

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023

THE ROELAND PARKER

Official Newsletter of the City of Roeland Park

Letter from the Mayor

Hi, Neighbors.

On January 3, I was sworn in as Mayor of Roeland Park after the City Council unanimously appointed me to fill the vacancy that occurred when my predecessor, Mike Kelly, was elected Chair of the Johnson County Board of Commissioners. It is an honor and privilege to represent you and serve our amazing community.

Per City code, I will serve in this position through the November general election at which time I plan to run as a candidate for the opportunity to continue serving you as Mayor. I am thankful to have earned the respect and confidence of my fellow governing body members, and I look forward to earning your vote in November.

Roeland Park is considered a regional leader in policy making, often being the first city to tackle "tough" issues. In fact, a long-time resident once described our community as a light of justice in the state of Kansas. I count myself lucky to be part of that light and I hope you do, too.

I'm proud of all we have accomplished during my six years as a Ward 4 Councilmember including upgrades to parks and community amenities, critical infrastructure improvements, protecting the environment, and attracting new businesses to decrease the residential tax burden. I am ready to continue working with you, now as Mayor, to ensure future generations of Roeland Parkers enjoy the safe and inclusive community we've built together.

Increasing opportunities for your participation in shaping the future of Roeland Park is a top priority. Please contact me with your questions, concerns, and ideas.

All the best,

Mayor Michael Poppa



This issue:

Letter from the Mayor

PAGE 1

Cooper Creek Restoration

PAGE 2

Street Reconstruction & The Rocks

PAGE 3

Community Center

PAGE 4

Charter Ordinance

PAGE 5

R Park & Summer Jobs

PAGE 6

Energy Audit & City Contacts

PAGE 7

Buena Vista & Hiring

PAGE 8

Cooper Creek Park Restoration to Continue in 2023

BY ANNE BRADY BLOOS

Walking through Cooper Creek Park today, you can see many of the improvements made during Phases 1 and 2 of the Restoration Project; the sculptures, flower beds, picnic table, benches and play structures draw you in and invite you to linger.

Less apparent are the steps taken to restore the park's riparian woodland ecosystem to a healthy state. These improvements—the heart of the Cooper Creek Restoration Project—included removing nonnative, invasive plants and replacing them with hundreds of native trees, shrubs and other plants.

Phase 3, which the city has budgeted \$12,331 for, will focus on completing and maintaining this important restoration work. Invasive plants will inevitably try to regain a foothold along the creek banks. These will be monitored and treated with herbicide as needed, so the native plants can thrive.

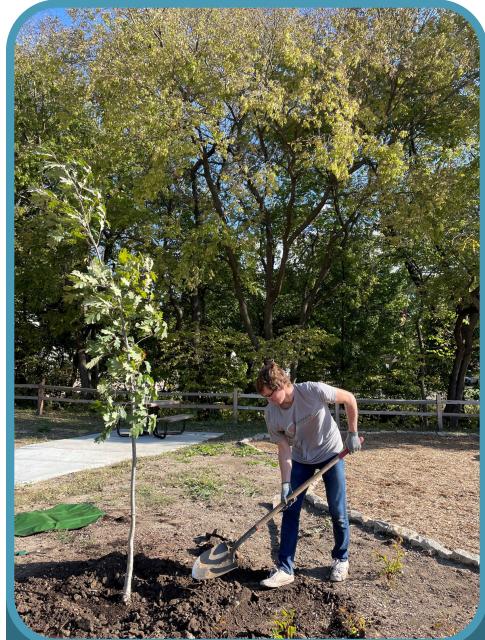
Children's Winter Fun on the Playscape
Photo by Gretchen Davis



More trees and plants will be planted to increase diversity and to replace any casualties. The beds will be cared for and replenished with pollinator-friendly plants to maintain the park's status as a Monarch Waystation.

Another goal of Phase 3 is to raise awareness among residents of how they can help protect our local environment by planting native species and eradicating invasive plants in their own yards. In this way, the restoration of Cooper Creek's habitat may serve as an example that could benefit all of Roeland Park and its neighboring cities.

To that end, a sign providing information about the riparian woodland ecosystem and its restoration will be installed in the park, as will a Little Free Library filled with books about nature and our place in it. More information will be shared via QR codes that link to the city's website and through outreach to local schools and conservation groups.



Planting Native Trees in Cooper Creek
Photo by Mark Wiebe

Canterbury Street Reconstruction

PHASE 1 - SPRING 2023

W 51st St to W 48th St

PHASE 2 - SUMMER 2023

W 48th St to W 47th St

COMPLETION - EARLY FALL 2023

WHAT'S GOING ON?

On December 19th the City Council voted to approve the TIF 4 project plan, the Rocks CID, the intent to issue IRBs, the development agreement with EPC, and the rezoning of the Rocks site

A public hearing was held on December 5th regarding the TIF 4 Project Plan. This was previously a part of TIF 3, but was carved out and only applies to the Rocks. It does not affect any other taxes or jurisdictions. The Planning Commission found that the TIF 4 Project Plan is consistent with the City's Comprehensive plan.

RESIDENTIAL ACCESS

- There will be a slight duration in which homeowners will not have access to their driveways – during the construction and cure-time of the curb and gutter adjacent to the driveway as well as the reconstruction and cure-time of the driveway approaches. **The closure of select driveways is expected to be limited to 3-5 days each (depending on weather).**
- Special accommodations will be made for those with special medical needs and those with disabilities.
- Street access will be limited to residents that live on Canterbury while street under demolition. Driveway access will be maintained except for the days listed above.

The Rocks

WHAT'S TO COME?

In March, the Planning Commission will vote to approve the final development plan presented by EPC. Once this plan is approved, pre-construction activities may begin. The development agreement approved by Council requires the construction commence by the end of Q2 2024 and be substantially complete by the end of Q2 2027.

The Roeland Park Recreation Campus

Exciting improvements coming summer 2023!

**Offices, Fitness Facilities, and Childhood Development Center
remain open during construction.**

 **WE'VE
MOVED
TEMPORARILY** 

Visit our website for information on
program locations or check out the
weekly offerings below, now at City Hall!

Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Gentle Yoga - 3:30 pm <i>* Registration Required</i>	Knitting Group - 1 pm <i>* Tai Chi - 5 pm</i>	*Tai Chi - 10 am	Mah Jongg - 12 pm Gentle Yoga - 3:30 pm	Hobby Group - 1 pm

For more information and to register: CALL (913) 826-3160

**Roeland Park
Community Center**
(913) 826-3160

Program Registration
(913) 831-3359

Community Center Office
and Fitness Room Hours

Monday - Thursday:
7am to 8 pm

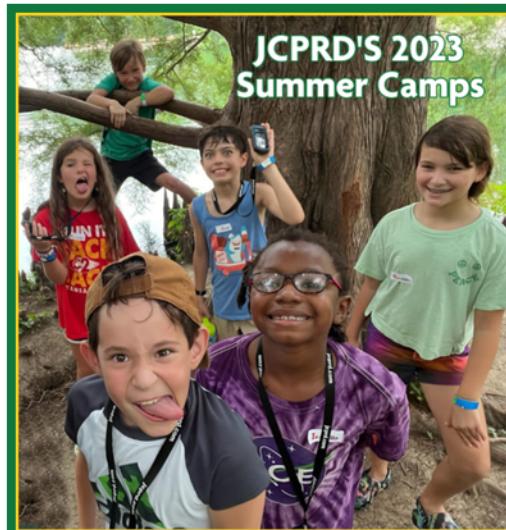
Friday:
7am to 5 pm

Saturday:
8 am to 1 pm

Sunday: Closed

**Roeland Park
Sports Dome**
(913) 362-8700

Please call for open gym

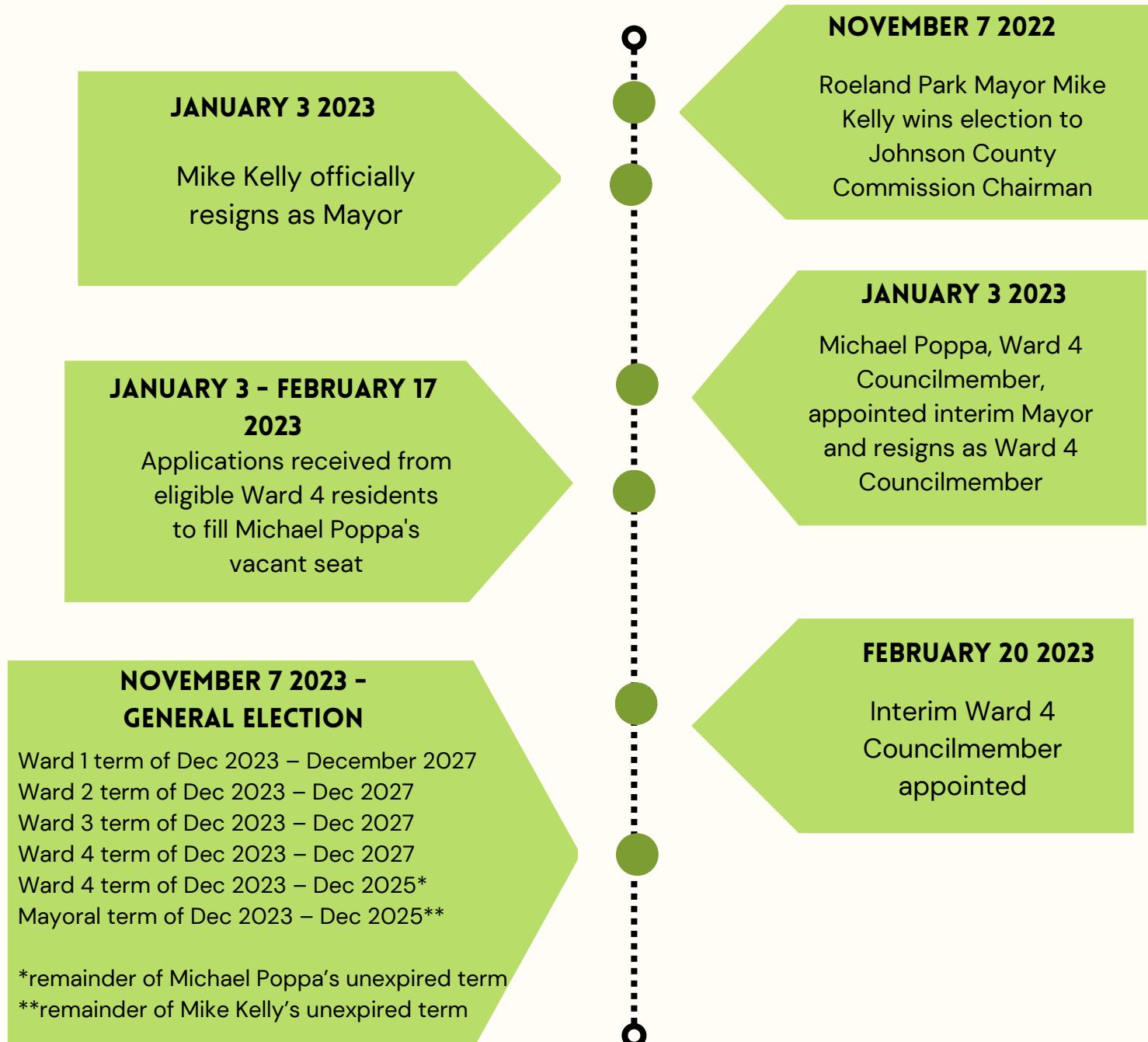


**Check out Johnson County Park &
Recreation's 2023 Summer Camps.
Scan the QR Code or go to: [JCPRD.com/
camps](http://JCPRD.com/camps)**

New Charter Ordinance

On October 3rd, the Council approved Charter Ordinance 38 which outlines how vacancies on the Governing Body will be filled. This ordinance states:

- A vacant mayoral seat will be filled by appointment from the existing Council members until the next general election.
- A vacant council seat will be filled by application and appointment from eligible residents until the next general election.
- The interim appointees will have the opportunity to run for the remainder of the unexpired term.



R Park Wildflower Meadow

What's going on in the corner of R Park?

Volunteers have reimagined an unplanned 3000-square foot portion of the park into a wildflower meadow with incredible potential to benefit wildlife, visitors and native flora.

The wildflower meadow is a three-year phased project designed to beautify the park and to educate the public. The work began with thoughtful planning and a project approval from City Council. In early winter 2022, volunteers laid temporary landscape fabric to prepare the site. This temporary measure is to eradicate the existing weeds and to make the ground ready for seeding in the Spring/Summer. Once the site is adequately prepared, volunteers will remove the landscape fabric (and hopefully reuse it later), then rake the ground and plant a midwestern wildflower and grass mix. For immediate impact, we hope to include native plants arranged in a naturalistic pattern.

Wildflower meadows in Suburban and urban settings offer several advantages:

- Plant diversity attracts insects and other invertebrates (including butterflies, bees, spiders and beneficial wasps), birds, and small mammals
- Flowering species add a changing palette of color to the park throughout the seasons
- Provides insects and seeds for songbirds and wildlife.
- Provides habitat for pollinators including flowers for bees and host plants for butterfly caterpillars.
- Lowers maintenance costs and energy expenditures
- Once established, the native meadow does not need supplemental irrigation.
- Native plants have deeper root systems than traditional lawns and are better able to capture carbon and store water in the soil.



A wildflower meadow can be built on many acres or in a small pot on a porch or balcony! If you'd like to create your own wildflower meadow, there are many resources on the internet to help you get started.

Follow our progress in the R Park Wildflower Meadow in the seasons to come!



VISIT

<https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/starting-a-native-wildflower-meadow/>

<https://blogs.k-state.edu/meadow/>

<https://wilyourgarden.com/blog/>

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/wildflower-gardening>

WE ARE HIRING!

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

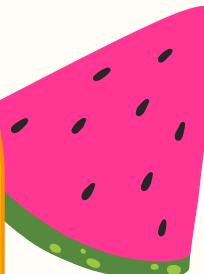
Benefits

\$250 REFERRAL BONUS

\$250 END-OF-SUMMER BONUS

FREE LIFEGUARD TRAINING

**FREE POOL AND FITNESS
MEMBERSHIP FOR YOUR
WHOLE FAMILY**



Open positions

LIFEGUARD

DECK ATTENDANT

CONCESSIONS ATTENDANT

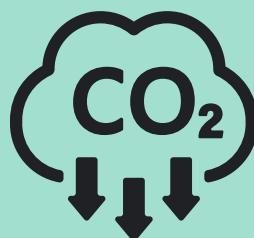
POOL RECEPTIONIST

COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF MEMBER

Contact Anthony at
amarshall@roelandpark.org
to apply

Residential Energy Audit Incentive Program

Looking for a way to reduce carbon emissions, save money, and improve your home? The City's Energy Audit Incentive program is still ongoing!



Visit the City's Website at <https://www.roelandpark.org/397/Climate-and-Sustainability> for the list of approved contractors and the program application

TO PARTICIPATE:

1. **Schedule** a home energy audit with a qualified contractor
2. **Submit** your application for reimbursement to the City, including copy of invoice and customized report
3. **Receive** up to \$400 back if application meets all criteria
4. **Implement** recommendations to save money and reduce carbon emissions!

City Contacts



City Administrator – Keith Moody
Kmoody@roelandpark.org

Finance Director/Asst. City Administrator- Erin Winn
Ewinn@roelandpark.org

City Clerk- Kelley Nielsen
Knielsen@roelandpark.org

Chief of Police- John Morris
Emorris@roelandpark.org

Director of Public Works – Donnie Scharff
Dscharff@roelandpark.org

Mayor – Michael Poppa
mpoppa@roelandpark.org
(913) 722-2600

Ward 1 – Jan Faidley
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Ward 1 – Tom Madigan
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(913) 526-6997

Ward 2 – Jen Hill
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(913) 722-2600

Ward 2 – Benjamin Dickens
bdickens@roelandpark.org
(913) 544-1259

Ward 3 – Trisha Brauer
tbrauer@roelandpark.org
(913) 722-2600

Ward 3 – Kate Raglow
kraglow@roelandpark.org
(913) 722-2600

Ward 4 – Vacant

Ward 4 – Michael Rebne
mrebne@roelandpark.org
(913) 228-2650





We're Hiring!

BE SURE TO CHECK US
OUT AT
[HTTPS://WWW.ROELAND
PARK.NET/JOBSPAGE](https://www.roelandpark.net/jobs.aspx)
FOR CURRENT
OPPORTUNITIES!

ROELAND PARKER



PAGE 8