

# Lawrence Parks & Recreation Department

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## A Comprehensive Master Plan

### APPENDIX

Stakeholder and Public meeting notes  
Student Survey  
Park Site Evaluation Criteria Model  
Resident Survey

# Lawrence Parks & Recreation Department

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## A Comprehensive Master Plan

### Stakeholder Interviews

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#### Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB)

1. Focus on bringing in events to spur the economy. (KU/Haskell hard to get into facilities. This can be frustrating.)
2. Focus on amateur sports.
  - a. Swim meet opportunities
  - b. Aqua Hawks – strong organization
3. State games in place for last 10 years.
4. Sports Corp.
  - a. Doesn't have funding source.
  - b. Wants to strengthen underdeveloped groups
  - c. Needs eventing to create funding.
  - d. Loan program to get groups started (interest free).
  - e. Division and staffed by CVB. No fulltime director.
  - f. Looking for niche.
  - g. City has great facilities and human resource base to put events on.
5. Working on girls fast pitch tournament – partnering with parks.
6. 1,000 hotel rooms currently.
7. CVB
  - a. 4% bed tax – funded through City to CVB.
  - b. Proposals out for hotel development (including downtown)
    - i. Clinton Lake Resort – hotel proposal out.
    - ii. Horseback riding with facilities
8. Neighborhood parks are important (CVB) – wetlands – bird watching growing.
9. Would like to see more done on Riverfront (Fiesta in Buchanan Park has gone away because it was tough to get to. No longer growing due to money problems).
10. No place (plaza, etc.) for a community-gathering place. Events park is needed (South Park close, though bisected by road). No city auditoriums.
11. Flux in historical tourism. Don't have a place for people to find. "Ride with the Devil" movie this fall – about Lawrence history (pre-Civil war history).
  - a. Watkins Community Museum serves some this role.
  - b. Carnegie Library could be converted to a new use.
  - c. 2004 – sequential of Lawrence and Kansas territory.
  - d. Underground Railroad – Fire station off Clinton Parkway in Lawrence.
  - e. Historical Group in town is fragmented.
  - f. August – Civil War Days
  - g. Downtown Organization is strong
12. Coordinate University and banner on streets.
13. Served on B&G Club Board. Need some coordination out east to build a gym – partnership. Pelatha Center – coordination needed with the neighborhood.

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14. University Historic Mt. Orient – grass roots group. Some buildings on National Register.
15. Not too much on ecotourism “Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance”
  - a. Developing guidebook – water quality – heritage and recreation components to the group.
  - b. Issue has been canoeing – no good place to put in above river.
16. Much interest in preserving the River – River and Clinton Lake are sources for City water.
17. “Rolling Down the River” – planning a festival again. Junction City to past Lawrence.
18. Don’t push hard for tour groups – not top priority.
19. Top priority needed
  - a. Conventions and visitors
  - b. Targeting direct mail and media/magazines
20. Rent bicycles from visitor’s centers/bike paths are great.
21. Facilitate bicycling for visitors.
22. Connectivity of trails to CVB building and hotels/motels.
23. Stan Herd – crop artist – working on picture across City Hall on levee.
24. Haskell is tough to engage consistently in the process – good intentions, but very different priorities/culture. City works with them. Native dress is not a costume. Campus: zero tolerance – 1,000+ students represents 100 tribes.
25. CVB did strategic plan for tourism - major focus basketball (history) – how it relates to issues bigger than sports. Unique to Lawrence and underdeveloped. Territorial history.
26. Strong arts community.
  - a. Cultural tourism plan in place.
  - b. Wants to start fine arts festival, but no place to do it!
  - c. Art in park new – restricted to locals.
  - d. Combine arts with seniors health industry.
27. Landscaping is a challenge but it is critical to the image of the community. Beautification of city is critical. City does not have enough staff to do this!!! Tough to even take care of CVB building.
28. Coexistence of Visitor Center and Public Building tough. Could run smoother. Weekend events conflict with visitors many times.
29. 14,000 people last year who signed the book – the number is growing.

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### Soccer

1. Until mid 70's, City ran all soccer (fall). Then KAW Valley Soccer Association started.
2. So successful – YSI created – from this a number of groups was formed to get 55 acres from Corp of Engineers to build \$300,000 - \$400,000 in new facilities – now objective to get back together.
3. KAW Valley, Recreation development and premier soccer. Lawrence adult soccer league this fall started “Over 30” soccer leagues.
4. Lawrence Schools have started soccer – has used YSI fields. Two fields were lighted in 1999.
5. Biggest Issue: very few practice fields in town. Can't use YSI field without organization, Holcom school property – no place for pickup games with goals. YSI fields also tough to get to.
6. Manhattan has open soccer fields just for play – three lit competition fields.
7. 10% growth year.
8. Tee Pee Junction – adult league play, but not really field. Area for cemetery expansion – no parking KDOT staging area to park, portable restrooms. No water available, turf quality bad with too much crabgrass.
9. Adult League
  - a. Division 1 – eight teams
  - b. Over 30 – four teams
10. YSI need parking and facilities. Address YSI property ingress and egress and on site parking. Parking is a problem!!!
11. Neighborhood practice fields needed!!
12. South of YSI property can be used for adults.
13. Industrial areas may have some soccer area.
14. Check for partnering opportunities.

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### Inline Skating Roller Hockey

1. See a need for single rink – outdoor – roof ok. Shell with open sides, maybe multi-use – (screen on west side).
2. 200 x 100 slab.
3. Kirkwood Mo. Facility – plays/concerts/roller hockey/ice hockey.
4. Need for tournaments and feeder program.
5. Deerfield only serves to age 10.
6. Need one bigger facility – what they have ok for age 10 and over.
7. In next five to ten years can Lawrence support an ice rink? Commercially – no; Parks and Recreation – yes (subsidized).
8. Management company manages Wichita – two sheet ice rink has bar and concessions. 900 people each night \$675/ hr. Rink management company is out of Canada.
9. Indoor soccer and hockey are compatible and could be mixed used.
10. Roller hockey that could be ice rink – creates great flexibility.
11. There is capacity in community for others to manage/run/schedule roller hockey program.
12. Sunflower State Games: big deal for City – others are looking to steal. This year will have water games (ice hockey for first time).
13. Kelly Mason – Sunflower State Games director.

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### Bikeways, Drainage & Planning

1. 75% of City Commission issues are regarding land use.
2. Currently "utility (property owner) fee" for storm water – only property owners not developers.
3. Platting Procedure – primarily plat sent out to internal groups.
  - a. 1-½ weeks later review meeting.
  - b. Planning commission does not always follow staff recommendation.
4. Plan Commission 10 – 5 by City, 5 by County appointed Douglas County and City of Lawrence. Approves plats – recommend on zoning, annexation, etal.
5. Conventional Zoning – no requirement for park space. PVD – open space requirement.
6. Drainage – easement – must have no obstructions but law does not say if it can be used for recreation.
  - a. Separate utility easements from drainage easement.
  - b. Water and Sewer – City operated.
7. City Utility Department, Kansas Water Company – with Chad have identified areas for water preservation.
8. South Lawrence Trafficway – natural place for preservation.
9. Will take land if it meets engineering standards.
10. High pressure gas lines and power here – touch about easements.
11. Education for developed needed on the benefits of open space and pathways.
12. Growth 8% - 10% per year, 65,000 in 1990; 80,000 in 1999.
13. Attitude given sales tax in place – no to impact fee probably.
  - a. Would need to be consolidated into one fee of the entire group, not parks only.
14. Real estate transfers maybe.
15. University has 1/10 of all impervious surfaces in the City. \$90,000/year to storm water utility fee.
16. Overlay Aaron's bikeway plan (GIS) with river floodplain maps and topography and capital improvement projects.
  - a. East side of Haskell Avenue Trail to Sante Fe.
17. GIS – ownership maps from County. Tracy Schloss – City GIS coordinator.
18. Strong resistance with connecting cul-de-sacs by trails – resistance with Commission and developers.
19. Small piece of property coming in for platting – dealing with smaller property owners – want separation.
20. Landscape ordinance in place – tough to enforce.
21. County handles filing of all easements.

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### Community Meetings

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The following information was gathered from two community meetings held on subsequent nights. The data is neither filter, interpreted or distilled. It is presented as provided in response to the same questions that were asked in each session. The first session was held in the Community Center with 17 people in attendance. The second session was held at Holcom Park Recreation Center with 21 people in attendance. Both sessions lasted approximately two hours.

Items in this "typestyle" occurred in the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. This "typestyle" was from the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Strengths of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department

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- Great outlet for youth of Lawrence (age 5-70 years old)
- Terrific neighborhood parks
- Clean parks and good maintenance
- Doing a good job preserving green space
- Great variety of activities offered
- Kids always want to go to parks
- Maintaining history well with train, gazebo, and band stand
- The City (citizens) use parks to a high degree
- Balances needs of various special interest groups
- Sense of security in the parks
- The parks promote family values – parks reflect community values
- The parks are comprised of wonderful land – good supply
- Great horseshoe pits
- The department's use of funding tools
- The comprehensive plan
- The department cares about landscaping and flowers
- 2% for art program
- The new public pool
- The maintenance of the cemeteries and the Veterans Plot
- Band concerts in the summer (though can be too crowded)
- *Diversity of facilities and activities*
- *Accessibility – easy to get to and enough to go around*
- *Nice landscaping*
- *Safe*
- *Summer concerts*
- *Parks are used a lot – many activities and organizations use*

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- *Employees – throughout the organization*
- *Leveraging space with others*

### Weaknesses of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department

- No neighborhood parks between 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wakarusa and golf course
- No practice soccer fields and goals
- No open shelter areas for dual use
- Neighborhood recreation centers and community pools will not be as accessible as Lawrence expands west and south.
- No neighborhood tennis courts on the west side
- No indoor volleyball courts
- Need better communication with skateboard group – need to see the problems first hand
- Need larger park in southwest part of Lawrence
- Not good advertising on horseshoe pits and not easy to get to (distant from the parking)
- Not enough 15-19 year old baseball fields
- Need better pr about what we have in parks
- Lack of parking in parks
- Not enough activities for 15-19 year olds – not easily accessible without cars
- Oak Hill Cemetery needs another exit
- *Need to induce people to walk/ride bikes with more trail connections to everything including parks*
- *Respond more by bringing programs out to the people – intramural, after school programs*
- *Better communicate at the entry of each park about what is in the park (amenities, hours, history, etc)*
- *Not enough community and recreation centers*
- *Make enrollment process easier – signup at Wal-Mart, etc*
- *Lack of space in facilities and parks*
- *Hard surface trails alone are not good for runners – need soft surface*
- *6<sup>th</sup> Street and Wakarusa not enough area to run or walk*
- *Trails should not have chain link boundaries – should have natural edges*
- *Need better coordination between the city, county and schools for facility use*
- *Accessibility – connect parks with paths for kid access (neighborhood to neighborhood)*
- *Parks have not kept up with the growth of the community – southwest, northwest, and west*
- *There should be no usage fees for youth (especially softball)*
- *Marketing need to improve – only communication vehicle is brochure, paper and schools*
- *Lack of historical information about the community in the parks*
- *Not a lot of activity options for seniors (both programmed and self directed)*
- *Not enough use of natural areas*
- *Need more natural areas incorporated into all parks*



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- *Better planning with facilities including the wetland area*
- *Need off-leash dog areas – consider within a fence*
- *No softball fields cater to girls fast pitch (only adults slow pitch)*
- *Small practice softball fields are poorly maintained (Broken Arrow)*
- *Programs that are offered at private facilities (& are expensive) are not provided by the parks department at an affordable price (dance, gymnastics, etc)*
- *There needs to be more partnering and shared equipment between organizations/groups*
- *Lack of practice baseball fields*
- *No shade at YSI fields*
- *No courtesy training/rules on path use*
- *Shortage of one varsity baseball field*

### Opportunities for Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department

- Capitalize on Lawrence being a basketball Mecca. Create a park to cater to basketball history/museum.
- Capitalization of resources – historical, etal
- Ice rinks (skating/hockey)
- Link all bike trails around City.
- Roller rink
- Rivers and wetlands
- Lawrence is “15<sup>th</sup> most cultural” City in the U.S. Community theatre needs space (partner opportunity).
- Build structures that are amenable to change – flexibility.
- Look for multipurpose spaces to drive multi-use.
- Excellent use of scheduling technology – can grow this.
- *Link with developers for linkages*
- *Embrace what people are asking for – soccer fields*
- *Be responsive to public needs.*
- *Geographic and historical and natural resources uniqueness of Community*
  - *Civil war Trail*
  - *Butterfly migration*
- *Potential volunteers – community and college students, community court service.*
- *Drainage issues in new developments can become parks.*
- *Partnerships – school, etc., corp. of eng. industrial areas, county, universities.*
- *Existing land owned – not yet developed.*

### Threats of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department

- How do we build on our successes?
- Over-designing facilities that we can't build (too expensive).

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- Continue to look for creative funding.
- Too quick growth of City
- Parks and Recreation has taken care of recreational facilities for schools – may be expected to again. Shifts focus of parks.
- Spending more resources to fix skateboard area when can be fixed more easily and cheaper.
- Threat of missed opportunities – dirt bikes.
- Politics
- Undervalue the facilities creates complacency.
- Commercial development threat
- Land costs threat – southwest, west, and northwest of the City.
- Not enough river activity.
- No cross promotions to capture people passing through.
- Commercial recreation side can threaten way of life.
- Drugs and gangs can be a threat.
- *Urban sprawl*
- *With recruiting Lawrence as retirement area – focus on benches, etc., “age friendly” pay phones.*
- *Lack of funding*
- *Not making parks a priority*
- *Public not proactive – after fact second guess and tear down. Reactive.*
- *We are all very busy.*
- *NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard)*
- *Fear of change*
- *Neglect to capitalize on parks as an asset.*
- *Underestimating the value of good PR/marketing – telling the story.*

### Communication Means of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department

- Newspaper and radio
- Public forum
- Telephone recreation line – needs to be able to ask questions.
- Word of mouth is strong – including schools.
- Don't show up on City service bill.
- Don't send through school.
- Continue responsiveness through network.
- Community calendar on cable channel.
- Web site to enroll over net.
  - Telephone enrollment with credit card or credit line.
- How to communicate outside of Lawrence?
  - Word of mouth

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- Awards and recognition
  - Television
  - Internet
- Newspaper
- Radio
- Telephone Tree (opportunity to do more than just respond – follow up)
  - People like to talk to people
- Sign of what is coming up – Kiosk
- Cable television
- Flyers (Library, Schools, etc.)
- Web site (automatic email responses back)
- Billboard – reminders
- Who can be as important as how – celebrities related to function

### Recreation Program Areas and Facilities to Focus

- Skating (ice/roller)
- Year round teach kids how to swim program
- Bring up areas under designed – skate park, disc golf, etc. Improve facilities we have.
- Best return on investment
- Multipurpose covered area – large open.
- Self-directed recreation/fitness “liquid facility” (flexible facilities)
- “X Games” – ziplines, challenge course
- Organize skateboards/clinics and tournaments
- More music and theatre in parks
- Focus on people with mobility problems and all in the community.
- Soccer
- Need open well maintained space to play – kids/adults
- Dog park
- Better accessible horseshoes
- Community built large playground
- Police on bikes/trails
- Lawn bowling/shuffleboard
- More baseball fields as county expands fairgrounds
- Parking for bike trail needs to allow access to trail
- Winter sports – jogging, off trail bike, ice skating, hockey (ice and in-line), cross-country ski trail
- Dog Park

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### The Vision for the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department

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- Continuation of neighborhood concept balance with “large magnet” facilities.
- Parks help create a sense of strong neighborhood in bedroom “community areas”.
- Don’t forget North Lawrence.
- Public transportation and bike lanes on all major thoroughfares. Get where you want to go.
- Parks and Recreation: a vehicle for children to gain respect for the environment and to learn about living a healthy lifestyle.
- Be good stewards of public lands.
- Parks draw people out to be part of a community.
- Capitalize on the diversity of our community Haskell et al. – environment.
- *Community health as a core value, wellness*
  - *80% of the community with regular exercise opportunities*
- *Play on historical, geographical, and natural resources of community*
- *Want community to be seamless – where it feels like it should be... it is*
- *Parks and recreation right up front*
- *Protect environment*
- *Quality – if we are going to do it... do it right!*

### Partners of the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department

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- Community theatre
- School district
- Ice skating rink
- Non-profit groups – sports teams
- Businesses
- Airport
- Hospital
- Universities
- Other government agencies
- Contractors/builders/developers
- Special interest groups
- Private enterprise
- Neighborhood association
- Churches
- Environmental groups
- *Resort at Clinton Lake*
- *Other parks and recreation groups*
- *Schools / Corp of Engineers / Other City and County Agencies*

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- *Sports organizations – USTA Hockey*
- *Industrial parks/groups*
- *Hospital and mental health clinic and health department*
- *Developers*
- *Universities*
- *Hallmark*
- *Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commission*
- *Downtown mall – indoor walkers*

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### Site Evaluation Criteria

#### Site Features

##### *Topographic/Drainage*

- 0 pts. Prohibitive slopes (>30%)
- 1 pt. Severe slopes (16% - 30%), greater than 10% in 100 & 500 year floodplain, and/or downslope from major drainage way or canal.
- 2 pts. Moderate slopes (7% - 15%) and/or <10% in 100 year and 500 year floodplain.
- 3 pts. Slight slope (<7%) and/or no floodplain.

##### *Vegetation*

- 0 pts. Dense vegetation (>75% trees and undergrowth)
- 1 pt. Primary vegetated (50% - 75% trees and undergrowth)
- 2 pts. Partially vegetated (25% - 50% trees and undergrowth)
- 3 pts. Open (<25% trees and undergrowth)

##### *Property Configuration*

- 0 pts. Long & narrow, irregular width, multi-directional
- 1 pt. Triangular shaped
- 2 pts. Long rectangle (length over 2.5 times width) open
- 3 pts. Rectangular (length under 2.5 times width) or square, open

##### *Size*

- 0 pts. Less than 20 acres
- 1 pt. 20 – 40 acres
- 2 pts. 40 – 60 acres
- 3 pts. 60 – 100 acres

##### *Soils and Geology*

- 0 pts. Multiple layers of exposed rock outcropping throughout site
- 1 pt. Isolated rock outcropping, inconsistent topsoil depth
- 2 pts. Little exposed rock, shallow soils, consistent depth
- 3 pts. No exposed rock outcroppings, deep soils, consistent depth

#### Infrastructure/Services

##### *Access/Transportation*

- 0 pts. No existing or proposed streets to site.
- 1 pt. No existing streets to site, but is on a logical planned extension

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- 2 pts. Existing streets adjacent to one side of site/arterial street within ½ mile
- 3 pts. Existing streets adjacent to two or more sides of site/arterial street adjacent to site

### ***Sanitary Sewer***

- 0 pts. Currently not serviceable by city and/or county system
- 1 pt. Site is serviceable, force main required, no existing system within ½ mile
- 2 pts. Existing service required extension (1/8 to ½ mile) to site
- 3 pts. Existing service is adjacent to or within 1/8 mile of site.

### ***Water Service***

- 0 pts. Currently not serviceable by city and/or county system
- 1 pt. Existing service requires extension to 1/8 to ½ mile to site
- 2 pts. Existing service is adjacent to site but inadequate supply, quality or pressure
- 3 pts. Sufficient supply, pressure, quality, and service exists adjacent to site

### ***Electrical/Telephone Service***

- 0 pts. No existing 3-phase electrical or phone service within ½ mile
- 1 pt. Existing 3-phase electrical and phone service within ½ mile to 1/8 mile
- 2 pts. Existing service with adequate supply within 1/8 mile
- 3 pts. Existing service with adequate supply adjacent to site

### ***Gas Service***

- 0 pts. No existing service within ½ mile of site
- 1 pt. Existing service with adequate supply within ½ mile to 1/8 mile
- 2 pts. Existing service with adequate supply within 1/8 mile
- 3 pts. Existing service with adequate supply adjacent to site

### ***Fire Protection***

- 0 pts. Response time > 15 min. questionable level of protection
- 1 pt. Response time 10 – 15 minutes
- 2 pts. Response time 5 – 10 minutes
- 3 pts. Response time < 5 minutes with appropriate type and level of protection

### ***Police Protection***

- 0 pts. No nighttime surveillance by police department
- 1 pt. Irregular nighttime surveillance by police department
- 2 pts. Regular nighttime surveillance by police department
- 3 pts. Regular daytime and nighttime surveillance by police department adjacent to routine routes

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### *Ambulance/Emergency Medical Service*

- 0 pts. Response time > 12 minutes
- 1 pt. Response time 8 – 12 minutes
- 2 pts. Response time 3 – 7 minutes
- 3 pts. Response time < 3 minutes

### *Accessibility*

- 0 pts. Site not adaptable for accessibility
- 1 pt. Major site renovation required to make site accessible
- 2 pts. Minor site renovation required to make site accessible
- 3 pts. Site easily adaptable for accessibility

## Anticipated Costs

### *Site Preparation/Grading Costs*

- 0 pts. Clearing and regarding of prohibitive slopes, extensive demolition
- 1 pt. Some clearing/regarding of severe slopes, moderate demolition
- 2 pts. Re-grading of moderate slopes, slight demolition
- 3 pts. Slight re-grading, no demolition

### *Street Costs*

- 0 pts. No roadway within ½ mile
- 1 pt. Unimproved roadways within ¼ mile
- 2 pts. Improved roadways within 1/8 mile
- 3 pts. Improved roadways adjacent to site

### *Utility Costs*

- 0 pts. No utility within ½ mile of site
- 1 pt. Sewer and/or water service < ½ mile, all other utilities closer
- 2 pts. Sewer and water service < ½ mile, all other utilities closer
- 3 pts. Sewer and water service adjacent to or within 1/8 mile

### *Land Acquisition Costs*

- 0 pts. Condemnation likely involving one or more multiple “non-agreeable” owners
- 1 pt. Purchase required with multiple agreeable owners at market rate
- 2 pts. Purchase required with one agreeable owner at market rate.
- 3 pts. Entire property to be donated or is currently owned by City.



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### Community Planning Issues

#### *Community Growth Patterns*

- 0 pts. Decentralized to existing and project population centers
- 1 pt. Located in area planned for projected population growth, not immediately adjacent to existing population center
- 2 pts. Located in area immediately adjacent to existing population centers
- 3 pts. Centralized to existing and projected population centers.

#### *Community Traffic Patterns*

- 0 pts. Site has no immediate/adjacent access to major highway or major arterial streets
- 1 pt. Site is located adjacent to local access streets or minor arterial streets only
- 2 pts. Site is located adjacent to one major county arterial street only
- 3 pts. Site has adjacent access to major highway and major arterial

#### *Distance From Other Major Community Amenities*

- 0 pts. > 4 miles
- 1 pt. 2 – 4 miles
- 2 pts. 1 – 2 miles
- 3 pts. Less than one mile

#### *Surrounding Land Uses*

- 0 pts. Low density single family residential/churches
- 1 pt. Heavy/Dirty industrial use
- 2 pts. High to medium density residential
- 3 pts. Clean commercial/light industrial and/or open space

#### *Environmental Issues (Wetlands, Floodplain, Wildlife, and Olfactory Pollution)*

- 0 pts. Not suitable for development/extensive negative impact will result due to location of site
- 1 pt. Development will have moderate impact to wetland and wildlife
- 2 pts. Development will have moderate impact to wetland and wildlife (less than 10% of site with sensitive ecology in tributary system)
- 3 pts. Surrounding land is undeveloped, no immediate plans for development

#### *Expansion Potential*

- 0 pts. Site is landlocked and surrounded by existing development
- 1 pt. Site can expand in one direction with expansion area of less than 20 acres

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- 2 pts. Site can expand in multiple directions with surrounding land being greater than 20 acres.
- 3 pts. Surrounding land is undeveloped, more than 40 acres and no immediate plans for development

### ***Pedestrian Connector/Trails***

- 0 pts. No trails and/or local connector streets currently exist to site.
- 1 pt. Non-dedicated, unimproved trail and no local connector streets exist with no improvement plans
- 2 pts. Non-dedicated unimproved trails and/or local connector streets exist with improvements in discussion
- 3 pts. Existing improved trails and/or local connector streets exist to the site

### ***Proximity to Schools (K – 12 and/or Colleges)***

- 0 pts. No schools within 1 mile of site
- 1 pt. Schools with ½ mile of site
- 2 pts. Schools within ¼ mile of site
- 3 pts. Schools adjacent to or within 1/8 miles of site

### ***Proximity to Major Employers (100 employees)***

- 0 pts. No major employers within 1 mile of site
- 1 pt. Major employers within ½ mile of site
- 2 pts. Major employers within ¼ mile of site
- 3 pts. Major employers adjacent to or within 1/8 mile of site

### ***Proximity to Major Health Care Providers***

- 0 pts. No major health care providers within 2 miles of site
- 1 pt. Major health care providers within 1½ - 2 miles of site
- 2 pts. Major health care providers within 1 – 1½ miles of site
- 3 pts. Major health care providers within 1 mile of site

### ***Views to Surrounding Properties***

- 0 pts. Views from site are limited of industrial/unattractive and offensive uses
- 1 pt. Views from site are limited of un-offensive uses
- 2 pts. Views from site are expansive and of un-offensive uses toward one direction only
- 3 pts. Views from site are expansive of natural ecosystems and of un-offensive uses toward more than one direction

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### *Visibility of Site for Identification and Marketability*

- 0 pts. Site location offers little or no visibility and county focal point
- 1 pt. Site location offers visibility with limited potential for creating a county focal point
- 2 pts. Site location offers moderate visibility and potential for county focal point, identification, and marketability
- 3 pts. Site location offers high visibility and strong potential for county focal point, identification, and marketability

# **Lawrence Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

## **Summary of Resident Survey Results**

### **Overview of the Methodology**

The City of Lawrence Department of Parks and Recreation conducted a resident survey during the fall of 1999 to help determine parks and recreation priorities for the community.

In October 1999, surveys were mailed to a randomly selected sample of 1,200 households in the City. Approximately one week after the surveys were mailed, residents who received the surveys were contacted by phone. Those who indicated that they had not returned the survey were given the option of completing it by phone. The goal was to obtain a 33% response rate or 400 completed surveys.

Of the 1,200 households that received a survey, 145 completed the survey by phone and 397 returned it by mail for a total of 542 completed surveys. There were no statistically significant differences in the responses to the survey based on the method of administration (phone vs. mail). The results for the random sample of 542 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 4.4%.

### **Major Findings**

#### **Programs: Awareness, Participation, and Priorities**

- **More than one-third (36%) of the households surveyed indicated that at least one member of their household participated in Lawrence Parks and Recreation programs during the previous year. Although 64% of the households surveyed did not participate, most of the respondents (86%) knew that the City offers parks and recreation programs.**
- **The sources of information that were most frequently mentioned by residents who participate in parks and recreation programs were: the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Booklet (54%), Newspaper (48%), and friends and coworkers (44%).**

- **More than three-fourths (76%) of those surveyed indicated that at least one member of their household had visited a city park during the past year.** Although one-fourth (24%) of the respondents indicated they had not visited a city park during the past year, 98% of those surveyed indicated that they knew where city parks were located.
- **Of those who have visited a city park during the past year, 86% rated the overall condition of the parks as excellent (34%) or good (52%); 13% rated them as fair and 1% rated them as poor.**
- **The top five reasons residents do not use city parks and recreation facilities more often are that they are too busy to use them (45%), existing facilities are not located near their homes (25%), hours are not convenient (18%), or they use other facilities (16%).**
- **Residents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the availability of various types of parks and recreation facilities in the City of Lawrence on a five-point scale where ‘5’ meant “very satisfied” and ‘1’ meant “very dissatisfied.” Satisfaction with availability indicates how well the *number of facilities* meets the needs of residents; it does not necessarily reflect satisfaction with the condition of the facilities. The facilities that had the highest and lowest levels of satisfaction related to their availability are listed below (the percentages have been adjusted to exclude “don’t know” responses).**

<u>Top 5 Items</u>	<u>Combined Percentage of “Very Satisfied” &amp; “Satisfied” Ratings</u>
Public landscaping/flower gardens	71%
Playgrounds for Children	71%
Walking and biking trails	68%
Picnic facilities	68%
Neighborhood parks	68%

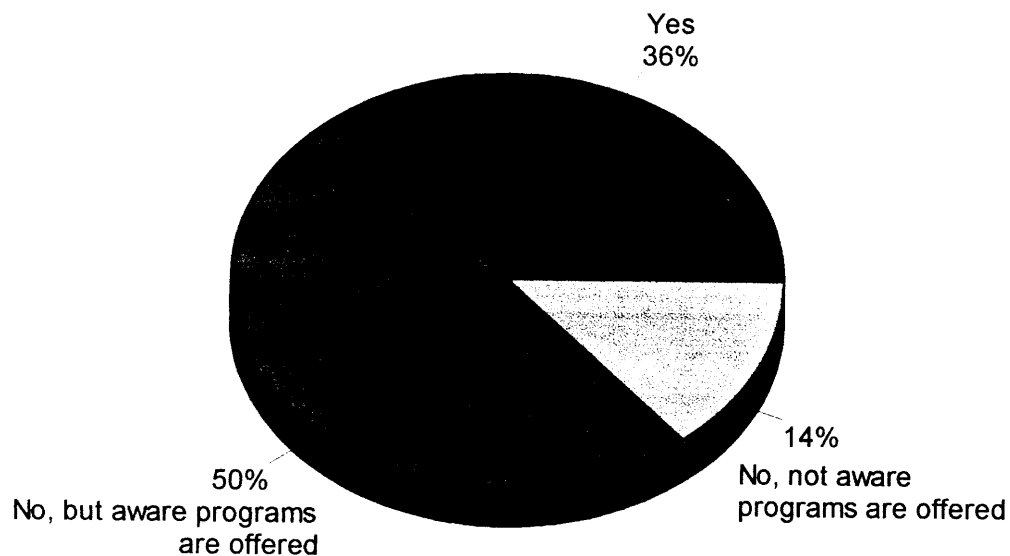
<u>Bottom 5 Items</u>	<u>Combined Percentage of “Very Satisfied” &amp; “Satisfied” Ratings</u>
Ice Skating Rinks	15%
Inline Skating/Hockey Facilities	25%
Skateboard facilities	29%
Racquetball courts	31%
Volleyball courts	34%

- **The most important parks and recreation facilities to residents of the City** based on the sum of the top choices given by respondents are: walking and biking trails (48%), neighborhood parks (31%), public landscaping/flower gardens (25%), playgrounds for children (22%), and nature centers/nature trails (22%).
- **Perceptions about the *condition of facilities* are reflected in the importance residents place on improvements that could be made to existing parks and recreation facilities.** The most important improvements that residents think should be made to existing parks based on the sum of the top choices given by respondents are: linking neighborhood parks with walking and biking trails (41%) renovating neighborhood parks (37%), enhancing existing public landscapes (30%), expanding open space (25%), and renovating playgrounds (24%).
- **Half (52%) of those surveyed thought the City of Lawrence should emphasize improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities over the next ten years;** 23% of those surveyed thought the City should emphasize the acquisition of more land for new parks; 19% thought the City should emphasize the construction of new parks and recreation facilities, 6% thought the City should emphasize other items.
- **Nearly half (45%) of those surveyed indicated that they would be either very likely (22%) or somewhat likely (23%) to register for parks and recreation classes on the Internet.**
- **Nearly two-thirds (63%) of those surveyed think non-residents should be charged more than residents of Lawrence to participate in parks and recreation programs and to use recreation facilities provided by the City of Lawrence.** One fourth (25%) thought non-residents should be charged the same as residents; 12% of those surveyed did not have an opinion.

# **Charts/Graphs**

## Have Members of Your Household Participated in Programs Offered by City's Parks and Recreation?

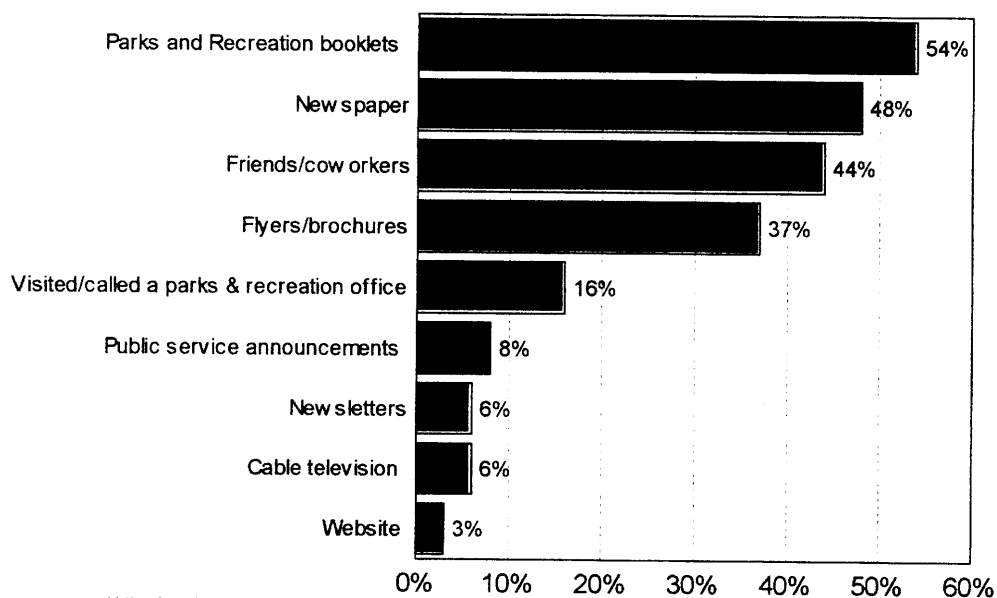
by percentage of respondents



Source: TTC Institute / November, 1999

## How Did You Learn About the City's Parks and Recreation Programs?

by percentage of households who have participated in programs

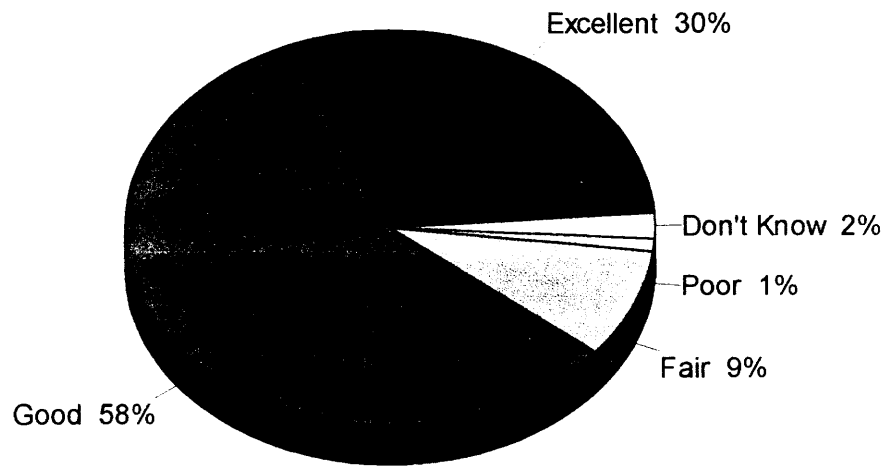


Source: TTC Institute / November, 1999



## How Would You Rate the Programs Offered by the City's Parks and Recreation Department?

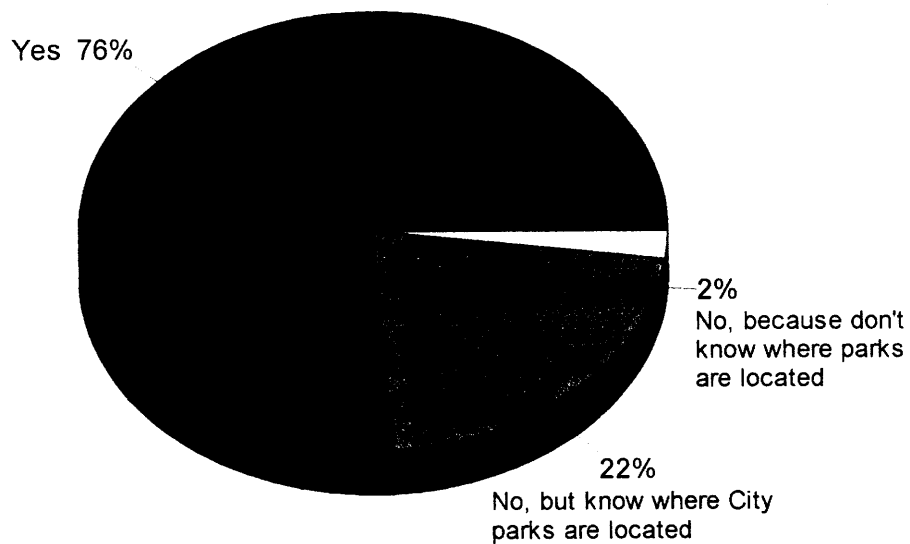
by percentage of households who have participated in programs



Source: TTC Institute (November, 1999)

## Have Members of Your Household Visited Any of the City's Parks During the Last Year?

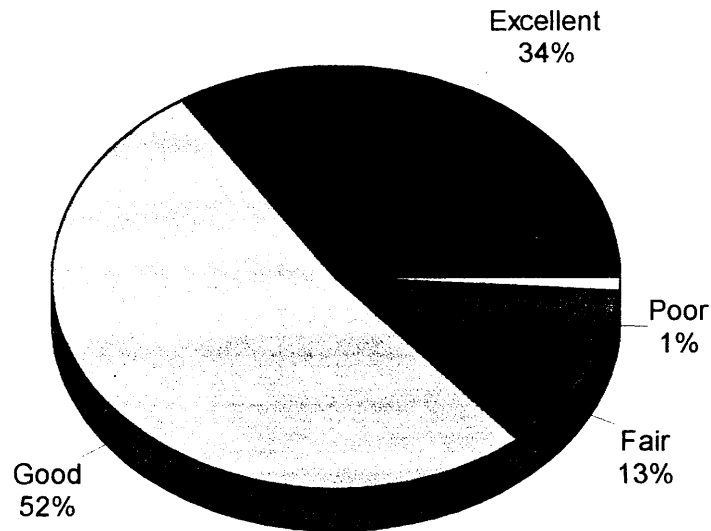
by percentage of respondents



Source: TTC Institute (November, 1999)

## Rating of the Physical Condition of the City's Parks

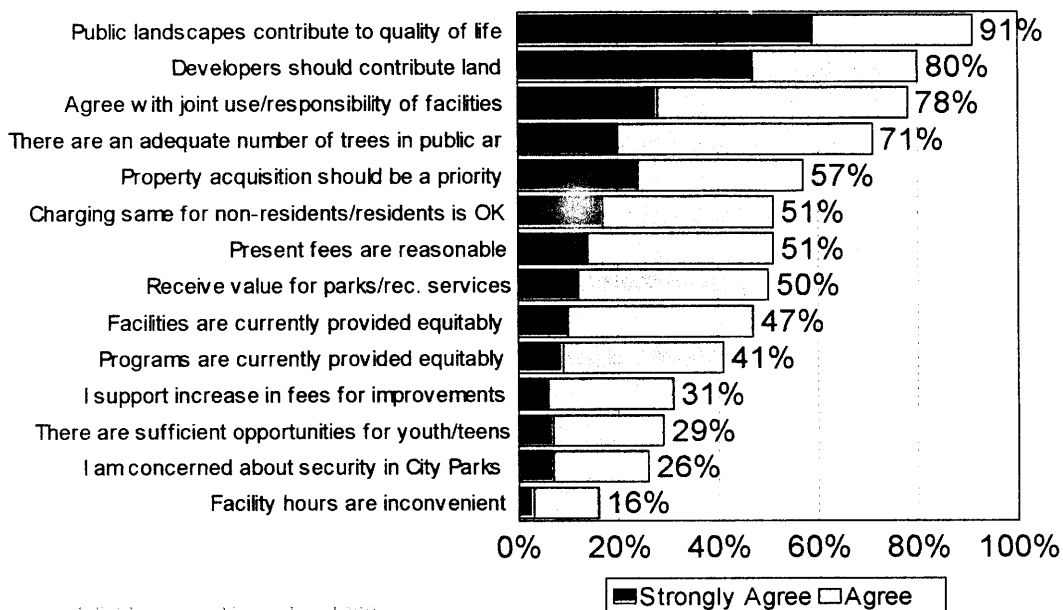
by percentage of respondents who had visited parks during the last year



Source: EFC Institute (November, 1999)

## Level of Agreement With Parks and Recreation Policies

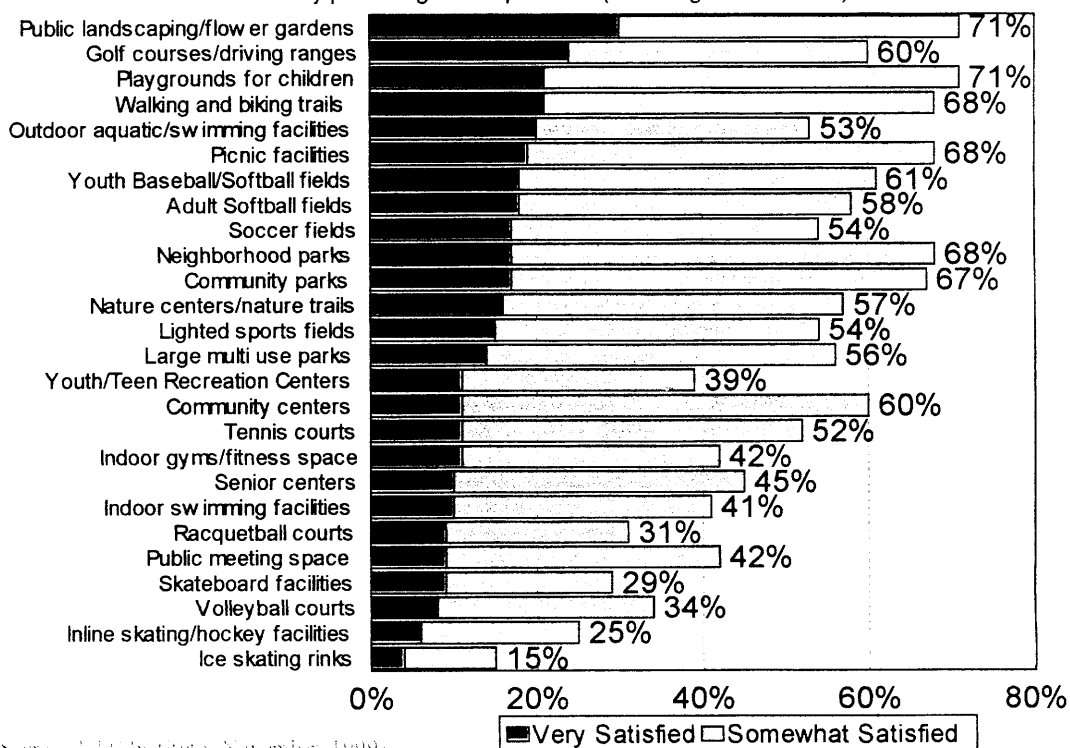
by percentage of respondents



Source: EFC Institute (November, 1999)

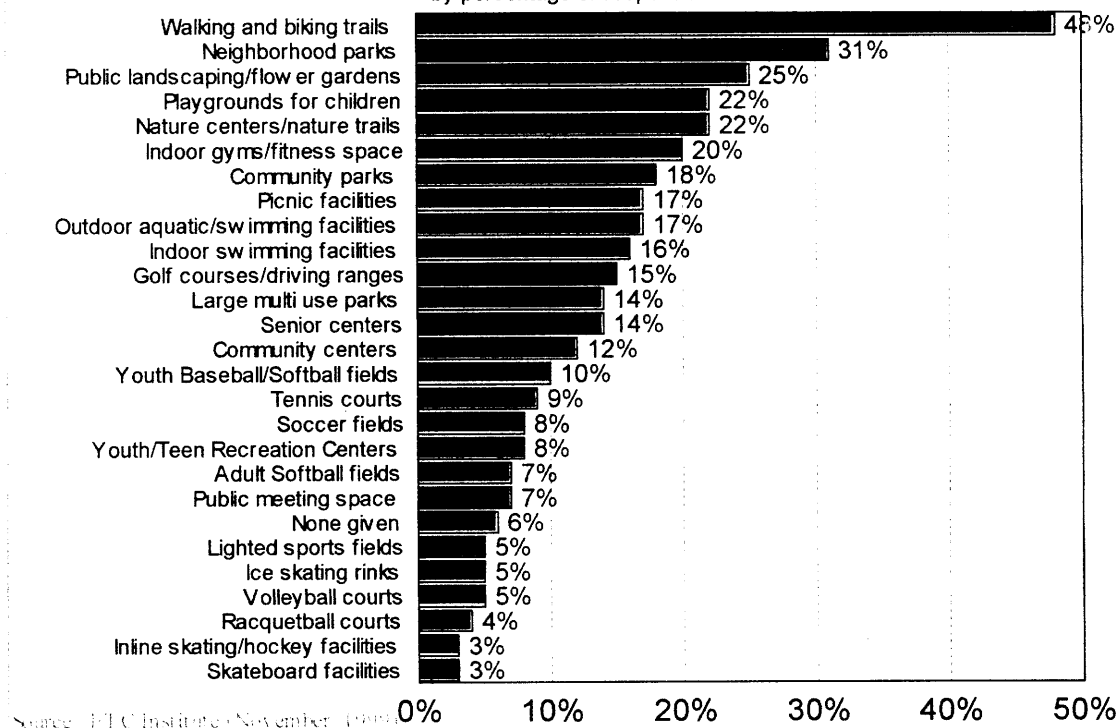
## Satisfaction With the Availability of Facilities

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know"s)



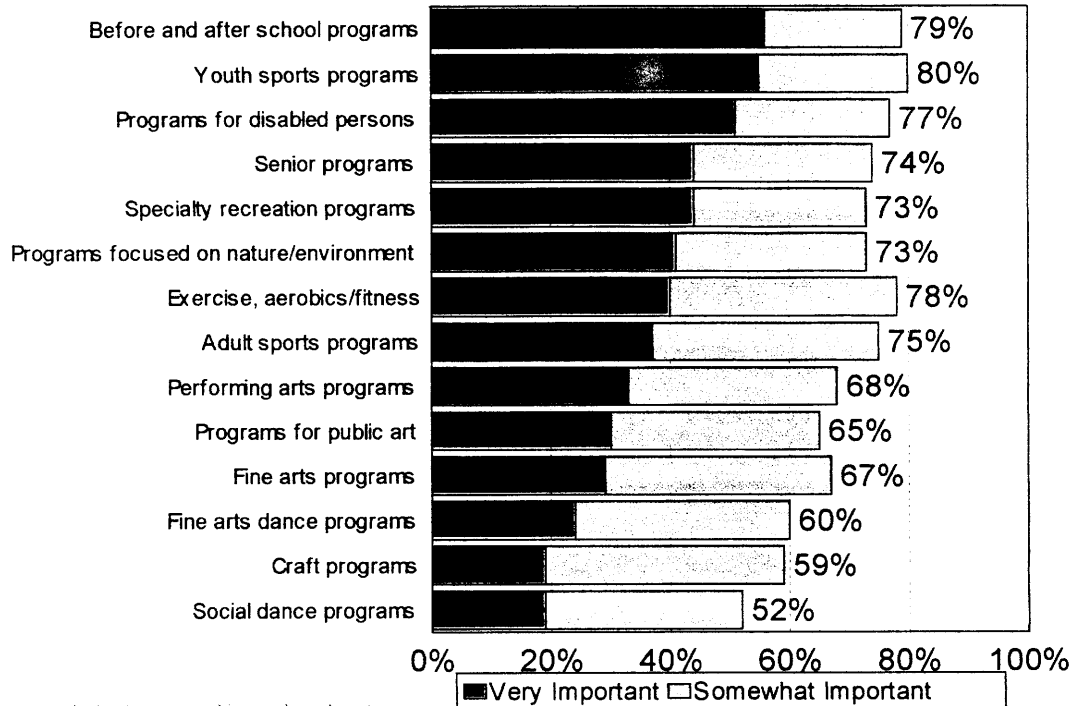
## Most Important Recreation Facilities

by percentage of respondents



## Importance of Various Types of Parks and Recreation Programs

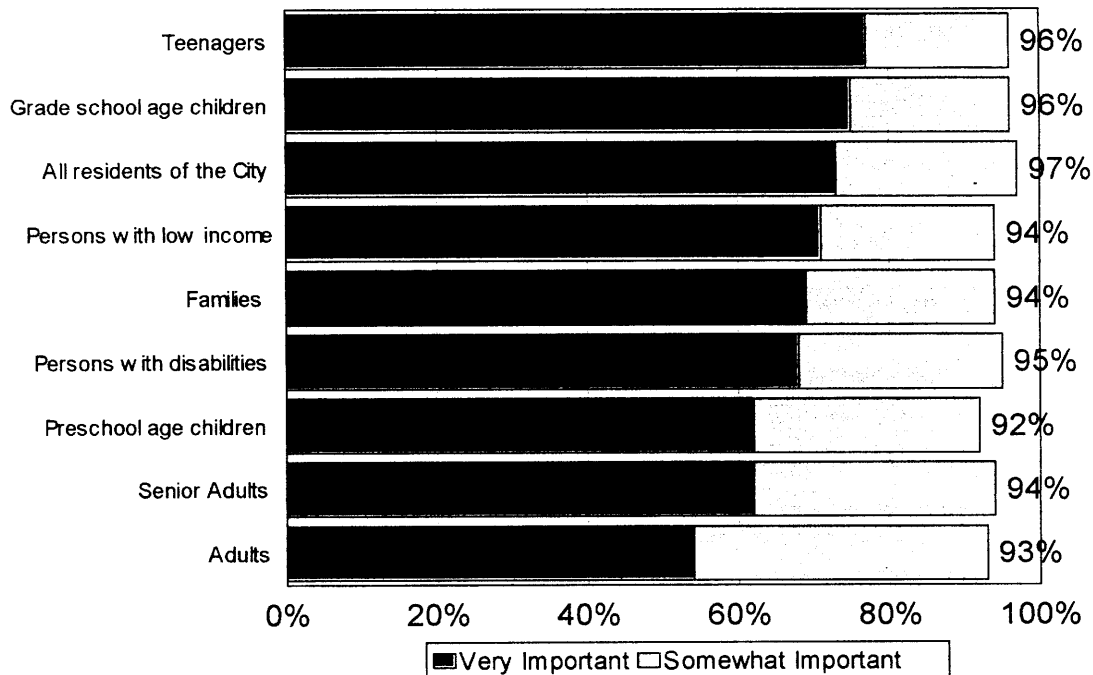
by percentage of respondents



Source: IFC Institute (November, 1999)

## Importance of Serving Various Groups of People

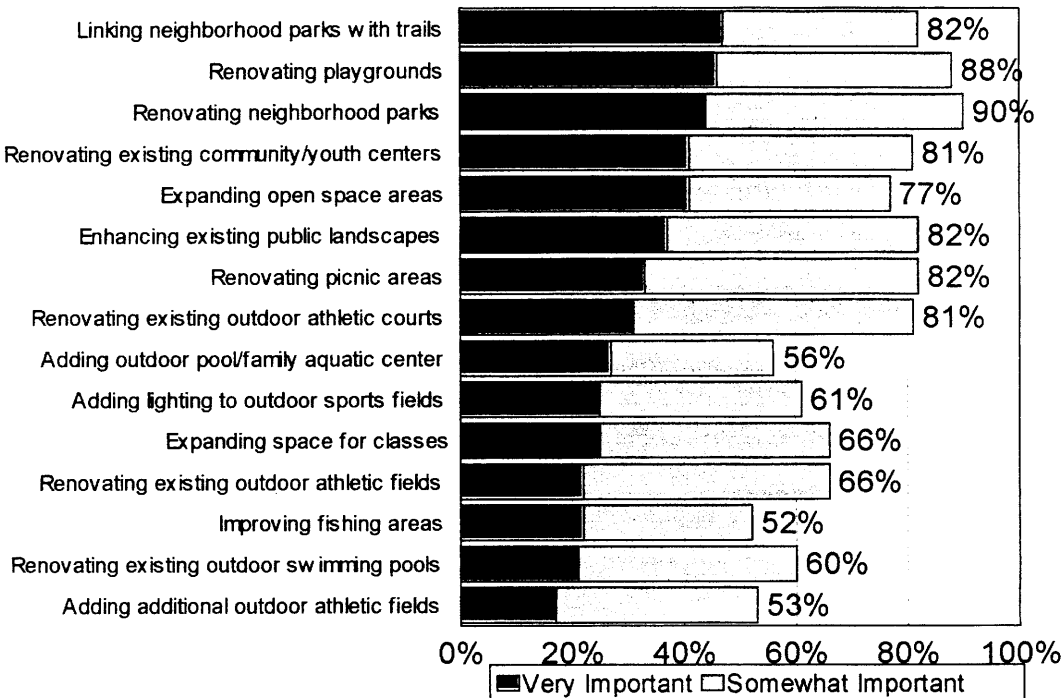
by percentage of respondents



Source: IFC Institute (November, 1999)

## Importance of Various Improvements That Could be Made to Parks and Recreation Facilities

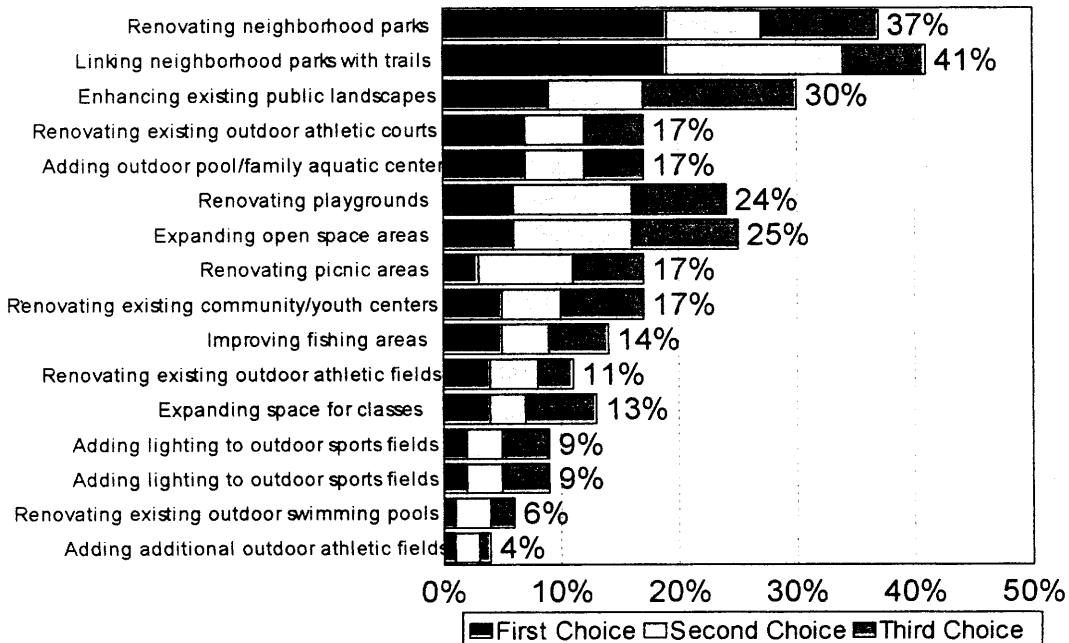
by percentage of respondents



Source: EFC Institute (November, 1999)

## Most Important of Improvements to Parks and Recreation

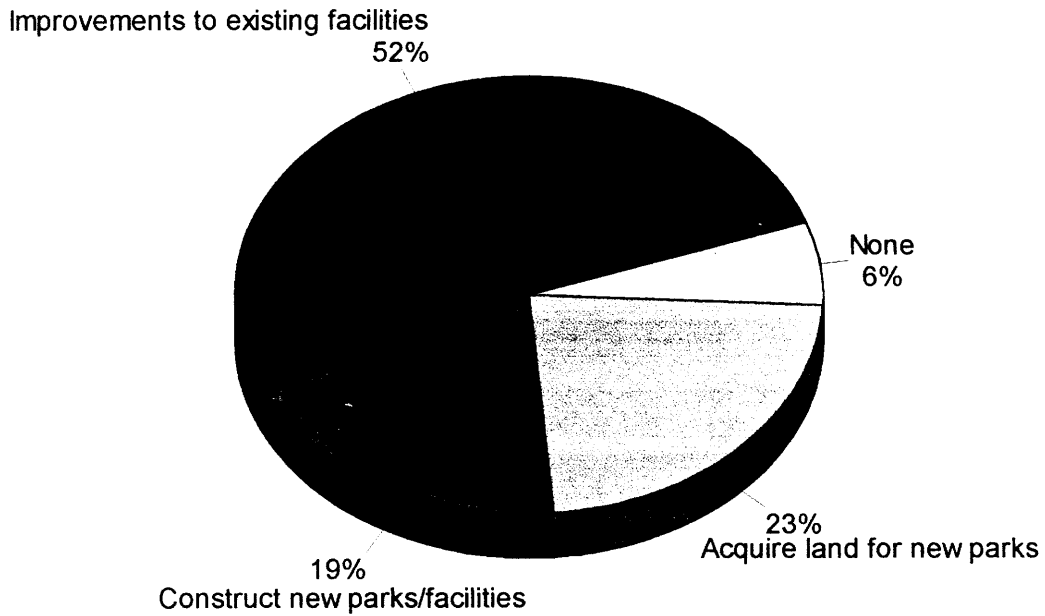
by percentage of respondents



Source: EFC Institute (November, 1999)

## What Should the City Emphasize Over the Next 10 Years?

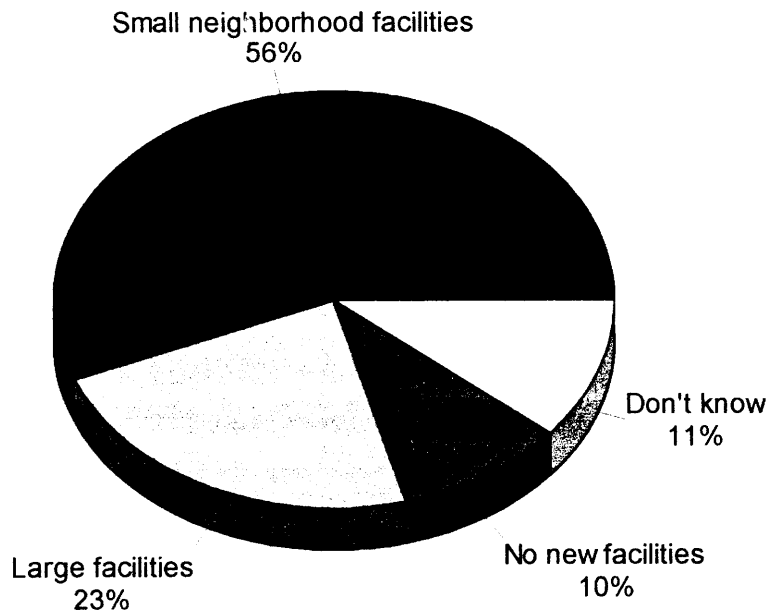
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (November, 1999)

## Preferred Type of Recreation Centers

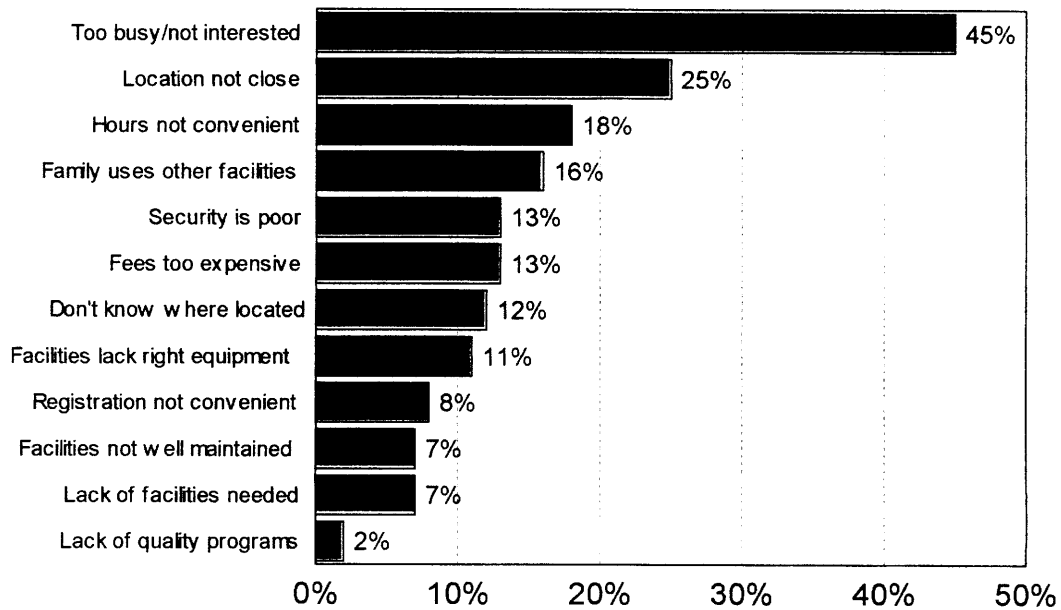
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute (November, 1999)

## Reasons Family Members Don't Use Parks and Recreation Facilities More Often

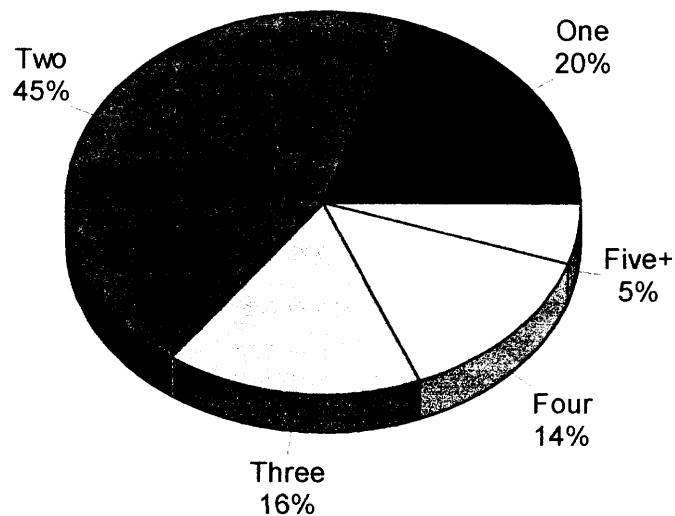
by percentage of respondents



Source: EFC Institute (November, 1999)

## Number of People in Household

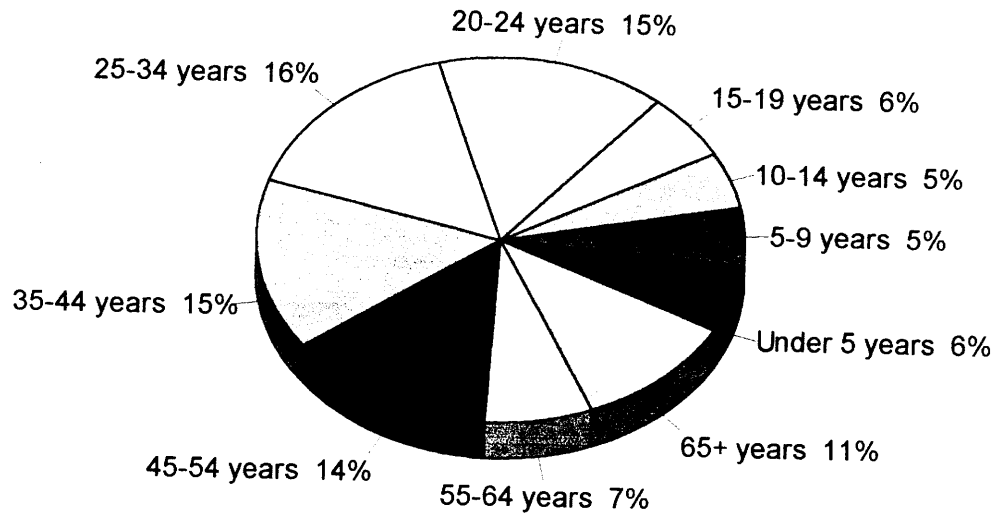
by percentage of respondents



Source: EFC Institute (November, 1999)

## Ages of Family Members

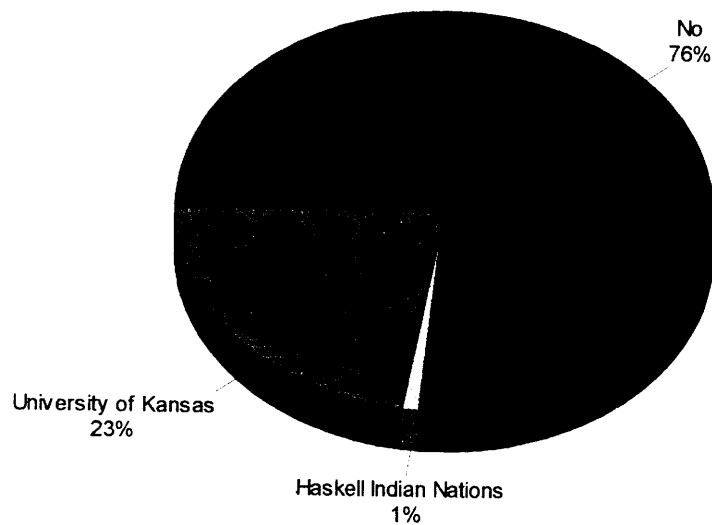
by percentage of all persons represented in the households surveyed



Source: FIC Institute (November, 1999)

## Do You Have Full Time College Students in Your Household?

by percentage of respondents

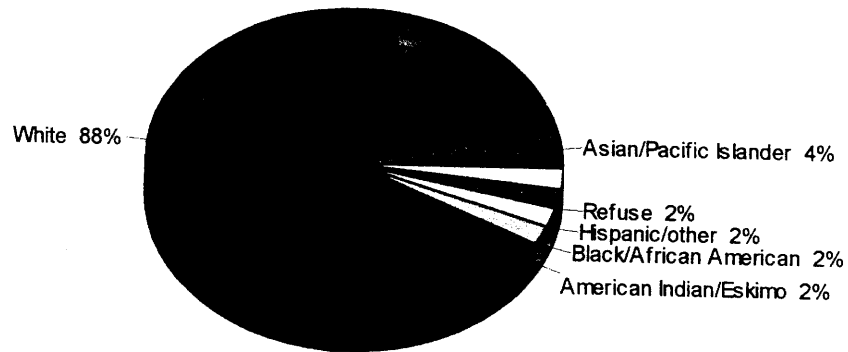


Source: FIC Institute (November, 1999)



## Race

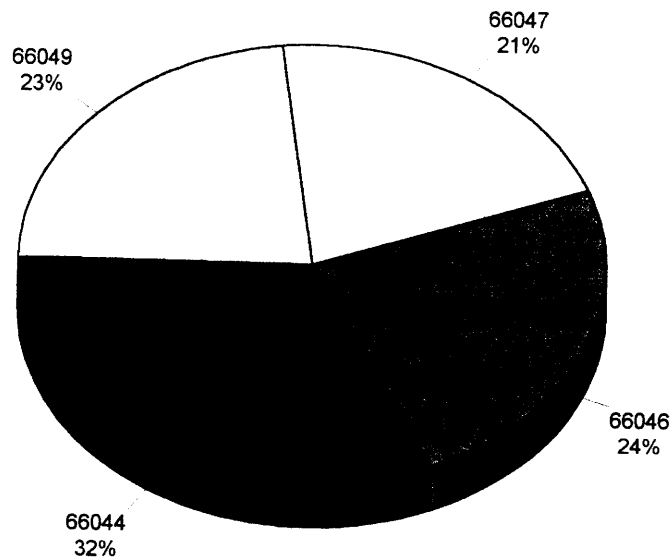
by percentage of respondents



Source: FJC Institute (November, 1999)

## Zip Code Distribution

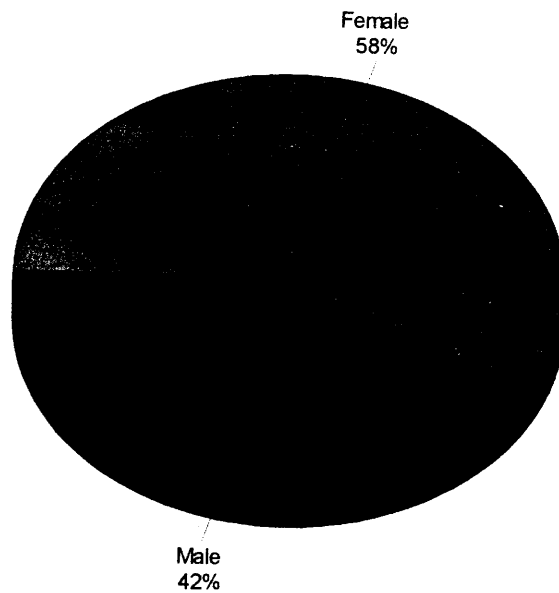
by percentage of respondents



Source: FJC Institute (November, 1999)

## Gender

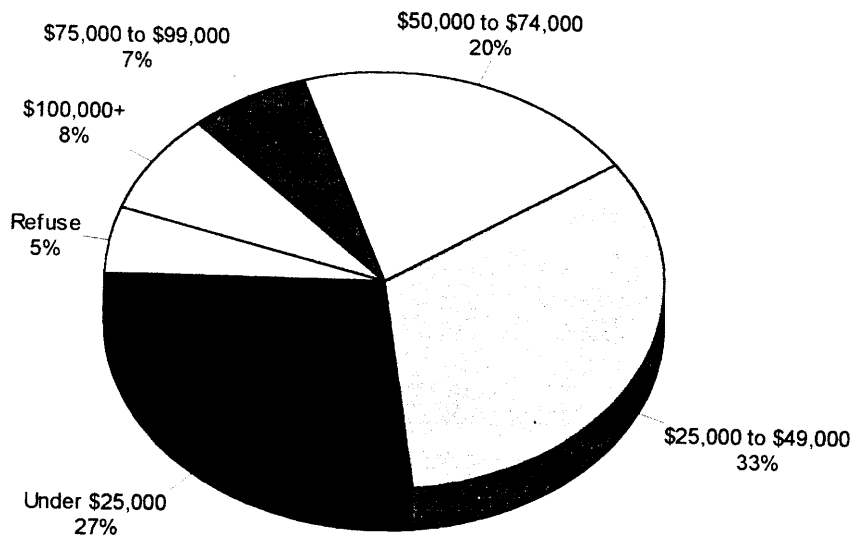
by percentage of respondents



Source: EFC Institute (November, 1999)

## Total Annual Household Income

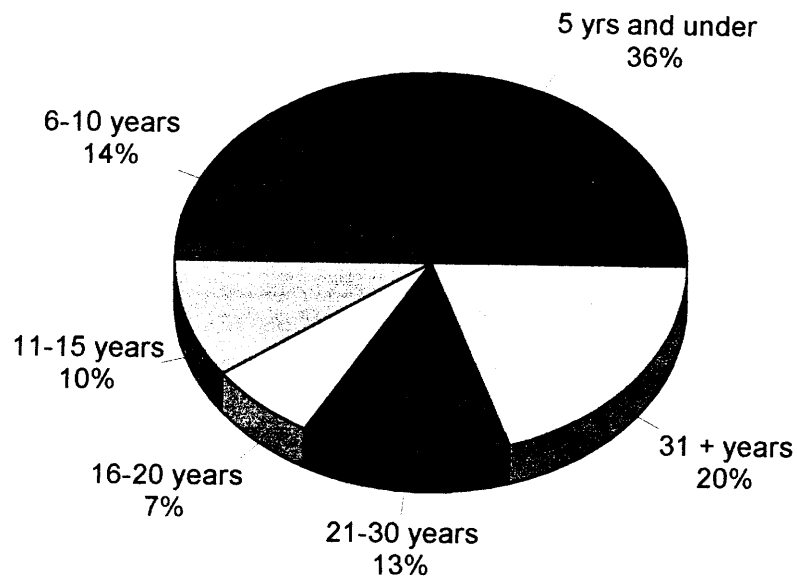
by percentage of respondents



Source: EFC Institute (November, 1999)

## Year Lived in Lawrence

by percentage of respondents



Source: L.F.C. Institute (November, 1999)

# **Tabular Data**

# City of Lawrence, Kansas

## Parks and Recreation Resident Survey

*Resident Respondents (N=542)*  
*November 1999*

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**1. Counting yourself, how many people live in your household?**

	<u>Percentage of Respondents</u> %
One	20
Two	45
Three	16
Four	14
Five +	5

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**2. How many persons in your household (counting yourself) are:**

	<u>Percentage of Persons in Household</u> %
Under 5 years	6
5 - 9 years	5
10 - 14 years	5
15 - 19 years	6
20 - 24 years	15
25 - 34 years	16
35 - 44 years	15
45 - 54 years	14
55-64 years	7
65+ years	11

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**3. How many years have you lived in Lawrence?**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
5 yrs and under	36
6-10 yrs	14
11-15 yrs	10
16-20 yrs	7
21-30 yrs	13
31 yrs +	20

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**4. Have you or other members of your household participated in any programs offered by the City's Parks and Recreation Department during the past 12 months?**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u>
	%
Yes	36
No, but I am aware that the City offers parks and recreation programs	50
No, because I did not know the City offers parks and recreation programs	14

**4a. If "Yes" to Question 4, from which of the following sources of information did you learn about the City's parks and recreation programs? (N=194)**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u>
	%
Newspaper	48
Flyers/brochures	37
Friends/coworkers	44
Newsletters	6
Parks and Recreation booklets	54
Visited/called a parks & recreation office	16
Cable television	6
Website	3
Public service announcements	8

**4b. If "Yes" to Question 4, how would you rate the programs offered by the City's Parks and Recreation Department? (N=194)**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u>
	%
Excellent	30
Good	58
Fair	9
Poor	1
Don't know	2

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**Have you or members of your household visited any of the City's parks during the past year?**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
Yes	76
No, but I know where City parks are located	22
No, because I don't know where parks are located	2

**5a. If "Yes" to Question 5, how would you rate the physical condition of the City parks you have visited? (N=409)**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
Excellent	34
Good	52
Fair (need some improvements)	13
Poor (need major improvements)	1

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6. **PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES/POLICIES.** For each of the following, please indicate your level of agreement.

	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u> %	<u>Agree</u> %	<u>Neutral</u> %	<u>Disagree</u> %	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u> %	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u> %
Overall, I presently get a lot of value for my tax dollars in parks and recreation services	12	38	29	10	5	6
The present fees for recreation programs and services are reasonable	14	37	21	6	1	21
The policy of charging the same fee for both non-residents and residents of Lawrence should be continued	17	34	20	16	7	6
I would support an increase in user fees for existing programs and services to generate additional overall revenues for parks and recreation to improve maintenance and program services	6	25	31	21	10	7
Acquisition of property for new parks in developing areas should be a priority	24	33	23	9	6	5
Land developers of large residential developments should be required to contribute property and/or facilities for parks/recreation	47	33	10	4	4	2
The public landscape plantings contribute to the quality of life in Lawrence	59	32	6	1	1	1
I think there are an adequate number of trees in public areas in the City of Lawrence	20	51	11	12	4	2
I am concerned for my personal security in Lawrence parks and recreation parks/facilities	7	19	27	30	12	5

Question 6. continued)

	Strongly <u>Agree</u> %	<u>Agree</u> %	<u>Neutral</u> %	<u>Disagree</u> %	Strongly <u>Disagree</u> %	Don't <u>Know</u> %
The joint use and construction of facilities by City parks and recreation with schools and other public agencies is an effective way to provide facilities and services	28	50	14	3	1	4
Parks and recreation <u>facilities</u> are currently provided in an equitable manner throughout the City	10	37	22	11	4	16
Parks and recreation <u>programs</u> are currently provided in an equitable manner throughout the City	9	32	25	7	3	24
There are currently sufficient opportunities for youth/teens to use their free time constructively in Lawrence	7	22	22	18	10	21
Use of facilities by other agencies restricts my use of facilities because of limited and/or inconvenient hours	3	13	35	24	6	19

**FACILITY AVAILABILITY.** Please rate your overall satisfaction with the **AVAILABILITY** of the following types of recreational facilities in the City of Lawrence.

	<u>Very</u> <u>Satisfied</u> %	<u>Satisfied</u> %	<u>Neutral</u> %	<u>Dissatisfied</u> %	<u>Very</u> <u>Dissatisfied</u> %	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u> %
Youth Baseball/Softball fields	11	26	21	2	1	39
Adult Softball fields	11	24	21	2	1	41
Soccer fields	10	21	21	4	2	42
Lighted sports fields	9	24	23	5	2	37
Tennis courts	7	26	21	7	2	37
Inline skating/hockey facilities	3	10	26	7	5	49
Ice skating rinks	2	6	22	14	13	43
Skateboard facilities	5	11	26	8	5	44
Volleyball courts	4	15	26	8	2	45
Golf courses/driving ranges/putting greens	16	24	19	7	1	33
Playgrounds for children	16	40	15	7	2	20
Picnic facilities	17	42	15	10	2	14
Walking and biking trails	18	41	11	13	4	13
Nature centers/nature trails	13	33	16	13	5	20
Indoor gyms and fitness space	8	23	21	17	4	27
Indoor swimming facilities	7	23	20	16	6	27
Outdoor aquatic/swimming facilities	15	26	21	12	4	22
Racquetball courts	5	12	27	9	2	45
Public meeting space	5	20	24	8	4	39
Youth/Teen Recreation Centers	7	18	23	11	6	36
Public landscaping and flower gardens	25	35	15	8	3	14
Community centers	8	37	21	7	3	24
Neighborhood parks	15	44	16	11	2	12
Community parks, such as Centennial Park	15	43	21	6	2	13
Large multi use parks for active and passive recreation	11	33	26	6	2	22
Senior centers	6	21	23	7	2	41

**Which FOUR of the facilities listed in question 7 are most important to the members of your household?**

	<u>1st</u> <u>Choice</u> %	<u>2nd</u> <u>Choice</u> %	<u>3rd</u> <u>Choice</u> %	<u>4th</u> <u>Choice</u> %	<u>Top 4</u> %
Youth Baseball/Softball fields	5	2	1	1	10
Adult Softball fields	2	2	2	1	7
Soccer fields	3	3	1	1	8
Lighted sports fields	1	2	1	1	5
Tennis courts	2	2	3	2	9
Inline skating/hockey facilities	<1	1	1	1	3
Ice skating rinks	1	1	2	1	5
Skateboard facilities	1	1	0	1	3
Volleyball courts	1	1	2	1	5
Golf courses/driving ranges/putting greens	6	3	4	2	15
Playgrounds for children	8	6	4	4	22
Picnic facilities	3	4	5	5	17
Walking and biking trails	19	13	9	7	48
Nature centers/nature trails	3	10	5	4	22
Indoor gyms and fitness space	5	6	5	4	20
Indoor swimming facilities	5	4	4	3	16
Outdoor aquatic/swimming facilities	3	4	5	5	17
Racquetball courts	<1	1	1	1	4
Public meeting space	1	1	3	2	7
Youth/Teen Recreation Centers	2	1	2	3	8
Public landscaping and flower gardens	5	5	8	7	25
Community centers	2	3	3	4	12
Neighborhood parks	7	6	8	10	31
Community parks, such as Centennial Park	2	5	6	5	18
Large multi use parks for active and passive recreation	1	3	4	6	14
Senior centers	5	2	2	5	14
None given	6	-	-	-	6

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**PROGRAMS** Please rate the importance of the following types of recreation programs offered by the City.

	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u> %	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Important</u> %	<u>Neutral</u> %	<u>Not</u> <u>Important</u> %	<u>Not at all</u> <u>Important</u> %	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u> %
Programs focused on nature & the environment	41	32	16	3	1	7
Exercise, aerobics and fitness programs	40	38	13	2	2	5
Craft programs (pottery, ceramics, & weaving)	19	40	25	7	3	6
Performing arts programs (theater and dance)	33	35	19	5	3	5
Fine arts programs (painting, drawing, sculpture)	29	38	18	6	4	5
Fine arts dance programs (ballet, modern, jazz)	24	36	24	6	4	6
Social dance programs (square, round, ballroom, etc.)	19	33	30	6	5	7
Programs for public art (art displays, public sculpture)	30	35	21	4	4	6
Youth sports programs	55	25	12	1	1	6
Adult sports programs	37	38	17	1	1	6
Senior programs	44	30	17	1	1	7
Programs for disabled persons	51	26	14	1	1	7
Before and after school programs	56	23	11	1	1	8
Specialty recreation programs (day camps, sports camps, playground programs)	44	29	16	2	2	7

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10. **POPULATIONS TO SERVE.** For each group of people listed below, please indicate whether you think it is very important, somewhat important, or not important for the City to provide the group with parks and recreation programming and services.

	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u> %	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Important</u> %	<u>Not</u> <u>Important</u> %	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u> %
All residents of the City	73	24	1	2
Preschool age children	62	30	5	3
Grade school age children	75	21	1	3
Teenagers	77	19	2	2
Adults	54	39	4	3
Senior Adults	62	32	2	4
Persons with disabilities	68	27	1	4
Families	69	25	3	3
Persons with low income	71	23	3	3

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11. **FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS.** Parks and recreation improvements that are being considered by the City of Lawrence are listed below. For each one, please indicate whether you think the improvement is very important, somewhat important, or not important by circling the corresponding number.

	<u>Very Important</u> %	<u>Somewhat Important</u> %	<u>Not Important</u> %	<u>Don't Know</u> %
Renovating neighborhood parks	44	46	4	6
Renovating existing outdoor athletic <u>courts</u> (tennis, basketball, volleyball courts)	31	50	6	13
Renovating playgrounds	46	42	3	9
Renovating picnic areas	33	49	9	9
Renovating existing community and youth centers	41	40	6	13
Linking neighborhood parks with walking/biking trails	47	35	11	7
Expanding open space areas for new parks	41	36	15	8
Renovating existing outdoor swimming pools	21	39	29	11
Adding an outdoor pool/family aquatic center	27	29	31	12
Renovating existing outdoor athletic <u>fields</u> (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	22	44	18	16
Adding additional outdoor athletic fields	17	36	27	20
Adding lighting to outdoor sports fields	25	36	21	18
Expanding space for classes, meetings, and other passive recreation programs	25	41	18	16
Improving fishing areas	22	30	27	21
Enhancing existing public landscapes and gardens	37	45	13	5

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2. Which **THREE** improvements from the list above are most important to the members of your household?

	First <u>Improvement</u> %	Second <u>Improvement</u> %	Third <u>Improvement</u> %	Top Three %
Renovating neighborhood parks	19	8	10	37
Renovating existing outdoor athletic <u>courts</u> (tennis, basketball, volleyball courts)	7	5	5	17
Renovating playgrounds	6	10	8	24
Renovating picnic areas	3	8	6	17
Renovating existing community and youth centers	5	5	7	17
Linking neighborhood parks with walking/biking trails	19	15	7	41
Expanding open space areas for new parks	6	10	9	25
Renovating existing outdoor swimming pools	1	3	2	6
Adding an outdoor pool/family aquatic center	7	5	5	17
Renovating existing outdoor athletic <u>fields</u> (baseball, softball, soccer, football)	4	4	3	11
Adding additional outdoor athletic fields	1	2	1	4
Adding lighting to outdoor sports fields	2	3	4	9
Expanding space for classes, meetings, and other passive recreation programs	4	3	6	13
Improving fishing areas	5	4	5	14
Enhancing existing public landscapes and gardens	9	8	13	30
None	4	-	-	4



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**13. Which ONE of the following do you think the City of Lawrence should emphasize most over the next 10 years?**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
The City should make improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities	52
The City should construct new parks and recreation facilities	19
The City should acquire land to create new parks	23
None of these	6

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**14. If the City were to develop new recreation centers, which of the following would you prefer?**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
Build small, neighborhood-oriented recreation facilities	56
Build a large centrally located recreation facility that is designed to serve residents from many parts of the City	23
Do not build any new recreation facilities	10
Don't know	11

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**15. Please indicate ALL reasons that keep you or other members of your household from using City parks and recreation facilities more often?**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
Facilities are not well maintained	7
Facilities do not have the right equipment	11
Security is poor (i.e., poor lighting)	13
Hours of operation are not convenient	18
The location of City facilities is not close to my home	25
Fees are too expensive	13
Members of my household use facilities provided by other organizations	16
We are too busy or just not interested	45
I do not know where the City facilities are located	12
The City does not have quality programs	2
Registration is not convenient	8
The City does not have the facilities we need	7
None	13

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**16. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
Asian/Pacific Islander	4
White	88
American Indian/Eskimo	2
Black/African American	2
Hispanic and other	2
Refuse	2

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**17. What is your home zip code?**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
66044	32
66046	24
66047	21
66049	23

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**18. Your sex**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
Male	42
Female	58

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19. What is your **total annual household income?**

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
Under \$25,000	27
\$25,000 to \$49,999	33
\$50,000 to \$74,999	20
\$75,000 to \$99,999	7
\$100,000 or more	8
Refuse	5

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20. Are you or other members of your household full-time students at:

	Percentage of <u>Respondents</u> %
University of Kansas	23
Haskell Indian Nations University	1
Neither of these	76

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