

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

PR Team | July 2025









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
Cemetary Superintendent: Tim Tracy
Museum Curator: Chris Wiseman
Recreation Coordinator: Ashley Clements
Recreation Coordinator: Dawn Jones
Recreation Coordinator: Alina Watkins
Accounting Specialist: Nakia Osborne

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

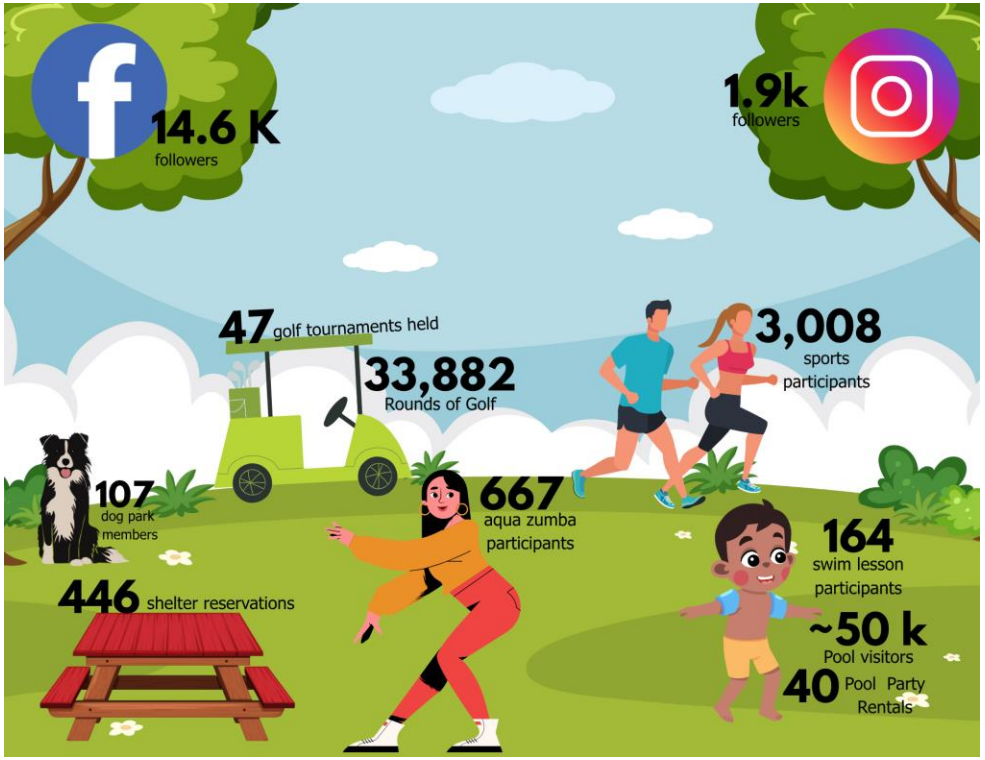
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Parks & Rec By The Numbers:



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2024
At-A-Glance:



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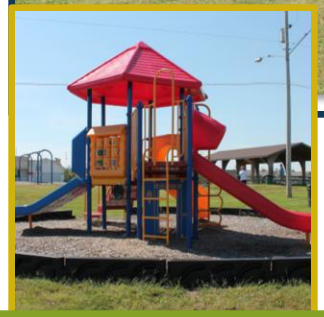
Parks & Recreation Department:

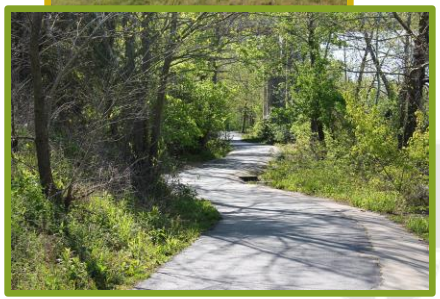
Parks Division

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 2024.







PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Department:

Parks Division Staff







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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.







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Parks & Recreation Department:

Recreation Division Staff



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Parks & Recreation Department:

Aquatics Division

The Aquatic Division operates Joplin's two aquatic facilities: Schifferdecker, Cunningham Aquatic Centers, and opening in Summer of 2026 Ewert Splash Park and Ice Ribbon.

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.





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Parks & Recreation Department:

Aquatics Division Staff







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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
- The Future DORA Bike Park







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Parks & Recreation Department:

Athletic Maintenance Division Staff



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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

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Parks & Recreation Department:

Schifferdecker Golf Course Staff





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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:

- HVAC Upgrade (2025)
- Interior Painted (2024)
- Exhibit areas upgraded with new material (Ongoing)
- Entry Way and Lobby Upgrades (203/2024)



Did You Know?

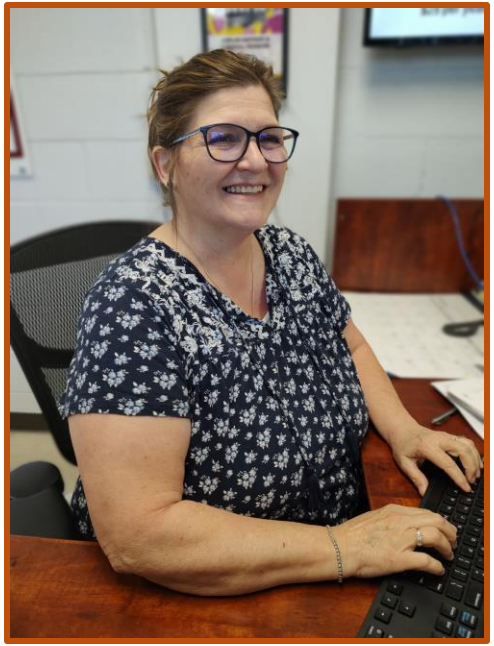
Total visits went up in 2024 from 8,400 to 8,600 visitors. And our 2025 numbers are tracking to exceed our 2024 counts.

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Parks & Recreation Department:

Museum Division Staff





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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, museum, maintenance barn, and other city facilities and areas.

Did You Know?
We have seen a decrease of 22% in our Security Reports from October of 2023-April 2025. This includes:

- Trespassing
- Altercations
- Medical Calls
- Drug/Alcohol
- Disorderly Conduct
- Vandalism
- Property Damage
- Illegal Camping





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Parks & Recreation Department:

Park Ranger Division Staff







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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

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Parks & Recreation Department:

Current Projects

Major Projects 2025/2026

- Dover Outdoor Bike Park (Spring 2026)
- Ewert Splash Park/Ice Ribbon (Summer 2026)
- Cunningham Family Game Area (Fall 2025)
- Tin Cup Trail (Summer 2025)
- Grand Falls Trail and Overlook (2026)
- Security Lighting in Parks (Fall 2025)
- Security Cameras in Parks (Fall 2025)
- RTP Grant in 12 Parks (Winter 2025)
  - Benches
  - Tire Fix-It Stations
  - Bike Racks
  - Trail Wayfinding Signs





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2025
Key Initiatives

2025 Key Initiatives:

- Update Information Stations, Bridge, and Picnic Tables in Cemeteries
- Evaluate Software Programs to Improve Financial System Tracking and Data Cataloging in Cemeteries
- Paint Interior/Exterior Amenities at Athletic Complex and Joe Becker Stadiums
- Replace Chain Link Fence with Post/Cable along Schifferdecker Park/Golf Course
- Remove Shade Structure at Old Bassman Softball Field
- Construct, Install and Implement Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit Habitats in Several Parks
- Develop New Exhibits to Promote 100th Anniversary of Route 66
- Evaluate Park Ranger Software Programs to Assist with Streamlining Reporting to Police and Parks
- Implement Pace of Play Program
- Increase Advertising Efforts to Regional Area
- Continuation of Drainage Improvements to Holes 3 and 12
- Continuation of Cool Season Grass Program


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Questions?



