

**Comments from e-mails received from the public regarding Future Parks and Recreation Needs and the Public Forums and several of the comments received from surveys**

I support the construction of a new rec center.

My main complaint about the current parks & rec facilities is the lack of open basketball courts after 6 p.m. I hope that a new facility could lead to more free play in the evening and night hours.

Also, I was just looking at the website and had trouble finding the current free play hours at each facility. Could you point out where that schedule is located?

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I will be unable to attend the session, but wanted to pass along my comments.

With the closing of Sport 2 Sport and children continuing to be involved in sports activities, Lawrence has a strong need for an expanded sports facility similar to what is found in neighboring cities of Topeka, Olathe and Shawnee Mission. This facility should include indoor soccer fields, an ice rink (for hockey and ice skating) and basketball courts. Basketball participants in Parks & Rec or Hoopsters leagues are playing their league games at the rec centers which have very limited parking. Further, it has been difficult for the teams to secure gyms for basketball practice.

An expanded facility would have a positive impact upon our community by providing options for youth to be involved with sports locally and eliminate the need for families to travel out of town. It also helps our youth stay engaged in sports and reduces the likelihood of them becoming involved in harmful lifestyles.

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A fenced-in dog park (or part of a dog-park) would be great. Mutt Run out at Clinton has one, but it's so overgrown that you can't really run your dog. A fenced-in, large, mostly open field would be fantastic for my dog.

Thanks!

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I will be unable to attend the forums, but I wanted you to know that the programs for special need kids and adults are top on my priority list. My son greatly benefited from the special populations day camps and spring break camp for the past two years, and we hope to continue to use those programs in the years to come.

Please consider senior rates for rec. classes, ex. Zumba, not Zumba Gold. Thanks,

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Thanks for the notice. I think it would be great to have an indoor, year-round ice-skating rink in Lawrence.

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Hi -

I cannot make it to the meetings that you have scheduled for input from the public about the parks and rec, but I would love to see racquetball/wallyball courts added to the East Lawrence Rec Center. We have a group that plays wallyball often and most of us live in East Lawrence - we drive to Holcomb to play. The downtown courts are not usable for this sport.

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Hello,

I'm not able to attend the meetings but I had a few thoughts. I live out west around Stonecreek Drive and Legends Drive. There are a few nice trails out there, but it seems like there aren't many parks or a rec center anywhere nearby even though there's a ton of residential housing and lots of kids. What I'd love to see is something like most YMCA's that have a variety of indoor and outdoor rec options and a nursery/child care (not for all-day care -- just for an hour or so when the parents are working out). Thanks!

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The City needs to take care of what it has before contemplating additional facilities.

I am particularly concerned about graffiti and the length of time it takes to have it addressed. The problem of graffiti has gotten much worse in the 6 years I've lived here particularly in downtown and East Lawrence parks.

I am also concerned over the deferred repairs at the downtown swimming pool and the indoor aquatic center. Many of the fountains that the kids play in are falling apart in both places.

What is the budget for maintaining and repairing current facilities? This budget needs to be increased before new facilities can be contemplated.

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Dear Parks and Recreation Advisory Board,

My family is not able to attend any of the scheduled open forums, so I am sending my comments via e-mail. Both of my daughters play numerous sports and take many classes through parks and rec. My children have taken swimming lessons, participated in kids' night out and water camps, futsal, basketball, softball, gymnastics, tumbling and dance classes. The area that needs the most allocation of space, by far, is the gymnastics program. This is a really fantastic program and we would LOVE to see a bigger gym and more resources allocated to this program.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

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I heard about the meeting regarding recreational facilities, however I will not be able to attend. (I am currently recuperating from a broken rib.)

I have a suggestion regarding a skating rink.

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Every class session, I am so thankful for the sun screens that were put up last year. The blinding sun was tough on us as we tried to focus on our class in the Fitness Class with Vicki. I wish the room were bigger to give us each a little more space as this class has become quite popular and it is now at its capacity. Thank you for offering this class....and for the sun screens and for Vicki.

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With two grandchildren and our own interests, I have noticed that parks and recreation seems to be too focused on team sports. A conservative guess in our neighborhood is 90% of the residents do not take advantage of team sports or jogging paths. We have parks in our neighborhood, Parkhill, that we enjoy. However, they do not receive much attention. Parkhill park has a lonely swing and slide set for grade school age children. The tennis/basketball court is not usable. In fact, it looks terrible. There is nothing for toddlers. The grass is so high, that it is tiring and unpleasant to walk in the park.

Suggestions:

1. Create and maintain open parks with some general recreation like parallel bars, jungle gyms, short grass, open tennis courts and basketball backboards (Not fancy) or just mowed vacant lots.
2. We need parks for toddlers who are just learning to run, swing, and climb.
3. Target a broader range of recreation for children beyond team sports. Maybe, roller skating, ice skating, parallel bars on play grounds, ...
4. Junior high kids need classes other than team sports – Wii, pool and billiards, bowling, frisby golf, dancing, hula hoop, ... Surely, there are other up-to-date activities.
5. Collaborate with the library.
6. Toddlers and moms need recreation together and separately. i.e., watch mom learn tennis, running and jumping, playing “catch”.
7. How about a class for grandparents and grandchildren?
8. Senior who are not joggers and do not play team sports need classes – water walking, weights for seniors, exercise that promotes agility and range of motion, theater trips, ...
9. Classes for physically disabled but not wheelchair bound – various age groups.
10. Social activities like playing cards and board games. Outdoor chess?
11. Social Centers for seniors and singles.
12. Holiday events.

I really cannot support another team sport recreation center. They require an expensive facility and staffing that targets a population that is already well serviced in Lawrence. There are other populations and interests that are minimally serviced or ignored. It would take a while to attract folks, but providing service and encouraging use of indoor and outdoor recreation to all residents should be the mission. By the way, non team people are intimidated and ignored at recreation centers.

And, we cannot attract people to green space if it is not maintained. The Parkhill parks, for example. Grassy Parks can be maintained for far less than the cost of running recreation centers. And they are outdoors.

As the city becomes more densely populated, green space is important for ambience and its calming properties. Formal gardens are not necessary, but the open space is important. Green space near main streets calms traffic. Green medians provide the color and texture to make the medians more visible, and they are more pleasant to look at.

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Unfortunately I will be unable to attend either forum due to scheduling conflicts, but I did want to send my comments regarding the Parks & Rec. services. Also, I would be happy to complete a survey if there is a way for me to access it without attending the forums.

I believe as a whole the Parks & Recreation facilities in Lawrence are fantastic. There are many different activities for all, and the facilities seem to be maintained very well. My daughter participates each summer in the softball league and really enjoys it a lot. She has also participated in the "neighborhood playground" camp type events in the summer, which I thought were very well run. Also, I'm not sure if the indoor aquatic center is directly tied to parks & rec or not, but it is also a really nice option for everyone.

My only request at this point would be for there to be more activities indoors during months when it is not feasible to participate in outdoor activities. It would be great to have, for example, an indoor soccer or volleyball league over the winter months. As far as I know we don't have anything like that currently.

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback.

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I cannot make the public forum meeting but want to make my feelings known. I have coached youth basketball and baseball the last few years in Lawrence since moving here 4 years ago. It is hocking for a town this size that there are so few fields. Because of demand for baseball fields, I was forced to practice at a church field because YSI fields were too busy (having to log on at midnight to get space is ridiculous). Not being able to reschedule cancelled basketball games because of weather, and allocating one hour of practice time a week is unacceptable as well.

We need more fields and gyms!! When the time comes that kids get turned away from even playing baseball or basketball because of limited facility space - people will leave Lawrence in droves and not come back.....

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My children take gymnastics classes through Parks and Rec. We have been VERY happy with the recent leadership change, the class structure, teacher interactions and increased learning. The fees are reasonable enough that even families, like ourselves, that don't qualify for scholarships but are struggling to make ends meet are able to afford unlike other programs in our community. I feel that this is a STRONG program and am happy with the changes that we have seen. My only concern is that the facility is not adequate. My recommendation would be to AT LEAST double the current space. This program reaches a population that would not have access to this type of activity without Parks and Rec. Rather than building a new building on the other side of town where the majority of the population already has a gym membership because they can afford it, I would like to see the current spaces be enhanced to meet the current needs.

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Here is my input. DON'T BUILD ANOTHER RECREATION CENTER. The recreation centers we now have are empty and unused. I know. Check it out and you'll see. They are a waste of money. Builders want city money. Stop using public funds to build and keep up empty buildings. No one wants to use a recreation center.

I know this is a waste of time. No one will read it, and besides you have already made up your minds to build another useless rec center and throw away public tax dollars.

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The summer program for special-needs children and teenagers offered by Lawrence Parks and Rec is such an important and necessary service for families with special-needs children. A day at home with a child with severe autism can seem like a year. Children with severe autism need monitoring 'round the clock. For parents to have the 4 hours of respite provided by the summer camp M-Th and all day Friday is a blessing of enormous proportion. Unless you have lived in the shoes of parents of children with autism, you cannot imagine the toll it takes on the family. These families often have lost all sense of normal existence because their lives are so disrupted 24/7. Please do all you can to continue providing services to this segment of the population that live each day with this overwhelming burden.

The summer camp at Lawrence Parks and Rec, under the leadership of Annette Deghand, is one of the best services for special needs offered in the state of Kansas. It is extremely well-managed and staffed with professional, supportive kind caregivers. Please do everything possible to continue this outstanding summer program.

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Due to other obligations, I will not be able to attend any of the Public Forums.

I am a big supporter of the Lawrence Youths and strongly support any efforts to increase the availability of community recreation facilities.

I have two children and have been actively involved with youth sports (Softball/Baseball) in Lawrence for 8+ years. During this time I have partnered with both the City and the School district to try and increase practice field availability.

Additionally, I am on the Lawrence Girls Fast Pitch Association board of directors and every year the league is frustrated by the lack of fields for competitive Softball in Lawrence.

Thank you for the public forum. I apologize that I could not be in attendance.

Feel free to contact me directly for further discussion and/or involvement with this initiative.

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To Whom It May Concern:

November 5, 2009

I am sure you have already gotten the request for an indoor walk/run track.

When Holcom Park was built we had to eliminate the overhead track because of the elevator requirement to meet ADA requirements. We did not have enough funding for it. It would be wonderful to allow for that track this time.

Recently, I called KU about walking in the field house as we usually do in the winter. They said they may not allow that use since the remodel. (They are still debating.) Many people use that facility and walk or jog behind the bleachers in the winter or bad weather as we do. It has been a nice service to the community. But is probable that it will no longer be available for community use.

Thank you for your consideration.

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I am a mother of 3 young school age boys. We have played sports all through elementary and middle school and fully supported the Parks and Recs programs. I have been disappointed in the facilities that we have here in Lawrence, both indoor and outdoor. It has been difficult for our teams to draw in other teams to compete in Lawrence because of the lack of facilities.

We have had difficult times finding practice space for basketball, baseball and soccer as well. Not only do the kids make the sacrifice because of this but so does the entire city. When you go to Overland Park or Shawnee on a weekend when their is a tournament or scheduled games in town, the whole area prospers. Hotels, dining, shopping areas all benefit from this increased traffic and tourism. In the economic climate we are in today we as community members need to be do everything we can to improve our facilities and overall destination spot of Lawrence.

Look at what the High School football fields have brought already to this community! Friday evenings, the stadiums are full. Those people are also using the facility during the day to improve their wellness as well. Dog Days is planning on using the fields next summer for their morning and evening workouts which totally promotes fitness and well being. In addition, all those people getting out on a Friday night for a football game are probably buying dinner somewhere in Lawrence, using gas, may even be having friends up to the game. It all begins to snowball so we all benefit!

I totally support what these developers are bringing to the table to improve our overall facilities in Lawrence. It is way pass due.

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I am sorry I was unable to attend the meeting. My family enjoys the many opportunities afforded to us through Lawrence Parks and Recreation. I have two children and they are enrolled in at least one or two activities every season. We have utilized the basketball, baseball, futsal, dance, gymnastics and swimming lessons. We also are huge fans of the Prairie Park Nature Center. My son has attended at least three weeks of camp the last two summers and has learned a ton.

The supervision for all of these things has been outstanding and the coaching/teaching is beyond compare.

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Dear Parks and Recreation Board,

Unfortunately, my schedule does not permit me to attend the meeting you have scheduled. Thus, I am emailing my thoughts for consideration.

First, let me introduce myself. I am the parent of four children (ages 10-4) who have all participated in a Parks and Rec activity over the past year. The activities you offer are excellent and my children have benefited from them tremendously.

With this said, I do need to share that the child who has benefited the most is my oldest son who has Down syndrome. Nolan has participated in a number of All Star Sports activities over the last few years. Here, he has been engaged in ongoing physical activity and developed a number of critical friendships. Without this experience, Nolan would not be the person he is today. That is, I don't know where he would have gained access to these experiences? While my other children have a variety of things they can access to develop physically as well as emotionally, my son with a disability is often limited in his community options.

I would urge you in your considerations for the future to examine not only the numbers but also the impact and meaningful impact for my son and his peers.

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Good morning,

I will not be able to attend the forum on the 10th, but I did want to add my two cents worth. I love the parks and rec programs and my children have participated in several. I would love to see the gymnastics classes in a facility that was large enough to accommodate them. I know the instructors do a great job with what they have, but there isn't even space to practice floor routines. If the students had some room to spread out, I think they would really benefit. I appreciate parks and rec taking the time to get the public's opinion on these issues. Keep up the good work!

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I had hoped to attend your forum at Free State High School but had to work late.

Had I been there, I would have asked you to consider improvements to the Off Leash dog park. That park is nicely designed and heavily used. No matter what time of day or week I go there, I always see lots of cars in the parking lot and lots of people on the trails. However, I don't go there as often as I would like because after a rain it is very

hard to negotiate parts of the path because of standing water. I wish you could do something to improve the drainage.

If you can't do that, please consider developing another off-leash park in an area with better drainage.

Whatever you can do to make lots of natural green space easily accessible to residents is worth my tax support!

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To the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

You recently requested citizen input about recreational needs for Lawrence. Since I will be unable to attend any of the meetings, I am submitting my input in writing.

I feel that the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should make long-range plans aimed at making Lawrence a more bicycle-friendly city.

I have been bicycling in Lawrence and surrounding counties for nearly 45 years, and I commuted to KU by bicycle nearly every day for 33 years. With the exceptions of the bike trails along Clinton Parkway, the Southern Bypass, and the river levee, I have found that little has changed to make bicycling safer in all this time. The "Bike Routes" on city streets are little more than metal signs. Designated bike lanes painted on streets are so minimal as to not be of any real use. I have not yet found a traffic light that is tripped by the weight of a bicycle and rider, so a cyclist has to wait for a car to trip the light or wait for a break in the cross traffic. Lawrence streets are generally in poor condition for bicycle riding, especially this year. Ruts and potholes that have little effect on cars can be dangerous for bicycles with narrow tires. With increased traffic in recent years, I no longer feel comfortable riding in town. I have found it safest to transport my bike by car to the city limits to ride; the county roads are in excellent condition compared to those in the city.

Perhaps more Lawrence citizens would be encouraged to bicycle if it were safer. We could look to Boulder, CO, or Davis, CA, for examples of how to make a city bicycle-friendly. Both of these are university communities like Lawrence, and people there of all ages use bicycles both for transportation and exercise.

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Hello, I was unable to attend the forum because I got the time wrong on the last one. I think the Gymnastics program the city provides is great my daughter has attended 5 classes and enjoys it a lot. Right now she is in level 2. There are two classes at a time and it look very squished in terms of space especially when they are doing head stands and round offs and the vault which is in front of the door. I would like to see this program enhanced so as my daughter gets older she can continue with gymnastics. We have taken many classes through parks and rec and I appreciate all of them and that they are affordable.

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One of the smartest ideas I've heard regarding development of public space is to create an outdoor workout trail. There are even companies that specialize in creating the stations along the trail: <http://www.fittrail.com/features.htm>

This could be accompanied by a dream playground such as was created in East Grand Forks MN after the '97 flood. Playground architects worked with local children to develop a playground that is every child's dream. A small picture of part of it can be seen here:

<http://www.visitgrandforks.com/main.php/pubparks>

The playground includes a fenced area for toddlers as well as swings, tire swings, adaptive swings, and various activities throughout the maze of towers and bridges. Coin jars were placed around town to raise money to build the playground and 3' pickets for the fence around the toddler area were "sold" and the buyer's name was engraved on the picket. This was so popular they actually had to add fencing to accommodate all the orders.

Please consider these ideas for the west side of town. My impression of Lawrence is that an area developed like I have described would be very popular.

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We have been participating in the Strength Training for Seniors program facilitated by Vicki Lyson for several years at Holcomb center. We have been very pleased with the facility and especially with Vicki's program. With Vicki as leader the location comes in a far second in our consideration.

Regarding Holcomb:

The parking is very good, the lot well maintained, snow removed in winter: the building is well maintained, painted, restrooms are clean. The staff are friendly and considerate. The HVAC could have used some fine tuning in the summer.

And a secure storage place should be provided for equipment, and that should be considered in any new building. Several times over the past few years our weights (15 and 20#) have been stolen. They're now kept in a locked cabinet and that seems to be working so far. Stability balls have also been stolen and they're too large to smuggle out under a shirt! You get the idea.

All in all we're happy with our experience.

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Hello. I have filled out the survey. A few additional comments:

1) Please keep new parks as natural as possible. For ex, Southpark is beautiful, but not all parks need to be as manicured and landscaped. Let's have some "wilder" parks that give people more natural outdoor experiences, allow us to see more varied wildlife, allow us to share our land with wildlife. This seems especially appropriate on the outer edges of Lawrence, which is still semi-wild. When new playgrounds are built, how about natural playgrounds?

2) Please make sure that new trails and bike paths disturb natural areas as little as possible. Again, respect the wildlife habitat and help people have a natural, semi-wild outdoor experience.

3) I do not support the idea of building on land below the dam. Parking lots, buildings, an amphitheatre would greatly change the character of this beautiful area. Let's keep it natural and beautiful, so that we continue to have other-than-urban wildlife in our community.

4) New investments in outdoor recreation facilities are a much lower priority for me than investments in the other categories.

Thank you for considering these comments.  
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Thanks for the opportunity to offer comments. My daughter, Kate, has taken and LOVES the gymnastics classes offered through Parks & Rec. (We also love swim lessons.)

Anything that can be done to support the gymnastics program would be wonderful. Those classes are crowded and room is limited. Given the cost of LGA and other gymnastics offerings in Lawrence, this program is really critical for young girls.

Your instructors are terrific, and the equipment is great – they could just use some more room!  
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I have listed all of the items which I think are the most important. Although, there should be space ON the survey for comments.

Number one comment I have is this:  
DO NOT DO ANYTHING UNTIL WE ACTUALLY HAVE THE MONEY.

Thank you,  
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I just want to say Thank You for making the effort to get feedback from citizens using so many different forums. I have seen the notices in the newspaper about the public meetings but none of the times/dates worked for me. I was delighted to receive an e-mail with the survey so I can still provide input. Well done!  
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To whom ever,

Has it occurred to any one spending our/my money that this Nation is in a recession.

Times are bad and getting worse. You are now raising fees while they should be reducing them so that families can enjoy some cheep entertainment.

Even the cost of these meetings and surveys should bother you. If anything reduce your fees and your budget for your employers and users (the taxpayers).

Tired of increased taxes and fees.

-A tired and over taxed resident.  
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An online survey? I LOVE IT! NOW THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO GET FEEDBACK FROM THE USERS OF YOUR FACILITIES!!!

Appreciate the effort!  
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To whom it may concern,

I just wanted to thank you for using the survey to get our input on the direction for the park development. I have been very frustrated with the removal of the LHS tennis courts during the construction of new

facilities and I was unsure how to voice my opinion. I'm glad to see they are finally making progress with the new courts and I hope that lighting becomes available shortly. I rarely have time to play during the day, so lighting is key. It is very difficult to find time during the day when going to school and working. With obesity prevalent in America today I believe that it is very important to make facilities available at convenient times. That being said, I understand the realities of budgets and funding and I appreciate the work you do for the community.

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Please, please include an indoor walking/running track in any new indoor facility.

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I would like to see us work something out with the school system where by there would be an evening custodian in the schools with gymnasiums. These facilities would then be open to the public for scheduled practices, classes or free play. It has to be cheaper to utilize existing facilities than to build new ones.

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public-private partnership to build a state-of-the-art facility

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multi-faceted complex - softball, baseball, soccer, teen & youth intramural program, kickball, ultimate frisbee

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We are currently driving to KC 3 times a week to participate in competitive baseball and basketball leagues. Until facilities are available, this trend will continue and Lawrence will not compete for the revenues generated by youth sports.

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natural area next to Amtrak station; clear out understory brush, promote health of mature trees, make this area inviting, attractive, popular and therefore safer

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skatepark/plaza on the west side

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additional lights on soccer fields

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put a driving range on the east side of town. Self-serve, bring your own balls.

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There is a great need in our area (#1) for safe walking areas. With all the apartments, traffic is heavy and many times speed limits are not adhered to.

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My #1 and the reason I came to this meeting: we have the beautiful Prairie Park nature trail and Arboretum Trails near YSI. Let's move a nice wide trail somewhere north and maybe west! Many ages can use this! I am not interested in some sidewalk by homes. We need a nice nature trail north and west!! Wide cement.

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Trail connection from movie theater to N. 1250 Rd. Many bikers use this route. Thanks you for current trails! Please keep extending and connecting.

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Minimize concrete whenever possible (allowing for drainage consideration.) Natural surfaces like Prairie Spirit Trail (Franklin Co.)

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There is a need for safe routes to schools for walking and biking. Ideally, bicycle boulevards would connect routes to schools, parks with downtown and rec. trails

I feel that we need natural areas where children can explore. A park with unstructured areas. There is a very large wooded area west of Queens Road just north of the pump station that is a wonderland area for exploring. It has it all – 100 year old trees, stream, pond, stone walls, lots of wildlife. The sewer line just went through and opened the area for walking (temporarily). An area left natural such as this with a mulch walk would be great.

I live in area #1 – many people walk – heavy traffic, no shade, noise from 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Please do not put another building where trees once stood.

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I would like to see efforts to encourage more bicycle commuting – dedicated bike paths that connect to high density areas. White lines along the curbs of busy streets do not cut it. Call a meeting of current bicycle commuters to get their input.

I'm not in favor of building a new rec. center in west Lawrence – private clubs, etc. are available – encourage a Y to come in.

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how about greening up the eastside with a passive solar therapeutic lappool there r many folks who could benefit from a pool on the eastside it could be green there is plenty of water and a saline solution water treatment is affordable it would be nice to offer water polo as a sport that is a popular olympic venue swimming is a skill each and everyone of the children of lawrence and of ks ought to be able to do not just swim but to be able to save someone in trouble in the water is an empowering skill give lawrence people the opportunity to be leaders thru skill building by getting them off the streets and giving them jobs at green pools that support their lives by offering them tools to take with them anywhere lifeguards competitive water polo teams there is so much water and time for people to get better by getting in the water it isn't fair that all the pools r on the west side give east lawrence something to show that we care about each other by offering for them to build a green sustainable pool for the children and the elders to take the pressure of and swim and learn important life saving skills salt water pools passive solar water catchment wind let us have a pool on the eastside a green pool with hand made tiles created in the ceramics classes

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I live out West, where we have precious-little in the way of neighborhood recreation center. Therefore my vote is for a rec center out by Wakarusa.

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A facility to serve younger children. The open gym's limited hours are not an option for most people. We take our children to the KC metro area (Deanna Rose Farmstead, Topeka & KC Zoo, malls for an indoor play area) to do things because there is nothing in Lawrence to meet this need.

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I feel the City of Lawrence needs a larger more accessable gymnastics facility. The East Lawrence Recreation Center is not equipped to function with multiple classes in the same gym. The waiting room for parents is also too small and cannot accommodate the number of students and classes moving in and out.

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the South Park Center is important and it should be bigger and perhaps updated . it is important to keep facilities downtown. Every time we go to our class at South Park, we always go to stores too. This helps keep our downtown vital!

Need to plan adequate and proper space for fitness classes. There are more gyms than there are spaces to hold fitness classes. Often the sports activities are given priority for use of the gyms over dance lessons and fitness classes for adults and kids such as zumba, ballet, and aerobics.

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Boulder has several indoor facilities with pools, racquetball courts, basketball courts, etc; they are easy to bike to, etc which should be possible

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Rec center on the west side of town!!!! with a large parking lot. parking at our current facilities is terrible. have you ever tried to find a parking spot at the East Lawrence Rec center on a Saturday morning in Feb? good luck

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look at the Beaverton OR parks and rec facility. it has multi use courts and a walking track that circled above the courts. The parents of kids practicing got a lot of use out of it!!

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As an arm of the government, every time Parks and Rec expands, it consumes more tax dollars. My preference would be for the Lawrence Parks and Rec department to drastically shrink. No more tax payer-funded kickball leagues and no more subsidized golf courses. No more competition from Parks and Rec with private health clubs (in which I have no investment). These perceived "needs" for more and bigger government programs actually represent the wants of a dedicated and demanding few. Despite this, 100% of tax payers are forced to pay for these programs.

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Better upkeep and efficient use of Carl Knox Natatorium. Could be used far more, but always seems to take a backseat to the Free State Pool.

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The city should have just leased this to the Americana Music Academy - at least it wouldn't be sitting empty after all these years. Stop wasting time and money.

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Couldn't a field house also be use as a year around ctr.?

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Indoor walking/jogging track like the one at the KU Rec

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A fitness/wellness center combined with spaces to hold large fitness classes - such as a multipurpose gym would provide opportunities for people to take classes on nutrition and other wellness topics and then easily transition to a fitness class. These things go together in my opinion.

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Fieldhouse that is designed so it can be used for almost all the other purposes described above. But it should be an athletic building first, and convertible to a meeting place second

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Right now, there are no indoor facilities for softball/baseball (batting cages, large rooms) yet we have several organizations that could use them. Local gymnasiums are taken up by winter basketball and futsal. An indoor batting cage could also bring in money, as do the ones in the KC Metro areas.

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Comment: Preferably a center near YSI or part of YSI sport fields.

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There is a park on 19th and Haskell that is great for walking, but it's almost winter, so that's out. Is the East Lawrence Rec Center open for walking? Is there a room, with equipment (treadmill, recumbent bike, step machine)? Why is service to East Lawrence so crappy?

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    Serious updates are needed at the Downtown Community Building! ! !

More running/walking/biking paths

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Cut costs for now we can do with what we have for a while. Families are hurting.

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Begin connecting all of the existing hike and bike trails

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stop spending tax dollars

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I am not in favor of additional recreation centers.

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I think the other choices are met by the fairgrounds, the art center, the other rec centers. Let's keep our eyes on the prize; a big facility for b-ball, soccer, volleyball, other tournaments that can generate interest and revenue.

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Our first preference is to enlarge South Park Center , but if a new center is to be built, at least it should be near downtown and it should focus on fitness/welness for the community.

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As for the new Rec Center -- it really depends on where it would be built as to whether I'd believe it is a good idea.

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I big park like South Park but with a lot of playground equipment, several picnic tables, a pond, strolling gardens, etc. The park on Tennessee doesn't quite cut it.

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Ice skating or roller skating venue would provide a new activity opportunity for Lawrence and Douglas County residents.

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Hobbs Park - on 15th and Delaware. Is it true there are locker room facilities that have been mothballed? That seems wasteful. Also, I'm in the 5:30 T/R yogilaties class at the Community Building. I'd like to see more of the Fit for Life classes (for Seniors that are not yet retired) at 5:30, at the Community Building or the East Lawrence Rec Cntr because Holcom Park is too hard to get back and forth too. I'd like more Parks and Rec in East Lawrence. We want to get fit, too.

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passive solar saline lap and water polo pools hydrotherapeutic make swimming skills a cool thing to have make lawrence a contender in water sports they r healthier than anyother sport and tend to build confidence/lifesaving there is plenty of water now lets create some jobs for people by building some a series of lap and water polo pools green low cost low maintance high yeilding skills for the people of this town give them something besides basketball to be proud of teach water safety to all the kids and offer it to all the people

-----  
Improved concessions at the Adult sports complex. Could earn tremendous profits if you sold beer at the CLSC. Check out how the Blue Valley P&R department handles their complex and you could get a good idea of money that you are missing out on!!! I have chosen to drive and play there versus playing in Lawrence!

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I think the #1 most important outdoor recreation enhancement that is needed is a wide, paved multi-use trail that can take people from the Kansas River (around Mass St) to Clinton Lake.

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Boundless Playground- playgrounds where special needs kids can join the fun

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Safe trail development in areas that don't currently have them - east lawrence. Again, I stress safe...it's hardly safe to walk downtown right now but the west side has beautiful, wide, well lit sidewalks that meander through parks and neighborhoods.

Additional youth softball/baseball fields - whichever option the lprd staff thinks would serve the community best - but practice fields are hard to come by during the season so converted practice fields to playing fields would need to be still available for practice, also.

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We already have softball/baseball. Doesn't seem good use of funds to fund any of these outdoor facilities at this time. There is such a lack of good indoor facilities for activities beyond traditional sports (such as dance, fitness classes from children to seniors that use a supportive floor and mirrors to observe one's technique

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need more outdoor Pickleball courts (can mark existing tennis courts)

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We need more playing and practice softball/baseball fields throughout Lawrence - there are currently not enough to support the many summer kids and the activities offered. As a coach it is almost impossible to get a practice field.

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Hobbs Park Memorial Stadium Renovation - put bathrooms under seating back into use and replace roof over seating.

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Restoration of the Hobb's Park Municipal Stadium Bathrooms, addition of a concessions area, and addition of a roof over the stadium. This could be a real jewel for the community. Placing the stadium on the National Register of Historic Places could also garner grant money for project financing

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We need a complex suitable for competitive softball/baseball league and tournament play so we can bring in more teams from surrounding cities and so Lawrence teams don't have to leave town to play in tournaments and more competitive leagues.

-----  
Complete YSI. 1. No project within the city can get away with a gravel parking lot. At soccer and football games everyone ends up eating dust. Pave it. Then move on to other facilities. 2. 27th and bypass traffic particularly at game change times is very dangerous. Open access to YSI from the road by the dam. This will allow a 2nd place to eneter/ exit.

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west side of town outdoor pool. The downtown facility is overcrowded and in the summer kids want to swim outside. you could put some tennis courts along side of the pool facility you could also light the courts at free state. Where they are located they would not bother neighbors at all.

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Please light the tennis courts, I have really missed having the tennis courts recently. I love to play and those courts were always being utilized, it would be a shame to not light them when you know there is a demand. Our facilities should not become worse when they are re-done. Thank you.

-----  
You talk about giving more facilities to neighborhoods that do not have anything. If we did more to build bike/walking paths throught the community that would lead us to schools,shops,churches,ball fields,swimming pools, library we would be a healthier and happier community.

-----  
I don't like spending money on competitive sports. Spend it on getting people to exercise for life fitness: WALKING, BICYCLING. THESE DON'T REQUIRE FACILITIES!

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How about renovating the Hobbs Park facility? Make the bathrooms under the stadium functional again; rebuild the roof that at one time sheltered the seating. Don't ignore East Lawrence!

Restoration of Hobbes Park stadium!

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I believe that it would be very helpful to parents of Lawrence to have a fence around the equipment at South Park. There is a possibility of children running out into Mass St. and also that bicycle traffic along the sidewalk, right next to the 3 ft high plants on the walkway near the play equipment decreases visibility of children crossing onto the sidewalk. I don't know if anyone else has brought up this point, but I have wanted to complain about this for two years now. I have a toddler who is very active, and I see young adults riding on this sidewalk all summer long, not even stopping to think twice about toddlers emerging from the plants out into the path of a bicycle. Something really needs to be done about this problem. This city should have a minimum of two parks that are enclosed with fences so that toddlers won't be able to book it into the street.

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hello community gardens there r enuf already sports complexes use those tractors and create some community garden plots allow people to grow some food and take pride in their neighborhoods campgrounds where people can stay and build a fire and be warm or relax in the shade peace parks no drugs no alcohol period camping fire building cooking over wood like our precious ancestors did abolish homelessness peace parks safe grounds for anyone

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don't develop the area near clinton dam any further; we need open undeveloped spaces

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a dog park on the north side of town

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When the complex is built it would be great to incorporate additional space to build, create extra football fields. Our kids are in need of a Flag football League in Lawrence, KS. The kids would benefit from learning the game at a early age and be able to get the fundamentals of the game prior to putting on the pads. 2nd grade thru 5th. Bring back great youth Football to Lawrence. Go Lions!

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If we can't build more ball diamonds, perhaps we could improve the substandard diamonds that we already have.

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Soccer is going to be a fast growing sport in the future and it would be wise to anticipate this. It would also be beneficial for adult leagues. As a recreational player it can be tough to find a spot to play.

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Work an arrangement with the school district to maintain and rent youth-sized baseball parks for summer youth t-ball and baseball. This would leave YSI parks for older youths. This would benefit the school district by providing an extra source of income during the summer months. A win-win for all involved!

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We have just spent so much money on football fields, soccer fields, etc., at the high schools. Let's chill on the outdoor sports facilities.

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Fix/Install lighting at the 4H ball fields

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More lighted tennis courts west of Iowa Street

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I would like to see large areas of land and/or water acquired for wildlife observation and preservation and education. Included could be watch towers, or blinds for the public to watch, observe, learn about or photograph animals in their habitat. See Lillian Rowe Sanctuary in Nebraska as an example. This is also a valuable kind of recreation and tourism draw.

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Hobbs Park to connect Burroughs Creek Trail to downtown.

Park Hill parks 1 needs toddler playground

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What about the dog park off of N. 2nd Street that is not safe to take children to due to "loitering" and "soliciting"? Why can't you clean up that park? or Brook Creek? I don't live in either area, but LPRD should be ashamed of the status of the park on N. 2nd.

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focus on trails throughout the city that link neighborhoods. Consider a facility like the Metro Parks in Detroit Michigan area. They have wonderful bike and walking trails around nature. You can google it to see the number of parks that make up the Metro Parks in Detroit suburbs.

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Since Hallmark already has given the city the land and it hasn't been developed for so many years, wouldn't it make sense to finally do something with it? Initial plans were made 8 years or so ago, but were never put into motion. I think it is a shame to let it go year after year, when kids and the community could be putting it to use.

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Change the DeVictor Park option to include a small softball/baseball field for practice and play on the south end. the trail is fine as it is and we have enough playgrounds with Langston Hughes right there.

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The idea of a spray park at 9th and New Hampshire is great. But the best idea of all is the possibility of installing nice public restrooms in that area. It is very embarrassing to tell out of town visitors that we do not have any public restroom downtown. So our business reluctantly serves as the downtown public restroom and many other business send people to our restrooms which is a large cost each month.

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Hobbs Park is utilized by hundreds - the stadium is packed! - many evenings in the summer time. How about a drinking fountain next to the stadium?

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upgrade and maintain the "train" park. more paths, more trees, and especially more attractive benches. Also, hate to say this but you need to somehow control the homeless folks who hang out mostly in the shelter. Most of the time they are no trouble, but their presence and language discourage other users, children and families in particular. I know you are aware of this and that it is difficult to solve but you need to try harder.

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Off leash dog park - IN TOWN with fenced area. I believe there is one in Gage park in Topeka?

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how about something for East Lawrence? We pay taxes, too.

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wheelchair accessible paths needed

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Burroughs Creek Trail should include park facilities...of course it would be nice if they actually finish the trail and make sure it's safe and well lit.

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Topeka should not make us look so feeble by comparison. We need beautiful grounds, not more basketball hoops.

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Put in basketball courts at Broken Arrow Park, upgrade baseball field and practice field

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Update the frisbee golf course near 6th and Iowa. It definitely needs each of the 18 obstacle platforms repainted so we can tell which number on the course we are standing on--some have worn off completely. Additionally, it would be nice to update the map and add in a few "practice" baskets, just like the ones in Overland Park that we sometimes go to. I wish this area of the park

were "prettier", if you will. Overland Park even presents each "hole" with it's own nice wooden sign. There are a lot of frisbee golf enthusiasts that would love updating the course.

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southpark and the trainpark are two very important parks that frame downtown. The are used for alot of special events but we need to do something that will attract more people on a reg. basis to just hang out, picnic, throw a ball around, read. We need to gently introduce ideas to the community. i.e. Pack a picnic, hop on your bike or take the bus and head to the park for the day.

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I believe a trail should be placed in the area least served by local facilities, and in most need based on health indicators of the area. Health indicator can be based on bmi of people in the area, and if that info is not available, it can be based on salary income, as we know that the poorest are among the least healthy, and least able to afford to spend money on activites promoting physical fitness. I am an nurse, and do not have means to get my voice heard other than this online survey, but want to stress that all members of the decision board think about the factors that I have pointed out. In addition, I want to point out that there are few opportunities for children to get out of the house to play in winter time. The 11th st rec center does have a play group MWF, but other resources could easily be available in other gyms around town, with creative oppportunities for children to play with adults/parents so that both would get excercise and play, out of the house on cold or hot days.

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Bicycle walking connectors to SLT Trail. There's no way to ride to the trail at Kasold without riding on 31st street. Also you can't get to Iowa street beginning of trail without riding on Iowa street! You should be able to bike safely to many entry points on the trail. Glad to see 6th street connector at that junction.

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Why are we even considering repaving the asphalt bike trail when there are so many other new bike trail needs? For example, biking on 15th/Bob Billings and Inverness is down right dangerous. Let's build new bike paths or repair and widen the sidewalks so bikes can use them.

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How about trail development in central and east Lawrence. The sidewalks are a joke and the street lights rarely work.

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Lighted trail along KS river from Kentucky Street to Burcham Park. This could later connect to the NW Lawrence trail you are considering to connect downtown to our greater trails.

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Northeast Lawrence needs a connector from the Burroughs Creek Rails to Trails to downtown through Hobbs Park.

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Bike lanes and bike paths in the central part of the city that allow people to get around safely without a car

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The most important trail to develop is one that can bring people from the River at 6th and Mass to Clinton Lake, via important locations such as the Arts Center, the grocery store, etc. Hook in to the trail by the movie theater.

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We have enough trails. Why don't you establish a home recycling pickup service and help Lawrence become greener.

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Bicycle access to the South Lawrence Trafficway bike path. It is dangerous to ride on Iowa street and 31st street to get to the easternmost access points.

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Kansas River- east of bridge Picnick areas to Mud Creek - starting point (along river levee)

We have enough trails. Why don't you establish a home recycling pickup service and help Lawrence become greener.

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Finding a good way to bike from west Lawrence to campus -- taking Bob Billings' road or sidewalk is dangerous; going through the residential neighborhoods is okay except for having to go around the golf course.