City Park Timeline

1857 – 45 acres laid out in the original Manhattan plat.
1850’s-1870’s – Area used for grazing and bordered by hedge trees.
1860’s-1870’s – Southeast corner of the area was a clay pit utilized by the Ulrich Brick Factory.
1870’s-1880’s – Area was leased to the Riley County Fair Association. The RC Fair was held in late summer for 3 days in the northern part of the park.
1874 – Floral hall was built to house exhibits for the Riley County Fair. The building is now known as the Round House.
1895 – Cast iron fountain was put in the north part of the park. In 1986, the fountain was returned and placed in the J.W. Berry Rose Garden.
1904 – The Chief Tatarrax Monument was erected.
1900’s – 1300-1400 trees were planted. The purpose of the park at this time was to display trees and shrubs. By 1910, the park contained over 50 varieties of trees.
1916 – Pioneer log cabin was built as a museum to house a collection of pioneer artifacts used in the home and on the farm.
1922 – Little house next to the rose garden was built.
1927 – James W. Berry Rose Garden was built. In 1940, Berry won national recognition for his work with roses and garden planning. In 1940, a hard freeze killed the rose bushes. In February 1941, 1,100 rose bushes purchased from Portland Oregon. Three hundred and twenty five more bushes were added in 1942.
1939 – Park Pavilion was built.
1955 – Manhattan recreational office was built.
1964 – H.P. Wareham Memorial Fountain was built with funds from the Wareham Estate. In 1992, the Wareham family wished to renovate fountain into a planter.
1966 – Johnny Kaw statue was built in the southeast corner of the park.
1974 – 3 Tennis Courts were added to the park.
1975 – Arts in the Park program began.
1987 – Picnic Shelter was built near the Poyntz entrance.
1991 – Clarenburg Trail was named to the jogging trail around the park.
2009 – Splash Park
2009 – Jon and Ruth Ann Wefald Pavilion & GTM Family Center
2010 – City Pool rebuilt
2011 – Flag Plaza built

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For more information on trees grown in our area, go to

www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore

and download these two publications:

MF-434, Answers to...What Shall I Plant?

MF-2688, Shade and Ornamental Trees for Kansas

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