

St. Joseph Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department  
**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# WE GROW COMMUNITY

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A young girl eats ice cream and draws with sidewalk chalk at the Krug Park-A-Palooza.

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A baby pets a donkey at the Krug Park-A-Palooza

About the  
**ST. JOSEPH PARKS, RECREATION  
& CIVIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

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# MISSION

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



Children explore the newly renovated Corby Pond area.



A group of seniors from Central High School pick up the Riverfront Park for their Senior Service Day.

**57**  
FULL-TIME  
STAFF

**322**  
SHELTER RESERVATIONS

**1,500+**  
ACRES

# A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

The theme for the 2024 Missouri Parks & Recreation Association’s annual conference is “Making Missouri Better, One Park at a Time.” That could also be said for the process the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department is undergoing. St. Joseph is currently experiencing an unprecedented period, one not seen in decades as it relates to the local parks and park facilities. The St. Joseph community committed to the old idiom, “put your money where your mouth is,” and in 2021, committed several million dollars to their Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department.

Funds for improvements come from the traditional Capital Improvements Program (CIP) which has been a popular funding mechanism for St. Joseph voters for nearly forty years. The parks department also benefits from funding generated by a 3% Transient Guest Tax charged to every hotel/motel room in the city limits. This tax is dedicated to expenditures that promote riverfront development. A “new” funding source is the Park Sales Tax Fund which was met with tremendous support in August 2021. This “new” tax will provide an estimated \$80 - \$90 million in funds over the ten-year program cycle. Those funds can only be spent on department-related projects. Another “new” funding source has been Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided by the city’s Planning & Community Development Department. Even though these funds are heavily restricted, the parks department has used them to replace playgrounds in low-to-moderate-income neighborhoods throughout the city. Another exciting funding source has been the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The City of St. Joseph benefited from several million dollars from the state and federal government to address COVID-impacted issues throughout the city. The St. Joseph City Council dedicated some of those funds to benefit parks department-related projects.

A vision created and supported by many individuals and organizations in St. Joseph, coupled with citizen loyalties to geographic sections of the city and dedication and passion for specific park-related programs, has resulted in a unified effort to improve and enhance our parks for decades to come.

All the funding tools mentioned above help staff provide the resources to accomplish tasks and projects that support the five primary goals of the department’s strategic plan. Due to the funding and effort of many,

the 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 the 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 continues efforts to operate safely and effectively while providing much-needed programs, activities, and events for our community.

**Chuck Kempf, CPRP**

Director



With the help of Friends of Krug Park, the St. Joseph Youth Alliance installed a kindness rock garden at Krug Park.



The department partnered with Friends of Krug Park and the St. Joseph Public Library to host a movie night at Krug Park featuring Hocus Pocus and a costume contest.

# 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 varied and ever-changing.

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, is connected 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 manages multiple facilities along the Missouri River, including the 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. 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, Missouri Theater, and multiple monuments.

A park 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. With the oversight of the park board, staff worked to update the department's strategic plan to span the next three years. The 2023 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.

This year was the first fully operational year for the Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department since 2019. All operations, including the performance venues, returned to "normal" since the beginning of COVID-19 in March 2020.

In 2023, LeeAnn Trautman joined the administrative team as Project Manager, a newly created position that is responsible for project management duties for projects funded by CIP, Park Sales Tax, and ARPA resources. Due to the significant increase in capital projects in the department, city administration felt it was wise to have a dedicated staff person to manage the process required to properly facilitate project initiation to the point of completion.

A large project initiated in 2023 was the Park Sales Tax funding for Krug Park. With over \$12 million designated to the city's largest green space, Krug Park, the parks department has partnered with a criteria consultant team consisting of West 8 Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, Charcoalblue, and Arts Consulting Group. Primary project areas identified in the Park Sales Tax include the castle, the children's circus, picnic pavilions, the bowl, and the overall park. Three community engagement sessions were held to establish fundamental roots, provide sketches of potential landscape designs and elements, and allow the community to provide feedback on what they found to be truly important to Krug Park. These open houses were important milestones in the eight-month timeline by identifying shared ambitions, common goals, and collective values on the renovation of the park.



# ADMINISTRATION

A ribbon ceremony was held to celebrate the completion of the improvements made to Corby Pond. This \$1,371,000 public works stormwater management project dredged the existing pond, improved the stormwater system in the area including Corby Pond, and added a retaining wall. Two new fishing docks were installed, and a fountain display was donated by Kendall Randolph in memory of a family friend, Laura Elizabeth Hutton.



In addition to multiple capital projects being initiated and completed during the year, the department worked throughout 2023 using park tax funds to purchase new equipment and rolling stock. By the end of the year, 25 new pieces of equipment were purchased and delivered including a new compactor trash truck, 13 mowers of various types, and a Jon boat. Finally, 14 additional pieces of equipment had been ordered but not delivered yet.

Development of River Bluff Trails Park continued through 2023. Construction on this new park began in the fall of 2020 and will continue into 2024. Even though the entire trail system won't be complete and open for use until later in 2024, the system was opened to the public on May 27, 2022. A bike skills park and pump track were also constructed at Huston-Wyeth Park to enhance the mountain bike experience in the area. This design/build project is led by general contractor Ideker Construction of St. Joseph. They are working closely with Nomad Trails Development, a national leader in mountain bike trail development.

Employment trends from previous years continued into 2023, primarily reflected in fewer seasonal workers and less interest in part-time positions throughout the department. It is also more difficult to fill skilled maintenance positions (electricians, plumbers, tree care, and golf course) in the current employment environment. The department relies heavily on seasonal labor for aquatics, ball field maintenance, golf course maintenance, and park and parkway maintenance.

Daily duties in the administrative office include communication (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.



# HALF-CENT SALES TAX

## Rolling Stock & Equipment Ordered in 2023 & Received

Ordered	Item Requested	Other Information	Actual Cost (Each)	Location and/or Use	Total Cost
1	Jacobsen Turf Truckster	Replace existing equipment	\$33,000	Golf Course	\$33,000
1	Tilt Ditching Bucket	Add new equipment	\$4,318	Maintenance	\$4,318
1	5' x 8' Utility Trailer	Replace existing equipment	\$5,140	Maintenance	\$5,140
1	Parking Lot Paint Striper	Add new equipment	\$5,799	Maintenance	\$5,799
1	Forklift	Replace existing equipment	\$33,701	Civic Arena	\$33,701
1	Chipper/Mulcher Attachment (Mini-Excavator)	Add new equipment	\$22,486	Maintenance	\$22,486
1	20' Tilt-Bed Trailer	Replace existing equipment	\$11,550	Maintenance	\$11,550
1	Bobcat Mini-Skid Steer	New equipment	\$34,416	Trails	\$34,416
1	Chipper/Mulcher Attachment (Bobcat)	Replace existing equipment	\$37,492	Maintenance	\$37,492
1	Kubota Mini-Excavator	Add new equipment	\$63,848	Maintenance	\$63,848
3	3/4-Ton 4WD Pickup	Replace existing equipment	\$49,468	Maintenance	\$148,404
1	Wright Stand-On Mower	Add new equipment	\$7,517	Maintenance	\$7,517
2	International Cab & Chassis for Dump Trucks	Replace existing equipment	\$67,366	Maintenance	\$134,732
2	Dump Beds & Plows for Dump Trucks	Replace existing equipment	\$22,512	Maintenance	\$45,024
2	18' Tilt-Bed Trailer	Replace existing equipment	\$8,630	Maintenance	\$17,260
2	Walk-Behind Mowers	Replace existing equipment	\$6,535	Maintenance	\$13,070
1	Backhoe	Replace existing equipment	\$155,260	Maintenance	\$155,260
1	Stationary Shop Air Compressor	Replace existing equipment	\$4,024	Maintenance	\$4,024

## Ordered in 2023 & Not Received

1	Utility Cart	Replace existing equipment	\$17,940	Maintenance	\$17,940
2	1/2-Ton 4WD Pickup	Replace existing equipment	\$37,511	Maintenance	\$75,022
1	Reel Sharpener (used)	Add new equipment	\$9,100	Golf Course	\$9,100



# HALF-CENT SALES TAX

The second year of funding from the Half-Cent Parks Sales Tax began in 2023. The parks' ten-year half-cent sales tax was approved by voters in August 2021 to help restore and improve our green spaces, parks, and parks facilities to provide safe, ADA-compliant, and desirable quality-of-life amenities for our residents and help maintain them for future generations. Funds began accumulating on January 1, 2022, and the City is fortunate that the current accumulation of financing is outpacing the anticipated plan. The budgeted amount of parks sales tax projects for the fiscal year 2023 was \$8,397,332 and for the fiscal year 2024 \$7,750,000. To supplement this, the CIP funding for parks projects for 2023 was \$557,829 with 2024 funding \$2,603,282. The parks department also received Transient Sales Tax funding for the Bob Simpson Pedestrian Bridge and the River Bluff Trails Park. Additional ARPA funding provided \$701,125.71 to enhance funding available to support the City of St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, and Civic Facilities.

Completed Park Projects			
Project	Location	Money Spent	Funding Source
ADA Sidewalk to Dock	Corby Pond	\$100,746.02	Parks Sales Tax
Basketball Court Surface Replacement	Bode Sports Complex	\$374,108.00	Parks Sales Tax
Pickle Ball Court Surface Replacement	Bode Sports Complex	\$215,529.00	Parks Sales Tax
Roof Repair & Interior Plaster Repair & Specialty Painting	Missouri Theater	\$517,691.00	Parks Sales Tax
Park Shelter Replacement	Patee Park & Bartlett Park	\$70,830.00	Parks Sales Tax
Grandstand Roof Replacement	Phil Welch Stadium	\$180,841.00	Parks Sales Tax
Civic Arena Floor Port Replacement	Civic Arena	\$276,092.00	Parks Sales Tax
Civic Arena Seating Replacement	Civic Arena	\$1,633,841.91	Parks Sales Tax
Civic Arena Lighting/Switchboard Replacement	Civic Arena	\$474,584.00	Parks Sales Tax
Center Hung Scoreboard Replacement	Civic Arena	\$488,041.05	Parks Sales Tax
Center-hung Scoreboard Replacement	Civic Arena	\$79,000.00	ARPA
Basketball Goals	Civic Arena	\$70,845.00	ARPA
Digital Score Tables	Civic Arena	\$74,982.00	ARPA
Seating Replacement	Civic Arena	\$740,475.00	ARPA
Lighting Switchboard Replacement	Civic Arena	\$34,698.00	ARPA
Playground Resurfacing	Hochman Park	\$127,364.73	CIP
Playground Resurfacing	Seitz Park	\$97,681.92	CIP
Playground Resurfacing	Mary Park	\$175,511.72	CIP
Playground Equipment	Horace Mann	\$45,405.51	CDBG
Bob Simpson Pedestrian Bridge	River Bluff Trails	\$1,451,684.00	Transient Sales Tax
River Bluff Trails	River Bluff Trails	\$2,585,112.00	Transient Sales Tax

Park Projects in Progress		
Project	Location	Funding Source
Refrigeration System Replacement	Bode Ice Arena	Parks Sales Tax
Marque Refresh	Missouri Theater	Parks Sales Tax
Fairview Ponds & Bridges	Fairview Golf Course	Parks Sales Tax
Replace Irrigation System on Greens	Fairview Golf Course	Parks Sales Tax
HVAC Replacement	Remington Nature Center	Parks Sales Tax
Stadium Structure Repair	Phil Welch Stadium	Parks Sales Tax
Stadium Concrete Step Replacement	Phil Welch Stadium	Parks Sales Tax
Shelter Renovations, Electrical & Concrete	Northside Complex	Parks Sales Tax
Tennis Court Lighting	Northside Complex	Parks Sales Tax
Drainage Repair	Bartlett Park Ballfield Hillside	Parks Sales Tax
Disc Golf Course	Hyde Park	Parks Sales Tax
Carpet Replacement	Remington Nature Center	Parks Sales Tax
Kitchen Equipment	Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center	Parks Sales Tax
Castle, Childrens Circus, Amphitheater, Tunnel, Restrooms	Krug Park	Parks Sales Tax
Splash Park	Northside Complex	Parks Sales Tax
Pool House Renovations	Hyde Park	Parks Sales Tax
Aquatics Phase II Hyde-low water pool	Hyde Park	Parks Sales Tax
Painting Internal/External	Civic Arena	ARPA
Civic Arena Stage	Civic Arena	ARPA
Volleyball Hardware	Civic Arena	ARPA
Score Table	Civic Arena	ARPA
Video Equipment	Civic Arena	ARPA
Spotlights	Civic Arena	ARPA
Team Chairs	Civic Arena	ARPA
Sport Court	Civic Arena	ARPA
Electric Service Upgrade	Civic Arena	ARPA
Sound System	Civic Arena	ARPA
End Zone Scoreboards	Civic Arena	ARPA
Replacing Granite Base	Pony Express Statue	ARPA
Restroom Renovation	Bartlett Park	CIP
Restroom Replacement	Corby Grove	CIP
Restroom & Concession Replacement	Eagles Ball Field	CIP
Restroom Replacement	Hochman Park	CIP
Restroom Replacement	Hyde Park	CIP
Restroom Renovation	Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center	CIP
Restroom Construction	Northeast Park	CIP
Restroom Renovation	Northside Complex	CIP
Park Construction (Skate/Bike)	Maple Leaf Park	CIP
Emergency Generator Replacement	Civic Arena	Civic Arena Budget

# AQUATICS

The 2023 season saw the full operation of Krug Pool, Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park, the activity pool at the St. Joseph Aquatic Park, and the continued partnership with Missouri Western State University's Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool. The Aquatic Park had a total attendance of 7,976, down from 10,188 in 2022, and Krug Pool had 1,839, down from 2,032. The addition of the Barracudas Swim team in 2023 resulted in a seasonal attendance of 639. The splash pad remained a highly popular water destination.

– 2:00 PM and 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM Monday through Friday. These options allow controlled attendance numbers while still offering adequate swimming opportunities for the community we serve. We received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from our families regarding the sessions; parents appreciated the facilities being far less crowded and were very pleased with the three-hour sessions.

Staffing continued to be a challenge for both the outdoor pools and at Missouri Western. For the summer season, 29 pool staff were hired.

Programming at the Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool at Missouri Western State University (MWSU) remained steady through May when the university closed the facility as a result of inadequate staffing levels. In August 2023, the City of St. Joseph took over full pool operations of the indoor pool. With three returning MWSU lifeguards, now city employees, and the retention of seven seasonal lifeguards, the indoor pool schedule has remained relatively stable. However, more lifeguards are needed to cover unexpected vacancies.

Swim lessons are still on hold as a result of low staffing levels which let us focus on meeting open swim hours and fulfilling contracted user group times. The Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool continues to be the home facility for Central High School, Savannah High School, and the Kansas City Swim Academy.



A lifeguard sits watching the water at Krug Park.

Due to the success in 2021 and 2022, the daily swim options continued with two different swim sessions. 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM and 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM Monday through Saturday, and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Sunday at the Aquatic Park. Krug Pool offered 11:00 AM



Krug Pool's calm waters before a public session begins.



A child goes down the slides at the wet playground in the Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park.



Children enjoy catching the bubbles at the Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park.

# 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 opened in 1975, it became the first major project to benefit from the fund. Then, in 1999, the Bode Sports Complex 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, a multi-use court, and a skateboard park. Active programming at the ice arena includes hockey, multiple figure skating options, open skating, 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 82,000 people visit the ice arena between July and May. Bode Ice Arena is also heavily involved in several special events and activities each year. January is National Skating Month with over 200 skaters participating in the event. In November, the arena participated in the National Try Hockey for Free Day to increase participation and awareness specifically to that sport. The Mayor's Children's Christmas Party was hosted in December with 285 children participating in the event. Sadly, the 34th Annual Heartland Winter Games in January was not held, and Inter-Serv did not use Bode Sports Complex for its annual Summer Jam program.

Learn to skate classes have remained a great introductory program for both the St. Joseph Figure Skating Club as well as the Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association. The classes serve as a feeder program for both organizations.

The St. Joseph Figure Skating Club held its annual spring ice show, "The Addams Family," with nearly 1,500 people in attendance, up from 1,200 the previous year. The St. Joseph Figure Skating Club (SJFSC) hosted its annual Pony Express Figure Skating Competition. The club had close to 235 competitors over four days. The club also hosted three Christmas performances titled "Jingle ALL THE Way." Over 1,500 people attended the three performances. The figure skating club has consistently grown.

Missouri Western State University (MWSU) traditionally offers Learn to Curl and figure skating classes but did not in 2023, but the St. Joseph Curling Club held a spring and late summer league.

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, and the St. Joseph Curling Club.



DANS ACTION PHOTOS

A young ice skater performs in the Christmas pageant.  
Photo courtesy of Dan's Action Photos

The Griffon Gliders practiced with three teams (the Griffon Gliders Gold, Griffon Gliders Silver, and Griffon Gliders Black) beginning in August, with skaters ranging from 8—18 years of age. They resume their competitive season in January 2024.

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 110 area youth, both boys and girls. The Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association has increased participants and added another U8 team.



The excitement is shining as he gets ready to learn how to skate.



The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce hosted a fun Frozen-themed party at the arena.



It's all smiles for these hockey players' last game of the season.



Try Hockey for Free is a popular way to introduce youth to the sport.

# CIVIC ARENA

The St. Joseph Civic Arena opened in October 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 St. Joseph Sports Commission, Missouri Western State University, as well as numerous non-profit organizations.



Bill Snyder Classic Women's Basketball Game. Photo courtesy of the St. Joseph Sports Commission

clude interior/exterior painting, a new stage, new sports courts for volleyball and other events, new audio/visual upgrades/equipment, new spotlights, restroom restorations, heating and cooling, and plumbing renovations. These improvements will continue to enhance the patron experience in addition to drawing in new events to our facility, but more importantly, provide the staff and city with more manageable equipment and facilities. These renovations will continue into 2025 and beyond. We are seeing an increase in new events, new patrons, and a lot of enthusiasm at the Civic Arena, and it continues to grow with these improvements.



Photo courtesy of Amped Up Bull Riding

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, host the Amped Up Bull Riding one week, and the very next week, we have 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 major changes thanks to several funding sources. Projects on the horizon in-



The Remington Nature Manager, Sarah Elder, talks to seniors of local schools at My Success Event.



Division II's Women's Basketball Showcase. Photo courtesy of the St. Joseph Sports Commission

## AMENITIES

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

## CHALLENGES

- 1980 construction
- Drainage and plumbing issues
- Flooding in the lobby during heavy rains

## IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE/WILL BE

- Refurbished basketball floor
- New scoreboard
- New lighting system
- New forklift
- New arena seating



The Civic Arena hosted the MSHAA sectional and quarterfinal basketball games.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- NCAA DII Women's Elite Eight
- Mayor's Day of Prayer Breakfast
- Safety Town
- The Harlem Globetrotters
- Farm Show
- Special Olympics Ladies Night Out
- Darcee's School of Dance
- Chamber Banquet
- Gun and Knife Show
- UCP Chili Challenge
- MIAA Volleyball Championship
- Dog Show
- High School and MWSU Graduations
- MSHAA Sectional and Quarterfinals Basketball
- Missouri American Water Safety Expo
- Moila Shrine Circus
- Amped Up Bull Riding Championships
- Mega Gymnastics
- Tiny Tot Town
- Boehringer Ingelheim Corporate Meeting
- YWCA Women of Excellence Luncheon
- Noyes Home Take a Seat
- Elite Spa Sale
- My Success Event
- Bill Snyder Basketball Classic MU vs. K-State Women's
- MWSU Basketball Games
- Holiday Hoops – High School Basketball
- BMS Logistics
- Mayor's Thanksgiving Dinner
- Clarios' Christmas Party

# FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

## CORE SERVICES

- City of St Joseph's only 18-hole public golf course
- Offering league opportunities for men, women, seniors, and corporate
- Corporate outings, fundraisers, memorial events, social meet and greet options, and simple fun events
- Banquet/meeting room available for up to 150 guests with bar service
- Three outdoor patios with speaker systems can entertain golfers as well as social event patrons
- New in 2023: a sound system and big screen TV in the banquet/meeting room for future rentals

Despite ongoing greens issues, many achievements were accomplished in 2023. All leagues were well attended this season. The superintendent of greens resigned in June 2023, as well as his assistant in July. Golf Course Manager, Penny Wingard, assumed managerial duties for both facilities for three months and hired two, part-time, former superintendents to continue operations until the new superintendent, Wyatt Burnett, could be hired in September. They were able to repair several major water leaks and begin a new schedule of improved turfgrass practices including chemical/fertilizer applications to recover the turf along the course, especially the greens. In September, preparations were made to replace the bentgrass sod on five different greens, three of which had been closed all season to patrons. This was done to re-establish grass in the undesirable areas of turf. The sod was laid, and all 18 greens, plus the practice green, were reopened by late October. This great achievement resolved problems that stretched over a year and a half causing unplayable conditions resulting in less play and fewer members to the course. Also, sixty dead ash trees were removed on the golf course through a contracted vendor who cut down, hauled off, and replaced soil into holes. This was a \$30,000 improvement. Finally, several pieces of equipment were repaired in late summer that were previously inoperable, and all new shop lighting was installed in the maintenance building.

Thanks to the Half-Cent Parks Sales Tax, many new pieces of equipment and improvements were delivered and completed. A new Cushman Truckster was deliv-

ered in late fall which was previously purchased through the parks tax in 2022. This will be a valuable piece of equipment for the crew to assist in chemical/fertilizer applications, dump bed capabilities, and be an added service vehicle. A used reel grinder/bedknife sharpener was purchased for \$7500 which will eliminate outsourcing of reel grinding and prolong the life of reels and bedknives for the golf maintenance department. In addition, a new greens irrigation system began installation in late 2023, and it should be operable in spring 2024. The improvement will include all new wiring, pipes, sprinklers, and controllers for \$396,000.



2023 came with its fair share of challenges, especially concerning funding. The new superintendent would like to increase the budget for chemicals/fertilizer to properly maintain the turf along the course. To assist in funding this improvement, a new fee increase will take place beginning January 2024, and we project a rise in revenue due to the improved playing conditions. Staffing continues to be an issue at both facilities due to minimum wage increases for part-time and seasonal employees. New fee increases begin in 2024 to help as there have been no fee increases since 2016, and the minimum wage has nearly doubled. Water usage continues to be costly. However, in 2024, we should see cost savings thanks to leak corrections, irrigation improvements, new sprinklers, and new controllers that provide more accurate watering practices. Due to the conditions of the golf course, our annual memberships and overall rounds were down in 2023 causing all other revenue sources to be down, as well. We are hopeful to regain some of our members back in 2024 due to improved golf course conditions and fee increases across the board to offset increasing expenses. Finally, both fairway mowers are showing their age, and during the offseason, the reels were rebuilt and ground. Staff plans to request at least one fairway mower in the upcoming park tax requests.



New sod was laid on the practice green.



Fall views from hole 15 looking out over 17's greens.



Youth participate in the summer golf lessons.

## PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

- Overall rounds were down 725 rounds from 2022
- Annual memberships were down 56 memberships from 2022
- The range was closed for 5 months in 2023 due to netting issues and waiting on repairs creating less revenue
- Concessions revenue was down 10 % from 2022
- Cart revenue was down 11% from 2022
- Pro Shop revenue was down 19% from 2022
- Banquet room revenue decreased 1.5% from the previous year.
- When rounds and memberships are down, as you can see, all other line items involved are reduced

# JOYCE RAYE PATTERSON 50+

The Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center (JRP) is a 22,000-square-foot facility located in downtown St. Joseph that opened on October 16, 1978. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to construct the facility for approximately \$750,000. When first opened, the JRP was listed as non-developmental in the City of St. Joseph's budget and officially joined the parks department in 1985.

The JRP is financially supported by the City of St. Joseph and a trust fund administered by the Senior Citizen's Foundation, Inc. (Foundation). The trust fund is composed of funds from the Robert V. Werst bequest and several smaller bequests and donations directly to the Foundation. The trust is to be used solely to benefit the JRP. The board of directors meets monthly and consists of 15 members serving three-year terms. Six of the board members are appointed by the City Council and nine are elected members.



The JRP's mission is to provide space for recreational, social, fitness, and educational activities and opportunities, information, and referrals for persons 50 and older and adults with disabilities. The only membership for the JRP is for the use of the fitness center and circuit training rooms. All other activities and groups require patrons to pay as they participate in all other scheduled activities.

The JRP facility consists of multiple rooms for fitness and activities: a multipurpose room, dining room, cafeteria, conference room, meeting room, library, billiards and table games room, craft room, Wii lounge,

stage, fitness center, and circuit training room.

In 2023, 70 groups and organizations used the JRP for regular activities, meetings, and fitness classes. Seven new groups began meeting at the JRP in 2023, compared to the addition of eight new groups in 2022. Four groups decided to stop meeting at the JRP in 2023 as compared to 16 in 2022.

Attendance records indicate that 70,341 visits occurred during 2023, an increase of 18,676 visits from 2022 with the largest increases in visits to the fitness center and circuit training rooms, daily activity visits, and fitness classes.

The fitness center, a 2,288-square-foot area, is the most popular area where patrons enjoy an inexpensive membership fee and a variety of equipment. Membership includes the use of the fitness center and the circuit training rooms.

The JRP proudly served 8,418 lunches in 2023. The cafeteria is open Tuesday-Friday from 11:00 am – 12:30pm. The cost of groceries rose dramatically throughout the year causing the JRP to notify patrons that the lunch cost will increase by \$1 in 2024.

During 2023, six people volunteered at the JRP for a total of 1,195 hours. These volunteers help in the kitchen with collecting trays, washing dishes, washing tables, taking out trash, and helping patrons with trays. Other volunteers help lead games and call Bingo, and one volunteer helps at the front desk. Their efforts are a tremendous benefit to the JRP.

Only one staffing change occurred in 2023. Donna Clark, our Senior Account Clerk retired in May, and Christie McClelland is her replacement.



# ACTIVITY CENTER

## PARTICIPATION AT THE JRP

- Daily Activities – 12,799
- Fitness Center – 32,339
- Fitness Groups – 6,897
- Arts & Crafts – 794
- Retired Groups – 189
- Dance Groups – 2,610
- Game Groups – 5,921
- Misc. Groups – 2,659

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Held two active aging symposiums
- Facilitated a health fair
- Seven new groups started
- Began offering trips and tours through Collette Travel; JRP received 10% for each completed trip booked with the JRP's assigned booking number
- Began offering basic computer classes, which were popular with waiting lists
- Received a variety of supply donations
- Contracted a different wholesale food service to obtain cafeteria supplies at a cheaper price
- The Foundation Board purchased a rotary torso machine and a new treadmill and replaced a belt on the Woodway treadmill
- Downtown businesses donated prizes for patrons during parks and recreation month
- Several favorable articles about the JRP were published in the St. Joseph NewsPress
- Smart TV installed in the craft room
- The Spiel Foundation gifted the JRP five new games
- Patrons participated in two donation drives: one for a cold weather coat distribution for the Grace House and another of gifts for the Family and Friends Adult Daycare
- Hosted the Senior Citizen's Foundation, Inc., annual Thanksgiving Dinner
- Began working on the kitchen appliance replacement funded by the park sales tax
- Started planning the restroom remodel paid for by the CIP tax

## CHALLENGES

- Received a structural survey indicated the roof, sidewalk, and southeast front entrance corner need repairing
- Cement from the front southeast entrance started breaking apart and falling into the parking garage
- Significant problems with HVAC units
- Complaints received that service was poor due to no front desk clerk
- Dancing Clarks are considering not meeting in 2024
- The heat tape system failed multiple times
- Several line items weren't allocated enough money to last the fiscal year: janitorial supplies, professional services, building maintenance, and part-time wages
- The contract to feed the Department of Corrections trainees ended resulting in an annual loss of \$5,000-\$8,000 for the cafeteria
- The shocks that the circuit training room machines require are discontinued
- Maintenance agreement contracts experienced rate increases
- CivicRec's card swiping abilities for the fitness center will cause additional work for staff
- Dishwasher plumbing required several visits by Hobart until it was repaired satisfactorily
- Our upholstery repair person retired
- Our elevator contractor did not provide timely maintenance inspections

## LOOKING FORWARD TO

- Repairing or replacing the two red-tagged HVAC units
- Remodeling the restrooms
- Kitchen appliance replacements
- Continued facilitation of the active aging symposiums
- Providing a spring and fall health fair
- Providing additional travel opportunities with Collette
- Searching for new maintenance agreements for our elevator and HVAC units
- Repairing the roof

# 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.



The field crews leveled the new dirt at Drake Fields.

In addition to routine maintenance of our parks, facilities, trails, and other park department properties, the maintenance staff strives to save taxpayer dollars by completing numerous in-house projects. Our staff of skilled and talented crew members save tens of thousands of dollars by removing the old horseshoe courts at Hyde Park to make way for the new bocce ball courts and demolished shelters at Patee Park and Bartlett Parks and replaced them with new metal shelters. Our crews also did all the ground preparation for pour-in-place rubber surfacing for the playgrounds at Mary, Hochman, and Sietz Parks.

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 over 50 trees and bushes, maintained flower beds, replanted flower beds, and repaired older fences. With the storms this year, our tree crew was very busy removing trees and debris, which was still ongoing into 2024. Our crews also dealt with a large amount of vandalism and graffiti. Other projects finished in 2023 included replacing the fence with rocks on King Hill Lookout to beautify the area and the installation of several new grills and benches throughout the park system. Our crews also cleaned and repaired ditches along the parkway, and worked with Water Protection to dredge the retention pond at Northeast Parkway and beautification projects in the area.



Crews cleared the old courts and prepped the land for the installation of the bocce ball courts by the local Special Olympics.



To lower costs, maintenance installed the new shelters at Patee and Bartlett Parks.



Staff worked to remove the water wheel from the waterscape in front of the Remington Nature Center.

## MAINTAINS

- 1,500 + acres
- 26 miles of parkway
- 46 parks
- 7+ facilities
- 18 lighted horse courts
- 23 lighted softball and baseball fields
- 21 lighted tennis courts
- 16 lighted basketball courts
- 2 municipal swimming pools
- 3 skate parks
- 20+ miles of hike and bike trails
- 80+ restrooms
- 112 picnic tables
- 19 concession stands
- 18 picnic shelters
- 16 playgrounds
- 3 ponds
- 1 splash pad
- 15 miles of primitive trails

Above and beyond our normal maintenance duties, our crews helped with the yearly installation and removal of the river docks at the French Bottoms. We also worked with community organizations to set up the South Side Fall Festival, Red Rally, St. Joseph Marathon, Kreepy Krug, and River Bluff Bike Fest. In addition, our crews are responsible for the removal and installation of the basketball court at Civic Arena along with the removal of the homeless from our properties and the clean-up after they move.

Last but not least, this was the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Holiday Park at Krug Park. Lights were also prepared and installed at Hyde Park's South Pole with new displays being made by our staff for both parks in 2024. Felix Street Square and the corner of Lake and Alabama were also lit for the holidays by our staff. There are a lot of man-hours involved with the lighting, but our crews look forward to the holiday season every year.

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A new pedestrian bridge was installed at Hyde Park.



A maintenance supervisor assists with removing the dock on the Missouri River.



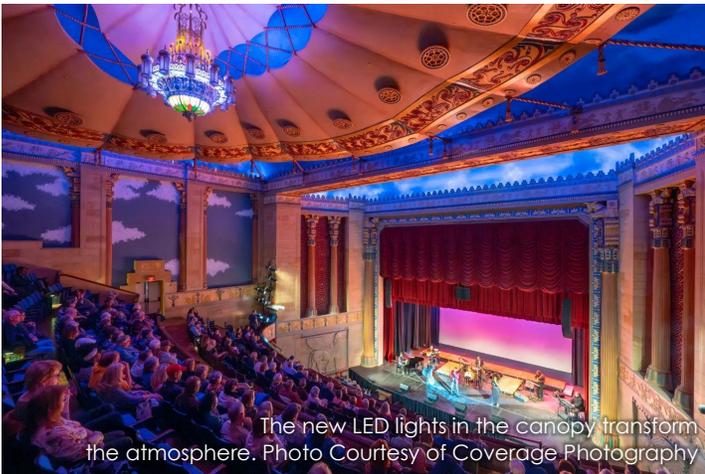
The 2024 department ornament featured the Mead Santa and reindeer. Photo courtesy of John Bachman

# 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 palace. The first feature was “Rough House Rosie” which was a silent film and had a \$.25 admission fee. The City of St. Joseph purchased the theater in 1978 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.



Frank Oden's Cowboy Jamboree.  
Photo Courtesy of Coverage Photography



The new LED lights in the canopy transform the atmosphere. Photo Courtesy of Coverage Photography

Live theater and productions are once again thriving. The patrons returned to enjoy the numerous events presented at the Missouri Theater. The 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, St. Joseph Community Chorus, Missouri Western State University, Dance Arts Center, Inspirations Dance, and others in bringing their art-form to the public. These include local artists as well as international events brought to the theater to build on the quality of life for this community.

The Missouri Theater complex houses several arts organizations along with newly acquired tenants: the Frog Prince and Toe Beans Coffee House.

Renovations are a constant at the Missouri Theater as we strive to maintain the structure and integrity of the facility as well as the opulence of the theater.



Photo Courtesy of Coverage Photography



Children's Halloween Costume Concert.  
Photo Courtesy of the St. Joseph Symphony

## AMENITIES

- Floor Seating for 457
- Balcony Seating for 717
- Orchestra Pit
- Dressing Rooms
- Green Room
- T-Coil Installation
- Upgraded Sound System
- Additional Lower Level Restrooms

## CHALLENGES

- Electrical issues inside and around the marquee (being addressed in 2024)
- 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

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- An Evening with Brian Regan
- St. Joseph Symphony (a variety of concerts for all ages)
- Performing Arts Association (multiple national artist performances)
- Apple Blossom Pageant
- Griffon Film Festival
- Dance Arts Center (numerous events)
- Inspirations Dance (numerous events)
- Truth Academy Dance
- St. Joseph Community Chorus
- Robidoux Resident Theatre Productions
- MWSU Golden Griff Awards
- Creative Arts Productions Performances
- St. Joseph Christian School Band/Choir Performance
- Multiple Tours to Local and Out of Town Groups
- Home Free Christmas Concert

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# REC CENTER

The Recreation, Exercise, and Community (REC) Center was opened in July 2012, to provide a centralized facility for fitness, recreation, and community activities for citizens and visitors of St. Joseph. The facility features three gymnasiums, a fitness center, a youth activity room, an elevated walking track, and concessions. The REC Center offers fitness classes, adult and youth volleyball leagues, and open gym times for pickleball, badminton, basketball, futsal, and volleyball. It also hosts a variety of special events, birthday parties, and tournaments throughout the year.

The REC Center strives to offer a safe, clean, and fun atmosphere for people of all ages, and 2023 was no exception. We continued to do our best to improve our offered programming including classes, open gyms, and leagues. Tabata and Pilates were added to the lineup of classes in addition to added futsal to our open gym schedule. We also continued to offer a “Shake of the Month” for the protein shake and smoothie menu. Some months, the shake and/or smoothie was a brand-new creation, while other months, we brought back popular flavors from last year.



Youth and adult volleyball leagues were hosted at the REC Center. This year, we worked extra hard to improve our social media presence. We learned about Canva, an online content creation site, and used it to help promote activities on our Facebook page. We have found this to be the best way to communicate with the public, and it has increased the number of users of our 24-hour access fitness center and the number of open gym and class participants.

The implementation of CivicRec has proven beneficial. The transition began in January, and staff spent the next five months building everything for the REC Center in the system from scratch. Then, we spent the



Staff worked to get creative with photos to boost their social media.

next couple of months training all the staff and entering all the members' information, class information, and programming and events into the system. Finally, on October 1, we went live and could not be happier with the switch. CivicRec has been wonderful for the REC Center.

Many physical improvements were completed in 2023. Over the summer, the windows across the top front of the building were covered with vinyl by Yellow Frog Graphics. The design includes our name along with depictions of people participating in various recreational activities such as yoga, aerobics, running, basketball, volleyball, and weight lifting. Not only does it look awesome from the outside, but it also provides much-needed shade in the gymnasiums preventing sunlight from blinding our participants. In August, Hillyard resurfaced the topcoat on the hardwood floors in the gyms. During the week-long closure, we took the time to deep clean the building and do minor repairs. Some of the repairs included fixing wall dings and dents and some painting. In December, the source of a disturbing smell was located, and it was fixed along with the roof leaks. Both improvements were well received by all users and staff.

Overall, 2023 was a good year. Strong efforts were made to improve both our programming and our communication to the public resulting in enhanced outcomes. We look forward to seeing what 2024 will hold and already have new ideas to explore.

## AMENITIES

- Fitness Center with cardio equipment, Nautilus machines, and free weights
- 24-hour access fitness center
- Silver Sneaker, Prime Fit, and Silver & Fit accepted
- Three basketball & volleyball courts with rental options
- Six pickleball & badminton courts with rental options
- Community room used for a variety of fitness classes
- Youth activity room for children to play while parents exercise
- Elevated walking track – 11 laps per mile
- Elevator & stair access to track
- Concession stand featuring Shake This protein shakes
- Two family restrooms with showers
- Free wi-fi
- Central location to the parkway walking trails
- Can be found on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Implementation of CivicRec
- Yellow Frog Graphic window graphic installation
- Both hardwood floors redone
- Sewer smell fixed
- Gym roof leaks fixed
- Addition of futsal to the open gym schedule
- Addition of Pilates and Tabata to the fitness schedule
- Increased marketing and advertising on social media

## CHALLENGES

- Hiring and retaining staff
- Only two full-time positions to cover 15 hours a day for seven days a week
- Lagging computers which affect customer service
- Filling the fitness class schedule
- AC unit issues above the gyms causing additional heating issues – parts have been backordered
- Balancing open gym and rental schedules to keep the

various user groups happy

- Parking lot lines are extremely faded and missing
- Not enough parking for large events
- Poor wi-fi leads to complaints from customers. Technology Services is aware of and doing its best to improve it.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2024

- Getting our AC/heating units fixed
- Implementing the new inventory software
- Adding more fitness class options
- Adding new programming to our open gym schedule during slower times
- Looking into ways to implement more baseball rental options for the blue gym
- The possibility of installing vinyl on the side windows at the top of the building to match the front
- Much-needed building upgrades including new sinks and counters in the family restrooms.

## STATISTICS

- Adult Volleyball Leagues
  - Winter = 53 teams
  - Spring = 52 teams
  - Fall = 44 teams
  - Holiday = 22 teams
  - TOTAL = 171 teams
- Youth Volleyball Leagues:
  - Summer = 36 teams
  - Fall = 36 teams
  - TOTAL = 72
- 8 Basketball Tournaments
- 261 Volleyball Practices
- 104 Basketball Practices
- 15 Other Practice Rentals
- 3 Vendor Fairs
- 3 Youth Basketball League Rentals
- 2 Birthday Parties
- 1 Micro Wrestling Event

# REMINGTON NATURE CENTER

During the summer of 2023, the nature center, again, took part in the Work/Life Skills program with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). During one, six-week session (120 hours), we had two students 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 students 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 2024.

In 2023, the Remington Nature Center welcomed eight organized adult tours (motorcoaches, churches, care facilities) for a total of 201 people. This total includes members of the Association of Missouri Interpreters Convention in St. Joseph in September.

We also provided 24 outreach programs at various locations for both children and adults, reaching 3,985 people. This total includes Super Science Saturday, the Tax-Free & Turtles event, and the My Success Event, which accounts for the large number.

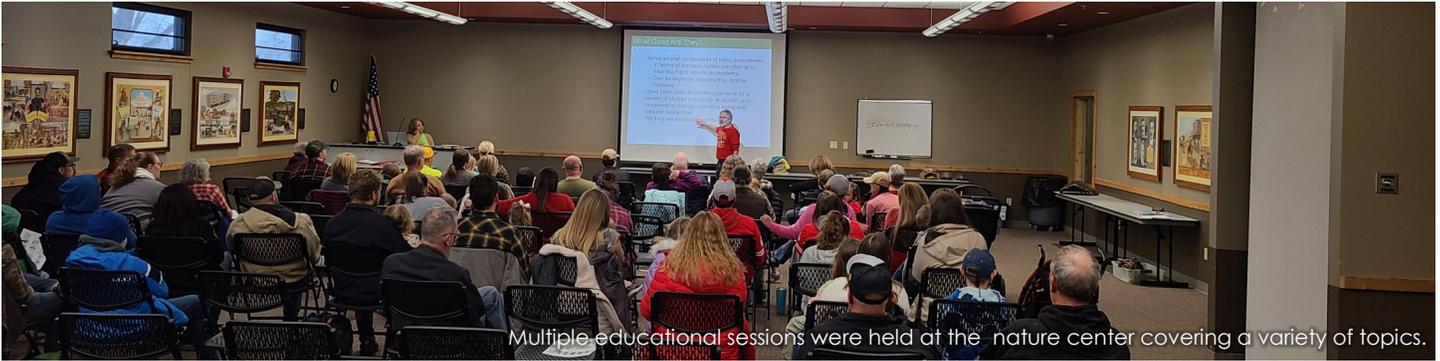
The nature center welcomed six new members and four renewals in 2023. The total value of free passes given away was \$60.00, and the no-charge conference room rentals totaled \$6,300.00.

On March 30, 2023, the Remington Nature Center proudly hosted the welcome reception for the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) Mid-Year Symposium. Almost 70 people attended the “Taste of St. Joseph” reception featuring food and drinks from local restaurants. Attendees also learned more about the history of St. Joseph with the program “180 Years & Counting – the History of St. Joseph” presented by Remington Nature Center manager, Sarah Elder.



Guests' first sight when entering the Remington Nature Center is this live-sized mammoth and its baby, Remi.

School/Student Groups		
Month	Number of Groups	Total Attendance
January	2	37
February	2	108
March	6	141
April	4	129
May	14	973
June	5	235
July	7	189
August	1	13
September	1	33
October	2	44
November	5	200
December	1	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2,131</b>



Multiple educational sessions were held at the nature center covering a variety of topics.

## ATTENDANCE

	Adult	Senior	Youth	Children	CR	Members	Misc.	Total Attendance	Total Admissions	Total CR Rental Fees
January	248	95	170	71	350	0	2	936	\$1,617.00	\$875.00
February	290	113	220	83	300	0	14	1,020	\$1,939.00	\$965.00
March	378	150	429	87	423	14	13	1,494	\$2,820.00	\$915.00
April	375	113	303	78	570	2	17	1,458	\$2,445.00	\$1,590.00
May	558	131	839	67	516	16	21	2,148	\$4,303.00	\$1,700.00
June*	609	193	663	167	227	9	31	1,899	\$4,341.00	\$925.00
July	448	224	429	106	581	6	86	1,880	\$3,322.00	\$1,870.00
August	354	188	336	57	240	2	42	1,219	\$2,652.00	\$420.00
September**	847	134	135	57	507	5	7	1,692	\$1,788.00	\$850.00
October	199	108	160	54	348	4	9	882	\$1,440.00	\$1,525.00
November	246	102	205	40	348	0	0	941	\$1,700.00	\$1,020.00
December	131	51	107	32	295	12	0	628	\$891.00	\$1,235.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,683</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>3,996</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>4,705</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>16,197</b>	<b>\$29,258.00</b>	<b>\$13,890.00</b>

\*Includes 695 people who attended Herp-O-Rama.

\*\*Includes 568 people who attended Museums Association of St. Joseph Free Museum Day on September 16. The number is inclusive of all



Young learners gather around one of the live exhibits to feel its shell.

Gift Shop Sales	
Month	Sales
January	\$951.69
February	\$789.59
March	\$2,269.53
April	\$1,920.65
May	\$2,331.33
June	\$1,537.54
July	\$1,834.98
August	\$1,562.53
September	\$1,480.50
October	\$628.45
November	\$7,956.75
December	\$925.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,188.54</b>

## GIFT SHOP SALES

Gift shop totals also include the River Bluff Trails Park merchandise. The gift shop total for November includes the sale of the 2023 parks ornament at all civic facilities. This year's ornament proved to be enormously popular, selling out in less than two weeks. This is the first time in 18 years that an ornament has sold out in the year it was ordered.

# RECREATION

The recreation division of the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department offers many recreational and sports opportunities to the 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 Run, adult slowpitch recreational leagues, and cornhole leagues. In 2023, the department continued its partnership with the St. Joseph YWCA as a co-sponsor of the Outlaw Adventure Run. This partnership benefitted the YWCA GRIT Center for Youth, and 87 runners competed in 2023. The youth tennis program had 24 participants, and St. Joe Fit had 828 participants over the program's 10-week duration. Going forward, we hope to continue the growth these programs have witnessed as well as offer other unique experiences in the community.



The department partners with multiple entities in St. Joseph such as the YMCA, Missouri Western State University, and Special Olympics by providing facilities for their programs. The parks department continues to collaborate with the St. Joseph Disc Golf Club to maintain and promote the Bartlett Parkway 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.

2023 saw a major renovation to the Bode Sports Complex pickleball and basketball courts. The pickleball complex was expanded to seven courts with new nets, standards, and a renovated playing surface. The basketball courts were resurfaced. One basketball court was repurposed to create a Futsal pitch as well as a general-use play area. At Hyde Park, Special Olympics Missouri constructed a bocce ball complex with the help of volunteers and the park maintenance staff. All of these efforts help the department seek new activities and meet the recreational needs of the community as we move forward with our programming.



2023 brought increased maintenance and overall improvement by the St. Joseph School District to the Noyes Sports Complex multipurpose building. \$152,704 worth of improvements were made to the roof, entry doors, HVAC system, and storage areas to enhance the facilities for various high school events hosted at the complex.

2023 saw an expansion for both tournament and adult league play in the softball and baseball programs. Pony Express Baseball and Midland Empire Softball youth leagues continued to utilize city-owned facilities. Several tournaments were held by Pony Express Baseball with the support of the parks department. Several other organizations held tournaments at the Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park, and high school baseball and softball programs continued to hold regular-season games and tournaments at city facilities.



Youth learn tennis fundamentals at the Youth Tennis Camp in July.

Adult USA Softball league play continued at the Bill McKinney Softball Complex with 25 teams for the spring and 24 leagues during the fall sessions. The St Joseph Baptist Association continued its longstanding partnership with the parks department with an increase to nine teams participating and registering through USA Softball. The complex also hosted nine tournaments coordinated through local high schools, non-profit groups, and the Northwest District Special Olympics tournament. Lafayette and Bishop LeBlond High Schools continued to call Heritage Park home for their fall softball seasons. In 2023, Benton High School, once again, hosted its district softball tournament at the complex, as well.



A participant of the Outlaw Adventure Run twists her way through a rope box.

Pony Express Baseball, Midland Empire Sports Association, Wood Bat Baseball, American Legion, and other local youth and adult teams continued to use various fields throughout 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 department maintains and improves these facilities in partnership with the groups while coordinating with their playing seasons.

New temporary fencing was purchased in 2023 for high school softball seasons and various other youth tournaments held at the Bill McKinney Softball Complex. Both Eagles Field and Lower Bartlett baseball fields received additional infield clay, conditioner, and laser grading work to renovate the infield surfaces. The Half-Cent Parks Sales Tax funded the replacement of a failed stormwater runoff basin at Lower Bartlett Field which will help alleviate issues with water runoff and subsequent damage. Annual fall turf maintenance including aeration, seeding, and fertilization took place at various baseball and softball facilities throughout the city, as well.

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 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.

## STATISTICS

- 87 Outlaw Adventure Run Participants
- 24 Youth Tennis Camp Participants
- 828 St. Joe Fit Participants
- 48 Adult Softball League Teams
- 8 Cornhole Teams

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS

Community partnerships are essential for creating better experiences for not only the donors and the parks but also 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 creates an optimistic impact within our community.

Not all valuable partnerships come with monetary donations. Throughout history, community volunteers who give their time and talents have made substantial impacts on our system. In 2023, multiple families, businesses, and organizations put in countless hours volunteering. Notable projects completed include, but are not limited to, cleaning debris and trash from parks and along the parkway, planting trees, assisting with primitive trail upkeep, kindness rock gardens, and the installation of a new bocce ball court. The Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department values all partnerships, volunteers, and the effects they make on the City of St. Joseph.

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, saw its second year of hybrid programming. Each week, a section of the urban hike-and-bike trail was highlighted on the St. Joe Fit Face-



A young girl learns to hula hoop at Krug Park-a-Palooza.

book 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. 331 participants joined our in-person walks, and a total of 828 citizens took part over the 10 weeks.

In July, the city-sponsored 4th of July fireworks were hosted at the North Shoppes for the second year. July was also National Parks and Recreation Month with the theme “Where Community Grows”; each facility within the department participated in its own ways during their highlighted week. Many promoted discounted prices, giveaways, and special activities.



Citizens gathered with staff at the Remington Nature Center on Earth Day to clean the landscaping and plant new gardens.

River Bluff Trails Park saw its first full year of usage. With a budding trail community in St. Joseph, our system continues to gain popularity across the region. Visitors came from all over to walk through the trees and catch breathtaking views of the Mighty Missouri from the bluffs including even citizens from Germany. The inaugural River Bluff Trials Fest was held in November. In partnership with Loki Events, a mountain bike race coordinator, over 100 competitors participated in cross-country and enduro-style races. This family-friendly event also hosted a children's bike obstacle course and balance bike race at Huston Wyeth Park's pump track. A steez contest on Skittles was a fan favorite activity along with the group rides led by members of the Saint Joseph Trail Alliance.



and restrooms.

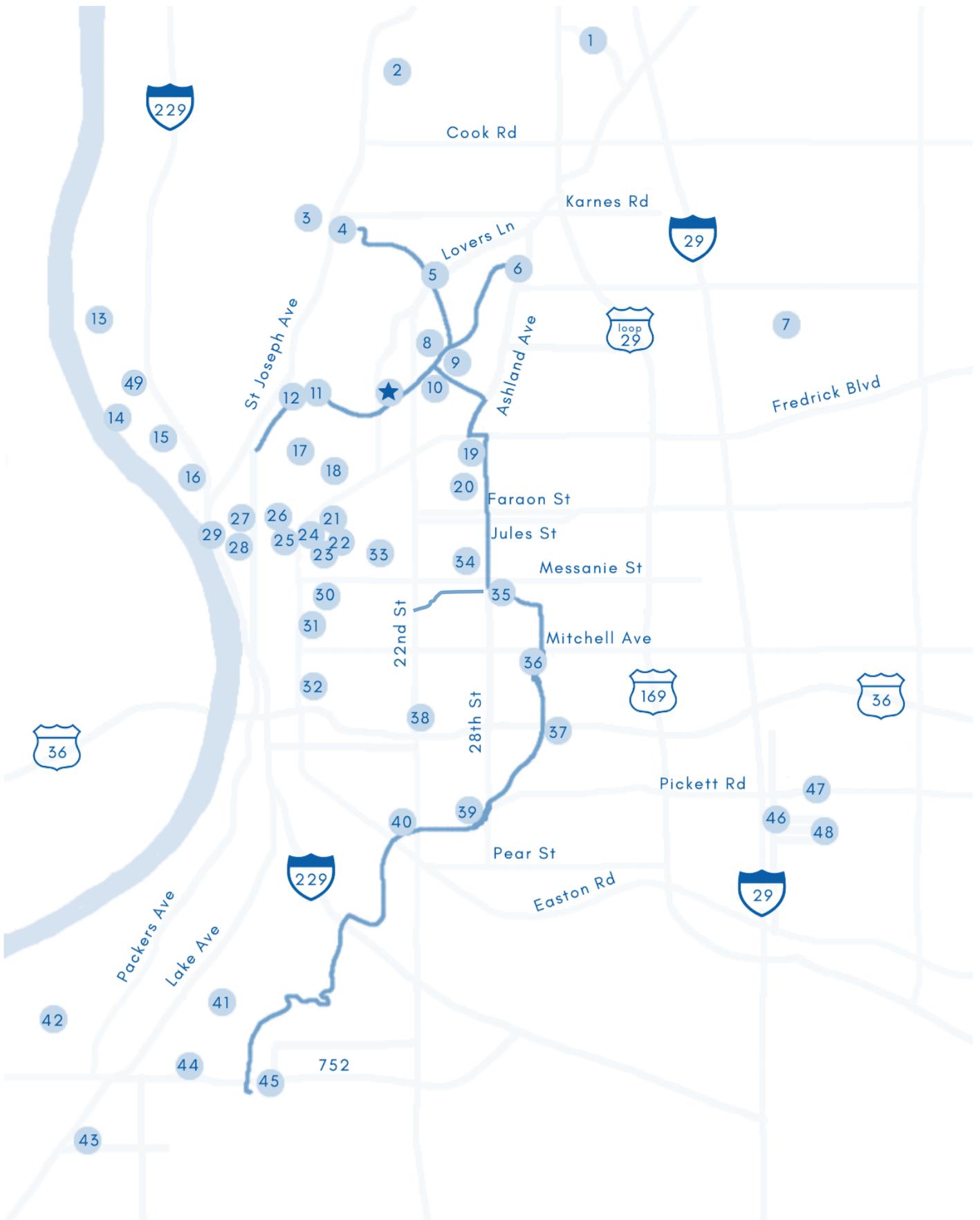
Multiple grant applications were submitted in 2023, and the parks department was fortunate to be awarded two: the Missouri American Water Hydration Station Grant and the Historic Preservation Grant. In partnership with the Saint Joseph Trail Alliance, both organizations received funding from the Missouri American Water Hydration Station Grant for the purchase of two hydration stations that will be installed at the River Bluff Trails Park in 2024: one at the Huntoon Road trailhead and one at Huston Wyeth Park. Visitors can expect water bottle filling stations at both locations. The Historic Preservation Grant was awarded in conjunction with the City's historic preservationists, Dr. Kim Schutte. This grant funded equipment and two interns from Missouri Western for 100 hours each to research, write, and compose a virtual walking tour of the entire park system. Set to launch in 2024, the walking tour will be free on PC and cell phones through the Clio Tour app.



The parks department, again, partnered with the Friends of Krug Park to host multiple events at Krug Park. Using the momentum from the 2022 Krug Castle Jubilee, Krug Park-A-Palooza was held with great success. The free event featured a petting zoo, carnival rides, balloon animals, crafts, games, food trucks, and giveaways. In the fall, a movie night was also held at the amphitheater with a costume contest and showing of *Hocus Pocus*. In addition to the events Friends of Krug Park helps with at the park, their members are always providing great service and volunteerism within the park. One highlight of the year was their work with the St. Joseph Youth Alliance on the kindness rock garden near the upper picnic area

The parks department saw an increase of 850 followers on Facebook which increased our following to 5,974. 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 which saw an increase of 799 Facebook followers for a total of 1,982 and an increase of 360 Instagram followers for a total of 1,080.

# 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 Messanic & 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

# STAFF DIRECTORY

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## PARK ADMINISTRATION

816.271.5500

**Chuck Kempf**, Director  
**Jeff Atkins**, Assistant Director  
**LeeAnn Trautman**, Project Manager  
**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 Sanders**, Senior Account Clerk

## AQUATICS

816.271.5519

**Jende Smith**, Aquatic Recreation Supervisor  
**Kylie DeHook**, Assistant Manager

## BODE SPORTS COMPLEX & ICE ARENA

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**April Wyatt**, Bode Ice Arena/Concession Manager  
**Jannie Castanada**, Assistant Complex Manager  
**Christine Feuerbacher**, Program Concessions Coordinator

## CIVIC ARENA & MISSOURI THEATER

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**Kathy Brock**, Civic Facilities Manager  
**Chad Bumphrey**, Arena Operations Supervisor

## FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

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**Penny Wingard**, Golf Course Manager  
**Gina Orozco-Stillman**, Assistant Golf Course Manager  
**Wyatt Burnett**, Greens Superintendent

## JOYCE RAYE PATTERSON 50+ ACTIVITY CENTER

816.271.4666

**Julie Noel**, Manager  
**Christie McClelland**, Senior Account Clerk  
**Jena Kieser**, Fitness Center Coordinator  
**Sheldon Pearce**, Building Maintenance Technician

816.271.5512

## REC CENTER & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

816.271.5501

**Megan Angst**, Manager  
**Chad Faucett**, Assistant Manager  
**David Cavin**, Recreation Programs & Facilities Supervisor

## REMINGTON NATURE CENTER

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**Sarah Elder**, Manager  
**Lauren Koester**, Administrative Technician  
**Shelly Cox**, Naturalist

## BILL MCKINNEY SOFTBALL COMPLEX

816.271.5500

**Jack Urquhart**, Senior Work Leader Athletic Fields

# YEARS OF SERVICE & RETIREMENTS

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## 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

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Brian Jackson

Scott Koch

## 2023 RETIREES

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Donna Clark —19 Years of Service