



One  
Year.



One  
Community.



One  
Direction.

## Joplin Parks

Five of the city's public parks sustained damage from the EF-5 tornado of 2011. Damages ranged from near total destruction (Cunningham Park) to minor damage (Mohaska).

Cunningham Park, on land donated to the city in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by prominent businessman Thomas Cunningham, is the first park in Joplin, its 'flagship' park. Directly across 26<sup>th</sup> Street from St. John's Mercy Hospital, it was also 'ground zero' in the path of the EF-5 tornado.

A multitude of public and private sector efforts are being used to restore and rebuild these important community assets. Here's a glimpse at some of those efforts:

**The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Public Assistance program is providing nearly \$1 million in funding for the following projects:**

- ◆ **CUNNINGHAM PARK** facilities will receive more than \$800,000 in federal funding for two pavilions, the historic Shelter House, playground equipment, basketball and tennis courts, the pool house, lighting and signage.



- ◆ **PARR HILL PARK**, a pleasant neighborhood park near 20<sup>th</sup> and Connecticut Streets, lies in the path of major tornado destruction. FEMA will provide more than \$90,000 to assist the city in repairing or replacing playground equipment, basketball courts, signage, picnic tables, wooden pedestrian bridges, lighting, and the bathroom facility.
- ◆ Public Assistance funds will assist with repairs required at these three additional parks: **GARVIN PARK** lost its gazebo, some lighting, signage, and playground equipment. Light poles will be replaced at **EWERT PARK**. At **MOHASKA PARK**, chain-link fencing and playground structures will be repaired.

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# Joplin Parks (cont)

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## Assistance from State of Missouri includes:

- ◆ Department of Natural Resources directed \$700,000 from the Scrap Tire Surface Material Grant Program to Joplin and Duquesne.
- ◆ Workers from the DRJP, State Parks Youth Corps and the Missouri Department of Conservation assisted in planting trees.
- ◆ Division of State Parks makes up to \$400,000 available in grant funds to redevelop and reforest community parks.
- ◆ The playground equipment at the FEMA community housing sites, provided by the State of Missouri, will go to Joplin city parks when the housing mission is finished.

**Extreme Makeover: Home Edition**, as part of their one-week 'extreme build' of seven homes assisted with restoration of Cunningham Park.

- ◆ EMHE partnered with Drury University School of Architecture, Springfield, Mo., to design and build the Volunteer Tribute Garden.
- ◆ EMHE volunteers installed a new basketball court, a children's play area, and renovated the destroyed restroom into a picnic shelter. They landscaped other areas of the park.

**Private-sector companies** also reached out to the community:

- ◆ Sandstone Gardens, Joplin. Designed, built and donated the Memorial Fountain.
- ◆ Mark and Theresa Clements of MyFixItUpLife designed and built the wooden Memorial Wall.
- ◆ Coca-Cola awarded a \$25,000 grant to Cunningham Park as the third-place winner of Coca-Cola's *America Is Your Park* campaign.
- ◆ The Wal-Mart Foundation donated \$250,000 to help with new park amenities.
- ◆ Leggett & Platt donated more than \$150,000 to help with rebuilding efforts for both Cunningham and Parr Hill parks.
- ◆ Miracle Recreation donated over \$60,000 worth of product to help rebuild the destroyed playground bigger and better.
- ◆ Longaberger Company, Newark, Ohio donated \$7,000 from the Longaberger Foundation to the City of Joplin for the purchase of 40+ trees for Cunningham Park.
- ◆ The City of Fort Scott, Kansas donated a waterslide for the rebuild efforts of Cunningham Family Aquatic Center.

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