

The fun, enjoy, relax, and be happy parts of our county and city life are what the Perry Parks and Recreation Department is all about. Our park and recreation facilities and programs are one of the very best in the entire State of Missouri. This begins with our impressive Perry Park Center building completed in 1998 at the cost of \$10 Million.

The heart of the park system, however, is our very capable and knowledgeable full-time staff of 12 employees: Jared Tanz, Jennifer Lopez, Emily Steele, Chad Unterreiner, Julie King, Jackie Schumer, Keith Riney, Jason Mattingly, Casey Hemmann, Tamara Whistler, Linda Boxdorfer, and Brenda Zahner. We also have 70 part-time, mostly summer, employees who serve as lifeguards, umpires, instructors, groundskeepers, league supervisors, and other jobs.

Our parks cover 225 acres in seven different locations. We have 10 ball fields, 10 soccer fields, 10 playgrounds, 8 pavilions, 5 basketball courts, 2 tennis courts, 3 sand volleyball courts, a football field, 2-mile paved walking/biking trail, 18 hole disc golf course, and acres of grass and trees to enjoy. Inside the Perry Park Center are a 400-seat theater, large heated pool, 2 gyms, 2 handball courts, a fitness center, library, among other things.

This past year, over 100,000 visitors passed through our park center doors. Approximately, 300,000 people visited and enjoyed our outdoor ball fields, pavilions, playgrounds, and trails.

The cost is \$2 Million annually to operate and maintain our park. This money comes from county and city sales tax revenue and from user fees. A bargain for the amount of enjoyment we parents and grandparents realize while watching our children and grandchildren play baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, and football. Also a bargain for the amount of exercise and sports activity our children enjoy.

Part of God's plan on this earth is for his people to be happy and enjoy life in preparation for a greater joy and happiness. Parks and recreation are an instrument in that plan.

Thank you, park employees, for providing all of us in our county and city this important part of a better quality life.

Ken Baer, Mayor