

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

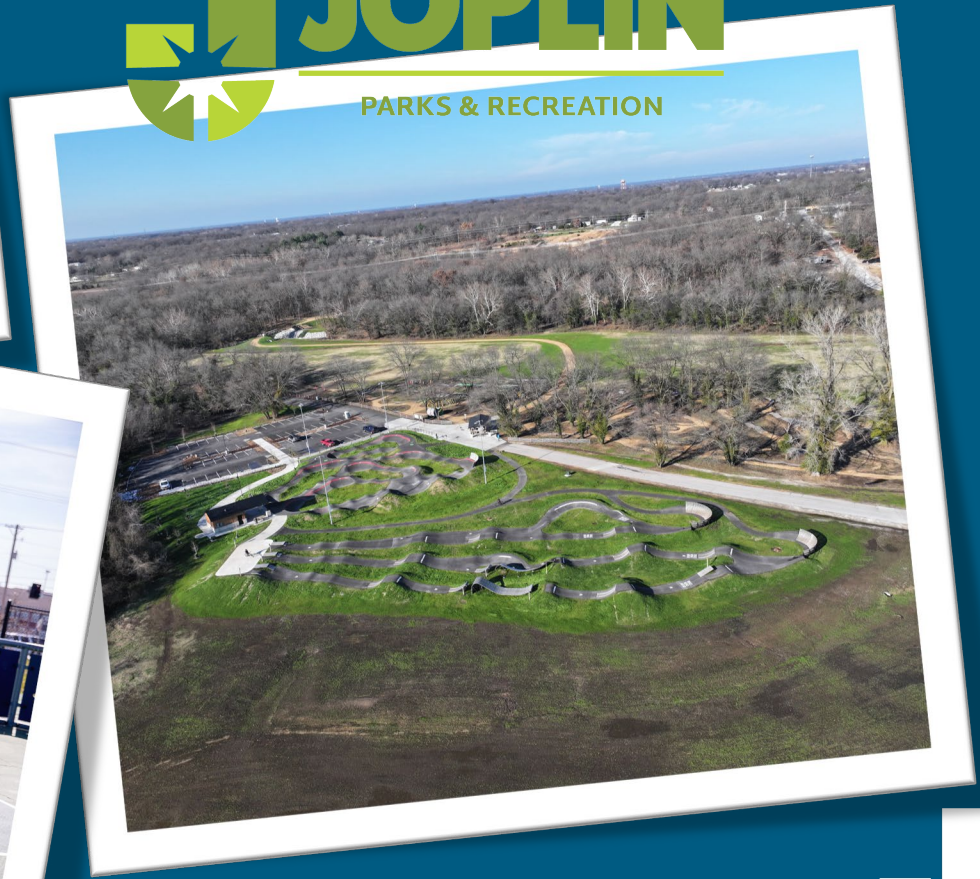
PR Team | April 2026

JOPLIN

PARKS & RECREATION







PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Who We Are:

The Joplin Parks and Recreation Department provides quality parks, services, and programs to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Joplin and surrounding communities.

Parks and Recreation Admin and Support Staff:

Director: Paul Bloomberg
Assistant Director: Greg Bertoncino
Golf Course Professional: Austin Shipman
Golf Course Maintenance Superintendent: Maron Towse
Parks Superintendent: Jason Cowen
Athletic Facilities Superintendent: Josh Simmons
Cemetery Superintendent: Tim Tracy
Museum Curator: Chris Wiseman
Recreation Coordinator: Ashley Clements
Recreation Coordinator: Dawn Jones
Recreation Coordinator: Alina Watkins
Accounting Specialist: Nakia Osborne
Recreation Leader: Krysie Walker

Park Advisory Board:
Brad McIntyre
Dustin Parker
Paul Teverow
Greg Matzer
Mike Gilpin
Mariah Kraft
Chuck Copple, City Council Liaison

Tree Board:
Robert Dopp
Tom Robertson
Kristi Brown
Matthew Livingston
Harvey Hutchinson

JOPLIN PARKS & RECREATION

JOPLIN PARKS & RECREATION

JOPLIN History & Mineral MUSEUM

Schifferdecker GOLF COURSE SINCE 1922

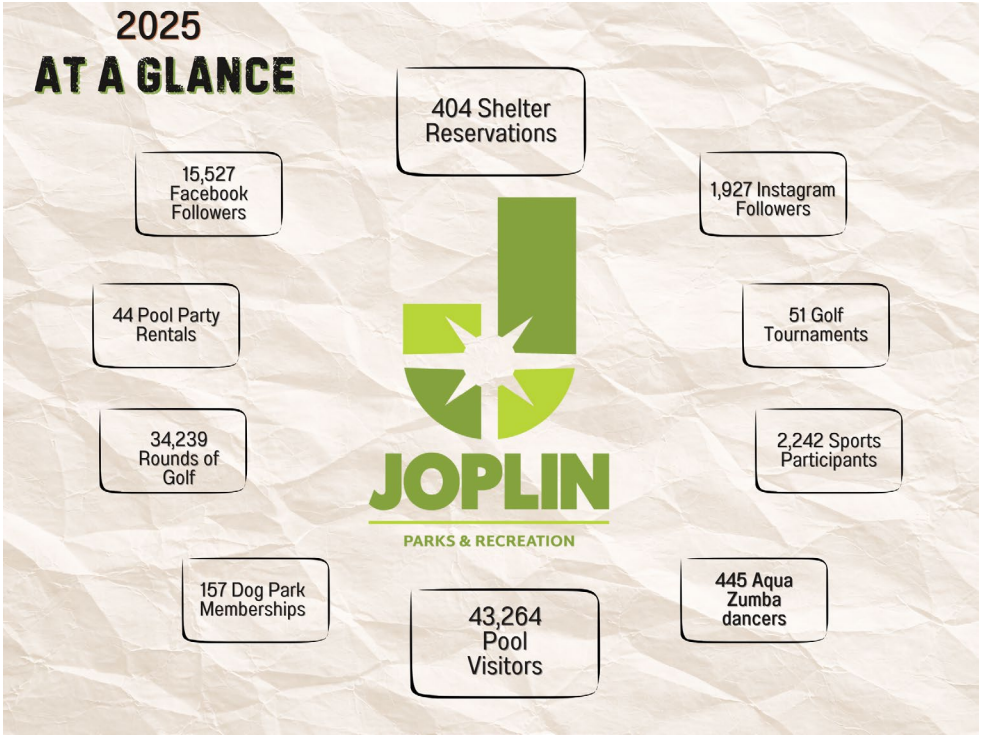
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Rec By The Numbers:



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

2024
At-A-Glance:



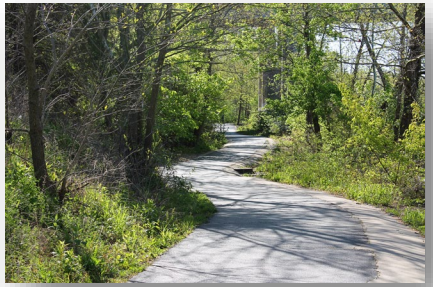
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Parks Division

Joplin's parks are a fantastic asset, offering a wide range of amenities and experiences across more than 1,070 acres. These spaces, including 24 parks, parkways, green spaces, and even the Junge Boulevard medians, are maintained and managed by a dedicated team of 15 full-time and 15 seasonal employees. The parks division also oversees shelters, amphitheaters, two aquatic centers, the Joplin Museum Complex, the Joplin Senior Center, and Parr Hill Dog Park, while also fostering public and private partnerships with local agencies.
Like many park divisions nationwide, Joplin's biggest challenge is retaining enough staff to properly maintain all 1,070 acres of grounds. Despite this, the team successfully maintained all areas within a two-week turnaround in 2025.







PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Parks Division Staff



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Recreation Division

Joplin's Recreation Division offers a diverse array of year-round programs for the Four-State Area, serving up fun for all ages. Our dedicated team, comprised of 4 full-time and over 175 seasonal employees, manages everything from sports leagues and aquatics to summer day camps, concession facilities, and special events.







PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Recreation Division Staff



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

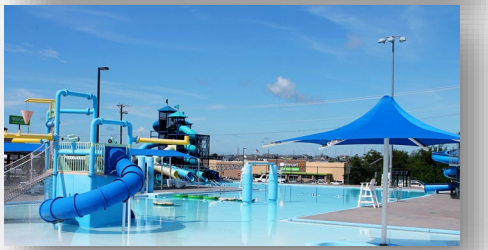
Parks & Recreation Department:

Aquatics Division

The Aquatic Division operates Joplin's two aquatic facilities: Schifferdecker, Cunningham Aquatic Centers, and opening in Fall of 2026 "The Robinson-Gray & Meeks Family Splash Park & Ice Ribbon Center."

We hire and train over 120 employees annually. This includes lifeguards, cashiers, and managers. We reserve pool parties at both facilities, host the always popular Aqua Zumba class, are home to the Joplin and Berzerker Swim Teams, and offer swim lessons throughout the summer.





PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Aquatics Division Staff









PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Athletic Maintenance Division

We are honored to provide quality fields and facilities for local, regional, and national organizations.

The Athletic Maintenance Division is comprised of 5 full-time and 6 seasonal employees. this Division is responsible for maintaining all the following building and facilities:

- Joplin Athletic Complex
  - Wendell Redden Stadium
  - Gene Bassman Softball Complex
  - Hershewe Soccer Complex
  - JAC Tennis Facility
  - Will Norton Miracle Field
- Joe Becker Stadium
- Landreth Park Soccer Field
- Gabby Street Baseball Field
- Gene Bassman/Wendell Redden PF
- Ewert Skate Park
- Carver Nursery Building
- City of Joplin Welcome Signs – 6
- Momentum Bike Park





PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Athletic Maintenance Division Staff



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Schifferdecker Golf Course

Schifferdecker Golf Course is comprised of two divisions: Clubhouse Operations and Grounds Operations.

The Clubhouse has one full-time employee, the Head Golf Professional, and 10 part-time positions that help with the daily clubhouse duties.

The Grounds Division has 3 full-time employees and 6 seasonal positions. The two divisions work closely to ensure everything runs smoothly for public play, tournaments, leagues, and various other programs at the golf course.

> ***Did You Know?***
> We are the home course for six area high schools:
> Joplin High School
> McCauley High School
> Thomas Jefferson High School
> New Heights High School
> Galena High School





PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Schifferdecker Golf Course Staff





PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Cemetery Division

The Cemetery Division is responsible for four cemeteries: Fairview, Parkway, Osborne, and Forest Park.

The general care for each cemetery includes mowing, trimming around each headstone, seeding, pruning trees and shrubs, resetting of sunken graves, and other related maintenance.

The Cemetery Division consists of 5 full-time and 4 seasonal employees that maintain the four city-owned cemeteries.

Did You Know?
The Cemetery Division is responsible for the care and upkeep of the streetscape flowers from 2nd to 32nd Street on Main Street.







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Parks & Recreation Department:

Cemetery Division Staff



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Parks & Recreation Department:

Museum Division

In 2020, the Museum came under the Parks and Recreation Department. It protects the community memory and educates the public by displaying authentic artifacts, giving educational tours, presenting a variety of outreach programs and off-sight exhibits, offering conservation and preservation knowledge, answering history and geology questions, partnering with educational institutions by providing geology, mining and history information and writing historical content and contributing visual images for periodicals, bound publications and film. The Museum has two full-time and two part-time staff.

After the strategic plan in 2022, the museum has been updating and improving in several areas:

- Cox Hall Renovation Route 66 Themed (2026)
- History Museum New Visitor Experience (2026)
- HVAC Upgrade (2025)
- Interior Painted (2024)
- Exhibit areas upgraded with new material (Ongoing)
- Entry Way and Lobby Upgrades (2023/2024)





PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Museum Division Staff





PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Park Ranger Division

Park Rangers are highly visible and interactive city ambassadors and often the only regular visitor interface in a park during normal hours public hours. They are also our first line of defense when issues arise, or problems occur. Rangers cover an immense area of operation—over 1000 acres—twenty-four parks, two aquatic centers, four cemeteries, Joe Becker stadium, the golf course, athletic complex, bike park, museum, maintenance barn, and other city facilities and areas.

Did You Know?
Park Rangers patrol our parks Monday through Sunday 6am to 11pm.





PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Park Ranger Division Staff



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Community Partnerships & Events



Events

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt
Joplin Independence Day Celebration
Old Fashioned Hay-Ride
Holiday Tree Trail
Breakfast with Santa

Community Groups

Area Agency on Aging
Connect 2 Culture
Downtown Joplin Alliance
Economic Security of Southwest Area
Joplin Emancipation Park Days
Liberty Utilities
Miracle League of Joplin
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Master Naturalist
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Missouri Southern State University
The Salvation Army
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Wildcat Glades Nature Group

Athletic Organizations

Convention & Visitors Bureau
Challenger Sports
Joplin Disc Golf Club
Joplin Sports Authority
Skywalkers
Ozmo Lacrosse Group

Aquatics

Berzerker Swim Team
Boys and Girls Club of SW Missouri
Joplin High School Swim Team
Joplin Stingrays Swim Team

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

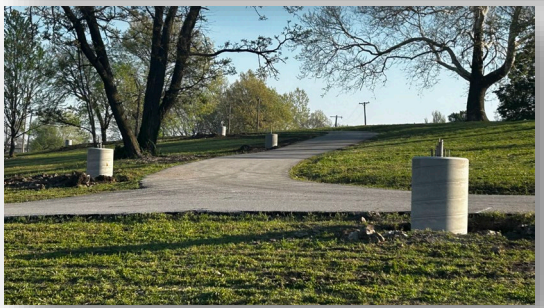
Parks & Recreation Department:

Current Projects

Major Projects 2025/2026

- Dover Outdoor Bike Park (Complete)
- Ewert Splash Park/Ice Ribbon (Fall 2026)
- Cunningham Family Game Area (Complete)
- Tin Cup Trail (Summer 2026)
- Grand Falls Trail and Overlook (2026)
- Security Lighting in Parks (Fall 2026)
- Security Cameras in Parks (Fall 2026)
- RTP Grant in 12 Parks (Fall 2027)
- ORLP Grant Parr Hill Park (Fall 2027)
- Synthetic Turf on Ballfields (Summer 2026)
- Golf Maintenance Facility Fence (Fall 2026)
- New Pavilion Osborne Cemetery (Complete)





PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

2026
Key Initiatives

2026 Key Initiatives:

- Add new surfacing at Parking Lot of Columbarium at Osborne Cemetery
- Installation of electrical for Flag Pole Lights at Forest Park and Osborne Cemeteries
- Construct Improvements at Wildcat Park: River Access, Trail and Road Improvements
- Construct, Install and Implement Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit Habitats in several parks
- Make Green Space improvements in Landreth Park along Murphy Boulevard
- Construct Parking and Road Improvements at Athletic Complex, Joe Becker Stadium and Joe Becker Stadium Clubhouse
- Develop Operations and Maintenance Plan for Ewert Splash Park and DORA Bike Park
- Complete DORA Bike Park Project
- Continue Ewert Splash Park Project
- Install Playground Enhancements
- Begin Parr Hill Park Improvements
- Implement Beautification efforts along 7th Street to apply buffer between motorists/golfers
- Implement employee training program for clubhouse operations







Joplin
Parks and Recreation
Making Lives Better!

Questions?



