



# WYANDOTTE COUNTY / KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PARKS & RECREATION

2023 YEAR END REPORT

# LETTER FROM DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Parks and Recreation Department, I invite you to review our 2023 Annual Report. I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of our staff and want to share a few highlights from last year. They work countless hours to offer facilities and programs for all members of the community to enjoy.

This Report provides an overview of facility usage, revenues collected, sports participation, budget and other aspects of our services. It also highlights several capital projects that were funded in 2023. Several free community events that we offered are also captured in the Report. Some “Save the Dates” for 2024 are featured in the back of the document. We hope to see you at these and other activities and are excited to serve the community again this year!

Angel Ferrara

Director of Parks & Recreation



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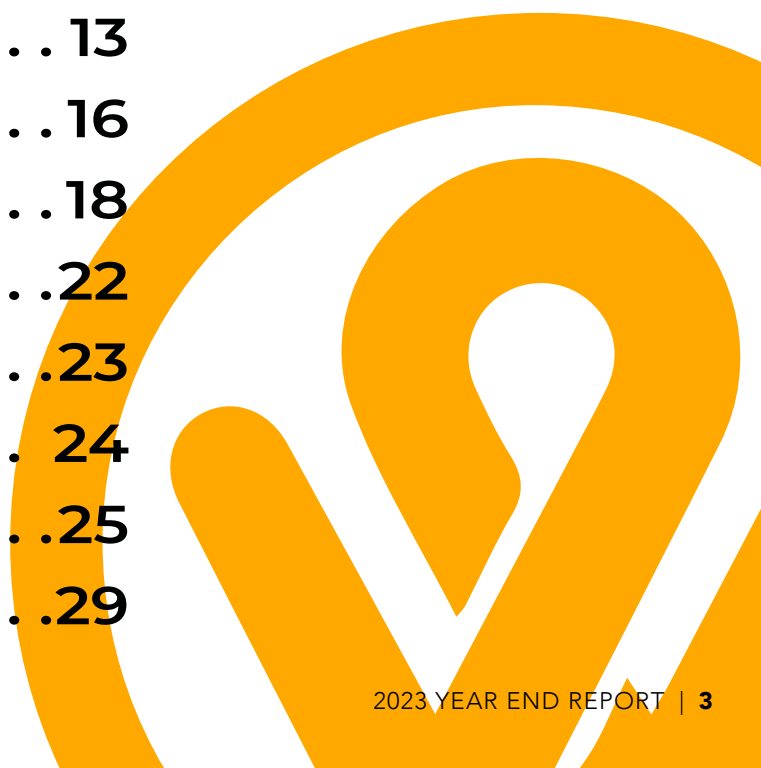
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# MISSION STATEMENT

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.

# VISION STATEMENT

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

# CORE VALUES

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





# COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

## SOMEONE SPECIAL DANCE

**FEBRUARY 10, 2023**

The Someone Special Dance, hosted at Joe Amayo Community Center, has become an annual event that many residents look forward to. Occurring near Valentine's Day, last year's event was sold out prior to registration closing. Over 100 tickets were sold! Sweets for the event were donated by a local grocery store and the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library provided crafts. A DJ spun all of the classics and prizes were awarded to the best dressed and best dancer, respectively.



## OPENING DAY

**MARCH 4, 2023**

A lot of excited anglers arrived early in anticipation of Opening Day for Fishing. In total, 399 vehicles visited Wyandotte County Lake from 6:00 a.m. through 9:00 a.m. Department staff coordinate with fish stock servicers each year to ensure that deliveries of trout and catfish are made at Wyandotte County Lake and Pierson Park Lake annually.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

## ARBOR DAY

**APRIL 28, 2023**

Arbor Day is a national holiday that encourages individuals and organizations to plant trees. The Department celebrated the day by planting a tree in Edgerton Park. Staff were joined by UG Commissioners and the Mayor, who proclaimed April 28, 2023, as “Arbor Day in Wyandotte County and encouraged all citizens to celebrate and support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.



## KIDS TO PARK DAY

**MAY 20, 2023**

Over 200 people, including the Mayor, visited Kensington Park for Kids to Park Day. Each child received a drawstring bag with a water bottle, sunglasses, frisbees, and kites. Valued partners of the Department, including Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office, and Foam Party KC, provided yard games and donated books, grilled hot dogs, and supported a free foam party, respectively. Children and adults bonded over frisbee throwing, flying kites, and jumping rope!





# COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

**JULY 22, 2023**

The annual Christmas in July celebration at Wyandotte County Lake drew over 1,000 visitors. Great family fun was enjoyed by all with activities including face painting, caricature art, yard games, a bounce house, a foam party, tractor bikes, the fishing derby, free raffle prizes, and, of course, the boat parade! The evening was capped with a fireworks display. Local food vendors, including the Snackle Box at the marina, provided various culinary options. Last year's event was the most attended Christmas in July, to date.



## THANKSGIVING FAMILY DAY

**NOVEMBER 4, 2023**

The Department hosted an inaugural Thanksgiving Family Day event at Kensington Gymnasium. Local partners, including Applebee's, Hy-Vee, Country Kitchen, and the Louisburg Cider Mill, supported a donated meal for families. Department staff were able to serve over 85 individuals thanks to the businesses' generosity. Additionally, members of the Parks and Recreation staff teamed up to donate five "Thanksgiving Baskets," each of which included food items necessary for the perfect Thanksgiving meal, as well as gift cards. These were given to participants as free raffle prizes. Additional raffle prize giveaways were sponsored by Ricky's Pit BBQ, Hey Sugar, MeMa's Bakery, Gates BBQ, Dave & Buster's, and Sun Fresh. A "Family Feud" game was also played.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

## DONUTS WITH SANTA

**DECEMBER 9, 2023**

The Department hosted Donuts with Santa at Memorial Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. During the event, children were able to visit and receive a special gift from, Santa Claus. Other activities included an obstacle course, crafts, balloon art, and a toddler play area. Of course, donuts and beverages were also served! A DJ ensured that the event was energized. A special thanks is offered to the Wyandotte County Parks Foundation, who donated funds to ensure that each child received a gift, as well as sponsor the free raffle which occurred at the event.



## COMMUNITY CENTER HOLIDAY EVENTS

Various community centers opened their doors to offer a variety of holiday events during December, including “Gingerbread Houses,” “Storytime with Mrs. Claus,” “Stocking Decorating,” and “Cookie Decorating.” These events were held at no cost and saw a cumulative increase in participation from those held in 2022.





# JOE DELANEY LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM

Thanks to a continued partnership with GEHA, The Hunt Family Foundation, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, and the YMCA, Parkwood Pool hosted 168 kids for the Joe Delaney Learn to Swim Program. The Program has allowed Wyandotte County youth equitable access to aquatic skills training for two years in a row.

SKILL	PERCENTAGE ABLE TO COMPLETE SKILL AT BEGINNING OF SESSION	PERCENTAGE ABLE TO COMPLETE SKILL AT END OF SESSION
Submerge	54%	90%
Swim, Float, Swim	18%	57%
Jump, Push, Turn, Grab	49%	93%



# SPORTS BY THE NUMBERS

## YOUTH SPORTS

The Department continues to offer a wide range of youth sports activities. In 2023, basketball and soccer continued to be the most popular among Kansas City, Kansas youth. Department staff also partnered with area coaches to offer sports clinics after league plays concluded, which were very popular. For instance, a six-week volleyball clinic which was hosted at Eisenhower Community Center reached capacity shortly after registration opened. Basketball clinics were also offered at Joe Amayo Community Center during summer and Thanksgiving breaks. The summer clinic was sponsored by Metro KC Fitness. Participants of this weeklong clinic received a t-shirt, as well as a meal during each day of the camp.

**Winter Basketball** – 600 participants

**Winter Futsal** – 222 participants

**Spring T-ball/Baseball** – 218 participants

**Spring Soccer** – 342 participants

**Summer Basketball** – 158 participants

**Fall Flag Football** – 117 participants

**Fall Soccer** – 253 participants

**Fall Volleyball** – 17 participants





# SPORTS BY THE NUMBERS

## ADULT SPORTS

Summer Mens Softball – 8 teams

Summer Co-ed Softball – 8 teams

Fall Mens Softball – 6 teams

Fall Coed Softball – 7 teams

Spring Co-ed Softball – 10 teams

Spring Men's Softball – 8 teams

Adult Soccer – 32 Teams



# OUTDOOR RECREATION

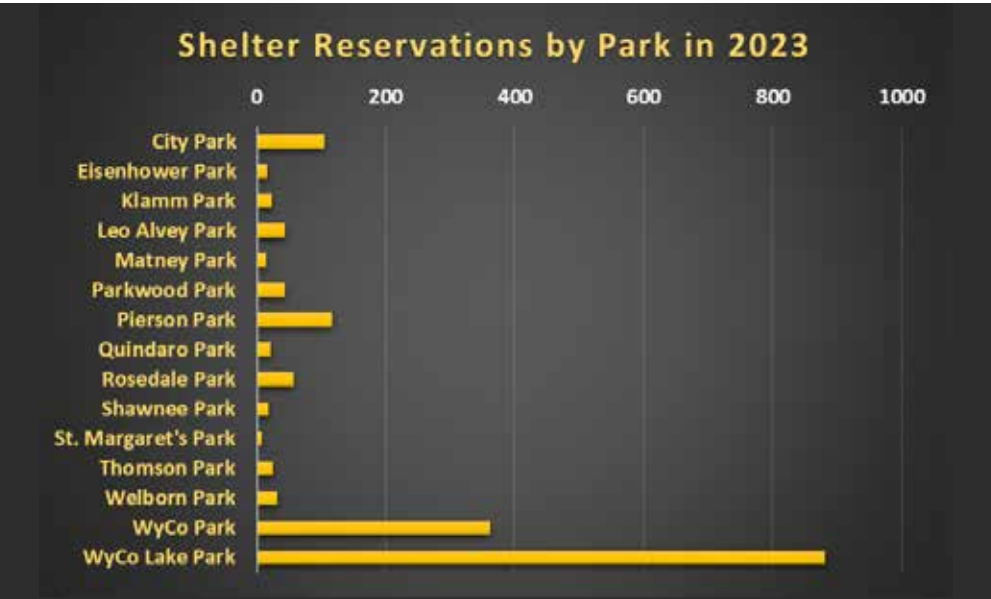


Boating and fishing continue to be an enjoyed activity for many Wyandotte County residents. Members of the community can purchase season fishing and boating permits at a rate of \$20 and \$30, respectively, with daily permits being offered for \$10 and \$15. Non-resident permits for boating and fishing are sold at higher rates to maintain equity. Finally, leased boat slips at the Wyandotte County Lake Marina continue to be filled each summer. Prior to the 2023 season, 14 covered dock slips were added to the Department’s inventory to better support the high demand for boating accommodation at Wyandotte County Lake.

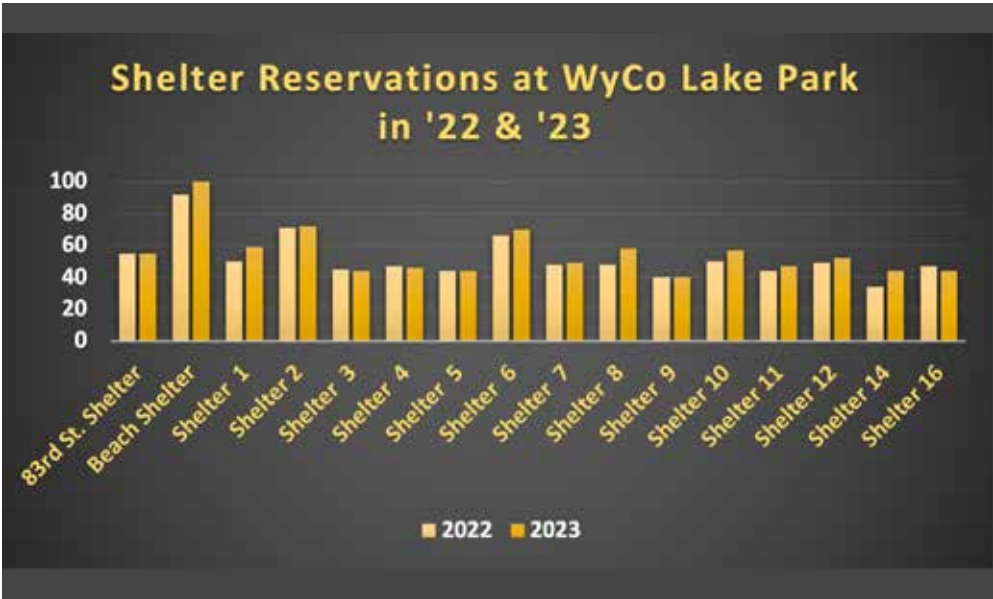




# FACILITIES BY THE NUMBERS



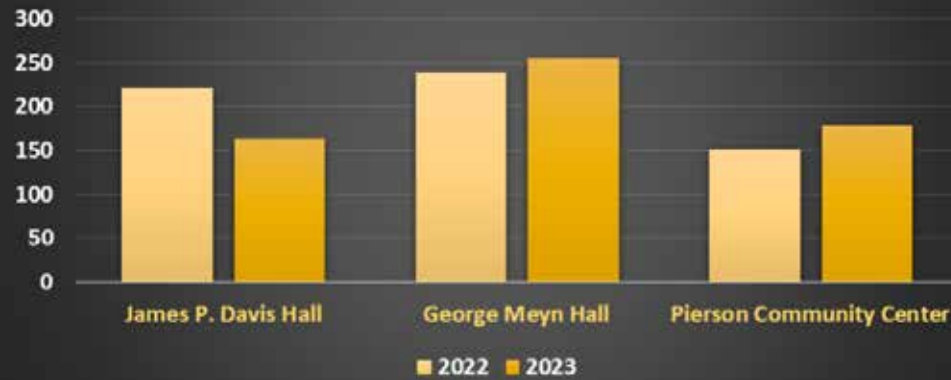
Patrons may begin renting shelters on the first business day of the calendar year. Shelters are available for rent from mid-April through mid-October and vary in size, amenities, and pricing. Rental prices range from \$45 to \$120. In 2023, shelters at Wyandotte County Lake Park were the most popular. The 16 shelters located here were reserved 881 times, representative of nearly half of the 1,762 total shelter reservations seen in 2023.



Wyandotte County Lake Park houses 16 shelters. In 2023, the Beach Shelter was reserved 100 times. Other shelters were reserved between 40 and 72 times.

# FACILITIES BY THE NUMBERS

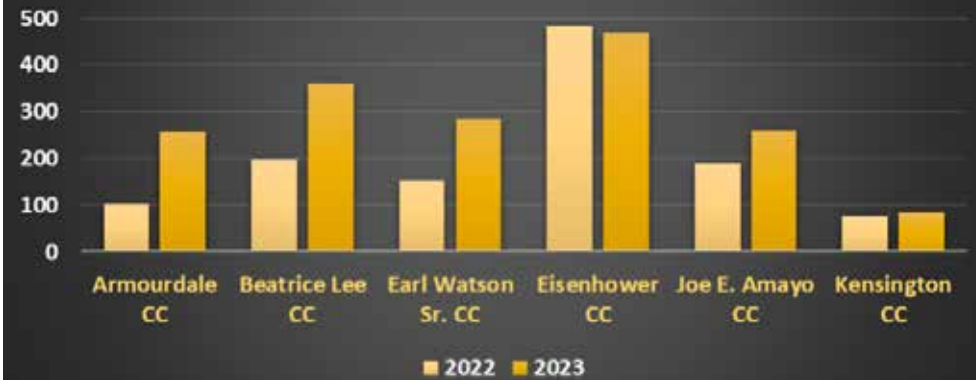
Banquet Hall Reservations  
in '22 & '23



Note: This chart includes dates in which Banquet Halls were closed for cleaning or maintenance.

James P. Davis Hall, George Meyn Hall, and Pierson Community Center continue to be some of the most popular event spaces in Wyandotte County. Given its historic and rustic aesthetic, James P. Davis Hall is a very popular wedding venue and revenue north of \$55,000 was generated in 2023 from reservations. Residents can reserve these facilities at a lower cost than non-residents.

Gym Reservations by Community Center  
in '22 & '23

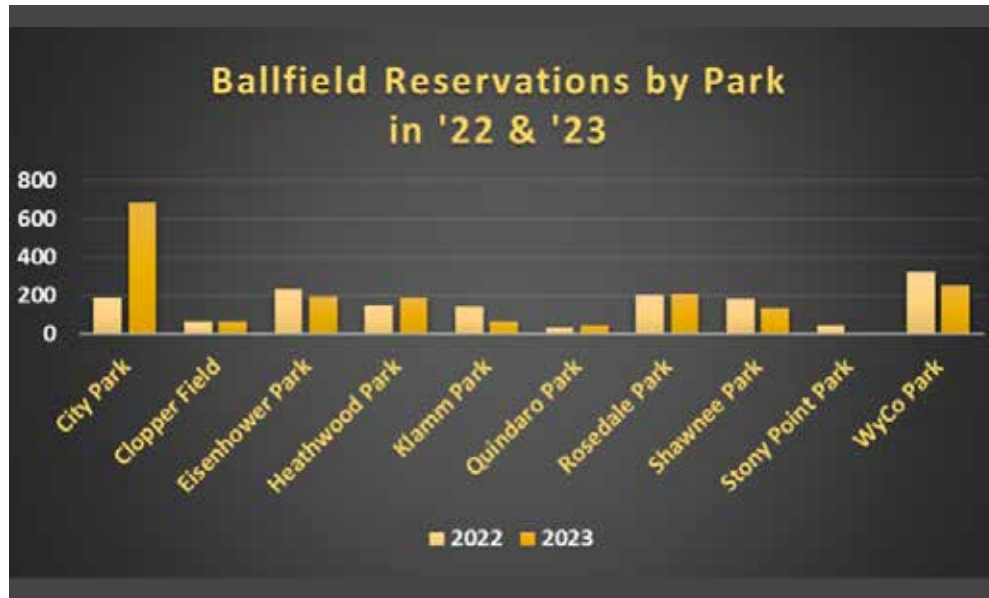


Community center gyms are generally reserved for sports team practices and tournaments. Occasionally, gyms are rented for private events, such as birthday parties or community meetings. In 2023, gyms were reserved at an increased rate in virtually every facility versus 2022.





# FACILITIES BY THE NUMBERS



Residents can reserve ballfields for practices and tournaments. The Department maintains ballfields at 10 parks, with certain parks containing multiple fields. There were more than 1,800 ballfield reservations in 2023!



In addition to ballfields, residents may also reserve soccer and multipurpose fields. These sorts of fields are maintained at 7 different parks throughout the county. Similarly to the trend seen with ballfields, an increase in reservations from 313 in 2022, to 450 in 2023, was witnessed.

# PLAYGROUNDS

In 2023, the Department made a significant investment in updating area play spaces. Specifically, three play systems were added as replacements, and one play system was installed as an addition. A swing set in Edgerton Park was also replaced in December.



## HOPE PARK (NEW)

Residents near Hope Park have a new playground system in their neighborhood. With dedicated funding from the Wyandotte County Parks Foundation, a new play system was added to Hope Park. The community celebrated with a ribbon cutting on July 7, 2023.



## PARKWOOD PARK (REPLACEMENT)

KABOOM!, the CarMax Foundation, and Vibrant Health partnered with the Department from August 15 – 17 to implement various upgrades at Parkwood Park. Specifically, the main playground was replaced, a nearby bridge was restored, and a shelter was repainted. Thanks to the generosity of these partners, families in the community will have a fun and safe environment to play for years to come!





# **PLAYGROUNDS**

## **WYANDOTTE COUNTY LAKE PARK MAIN PLAYGROUND (REPLACEMENT)**



## **WESTHEIGHT PARK (REPLACEMENT)**



## **EDGERTON PARK SWING SET (REPLACEMENT)**





# **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

## **TRAIL RESURFACING**

Several walking trails throughout the Department's parks system were improved in 2023. Trails in Vega, Ruby, Alvey, and Matney parks were seal-coated by staff. Additionally, paths in Welborn, Parkwood, and Thomson parks were overlayed in the fall.



## **GYM FLOORS**

Gym floors in Argentine, Armourdale, Beatrice L. Lee, Earl Watson, Sr. (formerly known as Bethany Community Center), and Kensington community centers were improved in fall 2023. While many floors were simply buffed, sealed, polished, and striped, the gym flooring in Kensington Community Center was completely removed and replaced.



## **WYANDOTTE COUNTY LAKE PARK SHELTER 10**

A crucial factor in determining the success of parks is their ability to provide members of the community with a place to meet and gather. To do so, it is vital that deferred maintenance be performed on shelters throughout Wyandotte County. Although staff performs minor maintenance as necessitated, certain shelters need more extensive work conducted in order to ensure their safety. In fall 2023, Wyandotte County Lake Park's Shelter 10 was significantly renovated. More shelters will be revamped in 2024.



# **CAPITAL PROJECTS**



## **WYANDOTTE COUNTY LAKE PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS**

On November 9, the Department held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the long-awaited opening of four new pickleball courts at Wyandotte County Lake Park. These courts are the first true pickleball courts in the Department's inventory. The ribbon cutting also included a clinic for those new to the sport of pickleball. Since opening, the courts have been a popular location for both beginners and advanced players.



## **EISENHOWER TENNIS COURT RESTORATION**

In addition to creating new outdoor facilities, the Department also prioritizes maintaining the viability of current sports courts. This was highlighted in 2023 by the restoration of the tennis courts located in Eisenhower Park, among other deferred maintenance initiatives.



## **FUEL PUMP AT MARINA**

The Wyandotte County Lake Marina is truly a crown jewel of not only Kansas City, Kansas but also within the metro area in general. Many upgrades were made in 2023 to ensure the continued viability of this vital amenity, including the purchase and installation of a new fuel pump. This asset was installed prior to the 2023 boating season.



# **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

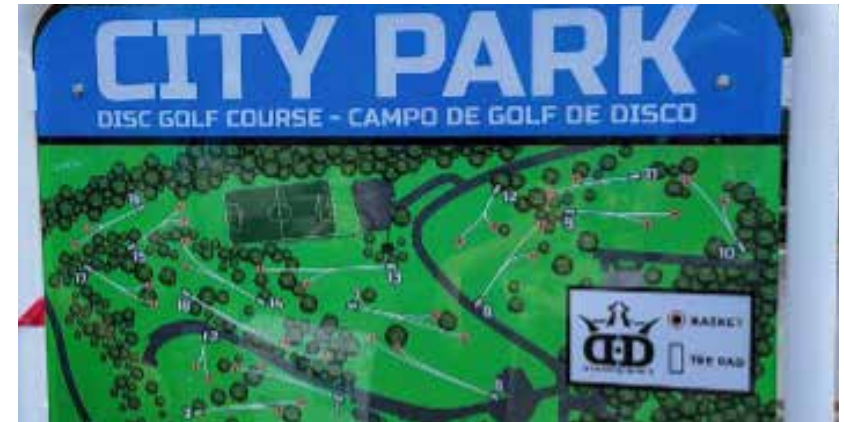
## **ACCESSIBLE FISHING DOCK**

In spring 2023, the handicap-accessible fishing dock at Wyandotte County Lake Park was replaced to ensure that all visitors can safely fish and otherwise enjoy the outdoor recreational activities at Wyandotte County Lake Park.



## **18-HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE**

On June 2nd, the Department hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new 18-hole disc golf course located in City Park. This recreational amenity was made possible through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Innovative bilingual signage for the course makes it unlike any other disc golf course in the region. In partnership with the Kansas City Disc Golf Club, the Department was able to donate disc golf material to neighboring homes.



## **ARCHERY RANGE RENOVATION**

Wyandotte County Lake Park offers a broad range of outdoor recreational opportunities including archery! In December, the archery range, located near the dog park, received an uplift consisting of fresh gravel, new targets, and more.



# **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

## **ST. MARGARET'S PARK WALKING TRAIL**

There has been much support for a paved walking loop in St. Margaret's Park, both by the community and within the 2017 Parks Master Plan. Funding was allocated in the 2023 Budget for this project, which will be completed in spring 2024. The trail will feature rubber surfacing and will have a similar look to the trail located within John Garland Park.



## **KAW POINT PARK RAMP REPAIR**

Flooding that occurred within the last few years damaged a ramp located within Kaw Point Park. In 2023, funding was allocated to repair the ramp, as well as the retaining wall supporting it. Kaw Point Park is a historical gem within Kansas City, Kansas, and maintenance repairs such as this are crucial to keeping the Park viable for generations to come!





# SUNFLOWER HILLS GOLF COURSE

## 2023 Facts:

- 43,000+ Rounds of Golf Played (Best since 2000).
- 144 Seniors in Wednesday Senior League.
- 20+ Outside Local Charity Golf Tournaments.
- 250+ Juniors in Junior Leagues/Lessons at the Junior Course.
- Pump House Repairs and Pump Replacement.





# WYANDOTTE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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## 2023 Facts:

3,927 **total people served** during 2023.

- 1,379—through the **Museum**
- 1136—served through **meetings and programs at the Museum**
- 741—served through **outreach**
- 566—through **answered research inquiries**

105 people **volunteered**.

1 **off-site, short-term exhibit** at Bonner Springs Library.

3 **on-site, short-term exhibits** at the Museum.

102 **artifacts donated** to the Museum.

**Organizations served through outreach and in-house programs** included: Shepard Center, South Branch Library, Argentine Library, Kansas City Kansas Community College, Turner High School, Daughters of the American Revolution, PEO Chapter, Wyandotte High School Class of 1966, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, Wyandotte of Kansas, Delaware of Wyandotte County, Kansas City Kansas Travel Writers, Girl Scouts, Piper Elementary, and Wyandotte County Treasury.

**Museum building improvements** included a new roof, HVAC system, electrical wiring, and LED lighting.

**Staff changes** included Amy Loch resigning from her position as Director in April, Janice Burns joining the staff as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in May, Jeff Jennings retiring in June, Coleby Grammer completing his service as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in July, and finally, Amanda Hamon accepting the position of Director in December.

# MOWING PROGRAM

A key responsibility that the Department maintains is mowing. In 2023, internal and contracted mowing crews ensured that parks, vacant lots, trails, paths, medians, U.G. buildings, U.G. Water Pollution Control pumps and manhole sites, and cemeteries were maintained. Internal Parks and Recreation staff and multiple contractors ensure that all assigned sites are mowed on a regular basis. This year all Land Bank lots were maintained by contractors, allowing Parks staff to focus on Park facilities.

MOWED BY PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF	MOWED BY CONTRACTORS
Various Park Sites	Cemeteries
Trails & Paths	Various Ball Fields
Various Ball Fields	Various Park Sites
Playgrounds	Water Pollution Control Sites
	Medians
	Building and Logistics Sites
	Land Bank Lots

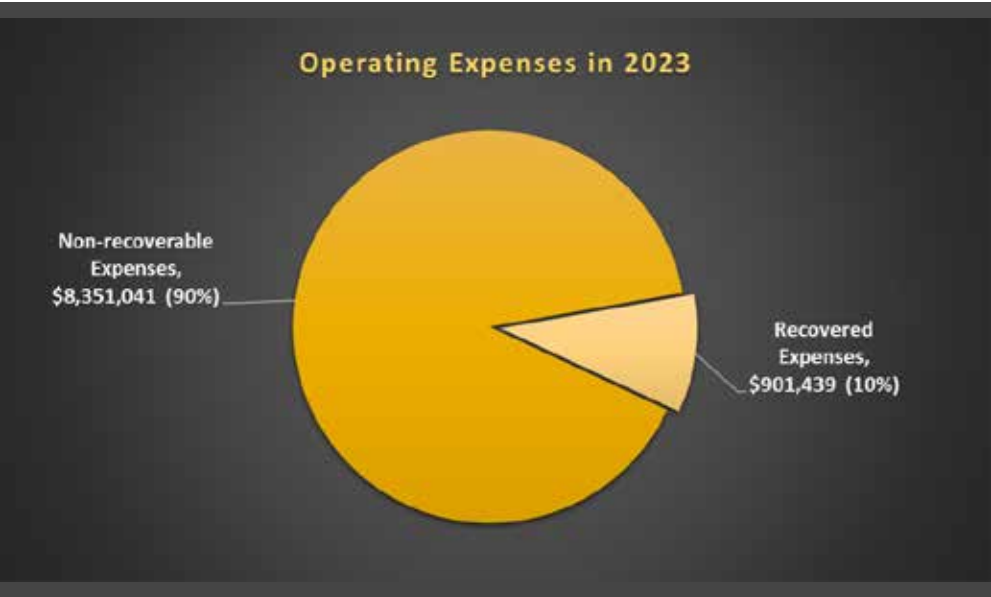
## 2023 CONTRACTOR MOWING STATISTICS

TYPE OF MOWING	NUMBER OF PARCELS	NUMBER OF MOWINGS
Cemeteries	13	195
Ball Fields	13	650
Various Park Sites	44	1056
Water Pollution Control Pump Sites & Manholes	32	512
Medians	51	1224
Buildings and Logistics Sites	24	754
Land Bank Lots	2587	27,222

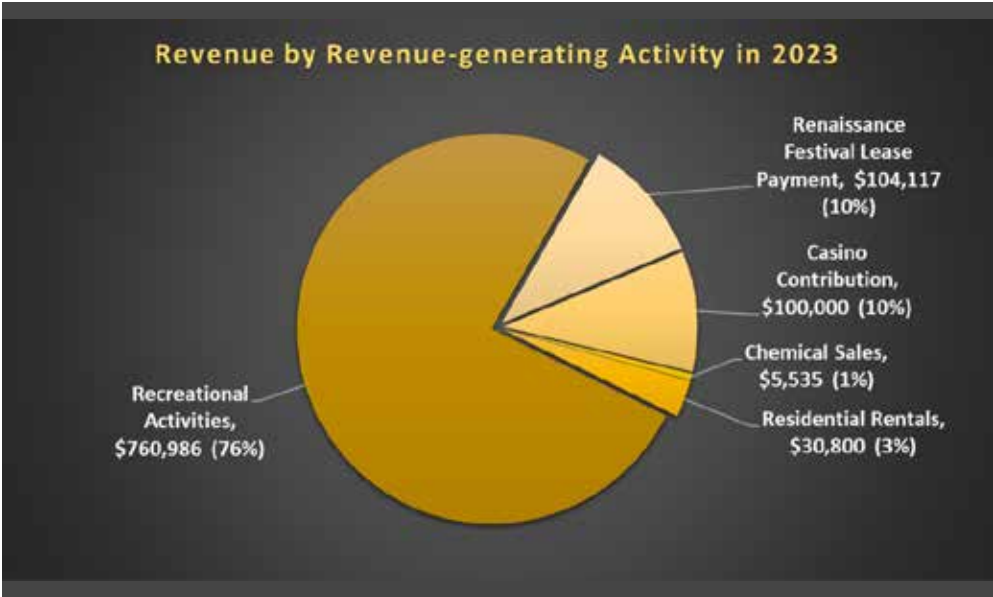


# FISCAL REVIEW

The 2023 Amended operating budget for the Parks and Recreation Department was \$9,252,480. This amount accounts for most personnel costs, contractual services, and commodity expenses which provide a high quality of parks and recreational services to Wyandotte County residents. There are certain functions managed within the Department that are not accounted for in this figure, including the Sunflower Hills Golf Course (\$1,024,603), Wyandotte County Historical Museum (\$411,831), and Property Maintenance (\$2,196,709) program.



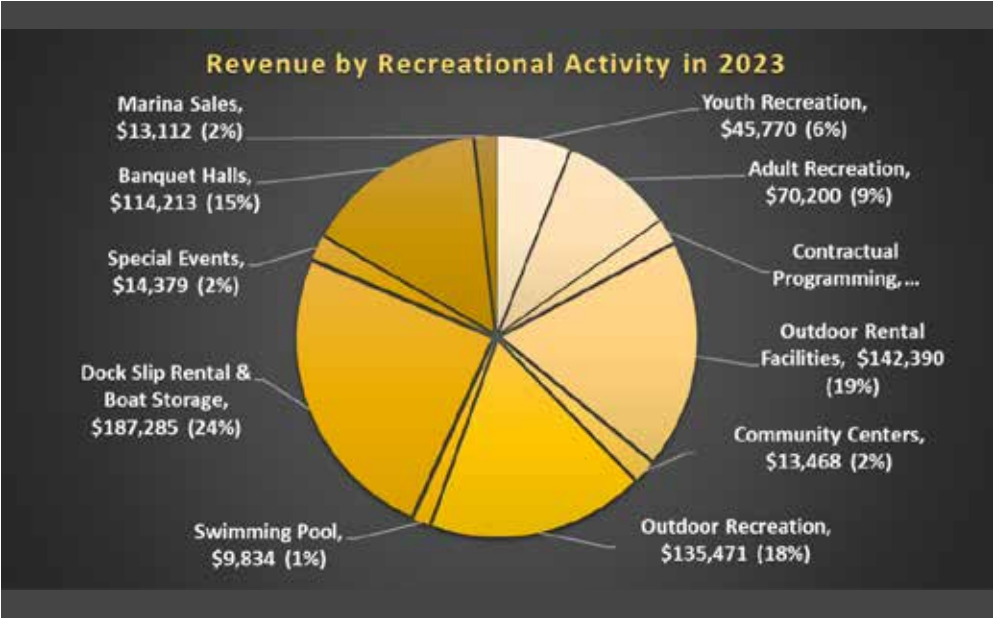
10% of operating costs, or \$901,439, were recovered in 2023. It should be noted that this figure does not account for the casino contribution or minimal miscellaneous revenues. Revenue incurred by the Sunflower Hills Golf Course was not considered since the entity is supported through its own enterprise fund. Wyandotte County Historical Museum revenues are not included either.



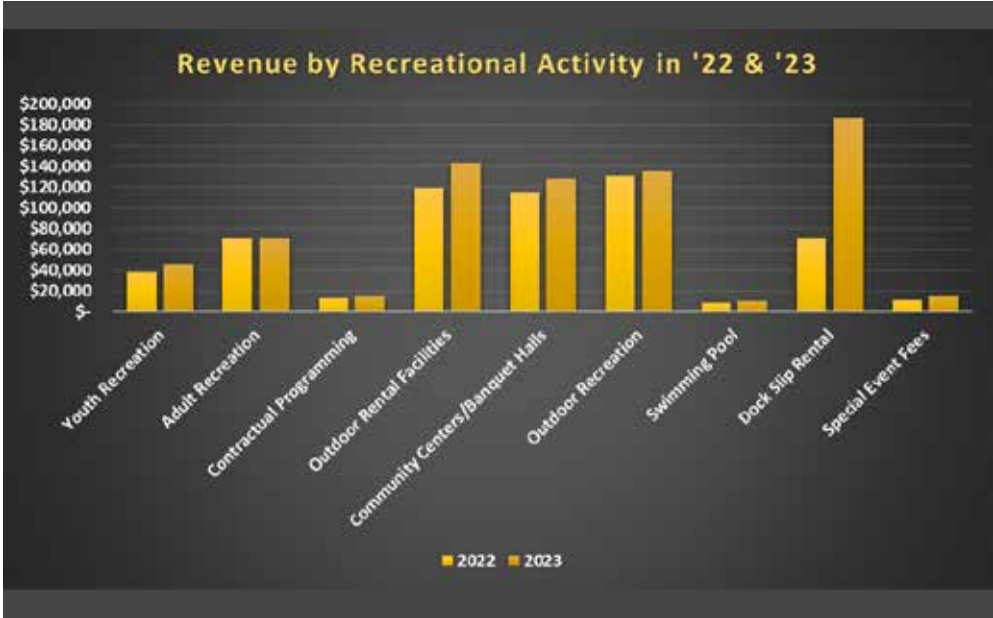
A variance of revenue sources made up the total amount of costs recuperated in 2023. The largest category was Recreational Activities, which contributed 76% of all costs recovered. This category was followed by the Renaissance Festival Lease Payment (10%), Casino Contribution (10%), Rental Property Payments (3%), and Chemical Sales (1%).



# FISCAL REVIEW



The highest revenue-generating category in 2023 was Dock Slip Rental & Boat Storage (24%) at Wyandotte County Lake Park, which represents fees paid by slip holders for their slips, as well as for dry boat and trailer storage in the off-season. Other notable revenue categories include Outdoor Rental Facilities (19%), i.e., shelter and park field rentals, Outdoor Recreation (18%), i.e., proceeds incurred via the sale of fishing and boating permits, and Banquet Halls (15%), i.e., James P. Davis Hall, George Meyn Hall, and Pierson Community Center.



An incline in recreational costs recovered was witnessed in 2023 (\$760,986) from 2022 (\$575,929). This can largely be attributed to the fact that the Wyandotte County Lake Marina was managed by Parks and Recreation staff in 2023. This led to more than \$120,000 in additional revenue for the Department. Other new revenues can be accounted for by the increase in participation of many parks and recreation activities, as can be seen in virtually every recreational category shown above.



# SAVE THE DATES

The Parks and Recreation Department made significant strides in 2023. Staff is proudly committed to enriching the quality of life for our community. In 2024, we have lots of exciting activities and opportunities to look forward to. Please be sure to mark your calendars and save the dates for our upcoming community events.

<b>January 2</b>	Shelter Reservations Open
<b>February 9</b>	Someone Special Dance
<b>March 2</b>	Opening Day of Fishing (Weather Permitting)
<b>April 26</b>	Arbor Day
<b>May 18</b>	Kids to Park Day
<b>May 25</b>	Parkwood Pool & Spray Parks Open
<b>June 15</b>	Fishing Derby
<b>July 20</b>	Christmas in July
<b>November 16</b>	Thanksgiving Family Day
<b>December 14</b>	Donuts with Santa

Be sure to follow us on Facebook- Wyandotte County/  
KCK Parks and Recreation for information on our latest  
events and projects.

