

Citizen Involvement Strategies

- **Identification** of key stakeholders including a citizen steering committee, user groups, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, elected officials, school district and college representatives, convention & visitors bureau, sports authority, interested citizens, and senior adults.
- **Inclusion** of stakeholders and public in an open and creative dialogue.
- **Interaction** of these groups with the various ideas produced at the design charrette, public meetings and steering committee meetings.
- **Empowerment** of all citizens to continue to succeed in progressing the ideals of the Citizens Park System Master Plan.



Citizen Involvement and the Planning Process

Citizen involvement is a necessary component for any successful planning effort. The identification and inclusion of citizens in the process is critical to understanding the dynamics of a community. Moreover, in order for the public involvement to be a success, significant time and resources need to be given to educating the community about potential changes in the community and how those changes may affect their lives.

Joplin has shown time and again its commitment to the planning process by completing a 1994 Comprehensive Plan and 1997 Parks and Recreation Management Plan. A major goal of this Master Plan was to involve citizens in the process, listen carefully to their suggestions, and, finally, to present for their consideration an Implementation Plan which meets their needs.

Opportunities for Citizen Involvement

The process offered citizens a number of opportunities for input and access to information during the Master Plan Process. Those opportunities included a press conference on March 24, meeting with the park and recreation department staff on March 24, user group and stakeholder interviews on April 24 and April 25, planning charrette on April 29, public meetings on April 24, June 27 and 28, presentation to the Rotary Club on May 25, Council updates on May 1 and June 19, Council workshop on June 26, citizen steering committee meetings on March 24, April 29, June 27, July 11 (meeting at Schifferdecker Park with pool consultant) and August 11, statistically valid citizen survey of 600 residents and 150 non-residents during the months of May and June, and a final report public meeting in the fall.

Public Participation in the Master Planning Process

The process offered citizens a number of opportunities for input and access to information during the Master Plan Process. Those opportunities included a press conference on March 24, meeting with the park and recreation department staff on March 24, user group and stakeholder interviews on April 24 and April 25, planning charrette on April 29, public meetings on April 24, June 27 and 28, presentation to the Rotary Club on May 25, Council updates on May 1 and June 19, Council workshop on June 26, citizen steering committee meetings on March 24, April 29, June 27, July 11 and July ?? and a statistically valid citizen survey of 600 residents and 150 non-residents during the months of May and June.

Key issues which were tested on the citizen survey during May were:

- Role of the department
- Age groups the department should serve
- Do you participate in programs and which ones
- Rating of programs offered
- Are there enough parks and open space
- Satisfied with availability of facilities
- Importance of specific facility improvements
- Reasons for not using facilities
- How would you spend money for improvements
- Support for a funding source for improvements

Key Issues Identified in Meetings on March 24, 2000 With Staff and Citizens Committee

- Golf course – # of holes, lack of room for expansion or improvements, need a driving range.
- Memorial hall – future usage, type of events to be held, programming, city offices in the building.
- Proposed nature center – affects on the park system.
- Millenium tennis center – affects on the number of outdoor courts in the existing park system.
- Future cemetery operation – affects on parks and recreation operation; budget concerns; private operation vs. public operation.
- Future aquatic needs – number of pools required; age and condition of existing facilities; new amenities have been requested.
- Recreation fields – condition and location of existing facilities; future needs for baseball, softball & soccer; need for a clustered athletic complex in a suitable location.

User groups and stakeholder interviews were conducted on April 24 & 25 with the following:

NAME	CATEGORY
Terry Triplett	Convention & Visitors Bureau
Mike Greninger	Sports Authority
Cookie Estrada	YMCA
Barbara Campbell	Park & Recreation Staff
Harold McCoy	Public Works
Rick Prigg	Four Seasons Athletic Complex
Phil Stinnett	City Council
Mark Brower	Girls Softball League
Senior Citizens	Senior Center
Jim Hoeglin	Little League & Parks and Recreation Board
Bob Steere	Citizen
Doug Carnahan	Swim Team
Rebecca Kanan	City Council
Anthony Kassab	Citizen
Rob Clay	Boys & Girls Club
Mrs. Jardan	Citizen
Dr. Vernon Hudson	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. John Tiede	Missouri Southern State College
Dick Moss	Resident
Rotary Club	Civic Club
TOTAL	21

Highlights of user group and stakeholder interviews conducted on April 24 & April 25

- Golf course in McClelland Park.
- Sports authority needs quality facilities to promote athletic events it brings into town; ideally, those facilities would be located in one location.
- Shortage of indoor facilities.
- Many opportunities to partner with churches, schools, university, boys & girls club, YMCA., city parks and recreation and athletic associations.
- Park land isn't necessarily located in the right spots; may need land to the east, southeast and possibly to the north.
- Need things to do for young married families.
- Need to take care of what we have while also considering new facilities.
- Support for trails.
- Beautification of parks.



PUBLIC MEETING NOTES FROM APRIL 24, 2000

Current Rating of Park System by those in attendance at public meeting; scale of 0-5

Rating of 2.5

Things that work well for users

- Golf course
- Pool
- Playgrounds
- Natural beauty of the river and trees
- Chert Glades
- Shelters
- Landscaping on Campbell Parkway



Preferred Improvements

- Maintenance of play equipment and pools
- More shelters
- Accessibility issues to play equipment and shelters
- Centralized athletic complex
- Renovation of Schifferdecker Pool
- More landscaping in the parks and boulevards
- More restrooms
- Trails for hiking, biking and jogging
- More trees
- More timely trash removal
- Skating rink
- Better park lighting
- Archival room at the museum
- Nature center
- Improved marketing/promotion of programs
- Improved little league fields
- Land preservation
- Cleanup of the pollution
- Transportation
- Irrigation

Opportunities

- Consolidation of sports fields
- Bequests (park foundation)
- A dedicated funding source for the parks by the City Council
- Tree City USA
- Campbell parkway irrigation
- Concerts
- Rails to trails
- Water preservation

Barriers

- Funding
- Communication with the public
- Apathy/ignorance
- Feeling of ownership