
Appendix A

Parks Inspected

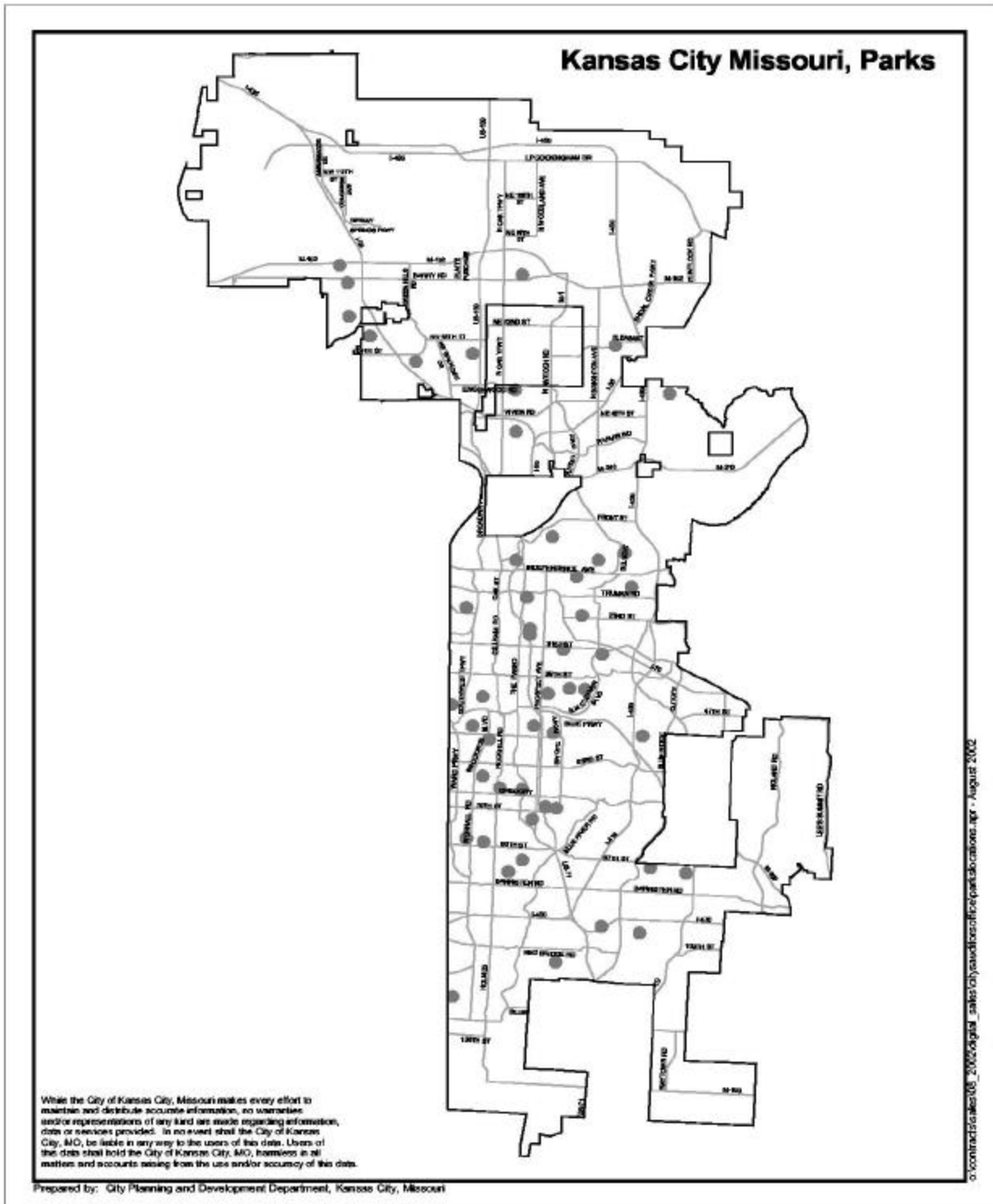
Below is a list of the parks the auditors inspected. Demographic information is from the Parks Reference Guide, Parks and Recreation Department, Kansas City, Missouri.

Park	Location	Acreage	Council District	Maintenance District
Budd Park	St. John Ave & Brighton Ave	26.39	1	1
Crestview Park	NE 43 rd St & N Troost Ave	9.07	1	1
Englewood Park	Englewood Road & N Troost Ave	50.75	1	1
Garrison Square	5 th St & Troost Ave	3.09	1	1
Heim Park	Chestnut Trfwy & Martin Ave	4.17	1	1
Lykins, Dr. Johnstone Square	8 th St & Myrtle Ave	4.95	1	1
Northeast Athletic Fields	6500 E St John Ave	18.99	1	1
Pleasant Valley Road Athletic Complex	6401 NE Pleasant Valley Rd	27	1	1
San Rafael Park	53 rd St & San Rafael Dr	16.16	1	1
Barry Road Park	7601 NW Barry Rd	10.96	2	1
Clayton Park	NE 64 th Terr & N Belleview	33.01	2	1
Highland View Park	NE 85 th Terr & N Virginia Ave	13.11	2	1
Observation Park	20th St & Holly St	8.88	2	2
Park Forest	NW 73 rd St & N Autumn Ave	10.03	2	1
Strathbury Park	I-29 & NW 60 th St	14.52	2	1
Wildberry Park	NW 87 th St & Pomona Ave	7.25	2	1
Woodsmoke Park	NW 70 th St & Hilldale	8.1	2	1
Ashland Square	23 rd St and Elmwood Ave	7.53	3	2
Central Park	Linwood Blvd and Bales Ave	11.89	3	2
Crews, Nelson C. Square	27 th and Woodland Ave	6.29	3	2
Liberty Park	34 th Terrace & Stadium Drive	17.78	3	2
Sheffield Park	12 th St & Winchester Ave	11.24	3	1
Spring Valley Park & Plaza	27 th St & Woodland Ave	32.73	3	2
The Parade	The Paseo & Truman Road	20.99	3	2
Vineyard Park	40 th Terr and Vineyard Dr	30.5	3	2
Arbor Villa Park	66 th Terr and Main St	1.11	4	3
Brookside Park	Brookside Blvd & 56 th St	5.67	4	2
Holmes Park	Holmes Rd & 69 th St	9.14	4	3
Loose Park	51 st St & Wornall Rd	74.08	4	2
Mill Creek Park	JC Nichols Pkwy & 48 th St to Ward Parkway	11.43	4	2
South Oak Park	83 rd St & Oak St	19.47	4	2
Sunnyside Park	83 rd St & Summit St	21.25	4	3
Westwood Park	47 th St & Wyoming St	9.33	4	2
Agnes Park	74 th St & Agnes Ave	1.95	5	3
Arleta Park	77 th St & Prospect Ave	4.62	5	3
Blenheim Park	Gregory Blvd & The Paseo	6.93	5	3
Blue Hills Park	53 rd St & Brooklyn Ave	10.37	5	2
Cleveland Park	43 rd St & Cleveland Ave	29.04	5	2
Noble Park	Cleveland Ave & 75 th St	14.3	5	3

Performance Audit: Park Conditions

Park	Location	Acreage	Council District	Maintenance District
Oak Park	43 rd St & Agnes Ave	6.49	5	2
Palmer Park	53 rd St & Smalley Ave	6.15	5	3
Town Fork Creek Greenway	51 st Blue Pkwy & Cleveland Ave	68.19	5	2
Clark-Ketterman Athletic Field	107 th St & Skiles Ave	35.51	6	3
James A. Reed Park	89 th St & James A. Reed Rd	12.13	6	3
Jerry Darter Park	105 th St & Hillcrest Rd	24.11	6	3
Klapmeyer Park	126 th St & Stateline Rd	13.5	6	3
Legacy East Park	91 st St & Brooklyn Ave	12.7	6	3
Legacy West Park	94 th St & Troost Ave	15.1	6	3
Terrace Park	115 th St & Cleveland Ave	4.29	6	3
White Oak Park	89 th St & Crescent Ave	24.67	6	3

Map of 50 Parks Inspected in June and July 2002



Appendix B

Methodology

Selection of Sample Parks

We identified and chose the sample of 50 city parks by using the Parks Reference Guide (a guide published by Parks and Recreation that lists parks and amenities). The parks in the sample were evenly distributed by council district and maintenance district. We chose parks of varying sizes, but eliminated the largest parks - those over 100 acres. Additionally, we chose parks with common facilities (shelters, ball diamonds, and tennis courts) to rate between the different districts. Some parks were ruled out of the sample because City Planning and Development was not able to establish that the Parks and Recreation Department owned the land. Park land leased to the Parks and Recreation Department was eliminated from the sample as were parks that are on boulevards, and/or on streets. Parks listed as undeveloped by the Parks and Recreation Department were initially eliminated from the sample. Two parks on the undeveloped list were actually developed and we added them to our sample.

Development of the Inspection Form

We developed our inspection form, which we used in our rating process, based on a rating form from *How Effective Are Your Community Services?*⁶; checklists developed by other cities for their rating of park conditions; and Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department inspection forms. We piloted the inspection form on three parks and then refined it. Parks and Recreation management reviewed the inspection form during our audit entrance conference. They agreed that it was a reasonable instrument.

Survey Method

Two auditors conducted fifty inspections during regular work hours between June 12 and July 26, 2002. They walked around the park together and discussed the conditions. If there was any problem with a park condition they recorded that on the inspection form and took at least one photo of it. The auditors discussed items on the inspection form when a rating was not obvious and not easily agreed upon. To test the reasonableness and consistency of their evaluations, they asked the questions, “would this condition give the average citizen a negative impression?”, “would we feel confident standing here with Parks management while pointing out this problem as we have chosen to rate it?”, and “how did we rate a similar condition in a previous inspection?” When

⁶ Harry P. Hatry, Louis H. Blair, Donald M. Fisk, John M. Greiner, John R. Hall, Jr, and Philip S. Schaenman, *How Effective Are Your Community Services?*, (Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute, ICMA, 1992), pp. 254-255.

the two auditors did not agree on a rating they discussed it in a team meeting with the audit manager and decided what the rating should be.

At the conclusion of each inspection, the auditors reviewed the entries on the form to be sure they agreed on their accuracy, consistency and reasonableness and together decided on a rating of “not applicable,” “no problem,” “limited problem,” or “widespread problem” for each item. Additionally, an amenity or structure could be rated as a hazard.

The ratings were defined as:

- “not applicable” if the amenity or structure did not exist in the park.
- “no problem” if the park amenity existed and there was no problem with it.
- “limited problem” when only a few of several of the same amenity had a problem, or a condition was only noted in a small portion of the park.
- “widespread problem” when one of one amenity had a significant problem, or if most of the same amenity had problem conditions, or if the condition was noted in a large portion of the park.
- “hazard” if we felt the conditions could pose a serious threat to safety.

We brought conditions we identified as hazards to the attention of Parks and Recreation management. We returned to the site of the hazard about two weeks later to confirm that the conditions had been corrected.

For the larger parks our inspections lasted as long as 3 hours. For smaller parks with no amenities it took us as little as 20 minutes. This allowed 3 to 6 inspections to be completed in a day.

In order to maintain a citywide perspective across all parks inspected, we changed council district on successive inspection days. Council districts and park maintenance districts were about evenly represented among all the parks inspected.

Quality Assurance

Audit supervisors visited several parks shortly after the parks were inspected. They carried copies of the completed inspection forms and walked around the parks looking for the conditions the raters had noted. They also looked for any problems that had been overlooked. The audit manager reviewed photos and discussed concerns or questions with raters.

After the 50 inspections were complete, the team reviewed the completed inspection forms, the database entries, and the photos to assure accuracy and consistency of the overall park evaluation process. About 1,400 digital photos were taken to support the observations. Most photos are of problems we encountered and a few were taken to provide examples of good conditions.

Analysis for Significant Differences

Although the audit was not designed to identify geographical differences in park conditions we were able to do some analysis for these differences. We analyzed whether there were differences in park conditions in the three park maintenance districts, in the parks east and west of Troost, and in parks north and south of the river. We looked at inspection items that showed high rates of problems to see whether there were any geographical differences in the condition of parks. Inspection items with a 40 percent or higher rate of problems were tested using chi square. To perform the chi square we combined limited and widespread problems into one category. This combined “problem” category was tested against the “no problem” category. Because certain minimum values must be present in the data to perform chi square, not every inspection item could be analyzed geographically. However, the three maintenance districts, which divide the city into north, central, and southern zones, were compared on ratings of litter, illegal dumping, playground equipment, and dead trees. All of these showed no significant differences by maintenance district. Comparisons between parks east and west of Troost showed that there was less litter in parks west of Troost than statistically expected, but illegal dumping, play equipment and play surfaces, paths, dead trees and picnic tables all showed no significant difference in prevalence. Comparisons between parks north and south of the Missouri river showed there are fewer parks with litter north of the river than statistically expected.

Appendix C

Inspection Results

