

# SPECIAL EVENTS

The Kearney Park and Recreation Department is known for putting on fabulous special events. Below is the description of special events we offer throughout the year. "LIKE" Kearney Park and Recreation or "FOLLOW" @KearneyParknRec on Facebook, X, and Instagram.

*\*Dates & details will be posted on social media, released in our Play Kearney and publicized through various forms of advertising.*

	<p><b><u>Daddy/Daughter Date Night</u></b> Typically, in late January. Semi-formal attire requested A night to remember for dads and daughters (1st thru 5th grade). Event includes catered dinner and dancing. Generally, over 600 people attend this popular event! Registration opens late-September.</p>
	<p><b><u>Mother/Son Fun Day</u></b> Typically, in late January or early February. Moms and sons (1st thru 5th grades) get to spend some quality time together during the event. A variety of activities will be scheduled to enjoy including games and activities, food &amp; more! Registration opens late-September.</p>
	<p><b><u>Hip Hop Letter Hunt</u></b> <b>FREE EVENT!</b> Saturday before Easter. Kids search the park for eggs that have letters on them. Collect all the letters to form a word and turn it in for a chance to win a basket filled with goodies!</p>
	<p><b><u>Kearney's Amazing Race</u></b> Typically in late March or April. Event day registration. A geocaching race through Kearney. Participate as an individual or race as a team. All you need is a Smart Phone. Teams will race in a car and on foot to find the hidden caches. An instructional session will be conducted for those that need to learn how to read coordinates. Great prizes for the top 3 finishers. All ages welcome, but one licensed driver needed per team.</p>
	<p><b><u>Bicycle Sunday</u></b> <b>FREE EVENT!</b> Mid-Late April. All ages. This is a great event to do as a family, with friends, a youth group, co-workers, or even by yourself. Ride your bike along the Kearney trail system, stopping at various activity checkpoints. Go to the <a href="http://www.kearneyrec.org">www.kearneyrec.org</a> after April 1 for further instructions and a map. Turn in your checkpoint map at the conclusion of the race and be eligible for a Summer Family Pool Pass!</p>
	<p><b><u>Nebraska Youth Track &amp; Field Meet</u></b> <b>FREE EVENT!</b> Typically, early to mid-May, 10:00am – approx. 2:00pm. *Boys &amp; Girls Age Divisions: 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (*age as of 12/31 of current year) The event is free; however, participants must <u>pre-register</u>. A recreational track &amp; field meet for boys and girls. The top four in each age group will advance to the Championship Meet which rotates from city to city each year amongst Hastings, Grand Island, York, North Platte &amp; Kearney. Registration opens in late March.</p>



**Heritage Day**

**FREE EVENT!**

First Saturday in June.

The family friendly event of the summer! Activities throughout the day including: Sue Bush Memorial 5K Run/Walk & Kids Lake Loop, Family Fishing Day, Giant Inflatables, Paddle boating/Kayaking & more. Musical entertainment beginning late in the afternoon and running through the evening at the Cope Amphitheater. Concessions available. The event ends with an amazing Fireworks Finale that you won't want to miss! Free will donations accepted.



**Sue Bush Memorial 5K Run/Walk & Kids Lake Loop**

First Saturday in June. All ages.

This kick-off event to Heritage Day has great tradition. The 5-kilometer course is good for beginners as well as advanced runners. Medals awarded for first-third place finishers in each age/gender division. The Kids Lake Loop will be ran around Yanney Lake with all finishers receiving a ribbon. Special prizes will be randomly drawn during the awards ceremony. Entry forms will be available in April.



**Community Olympic Games**

Last full weekend in June. Ages 18 and older.

Join CHI Health Good Samaritan and KPR for three days of exercise, community spirit and lots of fun! Form a team of 10-30 people and participate in a variety of events such as: obstacle course, volleyball, softball, pickleball, and more! Earn points for your team by placing and by participating. The team champion will be crowned at the awards barbeque on Sunday night. Entry packets will be available late March. "Like" Kearney Community Olympics on Facebook!



**Splash Bash Pool Parties**

Various dates in June and July at Harmon and Centennial Swimming Pools. All ages.

An extra fun day at the pool with games, sno-cones, music, and prizes! Inflatables that can fit through the front door can be taken in the pool on Splash Bash days. Dates will be announced in the April-September "Play Kearney".



**Jr. Recreational Tennis Tournament**

Typically, in Mid-July at Harmon and Sertoma Tennis Courts for ages 7-18, various divisions. Singles & Doubles.

Designed for players who rarely or never play in USTA sanctioned tournaments. Players should know how to keep score. The USTA "10 & Under Tennis" format will be used for ages 7-10. Medals to first-third place finishers.



**Nebraska Senior Games**

Typically, in early August at various venues in Kearney.  
Ages 50+ (as of 12/31 of the current year).  
Kearney is the host city for the Nebraska Senior Games. Events include: bowling, badminton, cycling, tennis, swimming, road racing, free throw shooting, horseshoes, track and field, golf, disc golf, pitch (cards), table tennis, wellness walk, and pickleball. Entry forms will be available by May 15. Go to [www.nebraskaseniorgames.com](http://www.nebraskaseniorgames.com) for more information. Event partners: National Senior Games Association and Visit Kearney.



**Storybook Walk** *FREE EVENT!*

Typically, in mid-August. All ages.  
Come and enjoy a fun-filled walk around the Park. Participants will stop at various locations to read sections from an over-sized children's book and engage in fun activities related to the book.



**Puppy Plunge**

Typically, in mid-August at Centennial Pool. Pre-registration is required at the KPR Office. Current vaccination records required the day of the event. Proceeds to benefit the Kearney Animal Shelter and the Kearney Dog Park. Come and watch your doggie paddle at the fun event for "man's best friend".



**Grandparent's Day**

National Grandparent's Day in Early September. Grandchildren and their Grandparent(s). Spend the day with Grandma and Grandpa! Play games, participate in fun activities to learn more about each other, enjoy refreshments and more!



**NetFest Pickleball Tournament**

Typically, in October at the Kearney SportsPlex. Singles and Mixed Doubles. Tournament will be round robin pool play with advancement to a single elimination tournament. Participants can sign up for various divisions and leagues. Awards to top teams.



**Kearney Indoor Open Tennis Tournament**

Typically, in early November. For ages 16 and older, doubles and singles at the Ernest Grundy Tennis Center. Awards to top finishers.



**Blitz Adult Volleyball Tournament**

Typically, in mid-November. Coed on Saturday, Women's on Sunday. Ages 16 and older. A popular tournament for coed and women's teams. Entry forms will be available in early October.



**Holiday Light Festival**

***FREE EVENT!***

Early-Mid December. A section of Yanney Park will be lit up each night. Hot chocolate, entertainment, Santa, and more will occur on special nights. Fun for the entire family!



**Middle School Fun Night at the Tennis Center**

Typically, in mid-December, for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders. Fun night filled with music, food, prizes and plenty of fun games! No tennis experience is required!