



CITY OF WICHITA

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING PROCESS

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP
MAY 16TH, 2007

Members of Wichita's development community gathered on May 16th to discuss the relationship between development and parks and recreation in the city. Participants noted that parks are used by citizens more than any other facility. Developers who participated in the focus group emphasized the importance of having parks and recreation facilities in new residential developments. Participants especially emphasized the need for:

- A connected system of trails that links individual developments
- Dedicated bike lanes
- Greenbelts
- Neighborhood-oriented amenities, such as playgrounds

In order to facilitate the development of these types of facilities, attendees recommended that the city:

- Establish a single, coordinated plan that identifies locations for future parks and trails so that:
 - Developers can know what is coming and implement the plan
 - Developments can be linked
- Develop consistency around policies and processes for developers
- Develop a donation policy so that land can be more easily given to the city
- Use existing assets, such as railroad corridors, drainage corridors, and pipeline easements, to develop trails
- Address security and safety in parks and along trails – technology, such as card readers, to allow subdivision residents access from a trail corridor, but not non-residents.
- Look for dedicated funding, with the example of the mill levy allocated to museums
- Figure out a strategy to retrofit deficient areas by using common areas
- Target multiple benefit projects, e.g., parks that also serve as flood control areas, or natural drainageways as trail corridors. The example was given of Tulsa's parks designed to flood
- Incorporate innovative conservation measures, such as gray water systems
- Dedicate revenue generated from parks and recreation to the parks and recreation budget

Developers indicated the following needs:

- Predictability
- A connected system of trails that links individual developments
- Dedicated bike lanes
- Lower speed limits on local streets
- Political will/ leadership at City Hall to demand everyone be on the same page