



The ROELAND PARKER

Aug/Sept 2021



On July 1, 2021, the number of passengers went through a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoint was 2,147,090. This was one of the first, if not the first, times the number of air travels surpassed pre-pandemic 2019 levels. However, it is important to remember that the pandemic is still a present reality. Different modes of travel have different potential risks and precautions should be taken before, during, and after journeys.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a series of travel tips for safer travel as the county continues to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC recommends delaying travel until you have been fully vaccinated. If you are travelling with children who currently cannot get vaccinated, follow recommendations for unvaccinated people and choose the safer travel options. Remember, that you are not fully vaccinated until two weeks after your second or final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Information changes rapidly, stay tuned in to our website www.roelandpark.net and follow us on social media for the latest updates on the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Masks are required on all forms of transit such as buses, planes, and trains, as well in all transportation depots including bus stations, airports, and train stations.

Be sure to maintain proper distancing of at 6 feet and wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer.

It is strongly recommended that people not travel until they are fully vaccinated. If you are traveling domestically, you may need to take certain precautions depending on where you go and your vaccination status. Be sure to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and do not travel if you are sick.

If you are unvaccinated, you will need to take a COVID test prior to your trip as well as when you return.

Your destination may have specific COVID-19 protocols, be sure to check before your departure.

It is strongly recommended that people not travel until they are fully vaccinated. If you are traveling internationally, you have additional precautions and protocols to follow than if you were traveling within the US. Be sure to check the country of destination for any COVID-19 rules and regulations. Failure to following COVID-19 protocols could result in your being sent back to the US.

Be sure to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and do not travel if you are sick. International travel requires COVID tests before and after your trip.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)		
Domestic Travel	RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	
	Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before travel	✓	
Get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. Self-quarantine for 10 days if you don't get tested.	✓	
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓

 cdc.gov/coronavirus

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)		
International Travel	RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	
	Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the US	✓	
Mandatory test required before flying to US	✓	✓
Get tested 3-5 days after travel	✓	✓
Self-quarantine after travel for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without test	✓	
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓

 cdc.gov/coronavirus

Restoring Roeland Park's Riparian Gem

Cooper Creek Park is more than a park. It is a riparian ecosystem: a woodland directly adjacent to a waterway. A healthy riparian woodland ecosystem serves as a buffer for the adjacent stream. Its multiple vegetation layers (canopy, midstory, shrub, and groundcover) as well as its forest litter layers slow down and absorb rainwater, mitigating flooding. Healthy riparian ecosystems provide multiple benefits to people, and they provide a place for native plants and animals to flourish.

However, most riparian ecosystems along streams of Cooper Creek's size in the Kansas City metro are far from healthy. Most have been destroyed and replaced with concrete. Streambanks encased in concrete behave in ways opposite to those of riparian buffers. The concrete prevents the ground from absorbing any stormwater and accelerates the water flow down the watercourse, which dramatically increases flooding and erodes remaining streambank soil. This leads to more and more streambank destruction, ultimately transforming the entire ecosystem into a lifeless concrete ditch.

The fact that Cooper Creek's woodland even exists makes it special. It is a tiny riparian gem in the midst of the metro-wide concrete jungle. But Cooper Creek's riparian ecosystem is unhealthy and under threat for another reason. Invasive wintercreeper and bush honeysuckle have overrun the groundcover and shrub layers of the woodland. They prevent the next generation of trees and other native plants from germinating. Wintercreeper also gradually works its way up the vegetation layers, killing shrubs, midstory trees, and even mature canopy trees by growing up their trunks and slowly strangling them. Over time, without intervention, these invasive plants will destroy the entire ecosystem.

To save Cooper Creek's riparian ecosystem, the City will contract with Habitat Architects to remove the wintercreeper. This fall, Habitat Architects will spray a foliar herbicide on the wintercreeper, strategically applying

the herbicide while Cooper Creek's trees and other native plants are dormant. This means the herbicide will affect only the wintercreeper. Habitat Architects, along with local volunteers, will also remove the bush honeysuckle in the park. After a second foliar spray treatment in 2022, Habitat Architects will plant native trees and shrubs in the woodland to replace what the wintercreeper has destroyed. All of this work will help restore the health of our city's riparian ecosystem, providing multiple benefits for generations to come.



"Wintercreeper Strangling Hackberry" -
photo by Adison Banks



News from the Arts Advisory Committee

Remembering George Schlegel

Family, friends, and members of the Roeland Park community came together on Saturday, July 17th to celebrate the life of George R. Schlegel. George served as the Arts Commissioner for over 25 years. He started the tradition of monthly artist works hanging in the gallery that now bears his name and the many sculptures that are on display throughout Roeland Park are also part of his legacy.

Beautiful music filled the Gallery and Conference Room provided by the group. Speeches from Mayor Kelly, artist Tom Styrkowicz, Arts Committee members, and George's family and friends filled the day with memories of our time with George. A continuous power point of the many sculptures and pictures of George helped to



The honorary plaque was donated by Peter Schlegel, George's brother.

show his many contributions to the community.

Mary Schlegel and their son Matt received a bronze plaque honoring George that will hang in the Schlegel Gallery and a memory book with pictures of George and many of his sculptures.

George was a man of ideas and dreams to make Roeland Park a beautiful place for its residents. The Arts Committee will strive to continue his work and live up to his ideals. As George says: "Art is the Magic in Roeland Park".



Tribute to George Schlegel

The Remembering George R. Schlegel Tribute exhibit will continue until August 28, 2021.

The September exhibit will be Penny Thieme's artists of the VALA Grup. VALA Gallery's "Convergence" is an exhibition feature the distinct styles of a dozen established and emerging visual artists over the age of 40. The artists share their hopes, dreams, and inspirations on a wide array of topics that are both personal and universal. The exhibit will be viewable in the George Schlegel Gallery in City Hall during regular City Hall hours from September 1 to October 1.

The Roeland Park Arts Advisory Committee has developed a project to signify unity in our community. Made possible by a grant from the Kansas Creative Arts Industries

Commission (KCAIC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the 311 foot long concrete retaining wall northeast of Aldi's on 47th

St will be painted by 7 artists. This mural will reflect aspects of our community, incorporating the values of our city's residents. So keep an eye out for amazing changes on the wall!



This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how the National Endowment for the



Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit <http://www.arts.gov>.

Relaxing at the Roeland Park Aquatics Center

It's difficult to believe but the pool season will be winding down soon. We wanted to thank everyone who made the renovation project at the Aquatics Center possible and express our appreciation to everyone who made this season a resounding success.

The Roeland Park Aquatics Committee has been crucial to this process. Waters Edge Aquatic Design and Royal Construction were instrumental in completing the renovations in time for a summer opening. There wouldn't be a wonderful experience at the Aquatics Center without the City's amazing lifeguards and the incredible visitors who have spent time swimming and sunbathing at the renovated facility.

This is the first year that the Aquatics Center has been run by the City. Under Parks and Recreation Superintendent Tony Nichols' leadership, this year has overcome numerous challenges with the construction work, pandemic safety precautions, and reduced staffing. We couldn't have done it without him!

Keep an eye out for updates about when the Aquatic Center is open as the season comes to a close.



The Roeland Park Recreation Campus



Roeland Park Community Center

(913) 826-3160

Office Hours

Hours may vary, call for details

Monday-Friday: 8 am-6 pm

Saturday: 8 am-1 pm

Fitness Room

Hours may vary, call for details

Monday-Friday: 7 am-6 pm

(closed for cleaning 2pm-3 pm M-F)

Saturday: 8 am-1 pm

Sunday: Closed

Roeland Park Sports Dome

(913) 362-8700

Please call for open gym and court rental availability.

www.jcprd.com

Please note: All upcoming programs are subject to change based on the recommendations of local government and health officials.



50 Plus

Ice Cream Bingo* - Aug. 12, 1:30pm - 3:00 pm, \$5

BINGO! Delight in food, prizes, fun and 12 games of bingo. Variety of prizes awarded including gift certificates. Please pre-register at least one week in advance. For the enjoyment of all participants, children are not permitted to attend 50 Plus Bingos.

Gameshows of the 80's - Family Feud - Aug. 19, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm, \$10

Have you ever dreamed of hearing your name over the loud speaker, "you're the next contestant, come on down!" Join in on this silly rendition of television game shows. Everyone gets a chance to play. Refreshments will be served. Please register in advance, space is limited. This program is part of our year-long 50th anniversary celebration for 50 Plus.

Copy Cat Restaurant Recipes - PF Chang's Lettuce Wraps - Sept. 9, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, \$37

Learn how to make your favorite restaurant meals. Watch our instructor demonstrate the ease of copying popular restaurant recipes. In-person and virtual options available with in-person classes receiving samples of cooked recipes. Recipes included for all registered class participants.

Tai Chi - Thursdays, Sept. 9 to Sept. 30, 5:00 pm - 5:50 pm, \$36

Tai Chi offers a slow and gentle exercise with benefits in endurance, flexibility, and muscle strengthening. All experience levels welcome in this course. 4 - 50 min. sessions

Zumba Gold - Wednesdays, Sept. 15 to Oct. 13, 6:30 pm - 7:20 pm, \$36

Zumba Gold - Saturdays, Sept. 25 to Oct. 23, 10:00 am - 10:50 am, \$36

Perfect for active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class. Easy-to-follow choreography focuses on balance, range of motion, coordination and fun! 5 - 50 min. sessions

Chili Bingo* - Sept. 30, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm, \$15 (After Sept. 24 - \$18)

Celebrate the changing of the seasons meeting new friends over a mild chili, salad, and cinnamon roll dinner - it's a Kansas thing! 12 games of bingo included. Prizes can range from gift cards to gift baskets. Please register by 9/23. Everyone receives a special fall-themed gift.

* Cost of admission covers food and staff time to administer the bingo program. No additional charge for bingo.

Youth

Becoming a Babysitter (Ages 12-16) - Sept. 17, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, \$72

Babysitting requires a lot of responsibility and preparation. Attend this class to learn how to become a babysitter. The class covers: personal safety, job expectations, easy cooking, appropriate activities for different ages, and a First Aid and CPR certification. A babysitting manual is provided. Bring a sack lunch and water. If you have a group of six and would like a private class, call Lisa at (913) 826-3161 to schedule.



Check our website for fall tennis offerings at R Park!

Apple and Android users can now simply open their camera app and scan the QR code below for 24/7 direct access to all programs and events occurring at Roeland Park Community Center!



Roeland Park Budget

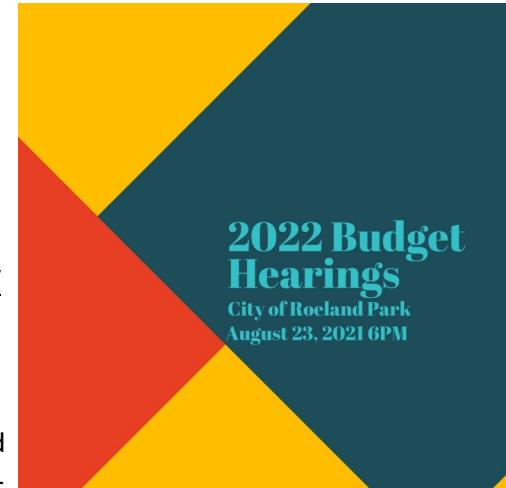
Roeland Park's budget process is underway! The City will be holding hearings regarding the proposed budget and its budget objectives. The City and the Governing Body have outlined eight overarching goals that have a total of 12 objectives within them.

The eight goals are:

- Prioritize Communication and Engagement with the Community
- Improve Community Assets
- Keep Our Community Safe and Secure
- Provide Great Customer Service
- Cultivate a Rewarding Work Environment
- Encourage Investment in Our Community
- Work to Implement Strategic Goals
- Encourage Sustainability, Diversity, and Inclusion

The hearings are a great opportunity for you to give your thoughts, opinions, and voice to what's in the budget. The City will host the public hearing on August 23, 2021 for the 2021 Budget Amendment, the 2022 Mill Rate, and the proposed 2022 Budget. The City will also seek to adopt the 2022 Mill Rate and the proposed 2022 Budget later on August 23. The proposed 2022 Budget can be found at <https://www.roelandpark.org/394/2022-Budget>.

You can attend the public hearing and City Council meeting either in person or virtually through the Zoom platform. Space may be limited



for in-person attendance to maintain proper distancing. Please keep an eye out on our website and social media for updates. The virtual meeting link can be found on the City's calendar on the homepage of the city's website roelandpark.net.



A Unity Surface Playground is one of the objectives in the proposed budget.

If It's on the Ground, It's in Our Water

Careful how you wash your car! Incorrect cleaning could lead to polluted waterways. Unlike water that flows through our homes, water entering storm drains does not undergo treatment before it is discharged into our waterways. Cars washed on streets and driveways carry soaps, dangerous detergents, residue from exhaust fumes, gasoline, heavy metals from rust, and motor oils into our streams, rivers, and lakes. The phosphates from soap can cause excess algae to grow.

Litter on the streets can also get rinsed down storm drains and pollute and damage our waterways; one of the many reasons littering is bad.

So what can you do? Some of the things you can do to make washing your car better for the environment is to use biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based cleaners, and minimize water usage by using a spray gun with flow restriction. Washing your car on an area that absorbs water, such as gravel or grass, filters water before it enters groundwater or creeks whereas washing on driveways allow for runoff. It's up to all of us to protect our environment.



RP Acts of Kindness



Have you witnessed an act of kindness in Roeland Park? If so we want to hear about it! We know that Roeland Parkers are some of the best people around and we don't want their good deeds to go unnoticed. Acts of kindness can be random or intentional, we want to hear about what you have witnessed and we may share it on our social media and in our City newsletter. Those who submit the act and those who perform it will get some great RP schwag! Help us share some good news and complete the form below. We may contact you for more details and pictures. The submittal form can be found at: <https://www.roelandpark.org/381/RP-Acts-of-Kindness>. Thank you for your efforts and being so great, Roeland Park! #RPPride.

Community is Everything

The holidays are approaching! The City of Roeland Park plans to 'adopt' several families this upcoming holiday season. If you would like to help or donate, keep an eye out on our website www.roelandpark.net for additional information. The City will also be accepting non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Please contact Kelley Nielsen if you have any questions: knielsen@roelandpark.org.





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Remodeling for Accessible Homes Guide

Roeland Park partnered with MARC and other cities to develop a guide to remodeling homes for accessibility. It provides to-scale remodeling plan concepts that would be common for homes such as those located in Roeland Park. It also provides cost estimates for these efforts in order that this guide serves as an educational and informational piece for residents and builders.

The guide serves to put the concepts of Universal Design and accessibility, which are often difficult to conceptualize, into an easily understood format. The cost estimates are to help people determine the magnitude of each component. The guidebook can be found at <https://www.roelandpark.org/280/Building-Construction>.

Roeland Park is happy to have partnered for this guide and to have had conversations around Universal Design and increasing accessibility throughout the City and the KC area. Roeland Park will always be dedicated to making the community more accessible and reaffirm our support for a community for all ages. Look for Universal Design and accessibility resources being incorporated in the City's website in the near future.

