

## 2011 – 2012 Highlights

### 2012

- ▶ Roanoke Park Conservancy 501(c)3 status approved - donations are now TAX DEDUCTIBLE
- ▶ MARC matching grant awarded to create a vegetative bio swale in the vicinity of the Community Center parking lot to address storm water runoff and erosion concerns and to provide education about its purpose and design.
- ▶ Missouri Department of Conservation donates 237 native trees and shrubs to the park. Volunteers plant them March 24th through 31st.
- ▶ Generous neighbors donate tree seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation.
- ▶ The Missouri Park and Recreation Association awards the Roanoke Park Conservancy a 2012 "Organizations Citation" thanks to a nomination from the Kansas City Parks Department.
- ▶ Phase one of Roanoke Park's hiking / biking / nature trail is completed and opened March 10th with the park's best attended volunteer day yet: over 80 volunteers!
- ▶ Continued eradication efforts directed at shrub honeysuckle, garlic mustard and euonymus wintercreeper. with well attended work days March 10th and April 21st.
- ▶ Lilac bushes replaced along E. Roanoke Drive.

### 2011

- ▶ Two all-neighborhood clean up days. Results include less honeysuckle and being able to see not only into the woods but through the woods to man made environments and natural outcroppings.
- ▶ Nine weeks of focused efforts led by Scott Burnett, Randy Moore, Frank Messer, Manny Lopez and Curt Watkins cleared all along the wall/fence line from the Westport Roanoke Community Center east to 36th to prepare for repair of erosion damage and fall seeding led by the Parks Department's David Burke.
- ▶ Earth Riders Trails Association members led by Brett Schoffner and Brian Duff begin survey of park and marking of preliminary singletrack trail routes around the bluffs. Look for the red tape tied to trees back in the woods.
- ▶ Park Volunteers ask for benches to be installed in select areas. Parks and Rec acquires and installs benches in places to pause and, as many have commented, make the park begin to look like, well, "a park".
- ▶ Pitch magazine awards "Best Comeback" award to Roanoke Park, citing volunteers working together with the parks department to improve the park.
- ▶ A generous donation from Roanoke Homes Association matched by private giving gets funding off to a \$10,000 start to fund a landing/sitting area at the top of proposed stair steps: A new park amenity and better access to the park from "Lookout Point" along Valentine Road.
- ▶ Alice Kitchen's essay about park project to Historic Kansas City Foundation contest wins the "Community Catalyst" award for 2011 for all of the volunteers in Roanoke Park Conservancy project.
- ▶ Sunday family picnic in the Park with Live music from BluesberryJam sponsored by Roanoke Homes Association, Pete Browne and Kissick Construction Co.
- ▶ KCTV5's Bonyen Lee does second feature on the Park. This time focusing on Lookout Point plans and fundraising.
- ▶ Roanoke Park's' volunteer naturalist and web designer Chris DeLong reseeds selected areas of the park with locally collected native grasses and wildflowers. More seeding and tree seedling plantings are envisioned.
- ▶ Year ends with filing of articles of incorporation to create the Roanoke Park Conservancy, as a 501(c) 3 corporation. First Board consists of Scott Burnett, Glenda Goodman, Pete Browne, Randy Moore, Kay Johnson and Curt Watkins.
- ▶ The Surrogate Volunteer's program proves to be a popular and easy holiday gift selection to honor friends and family with a donation to the Roanoke Park Conservancy.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Overview

"Honoring the Past and Planting the Future" is the theme of the Roanoke Park Master Plan.

Progress toward implementing the Master Plan has been made in many areas since its adoption by the Board of Parks & Recreation Commissioners on April 26, 2011. See the full list of accomplishments (Master Plan and otherwise) on the back of this handout and the map inside for some highlights.

Roanoke Park's value as a neighborhood and Kansas City asset is being recognized widely - in Pitch Magazine, the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, the Historic Kansas City Foundation and in press coverage from KCTV5 and The Kansas City Star. The public / private partnership improving the park has attracted participants from adjacent neighborhoods and helpers from as far away as Liberty, Missouri.

We're excited about the coming year as initiatives to improve the park will continue on many fronts. The battle against invasive species continues with a greater recognition of the need to actively plan and plant replacements. Earth Riders continues to bring an extensive system of hiking / biking / nature trails to the park. Events are being planned to bring more neighbors together in the park and plans for lighting and sidewalks are moving forward so that those neighbors can safely get to the park.

### Roanoke Park Conservancy (Please Donate)

The loose collection of neighbors and park fans that began efforts to improve the park in 2010 now has a formal organization.

The Roanoke Park Conservancy was formed as a Missouri non-profit corporation in December 2011 and recently received approval from the IRS to be a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. That means any donations you make to the Conservancy are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Help us help the park by funding the purchase of trees and other plants, seed, tools, materials and professional help. It's a worthy investment in your neighborhood park.

**How can I contribute, you say?** We're looking at ways to take donations online, but for now, checks may be sent to:

Roanoke Park Conservancy  
c/o Linda J. Laurence  
MO Bank  
1044 Main Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105

An acknowledgement letter for tax purposes will be sent to each donor with a SINCERE THANK YOU from the Roanoke Park Conservancy.



**Tree Planting**

237 native trees and shrubs were donated from the Missouri Department of Conservation and planted throughout the park in April. Despite three weeks of no rain, most appear to be thriving! An additional 54 trees donated by generous neighbors are gaining size and strength in a backyard nursery.

**Bluff Lighting**

Plans continue to be developed for accomplishing the bluff lighting outlined in the Master Plan.



**Hiking / Biking / Nature Trails**

Phase one was completed and opened March 10, 2012 and has already become a favorite walk for neighborhood children and park fans. More trail to come!



**Madison Sidewalks**

They've been walking in the street on Madison since 1909 but maybe not much longer. PIAC funding has been recommended to add sidewalks in this corner of the park, increasing safe access to the park from adjacent neighborhoods.

**Bio Swale + Education**

A MARC grant was won to have a professionally designed bio swale created near the community center parking lot to serve as an educational example for using native plants and storm water management best practices.



**Roanoke Lookout**

Planning progress continues to be made toward achieving the first phase of this added park amenity and connectivity improvement.



**Recent Awards and Praise**

"Best Comeback" in *The Pitch's* Best of KC issue.  
 "Community Catalyst" award from the Historic Kansas City Foundation.  
 "Organizations Citation" award from the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association.

**Seeding Success**

Winter seeding of patches of river oats and native rye grasses are proving successful. We'll keep watching for the mixed in wildflowers to also emerge.

