





## 2020 Elected Officials

**Nanette K. Johnston** *Mayor*  
**Tina Welch** *Ward 1 Alderman*  
**Philip Wassmer** *Ward 1 Alderman*  
**Dave Rittman** *Ward 2 Alderman*  
**Brian T. Whitley** *Ward 2 Alderman*  
**Robert Lock** *Ward 3 Alderman*  
**Douglas P. Wylie** *Ward 3 Alderman*  
**Marc Sportsman** *Ward 4 Alderman*  
**Greg Plumb** *Ward 4 Alderman*

## 2020 Administration Officials

**Joe Parente** *City Administrator*  
**Kevin Chrisman** *Police Chief*  
**Matthew Chapman** *Finance / Human Resource Director*  
**Alysen Abel** *Public Works Director*  
**Stephen Lachky** *Community Development Director*  
**Melissa McChesney** *City Clerk*  
**Michelle Hefley** *Treasurer*  
**Anna Mitchell** *Assistant to the City Administrator*

## Employees Recognized in 2020 for Years of Service

**Shan Johnson, Public Works** *20 years*  
**Craig Hubbell, Police Department** *10 years*  
**Kevin Blair, Public Works** *5 years*  
**Travis Phelan, Public Works** *5 years*  
**Robert Heckadon, Police Department** *5 years*  
**Wayne Frazier, Parkville Nature Sanctuary** *5 years*



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## **COVID-19**

In late March, Mayor Johnston declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which enabled emergency authority to deal with the outbreak. The declaration invoked and declared all laws available for the exercise of emergency authority, for the protection of the lives and property of Parkville residents. It further enabled the City to access any state or federal government financial assistance in carrying out our emergency duties during this time of crisis. City Hall was closed to the public for several months and re-opened with guidance from the Platte County Health Department. City meetings have been held via videoconferencing.

Even with the COVID-19 pandemic, the City did not slow down. The following document highlights the accomplishments of 2020 from the hard work of the employees of the City of Parkville.

## **Public Engagement**

Amidst the pandemic, the City was able to gather feedback from the public on several of the City's projects. Several virtual meetings were held and online surveys were made available, as well as small in-person meetings.

## **Pocket Park Master Plan**

Pocket Park is located in the heart of downtown Parkville. In April 2019, Parkville voters approved a one-half percent park sales tax to be used to fund capital improvements to the City's parks, including Pocket Park. The City engaged BBN Architects to lead the stakeholder discussion and develop two distinct concepts for improvements. The City held meetings with stakeholders – downtown business owners and community leaders – to identify strengths, challenges and opportunities and gather feedback on their vision for Pocket Park. Citizens were provided the opportunity to provide feedback on improvements they would like to see in the park through an online survey. In September, a public forum was held to review design concepts. Based on feedback, BBN created the final design of the Pocket Park Master Plan. In an effort to gradually improve the park over time and as funding becomes available, the consultant developed a three-phased Pocket Park Master Plan. The renderings will serve as a guide for design and budgeting decisions in the future. The Plan was adopted by the Board of Aldermen on December 15<sup>th</sup>.



*Pocket Park Master Plan*

## **Adams & Watkins Parks Master Plans**

Another project using the parks sales tax revenue was the creation of master plans for the City's neighborhood parks – Adams Park and Watkins Park. Residents provided feedback on improvements they would like to see through a public forum, hard copy surveys and an online survey. Based on feedback, staff worked with Vireo to prepare master plans for each park.

The Adams Park Master Plan contains terraced features that will remain a focal point of the park. In the first phase, the following improvements will be made:

- the shelter will be relocated;
- a loop trail will be constructed to provide a circular walking path within the park; and
- fencing will be used as a boundary to better define the park.

The ultimate Plan proposes a playground with a slide installed in the natural grade of the park, an upgraded shelter and a new parking area for visitors.



*Adams Park Master Plan*

The Watkins Park Master Plan will keep its existing vast green space. In the first phase, the following improvements are proposed:

- the parking lot will be relocated closer to West Street;
- fencing will be used to better define the park;
- a small playground will be installed;
- a loop trail will be installed around the perimeter; and,
- the shelter will be relocated closer to the proposed parking area.



*Watkins Park Master Plan*

The ultimate Plan will include upgrades to the playground area and shelter, resurfacing of the basketball court and enhancements to the stream corridor.

The plans were adopted by the Board of Aldermen on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Parkville Master Plan Update**

Over the past year, the City has been engaging with a broad range of voices and ideas from the community to develop an update to the Parkville Master Plan. The plan, titled *Planning for Parkville in 2040*, will assist in the development, growth and policies in Parkville for the next 20 years. In addition to looking at strategic opportunities of growth, the plan addresses ways to retain Parkville's unique character while also meeting the demands for economic growth.



The update is intended to guide policy and provide recommendations for future actions involving land development, sustainability, development design, provision of infrastructure, preservation of open spaces and natural resources, and preservation of the community character.

### **City Awards**

#### **Parkville named Tree City USA for 30<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year**

For the 30<sup>th</sup> year in a row, Parkville was named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of our commitment to effective urban forest management. Parkville is one of only 15 communities in Missouri that has been named as Tree City USA for 30 years or more.



#### **City received Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

For the fifth consecutive year, the City received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2020 Annual Budget from the Government Finance Officers Association. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

### **Citywide Projects**

#### **City reissued bonds at a lower interest rate to save over \$1.3 million**

The City reduced interest costs for two neighborhood improvement district (NID) limited obligation bonds, resulting in a taxpayer savings of over \$1.3 million. As a result of a competitive bond sale, the existing bonds were refunded and reissued at a lower interest rate.

In 2014, the City issued bonds to construct sanitary sewer improvements for the Brush Creek Drainage NID and road improvements for the Brink Meyer Road NID. Both NIDs, located in western Parkville near Interstate 435 and Highway 45, were created in 2006 under the NID Act by a petition of at least two-thirds of the owners of record of all the real property located within each district's boundaries. The property owners petitioned to assess themselves for the costs of public improvements that would benefit their properties.

Both projects are funded through annual assessments made by property owners within each NID and through transfers from the City's general revenue budget. Property owners and the City's general budget will benefit from the interest savings, which will average approximately \$97,000 per year until 2034. In 2019, the City also entered into a real estate sales agreement to sell property it obtained from foreclosure proceedings within the two NID districts. The agreement calls for the payment of \$6.4 million to the City over the next 15 years. The interest savings, and proceeds from the land sale, will result in significant annual budget savings for the City and enable it to increase funding for other neighborhood capital improvements in the community, including street, storm water and public safety improvements.

#### **2021 Budget and 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Program adopted**

On December 15, the Board of Aldermen adopted the 2021 budget and 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Program totaling approximately \$22.6 million.

## City made improvements to communications with the public

Over the past year, the City has been working hard to improve communication with our residents. The City contracted with Shockey Consulting and created a communications plan. The following is a list of accomplishments:

- Increased the printed resident newsletter from three to four times per year
- Issued an online survey in February to give citizens the opportunity to let us know how they receive their information, where they receive their news and how the City can get them the information they need
- Created a monthly e-newsletter titled Parkville Pulse that was first released in June
- Identified significant issues and developed key messages for each issue
- Developed a schedule for social media content
- Created a comprehensive calendar of news and events
- Created a positive stories list
- Informed residents about the City's actions through an annual report
- Identified community partners for sharing information and expanding media and social media reach
- Held monthly communications meetings to help identify issues in order to create a more proactive approach
- Began including a background about decision-making processes in press releases
- Incorporated new types of storytelling in communications with lists, graphics and pictorials
- Began Parkville Spotlight in the Parkville Pulse to highlight City employees, departments, projects, volunteers and community members
- Held media relations training with the Board of Aldermen and the senior management team

## Board of Aldermen

### Board set goals for 2020-2021 during virtual strategic planning session

On September 4, the Board of Aldermen and senior management staff held the annual strategic planning session virtually. The Board and staff focused on five goal areas to prioritize resource allocation and guide decision-making: economic development, financial stability, infrastructure and public facilities, parks and recreation and service delivery and communications.

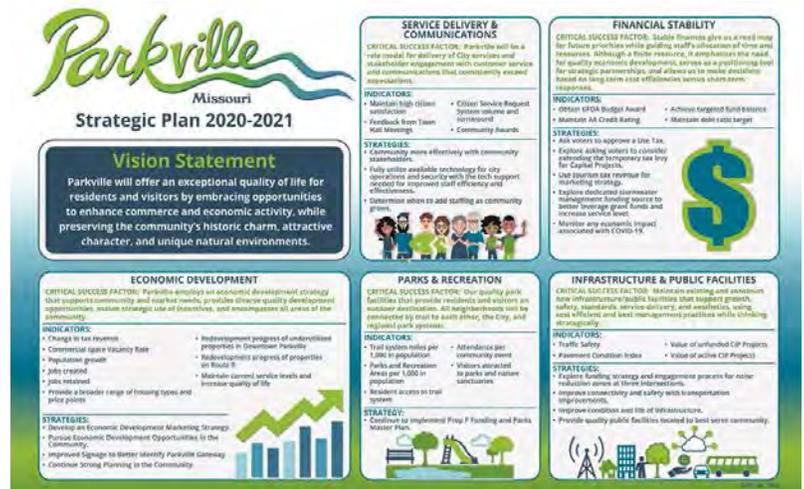
**Economic Development:** Develop an annexation and city service areas strategy, promote downtown redevelopment and vibrancy and promote economic development.

**Financial Stability:** Pursue use tax ballot initiative after state legislature clarifies rules, establish development fees where growth pays for growth; use special district tools to fund needs for specific business areas, neighborhoods or developments in the community; leverage outside resources; explore whether to put a general obligation bond on ballot for 2024 or lower taxes; and explore options to use savings from NID debt relief, as well as new revenue from the Creekside development project.

**Infrastructure & Public Facilities:** Improve connectivity and safety with transportation improvements; improve condition and life of infrastructure; and provide quality public facilities located to best serve the community.

**Parks & Recreation:** Invest park sales tax money wisely to enhance the community.

**Service Delivery & Communications:** Communicate more effectively with community stakeholders; fully utilize available technology for City operations and security with tech support needed for improved staff efficiency and effectiveness; and attract and retain high performing staff.



Click on image to view full plan summary

## [Police Department](#)

### **Residents of Park Village attended 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Holiday Luncheon**

The Police Department held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Holiday Luncheon at Park Village on December 8, 2020. Due to COVID and for the safety of the residents, meals were hand-delivered to senior citizens, along with gift bags with hand sanitizer, hand lotion, a bottle of water and tea and face masks.



*L-R: Officer Allwood, Reserve Officer Pence, Det. Sgt. Hubbell, Sgt. Stone, Officer Hill, Chief Chrisman*

### **Department held 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Program**

In August, the Police Department hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Program to provide school supplies, backpacks, clothes and other essentials to Parkville children in need and to help foster positive relationships between youth and the Police. Twenty children were provided with supplies and clothes to help them start off the new school year. The Police Department hopes that the program will help kids appreciate law enforcement while it gives back to the community it serves.

### **Police celebrated holidays at 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Shop with a Cop**

The Police Department held its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Shop with a Cop event on December 20. There were 20 kids that participated and every child was given a treat bag and police ID badge with their name on it. Larger items chosen included a car seat, bedding/pillows, a tent, cookware, diapers/wipes, baby formula, Dairy Queen gift card to buy a Christmas ice cream cake for the family, a Visa gift card to be used at Barnes and Noble, a Wal-Mart gift card for a young teen who was unable to attend, tennis rackets and tennis balls and lots of electronics and toys. Chief Chrisman also sent each parent out to shop for their own groceries while the kids shopped. The Parkville families were also given a few items on Christmas Eve, including a board game for each family.

The families all seemed to be very happy and the kids had a great time. There were lots of smiles from the kids and a few tears of joy from grateful parents, as well as from members of the Police Department. Chief Chrisman thanked all the donors to the Police Community Assistance Fund that made it and other events possible throughout the year.

### **Police Community Assistance Fund donor recognized by Aldermen**

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Aldermen recognized Al Burns for his strong support of and involvement in the community. Alderman Sportsman presented a picture to Al and his wife Tracy. Al is originally from Buffalo, New York and is an avid Buffalo Bills fan.



*Left to right: Tracy Burns, Al Burns, Alderman Sportsman and Mayor Johnston*

### **Police communication enhancements made in western Parkville**

In response to communication issues in western Parkville near I-435 and Highway 45, the Police Department has improved communications in the area by mounting a Digital Voice Repeater System (DVRS) antenna on a 30 foot tower located in the Creekside development. In addition, radio microphone extenders were installed in each patrol vehicle that work in conjunction with the mobile radios already mounted in the patrol vehicles. Both the DVRS repeater and microphone extenders have the capability to grow as the city grows.

These improvements have helped the Police Department communicate better so they can protect and serve the entire Parkville community.

## [Parkville Nature Sanctuary](#)

### **Sanctuary held first ever virtual Ghost Stories Night**

In October, the Parkville Nature Sanctuary held its first ever Virtual Ghost Stories. S'mores kits with educational nature-related activities were available to anyone interested. The video was made available on the City's Facebook and Twitter feeds, as well as the City website.

## Nature Sanctuary received donation

In May, City staff received notification that the Parkville Nature Sanctuary was named as a beneficiary to the Erik and Anna Andersen Interim Trust. As a beneficiary, among several others, we received \$182,066. The couple will be properly thanked by a planting of a memorial tree in the Nature Sanctuary.

## Eagle Scout Projects completed at Parkville Nature Sanctuary

In 2020, four local Boy Scouts completed their Eagle Scout projects at the sanctuary.



*Aidan Coogan: Repaired Portion of White Tail Trail*



*Kade Tholen: Stormwater control on White Tail and Old Kate trails*



*James Heckman: Revitalized Paw Paw Path*

*Prabhav Pagadala: Restored Portion of Old Kate Trail*

## Winners of monthly Friends of Parkville Nature Sanctuary Amateur Photo Contest

For the third year, Friends of Parkville Nature Sanctuary held a monthly amateur photographer photo contest.



*Colorful Kinglet*



*Reaching for the Sky*



*Summer Tanager*



*Two Cedar Waxwings*



*The King of Spring*



*A Colorful Visitor*



*Bee Friendly*



*Red-Shouldered Hawk Feeding on Snake*



*Summer Nectar*



*Charlotte's Web*



*Grasshopper in Milkweed*



*A Bluebird Day*



*Fall Color*



*Sunset at the Sanctuary*



*Morning Frost*

## **Community Development**

### **Department achieves second highest record-breaking revenue for building permits**

In 2020 the Community Development Department achieved record-breaking numbers for total number building permits issued, an increase of 14% from 2019. The department also issued a near-record number of new single-family residential home permits that added a residential value to the community of over \$27 million.

Two major projects greatly contributed to this achievement.

- Park University's Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center, a three-story, approximately 7,810 square foot facility that will be home of the School of Business and the Park Global Warrior Center; and,
- Portions of the Creekside Commons commercial development on northwest quadrant of I-435 and Highway 45, as well as the Old Town At Creekside commercial development on southeast quadrant. These commercial centers included a new Burger King drive-thru restaurant, gas station/convenience store, Johnny's Tavern restaurant and a town center with mixed-use buildings.

### **City adopted 2018 International Building Code**

In January, the Board of Aldermen approved an ordinance adopting the 2018 International Building Code (IBC). The IBC is a model building code developed by the International Code Council (ICC) and has been adopted for use as a base code standards by most jurisdictions in the United States.

In 2015, the City adopted the 2012 International Family of Building Codes and designated appendices via Ordinance No. 2794. The 2018 IBC was released in late 2017 and the Community Development Department's Building Safety Division desired to update to the 2018 IBC standards to provide a reasonable level of safety, public health and general welfare through prescriptive and performance-related guidelines.

### **City approved projects under the Downtown Parkville Redevelopment Plan**

The Downtown Parkville Redevelopment Plan encourages building improvements in the Old Town District of downtown. It evaluates redevelopment projects and considers financial incentives according to specific thresholds which are modeled after tier levels used by other communities in the Kansas City region that adopted similar Chapter 353 programs. In 2020, the Board of Aldermen approved four applications for downtown property owners totaling \$828,517 in improvements with a total positive net benefit of \$71,997 to Platte County's taxing districts over the terms of the incentives.

- 16 Main Street – Rehabilitating the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the building into a restaurant and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor into Airbnb units
- 100 S. Main Street – Rehabilitating the existing building and train car for a future restaurant tenant
- 110 Main Street – Rehabilitating the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the building into a general store, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor into two Airbnb units and adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to include three Airbnb units
- 101 Main Street – Repairing and remediating the existing building and converting the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor into two Airbnb units

### **City achieved Bronze Level for Communities of All Ages**

In early 2020, the City achieved the Communities for All Ages (CFAA) Bronze Level Recognition. The City is participating in a regional initiative to make communities more age-friendly. Studies have shown that the senior population will greatly increase over the next 20 years. The initiative will help the City plan for this shift in demographics, better prepare for the future, continue serving residents' needs and promote healthy living for residents of all ages. The City plans on continued progression through all three levels of recognition.

### **Other accomplishments in 2020:**

- Adopted ordinance to create provisions for medical marijuana facilities
- Approved Woods at Creekside 1<sup>st</sup> Plat, Final Plat (25 lots for new single-family homes)
- Approved Woods at Creekside 2<sup>nd</sup> Plat, Final Plat (public right-of-way for future Homer Parkway)
- Approved Creekside Village 2<sup>nd</sup> Plat, Final Plat (14 lots for new townhomes)
- Approved Thousand Oaks 23<sup>rd</sup> Plat, Final Plat (56 lots for new single-family homes)
- Approved Thousand Oaks 24<sup>th</sup> Plat, Final Plat (71 lots for new single-family homes)

- Approved clubhouse and pool for The Meadows At Creekside residential development
- Approved Burger King drive-thru restaurant near The Ballfields At Creekside
- Approved Creekside Hotel near The Ballfields At Creekside (4-story, 91 rooms)
- Approved new headquarters for Capital Electric Line Builders, Inc. (72,800 sq. ft. office/warehouse)
- Approved relocation of log cabin house (formerly 15201 NW Brink-Myer Rd.) to the Old Town At Creekside commercial development to be repurposed into a restaurant
- Approved first reading of ordinance to create provisions for short-term rentals in residential districts

## **Public Works**

### **Flooding and restoration continued in English Landing and Platte Landing parks**

In March 2019, the Missouri River crested at its highest level since the flood in 1993, flooding English Landing and Platte Landing parks. Park amenities were damaged and enormous amounts of sand and silt were left behind. In late May the same year, the parks flooded again and closed the parks for several months. Once the flood waters receded, the City worked diligently to reconstruct the park back to its pre-flood condition. In 2020, City crews worked on the remaining projects that could not be completed in 2019, including replacing the fences at Grigsby Field and around the dog parks, installing new shade structures in the dog parks and new electrical pedestals in ELP. In late 2020, the City received reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for damage from the flooding in 2019.

### **City began projects using voter-approved sales tax for park improvements**

On April 2, 2019, Parkville residents passed Proposition P, a ballot question for a one-half cent sales tax on retail sales in Parkville, with 68.82% approval. The City programmed \$434,000 in the 2020 Capital Improvement Program for enhancements to the City's parks. Projects completed included:

- Adoption of Pocket Park Master Plan
- Four pickleball courts in English Landing Park
- New basketball court in English Landing Park
- Dog park shade structures (50% paid for by Platte County Outreach Grant)
- Adoption of Adams Park Master Plan
- Adoption of Watkins Park Master Plan
- Waddell Bridge lighting
- Design of entry signs for riverfront parks
- Improved lookout area and installed monument sign for Lewis & Clark Trail

### **Work began on new pickleball and basketball courts in English Landing Park**

In 2020, the City budgeted to construct four regulation-sized pickleball courts in English Landing Park. In July, the City began construction of the pickleball court. In October, the fence was installed around the courts. The final touches will be put on the courts in 2021, including lighting.



*Construction on new pickleball courts*

Because the new courts were built where the existing basketball court was located, crews constructed a new basketball court to the south of the sand volleyball courts. The new basketball court was completed in early December.

### **English Landing Park Trail Connection to Riverside**

In the fall, construction began on the trail connection from English Landing Park to Riverside. The Missouri Riverfront Trail, when completed, will run from the east end of English Landing Park and continue for five miles to E.H. Young Riverfront Park in Riverside. From there, it will be connected to the Line Creek Trail which continues for eight miles north to Highway 152. Not only will the trail give direct access to more trails, but to several Northland parks.

### **Platte Landing Park dog parks get new shade structures**

Funded by the park sales tax, a new shade structure was installed, one in each of the dog parks in Platte Landing Park. The shade structure provides refuge to the dog park users during inclement weather and extremely sunny days.



*Dog park shade structure*

## Work began on Platte Landing Park Wetland Project

In March, crews began mobilizing in Platte Landing Park to begin work on the wetland project. The City partnered with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to develop a Section 1135 project in the Parkville Bottoms located in Platte Landing Park. The Parkville Bottoms is a cornerstone project that will significantly improve habitats for a variety of wildlife. It aligns with recommendations from the Parks Master Plan and will complement recreational features in the riverfront parks, enhance the existing trail system, restore two wetland areas and the riparian corridor along Rush Creek, and improve the aesthetic value of the parks and downtown Parkville. All the areas will be planted with native vegetation that will help protect the source area for water supply wells and add floodplain storage space along the Missouri River. The overall restoration is approximately 23 acres of emergent wetlands, 14 acres of wet mesic bottomland prairie and 4.5 acres of riparian corridor.



*Rendering of wetland*

To celebrate the completion of the construction phase of the project, the City plans to host a grand opening ceremony in spring 2021, in conjunction with Arbor Day.

## City prepared to bid construction of segments of Route 9 improvements

In 2016, the Board of Aldermen adopted the Route 9 Corridor Study that included preliminary designs for multimodal improvements to Route 9 from Highway 45 to Mattox Road in Riverside. The City has been working with George Butler Associates since 2017 to design improvements for the first segment from Highway 45 to Lakeview Drive. Negotiations with property owners continued in 2020 to acquire easements and right-of-way needed for the improvements. All utilities were relocated to prepare for construction of the improvements. The City will solicit bids to construct the first segment and construction is anticipated to begin in late spring/early summer. A second segment, near Route 9 and Sixth Street, will begin construction in 2021.

## New wayfinder signs installed downtown

In 2020, wayfinder signs were installed downtown to help provide visitors an easy way to find the parks, public parking and the farmers market. The Parkville Old Towne Market Community Improvement District helped to fund the signs through a grant. Signs were placed at Main Street and Mill Street, in the triangle at Main Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street, at the northeast corner of Main Street at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and in front of Pocket Park.



*Wayfinder sign at 1<sup>st</sup> and East*

## Grants Received

### City received grant for stormwater repairs in Parkville Heights

In 2020, the City received a \$50,061 in Platte County Stormwater Management Grant funds to replace a storm sewer in Parkville Heights subdivision. In a portion of the subdivision, the existing storm drain was undersized and had deteriorated, causing storm runoff to damage nearby property and create erosion along the culvert. The two primary goals of the project were to replace the undersized and deteriorating components and to prevent street runoff from damaging properties.

### City received Platte County Outreach Grant for Waddell Bridge

In 2020, the City received \$10,820 in Platte County Park & Recreation Outreach grant funds that were used for new lighting on the Waddell A-Truss Bridge in English Landing Park. The project was completed in December.



*Waddell Bridge Lighting*

### City received Missouri Department of Conservation grant for trees in park

In 2020, the City received \$10,000 in Tree Resource Inventory Management (TRIM) grant funds. The City completed its plan to remove and trim hazardous trees in the park. With the aid of bucket trucks and tree climbers, four hazardous trees were removed and 17 trees were pruned.