



**PARKS &
RECREATION**



YEAR END REPORT

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Parks and Recreation Department, I am excited to present our 2024 Annual Report. This year has been full of exciting growth, and none of it would have been possible without the incredible support from our community and the dedication of our staff. The enthusiasm and engagement from our residents—whether through participating in programs, attending events, or using our facilities—have been truly inspiring. At the same time, our team has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring new amenities and expanded programs to life, making sure that every member of our community has access to enriching experiences.

In this report, you'll find a look at the key achievements of 2024, including new capital projects, increased program participation, and the free community events that united us all. Be sure to check out the "Save the Dates" for 2025 events and know that we're already looking forward to another year of serving you with the same passion and commitment. Thank you to both our staff and our community for making this year unforgettable!

Director of Parks & Recreation,



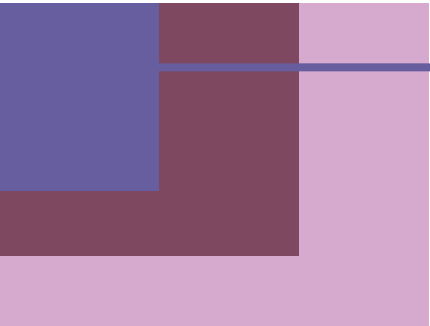


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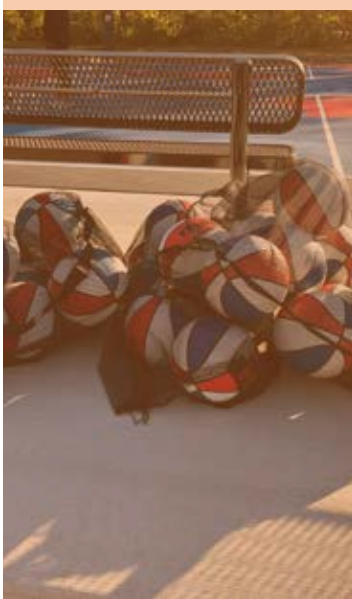
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OUR **MISSION**

Enriching the quality of life for our community through safe, well-maintained parks and facilities that promote diverse recreation activities, health, wellness, learning, and fun.



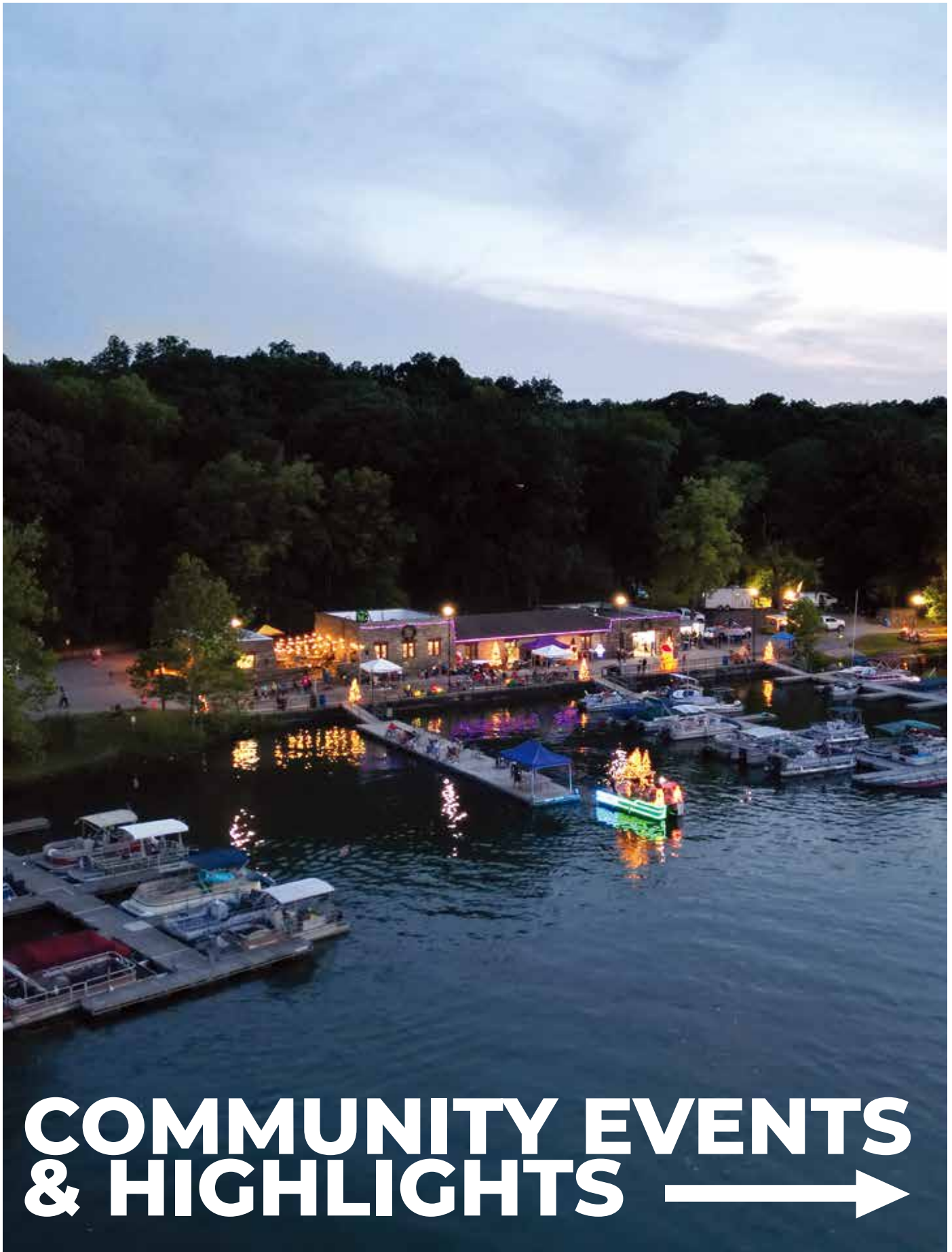
OUR **VISION**

To provide excellent services that create a happy and healthy community where all residents can play, learn, work, and live.



OUR **VALUES**

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Customer Service | 5. Health & Wellness |
| 2. Teamwork | 6. Safety |
| 3. Integrity | 7. Social Equity |
| 4. Innovation | |



COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



Someone Special Dance – February 9th

The Parks and Recreation department hosted its annual Someone Special Dance at Joe Amayo Argentine Community Center, 6–8 PM. With 96 registered and 85 attendees, the event featured DJ Ben Rich, crafts by KCKPL, and refreshments from Cane's, Hy-Vee, and Sam's. Don Evans Flower donated a floral arrangement for the best dance winner, while Sara's Flowers provided one for the best-dressed.



Opening Day – March 2nd

UGPRD lakes marked its opening day for fishing, a significant day as it was the first time fishing permits were sold for the season. Anglers and families gathered to enjoy the lake, eager to kick off the fishing season. From 6 AM to 9 AM, 488 vehicles lined up to take part in the festivities. The event successfully welcomed the community to engage in outdoor recreation.



COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



Arbor Day – April 26th

Arbor Day is a national holiday that encourages individuals and organizations to plant trees. This year, the Department celebrated by planting a tree at the Wyandotte County Historical Museum. Staff were joined by Unified Government Commissioners to inspire all citizens to come together to celebrate and support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.



Kids to Park Day – May 18th

UGPRD hosted its annual Kids to Park Day event at Eisenhower Community Center, featuring face painting, a balloon artist, bubbles, yard games, P&R swag, DJ Joe, and Dave & Busters. Approximately 110 participants attended. A donation of hot dogs was provided by Harvesters, and a representative from the sheriff's department grilled for the event.



COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



Christmas in July July 20th

Christmas in July celebrated its 10th anniversary at Wyandotte County Lake Park from 3:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Activities included a fishing derby, boat judging, kids' zone, glow party, fireworks, and food trucks. Raffle prizes were awarded, and hundreds attended, making it a major event. UGPRD staff, volunteers, and outsourced parking ensured smooth operations.



COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



Movies in the Park August 9th & September 13th

Movies in the Park began on August 9th at Eisenhower Park with “The Super Mario Bros Movie,” drawing 50 attendees. The final event on September 13th at Clopper Field featured “Inside Out 2,” with 85 attendees. Both events were organized by Backyard Box Office KC, which provided equipment and staff.



WYCO Parks Golf Tournament September 13th

The Wyandotte County Parks Foundation’s 13th Annual Golf Tournament at Sunflower Hills Golf Course raised \$28,500, more than double last year’s total. With support from McConnel & Associates and ATHCO, the event featured awards and provided lunch, beverages, and hole games, making it a success.



COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



Music in the Park – October 8th

The Kansas City Symphony's Mobile Music Box visited Pierson Park at 6:00 PM, featuring a one-hour performance by a talented trio of skilled woodwind musicians. Around 30 attendees gathered to enjoy the intimate concert, and the response was overwhelmingly positive, with high praise for the musicians' exceptional talent and the beautiful atmosphere created.



Beginner Pickleball Clinic October 19th

The Beginner Pickleball Clinic at Klamm Park, led by Andy Gensch, was a great success with 10 enthusiastic participants. They received an introduction to the sport, including basics, rules, and skill-building drills. Attendees left with a solid foundation, new connections, and excitement to improve.



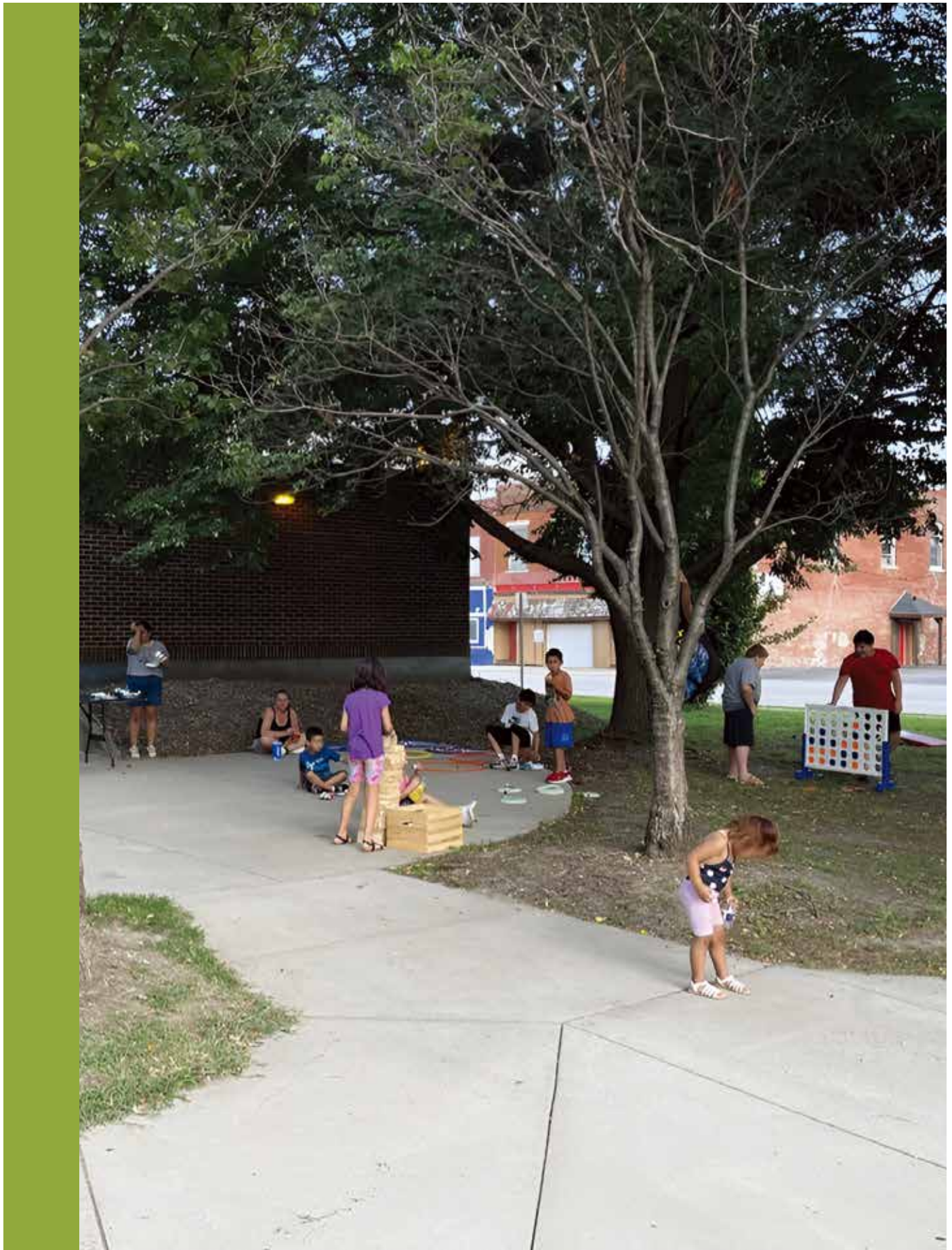
COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



Donuts With Santa December 14th

The Unified Government Parks and Recreation Department hosted its annual “Donuts with Santa” event at Memorial Hall, drawing 400 attendees. The free event featured crafts, inflatables, and gifts from Santa, with children collecting stamps for a chance to win prizes. Thanks to sponsors and volunteers, the event brought holiday cheer to Wyandotte County families.





COMMUNITY CENTER SPOTLIGHTS

Armourdale Community Center



Armourdale Community Center has been an important part of our community this year, hosting events like Romantic Rhythms Bingo, Easter Egg Extravaganza, Movie Bingo, and various crafting activities. Other highlights include Sunshine Showdown, Loteria, Pumpkin Painting, Dia de los Muertos celebrations, Thanksgiving Craft, and Storytime with Mrs. Claus. In addition, the center offers weekly programs such as Dodgeball, Pickleball, and Mexican Folk Dance, providing opportunities for fun, fitness, and cultural enrichment.

Beatrice L. Lee Community Center



The Beatrice L. Lee Community Center has been a vital part of our community this year, featuring events like the Big 11 Lake Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Camps with basketball and cooking classes, and the popular Seniors in the Dotte program. Other highlights include Playtime Palooza, Frightful Fun Fest, a thrilling Nerf War, and Christmas Movie Night. Additionally, programs such as DMB Dance, Purple Diamonds Cheer, and the Shufflers Card Club promote creativity, fitness, and social connection among participants.

COMMUNITY CENTER SPOTLIGHTS

Earl Watson, Sr. Community Center



The Earl Watson, Sr. Community Center, formerly Bethany Community Center, held a special renaming event on June 22nd to honor Earl Watson, a dedicated Recreation Specialist who served the community for 30 years. His family, community leaders, commissioners, and the mayor attended, celebrating his legacy and significant impact on recreation and wellness. Speeches emphasized his contributions and the community's deep appreciation for his commitment and positive influence.

Eisenhower Community Center



This year, Eisenhower Community Center has been a lively hub for the community, bringing people together through events like Valentine's card crafting, Bubbles and Balloons, the Boo Bash Halloween celebration, and the Winter Wonderland Christmas Craft. The center plays a vital role in youth basketball, flag football, and summer camp, providing a nurturing environment for young athletes and offering kids enriching experiences. Weekly ceramics and quilting classes foster creativity and connection.

COMMUNITY CENTER SPOTLIGHTS

Joe E. Amayo, Sr./Argentine Community Center



The Joe E. Amayo/Argentine Community Center has been buzzing with activity this year, serving as a vibrant hub for the community. Highlights included The Calavera Experience celebrating culture and creativity, the Honor a Veteran Breakfast, and Santa's Sweet Shop, a festive family event. The center is also home to youth basketball programs, promoting teamwork and fitness, and offers a range of programs like fitness classes, Cachibol, and Inner Peace Yoga, catering to the diverse needs of the community.

Kensington Community Center



Kensington Community Center has been a lively hub for our community this year, hosting engaging events like the beloved Easter Egg Hunt, Movie Night, the Fall Festival, and Christmas Ornament Craft. The center also serves as the focal point for youth soccer and futsal programs, promoting teamwork and physical activity among young athletes. With its diverse offerings, the Kensington Community Center continues to be a place where community spirit thrives, and connections are made.

AQUATICS

Parkwood Pool, Eisenhower, and Pierson Spray Parks opened on May 25, providing summer activities like swimming and water play. Clifton Spray Park also opened on August 10, offering more recreation options. The Joe Delaney Learn to Swim Program returned for the third year at Parkwood Pool, reaching full capacity with 150 youth participants. In partnership with GEHA, The Hunt Family Foundation, and the YMCA, the program promotes swimming skills and water safety, enhancing community engagement and healthy lifestyles for all ages.



**173 participants
with no prior
swim lessons**



**227 participants in
Joe Delaney Learn
to Swim Program**



**Over 80%
successfully
learned/completed
a safety skill**



SUMMER CAMP

This year, summer camp was held at Beatrice Lee and Eisenhower Community Centers, each offering a 6-week program from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eisenhower hosted a traditional camp with 44 children enrolled, while Beatrice Lee focused on performing arts with 20 participants. For the first time, DCF payments were accepted, making camp more accessible to families. Lunches were provided, and field trips included visits to local theaters, a baseball game, and Wyandotte County Lake Park, ensuring a well-rounded summer experience for participants.

20 children
enrolled at
Beatrice Lee



44 children
enrolled at
Eisenhower



ADULT SPORTS BY THE NUMBERS



10
TEAMS



8
TEAMS



7
TEAMS

The adult co-ed softball league-maintained participation numbers consistent with the previous year, reflecting the community's ongoing enthusiasm for this sport. Unfortunately, the adult men's soccer league and adult men's softball league did not take place this year. However, the department is actively exploring both new and existing opportunities for adult sports in the upcoming year, aiming to enhance engagement and expand offerings for our community's adult athletes.

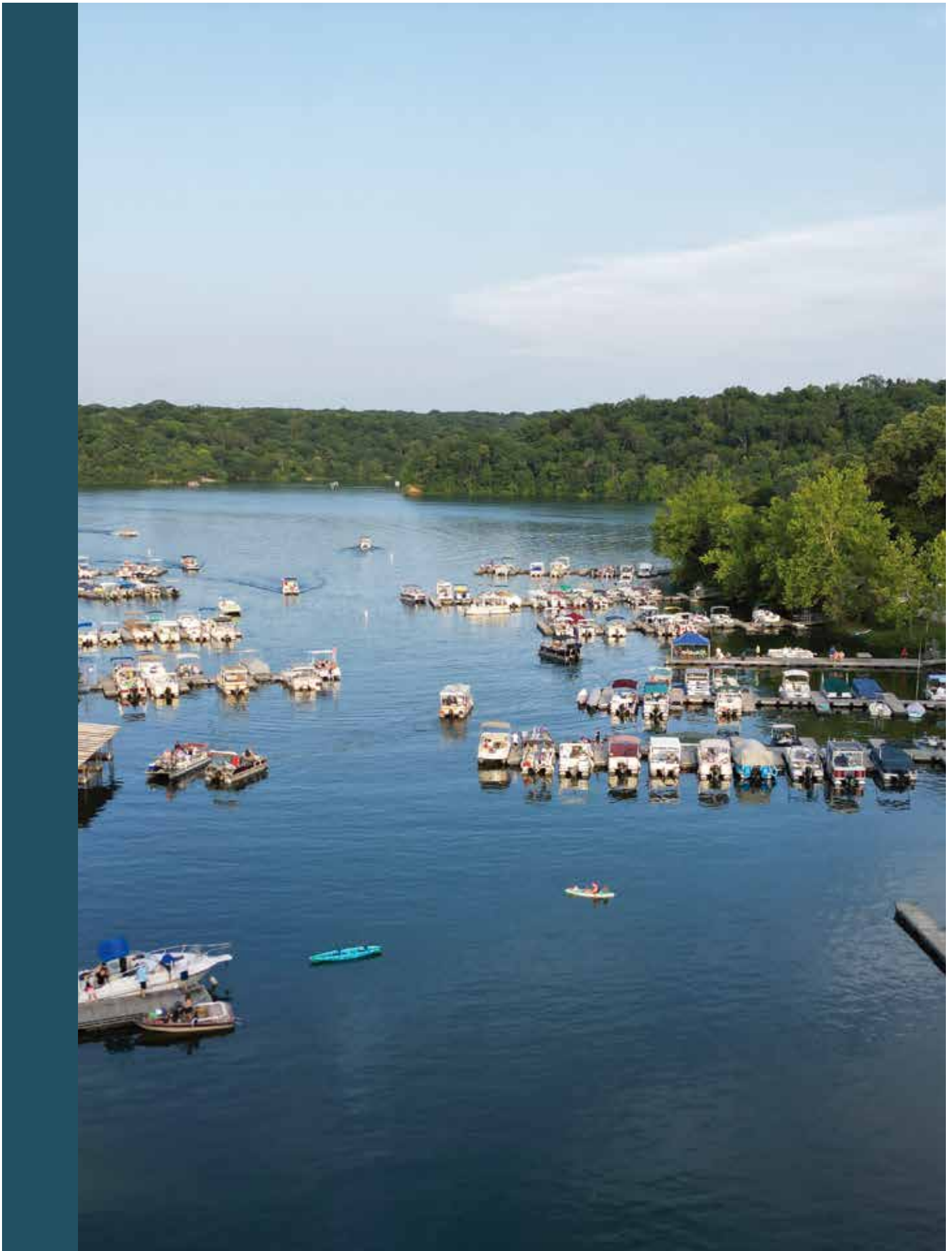


YOUTH SPORTS BY THE NUMBERS



Youth sports continue to thrive in our community, with soccer remaining the most popular activity among young athletes. This year, we offered clinics and camps to foster skill development and growth. Highlights included a one-week Spring Break Basketball Camp, a Summer Volleyball Clinic, individual basketball training, a Fall Volleyball Clinic, and an 8-week middle school basketball clinic. These programs enhanced skills while promoting teamwork and camaraderie among participants.





OUTDOOR RECREATION



FACILITIES BY THE NUMBERS

Shelter Reservations by Park

- City Park: 124
- Eisenhower Park: 18
- Kaw Point Park: 7
- Klamm Park: 34
- Leo Alvey Park: 54
- Matney Park: 18
- Parkwood Park: 53
- Pierson Park: 131
- Quindaro Park: 33
- Rosedale Park: 58
- Shawnee Park: 12
- St. Margaret's Park: 13
- Thomson Park: 21
- Welborn Park: 34
- WYCO Park: 401



Did you know?

In 2024, Pierson Community Center hosted 67 banquet hall reservations, James P. Davis Hall had 85, and George Meyn Hall saw 116.

Shelter Reservations at WYCO Lake Park

There were 964 shelter reservations at WYCO Lake Park, with the Beach Shelter being the most popular at 104 reservations.



FACILITIES BY THE NUMBERS



Gym Reservations by Community Center

Armourdale Community Center had 174 gym reservations, Beatrice Lee Community Center had 123, Eisenhower Community Center had 147, Joe E. Amayo Community Center had 105, and Kensington Community Center had 64.

Ballfield Reservations

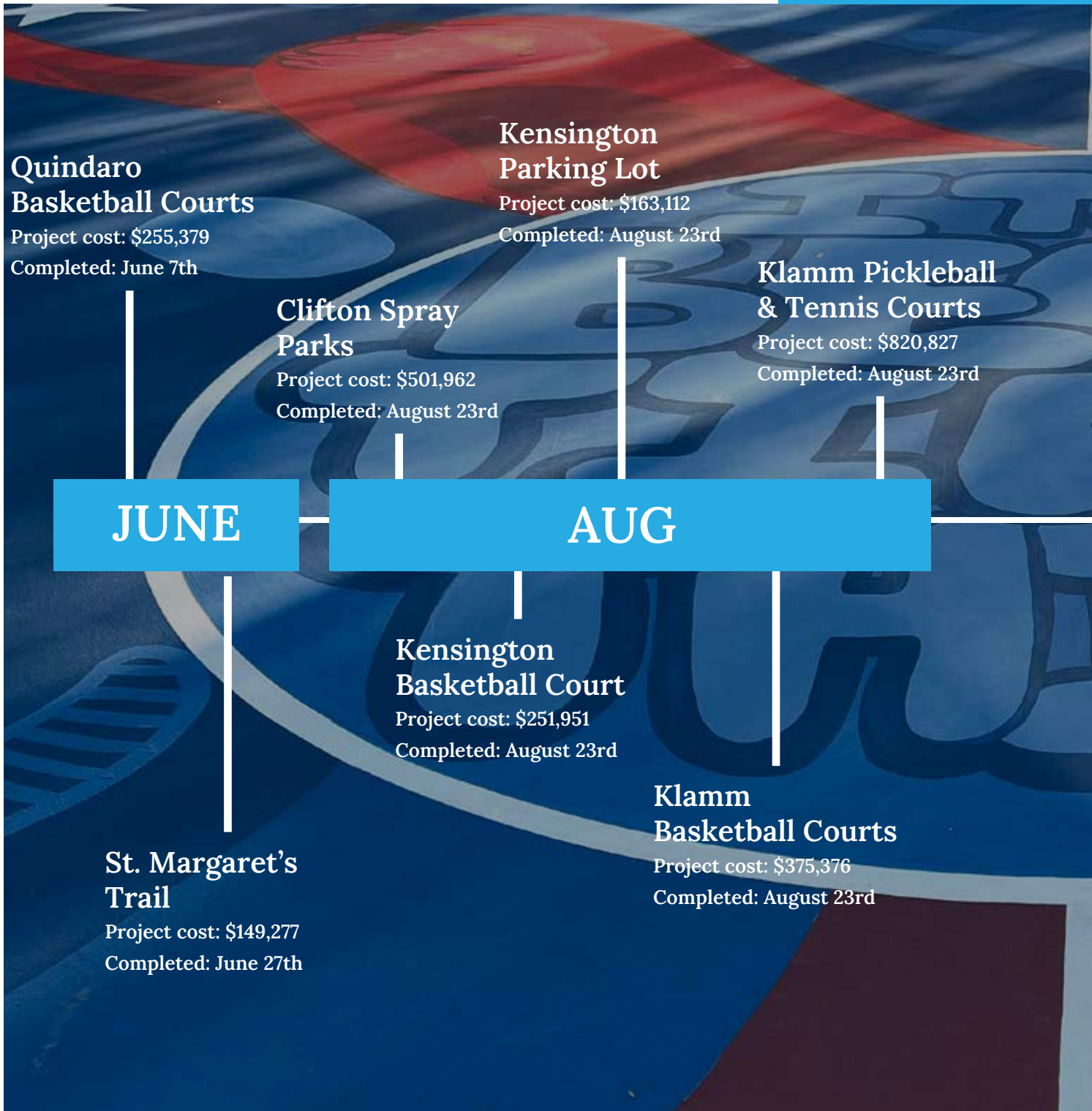
664	44	247	121	78
City Park	Clopper Field	Eisenhower Park	Heathwood Park	Klamm Park
48	140	175	35	324
Quindaro Park	Rosedale Park	Shawnee Park	Stony Point Park	WYCO Park

Soccer and Multipurpose Field Reservations by Park

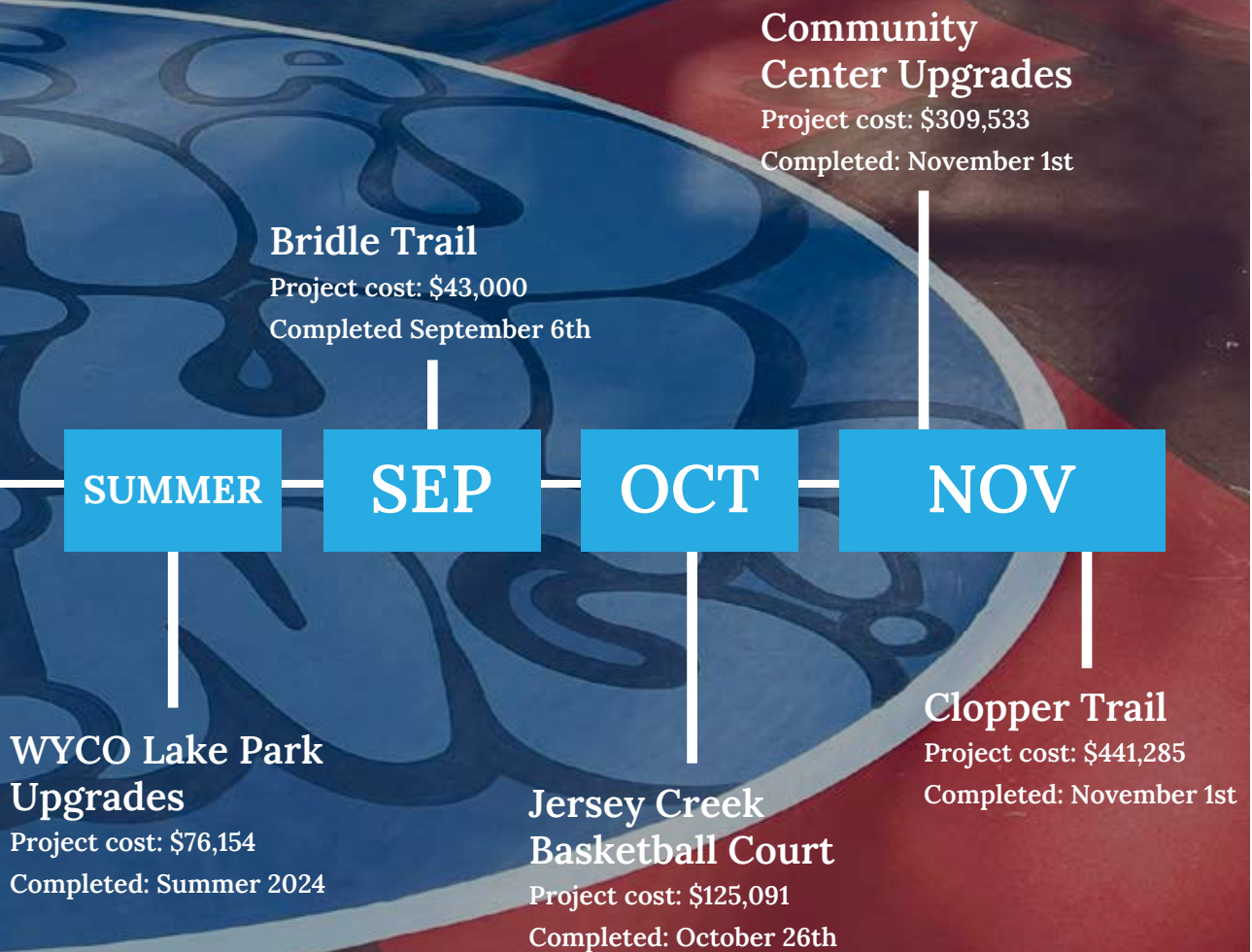
- 9th Street Field: 306
- City Park: 64
- Clopper Field: 131
- Eisenhower Park: 138
- Kensington Park: 70
- Leo Alvey Park: 212
- St. Margaret's Park: 26



CAPITAL PROJECTS



CAPITAL PROJECTS



\$8.9 million invested
*This number includes projects to be completed in 2025.

CAPITAL PROJECTS



Quindaro Basketball Courts
Quindaro Park upgraded dilapidated tennis courts with 2 new post tension basketball courts.



St. Margaret's Trail
A new one third of a mile trail amenity was added to St. Margaret's Park. The trail is a 5-foot wide concrete base with rubber surfacing.



Clifton Spray Parks
Clifton Park added a spray park offering additional access to aquatic activities for families.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Kensington Basketball Court

Kensington Park's basketball court was updated with post-tension concrete, fencing and benches.



Kensington Parking Lot

Kensington's Park's parking lot received new asphalt, curbs, gutters and ADA-compliant parking.



Klamm Basketball Courts

Klamm Park updated the former basketball court with 2 new post tension courts, fencing and seating.



CAPITAL PROJECTS



Klammm Pickleball & Tennis Courts

Klammm Park renovates 6 run-down tennis courts with 3 new post tension tennis courts and 8 pickleball courts.



WYCO Lake Park Upgrades

In the summer of 2024, Wyandotte County Lake Park underwent a Shelter 14 roof upgrade and a swing set replacement at the main playground, both projects funded by CIP dollars.



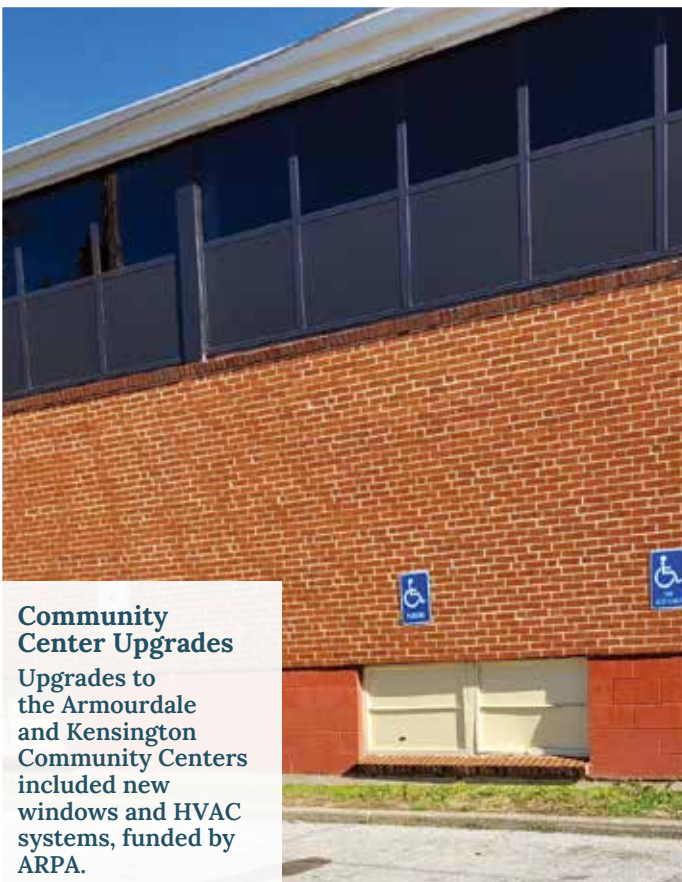
Bridle Trail

The Bridle Trail received 43 wayfinding signs, mile markers, 10 EMS locator points, and glowing 911 call signs for improved safety. Funded by the Wyandotte County Parks Foundation, Hollywood Casino Grant, and TURF.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Jersey Creek Basketball Court

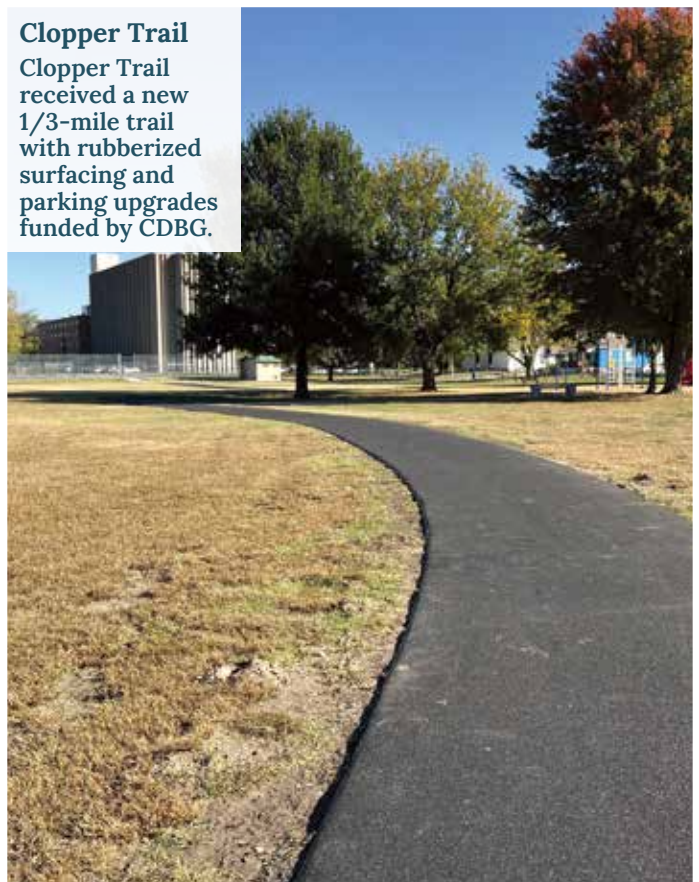
The basketball court at Jersey Creek Park, featuring a post-tensioned surface was designed by artist JT Daniels, inspired by Broderick Crawford's catchphrase, "It's a Beautiful Thing." The project was funded by the TURF Council, Wyandotte County Parks Foundation, and Vibrant Health.



Community Center Upgrades

Upgrades to the Armourdale and Kensington Community Centers included new windows and HVAC systems, funded by ARPA.

Clopper Trail
Clopper Trail received a new 1/3-mile trail with rubberized surfacing and parking upgrades funded by CDBG.



SUNFLOWER HILLS GOLF COURSE

Sunflower Hills Golf Course in Bonner Springs, Kansas, offers an 18-hole layout with scenic views and a mix of water hazards and sand traps. The well-maintained course caters to golfers of all skill levels and provides a welcoming atmosphere with modern facilities. It's a popular destination for both locals and visitors.

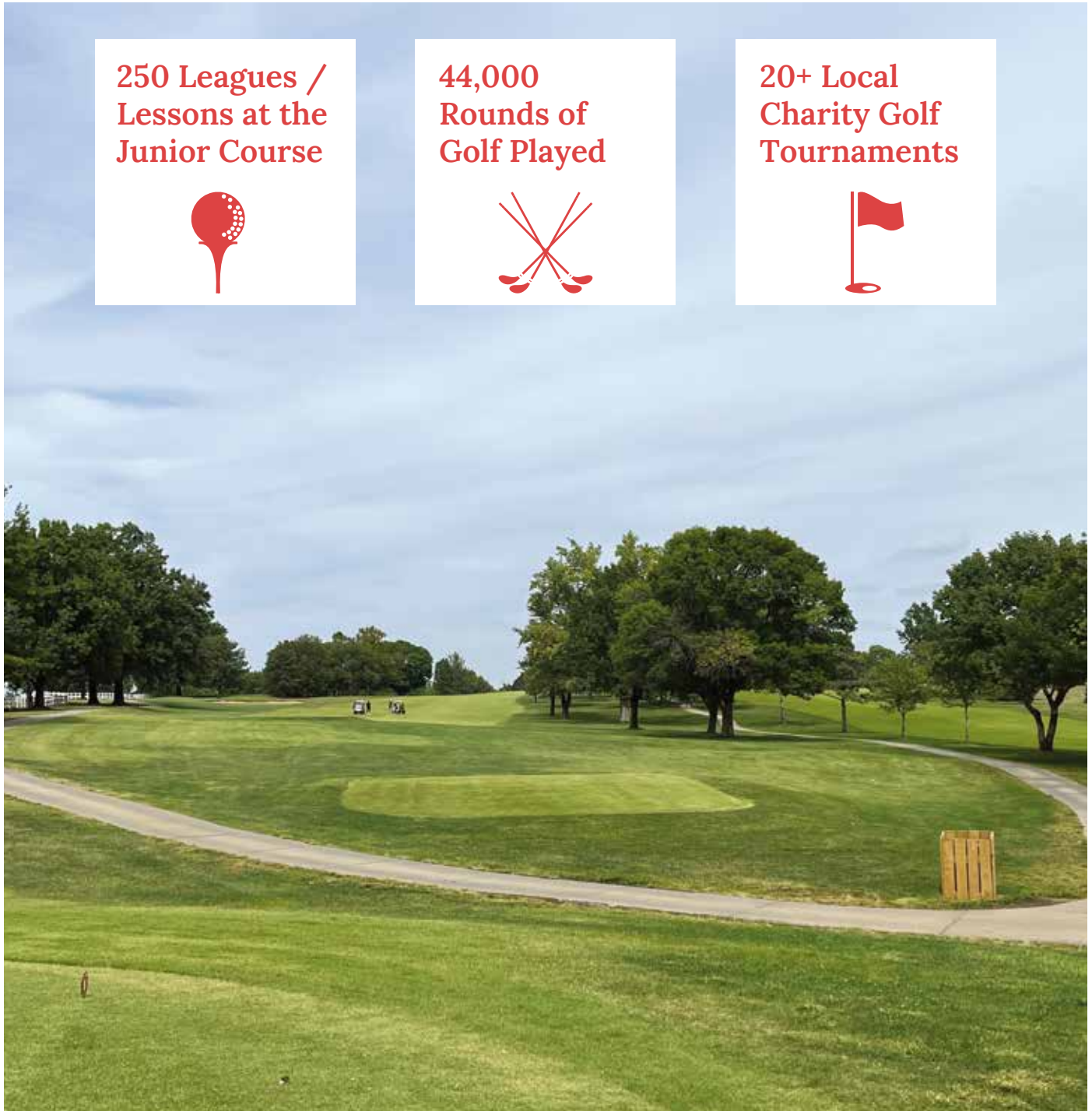
250 Leagues /
Lessons at the
Junior Course



44,000
Rounds of
Golf Played



20+ Local
Charity Golf
Tournaments



WYANDOTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Wyandotte County Historical Museum hosted the commemorative art project *Trespassers Beware!* Presented by Monumenta and the Wyandotte Nation of Kansas, funded by Kansas Arts Commission, Humanities Kansas, and NEA/ArtsHERE, in partnership with Mid-America Arts Alliance.

1,163 Went
Through the
Museum



3 Off-site &
3 On-site
Short Exhibits



2,187 Served
Via Programs
& Meetings



MOWING

TYPE OF MOWING	NUMBER OF PARCELS	NUMBER OF MOWINGS
CEMETERIES	13	169
SPORT FIELDS	13	690
VARIOUS PARK SITES	44	1,118
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PUMP SITES AND MANHOLE	32	568
MEDIANS	63	1,512
BUILDINGS AND LOGISTICS	30	720
LAND BANK LOTS	2,625	31,500
OTHER VARIOUS LOCATIONS	1	29

Mowed by Parks & Recreation Staff

- Various Park
- Trails and Paths
- Various Ball Fields
- Playgrounds



Mowed by Contractors

- Cemeteries
- Various Ball Fields
- Various Park Sites
- Water Pollution Control Sites
- Medians
- Buildings and Logistics Sites
- Land Bank Lots

HORTICULTURE

The Parks and Recreation horticulture team planted 100 mums, created a Monarch Waystation at Shelter 16 (WYCO Lake), added garden beds, and placed decorative stone at key sites. Contracted maintenance covered State Avenue, Medians, and Minnesota Avenue with regular biweekly upkeep.

65 Trees
Planted & 70+
Removed



2,500 Annuals
Planted for
Summer



8,000 Bulbs
Planted for
Spring



FISCAL REVIEW

Did you know?

The total budget allocated for the department in the fiscal year was **\$9,135,945**.

Did you know?

Banquet halls account for **16%** of the department's total generated revenue.

Did you know?

Without fees, a **\$200,000** home would need a **\$10** tax increase to maintain services.

Did you know?

The NRPA average recovery costs for Parks and Recreation Departments is **22%**, and UGPRD is only recovering **9%**. This significant gap is largely attributed to the department's ongoing dedication to providing inclusive, diverse, and accessible activities that prioritize the well-being of the entire community.

Did you know?

The total department revenue recovered by the Department in 2024 was **\$891,980**. However, certain functions managed within the Department, such as the Sunflower Hills Golf Course, Wyandotte Historical Museum, and Property Maintenance Program, were not included in this figure.



FISCAL REVIEW



Did you know?

Fishing licenses, which account for 15% of the department's total revenue, can be purchased at the following retail locations:

- Parks and Recreation Main Office, 5033 State Ave
- Parks and Recreation Marina Office, 9100 Leavenworth Rd
- Walmart, 10824 Parallel Pkwy
- Walmart, 12801 Kansas Ave
- Minnesota Bait and Tackle, 1124 Minnesota Ave
- Bass Pro Shop, 10300 Cabela Drive

PARKS & RECREATION SHOWCASE

#ENJOYDON'TDESTROY

Join us in safeguarding our community parks! We believe in, "Enriching the quality of life for our community through safe, well-maintained parks and facilities that promote diverse recreation activities, health, wellness, learning, and fun."

Unfortunately, recent incidents of vandalism have impacted these cherished areas. Together, we can make a difference and protect our parks for future generations.

Goals:

- Raise awareness about the impact of vandalism on community parks.
- Encourage community involvement and vigilance in reporting suspicious activities.
- Promote a sense of ownership and pride in local parks.

www.wycock.org/parks
813-572-5327



Quindaro Park
July 8, 2024



Did you know?

An awareness campaign was launched in August, showcasing acts of vandalism and emphasizing the detrimental impact these actions have on the community, local infrastructure, and overall well-being.



Did you know?

On May 19, strong winds caused extensive damage at WYCO Lake, including a flipped dock, fallen trees, and debris throughout the area. The lake reopened by Memorial Weekend after cleanup and repairs to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors.



Did you know?

From October 19 to November 2, 8,851 voters participated at Joe Amayo and Eisenhower centers. The highest turnout was 819 at Eisenhower and 618 at Joe Amayo on November 2, showing strong engagement.



PARKS & RECREATION SHOWCASE



Parks and Recreation Month

Parks and Recreation Month is celebrated every July, and this year's theme was "Where You Belong."

To commemorate the occasion, the UGPRD organized a variety of activities throughout the month, including National Swimming Pool Day, the Sunshine Showdown at Armourdale Community Center, and Parks and Recreation Professional Day to recognize our dedicated staff.

Additionally, the 10th Annual Christmas in July event took place, along with National Vanilla Ice Cream Day, during which 100 cups of ice cream were distributed at Eisenhower Community Center.

Did you know?

In 2024, a total of over 23,772 pounds of trout and 10,000 pounds of catfish were stocked to support and enhance local fisheries, ensuring a sustainable and thriving aquatic ecosystem for anglers and wildlife alike.



SAVE THE DATES



Shelter Reservations Open

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Someone Special Dance

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Opening Day of Fishing (Weather Permitting)

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Christmas in July

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Movies in the Park

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Movies in the Park

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SAVE THE DATES



Arbor Day

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Kids to Park Day Pool & Spray Parks Open

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Movies in the Park

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Halloween Event

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER

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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Donuts with Santa

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Wyandotte County Parks & Recreation

5033 State Ave, Kansas City, KS
66102

(913)-573-8327

parksinfo@wycokck.org



Wyandotte County/KCK Parks and
Recreation



PARKS & RECREATION