

Anita B. Gorman-2015

Jefferson City, MO – Anita B. Gorman was inducted into the Missouri Recreation and Parks Hall of Fame on Thursday, February 26, 2015. Mrs. Gorman has worked to improve Kansas City's quality of life for more than 50 years. Her leadership in and work with many groups and organizations has helped the city blossom. Mrs. Gorman was the first woman appointed to the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners, serving from 1979 until 1991. During her tenure, many things were accomplished: the building of many fountains, the passing of bonds to support and expand the Kansas City Zoo, the acquisition of property for additional parks and boulevards, conservation and restorative work on sculptures and monuments, and improvements made to local community centers and recreation facilities. Mrs. Gorman also served on the Missouri Conservation Commission from 1993 until 2005 and became the first woman to chair the commission in 1996. Her focus was to help urban communities better connect with nature and the importance of conservation. In addition, Mrs. Gorman has been a member of the City of Fountains Foundation since its beginning in 1973. The Foundation works in partnership with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department to operate and maintain 47 publicly-owned fountains. Today Mrs. Gorman continues her work on behalf of Kansas City's Parks and Recreation projects. She has been a strong supporter of sales tax increases to better fund parks and recreation activities for many years to come. In November 2014, Mrs. Gorman was also recognized as the "2014 Outstanding Fundraising Volunteer" by the Mid-America Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Throughout her life of work on Kansas City's behalf, Mrs. Gorman has had the support of her husband, Gerald, her children and grandchildren. No matter how extensive her activities, her passion remains steadfast for Kansas City, and she encourages the next generation to step up and strive to work on its behalf, to leave it a better place.