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 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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Master Gardener Riley County

Manhattan's City Park Tree Walk

