

The Quindaro Ruins is maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County / Kansas City Kansas. It is just one of several historic sites that exist within our large park system.

The Quindaro Township was a Free State river port settled by a diverse population of African Americans, European Americans and partial-blood Wyandotte Indians until 1862. The town was named for Nancy Brown Guthrie, whose Wyandotte Nation name was Seh Quindaro. Quindaro's anti-slavery sentiment and location immediately across the Missouri River from the State of Missouri made it a natural stop on the Underground Railroad. Assisting runaway slaves was illegal, a hanging offense, in Kansas Territory under the Fugitive Slave Law. The people participating as "Conductors" in the Underground Railroad and "stations" were carefully guarded secrets. Abolitionists living in the area continued efforts to assist slaves escaping from Missouri.

Quindaro grew rapidly in 1857 to approximately 1,200 people. Growth was short-lived due to the Civil War and other factors. By 1861 the town's population had declined to less than 700.

The archeological ruins serve as a monument to racial harmony and to freedom. They have cultural and historical value for the descendants of Native Americans who once owned and occupied the site, for African Americans whose ancestors once looked to Quindaro as a gateway to freedom and for the descendants of Euro-Americans who saw the need to found a Free State port and fight slavery.

For more information on this attraction or others in Kansas City, Kansas call 913-321-5800 or go to visitkansascityks.com.

Thank-you and enjoy the tour.