

PADUCAH-MCCRACKEN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Brandstetter Carroll Inc. expresses its sincere appreciation to all of the organizations, committees and individuals who participated in the Master Plan process. We especially thank the City of Paducah Staff for their cooperation and coordination in this effort. We also would like to recognize Mayor Bill Paxton and the Commissioners who had the foresight to initiate this project to define the future vision for parks and recreation in Paducah and McCracken County.

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Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan Paducah – McCracken County, Kentucky

Executive Summary

The Need for a Plan

The City of Paducah has a long history of providing parks and recreation facilities for its residents. The first Public Park Committee was started in 1904. Paducah serves as the primary regional community within 100 miles. The City has had a decreasing population over the last several decades, but the County has had modest growth in the same period. Several recreation related initiatives have been discussed for many years including the needs for an indoor community and recreation complex, greenways corridors to take advantage of the floodwall, and several master plans for Bob Noble Park.

The City of Paducah currently has over 600 acres of parkland that is developed for park use at 23 sites. In addition, seven schools in the City, seven school sites in the County, several community parks in the County and McCracken County also provide land and facilities for recreational use. The Paducah Parks Services Department provides a wide range of programming opportunities.

The purpose of this plan is to provide direction to the City Commission, Parks Services staff, County Fiscal Court, County Administration and staff, Planning Commission, School Boards, Planning Departments, and others in managing for the improvement and growth of parks, recreation, open space and leisure opportunities for all Paducah and McCracken County residents.

A Citizen Driven Plan

The plan is truly based on community needs. The public was involved in the process in the following methods:

- ? Two public workshops
- ? Mail survey that was sent to all households in the County. A total of 1,667 were returned.
- ? A survey was also completed by 1,765 students through the school systems.
- ? An active Advisory Committee
- ? Meetings with 17 special interest groups including: youth, Sports Council, Civil War Re-enactors, Swim Team, golfers, skateboarders, horseshoe interest, Kentucky Pioneers, Trails and Greenways

supporters, Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce, soccer, baseball, softball, football, bicycling, Historic Society, staff, and senior citizens' groups.

What Paducah-McCracken County Citizens Told Us

Through the many opportunities for community input, the citizens' needs were determined. The following is a brief summary of the needs as communicated in the various methods:

- ? Bob Noble Park is by far the most used park in the County.
- ? Nearly half of residents use a park once per week or more in the summer months.
- ? Indoor facilities are used less frequently.
- ? There is a strong desire for more open space and preservation of natural areas.
- ? There is a need for more non-traditional activities like a skate park, mountain bike trails, horse trails and others.
- ? There is a desire to make Bob Noble Park more of an attraction with added facilities.
- ? There is a demand for more youth athletic fields.
- ? The riverfront should be more accessible.
- ? Trails of all types and linkages of the parks, schools and neighborhoods are desired.
- ? The **most needed outdoor recreation facilities** are:
 - Outdoor Family Aquatic Center
 - Walkways and bike trails
 - Playgrounds
 - Ice rink
 - Fishing Lakes
 - Skatepark
 - Greenway corridors and greenspace
 - Picnic shelters
- ? The **most needed indoor facilities** are:
 - Youth Activity Center
 - Swimming Pool and aquatic center
 - Gymnasium
 - Cardiovascular exercise equipment



- Computer lab
- Multipurpose meeting rooms
- Ice rink

Future Vision of Paducah- McCracken County's Parks and Recreation

The vision for the future of parks and recreation in Paducah and McCracken County that is recommended in this Plan was determined from the surveys, workshops, community input, Advisory Committee and the Consultant's recommendations. The vision includes the following components:

1. An indoor community/recreation complex in Noble Park that would be the home of



numerous programs and indoor activities that are not now available to citizens.

2. A greenway and trail system that loops the City and provides access to many of the parks, neighborhoods, schools and community facilities.
3. The riverfront, downtown and Raymond Schultz Park are the home of numerous festivals and events and these events continue to improve with new infrastructure, community facilities and a marina development.
4. Environmental and cultural education programs thrive with the cooperation of the Schools, Parks Services Department and other agencies partnering and using facilities such as the Perkins Creek Nature Preserve and West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area as classrooms.
5. Baseball and softball programs thrive at the new Stuart Nelson Athletic Complex and new women's softball stadium at Brooks Stadium.
6. The soccer program continues to improve with additional fields, improvements at the existing fields and supporting facilities at the McCracken County Soccer Complex.
7. The most used park in the County, Bob Noble Park, is upgraded to meet the community needs with the following improvements:

- a. Connection to the Greenway.
- b. Perimeter walking trail.
- c. The new indoor community and recreation center.
- d. A new family aquatic center.
- e. An improved amphitheater with a covered stage area.
- f. The existing swimming pool area is converted to a Youth Park with the bathhouse converted to a youth center and the pool converted to a skatepark.
- g. Improved tennis facilities with a total of eight courts that are covered with a bubble structure, parking and restrooms.
- h. Large reservable picnic shelters for family reunions and large gatherings.
- i. Tournament horseshoe area.
- j. A Safety City facility to teach safety skills to children.
- k. A tree replacement program is developed to maintain the forested nature of this park.

8. The County develops a new large County Park that provides picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, fishing lake, game courts and other facilities to compliment the baseball and softball facilities already provided in this area.
9. The underused swimming pools at Blackburn and Kolb parks are replaced with new facilities including a Sprayground at Blackburn and a larger playground at Kolb.
10. All of the existing parks are upgraded with improved playgrounds, restrooms, lighting, etc.
11. The City and County Governments and the City and County School Boards continue to communicate and coordinate for the most efficient community use of the facilities and for promotion of programs.
12. An indoor community/recreation complex in Noble Park that would be the home of numerous programs and indoor activities that are not now available to citizens.
13. A greenway and trail system that loops the City and provides access to many of the parks, neighborhoods, schools and community facilities.
14. The riverfront, downtown and Raymond Schultz Park are the home of numerous



- festivals and events and these events continue to improve with new infrastructure, community facilities and a marina development.
15. Environmental and cultural education programs thrive with the cooperation of the Schools, Parks Services Department and other agencies partnering and using facilities such as the Perkins Creek Nature Preserve and West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area as classrooms.
 16. Baseball and softball programs thrive at the new Stuart Nelson Athletic Complex and new women's softball stadium at Brooks Stadium.
 17. The soccer program continues to improve with additional fields, improvements at the existing fields and supporting facilities at the McCracken County Soccer Complex.
 18. The most used park in the County, Bob Noble Park, is upgraded to meet the community needs with the following improvements:
 - a. Connection to the Greenway.
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 - f. The existing swimming pool area is converted to a Youth Park with the bathhouse converted to a youth center and the pool converted to a skatepark.
 - g. Improved tennis facilities with a total of eight courts that are covered with a bubble structure, parking and restrooms.
 - h. Large reservable picnic shelters for family reunions and large gatherings.
 - i. Tournament horseshoe area.
 - j. A Safety City facility to teach safety skills to children.
 - k. A tree replacement program is developed to maintain the forested nature of this park.
 19. The County develops a large County Park in the eastern end of the County that provides picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, game courts and other facilities to compliment the baseball and softball facilities already provided in this area.
 20. The underused swimming pools at Blackburn and Kolb parks are replaced with new facilities including a Sprayground at Blackburn and a larger playground at Kolb.
 21. All of the existing parks are upgraded with improved playgrounds, restrooms, lighting, etc.
 22. The City and County Governments and the City and County School Boards continue to communicate and coordinate for the most efficient community use of the facilities and for promotion of programs.

Where To Get More Information

The Master Plan includes a great deal of additional detail regarding the following topics:

- ? Population and land use trends,
- ? Existing budget and staff,
- ? Inventory of existing programs,
- ? Inventory of existing parks and facilities,
- ? Summaries of the public workshops and focus groups,
- ? Discussion of the survey results,
- ? Parks and facility needs,
- ? Individual park recommendations and budgets,
- ? Priorities for the proposed improvements,
- ? Implementation strategies,
- ? Potential funding sources.

The Final Master Plan will be available for viewing at the Paducah Parks Services Office, Paducah City Hall, McCracken County Judge Executive's Office, and the McCracken County Public Library.



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I. Introduction

A. Purpose

The City of Paducah has a long history of providing Parks and Recreation for it's residents. The founding fathers of Paducah realized that a gathering place for all citizens to get away from everyday strife and worries was necessary. By 1856, vacant grounds were used for picnics, gatherings and other festival type events. A Public Park Committee was appointed in 1904 by the Board of Aldermen whose duty it was "to investigate and locate several pieces of ground suitable for public parks". In 1906 a Board of Park Commissioners was appointed to oversee the City's public parks and playgrounds. As the population continued to grow in the City of Paducah and surrounding area, parks were developed. The resulting parks and recreation system today includes nearly 450 acres of park land (not including Paxton Golf Course) within the city limits at 23 different locations. In addition there are parks located in the County that have been developed by the local communities with some help from the County. In addition there are park and recreation facilities at school sites throughout the City and County. The main County recreation site is the McCracken County Soccer Complex.

Many of the older facilities are in need of repairs and they need to be updated to today's standards for safety and to meet today's needs for parks, recreation and leisure activities. Therefore, this planning exercise is the first comprehensive look at both the City and County parks and recreation opportunities that has been undertaken. Although the funding for this process is provided by the Paducah City Commission, it would be impossible to evaluate the total parks and recreation opportunities and needs without considering the County because many of the County residents use the City facilities for their parks, recreation and leisure activities. The purpose of the Paducah and McCracken County Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to identify the parks and recreation needs throughout the City and the County and to develop strategies that could be implemented to provide services consistent with the desired quality of life, and existing potential resources the area.

B. Planning Process

The planning process for the Paducah and McCracken County Parks and Recreation Master Plan include the following components.

1. A review of the previous studies that pertain to the delivery of parks and recreation facilities and services in Paducah and McCracken County.
2. A review of the population and land use trends for the City and County.
3. Preparation of a parks and recreation facilities and programs inventory, including a discussion of facilities by park type and a discussion of parks and recreation facilities provided by the County, the City and other providers.



4. The preparation of a Comprehensive Needs Analysis based on recreation facility goals, surveys of the general public and discussions with specific interest groups.
5. Preparation of recommendations for improvements to existing parks.
6. Recommendations for land and new parks.
7. Preparation of conceptual plans for some of the recommendations.
8. An Action Plan which identifies the recommended tasks and improvements, responsible party and potential funding sources for the proposed recommendations.

C. Why are Parks Important?

Here are some reasons why this Master Planning effort, additional planning and the future of Parks and Recreation in Paducah and McCracken County are very important:

1. The City Parks Services Department manages approximately 600 acres of land designated for parks and recreation purposes. The school systems operate several additional areas of campus and recreational area. Several of the communities in the County, the schools and the County offer their own facilities and programs at over 117 acres of public parks and schools at 11 sites. These agencies have the responsibility to manage this land in an efficient manner that is consistent with the health, safety and welfare of the communities.
2. For many residents, parks provide their only access to the natural environment. For all residents they provide natural and active outdoor recreational opportunities.
3. The quality of a community's parks and recreation system is viewed as one of the indicators of the overall quality of life.
4. Property values around parks tend to be considerably higher than other areas, thereby making an annual contribution to the community in the form of higher property tax revenues, as well as additional profits to the owners at point of sale. More valuable properties also tend to be maintained at a higher level, improving the appearance of the communities.
5. Parks preserve important cultural and natural features for future generations to enjoy.



Introduction

6. Parks make the community a healthier place by reducing the effects of noise and air pollution.
7. Parks and open space are important to our physical and emotional well being.

II. Context

A. Population Trends

An overall understanding of the population trends of Paducah and McCracken County is necessary to identify the present needs and predicted future needs for parks and recreation facilities. Presented below are tables that show population trends for the City and County from 1960. Table 1 reveals that the County population was 65,514 in the year 2000 and is expected continue to grow at this modest rate. In contrast the City population slowly and steadily declined over the last four decades.

**Table 1
Population History and Projections
Paducah & McCracken County, Kentucky**

Year	Paducah	McCracken County	
	U.S. Census	U.S. Census	Projection*
1960	34,479	57,306	
1970	31,627	58,281	
1980	29,315	61,301	
1990	27,404	62,879	
2000	26,307	65,514	
2010			67,329
2020			68,329

*Projections provided by the State Data Center at the University at Louisville

The primary growth areas in the County have been in the suburban areas outside the City of Paducah such as the Lone Oak area.

B. History of Paducah Parks

Sue Dana Grene compiled and Grace E. Alexander edited and printed a history of Paducah Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation in 1978. This booklet provides a very thorough history of the provision of parks and recreation services in the City of Paducah dating back as early as 1856. The first parks were vacant grounds used for picnics and gatherings between 7th and 9th Streets on Broadway. As the City Limits grew, show grounds and picnic areas were relocated from 7th and Broadway to 9th and Tennessee to 12th and Trimble and then to 16th and Harrison, 12th and Pine Streets, 22nd and Jackson Streets, the Courthouse lawn, and finally progressing with the times located on a ten acre plot then known as Fisher Gardens also called Bellview Gardens. This park, located in Fisherville, had a small lake with swimming and rowing, a dance pavilion, target shooting and other sports of the times. This park was removed in the early 1900's.

There were other small parks and playground areas developed and many of the names have changed now. By 1904, the Board of Aldermen appointed a Public

Park Committee whose duty it was to “investigate and locate several pieces of ground suitable for public parks”. In 1906 a Board of Park Commissioners was appointed to oversee the public parks and playgrounds with annual reports to the City Council.

Of the more notable purchases made by the Public Parks Committee is “Bob Noble Park”, located at 28th and Park Avenue. The park property was originally named “Forest Park” because it was a dense forest. The Public Park Board showed great foresight in purchasing this new acreage. However, this park lay unimproved for a decade until Captain Robert H. Noble donated \$10,000.00 towards its improvements with the understanding that the city match the figure. Prompt acceptance of Captain Noble’s generous gift was followed by the Board of Park Commissioner renaming the grounds “Bob Noble Park”. The City of Paducah contracted with the American Park Builders Landscape Architects of Chicago to design Noble Park. The park still maintains its original look from the entrance side, but many improvements have been made throughout the park.

Stuart Nelson Park, located about a half mile west of Noble Park on Highway 60W, came into existence in the early 1900’s. It was named for Stuart Nelson, son of Dr. and Mrs. William Stuart Nelson of Paducah and was dedicated in the 1940’s. The park incorporates many acres of land and the curving roadways through shaded areas reveals picnic shelters and well kept greens. Stuart Nelson Park had a caretaker’s home, ball diamonds, tennis courts, concession stand and playground equipment.

Brooks Stadium, located at 25th and “C” Street is the result of careful planning and diligent work on the part of a relatively few persons, and the cooperation of numerous civic-minded individuals, especially Polk Brooks. Desiring to see professional baseball in Paducah, the Paducah Baseball Association was organized in 1947, and raised money to build Brooks Stadium. The stadium was used for this purpose until 1955 at which time it was determined that the ball team could not support themselves and the league was dissolved. In December 1966 the City of Paducah Board of Commissioners passed a resolution, authorizing the City to apply for a grant to assist them in the acquisition of an additional 16 acres at Brooks Park. On January 25, 1968, approval was given for the Parks and Recreation Department to acquire the land adjoining Brooks Stadium, and bounded by the Elmwood Court Housing Authority. Under the agreement of the contract of purchase, the acquired land was to be used for open-space park such as: park and recreational purposes, conservation of land and other natural resources, or historic and scenic purposes.

Riverfront Park located at the downtown Ohio River waterfront has been a place for embarkation and debarkation of men and supplies since 1778. Now the riverfront is more widely used for pleasure craft. There have been many improvements made to this park area. Several festivals are held at the waterfront during the year and a stage platform was erected for these events.

The recreational facilities mentioned above and many others are the outgrowth of Paducah's founding fathers' foresight in instigating long-range planning for "the next generation".

C. Previous Studies

1. Paducah Waterfront Plan, 1993

- a. The City of Paducah Community Planning and Development Commission prepared this plan. The target area for this report extended from Terrel Street to the northwest and Jackson Street to the southeast along the Ohio River. The waterfront study area ran to a fairly uniform depth of 1500' back from the river. Also included is the bulk of the Central Business District (CBD) to Ninth Street along the two block wide Broadway corridor. The balance of the report refers to the study area as the Waterfront Development Area (WDA). A comprehensive existing condition inventory was created. A database of some 13,500 pieces of information was gathered on approximately 450 parcels of land in the study area.
 - (1) The top four uses of the waterfront downtown area consisted of retail, vacant lots, parking lots, and vacant retail buildings. The "Floodplain Area" is primarily vacant due to the potential for flooding and wetland's and have severely limited the urban development of this area.
 - (2) Strategies and plans for the City of Paducah at this time was to attract large numbers of visitors and it was felt that a strong housing element in the downtown area was needed to accomplish this objective.
 - (3) In review of any developmental proposal, the implications of the activity must be viewed in terms of its implications on the environment. Similarly, environmental factors must be reviewed in order to determine how those might impact the development.
 - (4) Improvement and modification of historically significant structures must be performed with concern for the integrity of the architecture.
 - (5) The Waterfront Development Committee recommended that an emphasis be directed toward on-going maintenance and upgrading of municipal water, storm and sanitary systems. The City should not be placed in a position where a poor utility situation constrains new development.

- (6) Recommendations for traffic modifications were made for Jefferson Street and 1st Street. It was recommended that loading and unloading facilities in the downtown waterfront development area be permitted in new construction only if they do not impede or obstruct the flow of traffic. It was also recommended that existing facilities that have a high volume of loading/unloading should make concerted efforts to reduce the obstruction of traffic flow.
 - (7) A parking survey was conducted and determined that an adequate level of turnover occurs on Broadway and adjacent cross streets from 3rd to 5th Streets. The turnover rates range between five and eight vehicles per space per day. Where 5th, 6th and 7th Streets cross Broadway, the turnover rates are low. Higher rates could be maintained with additional enforcement. The study concluded that parking enforcement is the most important element of the parking system for the Waterfront Development Area. Some recommendations for improvement included better signage and parking maps.
 - (8) The Paducah Urban Area is fortunate to have a mass transit system which services the entire urban area. Routes culminate and begin at 4th and Broadway every 1.5 hours.
 - (9) Several public policies greatly influenced conditions in the Waterfront Development Area and have continued to effect development. This document identified several consequential areas, e.g., Zoning, Code Enforcement, Building Preservation Ordinance and the Improvement Program.
- b. The Waterfront Development Committee was committed to producing a plan that represented the desires of the community. To incorporate the wishes and desires of the citizens, the committee surveyed a number of social and civic clubs. They were asked for their opinion on the future of the Downtown.

The citizen input into the future of the downtown encouraged the creation of a restaurant overlooking the river and a performing arts center. It was recommended that these facilities should be considered as priorities when marketing efforts were begun to facilitate downtown development.

Four of the top five development requests were for community facilities, and the fifth use, restaurant development, is very complimentary to public facilities. In the matter of public policy,

the citizens desired to see vacant buildings utilized and called upon the government to encourage the use of these structures.

The survey indicated that the community would not be receptive to relaxing building codes or construction policies to facilitate downtown changes, nor would a city-wide tax increase to fund development be accepted favorably.

It was recommended that in future considerations of downtown policy, the City should consider the recommendations, particularly when faced with the availability of a vacant building for purchase.

2. **Master Plan, Noble Park, Paducah, Kentucky, 1990**

- a. This Master Plan was prepared by the firms of Peck, Flannery, Gream, Warren, Inc., Architects, Scruggs and Hammond, Inc., Landscape Architects, and Farris, Hatcher, Tremper Engineers. This basic goal of this plan was to create a public recreation area equipped for use by all members of a family.
 - (1) The design concept was to use the lake as a focal point, a central feature which would divide the intensive, active recreation area from the less intensive, more passive, use area. Each use involves about half of the area of the park. All aspects of future development in the park were to be of very high quality – signs, street furniture, lighting, and all physical improvements.
 - (2) Provisions were made in the Master Plan for day camp groups, tot lots, open play fields, a lakeside pavilion, restrooms, foot, bicycle and jogging rails, extensive roads and parking areas, and a trail connection to Stuart Nelson Park.
- b. This Master Plan recommended the construction of three principal buildings, a general recreation center, an all-use Activitorium on the west shore of the lake and a new bathhouse which would be part of the Swimming Center.

3. **Paducah McCracken County Parks & Recreation Study, 1989**

- a. In 1988 Mayor Gerry Montgomery and County Judge-Executive John Harris appointed sixteen members of city and outside city residency to study Paducah and McCracken County parks.
- b. This Committee felt that items of concern should include:
 - (1) A centralized parks and recreation building that would be easily accessible to all citizens.

- (2) The continued development of the county landfill site and future connection with Stuart Nelson Park and Noble Park and recommended a study of “Central Park’ area to assure that development needs were met. To be included in this study were 20 undeveloped acres in Stuart Nelson Park.
- (3) Recommendations for improvements at Noble Park and Stuart Nelson Park included:
 - (a) Shuffle board courts, horseshoe pits and other amenities to promote use of this park by retired members of the community.
 - (b) Possibly a three or four court complex.
 - (c) Biking and/or jogging trail.
 - (d) Additional tennis courts and the upgrading of present courts.
 - (e) A recirculation system for the lake with a fountain system or waterfall.
 - (f) Improve lighting.
 - (g) Improve the entrance at Stuart Nelson Park.
 - (h) Install a foot bridge across Noble Park Lake and improve accessibility.
 - (i) Repairs to playground equipment and the gazebo on the lake.
- (4) The development of a Comprehensive Plan for addressing the routine maintenance of the parks. A conservative approach to the removal and replacement of trees, the mowing of grass and the planting of wild flowers.
- (5) Specific maintenance and development recommendations for other parks included:
 - (a) The placement of a sprinkler system throughout Schultz Park.
 - (b) Improvement of parking facilities at Forest Hills Park.
 - (c) Improvement of boat ramps at Riverfront Park.

- (d) It was strongly suggested that the practice of accepting property left over from subdivision developments be discontinued.
- (e) Replace the playground equipment at Lang Park and provide additional landscaping.
- (6) An overall improvement in the appearance of open spaces within the City.
- (7) Improvements to signage for all parks throughout the system was recommended.
- c. Suggestions for expansion of recreation programs included:
 - (1) After school playgrounds.
 - (2) Summer playgrounds.
 - (3) A mobile recreation truck which would move around the city with equipment for arts and crafts, skits, games, etc.

4. **Kentucky Marina Development Study, Survey Report, 1989**

- a. This report was produced by the Department of the Army, Huntington District, Corps of Engineers and addressed the need for marinas along the Ohio River in Kentucky.
- b. Objectives of this study included:
 - (1) Inventory of existing marinas including number of slips along the Ohio River shore in Kentucky.
 - (2) Identify needs of marinas including number and size of slips required.
 - (3) Identify and map potential marina sites based upon needs analysis, highway access, topography and potential physical hazards to marinas and boaters.
 - (4) Identify environmentally sensitive areas in the vicinity of potential marinas, including cultural resources, habitat and aesthetic resources.
 - (5) Prioritize potential marina sites when more than one is identified within a general area or community.

- (6) Identify available federal and state assistance programs and permitting requirements that are relevant to marina development.
- c. The goal of this study was to locate potential marina sites that, following development, would satisfy or partially satisfy boating needs in an area, increase employment opportunities in the private sector and promote tourism.

5. **Purchase Area Open Space and Recreation Plan, 1974**

- a. This Plan was prepared for the Purchase Area Development District by Environetic Research Corporation in 1974. The broadest goal of this plan was to inform the officials of the Purchase Area Development District (PADD) of open space and recreation needs in the eight counties encompassed by the district. Specific objectives were:
 - (1) To analyze all publicly and privately owned open space and recreational facilities according to size, location, population served and social and scientific significance.
 - (2) To compare the data on existing facilities and open space to nationally accepted standards; to determine from such a comparison the absence or abundance of open space and recreational facilities in the PADD; and to set development priorities accordingly.
 - (3) To establish policies for area development and preservation that will meet the needs and demands of residents in the Purchase Area Development District.
 - (4) To provide information on the financing of recreation and open space programs through available state and federal funds.
- b. The staff of the Purchase Area Development District was responsible for conducting field surveys and for collecting a major portion of the data used in this report. Information was also retrieved from existing published sources and meetings held with representatives from each county. Environetic Research was responsible for analyzing all data collected.
- c. Pertinent sources such as the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 1972, The National Recreation Association Standards for recreational facilities, publications from tourist-oriented associations, and regional planning documents of the Purchase Area Development District were utilized in the compilation of data and in the

formulation of recommendations and conclusions. In addition, persons knowledgeable in the fields of forestry, soil science, agriculture, botany, and wildlife were interviewed by Environetic Research in an effort to present a better understanding of the potentials and limitations of land within the Purchase Area Development District.

6. **Economic Facility Feasibility Study for a Theme Park Concept, March, 1994**

The concept of developing a theme park along the Paducah Waterfront was investigated in this study by the firm of Whitney, Johns and Company in 1994. This theme park would consist of rides, amusements, attractions, food concessions, games and retails shops or kiosks. The study determined that the project may not be economically feasible due to the significant amount of initial investment coupled with the size of the site location. The cost of development was \$26.5 million which would result in high ticket prices and require high usage, which is not probable with a traditional style theme park with an area of less than three acres.

7. **Paducah KyDAT, by the Kentucky Design Assistance Team, October 6-9, 1988, with the Kentucky Society of Architects and the Kentucky Society of Landscape Architects.**

- a. This study is the result of a four day intensive study to analyze issues regarding the proposed development of downtown Paducah and the Paducah area. It provided concepts for adaptive reuse of the downtown area, development of riverfront bikeway and pedway, a marina complex, Shultz Park Improvements, Waterworks and Transportation Museum, Broadway and River Gateway Park, and a variety of implementation strategies.
- b. This proposed plan envisioned maintenance of one way vehicular access through the park for viewing; separation of pedestrian and vehicular functions; an overhead linkage across the floodwall to the downtown redevelopment area; seating nodes for viewing and shade; and redevelopment of existing plantings. The plan further provided extension of the pedways/bikeways to the east, through the park to link the downtown with the downtown development and the Marina Complex to the west. Several sketches accompanied the plan showing the potential for development in this area.
- c. The Marina Complex portion of this Kentucky Design Assistance Study recommended a marina to be located northwest of the Executive Inn and east of the municipal water intake. This proposed marina would include slips with appropriate hook ups, marine store, full service restaurant, shower and sleepover accommodations, access ramp, parking, breakwater, camping

facilities, and scenic points and overlooks. The study included financial plans showing the cost of the proposed improvements and concluded with several letters of support from various organizations for the development.

8. **Downtown Riverfront Development Plan, Prepared By: Land Design/Research, Inc., October 1989**

The development objectives include the following:

- a. The need to prepare an exciting, practical, and implementable plan for Paducah's Downtown/Riverfront area.
 - (1) Using Downtown/Riverfront revitalization as a key element of the community's broader economic development effort.
 - (2) Developing a lead project that would have year round impact and be of use and interest to local citizens and visitors alike. A project with local, regional, and state economic impact.
 - (3) Insisting on quality development, both public and private.
- b. The primary objective of the initial phase of planning was to conduct an assessment of the potential uses for the Downtown/Riverfront Study area and development of a Concept Plan. The project focus area involves the vacant properties, bounded generally by the Ohio River on the east, west to Second Street, north to Jefferson Street, west to Third Street, north along Third Street to Monroe Street, east to Second Street, north along Second Street to Madison Street, and then back to the River.
- c. The Executive Summary included the following:

Overall development objectives:

 - (1) A physical assessment with design objectives.
 - (2) Opportunities and constraints assessment.
 - (3) A market assessment, which included employment trends and projections, population trends and projections, household and average household income trends and projections, and total personal income trends and projections. The plan also included a development program and Concept Plan. This stated that Paducah is uniquely positioned within a largely rural setting to become a special place to visit within a large (44 million population) mid-America region, which is roughly defined as an

approximately 500 mile driving radius from Paducah. In essence, Downtown Paducah becomes the Mid-America complex, not just in terms of public attractions, but also in terms of business and economic development.

- d. The plan then included an implementation plan and action strategies for the development of the complex. Some other recommendations included the American Quilting Museum, Collectibles and Crafts Concept Development, Paducah Cultural Center, Paducah/McCracken County Tourism and Promotion Center, Riverfront Museum Restaurant, and a Mid-America Observation Tower, The Convention Center, Town Square, floodwall opening, Second Street Streetscape, Third, Fourth, and Kentucky Streetscape, Jefferson, Monroe, Madison, Harrison, and Clay Streetscape, Riverfront Park, and Parking Garage. The plan then included the benefits of the implementation and economic impact.
- e. A Phase II Redevelopment Plan was completed in 1991-1992. This was basically a request from the State for \$20 million for the need as presented, which included a public assembly facility of 85,000 square feet, a parking garage, and River Heritage Center with a Children's Museum.

D. Budget and Staff

1. Budget

Table 3 indicates that the current year 2002 budget for parks and recreation is \$2,203,015. This has steadily increased over the last two years with increases in all of the separate categories of grounds, pools, civic center, administration and recreation. All of these categories are under the administration of the Parks Services Department, with the exception of grounds maintenance which is managed by the Public Works Department. Some of the growth is the result of restructuring of the City Organization such as the reassignment of staff between departments.

2. Staff

Currently the City Parks Services Department employs seven full time employees, eighteen part time employees and approximately 42 seasonal employees. In addition, the Public Works Department includes 21 employees which includes 19 workers and two managers with two dedicated to the cemetery. They also use nine seasonal employees and 8 Class D felons for plantings and Boulevards. Many of these workers are involved in grounds maintenance in the parks.

Table 2
Paducah Parks Budget History

	2002	2001	2000
Grounds Maintenance	\$1,250,350	\$1,041,707	\$976,395
Pools	\$108,770	\$99,856	\$114,714
Civic Center	\$43,500	\$25,665	\$32,505
Administration and Sports Staff	\$488,150	\$326,391	\$350,750
Recreation Programming	\$312,245	\$276,305	\$219,719
Total	\$2,205,017	\$1,771,925	\$1,696,083

E. Programs

1. The list of programs provided by the Staff of the Paducah Parks and Recreation Department identifies a variety of innovative programs for youth and adults. Some programs, such as the athletic leagues at Jetton Gym, appear to be well attended by youth and adults and establish the need for a new gym complex with the new Recreation/Community Center recommended as the top priority by the Advisory boards as well as Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
2. Numerous programs are provided for pre-school children and teens. The best-attended programs held in 2001-2002 is the special events for teens such as the Teen Board's Strobe Light Bowling Event that drew 235 in attendance.
3. Overall attendance figures for Paducah Parks and Recreation is lacking and staff agrees that the development of a better tracking system for gathering attendance will also be helpful in the development of future programs.



III. Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

A. Overview of Parks and Recreation in Paducah and McCracken County

The residents of Paducah and McCracken County are offered a wide variety of parks, recreation facilities and programs. The needs are currently being met primarily by the Paducah Parks Department, school facilities and parks provided by many of the communities within the County. Table 4 provides a summary of the parks and recreation areas and facilities within McCracken County and also indicates the park type category within each park. Public and private parks, recreation areas and schools are included on this table.

Of the parks available within the study area, the most heavily used is Bob Noble Park. The majority of the parks that are used by residents are operated by the City of Paducah. The other larger community parks used by the community include Stuart Nelson Park, Brooks Stadium and Park, Lone Oak Park, and several smaller parks. In addition, the City operates the Paxton Golf Course and leases space in the Jetton Gym for indoor recreation activities.

B. City Parks

1. Bob Noble Park (135 Acres) & Peck Addition (41 Acres)



a. Site Location – This park is located on the north side of Park Avenue and on the west side of HC Mathis Drive.

b. Existing Facilities

- (1) One (1) outdoor theater
- (2) Six (6) tennis courts
- (3) Eight (8) softball/baseball fields
- (4) One (1) volleyball court
- (5) Eight (8) basketball goals and four (4) courts
- (6) Two (2) playgrounds
- (7) Quarter mile walking trails
- (8) Twenty four (24) picnic shelters
- (9) One (1) swimming pool
- (10) One (1) lake
- (11) A road was completed in 2002 from Cairo Road to Bob Noble Park through the Peck Addition.



- 1. Bob Noble Park and Peck Addition
- 2. Stuart Nelson Park
- 3. Brooks Stadium & Sheppard Field
- 4. Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park
- 5. Kolb Park
- 6. Blackburn Park
- 7. Henry Clay Park
- 8. Campbell Park
- 9. Keiler Park
- 10. Voor Park
- 11. Martin Luther King Memorial
- 12. Caldwell Park
- 13. Lang Park
- 14. Cherry Park #2
- 15. Forrest Cove Park
- 16. Midtown Golf Course/Southside Park
- 17. Paxton Golf Course
- 18. Cherry Civic Center
- 19. Parks Service Office/Senior Complex
- 20. Jetton Gym
- 21. Perkins Creek Nature Preserve
- 22. St. Mary's School
- 23. Clark Elementary School
- 24. Cooper-Whiteside Elementary School
- 25. McNabb Elementary School
- 26. Morgan Elementary School
- 27. Paducah Middle School
- 28. Paducah Tilghman High School
- 29. Paducah Community College
- 30. Carson Park
- 31. Drury Inn Soccer Field
- 32. Executive Inn/Julian Carroll Convention Center and Expo Center
- 33. McCracken County Soccer Complex
- 34. Lone Oak Park (Doc Hicks Park)
- 35. Lone Oak Elementary
- 36. Hendron Elementary and Lone Oak High Schools
- 37. Husband Road Baseball Complex
- 38. Reidland-Farley BSA
- 39. Reidland High and Middle School
- 40. Farley Elementary School
- 41. Reidland Elementary

- 42. Reidland Community Park
- 43. Heath Schools
- 44. Concord Park
- 45. Heath Community Park
- 46. Paducah Tilghman Soccer Field
- 47. W.C. Young Community Center
- 48. Cherry Park #1
- 49. Oak Grove Cemetary
- 50. Downtown Parking Lot/Plaza
- 51. Dolly McNutt Park
- 52. Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club
- 53. Housing Authority Sites
- 54. Salvation Army
- 55. Four Rivers Center
- 56. County Schools Administration Complex
- 57. Forest Hills Adult Education Center
- 58. Community Christian Academy Sites
- 59. Levee and Floodwall
- 60. Bridge Street Open Space

State and Federal Land
 A. Clarks River Nature Preserve
 B. West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area
 C. Metropolis Lake State Nature Preservation
 D. Fort Muskee State Park (Illinois)

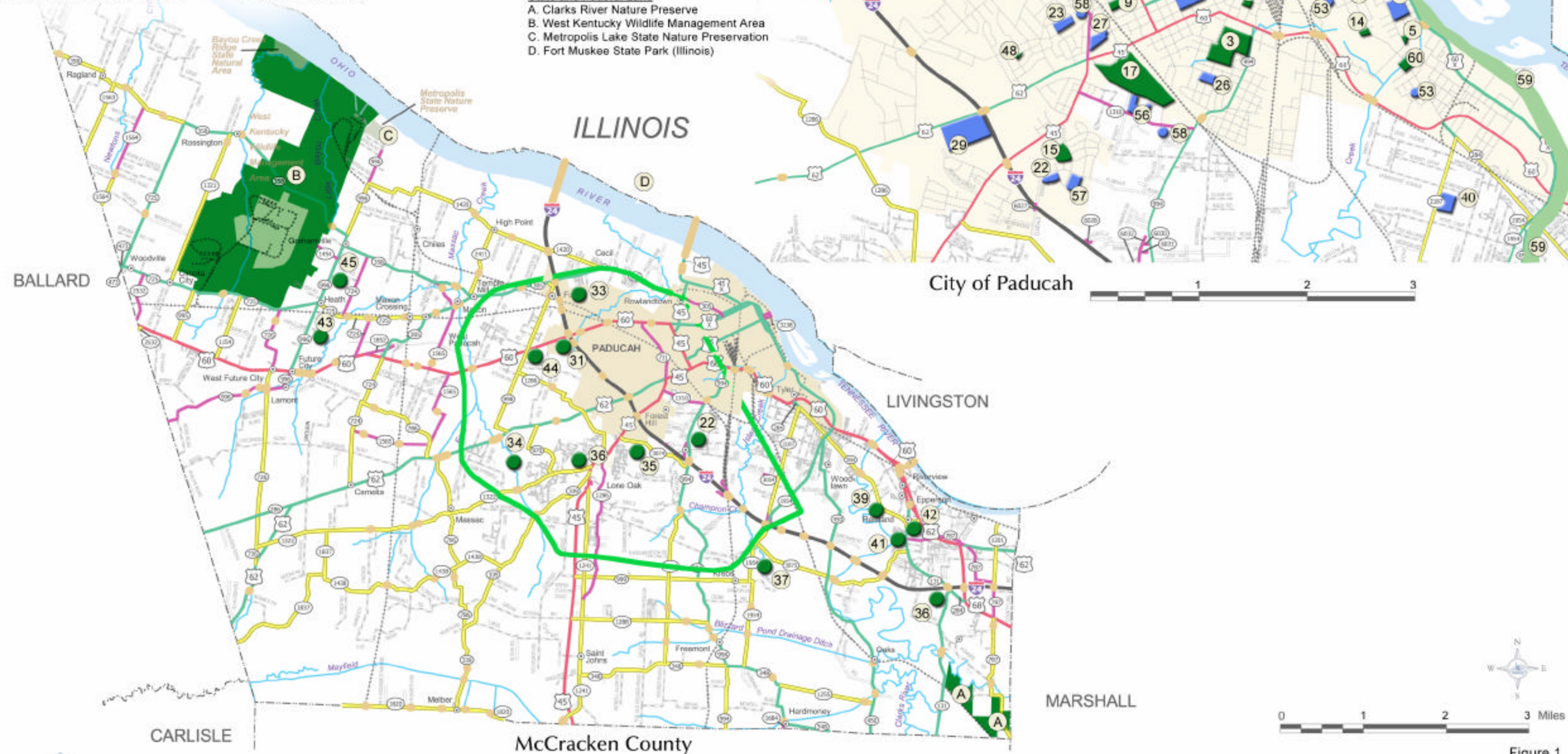


Figure 1



Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

**Table 3
Paducah & McCracken County, Kentucky
Parks and Recreation Resources Inventory**

Site ID.	Facility Name	Park Type	Devel. Acres	Total Acres	FACILITIES													Other Comments
					Outdoor Theater	Tennis Courts	Baseball/ Softball	Volley- ball	Foot- ball	Soccer	Basketball Goals	Play- ground	Trails (Miles)	Picnic Shelter	Swimming Pool	Gym		
Public Facilities in the City of Paducah																		
1	Bob Noble Park & Peck Addition	Community	135	176	1	6	8	1			8	2	0.25	24	1			
2	Stuart Nelson Park	Community	75	75			4					1		10				
3	Brooks Stadium & Park	Community	43	75			1			3							One rugby field	
4	Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park	Special Use	2	7.8	1												2 Boat Launch Ramps and Stage	
5	Kolb Park	Neighborhood	2.8	2.8			1					1		1	1			
6	Blackburn Park	Neighborhood	2.4	2.4			1				2	1		1	1			
7	Henry Clay Park	Neighborhood	6.2	6.2									0.25					
8	Campbell Park (Betsy Ross Park)	Mini-Park	0.6	0.6								1		1			Broken basketball goal	
9	Keiler Park	Mini-Park	2	2								1		4				
10	Voor Park	Mini-Park	0.4	0.4							1							
11	Martin Luther King Memorial	Green Space	0.3	0.3														
12	Caldwell Park	Green Space	0.2	0.2														
13	Lang Park	Green Space	2.3	2.3														
14	Cherry Park #2	Green Space	0	2.1														
15	Forrest Cove Park	Green Space	0	6														
16	Southside Park - Midtown Golf Course	Special Use	10	10							4			1			9 hole par 3 golf	
17	Paxton Golf Course	Special Use	133	133													18 hole golf course	
18	Cherry Civic Center	Special Use															Meeting rooms	
19	Parks Services Office/Senior Center	Special Use	0.8	0.8						2							5 Classrooms, meeting room	
20	Jetton Gym	Special Use															1 Leased	
21	Perkins Creek Nature Preserve	Nature Preserve	0	80													Undeveloped	
47	W.C. Young Community Center	Special Use															Meeting room	
51	Dolly McNutt Plaza	Special Use	3	3													Civic Plaza	
60	Bridge Street Open Space	Undeveloped	3.0	3.4													Open Space	
Subtotal			422	589.3	2	6	15	1	0	5	15	7	0.5	42	3	1		
Facilities by Others in Paducah																		
22	St Mary's School	Neighborhood	4.1	4.1			1			1		1				1	Private School	
23	Clark Elementary	Mini-Park	0.5	0.5								1				1		
24	Cooper-Whiteside Elementary	Mini-Park	0.5	0.5								1				1		
25	McNabb Elementary	Mini-Park	0.5	0.5								1				1		



Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Site ID.	Facility Name	Park Type	Devel. Acres	Total Acres	FACILITIES													Other Comments
					Outdoor Theater	Tennis Courts	Baseball/ Softball	Volley- ball	Foot- ball	Soccer	Basketball Goals	Play- ground	Trails (Miles)	Picnic Shelter	Swimming Pool	Gym		
26	Morgan Elementary	Mini-Park	0.5	0.5								1				1		
27	Paducah Middle School	Mini-Park	0.5	0.5							2					1		
28	Paducah Tilghman High School	Special Use	2	2		7										1	Track	
29	Paducah Community College	Private	4	4			1			1						1	Private Facilities - Owned by PCC Board that includes City and County	
30	Carson Park	Special Use	19	19													County Equestrian Park	
31	Drury Inn Soccer Field	Neighborhood	1	1						1							Leisure Space	
32	Executive Inn	Private													1		Indoor Pool	
33	McCracken County Soccer Complex	Community	13.1	13.1						10							On landfill site	
46	Paducah Tilghman Soccer Field	Special Use	3.2	3.2						1							High School use only	
57	Forest Hills Adult Education Center	Mini Park	1	8.0								1						
	Subtotal		49.9	56.9	0	7	2	0	0	14	2	6	0	0	1	8		
	TOTAL FACILITIES IN PADUCAH		471.9	646.2	2	13	17	1	0	19	17	13	0.5	42	4	9		
South Central McCracken County																		
34	Lone Oak Park (Doc Hicks Park)	Community	26	26		10	7					1		3				
35	Lone Oak Elementary	Mini-Park	0.7	0.7							8	1				1		
36	Hendron Elementary and Lone Oak High School	Neighborhood	12	12			2		1			1				2		
East McCracken County																		
37	Husband Road Baseball Complex	Community	20	20			4											
38	Reidland - Farley BSA	Community	10	10			5											
39	Reidland High School and Middle School	Neighborhood	5.2	5.2			1		1							2		
40	Farley Elementary	Mini-Park	2	2							2	1				1		
41	Reidland Elementary	Neighborhood	9	9			1			1		1				1		
42	Reidland Community Center and Dr. Robert Fisher Park	Neighborhood	3	3		2						1					Community Center	
A	Clarks Run Nature Preserve	State/Federal															Nature Preserve	
West McCracken County																		
43	Heath Schools	Neighborhood	15	15			2		1	1		1				2		
44	Concord Park	Neighborhood	5	5			3			2		1				1	At Concord School	
45	Heath Community Park	Community	12.5	12.5		6	4			1	2	1		1				
B	West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area	State	5	6969													Hunting, primitive camping, picnicking	
C	Metropolis Lake State Nature Preserve	State	2	123									0.75				Nature Preserve	
	TOTAL FACILITIES IN MCCRACKEN COUNTY		127.4	7212.4	0	18	29	0	3	5	12	9	0.75	4	0	10		
	TOTAL FACILITIES CITY AND COUNTY		599.3	7858.6	2	31	46	1	3	24	29	22	1.25	46	4	19		



Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

2. **Stuart Nelson Park (75 Acres)**



a. Site Location – This park is located off US 60 off of Stuart Nelson Park Road.

b. Existing Facilities

(1) Four (4) softball/baseball fields

(2) One (1) playground with two swing sets

(3) Ten (10) small picnic shelters

(4) The main driveway is asphalt but some of the parking areas are gravel.



3. **Brooks Stadium and Park (75 Acres) (Includes Sheppard Soccer Field)**

a. Site Location – This park is located on Brooks Stadium Drive off of 21st Street.

b. Existing Facilities

(1) One (1) 3000 seat baseball stadium

(2) Three (3) soccer fields

(3) One (1) walking path with footbridge

(4) One (1) rugby field

(5) Paved and gravel parking lots

(6) A large wooded area with a creek



4. **Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park (7.8 Acres)**

a. Site Location – This park is located along the Ohio River between Harrison Street and Route 45.

b. Existing Facilities

(1) One (1) outdoor theater (Wilson Stage)

(2) Two (2) boat launch ramps

(3) Asphalt parking lot





Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

- (4) Benches and sidewalk
- (5) Moveable floating dock

5. Kolb Park (2.8 Acres)



- a. Site Location – This park is located on the corner of 6th Street and Broad Street.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - (1) One (1) baseball/softball field
 - (2) One (1) playground
 - (3) One (1) picnic shelter
 - (4) One (1) swimming pool

6. Blackburn Park (2.4 Acres)



- a. Site Location – This park is at the corner of Caldwell and Jetton Boulevard.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - (1) One (1) ballfield with a few lights
 - (2) One (1) basketball court with an asphalt surface
 - (3) One (1) parking lot
 - (4) One (1) playground with two swing sets
 - (5) One (1) picnic shelter
 - (6) One (1) swimming pool



7. Henry Clay Park (6.2 Acres)



- a. Site Location – This park is located on Joe Bryan Drive between 19th and 21st Streets.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - (1) One (1) Paved walking trail



Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

- (2) Five (5) benches

8. Campbell Park (Betsy Ross Park) (.6 Acres)

- a. Site Location – This park is located on the corner of Langstaff and 14th Street.



- b. Existing Facilities

- (1) One (1) small picnic shelter
- (2) One (1) small slide
- (3) One (1) set of swings with two swings



9. Keiler Park (2 Acres)

- a. Site Location – This park is located on Broadway and Nahm Street.



- b. Existing Facilities

- (1) Four (4) small picnic shelters
- (2) One (1) playground with three sets of swings, two dinosaur bucking toys, see-saw snake and one fairly new piece of playground equipment
- (3) One (1) small gravel parking area for approximately 20 cars



10. Voor Park (.4 Acres)

- a. Site Location – This park is located on the corner of 12th Street and Martin Luther King Avenue.



- b. Existing Facilities

- (1) One (1) half court basketball court
- (2) One (1) walkway
- (3) One (1) planting area





11. Martin Luther King Memorial (.3 Acres)

- a. Site Location – This park is an island between Park Avenue and Martin Luther King Drive
- b. Existing Facilities – A monument to Dr. Martin Luther King



12. Caldwell Park (0.2 Acres)

- a. Site Location – This park is at the corner of Park and 14th Street.
- b. Existing Facilities – A monument for Almyr Sherrell Edwards



13. Lang Park (2.3 Acres)

- a. Site Location – This park is located on the intersection of 12th Street and Madison Street.
- b. Existing Facilities – Includes an open space and a round-about area with Oak Trees and a statue of General Tighlman in the center. There are walkways radiating out to the four roads on the sides.



14. Cherry Park #2 (2.1 Acres)

- a. Site Location – This park is located on South 9th Street.
- b. Existing Facilities – This park is just an open field and is surrounded by a creek and trees to the outside edges.



15. Forest Cove Park (6 Acres)

- a. Site Location – Forrest Avenue at Rustic Avenue
- b. Existing Facilities – Not developed



Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

16. **Southside Park – Midtown Golf Course (10 Acres)**



- a. Site Location – This park is on Washington Street just off of Walter Jetton Boulevard. A portion of the property is leased from the P&L Railroad
- b. Existing Facilities
 - (1) Four (4) basketball goals
 - (2) One (1) picnic shelter
 - (3) One (1) nine hole par three golf course

17. **Paxton Golf Course (133 Acres)**

- a. Site Location – This park is located on the corner of Route 62 and Holland Avenue.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - (1) One (1) eighteen hole golf course
 - (2) Lounge-Pro Shop

18. **Cherry Civic Center**

- a. Site Location – Park Avenue at H.C. Mathis Drive
- b. Existing Facilities – Meeting rooms

19. **Park Services Office/Senior Center (.8 Acres)**

- a. Site Location – This center on HC. Mathis Drive adjacent to the Paducah Park Services Building.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - (1) Two (2) soccer fields with two small sets of bleachers
 - (2) Five classrooms and a large meeting room with kitchen
 - (3) Parks Services and Senior Services offices

20. **Jetton Gym**

- a. Site Location – This facility is located on the corner of Jackson Street and South 12th Street.



Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

- b. Existing Facilities – One (1) gymnasium

21. **Perkins Creek Nature Preserve (80 Acres)**

- a. Site Location – This park is located on County Park Road which is off of Hinkleville Road.
- b. Existing Facilities – Undeveloped.

22. Dolly McNutt Park

- a. Site Location – In the block bordered by City Hall, Public Library and the County Courthouse.
- b. Existing Facilities – Urban plaza with benches, trees a pool and fountain.

C. Schools

1. Several of the schools throughout the City and the County provide parks and recreation facilities and serve as neighborhood parks for the surrounding community. Most of the middle schools and elementary schools provide playgrounds such as at Clark Elementary, Cooper-Whiteside Elementary, McNabb Elementary, Morgan Elementary and at the Forest Hills Adult Education Center. Some of the facilities used by high schools are not accessible to the rest of the population such as football fields, soccer fields and similar facilities that have limited use to keep the facilities in good condition. The City of Paducah recently contributed toward the renovation of the track at Paducah Tilghman High School and therefore this track is open to the public for walking. In addition, the High School also has seven new lighted tennis courts.
2. Outside of the Paducah City limits, the school sites serve even more heavily as neighborhood and community parks. For example, there are approximately 12 acres of developed recreation facilities at Hendron Elementary and Lone Oak High School including baseball/softball fields, football fields, playgrounds and the usage of the gymnasiums. Facilities are also provided at Reidland High School and Middle School, Farley Elementary School, Reidland Elementary, Heath School Complex and the Concord School Complex site. Specific facilities are listed on Table 3.

D. County Park Facilities

1. McCracken County has contributed to the development of some parks throughout the County. Some of them include the following:
 - a. Carson Park – This park is a special use park geared toward the County Fair and equestrian events and includes primarily a



Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

harness track. The bleachers can accommodate 3,300 people and a project is currently in progress to cover the bleachers. The Paducah Kiwanis Club and County Extension Service are funding the project. A portable stage is also being purchased. These improvements will allow a wider variety of events to be held at the park.

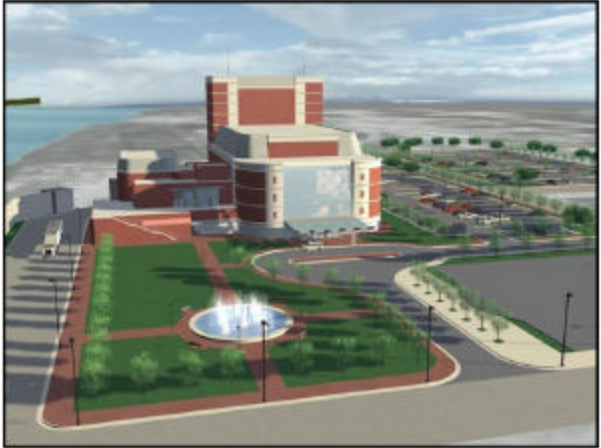
- b. McCracken County Soccer Complex – This complex includes a little over 13 acres and has ten soccer fields of various sizes. This complex was developed on an old landfill site and there has been substantial settling in the parking lots and the soccer field areas.
- c. In addition to these parks, the County has also participated in improvements at the Reidland-Farley Baseball/Softball Association Complex. This site includes five baseball/softball fields on ten acres of land.
- d. The City participated in the improvements to the Reidland Community Center also.

E. Facilities by Others

1. **Executive Inn-Julian Carroll Convention and Expo Center** – The swimming pool at the Executive Inn is used for some competitions. The new Expo Center was designed to allow for indoor exhibits and potentially indoor soccer.
2. **Drury Inn** – The Drury Inn on Route 60 has one soccer field that is leased for use.
3. **Paducah Community College** – The Community College has a baseball field, tennis courts and an indoor gymnasium that are currently used very little. There are trees growing on the baseball field. Athletic programs have not been included in the curriculum at the college for several years. These facilities provide an excellent opportunity for increasing the recreation opportunities without purchasing additional land. The property is owned by the Paducah Community College Board that includes the City and County.
4. **The Husband Road Baseball Complex** – This site includes approximately 20 acres with four baseball fields that have been developed in the very recent past.
5. **Heath Community Park** includes approximately 12.5 acres with tennis courts, four baseball/softball fields, a soccer field, basketball goals, playground and picnic shelter. Some of the facilities on this site are in poor condition.



Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

6. **Concord Park** – In addition to the facilities at the school in Concord there are also baseball/softball fields, soccer fields and a playground when you combine the facilities at the school and the park together.
7. **Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club** – This facility is located adjacent to Southside Park and the Midtown Golf Course. Their facility provides golf clubs and balls for youth golf. The facility has a multipurpose room.
8. **Salvation Army** – This facility includes a gymnasium.
9. **Civil Air Patrol Building** – Located at the airport, the City and County own the building and it is available for community organization use.
10. **Housing Authority Sites** – Three Housing Authority sites throughout the City provide space and facilities that act as mini-parks for their residents.
11. **Four Rivers Center for the Performing Arts** – This is a regional, multiuse facility with space for public and private events of all types. The \$34 million center will have an 1,800 seat main hall, multipurpose room, founders room, spacious lobby and Riverview terrace. Total usable square feet is 97,750. Completion of the 10 story performance center is scheduled in 2003. The center will spur further business development, increase tourism and provide expanded educational opportunities for the area school children. The addition of a regional entertainment and cultural center is an important piece of the quality of life.
12. **Doc Hicks Park in Lone Oak** – This park consists of 26 acres with a wide variety of recreation activities which include 10 quality tennis courts, 7 baseball/softball fields, playground, and 3 picnic shelters.
13. **Reidland Community Center in Dr. Robert Fisher Park** – This is a small neighborhood park with three acres in the Reidland area which includes 2 tennis courts, a playground and a community center.

F. State and Federal Areas

1. **West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area** – This facility provides 6,969 acres and is located in the western portion of McCracken County.



The area includes seven fishing ponds, picnicking and hiking facilities as well as primitive camping in designated areas. The environment of this area includes Tupelo Swamp, Riverside Cottonwood trees where eagles perch, native prairie vegetation, and a variety of wildflowers. The habitat is primarily flat terrain, old farms, and small wood lots in addition to 500 acres of woodlands. Deer, squirrel, rabbit, quail, dove, raccoon, and ducks are found here. It is the site of the Invitational Quail Championship Field Trial which is held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

2. **Metropolis LakeState Nature Preserve** – This 123 acre tract is managed by the Kentucky Nature Preserve’s Commission. It contains 50 acre Metropolis Lake, which is one of only a few natural lakes in the Ohio River floodplain. The lake is ringed with Bald Cypress and Swamp Tupelo and provides habitat for five species of fish, two species of plants, and a crayfish that are uncommon in Kentucky. The preserve is also a watchable wildlife site. The preserve includes a .75 mile interpretative trail over uneven terrain and a parking lot for 20 cars and 2-3 buses. Activities in the park include bird watching, hiking and nature studies.
3. **Ft. Massic State Park in Illinois** – This state park is located immediately across the Interstate 24 bridge into Illinois. The park includes 1,450 acres and it was Illinois’ first state park and designated in 1908. Facilities include a reconstructed timber fortification which is a replica of one built in 1794. There is also a museum. Activities at this park include picnicking, camping, hiking, boating and hunting.
4. **Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge** – Clarks River NWR is one of more than 500 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Clarks River NWR provides habitat for natural diversity of wildlife associated with the Clarks River floodplain including: wintering habitat for migratory water fowl, habitat for non-game migratory birds and opportunities for wildlife dependent recreation. This area is located in Western Kentucky between Benton and Paducah on the east fork of the Clarks River, the Clarks River NWR is comprised of over 7,000 acres and continues to grow through the purchase of land. Clarks River NWR is the only natural wildlife refuge solely located within the State of Kentucky.

Public Use Opportunities at Clarks River NWR include hunting and fishing, wildlife observation and photography, hiking, wildlife education and interpretive programs.

Only a small portion of the Clarks River NWR is located in McCracken County with the majority being located in Marshall County along Clarks River. The areas in McCracken County include Blizzard Pond along Route 450 and the Shady Grove area which is located east of Route 131.

IV. Needs Analysis

A. General

The Needs Analysis consists of the following elements:

1. The classification of existing parks and recreation facilities into standard park classifications.
2. A discussion of the parks and recreation area needs by park types.
3. A discussion of the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities.
4. A summary of the needs from discussions with specific groups.
5. A summary of the parks and recreation survey that was accomplished in 2001.
6. A discussion of National and State Surveys.
7. A facility needs analysis based upon accepted standards and past experience of the Consultant.
8. A summary of the overall parks and recreation needs.

B. Parks and Recreation Classification System

The purpose of developing a park and recreation classification system is to evaluate the total recreation opportunities that are being made available to the public. Too often, a community will “meet the standard” in terms of acreage, but it may meet this provision through only a single park that does not provide for the entire County. Therefore, a system of parks should be developed that provides a combination of local space such as mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks with county-wide space such as linear parks, county parks and support by regional or state parks.

The parks and recreation facilities inventory in the previous section identified each park by its park type category and also listed the number of specific facilities that are located within each park. Table 4 defines each park by its typical size and service area of each category, population served by each park, typical features and facilities, and the desirable characteristics of each park in these categories. The categories and descriptions were adapted from the Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines that is published by the National Recreation and Parks Association, 1987.



**Table 4
Recommended Park and Recreation Area Classification System**

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE & SERVICE AREA	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
LOCAL SPACE:				
1. Mini-Park (MP)	+/- 1 Acre 1/8 – ½ Mile Service Radius	0.5 Acre/1,000	Typical facilities may include playgrounds, small multi-use court area, and benches.	Most often provided in association with school facilities. May also provide as needed to serve high density neighborhoods where children do not have adequate yard space.
2. Neighborhood Park (NP)	5-15 Acres ½-1.0 mile service radius. To serve a population up to 5,000	2.0 Acres/1,000	Suited for intense development. Typical facilities include field games, court games, playground apparatus, small pools, small neighborhood centers, drinking fountains, and restrooms.	Easily accessible to neighborhood population (safe walking and bike distance) May be developed as park/school facility or in conjunction with service agency facility. May not be needed in areas served by “community”, “county” or “regional” parks.
3. Community Parks (CmP)	25-50+ Acres 1.0-2.0 mile service radius To serve several neighborhoods with populations up to 20,000+.	2.5 Acres/1,000	Typical facilities include all listed for Neighborhood Parks plus; major swimming pool, field or court game complex, major recreation or community center, etc. May be an area of natural quality for picnicking, walking, etc.	Capable of providing a range of intensive recreational; or, provides one or two activities that attract users from multi-neighborhood area. Park should ideally be located at or near a school. May meet needs of neighborhood park for users within a 1-mile radius.
4. Linear Park (LP)	N/A	N/A	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel (pleasure driving, hiking, walking, jogging, biking, etc.). May also include active play areas, fitness courses, picnicking areas, etc.	Built or natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, creek beds, and roads that link other components of the park system or other community facilities (schools, libraries, etc.) with park areas.

**Table 4
Recommended Park and Recreation Area Classification System**

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE & SERVICE AREA	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
5. Special Use-Local (SUL)	Serves community-wide area.	N/A	Area for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, plazas in commercial areas, major pools, riverfront park areas, indoor facilities, etc.	Area should be located to meet the special needs of the intended use.
B. COUNTY SPACE				
6. County Parks (CoP)	200 + Acres 5-6 mile service radius To serve most of the County.	5.0 Acres/1,000	County operated large properties that contain some active recreation facilities and a large percentage of natural or geographical features. Target size of 200 or more acres with 25% developed for active recreation. Located in rural areas but readily accessible to most of the county population. Travel time within 20 minutes. Should be located off of major roads. Destination-oriented parks. Should connect to linear park system.	Capable of providing a range of intensive recreational facilities; Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest. May meet needs of neighborhood and/or community park for users within a 2-mile radius. May include views of the Ohio River.
7. Nature Parks (NaP)	Size as needed to protect the resource.		Majority of park to remain in its natural state. Facilities should support nature education activity including: habitat enhancement, trails, nature centers, interpretive signage, parking and restrooms. The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions.	Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest. Typical size should be over 50 acres for management efficiency. May be smaller in urban areas such as the gardens at the Extension Center.



**Table 4
Recommended Park and Recreation Area Classification System**

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE & SERVICE AREA	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
C. MULTI-COUNTY/REGIONAL SPACE				
8. Regional or State Park (SP)	500 + Acres 30 + mile service radius To serve several counties or region of the state.	20.0 acres/1000	State or multi-county agency operated park with large size. Attracts visitors from multiple counties. Contains some active facilities but primarily large areas of natural environments. Main attractions could include a lodge, outstanding natural features, historical features, trail system or other unique characteristics.	Includes unique natural, cultural or ecological features.

A park system is generally reviewed and analyzed as a composite of recreation areas, each existing to meet a particular public need. Based on a review of national and regional standards, a parks and recreation area classification system has been developed to reflect the actual conditions and opportunities for McCracken County and the communities contained within it.

C. Park and Recreation Area Needs by Park Type

**Table 5
Parks and Recreation Needs by Park Type
Paducah & McCracken County, Kentucky**

Park Type	Recommended Acres/1000 Population	Existing Developed Acres	Paducah		McCracken County		
			2001 Recommended Acres	2001 Surplus / Deficit(-)	Existing Developed Acres	2001 Recommended Acres	2001 Surplus/ Deficit(-)
Mini-Park	0.5	6.5	13.15	-6.65	9.2	32.75	-23.55
Neighborhood	2	16.5	52.6	-36.1	54.7	131	-76.3
Community	8	266	210.4	55.6	324.5	524	-199.5
Special Use	N/A	145.8	N/A	N/A	145.8	N/A	N/A
Linear	N/A		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
Total	10.5	434.8	276.15	12.85	534.2	687.75	-299.35

Population Basis
 Paducah in 2000 = 26,307
 McCracken County in 2000 = 65,514
 This table does not consider State or Federal Wildlife Management Areas

Table 5, Parks and Recreation Needs by Park Type, indicates an analysis of the development of parks by these park type categories discussed in the previous section. Based upon these standards, there are plenty of acres of community parks within the City and a shortage of 36 acres of neighborhood parks and almost 8 acres of mini parks for a total deficit of almost 12 acres in the City of developed park land. This is quite different compared to the County where there is a shortage of about 300 acres of park land with the largest shortage being almost 200 acres needed for community parks. The recommended acres per thousand population utilized in this analysis is consistent with previous National Recreation and Park Association Standards and standards used by this Consultant for several other counties and cities throughout Kentucky and surrounding states.

D. Geographic Distribution of Parks and Facilities

1. Geographic Distribution of Parks

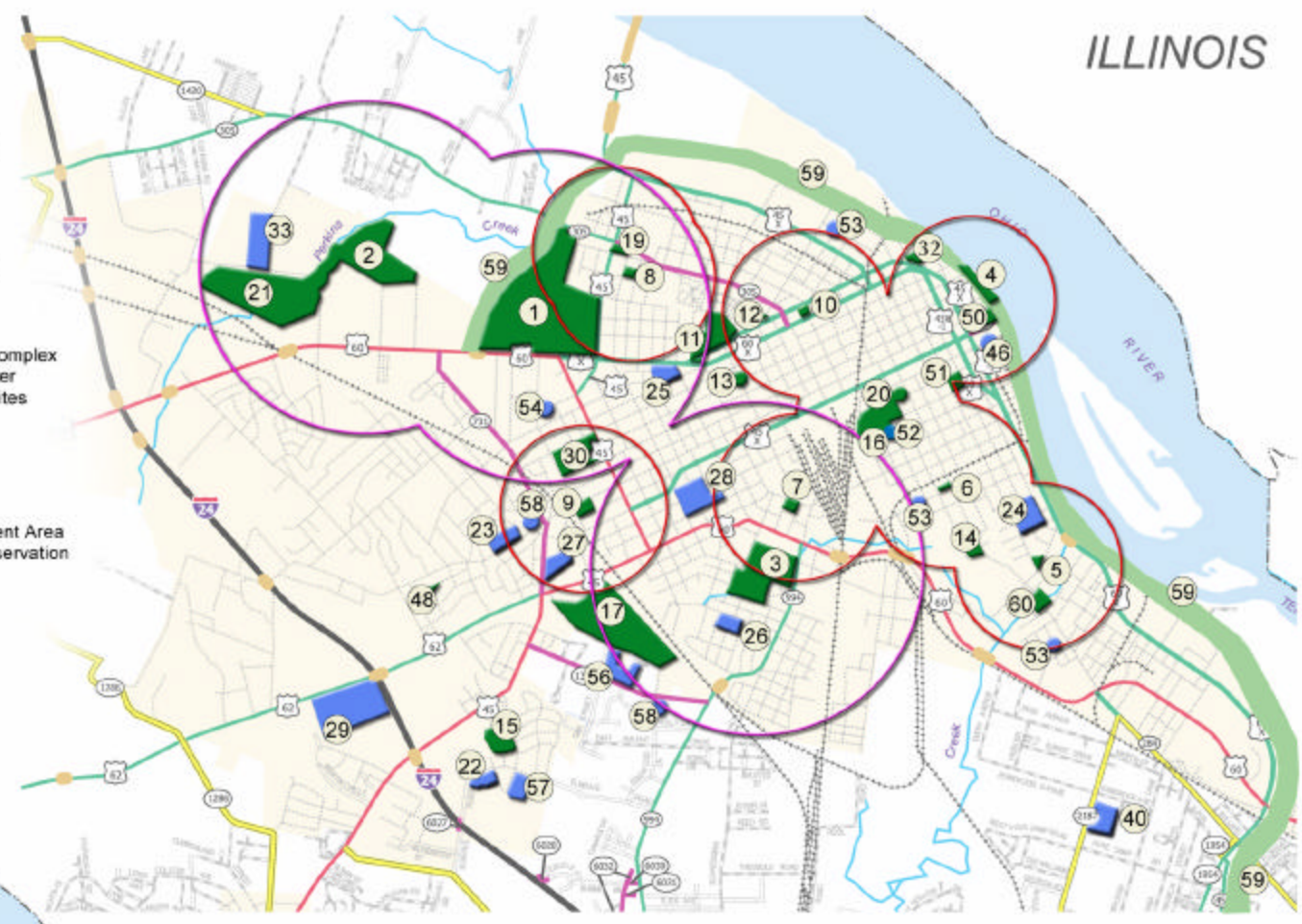
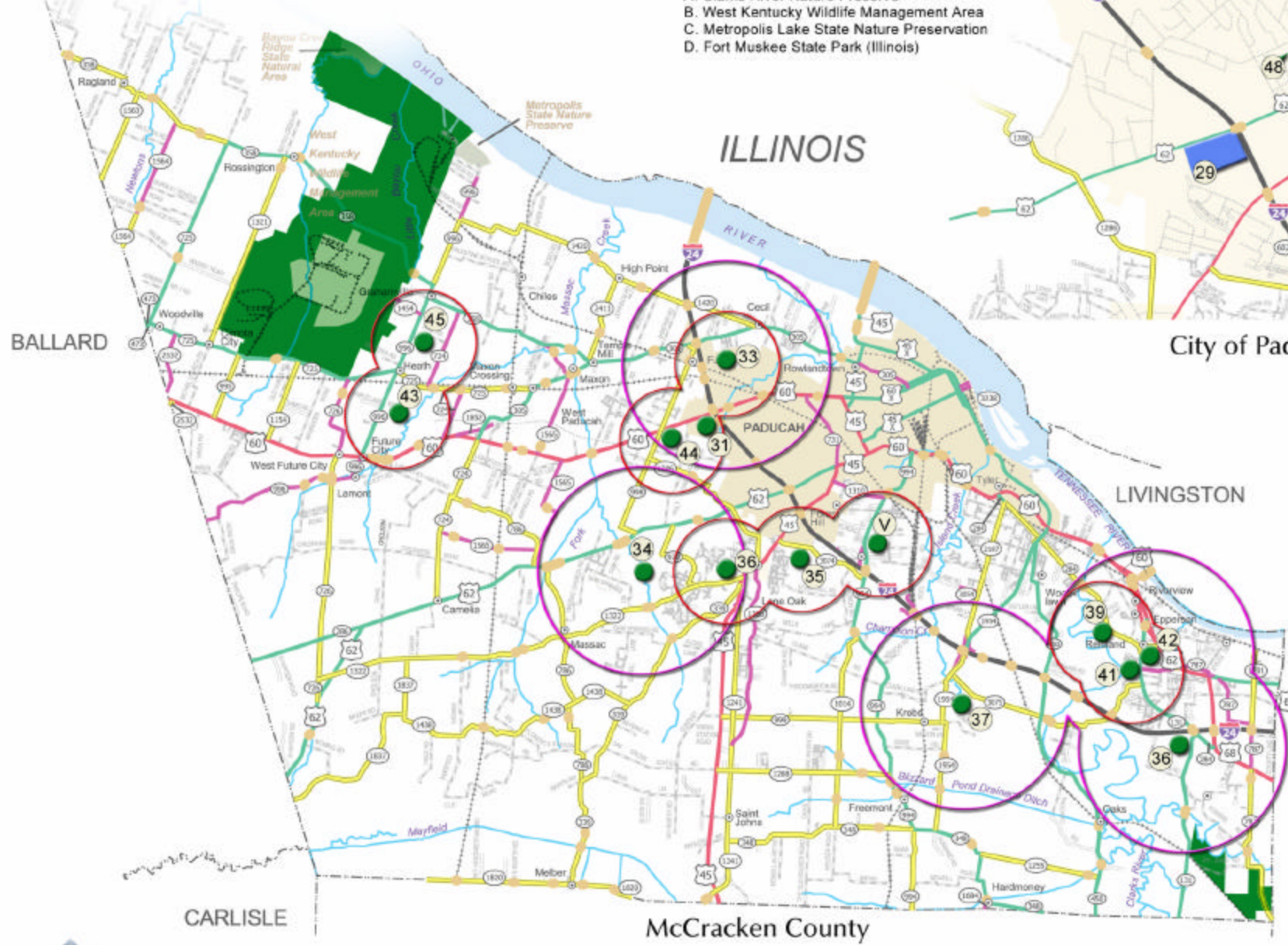
- a. Figure 2, the Existing Park Service Areas map, identifies the area within a half mile of a mini park or neighborhood park and also the area within a mile of a community park or larger park. The figure has a portion on the right within the city limits, and also a county wide map on the left. Within the city limits this plan shows a fairly good distribution throughout the older portions of the City and most of the northern portion of the City is well served by Noble Park. The gap in the delivery of services is located in the west

1. Bob Noble Park and Peck Addition
2. Stuart Nelson Park
3. Brooks Stadium & Sheppard Field
4. Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park
5. Kolb Park
6. Blackburn Park
7. Henry Clay Park
8. Campbell Park
9. Keiler Park
10. Voor Park
11. Martin Luther King Memorial
12. Caldwell Park
13. Lang Park
14. Cherry Park #2
15. Forrest Cove Park
16. Midtown Golf Course/Southside Park
17. Paxton Golf Course
18. Cherry Civic Center
19. Parks Service Office/Senior Complex
20. Jetton Gym
21. Perkins Creek Nature Preserve

22. St. Mary's School
23. Clark Elementary School
24. Cooper-Whiteside Elementary School
25. McNabb Elementary School
26. Morgan Elementary School
27. Paducah Middle School
28. Paducah Tilghman High School
29. Paducah Community College
30. Carson Park
31. Drury Inn Soccer Field
32. Executive Inn/Julian Carroll Convention Center and Expo Center
33. McCracken County Soccer Complex
34. Lone Oak Park (Doc Hicks Park)
35. Lone Oak Elementary
36. Hendron Elementary and Lone Oak High Schools
37. Husband Road Baseball Complex
38. Reidland-Farley BSA
39. Reidland High and Middle School
40. Farley Elementary School
41. Reidland Elementary



42. Reidland Community Park
43. Heath Schools
44. Concord Park
45. Heath Community Park
46. Paducah Tilghman Soccer Field
47. W.C. Young Community Center
48. Cherry Park #1
49. Oak Grove Cemetery
50. Downtown Parking Lot/Plaza
51. Dolly McNutt Park
52. Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club
53. Housing Authority Sites
54. Salvation Army
55. Four Rivers Center
56. County Schools Administration Complex
57. Forest Hills Adult Education Center
58. Community Christian Academy Sites
59. Levee and Floodwall
60. Bridge Street Open Space

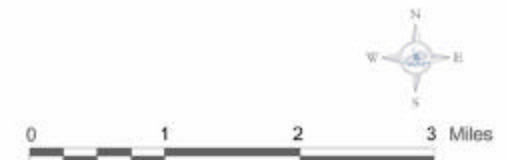
- State and Federal Land**
- A. Clarks River Nature Preserve
 - B. West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area
 - C. Metropolis Lake State Nature Preservation
 - D. Fort Muskee State Park (Illinois)



City of Paducah 0 1 2 3 Miles

Legend

-  1/2 Mile From a Neighborhood Park
-  1 Mile From a Community Park



Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

Architects Engineers Planners
Lexington Cincinnati Cleveland

Paducah & McCracken County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Paducah, Kentucky

Figure 2
Existing Park Service Areas

end of this area where newer residential areas have been developed and park land has not been set aside.

- b. The County map indicates that most of the existing recreation facilities in the unincorporated area are immediately outside the city limits of Paducah, especially in the Lone Oak and Concord Areas. It also shows concentration of parks in the Heath area and in the Reidland area. This plan indicates that there is a large area, especially in the western third of the County and in the southwestern end of the County, that are not very well served by parks. These are primarily agricultural areas with a lot of existing open space where parks are not required as much. The parks in the eastern end of the County are primarily baseball complexes at Reidland and on Husband Road that are limited in the services offered to citizens in these areas.

2. **Citizens Served Per Developed Park Acre**

- a. The current distribution of parks and recreation facilities throughout the City and the County results in a total of 91 citizens served per park acre in the City and 170 citizens per acre in the unincorporated area. The national median is 134 citizens per acre. This indicates that the City has a quantity higher than the national average for developed park land but the unincorporated area of the County is relatively lacking in the number of park areas available.

E. **Interest Groups**

A series of discussions were held with specific interest groups to discuss their needs for facilities, programs and space in the parks. A summary of these group discussions is provided here. More detailed information from these discussions can be found in the Appendices. The information and opinions are recorded as presented by the individuals in the groups and may or may not be accurate.

1. **Sports Council** – The role of the Sports Council is to promote the hosting of athletic competitions in the Paducah area. This discussion included the following:
 - a. They currently host the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Baseball Championships and will bring the OVC golf championships to Paducah Country Club as well. They have a three-year agreement for the OVC Baseball Tournament. They would like to be able to host the OVC Women’s Softball Tournament if they can develop a new softball field for this activity that would be comparable to Brooks Stadium. Ideally, the softball field would be adjacent to Brooks Stadium, built in 1948, to keep the hub of this

activity in this specific area. Ideally, they will have two fields so that they can host the OVC Tournament.

- b. West Kentucky Baseball is the organization that oversees the youth baseball in the area. Now, the youth of both the County and the City program are involved in the youth baseball whereas previously the City was in a separate organization. It was noted that the African-American population is not playing baseball much and this may be partly because much of the activity has moved out to facilities in Lone Oak and the outer communities around Paducah and it is more difficult for Paducah residents to access those facilities.
 - c. There is a need to upgrade the soccer fields in the community. Reidland has good fields and the Jetton Field, which is used by Paducah Tilghman High School for soccer, is a quality field that could be used for an OVC tournament as well.
 - d. Tennis tournaments are held at Lone Oak where there are several courts. There are seven courts at Tilghman High School. Ideally, there would be eight tennis courts in one location that could be used for tournaments for the OVC and KHSAA.
 - e. They feel there is a need for a multi-purpose building, which could host ice-skating, indoor soccer and similar facilities. This could be similar to the Ozzie Smith Complex in St. Louis. At Paducah Community College, the gym is not used and there is a baseball and softball field that is also not used since there are no longer athletic programs at PCC. They do not allow other organizations to use these fields due to liability reasons.
 - f. They feel strongly for the need for an indoor recreation center.
2. **Civil War Reenactment** – In 2002, the second reenactment was held in Noble Park and experienced a dramatic growth over the 2001 event. In the past year, a redoubt has been constructed, which is a small fort-like structure, and bunker that houses cannons. They plan on developing historic panels around the area but these would be removed during times of historic reenactment so that it would look authentic. They had over 400 reenactment participants in their event, which was held on March 22-24, 2002. They came to Paducah on steam ships and then marched down Broadway to the Tilghman House and then to Noble Park for the remainder of the activities. Ideally, the old playground would be removed and portable bleachers would be placed to improve the function of this activity.

They are trying to purchase land adjacent to the Tilghman House so that they can take the parking lot area and develop a smaller parking lot with

some green space, statues and historic panels. Once this is developed they would donate it to the City for maintenance. This would be done adjacent to the Tilghman Heritage Center and be paid for by the Tilghman Heritage Center Foundation. They would also like to buy the old Fort Anderson site, which is near the site of the Old Riverside Hospital. They would like to recreate part of the fort in this area.

They also stated that the 8th of August Emancipation Proclamation was a large event in Stuart Nelson Park for many years which needs to be somehow commemorated with an entry way monument or other feature in this park. The 8th of August celebrations are now held in Noble Park and attract between 2,000 and 10,000 people with the larger number being if it is held during the weekend. They need infrastructure facilities to support these activities.

3. **Paducah Swim Team** – Currently there is no public indoor swimming facility in Paducah. This organization is USA Swimming Organization and has children between 7 and 18 years of age. They currently use the Executive Inn’s pool for their activities. They used a facility at the Baptist Fitness Center but it has been closed. This organization currently has an agreement with the Paducah Athletic Club on Highway 45 to construct a new pool to be used for the team. There are 70 kids in the program now. They use the Noble Park Swimming Pool in the summer. Mark Thompson stated that this facility is really not adequate. They have a waiting list of kids wanting to get on the team. They feel that there is a need for more than just competition swimming but for water aerobics, learn to swim programs, master program and others. Ideally they would have an 8-10 lane, 50 meter pool that would be indoors so that they could have a year round swim program. They feel that there is demand for other activities such as Master Swimming, Tri-athletes and others.
4. **Golf** – Met with Daniel Mullen, Golf Course Operator. They have about 30,000-35,000 rounds of golf per year. They have 240 annual memberships and provide a variety of different types of memberships such as seniors, families and individuals. A lot of their equipment is old and needs to be replaced. Their needs are for new equipment and turf grass improvements.
5. **Skateboarders** – Currently the kids skateboard at the banks and some of the church locations, but they are often kicked off these locations because of damage that they are doing to some of the infrastructure. They also skateboard at some of the park facilities. Areas that they feel a skatepark would be good include Carson Park, near Clark School or in Keiler Park. Some of the facilities that they would like to include in a new skatepark would include humps, moguls, rails, launch ramps, fun boxes, fly boxes, volcano, spine, a kink ramp and also a back-to-back one quarter pipe.

6. **Horseshoes** – Met with Gary Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a strong advocate of horseshoes in the area. He stated that in Nashville there is a building with 72 pits that has a lot of tournaments. They have as many as 2000 pitchers at a national tournament. There are no organizations west of Elizabethtown in Kentucky but there are a lot of horseshoe pitchers. A typical tournament would have 200-300 participants and they would need a minimum of 8 courts but preferably 12 courts to host tournaments. They would make sure that any new courts would be NHPA sanctioned so that they could host tournaments. The design needs to include a concrete box around the pit, blue clay in the pit, backstop and fencing around the facility for safety.

7. **Soccer** – The main need for the soccer organization is for more practice areas. They feel strongly that they need to complete the soccer complex so that they can be self sustaining and to get more money from concessions and tournaments to pay for their expenses. They would like to host soccer tournaments like they do in Marshall County where there are up to 100 teams. Lee Hook runs a soccer program through First Baptist Hospital and has leagues for 2-3 year olds, but the coordination between the fields has not been coordinated well between the two soccer organizations. It is understood that First Baptist will start under 6, under 8 and possibly under 10 leagues.

All of the Paducah Youth Soccer games are played on the weekends. Currently the fields that they use are the two at Sheppard (at the Brooks Stadium site), which there are one under 12 and one under 10 field. At Brooks Stadium there is another under 12 field, at the Parks Office there is an under 8 and one under 10 field. At the County complex there are three under 12's, two under 10's, two under 8's, two under 6's and one practice field. They would need an additional four under 12's and four under 10's to hold a State Cup Tournament. They can do this if they can use the school's facilities, which would include three at the high school and at St. Mary's. There is also a field adjacent to Drury Suites Hotel, which they lease, which is an under 12 field that is used for practice. Consistent maintenance on the facility is needed instead of just volunteer maintenance and maintenance by the County which can sometimes be inconsistent.

8. **Trails and Greenways** – Several individuals representing a desire for bike trails and greenways met. It was stated that currently there is a grant that has been applied for and will be received which includes \$150,000 for the greenway trail with a \$150,000 match from the City. One option for routes in the City would be to place signs on some of the side streets to provide routes. The roads are not car friendly, much less bicycle friendly in the community. Many roads do not even have sidewalks. They want routes to the schools from the neighborhoods as soon as possible. The goal would be to develop a route from I-24 on the east to I-24 on the west utilizing the floodwall where possible. There is a potential

park and greenway on I-24 at 60 on the north side, behind the First Christian Church. It was also mentioned that there is a need for destination facilities in the downtown area since many people would bike to this area. These would include restrooms, bike racks, playgrounds, drinking fountains and similar facilities.

9. **Visitors Bureau** – Met with Mary Hammond and Gerry Montgomery, City Commissioner. The following are some comments from this discussion.
 - a. One concept is to make sure that there is some type of recognition of the African American Roots in Stuart Nelson Park for the Emancipation Proclamation announcement, which took place on August 8. They should also have a historic marker and facilities for festivals and gatherings.
 - b. Restrooms are needed in the downtown area and parking is needed. In the long term it would be ideal to develop restrooms in the center of the Market House so that visitors could have access between the two retail areas without having to go all the way around the building.
 - c. Mrs. Montgomery stated that there was a discussion of a convenience center and parking lot at the corner of Third Street and Kentucky Avenue. This would be a four-story garage with a convenience center with visitor information and souvenirs on the first floor.
 - d. There is a strong need for an amphitheater with an overhang on the stage and also restrooms nearby. It could be in the same location in Noble Park or another location if there is a better one.
 - e. There is also a strong desire for a marina and for a barge for transient boat parking in the downtown area. There was previously a marina study by the State in about 1989, which indicated a demand for 300 slips. This marina should have gas pumps because the only fuel available for a very long way on either side on the Ohio River is at the Executive Inn.
 - f. There is a need to increase the greenspace in the downtown area.
 - g. In the greenways, there is a concern over the safety of some of the pump facilities around the floodwall.
 - h. Bathrooms are needed in Noble Park.
 - i. On the greenways, there is a need for an overpass at Route 45. There is also a need for a bike patrol when this greenway opens up. There is a possibility of placing cameras and lights on existing power poles along the floodwall.

10. **Kentucky Pioneers Senior Citizen Sports Group** – This group currently sponsors basketball and other activities for senior citizens. They work for the Area Development District and the State Senior Games in hosting these facilities. Ideally they would have two basketball courts and a track in an indoor facility. Ice-skating and an arena for basketball would also be ideal. Their thought is that near the bypass would be an ideal location or in the new Information Age Park.
11. **Runners** – The only indoor competition track in the state is at the University of Kentucky. Southeast Missouri University (SEMO) has an indoor track also. They stated that there was a perimeter trail plan in Noble Park that has been designed but it was cut from the budget and never developed. It was thought that the perimeter park trail would not go around the baseball area. It was about 2400 meters.
12. **Baseball** – Currently there are 200 teams in the West Kentucky Baseball Program with approximately 14-15 children per team in 5-6 counties.

There are approximately 700 kids in the Lone Oak area alone. It was noted that many of the local teams have moved out into the unincorporated area of the County because they have better facilities and programs.

Some of the needs are for bathrooms and concession stands. At Lone Oak there are six fields but no practice times allowed at that facility.

The adults play softball on Monday through Thursday evenings at Stuart Nelson Park and would like to be able to host tournaments.

The idea of 3-4 wagon wheels with facilities like at Brooks Stadium would be ideal and if they could be developed near Brooks Stadium it would be a good baseball complex.

The condition of the facilities at Noble Park has hurt the baseball attendance, which has dropped over the years. It is felt that the City needs to keep the fields where the kids are located. Some of the groups are willing to supply uniforms, but they need more coaches to do these things.

The Storm is a traveling team which plays 80 games per year and there are kids in 11, 12, 13 and 14 year old age groups. The Storm traveling team is not a main priority of the West Kentucky Youth Baseball organization. In their opinion, most of the kids are not even from the City of Paducah and their affiliation is with SSSA Baseball.

Some of the teams do not like always traveling to other sites such as Reidland, Concord or Lone Oak to play games.

13. **Public Works** – Currently employees in Public Works that work on grounds include 21 employees, which include 19 workers, two managers with two dedicated to the cemetery. They also use 9 seasonal employees and 8 class D felons for plantings and boulevards. They maintain all of the facilities throughout the community including the boulevards and the parks. This function has been placed under Public Works within the last year and taken out of the Parks Division.

Sites that they maintain include City Hall grounds, the boulevards, the riverfront, set up at the Civic Center and working on special events. One recommendation was to develop a separate dedicated crew to work on events and have special training, but they could also be used when there are not events to supplement other activities. There are 62 events throughout the year for which they are involved.

Some improvements and concerns that were addressed are as follows:

- a. Need to modernize the playgrounds with new facilities and safety surfaces.
 - b. At Blackburn, the ballfield is not used and the backstop should be removed.
 - c. At Kolb it is not used much and there is a school playground nearby so the playground is not used as much.
 - d. There should be some joint venture parks with the school grounds since there are also facilities at the schools.
 - e. Accessibility is an issue at some of the playgrounds and parks.
 - f. The affordability and ease of maintenance at these facilities must be addressed.
 - g. Any new restrooms developed should be designed with maintenance in mind.
 - h. They need dedicated parking areas in the parks.
 - i. Need consistent signage throughout the park system.
14. **Planning Division** – Met with Tom Barnett, Planning Director, Steve Ervin and City Manager Jim Zumwalt. Current breakdown of population throughout the area includes Concord at 4,000 people, Lone Oak at 5,000, Woodlawn at 5,000, Reidland at 5,000, 20,000 in the remaining unincorporated area of the County, and the rest within the City of Paducah.

Currently the County and the Purchase Area Development District are in the process of a centerline road mapping project. Mr. Ervin has been working with the PARC Study for a new community recreation center.

Greenways are a priority.

There is possibly a City-County consolidation for area parks and recreation and greenways.

Need to develop an interim use for the former housing site in the Martin Luther King area.

The Mid-Town Golf area is outdated. The Planning Division staff questions the need for the two smaller pools and feel that this should be analyzed by the Consultant.

A waterfront plan was developed several years ago and they should look at this again with coordination with the Corps of Engineers. They would like to have mooring for boats.

There is a Paducah Rowing Club, which would like to use some of this facility. There is a TVA Marina Study.

The Bluegrass Downs Race Track is currently owned by the gambling casinos in Illinois and they are holding on to it in hopes that there will be gambling allowed in Kentucky at licensed race tracks, but this probably will not happen. There is a need to develop a connection between Noble Park and Stuart Nelson Park, which will go behind the track property.

The greenway in the eastern portion of the City could follow the waterways, floodwall, and wooded corridors along the Clarks River. Drainage ways provide a possibility for trails. There are possibilities for trails along Allen Creek and Perkins Creek.

15. **Staff** – The Consultant spoke with individual staff members from the Paducah Parks Services Department. Listed below are some of the comments and concerns from this group:

- a. Mr. Trace Stevens is in charge of the aquatics and athletic programs. The aquatic program includes swim lessons for age 5 and up and a mom and tots program starting at age 2. There is no swim team organized by the City, the Paducah Swim Club organizes this activity.

The athletics include basketball programs, which are held at the Jetton Gym. Ideally they would have at least two, and possibly three, gymnasiums to use with two for basketball and one for volleyball. Indoor soccer is in the gym also but this is run by others.

He also organizes the adult softball, which has 35-40 teams of which there are 15-20 co-ed teams and 15-20 men's teams. They use all four of the softball fields at Stuart Nelson Park. The games are held on four nights per week with three games per night. They start in early April.

Mr. Stevens stated that they play T-ball in open fields and that T-ball will be taken over by the baseball organization in the future. He felt that there is a need for more multi-purpose fields and open fields that could be used for soccer, football and T-ball.

- b. Krista Hamilton is in charge of special events and programs. Some of the programs include the Tot School Program, which is held upstairs at the Parks office for 3-4 year olds, three days a week.

One idea that she has is a marquee in Noble Park to advertise their events.

She feels that the Parks Department office needs a face-lift with improvements to the building and landscaping. It needs to be a more kid friendly building. The Civic Center will hold up to 300 people at tables. There is a problem with the roof at this site and the building is not very appealing to look at.

A lot of the land at Noble Park is unused and one idea would be to develop some Frisbee golf in this area.

She feels that the ballfields are a problem because of safety and the existing facilities.

There is a possibility of public relations programs with the St. Louis Cardinals or other teams. There is also a need for indoor batting cages.

In a new indoor building the ideal facilities would include the following:

- (1) Multi-purpose room for kids use
- (2) Big closets for seasonal equipment
- (3) Crafts room
- (4) Dance rooms with wood floors
- (5) Lot of storage
- (6) Conference rooms
- (7) Kitchen area
- (8) Aerobics and karate rooms

- (9) Areas for concerts and an auditorium, but the Arts Center will fill some of this demand.
- c. Ms. Susan McClellan is secretary to the Parks Department. From the many phone calls she receives, the biggest questions are:
 - (1) Where is the YMCA and the indoor recreation center?
 - (2) Indoor basketball, swimming and classroom space are strongly needed.
 - (3) They need to develop a room for aerobics
 - (4) There are a lot of requests to reserve picnic shelters in the parks, but they are on a first come first serve basis at this time.
 - (5) They need a better, computerized registration system for their program so that they can keep better track of people who sign up for programs and also better methods to keep track of those who pay in increments rather than all at once.
- 16. **Youth Focus Groups** – The Consultant met with two youth focus groups from Paducah Middle School and St. Mary’s School. Some ideas that were mentioned by the groups included:
 - a. Rock climbing wall
 - b. Skate park
 - c. Bike trails
 - d. Horse trails
 - e. Indoor ice rink
 - f. Better football and baseball fields
 - g. Hiking trails
 - h. Improve the playgrounds
 - i. Indoor swimming pool
 - j. Football stadium
 - k. Basketball courts
 - l. Indoor soccer
 - m. Fishing ponds
 - n. Running track, both outdoor and indoor
 - o. Zoo

17. **Public Workshops** – There were two public workshops conducted on November 7 and 8, 2001. At both of these meetings we asked people where they currently go for parks and recreation activities, what they like and dislike about the current parks and recreation system and finally we asked them to pretend that it is ten years in the future and they are very pleased with the parks and recreation opportunities that exist in Paducah. Below is a summary of the answers to these questions. Both of the meetings are combined.
- a. Where do you currently go for parks and recreation activities and what do you do?
- (1) Backyard for horse shoe pitching
 - (2) Noble Park for the swimming pool, walking, tennis and other activities
 - (3) Stuart Nelson Park for softball
 - (4) Lone Oak for tennis
 - (5) Russellville, Bowling Green, Hopkinsville and Madisonville for an indoor pool
 - (6) Cape Girardeau Missouri for their ice rink
 - (7) McCracken County soccer complex
 - (8) St. Mary's for soccer
 - (9) Jetton Gym for indoor soccer, volleyball and basketball
 - (10) Venture River for aquatic facilities
 - (11) Southern Illinois bike trail near Vienna
 - (12) Skate parks in Madisonville, Nashville and an indoor one in St. Louis and also in Metropolis
 - (13) The Parks Services building for the programs
 - (14) Theme parks in St. Louis and Nashville
 - (15) Oak Grove Cemetery for walking
 - (16) Information Age Park for walking and biking
 - (17) Executive Inn for swimming pool
 - (18) Schultz Park to eat lunch and view the river
 - (19) Soccer field at Jetton Park area
 - (20) Southside to Benton Railroad corridor for biking
 - (21) Voor Park for basketball
 - (22) Baseball complex and soccer complex for sports
 - (23) Mike Miller Park for use of the trails and park facilities

- (24) BMX track and roller hockey in Murray
 - (25) Paxton Park golf course
 - (26) Mayfield for racquet ball
- b. What do you like about the parks and recreation opportunities and facilities in Paducah?
- (1) The dance and gymnastic programs at the Park Services building. They like the programming depth and the price of the activities.
 - (2) Ball fields in Lone Oak for tournaments and the quality of the facilities
 - (3) Noble Park for the walking, lake, green space, trees and general feel of the park
 - (4) Riverfront for green space and viewing the river
 - (5) Parks and Recreation Department offices for programs and senior citizen programs
 - (6) Keiler Park, playground and picnic facilities
 - (7) Carson Park for horse activities
 - (8) Park programs and good methods which the City uses to promote their programs, including those at the Jetton Gym
 - (9) Stuart Nelson ball fields
 - (10) Brooks Stadium
 - (11) Keiler Park for the picnic area
 - (12) Schultz Park for lunch
- c. What is missing from parks and recreation activities and opportunities in Paducah?
- (1) In Noble Park the trails are too short and need to be made longer
 - (2) Need to have less cars, more green space and less conflict between cars and pedestrians
 - (3) Need lights around the trail
 - (4) More picnic tables and trees
 - (5) Blackburn Park needs trees and picnic tables
 - (6) Need better tennis courts
 - (7) Need bike trail and a place to ride where kids can ride safely and that provide connection from other parks. They need to be lighted also.

- (8) The soccer fields are very uneven at the County Soccer Complex
- (9) Need a facility for skate boarding including ramps, inline skating etc.
- (10) Need neighborhood to park connections, greenways, pedestrian ways and a network of pedestrian ways throughout the city
- (11) Green fees at the Paxton Golf Course are too high and they need better program for youth golf
- (12) Need a downtown playground to complement all the activities along the riverfront
- (13) You cannot bike to downtown area, need bike lanes and marking and ability to ride to schools as well as way-finding signs
- (14) Need a recreation center facility
- (15) Need a place to mountain bike, both trails and BMX type space
- (16) The traffic speed in the park is too fast
- (17) Need a place for sanctioned horse shoe pits for tournaments
- (18) Need facilities for equine sports and activities
- (19) In the floodwall area-need to improve the Farmers Market area, connected to a trail system and an opportunity for more open space instead of all gravel and paved space
- (20) Poor conditions of the tennis courts and the need for indoor tennis courts
- (21) Need more parks and more neighborhood parks throughout the city
- (22) Need better river access for pleasure boats, dock space for locals and larger boats and the use of the riverfront
- (23) Need indoor recreation center with indoor pool, soccer, tennis and volley ball
- (24) Need a better amphitheatre
- (25) Need more dog park areas and more walking trails where you can take your dog and individuals to walk
- (26) Need a roller blade and skate park
- (27) The lack of sidewalks throughout the community is a problem

- (28) Need more and better promotion and information regarding programs. There were complaints that sometimes they get the information and it is already too late or there is not enough information available. Could use e-mails, web and other methods for communications
 - (29) Need better infrastructure on the parks such as roads, fences, restrooms etc.
 - (30) Need better swimming lessons, there are no nighttime hours for family swims because of lessons and it is difficult for working families to get their children to pools for swimming lessons.
 - (31) Need facilities for special needs persons such as handicap programs and facilities
 - (32) Need youth areas that provide safe recreation for after-school and provide productive activities
- d. Participants were then asked to pretend it is the year 2011 and that people are coming to Paducah because of its outstanding reputation for quality parks and recreation programs, activities and facilities. What has happened in the last ten years to make the opportunities for parks and recreation activities in Paducah to be so outstanding? The groups were asked to list their ideas and then set priorities for the ideas among the groups. The number in parenthesis following each item indicates the rank of the group.
- (1) Greenways and Trails
 - ? Greenways from the mall to Schultz Park to the floodwall and to I-24 south with a recreation center (1)
 - ? As new roads and streets are built, they have bike lanes (1A)
 - ? Connecting trails between parks for biking/hiking/running and walking (1) lighted and paved secure interconnected trails for biking, walking and skating (1)
 - ? Safe connecting trails with links that take you by areas of commerce such as the mall, downtown cafes etc. (2)
 - ? Paducah Greenways on the floodwall for walking and biking (3)
 - ? Greenway connection from Perkins Creek Nature Preserve along the levee to the river and around south of town to I-24 (4)

- (2) Recreation Center
 - ? Multipurpose recreation facility (year round) (1) with a greenway and connecting parks to it also.
 - ? Recreation center with an Olympic swimming pool, volleyball courts, racquet ball courts, basketball courts, indoor track, table tennis, ping pong, badminton, shuffleboard courts, bowling alley, non-smoking facility, sauna, gymnastics, skateboard, exercise equipment, aerobics, weights and wall climbing. (1)
 - ? Multipurpose sports facility with a pool, gym, track, etc. that brings in senior Olympics, swim court competition and track events (2)
 - ? Indoor sports complex (3)
 - ? Indoor pool with hours for people who work. Suggested hours are 5:00 a.m. till 10:00 p.m. (4)

- (3) Events - Horseshoes
 - ? Horseshoe pitching courts for a league, weekly and a covered practice facility (2)
 - ? NHPA sanctioned horseshoe courts (3)
 - ? National horseshoe multi-court tournaments (4)

- (4) Skateboard Park
 - ? A roller blade and skateboard park (3)
 - ? A bike park for bicycles, skateboard, roller blades, competition style ramps, tracks and BMX (4)

- (5) Improvements to Existing Parks
 - ? Park conveniences such as bathrooms, benches, pavilions and parking (3)
 - ? Improved Brooks Stadium for NCAA and American Legion Nationals (2)
 - ? Improve the Carson Horse Park (5)

- (6) New Facilities
 - ? Soccer complex (4)
 - ? Arboretum (5)
 - ? Golf driving range (7)

- ? Dog park fenced in (3)
- (7) Events
 - ? Paducah marathon for 26-mile runners event and certified course (3)
- (8) Riverfront Park Access
 - ? More access to green parks along the river (7B)
 - ? Increase riverfront access for paddling boats such as rowing and canoes (6)
- (9) Health of Paducah
 - ? In ten years Paducah can be home to healthy residents
 - ? One individual provided a handout identifying the Path to Health regarding a trail in Rhode Island in the benefits of the trail.
- (10) Other Suggestions
 - ? We also received information from one individual desiring to improve and expand Voor Park by purchasing the next lot 50' x 150' for an open playfield in the inner city. They suggested trees, parking expansion, basketball, before development happens in the area. It was provided by Jim Anderson of the Voor Park Committee, phone number 443-5233.
 - ? We also received information concerning BMX tracks.
 - ? One individual suggested improvements to Bob Noble Park.

F. Paducah - McCracken County Survey Results

1. Mail Survey

- (a) In January 2002, Paducah Parks Services mailed a four-page survey to every household in the County through the combined utility bills and also placed the mail survey on their web page so that residents could download it. In addition it was given to students through the school system. The City received a total of 1,667 responses from the households and 1,765 from students. Summary tables and graphs are included in Appendix D.

- (b) Of these, the average age of the person filling out the form for the household was 49 years old. Approximately 40% of the households included children and 36% of the households only had persons over age 55 in the household.
- (c) The survey asked residents to indicate the geographic area where they live. This indicated that the largest percentage lived closest to Noble Park with 26%, with an additional 20% closest to Paducah Middle School and 7% City Hall. This indicates that 53% of the respondents were within the City Limits of Paducah. The other three areas were Reidland High School, Lone Oak High School, and Heath High School with 16%, 24%, and 9% respectively.

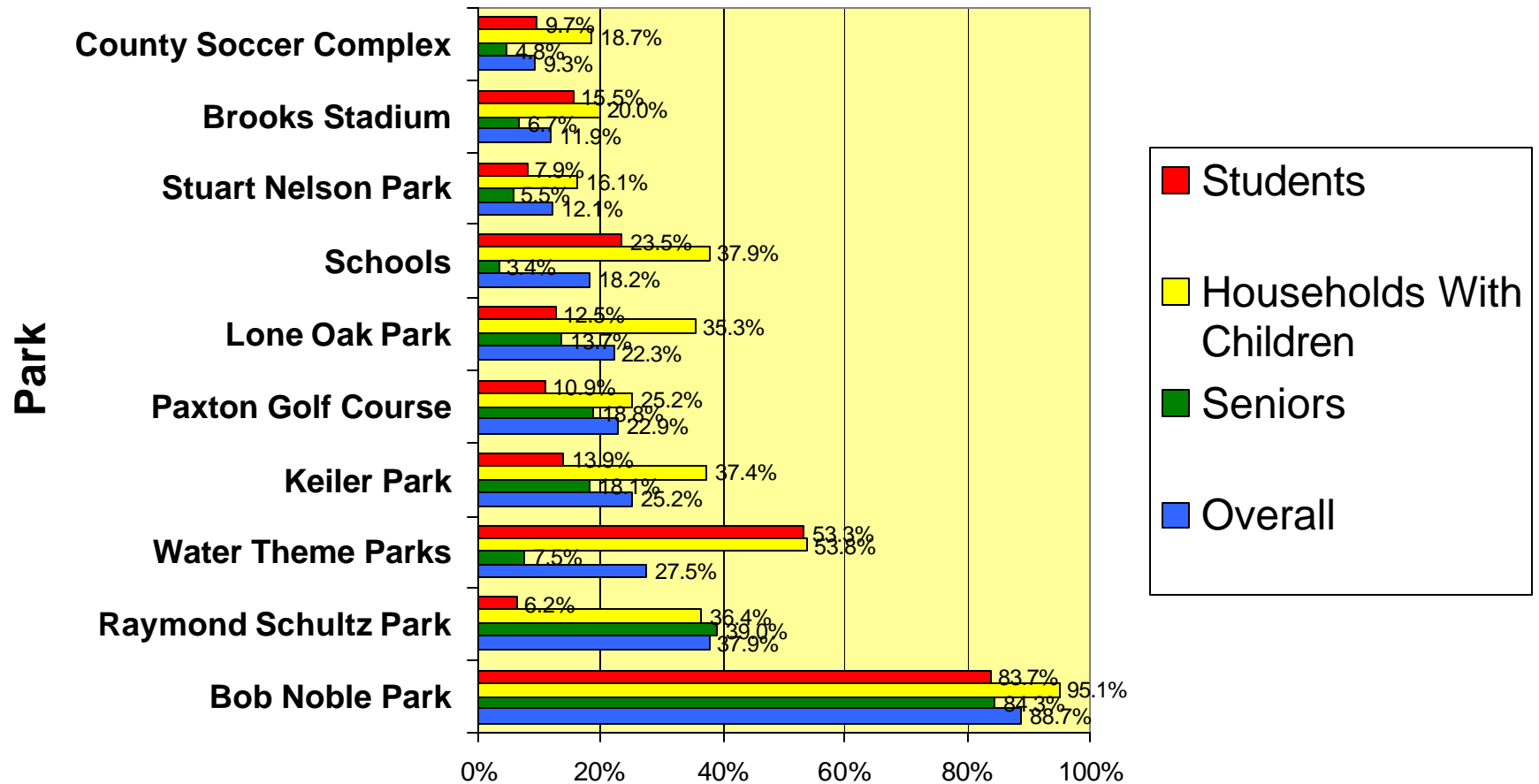
	Respondent Location						
	City			County			
	Noble Park	Paducah Middle School	City Hall	Reidland High School	Lone Oak High School	Heath High School	Average Age
Mail-Households	26%	20%	7%	16%	24%	9%	49
Students	20.7%	22.5%	10%	14.4%	17.5%	19.4%	14

- (d) Residents of McCracken County that responded to the survey use their parks frequently. The outdoor facility usage chart indicates that approximately 45% of the respondents uses a park during the warmer months of the year at least once per week, with an additional 20% that use parks 2-3 times per month. The numbers are higher for families with children and lower for families with only seniors in the households. Less than 5% of the respondents never use parks.
- (e) An amazing statistic is that of the overall respondents, 88.3% use Bob Noble Park. Of families with children, 95% use Noble Park, 84.3% of the seniors that responded use Noble Park and 83.7% of students use Noble Park. This is an extremely high level of usage and indicates that Bob Noble Park is the most heavily used in the system. The second most indicated park among the general public was Raymond Schultz Park, which has very few facilities. The third most used are water theme parks such as Venture River in Eddyville, with 30% of families attending.
- (f) The indoor facility usage chart indicates that 34% of respondents use an indoor recreation facility once per week in comparison to those who never use a facility at 25%. Whereas, in the outdoor facilities there was a very low percentage of people that never use

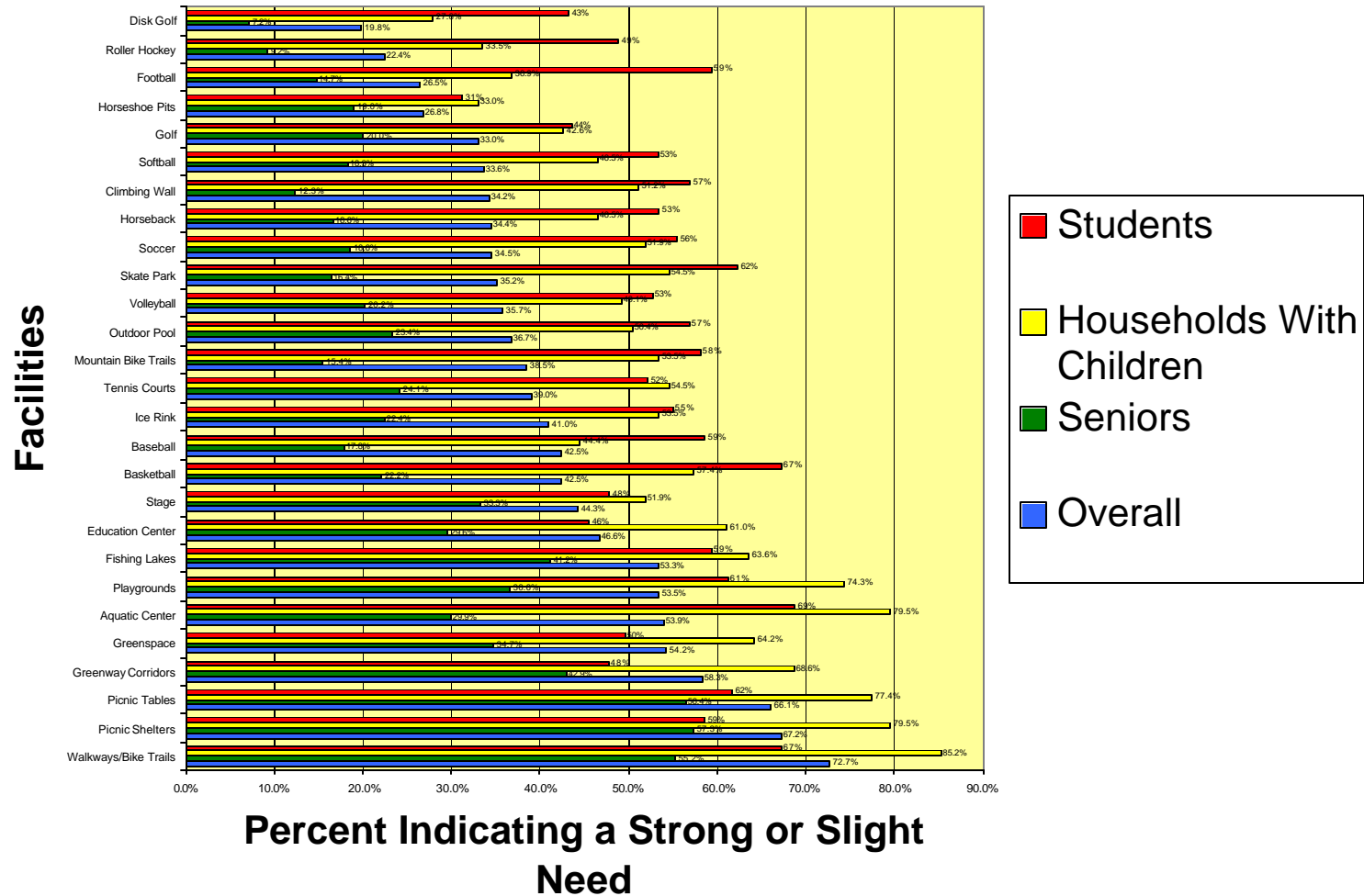
facilities (5%). This may be due to the fact that there are very few indoor facilities and no public indoor facilities available.

- (g) For both indoor and outdoor facilities, the survey asked whether there was a strong, slight or no need for a broad list of facilities to be developed. The Needed Facilities chart indicates that Walkways and Bike Trails were the most heavily indicated with almost 73% of the population and over 95% of the responses with children indicating the need for these facilities. This is followed by picnic shelters, picnic tables, greenway corridors, green space, aquatic center, playgrounds, and the several other facilities. The tendency towards the stronger responses for the individual and family oriented activities such as picnicking, playgrounds, fishing lakes, and the desire for greenway corridors, greenspace and bike trails indicates that residents of McCracken County value green space, open space and family activities very much for their quality of life. All of the items in the Needed Facilities chart indicate that families with children have a stronger need for facilities than families without children in the household.

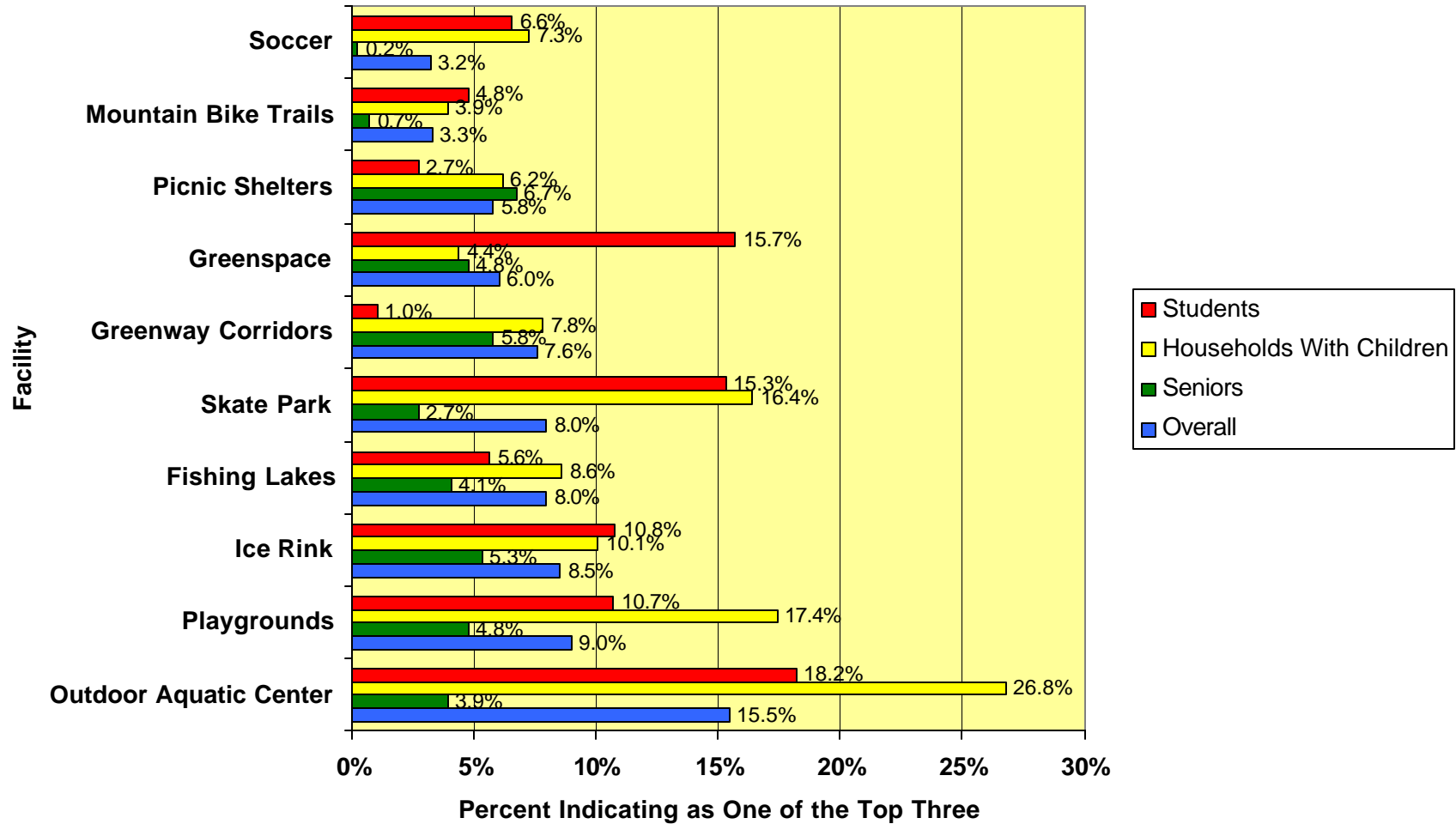
Top Ten Most Used Parks



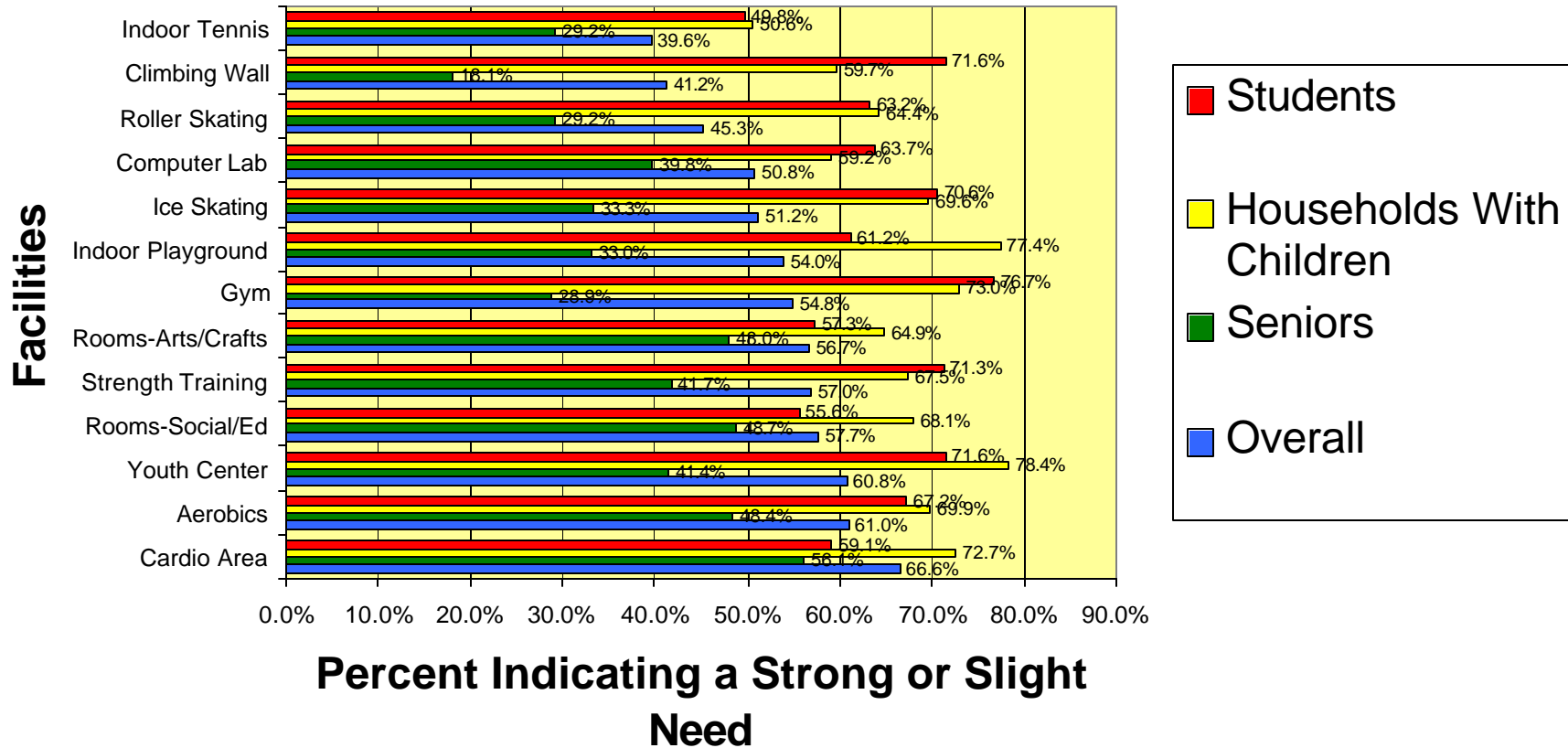
Needed Outdoor Facilities



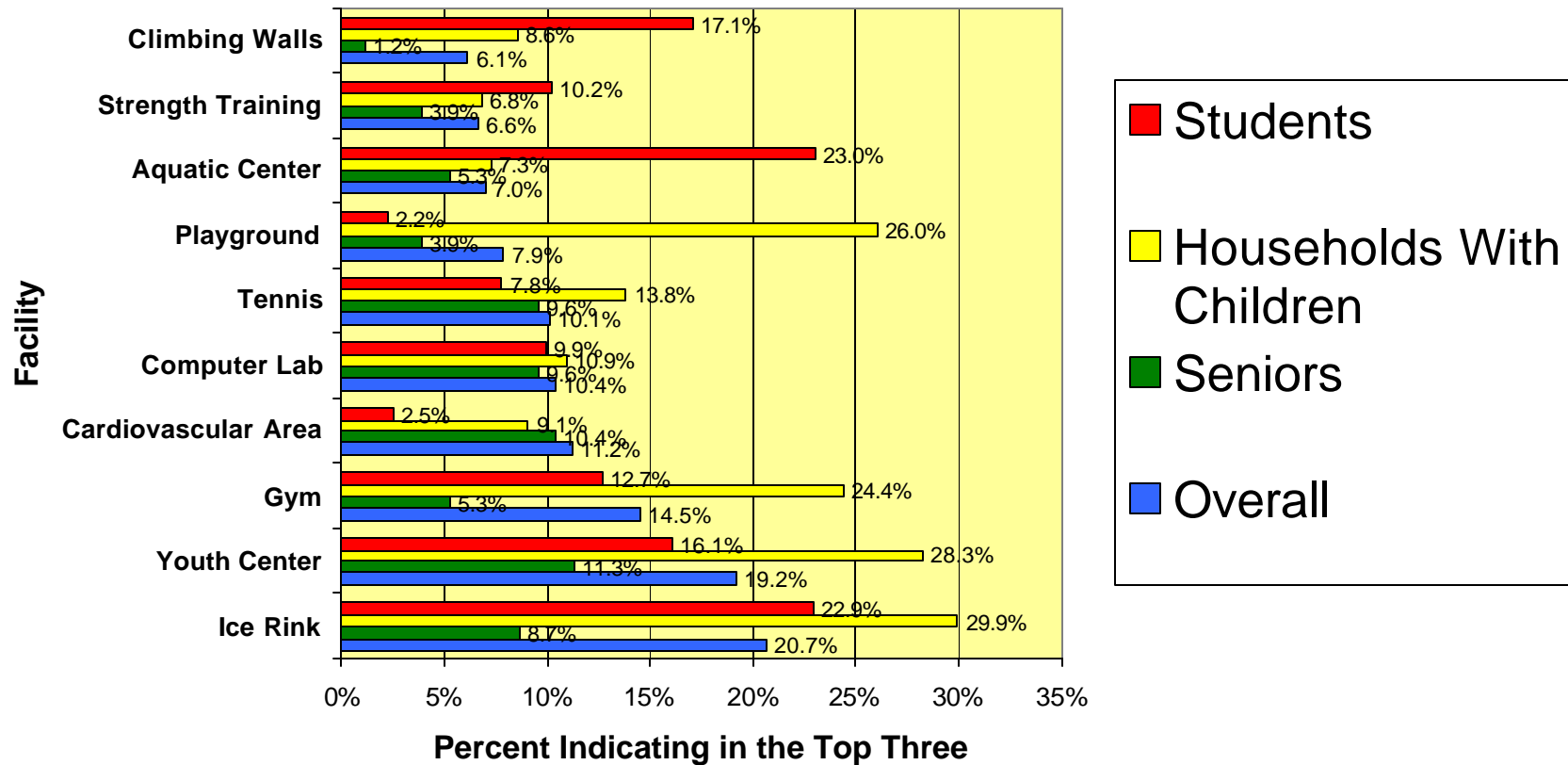
Top Ten Most Needed Outdoor Facilities



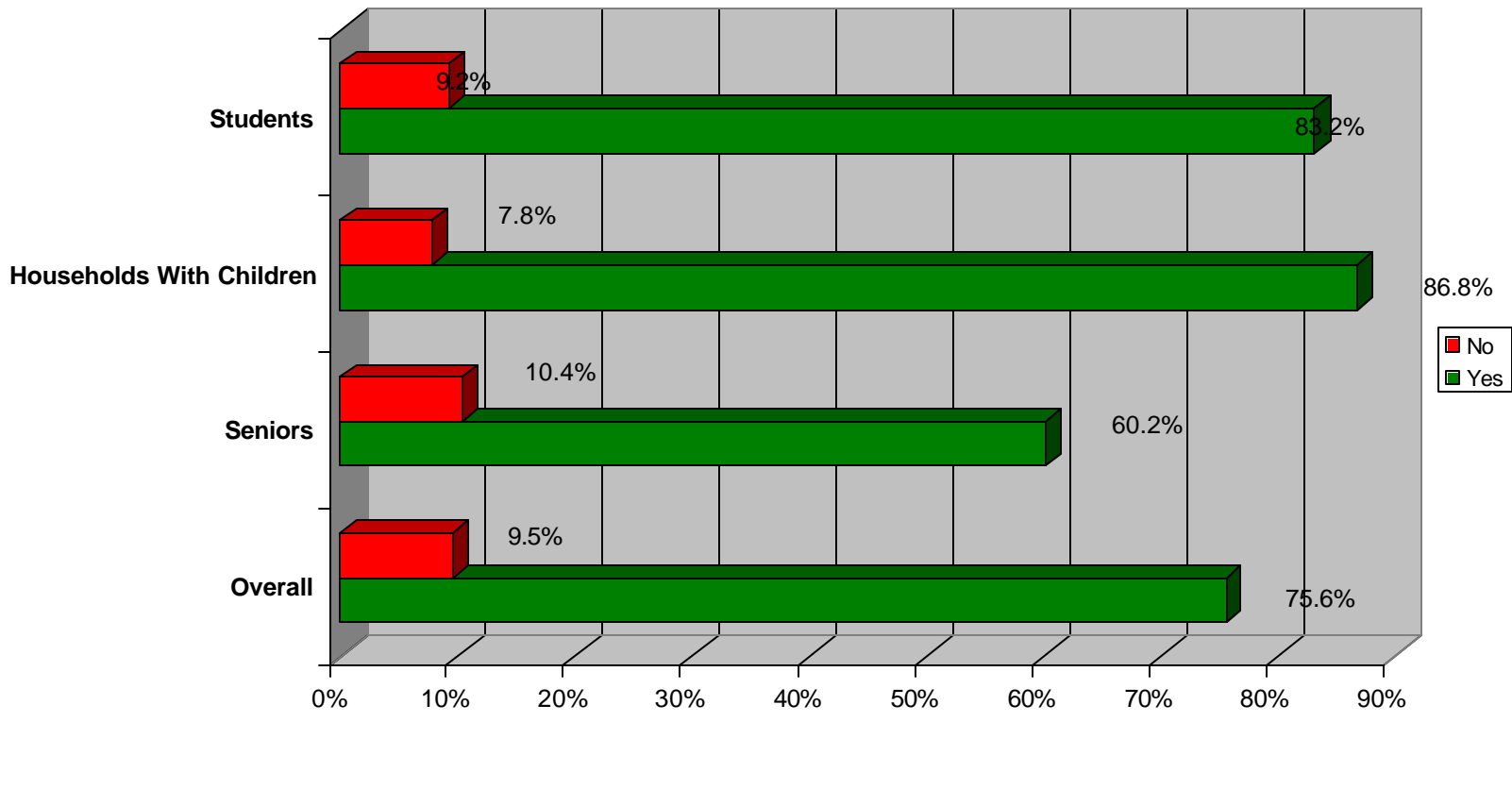
Needed Indoor Facilities



Top Ten Most Needed Indoor Facilities



Should the City Develop an Indoor Community & Recreation Center?



- (h) The follow-up question asked the respondents to identify the three most needed outdoor facilities from the previous list. The very strong leader in the most needed of the outdoor facilities chart is the Aquatic Center with nearly 27% of the families with children and almost 15.5% of the general population desiring this as their number one priority. Other top ranked items included playgrounds, ice rink, fishing lakes, skate park, and greenway corridor. These findings are consistent with other recent surveys by the Consultant and the fact that walking and jogging are the most popular activity throughout the United States, followed by swimming, which are indicated later on the National Sporting Goods Association survey results.
- (i) The next section of the survey asked questions concerning indoor facilities. Those indicated a strong or slight need for indoor facilities including a preference for cardio-vascular exercise areas, aerobics areas, youth center, and rooms for social education programs and arts and crafts programs at the top of the list. We must admit to an error in the survey in that the indoor aquatic facilities were inadvertently left off of the list, but the PARC survey that was completed in January 2001 indicated a very strong desire and potential usage for indoor aquatic facilities. The Most Needed Indoor Facilities table indicates that when asked which of the previous indoor activities were most needed, the ice rink, youth center, and gymnasium came to the top of the list, followed by the cardio-vascular, computer lab and tennis courts. It is interesting to note that an indoor aquatic center was eighth on the list as a write in, since it was not on the original list. One contradiction between this study and the PARC survey that was done in 2001 was that an ice rink was highest on this where it was second lowest on the PARC study when asked which facilities they would use the most.
- (j) The next section of the survey considered existing programming opportunities that are available. Approximately 59% were “somewhat familiar” with programs by the City of Paducah and 18% were “very aware” of the programs. The survey also asked whether the respondents participated in programs “often”, “occasionally”, or “not at all” with the highest percentage being in the center and 50% saying that “occasionally” they use the programs, 6.2% saying “often” and 38% do not use programs at all from those that filled out the surveys. Of those who indicated that they participated “occasionally” or “often” in programs, 40% indicated that the programs were “excellent” or “good”, 23% “fair” and 7% “poor”. This shows that there is some room for improvement in the area of programming, according to the surveys.

- (k) Only 30% of those surveyed indicated that they participate in the recreation leagues including softball, baseball, soccer and football. Of those who participate, the largest participate in soccer at 51%, followed by softball at 43.5%, baseball 39.1%, and youth football 14.7%, which is fairly consistent with the numbers of people participating in these programs. Also, of those who participated, 66% rated the programs as “good”, 15% as “excellent”, 23% “fair”, and 3% as “poor”.
- (l) Residents were asked whether the City should develop an indoor Recreation/Community Center and 75.6% of the overall respondents (74% in City) stated “yes” with a little higher percentage, almost 87% of families with children, and 60% of those with only seniors in the household, indicating a need for an indoor Recreation/Community Center. The majority of the respondents also indicated that the City should purchase land for additional parks and recreation uses. Nearly 66% (64.4% of City residents) of the overall respondents and 75% of the families with children have the desire for additional parkland. The numbers are similar for the desire for the City to purchase additional land for green space, with 65% of the overall respondents (64.3% of City responses) and 70% of the families with children indicating this and over 53% of the senior citizen respondents.

G. Public Workshops and Focus Groups

Two public workshops were held at the beginning of the Master Planning process and 17 roundtable discussions were held with special interest groups to discuss to specific needs of their groups. The minutes from the individual meetings are included in Appendix C, with an overall summary presented here. The parks, which are indicated as most used include Noble Park, Stuart Nelson Park, Lone Oak Park, and the County Soccer Complex. Some facilities that are outside of McCracken County that these groups indicated they use the most include bike trails and BMX courses, skate parks, indoor swimming pools, ice rinks, Venture River Water Park, Mike Miller Park in Marshall County and Land Between the Lakes. In several of these discussions we asked the participants to identify their future vision for parks and recreation opportunities in Paducah and McCracken County. The vision items that were most common include the following:

1. Indoor recreation and community center
2. Greenways and trail system
3. Waterfront development along the Ohio River
4. Skate Park
5. Baseball and Softball Complex
6. Improvements to the existing parks

The vision is more focused for some of the special interest groups because of their more focused interest. The visions that resulted from these meetings included the following:

1. Hosting sports tournaments, which includes tourism
2. Civil War reenactments
3. Bike trails and greenway system throughout the community
4. Indoor aquatic center that would also provide for indoor competitions for area high schools and swim clubs
5. Skatepark
6. Tournament horseshoe area
7. Expansion of the County Soccer Complex
8. Improve Noble Park as the gem in the system
9. Riverfront is improved with the convenience center, marina, and events space
10. Improved baseball field facilities

Two youth focus groups were held at Saint Mary's School and Paducah Middle School. Some of the items that were mentioned most by the students included the following:

1. Indoor sports activities
2. Ice rink
3. Water park
4. Climbing walls
5. Skate parks
6. Arcade/games
7. Bike trails
8. Hiking trails
9. Nature center
10. Petting zoo
11. Better athletic facilities and fields
12. Dog parks

H. National Sporting Goods Association Survey

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) has performed a national research study every other year on a nationwide basis. NSGA uses a mail panel resource of more than 300,000 pre-recruited households and uses a self-

administered questionnaire to 35,000 of those households. The participants are asked to identify if they have participated in a sport more than once a year for most sports with the exception of aerobics and swimming for which participation is defined as six times or more per year. Participants are asked about their activities in 42 different sports and recreation pursuits. Nationwide participation is summarized on the following table:

Table 6 1999 Nationwide Sports Participation Participated more than once Seven (7) years of age and older Ranked by Total Participation	
Sport	Total in Millions
Exercise Walking	80.8
Swimming	57.9
Camping Vacation/Overnight	50.1
Exercising with Equipment	45.2
Fishing	46.4
Bicycle Riding	42.4
Bowling	41.6
Billiards/Pool	32.1
Basketball	29.6
Golf	27.0
Hiking	28.1
Roller Skating (In-Line)	24.1
Aerobic Exercising	26.2
Boating, Motor/Power	24.4
Running/Jogging	22.4
Dart Throwing	20.2
Hunting with Firearms	16.6
Baseball	16.3
Backpack/Wilderness Camp	15.3
Mountain Biking (on road)	15.1
Softball	14.7
Soccer	13.2
Target Shooting	13.0
Calisthenics	12.6
Volleyball	11.7
Football (Touch)	11.1
Tennis	10.9
Football (Tackle)	8.7
Roller Skating	8.2
Step Aerobics	8.2
Table Tennis	8.2

Table 6
1999 Nationwide Sports Participation

Participated more than once
Seven (7) years of age and older

Ranked by Total Participation

Sport	Total in Millions
Ice/figure Skating	7.7
Skiing (Alpine)	7.4
Canoeing	7.3
Skateboarding	7.0
Mountain Biking (off road)	6.8
Water Skiing	6.6
Snorkeling	6.3
Hunting w/Bow & Arrow	6.0
Paintball Games	5.1
Martial Arts	5.1
Gymnastics	5.0
Badminton	4.9
Archery (Target)	4.9
Croquet	4.1
Wrestling	3.8
Kick boxing	3.8
Muzzleloading	3.5
Snowmobiling	3.5
Snowboarding	3.3
Racquetball	3.3
Kayaking/Rafting	3.0
Sailing	2.8
Hockey (Roller)	2.5
Scuba diving	2.3
Skiing (Cross Country)	2.2
Hockey (Ice)	1.9
Boxing	1.3
Snowshoeing	0.9
Lacrosse	0.9
Wind Surfing	0.5
Note: 24.1 million people indicated they “worked out at a club” in 1999, versus 26.5 million in 1998	

At the top of the list are those individual and family oriented activities such as exercise walking, swimming, camping, exercise, fishing, and bike riding.

Activities that have changed the most since 1993 that pertain to activities included in this study include the following:

? In-Line Roller Skating 118%

?	Roller Hockey	106.2%
?	Off Road Mountain Biking	87.2%
?	Exercising with Equipment	32.2%
?	Soccer	27.8%
?	Martial Arts	26.7%
?	Ice Hockey	25.4%
?	Golf	21.7%
?	Exercise Walking	20.6%
?	Ice and Figure Skating	13%
?	Running and Jogging	11%

It is also interesting to note that basketball, baseball, swimming, softball and tennis have dropped with tennis having the largest drop of nearly 21%.

The NSGA study also compares youth participation in sports. Those activities with the largest change from 1990 to 1998 include the following:

<u>Activities</u>	<u>7-10 Year Olds</u>	<u>12-17 Year Olds</u>
In-line Roller Skating	616.1%	558.3%
Roller Hockey	144.3%	75.9%
Golf	98.1%	54.1%
Ice Hockey	56.7%	-15.8%
Basketball	29%	-.5%
Baseball	-1.9%	-6.1%

After all of this, the top of the list remains fairly constant with exercise walking and swimming being number one or two since 1989.

I. National Recreation and Park Association Survey

The National Recreation and Park Association published a book titled “Local Park and Recreation Facilities and Sites” which was prepared by PKF Consulting in 1995. This included a survey of over 1500 parks and recreation departments throughout the country with 1092 of those being for municipalities. Kentucky is in the south region, which included 482 responses. In addition, the municipalities were divided by the number of residents and McCracken County would fall into the category 50,000–99,999. Below are some statistics that provide a benchmark for McCracken County. These are for areas with a population between 50,000 and 99,999 in the south region of the country.

- a. 87% did not have an indoor swimming pool.
- b. 65% had one or two swimming pools.
- c. 74% had recreation centers.
- d. 0% had an outdoor ice rink.
- e. 61% provided indoor multiple recreation courts.
- f. 56% had mini parks.
- g. 61% provided neighborhood parks.
- h. 91% provided at least one Community Park.
- i. 65% included a metro/regional park.
- j. Nationwide 71% of communities between 50,000-99,999 had at least one recreation center.

J. Outdoor Recreation in Kentucky Survey

The top ten most popular recreation activities in Kentucky, based on a state-wide survey as part of the report “Outdoor Recreation in Kentucky – A Five Year Assessment and Policy Plan”, January, 1995 by the Department of Local Government, includes:

Ten Most Popular Activities By Percentage Of Respondents Participating In The Past Year		
	At Least Once	Over 10 Times
Hiking/Walking	78.5%	60.5%
Picnicking	77.5%	25.9%
Swimming	53.3%	32.5%
Fishing	45.2%	23.4%
Basketball	36.5%	20.1%
Boating/Skiing	34.7%	14.8%
Baseball/Softball	31.5%	14.5%
Volleyball	30.4%	12.1%
Bicycling	28.6%	15.5%
Tent Camping	25.6%	6.8%

K. Facility Needs Analysis

1. Table 7 indicates the application of recreation facility goals for a variety of recreation facilities. These goals have been adapted from previous standards by the National Recreation and Park Association, in comparison to other communities and the Consultant's experience. Keep in mind that the ultimate determination of facilities is not the standards, but the community input process. These goals are most useful as a tool to predict the expanding need for facilities as the population grows.
2. The population goals for McCracken County were adjusted based upon the results of the surveys and conversations with individuals in various activities and groups. Table 7 indicates shortages within the City for six playgrounds, eight miles of paved trails, five miles of unpaved trails, basketball goals, tennis courts and volleyball courts. There is a shortage of almost every type of category in the unincorporated area of the County because of the larger population in this area and fewer facilities. The largest demands are in the area of basketball goals, baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, trails, playgrounds and game courts.

**Table 7
Application of Recreation Facility Goals
Paducah & McCracken County, Kentucky**

FACILITY	POPULATION GOAL (1 PER)	FACILITIES IN PADUCAH				FACILITIES IN MC CRACKEN COUNTY (including Paducah)			
		EXISTING SUPPLY Public Facilities ⁴	PRIVATE FACILITIES	2002 REQUIRED ¹	2002 SURPLUS (+) DEFICIT (-)	EXISTING SUPPLY Public Facilities ⁴	PRIVATE FACILITIES	2002 REQUIRED ²	2002 SURPLUS (+) DEFICIT (-)
Outdoor Areas									
A. Picnic Shelter	2000	42		13.2	28.8	46.0		32.8	9.2
B. Playground	1500	12		17.5	-5.5	20.0		43.7	-31.7
C. Paved Trails (miles)	3000	0.5		8.8	-8.3	0.5		21.8	-21.3
D. Unpaved Trails (miles)	5000			5.3	-5.3			13.1	-13.1
E. Swimming Pool	20000	3		1.3	1.7	3.0		3.3	-0.3
F. Outdoor Theater	50000	2		0.5	1.5	2.0		1.3	0.7
Outdoor Fields & Court Areas									
A. Baseball/Softball	2000	17		13.2	3.8	46.0		32.8	13.2
B. Soccer	3000	8		8.8	-0.8	13.0		21.8	-8.8
C. Football	10000	1		2.6	-1.6	4.0		6.6	-2.6
D. Basketball Goals	1000	17		26.3	-9.3	29.0		65.5	-36.5
E. Tennis Courts	3000	6	13	8.8	-2.8	24.0	13.0	21.8	2.2
F. Volleyball Courts	5000	1		5.3	-4.3	1.0		13.1	-12.1
Indoor Areas/Specialized Facilities									
A. Indoor Pool	50000	0	2	1	-1	0		1	-1
B. Community Center (Public Owned)	20000	1		1	0	1		3	-2
C. Gymnasium (City Owned)	15000	0		2	-2	0		4	-4

1. Based on a year 2000 population estimate of 26,307 for the City of Paducah. - Source: U.S. Census Data
2. Based on a year 2000 population estimate of 65,514 for McCracken County. - Source: U.S. Census Data
3. Due to rounding, all figures do not add exactly.
4. Existing facilities were considered public if they were accessible to the general public without a membership fee.

L. Summary of Parks and Recreation Needs

The primary needs that are common to most of the methods used to determine the residents' needs for parks and recreation facilities, programs and parks indicate the following:

1. Demand for indoor activities including an indoor swimming pool, youth center, gymnasium, fitness facilities, ice rink, computer lab and other activities. The development of an indoor center will offer residents access to year-round programming and activities.
2. The demand for an outdoor aquatic center.
3. The strong desire for more open space and land to be preserved as future green space and some land to remain as natural areas.
4. The development of non-traditional activities such as skate parks, mountain bike areas, climbing walls and similar facilities.
5. The realization that, as the population grows in the County, the supply of park land, recreation facilities and programs will also need to expand to meet the County's demands and expectations.
6. High demand for all types of trails including jogging, walking, nature, bicycle and horseback.
7. The desire to link the parks, schools, downtown, neighborhoods and the floodwall through a series of trails and greenways.
8. There is a desire to take better advantage of the riverfront as an asset. Riverfront parks are major attractions in other communities. A marina is strongly desired.
9. There is a desire to make Bob Noble Park more of an attraction to improve its usage.
10. The demand for more playgrounds.
11. The demand for more baseball, softball and soccer fields. These did not rank highly on the surveys, but the athletic organizations have expressed strong needs for more facilities, especially for practices. The existing facilities are overused and the turf on the fields does not have a chance to recuperate between seasons. Development of complexes is desired.
12. General shortage of park land in many areas of the County.

13. The need for a wide variety of specific recreation facilities in many locations such as:
 - a. Nature Center
 - b. Petting zoo
 - c. Dog parks
 - d. Ice rink (indoor)
 - e. Tennis courts
 - f. Playgrounds
 - g. Fishing lakes
 - h. Picnic shelters

V. City and County-Wide Recommendations

A. Introduction

Currently, the majority of parks and recreation services in McCracken County are being provided by the City of Paducah. In addition, the County has developed the County Soccer Complex within the City Limits and they have assisted some outlying communities in the development of recreation and community facilities such as the Reidland Baseball complex and the Reidland Community Park and Center. In recent years, the development of better baseball facilities and parks in the Lone Oak area and the shift of the population out into the areas surrounding the City have resulted in a decline in the number of children participating in baseball activities in the City. This may be partly due to the quality of facilities and to the changing demographic conditions.

With this background and the findings presented in the previous sections, this section provides recommendations for the delivery of parks and recreation services throughout the entire county. The recommendations include facilities, programs and administrative actions. The map of the proposed recommendations is included as Figure 3.

B. Vision for the Future

The vision for the future of parks and recreation in Paducah and McCracken County, as determined from the surveys, workshops, community input, Advisory Committee and the Consultant's recommendations, include the following components:

1. An indoor community/recreation complex that would be the home of numerous programs and indoor activities that are not now available to citizens.
2. A greenway and trail system that loops the City and provides access to many of the parks, neighborhoods, schools and community facilities.
3. The riverfront, downtown and Raymond Schultz Park are the home of numerous festivals and events and these events continue to improve with new infrastructure, community facilities and riverfront development.
4. Environmental and cultural education programs thrive with the cooperation of the Schools, Parks Services Department and other agencies partnering and using facilities such as the Perkins Creek Nature Preserve and West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area as classrooms.
5. Baseball and softball programs thrive at the new Stuart Nelson Athletic Complex and new women's softball stadium at Brooks Stadium.

City and County-Wide Recommendations

6. The soccer program continues to improve with additional fields, improvements at the existing fields and supporting facilities at the McCracken County Soccer Complex.
7. The most used park in the County, Bob Noble Park, is upgraded to meet the community needs with the following improvements:
 - a. Connection to the Greenway.
 - b. Perimeter walking trail.
 - c. The new indoor community and recreation center.
 - d. A new family aquatic center.
 - e. An improved amphitheater with a covered stage area.
 - f. The existing swimming pool area is converted to a Youth Park with the bathhouse converted to a youth center and the pool area converted to a skatepark and roller hockey rink.
 - g. Improved tennis facilities with a total of eight courts that are covered with a bubble structure, parking and restrooms.
 - h. Large reservable picnic shelters for family reunions and large gatherings.
 - i. Tournament horseshoe area.
 - j. A Safety City facility to teach safety skills to children.
 - k. A tree replacement program is developed to maintain the forested nature of this park.
8. The County develops a large County Park in the unincorporated area of the County that provides picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, game courts and other facilities to compliment the baseball and softball facilities already provided in this area.
9. The underused swimming pools at Blackburn and Kolb parks are replaced with new facilities including a Sprayground at Blackburn and a larger community built playground at Kolb.
10. All of the existing parks are upgraded with improved playgrounds, lighting, etc. Restrooms are added to the larger community parks.
11. The City and County Governments and the City and County School Boards continue to communicate and coordinate for the most efficient community use of the facilities and for promotion of programs.

C. Recreation Facilities

This section of the text describes some of the primary facilities for which there are specific needs. It also discusses the site requirements for these specific facilities.

1. Aquatic Facilities

- a. Attendance for Noble Park Pool has continued to decline since 1996. This could result from the decline of the Pool Complex and its lack of new innovative features such as slides, zero depth and water play features. Increased programming and marketing caused an increase in 2002. An aquatic center ranked very highly in the surveys and was indicated as the top choice for most needed outdoor facility. The replacement of Noble Park Pool is necessary and a high priority of the Advisory Committee and the Consulting Team.

Noble Park Pool Attendance	
1996	17,700
1997	Unknown
1998	14,369
1999	Unknown
2000	11,401
2001	10,841
2002	14,254

- b. Pool attendance for Blackburn and Kolb Park have been very low. Attendance records are not maintained because there is no fee. It is recommended that the two obsolete pools be eliminated with future development of a Sprayground to be developed at Blackburn Park and a new playground to be developed at Kolb Park.
- c. The Plan recommends the development of a new family aquatic center in Bob Noble Park. Some of the features and criteria for this development are included here:
- d. Site Requirements
 - (1) Minimum 5 acre site needed.
 - (2) Highly visible site required to increase attendance.
 - (3) Could be developed in conjunction with a recreation/community center to share parking since the peak times and seasons do not normally overlap, but this is not required.
 - (4) Best if included in a larger park with other activities, but this is also not required.
 - (5) Easy access to the entire City is necessary.

City and County-Wide Recommendations

- (6) Easy access to residential areas is desired.
- (7) Water, sewer and major utilities are required.
- e. Examples of typical Family Aquatic Center Features are illustrated on Figure 4.
- f. The Plan recommends the development of a Sprayground in Blackburn Park to replace the pool that has very low attendance. These are water playgrounds without any standing water. Therefore, no lifeguards are required. The jets and sprays provide a great activity to attract youth and families to the park. Typical Sprayground features are illustrated on Figure 5.

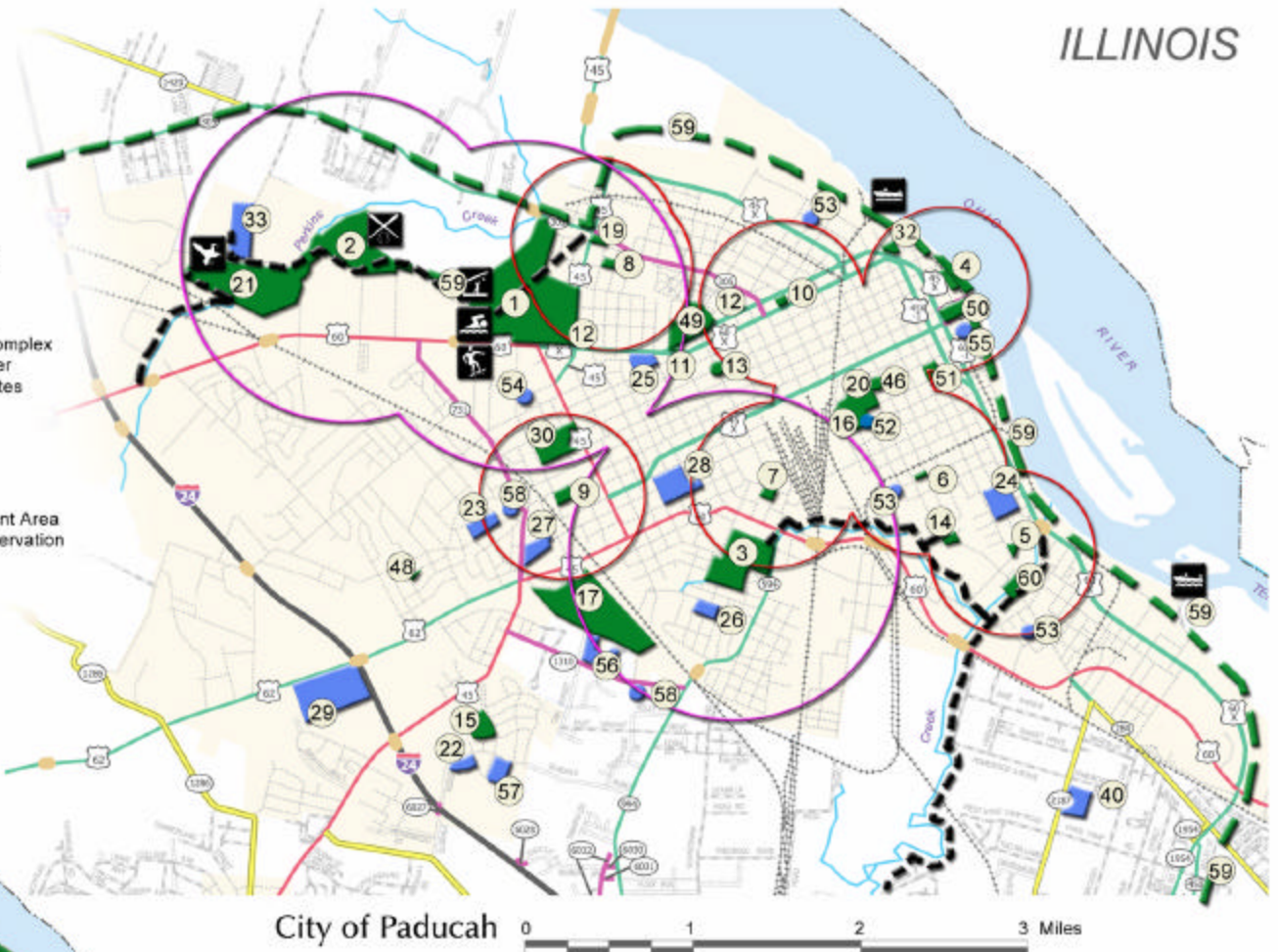
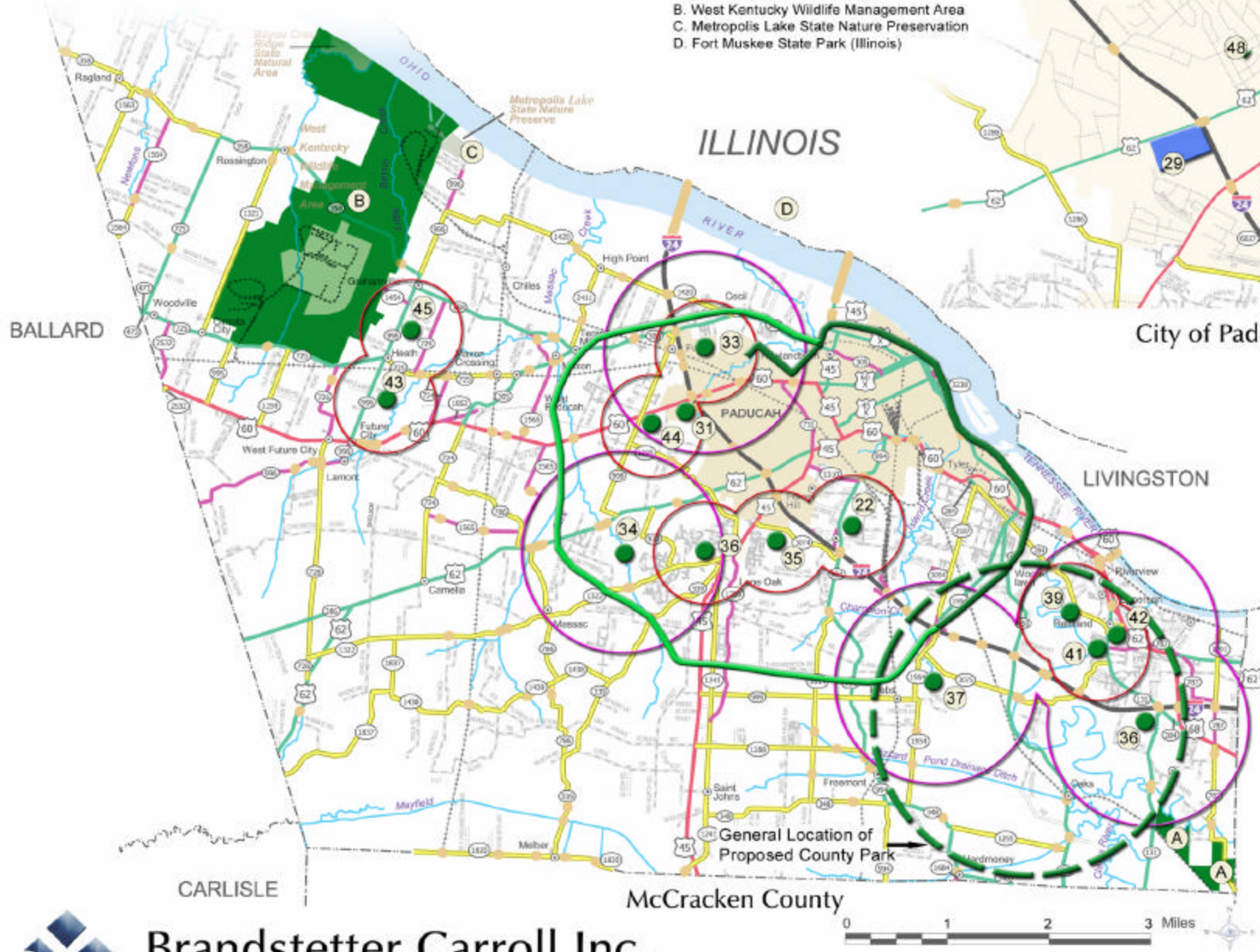
2. Recreation/Community Center

- a. The public input indicated a very strong need for a recreation/community center. This recommendation is supported by previous studies by the Purchase Area Recreation Center Task Force (PARC). This Plan recommends the development of a recreation/community center that would provide opportunities for a wide variety of functions and programs. Additional information regarding the recreation center is included in Section VII. Specific facilities that should be included in the recreation/community center would be;
 - (1) At least two high school size basketball courts;
 - (2) Community meeting rooms with kitchen facilities;
 - (3) Indoor aquatic facilities such as a competition/lap pool and leisure pool;
 - (4) Exercise and fitness activity rooms including cardiovascular and strength training facilities;
 - (5) Concessions and snack bar;
 - (6) Walking track;
 - (7) Children's activity rooms;
 - (8) Locker rooms;
 - (9) Restrooms;
 - (10) Administrative office space.

1. Bob Noble Park and Peck Addition
2. Stuart Nelson Park
3. Brooks Stadium & Sheppard Field
4. Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park
5. Kolb Park
6. Blackburn Park
7. Henry Clay Park
8. Campbell Park
9. Keiler Park
10. Voor Park
11. Martin Luther King Memorial
12. Caldwell Park
13. Lang Park
14. Cherry Park #2
15. Forrest Cove Park
16. Midtown Golf Course/Southside Park
17. Paxton Golf Course
18. Cherry Civic Center
19. Parks Service Office/Senior Complex
20. Jetton Gym
21. Perkins Creek Nature Preserve
22. St. Mary's School
23. Clark Elementary School
24. Cooper-Whiteside Elementary School
25. McNabb Elementary School
26. Morgan Elementary School
27. Paducah Middle School
28. Paducah Tilghman High School
29. Paducah Community College
30. Carson Park
31. Drury Inn Soccer Field
32. Executive Inn/Julian Carroll Convention Center and Expo Center
33. McCracken County Soccer Complex
34. Lone Oak Park (Doc Hicks Park)
35. Lone Oak Elementary
36. Hendron Elementary and Lone Oak High Schools
37. Husband Road Baseball Complex
38. Reidland-Farley BSA
39. Reidland High and Middle School
40. Farley Elementary School
41. Reidland Elementary

42. Reidland Community Park
43. Heath Schools
44. Concord Park
45. Heath Community Park
46. Paducah Tilghman Soccer Field
47. W.C. Young Community Center
48. Cherry Park #1
49. Oak Grove Cemetary
50. Downtown Parking Lot/Plaza
51. Dolly McNutt Park
52. Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club
53. Housing Authority Sites
54. Salvation Army
55. Four Rivers Center
56. County Schools Administration Complex
57. Forest Hills Adult Education Center
58. Community Christian Academy Sites
59. Levee and Floodwall
60. Bridge Street Open Space

- State and Federal Land**
- A. Clarks River Nature Preserve
 - B. West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area
 - C. Metropolis Lake State Nature Preservation
 - D. Fort Muskee State Park (Illinois)



- Legend**
- 1/2 Mile From a Neighborhood Park
 - 1 Mile From a Community Park
- Recommendations**
- Flood Wall/Earthen Levee Greenway
 - Paducah Outer Loop Greenway
 - Other Bike Routes/Greenways
 - Family Aquatic Center
 - Possible Marina Facility Locations
 - Recreation/Community Center
 - Skate Park
 - Baseball/Softball Complex
 - Nature Park



Shallow Water Play Features



Steps



Competition Pool



Zero Depth Access



Water Slide



Shade Shelters

Figure 4

City and County-Wide Recommendations



Figure 5

City and County-Wide Recommendations

- (11) An ice rink has been strongly suggested by the public through the surveys and focus groups as part of this Plan.
- b. During the process of this Master Plan, this Consultant was retained to refine the program for the building and to prepare recommendations for the operational structure and to perform an operational cost and revenue analysis. This process provides the necessary information for the City leaders to make informed decisions on the proposed features and activities to be included as part of the recommended complex. The results of this study are included in Section VII of this Master Plan.
 - c. Specific site requirements are as follows:
 - (1) Approximately 7 acres required for the building and parking.
 - (2) Could be located in a larger park with other facilities and activities but is not necessary.
 - (3) Should be easily accessible to the community. A location along a major road and the proposed Greenway would be ideal.
 - (4) Does not require as much visibility as the family aquatic center because most activities are programmed.
 - (5) Water, sewer and major utilities are required.
 - d. Location: The ideal location is in Bob Noble Park along Park Avenue. The parking lot could be shared with the proposed family aquatic center since their peak times do not conflict.

The typical features of a community/recreation center are illustrated on Figure 6.

Noble park is a logical location for this facility due to the following reasons:

- (1) Noble Park is the most used park in the County.
- (2) The land is currently City owned.
- (3) The site is located along two U.S. routes that provide convenient access to most of the County
- (4) The center will compliment the other family activities in the park.

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- (5) The site is located along the proposed Greenway that will link portions of the City.
- (6) The site is located in bus routes.

3. Baseball and Soccer Fields

- a. Soccer and baseball games are currently played at several locations throughout the county. The development of ballfield complexes is ideal. It is best to consolidate the location of ballfields for games into larger complexes for the following reasons:
 - (1) More efficient for maintenance and equipment.
 - (2) Increased concession sales.
 - (3) Better oversight by league officials.
 - (4) Convenient for parents with more than one child participating.
 - (5) Convenience to league officials.
 - (6) Easier to store equipment in one location.
 - (7) The location of several games at one site increases the chance that qualified medical staff will be at the site when an injury or accident occurs.
- b. Baseball and softball complexes are currently located at Bob Noble Park, Stuart Nelson Park, Brooks Stadium, Husband Road, Reidland-Farley, Heath, Lone Oak, Concord and additional individual fields at school sites and smaller parks. The Plan recommends the development of Stuart Nelson as the primary baseball and softball complex in the City that would include the fields relocated from Noble Park. The plan for this park includes a four-field complex for youth baseball, two tee-ball fields and a four-field softball complex. One of the fields on the softball complex should be designed to also be used for baseball for high school age persons.



Gymnasium/Game Courts



Lap/Competition Pool



Cardio-vascular Area



Family Aquatic Center



Walking/Jogging Track



Multi-Purpose Rooms



Game Room



Climbing Wall

Figure 6

City and County-Wide Recommendations

- d. In addition to these improvements, the Plan recommends the development of a tournament quality women's' softball stadium at Brooks Stadium. The parking lots could be shared. This field could be used similar to the current Brooks Field for tournaments, high school and college games.
- e. The County Soccer Complex provides the largest soccer complex currently. More fields are needed for practices. The fields and parking lots at the Complex are less than desirable due to settling of the ground over the old landfill. The Soccer Association and the County are trying to make improvements to some of the fields. It is recommended to continue to upgrade the existing fields and parking lots, provide quality restroom and concession facilities and to expand into the adjacent land that was not part of the landfill.

4. Picnic Areas

- a. The development of picnic areas and picnic shelters were very high on the list of needs identified in the survey and the public input. Picnic areas are best if developed in a natural setting. Shelters would be developed in each of the neighborhood, community and county parks. Community parks provide better opportunities for the development of large shelters and group reservable picnic shelters, which could be used for company picnics, family reunions, church outings, etc. These group rental facilities are best if developed in conjunction with a playground, sand volleyball court, walking trails and open fields for games. Shelters should be located in close proximity to parking and restrooms. Shelters that are the most reserved in other communities are those which are located in wooded areas or that overlook water bodies.
- b. It would also be appropriate to develop picnic shelters and facilities in the vicinity of athletic complexes. Families often spend many hours at the ballfields on game days and this provides a place to get out of the sun and a facility for the teams to meet.
- c. Natural settings that are most inviting for picnic areas would include wooded areas, open fields, lakes for fishing, riverfronts and natural stream corridors would provide good use.
- d. For the above reasons, new picnic areas should be developed as part of all new neighborhood, community and county parks. Some of the natural areas will also be appropriate for limited picnic facilities.
- e. Specific locations where picnic areas and shelters are recommended include:

City and County-Wide Recommendations

- (1) Bob Noble Park – Add two large shelters on the west side of the lake, one in the Anna Baumer area for a group reservable area and one near the playground.
- (2) Stuart Nelson Park to compliment the baseball and softball activities.
- (3) Small shelters at the Brooks Stadium Park.

5. Trails and Greenways – Walkways and bike trails were ranked the highest in the surveys when asked if there was a strong or slight need for this facility. In addition, the public workshops and focus groups also indicated the greenways and trails as one of the most needed facilities. There is a wonderful opportunity for a long trail and greenway system on the levee and around the right-of-way for the floodwall. The Greenway System is discussed in more detail in Section VIII.

6. Skateparks

- a. Skate parks are very commonly mentioned and rated very highly among teens as a facility with the greatest need. Currently skaters are going to facilities in Metropolis and other communities at some distance from McCracken County for these activities. This Consultant recommends that a skate park facility be developed somewhere in the urban area to serve Paducah and McCracken County. An ideal location would be where the current swimming pool is located in Bob Noble Park. The area already has basketball and sand volleyball courts that are complimentary activities. The bathhouse could be converted to a teen center. This site is easily accessible to most of the community and is along the proposed Greenway route.
- b. This activity provides teens with an active recreation pursuit for individuals who typically do not participate in other organized sports and activities. Ownership of rollerblades and skateboards is very common among teenagers in this area. We recommend that a facility be located so that a maximum number of people can reach it relatively simply and a location within the urban area of Paducah would be most ideal. The design of the facility should be developed in conjunction with the community's youth. Involvement of the youth in the planning, design, promotion and operation of the facility will help to ensure the success of this facility. A typical skate park will include approximately 12,000 to 20,000 square feet of surface area which would include a series of bowls, half pipes, ramps, rails, curbs and other streetscape type facilities. Typical features from concrete skateparks in Middletown, Ohio and Lexington are shown on Figure 7.

7. Playgrounds

- a. Playgrounds are typically developed at nearly every mini-park, neighborhood, community or county park. The playground should be designed for the age specific group for which they are intended. At larger community parks, areas should be designated for pre-school and school aged children. It is recommended that a variety of experiences be provided at each playground. We recommend the use of safe and durable materials such as plastic components; plastic coated steel decks, steel posts and similar materials. The overall design of the playground in each facility should meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines. Proper safety surfacing should be provided under all equipment. Handicap accessibility is a major issue, which must be considered in the design of each playground.
- b. At community and county parks, it is recommended that large destination playgrounds be developed since these parks typically have the infrastructure to handle larger groups of people and will draw from a longer distance. One option is to develop a “Community Built” playground. These projects involve the community in the fund raising, planning and construction of a playground. The process builds community ownership of the park. The earlier community built parks used wood construction which results in several concerns over long term maintenance and safety. Now many of the playground manufacturers can work with the community to manage the process and result in a quality, customized playground.

8. Amphitheater

- a. The Noble Park Amphitheater is deteriorating and additional infrastructure is needed to develop this into a quality facility. The seating and stage area needs to be reconstructed and a cover on the stage area would allow much more functionality and sound quality. Additional electric power and storage are needed in the stage area. The park road must be relocated closer to the lake to provide a larger and safer environment. A driveway should be provided to the stage area to accomplish the proposed improvements, the stage should be relocated farther to the west and the drainage will need to be rerouted. It is recommended that the potential user groups of the amphitheater be involved in the programming and design of the proposed improvements.
- b. The Wilson Stage on the riverfront should be maintained as a venue for entertainment at the many festivals and events that take place in this area.

City and County-Wide Recommendations

- c. The County is improving the bleacher area at Carson Park with a stage and providing a cover over the bleachers. These improvements will make this facility functional for many additional activities.

9. Edwin J. Paxton Park Golf Course

(a) Background

The Golf Director, Daniel Mullen, currently operates the Paxton Golf Course. The operation of the golf course is strictly independent from the City's Parks Services Department. A Board of Directors oversees the operation and all revenue collected goes into the operation of the golf course.

Golf course rounds at Paxton Park have decreased over the last few years, 2002 is no exception. This is not a Paxton Park issue but a nationwide issue due to increased number of golf courses available to the public.

Minimal to zero capital improvements are available to the golf course operation to upgrade the golf course or replace needed equipment for daily operation.

The manager takes a minimum salary from the revenues derived from the daily paid golf rounds.

The manager receives additional revenues from golf cart rentals, the pro shop, the concession and driving range. The manager supports his/her salary of \$23,690.00 annually with these revenues however he/she is also responsible for extra clubhouse staff, driving range staff, concession staff, and inventory, i.e. miscellaneous cost from these additional revenues.

(b) Recommendations:

(1) Financial Management

The Golf Course Manager should provide the Parks Services Director the following information:

- ? Proposed budget and expenses annually
- ? Business plan for each years operation
- ? Revenues and expenses report on a monthly basis to include the following:
 - ? Revenues/expenses from rounds of golf

City and County-Wide Recommendations

- ? Revenues/expenses from golf cart rentals
- ? Revenues/expenses from driving range
- ? Revenues/expenses from concession
- ? Revenues/expenses from pro shop merchandise
- ? Meet with the Parks Services Director quarterly to review reports.

This information would provide the Parks Services Director a more through understanding of total revenues and expenses generated by the Paxton Park Golf Course.

(2) **Golf Operations:**

In order to upgrade the quality of the golf course and bring it to the level needed to sustain or increase annual rounds of golf, the City of Paducah needs to consider the golf course as an essential asset to the City and provide city capital improvement funds needed to upgrade the golf course and purchase the necessary equipment such as tractors, mowers, etc.

10. Dog Park

A dog park is a place where dogs can play and get exercise in a fenced, safe environment. It is also a great community building space as dog owners meet. As urban areas become more developed and people become more isolated, it is important for cities to nurture a sense of community. Many dog owners use public parks to exercise their dogs. Present ordinances in most cities limit dogs in parks, and leash laws, although difficult to enforce because they have a low priority for law enforcement agents, prohibit dogs from running off-leash. Dogs, however, need a clean and safe place to play and socialize without endangering or annoying people and property. Well-exercised dogs create less of a nuisance and make better neighbors, and dog parks help keep dogs and people active by bringing them out into the parks. For some dog owners, specifically the elderly and disabled, a dog park would allow the only opportunity for them and their dogs to play and socialize with other people and other dogs. Dog parks reach beyond social and economic barriers and are a valid use of public parkland. The establishment of dog parks promotes responsible dog ownership, prevents infringement on the rights of other park users, promotes public health and safety, makes it easier to enforce leash laws, allows dog owners a place to meet people with common interests, and fosters a sense of community.

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(a) Site Characteristics

The following characteristics describe an ideal dog park site:

- At least 2 acres
- 4-6 foot high fence with 6 inch buried boundary
- Perimeter marking
- Double-gated entry
- Adequate parking/disabled access
- Signage
- Restrooms
- Shade
- Adequate drainage
- Drinking water for dogs and humans
- Benches/tables
- Pooper scooper stations
- Covered garbage cans/trash removal

(b) Potential Locations

Locations with potential to be developed as a dog park include Brooks Stadium, Henry Clay Park or other open areas within the City. The development of a dog park should be coordinated closely with the park advocates and the neighbors in the surrounding area.

11. New Community Parks – Some new facilities were identified in the Needs Analysis process. The following facilities would generally be developed at each of the new Community Parks that would be developed in the County.

- a. Playgrounds
- b. Tennis courts
- c. Walking trails

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- d. Volleyball courts
- e. Practice ball fields
- f. Picnic shelters
- g. Basketball courts
- h. Restrooms



Figure 7



Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
Architects Engineers Planners
Lexington Cincinnati Cleveland

Typical Skate Park Features

Paducah-McCracken County Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Paducah, Kentucky

D. Riverfront and Downtown Development

1. Over the last 15 years, several planning exercises have identified various projects that collectively make a significant impact on the quality of life and the vitality for the City of Paducah and the downtown area. Several of these individual projects are now proceeding to the point where the critical mass has been generated to have a strong regional appeal. Some of the projects which have been implemented include:
 - a. Renaissance Kentucky Downtown Revitalization
 - b. Four Rivers Performing Arts Center
 - c. The development of paved parking and a convenience center adjacent to the floodwall downtown.
 - d. The International Quilting Museum
 - e. The development of the Julian Carroll Convention Center and Expo Center.

This Master Plan encourages the continued emphasis on improving the downtown and riverfront area because this is an area which provides the City, County and region with a unique identity and the activities and events held in this area truly impact the lives of residents within the entire region. Currently the City hosts approximately 62 events throughout the year with most being held within the downtown area. Some of the additional projects that are recommended include the following:

- a. Continuation of the greenway trail to extend from Perkins Creek Nature Preserve, through Stuart Nelson Park to Noble Park and the Levee Greenway and extending into the downtown area.
- b. The completion of the Four Rivers Performing Arts Center
- c. Continued improvements to the downtown parking area and convenience center with the development of a downtown playground and other greenspaces to compliment the events.
- d. Development of a marina. Potential locations have included east of downtown at the Cuba Towhead area and another location located adjacent to the Julian Carroll Convention Center and Expo Center. In previous studies, this area also included a boat launch ramp, campgrounds, picnic areas and other facilities. This area is closer and has a stronger link to the downtown area than the development of a marina at Cuba Towhead.

- e. Development of a transient boat dock in the downtown area. This facility would allow for temporary docking of boats for people coming into the downtown area for events, attractions, restaurants and other activities. This facility would also allow for the docking of excursion boats for activities in the downtown area.

E. Programs

1. Programming is the best method of making maximum use of existing recreation facilities. Programs will attract a variety of people into your facilities that may not otherwise visit your parks and recreation facilities. Programming allows the City to involve people of all ages in the parks. For example, a concert or movie in the park may attract a family that may not have otherwise used the park. A room in an indoor center is just a room until you program it for aerobics, dance, various classes, before and after-school programs, etc. Programming can bring a community together and provide the benefits that residents are looking for in a community in which to relocate. Communities with a variety of programs typically print and distribute a booklet that lists the events and programs offered throughout the year.
2. The list of programs provided by the Staff of the Paducah Parks Services Department identifies a variety of innovative programs for youth and adults. Some programs such as the athletic leagues at Jetton Gym appear to be well attended by youth and adults and establishes the need for a new gym complex with the new Recreation/Community Center recommended as the top priority by the Advisory Committee as well as the consulting team.
3. Numerous programs are provided for pre-school children and teens. The best-attended programs held in 2001-2002 are the special events for teens such as the Teen Board's Strobe Light Bowling Event that drew 235 in attendance.
4. An overall review of the attendance figures for Paducah Parks and Recreation is lacking and staff agrees that the development of a better tracking system for gathering attendance data will also be helpful in the development of future programs. In addition, an ongoing system of gaining the users' comments and evaluation of programs is also recommended as a tool to constantly evaluate and improve the programs.

F. Natural Areas

Residents desire outdoor environmental education opportunities. The proposed Perkins Creek Nature Preserve and peck Addition at Noble Park should fulfill some of this need. Several other possibilities exist for the development and preservation of important green spaces in the County. The City could partner with the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area for the use of their facilities

and expertise in offering nature and ecological education programs. The community should continue to research other possibilities for preservation and nature education.

G. Joint Use of Facilities

The public wants to see the various agencies that provide recreational facilities and services operate in the most efficient manner and use their tax dollars in the most productive manner. In the beginning of the Master Plan process, a groundbreaking meeting was held with members of the City and County School Boards, City Commission and County Fiscal Court. The purpose of this meeting was to begin a dialog concerning the delivery of parks and recreation services. Individuals were assigned to review the possibility of shared use of facilities and how to maximize the use of public assets already in existence. This effort will be ongoing. Some of the areas of discussion included:

1. The schools are looking at the times and facilities that may be available for community use. Appendix G is a sample of a Recreation Commission and a Board of Education agreement for shared use of facilities. It also includes attachments that identify Recreation Centers that were built on Board of Education property attached to public schools. The Recreation staff and school staff worked together to provide their community with effective Recreational and educational opportunities.
2. The schools' science teachers may team with the Parks Department to develop a curriculum of outdoor environmental education. This would especially be possible once the Perkins Creek Nature Preserve is developed.
3. The gym and recreation facilities at Paducah Community College are not used. This provides a wonderful opportunity to provide additional facilities for the community with existing resources. The baseball field and tennis courts need to be renovated.
4. All of these agencies could team to provide a common marketing and scheduling campaign that would highlight the various programs, classes, and activities that are offered in one booklet, calendar, web page or other method.
5. Improve communications between these agencies.

H. Staff

1. The current staff provides facilities that the public feels are fairly well maintained according to the public input. The expansion of the parks and recreation system will require that additional staff be hired for the programming, operations and maintenance of the additional facilities, programs and properties. Some of this staff will be in the Parks Services

City and County Wide Recommendations

Department for programming and others will be in the Public Works Department for maintenance.

2. The City could investigate the practice of contract mowing at some of the parks. This practice should free-up some of the existing labor force for needed maintenance, upgrade and improvements of these facilities rather than spending most of their time on lawn mowers in the summer months. The success of the contract mowing program should be evaluated for its effectiveness and level of quality and possibly be expanded to other parks if it is proven to be successful.
3. Therefore, it is recommended that the staff levels increase in proportion to the increase in land, programs and facilities. In addition, specific expertise for the new programs and facilities will be required for such items as nature and environmental programming, aquatics and exercise programs. Specific classes such as crafts, exercise programs and others will be performed through contract labor by persons specializing in these fields.
4. A team of staff should be developed with their primary focus on event set-up and coordination. The City currently hosts 62 events per year and has to pull staff from other duties for these events. The team could be used to supplement other maintenance and staff functions when events are not taking place.
5. Job descriptions for some key positions in the PARC Center are included in the Appendices.

I. CAPRA Accreditation

1. The National Recreation and Park Association has established a procedure for the accreditation of parks and recreation agencies. The agency that administers this program is the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This process is a self-assessment and peer review procedure. The guidelines are included in the "Self-Assessment Manual for Quality Operation of Park and Recreation Agencies" that has been provided to the City of Paducah as a separate document.
2. The goal of this process is to develop and maintain an agency that is efficient, effective, professional in its operational system and which delivers quality services. Agencies accredited by these standards have demonstrated not only that they meet the standards for a quality operation but also that they have the professional competence and the community support to complete the extensive process.

J. Strategic Business Plan

1. It is the recommendation of the consulting team that prior to beginning the process of CAPRA Accreditation, the Paducah Parks Services Department develop a Strategic Business Plan that would be a shorter and beneficial process for the staff and eventually lead directly into the CAPRA certification process. The benefits of this process will allow employees to be involved in establishing values, create a vision statement, redefine the department's mission statement, and develop goals, objectives and action items immediately that will enhance the operation of the Department. Staff tends to support that which they help create.
2. The strategy for developing a Strategic Business Plan, Action Teams and recommendations for the Department is in Appendix D.

VI. Individual Park Recommendations and Capital Budgets

A. General

The following section lists the recommended improvements to each of the existing and proposed park sites. The recommendations are listed in a budget item format. Some park budgets are accompanied by the plan to illustrate the existing and proposed improvements.

The recommendations for improvements to the existing parks and for the development of new parks are discussed in this section of the text. Estimated construction and development budgets for individual parks are presented in this section. The costs listed are for preliminary budget purposes. More accurate costs should be developed as each park design is refined and more accurate site and design information is available. These costs represent the order of magnitude of development at each park more than the actual cost that will be experienced. In general, safety and accessibility issues are proposed first, followed by facilities with a very strong need and then the remaining facilities. Each budget item has been inflated by 10% to 15% to account for planning and design costs. Land acquisition costs are not included. All figures are in 2002 dollars. Improvements in subsequent years should add to these amounts to account for inflation.

Summary of Park Capital Costs	Cost
Bob Noble Park	\$5,260,000
Stuart Nelson Park	\$4,180,000
Brooks Stadium and Park	\$575,000
Perkins Creek Nature Preserve	\$752,000
Raymond Schultz Park	\$100,000
Kolb Park	\$145,000
Blackburn Park	\$410,000
Henry Clay Park	\$110,000
Campbell Park – Betsy Ross Park	\$36,000
Keiler Park	\$80,000
Voor Park	\$47,000
Southside Park – Midtown Golf Course	\$230,000
Paducah Community College	\$85,000
Dolly McNutt Park	\$40,000
Total	\$12,050,000

Individual Park Recommendations

County Parks and Facilities	Cost
McCracken County Soccer Complex	\$1,000,000
New County Park	\$2,000,000
Improvements at other parks in the County	Unknown
Total	\$3,000,000*

*Note – The Greenways and Recreation Center costs are in their respective section of the report.

B. City Parks and Facilities

Bob Noble Park	Cost
Family Aquatic Center	\$2,000,000
Youth Center and Skatepark	\$700,000
Perimeter walking trail (5,500 Linear feet)	\$90,000
Tennis improvements with 8 courts, restrooms and bubble enclosure	\$900,000
Amphitheater upgrade with covered stage	\$400,000
Restroom building east of the lake	\$90,000
Safety City	\$100,000
Two large shelters and parking west of the lake	\$200,000
New shelter, playground, playfield and building improvements in the Anna Baumer Area.	\$150,000
Connections to the Greenway	\$60,000
Reforestation program	\$150,000
Relocate road near amphitheater	\$30,000
Parking and shelter near the playground area	\$90,000
Botanical Garden	\$200,000
Tournament Horseshoe Complex	\$100,000
Total	\$5,260,000*

*Note: Does not include the Recreation Center.



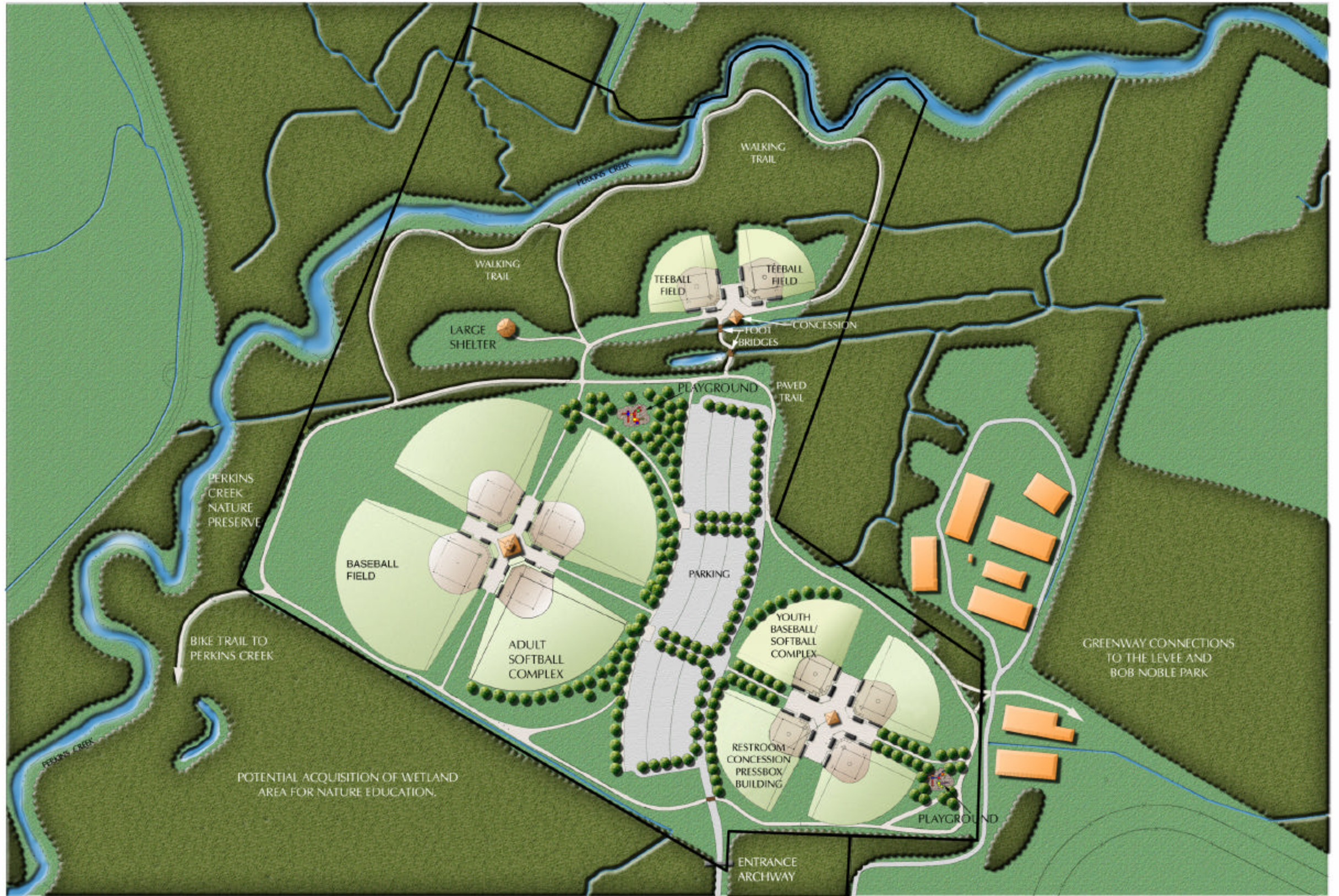
Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Architects Engineers Planners
 Lexington Cincinnati Cleveland

Bob Noble Park
 Paducah Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 Paducah, Kentucky

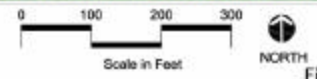
Individual Park Recommendations

Stuart Nelson Park	Cost
Lighted, four field youth baseball complex with pressbox / concession / restroom building	\$1,200,000
Four field lighted adult softball and baseball complex with restroom / concession / pressbox building	\$1,500,000
Two tee-ball fields	\$50,000
Picnic shelter	\$80,000
Perimeter trail (12,534 feet of new trail and 2,847 feet on existing road)	\$200,000
Road and parking with lighting	\$600,000
Utilities	\$100,000
Playground	\$100,000
Landscaping	\$100,000
Entrance archway to commemorate the Emancipation Proclamation	\$50,000
Marquee sign at Route 60 and tree lined boulevard along access road to enhance the park entrance.	\$200,000
Total	\$4,180,000

Note: The land immediately south of this park has been designated as a wetlands which makes it very difficult for the owner to develop as desired. The City may take over this area to expand the walking trails and environmental education area to compliment the adjacent Perkins Creek Nature Preserve.



DEVELOP A TREE LINED BOULEVARD TO ROUTE 60 WITH A MARQUEE SIGN AT THE HIGHWAY.



Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Architects Engineers Planners
 Lexington Cincinnati Cleveland

Figure 9
Stuart Nelson Park
 Paducah Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 Paducah, Kentucky

Individual Park Recommendations

Brooks Stadium and Park	Cost
Women's Softball Stadium	\$500,000
Picnic shelter	\$35,000
Playground	\$40,000
Total	\$575,000

Note: Portions of this site could also be used as a Dog Park with a fenced in area.

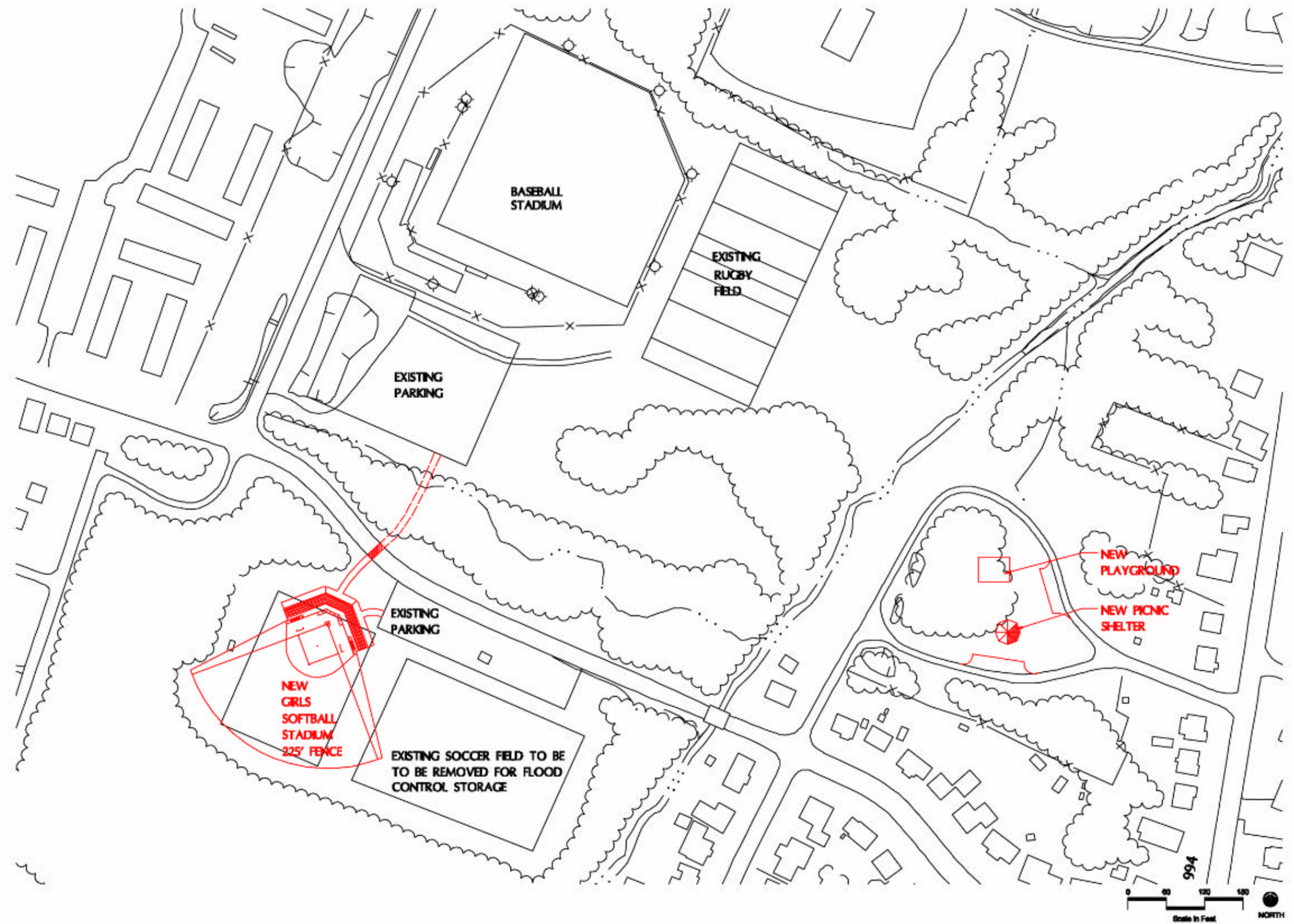


Figure 10



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 Architects Engineers Planners
 Cincinnati Lexington Cleveland

Brooks Stadium
 Paducah Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 Paducah, Kentucky

Individual Park Recommendations

Perkins Creek Nature Preserve	Cost
Paved walking trail (4,500 linear feet) (porous paving or soil stabilizer)	\$70,000
Bark chip trail (4,500 linear feet)	\$40,000
Wetland restoration and enhancements (Planting, revegetation, habitat restoration)	\$200,000
Boardwalks (580 ') and observation decks at wetlands	\$130,000
Bat Condo (8' x 8', finished unit mounted 8-9' off the ground, oriented to the southeast to collect morning sun on roof panel)	\$4,000
Parking (porous paving – 20 cars)	\$22,000
Interpretive displays	\$10,000
Restroom and utilities	\$100,000
Perkins Creek Bridge	\$50,000
Native grass planting	\$25,000
Screen planting	\$20,000
Greenway Phase 1 from Stuart Nelson Park to Nature Preserve – 10' wide paved with 2 culverts. (1700')	\$45,000
Total	\$752,000

Conceptual Draft Plan: Parkins Creek Nature Preserve

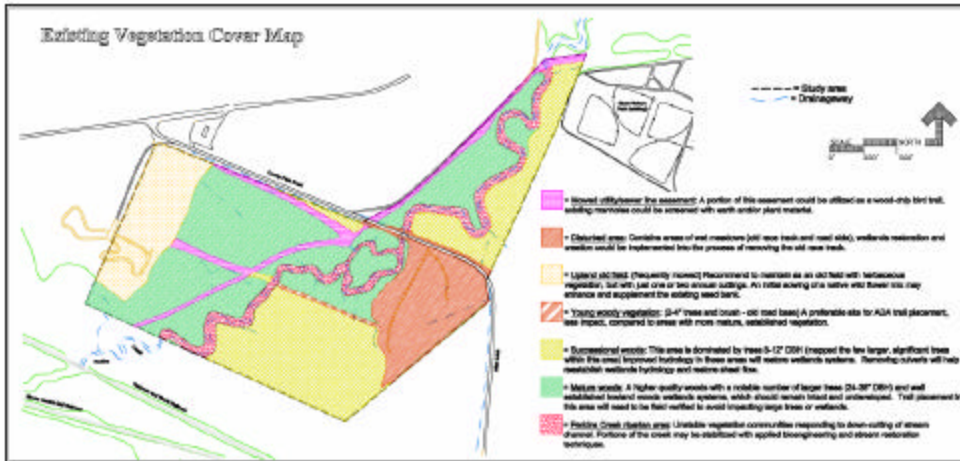
City of Paducah, McCracken County, Kentucky



Prepared for: Brantstater Carroll Inc.
Architects Engineers Planners
December 2001



Existing Vegetation Cover Map



Trail Corridor
A large log house or "leach" is suggested in the vicinity of the wetlands restoration area. Previous studies have shown that an open structure like this structure will help to mitigate some losses. This structure is designed to attract large numbers of water birds and will serve as an ecological attraction to the site. The corral is designed to house more than 10,000 lbs and is intended to serve as an attraction for the visitors watching the night emergence of these magnificent adults.



Stream Restoration
The wetland of Parkins Creek has undergone rapid alteration over the past several years. Increased development has led to changes in the landscape and created an unstable stream channel. The banks of Parkins Creek show signs of severe erosion and appear to be carrying an unusually high sediment load. This site may be a candidate for stream restoration techniques to stabilize stream banks and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.

Project Summary and Design Intent

Davey field biologists visited the proposed Parkins Creek Nature Preserve to inventory and map significant natural resources important for future development of the park and preserve. Wetlands, macroinvertebrates, riparian plant communities, significant trees, unique species, and stream corridors were considered important features to be documented. In addition, Davey gathered existing sources of data including soil survey information and topographic data.

These maps make recommendations for the development of this proposed nature preserve. Recommendations are made to both protect the existing natural resources, as well as make areas of the most spectacular features available to the viewing public.

The proposed trail system has been laid out to capitalize on existing topography and resources. The trails will wind through the various habitats present within the study area. Wooded trails will allow visitors to view some of the larger specimens more easily for the site. The trail winds through open fields that border wetland areas. The interface between these environments is often a focal point of biological diversity. Known as the "edge effect", species of the forest meet with species of the field and will affect visitors the best opportunity to view the diversity of wildlife within the park. In addition, side trails and boardwalks are recommended to take visitors to sensitive wetland areas and afford them unique wildlife viewing opportunities such as animal amphibian nesting runs.

One major stream crossing is planned to provide access to the western portion of the area. Traditional stream crossings that utilize piers and culverts would change flow dynamics and impact aquatic communities. A suspension bridge is recommended, which will have fewer impacts on the aquatic communities of Parkins Creek. A suspension bridge may also be more technically feasible, as the banks of Parkins Creek appear highly erodible and in a dynamic state of dis-equilibrium.

In addition to preserving high quality natural areas, the proposed preserve also offers opportunities to restore degraded habitats. An abandoned motorcycle track is found towards the eastern end of the study area. Some degraded wetlands are already beginning to enclose this area. An expansion and improvement of this wetland area is recommended. The improved wetland area will also serve a functional purpose. It is recommended that nearby stormwater be diverted into this area, which will have the dual effect of providing hydrology and filtering pollutants from stormwater before it eventually discharges back into Parkins Creek and then into the Ohio River. The covered wetland/stormwater management area could also be used by local schools as an outdoor learning lab.

Wildlife structures are planned that will provide additional habitat within the preserve. As the wetland of Parkins Creek continues to develop, this preserve will serve as an important refuge for local wildlife. A large "leach" is planned in the vicinity of the wetlands restoration area. Highly visible to the public, this structure is designed to attract over 10,000 brooding female birds. The night emergence of such a large colony would undoubtedly become a significant attraction.

Finally, the channel of Parkins Creek shows many of the common signs of stream associated with sedimentation. Downstream erosion and high sediment loads are likely diminishing the sensitive aquatic biota in and to this stream. Specific restoration techniques are not made at this time as the stream appears to be in a state of dynamic change. As long as development continues within the watershed, the stream will likely fluctuate and seek a new equilibrium. Future efforts may focus on stream restoration techniques to reduce this degradation and improve habitat for fish and aquatic wildlife.

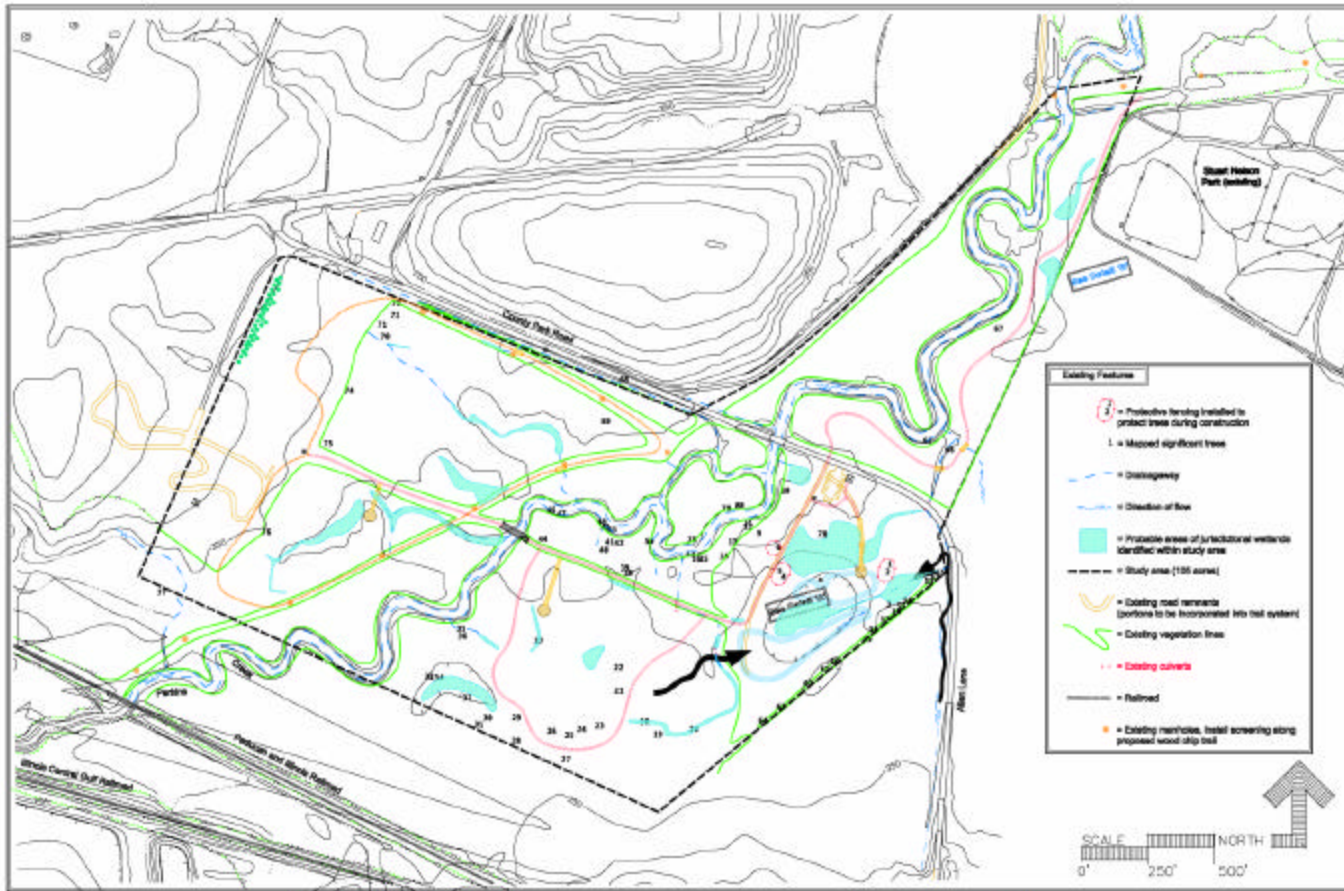


Suspension Bridge
A suspension bridge is proposed to cross Parkins Creek. Coverage of this nature preserve flows through to sensitive fish and wildlife species and offer an excellent situation for park visitors.

Mapped Tree Data

Map No.	Map Name	Map Date	Map Scale	Map Author	Map Notes
1	Site Plan	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Initial site plan showing study area boundaries.
2	Topographic	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Topographic map of the study area.
3	Vegetation	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Vegetation cover map showing different habitat types.
4	Soil Survey	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Soil survey map showing soil types and characteristics.
5	Stream Channel	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Map of the stream channel showing flow direction and features.
6	Trail System	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Proposed trail system map showing various trail routes.
7	Wetland	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Wetland delineation map showing wetland boundaries.
8	Restoration	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Map showing restoration areas and proposed structures.
9	Final Plan	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Final conceptual draft plan for the preserve.

Map No.	Map Name	Map Date	Map Scale	Map Author	Map Notes
10	Soil Survey	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Soil survey map showing soil types and characteristics.
11	Topographic	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Topographic map of the study area.
12	Vegetation	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Vegetation cover map showing different habitat types.
13	Stream Channel	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Map of the stream channel showing flow direction and features.
14	Trail System	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Proposed trail system map showing various trail routes.
15	Wetland	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Wetland delineation map showing wetland boundaries.
16	Restoration	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Map showing restoration areas and proposed structures.
17	Final Plan	12/01	1:10,000	DAVEY	Final conceptual draft plan for the preserve.



Existing Features

- Protective fencing installed to protect trees during construction
- Mapped significant trees
- Drainage way
- Direction of flow
- Proposed areas of jurisdictional wetlands identified within study area
- Study area (100 acres)
- Existing road remnants (corridor to be incorporated into trail system)
- Existing vegetation lines
- Existing culverts
- Refined
- Existing restrictions, metal screening along proposed wood chip trail

Proposed Features

- Proposed planting of Eastern Red Cedar to screen off the building
- Proposed Parkins Creek crossing (suspension bridge, equipped open)
- Proposed parking lot locations (140' x 80' - 30 vehicles per lot, parking sensor)
- Proposed restroom facility locations
- Proposed informational kiosk locations
- Proposed trail Corridor (8' x 8', refined unit mounted 8' off the ground, oriented to the southeast to attract morning sun (heat) on roof panels)
- Proposed boardwalk, 4x8" to link observation areas and open 4 small drainage ways (constructed with #1 yellow pine, P.T. structural members, and decked with recycled plastic lumber)
- Proposed trail location (graded ADA, 4,200 feet of main trunk and 315 feet of restroom and boardwalk access paths)
- Proposed observation decks (constructed with #1 yellow pine P.T. structural members, and decked with recycled plastic lumber)
- Proposed location of wood-chip bird trail (to utilize existing, mowed areas and provide a loop trail of approximately 4,500 feet)
- Proposed open water area (excavated to a depth of 3'-4', approximately 2 acres shown. Harvested material may be used to backfill riparian restrooms and apply on-site where fill is necessary during trail/banking lot construction)



Leached Woods Boardwalk
A boardwalk is proposed that will extend into a wooded wetland area. These habitats are breeding grounds for a variety of amphibians and can be developed into unique park attractions. The boardwalk will allow visitors to observe this area and to submerge without disrupting the environment.



Wetlands Restoration Area
A wetlands restoration project is proposed for this area. All remains of the old motorcycle track will be replaced with a diversity of wetlands environments. A boardwalk will extend as far as open water environment where visitors will be able to observe fish and aquatic biota. The open water area will allow park users an unobstructed view of the habitat to observe amphibians, birds, and mammals. Drainage from the adjacent road will be diverted into the wetland to provide water to the expanded area. The wetlands will act as a parking basin before discharging into Parkins Creek.



Restoring Wetlands
A wetland delineation should be done prior to trail placement to minimize impacts to these areas.

Individual Park Recommendations

Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park and Downtown Event Space	Cost
Downtown Playground	\$100,000
Total	\$100,000

Kolb Park	Cost
Replace pool with large community built playground	\$130,000
Landscape improvements	\$15,000
Total	\$145,000

Blackburn Park	Cost
Replace pool with Sprayground	\$300,000
Remove baseball lights and backstop (not used)	\$10,000
Resurface basketball court and new goals	\$20,000
Upgrade playground equipment and safety surfacing	\$50,000
Light basketball court	\$30,000
Total	\$410,000

Henry Clay Park	Cost
Add a playground	\$60,000
Picnic shelter	\$50,000
Total	\$110,000

Individual Park Recommendations

Campbell Park - Betsy Ross Park	Cost
Upgrade half basketball court and goal	\$6,000
New playground	\$30,000
Total	\$36,000

Keiler Park	Cost
Restroom and utilities	\$80,000
Total	\$80,000

Voor Park	Cost
Convert half court basketball to full court	\$10,000
Fence along alley	\$2000
Small playground	35,000
Total	\$47,000

Southside Park – Midtown Golf Course	Cost
Concept is to develop 3 quality greens with 3 cups on each and 9 tee boxes and for the Paxton Golf Course staff to maintain the course to be used for youth golf education and training.	\$200,000
Improve the turf.	\$25,000
Resurface game courts	\$10,000
Total	\$230,000

*Option: The Paxton Golf Course is in need of some repairs and the competition from other courses has caused the number of rounds to lessen in recent years. Therefore, the City may consider other options for this property such as a golf

Individual Park Recommendations

driving range, additional soccer fields to compliment the fields at the adjacent Paducah Tilghman Soccer Field or other facilities.

Paducah Community College Facilities	Cost
Upgrade tennis courts	\$25,000
Upgrade baseball field, backstop, dugouts, etc.	\$60,000
Total	\$85,000

Dolly McNutt Park	Cost
Install handicap accessible ramps from top level to the plaza/fountain level on both sides of the park.	\$10,000
Additional lighting	\$20,000
Additional site furniture, benches and picnic tables	\$10,000
Total	\$40,000

C. County Parks

The following are capital budgets for improvements to the existing and proposed parks in the County.

New County Park	Cost
New 100+ acre park with picnic areas, trails, fishing lake, game courts, and other facilities.	\$2,000,000
Total	\$2,000,000

Individual Park Recommendations

McCracken County Soccer Complex	Cost
Upgrade existing fields with laser grading, turf, etc.	\$200,000
Develop new fields on “borrow” area that is at a lower elevation that was not on the landfill. Light at least two of these fields. Will include restrooms, parking, concession stand, etc.	
- Parking and roads	\$200,000
- Restrooms and utilities	\$100,000
- Fields with 2 lighted	\$500,000
Total	\$1,000,000

Assistance at other parks in the County	Cost
Assistance at possible locations of Heath Community Park, Reidland-Farley Baseball Complex, Lone Oak Park, Facility at school sites, and others	Unknown
Total	Unknown



VII. Purchase Area Recreation Center

This section of the report covers the final preliminary study phase of the development of the Purchase Area Recreation Center (PARC). The preliminary user investigation and demographic work was performed by Thomas Miller and Associates, with the enclosed Preliminary Design, Cost Estimates and Operational Expenses being prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

Over the course of six months, Brandstetter Carroll Inc. met with the PARC committee, utilized the previous data and developed a schematic plan for a new recreation center to be developed at Bob Noble Park. This facility consists of indoor aquatics, exercise, multipurpose and meeting rooms, multipurpose activity courts and an ice rink. The attached operations data indicate that based upon square foot operational cost and projected income costs, that this facility will operate on a break-even basis and not require additional operational funds.

The facility is designed to offer amenities and activities to all age groups within the area, and will be open to all area residents. There will need to be programs designed to accommodate the economically disadvantaged.

This development is located in Bob Noble Park, in the location of the existing ballfields, which acknowledges the fact that the ballfield complex will be relocated to Stuart Nelson Park before this project can be started.



PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

Preliminary construction cost is based upon current prevailing construction costs, including prevailing wage rates based upon similar construction types.

Site Work

Parking Lots, Driveways	\$300,000	
Lighting	120,000	
Landscaping	45,000	
Utilities	<u>130,000</u>	
		\$595,000

Building Construction

Main Building		
126,920 Sq. Ft. @ \$130 Sq. Ft.		16,499,600

Fixtures, Furnishings, and Equipment

Exercise Equipment, Athletic Equipment, Office Furniture, Safety Equipment, etc.		<u>700,000</u>
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Subtotal		17,794,600
Owner Cost @ 10%		\$1,779,460
(Architecture, Engineering, Geotechnical, Surveying, Permit Fees, etc.)		
Contingency @ 10%		<u>\$1,779,460</u>
Total		\$21,353,520



OPTION 1

Complete construction without ice rink component.

Site Work

Parking Lots, Driveways	\$300,000	
Lighting	120,000	
Landscaping	45,000	
Utilities	<u>130,000</u>	
		\$595,000

Building Construction

Main Building		
96,920 Sq. Ft. @ \$130 Sq. Ft.		12,599,600

Fixtures, Furnishings, and Equipment

Exercise Equipment, Athletic Equipment, Office Furniture, Safety Equipment, etc.		<u>600,000</u>
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Subtotal	\$13,794,600
Owner Cost @ 10% (Architecture, Engineering, Geotechnical, Surveying, Permit Fees, etc.)	1,379,460
Contingency @ 10%	<u>1,379,460</u>
Total	\$16,553,520



<u>Operational Expenses</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Employees	
Full Time	\$567,950
Part Time	629,000
Office Supplies	4,850
Chemicals	10,660
Maintenance / Repair	24,230
Janitorial	29,080
Recreation Program Supplies	38,770
Uniforms	6,785
Printing / Postage	33,920
Pro Shop / Merchandise	4,850
Utilities	305,300
Communications	7,755
Contract Services	48,460
Advertising / Marketing	19,385
Rental Equipment	14,540
Training	19,385
Dues / Subscriptions / Conferences	9,690
Insurance	27,140
Other	<u>213,225</u>
Subtotal Expenses	\$2,014,975
 Ice Skating Facility	 <u><u>640,330</u></u>
Total Expenses	\$2,655,305



<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Total Revenue</u>
Admission Fees	\$242,300
Membership	920,740
Other Admission	193,840
Fitness Programs	135,670
Aquatic Programs	147,320
General Programs	159,920
Pro Shop	7,755
Special Events	14,540
Concessions / Vending	96,920
Babysitting	17,445
Other	<u>203,532</u>
Subtotal Revenue	\$2,139,982
Ice Skating Facility	<u>580,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$2,719,982



Figure 12



Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

Architects Engineers Planners
Lexington Cincinnati Cleveland

Purchase Area Recreation Center and Aquatic Center

Bob Noble Park
Paducah, Kentucky



Figure 14



Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

Architects Engineers Planners
Lexington Cincinnati Cleveland

Purchase Area Recreation Center
Paducah, Kentucky



VIII. Greenway Plan

A. Introduction

The need for walkways and bike trails was indicated by the respondents to the surveys as having a strong or slight need by more than any other activity or facility. This is a trend that this Consultant has seen in many other communities primarily because walking trails and bike trails are heavily used by people of all ages and abilities throughout their entire life. Greenways and trail systems provide a tremendous asset to the community in the form of economic, social and environmental benefits. Some of these benefits are outlined here.

B. Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits

1. Economic Benefits

(a) The primary social benefits of greenways - urban amenity, recreation, ecological diversity, historic and scenic preservation – should be sufficient in themselves to rationalize the public cost. However, greenway-makers will sooner or later have to demonstrate how well their greenway will pay. Other greenways have experienced the following economic benefits:

- ? Real Property Values – Greenways and trails may increase nearby property values. An increase in property values can increase local tax revenues and help offset greenway acquisition costs.
- ? Expenditures by Residents – Spending by local residents on greenway-related activities can help support recreation-oriented businesses and employment, as well as other businesses which are patronized by greenway, river and trail users.
- ? Commercial Uses – The potential for concessions and special events within the greenway can boost local business as well as raise funds for the greenway itself.
- ? Tourism – Greenways, rivers and trails which attract visitors to a community support local businesses such as lodging, food establishments, and recreation-oriented services. Greenways may also help improve the overall appeal of a community to visitors and increase tourism.
- ? Agency Expenditures – The agency responsible for managing a river, trail or greenway can support local businesses by purchasing supplies and services. Jobs created by the managing agency may also help increase



local employment opportunities and benefit the local economy.

- ? Corporate Relocation – The quality of life of a community is an increasingly important factor for retaining and attracting corporations and businesses, and that greenways, rivers and trails can be important contributors to the quality of life. Corporations bring jobs to a community and help support businesses, which provide services and products to corporations and their employees.
- ? Public Cost Reduction – Conservation of rivers, trails and greenway may help local governments and other public agencies to reduce long term costs for services such as roads and sewers; reduce costs resulting from injury to persons and property from hazards such as flooding; and avoid potential costly damages to natural resources such as water and fisheries.
- ? Benefit Estimation – The recreational benefits of rivers, trails and greenways can be estimated in monetary values. Users can be surveyed to estimate the value of a visit to a greenway.

Adopted from “The Economic Impact of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenway Corridors, A Resource Book”; 1991 Second Edition; by the River, Trails and Conservation Assistance, National Park Service.

2. Social Benefits

- (a) The implementation of the Paducah Greenway System will provide several social benefits for the well being of the community. Some of these opportunities are as follows:
 - ? Increased opportunities for group and individual recreation activities;
 - ? Enhances the overall quality of life in the community;
 - ? Provides increased opportunities for social interaction;
 - ? Provides opportunities for the understanding and appreciation of the past history of the community;
 - ? Enhances the visual quality of the residential and business areas of the community;



- ? Provides the opportunity to utilize non-polluting transportation methods throughout the entire community; and
- ? Provides a source of community pride.

3. Environmental Benefits

- (a) The benefits of adopting and implementing the strategies outlined in this Plan will greatly enhance the environmental quality of the Perkins Creek, Clarks Run, Ohio River, Tennessee River and other water courses and the surrounding rural and urban areas. Few Kentucky counties are able to boast of such a natural resource that has the ability to positively affect the environment where the majority of the population lives.
 - ? Through the establishment of a forest buffer along many areas of the river and stream, a majority of excess nutrients and sediments will be removed from runoff into the river and creek, greatly improving the quality of the water in the stream. Additionally, stream side forests support a greater variety of wildlife than do upland forests because of the variety of plants and habitats found in riparian ecosystems. A high water quality and greater number and assortment of fish, water fowl, birds, and other wildlife will support recreational and educational opportunities like camping, canoeing, fishing, hiking, bird watching, swimming, environmental awareness projects and self-guided natural resource exhibits within the corridor.
 - ? With long range planning and implementation, the Paducah Greenway may well one day be a model urban/rural success story for other communities to study and follow.

C. Trail Design Criteria

- 1. The trails that will be developed will receive a great deal of use and the desire has been expressed for use for bicycling, walking and jogging. Therefore, the trails in these heavily used areas should be at least 8 to 10 feet wide and paved to provide ample room for this wide variety of potential users. Where land is available, a bicycle path separated from the other walking paths will avoid conflicts among users. In areas where the slopes are steep or land is not available, the trails can be combined. The initial phases could include natural or wood chip type trails to allow pedestrian access only, but these would be subject to removal during flooding and would not allow the maximum use of the proposed facility. It



is recommended that greenways be developed segment by segment, completing each segment entirely before moving on to the next. This will allow the completed segment to become an advertisement for the overall greenway, therefore building public enthusiasm and support for the project.

The trails should be designed to the standards and guidelines presented in the “Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities” by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 1999.

The hike and bikeways routes recommended suggest a three class system.

Hikeways

Class One: Hiking Only

Class Two: Hike and Bikeway combined

Class Three: Hikeway on the shoulder of a vehicle right-of-way

Bikeways

Class One: Bikeway Only

Class Two: Hike and Bikeway Combined

Class Three: Bikeway shared with vehicles, without a barrier but with marked off lanes or signs indicating bike lane.

2. In this plan, the primary corridors should be Class One or Class Two Trails. Where necessary to connect destinations in developed areas, Class Three Trails are acceptable.

- D.** The proposed Paducah greenway will eventually be a continuous trail system that will loop around the City and provide fingers reaching into the schools, neighborhoods and parks throughout the community. The greenway project will be developed in phases. The proposed phases are illustrated on Figure 15 and are described in this section of the text. The earlier phases of the greenway have been selected because of the tremendous opportunities that are currently available to link parks and to take advantage of existing opportunities such as the top of the levee.

The process has already begun.

1. Phase I

The City was awarded a grant through the Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Kentucky Department for Local Government and the Federal Highway Administration for the development of a bike trail that would extend from the proposed Perkins Creek Nature Preserve, along Perkins Creek and join with Stuart Nelson Park. At the time of the completion of this Master Plan, a layout plan has been prepared for this



phase and it will be constructed in 2003. This will include a 10 feet wide paved trail with 2 feet wide shoulders according to the AASHTO standards. This Master Plan also includes recommendations for improvements and redevelopment of Stuart Nelson Park. Included in that development will be a continuation of this trail that will extend from the Perkins Creek Nature Preserve on the west side of the park to the east edge of the park.

2. Phase II

This phase of the greenway development will extend from the eastern edge of Stuart Nelson Park to the floodwall levee adjacent to Bob Noble Park. The City is currently in the process of purchasing a 200 feet wide corridor along the back side of Bluegrass Downs to provide a connecting link between Stuart Nelson Park and Bob Noble Park. An existing pre-engineered bridge structure is already in place on the west side of the levee that could be used to provide access over the drainage in this area. Some minor modifications to the deck and to the approaches to the bridge will be required.

In October of 2002, the City applied for an additional grant for the development of an access ramp to the top of the levee. One side would extend down to the phase II trail to Stuart Nelson Park and the other side would extend down to the existing baseball area of Bob Noble Park. This area will eventually include a large parking area by the proposed recreation center and family aquatic center that could serve as a staging area for the greenway trail. The development of a concrete paved walkway would provide handicap accessibility up the side of the floodwall so that all persons would have access to the top of the levee. The application for this work is in the amount of \$100,000 for the construction of the handicap accessible concrete trail ramp and for construction of 520 feet of trail approaches on the sides.

3. Phase III

The next logical phase of development would take advantage of the tremendous asset that is the flood wall levee that would extend from Bob Noble Park, through the Peck Addition to Cairo Road. The length of this trail extending from Park Avenue to Cairo Road is approximately 4,600 feet.

4. Phase IV

The next phase of development will continue the trail from Cairo Road to the northeast side of US Route 45. This area provides some challenges. There are some land owners along the earthen levee that are not in favor of having the public trail go through the adjoining sides of their property and there is a very difficult crossing of the levee and trail at Route 45. For



these reasons it is proposed to extend the trail down Cairo Road to Estelle Street and then to extend along Estelle to Route 45. From that point the trail users would cross Route 45 and then take a ramp up to the top of the earthen levee where they can continue on to the next phase. The majority of the land use within this area is commercial or light industrial and there is room along Estelle Street to develop a separate bike lane that could be used by pedestrians and bicyclist. The length of this trail extends approximately 1,180 feet along Cairo Road and approximately 2,000 feet along Estelle Street.

5. Phase V

The next logical phase of development would be to extend the trail with a safe crossing at Route 45 and Estelle Street and go through an existing parking lot and an existing ramp to the top of the levee and continue eastward along the levee toward the Downtown. The total length of this section of trail is approximately 8,037 feet.

Throughout this portion of the greenway, there are other potential accesses onto the greenway. There is a ramp up to the top of the levee at Northeast Street and accesses at a pump station and water treatment plant location. At the end of this section of trail, which would be at approximately Campbell Street, it has been suggested to develop a ramp to the top of the flood wall and over that would be accessible to vehicles that could be used during flooding periods to assist in evacuating people and vehicles from the area of the Executive Inn and the Convention Center/Expo Center over the floodwall when the gates are in place. This would provide an additional method of evacuating people as well as provide good access to the top of the levee to continue on the greenway.

6. Phase VI

The parking lot at the convention center and the new parking lot in the downtown area at the convenience center could also serve as access points, rest stations and parking areas for persons using the trail system. Within the downtown area, there are several options for the trail. One option would be to utilize existing City streets to provide access to the east end of downtown where the trail would continue along the floodwall. The trail can also extend through Raymond Schultz Park to Broadway and then the use of City streets would be required. There is a levee on the east side of the Executive Inn but this runs into the building. There is a possibility of going under the building but this is an area that would be undesirable to bring children and families because of the emergency controls for the gas pumps at the dock, understructure of the building, exhaust vents from inside the building and other features that make this an unattractive area and unsafe to encourage pedestrian traffic. Therefore, the trail would need to go around the Executive Inn parking lot or along the existing City streets in this area.



The area to the west of the Executive Inn is also one of the potential areas for the development of a marina, campground, boat ramp and other recreational amenities that will compliment the downtown events and activities. This area is currently used for a concrete manufacturing operation.

7. Future Phases

Following the completion of the phases in this greenway plan, the City should pursue the development of a continuous loop trail system throughout the City and connecting to neighborhoods, schools and parks within the City and surrounding areas. Ideally this trail would link areas such as the Information Age Park, Paducah Community College, and various neighborhoods throughout the area along stream and drainage corridors and also along the new loop road that will be developed south of Interstate 24. The general location of these trails were indicated on Figure 3 earlier in this report.

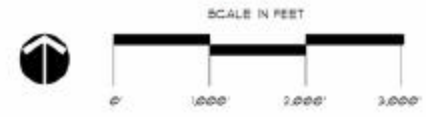
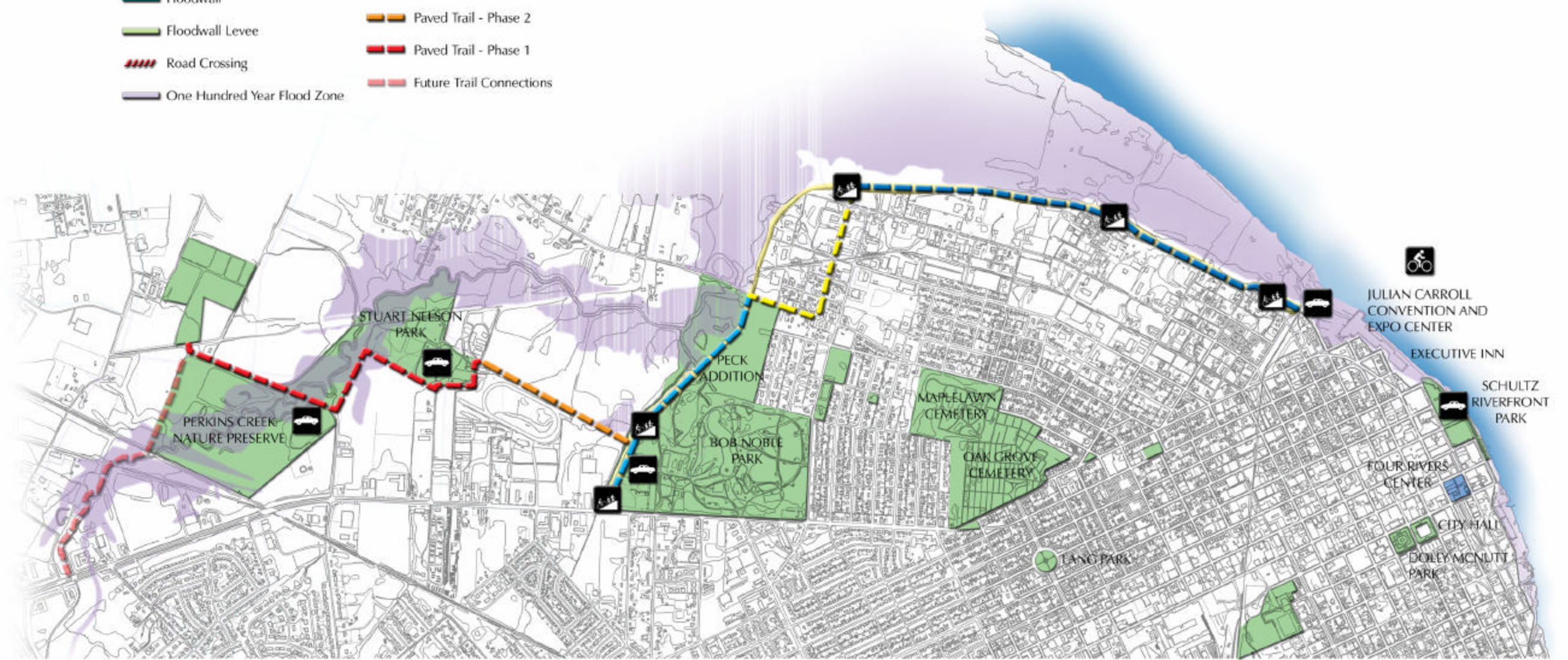
E. Project Costs

Following the photographs, the Opinion of Probable Project Cost for the various phases of the greenway are presented. These costs are still general in nature and more detailed engineering of these proposed routes will provide a more accurate basis for cost estimating for the proposed greenway.

F. Photographs of the Trail Route

The photographs on the following pages indicate the general character, opportunities and constraints that can be found along the proposed greenway route.

- | Legend | Trails |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Trail Head and Parking | Proposed Trail on the Levee - Phase 5 |
| Access to Top of Levee | Trail Along Road - Phase 4 |
| Floodwall | Proposed Trail on the Levee - Phase 3 |
| Floodwall Levee | Paved Trail - Phase 2 |
| Road Crossing | Paved Trail - Phase 1 |
| One Hundred Year Flood Zone | Future Trail Connections |



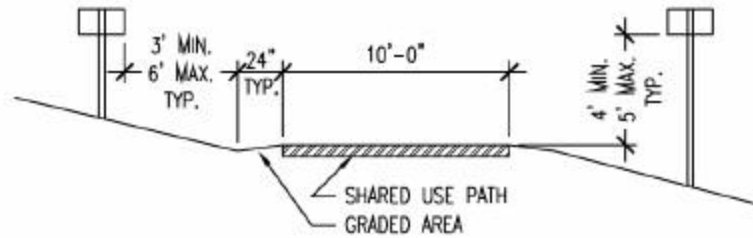
Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

Architects Engineers Planners
Lexington Cincinnati Cleveland

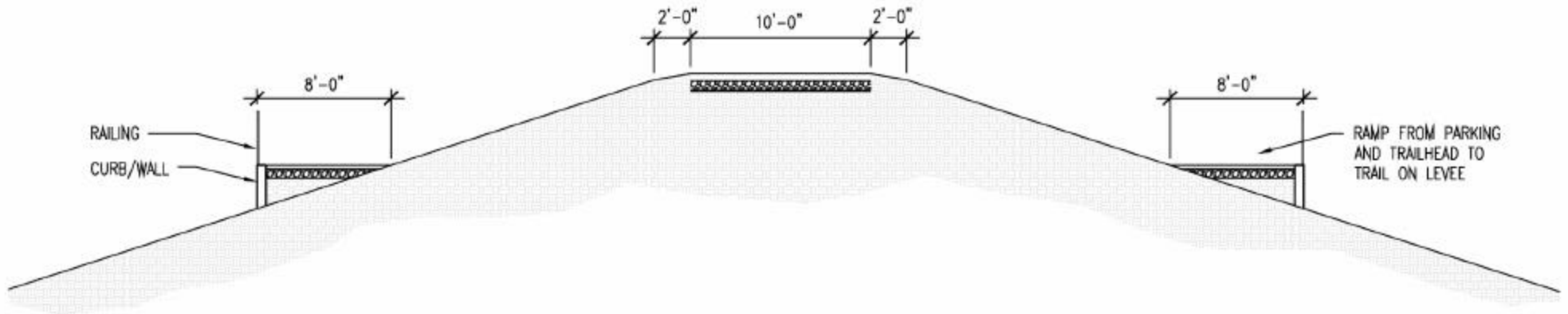
Paducah Greenway Master Plan

Paducah Parks Services
Paducah, Kentucky

Figure 15



Typical Bikeway Cross Section
 Scale: 1 1/2"=1'-0"



Typical Trail Ramp Section on Levee
 Scale: 1 1/2"=1'-0"





Greenway Opinion of Probable Project Cost

Phase I - Perkins Creek Nature Preserve to Stuart Nelson Park (Grant awarded with match for \$100,000)

10' wide paved asphalt trail with shoulders (1.400 at \$50 lf)	\$70,000
Earthwork	\$18,000
Signage	\$2,000
Culverts	\$10,000
Phase I Subtotal	\$100,000

Phase II - Stuart Nelson Park to the earth levee (3,000' at \$50/lf) \$150,000

Signage	\$2,000
Bridge approach improvements and new decking	\$10,000
Drainage improvements	\$10,000
Engineering, surveying, etc.	\$18,000
Phase II Subtotal	\$190,000

Phase III A - Ramps to top of levee at Noble Park

Ramps - 280' long by 8' wide on both sides	\$22,400
Railings	\$28,000
Curb/wall on the side	\$22,400
Earthwork	\$4,000
Sod/seed	\$1,600
Contingency and Design	\$13,800
520 cf of trail at \$50 lf	\$7,800
Phase III A Subtotal	\$100,000

Phase III B - Park Avenue to Cairo Road on the Levee

Trail 4,600 at \$50 lf	\$230,000
Signage	\$5,000
Safety/security at pump facilities (by others)	
Engineering, design, etc.	\$24,000
Phase III B Subtotal	\$259,000

Phase IV - Along Cairo Road and Estelle Street to Route 45

Trail along Cairo Road 1,180' at min 10' wide	\$34,000
Trail along Estelle Street 2000' at 8' wide	\$67,000
Drainage improvements	\$100,000
Signage	\$3,000
Design, engineering, etc.	\$11,000
Phase IV Subtotal	\$215,000

*Does not include land acquisition

Phase V - Route 45 to the Convention Center Parking lot

Trail on levee 10' by 8,100' at \$50 lf	\$405,000
Ramp at Route 45 to top of levee	\$21,000
Ramp at Campbell Street	\$60,000
Signage	\$5,000
Engineering, design, testing, etc.	\$49,000
Phase V Subtotal	\$540,000

Total - All Phases \$1,404,000



1. Proposed area for parking at Perkins Creek



2. Trail route between Perkins Creek and Stuart Nelson Park



3. Wetland area along trail between Perkins Creek and Stuart Nelson.



4. Stuart Nelson Park area.



5. Existing dirt trail between Bluegrass Downs and the levee.



6. Existing bridge between Bluegrass Downs and the levee.



7. Levee at Bob Noble Park where ramps will be located.



8. Typical pipes at pump station.



9. Typical outlet structure at pump station.



10. New trail west of levee in Peck addition.



11. Levee at Cairo Road.



12. Levee between Cairo Road and Route 45.



13. Levee at Route 45 crossing.



14. Ramp over levee west of Route 45.



15. View east on Cairo Road at Peck addition.



16. View looking east on Cairo Road.



17. Looking north on Estelle Street



18. Looking north on Estelle Street.



19. Earth ramp to top of levee at Estelle Street and Route 45.



20. Pipes on levee along 6th Street between Route 45 and downtown.



21. Ramp over levee.



22. Levee between Route 45 and downtown.



23. End of earth levee and beginning of floodwall west of Convention Center at Campbell Street.



24. Parking and floodwall at the Convention Center.



25. New Convenience Center and parking lot downtown.



26. Murals and train along floodwall downtown.



27. Schultz Park.



IX. Funding Strategies

A. Potential Funding Sources

Typically, a wide variety of funding sources will be necessary to fund the long term improvements that are recommended in this Master Plan. There is no one source that could pay for all of this and is not a wise use of taxpayer's funds to just utilize City and County funds. Therefore, it is imperative that persons trained in Municipal and County finances and grants work closely with this Master Plan to determine appropriate sources for the recommended improvements.

1. General Funds

The City already budgets funds for capital improvements in the parks. Increasing the amount of funding is something that must be approved by the City Commission and Fiscal Court with the improvements competing against the many needs of the City and County such as roads, infrastructure, and services.

2. Public/Private Partnerships

These are typically utilized when the public and private sectors cooperate toward a common goal and utilize public and private monies to meet this goal. For example, the City or County may have land that it could allow a group to develop a facility or partnering with a group such as the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, hospitals, athletic organizations and others toward the development of facilities by these other groups on City or County land. Another option to consider for the recreation center is partnership with Lourdes or Western Baptist Hospitals to include wellness facilities and physical therapy programs in the center.

3. General Obligation Bonds

Several communities within the state have recently utilized General Obligation Bonds for the development of park and recreation areas. With current interest rates, these have been very attractive to Cities and Counties that have the income from other sources for debt service or that can issue a tax levy.

4. Grants

Although there are not as many grants as there once were, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, there are some small grants and hopes for larger grants in the future. Some examples include the following:



- (a) Community Rivers and Streams Grant from the State of Kentucky can provide a maximum of \$5,000 for planning of greenways and river and stream corridors.
- (b) The Recreational Trails Program currently funds trail projects throughout the state. This source is being used for a portion of the Greenway in McCracken County. These are administered through the Department for Local Government for the Federal Highway Administration.
- (c) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF program has been funded after several years with no appropriation from Congress. Kentucky received \$1.3 million in 2002 and up to \$1.6 million may be available for 2003. The Kentucky Department for Local Government administers this fund. The maximum grant in 2002 is for \$75,000 and requires an equal match. A grant has been awarded from this program for the first phase of the Greenway.
- (d) TEA-21 – The TEA-21 or formerly known as the ISTEA funds, are available for the development of transportation related improvements such as bike trails. These are coordinated through the State Department of Transportation and the use of these funds has been very competitive throughout the state. This source was used for a portion of the greenway development.
- (e) Community Development Block Grants – CDBG Grants have been utilized for facilities such as recreation centers and park renovation in primarily low-income neighborhoods, which is only appropriate in some areas of the City and County.
- (f) State Division of Forestry – Through the State Division of Forestry, there have been grants available in the past through the Small Business Administration for the planting of trees in parks and other urban forest areas. One example would be the Easy Walker Park in Mr. Sterling in which three separate grants were utilized by the Mt. Sterling - Montgomery County Recreation Commission to develop a native species arboretum within the park.

5. State Funds

Recently many communities have utilized funds from the state budget surplus for implementation of lands for recreation centers, swimming pools, parks and other recreation facilities. In addition, other communities have been able to get state funding directly through the Legislature in the state's budget for particular projects. For example, the City of Ft. Mitchell will be receiving \$150,000 in the current state budget.



6. Development Impact Fees and Fees in Lieu of Land

Some cities and counties require park land for recreational purposes when residential, commercial or industrial development occurs. When areas proposed for dedication of park land are not accepted by the Planning Commission or City, then fees are received in lieu of dedication. This money can be deposited with the City or County and specifically designated for Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Funds. For example, in Lexington developers must set aside a percentage of land that is made available to the City to purchase. The City then has a designated time period in which they must purchase the land or it reverts back to the property owner. In many communities in Ohio, developers are required to provide either land or fees that are based upon the impact for increased recreational demand that will be placed upon the County or City from the proposed development. There are many good models of this practice. This practice works best in rapidly growing communities and is contrary to current methods of encouraging development throughout McCracken County.

7. Tax Levies

Legislation in KRS 97.590 from the 1998 General Assembly allows any class of cities and counties to levy taxes not exceeding \$.05 on each \$100.00 of all taxable property within the corporate limits. This tax would require a public referendum. In addition, a new section of KRS Chapter 97 was created to allow two or more counties to form a Regional Park Authority, which could levy taxes for the acquisition and development of public parks and recreation areas. This would also require a public referendum to levy the taxes, which must be approved by the majority of voters in each county involved.

The current property valuation for McCracken County is \$2.2 billion and for the City of Paducah is \$548,379,816. At the maximum rate the following amounts could be generated.

?	County (including Paducah)	\$1,100,000
?	City of Paducah only	\$274,190

In the example of the county, a 20 year bond issue would result in approximately \$22 million, but the amount available for initial construction would be approximately half with the other half used to pay the debt service. This leaves about \$11 million for the initial phase of construction. This could fund most of the improvements proposed in the parks with the exception of the recreation center.



8. Parks Conservancy

A Paducah-McCracken Conservancy could be established. This organization would involve the establishment of separate 501-C-3 non-profit organizations for the purpose of acquiring land, funding development of parks and recreation facilities, accepting donations of land or funds fundraising. This type of organization would be in a better position to negotiate for the purchase of land than a public entity such as a city or county. Also, some individuals would be more inclined to donate land or funds to a non-profit conservancy than to a city or county government agency, even though the tax benefits are basically the same. In addition to fund raising and land donations, the Conservancy could also accept life estates, land placed in individuals wills, and promote conservation and scenic easements on individuals' properties.

B. City and County Parks and Recreation Budget

To improve the quality of life for residents of Paducah and McCracken County and to keep and attract young families to the area, more facilities and programs must be developed and a more stable source of funding is needed to operate and maintain the new facilities. This Plan has a large capital funding need and, as the recommendations of this Plan are implemented, additional operations and maintenance funding will also be necessary. No new facilities should be constructed without a steady source of funding for operations and maintenance. A variety of sources will be necessary.

The previous sections of this chapter identified several sources, but most are more appropriate for capital expenditures. Referenda for a tax levy for a city or county park district or a multi-county district are methods for more consistent funding along with increased funding from the City Commission and Fiscal Court General Funds. Some facilities, such as a family aquatic center, will pay for their own operations if developed and operated properly.

Ultimately, the City Commission and the Fiscal Court will determine the decisions to more secure sources of funding.



X. Action Plan

A. Priority Recommendations

The Master Plan Advisory Committee participated in a priority settling exercise on February 21, 2002. The individuals ranked all of the proposed preliminary recommendations for capital improvements. The ranking is shown on the following page. The Committee showed a desire to develop the major facilities first with the indoor recreation/community complex and aquatic center in Noble Park ranking highest and then the development of the baseball and softball facilities in Stuart Nelson Park. These projects need to be accomplished together because the recreation complex and aquatic center in Noble Park will be located where the baseball fields currently exist.



Capital Projects Priority Ranking
Paducah Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Proposed Parks and Improvements

Rank Capital Improvement

1	Noble - Community/Recreation Center with Indoor Aquatic Center
2	Noble - Family Aquatic Center
3	Nelson - 4 Field Youth Baseball/Softball Complex with 2 T-Ball Fields
4	Nelson - 4 Field Adult Softball Complex
5	Noble - Restrooms
6	Brooks Stadium - Softball Stadium
7	Noble - SkatePark
8	Noble - Large Picnic Shelters for Reunions/Company Picnics/ Etc.
9	Noble - Loop Trail
10	General Park Upgrades to Picnic Shelters, Playgrounds, Landscaping, Etc.
11	Sprayground at Blackburn or Kolb Park with Large Playground at the Other
12	Nelson - Perimeter Trail
13	Nelson - Large Picnic Shelter
14	Brooks Stadium - Picnic Shelter and Playground
15	Brooks Stadium - Indoor Baseball/Softball Practice Facility
16	Land for Additional Ballfields
17	Expand County Soccer Complex and BMX Track
18	Perkins Creek Nature Preserve - Nature Education Facilities such as trails, overlooks, wetlands, etc.
19	Greenway - Perkins Creek to Downtown
20	Downtown Playground
21	Noble - Bubble over Tennis Courts and Restroom
22	Greenway - Downtown to Clarks River
23	Noble - Garden Area
24	Marina
25	Grant for First Tee Program and Improvements at Midtown Golf Course
26	Greenway - Outer Loop
27	Noble - Tournament Horseshoe and Croquet Area
28	East County Park
29	Dog Park



B. Action Plan

The Action Plan provides a summary of the recommendations that were presented previously along with a time line for implementation and the responsible party. Please refer to Sections V, VI, VII and VIII for a more detailed explanation of the recommendations. The terms that are used are defined here for clarity.

City =	City Commission and Staff	Task Force =	City Appointed Task Force
PPSD =	Paducah Parks Services Department	Schools =	City and County Schools
County =	County Fiscal Court	Associations =	Athletic and Volunteer Associations
		PARC =	Purchase Area Recreation Center Committee

NO.	ACTION	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	5-10 YEARS	10-20 YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY
	Plan Implementation					
1.	Adoption of Plan by City Commission	✍				City
2.	Begin public education campaign to gain support	✍	✍			City - PPSD
3.	Gain support of Planning Commission, Chamber, Sports Associations, Civic Groups, etc.	✍	✍			City - PPSD
4.	Coordinate with the County and Schools on facilities planning and programming.	✍	✍	✍	✍	PPSD – City-County-Schools



NO.	ACTION	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	5-10 YEARS	10-20 YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY
5.	City, County and Schools establish partnership to result in more efficient purchasing, training, scheduling and maintenance.	✍	✍	✍	✍	PPSD – City-County-Schools
6.	Continue work of the PARC Task Force to define the program for the proposed indoor community and recreation complex	✍				City – PPSD -Task Force
7.	Develop Capital Improvement Funding Plan.	✍				PPSD-City
8.	Acquire land, design and develop new parks and facilities.	✍	✍	✍	✍	PPSD-City-County
9.	Develop the new County Park in the eastern part of the County		✍			County
10.	PPSD Staff to prepare a Strategic Business Plan	✍				PPSD
11.	Continuously research and apply for grant opportunities.	✍	✍	✍	✍	PPSD-City-County
12.	Regularly meet with the athletic and activity organizations to coordinate schedules and improvements.	✍	✍	✍	✍	PPSD-Schools-Associations
13.	Increase programming and maintenance staff as new parks and facilities are developed.	✍	✍	✍	✍	PPSD-City
14.	Work toward CAPRA Certification		✍	✍		PPSD



NO.	ACTION	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	5-10 YEARS	10-20 YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY
	Park/Facility Development					
1.	Design and complete improvements to existing parks.	✍	✍			PPSD
2.	Prepare an overall detailed Master Plan for Noble Park	✍				PPSD-City
3.	Plan and develop the indoor community and recreation complex	✍	✍			PPSD-City
4.	Plan and develop the family aquatic center	✍	✍			PPSD-City
5.	Plan and develop Stuart Nelson Park	✍	✍			PPSD-City
6.	Plan and develop improvements at Brooks Stadium		✍			PPSD
7.	Plan and develop the marina area near downtown		✍	✍		PPSD-City
8.	Plan and improve the Midtown Golf Course through the First Tee Program	✍	✍			PPSD-City
9.	Develop the Perkins Creek Nature Preserve for environmental education		✍			PPSD-City



NO.	ACTION	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	5-10 YEARS	10-20 YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY
	Greenways/Trails					
1.	Begin public education campaign to gain support and develop awareness.	✓✓				City-County
2.	Consult with attorneys, accountants and insurance companies on benefits and procedures for easements, donations and liability issues.	✓	✓			County-Conservancy
3.	Identify possible scenic easements and land acquisition.	✓	✓	✓		Task Force-Conservancy
4.	Research grants, foundations and funding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	County-Conservancy
5.	Identify fundraising activities.	✓	✓			County-Conservancy
6.	Plan and develop the first phase of the Greenway from Perkins Creek Nature Preserve to Stuart Nelson Park	✓				PPSD-City
7.	Prepare plans for other phases of the Greenway from Noble Park to Perkins Creek and to Downtown	✓	✓	✓		PPSD
8.	Develop trails through public properties.		✓	✓		PPSD-City
9.	Develop trails through easements and acquired properties.		✓	✓	✓	PPSD-City



NO.	ACTION	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	5-10 YEARS	10-20 YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY
10.	Continue coordination with KYDOT on the Outer Loop Greenway planning	✍	✍	✍		PPSD-City-County
11.	Complete linkage of parks, schools and neighborhoods.			✍	✍	PPSD-City-County
	PARC					
1.	Begin public education campaigning to gain support and develop awareness	✍				City-County-PARC
2.	Coordinate with potential partners in the development of this facility	✍				City-County-PARC
3.	Develop action plan for funding	✍				City-County-PARC
4.	Begin development of actual schematic drawings	✍				City-County-PARC
5.	Complete construction of facilities		✍			City-County

XI. Appendices

- A.** Excerpts from the Municipal and County Recreational Services Study for Fiscal Years 1997-98, 1998-99, and 2000-2001 by the Kentucky Recreation and Parks Society and the Kentucky Department for Local government.
- B.** Public Workshop Summaries
- C.** Survey Tables and Graphs
- D.** Strategic Business Planning
- E.** Purchase Area Recreation Center Job Descriptions
- F.** Perkins Creek Nature Preserve Site Analysis and Photos
- G.** Sample Agreement Between School Boards and Parks and Recreation Agencies (Separate Document)
- H.** Self Assessment Manual for Quality Operation of Parks and Recreation Agencies. (Separate Document)

Appendix A

**Excerpt from the Municipal and County Recreational Services Study for Fiscal Years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 2000-2001 by
The Kentucky Recreation and Parks Society and the
Kentucky Department for Local Government.**

Budget Comparison from the 1997-98, 1998-99 and 2000-2001 "Municipal and County Recreation Services Study" by the Kentucky Recreation and Parks Society and the Kentucky Department for Local Government

City-County	Overall Budget			Capital Costs		
	1997-98	1998-99	2000-2001	1997-98	1998-99	2000-2001
Adairville		\$16.26	\$19.02			
Bardstown	\$53.23		\$9.88	\$300,000		\$410,000
Boone Co	\$16.24	\$33.59	\$15.23	\$86,000	\$630,000	\$381,500
Bowling Green	\$130.99	\$123.94	\$105.53	\$204,000	\$475,000	\$100,000
Bullitt Co	\$4.85		\$6.45			
Carrollton-Carroll County		\$26.19	\$19.45			
Corbin			\$12.87			
Covington	\$10.51	\$13.19	\$75.49	\$40,000	\$80,000	\$1,040,000
Cynthiana-Harrison County	\$7.64	\$7.64	\$9.34			
Danville-Boyle County	\$22.50		\$90.63	\$25,000		\$1,300,000
Daviess County	\$8.36	\$6.73	\$8.82	\$191,500	\$30,700	\$122,500
Dawson Springs	\$13.79					
Dayton	\$5.92					
Elizabethtown	\$54.81	\$60.36		\$55,000		
Elkhorn City	\$3.88	\$3.39				
Frankfort	\$38.03	\$56.01	\$73.20		\$190,000	\$1,380,000
Franklin County			\$11.78		\$147,406	\$231,500
Franklin-Simpson County	\$17.38	\$18.56	\$25.23			\$160,000
Ft. Thomas	\$24.19	\$34.74	\$31.32	\$25,000	\$153,500	\$140,000
Georgetown-Scott County	\$41.26	\$44.05	\$63.50	\$60,000	\$6,040,000	\$2,395,200
Glasgow	\$63.30	\$56.93	\$52.52	\$729,000	\$9,000	
Grant County		\$9.25			\$30,000	
Henderson	\$52.76	\$39.03	\$44.69	\$523,000	\$60,750	\$284,000
Hopkinsville-Christian County	\$7.04	\$7.81	\$9.39	\$3,000,000		\$2,700,000
Larue County			\$14.91			\$2,200
Lebanon-Marion county	\$76.44	\$65.06	\$23.47			
Letchfield	\$20.95			\$42,000		
Lexington-Fayette County	\$86.77	\$96.20	\$87.51	\$834,800	\$804,500	\$3,604,000
Louisville-Jefferson County	\$83.96	\$41.18		\$36,657	\$1,305,000	
Madisonville	\$26.50		\$25.70			
Morgantown-Butler County	\$32.92					
Morehead	\$79.32	\$36.54	\$34.24	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Murray-Calloway County	\$7.24	\$8.85	\$11.74			
Newport	\$14.59	\$14.59	\$21.84			\$20,000
Nicholasville-Jessamine County	\$16.72	\$33.33	\$32.32	\$236,600	\$2,200,000	
Ohio County	\$11.32	\$8.34	\$14.19	\$134,000		\$10,000
Oldham County	\$97.44	\$9.29	\$33.26	\$3,050,000	\$30,000	\$200,000
Owensboro		\$28.61			\$339,700	
Paducah	\$58.47	\$72.41	\$62.37		\$260,000	\$120,000
Pulaski County	\$3.06	\$1.75	\$3.55	\$12,500		\$20,000
Radcliff			\$16.18			
Richmond	\$38.26	\$44.60	\$38.42	\$37,000	\$80,000	\$200,000
Russellville-Logan County	\$313.37	\$113.69		\$1,661,000	\$8,000	
Shelbyville-Shelby County		\$31.84	\$56.07		\$5,100,000	
Somerset	\$11.52					
Tompkinsville-Monroe County	\$15.90					
Versailles-Woodford County	\$23.53	\$24.09	\$30.09	\$21,200	\$50,000	\$11,459,659
Warren County	\$61.74	\$28.55	\$25.02	\$1,616,800	\$52,000	\$147,300
Winchester-Clark County	\$9.83	\$8.99				
Total	\$1,666.53	\$1,225.58	\$1,215.22	\$12,961,057	\$18,085,556	\$26,437,859
Average	\$ 41.66	\$ 35.02	\$ 33.76	\$540,044	\$753,565	\$1,101,577
Median	\$23.02	\$28.61	\$25.13	\$110,000	\$147,406	\$200,000

Appendix B
Public Workshop Summaries

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY
PADUCAH PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
PROJECT NO. 01123**

BY: Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

**BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS**

November 7, 2001

LOCATION: Cherry Civic Center (approximately 65 people attended)

People in attendance were asked a few simple questions. The first question was:

1. Where do you currently go for parks and recreation activities and what do you do?
 - ? Backyard for horse shoe pitching
 - ? Noble Park for the swimming pool
 - ? Oak Grove Cemetery for walking
 - ? Information Age Park for walking and biking
 - ? Executive Inn for swimming pool
 - ? Schultz Park to eat lunch and view the river
 - ? Soccer field at Jetton Park area
 - ? Southside to Benton Railroad corridor for biking
 - ? Voor Park for basketball
 - ? Baseball complex and soccer complex for sports
 - ? Streets for running
 - ? Mike Miller Park for use of the trails and park facilities
 - ? BMX track and roller hockey in Murray
 - ? Paxton Park golf course

2. What do you like about the parks and recreation opportunities and facilities in Paducah?
 - ? The dance and gymnastic programs at the Park Services building. They like the programming depth and the price of the activities.
 - ? Ball fields in Lone Oak for tournaments and the quality of the facilities
 - ? Noble Park for the walking, lake, green space, trees and general feel of the park
 - ? Riverfront for green space and viewing the river
 - ? Parks and Recreation Department offices for programs and senior citizen programs
 - ? Keiler Park, playground and picnic facilities
 - ? Carson Park for horse activities

3. What is missing from parks and recreation activities and opportunities in Paducah?
 - ? In Noble Park the trails are too short and need to be made longer –
 - o need to have less cars and more green space and less conflict between cars and pedestrians
 - o need lights around the trail
 - o more picnic tables and trees

- ? Blackburn Park needs trees and picnic tables
- ? Need an indoor pool and diving facility because the only one currently available is at Executive Inn, which is 25 meters instead of 25 yards long.
- ? Need better tennis courts
- ? Need bike trail and a place to ride where kids can ride safely and that provide connection from other parks. They need to be lighted also.
- ? The soccer fields are very uneven at the County Soccer Complex
- ? The fact that they have to travel out of the city for so many activities such as skate parks, BMX and other activities is a problem.
- ? Need a facility for skate boarding including ramps, inline skating etc.
- ? Need neighborhood to park connections, greenways, pedestrian ways and a network of pedestrian ways throughout the city
- ? Green fees at the Paxton Golf Course are too high and they need better program for youth golf
- ? Need a downtown playground to complement all the activities along the riverfront
- ? You cannot bike to downtown area, need bike lanes and marking and ability to ride to schools as well as way-finding signs
- ? Need a recreation center facility
- ? Need a place to mountain bike, both trails and BMX type space
- ? The traffic speed in the park is too fast
- ? Need a place for sanctioned horse shoe pits for tournaments
- ? Need facilities for equine sports and activities
- ? In the floodwall area-need to improve the Farmers Market area, connected to a trail system and an opportunity for more open space instead of all gravel and paved space

4. **Vision** - Pretend it is the year 2011 and that people are coming to Paducah because of its outstanding reputation for quality parks and recreation programs, activities and facilities. What has happened in the last ten years to make the opportunities for parks and recreation activities in Paducah to be so outstanding? The groups were asked to list their ideas and then set priorities for the ideas among the groups. The number in parenthesis following each item indicates the rank of the group.

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

- ? Greenways from the mall to Schultz Park to the floodwall and to I-24 south with a recreation center (1)
- ? Paducah is famous as a bicycle and pedestrian friendly place to live and visit (1).
- ? As new roads and streets are built, they have bike lanes (1A)
- ? Connecting trails between parks for biking/hiking/running and walking (1) lighted and paved secure interconnected trails for biking, walking and skating (1)
- ? Safe walking trails (2A) and designated biking lanes with signs for bicyclists (2)
- ? Extended bike trail in routes linking neighborhoods and towns (2)
- ? Safe connecting trails with links that take you by areas of commerce such as the mall, downtown cafes etc. (2)
- ? Interconnected network of pedestrian ways that is also for bikes, made such that almost any area is accessible from it (2)
- ? Paducah Greenways on the floodwall for walking and biking (3)

- ? Greenway connection from Perkins Creek Nature Preserve along the levee to the river and around south of town to I-24 (4)
- ? Perimeter of the Information Age Park has a trail that is a healthy influence for that area employees (6)
- ? Pedestrian preferred green space (7A)

RECREATION CENTER

- ? Multipurpose recreation facility (year round) (1) with a greenway and connecting parks to it also.
- ? Recreation center with an Olympic swimming pool, volleyball courts, racquet ball courts, basketball courts, indoor track, table tennis, ping pong, badminton, shuffleboard courts, bowling alley, non-smoking facility, sauna, gymnastics, skateboard, exercise equipment, aerobics, weights and wall climbing. (1)
- ? Recreation facility with an indoor pool, ice rink, indoor horse shoe courts, basketball and tennis
- ? Centralized community center with a full range of indoor sporting activities and adjacent outdoor facilities (1)
- ? Multipurpose sports facility with a pool, gym, track, etc. that brings in senior Olympics, swim court competition and track events (2)
- ? Indoor sports complex (3)
- ? Indoor pool with hours for people who work. Suggested hours are 5:00 a.m. till 10:00 p.m. (4)
- ? Indoor and outdoor tennis complex (5)

EVENTS - HORSESHOES

- ? Horseshoe pitching courts for a league, weekly and a covered practice facility (2)
- ? NHPA sanctioned horseshoe courts (3)
- ? National horseshoe multi-court tournaments (4)

SKATEBOARD PARK

- ? A roller blade and skateboard park (3)
- ? A bike park for bicycles, skateboard, roller blades, competition style ramps, tracks and BMX (4)

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS

- ? Park conveniences such as bathrooms, benches, pavilions and parking (3)
- ? Improved Brooks Stadium for NCAA and American Legion Nationals (2)
- ? Improve the Carson Horse Park (5)

NEW FACILITIES

- ? Soccer complex (4)
- ? Arboretum (5)
- ? Golf driving range (7)
- ? Dog park fenced in (3)

EVENTS

- ? Paducah marathon for 26-mile runners event and certified course (3)

RIVERFRONT PARK ACCESS

- ? More access to green parks along the river (7B)
- ? Increase riverfront access for paddling boats such as rowing and canoes (6)

HEALTH OF PADUCAH

- ? In ten years Paducah can be home to healthy residents

We also received information from one individual desiring to improve and expand Voor Park by purchasing the next lot 50' x 150' for an open playfield in the inner city. They suggested trees, parking expansion, basketball, before development happens in the area. It was provided by Jim Anderson of the Voor Park Committee,.

We also received information concerning BMX tracks.

One individual suggested improvements to Bob Noble Park .

One individual provided a handout identifying the Path to Health regarding a trail in Rhode Island in the benefits of the trail.

Patrick D. Hoagland

Date

PDH/slp

cc: Wayne Bain
Mark Thompson

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY
PADUCAH PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
PROJECT NO. 01123**

BY: Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

**BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS**

November 8, 2001

LOCATION: Paducah Public Schools Offices (approximately 30 people attended)

People in attendance were asked a few simple questions. The first question was:

1. Where do you currently go for parks and recreation activities and what do you do?
 - ? Noble Park for the pool, walking, tennis and other activities
 - ? Stuart Nelson Park for softball
 - ? Lone Oak for tennis
 - ? Executive Inn for swimming pool
 - ? Russellville, Bowling Green, Hopkinsville and Madisonville for an indoor pool
 - ? Cape Girardeau Missouri for their ice rink
 - ? Land Between the Lakes (LBL) for the bike trails
 - ? McCracken County soccer complex
 - ? St. Mary's for soccer
 - ? Jetton Gym for indoor soccer, volleyball and basketball
 - ? Venture River for aquatic facilities
 - ? Golf in Paxton Park
 - ? Southern Illinois bike trail near Vienna
 - ? Skate parks in Madisonville, Nashville and an indoor one in St. Louis and also in Metropolis
 - ? The Parks Services building for the programs
 - ? Theme parks in St. Louis and Nashville
 - ? BMX course in Murray
 - ? Mayfield for racquet ball

2. What do you like about the parks and recreation opportunities and facilities in Paducah?
 - ? Noble Park for green space, walking, baseball, accessibility and nature trail
 - ? Park programs and good methods which the City uses to promote their programs, including those at the Jetton Gym
 - ? Stuart Nelson ball fields
 - ? Brooks Stadium
 - ? Keiler Park for the picnic area
 - ? Schultz Park for lunch

3. What is missing from parks and recreation activities and opportunities in Paducah?
 - ? Poor conditions of the tennis courts and the need for indoor tennis courts
 - ? Need the possibility for a long bike ride that is safe for families
 - ? Need more parks and more neighborhood parks throughout the city
 - ? Need better signage so that the parks are easier to find
 - ? Need better river access for pleasure boats, dock space for locals and larger boats and the use of the riverfront
 - ? Need indoor recreation center with indoor pool, soccer, tennis and volley ball
 - ? Need a better amphitheatre
 - ? Need picnic shelters and tables especially larger tables
 - ? Need restrooms in the parks
 - ? Need more dog park areas and more walking trails where you can take your dog and individuals to walk
 - ? Need a roller blade and skate park
 - ? The lack of sidewalks throughout the community is a problem
 - ? Need more and better promotion and information regarding programs. There was complaints that sometimes they get the information and it is already too late or there is not enough information available. Could use emails, web and other methods for communications
 - ? Need linkages from the parks to neighborhoods.
 - ? Need better infrastructure on the parks such as roads, fences, restrooms etc.
 - ? Need better signage in the parks to promote the park rules
 - ? Need better swimming lessons, there are no nighttime hours for family swims because of lessons and it is difficult for working families to get their children to pools for swimming lessons. They also need an indoor pool.
 - ? Need facilities for special needs persons such as handicap programs and facilities
 - ? Need youth areas that provide safe recreation for after-school and provide productive activities

5. **Vision** - Pretend it is the year 2011 and that people are coming to Paducah because of its outstanding reputation for quality parks and recreation programs, activities and facilities. What has happened in the last ten years to make the opportunities for parks and recreation activities in Paducah to be so outstanding? The entire group broke down into four smaller groups and identified their proposed improvements. The number in parenthesis following each item indicates the priority given to each item by their group.

INDOOR RECREATION CENTER

- ? Indoor recreation complex with a water park that provides both active and passive facilities (1)
- ? Multi-recreation indoor facility that provides an indoor pool, indoor soccer, basketball, volleyball, racquet ball, ice rink, track and is two stories tall (1)
- ? A community multipurpose facility that provides year around activities such as gymnasium, basketball, pool and fitness. Associated with this and around it will be green trails that provide safe access, more lessons and training for the staff to operate the facilities, ball fields and baseball fields, tennis complex for indoor and outdoor facilities an amphitheatre for concerts and soccer fields (1)
- ? Indoor complex with a water park and skate park (2)

- ? Outdoor recreation facility that is connected with an indoor facility with a skate park, bike trails, BMX track, soccer fields and baseball etc. (4)

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

- ? Greenway trails (1)
- ? Links to parks, schools and neighborhoods along a greenway trail (2)
- ? The parks are interconnected by hike/bike trails (2)

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

- ? A waterfront development with a marina (3)
- ? Major docking facility and marina (3)
- ? Redeveloped riverfront and marina (5)

NEW FACILITIES

- ? Amusement facility (2)
- ? New softball and baseball complex (3)
- ? Dog park (4)
- ? Multipurpose shooting and sports facility (5)

Patrick D. Hoagland

Date

PDH/slp

cc: Wayne Bain
Mark Thompson

Appendix C
Survey Tables and Graphs

Survey

City of Paducah & McCracken County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

DRAFT 12/19/01

The City of Paducah is in the process of preparing a master plan to improve the parks, recreation, leisure and greenway opportunities in the City and in McCracken County. Clearly, a vital part of this planning is to understand the desires and interests of residents. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. A recent survey and study addressed the needs for indoor recreation facilities. Therefore, this survey deals primarily with outdoor recreation issues. Your responses and comments should reflect the opinion of your household and will remain confidential, but will prove valuable to the planning process. Please complete and return this survey by January 30, 2002.

1. Which of the following do you live closest to? Check only one.

City of Paducah	McCracken County
<input type="checkbox"/> Paducah City Hall	<input type="checkbox"/> Heath High School
<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Noble Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Lone Oak High School
<input type="checkbox"/> Paducah Middle School	<input type="checkbox"/> Reidland High School
2. Please indicate the number of persons in each age category in your household.
 Children age 0-17 Adults age 18-54 Adults age 55-over
3. What is your age? _____
4. During the warmer months, about how often does your household use an outdoor park or recreational facility? (Include facilities that are public or private and that are in or outside of the City of Paducah.)

<input type="text"/> Once a week or more often	<input type="text"/> Once a month to once every other month
<input type="text"/> 2-3 times a month	<input type="text"/> Less than once every other month
<input type="text"/> About once a month	<input type="text"/> Never
5. During the colder months, about how often does your household use an indoor recreational or leisure activity facility for sports and exercise? (Include facilities that are public or private and that are in or outside of the City of Paducah)

<input type="text"/> Once a week or more often	<input type="text"/> Once a month to once every other month
<input type="text"/> 2 or 3 times a month	<input type="text"/> Less than once every other month
<input type="text"/> About once a month	<input type="text"/> Never
6. Which of these parks or recreation facilities do you or members of your family use at least once in a year? Place an "X" to the left of all of the facilities that you use. Do not include the school that your family members attend unless you use the facilities after school hours for non-school activities.

Outdoor Facilities

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Noble Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stuart Nelson Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Kolb Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paxton Park Golf Course | <input type="checkbox"/> School Playgrounds and Fields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brooks Stadium and Sheppard Soccer Field | <input type="checkbox"/> A Homeowners Association Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackburn Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Keiler Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Henry Clay Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Voor Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campbell Park (Betsy Ross Park) | <input type="checkbox"/> Midtown Golf Course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lone Oak Park (Doc Hicks Park) | <input type="checkbox"/> County Soccer Complex |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Husband Rd. Ballfield Complex | <input type="checkbox"/> Reidland-Farley Baseball Complex |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballfield Complex in Heath | <input type="checkbox"/> Reidland Community Center and Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Theme Parks (Like Venture River) | |

7. Please indicate the outdoor parks and recreational facilities that you or members of your household have used in the last year. Do not limit your response to facilities located in Paducah.

<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Swimming pool / Aquatic center	<input type="checkbox"/> Softball fields
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing lakes	<input type="checkbox"/> Baseball fields
<input type="checkbox"/> Walkways or bike trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Football fields
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenway corridors (linkages of land that connect parks, schools and neighborhoods. They may include trails.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain bike trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball courts

- _____ Basketball courts
- _____ Picnic tables in open areas
- _____ Picnic shelters
- _____ Playgrounds
- _____ Soccer fields
- _____ Ice rink
- _____ BMX Track
- _____ Golf
- _____ Horseshoes

- _____ Outdoor stage or amphitheater
- _____ Summer day camp
- _____ Outdoor environmental education center
- _____ Horseback riding trails
- _____ Skate park (in-line or skateboarding)
- _____ Roller hockey facility
- _____ Other

8. We need to know what type of park and recreational facilities are needed in Paducah and McCracken County. For each facility listed, please check if your household has a strong need, a slight need or no need for that new facility to be built.

Outdoor Facilities

	<u>Strong Need</u>	<u>Slight Need</u>	<u>No Need</u>
Outdoor swimming pool with competition lanes	_____	_____	_____
Outdoor family aquatic center with shallow water, slides, sprays and water play elements.	_____	_____	_____
Fishing lakes	_____	_____	_____
Greenway corridors (linkages of land that connect parks, schools and neighborhoods. They may include trails.)	_____	_____	_____
Walkways and bike trails	_____	_____	_____
Mountain bike trails	_____	_____	_____
Outdoor basketball courts	_____	_____	_____
Picnic tables in open areas	_____	_____	_____
Picnic shelters	_____	_____	_____
Playgrounds	_____	_____	_____
Soccer fields	_____	_____	_____
Softball fields	_____	_____	_____
Baseball fields	_____	_____	_____
Football fields	_____	_____	_____
Outdoor tennis courts	_____	_____	_____
Outdoor volleyball courts	_____	_____	_____
Outdoor stage or amphitheater	_____	_____	_____
Outdoor environmental education center	_____	_____	_____
Horseback riding trails	_____	_____	_____
Skate park (in-line or skateboarding)	_____	_____	_____
Roller hockey facility	_____	_____	_____
Greenspace (land reserved for future parks or to remain undeveloped)	_____	_____	_____
Outdoor ice rink	_____	_____	_____
Golf Course	_____	_____	_____
Ultimate Disk or disk golf	_____	_____	_____
Climbing wall	_____	_____	_____
Horseshoe pits	_____	_____	_____
Other facilities not listed:	_____	_____	_____

9. Is there a strong need, slight need or no need for the following additional indoor facilities to be built?

Indoor Facilities

	<u>Strong Need</u>	<u>Slight Need</u>	<u>No Need</u>
Gymnasium for basketball, volleyball & soccer	_____	_____	_____
Cardiovascular area	_____	_____	_____
Strength training	_____	_____	_____
Meeting rooms for social and education programs.	_____	_____	_____
Rooms for arts and crafts programs	_____	_____	_____
Youth Center	_____	_____	_____
Aerobics / exercise room	_____	_____	_____
Indoor playground	_____	_____	_____
Climbing wall	_____	_____	_____
Computer lab	_____	_____	_____

Paducah Parks Services
1400 H.C. Mathis Drive
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

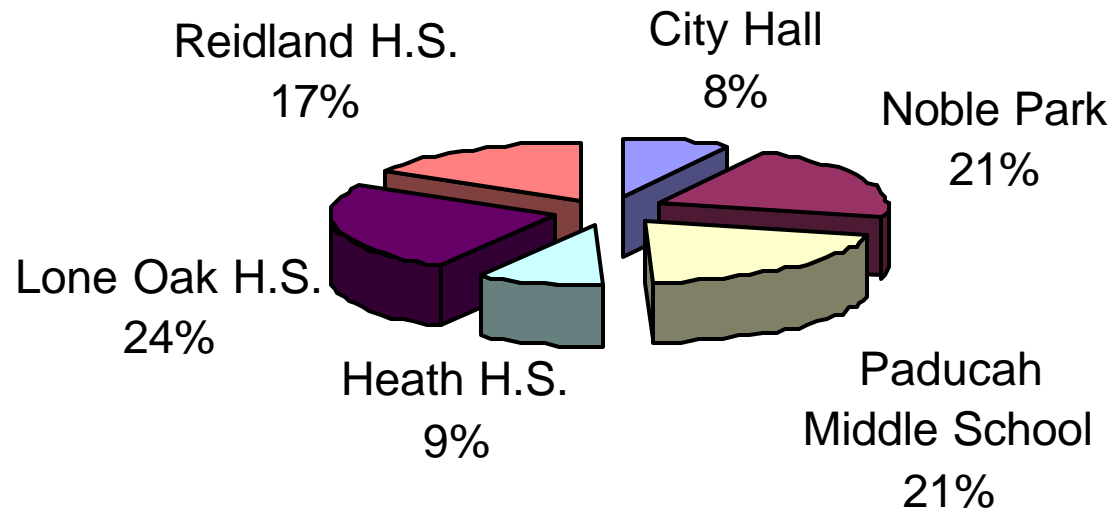
Paducah Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey

Paducah Parks Services
1400 H.C. Mathis Drive
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

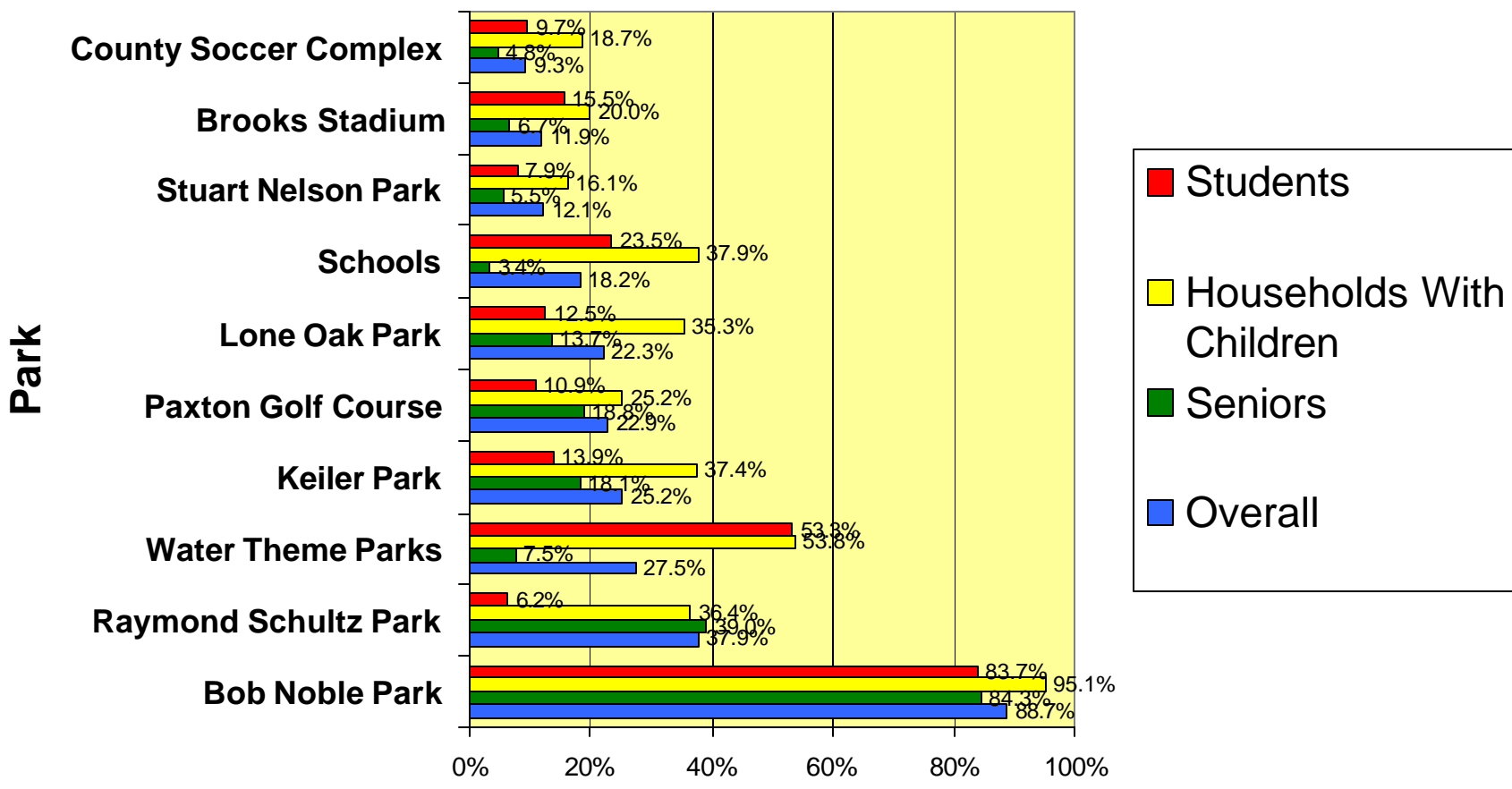
Place
stamp
here

Paducah Parks Services
1400 H.C. Mathis Drive
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

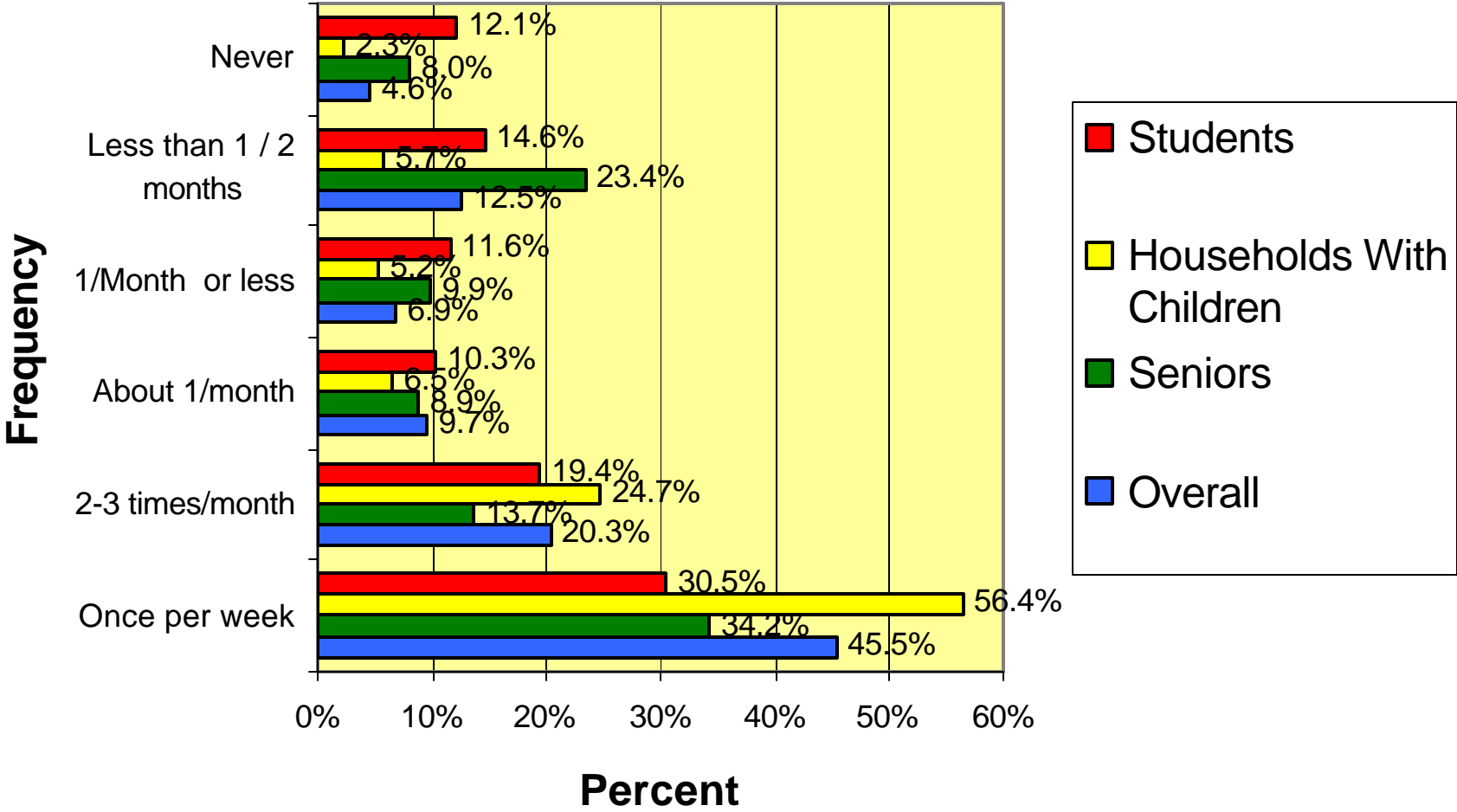
Respondent Location



Top Ten Most Used Parks

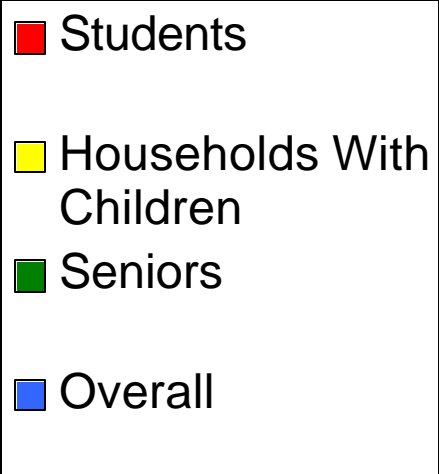
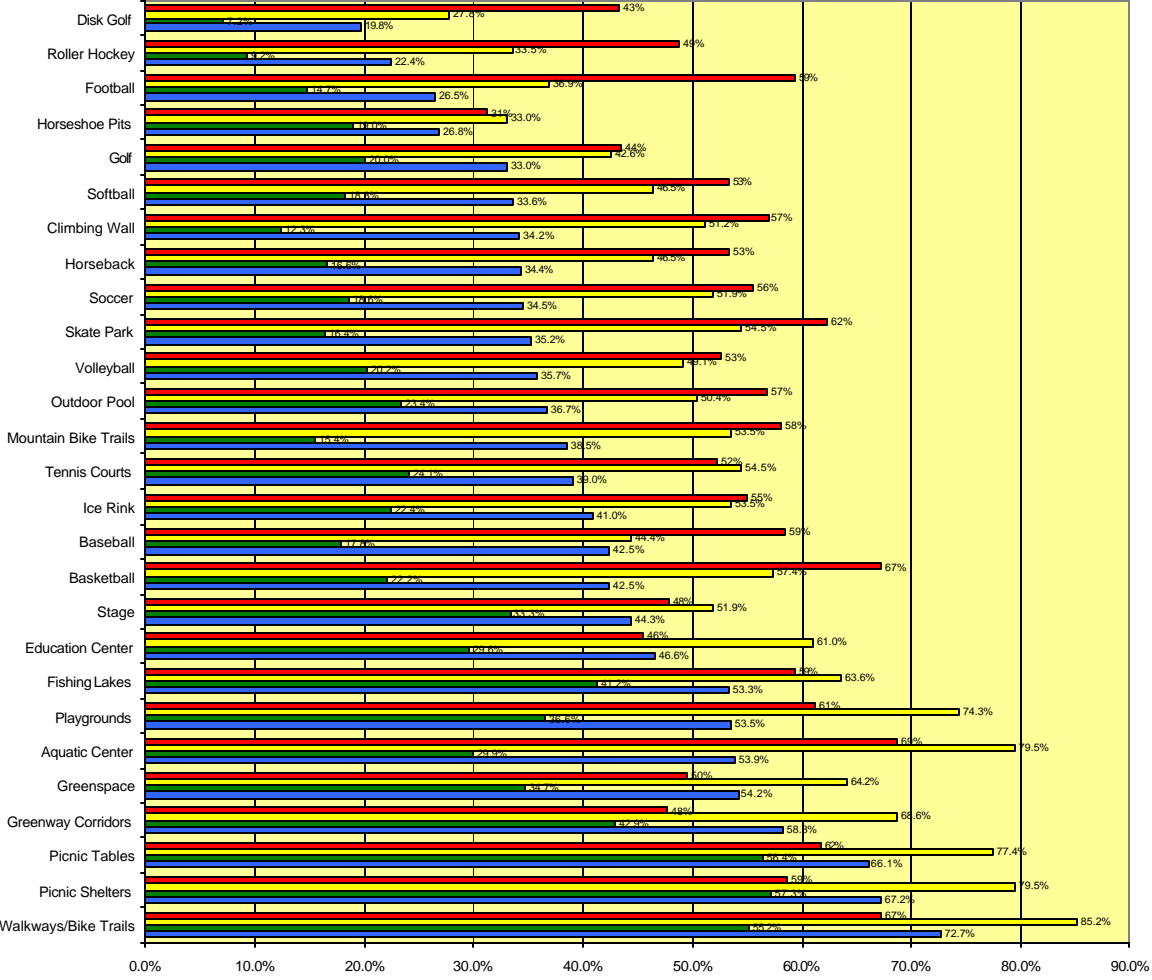


Outdoor Facility Usage



Needed Outdoor Facilities

Facilities

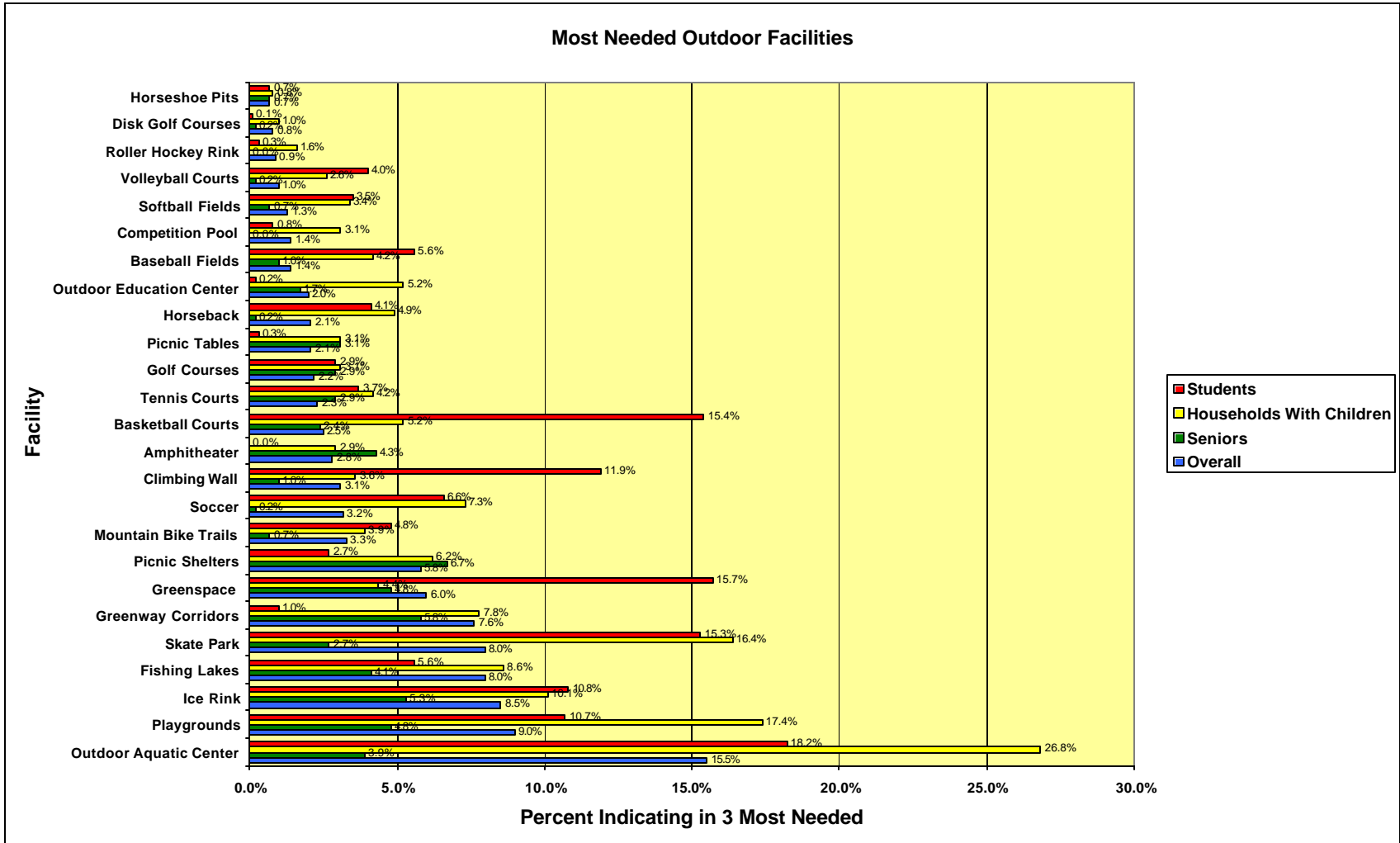


Percent Indicating a Strong or Slight Need

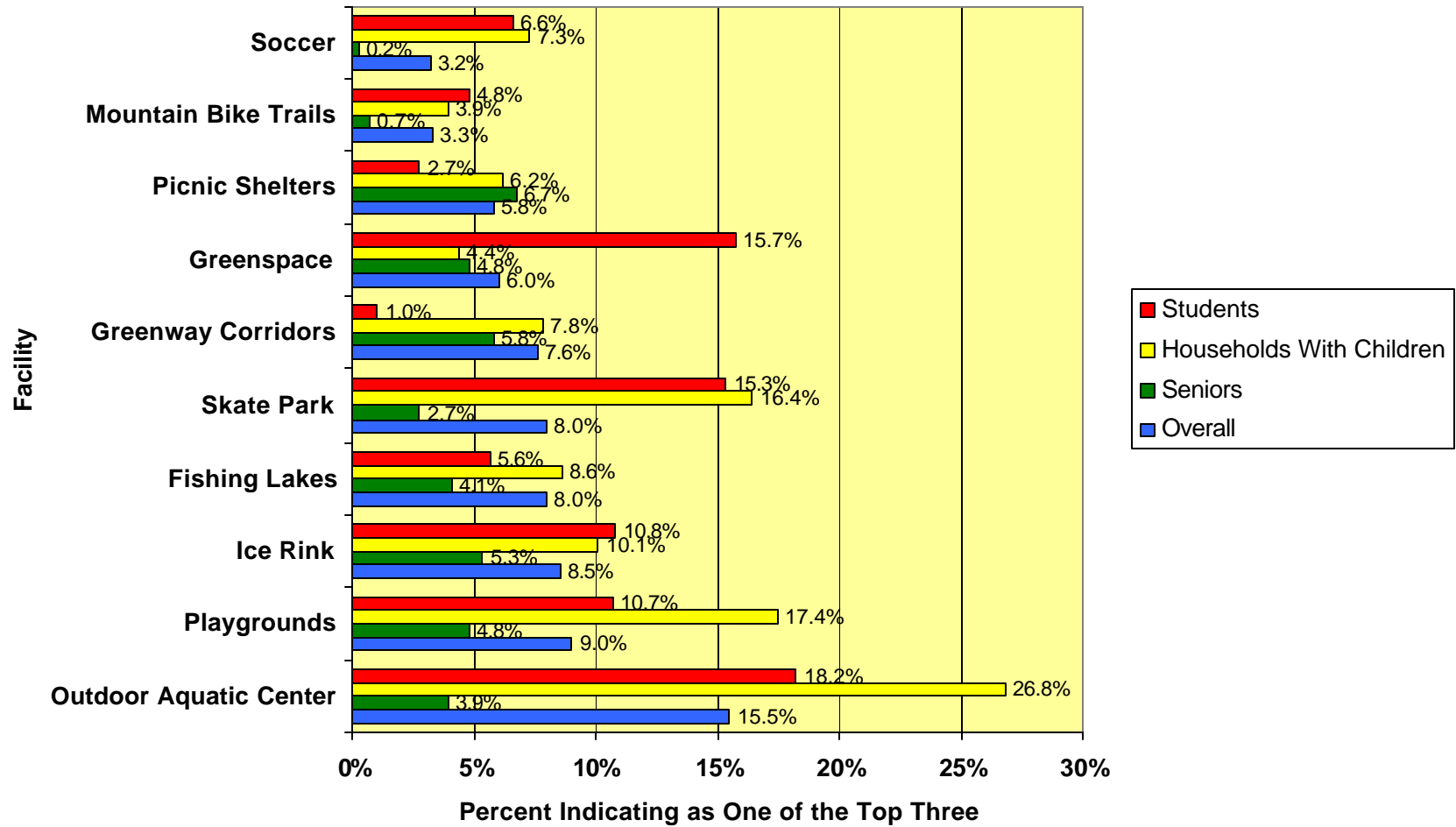
Most Needed Outdoor Facilities

	Overall	Households		
		Seniors	With Children	Students
Outdoor Aquatic Center	15.5%	3.9%	26.8%	18.2%
Playgrounds	9.0%	4.8%	17.4%	10.7%
Ice Rink	8.5%	5.3%	10.1%	10.8%
Fishing Lakes	8.0%	4.1%	8.6%	5.6%
Skate Park	8.0%	2.7%	16.4%	15.3%
Greenway Corridors	7.6%	5.8%	7.8%	1.0%
Greenspace	6.0%	4.8%	4.4%	15.7%
Picnic Shelters	5.8%	6.7%	6.2%	2.7%
Mountain Bike Trails	3.3%	0.7%	3.9%	4.8%
Soccer	3.2%	0.2%	7.3%	6.6%
Climbing Wall	3.1%	1.0%	3.6%	11.9%
Amphitheater	2.8%	4.3%	2.9%	0.0%
Basketball Courts	2.5%	2.4%	5.2%	15.4%
Tennis Courts	2.3%	2.9%	4.2%	3.7%
Golf Courses	2.2%	2.9%	3.1%	2.9%
Picnic Tables	2.1%	3.1%	3.1%	0.3%
Horseback	2.1%	0.2%	4.9%	4.1%
Outdoor Education Center	2.0%	1.7%	5.2%	0.2%
Baseball Fields	1.4%	1.0%	4.2%	5.6%
Competition Pool	1.4%	0.0%	3.1%	0.8%
Softball Fields	1.3%	0.7%	3.4%	3.5%
Volleyball Courts	1.0%	0.2%	2.6%	4.0%
Roller Hockey Rink	0.9%	0.0%	1.6%	0.3%
Disk Golf Courses	0.8%	0.2%	1.0%	0.1%
Horseshoe Pits	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%
Dog Park	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
Youth Center	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%	1.3%
Football Fields	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	10.7%
Hiking Trails	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%
Zoo	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Baseball/Softball	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
BMX Track	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	2.5%
Mini-Golf	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Go Carts	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%
Campground	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Hiking/Nature Trail	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Ultimate Disk	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%
Summer Day Camp	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Bowling on the Green	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Inline Skating	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
Toilets	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Archery Range	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Batting Cages	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Nature Area	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Garden Area	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Motorcross Track	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%

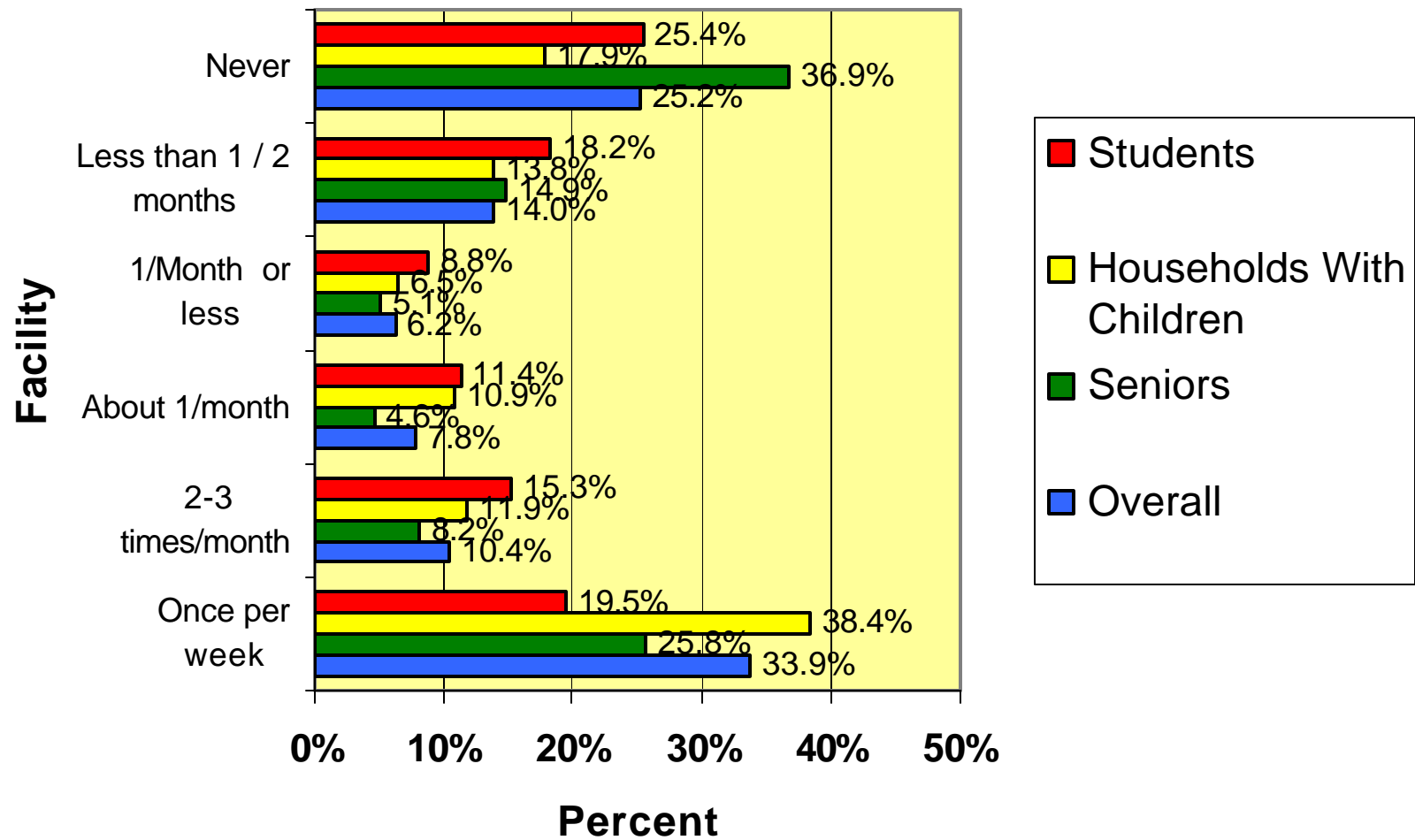
Most Needed Outdoor Facilities



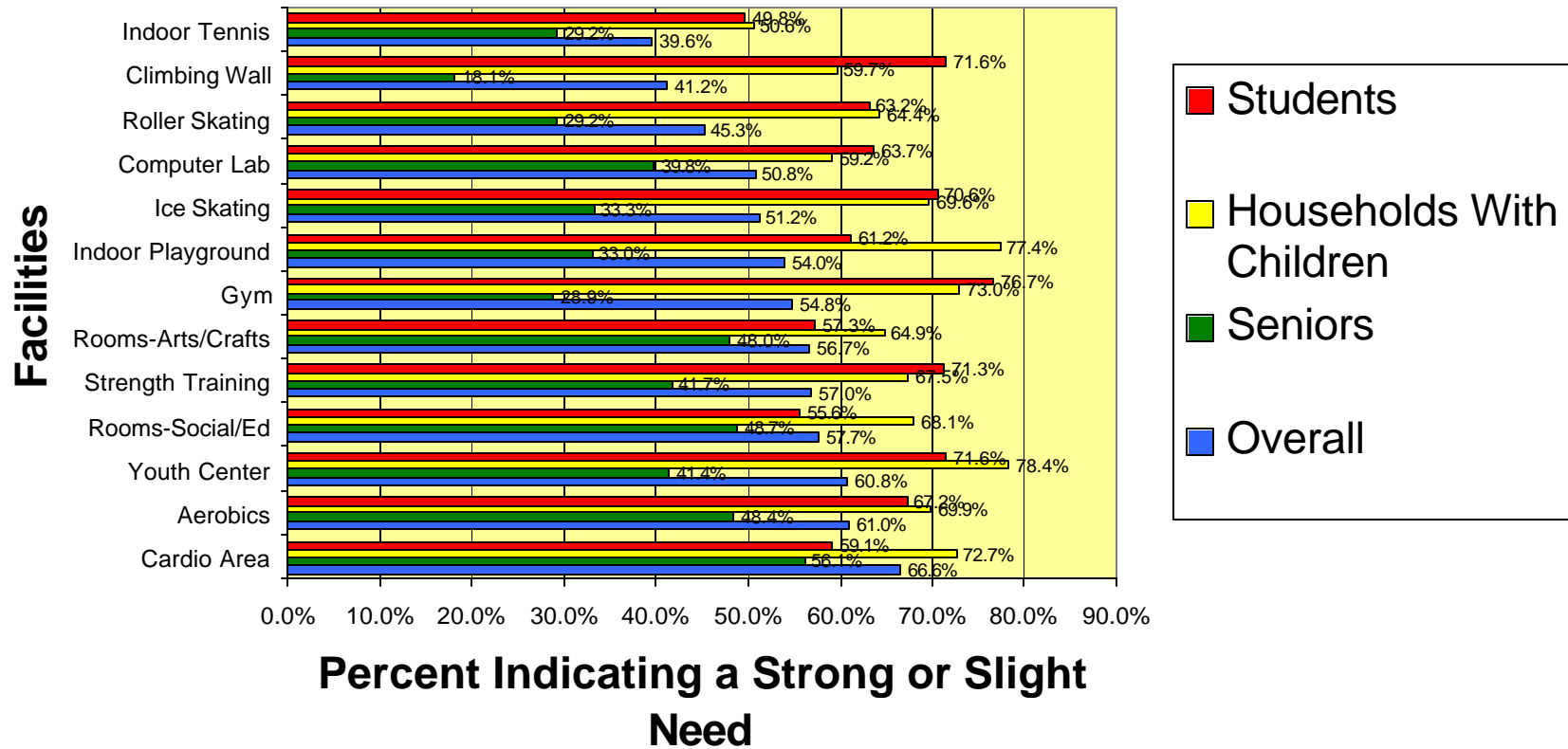
Top Ten Most Needed Outdoor Facilities



Indoor Facility Usage



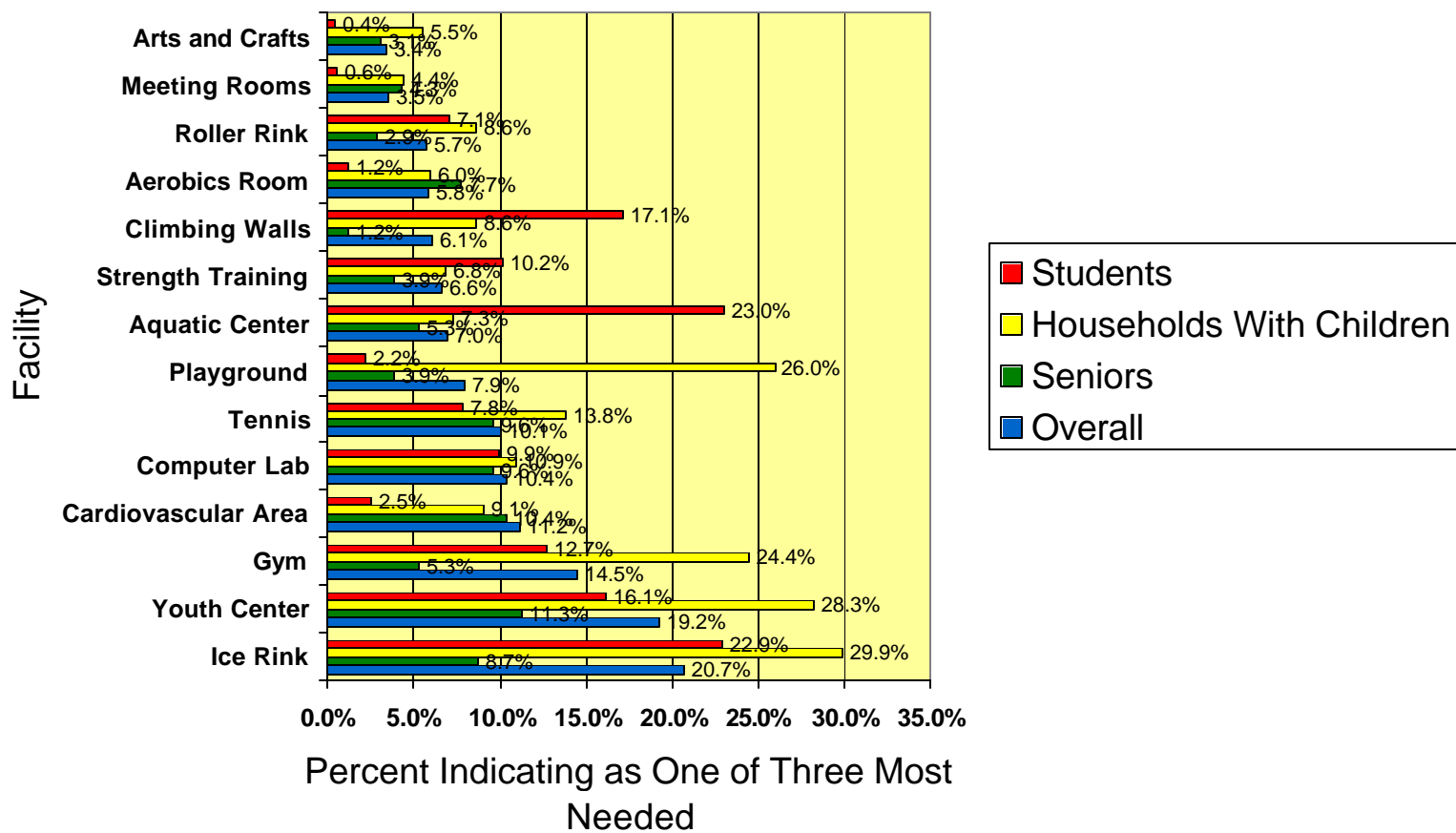
Needed Indoor Facilities



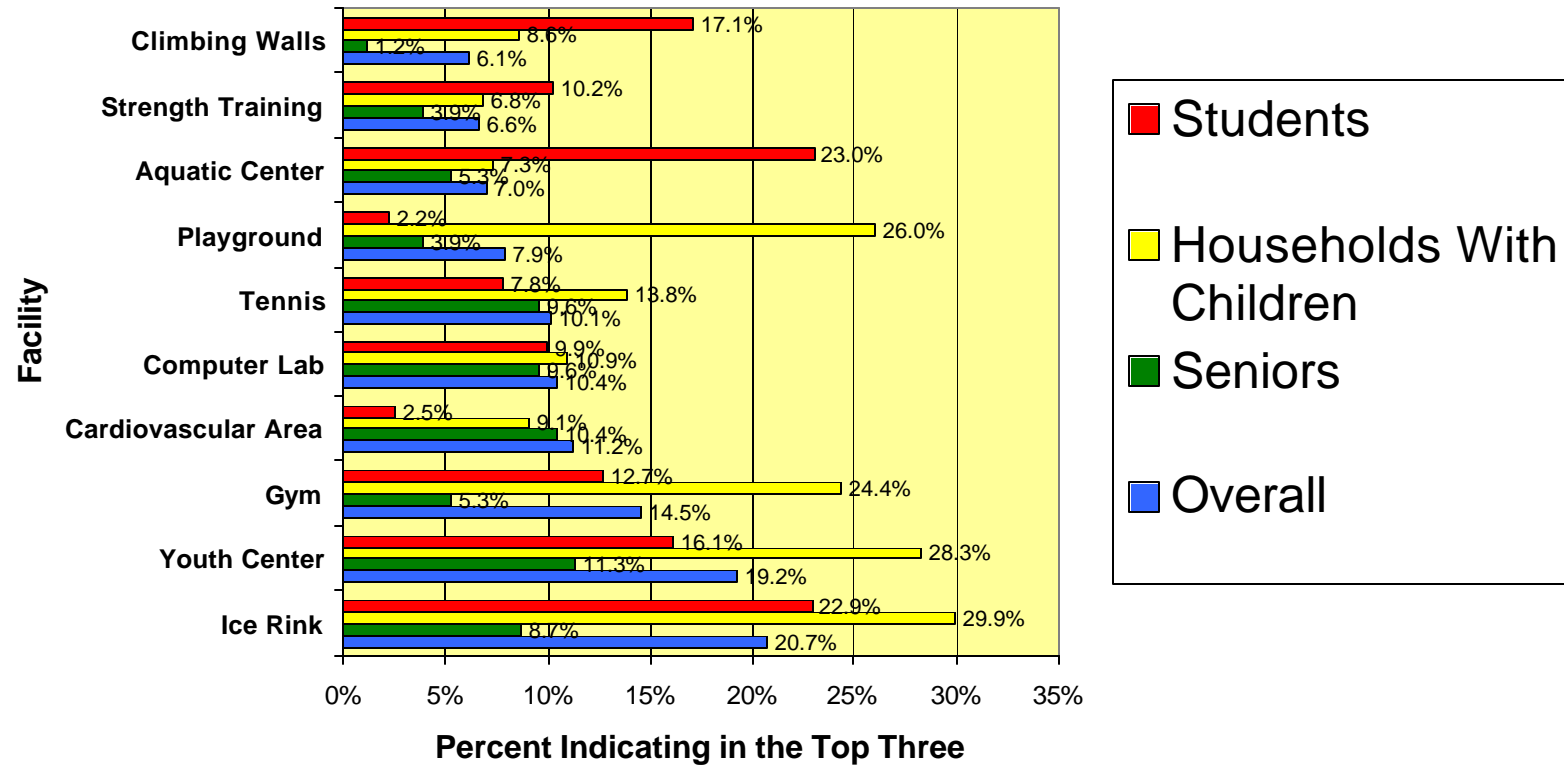
Most Needed Indoor Facilities

	Overall	Seniors	Households	
			With Children	Students
Ice Rink	20.7%	8.7%	29.9%	22.9%
Youth Center	19.2%	11.3%	28.3%	16.1%
Gym	14.5%	5.3%	24.4%	12.7%
Cardiovascular Area	11.2%	10.4%	9.1%	2.5%
Computer Lab	10.4%	9.6%	10.9%	9.9%
Tennis	10.1%	9.6%	13.8%	7.8%
Playground	7.9%	3.9%	26.0%	2.2%
Aquatic Center	7.0%	5.3%	7.3%	23.0%
Strength Training	6.6%	3.9%	6.8%	10.2%
Climbing Walls	6.1%	1.2%	8.6%	17.1%
Aerobics Room	5.8%	7.7%	6.0%	1.2%
Roller Rink	5.7%	2.9%	8.6%	7.1%
Meeting Rooms	3.5%	4.3%	4.4%	0.6%
Arts and Crafts	3.4%	3.1%	5.5%	0.4%
Basketball	0.8%	0.5%	2.3%	6.4%
soccer	0.7%	0.0%	0.8%	0.6%
Walking Track	0.6%	0.2%	1.3%	0.5%
Skating Rink	0.5%	1.0%	0.8%	70.0%
Skate Park	0.5%	0.2%	0.8%	4.2%
Multi-Purpose	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%
Competition Pool	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Volleyball	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	1.4%
Fitness Center	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Arcade	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%
Museum	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Foosball	0.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Racquetball Courts	0.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0.1%
Billiards	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
Ti Chi	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
BMX Track	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Yoga	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Childrens' Museum	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Sports Complex	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

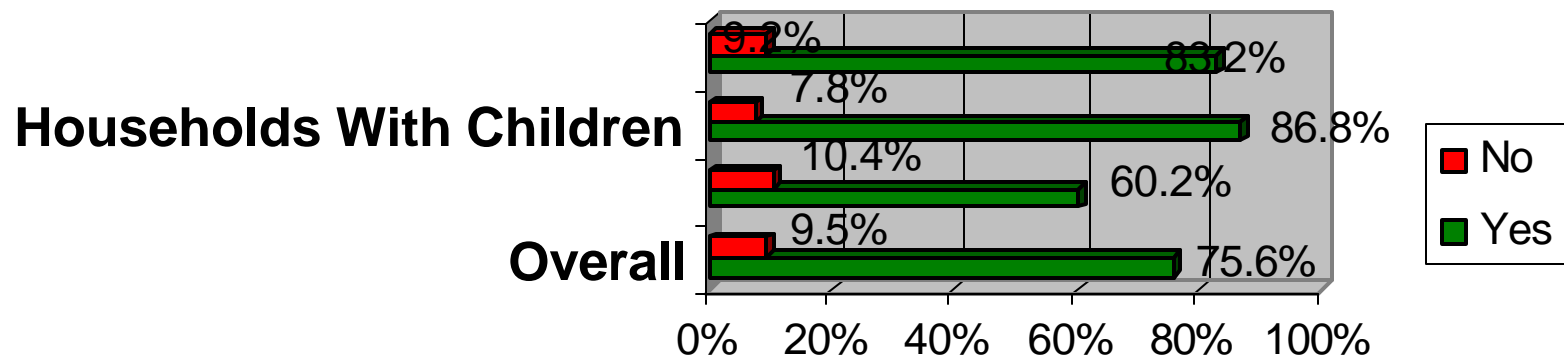
Most Needed Indoor Facilities



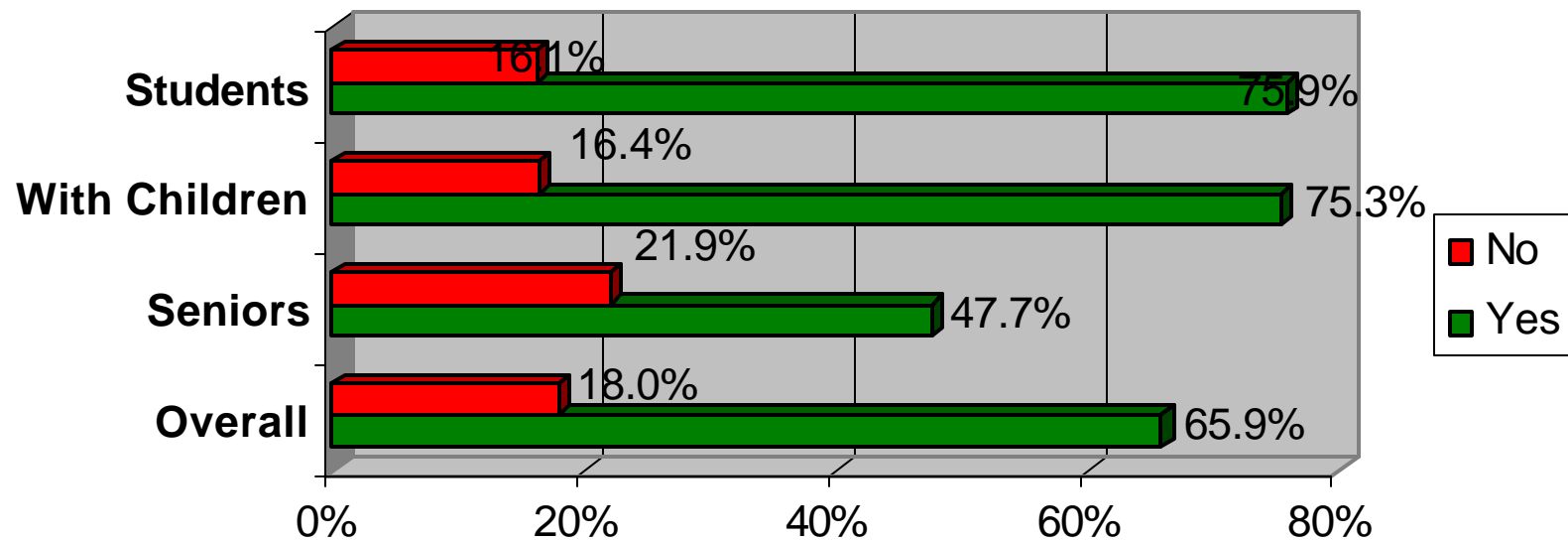
Top Ten Most Needed Indoor Facilities



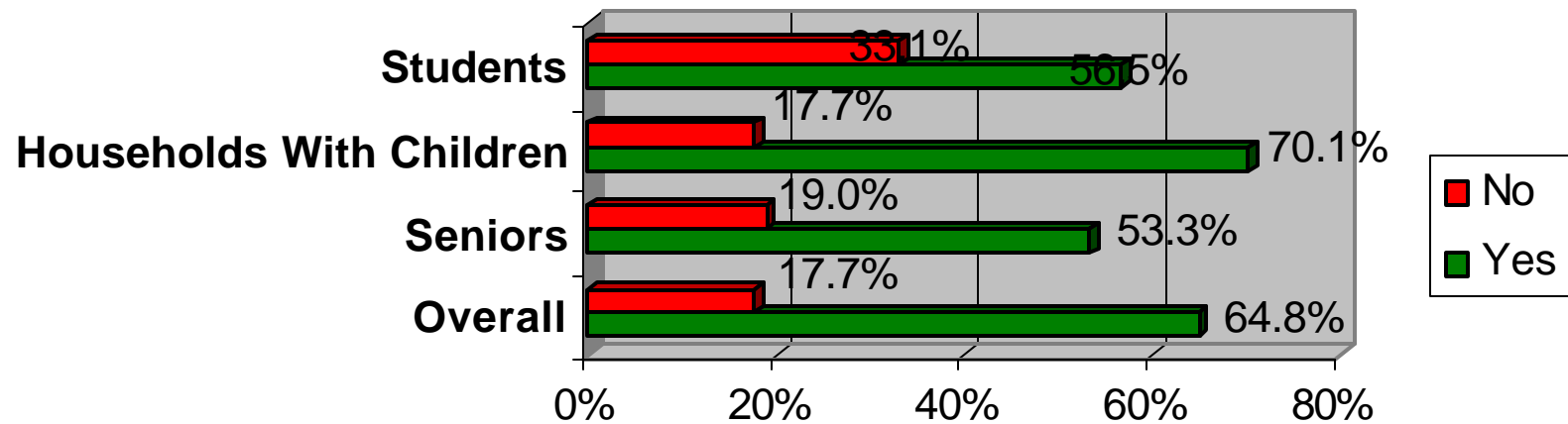
Should the City Develop an Indoor Community & Recreation Center?



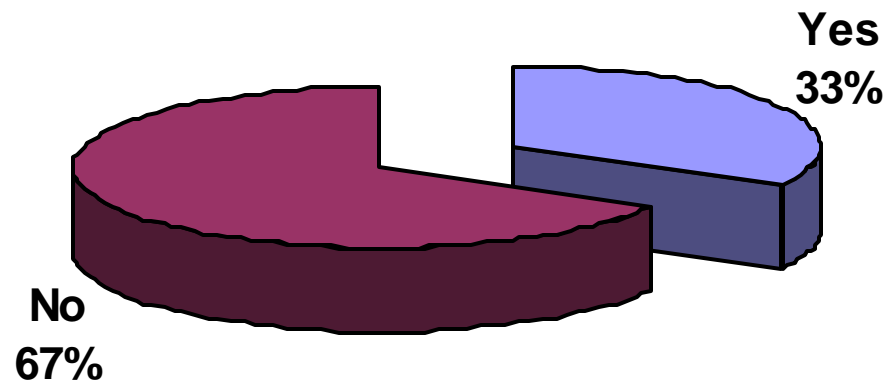
Should the City Purchase Additional Land for Park and Recreational Uses?



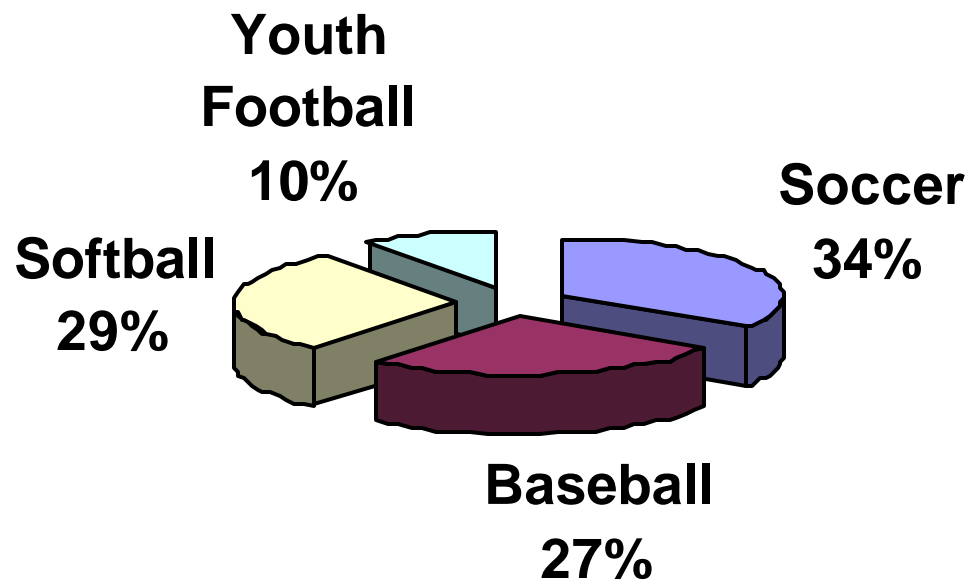
Should the City Purchase Additional Land for Greenspace?



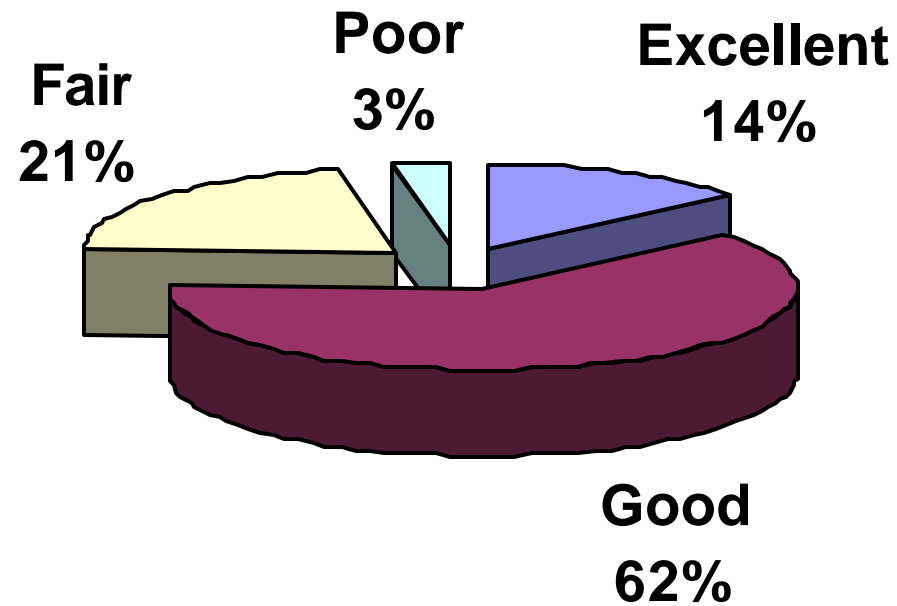
Participation in Leagues



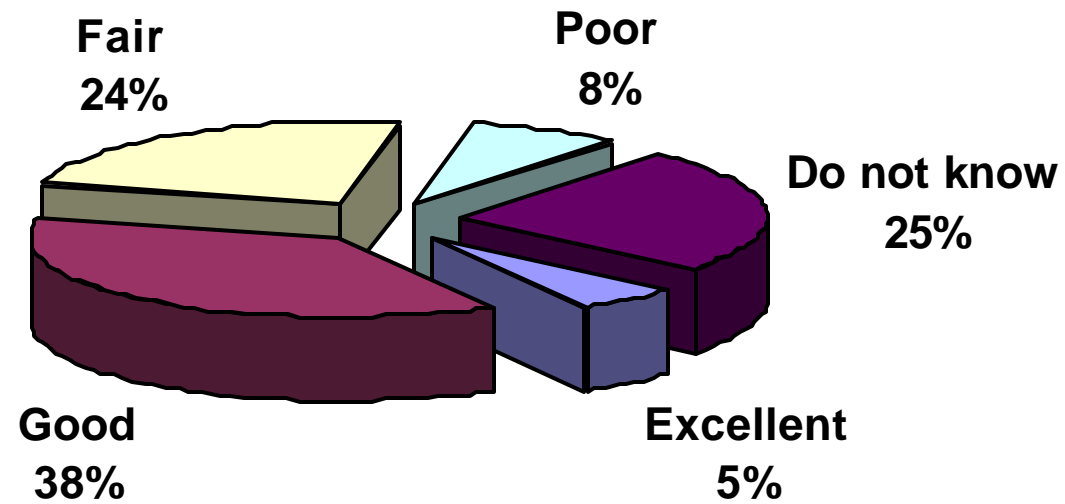
Athletic League Participation



Rating of Athletic Leagues



Program Rating



Appendix D
Strategic Business Planning

Strategic Business Planning

Every organization should be pro-actively shaping it's own future-that is, actively shaping rather than attempting to adapt to unidentified future scenarios. Therefore, if the Paducah Parks Services is to be successful in the long term, the department must make a commitment to shape the organization's future.

Accordingly, the department is engaged in a strategic planning process to envision its future and develop the necessary procedures and operations to achieve that future. That strategic planning process has four primary components-establish values, create a vision statement, redefine the mission statement, and develop action plans that will enhance the operation of the department.

Premises

Employee involvement is the cornerstone of the strategic planning process and the following premises form the basis for departmental activity.

Leadership can, and should, emerge from all levels of the organization.

People tend to support that which they can create.

Values

Organizational values are the underlying principals and qualities that serve as the 'touchstones' and upon which fundamental decisions are based.

Vision Statement

The Vision Statement is a clear image of what an organization should become if it to reach its full potential. The Vision is the foundation upon which the organization's mission is built.

Mission Statement

Mission Statements are actionable visions. A clear, well-crafted statement of what the organization does.

Goals, Objectives, and Action Items

While mission and vision statement are designed to inspire and propel the organization into the future, goals, and objectives and action items are aimed at defining what must be accomplished as meaningful intermediate steps in the right direction.

Action Team Process

The objective of each Action Team is to identify effective, innovative and implementable solutions using available resource that specifically address the issue, problem, or area of opportunity that the team selected. This will be accomplished through a nine (9) step Action Team Process.

Step 1-Form “Action” Teams

The team will need to spend sometime discussing process before jumping into the action area.

- ✍ Take time to get acquainted. Learn why each team member wanted to participate on that particular team.
- ✍ Discuss and decide which team members wish to serve in which roles. Teams will need (at least) a meeting facilitator, recorder, a timekeeper, and someone who will be responsible for meeting arrangements.
- ✍ Set meeting times.
- ✍ At an early meeting discuss and set team ground rules.
- ✍ Establish a method to periodically monitor and evaluate the team’s process and progress.

Step 2 – Define the Issue, Problem, and/or Area of Opportunity

Once the team has laid the foundation for working together, move on to a thorough discussion of the action area to bring it into clear focus.

- ✍ Clarify terms and definitions.
- ✍ Be sure each team member has a common understanding of the issue, problem, or area of opportunity.
- ✍ Some teams may need to narrow their focus to one specific element of a broad or complex departmental issue.
- ✍ Develop a “specific” statement of the issue, problem or area of opportunity.

Step 3 – Presentation: Report The Team’s Progress on a specified date

The team should prepare a five (5) minute presentation that reflects the team’s progress to date.

Step 4 – Develop Recommendations

This step is at the core of your team’s assignment. Using teamwork, problem solving techniques, and your common understanding of the action area, develop the recommendation for a “betterment change” that will improve or enhance the operation of the Paducah Parks Services.

Action Teams are encouraged to include the following activities during this phase:

- ✍ Seek broader employee and/or customer input.
- ✍ Enlist help and guidance from “experts”.
- ✍ Involve other Park employees in your team's process.
- ✍ Collect and analyze data.
- ✍ Identify the root causes of a problem and not just the symptoms.
- ✍ Utilize problem-solving techniques and develop a list of possible solutions.
- ✍ Determine pros, cons, problems, and possible barriers to implementing each solution.
- ✍ Select the preferred course of action and define the recommended betterment change.

Remember, the recommendation (s) must be effective, innovative, and implementable with available resources.

Step 5 – Present the Team’s Preliminary Recommendation (s) establish date

Each team should prepare an eight (8) minute presentation, which summarizes the preliminary recommendation (s) for a betterment change.

Step 6 – Refine Recommendations and Prepare a Plan for Implementation

Considering the feedback the team receives during Step 6, refine and finalize the recommendation (s), then outline the action steps to implement the betterment change.

Step 7 – Present the Team’s Final Recommendation (s) establish date

Each team should prepare a ten (10) minute presentation, which summarizes the recommended betterment change and the plan for implementation.

Step 8 – Make the Betterment Change

Using the implementation plan, team members take the final steps to make their betterment change a reality. Activities included in this step are:

- ✍ Initiate feedback measures to ensure that actions are carried out as intended.
- ✍ Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the better change.

Step 9 – Celebrate Success!!

Ten Characteristics of High Performance Teams

Purpose:	Members share a sense of why the team exists and are invested in accomplishing its mission.
Priorities:	Members know what needs to be done next, by whom, and when to achieve team goals.
Roles:	Members know their roles in getting tasks done and when to allow a more skilful member to do a certain task.
Decisions:	Authority and decision-making lines are clearly understood.
Conflict:	Conflict is dealt with openly and is considered important to decision-making and personal growth.
Personal Traits:	Members feel their unique personalities are appreciated and well utilized.
Risk:	Members are able to share risky ideas and feel supported by the team rather than criticize or snipped at.
Effectiveness:	Members find team meetings efficient and productive and look forward to this time together.
Success:	Members know clearly when the team has met with success and share in this equally and proudly.
Training:	Opportunities for feedback and updating skills are provided and taken advantage of by tem members.

Forming New Teams

Sometimes, teams are allowed to simply drift into existence through a limp and lazy process that lacks careful management during the formative period. The following steps will enhance the likelihood that a team will get off on the right foot.

Getting Acquainted

All new teams need time for members to get to know each other: who they are, what their special skills are, what they have accomplished in the past, how they feel about being on a team, how committed they are to the project, and what their expectations are. The get-acquainted period is when trust and cohesiveness are built. Openness and the sharing of information lead people to feel more at home and more comfortable with others on the team.

Clarifying Goals

The next step is to clarify and define the team's goals: what should be the end result of team's efforts, what should be the benchmark goals along the way, and what subgoals should be assigned to individual team members. Ambiguity can act as a severe deterrent to meeting team objectives; every effort should be made to ensure that team members understand and agree with the team's goals.

Designing Operating Rules

There are several operating rules that should be defined early in the team development process. Who is going to be the team leader, facilitator, recorder, timekeeper, and gatekeeper? How will conflicts between team members be handled? How will decisions be made? Will decision-making be shared, or will all decisions be made by the team leader? Will consensus be used, or majority rule?

All members should be clear about their roles and the roles of other team members. To accomplish team goals, members must complete individual assignments and tasks. Whether the team goal is met is the ultimate measure, but how will progress be measured as the job moves ahead? Will it be known how well each team member is performing?

Meeting schedules and agendas of meetings can also be important to a team's success. The team should decide when and where the team will meet, how long the meeting's should be, whether agenda's will be used, whether minutes will be taken, and whether meetings will include discussions of ways to improve them. Ground rules should also be established to ensure that everyone's ideas and inputs are obtained and that ideas will be properly evaluated.

The time used to establish goals and guidelines is time well spent, since it should eliminate many mishaps, conflicts, wasted time, and gaps in work done. Now the team is ready to move ahead with its task. Time should be set-aside at all meetings to review the progress of both the team and individual members. This monitoring has two purposes: to measure progress and to solve problems and remove bottlenecks as they occur. It also provides an opportunity to change operating rules that have proved ineffective.

Building A Productive Team Environment

The objective of team building is to establish a team culture that produces a high level of performance. There are several basic principles to remember when attempting to accomplish this goal.

Sharing information builds trust. Being open and above board with team members is the way trust is built. Trust means that individuals can depend on each other to do their jobs; it eliminates the need to guard against what others do and ensures that the best ideas come to the surface.

Shared problem solving produces the best answers. If a problem is to be clearly understood everyone must be involved. Involvement will guarantee that all aspects of the problem are examined and that a complete array of possible solutions is considered.

How the team works together determines how effective it will be. Do not deal just with the team's tasks and goals; talk about how the team works and develop ways to make it work better. Doing this can get the bugs out of the system and provide an opportunity for team members to vent their feelings and ideas.

The team should always be open and flexible to ideas and change. We lived in a dynamic world in which change seems to be the only constant. Being aware of change and willing to adjust to it renders the team more viable and better able to accomplish goals.

Guidelines For Team Facilitators

Because meeting conditions usually make a difference, meetings should be held on neutral turf, with a non-confrontational seating arrangement. In addition, the following facilitation techniques may prove beneficial.

1. Stick to a previously distributed agenda where topics are purposed-oriented.
2. Err toward covering a little too much for the available time on an agenda rather than too little.
3. State on the agenda how long the meeting will last.
4. Within each topic, control only the process, not the content. Give everyone a chance to contribute; call on non-speakers, use techniques that assure everyone's participation and state the rules of order.
5. Start by stating what is to be accomplished by the end of the meeting.
6. Inform the group of developments since the last meeting. Individuals responsible for interim activities should inform others of progress.
7. Summarize what the meeting has accomplished, what is to be done at the next meeting and by whom, and what the next meeting will concern.
8. Use majority voting only as a last resort when differences are so pronounced that consensus is not really possible.
9. Be enthusiastic about the group's work.
10. Put any decision that narrowly achieved a majority on the agenda for the next meeting as a means of gathering new information, obtaining ideas from others, and gaining greater group consensus.
11. Avoid spending too much time on conspicuous ideas or the first alternative. Look for other alternatives and broadening information. Avoid the dangers of 'group think' pressures toward conformity and uniformity.
12. If possible, have someone other than a group member take the minutes and circulate them before the agenda is distributed.
13. Adhere to time limits and plan future activities based on a timeline.
14. Conflicts that arise should be put into a win-win form that aids rather than disrupts the process. Creativity can emerge from conflicting viewpoints.
15. Maintain some flexibility so informality is not cut off when group members seem to need it for building openness, creativity, and trust. Discussion can be encouraged if a hot topic arises that affects the project, even if it is outside the agenda or from outside the group. Avoid self-censorship.

16. Maintain a positive tone. Ask questions rather than give answers, rephrase ideas positively, offer one or more interpretations, cut off name calling, and establish civility and respect among members, irrespective of differing viewpoints.
17. Recognize that each group is different. Some start as a collection of individuals and others as an affiliate group from the same organization. Within these guidelines, each group should develop its own method of operation.
18. Conflicts that arise should be put into a win-win form that aids rather than disrupts the process. Creativity can emerge from conflicting viewpoints.
19. Be alert for and appropriately responsive to problems and difficulties. Some people may act bored, attendance may be low, and so on.
20. After completing a question, wait at least three seconds, even if there is complete silence, before saying anything. Continued talking or a shorter delay after asking a question greatly minimizes the likelihood of getting responses.
21. Be neutral in responding to members' ideas. Avoid saying, "okay", "good", "great idea", "fine", and so on. Instead, try a phrase such as, "Lets expand that idea." The additional questioning and probing stimulates more and better responses.

Appendix E
Purchase Area Recreation Center (PARC)
Job Descriptions

AQUATICS MANAGER

NATURE OF WORK

This is responsible managerial work directing and overseeing recreation facilities and programs for the village. Responsible for establishing policies and procedures for scheduling, supervising, and maintaining the operations and programs of the Aquatics area in compliance with rules and regulations.

SUPERVISION

Under the managerial direction of the Recreation Director, this position develops and implements a comprehensive aquatic program and facility, handles interpersonal and disciplinary problems among employees and seasonal staff, handles program eligibility questions and problems, negotiates various contracts, manages staff, and oversees facilities and program budgets in the aquatic area. Work is reviewed through periodic meetings; review of reports, and by compliance with policies and procedures.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF WORK (May perform one or more of the following sets of duties.)

Plans, coordinates, supervises, assigns, and implements aquatic programs, activities, and special events; coordinates services offered; oversees contracts with corporate, media sponsors, concessionaires, and other service providers.

Supervises and administrative, seasonal, instructional, programming, and facility staff; recruits, interviews and hires employees; trains staff; conducts performance evaluations; approves leave; makes recommendations for discipline; prepares and submits payroll.

Manages aquatic facilities; ensures concession and pool revenues are accounted for on a daily basis; monitors and maintains proper chemical water balance; monitors numerous chlorination and water filtration systems; oversees cleaning and maintenance of pumps and filtration systems; develops and oversees swimming and aquatic class and programs; ensures proper maintenance of equipment; supervises cleaning and proper maintenance of interior and exterior of building and grounds; enforces facility security policies.

Monitors registration and attendance of classes and programs; assesses feasibility and public interest; cancels classes and programs as needed; submits reports on programs and activities.

Prepares and proposes annual program budget; monitors budget; provides ongoing financial activity, and attendance information and reports to Director, prepares purchase orders and requisitions for all equipment, supplies, and facility needs; maintains personnel and administrative records and reports.

Aquatics Manager (continued)

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF WORK (continued)

Develops and recommends policies and procedures concerning operation and programming of aquatic and recreation programs to meet citizen needs; evaluates and revises programs on interest and attendance.

Handles patron complaints and solves programming problems.

Plans and implements marketing strategies including timely promotions and publicity.

Serves on various committees, boards; makes presentations and speeches at meetings and other community events.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF WORK

Possession of bachelor's degree in parks and recreation or related field and five years progressively responsible experience in aquatic facility management and recreation programming including supervisory experience; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the following knowledge, abilities, and skills.

Thorough knowledge of the principles, theories and practices of public facility management and recreation programming.

Considerable knowledge of principles of management and supervision.

Considerable knowledge of facilities maintenance and security.

Knowledge of personnel rules, policies, and procedures.

Ability to plan, organize, coordinate, prioritize, assign and evaluate the work of subordinate staff.

Ability to develop and evaluate programs and services that meet basic and recreational needs of the community.

Ability to manage and maintain an aquatic recreation facility.

Ability to guide the work of volunteers.

Ability to communicate effectively with residents, both orally and in writing.

Aquatics Manager (continued)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF WORK (continued)

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees, community members, contractors, other agencies, and the general public.

Ability to prepare clear and concise written reports.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (one or more may be necessary)

Possess a valid Kentucky Driver's License.

Current WSI and Lifeguard Training certifications.

Graduate of the NRPA Aquatic Management School or Certified Pool-Spa Operators Course.

NPRA Certified Leisure Professional preferred.

FITNESS MANAGER

NATURE OF WORK

Responsible for managing staff and recommending policies and procedures for scheduling, supervising and maintaining the operations and programs of the fitness room and fitness/wellness programs. Will be responsible for early morning, evening and weekend Center facility management duties. Performs related work and special projects as assigned.

SUPERVISION

Work is performed under the direction of the Director of Recreation. This is a supervisory position responsible for managing the fitness/wellness programs, the fitness room and determining the leisure needs of children through senior adults in the community and planning programs accordingly. Supervises regular part-time, contractual employees and independent contractual program leaders and instructors. Assures that assigned programs and facilities are adequately planned for the maximum safety and benefit of the community-at-large. Exercises initiative and professional judgment in performance of duties.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF WORK (May perform one or more of the following sets of duties.)

Plans, coordinates, supervises, assigns, and implements fitness programs, activities, and special events; coordinates services offered; oversees contracts with corporate, media sponsors, and other service providers. Implements timely promotional materials for community fitness programs.

Supervises seasonal, instructional, programming, and fitness facility staff; recruits, interviews and hires employees; trains staff; conducts performance evaluations; approves leave; makes recommendations for discipline; prepares and submits payroll.

Monitors registration and attendance of classes and programs; assesses feasibility and public interest; cancels classes and programs as needed; submits reports on programs and activities.

Prepares and proposes annual program budget; monitors budget; provides ongoing financial activity, and attendance information and reports to Director, prepares purchase orders and requisitions for all equipment, supplies, and facility needs; maintains personnel and administrative records and reports.

Fitness Manager (continued)
FITNESS MANAGER (continued)
ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF WORK (continued)

Develops and recommends policies and procedures concerning operation and programming of fitness and recreation programs to meet citizen needs; evaluates and revises programs on interest and attendance.

Handles patron complaints and solves programming problems.

Plans and implements marketing strategies including timely promotions and publicity.

Assists with development of goals and objectives.

Maintains complete and accurate personnel, facility and program records.

Serves on various committees, boards; makes presentations and speeches at meetings and other community events.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF WORK

Possession of bachelor's degree in parks and recreation, exercise physiology, or sports management or related field and five years progressively responsible experience in Fitness facility management and recreation programming including supervisory experience; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the following knowledge, abilities, and skills.

Thorough knowledge of the principles, theories and practices of public facility management and recreation programming.

Considerable knowledge of principles of management and supervision.

Considerable knowledge of facilities maintenance and security.

Knowledge of personnel rules, policies, and procedures.

Ability to plan, organize, coordinate, prioritize, assign and evaluate the work of subordinate staff.

Ability to develop and evaluate programs and services that meet basic and recreational needs of the community.

Ability to manage and maintain a fitness recreation facility.

Ability to guide the work of volunteers.

Ability to communicate effectively with residents, both orally and in writing.

Fitness Manager (continued)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF WORK (continued)

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees, community members, contractors, other agencies, and the general public.

Ability to prepare clear and concise written reports.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (one or more may be necessary)

Possess a valid Kentucky Driver's License.
NPRA Certified Leisure Professional preferred.

RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGER (SUPERVISOR) (Sports)

NATURE OF WORK

This is responsible recreation program work coordinating and supervising various adult and youth recreation programs, leagues, events and gym and fitness activities for the city. Work involves planning, coordinating, programming and implementing activities and events, contracting for instructors, scheduling facilities, overseeing referees, umpires, officials, and other part time and seasonal recreational staff, overseeing equipment and supplies, preparing program and facility budgets, in compliance with rules and regulations.

SUPERVISION

Employee works under the managerial direction of the Director of Recreation. Employee must have the ability to implement a comprehensive sports and fitness program, make proper safety decisions, handle scheduling problems, settle disputes, handle program eligibility questions and problems; negotiate various contracts, and oversee program budget. Supervision is exercised over part time and seasonal instructors and sports officials. Work is reviewed through periodic meetings; review of reports and for compliance with policies and procedures.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF WORK (May perform one or more of the following sets of duties.)

Plans, coordinates, supervises assigns, and implements recreation programs, leagues, activities, and special events; contracts for instructional services; develops monthly and seasonal programming and leagues; coordinates services offered; oversees contracts with corporate and media sponsors, exhibitors, and instructors; schedules athletic fields; monitors the condition of ball fields, playgrounds, and other outdoor Recreation facilities. Directly responsible for all activities that take place in the gymnasium.

Recommends for hire, evaluates, supervises, and trains seasonal, part time, and volunteer staff; prepares contractual pay roll, verifies time sheets, calculates pay.

Monitors registration and attendance of classes and programs; assesses feasibility and public interest; cancels classes and programs; submits periodic reports on programs and activities.

Prepares and proposes annual program budget; monitors budget; provides ongoing financial, activity, and attendance information and reports to Director; prepares purchase orders and requisitions for all events, supplies, and equipment needs; maintains administrative records and reports.

RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGER (SUPERVISOR) (Sports) (continued)

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF WORK (continued)

Recommends policies and procedures concerning recreation programming to meet community needs; evaluates and revises programs based on interest and attendance.

Proposes and carries out goals and objectives using department approved performance measures to gauge results.

Negotiates contracts with individuals and agencies providing program services; monitors contract compliance; documents expenditures, ensures proper delivery of services.

Handles complaints and solves programming problems; negotiates with participants.

Serves on various committees, boards; makes presentations and speeches at meetings and other community events.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF WORK

Possession of a bachelor's degree in recreation, adult learning, education, or related field and 2 years progressively responsible experience in recreation programming; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the following knowledge, abilities, and skills;

Considerable knowledge of the principles, theories and practices of the development, operation, organization and promotion of various sports. A thorough knowledge of the current techniques, practices, materials, equipment, rules, regulations and safety precautions.

Considerable knowledge of principles of supervision.

Knowledge of personnel rules, policies, and procedures.

Ability to develop and evaluate programs and services that meet basic and recreational needs of the community.

Ability to supervise and guide the work of seasonal and part time employees.

Ability to communicate effectively and demonstrate patience with young adults and parents, both orally and in writing.

**RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGER (SUPERVISOR)
(Sports) (continued)**

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF WORK (continued)

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees, volunteers, community members, parents, contractors, other agencies, and the general public and organized sports groups.

Ability to prepare clear and concise written reports.

Ability to obtain NYSCA trainers certification.

Ability to obtain CPR/First Aid Certification.

RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGER (SUPERVISOR) (Youth/Teen)

NATURE OF WORK

This is responsible recreation program work coordinating and supervising, youth and teen recreation programs, special events and activities for the village. Work involves planning, coordinating, programming and implementing activities and events, contracting for instructors, overseeing part time and seasonal recreational staff, overseeing equipment and supplies, preparing program budgets in compliance with rules and regulations.

SUPERVISION

Employee works under the managerial direction of the Director of Recreation. Employee must have the ability to implement a comprehensive recreation program, make proper safety decisions, handle scheduling problems, settle disputes, handle program eligibility questions and problems; negotiate various contracts, and oversee program budget. Supervision is exercised over part time and seasonal instructors. Work is reviewed through periodic meetings; review of reports and for compliance with policies and procedures.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF WORK (May perform one or more of the following sets of duties.)

Plans, coordinates, supervises assigns, and implements recreation programs, activities, and special events; contracts for instructional services; develops monthly and seasonal programming; coordinates services offered; oversees contracts with corporate and media sponsors, exhibitors, and instructors.

Recommends for hire, evaluates, supervises, and trains seasonal, part time, and volunteer staff; prepares contractual pay roll, verifies time sheets.

Monitors registration and attendance of classes and programs; assesses feasibility and public interest; cancels classes and programs; submits periodic reports on programs and activities.

Prepares and proposes annual program budget; monitors budget; provides ongoing financial, activity, and attendance information and reports to Director; prepares purchase orders and requisitions for all events, supplies, and equipment needs; maintains administrative records and reports.

Recommends policies and procedures concerning recreation programming to meet community needs; evaluates and revises programs based on interest and attendance.

RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGER (SUPERVISOR) (Youth/Teen) (continued)

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF WORK (continued)

Proposes and carries out goals and objectives using department approved performance measures to gauge results.

Negotiates contracts with individuals and agencies providing program services; monitors contract compliance; documents expenditures, ensures proper delivery of services.

Handles complaints and solves programming problems; negotiates with participants.

Serves on various committees, boards; makes presentations and speeches at meetings and other community events.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF WORK

Possession of a bachelor's degree in recreation, adult learning, education, or related field and 2 years progressively responsible experience in recreation programming; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the following knowledge, abilities, and skills;

Considerable knowledge of the principles, theories and practices of public recreation programming.

Strong interpersonal skills required, as well as creativity and organizational skills with the ability to plan and organize work in an effective manner to maximize productivity.

Considerable knowledge of principles of supervision.

Knowledge of personnel rules, policies, and procedures.

Ability to develop and evaluate programs and services that meet basic and recreational needs of the community.

Ability to supervise and guide the work of seasonal and part time employees.

Ability to communicate effectively and demonstrate patience with young adults and parents, both orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees, community members, parents, contractors, other agencies, and the general public.

RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGER (SUPERVISOR) (Youth/Teen) (continued)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF WORK (continued)

Ability to prepare clear and concise written reports.

Ability to guide the work of volunteers.

Ability to obtain CPR/First Aid Certification.

Appendix F
Perkins Creek Nature Preserve Site Analysis and Photos