General assembly seating for up to 4,200
- As much as 19,000 square feet of unobstructed exhibit space or performing surface with seating for 2,300
- Superb acoustics and lighting
- A clear view of activities from all locations
- Concessions
- Modular walls within meeting rooms allowing for groups of 25 to 200

CHALLENGES

- Constructed in 1980 with very little improvements since (this is currently being worked on)
- Drainage and plumbing system failures
- Outdated and aging stage equipment
- Flooding in the lobby during heavy rains

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mayor's Day of Prayer Breakfast
- Safety Town
- Heart of America Singles Square Dancing
- The Harlem Globetrotters
- Farm Show
- Special Olympics Ladies Night Out
- Darcee's School of Dance
- Chamber Banquet
- Gun and Knife Show
- MIAA Volleyball Championship
- Dog Show
- High School Graduations
- Missouri American Water Safety Expo
- Moila Shrine Circus
- Precision Ag Expo
- Feed My Starving Children
- Tiny Tot Town
- My Success Event
- Holiday Hoops – High School Basketball
- Mayor's Thanksgiving Dinner
- Clarios Christmas Party

ARENA TOTALS

73	Event Days
46	Move-In/Set-Up Days
119	Total Days Used
68,067	Total Attendance
\$263,712.48	Total Revenue



FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

The mission of Fairview Municipal Golf Course is to provide a competitive yet enjoyable 18-hole golf course complete with practice facilities, a fully stocked merchandise shop, a snack bar, and a banquet/meeting room facility.

Leagues are a fun opportunity for men, women, and seniors. On Wednesdays, men's league continues to be popular every year since its inception. Women can play an 18-hole daytime league or a 9-hole evening league. Seniors have opportunities for bi-weekly play in Legends Senior League, and couples have a monthly opportunity for an 18-hole scramble event. We also continue to host three corporate league weeknights.

Several new pieces of maintenance equipment were purchased including two additional rough mowers, two blowers for leaf removal, a greens mower with a verticut unit, and a roller. These items were funded by the parks tax that was approved by voters. A new fleet of 45 carts and a new range/utility cart were leased and delivered in February 2022.

Two main employees in the clubhouse resigned for new jobs. This caused staff shortages for a limited time. A new assistant golf supervisor, Gina Stillman, and a new concession/banquet supervisor, Madeleine Steele, were hired to fill the positions. These were current staff employees who were promoted, and others were hired to fill their spots. With staff shortages and the volatility of food inflation costs, it made it difficult to honor price quotes, so banquet room catering was discontinued in early spring.

Fuel costs continued to be high. Fuel expense was up 45% from the previous year. Some of the golf course greens continued to have problems, and the practice green remained unplayable most of the summer. Holes 13 and 18 also have significant damage. Overseeding will be done again in the off-season to try and bring these greens back to normal playing conditions. Water system problems arise more frequently as the system ages, especially around the greens and tees. Driving range poles and older sections of netting are wearing out quickly. Strong winds, winter ice, and spring/



Members pose before the start of the annual Shoot Out Tournament.

summer storms continue to hamper their existence.

All utilities raised across the board—water service 15%, gas service 46%, and electric service 21%. Labor costs continue to increase with part-time receiving another increase in January and full-time getting a cost of living increase as well. The snack bar area of concessions has fewer sales than in 2021. The menu will reflect a smaller variety of items available next season as people aren't buying like in previous years on sandwiches and fryer items. Prices were raised due to the high cost of food which deters some as well as people overall can't afford these extra expenses now due to inflation. Staffing continues to be a problem when multiple events are booked. In the future, some events will be limited to double and triple bookings of the banquet room while tournaments are going on. There simply isn't enough staff to manage it all at select times.

Customers anxiously await the improvements for the ponds that voters passed in the recent Parks tax. The ponds as well as some bridges continue to be an eyesore for the patrons and staff.

REVENUE AND SUPPLIES

Revenues were up in concessions by 11%, range by 6%, and daily fees by 6%, while overall rounds were up by 5%. Banquet/meeting room revenues were up 39% from the previous year.

Materials and supplies decreased by 3% as we bought less inventory with the higher costs of goods and discontinued the catering service.

The cost of credit/debit charge fees has now been changed to reflect charges back to the customer freeing up \$8,000+ a year that we are no longer absorb out of our budget.



Brad Hubbard, Scottie Burnham, Daniel Conard, Joel Morlock are the Men's League Red Division champions.

CORE SERVICES

- The City of St. Joseph's only 18-hole public golf course
- Offering league opportunities for men, women, seniors, couples, and corporate
- Corporate outings, fundraisers, memorial events, and social meeting/play options are all part of our tournament schedule
- Banquet/meeting room available for up to 150 guests as well as bar service
- Three outdoor patios with speaker systems can entertain guests whether they are golfing, socializing, or attending a banquet room event

MEMBERSHIP STATS

4% increase from 396

Total Memberships 411

ANNUAL ROUNDS

Daily rounds went up from 8,406, and member rounds went down from 14,160.

Daily 8,683

Member 14,033

Total for Calendar Year 22,716



The dedication of the Tom and Bonnie McMurry memorial bench on hole 15 forward tee box.

JOYCE RAYE PATTERSON 50+ ACTIVITY CENTER

Opened on October 16, 1978, the JRP is a 22,000 square foot facility in downtown St. Joseph. The center is supported by the City of St. Joseph Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department and the Senior Citizen's Foundation, Inc.

PARTICIPATION

10,762	Daily Activities
25,053	Fitness Center
6,302	Fitness Groups
611	Arts & Crafts
175	Retirement Groups
2,318	Dance Groups
4,818	Game Groups
1,610	Miscellaneous Groups
51,655	Total Participation
5	Volunteers
965.5	Volunteer Hours
83	User Groups & Organizations Met
7,092	Meals Served

A unique facility, the JRP provides recreational, social, health, wellness, and educational activities and opportunities for people 50 and older and persons with disabilities.

In October of 2022, the JRP was awarded the International Council on Active Aging/NuStep Pinnacle Award. Pinnacle award winners were recognized as the Top 5 Best in Wellness Community Centers in North America. Pinnacle award winners are recognized community centers whose achievements, innovations, directions or commitments in the field of wellness stand out as guiding lights for all community centers.

Total attendance at the JRP increased 15% compared to 2021 with total 2022 attendance of 51,702 visits. The three largest user groups in 2022 included visits to the fitness center, meals served, and participation in fitness classes. During 2022, the fitness center saw 25,053 visits, the cafeteria served 7,092 meals and fitness classes were provided to 6,308 visitors.

AMENITIES

- Fitness center, circuit training room, and classes
- Cafeteria
- Billiards, 8-ball, snooker, table tennis, shuffleboard tables, and cornhole
- Library, DVDs, computers, and info referrals
- Large meeting rooms & room rentals
- Stage
- Elevator
- Free off-street and on-street parking
- Card, mahjong, dominoes, BINGO, and retirement groups
- JRP Kitchen Rhythm Band
- Line dance lessons and Saturday night dances
- Free wi-fi



CHALLENGES

- Two user groups disbanded and 16 others stopped meeting or left the JRP due to lack of participation by their members
- Increase to minimum wage for building attendants and assistant cook
- Cost for all maintenance contracts but one increased
- Continued HVAC failures and repairs; units were last replaced in 1997
- Concrete under the front entrance's southeast side is cracking and crumbling and the flashing is rusting and corroding causing pieces to fall into the parking lot
- Plumbing issues: Heat tape stopped working during cold spell causing two pipes to break
- Issues with the radio unit that was installed in 2021
- Mold discovered during facility interior painting and large gap around exterior of the north facing windows of the facility appeared to have never been sealed properly
- Railing around the front of the building and along both sides of the front suspended sidewalk are rusting out
- Elevator is original to the building and leaking oil around the motor in the maintenance closet
- Garbage disposal in one of the kitchen sinks stopped working and couldn't be repaired; due to city code, we were unable to replace the unit
- Walk-in freezer stopped working and was costly to repair; it was original to the building

LOOKING FORWARD TO

In 2023, the JRP staff and Senior Citizen's Foundation, Inc. looks forward to making many improvements to benefit their users. This includes the purchasing of additional fitness center and circuit training room equipment. Multiple new programs will also be added to the list of available opportunities. These programs include fitness classes, computer classes, smartphone classes, the continuation of the Active Aging Symposium, and working with community partners for additional health, fitness, and recreational programming.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Received the ICAA/NuStep Pinnacle award as one of the Top 5 Community Centers in Wellness
- Most of the facility's interior was painted
- Increase in user groups from 72 in 2021 to 83 in 2022
- Increase of total visits from 44,293 in 2021 to 51,655 in 2022
- Increase in fitness center visits from 21,358 in 2021 to 25,053 in 2022
- Partnership with Arthritis Community Services for health and wellness classes
- Fitness center equipment purchases: PhysioStep, recumbent bike, and elliptical
- Mentored an intern from Missouri Western State University
- Added 8 participant groups in 2022
- Facilitated and hosted the first annual Active Aging Symposium consisting of six aging, health, wellness, and estate planning seminars and one health and wellness fair. Provided useful information through these presentations for 101 individuals and 59 people at the health fair
- Hosted a separate health and wellness fair with over 90 in attendance
- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was held for the first time since 2019
- Roof leak over the fitness center was repaired
- Located a local upholstery repair business that does outstanding and quick work



MAINTENANCE

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

In addition to routine maintenance of our parks, facilities, trails, and other park's department properties, the maintenance staff strives to save taxpayer dollars by completing numerous in-house projects. Our staff of skilled and talented crew members have tens of thousands of dollars by tearing out the animal pens at Krug Park and hauling in dirt to enhance the areas that had been eroded by the animals. Staff also worked to re-surface the gravel walkway at the Corby Dog Park and other dirt work was done on the parkway to fix vehicle vandalism and to enhance the Corby Pond area.

During the summer, not only does the staff mow our 1,500 acres but we strive to maintain a nine-day mowing cycle. They also planted trees and bushes, maintained flower beds, replanted flower beds, and repaired old fences. With the storms this year, our tree crew was very busy removing trees and debris, which continued into 2023. Our crews also dealt with a large amount of vandalism and graffiti.

Other projects finished in 2022 included installation of more rocks on Southwest Parkway to prevent vehicles

from driving off-road, and several new grills were made and installed though out the park system. Crews fabricated several new trash cans for our restrooms which were vandalized this summer. They also fabricated handrails for two playgrounds, security screens for concession stands, security doors for Upper Bartlett, and new railing for Riverfront Park.

Above and beyond our normal maintenance duties, our crews constructed concrete mounts for the new docks at Corby Pond and installed new wiring for the fountains within the pond. They also repaired the roofs at Bode Ice Arena and Phil Welch Stadium. In addition, staff built and installed obstacles for the Outlaw Adventure Run, thawed and fixed a major pipe at the Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center, and installed new heat tape. Our crews were also tasked with installation and removal of the basketball court at the Civic Arena.

This year celebrated the 41st anniversary of Holiday Park located at Krug Park. Lights were also prepared and installed at Hyde Park's South Pole, and new displays were created at both parks. Felix Street Square and corner of Lake and Alabama were also lit for the holidays with the help of the maintenance crew. Many man-hours are involved with the lighting, but our crews look forward to the holiday season every year.



Scott Koch helps students from Hyde Elementary School plant trees at Hyde Park.

MAINTAINS

1,500+

Acres

26

Miles of Parkway

46

Parks

7+

Facilities

18

Lighted Horseshoe Courts

23

Lighted Ball Fields

21

Lighted Tennis Courts

16

Lighted Basketball Courts

2

Municipal Swimming Pools

3

Skate Parks

20+

Miles of Hike-And-Bike Trails

80+

Restrooms

112

Picnic Tables

19

Concessions Stands

18

Picnic Shelters

16

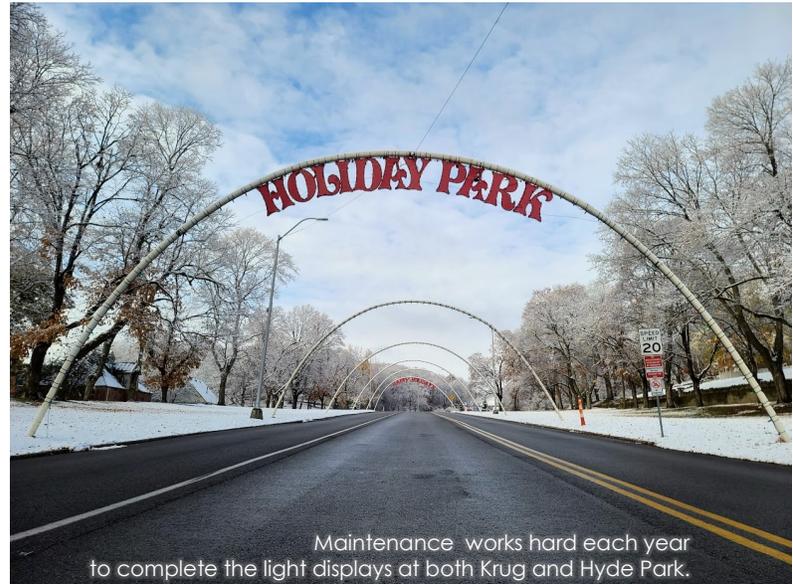
Playgrounds

3

Ponds



Crew members work to grade the fields at South Park.



Maintenance works hard each year to complete the light displays at both Krug and Hyde Park.



A crew member smooths out the ground in Krug Park where the old animal pens were.

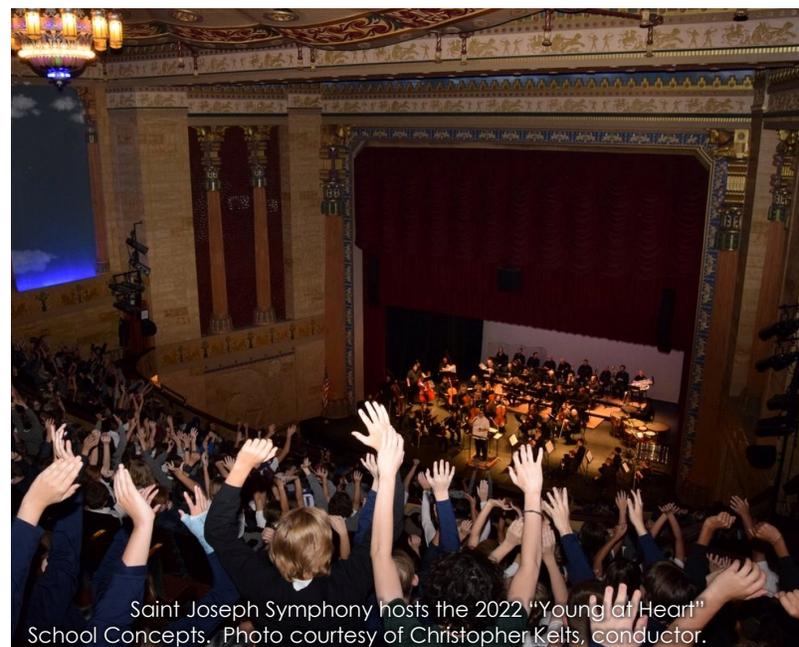
MISSOURI THEATER

The Missouri Theater was designed by the Boller Brothers with sculptural work designed and created by Waylande Gregory, and it is a true architectural masterpiece. The theater opened in June 1927 as a 1,200-seat movie place. 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 to transform 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.

Although the theater was plagued by COVID-19 with numerous cancellations in 2020 and 2021, live theater and productions, as well as patrons, have returned to enjoy the numerous events presented at the theater. The Missouri Theater staff works extremely well with all local arts organizations including the Allied Arts Council, Performing Arts Association, St. Joseph Symphony, Robidoux Resident Theatre, Creative Arts Productions, Dance Arts Center, Inspirations Dance, and others in bringing their art-form to the public. These include local artists as well as international events that are brought to this community to build on the quality of life for St. Joseph.

The Missouri Theater Complex houses several of the arts organizations as well as newly acquired tenants, Lilac Leather and Toe Beans Coffee House.

Renovations are a constant at the Missouri Theater which strives to maintain the structure, integrity, and opulence of the facility and theater.



AMENITIES

- Floor seating for 457
- Balcony seating for 717
- Orchestra pit
- Dressing rooms
- Greenroom
- T-coil installation
- Upgraded sound system
- Updated lower-level restrooms

CHALLENGES

- Electrical issues inside and around the marquee
- Seat upholstery in poor condition
- Sidewalks in disrepair
- Lack of storage space
- New stage floor needed
- Exterior of the store fronts due to water damage
- Plaster repair inside auditorium due to water damage

HIGHLIGHTS

- New roof over part of the office space
- New LED stage lighting
- Repair of cove lighting in the walls
- Completion of lower-level restrooms
- Installation of new brocade drape
- Dance Arts Center (numerous events)
- Inspirations Dance (numerous events)
- Truth Academy Dance
- St. Joseph Symphony Concerts
- Robidoux Resident Theatre Productions
- Performing Arts Association Performances
- Creative Arts Productions Performances

THEATER TOTALS

47

Events

110

Rehearsal Days

157

Total Days Used

31,960

Total Attendance

\$70,933.50

Total Revenue



REC CENTER

The Recreation, Exercise, and Community (REC) Center was constructed and opened in 2012, with the goal of providing a centralized facility for fitness, recreation, and community activities for citizens and visitors of St. Joseph. The facility features three gymnasiums, a full-service fitness center, a youth activity room, concessions, and an elevated 1/11th mile walking track. The REC Center offers fitness classes, adult and youth volleyball leagues, as well as open gym times for pickleball, badminton, basketball, and volleyball. The REC Center also hosts a variety of special events, birthday parties, and tournaments throughout the year.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL

53 Winter Teams

53 Spring Teams

44 Fall Teams

29 Holiday Teams

172 Total Teams

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

26 Summer Teams

43 Fall Teams

69 Total Teams



The REC Center strives to offer a safe, clean, and fun atmosphere for people of all ages, and 2022 was no exception. While continuing to do our best to improve existing programming, we began offering some new programming and features to our lineup. Open gym options included newbie/beginner pickleball, volleyball, and badminton. We also held our first ever Friday Fun Night event for youth featuring kickball, dodgeball, and wiffleball. Another new addition was our Adult Volleyball Holiday League for co-ed rec and co-ed intermediate teams. We also added a new “Shake of the Month” to the protein shake and smoothie menu. Each month the shake and/or smoothie was a brand-new creation. Some of the more popular flavors included “Bomb Pop”, “Summer Breeze”, and the most popular was “Orange Dreamsicle”.

July was an exciting month for us. On top of celebrating National Parks and Recreation Month, we also celebrated our 10-year anniversary. We took this time to show our appreciation to our customers by doing drawings for t-shirts, cups, bags, candy, glow in the dark items, and passes for our track, fitness room, and classes. We had a great time celebrating, and we enjoyed watching the excitement of our guests who won the various prizes.

We spent a week in August getting the two hardwood floor gyms redone by Hillyard, Inc. who redid the top-coat of both floors and painted the lines for the six pickleball and badminton courts, as well as the youth free throw lines for basketball. During that week, time was taken to deep clean the building and complete minor repairs which included fixing wall dings and dents, painting, replacing the floor in the Youth Activity Room, and adding more diamond plated wall coverings to the fitness room. Also, during August, our three new volleyball systems arrived.

Another change implemented in 2022 was the increase in some of our pricing. Over the 10 years the REC Center has been open, the prices for the track, fitness classes, rentals, and senior walking passes never increased. In September, the track day pass went from \$1 to \$2, classes from \$4 to \$5, rentals from \$35 per hour to \$40 per hour, senior walking passes for the Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center members went from \$10 per year to \$25 per year, and our regular senior walking passes went from \$50 per year to \$75 per year. We also looked at increasing the price of some of our concession items as vendor pricing inflated.

Overall, 2022 was a productive year even with the challenges faced. Like many other businesses, employee recruitment and retention remained difficult post-COVID. This put strain on the two full-time employees when our facility is open 15 hours a day, seven days a week. Another continuous struggle is our computer system, RecTrac, which affects our customer service for all aspects of the REC Center. Similarly, balancing the open gym and rental schedules has proven difficult when trying to keep all user groups satisfied. Additional challenges included unpleasant sewer smells, leaks in the roof and windows, faded parking lines, and a lack of parking. However, we made some changes and added several new recreation opportunities. We will also be implementing a new inventory software and replacing RecTrac with CivicRec which should help reduce some customer service problems. Additionally, the REC Center ended the year with 454 active memberships. We look forward to seeing what 2023 will hold and already have new ideas to explore.

EVENTS & RENTALS	
6	Basketball Tournaments
1	Pickleball Tournament
341	Volleyball Practices
244	Basketball Practices
14	Baseball Practices
3	Vendor Fairs
3	Youth Baseball League Rentals
47	ActivStars Karate Tournaments
3	Birthday Parties
1	Micro Wrestling Event
1	Total Events & Rentals



Teams compete in the 3v3 basketball tournament.

REMINGTON NATURE CENTER

While we have not returned to pre-COVID numbers, the Remington Nature Center attendance continues to improve most months. We saw the return of school groups this year, which was wonderful to see. We were also able to bring back Herp-O-Rama and Insect-O-Rama after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, as well as additional programming, such as the partnership with Lakeside Nature Center for the Owls of Missouri program in December. We have also seen an increase in adult tours, including motorcoaches, care facilities, and churches.

In the spring of 2021, schools started booking field trips again to the Remington Nature Center. Since then, we are continually seeing an increase in school attendance, and several schools have already booked visits for 2023.

As in the other categories, Gift Shop Sales are not

back up to pre-COVID numbers but have significantly increased from 2021, particularly at the peak of tourism season, as things began opening back up and people began traveling more. We also saw an increase in sales with school groups coming back to visit.

Super Science Saturday, an annual event sponsored by The St. Joseph Museum and Missouri Western State University was back as an in-person event in 2022. Shelly Cox and Sarah Elder represented the Remington Nature Center with live reptiles as well as short programs on the reptiles you can find in Missouri.



Visitors watch snapping turtles outside of the nature center at Herp-O-Rama in June.

ATTENDANCE TOTALS

875	Children
3,874	Youth
4,395	Adults
1,651	Seniors
3,575	Conference Room
177	Miscellaneous
103	Members
14,650	Total Attendance
\$12,121	Total Conference Room Fees
\$28,799	*Total Admissions

**Total Admissions does not include conference room attendance.*

In 2022, the Nature Center had six new memberships, one business membership renewal, and three membership renewals.

In 2022, volunteers put in 262 hours. The nature center welcomed Tyler Meadows as an intern from Missouri Western State University for the fall semester. He worked with various school groups, helped with cleaning cages, feeding animals, setting up the conference room, as well as other general duties. Members of the Missouri Master Naturalists donated their time to help us with Herp-O-Rama & Insect-O-Rama.

During the summer, the nature center again took part in the Work/Life Skills program with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). During one, six-week session, three students came in every morning to clean glass, vacuum carpets, set-up the conference room, pick up trash outside, assist with Fish Feeding Frenzy, and other projects. These young men and women also learned soft skills (communication, asking questions, handling various scenarios) through working with us as well as their supervisor who was on-site with them. We look forward to participating in the program in 2023.

In 2022, the Remington Nature Center welcomed 11 organized adult tours (motorcoaches, churches, care facilities) for a total of 248 people. This total includes members of the Association of Missouri Interpreters Convention in St. Joseph in September.

In 2022, we provided 23 outreach programs at various locations for both children and adults, reaching 3,849 people. This total includes Super Science Saturday, My Success Event, Safety Acres, & Eagle Days, which account for the large number.



Herp-O-Rama participants look at turtle and tortoise shells.

SCHOOLS & STUDENT

48

Tours

1,840

Tour Attendance



A girl holds a snake at the at the Junior Naturalist Program. Remington Nature Center partnered with Big Lake State Park to host this.

GIFT SHOP & GIVEAWAYS

\$20,813.19

Gift Shop Sales

\$104

Free Passes

\$4,200

No Charge Conference Rooms

RECREATION

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The recreation division of the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department offers many recreational and sports opportunities to citizens and visitors of St. Joseph as well as access to facilities for many private user groups. Programs and activities include the youth tennis program for ages 5-13, collaboration with the Health Department on St. Joe Fit, the Outlaw Adventure 5k Obstacle Run, and cornhole leagues. Participation in many activities showed impressive growth as many people emerged following two years of limited opportunities due to COVID-19. In 2022, the department created a new partnership with the St. Joseph YWCA as the co-sponsor of the Outlaw Adventure Run. This partnership benefitted the YWCA GRIT Center for teens. Through this partnership, the run saw 118 runners compete in 2022, a 61% increase over 2021 numbers. The youth tennis program had 27 participants in 2022, more than double the number of youth involved during the prior year. St Joe Fit had over 900 participants over the 10-week walking program. We hope to continue the growth these programs have witnessed as well as offer other unique experiences in the community.

The parks and recreation department continues to partner with GG Leagues to offer our e-sports programming. Unique programming like this helps us engage many sectors of the community who may not already be involved in other recreational programming that the department offers. The department also partners with



A gentleman participates in the rope walk at the Outlaw Adventure Run at Heritage Park.

other entities in St. Joseph such as the YMCA and Missouri Western State University by providing free or discounted usage of facilities for their programs.

The parks department continues to collaborate with the St. Joseph Disc Golf Club to maintain and promote the Bartlett Park Disc Golf Course. Promoting events on the course along with shared maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and equipment have fostered an effective partnership between the two entities.

2022 saw the opening of the River Bluff Trails Park along the Missouri River bluffs in May. Scheduling and utilization of the trails are coordinated by the department. This project has shown great potential to increase tourism and utilization of the riverfront area with casual and organized events taking place on the trails. We strive to continue to seek out new activities and meet the recreational needs of the community as we move forward with our programming.



A QR code can be seen on the Riverwalk bench for St. Joe Fit users to sign-in when walking on their own.

SOFTBALL/BASEBALL

A more traditional year of programming took place in 2022 for the softball and baseball programs after two years of adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Pony Express Baseball and Midland Empire Softball youth league play returned to normal operation utilizing city-owned facilities for their programming. High school baseball and softball programs held regular season games as well as various tournaments at city facilities as in past years.

Adult USA Softball league play continued at the Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park with spring and fall sessions offered. 38 teams participated in the spring league and 26 in the fall league. The St. Joseph Baptist Association continued its longstanding partnership with the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department in 2022 with seven teams participating and registering through USA Softball. The complex also hosted nine tournaments coordinated through local high schools and non-profit groups, as well as the Northwest District Special Olympics tournament. Lafayette and Bishop LeBlond high schools continue calling Heritage Park home for their fall high school softball seasons. In 2022, Benton High School hosted its district softball tournament at the complex, too. Pony Express Baseball, Midland



Three fields were renamed at Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park: Fred Hoffman Field (pictured), David Polsky Field, and Ken Christgen, Sr. Field.

Empire Sports Association, Wood Bat Baseball, American Legion, and other local youth and adult teams continue to use various baseball and softball fields throughout the town. These groups, along with other teams and organizations, utilize city facilities for their practice, league, and tournament needs during various times of the year. The parks and recreation department maintains and improves various facilities in partnership with these groups while coordinating with their playing seasons.

Several baseball and softball fields in the parks system underwent the installation of new LED field lighting in the fall of 2022. Funding from the 2021 Parks Half-Cent Sales Tax was used to install the new lighting at Noyes Field, Eagles Fields, and Drake Complex. Other field locations will receive similar field lighting upgrades in the coming years. During 2022, the Bill McKinney Softball Complex received additional infield clay along with laser grading work to renovate infield surfaces. Annual fall turf maintenance including aeration, seeding, and fertilization took place at various baseball and softball facilities throughout the city.

The parks and recreation department continues its mission to enhance softball and baseball play in St. Joseph by providing programming for adult softball leagues while facilitating youth and adult championship-level tournaments. Facility management and support of youth, high school, and adult softball and baseball programs all fall under the umbrella of services provided by the department.

PROGRAMMING TOTALS

118 Outlaw Adventure Run

27 Youth Tennis Camp

90 St. Joe Fit Weekly Average

21 Cornhole Teams

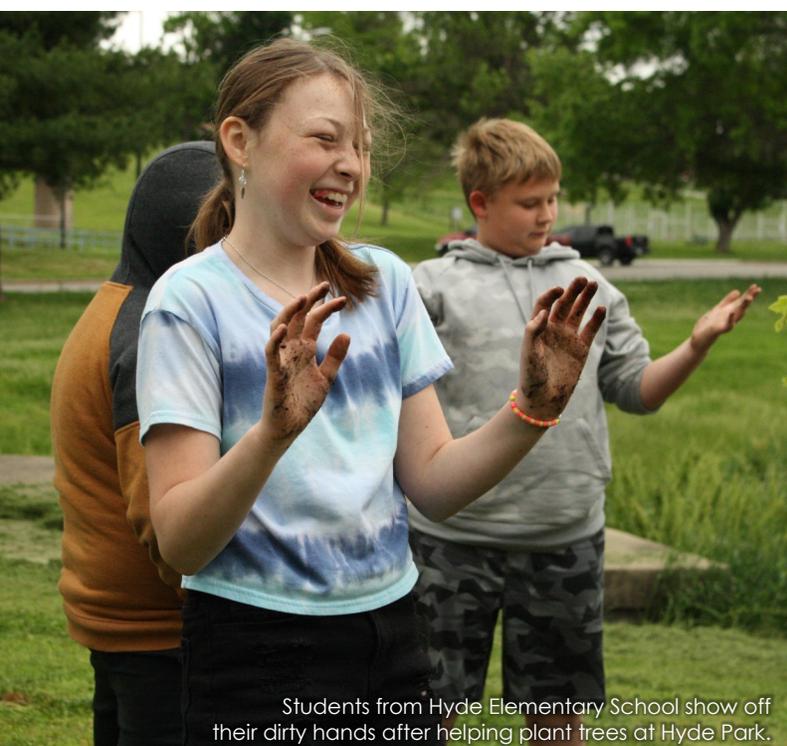
38 Spring Adult Softball Teams

26 Fall Adult Softball Teams

7 E-sports Participants

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS

Community partnerships are essential for creating better experiences for not only the donors and the parks, but for our community and everyone who uses the facilities. Many of the projects funded by partnerships are projects that might not get attention from CIP funding. Because of that, the collaboration with those willing to give their funds to accomplish positive outcomes does create an optimistic impact within our community. Not all valuable partnerships come with monetary donations. Throughout history, community volunteers that give their time and talents have made substantial impacts on our system. In 2022, multiple families, businesses, and organizations put in countless hours volunteering. Notable projects completed include, but are not limited to, painting picnic tables, assisting with upkeep of the Rose Garden at Krug Park, cleaning debris and trash from parks and along the parkway, and planting trees. The Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department values all partnerships, volunteers, and the effects they make on the City of St. Joseph.



Students from Hyde Elementary School show off their dirty hands after helping plant trees at Hyde Park.

The St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department sponsors many community events and activities for people of all ages.

St. Joe Fit, an annual 10-week campaign to promote health and walking of our many trails, was held in a new, hybrid way in 2022. Each week, a section of the urban hike-and-bike trail was highlighted on the St. Joe Fit Facebook page. Participants were encouraged to walk that trail during its highlighted week for a chance to win the weekly prize donated by the City of St. Joseph Health Department. To “sign-in,” participants would scan a QR code sticker placed on the trail by parks staff, or they could join staff for an in-person

walk on Tuesday evenings. Over 375 citizens registered from ages one to over 70 from different towns around St. Joseph. There was an average of 90 walkers per week, up from 46 in 2021.

In July, the city-sponsored 4th of July fireworks went on in a new location. Due to potential construction on the McArthur Drive bridge, the fireworks were moved to the North Shoppes area. This also provided easier exits for spectators after the show. July was also National Parks and Recreation Month; each facility within the department participated in their own ways during their highlighted week. Many promoted discounted prices, giveaways, and special activities.



Friends of Krug Park painted the trash barrels throughout Krug Park and created designs to help encourage people to use them.

In addition to the special events held in 2022, multiple smaller activities were made available to the community. Multiple in-person scavengers hunts were also held including Corby the Leprechaun's Shamrock Hunt, Hazel the Bunny's Egg Hunt, Find a Flag, Lenni the Yeti, and the turkey hunt.

Many exciting events took place around the newly developed River Bluff Trails Park. On Memorial Day weekend, the department held the ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of the system. The ribbon cutting took place on Friday at the old WPA shelter with a great number of supporters from the local biking community. Following the ceremony and throughout the day Saturday, festivities took place on the trails and in the Remington Nature Center lot. Tents with local businesses, merch, and services were set up, food trucks were available, and Wheels Up offered biking ramps for visitors to enjoy. Shelly Cox from the nature center offered guided nature walks on Huston-Wyeth hill. Payson McElveen, a professional mountain biker, did guided rides throughout the system. In the future, the department would like to offer a similar festival weekend each year. On September 7, the Bob Simpson Pedestrian Bridge held its ribbon ceremony. The bridge was named after Bob Simpson (1933-2020), a bridge-builder, who had a strong desire to elevate St. Joseph as the true gateway to the West due to the number of trails that crossed through this area, now known as the "King of the Trails."

On September 24, the parks department partnered with the Friends of Krug Park to host the Krug Castle Centennial Jubilee. Guests enjoyed 1920s themed costumers, games, and cars.



A community member looks at a historic car while attending the Krug Castle Centennial Jubilee celebration.



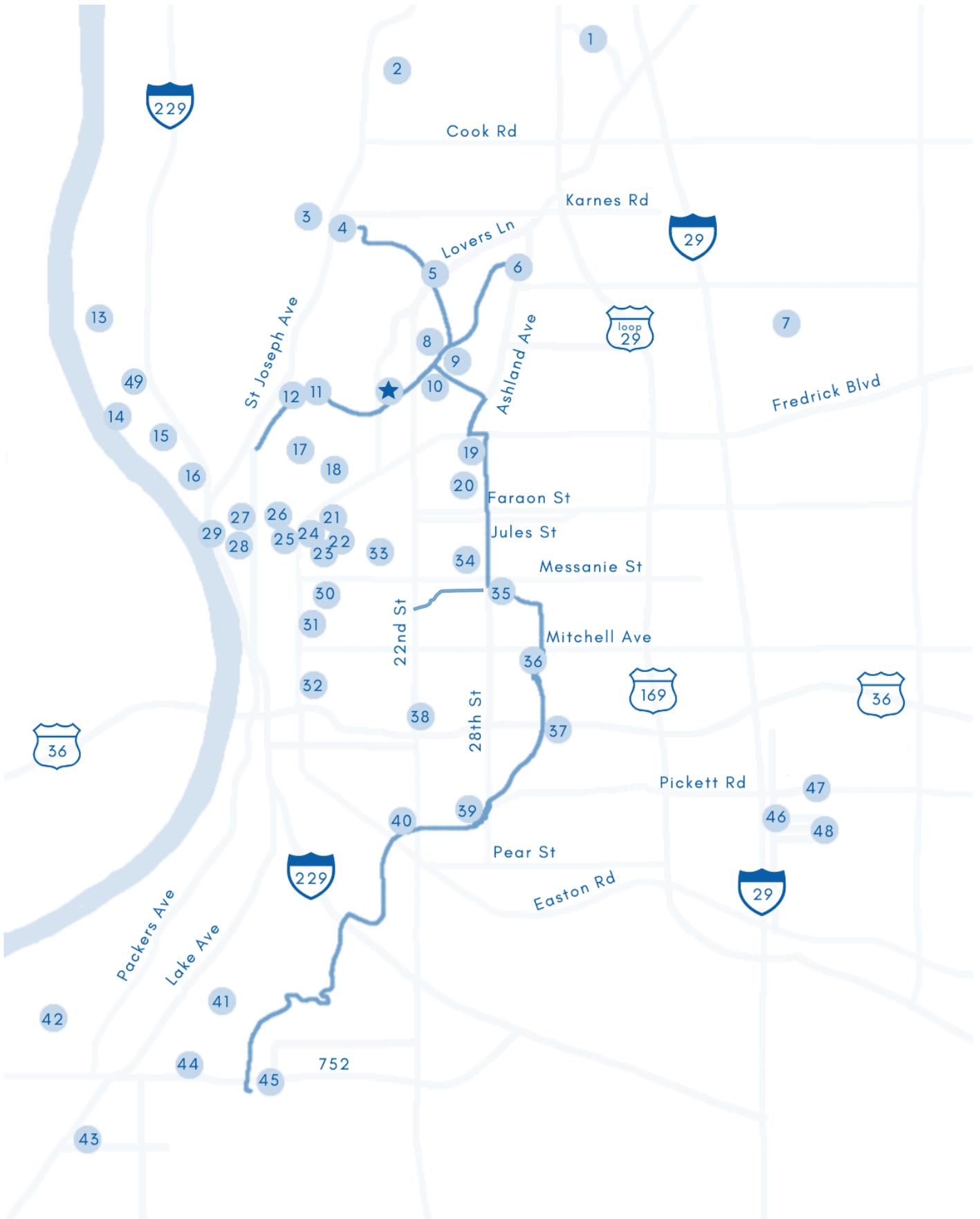
Small giveaways were hidden in these mini jack-o-lantern buckets throughout the park system for Halloween.

The parks department saw an increase of 717 followers on Facebook which increased our following to 5,124. Because of social media, many families were reached through contests and giveaways such as Parker's Holiday Countdown and Hot Dog Days of August. Social media was also created for the River Bluff Trails Park with 1,982 Facebook followers and 720 Instagram followers with reach from Omaha, Nebraska, to Lawrence, Kansas.



A boy takes a moment to smile after going over a ramp provided by Wheels Up at the River Bluff Trails Park opening weekend.

PARKS & TRAILS



38 St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities

1. **North East Park**
3519 North Village Drive
2. **Westminster Park**
Blackwell Road & Savannah Avenue
3. **Krug Park**
St. Joseph Avenue & Myrtle Avenue
4. **Northside Complex | Krug Pool**
St. Joseph Avenue & Northwest Parkway
5. **Eugene Field Marker**
Lovers Lane & Northwest Parkway
6. **Lura M. Story Sifting Park**
2900 Ashland Avenue
7. **Arrowhead Park**
Arrowhead Drive
8. **Marion & Goff Ballfield | Corby Dog Park**
West Circle Drive & Marion Street
9. **Corby Grove**
Northwest & Northeast Parkway
10. **Corby Pond**
Northwest & Northeast Parkway
11. **Lions Field**
North 11th Street & Grand Avenue
12. **Maple Leaf Park**
1943 Maple Leaf Boulevard
13. **Heritage Park**
2202 Waterworks Road
14. **Remington Nature Center | River Bluffs Riverwalk**
1502 McArthur Drive
15. **Huston Wyeth Park**
Poulin West Street & Powell Street
16. **Fort Smith**
802 Prospect Road
17. **Urban Outdoor Nature Walk**
North 10th Street & Powell Street
18. **College Hill Park**
North 12th Street & Henry Street
19. **Fairleigh Terrace Park**
2700 Fairleigh Terrace
20. **France Park**
North 26th Street & Clay Street
21. **Civic Center Park**
1100 Frederick Avenue
22. **Smith Park**
Francis Street across from Civic Center Park
23. **Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center**
100 South 10th Street
24. **Pony Express Monument**
North 10th Street & Francis Street
25. **Missouri Theater**
717 Edmond Street
26. **Felix Street Square | Coleman Hawkins Park**
North 7th Street & Felix Street
27. **Civic Arena**
100 North 4th Street
28. **Western Gateway Park**
South 3rd Street & Edmond Street
29. **Robidoux Landing**
Main Street & Francis Street
30. **William & Louis Park**
South 13th Street between Messanie & Olive Streets
31. **Patee Park**
South 10th Street & Seneca Street
32. **Mitchell Park**
South 10th Street & Duncan Street
33. **John Lucas Recreation Complex | Horace Mann Building**
409 South 18th Street
34. **Noyes Field Recreation Complex | Aquatic Park**
300 & 402 South Noyes Boulevard
35. **Parkway A | Mary Park**
South 28th Street & Parkway A
36. **Bartlett Park**
Southwest Parkway & Duncan Street
37. **Fairview Municipal Golf Course**
3302 Pacific Street
38. **Rest Square Park**
2222 Vories Street
39. **Bode Ice Arena | Phil Welch Stadium | REC Center**
2500—2701 Southwest Parkway
40. **South Park | Drake Field**
South 22nd Street & Commercial Street
41. **King Hill Outlook | Native American Burial Site**
101 King Hill Drive
42. **Outdoor Nature Center**
5402 Diagonal Avenue
43. **Seitz Park**
6800 Esther Street
44. **Gordon Park**
Alabama Street & Pryor Avenue
45. **Hyde Park**
402 East Hyde Park Avenue
46. **Leonard Road Acres**
4600 Cheyenne Road
47. **Hochman Park**
5218 Pickett Road
48. **Katherine Park**
5107 Grand Avenue
49. **River Bluff Trails Park**
813 West Highland Avenue
- ★ **Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Admin & Maintenance**
1920 Grand Avenue

2022 STAFF DIRECTORY

PARK ADMINISTRATION	816.271.5500
Chuck Kempf , Director Jeff Atkins , Assistant Director Jessica Oshel , Special Events & Communication Coordinator Lori Frederick , Executive Administrative Assistant Danielle Muff , Recreation Coordinator	
PARK MAINTENANCE	816.271.5504
Brian Jackson , Superintendent of Parks Scott Koch , Senior Work Leader Rob Mattson , Senior Work Leader Ray Steltenpohl , Senior Work Leader Lee Clark , Trail Maintenance Supervisor Chelsea Fee , Senior Account Clerk	
AQUATICS	816.271.5519
Jende Smith , Aquatic Recreation Supervisor	
BODE SPORTS COMPLEX & ICE ARENA	816.271.5506
April Wyatt , Bode Ice Arena/Concession Manager Jannie Castanada , Assistant Complex Manager Christine Feuerbacher , Program Concessions Coordinator	
CIVIC ARENA & MISSOURI THEATER	816.271.4717
Kathy Brock , Civic Facilities Manager Chad Bumphrey , Arena Operations Supervisor	
FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE	816.271.5351
Penny Wingard , Golf Course Manager Gina Orozco-Stillman , Assistant Golf Course Manager Reggie Johnson , Greens Superintendent	
JOYCE RAYE PATTERSON 50+ ACTIVITY CENTER	816.271.4666
Julie Noel , Manager Donna Clark , Senior Account Clerk Jena Kieser , Fitness Center Coordinator Sheldon Pearce , Building Maintenance Technician	
REC CENTER & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS	816.271.5512 816.271.5501
Megan Angst , Manager Stephanie Hyatt , Assistant Manager David Cavin , Recreation Programs & Facilities Supervisor	
REMINGTON NATURE CENTER	816.271.5499
Sarah Elder , Manager Lauren Koester , Administrative Technician Shelly Cox , Naturalist	
BILL MCKINNEY SOFTBALL COMPLEX	816.271.5519
Jake Urquhart , Senior Work Leader Athletic Fields	

YEARS OF SERVICE & RETIREMENTS

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ron Bohon
Jena Kieser
Matt Waller

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

John Nigh

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

John Frump
Wyle King

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Chad Bumphrey

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Julie Noel

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lori Frederick

2022 RETIREES

Norman Stewart—15 Years of Service
Daniel Swyhart—24 Years of Service