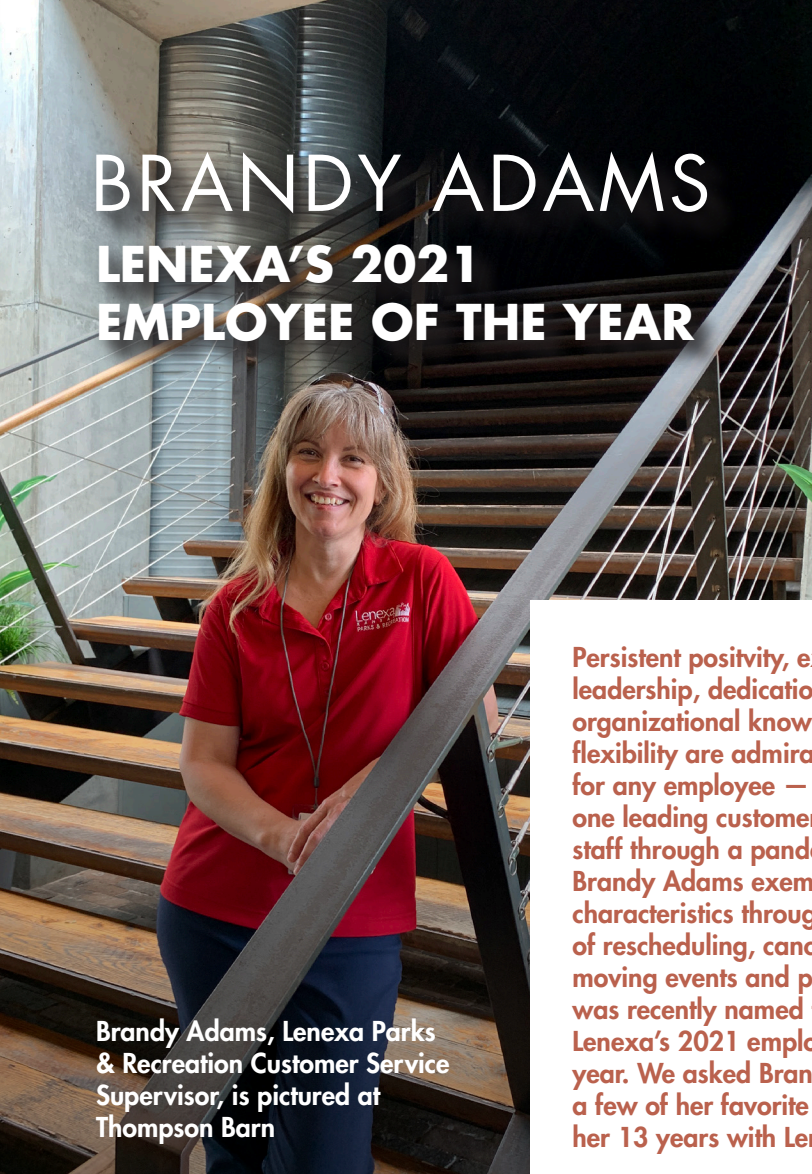


BRANDY ADAMS

LENEXA'S 2021 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Brandy Adams, Lenexa Parks & Recreation Customer Service Supervisor, is pictured at Thompson Barn

Persistent positivity, excellent leadership, dedication, organizational knowledge and flexibility are admirable qualities for any employee — especially one leading customer service staff through a pandemic. Brandy Adams exemplified these characteristics through a year of rescheduling, canceling and moving events and programs, and was recently named the City of Lenexa's 2021 employee of the year. We asked Brandy to share a few of her favorite things about her 13 years with Lenexa.

What is your favorite thing about working for the City of Lenexa?

Working with so many cheerful and supportive staff, not only in Parks and Rec, but in all departments, on a variety of programs, festivals and spaces where our community gathers to create memories, stays healthy and connects.

How has your job changed since you started working for Lenexa?

I started in 2010 when we had around 20 people on the recreation and customer service side. So in 2017, it felt like we went from a one-room schoolhouse to a university when we opened the Rec Center and gained an incredible number of new staff. We've seen major improvements to Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park and Thompson Barn and added so many new programs. I am extremely excited to see how we grow over the next few years.

What's your favorite festival in Lenexa and why?

Chili Challenge in Old Town! Especially when the weather is a crisp 60 degrees; chili tastes so much better then. We get to work the info booth and gates, and it's fun explaining what the challenge is all about and to sell Chili gear. The band and fireworks add to the unique experience, and the team spirit of the contestants shines through no matter the weather.

TRACKING THE HISTORY OF LENEXA'S PARK NAMES

The Lenexa Historical Society is working with the Lenexa Parks and Recreation Department to research each park's establishment date, name origin and type of land acquisition. The project will be completed by the end of the year. In the meantime, here are some "teasers" about a few of the parks.

STATE SYMBOLS

Ad Astra Park comes from the Latin state motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera," which means "to the stars through difficulties." **Buffalo Meadows Park** celebrates our state animal.



MISCELLANEOUS MEANINGS

Scouting Park honors the many scouts from Lenexa. **Bois d'Arc Park** is a French term for the Osage Orange tree. Did you know that American Indians used its hard, hearty wood for bows and clubs? **Freedom Fields Park** was named immediately after the 9/11 attacks, combining the concepts of our American freedoms with the "unbound freedom of play" in Lenexa parks.

HISTORIC FIGURES

Na Nex Se Park is in honor of Lenexa's Shawnee Indian namesake, Na-Nex-Se. **Black Hoof Park** is named for her husband, Quasky Black Hoof. **Bradshaw Park** honors the family that donated the land for the 1869 railroad right-of-way and the Lenexa Depot. **Wild Bill Hickok Park** is a one-acre park that was part of a 160-acre land claim in the 1850s by James B. Hickok, before he became known as "Wild Bill."



Which are the most popular Lenexa facilities to rent?

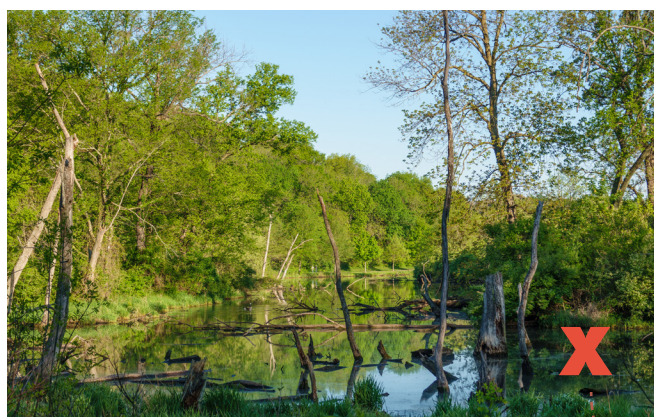
Thompson Barn and our park shelters are a major hit for weddings, graduations and family or work gatherings. Our facilities and park staff maintain these spaces so well that people from all over the metro (and even some out-of-towners) rent them.

Tell us about the team you work with every day.

I mostly work directly with frontline team members who are the first to greet familiar faces and those who are new to Lenexa Parks and Rec. They know so many of our patrons by name and truly care about their wellbeing and success. I also get to work with the Parks and Building Services crew and program supervisors who provide the amazing spaces and fun activities that we get to promote and connect our customers to.

What advice do you have for those starting out in the customer service field?

One of my favorite sayings is "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best." Strive to offer exceptional service and support your coworkers even through difficult situations. Be patient with and forgiving of yourself, your teammates and your customers. There is so much information to keep track of, and it is okay to not know every detail as long as your customer and coworkers understand you are helping.



GEOGRAPHIC SITES

Flat Rock Creek Park served as a campground on the Santa Fe, California and Oregon trails as wagon trains went west. **Cedar Station Park** and **Craig Crossing Park** are both reminders of long-ago railroad stops in Lenexa. **Electric Park** is situated next to an electric substation. The City could have named it anything, but nearby residents would have continued to call it Electric Park.

ARTS EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CITY HALL ART GALLERY

The Lenexa Arts Council curates rotating 2D and 3D art shows at the Lenexa City Hall gallery. Shows are free and open to the public. Lenexa.com/Art

Lenexa Artists' Show (through Sept. 26)

This popular annual juried show features a variety of 2D and 3D art by Lenexa artists. Awards are given in various categories for exceptional work.

Sept. 28–Oct. 24 shows

Carol Tinklepaugh: Oil, acrylic pastel, mixed media. **David Darpinian:** Metalwork and jewelry.

PEACE POLES — COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

Dozens of pole monuments designed by community members and adorned with messages of peace will be auctioned off this fall to raise funds for a charitable cause from 6 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 12 at Lenexa City Hall. The Peace Poles Community Art Project remains on exhibit at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park through Oct. 31. Peace Poles Community Art Project partners include the Lenexa Rotary Club, Rotary Club of Western Johnson County, Lenexa Arts Council and the City of Lenexa. Lenexa.com/PeacePoles

CALLS FOR ARTISTS

Cupid's Gems Artisan Jewelry Show applications open Oct. 1

We are seeking talented artists who create and sell unique handmade jewelry to participate in Lenexa's annual Cupid's Gems Artisan Jewelry Show on Feb. 5. No imported or manufactured jewelry is accepted. Apply by Nov. 12. Details at Lenexa.com/Cupids.

HeART of Lenexa Contest entries due Dec. 31

Celebrate what you love about Lenexa through art in this popular annual contest. Artwork must be completed during 2021. Entries will be displayed in a show at Lenexa City Hall in February 2022. View details and application at Lenexa.com/Art.