



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

ADA FOCUS GROUP  
MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2007

Several members of the Wichita community who are active in providing services for people with disabilities gathered for a focus group on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Participants reported that the City of Wichita is providing fairly high quality services for people with disabilities, both in terms of its programming and its parks and facilities. Participants noted successful partnerships, such as the ARC and city partnership, to provide services to people with disabilities.

Attendees reported use of a variety of city facilities, including Watson Park, Orchard Park, the Great Plains Nature Center, Chisholm Creek trails, Boston Park, and various pools and recreation centers. Participants noted the need for the following facilities:

- Additional accessible playgrounds
- Additional accessible trails
- Accessible outdoor tennis courts
- More zero-entry pools
- More shade in the parks

Participants remarked that many residents may not know what services the city provides for people with disabilities. On this note, participants stressed:

- The need for additional marketing in general (e.g., through a map/flyer, wayfinding signage, a park-of-the-week program, or medallion hunts) and particularly towards people with special needs
- Assuming more of a customer service orientation at pools and recreation centers
- Creating an inclusion position to ensure that people with special needs are accommodated in city programs
- Continuing to support the summer YES Program
- Addressing fear of lawsuits, related to certain programs. An example given was the ARC's canoeing program at Watson Park, which no longer occurs.

Attendees also suggested including people with disabilities in the city's design and planning program to ensure that adequate high quality facilities are provided.