

Parks in Kearney Today (2011)

East side:

Nina Hammer
Collins
Harvey – baseball/softball

West side:

Baldwin – soccer
Harmon
Lincoln Way - soccer, softball
Pioneer
Centennial

Harmon Park

Original portion – one block between 5 & 6, 29 & 30 – the odd piece on the south – given to the city by Thomas Perkins & James Harford Aug 7, 1876.

Called Third Ward Park, later called Lincoln Park

Had trees, grass, flowers, sidewalks, benches, a couple of drinking fountains. No picnic tables
1907-1924 – tent Chautauqua held at Chautauqua Park – the block north of Third Ward Park – now holds Sonatorium, new Youth Center, baseball field & tennis courts.

1924 Esther Kroeger, C of C secretary, applied to the Harmon Foundation for funds. One of 50 to receive funds, used to buy 4 blocks, 5-7, 31-33, Named Harmon Field. Trees planted, playground equipment installed as per requirements of grant for 5 years

Later purchased ½ block between Park school and the park

Kiwanis – wading pool

Cosmopolitan – 3 tennis courts

Rotary & other donations –

Kearney Women's Club – picnic tables

Croquet courts, formal flower garden with fish pond

Horseshoe courts

Ball diamond

Monkey cages – later used for squirrels, pigeons, & other small animals

Corral with 14 ponies

1936 – bond issue to build swimming pool & bath house – became a PWA project

Expanded to include band shell, shelter houses, rock garden

1937 – lily pond project of NYA (Nat. Youth Admin.). later filled and turned into a rose garden.

1938 – Sonatorium

1939 – Whole area of Harmon Field and Lincoln Park named Harmon Park

1940 – Lighthouse

Parks of the Past in Kearney:

West Kearney Park – 2 acres in center of section

Established 1889

10,000 shrubs & flowering plants

Condemned in 1913 – all streets, alleys, avenues and boulevards vacated

½ section purchased by Industrial School to be used for agriculture

Riverside Park – At south end of 8th Ave (Steinbrink's) between 11th & 13th Streets.

Established in 1888

South end of 8th Ave is Steinbrink house – has remains of a fountain in front yard

Sort of where Centennial Park is today. Centennial probably on about the east edge. We don't know how wide Riverside was.

Kearney Lake – ice skating and slide in winter

Boating, swimming, diving in summer

Dance pavilion

Union Pacific Park – between depot and 2nd, Railroad and street

Oregon Trail marker, dedicated in Feb. 1910

1733 Park

Swimming pool – Repaired and reopened for Negroes to use while Air Base was open.

Dance hall

Parks in Other Buffalo County Towns

None described in Centennial books

Gibbon

Mabel Vohland's *Trail Dust to Star Dust* does include parks

Davis Park – Land donated in 1887 by Isaac Davis.

He and nephew James had established the Gibbon Mill

City Park - Across from the Post Office.

Women's Club sponsored project of landscaping and planting shrubs & flowers
Monument

- a. Names of Gibbon Homestead Colony members
- b. Honorary members – Individuals already here when Colony arrived

Pleasanton

Park on the river

Recreation on the Wood River

– Tied to Flour Mills

Shelton – Old timers remember

Lake Shelton at the north edge of town above the dam

Popular picnic spot

Ice skate in winter

Swim and boat in summer.

For several years in the early 1900's a small steamboat ran on the lake

Area boat races were held.

Glenwood – Glenwood Park, created at the widened river above the dam for Blue Mill

Late 1880s

Family picnics, swimming, boating, fishing

Baseball field on the flat area above the river bed

Owned and operated by Charles Nelson

Closed around 1910 after Nelson's death

White Bridge Park –

1 mile north of Glenwood (92nd Road)

2 miles east (Antelope Road)

Southeast corner of intersection

J. J. Klein owned 80 acres, Wood wanders through west to east

Probably opened in 1903

Advertised during June & July 1903 as 35 minutes from Kearney.

Items about people picnicking there started in August

Advertised as 4 miles north of KMA in August ads

Fourth of July celebration at the park in 1904

Bridge painted white and won an award in Feb 1905,

Washed out in spring flood in June, replaced with metal suspension bridge.

[Why was it called White Bridge Park before that?]

Jacob J Klein died in May 1938 at age 72 and is buried in the Kearney cemetery