



CITY OF WICHITA
PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING
PROCESS

SUMMARY OF MCADAMS PARK OUTREACH MEETING
JUNE 28, 2007

Persons from the African American community and others were invited to share their views related to city parks, recreation and open space on Thursday evening, June 28, 2007 at McAdams Park. A total of 22 residents participated.

The purpose of the outreach meeting was to:

- define the importance of the Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan;
- highlight current park assets in Wichita;
- solicit observations, and learn ideas for parks in the future and how to pay for them; and
- communicate what happens next in the planning process.

Four questions used to elicit participants' observations and preferences for the future are listed below, along with a summary of responses.

1. What are the best features of Wichita's parks, recreation programs and open spaces?

- The Big and Little Arkansas Rivers
- Existing recreation centers
- Green space and facilities in Riverside Park
- Good playground equipment and new surfaces for the equipment which enable greater child safety (equipment at Atwater and Dunbar Parks specifically mentioned)
- Shelters at McAdams Park
- Good access to public golf courses throughout City
- Tennis courts and other athletic facilities at McAdams Park

2. What are the limitations of Wichita's parks, recreation programs and open spaces?

- Lack of restroom facilities at many parks, including McAdams Park
- Poor maintenance at concession stands and walking paths at McAdams Park
- Rail corridor from Canal Route east is not developed and grass is not mowed
- Open space under the Canal Route is neglected
- Lack of recreation services for senior citizens
- Shortage of facilities for teenagers
- Shortage of drinking fountains at parks
- In parks that have drinking fountains, they are poorly maintained.
- Users in conflict on trails (e.g., walkers verses bikers)
- Lack of organization and competing demands for scheduling use of youth facilities (Evergreen Park specifically mentioned)

3. What would you like to see changed, added or eliminated in the way of parks, facilities recreation programs or open spaces in the future? ¹

Responses that were generated by individual participants are listed in order of priority as expressed by participants during a concluding exercise. The number to the right indicates how many participants identified it as one of their top three priorities.

- Add boxing gym to an existing facility (9)
- Add restroom facilities to McAdams Park and other parks as needed (7)
- Update/modernize all of City's recreations centers (6)
 - Insure all recreation centers have a conference room/meeting space (1)
 - Add facilities for education activities at recreation centers, especially computer lab (2)
- Expand picnic tables and shelter facilities to McAdams Park and others as needed (6)
- Expand services for young people at recreation centers (4)
- Provide restroom access during winter months by entrusting volunteers with a restroom key (4)
- Add more landscape features to McAdams Park and others that need it (3)
- Expand access to Arkansas River (2)
- Provide a means for securing picnic tables in parks to prevent theft (2)
- Advise nearby residents when changes or improvements are planned for their parks (2)
- Expand recreation services for women (1)
- Improve the rail bank corridor from the Canal Route (I-35) to Oliver (1) ²

¹ From the number of priorities expressed, it is apparent that not everyone who attended the meeting participated in the voting.

² One participant also voiced concern about the lack of maintenance along this same rail corridor from Oliver to Woodlawn, and the risk it poses to public safety.

4. How should the City of Wichita pay for park and recreation services?

Participants were asked to indicate the funding sources they would consider from a list of options offered by the facilitator. Options are listed in order of favorability, with the most favorable option listed first. The number to the right indicates how many participants are favorable to considering it as a funding option.

- Dedicated gaming revenues³ (11)
- Dedicated sales tax (5)
- Increased user fees (5)
- More non-federal government grants (4)
- Dedicated property tax (3)
- General property tax (2)
- Realignment of resources (1)
- More public/private partnerships (0)
- Dedication of infrastructure development dollars for green space (0)
- Impact fees on new development⁴ (0)
- General sales tax (0)

³ Revenue source proposed by a participant.

⁴ Participants were advised that this is presently not a park financing option under Kansas law.