



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

PROS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING # 4
APRIL 28, 2008
MEETING SUMMARY

The PROS Advisory Group met on April 28th, 2008 for an update on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Planning Process. The meeting was led by Lauren Schmitt and Sally McIntyre, of MIG, Inc, who began by updating the Committee on the planning process and project work to date, including an overview of the Community Resources and Needs Assessment.

Advisory Committee members discussed the provision of parks and facilities, focusing on four major categories.

Recreation Centers

Members concurred that the two school-based recreation centers should be considered specialty centers. Low income could also be measured by looking at recreation program provision based on the percentage of free school lunches provided in an area.

Park Resources

Committee members also discussed some of the policy assumptions within the assessment of park resources. Committee members indicated that overlap in service areas is acceptable, and that the park system should not be downsized to eliminate overlap. In addition, members noted that industrial areas did not need to be served by parks, and should be excluded. The role of big ditch as barrier and as an opportunity was also mentioned.

Park Facilities

Committee members agreed that many pocket parks don't provide basic amenities, and that walking is an important activity. Pools were identified as important to providing water safety training, but members noted the need to diversify pools similar to the College Hill pool model. Committee members also highlighted the importance of trails and trail access, and their role as transportation alternatives. In addition, members noted that school facilities should be considered, but that access should be assured through a formalized agreement.

Members also discussed the policies around assigning sports field complexes to specific groups, and proposed the following:

- Exclude practice fields
- Consider all partners
 - The City will provide land
 - Leagues will develop and maintain fields

Healthy Community

Committee members also discussed the role of parks in the community, in terms of community health, including:

- Supporting non-auto oriented neighborhoods;
- Motivating kids to stay in school through parks and recreation activities;
- Adopting city street standards that support walking/biking AND access to parks and schools;
- Providing skate parks to encourage active youth; and
- Providing opportunities for exercise.

At the close of the meeting, Advisory Committee members were asked to review parts I and II of the Community Resources and Natural Resources Assessment, and to provide comments to Scott Wadle within two weeks.