

SESQUICENTENNIAL POINT DEDICATED

Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department and the Sesquicentennial Commission held a dedication ceremony at Sesquicentennial Point Wednesday, Oct. 24.



More than 100 people attended the dedication of The Point, which included a tribute to donors and those who purchased steps in the “Walk through Time.” Descendants of Amos Lawrence, the founder of Lawrence, participated in the ceremony and presented a book detailing the genealogy of the John Lawrence family to KU’s Spencer Research Library. Mayor Sue Hack provided closing remarks and finalized the

dedication. Music was provided by Junkyard Jazz, the official band of the Sesquicentennial Commission.

The Point, located on a hillside within the leased park lands overlooking Clinton Lake and the Wakarusa Valley, will provide a gathering space for groups and offer adjacent hiking trails and picnic areas.

A plaza is located at the head of a walkway of engraved steps, the “Walk through Time,” which stair steps down the hill to the point where a time capsule was placed in 2004 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lawrence’s founding. Envisioned for the future is a grassy amphitheater on the hillside below the time capsule.



The Commission raised more than \$200,000 in private support for The Point from 1999 to 2007. A seven-member board of directors was headed by Clenece Hills, president; Jerry Niebaum, vice president; Bruce Roberts, secretary; William Crowe, treasurer; and members-at-large Judy Billings, David Carttar and James W. Paddock.



(Pictures clockwise from top left) Ernie Shaw, interim director of Parks and Recreation, discusses plans for future development of The Point; Mayor Sue Hack addresses the crowd; A man explores the Walk through Time after the ceremony; Junkyard Jazz performs “America the Beautiful”; Mayor Hack and members of the Sesquicentennial Commission cut the ribbon to conclude the dedication.

DEVICTOR PARK GETS DEDICATED

DeVictor Park in west Lawrence, 1100 George Williams Way, was dedicated on Friday, Oct. 26.

Along with Commissioner Mike Amyx and Parks and Recreation staff, over 75 friends, family and West Lawrence Neighborhood members were on hand to commemorate the occasion.

When complete, the park will boast a playground, an outdoor classroom, as well as a hard surface trail. Planning of the park began in fall of 2004 with public meetings to gather input as to the features neighbors wanted in the park. Funding for the first phase of its development was approved by the City Commission in the 2007 budget.



Fred and Karen DeVictor, along with several neighborhood children, cut the ribbon officially opening DeVictor Park.

In March at a public retirement reception, the park was named for the longtime director of Lawrence Parks and Recreation, Fred DeVictor. DeVictor worked for the City of Lawrence for 37 years, 34 years as director of Parks and Recreation. During his tenure, the department grew from 12 to 52 parks and open space areas and from 6 to 75 full-time employees. DeVictor was only the third director of the department in its 61 year history.



Commissioner Mike Amyx speaks to the crowd assembled at DeVictor Park.