

CHAPTER 8 – JOPLIN'S STORIES: INTERPRETATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Joplin has a rich and interesting history associated with the Tri-State Mining District and national stories related to the mining industry and economic prosperity. The 2011 tornado is a special story unique to Joplin and its experience of community and recovery.

Storytelling is a way to reach out to and engage residents about Joplin's character and special places. Interpretation can tell the stories of Joplin's natural and urban landscapes, bringing the city's places alive. Natural resources and context are an important part of the city's history and experience, especially the geology and natural systems that produced the ores of the mining district. Through interpretation, public awareness of Joplin's historic building and landscape resources can be increased and support for historic preservation can be encouraged.

Historic preservation advocates recognize the need to build public recognition and support for historic preservation as a component of community character. Interpretation is a means to achieve that end. Heritage and cultural programming are therefore key long-term components of Joplin's historic preservation plan in achieving public outreach.

Heritage tourism can also contribute to Joplin's economic vitality. As a regional shopping destination and commercial center, Joplin is already attracting visitors

from throughout the Tri-State area. As a destination along the historic Route 66 byway, national and international visitors are already traveling through the city.

We need to enhance their experience and make a mark for the city by providing interpretive experiences and further improving Downtown Joplin. As an economic revitalization strategy, interpretation and events can help draw regional and national visitors to Downtown Joplin, extend their stays, and encourage them to come for new reasons. The Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau is already well aware of and is working on theses strategies. Coordinated city-wide interpretation can help significantly.

Visitors who appreciate historic and cultural attractions also appreciate communities that value their historic character. Heritage visitors want to experience authentic places. They want to learn about the city's history and combine their visits to interpretive sites with interesting dining and shopping opportunities in historic commercial areas such as downtown. Heritage visitors want a complete experience, expect high quality, and are willing to spend more than other types of visitors. They like to linger in the restaurants and other places where residents tend to gather.

Chapter 8 emphasizes the goals 1-Community Identity, 3-Economy and Quality of Life, and 4-Community Engagement presented in *Chapter 3, Preservation Approach*. Recommendations for interpretation and engagement are organized under three topical headings:

- Joplin's History;
- Community Interpretation; and
- Education and Events.



Downtown Joplin can serve as an anchor and orientation point for a city-wide interpretive presentation.

8.1 JOPLIN'S HISTORY

The importance of the work of local historians in undertaking research on Joplin's history cannot be overstated. Local historians know the community well and understand where to look for the details that will illuminate historical subjects and events. The work of the local historians associated with Joplin Museum and Joplin Historical Society over the years has been outstanding, and their collections and research writings are extremely valuable to the community. This work should be encouraged and supported.

As outlined in Chapter 2, in recent years Joplin's historians have produced a series of excellent illustrated histories that use historic photographs to tell the city's story. These illustrated histories are particularly important in documenting the detailed personal and site-specific stories that the historic photographs record.

However, Joplin is in need of a comprehensive contemporary history that tells the history of the city and the Tri-State Mining District in a national context. The most recent history of Joplin that has been written is G.K. Renner's *Joplin, From Mining Town to Urban Center*, published in 1985 to commemorate Joplin's centennial. As recognized in the book's Preface, much of the city's story could not be included in this short volume, and "a rich opportunity awaits any writer who wants to dig deeper into Joplin's past."

Renner's book, though the best currently available, only touches briefly and lightly on many important topics. It obviously does not include developments over the past thirty years, including the seminal tornado of 2011 and its aftermath and recovery. Most importantly, the book does not relate Joplin's story to state and national contexts of settlement, mineral extraction, transportation, environment, society, and economic prosperity.

Like the illustrated histories noted above, Renner's book is engaging and charming and relates a number of local stories well, but it is time for preparation of a new comprehensive professional history of Joplin. Such a history would look at larger themes of the national story and relate in detail how Joplin developed and evolved through them.

RECOMMENDATION 8.1.A: Continue to produce illustrated histories of Joplin using historic photographs.

- Collect and preserve **archives** of historic photographs of Joplin. Collaborate with the owners of private collections to make sure that collections are recognized, recorded, and preserved.

- Encourage the **Joplin Globe** to continue to produce its series on historic photographs of Joplin. The most recent book featured the photographs of Murwin Mosler from the decade of the 1940s.

- Make sure that previous illustrated histories do not go **out of print**. Collect sufficient copies to archive, including copies of Renner's 1985 *Joplin, From Mining Town to Urban Center*, which has gone out of print.



The detailed and painstaking research of local historians is vital to the understanding of Joplin's historic places.

RECOMMENDATION 8.1.B: Produce a new, comprehensive contemporary history of Joplin.

- As a special five-year project, secure funding and produce a comprehensive **contemporary history** of Joplin to build upon and replace Renner's 1985 history.

- Research **examples** of histories of other communities and prepare an outline and summary of the new proposed history. Use the outline and summary to raise funding.

- Build on other histories of Missouri and the Untied States. Use **national themes** and contexts to which Joplin's history relates. Include the region's natural context, early settlement, and development of the Tri-State Mining District. Tell Joplin's early story of growth and city's evolution into today's regional commercial center. Include the story of the 2011 tornado.

- Include **good maps** and relate the history to the illustrated histories and their photographic record.

RECOMMENDATION 8.1.C: Document the history of the 2011 tornado that struck Joplin.

- Support the Joplin Museum in collecting **documentation** on the tornado and creating an archive on the tornado, its aftermath, and its recovery. Include photographs, documents, and other information with as broad a reach as possible.

- Implement an **oral history** initiative on the residents' experience of the tornado and its aftermath. Such an initiative could include school and faith-based support and assistance.

- Write a **history** of the tornado and the recovery through the first five years. Coordinate with other recent histories of the tornado that have been published,

RECOMMENDATION 8.1.D: Continue to undertake focused historical research on specific aspects of Joplin's history and produce papers and professional publications on that research.

- Support the Joplin Museum and **local historians** in research on specific topics of interest. Develop a list of topics that warrant research, filling gaps in Joplin's history and focusing on details of specific places, people, entities, and events. Focus particularly on the story of Joplin's role within the Tri-State Mining District.

- Through the Joplin Museum, Joplin Historical Society, and Post Foundation, seek out **and encourage residents** who might be interested in undertaking research on Joplin's history. Create a local historical research program. Focus on history buffs, retired residents, and students of all ages.





The valley of Joplin Creek near Union Station, now public open space, is the site of Joplin's first mine, around which the city was founded. Long term, Union Station can be developed into an outstanding outdoor interpretive and event site.

8.2 COMMUNITY INTERPRETATION

Interpretation is a means through which residents and visitors can be exposed to Joplin's heritage. It creates awareness about the themes and stories that convey the city's history and relates those themes and stories to authentic places. Through interpretation, residents learn about the places in which they spend their everyday lives and develop awareness and respect for historic and natural resources. Interpretation is a significant way to reach out to Joplin's residents to build long-term support for community enhancement and historic preservation. Interpretation will help build community pride.

Joplin has a fascinating history closely tied to its mining landscape and the historic downtown, neighborhood, building, and landscape resources discussed throughout this plan. A comprehensive city-wide interpretive presentation can be created over time through the interest, coordination, and cooperation of a variety of partners.

The interpretive presentation outlined here is envisioned primarily as an outdoor experience, oriented to residents but of appeal to visitors as well. Like Joplin's public art and mural program, it is anticipated that creative outdoor interpretive exhibits would be installed in many places throughout the city and would be coordinated by themes, storylines, and graphic formats. Residents would encounter the exhibits in neighborhoods, public spaces, and along trails. Visitors would get to know Joplin as a landscape to be explored. Public art would be a key element of the interpretive presentation throughout the city.

It is suggested that the centerpiece of the presentation be Downtown Joplin, the city's historic commercial center, public events center, and home to the city's primary attractions—downtown streetscape, Memorial Hall, a new Performing Arts Center, Spiva Center, and a new Joplin Museum. This suggestion builds on the idea of Downtown Joplin as the center of community identity as discussed in Chapter 5.





The streetscape and public sites in Downtown Joplin can serve as locations for interpretive exhibits.

Wayfinding signage from the city's entrances and gateways would lead visitors to Downtown Joplin, where parking, dining, shopping, and services are provided and where the city's overall interpretive context would be introduced.

Outdoor orientation exhibits located at strategic locations downtown and at other key locations throughout the city would illustrate the city-wide presentation and options for how it could be explored. Introductory exhibits would present Joplin's primary overarching themes and storylines. Interpretive exhibits and public art along the downtown streetscape would tell the story of Downtown Joplin and its role as the region's commercial center and transportation hub. The downtown interpretive experience would be incorporated into the open space planning for the new performing Arts Center and its public mall as well as into master planning for downtown revitalization.

Other sites around Joplin would be identified where different aspects of the city's story could be told. The park and public open space along Joplin Creek in the vicinity of Union Station would be an excellent place to tell the story of Joplin's first mine and founding. Union Station and the rail yards at South Main and 10th Streets would be good places to tell the railroad story. The Route 66 story can be told at a variety of locations in East Town and Downtown Joplin, including the existing Route 66 mural and pocket park on Main Street, which is an excellent example of the kind of interpretive exhibit envisioned.



The Route 66 pocket park on Main Street combines interpretation with public art.

Other locations would be identified where other storylines could be featured. The key is to identify publicly accessible sites where exhibits can be installed and accessed. Sites can be public or private, included in the network with an owner's permission. Most important is that sites should be *authentic places* where things happened that can convey larger themes and storylines illustrated using site-specific stories.

Another excellent example of a potential anchor site in the interpretive presentation is the Butterfly Garden and Overlook in Cunningham Park. Dedicated in May 2014, funded by the TKF Foundation and the Walmart Foundation and designed by students of Drury University in Springfield, the Butterfly Garden and Overlook is an outdoor exhibit featuring ghost structures of three homes lost in the 2011 tornado. Exhibits tell the story of the tornado, the people of Joplin, the volunteers who provided support, and community loss and renewal. The exhibit is of very high quality and is a valued community asset. It is

connected to a variety of open space resources that create a strong interpretive hub within the heart of the tornado zone.

Similar exhibits of varying scale and type can be implemented at other locations within Joplin and address other themes and stories. Important are stories related to mining, the lives of people associated with the mines, the environmental degradation caused by mining, the clean-up, and environmental stewardship going forward.



The Butterfly Garden and Overlook in Cunningham Park is an outstanding example of an anchor site for the city-wide interpretive presentation.

It is suggested that interpretive icons be created to mark various types of mining sites throughout the city. The icons would be artistic installations that would be recognizable as representing the locations of mine shafts, processing sites, and other types of mine related activities. People would see them throughout the city and become aware of the extent of the mining activity that once existed. Some icons could also incorporate interpretive content, telling the story of the particular site where the icon is located. Historic mine artifacts placed in public spaces can also be used to mark sites and tell the mining story. The location Joplin's manufacturing industry, a product of mining, is another important storyline.

Different aspects of Joplin's history can be told at a variety of potential anchor sites, public parks, historic neighborhoods, private sites, and other places. Joplin's city-wide trail system can link the sites together, including pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile options and components.

Individual historic neighborhoods can decide to participate in the presentation, telling their stories in parks, along the streetscape, and at private sites. Small-scale interpretive exhibits can be installed along trails to be encountered along

the route, providing linkages between sites. The interpretive presentation can be implemented piece by piece over time—some of the pieces are already in place.



Interpretive panels at the Butterfly Garden tell the story of the 2011 tornado and community loss and recovery.

Joplin Museum

The Joplin Museum, located in Schiffendecker Park on the west side of town, is an important community asset. As a community institution, the Joplin Museum dates back to the establishment of the Tri-State Mineral Museum in Schiffendecker Park in 1931 with funding from mine operators, a direct link to the city's mining organizations and heritage. The Tri-State Mineral Museum developed a unique and nationally significant collection of minerals, artifacts, and documents. The Dorothea B. Hoover Historical Museum, which tells the city's broader story, was founded in 1966 and later located in a wing adjacent to the Mineral Museum.

The two museums were reorganized in 1996 as the Joplin Historical Mineral Museums, Inc., an independent non-profit organization with professional staff. The Joplin Historical Society, a separate organization closely affiliated with the museums, is owner of two-thirds of the museums' valuable collection. In one form or another, the museums have served the residents and students of Joplin for over eighty years. In their current iteration, they have been supported primarily by the City of Joplin.

The need to revitalize the Joplin Museum has been under discussion by stakeholders as preparation for this preservation plan has been underway. It is recommended that a new and revitalized Joplin Museum be established in the vicinity of Downtown Joplin as part of the downtown revitalization initiative outlined in Chapter 5 of this plan. The goal is to establish Downtown Joplin as a regional cultural center to include Memorial Hall, a new Performing Arts Center, new home for the Spiva Center, a public events park, and a new home for the Joplin Museum.

Planning for a new Joplin Museum should be undertaken concurrently with planning for the new Performing Arts Center, Spiva Center, and public events park. It is suggested that the new Joplin Museum be the centerpiece of master

planning and redevelopment of Main Street between 7th and 10th Streets as recommended in Chapter 5. It would be most appropriate that the new museum be housed in an existing historic building on Main Street within this area.

Planning should be undertaken by the Joplin Downtown Task Force discussed in Chapter 5 with the involvement of all of the downtown partners, including the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Joplin Alliance, Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau, Connect-2-Culture, Spiva Center, Post Foundation, and downtown businesses in addition to the Joplin Museum and Joplin Historical Society.



The Joplin Museum has a nationally significant collection of minerals, artifacts, and documents. A reinevented and revitalized museum could be a centerpiece of a Downtown Joplin cultural district.

The initiative should involve not only physical planning but organizational development and fundraising. It is suggested that first steps include: (a) identification of programmatic needs for the museum complex to include archival, educational, interpretive, collections, and administrative spaces, and (b) strategic planning for the Joplin Museum and Joplin Historical Society organizations such that they can be reinvigorated and reborn as new, revitalized independent non-profit entities.

This work cannot be done by the Joplin Museum and Joplin Historical Society alone, but must be a broad-based, community-wide initiative. It is suggested that it be incorporated as part of downtown revitalization and a city-wide interpretive program with a goal of opening a new Joplin Museum upon the 150th anniversary of Joplin's founding in 2023. Interim steps can be planned and implemented leading up to that date.

Website and Published Materials

Joplin can support the city-wide interpretive presentation by developing a family of brochures, maps, and interpretive guides using the city's graphic identity discussed in Chapter 5.

It is suggested that these materials feature a high-quality fold-out map of Joplin showing interpretive sites, open space, trails, and public amenities. The map should include interpretive context that provides an overview of the city's history,

outlines primary themes and storylines, and identifies authentic historic sites that can be visited and explored where interpretive content is provided.

A set of simple brochures can be created to discuss individual themes, storylines, and specific sites in more detail. Together, the map and brochures should summarize the city-wide interpretive experience and help residents and visitors identify and appreciate all of the sites, trails, and opportunities available. The map and brochures should be made available online.

A vibrant interpretive website can be used to support interpretation as well. The website should be linked to the city, Joplin Conference and Visitors Bureau, Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, Post Foundation, and partner websites. The website should include an overview of Joplin's history; introduction of the city's interpretive themes; and access to brochures, maps, and digital interpretive content that can be downloaded and used to explore Joplin and its sites.

Joplin's graphic identity should be used for the city-wide interpretive presentation. The city should develop a family of interpretive carriers such as kiosks, waysides, and markers of varying sizes that can be used by partners for interpretive exhibits at sites throughout the city. Graphic standards for the exhibit panels should help express the city's character and identity. The National Park Service has developed standards for interpretive carriers and kiosks that could be adopted for use by the city. National Park Service standards are recognizable by the public and acknowledged for their high quality and durability. The adoption of standard National Park Service carriers would be an economical and easily implementable option for the city-wide presentation.



Natural areas can be used to tell the story of the native landscape and Joplin's landscape context.

The Interpretive Planning Process

Preparation of a city-wide interpretive plan will provide a blueprint of how best to present an overview of Joplin's history and character to which residents and visitors can relate. It will describe key themes and storylines and provide a context for how the stories of individual sites fit into Joplin's overall history. It will identify how the stories related to individual sites can be woven together into a coordinated presentation and experience.

Development of a city-wide interpretive plan should be led by educators, interpreters, historians, and public program specialists experienced in public history and programming. All of Joplin's community stakeholders should be involved. Professional consultants may be engaged to help guide the planning and shape the type of experiences that are possible and that will be meaningful and appropriate to Joplin's audiences. Interpretive planning should include the following elements:

1. Introduction: Outline the background and purpose of the plan.
2. Themes and Storylines: Identify Joplin's key natural, historic, and cultural themes and storylines for interpretation. Interpretive themes are the big ideas that frame the city's historic development and relate it to state and national contexts. Storylines are threads of events that trace the city's historical development over time by topic.

   Every potential stakeholder and potential interpretive site should be able to find their place within the thematic structure, including schools, churches, businesses, historic neighborhoods, and others that may wish to participate.



Sites throughout Joplin can be used to tell aspects of the city's historical development.

3. Identify Potential Partners and Their Stories: identify partners and stakeholders that may wish to participate in the interpretive presentation. Identify the nature of their interest, interpretive themes to which they relate, stories they may have that illustrate those themes, and sites where their stories may be told.

   Assume that most interpretive experiences will be self-guided and that every site must be publicly accessible. Identify the resources and capabilities that potential partners and stakeholders can devote to the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the interpretive presentation.

4. Interpretation at Publicly Owned Sites: Identify publicly owned sites that would be appropriate for self-guided interpretive exhibits to establish the core of the city-wide presentation. Consider public parks and open space, public buildings, trails, bikeways, and streetscapes.

Use Downtown Joplin as a central location and anchor for the interpretive presentation. Feature Joplin's park and trail systems as the presentation's skeleton, reaching throughout the city. Invite historic neighborhoods to participate using local parks, streetscapes, and neighborhood institutions such as schools and churches as locations for storytelling. Use self-guided interpretative installations along trails, bikeways, walking routes, and driving routes to create linkages between sites.

Develop an exhibit format that can be used for installation of self-guided exhibits using a common graphic identity and coordinated with city-wide themes and storylines. Develop a maintenance protocol for the self-guided exhibits and sites.

5. Interpretation at Partnering Sites: Outline how sites controlled by private partners will participate in the city-wide presentation. Identify the stories that each participating site will present and how they relate to themes and stories of other sites. Select exhibit formats appropriate to each site. Determine how individual sites will work together to tailor their interpretation as part of the broader themes and storylines.

   Determine how support can be provided to assist sites in their presentations. Determine how participating sites can be provided with introductory content presenting city-wide context and relating sites to larger storylines.



Joplin's mining sites, today abandoned and unmarked, are central to the story.

6. Orientation to the City-wide Interpretive Presentation: Outline how the city-wide presentation will be introduced to residents and visitors and how visitors not familiar with Joplin will be oriented. Identify places where residents and visitors are most likely to first experience the

presentation, such as gateways, Downtown Joplin, parks, and shopping destinations.

Orientation should include an overview of themes and storylines, sites where they are presented, and suggested trails, routes, and itineraries linking sites. Consider using websites, interpretive maps and brochures, and introductory exhibits such as kiosks at key public locations.

Identify which storylines can be made visitor-ready quickly and which have gaps and will need longer-term development. Consult with partners and determine how best to phase in coordinated interpretation that presents the city-wide context and sets the stage for detailed interpretation at individual sites and attractions.

Several important interpretive exhibits are already in place, such as the Butterfly Garden in Cunningham Park, city-wide murals, and the Route 66 pocket park downtown. Exhibits should provide orientation information and direct visitors to other local interpretive sites. Use a common graphic identity and formatting for exhibits and publications.

7. Implementation: Prioritize the ideas and actions outlined above. Begin with those that are fundable and most likely to achieve results. Identify resources to support coordinated implementation over time.

Recommendations summarizing the proposed interpretive presentation are provided below.

RECOMMENDATION 8.2.A: Create a city-wide interpretive plan that can be implemented over time.

- Develop a **city-wide interpretive plan** under the leadership of the Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau in cooperation with the Joplin Museum, Joplin Historical Society, Post Foundation, Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Joplin Alliance, and Parks and Recreation Department.

- Identify **interpretive themes and subjects** that characterize Joplin's history which interpretation can convey. Identify potential **sites** that can convey the city's interpretive themes. Create **storylines** around which themes can be developed.

- Engage a broad array of **partners** and interests in the interpretive plan's development. Work with private partners to determine how stories related to private sites might be included in the interpretive presentation.

- Create **common graphics** for the city-wide interpretive presentation using Joplin's graphic identity. Develop a family of interpretive carriers such as kiosks, waysides, and markers of varying sizes. Develop graphic standards for sign panels that express the city's character and identity. Adoption of standard National Park Service carriers would be appropriate and would be an economical and easily implementable option.

- Support the interpretive presentation with a **family of brochures and maps** using the common graphic identity. Include a high-quality **fold-out map** of Joplin with interpretive context to help residents and visitors identify and appreciate all of the sites, trails, and opportunities available. Make the map and brochures available online.

- Include interpretation on the **city's website** with links from the websites of the Downtown Joplin Alliance, Chamber of Commerce, and others. Include an overview of Joplin's history; introduction of interpretive themes; and access to brochures, maps, and interpretive content that can be downloaded and used to explore.

- Outline how the interpretive presentation may begin to be **implemented** in the short-term and may be further developed and enriched in phases over time.



Businesses and institutions can participate by telling their own stories illustrating aspects of city-wide themes.

RECOMMENDATION 8.2.B: Make a new Joplin Museum a centerpiece of community interpretation.

- Work with the Joplin Museum and Joplin Historical Society in developing a long-term vision, mission, and **strategy** for the organizations and their collections. Include planning for research, programming, community engagement, collections, organization and management, and fundraising.

- Collaborate with partners in plans to develop a **new museum** in Downtown Joplin in proximity to the proposed new Performing Arts Center. Use of a historic building along Main Street would be preferred.

- Include the new museum in **master planning** for Downtown Joplin as an attraction and community facility.

- Feature the museum in the **city-wide interpretive plan** as a location to provide detailed interpretive content and experiential exhibits.



City landmarks are iconic places with special stories and can be used as focal points for surrounding neighborhoods.

RECOMMENDATION 8.2.C: Implement Joplin's interpretive plan using trails, bikeways, public parks, neighborhoods, and Downtown Joplin.

- Use the interpretive plan to create a network of **self-guided outdoor interpretive exhibits** and experiences in public parks, along streetscapes, partnering private sites, and in other publicly accessible places. Include historic artifacts such as mining machinery as outdoor exhibits.

- Feature **trails and bikeways as linkages** between interpretive sites and destinations. Make these routes a central component of the interpretive experience. Create interpretive exhibits and experiences at locations along the routes for people to stop and see.

- Create interpretive anchors as destinations with exhibits and special experiences. The Butterfly Garden and Overlook in **Cunningham Park** commemorating the 2011 tornado is an outstanding example of an interpretive destination. Downtown Joplin, historic sites, landmarks, natural areas, and other special places are other potential destinations.

- Include Neighborhood Associations as special partners in planning for the interpretive plan. **Feature neighborhoods** as destinations interpreting their history, development, and special stories.

- Create a special iconography for Joplin's **historic mining sites** using public art. Place installations at the locations of historic mine shafts, processing plants, and other mining related sites throughout Joplin to provide visual markers of the number, locations, and types of sites across the city.

- Create **itineraries and tours** that can be downloaded online and made available through the map and brochures noted above as guides for the interpretive experience.

RECOMMENDATION 8.2.D: Coordinate interpretation with Joplin's program of public art.

- Feature **public art** as an interpretive medium along streetscapes, in public parks, at mining sites, and at other appropriate locations.

- Work with Connect-2-Culture, Spiva Center for the Arts, and Art in Public Spaces to **organize and implement** interpretation using public art and to establish guidelines, criteria, and processes.

- Engage private sector businesses and institutions to **sponsor and host** interpretive exhibits and public art at their sites.




Schools and students can be engaged in storytelling to help make them more aware of their community.

8.3 EDUCATION AND EVENTS

The City of Joplin is in the process of constructing a new community library in the tornado recovery area as part of its long-term recovery program. In moving to the new facility the Post Foundation is reinterpreting its mission and vision in conjunction with the library to emphasize public engagement and programming.

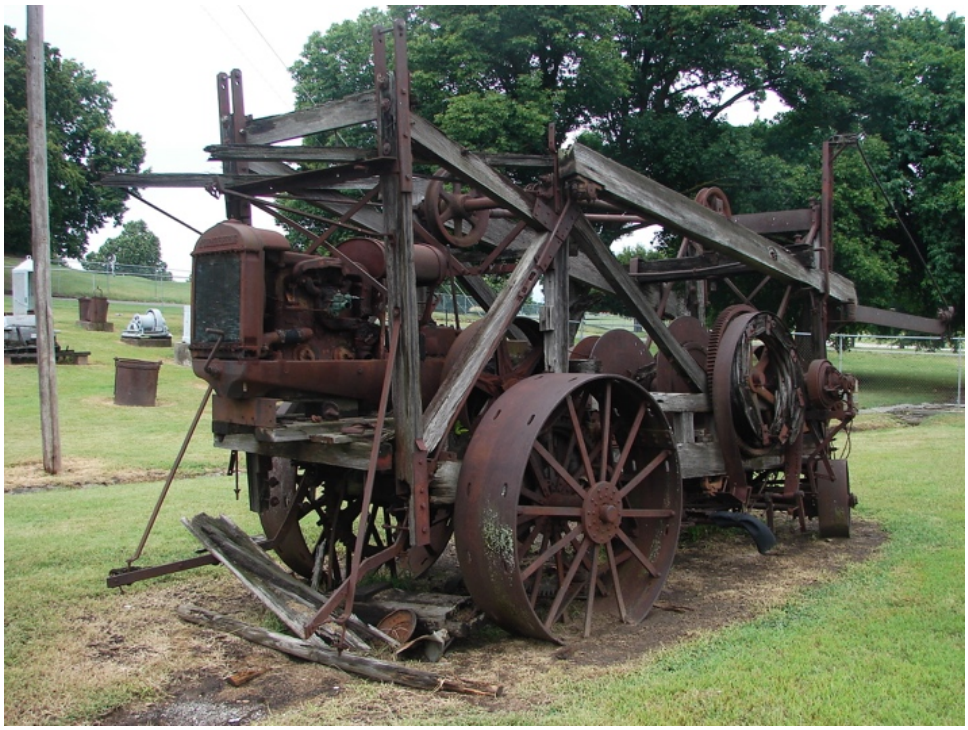
The Post Foundation's public programs should be recognized and integrated into the city-wide interpretive plan. Other partners involved in public programming and events should be recognized in the interpretive plan as well, including the Downtown Joplin Alliance, Spiva Center for the Arts, Connect-2-Culture, churches, and others.

RECOMMENDATION 8.3.A: Include the planned public programs of the Post Foundation and other partners as elements of the city-wide interpretive plan for public outreach.

- Include programming of the **Historic Preservation Commission** (see Chapter 4) and **Neighborhood Associations** (see Chapter 6) in the overall set of public programming for Joplin.

RECOMMENDATION 8.3.B: Create a city-wide calendar of public events throughout Joplin focused on promoting community engagement.

- Organize and **coordinate public event programming** through the Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau. Include events led by the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Downtown Joplin Alliance, Connect2Culture, Parks and Recreation Department, private partners, and others as appropriate.



Historic artifacts can be placed in public parks to support interpretation.