



# Parks & Recreation Still Growing



City of Lawrence  
PARKS AND RECREATION

# Good News!



## The demand for Parks & Recreation services continues to grow every year.



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# Park & Recreation - Still Growing

The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department continues its mission of offering quality of life programming to all segments of the community.

- LPRD offers more than 1800 recreation programs and activities each year (450 per season)
- Twenty-three percent more classes were offered in 2008



# Park & Recreation - Still Growing

- LPRD youth recreational basketball leagues had 990 children (ages 5-12), 92 teams, participate in 2008, which was an increase of more than 75 children from the previous year
- LPRD now oversees the competitive Hoopsters youth basketball leagues, which had 41 teams, approximately 410 children in 2008



# Park & Recreation - Still Growing

- LPRD recreation baseball leagues had 1,400 children (ages 5-16) participate in 2009, a 16 percent increase over the previous year
- LPRD became the administrator of the Douglas County Amateur Baseball Association in 2009 and had 36 teams in league play, approximately 432 children





# Park & Recreation - Still Growing

- LPRD adult indoor sports (basketball and volleyball) saw increases in participation in 2008 and so far in 2009 all indoor sports have continued this trend
- The department has added women's and coed basketball leagues, dodgeball and kick ball in the past few years



# Park & Recreation - Still Growing

- LPRD recreation facilities have averaged nearly 13,000 reservations a year over the past 3 years.
- That averages out to 35 activities a day



# Indoor Facilities in the community

Over the past 5 years facility availability has been impacted by the following items:

- The sale of Sport 2 Sport; conversion of 4 gymnasiums to indoor tennis courts
- Robinson Gymnasium at KU is no longer available for LPRD gymnastics programs - 2 gyms.
- Small gym at East Lawrence Center is now used for gymnastics
- School District is reducing staff at facilities evenings and weekends due to budget challenges. This time has traditionally been used for LPRD Youth Sports.
- Due to programmed uses, free-play in recreation facilities has nearly been eliminated



# Outdoor Facilities in the community

Over the past 5 years facility availability has been impacted by the following items

- Loss use of a baseball / softball diamond at LHS
- DCABA fields (2) at the fairground need to be improved

# PLAY Study – 2007

Partners for Lawrence Athletics & Youth

## Recommended facilities

- Indoor Fieldhouse
- Upgrades to Youth Sports Complex
- Upgrades to Free State High School
- Upgrades to Lawrence High School
- School District Sports Complex



# Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2000

## Recommended facilities

- Neighborhood Recreation Centers
- Indoor Fieldhouse
- Neighborhood Park Development
- Youth Sports Complex-Baseball / Softball
- Trail Development
- Existing Park & Facility Renovation

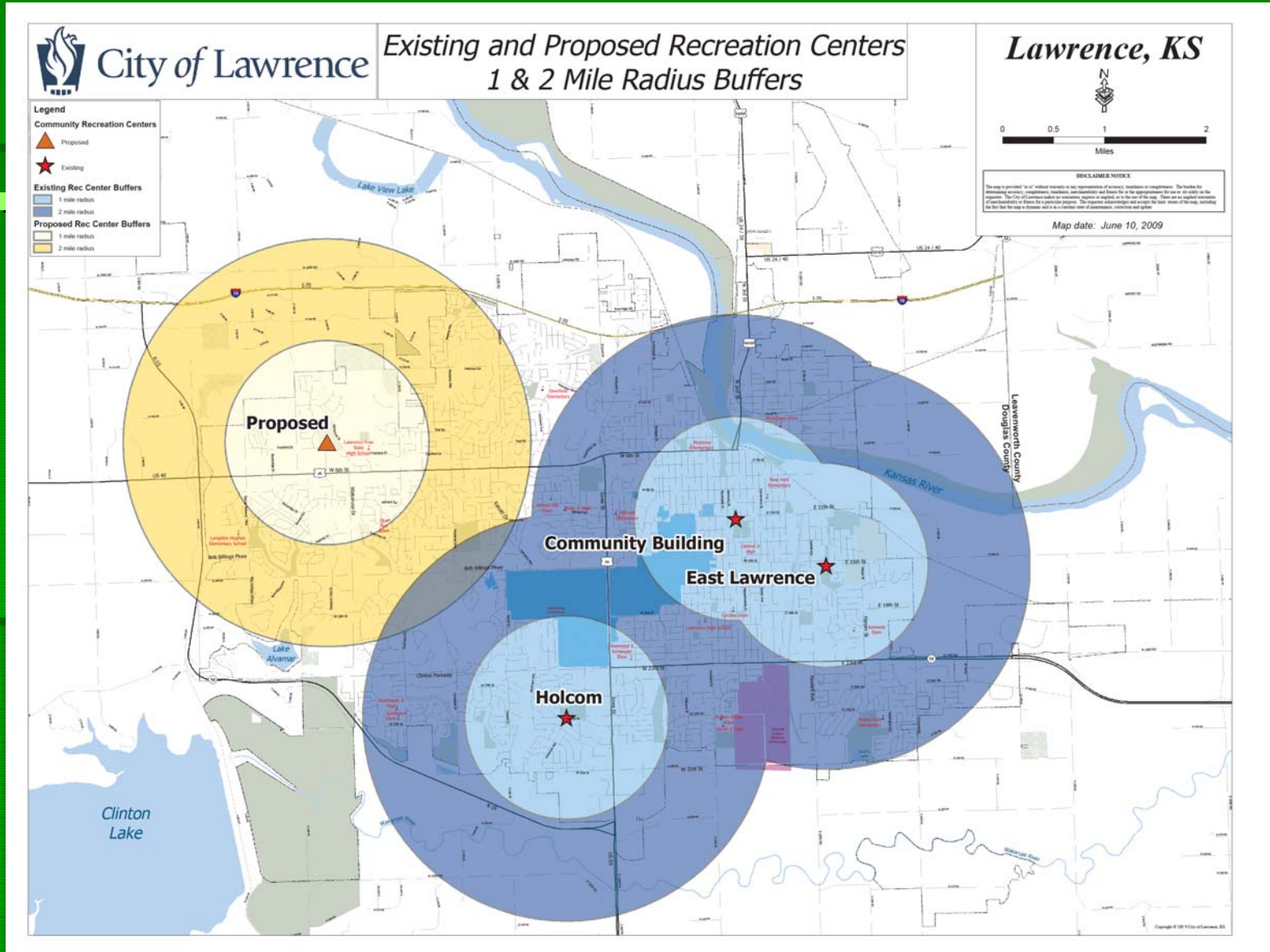


# Parks & Recreation Staff - 2009

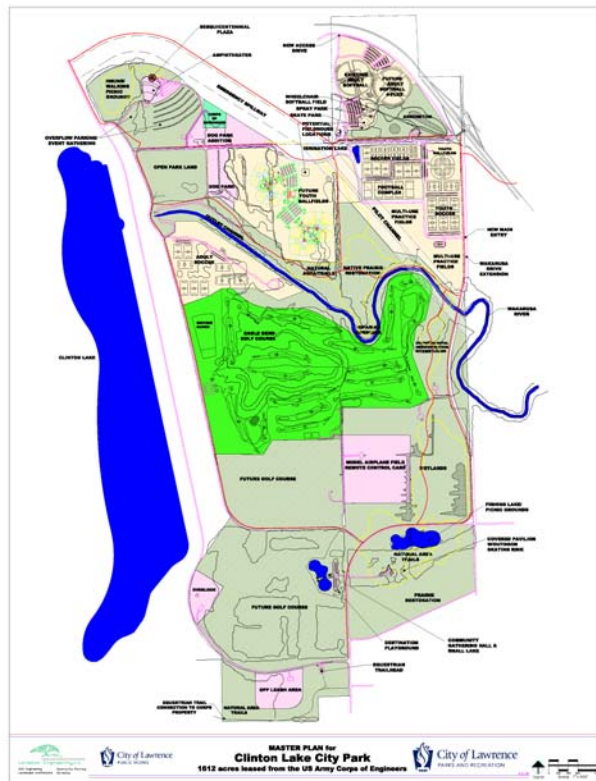
## Recommended facilities

- Neighborhood Recreation Centers
- Indoor Fieldhouse
- Wellness Center
- Neighborhood Park Development
- Youth Baseball / Softball
- Trail Development
- Existing Park & Facility Renovation

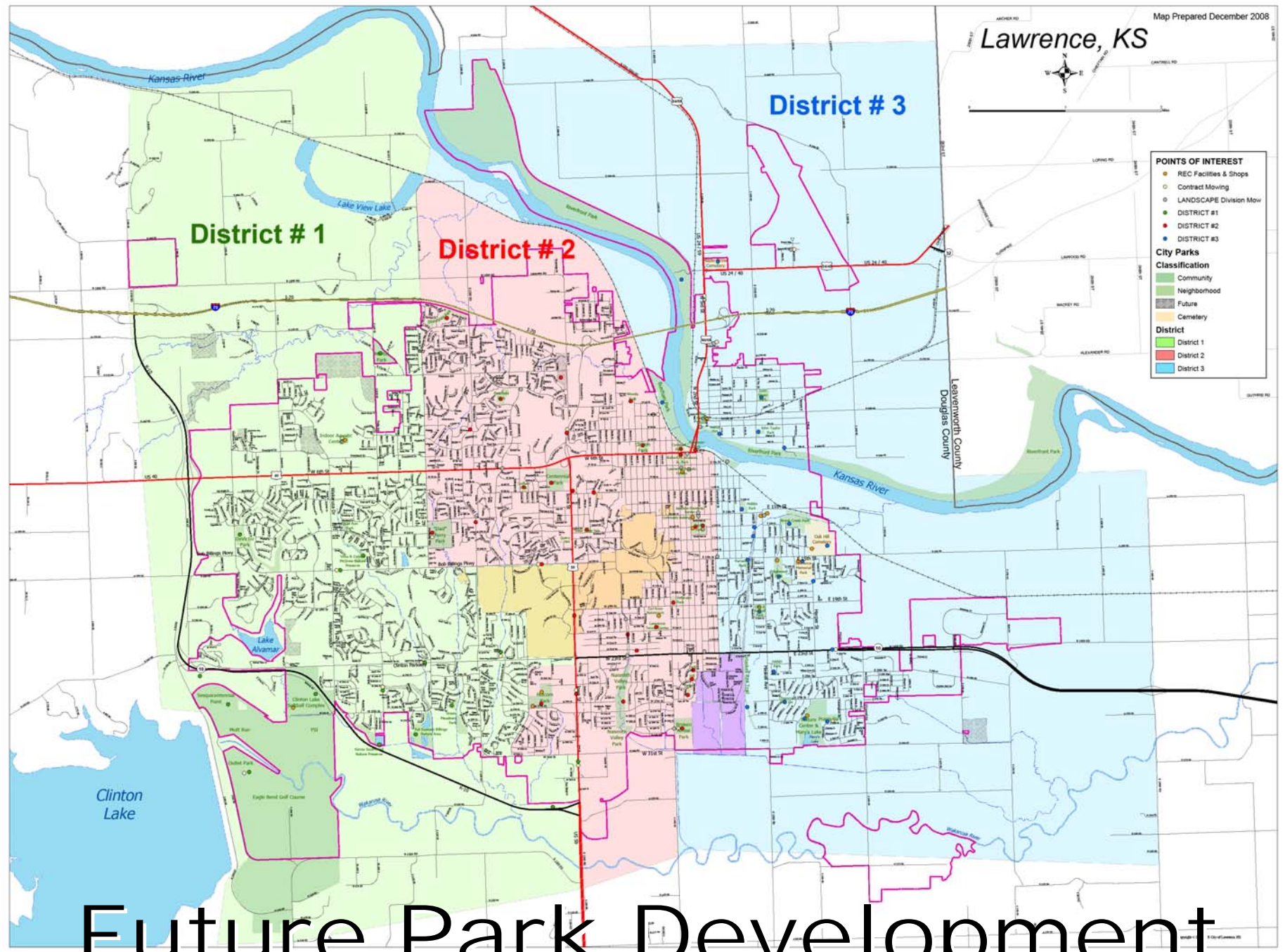
# Neighborhood Recreation Center Need



# Existing Park Development









# Trail Development



**Burroughs Creek  
Rail Trail**




**LEGEND**

- PROPOSED 2009 BORT PROJECT
- FUTURE TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- FUTURE LANDSCAPING AND TRAIL NODES





# Existing Park & Facility Maintenance and Renovation



City of Lawrence  
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Updated

09/24/09

2009 Projects List

Projects In Progress

Manager	Location	Project Description	Cost	Funding Source
John	Holcom Complex	Sidewalk to connect north diamonds	\$6,503	2009 - 216 Budget PO Cut
Kerry	Youth Sports Complex	Install rock for road to cross channel west of complex	\$6,568	2009 - 216 Budget PO Cut
Mitch	Levee Trail	Continue Ag lime resurfacing projects	\$2,975	2009 - 216 Budget PO Cut
John	Prairie Park Nature Center	Repair wall under window in pre-school room	\$2,775	2009 - 216 Budget PO Cut
Crystal	Right-of Way	Replace electric irrigation controllers with battery powered	\$2,085	2009 - 216 Budget PO Cut
Lynn	East Lawrence Center	Remove sink in meeting room and install new cabinets	\$1,680	2009 - 216 Budget PO Cut
Rowan	South Park	Replace Hippo playground piece	\$1,057	2009 - 216 Budget PO Cut
John	Burroughs Creek Park	Replace gutters on west building at 15th street	\$813	2009 - 216 Budget PO Cut
Lynn	Community Building	Upgrades to art room	\$800	2009 - 216 Budget Proceed
Lynn	Outdoor Aquatic Center	Replace caulking on deck around pool	\$5,000	2009 Sales Tax -PO Cut
John	Dad Perry, Holcom	Painting of Park Restrooms	\$4,500	2009 Sales Tax -PO Request
John	Hobbs House	Paint trim on building	\$1,800	2009 Sales Tax -PO Request
			\$11,300	

Projects being bid

John / Mark	Landscape Shop	Replace molded insulation in shop	\$30,000	2009 Sales Tax
John	Downtown	Install next set of tree grates - concrete	\$9,021	2009 Sales Tax
John	Downtown	Install next set of tree grates - electric	\$4,000	2009 Sales Tax
Kerry	Youth Sports Complex	Replace bleachers on baseball/softball fields 3 & 4	\$7,303	2009 Sales Tax
			\$50,324	
John	Burroughs Creek Park	Paint west building at 15th street park entrance	\$10,000	2009 - 216 Budget
Crystal	Arboretum	Purchase rock to repair waterfall	\$1,000	2009 - 216 Budget
Crystal	Arboretum	Replace sign	\$3,000	2009 - 216 Budget
John	Arboretum	Install sidewalk additions	\$1,000	2009 - 216 Budget
Lynn	Depot	Repair gutters	\$973	2009 - 216 Budget

Future Maintenance Items

	Youth Sports Complex	Install concrete for dugouts baseball / softball fields 5-8	\$14,000	Possible Funding
	Youth Sports Complex	Install additional fencing to extend foul lines baseball / softball fields 5-8	\$13,000	
	Youth Sports Complex	Tree planting program - baseball / softball fields 5-8	\$5,000	
	Youth Sports Complex	Purchase new bleacher for baseball / softball fields 5-8	\$16,000	



# Existing Park & Facility Maintenance and Renovation

- Over the past 5 years the city has completed 100-120 maintenance and renovation projects a year on existing parks & recreation facilities
- These projects are funded through sales tax and the alcohol tax.
- Total expenditures have been between \$800,000 - \$1.2 million a year



# 1994 Sales Tax

- In 1994 - the community passed a 1 cent sales tax to help address facility shortages for Park & Recreation programming.
- In 15 years - great progress has been made, yet there are still needs that have not been addressed.
- As the bonds from earlier projects are retired, new projects can be considered using the 1 cent sales tax as a funding source.



# What could we be doing better? If we had the space.....



- Basketball – Competitive & Recreational
- Volleyball - Competitive & Recreational
- Indoor soccer – Competitive & Recreational
- Practice time for all youth sports
- Wellness education & training
- Fitness classes
- Gymnastics
- Environmental education
- Fast pitch softball - Competitive & Recreational
- Large Group reservations - enclosed park shelters
- Neighborhood Park Development
- Tournaments
  - Basketball
  - Volleyball
  - Baseball
  - Softball
  - Soccer

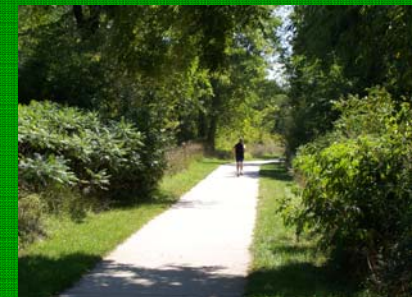




# Park & Recreation - Still Growing

There is an increasing need for facilities in the community in the following 4 areas

- Indoor Recreation Facilities
- Outdoor Recreation Facilities
- Park Facilities
- Trails



# Plan for prioritizing needs

- Meet with the public to discuss facilities and priorities.
- Research and Identify funding opportunities
  - Public / Private Partnerships
  - Grant Opportunities
- Report finding to the Commission before the end of the year



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