Since the first streams of sparkling water spouted across a concrete pond in the middle of The Paseo Boulevard in 1899, the collective wishes and aspirations of Greater Kansas City have been reflected in our famous fountains.

These unique and varied water sculptures and statuary do more than just give our neighborhoods and public spaces vitality and a special sense of place. They commemorate and celebrate the visions, deeds and generosity of generations of Kansas Citians who helped make so many of our community’s wishes come true.

In 1973, Kansas Citians Harold and Peggy Rice, working with Kansas City’s award-winning Parks and Recreation Department, established The City of Fountains Foundation to encourage the establishment, maintenance and long-term endowment of our signature fountains.
WISH UPON A FOUNTAIN

One of the biggest challenges with stone sculptures or fountains is this climate of ours — intermittent and unpredictable freezing and thawing. Most Kansas City-area fountains are turned off and the water drained for winter. But rain and melting snow and ice, which re-freeze, will damage porous materials. Decisions must be made year by year whether to keep patching them or to simply shut them off temporarily until money can be raised for repairs, or discontinue the water flow permanently.

When the water stops, cracks expand and weeds grow. Each time a water valve is shut off and removed, our community’s critical pool of optimism is drained just that much more, and an intangible collective energy is somehow lost.

Preservation of these historic icons in the Heartland is a major task. If you or your business, foundation or trust would like to dive in and help preserve our beloved fountains, contact:

The City of Fountains Foundation
info@kcfountains.org
816-842-2299
www.kcfountains.com

Hop on a bike, jump in your car, or just put on your walking shoes. In no time at all you can visit and reflect on the beauty of some of Kansas City’s loveliest fountains. Our maps indicate fountains by numbers which correspond to the list provided herein. Just follow the numbers throughout the city, and soak in the richness of Kansas City’s history and culture.
HENRY WOLLMAN BLOCH FOUNTAIN
Main & Pershing

The highly polished black granite surface of this fountain is covered with a thin layer of water that reflects the Union Station and Liberty Memorial. A 40-foot circle of jets propel water in a variety of vertical expressions like a musical composition.

J.C. NICHOLS MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN
47th Street & Main

Kansas City’s best-known fountain was dedicated in 1960 in memory of J.C. Nichols, developer of the Country Club Plaza. Said to represent four rivers, the four equestrian figures were sculpted by French artist Henri Greber in 1910 for a Long Island, New York, estate.

FIREFIGHTERS FOUNTAIN
31st Street & Broadway

Located in Penn Valley Park, this fountain honors the city’s firefighters and memorializes those who have given their lives in the line of duty.

MEYER CIRCLE SEA HORSE FOUNTAIN
Meyer Boulevard & Ward Parkway

Dedicated in 1925, the spectacular sculpture and water jets of this fountain adorn a traffic circle on two of America’s grand old boulevards.

SPIRIT OF FREEDOM
Cleveland & Cleaver II Boulevard

Inspired by the late civic leader, Bruce R. Watkins, this fountain stands as a monument to the contributions of Kansas City’s African-American community.

NORTHLAND FOUNTAIN
North Oak Trafficway & Vivion Road

High on a hill, this fountain dedicated in 1983 was the unified effort of public and private sectors in achieving a common goal. One of the few fountains to operate year-round, it freezes in winter creating one-of-a-kind sculptures with each icy blast.
CHILDREN’S FOUNTAIN  
North Oak Trafficway & 32nd Street

Tom Corbin sculpted six bronze figures using children from the neighborhood as models. With 5,000 gallons of water circulating per minute, this is one of the City’s largest.

WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP FOUNTAIN  
On The Paseo south of 9th Street

Designed in 1898 by George Kessler and John Van Brunt as an entry feature to the then-newly created Paseo Boulevard, it is the oldest public fountain still in existence in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1990, it was conserved, renamed the “Women’s Leadership Fountain,” and dedicated to 13 notable Kansas City women.

WILLIAM VOLKER MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN  
NE corner of Volker Blvd. & Oak

Swedish sculptor Carl Milles created “St. Martin and the Beggar” to depict the legend of the saint cutting his cloak in half to give warmth to a beggar, symbolizing the generosity and charity of a Kansas City businessman and philanthropist, William Volker. The fountain was dedicated September 20, 1958.

CARL J. DICAPO FOUNTAIN  
4212 Cliff Drive, west of Van Brunt

Once a natural spring and public watering hole on a rustic cliffside, this fountain in Kessler Park was converted to a recirculating waterfall and dedicated in 1989.

TENTH STREET FOUNTAIN  
10th Street & Main, KCATA Transit Plaza

At a principal transit intersection in the heart of downtown, the William T. & Charlotte Crosby Kemper Memorial Fountain successfully blends art, water and technology to keep pedestrians dry even when prairie winds blow.

CROWN CENTER SQUARE FOUNTAIN  
Grand, south of Pershing

At Crown Center’s outdoor square, this playful cobblestone fountain has 49 jets that can send 3,500 gallons of water per minute 30 feet overhead.
See next page for corresponding addresses.
FOUNTAINS BY THE NUMBERS

1. Barney Allis Plaza Fountain – 12th & Wyandotte
2. Carl J. DiCapo Fountain* – Cliff Dr. west of Van Brunt
3. Children’s Fountain* – 32nd & North Oak Trfy.
4. City Hall Fountains – 12th & Oak
5. Crown Center Square* – Grand & Pershing
7. Eagle Scout Memorial Fountain – 39th & Gillham
8. Firefighters Fountain* – 31st & Broadway
10. Henry Wollman Bloch Fountain* – Pershing & Main
11. Westside Fountain – Southwest Blvd. & Summit
12. J.C. Nichols Memorial Fountain* – 47th & Main
13. Kansas City Star Fountain – 18th & Grand
14. Kauffman Stadium Fountains – I-70 & Stadium Dr.
15. Liberty Memorial Fountains – Pershing & Main
16. Laura Conyers Smith Fountain – 51st & Wornall
17. Mermaid Fountain – Broadway & Nichols Rd.
20. Muse of Missouri Fountain – 9th & Main
21. Neptune Fountain – 47th & Wornall
22. Northeast Concourse Fountain – Benton & Gladstone Blvd.
23. Northland Fountain* – North Oak Trfy. & Vivian Rd.
24. Ilus Davis Fountain – 11th & Locust
27. Tenth Street Fountain* – 10th & Main
28. Spirit of Freedom Fountain* – Cleaver II Blvd. & Cleveland
29. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fountain – 43rd & Broadway
30. Volker Memorial Fountain* – Volker Blvd. & Oak
31. Westin Crown Center Hotel Lobby – Main & Pershing
32. Women's Leadership Fountain* – 9th & Paseo

*profiled on previous pages

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