

Independence Park Commission



Farmers Market at the Independence Uptown Market

38th Parks & Recreation Sales Tax Program Report
October 18, 2021

Executive Summary

The Independence Park Commission was established by Ordinance in 1999. The Commission's primary mission is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Council relating to public education, use, and knowledge regarding Parks and Recreation activities. The Commission also serves as the official Parks and Recreation Sales Tax Oversight Committee.

It is the opinion of the members of the Independence Park Commission that the activities, initiatives, and projects funded by the Parks Improvement Sales Tax are in keeping with the program's intent, and that the program is critical in supporting the work of the Department to enhance the quality of life in Independence.



7th Annual Cultural & Heritage Skateboard Competition at Hill Park



American Solar Car Challenge



Right-of-Way Mowing



Popsicles in the Park

Contents

Executive Summary..... 1

Contents..... 2

Sales Tax Review 3

Current Commissioners..... 3

Current Project Status..... 3

Park Revitalization Program..... 3

Park Maintenance Operations 4

Recreation Programming & Operations..... 5-9

In Closing..... 10



INDEPENDENCE
★ PARKS ★ RECREATION ★ TOURISM ★



Sales Tax Review

The current Parks Improvement Sales Tax (PRST) was renewed in perpetuity in August of 2010. This tax is estimated to generate approximately \$4.3 million this fiscal year and is dedicated to fund on-going parks maintenance, certain facility operations, recreation programming and various parks and recreation related capital projects. Through September 30, 2021, the tax has generated \$816,980, or 18.6%, of the PRST revenue anticipated for this entire Fiscal Year.

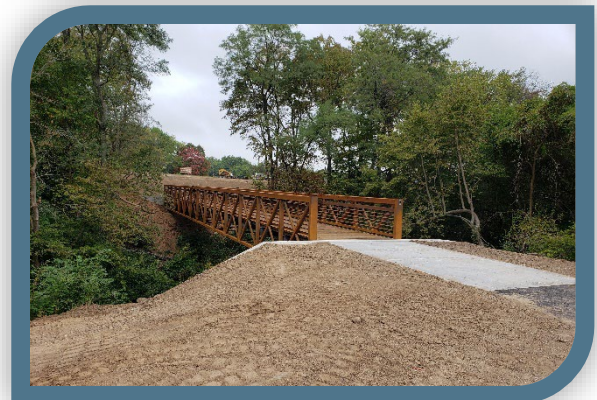
Current Commissioners

The Park Commission is comprised of seven voting members and one ex-officio member, all appointed by the City Council. Current members of the Park Commission include Gail Price – Chair, Ira Anders, Jolie Austin, Shawn Brimer, Kay Douglas, Paula Martin, and April Schuler. Roger Hershey serves as an ex-officio member.

Current Project Status

Plans for several new projects and park improvements were placed on hold in response to COVID-19 but we are now bringing back some of the smaller but necessary projects as part of the Park Revitalization Program. These projects are in harmony with the high priority our residents have expressed for maintaining and improving our existing facilities and parks.

A bridge project connecting Mill Creek Park on the north side to the Mill Creek tennis courts on Jones Road is almost complete. This project is part of the Santa Fe, California and Oregon Trail Retracement project. The project will be completed in the fall of 2021.

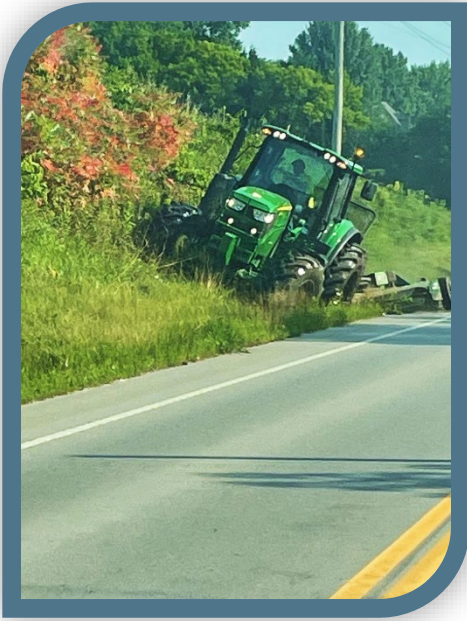


New bridge in Mill Creek Park

Park Revitalization Program

The Park Revitalization program is an on-going effort that addresses routine needs such as replacing park benches and trash receptacles, repairing damaged playground equipment and picnic benches, repairing mechanical systems and pumps, replenishing playground safety surfacing, and repairs to trails, parking lots, and concrete surfaces. Park staff addresses these needs continuously ensuring that facilities are kept in working order throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons.

Park Maintenance Operations



Roadside mowing

Since playgrounds have re-opened from the COVID-19 pandemic, crews disinfect park restrooms daily.

Routine maintenance and operations continue. 11 trees were removed from parks due to disease or storm damage, and 64 graffiti work orders and 62 vandalism work orders were completed.

Park maintenance crews mowed 229 parks while the newly acquired Right-of-Way crew completed 7 mowing cycles. The Right-of-Way crew was previously part of the Street Maintenance division of Municipal Services. Turf maintenance crews mowed and prepped athletic fields for 786 practices and 474 games.

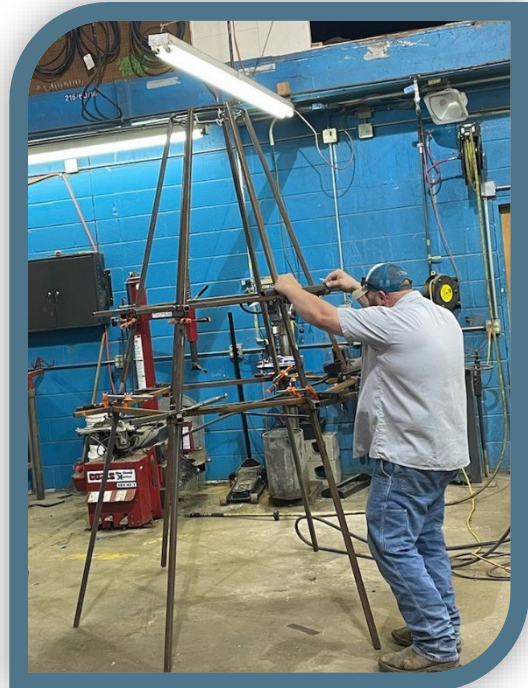
Parks maintenance mechanics led troubleshooting and repair efforts with multiple air conditioning units at recreation facilities over the summer.

Staff added additional cameras to increase security inside and outside at the National Frontier Trails Museum.

In September crews winterized Adventure Oasis Waterpark and both splash pads.

For SantaCaliGon, Parks maintenance staff set up booths for the 1849 Main Street exhibit.

Recently crews constructed a holiday tree that stands more than 8 feet tall. Look for it at the Uptown Market, decorated with pumpkins and autumn foliage. It will then become part of the holiday lighting festivities on the Independence Square.



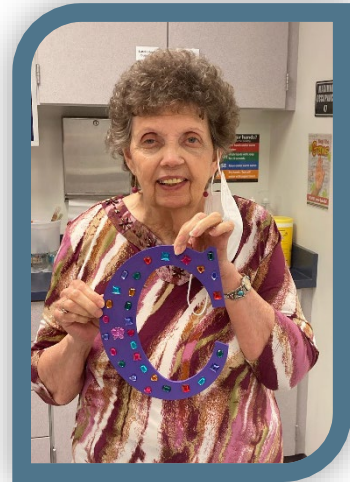
Holiday tree fabrication

Recreation Programming & Operations

Recreation Programming & Operations have remained modified in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recreation staff continue to work diligently to provide high-quality programming and maintain operations while adhering to proper safety protocols for patrons, participants, and staff. Highlights from each area of Recreation operations are as follows:

Palmer Center & Senior Programs

- Home Delivered Meal Program: From April – September 2021, Palmer Center staff delivered a total of 12,332 meals and served 2591 meals on-site.
- Wellness Phone Calls: Palmer Center staff and volunteers made 2740 Wellness Check phone calls.
- Informational Flyer Distribution: Palmer staff distributed 1561 Fraud Fact, Health Education and Nutrition Education flyers.
- Fitness Classes: 4094 Seniors participated in Silver Sneakers or Renew Active programs.
- Pickleball: There were 845 visits with an additional 34 coming in the evening to play.



Art in You class participant



Pickleball at Palmer Senior Center

Truman Memorial Building

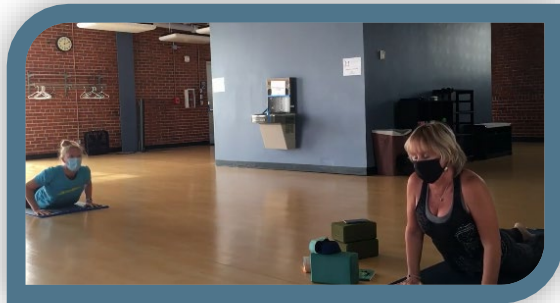
- Programs Hosted: Mental Health Town Hall Meeting, Community Blood Drive, Spirit of Independence Band Rehearsals
- Fitness Classes: TRX Evening Class, Noon TRX Class, Silver Sneakers Yoga, Zumba Gold
- Table Tennis Club: averages 100 players every month



Mental Health Town Hall Meeting



Table Tennis Club



Yoga class at Sermon Center

Roger T. Sermon Community Center

- Fitness Classes: Yoga, Extreme Boot Camp, ZUMBA, and Turbo Kick - 2063
- Daily Visits – 11,547 (including Silver Sneakers & Renew Active)
- Powerhouse Theatre Rehearsals, Meetings & Performances – 2288
- Fort Osage Feeding Program at McCoy Park (Breakfast & Lunch) – 13,212
- Rental Attendance – 1676
- Shelter/Pavilion Attendance – 9931



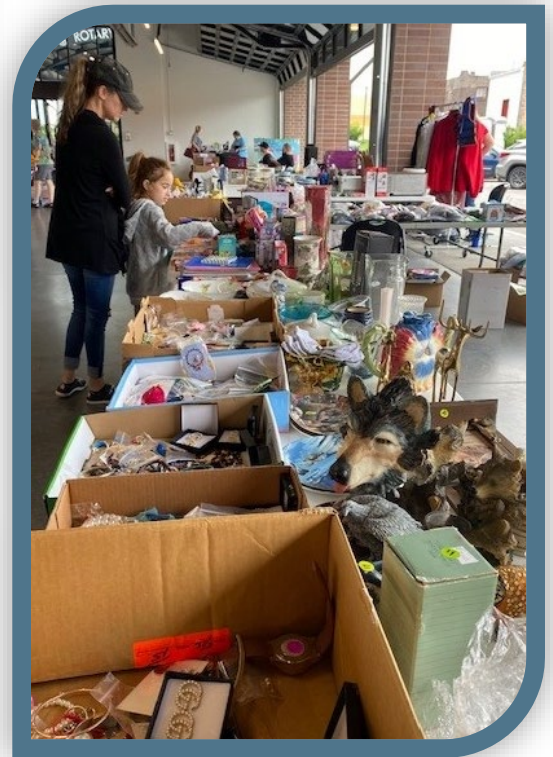
“Gypsy” by City Theatre of Independence

Independence Uptown Market

- Programs Hosted: Harry S Truman Public Service Award Ceremony, Rummage Sale, Spirit of Independence Band Concert, Santa-Cali-Gon
- Event attendance (including Santa-Cali-Gon): 7000
- Event attendance (complimentary): 935
- Farmers Market attendance: 14,850



Harry S Truman Public Service Award Ceremony



Rummage Sale



Spirit of Independence Band Concert

George Owens Nature Park & Family Programs

- Visitors: 9763 - DeWitt Hall, Fishing, Hiking
- Facility Rentals: 536
- On Site Program Attendance: 1863 - Nature Storytime, Family Fishing Day, Hummingbird Banding
- Off Site Program Attendance: 4247 - American Solar Car Challenge, Popsicles in the Parks, Moonlight Movies, Toddler Town on Tour, Cultural & Heritage Skateboard Competition
- Volunteer Service: 599 hours



Family Fishing Day



Dragonfly Daze



Popsicles in the Park



Popsicles in the Park



Hummingbird Festival

Wellness, Sports, Aquatics, Inclusion

Adventure Oasis: This summer Adventure Oasis was limited to Independence residents only. 38,136 visitors enjoyed the cool water, lazy river, slides, and water features. Another 264 participated in swim lessons and classes.

Sports: This spring and summer people of all ages played soccer, softball, baseball, kickball, and tennis. During the months of April – September, fields were rented for games and practices just over 800 times.

Employee Wellness: 43 employees participated in personal wellness coaching sessions.

Community Garden: The wellness team rented all 15 beds at the White Oak Community Garden. Park Maintenance staff maintained the grounds around the beds.

Homeschool Recreation Program: Due to Covid-19 scheduled recreational activities were only held one month in this reporting period. 34 students attended. Staff wore masks and practiced social distancing to keep children safe while inside the Truman Memorial Building.



Community Gardens

Farmers Market: The Farmers Market was held every Wednesday and Saturday from May - September.



Farmers Market

In Closing

It is the opinion of the Park Commission that the activities, initiatives, and projects supported by the Parks Improvement Sales Tax are in keeping with the program's intent, and that the work of the Parks|Recreation|Tourism Department continues to enhance the quality of life in Independence.

The members of the Independence Park Commission, on behalf of the residents of Independence, express our gratitude and appreciation to the Mayor and City Council for their continued support of providing the best possible parks, recreation facilities, and programs for the residents of Independence.



Truman Memorial Building



Santa Fe Park



Independence Athletic Complex



Palmer Senior Center