



City of Lawrence

PARKS AND RECREATION

2007 Annual Report

Accomplishments

- Held dedication ceremony/ribbon cutting for DeVictor Park
- Held dedication/ribbon cutting for Sesquicentennial Point
- Held dedication/ribbon cutting for new shelter/restrooms in Clinton Park
- Number of people who visited a LPRD facility was 653,765, an increase of 1.61 percent (*includes all recreation centers, nature center, aquatic centers, Eagle Bend rounds*)
- Over 21,300 participant enrollments in department activities and programs (*increase of 9.76 percent over 2006*)
- Increased number of enrollments conducted online by over 21.58 percent (5627 in 06 to 8484 in 07) (*40 percent of all enrollments were conducted online; 29 percent in 06*)
- Provided over \$19,500 in scholarships for Lawrence youth to participate in department activities and programs
- Had over 134,000 visits (*a 10.52 percent increase*) to department website (www.lprd.org)
- Recreation Division had a 9 percent increase in revenue (\$1,547,505.75) over 2006 (\$1,419,594.83), for the year the division was 107 percent of its projected revenue
- Developed 57 new recreation programs (*Zumba fitness class for adults ; Mad Science Funshops for kids; Water-wise Gardening; Men's Fitness; Bootcamp Windows XP and many other classes for adults and kids*) *This is up 17 programs over 06*
- Developed programming specifically targeted for Senior Adults, as Life-Long Recreation was begun, focusing on senior programming
- Youth participation in Youth Sports programming increased 5 percent (*915 in 07 from 866 in 06*)
- Youth Sports Division began overseeing the Holcom Baseball Association and the USD 497 Junior High Intramural program for volleyball and basketball
- Program attendees and visitors to Prairie Park Nature Center increased 44 percent (*School field trip program attendance was up 150 percent*)
- A barred owl was added to the collection at Prairie Park Nature Center
- Prairie Park Nature Center staff were invited to participate and took part in the Governor's Inaugural Event (*saw over 5000 visitors at event*)
- Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department, along with the City of Lawrence Utilities Department, Lawrence Rotary Clubs and the Friends of the Arboretum held *Experience the Rotary Arboretum Day* in the fall; dedicated a bench donated by the Rotary Clubs of Lawrence

- Aquatic monthly and annual passes were used 49,242 times (*a 42.6 percent increase over 06 (34,522 times)*)
- 16,655 free visits (swims) were redeemed at aquatic venues (*includes CHIP, Lawrence Public Library, Seniors, Boys and Girls Club, LPRD camps*)
- *Public Management Magazine* featured the Indoor Aquatic Center in its December 2007 edition
- Indoor Aquatic Center was included in the 2007 Recreation Facility Design School. School attendees from across the nation toured the facility as an example of excellence in aquatic facility design and program offerings
- Recreation Instruction Division offered 8.5 percent more classes (*796 in 07 to 728 in 06*); 83 percent of classes held through enrollments and increase of 3 percent over the year previously, resulting in a 9.3 percent increase in revenue for the division
- Recreation Instruction held National Gymnastics Day at East Lawrence Recreation Center, providing open gym, games and demonstrations. 250 people attended the event; co-sponsored a Tennis Block Party with First Serve, received a \$500 grant funding from the USTA for marketing the event
- Held public meetings in developing design plans for the Burrough's Creek Trail and Linear Park
- Acquired 6-acres of land for park development and green space (*Oregon Trail Park and land near Pump Station 48*)
- Received gifts and in-kind services totaling over \$52,700 through the *Friends of the Park* Program. Held a reception recognizing the 2006 Friends of the Park in March
- Improved/upgraded LPRD facilities
 - Community Building –purchased equipment for cardiovascular workout room; repaired front steps of building
 - Holcom Park Recreation Center – repaired roof; replaced scoreboards in gym and water heaters
 - Holcom Sports Complex – expanded foul line fencing; installed wind screen on Ice field fences; sodded aprons on Gold and Red fields and Ice centerfield; replaced infield material for Ice Field and leveled dirt around parking and ball diamonds
 - East Lawrence Recreation Center – Upgraded security system; repaired HVAC system; repaired sidewalks in front of building
 - Indoor Aquatic Center – replaced floatable features; relamp all light fixtures in lap pool; sealed roof; repaired pool pump for leisure pool; new starting platforms installed
 - Outdoor Aquatic Center - replaced awning over concession area; installed covers for slide stands; painted pool
 - Eagle Bend Golf Course – made cart path repairs; repaired sewer pumps in maintenance shop; replaced phone system; replaced driving range ball machine
 - Prairie Park Nature Center – replaced lights in main display area
 - Clinton Lake Softball Complex – regraded and resurfaced warning tracks with ag lime; replaced roof on concession building
 - YSI – irrigation on football fields
- Improved/upgraded LPRD parks
 - Prairie Park – installed fencing along west property line
 - Riverfront Park – repaired boat ramp

- o Sesquicentennial Plaza – construction of plaza area begun
- o South Park – built new steps for bandstand
- o Clinton Park – replaced shelter and restrooms; upgraded playground
- o Outlet Park – replaced restrooms
- o Downtown – custom designed tree gates installed
- o DeVictor Park – phase one development completed
- o Replaced bike path west of Inverness; sidewalks within in several parks repaired/replaced
- Added yardage markers to par 3 holes; new red tees on holes number 15 and 16; added two new point-of-sale computers at Eagle Bend
- Reorganized and improved the Marshal Volunteer Program at Eagle Bend
- Conducted satisfaction survey to provide snapshot of repeat users perception of Eagle Bend (360 surveys distributed/102 returned- 28 percent rate of return) 98 percent of respondents said their overall experience was “excellent” or “good.”
- Played host to 31 golf tournaments at Eagle Bend (*Corporate, high school (including state championship) and benefit tournaments*)
- 848 new trees were planted throughout the city (*406 for City projects; 442 with the Street Tree Program*)

Memorable Programs/Projects

- **Celebrating Leadership** – The vision of long-time Director of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Fred DeVictor was celebrated in a retirement ceremony in March. A community reception was held with over 250 people in attendance to honor DeVictor’s 37 years with the City of Lawrence with 34 of those years as director of Lawrence Parks and Recreation.



Margie Young, former secretary to Fred DeVictor, shares a moment with him at his public retirement reception. DeVictor retired in March after 37 years with the City of Lawrence.

- **Sesquicentennial Point Dedicated** – Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department and the Sesquicentennial Commission held a dedication ceremony at Sesquicentennial Point Wednesday, Oct. 24.

More than 100 people attended the dedication of The Point, which included a tribute to donors and those who purchased steps in the “Walk through Time.” Descendants of Amos Lawrence, the founder of Lawrence, participated in the ceremony and presented a book detailing the genealogy of the John Lawrence family to KU’s Spencer Research Library. Mayor Sue Hack provided closing remarks and finalized the dedication. Music was provided by Junkyard Jazz, the official band of the Sesquicentennial Commission.

The Point, located on a hillside within the leased park lands overlooking Clinton Lake and the Wakarusa Valley, will provide a gathering space for groups and offer adjacent hiking trails and picnic areas.

A plaza is located at the head of a walkway of engraved steps, the “Walk through Time,” which stair steps down the hill to the point where a time capsule was placed in 2004 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lawrence’s founding. Envisioned for the future is a grassy amphitheater on the hillside below the time capsule.

The Commission raised more than \$200,000 in private support for The Point from 1999 to 2007. A seven-member board of directors was headed by Clenece Hills, president; Jerry Niebaum, vice president; Bruce Roberts, secretary; William Crowe, treasurer; and members-at-large Judy Billings, David Carttar and James W. Paddock.



Cutting the ribbon at the dedication ceremony, Mayor Hack is joined by members of the Sesquicentennial Commission and Parks and Recreation staff in celebrating The Point’s opening.

- **DeVictor Park is Dedicated** - DeVictor Park in west Lawrence, 1100 George Williams Way, was dedicated on Friday, Oct. 26.

Along with Commissioner Mike Amyx and Parks and Recreation staff, over 75 friends, family and West Lawrence Neighborhood members were on hand to commemorate the occasion. When complete, the park will boast a playground, an outdoor classroom, as well as a hard surface trail. Planning of the park began in fall of 2004 with public meetings to gather input as to the features neighbors wanted in the park. Funding for the first phase of its development was approved by the City Commission in the 2007 budget.

In March at a public retirement reception, the park was named for the longtime director of Lawrence Parks and Recreation, Fred DeVictor. DeVictor worked for the City of Lawrence for 37 years, 34 years as director of Parks and Recreation. During his tenure, the department grew from 12 to 52 parks and open space areas and from 6 to 75 full-time employees. DeVictor was only the third director of the department in its 61 year history.



Fred and Karen DeVictor, along with several neighborhood children, cut the ribbon officially opening DeVictor Park.

- **Program Enrollment Continues Upward Climb** - Enrollment in Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department's programs and activities continued its record-setting growth for the fifth consecutive year. Over 21,300 participant enrollments were made in department activities and programs in 2008, which was a 9.8 percent increase over 2006 enrollments. Enrollment in the department's programs and activities through online services accounted for 40 percent of all enrollments and also saw an increase of 21.6 percent in the total number of enrollments conducted online. The department also provided over \$19,500 in scholarships for Lawrence youth to participate in programs and activities.



A youngster in the Summer Mini-Munchkin Camp is instructed on how to play hopscotch during this summer program

- **Awards** - Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department's Special Populations Division received the InterHab annual Kansas Inclusive Communities Award for 2007 at its annual state conference in October.

Named a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 29th consecutive year

Received a Tree City USA Growth Award for the 15th straight year for demonstrating progress in its community forestry program in the areas of education, planning and management, park and open spaces, partnerships and other areas related to developing a higher level of tree care by the National Arbor Day Foundation