

AN EXCELLENT EASTER



After collecting the girls' Easter eggs Sunday at the 15th Annual Hyde Park Easter Frolic, Nichole Garcia high-fived her daughter, Calise Garcia, 3. Garcia's other daughter, Kayliah Garcia, 4, is in the foreground. All live in Kansas City.



PHOTOS BY ALLISON LONG | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Brooks Gentleman showed off his dog, Sasha, a 3-year-old Australian shepherd mix, with her flying disc during the Hyde Park Easter Frolic. The event included an egg hunt, pony and horseback rides, face painting and photos with the Easter Bunny.



A butterfly landed on a Hessei Cotoneaster shrub on Sunday at the Ewing and Muriel Kauffman Memorial Garden east of the Country Club Plaza.

Fiona Junger, 9, of Prairie Village tries to strike a pose similar to the sculpture in the fountain Sunday at the Ewing and Muriel Kauffman Memorial Garden in Kansas City. Her family makes a point to visit the garden every Easter after church services.

ROANOKE

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new sidewalks and lighting. More funding could be awarded in the future.

The effort has garnered awards, including a recent citation from the Missouri Park and Recreation Association.

Roanoke Park also became the second Kansas City park to merit attention from Earth Riders, a recreational trails advocacy group that is developing 65 miles of trails in Swope Park.

Trail steward Brett Shoffner coordinated volunteers to com-

plete the first 1/5th-mile section of a new Roanoke Park nature trail that will be 2.5 miles in a few years.

"We really saw it as an opportunity for increasing trail access within an urban neighborhood," Shoffner said.

In late March, several dozen people also turned out to start planting about 250 tree and shrub seedlings donated by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The aromatic sumac, redbuds, dogwoods, oak and other seedlings will enhance the forested areas where the honeysuckle has been removed.

"We'd like to see a wide vari-

"It's like our own Central Park, right in the backyard. It makes it beautiful to live here."

MILES KRIVENA, WHOSE CHRISTMAS PARTY CHAT LED TO AN EFFORT BY FOUR NEIGHBORHOODS TO CLEAN UP ROANOKE PARK AND PLAN FOR ITS FUTURE

ety of native plants," said Waldo resident and volunteer naturalist Chris DeLong, who learned about the Roanoke Park effort from a relative who lives nearby. DeLong designed the website and has helped with much of the park cleanup.

Randy Moore, conservancy secretary, is also part of a core group of about 25 people who have given countless hours to

the cause.

"I love working outdoors" he said, adding that it's a welcome change from being stuck behind a computer all week.

The most gratifying result, Watkins said, is that people are starting to return to the park. Moms bring their children to the playgrounds. Athletes regularly use the soccer field and sand volleyball court.

Last fall, a band concert in the amphitheater lured crowds with blankets and picnic baskets and was so successful that it's on tap again for this fall.

Krivena notes that, in Europe, people flock to their city parks, and that's his goal for Roanoke as well. Put down the cellphone, leave the computer behind, and savor the park as an essential part of the neighborhood fabric.

"It's like our own Central Park, right in the backyard," he said. "It makes it beautiful to live here."

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