

As we enter the next century, the City of Joplin will continue its leadership role in Jasper and Newton Counties and the tri-state area with a steady population base which is committed to an improved quality of life for all of its citizens. This is an exciting time for Joplin as its citizens have recognized parks and recreation services as an important element of its image, character and quality of life.

The Citizens Park Master Plan is intended to define a structure for phasing the development of the recommended amenities based on the development and the operating costs. This plan is also designed to be an aid in the development of community awareness with regard to both existing and future amenities within the City's parks.

Finally, the *Master Plan* will act as a promotional tool to market parks redevelopment to both the business community and the private sector. The preparation of the *Master Plan* has resulted in a number of findings and recommendations that will be vital to the future growth and development of the park system. The Plan was a collaborative effort on the part of the City Council, Recreation & Park Board, staff, the *Citizens Park System Master Plan Steering Committee*, Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation and its team member, Leisure Vision/ETC Institute.



The initial step in implementing the *Master Plan* was to identify the issues that were critical to the community. This step was accomplished through the citizens steering committee. From this preliminary analysis the plan was based on a detailed analysis and evaluation of existing facilities, specific park issues, goals and opportunities, possible acquisitions or expansion possibilities for the park system.

This document is the *Master Plan* for Joplin, which encompasses its total boundary. The *Master Plan* addresses the issues and problems that face the City in the future and provides strategies for addressing those issues. The City Council, Park and Recreation Board and Staff have the responsibility to guide the Plan in a direction of maximum service to its constituents, providing responsible recreation programming, park development, timely leadership, and a commitment to encourage dialogue with citizens of the community. The *Master Plan* is an outline of the City's priorities and action steps and provides a framework for effective, responsible public services that work with the community to make Joplin a better place to live, work and invest.

Master park planning allows the City to meet the future with a plan that emphasizes the most important issues facing it and to focus on strategies that address those issues and solve those problems. This document is the product of that continuous process. Recognizing that the benefits of master planning are the strategies and actions that flow from it, this document is not the goal of the master planning process. The goal of master park planning is to implement the strategies and actions outlined in this document and to continue to set new goals, identify new issues, adopt new strategies, and implement new action steps. It provides the basis for future planning and components of implementation.

CITIZENS PARK MASTER PLAN

Joplin, Missouri

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The *Joplin Master Plan* is the benchmark policy document for the City’s service delivery. It is intended to provide a consistent and justifiable continuum of ideas, beliefs, and values, which define the mission, and vision of the City for its park system and recreation services. It is the blueprint for decision making because it determines the fundamental services to be provided and commits the City to specific strategies for allocating resources.

