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WHO WE ARE



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
- Valerie Brandt
- Darrell Grace
- Pam Nelson
- Dr. Scott Nelson
- Mary Supple-Bish
- Patti Luedtke
- Michael Heim



A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Chuck Kempf, CPRP Director

2020 was an interesting and challenging year for the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department. Along with involvement in several projects, the St. Joseph parks department, like almost everyone in the country, faced the extreme challenges a pandemic creates. The arrival of COVID-19 in the United States early in 2020 created situations many people had not faced in their lifetime and dramatically impacted business operations, governmental services, entertainment, recreation, and people’s professional and personal lives in a way many generations had never experienced.

The first Coronavirus case in the United States was documented in the middle of January. The impact to St. Joseph occurred approximately two months later in the middle of March. The first direct action related to COVID-19 was the cancelation of the Moila Shrine Circus at the Civic Arena the weekend of March 13 – 15. By Thursday, March 19, all park facilities were closed to the public, and on Monday, March 23, many parks department full-time employees were placed on mandatory non-essential leave. The number of employees furloughed over the next six weeks varied depending on required work, but at the peak, as many as 38 of 54 full-time employees were off at the same time. As an additional safety measure, several others were designated to work from home. All part-time and seasonal workers were furloughed, as well. The decision was also made to ban organized activities at ball fields and close playgrounds, but outdoor basketball courts, skateboard parks, tennis courts, trails, shelters, and park greenspaces remained open and available for use.

On Monday, April 6, maintenance staff returned to work as spring maintenance duties were becoming a

necessity. Seasonal staff was brought back to work, as needed. Also, during that period, we were notified by the State of Missouri that offender labor would not be available to perform regular duties for the department, an action that would still be in place at the end of the calendar year. Offender laborers work five days a week and perform the work of approximately 15 full-time employees.

The first sign of business activity came in the re-opening of Fairview Golf Course on Friday, April 24. The opening came with heavy restrictions in place, including no public access to the clubhouse, no double rider golf carts, touchless golf practices in place, and a very limited concession operation. On May 4, additional parks department business operations were allowed to re-open with heavy COVID-related restrictions. The REC Center, Remington Nature Center, Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center, administrative offices, and outdoor athletic facilities re-opened for public use, but the Civic Arena, Missouri Theater, and Bode Ice Arena remained closed. By July, all parks facilities were available for use, but due to governmental and departmental restrictions and limitations on occupancy, there was little interest for events and activities at the Civic Arena and Missouri Theater. The Civic Arena became a warehouse and distribution site for personal protective equipment for local emergency responders and health care providers. At the end of 2020, many restrictions were still in place and business was far from normal at any parks department business operations.

The heavily modified restrictions, loss of physical human resources, and the daily focus on the health and safety of employees, vendors, and customers impacted regular duties and daily activities. Even with the challenges COVID-19 brought, the department continued to work on various projects, including different stages of CIP projects at Hyde Park (design & beginning of

STRATEGIC PLAN

Many of the projects previously mentioned help 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.



construction of splash park), Wyeth-Tootle Mansion (design of exterior renovations), Missouri Theater (design of lighting & restroom addition), and Maple Leaf Park (playground design). Another large project that was kicked off in 2020 was the initiation of the Bluff Trails project. This project, which is to be funded by the transient guest tax dedicated to riverfront development, went through an RFP process to determine a design/build contractor to begin the design, development, and construction of a new primitive trails system (hiking & mountain biking) in the river bluffs north of Highland Avenue and immediately east of the Missouri River and Waterworks Road. One disappointment related to projects in 2020 was the realization that the nearly \$450,000 in CIP funds designated for renovations at the aquatic park would not be enough to fulfill the necessary work to restore the proper functionality and safety to re-open the 65-year-

old lap pool. After assigning the design/build project, the project cost estimate was presented to the city at nearly three times the allotted budget. At a City Council work session in November, the decision was made to “bank” the CIP funds for now and operate the activity pool and lazy river at the aquatic park but keep the lap pool closed until more funds were available to provide a better solution to a difficult problem.

During this difficult year, the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department has attempted to operate safely while providing much-needed programs, activities, and events for our community. With the development and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine in the United States in December, there is hope the country will return to a higher sense of normalcy in the next few months.

Maintain and Improve Existing Infrastructure

The initiation of the design process for renovations at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion and Missouri Theater will ultimately result in much-needed improvements at these facilities. The design of a new playground at Maple Leaf Park will also result in improved park infrastructure that will last for many years.

Increase Recreational Opportunities

A more modern, versatile, and safer playground at Maple Leaf Park will provide a greater variety of play for children in the community. The Bluff Trails system will increase outdoor recreational opportunities immensely. This system will serve hikers, nature lovers, casual walkers and bicyclists, and mountain bike enthusiasts. It will draw people from a significant geographic region, dramatically impacting tourism in St. Joseph. The first splash park in St. Joseph will provide unique play options for both children and adults while also increasing visitors to our city.



Improve Park Security

Staff continues to look for opportunities to increase security and safety awareness throughout the park system, but no significant improvements were realized this year.

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. In 2020, progress on the administration of the Cartegraph asset management system was tremendous and should make it available for full use in early 2021.

Identify Additional Funding Opportunities and Options

Staff is always looking for opportunities for grants, donations, and new fee-based programs and activities. Besides the transient guest tax funding for initiation of the Bluff Trails project, the department received its annual donation from Leaverton Trust for park maintenance in the amount of \$78,142 and a donation from the Colonel William Morgan Trust in the amount of \$75,000, the latter being the third year of a multi-year donation. Staff also worked in cooperation with the Friends of the Parks, a 501 (c) (3) organization, to apply for a grant from the Norma J. and William J. Kenney Charitable Trust in the amount of \$20,000 for the purchase of “dry” playground equipment for the new splash park at Hyde Park. The board of the trust approved that grant in the spring of 2020.

The impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on the parks department was significant. The specific actions, adjustments, and reactions to the situation are communicated throughout this report. Each division of the department was affected similarly but also differently. All divisions experienced closures, layoffs, and a variety of modifications to daily operations. In total, 38 of the 54 full-time staff was laid off at some point in the early stages of the pandemic.

One thing somewhat unique to the department is that many parks department divisions deal with independent user groups and organizations, a reality that impacted the decision-making process when determining operational factors. It was very difficult for this department to establish departmental policy when independent user groups had outside influence in creating their own policies. Our staff tried to weigh our needs with those of user groups and find a balance between the two to create operating policies that would protect staff and customers while also allowing some normalcy in services. Parks department staff was also personally affected by the disease both in contracting it themselves and being quarantined due to close contact with others who were infected.

The financial impact of COVID-related operational limitations was felt across the department. All but one division suffered in lower revenues than in previous years. Most divisions were also able to keep expenses lower than in previous years but not enough to make up for the losses. The overall drop in revenue at the end of the calendar year was approximately \$360,000 with a reduction in expenses of nearly \$129,000. Additionally, due to expenses directly related to COVID-19 safety protocol, the parks department applied for and received \$24,369 of CARES Act Funding, provided by the federal government and distributed by Buchanan County. These funds helped offset expenses at each division incurred due to COVID.

Due to the desire to be outside in a safer, more socially distanced environment, golf business increased dramatically in the warm months of 2020. Without operational limitations on indoor banquet room rentals and hosting large tournaments, revenues would have been even higher. Expenses were also affected as Fairview Golf Course had to increase staffing to provide clean, sanitized, and safe equipment for the larger number of people at the course.



The objectives of the 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 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 park 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 parks department presence in downtown St. Joseph: the Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity 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 expanding the system which winds 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 pro-

jects to the board and relies on board members to provide opinions, ideas, and recommendations to the City Council. The 2020 board consisted of Chris Clark (Chairperson), Annette Lanham (replaced Dave Cripe), Valerie Brandt, Darrell Grace, Pam Nelson, Dr. Scott Nelson (replaced Jerry Wilkerson), Mary Supple-Bish, Patti Luedtke (replaced Wonda Berry), and Michael Heim.

There were changes in the administrative staff in 2020. After Carla Neidel retired, Senior Account Clerk Rashelle Rickers took a lateral transfer from the front service counter to the same position in the maintenance division creating an opportunity for Cindy Jones to move to the parks department from the customer service division at City Hall. In June, after a vacancy in the Special Events & Communications Coordinator position, Jessica Oshel was selected to fill the role.

With the arrival of new staff members, some new special events and activities were planned and hosted, even though nearly all had to be modified to adhere to COVID-19 mandates. The department hosted a trunk-or-treat drive-through event, family days in the parks, and scavenger hunts. Our social media presence also took on a new personality by offering safety and health tips, while encouraging people to take advantage of park resources to stay healthy during the pandemic.

Daily duties in the administrative office include communications (both traditional and social), customer service activities, budget monitoring, shelter management, special event coordination, 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.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

As was the case in 2019, parks department staff was informed by the Planning & Community Development staff of the availability of CDBG funds for park improvements. The 2020 project was to benefit John Lucas Park with new athletic court lighting and surfacing. Administrative staff worked diligently with the Community Development Division staff to prepare specifications for preliminary project preparation, review, and approval, which was awarded in early December. The project will go out for bid in January 2021, and work will be completed in the spring. As this project was already funded with CIP funds in FY22, those funds will be added to the CIP project budget for the Horace Mann building.

Several CIP projects were in various stages of progress this year. Design of the Hyde Park splash park was completed and put out for bid in the spring. Seven bids were submitted with Lawhon Construction Company of St. Joseph submitting the lowest bid of \$1,535,000 and was awarded the project. Work at the site began in July and should be complete in the spring of 2021. Ellison-Auxier Architects is the lead



design professional and project manager. A second aquatic CIP project scheduled for the St. Joseph Aquatic Park was determined to be dramatically underfunded for the required minimum work to restore functionality and safety to the old Noyes' lap pool. The park will be open in 2021, but only the activity pool and lazy river will be available to the public. The dedicated CIP funds will be banked until a better solution can be determined. The FY22 CIP projects involving the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion and Missouri Theater went into the early stages of the design phase. Goldberg Group Architects was assigned the Wyeth-Tootle exterior renovation project and Ellison-Auxier Architects was assigned the Missouri Theater project. Staff worked on the design of a new playground at Maple Leaf Park and executed an agreement with Playcore Wisconsin for the purchase and installation of a playground and safety surfacing at that location, as well as installation of safety surfacing for the playground at Patee Park.

FLOOD EFFORTS

Flood cleanup efforts from two flood events in 2019 continued well into 2020. Work along the Riverwalk and Heritage Park continued well into the summer months of this year but has finally been completed. The first installation of FEMA reimbursement funds in the amount of \$45,827 was also received during this calendar year.

RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

One of the first efforts to continue riverfront development planning based on the master plan by SWT Design is underway. The Bluff Trails project to develop hiking and biking trails in the bluffs to the north of Highland Avenue and east of Waterworks Road is in early development. The city accepted proposals for the design/build project and ultimately awarded the project to Ideker Construction of St. Joseph. They are working closely with Nomad Trails. The project will involve an extensive system of primitive-type trails for walking, hiking, and biking with an emphasis on mountain biking. When completed, this project should have an immediate and significant impact on tourism in St. Joseph.

MAINTENANCE

Impact of COVID-19

In 2020, our maintenance division took a major hit because of COVID-19. In the last two weeks of March, we lost the use of 17 employees due to being declared non-essential. Since the virus started, we also have not had the use of 10 -14 work-release workers and had to delay hiring seasonal workers.

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 the routine maintenance of our parks, facilities, trails, and other park properties, the maintenance staff strives to save taxpayer dollars by completing numerous in-house projects. Our staff of skilled and talented crew members has saved tens of thousands of dollars by replacing the Bode Ice Arena water main, located and repaired the broken water line at the aquatic park, and made plexiglass shields for all customer service areas through the City of St. Joseph, just to name a few.

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 plant trees and bushes, maintain flower beds, install new fence at ball fields, and repair older fences. With the severe storms this year, our tree crew was very busy removing trees and debris, which continued into 2021. Our crews also deal with a large amount of vandalism and graffiti.

After the flooding on the river, we received FEMA funding for repairs and clean-up at our facilities. Most, but not all, were completed in-house. Those items included removal of silt along riverfront hike-and-bike trail (almost completed), removal and installation of nine garage doors at Heritage Park, removal and installation of siding on the garage and three sheds at Heritage Park, removal and installation of bathroom partitions as well as new drywall, cove base and paint. Along with that, the ground was treated with chemicals, re-seeded, and fertilized.

Finally, this was the 40th anniversary of Holiday Park at Krug Park. Lights were also prepared and installed at Hyde Park's South Pole, Felix Street Square, and



the corner of Lake and Alabama. There is a lot of man-hours involved with the lighting, but our crews look forward to the holiday season every year.

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



AQUATICS



Aquatic Park

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

Krug Pool

- Swimming Pool
- Children's Pool
- Diving Board
- Sun Deck
- Concessions

Due to COVID-19, the Aquatic Park and Krug Pool were closed for the 2020 season. Therefore, our total attendance for our two outdoor facilities was zero compared to about 10,000 visitors in 2019. The annual "Aquatics Leadership Conference" was also canceled due to COVID-19; it would have been the 20th year.

Despite facing closure between March 9 and August 11, the Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool at Missouri Western State University was able to reopen in the fall to accommodate the Central High School boy's swim season. However, the Red Cross Instructor Training Academy scheduled for December had to be canceled because no outside user groups could be hosted on campus. This was a huge disappointment as this brings in a large number of participants from all over the country for an intensive, week-long training.

In addition to the unique challenges presented by the virus, we had many typical challenges we face yearly. These included lifeguard shortages which led to reduced pool hours and aging facilities and equipment.

2020 has also caused us to put in place many new procedures. Beginning in August, the mandatory use of face coverings went into effect in all buildings and spaces on campus. Additional staff training is also now needed to cover the usage of the new safety equipment including gowns, goggles, face shields, and N-95 masks.

This included how to rapidly dress in the new safety equipment especially when hot and wet. In addition, new rescue procedures were implemented for being able to identify designated “deck” personnel and “in-water” personnel. There is also a new customer check-in procedure including no cash transactions, limited occupancy, and documentation for contact tracing and record-keeping for the MWSU location. For swim meets, there are no spectators or guests allowed, and no outside rentals, training, or events are permitted for the time being.

To keep up to date on the ever-changing trends and regulations, our aquatic manager, Jende, spends many hours attending online training, conferences, and meetings. She is also apart of the Kansas City Metro Aquatics Council (KCMAC) who was able to expand its membership to include over 15 states and international participation as they provided real-time information on the pandemic. Guest speakers included both the U.S. Department of Labor and the CDC. Jende also works directly with the Red Cross to assist in providing education sessions to training facilities on the certification extensions and other pertinent training updates and changes. Finally, she helped coordinate several of the MPRA Aquatics Section meetings which included a Q&A session discussing the various operation, training, and regular procedures at Missouri pools.

Despite all of the challenges faced this year, many positive things still happened. The large leak at the Aquatic Park and the leak in the children’s pool at Krug were located and repaired. Many swim teams such as Central High School boys, Savannah High School boys, and the KCSA swim teams were still able to use our indoor facility. Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool was even able to hold open swim times after September 21 with limited hours and new procedures, and despite the challenge of not being able to host outside trainings, we have been able to train internal staff at MWSU.

Our aquatic staff was even able to have a little fun in 2020 with video education and rebranding opportunities. Several commercials were created and produced featuring safety topics that aired on our social media accounts. Our lifeguards created “shorts” that also aired on social media about fun, socially distant outdoor activities for all ages which were produced in-house. In addition, the team created the “ReCreation of RECreation” movement to summarize how we are doing everything differently. This information was included in a feature article for the National Recreation & Parks Association’s monthly magazine. All in all, it was a hectic and busy year for the St. Joseph aquatics team.



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, 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 Ice Arena is also heavily involved in several special events and activities each year. January is National Skating Month. To help celebrate this year, the arena hosted a two-hour open house with over 200 skaters participating. Throughout the event, skating instruction was provided, and door prizes and giveaways were distributed. Bode Ice Arena also participated in Try Hockey for Free Day in an effort to increase participation and awareness specifically to that sport.



Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 had a large impact on indoor activities at Bode Ice Arena.

The 31st Annual Heartland Winter Games in January was not held. Additionally, Inter-Serv was unable to utilize the Bode Sport Complex for their annual Summer Jam program.

The Griffon Gliders only practiced with one team, the Griffon Gliders Gold, with skaters ranging from 12-18 years of age. The Griffon Gliders Silver team, comprised of skaters between the ages of seven and 11, did not participate in synchronized skating at Bode Ice Arena. COVID-19 also impacted the number of participants in the Learn to Ice Skate program. Two classes, the Thursday morning Homeschool Learn to Skate and Beyond Basic, were not held because Bode Ice Arena was not having public sessions in order to comply with COVID-19 mandates.



The St. Joseph Figure Skating Club (SJFSC) was unable to host their annual Pony Express Figure Skating Competition. They were also unable to host the Best of Midwest Synchro Competition. However, they still held their annual spring ice show titled “Frozen: a Frosty Fairytale” with nearly 600 people in attendance, down from 2,000 in the previous year. The club was also able to host three Christmas performances titled “Masks & Mistletoe: the 2020 Christmas Show.” Over 400 people attended the three performances. Despite all of the changes faced in 2020, the figure skating club continues to see upward growth in their association.

The Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association began their programming in October which will run through February of the following year. They have teams from those eight and under all the way up to high school students, and they serve almost 100 area youth, both boys and girls.

The Mayor’s Children’s Christmas Party was not hosted in December; instead, the money raised went towards adopting four local families through the AFL-CIO for the Christmas season.

The Kansas City Storm girls’ hockey team was also unable to host their annual tournament in St. Joseph in December due to COVID-19 regulations.

Missouri Western State University (MWSU) traditionally offers a Learn to Curl and figure skating classes, but they were not able to in 2020. The St. Joseph Curling Club was also only able to get a single night of league play in before they had to cancel the rest of their season.

Despite all of the challenges faced this year, the 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, MWSU, and Inter-Serv.



121
People hosted parties in 2020
Down from 288 in 2019

600
In attendance at the SJFSC spring show
Down from 2,000 in 2019

400+
In attendance at the SJFSC Christmas performance



CIVIC ARENA

The St. Joseph Civic Arena opened in October 1980. 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 such as the Farm, Ag and Lifestyle Show, the Holiday Mart, the Antique Show, Shop Small St. Joseph, and the St. Joseph Distributing Food Trade Show.

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

The arena is also a beautiful banquet scene for events such as Pivotal Point Housing, the Noyes Home “Take A Seat” event, the YWCA Women of Excellence, the Mayor’s Thanksgiving Dinner, and wedding ceremonies.

The Civic Arena is great for dog shows, dance recitals, youth wrestling tournaments, car shows, bull riding, circus events, chili challenges, meetings, and training.

Total attendance for the Civic Arena in 2020 was estimated at 19,600 with Liberty Nationals bringing in the highest attendance of 6,450 at the three-day event.



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
- Drainage and plumbing system failures
- Aging seating system
- Aging lighting fixtures and switchboard panel
- Electrical problems in floor ports and throughout the facility
- Sidewalk and curbing degradation and damage
- Outdated and aging stage equipment
- Faulty floor ports
- Flooding in the lobby during heavy rains

Highlights

- KQ2 Farm, Ag, and Lifestyle Show
- Antique Show
- High School Sectional and Quarterfinals Games
- Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet
- St. Joseph Kennel Club Dog Show
- Youth Wrestling Tournaments
- UCP Chili Challenge
- Weddings
- Meetings and Training Events
- Arrive Alive Event
- Gun & Knife Show

ARENA TOTALS

37	Event Days
13	Move-In/Set-Up Days
50	Total Days Used
19,600	Total Attendance
\$118,569.73	Total Revenue



COVID-19 struck hard in March for the CFAC division of the Parks, Recreation, and Civic Facilities Department. March, April, and May are typically our busiest and most revenue-producing months, so, with the hit of COVID-19, the CFAC division lost major revenues.

COVID-19 IMPACT

28	Events Canceled
69	Total Days Canceled
\$246,124	Loss in Revenue

RENTAL TOTALS

\$37,502	Arena Rental
\$3,474	Commissions
\$21,395	Equipment Rental
\$11,000	Move-In Fee
\$1,200	Parking Fee
\$74,571	Total

CONCESSION TOTALS

\$154	BBQ Lunches
\$3,901.73	Catering
\$419	Dip 'N Dots
\$1,880	Judges' Room
\$365	Vendors
\$37,297	General Concessions
\$43,998.73	Total



FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Fairview Municipal Golf Course had a beneficial year in some areas yet not so much in others. When COVID-19 struck, golf was one of the only recreational activities allowed. It did come with restrictions, but Fairview was permitted to open before several other facilities post-shutdown.

Membership Stats

Daily play was a revenue item that saw a significant increase from the previous year increasing by \$25,297. In addition, memberships grew across the board from 247 to 319. This was in part to Moila closing and SJCC increasing fees and closing the last part of the season for renovations.

Full	159
Corporate	129
Discounted Mid-Season	31
Total Memberships	319



When re-opened in late April, only regular play golf with scheduled tee times was allowed. New POS Golf software was implemented at a crucial time to allow all tee times to be booked in an organized fashion by allowing all names of customers to be tracked each day.

All carts had to be sanitized after each use, and only single riders were allowed until July. The Clubhouse was closed to the public for 30 days, and all check-ins occurred on the porch with all staff wearing gloves, masks, and sanitizing between each customer. All drink orders were handled on the porch, and no food, other than pre-packaged, was allowed until July.

With all of the extra sanitization practices in place, an extra \$6,000 was used out of part-time wages to accommodate being open for business. An extra person was also staffed all day to clean the carts. The carts continued to be sanitized after each use into 2021, and the Clubhouse has many areas that are cleaned every two hours each day of business. Masks are mandatory.

Banquet room rentals have been allowed to return but are limited to 50 or less in attendance.

No golf leagues were allowed until late June and all had to be pre-registered each week. Men's league on Wednesdays was altered to only allow a fun night instead of a league which resulted in a loss of \$2,800 in gift certificate revenue.

Fairview co-oped two events with Duncan Hills to replace two tournaments. The City 2-Man, which is a popular event, was still held despite Moila and SJCC, and it was replaced by a two-day event with Duncan Hills. All team slots were filled. When Moila and SJCC were also not allowing the annual City Single Tournament, Fairview stepped up and added an event with Duncan Hills, again, and began the 2-Man Best Ball Tournament which will replace the City Singles Tournament in future years.



Greg Dillion, former PGA Teaching Pro, resigned in February 2020. John Leimbach, PGA Teaching Pro, was then contracted to give lessons, and he held two junior camps. Each camp hosted 14 campers despite the short-notice regulation limiting groups to four people.

Golf maintenance continued to have rough mower problems, and a new 60" zero-turn mower was pur-

chased in July to help keep the rough at the proper height. The old rough mower is over 20 years old and was loaned by the parks department when the previous one burnt up in Spring 2019.

Water expense also increased in the fall due to very dry conditions. Additionally, minimum wages continue to climb each year, and all but four of the golf course employees are part-time/seasonal laborers.

Annual Rounds

Weather-wise, this was one of the best years for golf in quite some time even considering being shut down for 37 days in early spring due to COVID-19. Once COVID hit, our daily play rounds and memberships across the board increased over the year as golf was one of the activities allowed for people to participate in. There was an increase of 686 overall rounds from 2019. Daily rounds helped pick up the loss of 1,095 tournament rounds from the previous year, and member rounds increased this season by 1,781.

Daily	6,313
Member	10,350
Total for Calendar Year	16,663



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 Senior Citizen's Foundation, Inc. and provides space for recreational, social, and educational activities and opportunities for people 50 and older and persons with disabilities.

PARTICIPATION

6,219	Daily Activities
17,878	Fitness Center
2,787	Fitness Groups
355	Arts & Crafts
72	Retirement Groups
1,622	Dance Groups
2,247	Game Groups
597	Miscellaneous Groups
55	Miscellaneous Activities
32,031	Total Participation
199	Volunteers
1,004	Volunteer Hours
69	User Groups & Organizations Met
370	Increase in Silver Sneaker Visits

Due to COVID-19, the JRP 50+ Activity Center closed for six weeks beginning in March. This caused many cancelations including all evening dances, the monthly Master Gardener's and Nick's Nutrition presentations, along with shuffleboard and ping pong play, and we discontinued 4th Friday Cornhole. This was disheartening because January and February saw increases in attendance for all activities. We also lost three user groups, and many more are remaining on standby until the pandemic is over. All remaining activity groups have restrictions to keep all people safe from community spread. We even decreased the number of people who could eat in the cafeteria and limited the number of individuals participating in fitness classes to help adjust for social distancing. Sadly, we lost income from room rentals due to the fear of private parties bringing in the virus. Also, because of the need to sanitize, expenditures were increased by nearly \$12,000 for supplies, equipment, and employee wages and benefits. This allowed us to increase our sanitation efforts, but it became incredibly time-consuming.

Amenities

- Cafeteria
- Fitness center & exercise classes
- Billiards, 8-ball, snooker, table tennis, and shuffleboard tables
- Library, DVD movies, & information referrals
- Large meeting rooms & room rentals
- Stage
- Elevator
- Free 5-hr off-street & 2-hr on-street parking
- Card and retirement groups
- JRP Kitchen Band
- Volunteer opportunities
- Line dance lessons
- Free wi-fi



Challenges

- Decrease of 25,211 visits from last year
- Attendance for all activities decreased
- Cafeteria attendance down by 2,705 meals served
- Attempted four different activities that were subsequently canceled due to lack of interest
- Lost the Pony Express Association for the Blind and the Parkinson's Support Groups
- Lost all three yoga instructors
- Attempted two different fitness classes that were later canceled due to low attendance
- Attempted a shuffleboard league that collapsed in March
- Lost blood pressure check partners
- Increase to minimum wage for building attendants
- Closed veteran's exhibit
- Canceled annual Turkey Dinner
- The elevator is over 40 years old
- Pipe and vault/parking lot leaks
- Aging structure with continued maintenance related issues. The last renovation was 1997-1998
- The increasing cost of utilities
- Leaking men's room toilet
- Backflow prevention test failed
- HVAC failures and repairs – units are aging, last replaced in 1997, with one exploding and four others needing repair during 2020
- Batteries for backup emergency lighting need replacing

Looking Forward To

- Installation of a dehumidifier and two ionization filtration systems over the fitness center
- Working with new community partners to offer a 50 After 50 health and wellness program in January and February of 2021
- Purchasing three different pieces of fitness equipment to add to the fitness center
- Installation of new building signage on three sides of the building and window decals in lower-level lobby
- COVID-19 vaccinations for staff and visitors

Highlights

- Fitness Center had 655 members, 27 of which had the Silver Sneakers benefit
- Changed age requirements for two dances and one of the line dancing classes. Saw increased attendance for all due to this
- Hosted two presentations: Heart Health and Busting the Myths of Hospice
- Hosted six six-week classes for walking, health, and wellness related topics
- Added two new Tai Chi for arthritis and fall prevention classes
- Home to the St. Joseph Retired Teachers, Pool Players Association, St. Joseph Stamp Club, Sertoma, and the St. Joseph Garden Club.
- Foundation Board approved the update to their by-laws and articles of incorporation
- Foundation Board selected a slogan, "Friendship * Fun * Fitness", and a new logo
- New building signs were ordered
- Strategic Planning Committee held a parking lot clean up in the fall
- Added a monthly art class and a live trivia event
- Added Bingo twice a month until we had to close for the stay-at-home order
- Succeeded in keeping the facility from closing due to COVID exposure
- Added staff parking signs
- Painted and made minor repairs to the building
- Added waterscape and fish to the indoor water feature
- Started two different promotions for the cafeteria: a birthday club and trick-or-treat dessert event



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.

Today, the Missouri Theater hosts local arts organizations, showcasing their talents in all art forms. These include the Allied Arts Council, the Robidoux Resident Theatre, the Performing Arts Association, the St. Joseph Symphony, Creative Arts Productions, Dance Arts Center, and the Inspirations Dance Center.

Total attendance at the Missouri Theater for events in 2020 was an estimated 11,808.

The theater staff works 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 Expresso.

Regular renovations take place at the theater to maintain its structural soundness and opulence. The Missouri Theater boasts a newer sound system and T-coil installation along with updates to the green room and dressing rooms.



Amenities

- Floor seating for 483
- Balcony seating for 717
- Orchestra pit
- Dressing rooms
- Greenroom
- T-coil installation
- Upgraded sound system

Challenges

- Roof leak
- Faulty auditorium lighting
- Electrical issues inside and around the marquee
- Seat upholstery is in poor condition and needs replacing
- Sidewalks are in disrepair
- Only one accessible restroom on the main floor
- Lack of proper storage space

Highlights

- Total attendance for all events in 2020 was 11,808 people
- Popovich Comedy Pet Theater
- Matilda the Musical
- Juke Box Saturday Night
- Rhythm of the Dance
- The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe
- Virtual Symphony Youth Concert
- Dance Recitals

Looking Forward To

- CIP improvements to include a new brocade curtain
- CIP improvements to include installing more restrooms on the main level

THEATER TOTALS

9	Events
48	Rehearsal Days
67	Total Days Used
11,808	Total Attendance
\$15,475	Total Revenue



COVID-19 IMPACT

19	Events Canceled
89	Total Days Canceled
\$31,150	Loss in 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, and a 1/11th mile elevated walking track. There are several fitness class options, including Zumba and Tai Chi, adult fitness, and cardio. The REC hosts adult volleyball and pickleball, as well as youth volleyball and basketball leagues. A variety of special events and tournaments are also held throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIPS & PASSES

1,203	Fitness Memberships
2,510	Class Participants
2,297	Day Passes

ADULT LEAGUE

204	Women's Volleyball
132	Men's Volleyball
468	Co-ed Volleyball

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

120	3rd/4th Grade
228	5th/6th Grade

COVID-19 took a toll on the facility as it did everywhere else in 2020. The facility had to close and cancel programs. The REC Center was closed for a total of 45 days. When the facility was allowed to reopen, things were very slow and people were leery about



returning due to COVID concerns. Gradually, people returned as they were looking to get back into a routine and become more active again. The REC Center made many changes and took lots of precautions to make the facility safe for people to return during the pandemic. Masks were required to be worn while inside the building. In the fitness room, some equipment was put out of service to allow for social distancing while patrons were exercising, and additional cleaning was done throughout the day to make sure the equipment was thoroughly sanitized. An electrostatic sprayer was purchased to use on the fitness equipment and other areas of the building to assist in the disinfecting process. Some seating was removed at the tables in the concessions area to limit the number of people gathering while eating and fitness classes were moved from the Community Room to a gymnasium to allow for social distancing between participants.



league had 29 teams participate in the league. It was decided to put the Little Ballers youth basketball league on hold due to early COVID-19 restrictions. Later in the fall, some of the COVID restrictions were revised which allowed for a youth basketball league to be offered. It was felt with everything going on, this year would be a good year for a trial run with outsourcing the facilitation of the youth basketball league. An arrangement was made with an outside organization to facilitate the league and rent basketball courts at the REC Center. COVID restrictions were followed at all times during all the leagues. Masks were worn by everyone while inside the building, the number of spectators was strictly limited to two people per player to allow for proper social distancing, and additional cleaning in between games was done to make sure the building and equipment were sanitized. Adjustments to game schedules were made to limit the number of people in the building at the same time. Teams were not allowed to come inside the building until their game time. If they arrived early, they had to stay outside until the game before had finished, and disinfecting of the gyms was complete. Teams were asked to exit the building through a different entrance to limit contact with other people waiting to enter the building. Other successful ventures included the partnership with ActivStars Midwest to offer youth karate. The program also had to make adjustments in order to offer classes during the pandemic. While the weather was nice outside, the karate classes moved outdoors, and when they had to move inside, adjustments to class sizes were made. All were done to give proper spacing for social distancing between participants.

The fitness center is used moderately, with memberships dropping off in the past couple of years. The reduction was mainly due to new fitness facilities opening in town and the lack of 24-hour access to the fitness center. This year work was completed in the fitness room so 24-hour access could be offered. Additional cameras and more lighting outside the building were added for more security. A keycard security lock was added to the exterior of the eastside fitness door to allow for access into the building. The work was completed in March, and, unfortunately, the facility had to close shortly after the work was completed and did not get the rollout that was anticipated. Once the facility reopened, the REC Center was able to advertise the after-hours access. By the end of November, almost 100 access cards were purchased. Word of these improvements brought back several old members who had left because the hours of operation did not work with their schedule, and it also brought in some new faces that signed up for memberships. Even with the closure, the REC Center was able to have 1,203 memberships throughout the year. That total equates to 100 individual members per month.

Adult volleyball leagues continued to be very popular with most leagues filling up each session. A total of 134 teams participated in the three sessions of volleyball in 2020. The spring league did have to be canceled due to COVID, but the fall league saw an increase in teams. The increase is believed to be because people were ready to get back to some kind of normalcy and be active after the shutdown. Pickle ball also continued to be a popular option to other more traditional sports. Six courts are available at an open gym four times a week and continue to grow in the number of attendance.

Even with the pandemic, youth sports were popular and continue to dominate the overall use of the facility with leagues and practices. The fall youth volleyball



REMINGTON NATURE CENTER

Impact of COVID-19

Regular and group attendance for the Remington Nature Center was severely impacted by COVID-19. While the year began with lower than normal attendance, it was hoped that the school group attendance would make up that difference in the spring. Unfortunately, the Nature Center was closed from March 19 through May 3, 2020, due to the city lockdown. As a result of the lockdown and the closing of schools in the area, the Nature Center lost the attendance of students from 18 schools in Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa, who had already made reservations, as well as many others who have visited in the past but were unable due to the virus.

The Nature Center also lost attendance and revenue in conference room rentals due to COVID-19. Some rentals were canceled by us due to the lockdown, others were canceled or postponed by the renter. Once the Nature Center reopened after the lockdown, the manager of the Nature Center instituted group size restrictions to allow for as much distancing as possible in the conference room, as well as enforcing the City Mask and Social Distancing Mandates. While the numbers for rentals are down from 2019, they are coming back up. In addition, Herp-O-Rama and Insect-O-Rama, both very successful events which bring in hundreds of people, were canceled.



ATTENDANCE TOTALS

424	Children
1,661	Youth
2,078	Adults
782	Seniors
2,069	Conference Room
434	Miscellaneous
7,448	Total Attendance
\$13,110.74	Total Revenue

In 2020, the Remington Nature Center was fortunate to receive a grant of \$5,000 from the Missouri Humanities Council as part of the CARES Act. We are using this money to renovate the former children's room into a live animal display. The money is being used for the construction of a base for a previously donated 240-gallon aquarium that will house turtles, as well as shelving units that will hold the live

snakes. The funding will also be used in other exhibit displays.

Throughout the summer of 2020, the Nature Center took part in the Work/Life Skills program with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). During two, six-week sessions, we had four young men come in every morning and clean glass, vacuum carpets, set-up the conference room, pick up trash outside, assist with Fish Feeding Frenzy, and other projects. These young men 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 2021.

On January 25, 2020, Shelly Cox and Sarah Elder took snakes, salamanders, and tortoises to Missouri Western State University for Super Science Saturday, an annual event sponsored by the St. Joseph Museum and Missouri Western State University. They interacted and presented information about the Nature Center and the animals to 1,390 people.

On October 29, 2020, the Remington Nature Center participated in the “Drive-Through Trunk-or-Treat”, sponsored by the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department, and interacted with 1,078 people.

GIFT SHOP & GIVEAWAYS

\$12,580.73 Gift Shop Sales

\$698.31 Giveaways and Free Passes

\$3,440 No Charge Conference Rooms

Gift shop sales were down in 2020, although November and December saw a significant rebound due to the sale of the annual Park’s Department Christmas ornaments and visitors buying Christmas presents.

While many scheduled outreach programs were canceled due to COVID 19 in 2020, we were able to provide four in-person outreach events reaching 1,520 people before the lockdown and school closures. We also traveled and participated in two outreach programs allowing us to reach an additional 1,291 people for a total of 2,811 people.

FUNCTIONS & EVENTS	
12	Tours
235	Tour Attendance
30	Events
206	Event Attendance
6	Outreach Events
2,811	Outreach Attendance
70	Rentals
2,151	Rental Attendance
5,403	Total Event Attendance
\$7,853.50	Total Event Revenue

We participated in ZOOM presentations and provided pre-recorded video programming in collaborative efforts with St. Joseph Public Library, Rolling Hills Library, and the St. Joseph School District, reaching a large number of adults and students.



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RECREATION & SOFTBALL/BASEBALL

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. Programs and activities include the grade school basketball program for 4th – 6th graders, youth tennis program for 5 – 10-year olds, collaboration with the Health Department on St. Joe FIT, organizes the Outlaw Adventure 5k Run, adult cornhole leagues, and the St. Joseph Senior Games. Support and guidance for various other community recreation events are also provided by the department.

As with many other activities, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major effect on the events and programs that the parks department was able to provide during 2020. Many events and activities such as the grade 4th – 6th youth basketball program, the Outlaw Adventure Run, St. Joseph Senior Games, and the St. Joe FIT were not held in 2020 due to the global pandemic and the public health crisis it created.



Cornhole leagues continued to show success in the parks department in 2020. A fall league was held at Heritage Park with 17 teams competing. Once outdoor temperatures cooled, an additional session launched at the Fairview Golf Course banquet room on Wednesday nights with 16 teams registered. Cornhole continues to be a very popular activity with frequent requests for additional and larger league offerings.



Along with these considerations, we look forward to continuing to enhance the current recreation programs and events the department works with. Ever-changing trends lead the department to seek out new activities and evolve with the interests of the recreating public.



One bright light for 2020 was the reopening of the Noyes Tennis Center after extensive renovations took place in 2019. 19 participants were able to attend the summer youth tennis program held in June 2020, up from seven in 2019. Fortunately, the outdoor courts of the Noyes Tennis Center made it possible for the program to be held with COVID-19 health protocols in mind. St. Joseph high schools were also able to hold their dual matches during the fall, but most tournaments were canceled due to restrictions on gathering.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS

Impact of COVID-19

Of paramount concern in 2020 was the emergence of the COVID-19 global pandemic. As a result, many city recreational facilities were temporarily closed until further advisement from public health officials was provided. All league play ranging from youth baseball and softball to adult softball was significantly delayed with the onset of the pandemic in the spring. Many concerns and the unknown of the situation forced league and tournament organizers alike to pause until more understanding of COVID-19 was gained. All high school spring sports were suspended and did not take place in the spring season of 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

Adult softball is typically split into an eight-game spring/summer league and an eight-game fall league. However, only one session of adult softball was conducted. 26 teams were able to participate in a delayed start to the summer league in 2020. The St. Joseph Baptist Association continued its longstanding partnership with the St. Joseph Parks & Recreation Department. They conducted a summer league with nine teams participating through USA Softball registration. After a delayed start, Pony Express Baseball, Midland Empire Sports Association, Wood Bat Baseball, American Legion, and other local youth and adult teams were able to use baseball and softball fields for practice and league play while implementing certain safety measures to combat the virus. These groups, along with other teams and organizations, utilized city facilities for their practice or event needs during various times of the year.

COVID-19 forced the cancelation of the USA Softball Northern National 18 and Under B-Girls Fastpitch Tournament that was to be held in St. Joseph in July 2020. A large majority of these events were canceled nationwide as safety became a major concern when holding events and hosting spectators. St. Joseph was awarded the option to host the same event in 2022 and, at this time, hopes to do so. During the fall, local high schools were able to hold their autumn softball

seasons in a reduced capacity at Heritage Park and Hyde Park. The parks department hosted the Class 1 district 16 softball tournament as well as the Class 4 area sectional playoff round at Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park.

Beginning in the fall of 2020, major renovations began to the South Park girls' softball complex thanks to a partnership between the Midland Empire Softball Association (MESA) and the City of St. Joseph. When completed, these renovations will include new chain link fencing, a backstop renovation, dugout replacement, and flat concrete enhancements. The MESA program is providing substantial funding for the improvements while the parks maintenance division is performing the onsite work. The project is scheduled to be completed before the 2021 season, weather permitting. Annual fall turf maintenance, including seeding and fertilization, also took place at various baseball and softball facilities throughout the city.



Overall, the parks department's mission is to enhance softball and baseball by providing programming for adult softball leagues as well as facilitate youth and adult championship level tournaments. Facility management and support of youth baseball and softball, high school baseball and softball, and adult softball and baseball programs all fall under the umbrella of services provided by the department.

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 good things does create a great, positive impact within our community. The Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department values all partnerships and effects they make on the City of St. Joseph.



Impact of COVID-19 on Events

Due to COVID-19, many of the department's annual events were canceled or adjusted to keep everyone safe.

St. Joe FIT, an annual campaign to promote health and walking of our many trails, was canceled in fear of spreading the virus between participants.

In July, the city-sponsored 4th of July fireworks went on as normal, but we encouraged all viewers to be cautious and spread out if they chose to watch from the Nature Center or Heritage Sports Complex. July was also National Parks and Recreation Month, and each facility within the department participated in their own ways during their highlighted week. Instead of hosting their typical in-person promotions, many of the facilities had to change to social media-focused giveaways and activities.

The holiday light ceremonies were also affected. No cookies or cocoa were served to the public, and we encouraged people to watch the light ceremonies online via Facebook Live. Another holiday event impacted by COVID-19 was the Mayor's Children's Christmas Party. Instead of hosting the annual skating extravaganza, the parks department got permission to use the donations to participate in the AFL-CIO adopt-a-family program. Gifts, clothing, and household necessities were purchased for 31 people in four different families.

NOTABLE PARTNERSHIPS

St. Joseph School District

Missouri Western State University

Midland Empire Youth Football

Pony Express Baseball

Midland Empire Sports Association

St. Joseph Figure Skating Club

St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association

St. Joseph Public Library

Missouri Department of Conservation

Optimist Club

Allied Arts Council

Chamber of Commerce

St. Joe's Convention & Visitor's Bureau

And Many More...

However, many new events were implemented this year despite the challenges from the pandemic.

In an effort to bring people back into the parks after many of the mandates were lifted off of playground equipment, three Sunday Funday: Pop Up Parks were hosted at various parks throughout the city. For two hours each day, families were encouraged to come out and play games (provided) with their loved ones. Also, in partnership with the Friends of the Animal Shelter, Howl-A-Palooza was held in Corby Dog Park as a small festival full of activities and giveaways for people and dogs alike.

The department held its first-ever trunk-or-treat event, drive-through style, at Heritage Sports Complex. This was overwhelmingly supported by the community, bringing over 1,000 people to the event.

Another new holiday activity was the Turkey Hunt during November. Community members were encouraged to get outside and explore the parks in search of paper turkeys with QR code clues at various parks hidden around town. Each participant was entered into a drawing to win a family-sized Thanksgiving dinner donated by Hy-Vee. 35 groups participated.

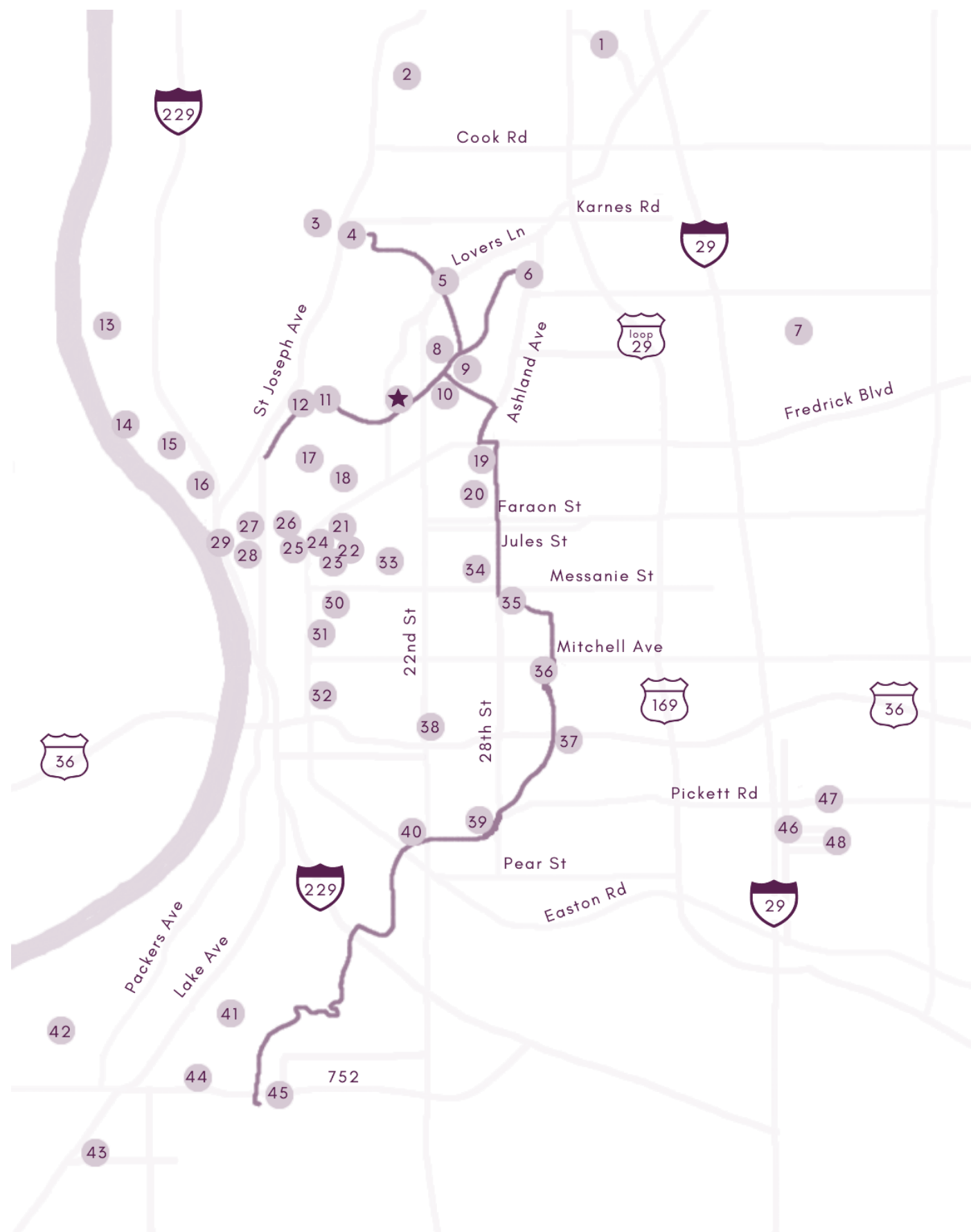


Letters from Santa was another popular activity implemented in 2020. Children were encouraged to drop their letters to Santa in the Holiday Express mailbox at Santa's Station in Holiday Park. If a return address was included, "Santa's helpers" wrote a personalized letter back to the child. 80 letters were delivered from Santa to 132 children.

Along with the few in-person events and activities, the parks department saw an increase of 400 followers on Facebook. Because of social media, many families were reached through contests and giveaways such as Parker's Countdown to Christmas, Corby the Leprechaun, and Hot Dog Days of August.



PARKS & TRAILS



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 Sitting 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
- ★ **Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Admin & Maintenance**
1920 Grand Avenue

STAFF DIRECTORY

PARK ADMINISTRATION

Chuck Kempf , Director	816.271.5500
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Jeff Atkins , Assistant Director	
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Jessica Oshel , Special Events & Communication Coordinator	
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Lori Frederick , Executive Administrative Assistant	
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Cindy Jones , Senior Account Clerk	

PARK MAINTENANCE

Brian Jackson , Superintendent of Parks	816.271.5504
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Scott Koch , Senior Work Leader	
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Rob Mattson , Senior Work Leader	
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Ray Steltenpohl , Senior Work Leader	
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Rashelle Rickers , Senior Account Clerk	

AQUATICS

Jende Smith , Aquatic Recreation Supervisor	816.271.5511
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Avery Cary-Wilmes , Aquatic Coordinator	816.271.5510

BODE SPORTS COMPLEX & ICE ARENA

April Wyatt , Bode Ice Arena/Concession Manager	816.271.5506
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CIVIC ARENA & MISSOURI THEATER

Kathy Brock , Civic Facilities Manager	816.271.4717
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Chad Bumphrey , Arena Operations Supervisor	816.271.4628
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Carolyn Hitchings , Arena Coordinator	

FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Penny Wingard , Golf Course Manager	816.271.5351
Garrett Brown , Assistant Golf Course Manager	
Gregg Ezzell , Greens Superintendent	

JOYCE RAYE PATTERSON 50+ ACTIVITY CENTER

Julie Noel , Manager	816.271.4666
Donna Clark , Senior Account Clerk	
Jena Kieser , Fitness Center Coordinator	
Sheldon Pearce , Building Maintenance Technician	

REC CENTER & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Jami Guck , Manager	816.271.5512
Megan Angst , Assistant Manager	
Kaleb Huffman , REC Activities Coordinator	
David Cavin , Recreation Program & Facilities Supervisor	816.271.5501
Jannie Castanada , Recreation Program Coordinator	

REMINGTON NATURE CENTER

Sarah Elder , Manager	816.271.5499
Barbara Russell , Administrative Assistant	
Shelly Cox , Naturalist	

BILL MCKINNEY SOFTBALL COMPLEX AT HERITAGE PARK

Charlie Babcock , Senior Work Leader Athletic Fields	816.271.5503
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