



# PARK AND RECREATION

*The mission of the Park Department is to provide safe and attractive recreation land, facilities, and programs that beautify the City, provide for the leisure time pursuits of all Wichita residents and visitors, and promote appreciation and education of the City's environmental resources.*

## DEPARTMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Promote tourism through the beautification of natural or botanical habitats, railway corridors, rights-of-way, medians, playgrounds, and neighborhood parks. (Strategic Priority I)
  - a. Ensure all Park areas are kept within preset standards that indicate a "good" condition.
2. Enlist volunteers from neighborhoods, families, schools, business or corporate partnerships to assist with Park-sponsored activities or upkeep while upholding the Wichita pride and ownership of investments. (Strategic Priority I)
  - a. (Botanica) Look for new ways to use volunteers for service delivery, thereby holding down cost to citizens.
  - b. Minimize cost of services on General Fund.
3. Improve community knowledge of basic life skills and ecological and horticultural aspects of the environment. (Strategic Priority I)
  - a. Teach basic life skills at Recreation Centers.
4. Promote public activities in Park areas. (Strategic Priority II)
  - a. Start an annual Park activities program.
5. Promote physical fitness throughout the area. (Strategic Priority II)
  - a. Increase participation at rec. centers.
6. Promote the fine arts. (Strategic Priority II)
  - a. Use Century II as a venue for fine arts performances.



## PERFORMANCE MEASURES



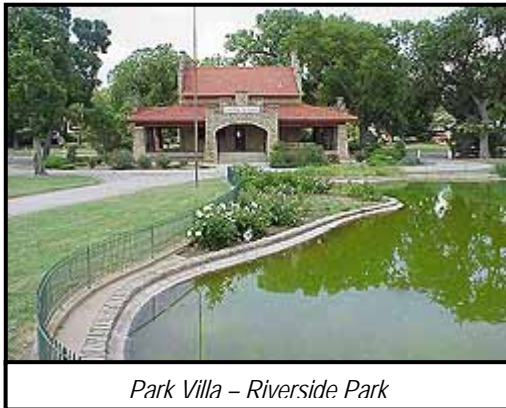
Dept. Objective	Program Measure Description	Benchmark	2004 Actual	2005 Projected	2006 Target	2007 Target
1b	% of citizens viewed appearance of park's favorably	80%	N/A	60%	63%	64%
2a	# maintain or increase volunteer hours (Botanica)	45,000	44,475	44,500	45,000	46,000
2b	# of FTE/1000 citizens	0.51	0.60	0.60	0.59	0.58
2b	\$ net revenue per capita	(34.64)	(30.29)	(31.42)	(31.41)	(31.27)
3a	% of those who increase basic life skills at recreation classes	85%	N/A	80%	83%	88%
3a	% student to teacher	1/8	N/A	1/10	1/10	1/10
4a	% increase in attendance at planned public park activities	2%	2%	2%	4%	8%
5a	% increase in attendance at rec. events at rec. centers	5%	2%	2%	2%	2%
6a	% increase in # of attendees at Century II	6%	2%	6%	6%	6%



## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### MAINTENANCE AND FORESTRY

- Installed lighting in the following areas: Grove Park football field, swimming pools, West Side Athletic Field, and Longview Park.
- Insured the proper design and construction of new courts in Sunset, Aley, and West Douglas Parks, Tennis/Basketball in South Linwood Park and tennis court removal in Lincoln Park.
- Planted, or oversaw the planting of, 2,338 trees, which had a 96% survival rate.
- Managed the cleanup of the January 2005 ice storm, which included supervising the removal of over 10,000 broken and hanging limbs, removing over 1,000 damaged trees, and grinding 800 stumps.
- Worked with the following projects: 1) the Riverside Park Master Plan, 2) the Leon Robinson Park and Skate park development, 3) the South Arkansas River Greenway, 4) the McAdams Park WWII relocation, 5) the Stearman Park site design, and 6) the irrigation system for Park Villa and Delano Park.
- Renovated 8 park playground sites, ensuring fun and safe play areas.



Park Villa – Riverside Park

### RECREATION

- Added canoe ramp at 71st Street South and the Arkansas River.
- Hosted *Night with Santa* and a *Fall Festival for Senior Citizens* with attendance of approximately 3500 participants.
- Oversaw the installation of new basketball goals and a new wood floor at the Evergreen Recreation Center.
- Summer of Discovery operated at a 92% cost recovery for 2004.
- Tennis Center operated at a 62% cost recovery for 2004. Hosted 14 major Tennis Tournaments.
- Hosted the USSSA Men's "E" regional and Men's "D" state softball tournaments.
- Oversaw the installation of new shade structures at pools.

### CENTURY II/EXPO HALL

- Helped attract \$53.9 million into the community through conventions, including the 2004 Women's International Bowling Congress National Convention.
- Hosted former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who was the guest speaker at the Chamber's annual dinner.

### BOTANICA

- Attracted visitors from 43 countries and 49 states, which totaled 114,529; an increase of 9% over 2003.
- Saved over \$734,727 by using 400 volunteers who worked 44,475 hours.
- Attracted 828 new members, while 2,851 renewed their membership.
- Staged 49 lunchtime lectures featuring Kansas speakers on nature-related topics from photography to cooking; hosted 8 different Kansas artist's exhibitions and gallery sales; facilitated 572 events and rentals, including 72 weddings; and added three new sculptures to Botanica's collection throughout the gardens.

### ICE SPORTS WICHITA

- Hosted several local and regional hockey and ice-skating tournaments.
- Completed eight years in Wichita.

## OVERVIEW

The Park & Recreation Department is composed of six General Fund financed divisions, and two divisions financed from other funds. The Administration Division oversees and offers management to all other divisions. The Maintenance and Forestry Division deals with all Park green space and buildings. The Recreation Division is charged with programming recreational/sports opportunities. Century II/Expo Hall provides a place for conventions, plays, and other large meetings. The Cemetery Division ensures City of Wichita owned cemeteries are properly maintained. Finally, the Ice Rink Division ensures Wichitan's have an ice related athletic facility.

## DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS

**ADMINISTRATION:** Coordinates activities among the various divisions, supervises the receipts and disbursement of funds and distributes charges to the various activities. In addition, the division prepares and submits the annual departmental budget, works with payroll and accounts payable, conducts site audits and cash controls, trains seasonal staff, and aids in capital project management and funding through grant research. Administration staff also attends District Advisory Boards, Neighborhood Association meetings, and the monthly Park Advisory Board meetings.



**MAINTENANCE AND FORESTRY:** Provides vegetation management for over 4,500 acres of parks, public open space, and along 1,500 acres of street rights-of-way. This involves tree removal (stump grinding), pruning, and emergency response from storm events, and turf and weed mowing along streets and medians, including 1.8 million square feet of

This Division performs right-of-way mowing and maintenance activities and has the responsibility of maintaining the downtown area, including Old Town, the Douglas Streetscape, the East Bank area, and the Museum District. Staff maintains a variety of statues, monuments, and memorials located on Park grounds. Due to Wichita's recent growth, two additional maintenance crews were added in 2002. In addition, a crew dedicated to irrigation was added to protect the City's investment in trees and other plants.

Maintenance and Forestry: responsibilities added (2003-2006)					
	Turf Area (Acres)	Shrub/Groundcover Area (SF)	Irrigation		
			Controllers	Valves	Heads
<b>TOTALS</b>	199	77,276	63	542	12,132

landscaped medians. The division also provides vegetation control in concrete medians, athletic field maintenance, litter and refuse collection, irrigation system maintenance, grounds maintenance around public buildings including all floral display beds, new tree planting and establishment care, and noxious weed and pest control. In addition, design construction service and maintenance for all park improvements (excluding buildings) is provided within this division.

Staff is also charged with maintaining signs, fencing, picnic tables, and a variety of other items in and around the City's parks and recreational facilities. The Division maintains the City's network of over 38 miles of bike paths and jogging trails.

**RECREATION:** Supplies a cost-effective system of safe and attractive parks and recreation land, facilities and programs that enhance the beautification of the City, and provides for the leisure time pursuits of all Wichita residents and visitors. The Recreation Division operates 10 neighborhood recreation centers, 11 swimming pools, 2 sports complexes, 114 additional athletic fields, a tennis center, Great Plains Nature Center and Watson Park.



*The January 2005 ice storm increased the amount of stumps that were cut out and ground to grade level.*

The City engages in an aggressive reforestation effort spearheaded by this division, planting over 2,300 trees along thoroughfares, in parks, and in public areas. Each year since 1986, these efforts have helped Wichita earn the designation of "Tree City, USA."

The City has invested heavily in landscaping freeway corridors, including West Kellogg, K-96 in northeast Wichita, and Kellogg and Oliver in east Wichita. The areas, which contribute to the general aesthetic appeal of

The Recreation Centers offer a variety of classes for all ages, including gymnastics, aerobics, dance, cooking, and judo ( visit <http://www.wichita.gov/> for more information). In addition, the recreational facilities offer rooms for nominal rental fees for



*Watson Park*

Wichita to both residents and visitors, include plantings and trees that are maintained by this division. Additional acreage is added annually to further enhance Wichita's green space.

meetings, parties and athletic events. Golden Age Clubs are also active at several recreation centers, with dances, dinners, trips and other activities held for active community seniors.

In addition to over 4,500 acres of parkland, Maintenance and Forestry maintains 72 playground areas in neighborhood parks.

The Recreation Division manages and operates Summer of Discovery, a 10 week summer program for children ages 6 to 12. The licensed program is available to all children, with

The division inspects and maintains the playground equipment to ensure public safety and beauty. Nearly \$2 million has been invested to facilitate the removal of old, unsafe equipment and its replacement with new, safer equipment that meets current national safety standards.



scholarship programs available for those needing assistance. Annually, more than 700 children enjoy educational and entertaining activities such as fitness, art instruction, science and nature, sports camps, magic shows, movies, swimming and much more. Recreation staff also helps with the P.A.C.K. (Plainview Activity Camp for Kids) program.



*Children enjoy the new spray park at Osage Recreation center*

The Recreation Division offers youth and adult athletics programming. Programs are offered year-round in a variety of outdoor sports, including baseball, softball, soccer and football. The Athletic Section manages several well-maintained facilities, including the West Side Athletic Field, Plainview Park, and others. Staff is responsible for organizing more than 90 leagues with over 200 teams annually, collecting fees, scheduling games, and maintaining the fields. In the near future, leagues will be expanded at the developing Northeast Sports Complex, enhancing recreational activities for the citizens of Wichita. Aquatics are operated during the summer. The Division operates 11 swimming pools located throughout the City. The pools offer reasonably priced recreational swimming and swimming lessons. Swim teams formed at each

*In addition to over 4,500 acres of parkland, Maintenance and Forestry maintains 72 playground areas in neighborhood parks.*

pool are also popular activities for youth, as the teams practice and ultimately compete annually

in a citywide swim meet. The additional Water Aerobics and Swim Lap classes provide a relaxing and healthy leisure activity.

Watson Park is a 119-acre facility in south Wichita offering paddle boating, fishing, pony rides, train tours, miniature golf and concessions. Watson Park's newly updated playgrounds and picnic shelter provide an excellent place for safe and fun family gatherings or company picnics.

Ralph Wulz Riverside Tennis Center is near the downtown area. This award winning public tennis facility is open year round. The location offers 14 lighted tennis courts for drop-in play. Lessons are available from an on-site tennis professional, and the Center's pro shop maintains a supply of racquets, balls and other supplies.

Great Plains Nature Center is an interactive educational facility staffed by local, state and federal employees. Located in the 282-acre Chisholm Creek Park in north Wichita (K-96 and Woodlawn), the Center serves as the base for the "Wichita Wild" program, providing citizens with opportunities to experience wildlife and to learn about native plants and animals. Nature trails and wildlife viewing areas are both available at the park.

Other Related Recreation Venues include a BMX bike track located in Emery Park in south Wichita, a bridle path for equestrians at Pawnee Prairie Park in west Wichita, a disk golf course at Herman Hill and Oak Park and a new skate park underneath Kellogg at the Central Business District overpass.

**CENTURY II/EXPO HALL** ([www.century2.org](http://www.century2.org)): has the mission to provide a clean, safe and enjoyable venue for private and public gatherings encompassing the performing arts, conventions, trade shows, banquets, meetings, public exhibits, religious programs and special events. Century II contains five main halls and 15 meeting rooms

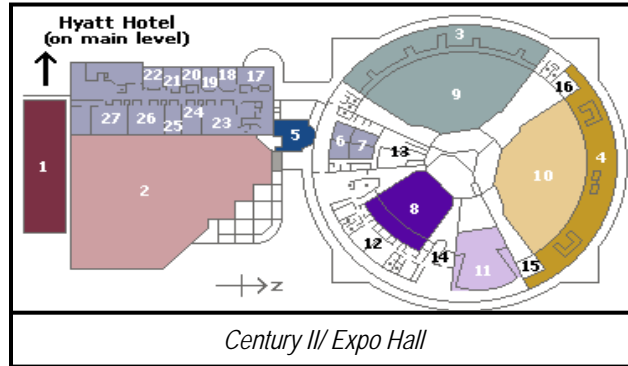


*A trio of kids enjoy the new safety-surface playground and equipment at Minisa Park.*

Mary Jane Teall Theater has seating for 646 and is used for a wide variety of events ranging from seminars to performing arts. Local theater groups such as Stage One, Music Theatre and Wichita Children's Theatre utilize this theater.



Concert Hall seats 2,178 and is the venue used for touring productions such as “Rent” and “Les Miserable”. In addition, it is home to local organizations such as Music Theatre of Wichita, Wichita Symphony Society and the Wichita Grand Opera.



Convention Hall is an extremely versatile space, seating 5,224 for concerts or offering 35,000 square feet of exhibit space for trade shows or banquets up to 2,000. It has been the site of such events as four Miss USA Pageants and the filming of a Phil Donahue Show.

Exhibition Hall has 45,000 square feet of exhibit space, is the home of the Mighty Wichita Wurlitzer Organ (the biggest west of the Mississippi) and is used for many banquets and some favorite local events such as the Midwest Winefest and the Book and Art Fair.

Expo Hall is the largest hall with 93,000 square feet of open floor and has played host to many state, regional and national conventions. This includes the American Bowling Congress, which is set to return in 2011, and the Airborne Law Enforcement Association, which included 13 helicopters on display.

**BOTANICA, THE WICHITA GARDENS** ([www.botanica.org](http://www.botanica.org)):-

The City of Wichita in partnership with the Board and staff of the Botanica Garden, provides an annual operating subsidy to help with salaries, insurance and building maintenance costs.

Located in Wichita's Museum District, Botanica features include the Butterfly House, Sally Stone Sensory Garden, The Jayne Milburn Aquatic Collection, the Shakespeare Garden, the Holiday Luminary Lights and Botanical Glow, Concerts in the Gardens, Gallery in the Gardens, over 100,000 spring tulips, 6,000 mums and over 300 varieties of roses in the Rose Garden. Botanica offers many educational classes, memorial Garden Bricks and facilities for weddings and parties.

**FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

With the exception of the Cemeteries and Ice Center, the Park Department is funded entirely from the General Fund, which totaled \$15.5 million in 2004. Conversely, Century II/Expo Hall, recreation activities, and some maintenance tasks are partially offset by revenue derived from rentals, reimbursements and fees. In 2004, these revenues totaled \$4.8 million, 31% of expenditures.

Park's operations are functionally organized around the Recreation and Maintenance Divisions, each led by a Superintendent. Maintenance is charged with carrying out a comprehensive tree planting, maintenance and removal program and maintaining the landscaping of City parks, right-of-ways and other facilities. The Recreation Division coordinates all recreational programming, from adult sports to the youth-targeted Summer of Discovery program. The Century II Director manages both community facilities, Century II and Expo Hall.



**FUTURE CHALLENGES**

As the recreational environment changes, Park & Recreation must continually adapt in order to provide the best value to the citizens of Wichita and surrounding communities. The following have been identified as areas that will need addressed:

- Research the implementation of “Point of Sales” registration and money handling procedures to improve customer service.
- Develop on-line registration and payment capabilities.
- Continue to foster working relationships with other agencies and associations to provide the highest quality of recreation activities for all ages.
- Continually identify additional sources of revenue to defray cost of services on General Fund.



- Advertisement: all divisions must strategically advertise their goods and services.
- Prune, repair, and replace trees damaged by the January 2005 ice storm. Inventory and strategically manage park facilities and green space.
- Continue developing collaborative relationships with other agencies and associations, utilizing these relationships to coordinate quality recreation programs.
- Address and evaluate existing recreation facilities and trends to continually provide quality programs.

The 2006 Adopted budget increases funding support for the following:

- Century II Box Office operation, which will eventually be self-supporting by program revenue.
- Maintenance enhancements are included, funded by shifting South Lakes and the Stryker Complex staff and utilizing savings from lower workers compensation costs in 2005.
- Money for continued ice storm tree removal, pruning, and planting.
- Rail banking BNSF abandoned railroad from Grove to 159th East.
- Continuation of the P.A.C.K. program at Colvin grade school.

Park Department Budget Summary					
	2004 Actual	2005 Adopted	2005 Revised	2006 Adopted	2007 Approved
Personal Services	8,809,535	9,646,660	9,854,960	10,355,510	10,809,270
Contractual Services	5,553,833	5,790,840	5,733,860	5,771,330	5,774,370
Commodities	612,791	669,950	684,760	697,490	692,510
Capital Outlay	79,982	50,900	50,900	56,500	50,900
Other	462,851	206,360	42,200	42,200	42,200
<b>Total Local Expenditures</b>	<b>15,518,992</b>	<b>16,364,710</b>	<b>16,366,680</b>	<b>16,923,030</b>	<b>17,369,250</b>
Total full-time positions	211	214	214	214	214
Total part-time positions	3	3	3	3	3
Total FTE positions	213	*216	216	216	216

*\* In the 2005 Budget there are 3 additional positions due to new box office for Century II.*

For additional information on the Park & Recreation Department visit [www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Park/](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Park/)





# WICHITA ICE SPORTS

*Wichita Ice Sports exists to provide ice-related recreational activities.*

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Revenues totaled \$1,116,507 for the year.
- Hosted a number of tournaments and figure skating events that increased tourism for the City of Wichita.

Figure Skating Club ([www.wichitafsc.org](http://www.wichitafsc.org)) offers practice times and competitions for figure skaters and ice dancers.

## OVERVIEW

Erected in 1996, Wichita Ice Sports sought to fill the need for an ice rink in the Wichita area. Since its foundation, Wichita Ice Sports has been a place for skating lessons, figure skating, hockey (youth and adult), leisure skating, and many other ice related sports and leisure activities.

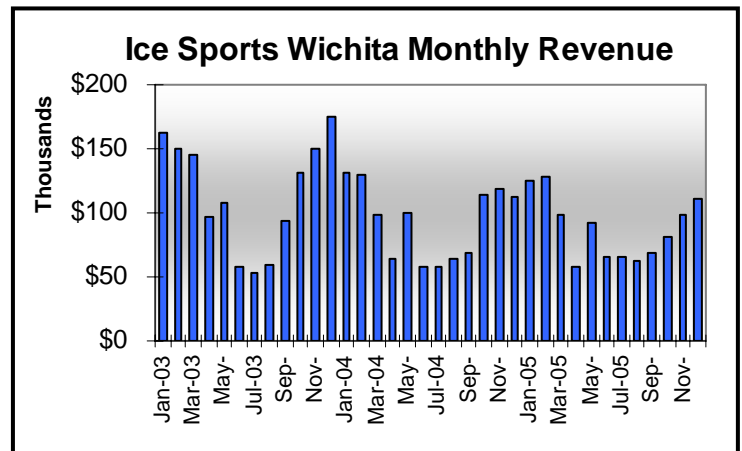
## FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Wichita Ice Sports is an enterprise operation, which functions much like a business. The Ice Rink Management Fund uses revenues received from the operation of Wichita Ice Sports to offset their expenses. Wichita Ice Sports generates most of its revenue during the cold months, as the chart below shows.

A professional sized skating rink, a professional sized hockey rink, a restaurant, administrative offices, locker rooms, a snack counter, a pro shop, a common area with seating to put skates on, and a 1000 person spectator seating in the Olympic sized rink cover the core amenities offered by the Wichita Ice Sports.

It is anticipated that new management will operate Wichita Ice Sports beginning in 2006.

Wichita Ice Sports offers hockey leagues (both youth and adult), figure skating classes, broomball, speed skating, private rentals to public skating sessions, and several other opportunities for physical activity.



A number of local clubs utilize Wichita Ice Sports. The Wichita Thunder ([www.wichitathunder.com](http://www.wichitathunder.com)), a member of the CHL Professional Hockey League, uses Wichita Ice Sports for their team offices and practice time. The Wichita Youth Hockey Association ([www.wyhahockey.com](http://www.wyhahockey.com)) offers leagues and instruction for young hockey players. And the Wichita

Ice Rink Management Fund Budget Summary					
	2004 Actual	2005 Adopted	2005 Revised	2006 Adopted	2007 Approved
<b>Ice Rink Revenue:</b>					
Services and Sales	1,135,783	1,250,000	710,000	710,000	710,000
Non-Operating Revenue	65	0	0	0	0
Other Revenue	44,484	0	487,270	246,190	246,190
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,180,332</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>1,197,270</b>	<b>956,190</b>	<b>956,190</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>					
Personal Services	0	0	96,550	0	0
Contractual Services	1,178,182	1,250,000	1,051,940	956,190	956,190
Commodities	0	0	11,390	0	0
Other	0	0	39,540	0	0
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,178,182</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>1,199,420</b>	<b>956,190</b>	<b>956,190</b>
<b>Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



# CEMETERIES

*The Cemetery Fund's purpose is to provide resources for the management and maintenance of Highland Park and Jamesburg cemeteries.*

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Cemetery fund balance has consistently increased since its creation, which insures well-maintained City of Wichita owned cemeteries into the future.

From 1873 to 1880, what is currently Jamesburg Cemetery was a post office in the small village by the same name.

## OVERVIEW

The City of Wichita oversees two cemeteries:

- **Highland Cemetery**, founded in the 1870's and the resting place of pioneers, is the oldest cemetery in Wichita. The Wichita Cemetery Company abandoned Highland on July 1, 1982. The City Council then assumed responsibility for Highland under K.S.A. 13-14c01 on September 21, 1982.
- **Jamesburg Park Cemetery**, 1500 N. Tyler Road, was also abandoned January 1989.

Notables interred at Highland Park Cemetery	
•	<b>Governor:</b> William Eugene Stanley (1844-1910)
•	<b>House of Representatives:</b> Ralph Carter Harrison (1900-1963)
•	<b>Mayor of Wichita:</b> 1) William Greiffenstein (1829-1899) 2) Finlay Ross (c.1847-1933), 3) Joseph P. Allen (1839-1903)
•	<b>Secretary of State:</b> Edwin Bird Allen (1836-1908)

The Cemetery Fund is a self-sustaining fund supported by the sale of interment and monument permits. Grave openings are coordinated through the Finance Department, while cemetery management and maintenance is coordinated through the Park Department.

## FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

In addition to revenue from the sale of interment and monument permits, the Cemeteries Trust Fund accumulates a portion of its annual income from interest earnings on the fund's investment assets. The interest earnings typically allow revenues to outpace expenditures on a year-to-year basis, adding to the fund's balance and providing resources for capital improvements at each of the cemeteries, as needed.

The first burial at Highland Cemetery was that of Albert Lewellen (age 5) in 1870, the same year the frontier town of Wichita was incorporated. Early Wichitian James R. Mead noted in his memoirs that early Wichita residents could look with comfort east towards the bluffs outside of town, knowing that this beautiful spot was the resting place of friends and family. Today, approximately 17,000 people are buried at Highland Park Cemetery.

Cemetery Fund Budget Summary					
	2004 Actual	2005 Adopted	2005 Revised	2006 Adopted	2007 Approved
Cemeteries Trust Revenue	35,532	37,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
Contractual Services	21,476	28,400	28,400	28,400	28,400
Commodities	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Local Expenditures</b>	<b>21,476</b>	<b>29,400</b>	<b>29,400</b>	<b>29,400</b>	<b>29,400</b>
<b>Cemeteries Trust Fund Balance</b>	<b>827,525</b>	<b>828,668</b>	<b>835,125</b>	<b>842,725</b>	<b>850,325</b>