



City of
Roeland Park
Annual
Report

2011



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Dear Members of the Governing Body,

It is a great pleasure to present to you the 2011 Annual Report for the City of Roeland Park. The City has seen many accomplishments in the last year and I am very proud of the hard work performed daily by our dedicated City Staff. In this report you will find summaries of some of the projects and functions carried out by our City Staff during the 2011 fiscal year.

Along with the other 29 staff members who comprise the Police, Public Works, and Administration Departments we are honored to serve the residents of Roeland Park. I am extremely pleased to report the progress that we have made in 2011. I look forward to sharing our 2011 Annual Report for the City of Roeland Park with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron".

Aaron Otto
City Administrator
Roeland Park, Kansas





Dear Roeland Park Resident,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the mayor of Roeland Park through the most **trying economic times in our city's and our country's history since the Great Depression**. This troubled economy has been difficult for all cities regardless of size or geographical location. Decreasing property values, decreasing sales tax revenue, and increases in costs of products have increased the cost of our delivery of services and maintenance of our infrastructure.

While it's been a challenge, I am proud to say that our Governing Body and our City staff have worked together to find efficiencies to soften the impact on our budget during 2011. We were able to provide all City services without adding any additional costs. Although we are not completely through these times we have done well holding our ground and avoided making a bad situation worse .

The Governing Body and I will continue with this cautiously optimistic attitude into the years ahead. Many good things have come out of this situation that may have not been revealed otherwise. For instance, through our partnership with Mid America Regional Council, we have finalized our first shared service partnership with our neighboring cities, Fairway and Westwood, to share trash services, strengthen our relationships, and save money. We have partnered with Habitat for Humanity to help improve the homes of some of our residents who were in need of a helping hand. We continue to build on these and many more partnerships to find economic efficiencies, help our residents, and save money.

I appreciate your support and patience with our Governing Body and I give you my word that I will do my best to keep the Council acting with high regard for one another, and on pace and to keep our city vibrant. We are blessed in that Roeland Park is one of the stronger Cities in Northeast Johnson County, which is why we can proudly proclaim to one another that **Roeland Park is 'the best little town in town'**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Adrienne'.

Adrienne Foster

Mayor, Roeland Park, Kansas

Members of the Governing Body in 2011: William Art; Megan England; Adrienne Foster; Jennifer Gunby; Marek Gliniecki; Scott Gregory; Toni Hull; Mark Kohles; Elizabeth Mellor; and Robert Meyers



2011 City Accomplishments

The following is a brief summary of a few of the highlights from our City during 2011.

➤ Selection of a financial advisor

COLUMBIA CAPITAL

Through the Request for Proposals process Columbia Capital of Overland Park was selected as the City's financial advisor. This firm will be used on a case-by-case basis to perform due diligence analysis work of complex financial situations. Possible projects could include proposals for public subsidy of private developments using Tax Increment Finance (TIF) or Community Improvement District (CID) or issuance of public debt through municipal bonds.



➤ City Hall Update

After more than 5 years of discussion, the governing body issued Request for Proposals to perform security, mechanical and other updates to the existing City Hall. The goal of this update project is a City Hall that is safer, more efficient, and a facility residents of Roeland Park can be proud of. The building was paid off in 2009

through a TIF restricted use fund. No new footage is being added to the building and the costs of this update project are being covered through the TIF fund and will have no impact on the general fund. After a detailed selection process, Excel Constructors was chosen as the right fit for our needs to serve as the design/build team for this project. Excel Constructors began working on detail design and planning at the end of 2011 with actual work on the building starting in 2012.

➤ Implement the sewer line warranty program



Roeland Park teamed with Utility Service Partners, Inc. to offer citizens a chance to buy warranties on their sewer. Many residents do not know it, but sewer and water lines are actually the responsibility of the property owner. The program is backed by the National League of Cities, so residents can rest assured that the program is not a scam. This is a voluntary program.

➤ Implemented new monthly financial reports



The city contracted with Miller Management Systems (MMS) in 2011 to provide financial services related to Accounts Payable, Payroll and Bank Reconciliation. MMS provides **reports on the city's financial activities once a month**. The City Clerk/Finance Director prepares all journal entries and reviews all activity to the General Ledger. Additional reporting is prepared by the City Clerk/Finance Director in conjunction with the reports from MMS.

➤ Updated the City's purchase policy to include a buy local provision

The new purchase policy includes a buy local provision where the City will purchase from local vendors as long as they are within 5 percent of lowest price found outside the City. The policy also creates the ability for



the City to adopt a “Green” purchase policy in the future which would encourage purchasing environmentally friendly items whenever it is financially viable.

➤ Educational outreach to residents in advance of new county required trash policy

The City worked to minimize any transitional challenges experienced on January 1, 2012 when the **county's new solid waste policy** was implemented. This requires curbside recycling and the purchase of bag tags for trash in excess of 96 gallons. Aiding this transition, residents were proactive and were already increasing the amount of recycled materials separated from the trash over the last three years.



➤ Installed electric vehicle charging station

Roeland Park had just finished installing the first electric vehicle charging station in Kansas at the end of 2010. Governor-Elect Sam Brownback was in attendance as well as three local Chambers of Commerce. Roeland Park has taken an important first step



towards creating an electric vehicle infrastructure within the region. These efforts will make a difference in the region's ability to secure the economic and environmental benefits of plug-in vehicles.



➤ SMART Lights for SMART Cities

- On June 11th, 2011 the U.S. Department of Energy announced that 20 communities nationwide had been selected for more than \$60 million in funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This funding was to implement local energy efficiency and renewable energy programs to reduce

energy use by American homes, vehicles, and businesses. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), a coalition of 26 cities in the Kansas City metro area received \$4,063,994 for a street light project. In September of 2011, the City of Roeland Park received and had installed **75** LED street lights on the following streets: *Nall Avenue, Rosewood Drive, Reinhardt Drive, Buena*



ARRA
American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act of 2009

Vista Street, and Roeland Drive.

- Roeland Park Public Works was later contacted by MARC about surplus grant funds available for additional LED street lights. In January, Roeland Park Public Works submitted for and received funding for an additional 154 lights. Installation is planned for around the first of May 2012 on the following streets: *55th Street, Sycamore Drive, Roe Lane, 51st Street, city limits to Briar, Briar to 50th Terrace and 50th Terrace & Roe intersection, Elledge Drive, Neosho Avenue, 48th Street, Canterbury Street, 18th Street Expressway from County Line to 51st Street, Clark Drive and Parish Drive.* Locations for installation were based on eliminating the **oldest lights that also had the highest energy use.** Around **40 percent** of the city's street light inventory will be converted over to LED lights by the end of the summer

of 2012 at no cost to the City. The program will evaluate energy savings — expected to be 20 to 50 percent — and maintenance costs of the different lighting technologies, as well as the quality of light from the new fixtures and their acceptance by residents. The City will realize 50 percent of the savings for the first five years splitting the savings with KCP&L to offset



costs for installing the lights. The City of Roeland Park is accepting comments regarding the new LED street lights. Please call your Public Works Department at (913) 722-5435, or email

David Mootz, Director of Public Works at:

damootz@roelandpark.org.

➤ Grants successfully applied for and funding received

- Energy Efficient Community Block Grant – The City received an \$80,000 grant to replace the 40-year-old boiler at City Hall with two new energy efficient boilers, as well as add lighting and facility controls to reduce energy usage throughout the building.



- TIGER Bus Rapid Transit
This grant is in connection with Mission, Overland Park and Johnson County Transit. Sidewalk improvements connecting the sidewalk system on Roe Avenue and Johnson Drive to the Roeland Park bus stop will be built as part of this grant.



- Sustainable Skylines Grant This grant will reduce the amount of mowing areas and increase shaded areas around parking lots. This

grant also provided the funding for buffalo grass and Kansas native plants to reduce watering needs in the future.

➤ Grants which were reviewed, but the City did not meet the application qualifications to apply or was not awarded:

- Five Star Restoration Program – Environmental Grant
- A second TIGER Grant for Sidewalks, Bike/Pedestrian Bridges/Paths
- Facility Conservation Improvement Program for public facility enhancements
- Facility Conservation Improvement Program Energy Savings Project Grant for an energy project
- EPA Grant for Environmental Education Grant

➤ Naming the New City Park

Roeland Park sponsored a contest that asked Roeland Park residents to come up with a name and the inspiration for the new city park located at Juniper Drive & 55th Terr.



The suggested names were then submitted to the Parks Committee for discussion. The committee selected the name "R Park". The name is a clever play on words that can either mean "R" for "Roeland Park" or "our

➤ Increased use of Constant Contact to communicate via email special topics and calendar updates

By December, 2011 total users increased by over 100 and there are now 457 residents who receive information from the City via the Constant Contact email newsletter.

➤ Created a new Twitter account for sharing information about the City



Social media is becoming a more and more popular tool for residents to get information. In order to increase residents access to information and interact with the public, Roeland Park has set up a Twitter account as a supplement to the city website and facebook page. Individuals can follow the City at RoelandParkKS on Twitter.

- Began process of additional outreach for residents for join our facebook page



Roeland Park has continued efforts of resident outreach by frequently **updating the Facebook page and encouraging others to “like” and follow us on Facebook.** As of December 2011, Roeland Park has over 350 followers who **“like” us on Facebook. This social media allows the City to communicate and connect to residents in a different way.** You can visit the City at: www.facebook.com/cityofroelandparkks

- Began a review of the city ordinance book codification process

Reviewed the city ordinance book for any typos or consistency errors. Several updates were incorporated and the plan is to adopt the updated code book in 2012.

- Sale of City property to Commerce Bank

In late 2011, the City entered into a contract to sell the vacant property on the corner of Johnson Drive and Roe



Boulevard to Commerce Bank. The bank plans to build a branch and drive through facility on the property. The facility will include 1 percent of the construction value dedicated to art as well as incorporate a number of green building techniques. These green features will include parking lot and drive thru canopy lights which will adjust automatically in response to natural light levels; a high efficiency HVAC system; use of local materials for carpet, wall coverings, tile, wood, and brick; and a light colored reflective coating applied to the roof.



- Updated database on condition of street signs in the city

A spreadsheet was created that listed each street sign within the city limits of Roeland Park. The spreadsheet identifies when each sign was installed and its condition. The spreadsheet will also be used to track the reflectivity of the signs.



➤ Applied for ICMA recognition for Roeland Park City Government

Most Kansas communities have gone through a credentialing and validation process by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) to verify the professional management structure of their form of government. Roeland Park applied and was granted these credentials in late 2011.

➤ Implemented a United Way campaign and increased city employee participation

Through the generous voluntary support of City staff, the number of donors to help those less fortunate in our area through the United Way more than doubled in 2011.

➤ Organized the City's 60th Birthday event & found sponsors to cover costs

On August 2, 2011 the City of Roeland Park celebrated its 60th Anniversary. The event was a huge success. The City provided hot dogs and birthday cake while residents were asked to bring a side dish to the festivities. Kids and adults of all ages



were entertained by an inflatable obstacle course, a dunk-the-mayor tank, and to top things off, a showing of *Singing in the Rain*, which was released the same year Roeland Park was founded. The event was also sponsored by a handful of local donors.

➤ Updated code violation letters

It was determined that some of the terminology used to notify residents about possible code violations may have been too harsh. The notifications were revised to include terminology that was less offensive but still convey the message that compliance is necessary.

➤ Chicken ordinance

The City voted to approve an ordinance which would allow residents to raise chickens in their backyard as long as they kept the chickens in a coop and followed other specifications of the ordinance. The urban chicken movement was started by people interested in raising backyard

chickens to have fresh eggs. However some people donate their eggs to local food banks and pantries which help feed those in need.



Community Service/Volunteering

➤ Scout Troop 91 Nall Park cleanup

Troop 91 volunteered at Nall Park in the spring to remove trash and debris throughout the park. They helped cleanup pads and raked leaves.



➤ Roeland Park Lowe's community beautification project

Employees of our local Lowe's volunteered to place mulch throughout the Roeland Park Community Center flower gardens.



➤ National Night Out

Following dinner celebrating Roeland Park's 60th Anniversary, citizens took to the streets to celebrate National Night Out. The event is designed to raise awareness of crime prevention and illegal drug use. Law enforcement personnel and residents partnered together and walked around several city streets in a show of strength against crime.



➤ Midwest Litter Fest

In October, residents and members of the City Council joined together in a regional cleanup effort. Volunteers cleaned the entire distance of Roe Boulevard and Johnson Drive as well as cleaned up **a few of the city's smaller pocket parks**. Regionally, volunteers cleaned up 400 pounds of trash, 240 pounds of recyclables and cleaned 40 miles of roads.

➤ National Walk to School Day

On October 5, roughly 150 Roesland Park Elementary Students and their parents participated in the National Walk to School Day. The event draws attention to the need for safe streets, healthy habits, and clean air, all of which are needed for a more walkable America. Homemade muffins and juice were provided by a generous parent from the Roesland PTA.



➤ Toys for Tots

A Toys for Tots collection box was placed in City Hall during the holiday season where many presents were collected for needy children in the community.

➤ Recycle Efforts

- Negotiated variable bin sizes for curbside recycling
- Participated in Rivalry Glass Recycling Challenge
- **Recycling containers are now available in 100 percent of the city's properties** including the Police and Public Works Departments.
- New brochures for county regulations and yard waste.

➤ Habitat for Humanity

A Heartland Habitat for Humanity Home Renovation kicked off in the spring of 2011 and volunteers showed up to help with the projects in Roeland Park. Public Works donated some of their time and heavy equipment to the cause.



➤ Paper Shredding

On June 4, a paper shredding event was hosted by Fairway, Roeland Park, Mission, and Mission Hills. Residents were welcomed to bring their personal and confidential documents to be professionally shredded.

➤ America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day was held on November 15. Roeland Park participated in the Ripple glass Recycling Challenge with other cities in the area. The event helped promote glass recycling during the month of November.



Administration statistics

Function/Program	2009	2010	2011
Police:			
Adult arrests	400	383	281
Speeding citations only	279	336	365
Traffic citations	2,853	2,915	2,240
Building Safety:			
Total building permits	475	441	388
Total value all permits	\$2,703,038	\$2,092,406	\$2,107,123
Animal Licenses	745	661	562
Garage Sales	181	178	189
City Retail and Home Business Li- censes	136	127	146
Total Business Licenses	396	375	422

Police Department

- Kansas law requires police officers to receive 40 hours of training each year including firearms qualification and diversity training. Officers completed 580 hours of in service training & averaged just over 41 hours per officer.
- The Police Department received 2,914 calls for service and there were 4,057 officer initiated actions in 2011 which resulted in 1,113 reports and 2,240 citations.
- There were 159 accidents worked in Roeland Park in 2011.
- The Police Department is aggressive in the reduction of stolen autos. The number one defense against a vehicle being stolen is to not leave a car running while unattended. The department has also partnered with Johnson County **Sheriff's Department to deploy a "Bait Car" that can be left running and controlled remotely** if it is taken.

Public Works

- Leaf Pickup

The Annual Fall Leaf Pickup was held in October, November, and December.

Residents were asked to rake their leaves into the street about a foot away from the curb. Next a truck would come and sweep the leaves into its bin. Although

there were some initial maintenance problems, Roeland Park residents were patient until this service was up and running again. The City also provided expanded services to the City of Westwood



Hills for a fee.

- Community Center

Coordinated and managed the repairs to the Community Center waste vent system.

- Landscaping & Public Spaces

Public Works managed 40 acres of City owned green space as well as handled maintenance of equipment and cleaning of trash at City Parks.



- Completed 2011 County Assisted Roads Program (CARS) project in conjunction with Fairway on 55th Street from Shawnee Mission Parkway to Roe Boulevard.

- Stormwater project maintenance

Completed educational training for RC-12-12 and RC-12-14 Stormwater Lineal Rain Garden management.



- Public Works has reduced our carbon footprint with the replacement of two vehicles in the fleet with new cleaner emissions vehicles.

Cost Cutting/Staff Efficiency Efforts

Administration

- Carpool whenever possible with officials from other cities to instate conferences, trainings or meetings.
- Share hotel rooms with officials from other cities when attending conferences, trainings, or meetings.
- Rebid the newsletter and realized a 35% costs savings for printing.
- Limited overtime—where and when possible
- Building maintenance/repairs done to our capability, prior to hiring out professional contractors.

Police

- Reduction of overtime—where and when possible
- Replacement of one car instead of two in 2010 and 2011.
- Reduced the number of officers on the department by one or a 7% decrease in the staff.
- Travel has been restricted

Public Works

- Reduced Summer help from 3 or more employees down to 1 employee who has more experience in the field.
- Limited overtime—where and when possible.
- Vehicle equipment repairs and maintenance were done in-house when possible.
- Started recycling program for scrap metal to help recover the cost of purchasing new street poles and signs.
- Purchase products from local Roeland Park stores as long as the cost is within 5 percent of the lowest cost.
- Purchase recycled products, when possible, as long as it is practicable and within a reasonable cost.

Employees for the City of Roeland Park during calendar Year 2011

*Departed City service during 2011

First Name	Last Name
Aaron	Otto, City Administrator
Debra	Mootz, City Clerk/Finance Dir.
Denise	Lopez
Esmeralda	Ortiz – Temporary*
Kelley	Bohon
Police Department	
Rex Taylor Chief	
Mark	Babcock
Sylvester	Birdsong
Randall	Costlow
Kenneth	Cypret
Anthony	Estrada
Bernard	Egidy
Jaime	Garcia
Abdou	Gaye
Warren	Gardner
Andree	Gross
Penny	Heidesch
Cory	Honas
Robert	Mason
Edward	Morris
Patrick	O'Neill*
Charles	Kotcher
Phillip	Smith*
Bryan	Pasmore*
Ruth	Peter
Rex	Taylor
Chris	Thornton
Courtney	Weaver
Public Works Department	
Dave Mootz Department Head	
Joe	Purpura - Temporary Summer*
Steven	Haesemeyer
David	Mootz
John	Murphy
William	Stainbrook
Douglas	Thorell
David	Widmer
Carl	Wisdom
Codes	
Michael	Flickinger
Shiloh	Wells
Municipal Court	
Michelle	DeCicco
Elizabeth	Galvan
Frank	Gilman