

**STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)**

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, May 25, 2017, with ten members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Townsend, Commissioner First District (arrived at 5:05 p.m.); McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Murguia, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Holland, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Walker, Commissioner At-Large Second District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; Gordon Criswell and Melissa Mundt, Assistant County Administrators; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation, Jack Webb, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation; Emerick Cross, Commission Liaison; Maureen Mahoney, Asst. to Mayor/Chief of Staff; and Officer Jacob Dent, Sergeant-at-Arms.

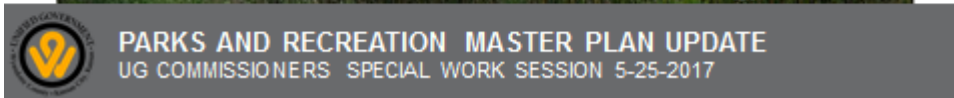
MAYOR HOLLAND called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: McKiernan, Murguia, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Holland.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Thursday, May 25, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building for a presentation on the Parks Master Plan.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Holland said a big night tonight, our long awaited Parks & Recreation Master Plan. We have been working on it for a long time.



Doug Bach, County Administrator, said we are pleased to come forward tonight with the first draft round of the official Parks Master Plan. You all will recall this is a process that we started last July so it's been almost a year and working forward to where we are tonight and stroll this out. The document was submitted to you electrically over about 500 pages I believe. The report 60 some pages but a lot of attachments, addendums that come through that were delivered on Monday. I'm sure you all have read that in detail but that was just intended to get it out in front of you so you would have the chance if you wanted to pop into some sections of it.

Tonight we're going through a presentation to kind of summarize all the different areas they dug into and looked through and this is the only topic we have in the session between now and 7:00 p.m. so it gives us plenty of time to hear what they have to say and dig into it as much as you would like to during this time slot.

Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation, said in 2015 this group approved to fund a Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan. We worked with the Purchasing Department to

go out to bid and do the selection process. When it was all said and done we hired the firm Vireo, formerly known as Patti Banks and so I will turn it over to Steve and Larry from Vireo and let them walk us through this Master Plan.

Steve Rhoades, Principal of Vireo, said with me Larry Reynolds, Landscape Architect, and also Pat O'Toole with GreenPlay which was one of our sub-consultants and we're going to give you sort of an overview of our whole entire process tonight.

TASK	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Demographics and Trends	■										
Review of Plan Documents	■										
Stakeholder and Focus Groups	■	■	■	■	■						
Citizen Survey		■	■								
Inventory of Facilities			■	■	■						
Recreation Program and Services Analysis				■	■						
Operations Analysis & Staffing Needs					■	■					
Statistically Valid Survey							■	■	■		
Community Center/Marina Assessment								■	■		
Visioning Workshop w/ Park Board									■		
Implementation Recommendations									■	■	
Finalize Strategic Master Plan											■



SCHEDULE OF TASKS

Our schedule started off last July where we collected demographics and trends data. We reviewed existing planning documents which we incorporated into the results of this report. We began to begin our stakeholder and focus groups outreach. Our focus there was to get those groups that were active in the Parks & Recreation and also local stakeholders. Our Citizen Survey was developed, that's a statistically valid survey that was sent out. We waited a little bit to avoid the election in November and the holiday season to send that out so that actually didn't go out until January. We did complete our inventory of facilities, the rec program and service analysis, operations and staffing analysis. We got the return of the Statistically Valid Survey around March. We did the community center and marina assessment. We did a Visioning

Workshop with the Park Board and we've developed implementation recommendations and this is the draft of the finalization of the strategic plan.

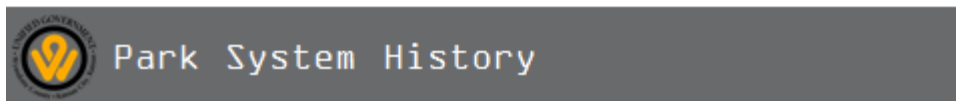
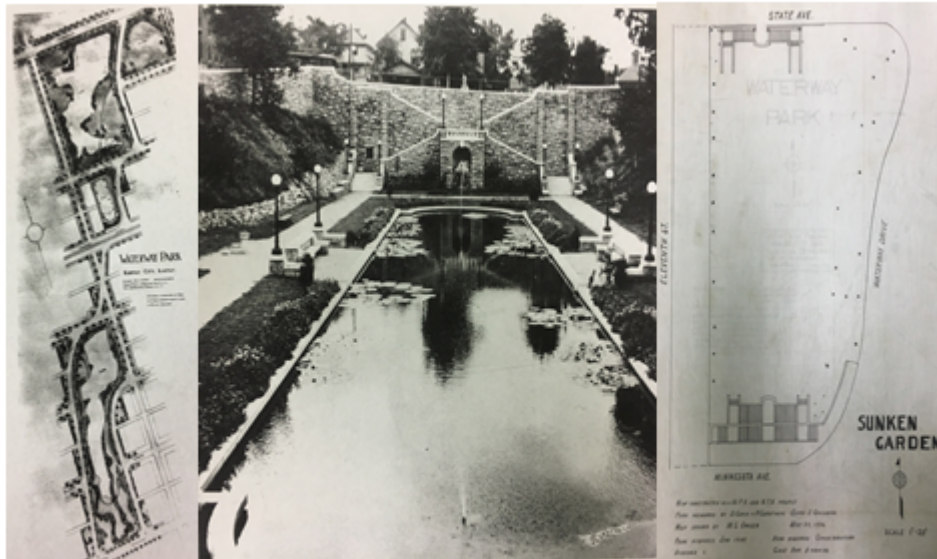
PARK SYSTEM HISTORY



Park System History

May 25, 2017

I want to cover a little bit of the park history because it's so important to who you are and where the Parks & Recreation Department came from. It will also sort of paint a picture of really what your citizens have said for a number of years are still true today. Your system was a wonderful system that was created around the turn of the century, three significant landscape architects helped pull it together over time of about 30 years.



They've had drawings and elaborate plans of which they cycled through their different life spans and have changed today.



Park System History

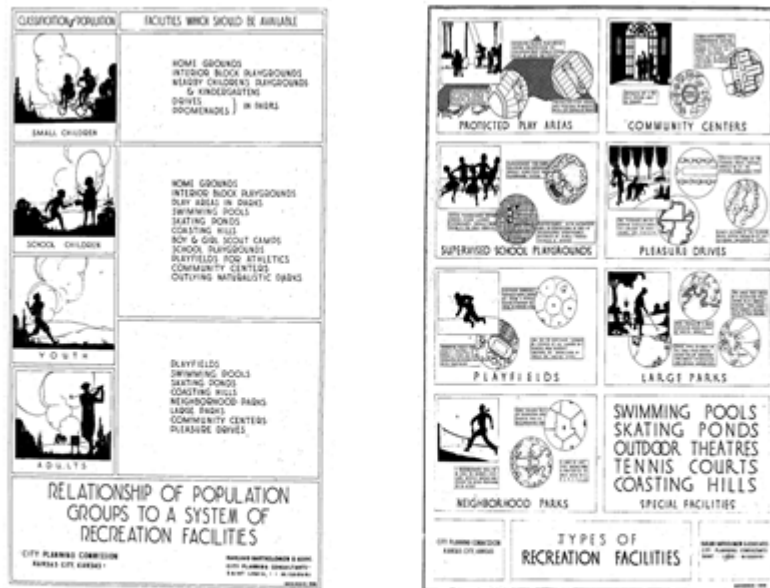
You had a great infrastructure push to build these facilities for the citizens.



Park System History

May 25, 2017

There was not only a Park Board, but there was also a Recreation Commission later. Those facilities deteriorated, new codes came in, the pools had to be updated. This is Klamm Park Pool in the late 30s when the codes change.



Park System History

Their system was developed with principals and guidelines for the types of activities and programming that were meant to take place in them. It was so the recreations of parks were actually tied to the recreational programming that would take place in them.

PLAYGROUNDS TO BE MORE ACTIVE NOW

Recreation Will Really Get Under Way Here Tomorrow.

Playground activities in the city parks and on school grounds, partially delayed the past two weeks by wet weather, will get under way in a more genuine fashion tomorrow—provided it doesn't rain again!

Sunshine toward the end of last past week brought youngsters to the playgrounds in increasing numbers. For the time being thirteen playgrounds are in use, being under supervision of sixty-four play leaders.

This entire playground program is being directed by Leslie Davis as a KERC project under Henry F. Schallie, street and park commissioner.

A group of supervisors was instructed this past week attending a state KERC playground institute. Davis was there for the last few days as was Miss Helen Barnett, assistant to Davis.

With the return of these supervisors and with details of a summer

TO SHOW PLAYGROUND HANDCRAFT PRODUCTS

KANSAS CITY

most important and interesting affairs of the KERC system will be the all-city handcraft display from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. at all the centers. Business firms of Kansas City, Kansas, will arrange its own display at its center. Projects will work of the boys and girls under the KERC playground this summer. Each neighborhood is urged to visit its own park and view the accomplishments of the students.

is to go to the park and see under a shady tree, saw, pocket knife, and sandpaper. Some of the work has been quite drastic: cuts in lawns, both for equipping time.

Prizes will be awarded to the best general exhibit, and third place as the basis for judging of projects, accuracy, and decoration. More than the KERC headquarters park during the summer, selections of the best. Parks will be ranked on quantity and variety of projects—copying saw work, weaving, raffa work, soap carving, art, metal and needlecraft. Arrangement of the exhibit and general appearance of the center.

The park winning first place in the best general exhibit will receive a group treat, consisting of a frozen confection given by the DeCoursey Creamery company and a picture in The Kansan; persons from the park winning second will take a supervised trip thru the Coca Cola building, Kansas City, Mo.

(Turn to Page 3A, Col. 5.)

Modern Park System Aim of Civic Leaders.

Planning Council's Subcommittee at First Meeting Sees Need for Unity Thruout City.

Adequate modern parks and playgrounds for this city, emanating from unified planning and coordinated action, was proposed yesterday at the initial meeting of the Kansas City Kansas Citizens Planning Council's park committee, headed by Claude F. Park.

Civic officials and representatives from a number of districts in the city met with that committee. That recreational activities in the city were summed up by Park. Neighborhood representatives each were interested primarily in development of facilities for their own districts.

It was suggested by C. W. Woodard, executive manager of the Chamber of Commerce, that all the individual ideas be listed and others encouraged from every section of the city. Woodard said he believed a "unified integrated plan could



Park System History

There were a lot of partnerships. Partnerships with schools, partnerships with neighborhood groups, partnerships with the Institute of Play, numerous churches were partners in the early development of the park system.





Park System History

Playgrounds were very significant around 1909.



Park System History

One of the programs that were very popular in the early days of the park system was a music program where the actual Park Department provided music lessons, instrumental lessons to students in the summer, and then provided a program for them to participate in the summer band.



Park System History

The reason we have this platform at Big 11 Lake is because that was a summer band program.



Park System History

There were opportunities for baptisms in Big 11 Lake. It was actually a part of the historic plans of the lake to provide this opportunity for the citizens and the church groups to do at Big 11 Lake.

Supervised Recreation Builds Good Citizens

SUMMER

Playgrounds: 22 playgrounds and 1 wintering pool were operated with a registration of 8,852 boys and girls. The attendance at the playgrounds increased from 188,861 in 1946 to 254,281 in 1947.

Handcraft: 12,085 pieces of handcraft were made by children at the summer playground. Exhibits were held on most of the grounds and at Memorial Hall. Many very favorable comments were received on the excellent quality of the workmanship and the usefulness of the articles.

Story Telling: The playgrounds featured a special story hour demonstrating the activities studied in our theme "The World of Play".

Music: A playground orchestra was organized and practice was held once each week at Kensington Park. Also a playground chorus was organized, which operated on the same schedule as the orchestra. These two groups participated in our first festival at Memorial Hall.

Tree Play: Each of the 22 playgrounds and one day camp was supplied with equipment for tree play. Most of the play areas were open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Boys' and Girls' Athletics: The competitive field for boys and girls was looked down into three age groups—with 218 teams participating in leagues of softball, volleyball, tennis, and basketball. In addition, two track meets were held—with three divisions, junior, intermediate, and senior. This athletic program was a part of the summer playground program.

Special Events on the Playgrounds: To add zest to the playground program, special events were held on all of the playgrounds.

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Fun, Health, Safety for the family for only 48.8¢ per year.



Park System History

In 1947 around this time the creation of a recreation district to provide recreation programming. They partnered with the School District and the Park Board to provide those different services. You will see on the right total attendance in 1947 over all the programs active and passive recreation, 757K people. That was five times the city's population.



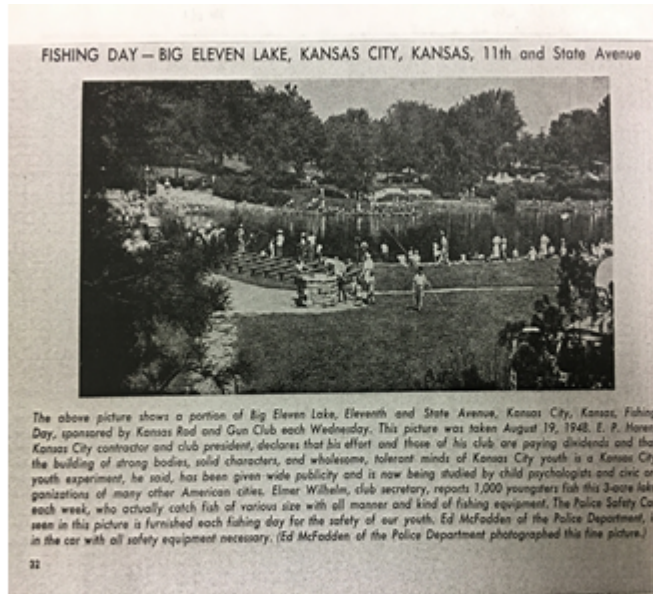
Park System History



Park System History

You stocked the lakes with fish that provided opportunities for fishing derby's weekly. Wednesday morning was the fishing derby.

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Park System History

It was advertised in the paper, again, a partnership with the Kansas Rod & Gun Club.



Park System History

You still do that to an extent today with fishing at your current lakes.

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MISSION

The mission of the Unified Government Parks and Recreation Department is to provide clean, safe, well maintained facilities for all.



MISSION STATEMENT

We reviewed the Mission Statement with the Park Board and really condensed it into a smaller more concise Mission Statement and we've concluded that it should be something along the lines of "The mission of the Unified Government Parks and Recreation Department is to provide clean, safe, well-maintained facilities for all."

PARKS & RECREATION 2012 VISION PLAN (CIRCA 2002)

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Marketing is lacking based upon community awareness.
- Satisfaction levels of services is low.
- Safety & security in parks is lacking.
- More coordination, communication, and collaboration with leisure service providers.
- Partnerships to provide services and facilities which meet the needs of the community.
- Renovation of existing parks & facilities is desired over acquiring parkland.
- Neighborhood parks are needed in western Wyandotte County.
- Facilities most desired over the next several years are: large multi-purpose recreation center, an outdoor sports complex, an outdoor family aquatic center, and walking and biking trails.
- Inconsistent pricing procedures and tax subsidy levels for each program area.
- Equity of access to parks and recreation facilities.



PLANS AND ADOPTED POLICIES

One of the ones that was most interesting and this is the slide that sort of turned the page on because we're going to kind of circle the wagon. This is from your 2002 Park Master Plan and it was a 10-year vision so it was a 2012 Vision Plan for Parks and a lot of the things that were presented in this plan ring true from what we heard from your community.

PUBLIC INPUT

- A. FOCUS GROUPS** (12 sessions over 3 days)
- B. PARKS STAFF MEETINGS** (Maintenance & Recreation Divisions)
- C. PRELIMINARY ON-LINE SURVEY** (154 respondents)
- D. KEY LEADERS, STAKEHOLDERS, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The Dotte Agency | 12. Turner Recreation Commission (TRC) |
| 2. Central Avenue Betterment Association (CABA) | 13. Drainage and levee districts |
| 3. Downtown Shareholders | 14. Friends of the Kaw |
| 4. 20/20/20 Movement | 15. Quindaro Ruins |
| 5. Infrastructure Action Team | 16. Armourdale Renewal Association (ARA) |
| 6. Livable Neighborhoods | 17. Historic Northeast Midtown Association (HNMA) |
| 7. Livable Neighborhoods Special Meeting: | 18. Convention & Visitors Bureau |
| 8. Public Health Department | 19. UG Commissioners |
| • Environmental Health | 20. Mayor Holland |
| • Healthy Communities Wyandotte | 21. County Administrators Doug Bach and Joe Connor |
| 9. Mayors Health Council | 22. UG Planning Dept. |
| 10. Community Housing of Wyandotte County | 23. UG Public Works Dept. |
| 11. Latino Health for All Coalition | |



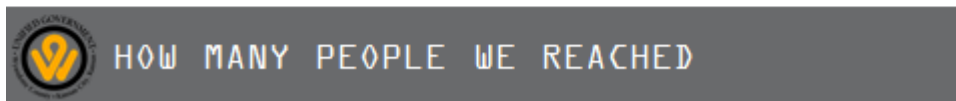
WHO WE MET WITH

Our public input session included focus groups, 12 sessions over three days. It included Park staff meetings, both Maintenance and Recreation Divisions. It included an online survey of

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which we had 154 respondents. We talked to key leaders, stakeholders and community groups. There is a listing here of those folks that we've talked to already.

15 Focus Group Meetings	112
Online Questionnaire	154
23 Stakeholder Discussions	525
<u>Statistically Valid Survey</u>	<u>602</u>
Total Direct Engagement	1,393
Facebook Reach	5,592
<u>Survey Mailers Reach</u>	<u>4,176</u>
Total Reach	9,768



The total direct engagement across all of those discussions we touched almost 1,400 people including with our Statistically Valid Survey, our Facebook Reach was about 5,500 people, almost 5,600, and we did survey mailers to reach about 4,200 people for a total reach of about 9,700 touches across the community.



PROJECT MARKETING & AWARENESS

We created a Facebook page for the project to push information out to the general public about when our focus groups would be held and opportunities for follow-up discussion.

4,176 surveys mailed (random sample)

2,100 reminder postcards

(Five \$50 gift cards offered as incentive)

334 – final invitation sample

268 – final open link sample

602 – total respondents

+/- 5.04% margin of error

STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

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There were 4,100 surveys mailed, 2,100 reminder postcards and there were five \$50 gift cards offered as incentives to return those surveys. There was a total sampling of 334 returned, 268 filled out an open link and returned the survey for a total of 602 respondents.

Underlying data were weighted by age and ethnicity to ensure appropriate representation of Wyandotte County

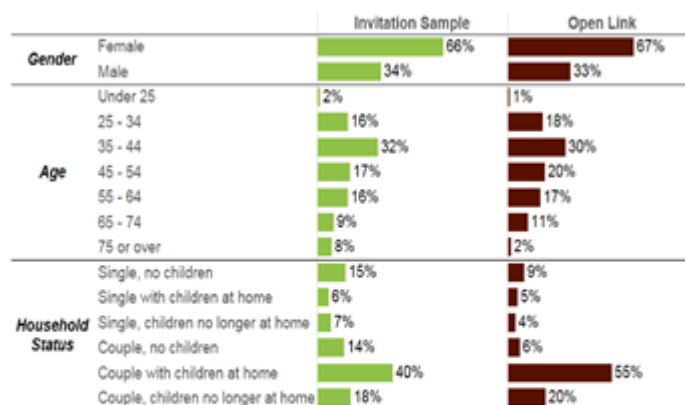
Using the U.S. Census Bureau 2015 American Community Survey five-year estimates, the age distribution and ethnicity distribution within the invitation sample were adjusted to more closely match the 2015 demographic profile of Wyandotte County.

Due to variable response rates by some segments of the population, the underlying results, while weighted to best match the overall demographics of residents, may not be completely representative of some sub-groups of the population.



The survey data we did sort of aggregate it so it matches your demographics. This is the methodology that the survey firm used.

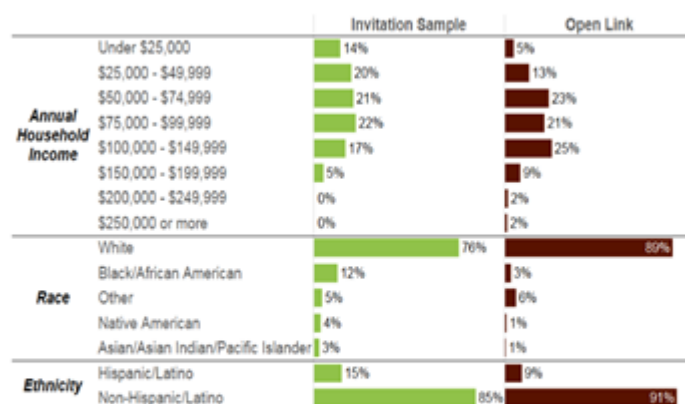
RESPONDENTS PROFILE



WHAT WE HEARD - STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

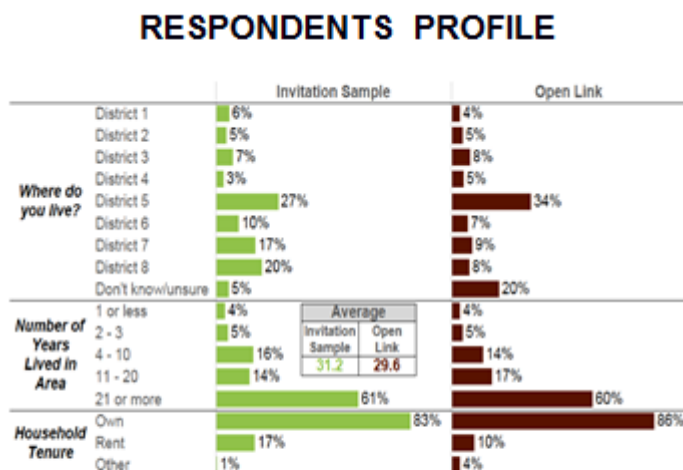
The Respondents Profile generally both the invitation samples in the green and the open link is in the brown. More than two-thirds of the people responding were female. The majority of the household status was couples with children at home responding to the survey.

RESPONDENTS PROFILE



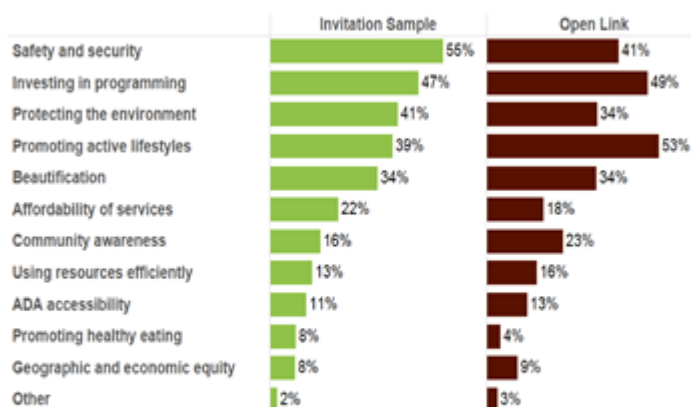
WHAT WE HEARD - STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

We had the ethnic profile. The race and demographic also broken down as a survey question so they could tell us on the survey on the survey response.



Respondents Profile by district. This is the returns were received by districts.

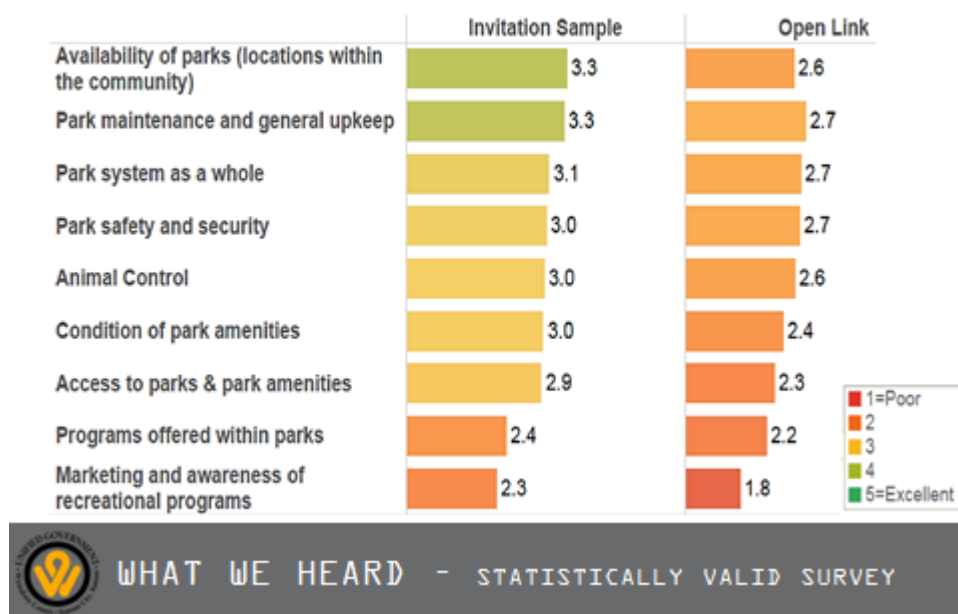
VALUES & VISION



WHAT WE HEARD - STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

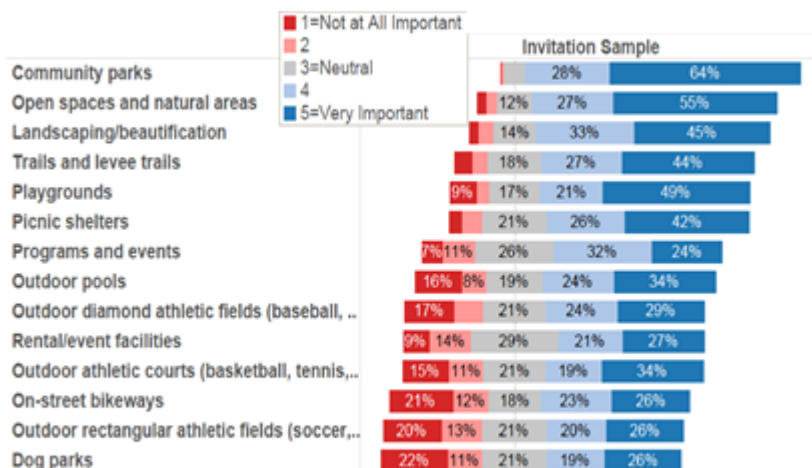
The Values & Vision that most people wanted to see from the Park Department both in the mail out and the open link were safety and security, investing in programming, protecting the environment, promoting active lifestyles and beautification. At that point there is sort of a line that's sort of drawn. The other things are important too.

RATING OF PARKS & RECREATION SERVICES



Rating of parks and recreation services currently; the availability of parks within the community they thought was average. Park maintenance and upkeep was average. The park system as a whole was generally average. There is not a lot of green on here but we go to the bottom marketing and awareness of recreational programs is really low. Programs offered within Parks are really low. Access to parks and amenities, this is kind of activities; this is trails, this is sidewalks is fairly low and then the condition of some of the amenities is fairly low.

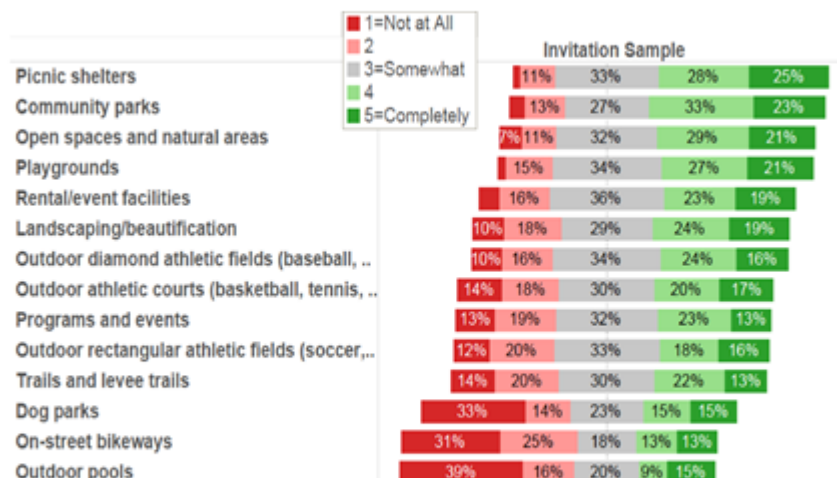
IMPORTANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES



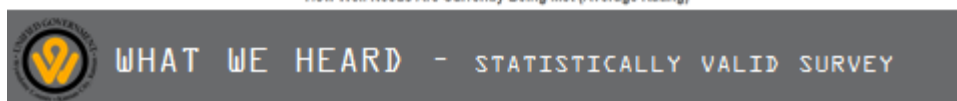
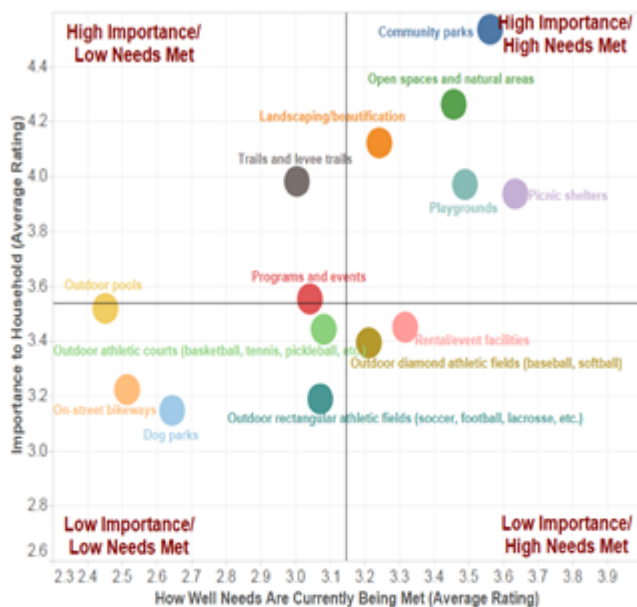
WHAT WE HEARD - STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

Important of existing facilities to the community; the blue areas are very important. Community parks are very important, open space and natural areas, landscape/beautification, trails and levee trails are very important. Playgrounds, picnic shelters and programming and events are sort of a dividing line there of what is important to folks. What we're seeing from this are sort of basic infrastructure type of things that's important to the community.

DEGREE TO WHICH EXISTING FACILITIES MEET NEEDS

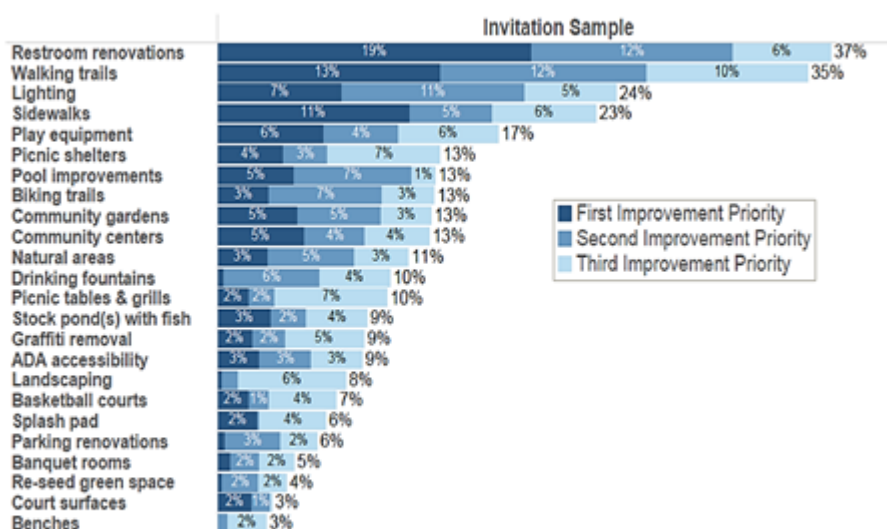


The degree of which existing facilities meet the needs of the community; we go to the bottom and the things that aren't meeting the need are outdoor pools, on-street bikeways, dog parks, trails; those are the key highlights of those. The things at the top; the picnic shelters, the community parks, open spaces and natural areas their need is completely or somewhat met.



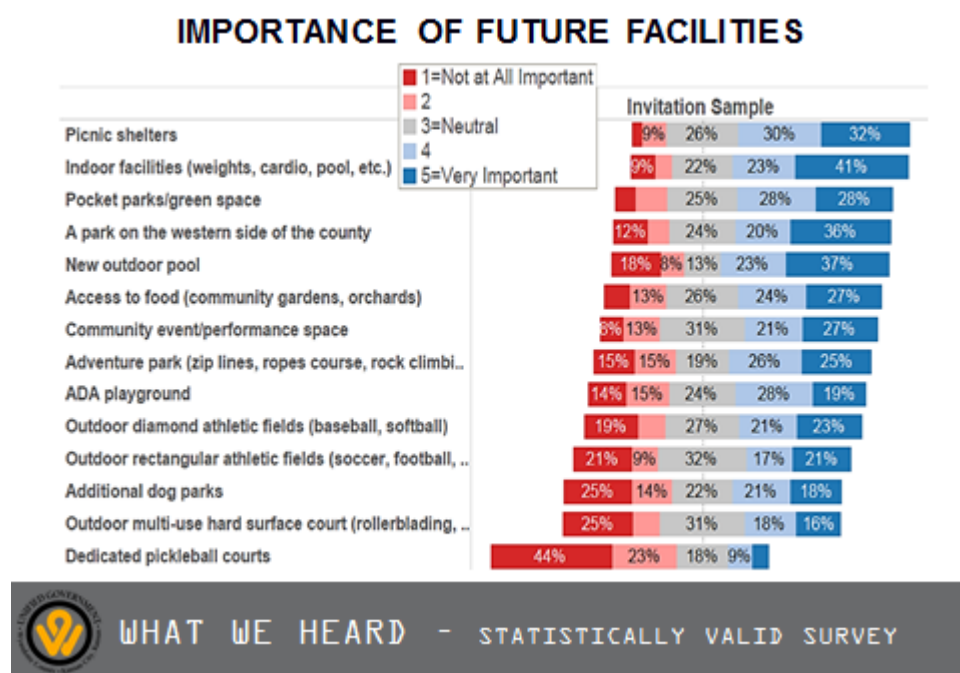
This one is a chart of high importance versus low needs met and you will see in the upper left chart the things that are of high importance to people that currently have a low needs being met. Over on the right are the things of high importance and currently they feel that the high needs are being met. Conversely on the bottom low importance and low needs met. Then low importance and high needs met.

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES



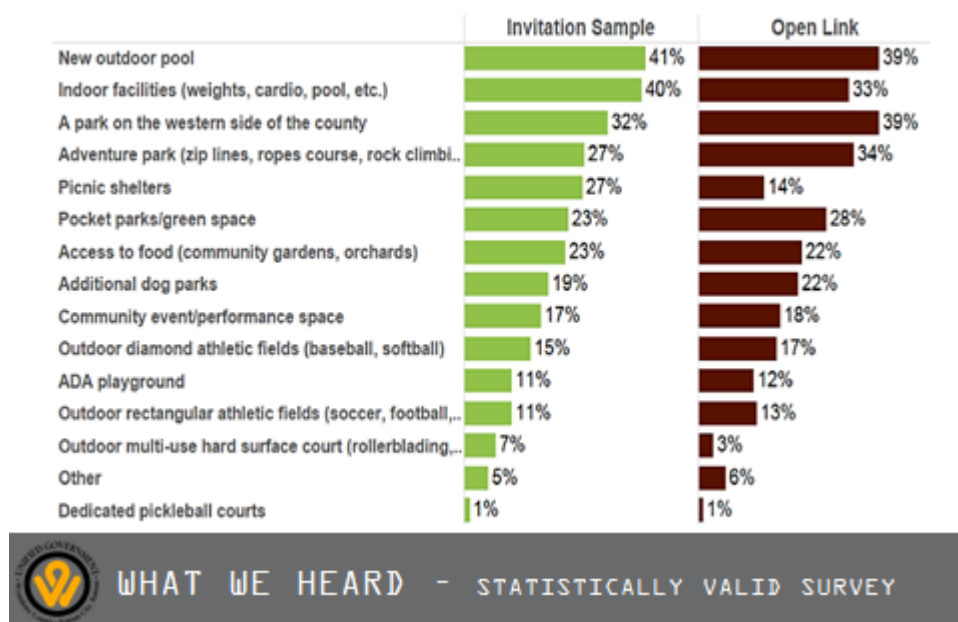
WHAT WE HEARD - STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

Improvements to the existing facilities that people would like see overwhelming; the first priority improvement would be restroom renovations, walking trails, lighting, sidewalks, play equipment, newer, more modern, more diverse types of play equipment, picnic shelters, pool improvements, trails, community gardens and community centers and then it sort of takes another dip.



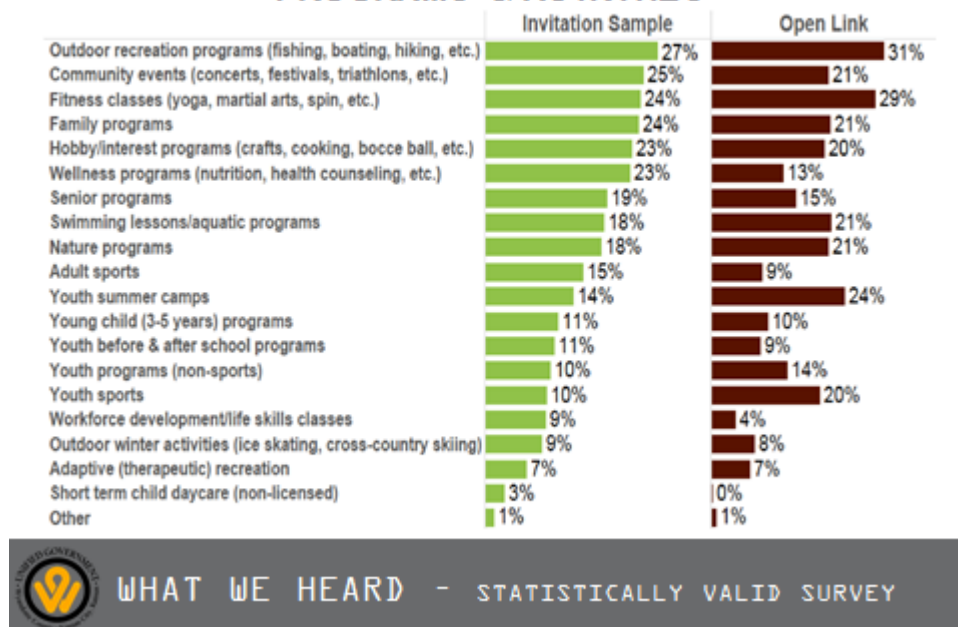
Importance of future facilities; this one I will take the top five. The picnic shelters, indoor facilities that provide weights, cardio and pool. These are often found in what we think of as a modern type community center or rec center. A park on the western side of the county, a new outdoor pool and after that it sort of drops off.

PRIORITY OF FUTURE FACILITIES



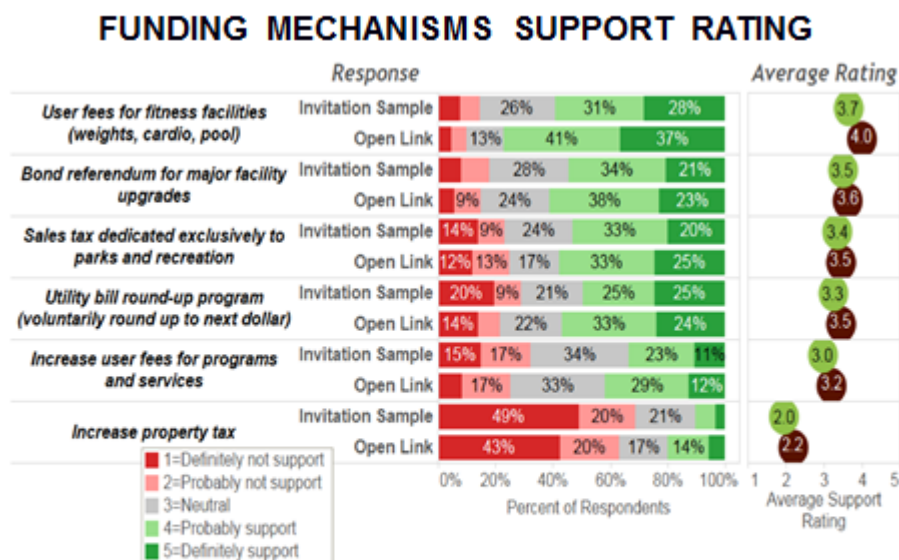
Priority of future facilities; outdoor pool, those indoor facilities—I already covered that.

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



Programs & Activities; this gives us sort of an insight to what the community is looking to see in terms of programming and activities. Outdoor recreation programs such as fishing, boating, and

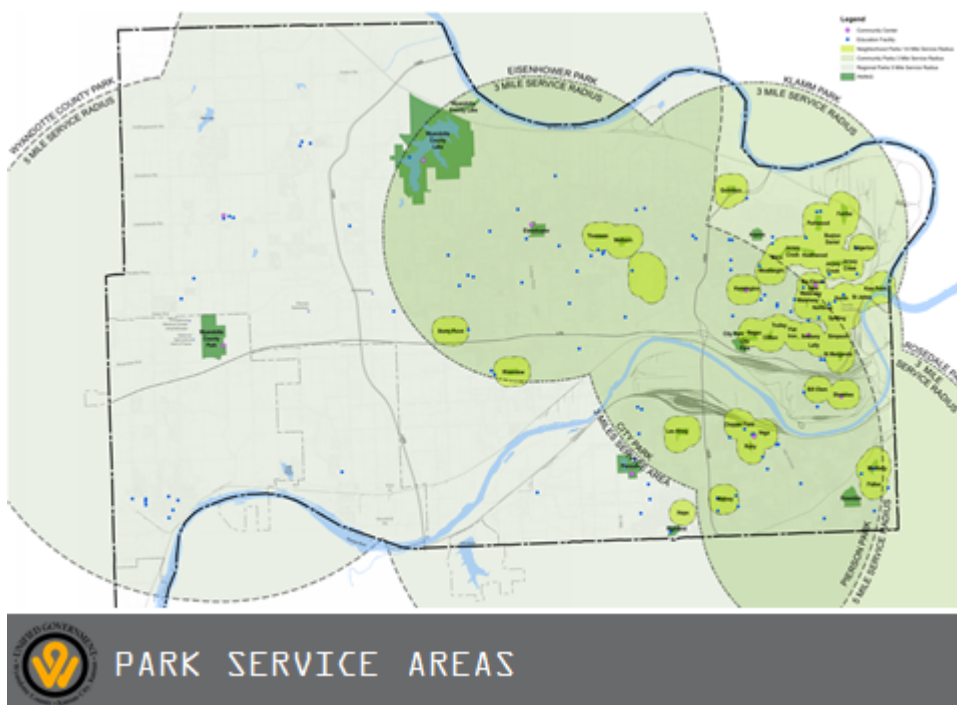
hiking, community events such as concerts, festivals and triathlons, fitness classes such as yoga, martial arts, spin, etc.; family programs, hobby/interests programs, wellness programs, senior programs and then it sort of takes another dip after swimming and nature programs.



We asked the question about funding mechanisms and what would be supported. On a five point scale the average rating is here on your right. We feel there is strong support for the user fees of a center for a center for weights and cardio, perhaps a pool. Bond referendum would be supported for parks type activities and facilities or a Sales Tax Dedicated specifically to Parks & Recreation.

I'm now going to turn it over to Larry and he is going to cover the Parks Analysis.

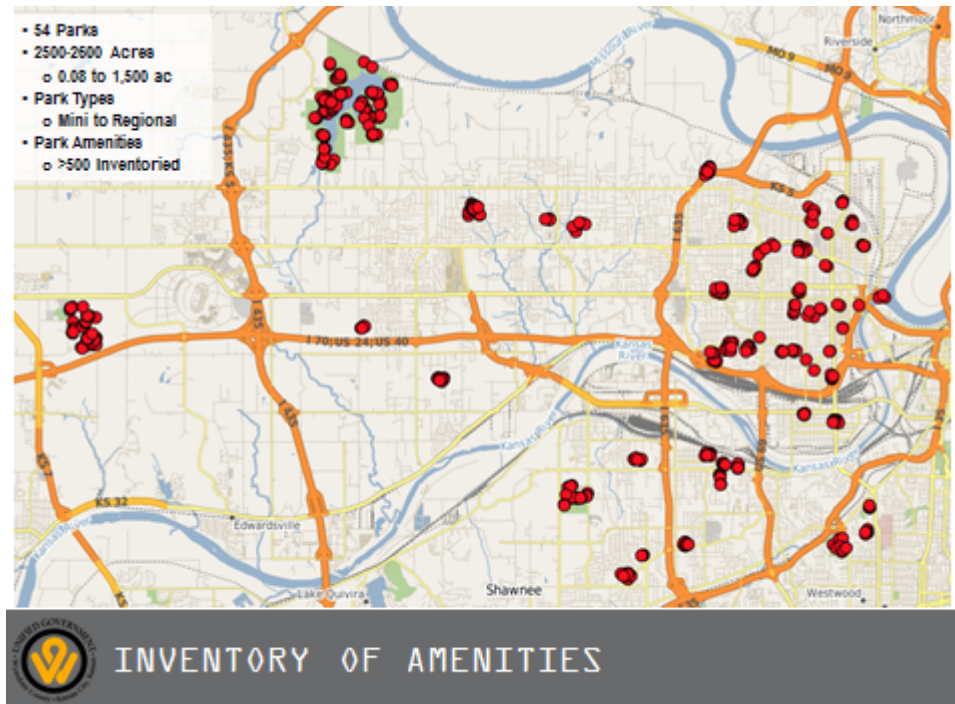
INVENTORY ANALYSIS



Larry Reynolds, Landscape Architect, said we went out and visited all the parks. This is showing service areas of parks, neighborhood parks, community parks and regional parks. The lighter green areas are the neighborhood parks with a quarter mile service radius. The

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community parks are the outer bands at a three mile radius and then regional parks at a five mile so there are some gaps in there, opportunities to fill with recreational and parks.



We inventoried over 500 amenities throughout; 54 parks ranging in size from a tenth of an acre to 1,500 acres from mini to regional size parks.

- **Park Size ≤ 1 acre**
 - Service Area $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile Radius
 - Gathering Space within a Single Neighborhood
 - Fronted by at Least One, Preferably Two Streets
- **7 Parks**
 - Many Serve as Transit Stops
 - Trolley, Holy Family, Lally, Eighth St, Flat Iron, Simpson, and Boston Daniel



Park Type - Mini Parks

Mini parks are typically parks that are less than an acre. They have a service radius of about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. You have seven of those.

- **Park Size 1-25 acres**
 - Service Area $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
 - Serve 2 - 4 Neighborhoods
 - Fronted by a Minimum of Two Streets
- **37 Parks**
 - Range in size: 1.18 – 24 acres
 - Most are East of I-635



Park Type - Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks; these are parks that are 1 to 25 acres. They serve two to four neighborhoods; have a walking distance of a quarter to half mile. You have 37 of those.

- **Park Size 25 - 75 acres**
 - Service Area up to 3-mile Radius
 - Serve Multiple Neighborhoods
 - Fronted by Collector Streets Rather than Neighborhood Streets
- **4 Parks**
 - City, Eisenhower, Klam, Rosedale
 - 1 Park Closed – Coronado



Community Parks; there are four. These are parks that range in size from 25-75 acres and serve multiple neighborhoods.

- Park Size 75 – 200 acres
 - Service Area 5-mile Radius
 - Serve Multiple Communities
- 3 Parks
 - Wyandotte County Lake
 - Wyandotte County Park
 - Pierson Park



Park Type - Regional Parks

Regional Parks; there are three. The Wyandotte County Lake, Wyandotte County Park and Pierson Park and these are the larger parks with a five mile service radius or greater.



City Park



Pierson



Clopper Field



Quindaro



Bill Clem



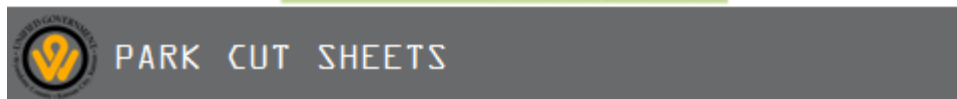
Big Eleven



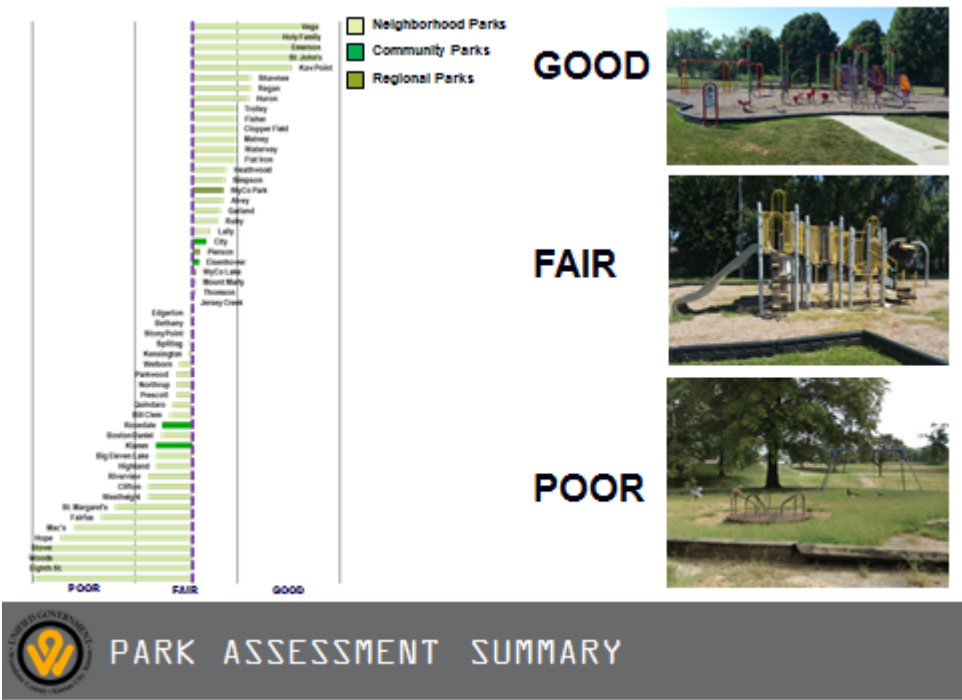
Park & Amenity Inventory



These are some pictures, examples of conditions of parks that we saw throughout the community



In the draft plan we've provided a cut sheet for each park that includes an inventory of amenities. We noted neighborhood groups and partners that were associated with each park and provided suggestions that we heard from them on each as well.



We did a performance rating for each and assessed the condition of the amenities in each park.

1. Remove amenities that have served a useful life

2. Make improvements to each park over the next 5 years

- a. 9 Neighborhood Parks
- b. 1 Community Park
- c. 1 Regional Park

3. Approach park re-investments with partners and neighborhood groups and target improvements which enhance:

- a. Accessibility
- b. Character
- c. Connectivity
- d. Usability

4. Restore & celebrate history of parks and historic park elements

5. Reduce mowing regime in areas not used by the public



PARK ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the recommendations we came up with were to remove amenities that have served their useful life and there are a number of those; the old merry-go-rounds, slides, swings, metal slides. Make improvements to each park over the next five years; on an annual basis try to touch nine neighborhood parks; one Community Park and one Regional Park. Approach reinvestments with partners and neighborhood groups and target improvements which enhance accessibility, character, connectivity and usability. Restore and celebrate the history of parks and historic park elements and reduce mowing regime in areas that are not used by the public.

BRING PEOPLE BACK TO UG PARKS

"My family and I are not a heavy user of the Wyandotte County Parks system or it's shelters and amenities. We mainly go across the river to the Johnson County Stream Trail or Shawnee Mission Park to kayak, fish and hike or bike the trails. We find the facilities cleaner, more modern and just a better 'family' experience. I think I would be inclined to use our WYCO places if the parks were more welcoming and the amenities were in good repair and I felt safe to be there."

FOCUS ON FACILITIES & PARTNERSHIPS

"Please focus on inner city parks & recreation centers more. Even old schools in needed sites this city is growing with immigration children each year. Communicate with schools to determine inner city needs"

SUPPORT MAINTENANCE STAFFING NEEDS

"Overall park maintenance seems to be pretty good. Areas of improvement could be regular maintenance of equipment and continue to make upgrades. At a local park it took over a month to replace a basketball hoop that would normally get used quite regularly by local adults and children."

"Maintenance staff are going from one fire to the next"

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Some of the comments we heard throughout the process were bring people back to UG parks, focus on facilities and partnerships and support maintenance and staffing needs. **Mr. Rhoades** said we heard at a maintenance discussion with some of the staff that they are running from trying to put out fire to fire and if they see something that is broken in a park they can't fix it right then and there because they're running to the next fire so that is something that we need to get addressed.

INDOOR FACILITIES

COMMUNITY & REC CENTERS

Citizens would like to see upgrades and improvement to existing community and rec centers. Swimming pools and fitness equipment are priorities.

In-depth studies needed

- a) **Recreation Centers** - Identify specific programming needs in relation to existing partnerships, supporting leisure programming providers, and community demographic needs.
- b) **Aquatics Facilities** - Identify the specific types and level of aquatic facilities needed and appropriate to provide equitable access across the community.

Physical assessments of facilities indicated a need for modernization upgrades, repairs and improvements.

- a) ADA accessibility.
- b) **Modernize outdated systems** for improved efficiency and conformance with sustainable design measures (LED lighting, High SEER-rated mechanical units, and motion operated plumbing)
- c) **Create flexible spaces** which can adapt to accommodate changes in user needs.

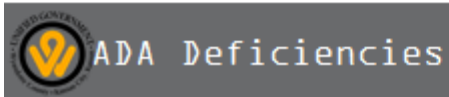


WHAT WE SAW - INDOOR FACILITIES

Mr. Reynolds said we visited the community and rec centers. We heard from the public they would like to see upgrades and improvements and we noticed that as we were there as well. They really need an in-depth study of the recreation centers and the aquatic facilities as well to

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identify specific programming needs and different types and levels of aquatic facilities. **Mr. Rhoades** said I think we also probably need to look at the current community centers as are they really community centers anymore or are they more neighborhood centers. They don't fit the bill of a current sort of picture of a recreation center like you would see in another community. They sort of fit the bill of a neighborhood center that you would see in another community.



ADA Deficiencies



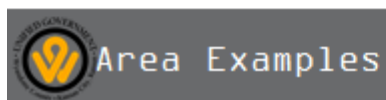
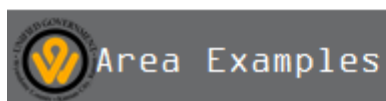
ADA Deficiencies

Mr. Reynolds said improvements to ADA access inside and out as well.



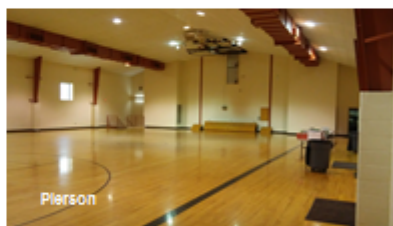
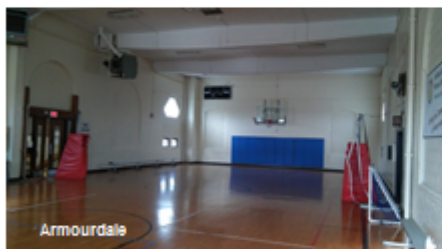
Fitness Equipment

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Fitness equipment; these are examples we've seen in the area of modern improvements and amenities in other facilities.

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Common Features

Some of the common features that we found in Wyandotte County rec centers, gymnasiums; and some have a stage.



Finishes

Materials that are generally just tired overall and are in need of some updating.

WYCO LAKE MARINA

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

1. Modernization improvements are needed
2. Phone service is inconsistent
3. No air conditioning
4. Interior finishes need updating
5. Snack-bar/Grill renovations made, but a concessionaire is needed
6. Current Marina Manager is starting his 44th year at the marina and is ready to retire.



BOATHOUSE

Mr. Rhoades said we also looked at the marina and facility and it's more of a look at how can we sort of expand the services at the current marina. Staff has done sort of an overall and have done a wonderful job with the limited resources that they have but it needs to be modernized, phone service is inconsistent down there, there is no air-conditioning, the interior finishes have been updated but are sort of in need of an overhaul, snack-bar/grill renovations have been made but is that what a concessionaire is going to want and then your current manager is starting his 44th year and there is a whole lot of the lake right there in that gentleman and you need to capture that and push it forward into the future.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

1. 10 docks – 194 14' double slips

- a) 6 docks south shore – 4 docks north
- b) All have been replaced in last 5 years
- c) No underwater bracing
- d) No covered docks
- e) No potable water to docks
- f) Electricity only at entry gate



1. Some boats extend beyond slip 6' or more

2. Gasoline available

- 1. Minimal annual sales – Less than 2,500 gal.

3. Parking is available

4. Boat Patrol Needed



DOCKS

The docks have been overhauled. There are some boats that sort of slide out behind the current dock location, there is gasoline available, parking available, but we desperately need boat patrol in this area more frequently.

1. OPERATIONS & STAFFING

- a) Decide if UG will operate or solicit RFP for operator
- b) Anticipated staffing needs
 - +/- \$150,000 annually
 - 1 Marina Manager (FT), 1 Marina Supervisor (PT), 3 Marina Staff (Seas./PT)

2. CONDUCT A MARINA FEASIBILITY STUDY

- a) Consider site layout, configuration of amenities, and traffic patterns which enhance the user experience and support financial sustainability.
 - More docks on the south side to increase boathouse, store, and snack-bar traffic
 - Docks connected by walkways on the water with accessible ramps.
 - Review slip rates.

3. INVEST IN NEEDED RENOVATIONS

- a) Technology upgrades
- b) M.E.P. upgrades
- c) Finish upgrades
- d) HVAC system
- e) Dock upgrades

4. MARKETING & AWARENESS

- a) Regional Promotion
- b) Partner with Visitor & Traveler's Bureau

5. SAFETY & SECURITY

- 1. Boat Patrol
- 2. Security Cameras tied to Wi-Fi
- 3. Digital locks for security gates which can track marina users

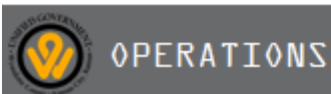
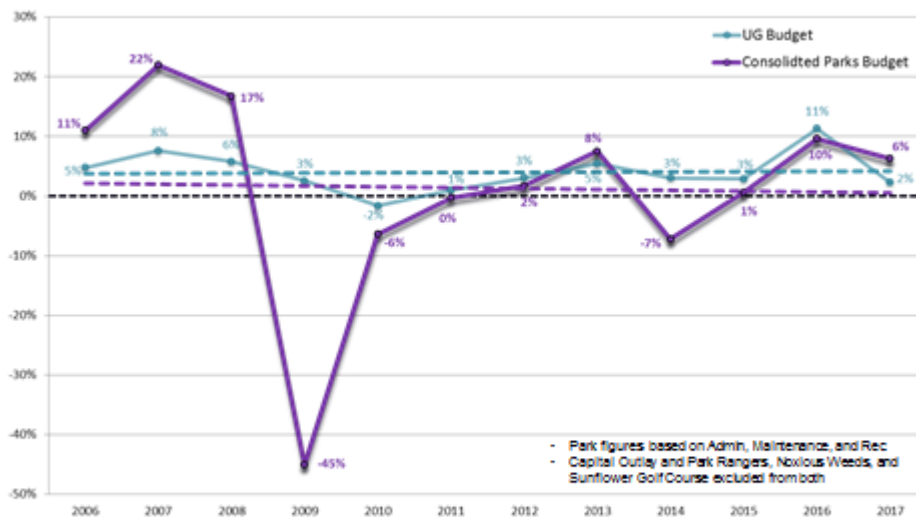
**MARINA RECOMMENDATIONS**

Operations and staffing; it's anticipated that you are going to need a marina manager, a marina supervisor and three maybe seasonal or part-time staff when that gentleman does decide to finally retire. That could be an anticipated cost of \$150K annually. We think you need to conduct a marina feasibility study to look at how can we bring sort of expand the services from what they are currently into sort of new demographic territories, bring in sort of a younger crowd, have more rental opportunities out there for the younger crowd, Wi-Fi service at the marina; it's spotty right now. You can't actually get the signal inside the building, it was very well built.

Invest in the need renovations; the technology, the M.E.P. upgrades, the finishes, HVAC; like I said the docks have recently been upgraded but perhaps maybe there is more of an opportunity to set a different pricing structure based upon some newer maybe larger docks, maybe they're covered. Safety and security; again, would be important.

OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND STAFFING

Operating Budgets % Change

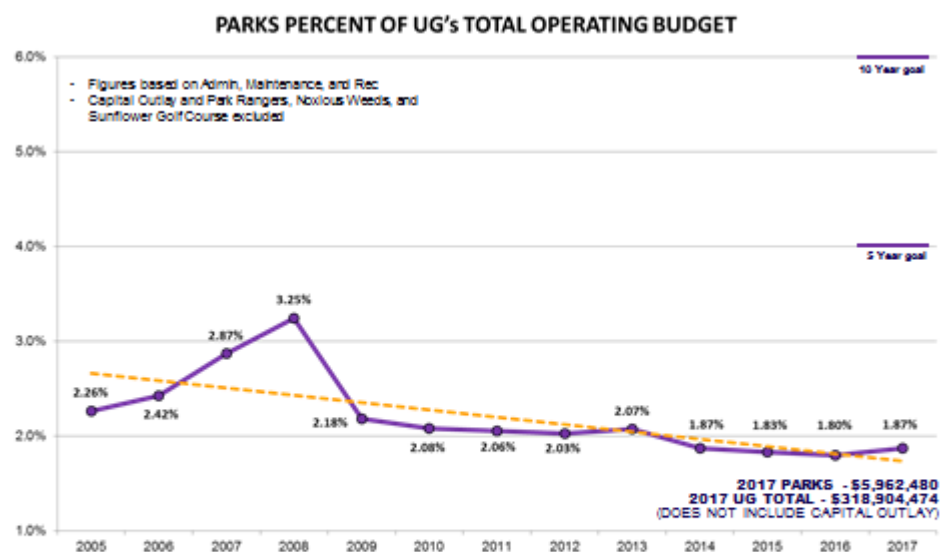


OPERATIONS

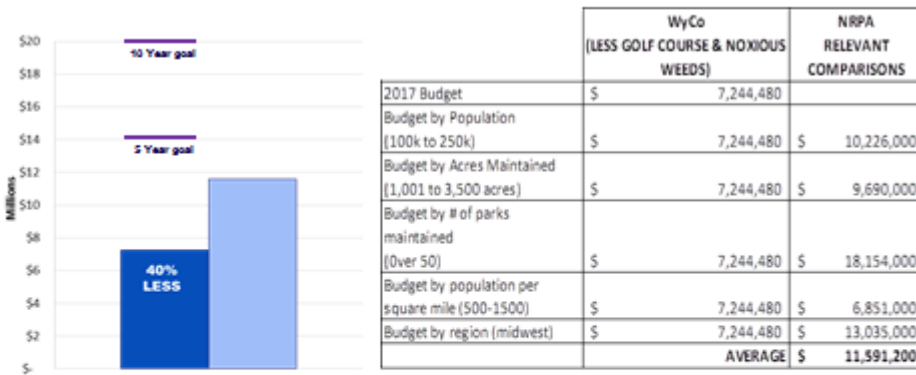
Mr. Reynolds said we took a look at the Park's Department budget and in comparison to the UGs budget overall this shows a percent change over the last 12 years. There was a dip in 2009. You know times were tough for the community as a whole and it's not unlikely for parks to kind

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of take a backseat to focus on safety, security and other things. Lately it has trended more up the last two years. **Commissioner Johnson** asked what do the dotted lines represent. **Mr. Reynolds** said those are trend lines so you can see the cyan color one is the UG budget and the purple one is Parks. There is a slight diversion.



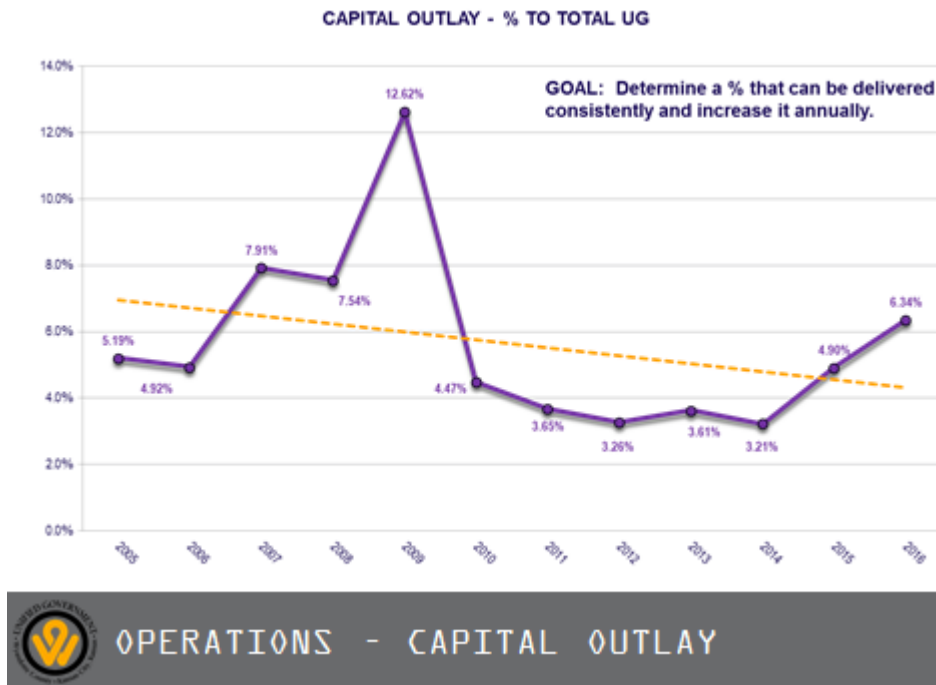
This shows the parks percent of the UG's total operating budget and this includes administration, maintenance and recreation. It does not include Park Rangers, Capital Outlay; it's just focused on administration, maintenance and recreation. Overall over the last 12 years it has trended down and it is currently about 1.87%.



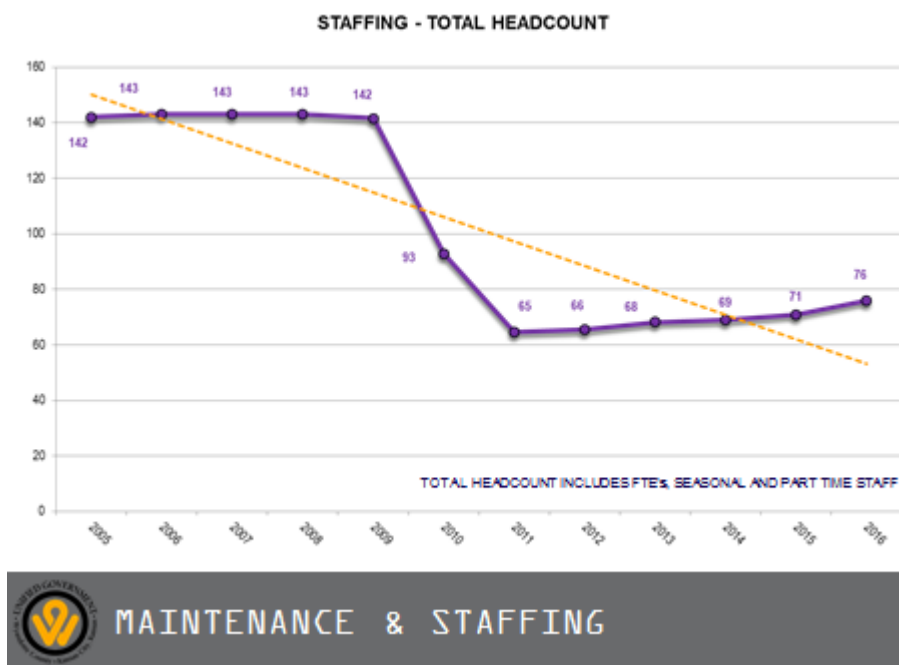
- Budget numbers are based on 3 Divisions of Parks (Admin, Maintenance, Recreation, and Capital Outlay).
- Findings from the 2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review uses data from Park Metrics, NRPA's park and recreation agency performance benchmarking tool, from years 2014-2016.



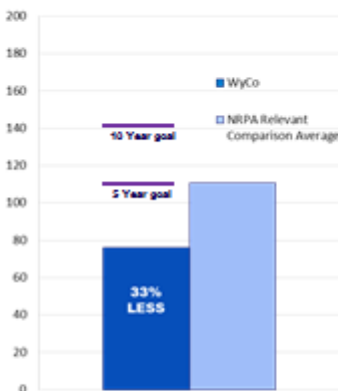
We did some comparisons to the NRPA Annual Report and by comparison Wyandotte County is about 40% less. We set some goals, a five year and ten year goal. A five year goal to get to about 4% of the UG total budget and that's getting back just above where it was in 2008-2009 before the dip. The comparisons that we drew from the NRPA were based on a number of things from budget by population, acreage maintained, the number of parks maintained and the population per square mile.



Capital Outlay; this is parks over the last 12 years. It has kind of been up and down and the goal would be to determine a percent that could be delivered consistently and then increase it annually.

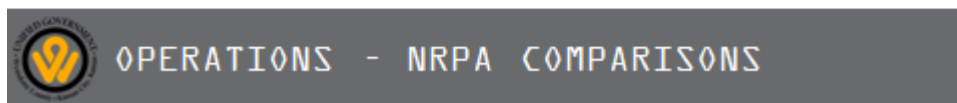


Staffing took a dip like the budget as well in 2009-2010 and hasn't fully come back up so we're about half of what it was and this is total headcount and this is seasonal and part-time.



	WyCo (LESS GOLF COURSE & NOXIOUS WEEDS)	NRPA RELEVANT COMPARISONS
FTE per 10,000 residents	4.6	7.3
FTE by Population (100k to 250k)	76	87
FTE by Acres Maintained (1,001 to 3,500 acres)	76	90.9
FTE by # of parks maintained (Over 50)	76	200.9
FTE by population per square mile (500-1500)	76	82.8
FTE by region (midwest)	76	92.8
	AVERAGE	111

- Budget numbers are based on 9 Divisions of Parks (Admin, Maintenance, Recreation, and Capital Outlay).
- Findings from the 2017 NRPA Agency Performance Review uses data from Park Metrics, NRPA's park and recreation agency performance benchmarking tool, from years 2014-2016.



Staffing comparisons are about 33% of relevant comparisons to the NRPA report.

Commissioner Walters said you have made several references in this excluding Sunflower Hills Golf Course and why did you exclude them. **Mr. Reynolds** said we wanted to focus just on admin, maintenance and recreation and the golf course is a separate division and fund itself and positions associated with it. **Commissioner Walters** said yes, but it is a publicly owned recreational facility that kind of fits into this general topic. I realize on user fees but it seems like it should be in the mix somewhere for analysis. **Pat O'Toole, GreenPlay**, said it's built into the Enterprise Fund if I recall so that's typically why it's not included because it generates its own revenue including CIP usually.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

TOTAL REVENUE: \$104,271

Adult Sports – 778 Total Participants

Soccer	128
Slow pitch softball	400
Men's fast pitch softball	50
Volleyball	200

Youth Sports – 1436 Total Participants

Winter basketball	315
Kickball	67
Spring soccer	163
T-ball	70
Summer basketball	98
Flag football	75
Volleyball	70
Fall soccer	578

Swim Lessons – 50 Total Participants

Comm. Centers – over 5,000 Total Visitations

Notable Special Events

Halloween Safe Night
 Frostbite 5K
 Eagle Day
 Opening Day of Trout Fishing
 KU vs. KSU Rowing Regatta
 Easter Egg Hunt
 4 Health for all Soccer Days
 2 Irish Road Bowling
 Hershey Track and Field
 Kid's Fishing Derby
 Juneteenth
 3 Disc Golf Tournaments
 Missouri River 340
 Foam Run
 Back to School Bash
 KC Blues Street Festival
 Hit & Run 5K
 6 La Placita Events
 Christmas in July
 MoKan African Art Festival
 Blacklight Run
 Armourdale Hike and Bike Trail Grand Opening
 Dotte Trot 5K
 Silver City Day
 10 Cross country Events
 11 Trail Nerd Events
 Holiday Craft Show



RECREATION - 2014 Year End Report

Mr. Reynolds said we had from the 2014 Year End Report total revenue was about \$100K, Adult Sports participants was 778, Youth Sports was about 1,400; Swim Lessons was 50

participants for 5,000 visitations to community centers. On the right it shows the number of notable special events.

	Blue Springs (55,000 People)	Lawrence (90,000 People)	Wyandotte Co. (160,000 People)
Full Time Parks & Rec Staff Including Director	11	85	78
Parks & Rec Budget	\$3,140,570	\$11,700,000	\$5,507,186
Pricing Strategies Scholarship	Market Rate Scholarship	Market Rate Scholarship	Lowest Common Denominator
Number of Programs	780	3670	80 +/-
Participants	\$35,074	\$43,197	?
Program Revenue	\$511,200	\$4,981,611	\$511,200
Expenses	\$1,124,337	\$5,061,674	\$1,124,337
	45%	98%	10 -19%



Recreation Revenue History

Pat O'Toole, GreenPlay, said just a couple of plans that were just recently completed over at Lawrence, KS and Blue Springs and just to give some of the numbers that they are operating on. If you look at staff I mean Lawrence a little more than half of the population, Blue Springs about a third of the population operating with 11 people. These are just fulltime staff so Blue Springs has infiltrated an awful lot of part-time and seasonal but they've also really done a very good job of partnering with like youth organizations for sports so they don't have to be the programmer. They are basically the facilitators and the brokers for that.

Looking at the budgets, again, Blue Springs a third of that and this again is no CIP in it, no golf courses, and those types of things. It's pretty much trying to compare apples to apples which really is not possible but doing the best that we can here. They are very what we looked at as we did their Park & Rec Master Plan a very poor system. Their entire operating is \$3M yet on the other hand the number of programs they are operating 780 so if you were to triple those based on population they would be up around Lawrence compared to about 80 programs and that's estimating because they couldn't really find exactly how many annually for Wyandotte

County. Looking at the 78 folks you saw that with the NRPA Comparison and that's an average of NRPA across the country. The Parks & Rec budget here is 5.5. It looks like from a pricing strategy perspective looking at pricing that Wyandotte County is pricing to the lowest common denominator to keep it affordable for those in your lower income.

Mayor Holland asked is that an error where participants are giving a dollar figure. It says number of programs 780 participants \$35,000. **Mr. O'Toole** said that's programs, the number of participants—number of programs on the top line. Yes that is. Participants should not have a dollar sign on either one of those columns. **Mayor Holland** said okay, I was confused by that.

Mr. O'Toole said we don't really have a good handle on participants here. I did see the one in 2014 where we had 5,000 coming into rec centers so the most I've seen is somewhere in the neighborhood of 8,000-10,000. Again, you can see the 35K that Blue Springs pulled in at a third of the population. They just built their first indoor center a year ago versus having the number of centers you have. Lawrence has four. They just built a fieldhouse two years ago and if you look at the programs Lawrence is doing with the staff they have 3,670 programs a year and a lot of those are brokered but they are people that are handling contracts instead of instructors so to speak.

Then you have the program revenue; this is probably the biggest thing that you see the difference. The closest we could come to the numbers, and this is for what we call Direct Cost of Program, so if you didn't have that program those costs would go away. Ten to 19% cost recovery; Lawrence is at 98%, everybody knows Johnson County is at about 130% and has no tax support but Blue Springs, again, is at 45%. Nationally we see about 50 to 75% is the range we see depending on the ability to charge market rates and you will see the other, in my opinion, big common denominator of these—they have a scholarship program. They both have front and center guarantees, we will not turn anybody away and they will actually put money from a fund through their foundation into the program budget so it does fund that way. It happens to be in most communities—I mean we do these studies nationally, its kind the list if you're a small, medium or large size business that you don't want to be left off is that we support the scholarship funds so kids can participate in these programs and you start with \$100, \$250, \$500 and it really builds. YMCA's are close to 40% scholarship funded across the country to allow people—and

they still have some pretty high market rates if you really look at their membership rates. I think what I looked at was how—sustainability.

The things that I gathered from this is if you look at all the stats and I know it's hundreds of pages but what I've gleamed out of it you're trying to do the same thing you did in 2008 with half the money and half the staff and that's going to run out quickly and pretty soon you're not going to be able to repair those buildings so at some point and time you've got to decide which direction are we going, are we going to try to fix them up, are we going to try to reassess through these feasibility studies that we're really recommending, do you need seven centers or can you maybe build a nicer bigger one. See if a neighborhood group wants to keep the building for something, demolish the ones that you can't but somehow resurrect what you can take care of based on how much money you're going to give to the Park system through your General Fund, create a scholarship fund, and then I think the bottom line is we're suggesting you've got to get your facilities up to where people want to come to them before you can count on people coming in for programs or you're going lose them. Maybe it's a two-step kind of get your facilities and assets before you lose them then you can start programming the way you want to and I think all of these resurrected park systems are not trying to program everything themselves. They're partnering, they're brokering, they're using every—you walk into a church building and one of the lights are off, I'll rent it and putting stuff in there. Let somebody else rent it from you in those centers.

That's what we put together here was just—we didn't have a reach benchmark task in here but to just give you an idea these people aren't that far away, but it's kind of like one is doing really well with cost recovery and the other is as poor as you are and their facilities look probably worse than yours because they don't have any indoor. They're outdoor—their trails are unsafe and then they also passed a bond referendum at the end of our study just a month ago. There is a possibility and I will just say that their percentage on the survey was less than yours was so anything is possible.

Commissioner Bynum said in the document on the page that talks about the yearend report says total revenue \$104,271 but on the slide it says program revenue \$511,000 so I'm a little confused. **Mr. O'Toole** said that was 2014 which at one point and time was the most recent we had. This we took off the actual budget sheets. I believe there is \$100,000 of contributions in

there. **Commissioner Bynum** said oh, in there. **Mr. O'Toole** said in this number. **Mayor Holland** said the bottom line is probably wrong because it shows program revenue and expense is identical for Blue Springs and Wyandotte County so there is some miss on there that we will have to get a corrected number for. **Mr. O'Toole** said what I do know is the percentages are correct.

PROGRAMS	2007	2014	2016
Youth (5-18) Sports Programs	4,995	1,436	1,456
Adult Sports Programs	8,762	778	
Non Sports Rec (Classes, Activities, and Clubs) - YOUTH	7,912		
Non Sports Rec (Classes, Activities, and Clubs) - ADULT	9,116		
Special Events	43,148		
Non-League Sports – Adult	30,916		
Community Center Visitations	79,766	5,000+	

COMBINED ARE 30% MORE PARTICIPANTS THAN LEAGUE SPORTS PROGRAMS



Mr. Reynolds said some of the participation numbers we have from 2007 were for Youth Sports 5,000, Adult Sports Programs 8,700, for non-sports recreation classes, activities for youth and adults was about 30% more than adult and youth sport programs combined. Special events in 2007 had over 40,000 participants, non-league sports almost 31,000 and community center visitations were almost 80,000. In 2014 it was just over 5,000. **Mr. O'Toole** said so you look at this sheet and what would you do? **Commissioner Bynum** said I would start by questioning the numbers. **Mr. O'Toole** said well all we can look at and analyze are the numbers we're given. I've got a theory that in 2007 you had enough people to probably accurately count some of this and in '14 and '16 you probably didn't. What we do know is you didn't have a tracking system until just very recently whereas other departments we can say show us your participation and your revenues and it all pumps out. What we've been doing is looking at different stuff and

trying to do the best we can to analyze it but this is what we received. Obviously, it's not accurate because some of them are empty that we know you had some people in it. When I see 5,000+ on an even number that was guesstimated by somebody and I see 79,766 that was counted by somebody.



- **Provide information on how to register**
- **Provide cost information**
- **Provide location information**



Mr. Rhoades said another area that we noticed on the website we heard quite a lot from the focus group meetings, it's hard to sign up for a class. This is the current website, if you wanted to sign up for adult sports.

[illegible]

Then youth sports, there is this site and you can printout this form and you can mail it or take it to the Parks Department to register for the program. This day and age if you can't do this on fly, register your kid when you're thinking about it, you're not in the program, so really providing the department with the tools and the people and the resources to be able to push the programs that they do have out and manage them themselves and not have to go through a clearinghouse to post something or to see if they have enough people to get a class.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Focus on facility modernization improvements
2. Extend partnerships w/ service providers for recreational programs (YMCA, Turner Rec, etc.)
3. Price to marketable rate which covers base level costs
 - a) Provide scholarships for those in need
4. Improve marketing & awareness of programs
5. Community programming priorities:
 - a) Outdoor Programs (fishing, boating, hiking, etc.)
 - b) Community Events (concerts, festivals, triathlons, etc.)
 - c) Fitness Classes (yoga, martial arts, spin, etc.)
 - d) Family Programs
 - e) Hobby/Interest Programs (crafts, cooking, bocce ball, etc.)



Recommendations on this in the recreation is focus on facility modernization, extend partnerships with service providers for rec programs in the interim. Those would be the Y, Turner Rec and other partners. Price to a marketable rate which covers base level costs to put the program on to just least cover your costs, provide scholarships for those in need. The school districts do a really good job of tracking that through their free and reduced lunch program. Improve marketing and awareness of programs, again, allowing the department to push the message out for programs at the appropriate time on their own. Then the community programming priorities things like we saw from the survey; the outdoor programming, the events, fitness classes, family programs, and the hobby/interest programs are sort of your target area. Again, back to some of my opening statements that you know this is a proud department that have been around for a long time doing these various type of activities.

Commissioner Walters said on the concerts; you know we have a concert venue and there are concerts at that concert venue. Is this talking about something other than that? **Mr. Rhoades** said I could only guestimate that what people would refer to on concerts and festivals is more concerts nearer to them. If you go back to the history of this system and some of the

neighborhood parks had smaller bandstands, smaller type outdoor events in those parks to get activity back in them.

SUMMARY KEY ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING - PUBLIC



"It's 2017 why no website a place you can sign up for community activities or view where things are in the community. A place to view all things to do in Wyandotte County."

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Give parks control of their website
2. Update it frequently with events & happenings
3. Provide on-line access to program offerings, schedules & registration
4. Utilize social media



RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Rhoades said I'm going to quickly hit these very briefly. The communications & marketing, the website, the updates, the online access to program offerings in the social media; and that is something that we heard sort of loud and clear. It should be the place where people go to sign up to get information. You should push it out to your residents.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING – STAFF

"Daily meetings are one way communication – would help to be two way"

"Been here years, they don't know my name"

"Not always clear or timely communication b/w Maint. and Recreation"

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Encourage collaboration b/w upper to mid-level management and hourly staff
2. Allow decision making authority to lower level positions as appropriate.
3. Upper & mid level management needs to see & be seen
4. Create a sense of upward mobility



RECOMMENDATIONS

Encourage collaboration with management and an hourly staff; allow decision-making authority at lower level positions, the upper and middle management needs to be seen in the neighborhood groups and associations and create a sense of upward mobility within that department.

REINVEST - Take care of what you have first

- Basic Needs First – Access, Safety, and Cleanliness
- Priorities - Restrooms, Shelters, Playgrounds, Trails

Restrooms - \$1,000,000

Fairfax
Heathwood
Kensington
Klamm
Quindaro
Wyandotte County lake

Picnic Shelters - \$750,000

Bill Clemm
City Park
Garland
Heathwood
Quindaro
Wyandotte County Lake

Playgrounds - \$3,000,000

Bill Clemm
Eisenhower
Heathwood
Hope
Klamm
Leo Alvey
Matney
Parkwood
St. Margarets
Playgrounds - \$2,000,000

YEAR 5

YEAR 4

YEAR 3

YEAR 2

YEAR 1

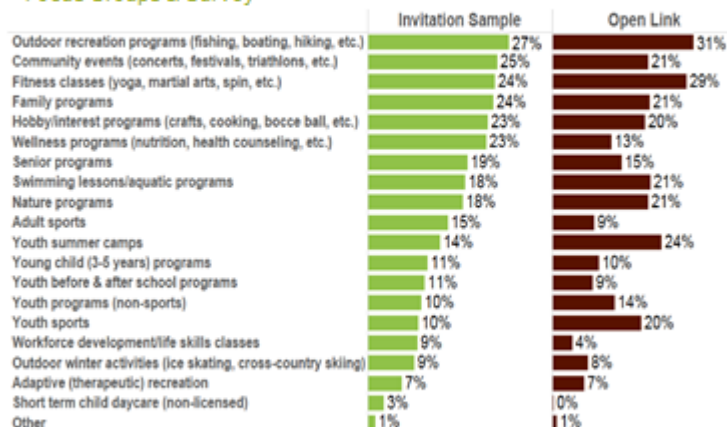


RECOMMENDATIONS

We took sort of a stab at a five-year plan for you based upon the condition of the parks starting with the ones that are in most need which are here at the bottom. We've provided a list almost I think a month ago for some capital dollars to address these parks with restrooms and picnic shelters, playgrounds, etc.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

- More Programs & Better Marketing
- History
- Focus Groups & Survey



RECOMMENDATIONS

Community Programming, again, this ties to your history and here is a list and ranking of those programs. It's what we heard from the focus groups and the survey pretty loud and clear and you need to market them to your community a little bit better. We do know for things like swimming lessons people are leaving the county to go to other places for swimming lessons because the facility and that program is not here, it's not modernized for your residents.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Service & Support Providers
- Neighborhood Groups & Community Organizations
- Programming, Funding, Marketing, Design Collaboration
- Historically partners have provided

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The Dotte Agency | 12. Drainage and levee districts |
| 2. Central Avenue Betterment Association (CABA) | 13. Friends of the Kaw |
| 3. Downtown Shareholders | 14. Quindaro Ruins |
| 4. 20/20/20 Movement | 15. Armourdale Renewal Association (ARA) |
| 5. Infrastructure Action Team | 16. Historic Northeast Midtown Association (HNMA) |
| 6. Livable Neighborhoods | 17. Convention & Visitors Bureau |
| 7. Public Health Department | 18. UG Planning Dept. |
| • Environmental Health | 19. UG Public Works Dept. |
| • Healthy Communities Wyandotte | 20. Other Neighborhood Groups & NBR's |
| 8. Mayors Health Council | 21. School Districts |
| 9. Community Housing of Wyandotte County | 22. YMCA |
| 10. Latino Health for All Coalition | 23. Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts |
| 11. Turner Recreation Commission (TRC) | |



RECOMMENDATIONS

Partnerships; again, to the history of your department and your system there are very important. We know that there are currently a lot of partners out there working in your parks. We heard from them. We heard from them even when we talked to them two or three times. They kept calling and saying you guys need to come back to us; you guys need to come back. Well, we're going to take these recommendations back to the community and give them another opportunity to have some input and comments on what we're presenting to you tonight but there are partners out there. You don't have to do it all yourself and those partners exist.

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

Commissioner Townsend said I want to go to the reinvest slide, back toward the end. I'm glad to see that basic needs that message seemed to come through restrooms but as I look at this graph is the suggestion based on where this is that you would wait until year five to make changes or improvements to restrooms or am I reading that incorrectly? **Mr. Reynolds** said the list of restrooms, picnic and playgrounds we identified the ones that were the worse of the worse and we put those upfront. Those were the key ones that need to be hit first and the same with the shelters and playgrounds. **Commissioner Townsend** said okay, just because of where it is it doesn't mean that you're suggesting the restrooms in year five. **Mr. Reynolds** said correct. Those are the first things that should be addressed.

Mayor Holland said if I understand your question, I think the list on the left is not attached to a year on the right. **Mr. Rhoades** said it is not, correct. **Mayor Holland** said its two different graphs. **Mr. Rhoades** said these recommendations have already been put in. These have already been given to the department to ask for the budget discussions.

Commissioner Townsend said let me ask it another way. Say Fairfax restroom, where are we saying—I should look to the right to see what year you're recommending that be. **Mr. Rhoades** said year one.

Commissioner Murguia said can we ask specific questions about individual parks? Okay. I just happen to know that you've had a partnership with a local not-for-profit that has invested a lot in Vega and Emerson and Ruby Parks so I see Vega and Emerson are at the top and need the least amount of improvements. What keeps Ruby in year four still why wouldn't that be at the top of the list? What's wrong with it? **Mr. Rhoades** said it's in year 4 because one, two, three are in more need so by the time year four hits it will probably need some attention at some level. **Commissioner Murguia** said do you know on those parks whether it be Ruby or any other one, do you know why you say that? **Mr. Rhoades** said we can look. **Commissioner Murguia** said I'm just curious as an example. **Mr. Reynolds** said overall condition of amenities in Ruby—**Commissioner Murguia** said should be fantastic. In my opinion, I'm just saying—**Mayor Holland** said that's why it's at the top. **Commissioner Markley** said they're saying we're not going to do anything to it for four years. **Commissioner Murguia** said I understand that, but I think it should be even higher than that. **Mayor Holland** said we can ignore it for as long as you want. **Commissioner Murguia** said I think it should be higher that's why I was asking what drew it down at the bottom of the list. I work with Jack Webb a lot on the parks in that particular area and I know for a fact he and I through a collaboration of partnership have invested a lot of private money into that park very recently. I'm just asking why it would be in four. I think it should be higher and if it helps move other people to the top of the list which in this case is the bottom of the list, I'm just curious if you could tell me what keeps it at four. Do you know? **Mr. Reynolds** said condition of amenities was really kind of the thing that got us to a lot of this but we also looked at accessibility factors throughout the parks and this one on our cut sheet we've shown that Ruby is really a condition of amenities. Repair, placed, damaged picnic benches and grills, improve payment at the intersection south of 30th & Ruby, new play equipment and picnic shelters.

Commissioner Murguia said as an example of something like that, that is to just give an example, I think the loose kinds of amenities that are lower cost items that will make a big difference in the utilization of the parks should be something that our Commission really focuses on partnership with local neighborhood associations because those are though expensive, not near as expensive as like playground equipment or major infrastructure improvement like restrooms, things like that. Those are affordable things that our community can participate in and take some sort of ownership in and so it was just an example. I'm glad they're at the top of

the list. I just know I've seen a number of parks that I feel like should have a higher priority. Far be it from me to fight against stuff in my district but I just know that I'm very happy with that and if I know specifically what the needs are in those parks I know there are community groups there that will help with that and that should free up money for other parks or, for example, areas of our county that have no parks. **Mr. Rhoades** said another thing we looked at in our analysis of the parks was we sort of looked at them through a filter of certain crime prevention, through environmental design, making sure the site lines were clear, making sure that there was—if there was something—a structure in it you could see feet or a head and so that went into some of the scoring and analysis. So, perhaps some of these areas had some overgrown understory from the edges where you had to walk by that to get into the park. That went into sort of our assessment as well.

Commissioner Kane asked could you pull up the Park Service Areas again please and while you're pulling that up Jack and his crew have always done a good job and we appreciate your work Jack. Okay, for year 12 and Melissa and I and Doug just met here recently about some property we own down in the floodplain. You know we have no parks, there is no way even if you live by Wyandotte County Lake that you could walk to it because there aren't very many houses, no sidewalks, no nothing but I think that we need to put the area that we talked about as a high priority considering we don't have anything. I think that's a great location to put it. It's down off 5 Highway & Wolcott, it's a floodplain, and it's where the little go-carts used to run. I think we need to heighten the awareness, put this on a top priority because it would be great to where we didn't have to fix any for four years, but you have to have something fixed.

Commissioner Markley said I recently got a message to my Facebook page congratulating us on getting some new playground equipment throughout the county so already your efforts are being noticed and that people are noticing that you are replacing things that are broken and they are appreciating that. The same individual that messaged me said when are we going to get a park out west so I told her she should watch us on TV tonight so I don't know if she is watching, but we're having that discussion here so I appreciate your efforts already to kind of update our parks.

This doesn't address a lot of the tiny pocket parks and I know you and I have had some discussions about those in the past so particularly just these little tiny parks in the neighborhood where there is a chunk of land and there is no house on it and they said we will just make it a park. In Highland Crest we have a ton of them. I'm sure they were a good idea but we as a government, and this is not even necessarily on you, we have to decide what we're going to do about those. Are we going to leave them as parks when they actually are not parks, they're just empty lots or are we going to try to do something else with those properties? Seeing the volume of what needs to be done to these larger parks you can probably guess what my opinion is on what to deal with those vacant pieces of property but if we have neighborhood groups that want to maintain them or we need to form those kinds of partnerships, I'm fine with that as well.

I'm glad to see Matney Park on the list to the left on the page that has the five year graph. I would say that is a high priority park for me. It tends to have more damage than some of the other parks in my district. It is adjacent to an elementary school so it also gets a ton of use, that shelter is used constantly so I would appreciate attention there.

Online enrollment is huge. If people want to participate in programs they have to be able to enroll online. They're not going to print off a paper and mail it in and by the time they do remember to print out the paper and mail it in they're going to have forgotten they want to enroll in something. That's a high priority. If we're going to start doing programming, we've got to be setup in a way that can happen easily for families.

The last thing I would say and this is sort of a brag on my part, but also it's just a good example, this can't happen and we can't have active community centers and we can't have active programming; Turner Rec two decades ago, well even less than that really was an office and an empty gym. It was a whole building but that's all they used was the office and the empty gym. That's how most of our community centers are today. It's an operating office with one person in it and an empty gym and anybody that's been by Turner Rec recently knows that place is packed all the time. They have all different types of programming for adults, children, seniors; they're affiliated with that community garden and they are just always hopping and have great community events so it is possible and there is defiantly a demand for it and I think this looks really huge and it sounds really intimidating but I would say that's an example of the demand that's in our community and how doable it is for us to start that ball rolling.

Commissioner Bynum said I want to reiterate support for Commissioner Kane's request kind of speaking to the Commission for a park for Piper and a location is identified that we own and I'm just asking for consideration as we move through budget time that be given serious consideration. I know that we talked about it and there might be a bump or two in the road but I just want to support that.

On your slide talking about the Regional Parks, I find it curious that you say those have a five mile radius service area. **Mr. Reynolds** said they go beyond that but just at five miles it covers a good portion of the community. **Commissioner Bynum** said I don't know—you know Wyandotte County Lake or Wyandotte County Park, for example, I would say those parks are drawing from not just the entire county but the metro area. **Mr. Rhoades** said those are the two most popular parks in your entire system and those are your two most easiest opportunities to introduce new uses to to capture new visits to your system.

Commissioner Bynum said I want to ask on your recommendations where you talk about the restrooms, picnic shelters, and playgrounds on your recommendations. Do you have a notion of how much \$750K buys by way of picnic shelters? I don't. **Mr. Rhoades** said we had totaled up those six and gave them that number so it was a little over \$100K a piece. That is nothing--that is not a WPA error shelter. That's an off the shelf shelter that your staff could select and purchase and install and also the restrooms, those restroom numbers associated there are off the shelf restrooms and there are numbers included in there for new utilities around the immediate area and enough rock for a footing, but those aren't custom designed like you have in a lot of your parks.

Commissioner Johnson said I was looking at—first of all I'm glad to see that I have a few parks that are in the first year or two recommendations so I'm glad to see that part there. I'm curious about the recommendation about market rate—what has been your experience in working with—and then there was another one, yes the one that says lowest common denominator, moving into a more market rate scholarship environment in a urban community; what has been your experience with regard to that? My district is in one of the more urban areas and the notion of charging a fee is not often met very well. What has been your experience in converting into a situation like that where you move into a market rate and also talk a little bit about the scholarship piece as well if you could? **Mr. O'Toole** said we've done this all over the country

and this is probably the most popular thing to turn systems around. We've done it in urban, we've done it in urban mixtures and there are several ways to do it. When we talk market rate the first place to go is what are your expenses. If you're a business and you know what it costs, how do you know what to charge so your market rate would be how many kids do I need in a program to breakeven and that would probably be designed by your population, your age rates there that are drawn to that center. Also, how big is the area, if you've got a gymnasium, if you're doing basketball you know there's ten on a court, a couple kids on a bench so you can do the math. There are also situations where if you have some areas that are not as blight, what collectively, so youth basketball could be your ring of market rates. What we have found even in the urban sectors is by placing a cost on it we've placed a value on it and what you want to do is position that program so when that cost goes in the quality goes up. So the quality of the facility which is kind of what we're showing here as a strategy, quality of equipment—I might also say in (inaudible) in recreation professional directors and assistant directors so my last stint was in Minneapolis, Indiana where we had not just the urban issue but we had the suburban donut that was willing to pay anything and had no facilities. Then we were concentrated too much down in the urban area so we had to fix both at the same time and what we did was find out that involving those partnerships those nets stayed up even outside. Things were not torn up like they used to be. The graffiti went down so that pride—and then when we came back five years later and surveyed the neighborhood the number one reason why that happened was involvement and value and we placed a value on that. We had a sweat equity build in there as part of the scholarship program, \$5 an hour, come do something that we save money on the maintenance end, pull weeds and we don't have to weed eat, empty trash, we don't have a custodian to do. Save us money on that end, we will give you; we call it playdough, that's good for anything but concessions. That's one that I'm not even including in this.

The scholarship program is if you've got a foundation yourselves or you have a foundation you can run it through, it is just to create a scholarship program for youth recreation programs and you start it small. You, again, build it in increments. A lot of times they will call it gold, bronze, silver and you've just got to start it. Once you start it usually it's a snowball running downhill. You can have—Lawrence has a golf tournament every year that all the proceeds go to that foundation. They have in their Mission Statement we won't turn away anybody that doesn't have the ability to pay so play and pay. They use the school lunch system

so it's really easy, you don't embarrass folks or anything. It has worked. It's worked in a blended situation, it's worked in a—you know sometimes you just want them to find that area that this is an area where we're going to take the market rate and we're going to cut it in half. The whole idea is on this stuff and I would also—some of the stuff that I've heard if you build a new park, don't just do the capital cost because you're going to spend more than 10 years keeping that up than what it cost to build it and that's what's happening here. Nothing changed here with what you own and this has happened with your resources so now you add this and you don't do anything here, you're putting an awful lot of strain on these folks, on your budget, on your supplies. We went through it again with Lawrence. They opened a brand new trail that was nine miles long and the maintenance wasn't even thought of and it didn't take long to do math on how wide is the mower, how many stripes of nine miles, 38 weeks, 38 hours a week which is a dedicated mower, trailer, truck and person. Where is it coming from? What do you not want us to do as you snip that tape? The next week they had a new mower—and the community recognized that and guess what, all of a sudden the scholarship fund bumped that same month and they wanted to start a new maintenance fund. It is that value you create and there are a lot of examples nationally of free stuff that people won't get off the highway to go to see Abraham Lincoln's birth spot. When they had no money and dire straits to fix it up, they threw \$5 a car in there, five times the traffic went in there. That's just what happens.

The other thing that I would say is polish your jewel. You've got Wyandotte County out there that's not in bad shape. What you can do there is start saying this is our new standard, now year one we're going to go into these parts and do restrooms, year two we're doing here, but finish something that you can point to and say that is the new Wyandotte County parks standard.

Commissioner Johnson said thank you for that answer that was great. The reinvestment is that just for parks or is that for parks and recreation centers that I see on this last page, the fourth from the end is that just for the parks or does that include the recreation? **Mr. Rhoades** said that's both and again we recommend that you look at those and what can you do with them, how can you modernize them, would they become more neighborhood type centers or remain rec centers and if they are rec centers, then you need to consider—you know those current community centers if you turn them into rec centers, they need the things the people are looking for and willing to pay for. **Mr. O'Toole** said wooden floors, a set of vinyl if they are playing basketball and that kind of thing so a community center is kind of—the finishes they're

not great for anybody but they're okay for everybody. Rec centers move into that little higher ring of people willing to pay to come in and workout, basketball is going to be on a nice court and that's kind of the differential of that value I'm talking about. **Commissioner Johnson** said yes, I hadn't even thought about that.

Commissioner Philbrook said first off I want to thank you for the wonderful work you did at Eisenhower. I guess you guys cut a ribbon here not too long ago with some new playground equipment and I'm sorry I couldn't make that but I understand it was pretty doggone nice and I was happy to see that happen. I also want to say that particular neighborhood stays very involved with what happens at Eisenhower. If anybody messes anything up they are to you guys or to me to have it taken care of and so I really love the involvement of the neighborhood groups. You guys have a lot to look after over there.

The other thing is that I—you're right, it does seem very overwhelming when you look at this big gigantic picture and for me one of my first responses is how many of these little pieces of property can we get the heck rid of because I don't want to have to go down there and mow it personally and I sure don't want to have to pay our guys to pay those little pocket of things. I think if the neighborhoods—a particular neighborhood wants to adopt it and somebody wants to put it in their name and they want to keep it that way, I'm all for that. I think we need to find ways to get rid of those itty-bitty pocket ones unless somebody else wants to take care of them.

I really do appreciate your working and talking with groups that are already invested in our community parks because I was fortunate enough to go to a couple of your meetings and these people are like energizer bunnies. I mean they say give us the park, tell us what you want to do it, we will do it; just get out of the way and that saves us a lot of money if we can let people work on those—well like a Wyandotte County Park, the people that use the trails to ride their bikes and we use the horses on and all that kind of stuff; those guys say they will take care of those trails for us. Why don't we let them do that? If we have to supply a little helping hand and they're more than willing to do it, I don't have any problem with them doing it. These kinds of partners are what is going to save this community and what has saved this community. Thank you and I really do want you to go back out and talk with these folks again and if there is some way that we can bring them in just as we have had people come in and help us with Animal

Services. You know we have a volunteer group right now working their little tails off saving us money already working with Animal Services so I don't see why we shouldn't do it with this too.

Commissioner Markley said I think you and I both have had the discussion about park sponsorship and I still think that can be a funding mechanism for some of our parks either they sponsor the park or they sponsor the playground. You know such and such business park or such and such business playground at name a park and let them pay for the maintenance so I would still like to see us look into that and have a process for how that can happen so that businesses can apply. **Mayor Holland** said they can apply online. **Commissioner Markley** said that would be lovely.

Mayor Holland said I would like to point out the funding mechanism support rating where you showed that community support for different funding mechanism, I think this is very instructive of what people are willing to—what people think needs to happen or what people would support in terms of funding. One of the things I think this presentation shows us what we already know, we need a complete paradigm shift in our parks and recreation. The cuts after 2009 were devastating to our entire system, gutted our recreation programs, gutted our staffing, and frankly gutted the morale. I get our Parks Department folks who were there huge credit for sticking it out through the last very lean years. If we're going to have quality parks which are quality of life, they're not just fun and games; it's about healthy lifestyle, there is so much that we need to do and we need to understand Parks & Rec are an economic engine. People want to live around parks and trails. It increases property values. There is a lot we can do. I can tell too you can spend a million dollars on asphalt in a street and it will look the same, you can spend a million dollars in a park and it will transform neighborhoods so if you think about bang for the buck in terms of quality of life, we can put a lot of money into our parks and make a real difference strategically in terms of improving the quality of life because I will tell you what, if people had a beautiful park to look at while they were driving by they might ignore a pothole. If we have a crummy park and the crummy road we're going to hear about it and I think we need to really think about the investment.

I want to point out this is why I think we're on the right track with the YMCA, user fees for fitness facilities overwhelming support in the community for user fees for fitness facilities. I think people pay for what they value; they value what they pay for.

I remember we signed up our son for a Parks & Rec T-ball league years ago and it was like \$10 to sign up. We could have paid \$50. Most of the people playing could have paid \$50. They just weren't asked to and there is this methodology out there that it's got to be free, everything has to be free to make sure that everyone can participate. No, everything has to be sustainable so we have something for people to participate in because once we ran out of money in '09 and gutted all of our programs we completely got rid of them and because we had no market sustainability in our programs they all went away. If we're going to provide quality programs we need to charge people what they're worth. People will pay for it and we have to scholarship that model of market rate and scholarship is exactly right. That's why the YMCA people should pay for something. People don't respect things that are free. They don't respect them, they don't treat them well, they don't have any ownership in them and people just walking into a free something, even the Parkwood Pool, they charge the kids \$1 a visit; put some investment in that. You know make people own literally what they are using. It makes sense and it has to be market rate, it has to be affordable and for people to just flat can't pay, we need to have scholarships available. The methodology is nobody can pay so we shouldn't charge anybody anything. That's bankrupting our system and if our recovery rate on programs is 10-20% we need to do much better on that and people support it. People also support down below, increase user fees for programs and services. Now, they're not thrilled about it but they're supportive of it.

The other thing we need to look at, the very bottom, the current funding mechanism we have for Parks & Rec is almost 100% property tax. People are not supportive. Am I reading that right? Red is not supportive of increasing property tax for more parks. They want more parks, they want better parks and better amenities, better programs, willing to increase fees and are willing to look at major facility upgrades, Dedicated Sales Tax, Dedicated Bond Referendum; people are willing to fund it but they don't want to do it just out of our General budget. It's going to take a complete paradigm shift. We don't need an extra million dollars in Parks every year, let me rephrase that, we certainly would take it. We need millions of dollars a year in Parks to do the upkeep and maintenance and provide the services that people expect. If we're going to

have a world-class city, we've got to have a world-class Parks Department and we've got to look at this about thinking outside of the box about how we fund it but the business as usual, we need a complete paradigm shift and I think we're on that track. I mean I think the recommendations in this program are going to get us on track and we just need to prioritize what is the bite we can take this year because I think the next thing we need to do is spend probably the next six or nine months talking as a body about what would we be willing to do for a funding mechanism. We don't need a new park in Piper; we need three new parks in Piper. You look at the density out there, one park would be great, we would take it but really let's look at the locations, let's look at where people live and let's put parks right around them so that yellow area covers our neighborhoods. That is going to take money, that's going to take real money and the parks that we do have the coverage there are a lot of them that are just in crummy shape. They are just in crummy shape so we need a whole new way of thinking about our parks. Whatever we can do in this budget I want to do but we're going to have to spend the next six months thinking about a whole paradigm shift in terms of how we're going to fund our parks because putting an extra \$200K or \$300K here and another \$200K there that's just not going to get it done. We need to completely transform our parks. I think it's going to grow property values and will ultimately pay us back.

Commissioner McKiernan said I want to piggyback on one thing you said and then something Commissioner Murguia had said earlier. I think the market rate and the scholarship model is the right model, yes, people should have to pay maybe something but you look at the demographics here and there is a small, but I think significant, chunk of people who frankly don't have the economic means to pay a whole bunch of user fees so that's why I think the market rate plus the scholarship is very important. A lot of the families in my district, frankly, couldn't pay \$50 per child—**Mayor Holland** said that's right—**Commissioner McKiernan** said to participate in some sort of teens sport program and so we have to take that into account and make sure they invest what they can but we have scholarships to cover the rest of it.

Something that Commissioner Murguia had brought up was investment by local private partners. I think it's very important that we consider that and grow our partnerships. I am blessed in that a lot of my partners are sitting here in this room and take a very active interest and there are several parks in my district which frankly are up in the fourth year range only because

of the investment by the private partners that are here in this room and who are working tirelessly to be our partner and to make our resources much better amenities for all the folks in the neighborhoods by going out and doing deep engagement with the people who live around those parks and finding out truly what is most meaningful. Then using whatever means they have to achieve those goals for those people at those parks. I am blessed that I have so many parks that on your sliding scale they are year three, four or five but only because I'm blessed to have community partners and I think we should try to engage them however we can.

Commissioner Philbrook said I can't say that I disagree with anybody here tonight. I think we all have our own issues in our own community, areas, and I have a feeling that there are people out there in TV land that wish they could roll this back about 50 years to where the parks were all nice and looking wonderful and everybody was out there with their families enjoying them but we're not there. We have a long way to go to get back there. I definitely agree with the concept of having to have a price on things because if you hand somebody something and it is free then to that person, in a lot of cases, it's oh well if it's free then it must not be worth anything. It could be a \$100 bill but they didn't realize it was a \$100 bill, it wouldn't be worth anything. It's all a matter of perception of what people realize things are worth.

I'm going to be coming back to you gentlemen and to Jeremy to see about what we can do in a couple of my parks to get increased used because I know I have a couple of really great parks, but I know they're really underused a lot. Maybe half of it or a quarter of it is used like crazy and the rest of it is ignored and so I really want to visit that and see what kind of community partners we can get working on that.

I don't think we can leave anybody out in this. I think everybody has to be involved, not just our Commission but our businesses in this community. I think they need to come forward and put their two cents worth out there to help us maintain a great community because they're willing to take our money, you know people coming into their places, buying stuff; if they're willing to do that, than are willing to share a little bit of the wealth and come back to us and put their name on, as you guys say, their name on some equipment, their name on a park, their name on something to help us out. Also, I think we could name certain things after groups that have come forward already and give them recognition because all those people that go and name they need recognition to know that we do appreciate all their hard work. There are so

many people out there that work that we don't even know about. I don't know. You guys are lucky, you've come into consideration with—Jim is about ready to start cracking up, but this is what friends are good for.

If there is any way you guys can even step forward more than what you're doing, sorry to ask more out of you, but to help any of us with the individual parks I would really appreciate it.

Commissioner Bynum said I want to thank you gentlemen and the folks with the consultant team and Mr. Rogers and your whole team. It's semi-painful but it's really important that we be given this and so I'm appreciative that we have it and also to all of the community folks that are here in the audience to hear the report and all of the community folks who participated in the process sincere thanks to all of you. I want to specifically thank Mike Connor who took good care of our parks for a very long time and I'm happy to see you here. It tells me you still care about our parks.

I just want to point out lastly that this gorgeous photograph on the cover of this report is a little gold photographer Don Wolf and thank you for choosing that. I think that captures a lot of what Wyandotte County is about and I really appreciate you using that photograph. It's a gorgeous lake too, Big Eleven in District 4.

Commissioner Johnson said I would like to also point out the recommendation about the collaboration and discussion between the mid-level management and the upper-level management. I think we've got some good folks and I think, Doug and Jeremy, you all know that. We've got some good folks that will work and are probably doing more work than they're able to do or are asked to do more than they're able to do. I think their input is important as well and I do want to just highlight that. I do encourage the discussion about scholarships. I share with Commissioner McKiernan, my district if he is number 1, I'm close I'm 1A in terms of ability to pay so we would need to look at scholarships and also have discussion about the partnerships with corporate and other entities that would have an opportunity to come into that with us.

Commissioner Murguia said I think all the commissioners ran across occasionally people that want to contribute or help within their districts. What would be really helpful for me are the three parks Rosedale Park, Ruby Park and Clopper Field is not in my district but Commissioner Markley and I share a boundary. If there was a way that the group could take those 50 pages and just give me an executive summary on those three parks, I would be glad to work with getting those out of these lower years moving them up in order to bump up the other city parks higher on the list. I think I have some resources that will be able to help resolve the things you're trying to fix there that you don't have money to fix right now.

Commissioner Markley said one thing we've talked about is we talked about the sponsorship type opportunities is whether we can put a list out there that says for this park these are the three things we need paid for and this is how much each of those three things cost and this is what we're willing to name in your honor if you pay for it so that people know exactly what we're looking for and what needs to be improved on each park. Then they can kind of go out there and say sure I would sponsor that or a neighborhood group could say with my Livable Neighborhood Grant this year I could pay for that and just have that opportunity out there and available.

Mayor Holland said and integrate that into the Wyandotte County Parks Foundation so it's a 501c3 tax deduction for businesses that do that. You could have that all available online and really setup a system that would be interactive that people could look at if you wanted to make—if your family wanted to make a \$10K gift, here's what you could do in a park near you. If your family wanted to do a \$50K gift or your business, here is what you could do.

Commissioner Murguia said I think the nice thing that you have done from my perspective is that I meet with small groups all over my district and you get a feel from those people but you've done a much more comprehensive deep dive into what's valued by the greater Wyandotte County community and so now we actually have a list, a to-do list, like Commissioner Markley was speaking to that we can work on in those areas. If you can refine that search to what the people—like you know when you listed those three parks that serve a five mile radius, well I would think what we would want to do in those parks would reflect that five mile radius where a local park that's being used by people within a mile would want to reflect the wishes of the people within that mile and that may vary from neighborhood to neighborhood. So, if the work that you've done can dive down that deep and sort of get in the weeds there, I

think that would be helpful in creating a list of things that commissioners and other partners could help resolve those issues.

Mr. Rhoades said when we first started the initial discussions with the community and the focus groups the same things were being said by different people, different organizations and the theme became very consistent. It was programming, it was funding, and it was basic upgrades and upkeep of the parks. We sat through them and we sat through them and we sat through them and we said we need to zoom out here. The issue is not in any specific neighborhood, its system wide and that's why it is a system master plan. We would encourage participation from the neighborhood groups and their particular redesign of their park, the amenities that they want within each park. We weren't able to take that deep dive that you're asking on each of those. I think some of the comments and calls that maybe some of you receive were reflective of that, when are they going to come talk to me. We saw early on this was not—it wasn't at the neighborhood level, it was higher and so that's where we went.

Commissioner Murguia said I think you might have alluded to this a little bit in the way of programming since that remains sort of at the top of your list. Did you say when you have this much data I get caught up in one piece of it and it's hard for me to listen to you when you move on because it goes rather quickly. You may have said something like this but we have a number of programs in Wyandotte County that are run by small groups of people and they serve an enormous number of children. There is a football program that's run by a pastor here locally in Wyandotte County, Adrian Roberson, and he serves a large number of children. I'm not trying to get anyone out of a job locally. I'm just saying if we're not offering that robust of a program or a program that is that successful internally, then are you suggesting—because I would think that what we would want to do is utilize the money, the little bit of money that we're throwing at programs and provide it to that organization to be able to build capacity and provide a better program. Is that what we're saying? **Mayor Holland** said I look at the city of Wichita; the city of Wichita relies almost exclusively on third party providers. Why would we compete with RBI Baseball? RBI Baseball has over 1,000 kids playing baseball. The KC United Football Program has kids playing football. Why would we offer competing programs rather than partnering. We should have their signups on our website to direct people to get—I want kids in programs that

are quality. What these programs can't provide, what RBI cannot afford and what KC United afford is the infrastructure of the fields themselves. That's what the city has to provide the facilities and then let third parties provide more of the programming.

Mr. Rhoades said that is completely tied to your history of the city. You were once the national leader in recreation. People looked at Kansas City, Kansas as a leader in recreation from the turn of the century. You lost that as it got closer to the 70's but that's exactly the model that you should follow. Provide them with the facility and a platform to be successful.

Commissioner Murguia said I think, Mayor, the way we structure, and we don't have to get this detailed, but I think the way we structure our funding for those kind of partnership programs is that we let the market drive the demand because so often you have someone that comes forward with a very well intentioned idea like they want to play Cricket. Like 2% of the county is interested in learning how to play Cricket and so what you want to do is our job as the government is to survey the market and be able to tell us what the market demand is and then our programming budget funds what that demand is. If you want to run—if football is number one or baseball is number one, whatever it is, then the largest allocation of the funding goes to what the market is demanding.

Mr. O'Toole said I would also add the marketing for these third parties is where they don't have the funds a lot of times to do—you can touch a larger audience for all that. Secondly, as you're talking about growing that capacity you can help do that by when somebody comes to you with how about a Cricket program instilling in them as we talk market rate, what's the minimum number teams or people in that program at this market rate that we need so they know there's a minimum. They are going to go out there and try to find that.

If you're putting out a program brochure online particularly it doesn't take all that much money to put an inch in there on we have a new program called Cricket. It goes out countywide and then they're out there recruiting and you're recruiting and I've always said if one thing the people sometimes measure is how many programs don't go as a negative, I've always told my program staff we've got to be in the 10-15% of trying stuff new that don't go for two years. If it doesn't go for three or four years, then we probably have a trend. You can't do it for three or four years and create that then drop it but if you're not trying those new programs,

you're still going to do the same thing every year. Those are two things what I consider partnering.

Commissioner McKiernan said I just wanted to point out to everybody, and you brought this up, and I don't know if you know this, but in that big report that Joe sent us a link for the actual master plan draft summary there is a separate sheet of paper for each park and it has the park and the location of the park, an inventory of it, an assessment of it, and down at the bottom it has specific recommendations that have been kind of gleamed for that particular park. I found that really helpful in focusing on each of the parks in the district. It's down around page 400 in the appendix.

Commissioner Townsend said before I forget I would have to acknowledge what the Commission started doing about three years ago in simply making the parks more attractive. Just with the cutting that has been a vast improvement so I have to appreciate what the Commission empowered Parks & Rec and Public Works to do. That didn't take a lot of money.

The second thing, I would have to echo what Commissioner McKiernan and Commissioner Johnson have already said and which I have been saying since I've been on the Commission that if we're going to charge people, like the Mayor said, at least in the law there has to be another mechanism so those who can't simply afford it and who do not necessarily not value it can be accommodated. I think that's a must.

Thirdly, back to the reinvestment page just so I'm absolutely clear on that, the years in which improvements are recommended whether they're in year one, five, whatever; is it based solely on the current conditions of those items or the usage? How many people? **Mr. Rhoades** said condition. **Commissioner Townsend** said just condition.

Mr. Rogers said, Mayor, before we adjourn I would like to publicly acknowledge my staff that is here tonight. Please stand up staff. There is over 90 years of experience standing right there and many of them have weathered that storm. We've done a lot of great things because of the staff and with our limited resources despite how bad we've painted this picture, my staff has done a phenomenal, phenomenal job of meeting the demands of our citizens. I wanted to

publicly acknowledge them as well as our Park Board, Park Board members that are here tonight and our Parks Foundation members so thank you guys for coming.

Mayor Holland said I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Bach for next steps.

Mr. Bach said we appreciate the presentation tonight, good job to all of you and to staff as we work through this. I think the next steps we will be doing is getting back out, taking some additional community input, conveying what came from this report as it kind of closes but then to go to a strategic implementation plan to work the Parks Department as to how we will come back with recommendations to start to implement all these good recommendations put forward. I think that's a time period that will take another period of months to move through most of this year to come back with that as we move forward.

Mayor Holland said one of things, Mr. Bach; I would like to see is a number. What are we looking at in terms of bringing the facilities—**Commissioner Markley** made an inaudible statement. **Mayor Holland** said I know the decimal point is going to be in the wrong place but what is the number to get our facilities up to what we expect, what is the number to get our staffing up to where it needs to be to be successful? What are those numbers because we need to see the numbers so we can start figuring out a mechanism to work towards them because—you know there was about \$3 or \$4M on the recommendation page. I'm confident \$3 or \$4M is not going to bring our parks up to the standard that they need. I want to know what that number is. What is the total number and then, it's in there, do you know the total number off the top of your head for facilities. **Mr. Rhoades** said we estimated that just for facilities you're around \$45M. **Mayor Holland** said \$45M and—**Mr. Rhoades** said that's not including staff. **Mayor Holland** said if we did—and you had a five-year plan we're going to do \$9M a year to get our facilities up and that's without staff to run it. We need to get those numbers in front of us and we're going to need, as we go into the fall after our budget this year, sit down in our strategic planning and talk about what we're going to do to address this major need for a lot of reason we've not been able to tackle, but to figure out what the mechanism is going to be that we're going to tackle these big numbers and have world-class parks in Wyandotte County.

**MAYOR HOLLAND ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:45 p.m.**

dt

Bridgette D. Cobbins
Unified Government Clerk

May 25, 2017