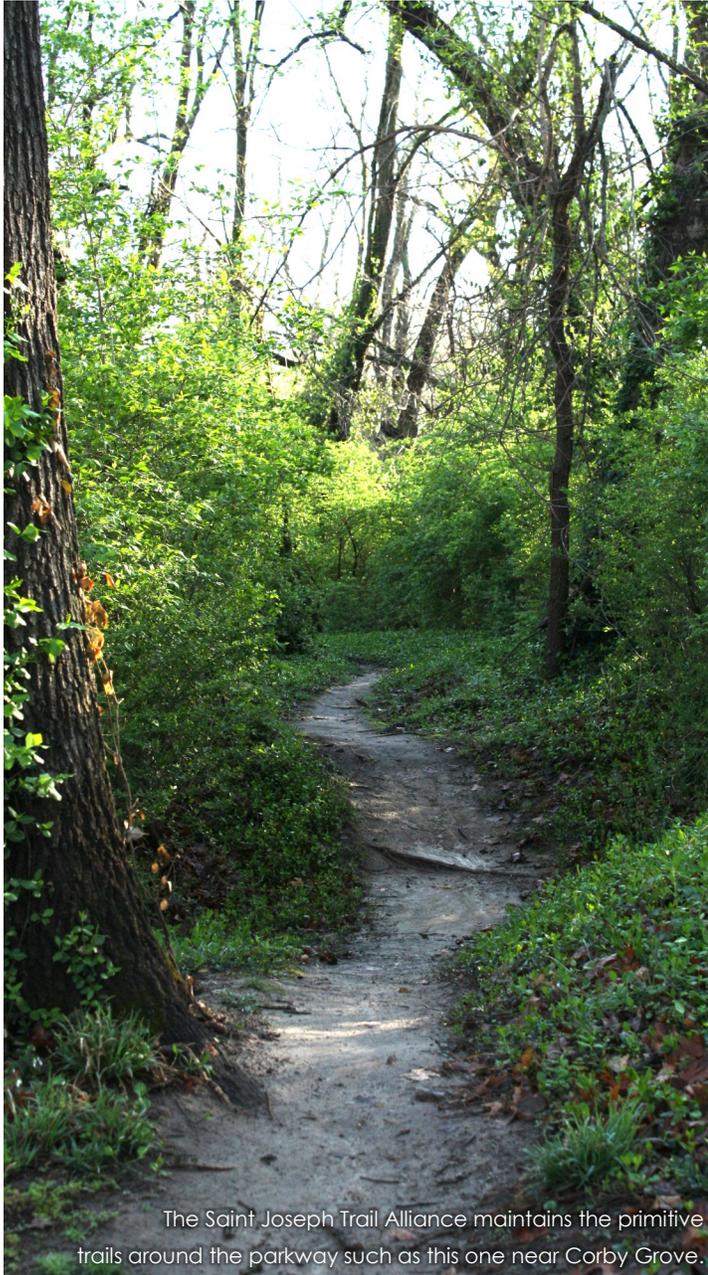


St. Joseph Parks, Recreation &
Civic Facilities Department

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



WE GROW COMMUNITY



The Saint Joseph Trail Alliance maintains the primitive trails around the parkway such as this one near Corby Grove.

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"Journey West" at Gateway Park—Photo Courtesy of John Bachman

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



Bob Simpson Pedestrian Bridge—Photo Courtesy of John Bachman



The Missouri Theater—Photo Courtesy of John Bachman

57
FULL-TIME
STAFF

324
SHELTER RESERVATIONS

1,500+
ACRES

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

The 2025 Missouri Parks & Recreation Association’s annual conference theme is “Get Out There,” and if one positive came from the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and 2021, “Get Out There” became a reality. With a high level of concern about the spread of the COVID-19 and other airborne diseases, “activation” of outdoor recreation became almost a natural reaction and solution to creating space and maintaining our lives in fresh, clean air. Getting outside has always been a primary focus for parks and recreation agencies, but until people’s health was in jeopardy, it wasn’t a primary focus for many Americans. During that period, the necessity to take most recreational activities outdoors has now become a trend to the point of a requirement. Many outdoor activities have grown and thrived over the past three years along with the demand for quality, well-maintained outdoor facilities. Luckily, in St. Joseph, the outdoor recreation demand coincided with the birth of the Half-Cent Park Sales Tax and the renewal of the traditional Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding mechanisms. Most of the funding from the Park Sales Tax is dedicated to the improvement or creation of outdoor spaces.

The jewel of St. Joseph’s outdoor recreation enhancement is the River Bluff Trails Park (RBTP), a 14-mile system of primitive hiking and biking trails in the bluffs just east of the Missouri River. The RBTP system also includes outdoor amenities and trail extensions that take advantage of the natural terrain and openness of Huston-Wyeth Park which was connected to RBTP by a 530-foot pedestrian bridge over Highland Avenue, known as the Bob Simpson Pedestrian Bridge. Funds for the creation of the trail system, pedestrian bridge, and improvements at Huston-Wyeth Park have come exclusively from the Riverfront Transient Guest Tax, another funding mechanism available to the parks department. In conjunction with the trail system, a skills track and flow track have been constructed to provide additional recreational amenities. A multi-wheel pump track at Huston-Wyeth Park is scheduled to be built in Spring 2025, which will add to the outdoor recreation options for citizens and visitors.

Two additional activities on the wave of up-and-coming outdoor recreation activities in St. Joseph are pickleball and disc golf, both of which are benefiting from CIP and Park Sales Tax funding. Park tax magic turned three pickleball courts at the Bode Sports Complex into seven courts in addition to overall complex enhancements including the outdoor basketball courts,

an adaptive court, and the creation of a Futsal court, the first in St. Joe. Prior to COVID-19, the parks department had already caught the wave of interest in disc golf with the construction of the Bartlett Parkway Disc Golf Course along the parkway between Bartlett Park and the REC Center. The idea, followed by funding from the Park Sales Tax and a private donation, carried the momentum forward to the creation of the Red Bird Hills Disc Golf Course at Hyde Park, a project that won’t be complete until 2025. Traditional golf also saw a resurgence during COVID-19, which has been maintained over the last three years. Fairview Municipal Golf Course has benefited from renewed interest in golf, especially from younger generations.

Ultimately, during and following the Coronavirus timeframe, outdoor recreation became important again. Many people who stopped recreating altogether or moved their recreation activities indoors found the value and beauty of the parks, trails, athletic fields, and other outdoor recreational amenities. Fortunately, in St. Joseph, parks professionals, city officials, and elected officials - based on support from our citizens - were prepared to handle the influx of outdoor recreational needs. Improvements and enhancements are ongoing. Over the next few years, millions of dollars of improvements will occur at Krug Park, Hyde Park, and throughout the entire park system. New aquatic facilities are being designed, preservation of historic structures is a priority, and accessibility for all citizens is being improved along with general enhancements of park infrastructure. If all goes well, a new park on the east side of St. Joseph will be built within the next two years, providing much-needed recreational space for citizens who don’t currently benefit from a park in their section of the city.

It bears justification to repeat that the Park Sales Tax is a vision that was created by the community and supported by many individuals and organizations in St. Joseph, which has resulted in a unified effort to improve and enhance our parks for decades to come.

The St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department continues its ongoing efforts to operate safely and effectively while overseeing capital improvements to the park system and providing much-needed programs, activities, and events for our community.

Chuck Kempf, CPRP

Director

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ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department is to provide a variety of services, activities, programs, facilities, and infrastructure to enhance the quality of life for its citizens and visitors. Just as the National Recreation and Parks Association (NPR) values health and wellness, resource conservation, and social equity, our department strives to be an example of those core values with the services we provide, 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 & Sports Complex, 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. The riverfront is also home to River Bluff Trails Park, the newest addition to the over 100-year-old park system. The JRP 50+ Activity Center, Coleman Hawkins Park at Felix Street Square, Civic Arena, and Missouri Theater can be found downtown, creating a significant department presence in the heart of St. Joseph.

A parks advisory board meets quarterly 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. In 2024, the board saw a significant turnover in members and noteworthy changes to the organization and administration of the park board meetings. The 2024 board consisted of Scott Mooney (Chairperson), Annette Lanham, Dr. Scott Nelson, Patti Luedtke, Billy Coats Jr., Carly Ardussi, Jolene Dempster, Eric Montagne, and Miles Ramsey.

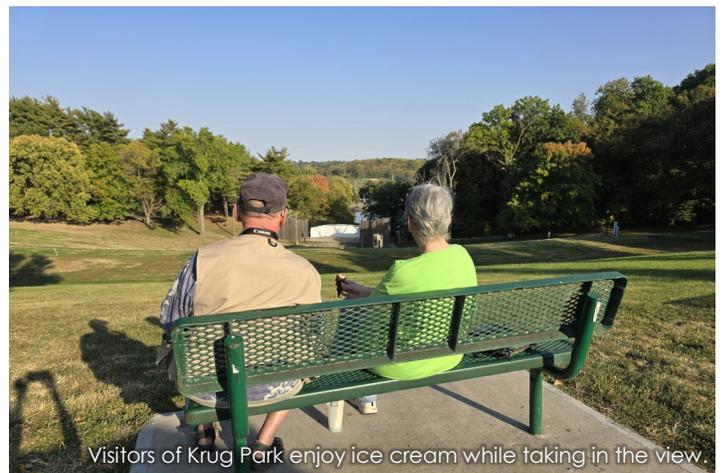
In 2024, after the departure of LeeAnn Trautman, Mark Pettit joined the administrative team as the Project Manager, a position responsible for project man-

agement 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.

In addition to multiple capital projects being initiated and completed during the year, the department worked to use park tax funds to purchase new equipment and rolling stock. In 2024, eight new pieces of equipment were purchased and delivered including a new John Deere cab tractor, flex-wing mower, skid steer, and hydraulic jackhammer. In addition, the department entered into a lease-to-buy agreement with John Deere for 19 new pieces of equipment for Fairview Golf Course. That equipment included mowers, utility vehicles, and other equipment specific to golf course needs. Two additional pieces of equipment have been ordered but not delivered as of the end of 2024.



Community members enjoy the new docks at Corby Pond.



Visitors of Krug Park enjoy ice cream while taking in the view.

HALF-CENT SALES TAX PROJECTS

Project Name	Activity	Cost/Budget	Status/Year
Bartlett Park Stadium Ballfield Erosion Control and Repair	Repair/Renovation	\$104,434	Complete/2024
Bartlett Park Shelter (East)	Replacement	\$32,085	Complete/2024
Bode Ice Arena Refrigeration	Replacement	\$707,479	Complete/2024
JRP 50+ Activity Center Kitchen Equipment	Replacement	\$91,999	Complete/2024
Missouri Theater Marquee	Renovation	\$79,510	Complete/2024
Northside Complex Concrete	Replacement	\$72,252	Complete/2024
Northside Complex Electrical Service	Replacement	\$57,424	Complete/2024
Northside Complex Shelter Building (also see CIP)	Renovation	\$198,973	Complete/2024
Northside Complex Tennis Court Lighting	Replacement	\$114,874	Complete/2024
Patee Park Shelter	Replacement	\$44,980	Complete/2024
Phil Welch Stadium Deck	Renovation	\$42,791	Complete/2024
Phil Welch Stadium Safety Netting	Addition	\$115,000	Complete/2024
Remington Nature Center HVAC (also see Riverfront funding)	Replacement	\$357,547	Complete/2024
Holiday Park/South Pole Christmas Displays	Purchase	\$40,000	Complete/2024
Disc Golf Course at Hyde Park (Red Bird Hills)	Development/Construction	\$37,500	In Progress
Fairview Golf Course Ponds/Bridges	Renovation/Replacement	\$1,750,000	In Design
Krug Park (also see CIP project list)	Renovation	\$12,775,000	In Design
Wyeth Hill Shelter	Renovation	\$23,200	In Progress
Phil Welch Stadium Grandstand	Renovation	\$817,168	In Design
Phil Welch Stadium Seating	Replacement	\$400,000	In Design
Phil Welch Stadium Scoreboard	Addition	\$65,000	On Order
Remington Nature Center Flooring	Replacement	\$34,376	On Order
Remington Nature Center Sidewalk/Driveway	Replacement	\$102,045	In Progress
Hyde Park Aquatics – Activity Pool (also see CIP & ARPA project lists)	Construction	\$2,442,000	In Design
Hyde Park Pool House	Renovation	\$1,500,000	In Design
Northside Complex Splash Park	Replacement/Construction	\$2,000,000	In Design
Coleman Hawkins Park Stage & Park	Construction/Renovation	\$1,000,000	In Design
Noyes Complex Tennis & Horseshoe Court Lights	Replacement	\$275,000	On Order
Park Maintenance Storage (Hyde Park)	Construction	\$240,000	RFP

CIP PROJECTS

Project Name	Activity	Cost/Budget	Status/Year
Horace Mann Campus Playground (also received funds from CDBG)	Addition	\$80,326	Complete/2024
Bartlett Park Upper Restrooms	Renovation	\$216,532	Complete/2024
Northside Complex Restrooms (also see Park Tax project list)	Renovation	\$178,078	Complete/2024
JRP 50+ Activity Center South Restrooms	Renovation	\$93,583	Complete/2024
Wyeth-Tootle Mansion	Renovation	\$1,013,303	In Progress
Krug Park (also see Park Tax project list)	Renovation	\$1,014,608	Design
Maple Leaf Skateboard Park	Addition	\$450,307	In Progress
Corby Grove Restrooms	Replacement	\$328,878	In Progress
Eagles Complex Restroom/Concession Building	Replacement	\$628,519	In Progress
Hochman Park Restrooms	Replacement	\$311,876	In Progress
Civic Arena Restrooms/Locker Rooms	Renovation	\$2,000,000	In Progress

RIVERFRONT GUEST TAX PROJECTS

Project Name	Activity	Cost/Budget	Status/Year
River Bluff Trails (RBT) Park	Development/Construction	\$2,660,000	Complete/2024
RBT Flow Track	Construction	\$44,415	Complete/2025
RBT Skills Track at Wyeth Hill	Construction	\$8,190	Complete/2024
Heritage Park Playground Canopy	Replacement	\$44,247	Complete/2024
Heritage Park Scoreboards	Replacement	\$49,325	Complete/2024
Heritage Park Sound System	Replacement	\$22,099	Complete/2024
Remington Nature Center HVAC (also see Park Tax project list)	Replacement	\$375,000	Complete/2024
Heritage Park Spillway	Construction	\$641,000	In Progress
Heritage Park Field 4 Stadium Seating	Replacement	\$17,840	In Progress
Heritage Park Shelter	Replacement	\$37,143	In Progress
Wyeth Hill Pump Track	Design/Construction	\$347,000	In Progress

ARPA PROJECTS

Project Name	Activity	Cost/Budget	Status/Year
Civic Arena Volleyball Hardware	New Purchase	\$25,000	Complete/2024
Civic Arena End Zone Scoreboards/Locker Room Clocks	New Purchase	\$16,161	Complete/2024
Civic Arena Portable Stage	New Purchase	\$195,234	Complete/2024
Civic Arena Sport Court	New Purchase	\$45,080	Complete/2024
Civic Arena Video Equipment	Replacement	\$50,401	Complete/2024
Civic Arena Team Chairs	New Purchase	\$9,785	Complete/2024
Civic Arena Sound System	Replacement	\$117,830	Complete/2024
Civic Arena Spotlights	Replacement	\$21,574	Complete/2024
Civic Arena Handrails for Grandstand	Installation	\$14,231	Complete/2024
Civic Arena Concession Counters	Renovation	\$17,825	In Progress
Civic Arena Bleacher Steps	Addition	\$29,770	In Progress
Civic Arena Electrical Upgrade	Renovation/Addition	\$58,225	In Progress
Civic Arena Interior & Exterior Painting	Renovation	\$486,842	In Progress
Civic Arena Exterior Signage	Replacement	\$56,031	In Progress
Pony Express Statue Granite Base	Replacement	\$367,269	In Progress
Civic Center Park Lighting	Replacement	\$69,594	In Progress
City Hall Fountain (north side)	Replacement	\$11,388	Design
Hyde Park Pool House Design	Renovation	\$102,500	Design
Hyde Park Pool Design	Construction	\$258,000	Design
Northside Complex Splash Park	Construction	\$139,500	Design
REC Center Restroom	Addition/Renovation	\$58,979	In Progress

AQUATICS

The 2024 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 7,182, down from 7,976 in 2023 due to a pipe breaking in the first week of operation. Krug Pool had 2,022, up from 1,839. The addition of the Barracudas Swim team in 2023 resulted in a seasonal attendance of 341. The splash pad remained a highly popular water destination.

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, 21 pool staff were hired.

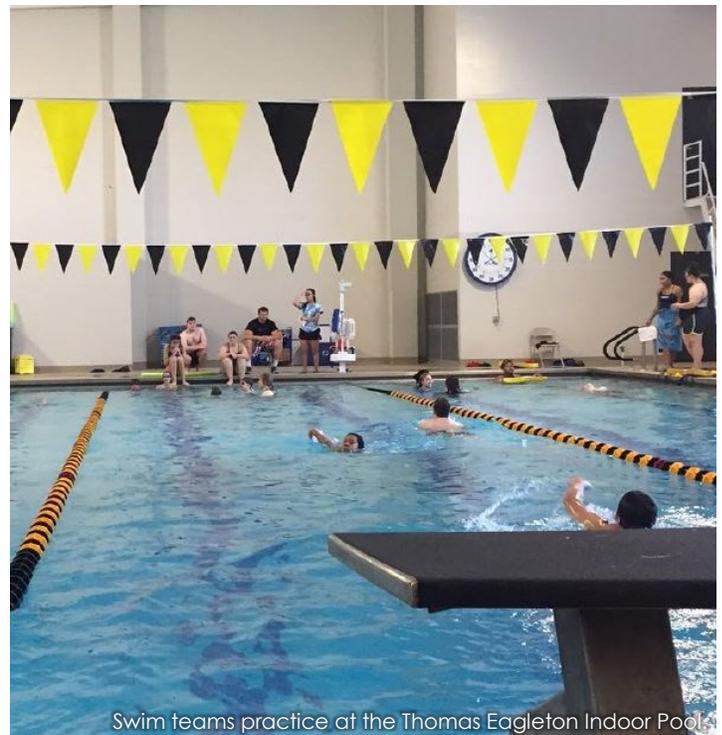
Programming at the Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool at Missouri Western State University (MWSU) remained steady with the City of St. Joseph in full control of operations. However, more lifeguards are needed to cover unexpected vacancies in staffing. The Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool also continues to be the home facility for Central High School, Savannah High School, and the Kansas City Swim Academy.

A total of 637 participants took part in swim lessons, but classes were put on hold in the fall due to swim team practices and limited pool space.



Lifeguards stand watch at Krug Pool.

The daily swim options continued with two different swim sessions. The Aquatic Park was open from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM and 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM Monday through Saturday, and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Sunday. Krug Pool offered 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM and



Swim teams practice at the Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool.



The split sessions at the Aquatic Park remained popular with families.



Lifeguards smile away before opening the gates.

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 84,000 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 230 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.

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, "Beauty and the Beast," with nearly 1,600 people in attendance, up from 1,500 the previous year. The St. Joseph Figure Skating Club (SJFSC) hosted its annual Pony Express Figure Skating Competition. The club had 173 competitors for the competition this year. The club also hosted three Christmas performances titled "Christmas Kisses & Candy Cane Wishes." Over 1,500 people attended the three performances. The figure skating club has consistently grown.

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, the St. Joseph Curling Club, and the Pony Express Pickleball Club.



Learn to Play Hockey

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.

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.



Learn to Skate



Photo Courtesy of Dan's Action Photos



Pony-Express Figure Skating Competition

CIVIC ARENA

Since October of 1980, the Civic Arena has boasted events for all members of the St. Joseph community. Over the past 44 years, residents of Northwest Missouri and beyond have enjoyed sporting events, concerts, social gatherings, circus performances, business meetings/banquets, trade shows, expos, and recitals. The versatility and overall design of the Civic Arena provides an opportunity to host an upscale banquet for local business professionals, the world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters, and a gymnastics meet within the same week.



In order to better serve the community and provide a wide variety of events and attractions, the Civic Arena staff works closely with local organizations and promoters to keep the arena busy year round. Outreach organizations include the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau, the St. Joseph Sports Commission, St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, and many non-profit organizations.



The Civic Arena has seen many updates and improvements in 2024. Restroom renovations began, adding additional space to all facilities. Lighting and interior paint was updated in the offices and all the public spaces, and new exterior signage was installed on the North and West sides of the arena. Patrons of the Civic Arena relish in the improvements and upgrades, and visitors are excited to see the changes and new events coming to the community. As the arena continues to improve, 2025 will bring upgrades to the office and box office spaces, plumbing repairs, new flooring in the meeting rooms, updates to concession areas, a fresh coat of exterior paint, and additional signage.



AMENITIES

- Box office
- Flexible seating capabilities
- General assembly seating for up to 4,200 patrons
- 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

Drainage and Plumbing

Flooding in ticket lobby during heavy rains

Security/Doors

Heating and Cooling systems

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Antique Show & Vintage Market
- UCP Chili Challenge
- Farm, Home & Rural Lifestyle Show
- NCAA DII Women's Elite 8
- Moila Shrine Circus
- Amped Up Bullriding
- Special Olympics Ladies Gala
- Mayor's Day of Prayer Breakfast
- Sports Cards Shows
- SJSD High School Graduations
- YWCA Women of Excellence Luncheon
- St. Joseph Kennel Club Dog Show
- Pony Express Barbender Power Lifting
- Hot Tub & Swim Spa Sale
- MO American Water Safety Expo
- Tiny Tot Town
- Holiday Mart
- My Success Event
- NCAA DII Women's Tip Off & Crossover
- MIAA Volleyball Championship
- Mayor's Thanksgiving Dinner
- Bill Snyder Classic
- High School Holiday Hoops Showcase



Kids build and play in the Farm and Ag room at Tiny Tot Town hosted by SJSD Parents as Teachers



The Kansas Wildcats women's basketball team competed against Middle Tennessee in the Bill Snyder Classic.

FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

CORE SERVICES

- Maintain and develop relationships with various user groups and community partners
- Provide meeting and banquet room space for community partners, businesses, and private individuals for meetings, conferences, and parties
- Operation of the pro shop with various golf-related items
- Operation of the full-service concession stand
- Provide recreational rounds of golf via open tee times
- Offer league opportunities for men, women, seniors, couples, and corporations
- Host Fairview administered golf tournaments and special events
- Provide facility, equipment, and support staff for private golf events
- Provide facility and support staff for high school golf teams, both boys and girls
- Support golf-related organizations such as the Fairview Men’s and Women’s Clubs in their programs

Fairview Municipal Golf Course took a big step forward in 2024. The course conditions have improved dramatically. All the greens and the putting greens are now in great shape. The speed and playability of the greens improved daily. Superintendent Wyatt Burnett and the crew worked extremely hard to get Fairview in the shape that it is today. John Surmeier was hired as the assistant superintendent. John brings valuable experience to the team and will be a huge asset. Many patrons and visitors have commented that Fairview is in the best shape it has ever been. Staff will continue to improve and strive to have one of the best municipal courses in the state.

Central control for the irrigation system was installed allowing the maintenance crew to turn on the irrigation from anywhere. They can also limit the number of heads that are turned on. This is more efficient than turning on all the irrigation heads for a fairway or a green.

All tee markers were replaced with metal markers, and the drain on hole 8 was replaced, allowing the ponds to fill to normal levels. Trees were trimmed and removed to improve playing conditions and turf health. Weak areas on hole 3’s fairway were sodded with zoysia. Hole 8’s bunkers were removed to improve

maintenance and playability. Hole 11’s forward tee was expanded and resodded with zoysia. Crews aerated and overseeded the rough with 1 ton of seed, and they repaired holes in the perimeter fence to improve security. A lease agreement was approved by

Fairview Golf Course Equipment List - 2024

1	John Deere 2400 Precision Cut Triplex Mower - 11 Blade, Grooved Front Roller
1	John Deere 2400 Precision Cut Triplex Mower - 7 Blade, 2.5 Front Disc Roller
1	John Deere 7700A Precision Cut Fairway Mower
1	John Deere 4066R Utility Tractor
1	John Deere ProGator 2030A
1	John Deere HD300 Select Spray for Gator
1	John Deere ProGator 2020A
3	John Deere Gator GS w/ Canopy
1	Agrmental GR 660-D Greens Roller
1	Tru-Surface JD2400
1	Vredo Turf-Fix 95T
1	John Deere Z997R - Commercial Ztrak Diesel
1	Dakota 410 Spreader
1	Dakota TB220 Turf Brush Wireless Remote
1	John Deere 440R Loader
1	Trimax Snake S2 400
1	John Deere Q865R Quik Trak

the city council to allow for much-needed new equipment for the maintenance department. New hitting mats for the range were purchased that allow regular tees to be used. Staff hopes to add targets to the range in the future.

Penny Wingard, the longtime golf course manager, retired in March, and Jeremy Weiss was hired.

Wednesday night leagues were full with 112 golfers. The Legends senior events were also well attended. The F.L.A.G. league continued to prosper, and they are actively looking for ways to encourage ladies to join. The Men's Club League had a full slate of tournaments, including the club championship after a year's hiatus.

Staffing continues to be an issue, and it is getting harder to find reliable help. Thankfully, Fairview had a solid core of employees who continued to do what needed to be done. Rounds and memberships were both up in 2024, and course conditions had a lot to do with this. Management anticipates higher rounds and memberships again in 2025.

Fairview will be switching the nines in 2025 to help the maintenance department's efficiency. It will help the mowers stay ahead of the golfers on days they mow, roll, or spray. It will also allow golfers to end on a par 5 rather than a par 3.



A foggy start to a December day.



Robert Brown got a hole-in-one on hole 12.



Golfers can now use regular tees at the range.

PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

- Rounds for 2024 were up 11%
- Green fees revenue was up 32%
- Memberships were up 25%
- Range was up 134% (the range was closed for 5 months in 2023)
- Concession revenue was up 12%
- Cart revenue was up 27%
- Pro shop revenue was up 10%
- Banquet room revenue was down 5%

JOYCE RAYE PATTERSON 50+

The Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center (JRP) is a 22,000-square-foot facility that opened on October 16, 1978. This unique adult community center is in downtown St. Joseph and was built for \$750,000 using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. In 1985, the then Joyce Raye Patterson Senior Center was divided into the City of St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department. In 2021, the building name was changed to encourage the younger active agers to participate in programming.

The JRP provides various recreational programs and activities for St. Joseph's regional members who are 50 years and older while supporting the City's adopted strategic plan and the Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities strategic plan's five primary goals. The JRP also strives to support the National Recreation and Parks Association pillars which include providing a quality accessible and inclusive environment and a place where everyone 50 and older can participate.

In 2024, 78 different groups met regularly for activities, presentations, classes, and events at the JRP. Three new groups, seven new fitness classes, three activities, and two events were added in 2024 while three activity groups left, one fitness class was discontinued, and two dance groups disbanded.

The most popular activities at the JRP are the membership program for the fitness center and weight room which received 33,062 recorded visits, followed by 8,133 visits for fitness classes, 5,956 for meals, and 3,969 visits to play billiards, snooker, and bar pool.



Patrons enjoy a game of 10-Point Pitch.

STATISTICS

- Fitness Center and Weight Room Visits: 33,062
- Daily Activities: 10,641 visits
- Fitness Classes: 8,133 visits
- Retired Groups: 218 visits
- Dancing: 1,774 visits
- Games: 5,940 visits
- Arts and Crafts: 598 visits
- Other activities & presentations: 2225 visits



Craft classes are one of the many fun offerings at the JRP.



Fitness class patrons strum away at cardio drumming.

ACTIVITY CENTER

HIGHLIGHTS

- Financially supported by the City of St. Joseph and the Senior Citizen's Foundation Inc. Board of Trustees
- Started work on kitchen appliance replacement project with a new dishwasher and upgraded walk-in freezer refrigeration and stove hood intake fan
- Added 7 exercise classes and 8 activities in 2024
- First full year of offering vacation trips with Collette
- Began partnering with Young @ Heart Resources and continued partnerships with Arthritis Community Services and the University of Missouri Extension to offer free balance, health, wellness, and exercise classes
- Hosted two Senior Farmer's Market Food Program application sessions
- Senior Citizen's Foundation Inc., repaired one HVAC heat exchanger and replaced another HVAC unit, purchased four new computers, and a new treadmill for the fitness center
- Hosted two health fairs and a flea market
- South restrooms were remodeled
- Held the Active Aging Symposium covering wills, trusts, taxes, Medicare, aging and driving, pain control, and wellness topics
- Hired two new cooks: Cheryl Green and Jessica Weatherford
- Hired a new Senior Account Clerk: Karen Bechtold
- Updated the circuit training room to replace discontinued equipment with new equipment: ab/back extension, free weights, and a dual pulley weight system
- Purchased a glute machine and a dual lat pull down / rower machine for the fitness center
- Brought in \$15,425.50 in medical insurance reimbursements for fitness center visits covered by Renew Active and Silver Sneakers

CHALLENGES

- Exterior sewer pipes froze and burst during extreme cold spell in January
- Lost one exercise class, three activities, and two dance groups in 2024

- Continued roof leaks in the fitness center
- Continued HVAC repair issues with 2 red tagged and 2 non-working heating units at the same time during a cold front
- Gas pressure was not set properly for the building in replacement of the regulator and the meter
- Four electrical circuit boxes are discontinued and banned for use because surges do not always trip the circuit which can create a fire hazard
- Elevator began experiencing more issues than normal
- Two pillars in the parking lot have visible damage at the base with one showing rebar
- The front sidewalk is crumbling and cracking and the southeast curb is broken up and no longer ADA compliant
- The southeast corner of the entryway is beginning to sag due to a leak from the roof and disintegrating concrete which is falling onto the parking area below this corner. Corner has exposed rebar and rusting facia on exterior and cracking on the interior.
- Fence rail around the front of the building is residential style railing and was installed when the building was built in 1978. This is gradually rusting away with the base of most of the fence posts concrete cracking and some of the fence posts rusted completely through.
- Flooring throughout the building is showing age with cracked tiles and frayed carpet.
- The annual Thanksgiving meal was cancelled due to lack of volunteers.
- The Dancing Clarks didn't return in 2024 and the Midnight Country Bank held their last dance at the JRP in December meaning there are no longer dances at the JRP.

LOOKING FORWARD TO

- Installation of two new faucets, a 10-burner stove, two convection ovens, bypass refrigerator, and 20-gallon commercial mixer in the kitchen
- Front sidewalk replacement
- 20-gallon water heater replacement
- Purchase two NuStep machines

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.



Maintenance looks forward to participating in the MPRA Maintenance Rodeo each year.

In addition to routine maintenance of the parks, facilities, park properties, and trails, the maintenance staff strives to save taxpayer dollars by completing numerous in-house projects. The skilled and talented crew members have saved tens of thousands of dollars by removing and replacing 13 scoreboards at our facilities, installing new playground equipment at Horace Mann, and building the 18-hole Redbird Hills Disc Golf Course in the hills of Hyde Park.

Monthly Trash Disposal Log	
Month	Pounds
January	14,640
February	9,640
March	10,620
April	17,320
May	25,040
June	25,040
July	27,020
August	19,740
September	20,700
October	19,420
November	10,380
December	12,040
TOTAL	212,180

During the summer, staff mows 1,500 acres while striving to maintain a seven-day mowing cycle. Crew members also planted (50+) trees and bushes, maintained flower beds, replanted flower beds, and repaired old fences. With the storms this year, the tree crew was very busy removing trees and debris, which seemed never-ending. The crews also dealt with a large amount of vandalism and graffiti. Due to vandalism, park maintenance had to reinstall a statue at Corby Pond that was stolen and damaged and two backboards at John Lucas Park that were shot, breaking the glass.



Removing damaged, fallen, and dead trees from the park system is a continuous job.

Other projects that were finished included the replacement of the Remington Nature Center’s bridge decking, new plumbing installed in the Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool pump room at Missouri Western State University, and the demolition and cleaning of the old skate park at Maple Leaf Park to make way for a new skate park being built in spring of 2025. Several memorials were installed throughout the park system. Maintenance crews also removed silt and cleaned the urban trail along the riverfront due to flood waters, and the department partnered with Water Protection to dredge the retention pond at Northeast Parkway along with beautification projects in the area.

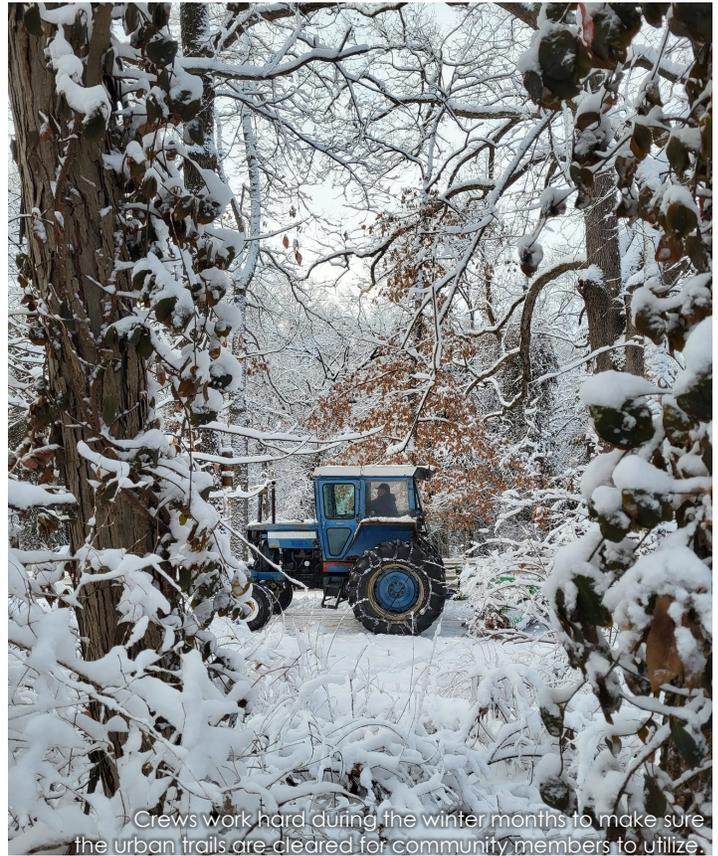
MAINTAINS

- 1,500 + acres
- 26 miles of parkway
- 46 parks
- 7+ facilities
- 18 lighted horseshoe courts
- 23 lighted softball and baseball fields
- 21 lighted tennis courts
- 16 lighted basketball courts
- 3 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 the normal maintenance duties, crews helped with the yearly installation and removal of the river docks at the French Bottoms ramp, the annual winterization of our facilities along the park system, and painting parking lot lines in all of the parking lots. Maintenance staff also work with other organizations to help set up their events such as the South Side Fall Festival, Red Rally, St. Joseph Marathon, and Kreepy Krug. In addition, crews were tasked with the installation and removal of the basketball and volleyball courts at the Civic Arena along with the removal of the homeless from park properties.



In 2024, the department celebrated the 43rd anniversary of “Holiday Park” at Krug Park. As always, lights were prepared and installed at Hyde Park’s “South Pole.” New displays are being constructed by department staff for both parks in 2025. Felix Street Square was also lit for the holidays. There are a lot of man-hours involved with all of the lightings, but the maintenance crews look forward to the holiday season every year.



MISSOURI THEATER

The beautiful Missouri Theater is a local treasure located in the heart of downtown St. Joseph. Designed by the Boller Brothers, who specialized in theater design in the Midwestern United States, the Missouri Theater originally opened in 1929. The theater was built as a cinema using a combination of Art Deco and Moorish styling, housing a Wurlitzer theater organ. While it originally served as a movie palace, the Missouri Theater was purchased by the City of St. Joseph in 1978. Following extensive renovations, it re-opened in 1979 as a performing arts center, offering a wide variety of performances and shows, appealing to many residents within the community.

Its impressive aesthetic and opulence make the Missouri Theater a highly desired and popular venue among performers and organizations. The Missouri Theater hosts arts groups, dance recitals, comedians, bands and more. The highly specialized staff nurture relationships with many local arts organizations including the Allied Arts Council, Performing Arts Association, St. Joseph Symphony, Robidoux Resident Theatre, Creative Arts Productions, St. Joseph Community Chorus, MWSU, Dance Arts Center, and Inspirations Dance. In 2024, the Missouri Theater welcomed a film crew, hosting a movie shoot.

The Missouri Theater complex boasts office space housing many local arts organizations and entrepreneurs: the Performing Arts Association, St. Joseph Symphony, Allied Arts Council, Creative Arts Productions, and Robidoux Resident Theatre. The Frog Prince, a local artisan market is its newest tenant, and it is hoped that 2025 will bring a few additional entrepreneurs.

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



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Performing Arts Association:
 - Brass Transit
 - Evil Woman ELO
 - The Beat Goes On
 - The Purple Experience
 - The Selena Experience
 - Shaun Johnson, Big Band Experience
- Robidoux Resident Theatre:
 - The Spongebob Musical
 - The Music Man
 - Little Women
- St. Joseph Symphony
 - Amadeus! Amadeus!
 - The Future's So Bright
 - Young at Art
 - Viennese Soiree featuring Lynn Spurgat
 - Holiday Cheer
- Creative Arts Productions
- The Lion King
- Dance Arts Center
 - Alice In Wonderland
 - The Nutcracker
- Dance Masters
- Kansas in Concert
- Inspirations Dance
- Meri's Dance Studio
- Elisabeth Wykert Variety Show and Holiday Spectacular
- MWSU Fountain City Brass Band
- A Taste of Ireland



The façade of the Missouri Theater is an iconic landmark in the community.

CHALLENGES

- Seating upholstery in poor condition
- Sidewalks in disrepair
- Lack of storage space
- New stage floor needed
- Exterior of the store fronts have water damage



The Beat Goes on Featuring Lisa McClowry

REC CENTER

The Recreation, Exercise, and Community (REC) Center opened in July 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 fitness center, a youth activity room, an elevated walking track, and concessions. The REC Center strives to offer a safe, clean, and fun atmosphere for people of all ages by offering fitness classes, adult and youth volleyball leagues, as well as open gym times for pickleball, badminton, basketball, futsal, and volleyball. We also host a variety of special events, birthday parties, and tournaments throughout the year and have gym rental options.

Multiple improvements, additions, and repairs were made to the facility in 2024. All the HVAC units were repaired in time for summer to provide air conditioning in the gyms and finish the heating issues before winter. The hallway benches were painted. The hardwood gym floors were redone in August, just in time for the fall leagues to begin. Two new incline trainers/treadmills were received for the first time in seven years, four are on hold, and two more are needed to complete the upgrade. The year's most anticipated project began in December: the construction of the fitness center and youth activity room restroom. Prior to this, the 24-hour fitness members did not have access to a restroom after hours. The restroom is to be completed by the end of January 2025.

The REC Center strives to continue to offer a variety of programming for everyone in the community and has done its best to provide better communication to the public about all things REC Center. We look forward to seeing what 2025 will hold and already have some new ideas to explore.



STATISTICS

- Adult Volleyball Leagues:
 - Winter: 58 teams
 - Spring: 51 teams
 - Fall: 38 teams
 - Holiday: 19 teams
 - TOTAL: 166 teams
- Youth Volleyball Leagues:
 - Summer: 42 teams
 - Fall: 36 teams
 - TOTAL: 78
- Rentals
 - 8 Basketball Tournaments
 - 2 Jujitsu Tournaments
 - 244 Volleyball Practices
 - 110 Basketball Practices
 - 26 Other Practice Rentals
 - 2 Vendor Fairs
 - 3 Youth Basketball League Rentals
 - 2 Birthday Parties
 - 1 Micro Wrestling Event



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 opportunities
- Six pickleball & badminton courts with rental opportunities
- Community room used for various 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, X, and Instagram

HIGHLIGHTS

- Both hardwood floors redone
- HVAC units fixed
- Replaced two incline trainers/ treadmills
- Began work on the restroom for the fitness/youth activity room
- Repainted the fading lines in the parking lot and fire lanes
- Repainted all the benches in the hallways
- The addition of a permanent part-time position at the front desk

CHALLENGES

- Hiring and retaining staff—including passing the drug test
- Only two full-time positions when we are open seven days per week, 15 hours per day
- Filling the fitness class schedule
- Balancing the open gym and rental schedules to keep

the various user groups happy

- Lack of enough parking is an issue when big events are held

LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2024

- Updating the 2 existing family restrooms
- Continue replacing the aging incline trainers/ treadmills (4 are on hold)
- Finishing the new restroom for the fitness room
- Adding more fitness class options
- Adding new programming to the open gym schedule during slower times
- Looking for ways to implement more baseball rental options for the blue gym
- Hopefully getting vinyl on the side windows at the top of the building to match what has been done across the front
- Doing some repainting inside the facility including the gyms and the hallways



Youth volleyball saw 78 teams participate in 2024.

REMINGTON NATURE CENTER

During the summer of 2024, the nature center again took part in the Work/Life Skills program with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). During one, six-week session (120 hours), three students come in every morning to clean glass, vacuum carpets, set-up the conference room, pick up trash outside, assist with Fish Feeding Frenzy, and other projects. These students also learned soft skills (communication, asking questions, handling various scenarios), and their supervisor was on-site with them. We look forward to participating in the program in 2025.

In 2024, the Remington Nature Center welcomed seven organized adult tours (motorcoaches, churches, care facilities, etc.) for a total of 114 people.

In 2024, 36 outreach programs were provided at various locations in St. Joseph and the surrounding area for both children and adults, reaching 3,517 people. This total includes Super Science Saturday and Eagle Days at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge.

In 2024, the Remington Nature Center hosted 2,676 students (grades pre-school through high school) from 52 schools in Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa.



Young students take a look at preserved insects at Insect-O-Rama.



A young learner leans in to feel the shell of a live exhibit.

Gift Shop Sales	
Month	Sales
January	\$184.50
February	\$711.00
March	\$3,506.70
April	\$1,906.40
May	\$1,477.80
June	\$1,333.50
July	\$1,573.45
August	\$1,557.50
September	\$1,963.45
October	\$1,285.95
November	\$2,089.50
December	\$903.70
TOTAL	\$18,493.45

GIFT SHOP SALES

Due to high demand, a second order of the 2023 parks department ornament was ordered and was available for sale in March. As of December 2024, the 2023 parks department ornament is completely sold out.



The nature center has a beautiful display of wildflowers for guests to enjoy.



One of the resident tortoises snacks away.

ATTENDANCE

	Adult	Senior	Youth	Children	CR	Members	Misc.	Total Attendance	Total Admissions	Total CR Rental Fees
January	85	32	69	20	163	4	11	384	\$574.00	\$235.00
February	236	90	141	50	338	4	0	859	\$1,314.00	\$1,175.00
March	475	141	528	147	418	14	0	1,723	\$3,379.00	\$1,752.50
April	488	160	776	86	187	6	85	1,788	\$3,984.00	\$850.00
May	472	175	718	74	373	21	26	1,859	\$3,849.00	\$880.00
June*	612	180	548	138	224	22	11	1,735	\$4,048.00	\$815.00
July	417	175	352	96	411	16	37	1,504	\$2,897.00	\$1,095.00
August	299	187	239	71	437	17	6	1,256	\$2,235.00	\$1,370.00
September**	884	124	113	49	300	13	38	1,521	\$1,314.00	\$1,320.00
October***	287	181	205	52	248	9	34	1,016	\$2,101.00	\$750.00
November	278	78	290	47	344	13	1	1,051	\$1,926.00	\$1,211.00
December	156	79	136	18	371	3	0	763	\$1,133.00	\$1,330.00
TOTALS	4,689	1,602	4,115	848	3,814	142	249	15,459	\$28,754.00	\$12,783.00

*Includes 475 people who attended Herp-O-Rama.

**Includes 705 people who attended Museums Association of St. Joseph Free Museum Day on September 21. The number is inclusive of all "Attendance" categories. Since no admission was charged, they are not included in the "Total Admissions."

***Includes 166 people who attended Insect-O-Rama.



Visitors enjoy the welcoming exhibits.

RECREATION

The year 2024 saw various youth and adult tournaments as well as adult league play in softball and baseball. Pony Express Baseball and Midland Empire Softball youth leagues continued to utilize city-owned facilities for their programming. Several tournaments were held by Pony Express Baseball with support from the Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department. Numerous organizations also held tournaments at the Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park. High school baseball and softball programs continued to hold regular season games as well as various tournaments at city facilities as in past years.

Adult USA Softball League play continued at the Bill McKinney Softball Complex with a spring and a fall session. A total of 25 teams, equaling 375 players, participated in the spring league, and 16 teams, totaling 240 players, competed in the fall league. The St.

hosted its district softball tournament at the complex.

Many improvements were made to facilities across St. Joseph in 2024. The Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park saw numerous improvements thanks to funding provided by the local Transient Guest Sales



The Altec team smiles their way through the Outlaw Adventure Run.



An Outlaw Adventure Run participant jumps up stumps with a football in hand.

Joseph Baptist Association continued its longstanding partnership with the parks and recreation department with an increase to 12 teams participating and registering through USA Softball. The complex also hosted eight tournaments coordinated through local high schools and non-profit groups such as the Northwest District Special Olympics tournament and the return of the IBEW electrical workers tournament. Lafayette and Bishop LeBlond High Schools continued calling Heritage Park home for their fall high school softball seasons. In 2024, Benton High School once again

Tax. New scoreboards, replacement of a protective playground cover, and installation of a public address system were all completed. Further improvements are planned for 2025 with a new shade and shelter structure along with new seating on Hoffman Field. New scoreboards were installed at Eagles Field, Lions Field, and South Park Complex thanks to a grant from the William D. Morgan Trust. A new backstop netting system and spectator safety netting were installed at Phil Welch Stadium. The updated netting provides clearer visibility of the games and a new level of protection for fans enjoying the many activities surrounding the action on the field. New temporary fencing was purchased for the Benton High School softball season at Hyde Park. The lower Bartlett baseball field also underwent a painting project which included the concession building, dugouts, and backstop wall. New dugout benches made of manufactured wood were also purchased to upgrade the seating areas for



teams. Annual fall turf maintenance including aeration, overseeding, and fertilization took place at various baseball and softball facilities throughout the city. Many teams, groups, and organizations utilize city facilities for their practice, league, and tournament needs during various times of the year. The parks department maintains and improves facilities in partnership with these groups while coordinating with their playing seasons.

The parks department continues its mission to enhance softball and baseball play in St. Joseph by providing programming for adult softball leagues as well as 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.

The recreation division of the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department offers many recreational and sports opportunities to citizens and visitors 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, presenting the Outlaw Adventure Run, and cornhole leagues. In 2024, the department continued its partnership with the St. Joseph YWCA as co-sponsor of the Outlaw Adventure Run. This partnership benefitted the YWCA GRIT Center. Through this partnership, the run saw

58 runners. The annual youth tennis program had 25 participants and continued to be a very popular summer activity for youth wanting to explore the game of tennis. USTA also returned to St. Joseph with a youth tennis event at the Noyes Tennis Complex. Multiple events are planned for the coming year through the USTA in partnership with the St. Joseph Sports Commission. Going forward, the department hopes to continue to grow these programs as well as offer other unique experiences in the community as recreational interests evolve.

Every year, the department partners with other entities in St. Joseph such as the YMCA, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph School District, 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 disc golf. There was continued usage of the Bartlett Parkway Disc Golf Course as well as the newly opened 9-hole beginner course on the north end of Bartlett Park. The development of the Redbird Hills Disc Golf Course at Hyde Park continued with early rounds beginning in the fall. Promoting events on the course along with shared maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and equipment have fostered an effective partnership between the City of St. Joseph and the St. Joseph Disc Golf Club. Their day-to-day usage of the courses help maintain a pulse of the interest and upkeep involved with the greenspace they occupy.

Major improvements were made to Northside Complex including rehab of the restrooms, addition of shade structures, and installation of LED lighting on the tennis courts. These efforts help the department seek out new activities and meet the recreational needs of the community as St. Joseph moves forward with programming.

STATISTICS

- 58 Outlaw Adventure Run Participants
- 25 Youth Tennis Camp Participants
- 656 St. Joe Fit Participants
- 41 Adult Softball League Teams

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS

Community partnerships are essential for creating positive 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 developments that might not get attention from tax funding. Because of that, the collaboration with those willing to give their time and 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 2024, 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, and assisting with primitive trail upkeep. 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, split the season into two hybrid sessions. The first five weeks began Memorial Day weekend, and the second half began Labor Day weekend to avoid the hot season. Each week, a section of



A young child plays with sidewalk chalk at Krug Park-a-Palooza.

the urban hike-and-bike trail was highlighted on the St. Joe Fit Facebook page. Participants were encouraged to walk that trail during its highlighted week for a chance to win the weekly prize donated by the City of St. Joseph Health Department. To “sign in,” participants would scan a QR code sticker placed on the trail by parks staff, or they could join staff for an in-person walk on Tuesday evenings. Roughly, 324 participants joined our in-person walks for 990 check-ins, and a total of 656 citizens took part over the 10 weeks.

In July, the city-sponsored 4th of July fireworks were hosted at the North Shoppes for the third year. July was also National Parks and Recreation Month with the theme “Where You Belong”. Each week, a facility was highlighted on social media to showcase its activities and how the community can find a place of belonging within its doors. Each facility participated in its own way during its highlighted week. Many promoted discounted prices, giveaways, and special activities.



A class from Pershing Elementary School participated in Earth Day by cleaning up Northside Complex.

River Bluff Trails Park saw its second 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. The second annual River Bluff Trails Fest was scheduled for the first weekend of November. After almost a year of planning and community support, weather caused the event to be canceled. Despite the cancellation, it helped the department build a strong bond on an already established relationship with the Saint Joseph Trial Alliance.



A young boy plays at Krug Park's children's circus.

Friends of Krug Park partnered with the department to host multiple events at Krug Park. The second-annual Krug Park-A-Palooza was held with great success. The free event featured a petting zoo, balloon animals, crafts, games, food trucks, and giveaways. Two movie events were held at the amphitheater: *Hans Solo: A Star Wars Story* in the spring and *Monsters Inc* in the fall. 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.

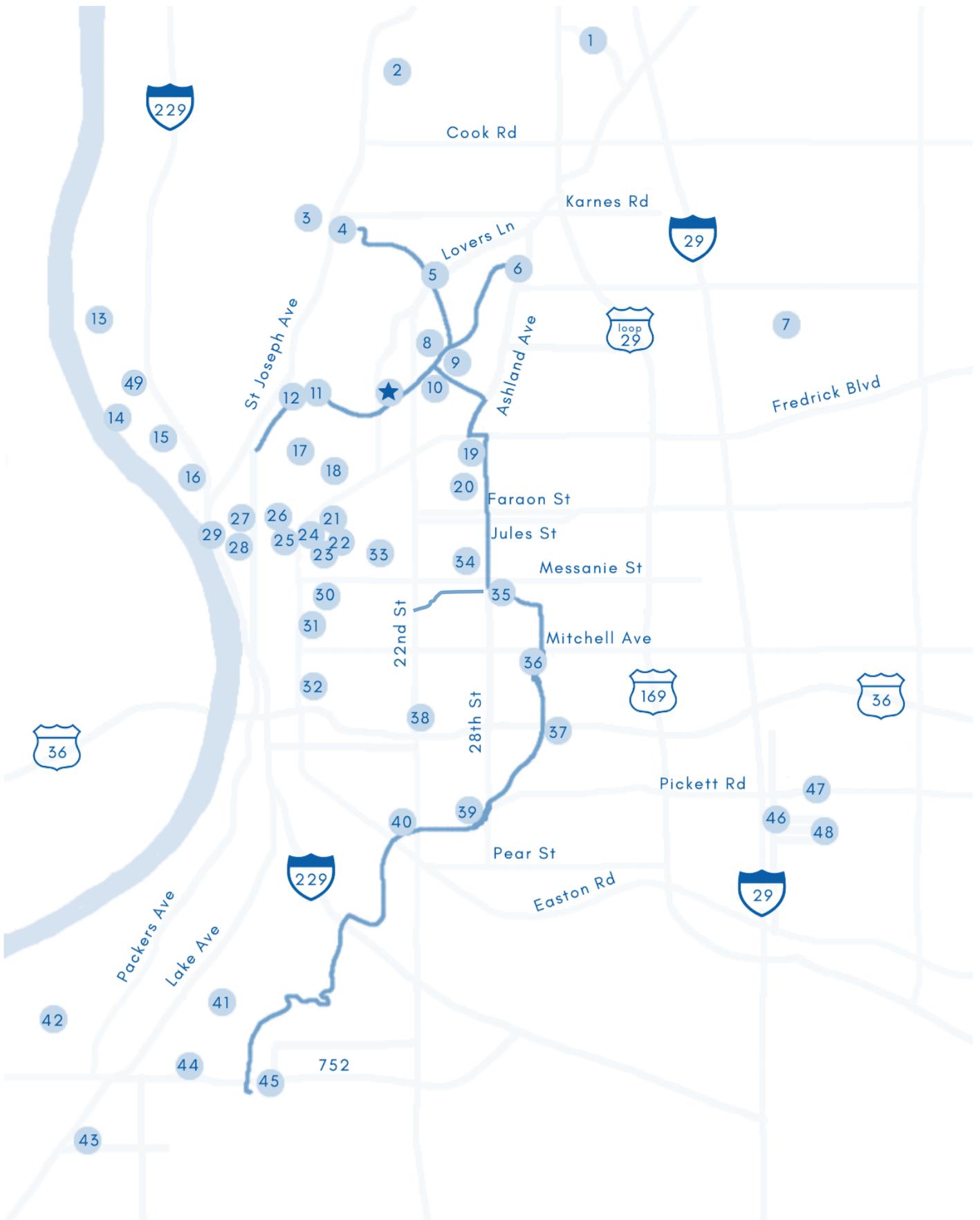
Multiple grant applications were submitted in 2024, and the parks department was fortunate to be awarded one: the Missouri Department of Conservation's Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program. Through the grant, a new shelter and crosswalk will be



installed near the restrooms at Corby Grove. The Missouri American Water Hydration Station Grant and the Historic Preservation Grant, both awarded in 2023, were finalized in 2024. The hydration stations were a welcomed asset to River Bluff Trails Park's trailheads. The department's Clio tour launched in the spring on PC and cell phones through the free app. It allows citizens to take a virtual tour of the historic park system from the comfort of their homes.

The parks department saw an increase of 657 followers on Facebook which increased our following to 6,631. Because of social media, many families were reached for programs such as Parks Passports and National Parks and Recreation Month. River Bluff Trails Park saw an increase of 1,642 Facebook followers for a total of 3,624 and an increase of 166 Instagram followers for a total of 1,246.

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

STAFF DIRECTORY

PARK ADMINISTRATION

816.271.5500

Chuck Kempf, Director
Jeff Atkins, Assistant Director
Mark Pettit, 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

816.271.5506

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

CIVIC ARENA & MISSOURI THEATER

816.271.4717

Kathy Brock, Civic Facilities Manager
Chad Bumphrey, Arena Operations Supervisor
Rachel Kretzer, Arena Coordinator

FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

816.271.5351

Jeremy Weiss, Golf Course Manager
Gina Orozco-Stillman, Assistant Golf Course Manager
Wyatt Burnett, Superintendent

JOYCE RAYE PATTERSON 50+ ACTIVITY CENTER

816.271.4666

Julie Noel, Manager
Karen Bechtold, Senior Account Clerk
Jena Kieser, Fitness Center Coordinator
Sheldon Pearce, Building Maintenance Technician

REC CENTER & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

816.271.5501

Megan Angst, Manager
Alexis Starks, Assistant Manager
Timothy Power, REC Activities Coordinator
David Cavin, Recreation Programs & Facilities Supervisor

816.271.5512

REMINGTON NATURE CENTER

816.271.5499

Sarah Elder, Manager
Caitlin Glore, Administrative Technician
Shelly Cox, Naturalist

BILL MCKINNEY SOFTBALL COMPLEX

816.271.5500

Jack Urquhart, Senior Work Leader Athletic Fields

YEARS OF SERVICE & RETIREMENTS

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Timothy Miller

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Megan Angst

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

April Wyatt

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ted Alders
Robert Mattson

45 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kathy Brock