



City of Shawnee, Oklahoma

2015 Park System Inventory & Assessment

August 2015



SHAFFER, KLINE & WARREN, INC.



DICK HORTON
CONSULTING

IF IT IS WORTH DOING, IT IS WORTH DOING RIGHT!

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Executive Summary

The City of Shawnee has a golden opportunity to seize this moment to reshape its park system. The best of intentions over the years to acquire park land has resulted in a sizable number of acres in the park system; however, the resources with which to maintain and upgrade the system have not kept pace.

This 2015 Park Assessment Report has identified a number of opportunities that will result in an upgraded park system. The challenge for elected officials is to evaluate their priorities and determine if a dedicated funding source can be established and if that funding source can be at a higher level than it is at this time.

Strategic moves that should be made to the park system include the following:

Reshape the Park System - Reshape the system by decreasing the number of dedicated parks from 36 to eight. This assessment recommends that the eight major parks should be Kidspace, Rotary Boy Scout, Woodland Veterans, Weigant, Lion's Club, Optimist Club, Dunbar, and Farrall. By reducing the number of active parks, resources can be used to provide a higher level of user experience at these sites. Memorial Parks and Special Use Parks will be retained as they are but for a suggestion in this report that provides a new option for combining the memorial parks at one site. This option is detailed in the report.

Dedicated Funding Source - Elected officials will need to evaluate the priority placed on the park system. If they concur with the idea that parks can be a contributor to retaining citizens/businesses while attracting new citizens/businesses and that a park system and recreation program provide valuable personal, social, economic, and environmental benefits, the decision will be to establish a dedicated funding source for the park system and a level of funding that is well beyond its current level of \$794,000 per year. National benchmarks indicate the current level of funding on a per capita basis is well below the national average. The City of Shawnee funds its park system at a level of \$27.00 per capita while the national average is \$71.00 per capita.

Land Acquisition Policy – The City should adopt a land acquisition policy that demands an intensive public discussion prior to future acquisition of park land. Certainly, there are future possibilities that land may be an attractive option, HOWEVER, given current conditions, it makes no sense to add more land to the inventory.

Standard Park Development Package – In the absence of having an adopted standard park development package, the system is full of amenities that do not complement one another. Pavilions, benches, tables, signage, playgrounds, and water fountains are important and noticeable in all park systems and their style matters.

Park Security – Park security is a significant issue in Shawnee. The statistically valid citizen survey provided data that it is the number one reason that citizens do not use the park system more often. This issue must be addressed! All realistic and legal options must be publicly discussed to bring the change that is needed.

Park Programming/Partnerships – The YMCA and special interest groups organize and produce the programming that occurs in the system. The partnership between the YMCA and special interest groups must be captured in a Partnership Agreement that is reviewed annually. This annual review will provide an opportunity to talk about changes that may be needed, or to validate that everything is working well.





Section 1 - This is Who We Are

INTRODUCTION

General - The area surrounding Shawnee was settled after the Civil War by a number of tribes that the federal government had removed to Indian Territory. The Sac and Fox originally were deeded land in the immediate area but were soon followed by the Kickapoo, Shawnee, and Pottawatomie Indians. Members of the tribes continue to reside today in and around Shawnee.

Parks - While Shawnee did not possess a town square to focus public activity, the City did have Woodland Park, just two blocks north of Main Street. Constructed with fountains and formal gardens, the park was the building location in 1905 of the Carnegie Library, as well as the site of frequent Chautauqua meetings led by such people as William Jennings Bryan. But it was Benson Park, located approximately midway between Shawnee and Tecumseh, that served the recreational needs of Shawnee residents for most of 30 years. What made the park something special was the interurban street-car that ran between the two towns to the park. Opened in 1907, the park had a swimming pool, skating rink, roller coaster, and large picnic areas.



PARK SYSTEM HISTORY

The current history of the park system has been provided by Tom Terry, Chair, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Beautification and Enhancement Committee. His remarks were given to the Shawnee Lions Club in 2012 and updated in 2014.

Comments by Tom Terry

Shawnee citizens should be thankful to all those who made these parks possible beginning with the original parks platted at Henry & Etta Ray Beard 's Woodland Park and J. T. Farrall's 13 acre Farrall Park. KidSpace is the largest park that has been developed in recent years. It was constructed by hundreds of volunteers in the course of a few weeks. Special attention should be called to the work of the Shawnee Park Department employees who keep the parks mowed and ready for the use of Shawnee citizens.

Woodland Veterans Park and Farrall Park are the first two recorded parks in Shawnee dating back to 1892.

Garden Clubs and Shawnee Parks - In 1939 the Shawnee Garden Clubs worked with the City, the WPA, and the NYA to transform six of the most unsightly locations into Neighborhood Parks. The National Garden Club organization recognized the Redbud unit with the Kellogg award for their work in Redbud Park. The new parks: Redbud, Larch-Miller, Rose Garden, Rose Dale, Wildwood, and Sunnyside. All except Sunnyside are still operating as City parks. At the time the parks were built, home air conditioning was extremely rare and television was not available. Organized youth sports were on a much smaller scale. Family picnics and visits to park were more frequent.



Larch-Miller Park - Aloysius Larch-Miller of Shawnee was Oklahoma's leading suffragette. After rising from her sick bed to speak at the Pottawatomie Democratic County Convention for ratification of the 19th Amendment, which would give voting rights to women in all the states, she caught pneumonia and died. Born in 1886, she was editor for the Oklahoma Supreme Court. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in 1982, the first class to be honored.

Celebration of Life Park was developed after the death of the daughter of Arnold and Ann Davis. The Davis family was also the driving force behind the development of Faith 7 Workshop for mentally challenged children and adults. The park originally had a fountain, but it was vandalized often so that it was filled in. The park also featured music at intervals played from speakers on the roof of the library with the equipment inside. When the library roof was repaired in 2013, the speaker was removed and not replaced. Music selections were in keeping with the season of the year. The name comes from the memorial bricks in the park pavers. One area celebrates the life of deceased members of Shawnee Garden Clubs. At one time, the park had a number of benches; however, in 2013 City management removed them because they were occupied during the day by "homeless" people. This concentration of homeless people was disturbing to the public, especially library patrons.

Centennial Park was augmented in 2006-07 to celebrate the state centennial. Earlier, a monument had been installed to celebrate the County's centennial. The iron work and brick columns were constructed by the Gordon Cooper Technology students. Funds are in reserve with the City to construct an additional column to hold names of businesses and organizations that reach 100 years after 2007. The benches in the park were removed by City management when they removed the ones at Celebration of Life Park.

The map of the county on the pavement is used during school children's visits to the Santa Fe Depot Museum. They are given a map with dots in place and have a chance to write in names of the county towns shown on the map. Recently a prospective buyer of the adjacent building has been in contact with the Economic Development Office about the possibility of restoring the building as a residence. At one time it had a restaurant on the bottom floor and hotel rooms on the second floor.

The Japanese Peace Garden was built after Shawnee became a Sister City with Nikaho, Japan in 1990. Students from Shawnee visit Japan in the summer. Students from Japan come to Shawnee in the fall. The Sister City Council began developing the Peace Garden park and managed it until a few years ago. The couple who headed the park maintenance moved away. A Multi-County Master Gardener, Becky Carlberg, agreed to help restore the park and has worked very hard to get it presentable again. The students who are scheduled to go to Japan are expected to do some work in the park. Several other Master Gardeners assist in the planting and maintenance. The Shawnee Parks Department mows the grass and provides mulch. A visit to the park is part of the annual visit from Nikaho Students.

Terry Powell Aerobic Stations - Terry Powell was City Manager of Shawnee until he died of cancer in 2004. He was a member of the Rotary Club. They installed this exercise station in his memory.

The Oklahoma Native Plant Park (Tom Terry Park) - was established around 2008. A two story hotel was heavily damaged by a tornado. The owner didn't have insurance nor means to remove the debris. City of Shawnee had the debris removed and claimed the land in payment. The land was offered to the veterans as a park but they considered it too small for their needs. The Shawnee Council of Garden Clubs received a \$500 grant from the National Garden Clubs. It was matched by the Shawnee Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Sustainable Shawnee received a grant for the system. The City parks department provided the dirt for the planting area. The design called for a triangular shaped performance stage in the northwest corner and a couple of picnic tables in the area. Economic downturn caused the City to not fulfill that part of the plan. The lawn is mowed by the park department. Installation and maintenance of the plantings are funded by donations and installed by volunteers. All plants are supposed to be native to Oklahoma. Some non-Oklahoma native plants, such as cannas, were planted by well-meaning but uninformed volunteers.

Louise Counts Park - The flower bed in this small park between the library and Hamburger King/Richards Drug building was maintained by the Redbud Garden Club. The Club disbanded in 2013. Other volunteers have done some work in the park in 2014.



Rose Garden Park - This park is named for the Rose Garden Addition to Shawnee. At some point in the 1980s the Rose Garden Club lost interest in maintaining the center bed so the City park department filled it with chat. After a short time, the chat became weed infested. A group of neighbors agreed to refresh the park in an agreement with the park department. Crape Myrtles and Nandinas were the basic plantings in the beds. Later the Rose Garden Club agreed to begin helping to maintain the plantings and have done so since about 1990, adding a number of plant materials. Some of the neighbors who are in the club handle much of the weeding, etc. The park is a favorite for many OBU students during the school year. The archway at the corner entrance is often used for photographs. In February, a man arranged with a neighbor of the park to run an extension cord to the archway and hung tiny lights on it in preparation for proposing to his girl friend. She accepted. The park department does the mowing and occasionally edges the grass. They are responsible for the major tree plantings and removal of dead trees. The redbud trees were planted by garden club members. The flagstone pavers were part of the 1940 construction of the park. They had become overgrown with grass and were restored by a volunteer student group from Kansas in 2011.

Rosedale Park - Rosedale park is an island surrounded by streets. It is reported that prior to 1939, when this park was developed, the weeds were so high that neighbors could not see the houses across the island.

Isaac Walton Park – This park was heavily damaged by the 2013 tornado. A number of trees were destroyed.

Section 2 - Where do we want to go?

PURPOSE OF THE 2015 PARK ASSESSMENT

To determine where the next chapter of our park system history will take us, we begin with a purpose. That purpose is to:

1. Validate and critique the system's inventory of parks by type, size, location, features, strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities
2. Provide a detailed account of what the citizens want and will support in their park system through the results of a statistically valid citizen survey
3. Develop strategies to guide the allocation of resources in the future

METHODOLOGY OF THE ASSESSMENT

This project has been a collaborative effort between the City of Shawnee Park & Recreation Department, the planning design team of Shafer, Kline & Warren, Inc., Dick Horton Consulting, and the citizen survey facilitator ETC/Leisure Vision, Inc. In the true spirit of the community of Shawnee, this partnership has created a document that the city can utilize to guide its efforts in enhancing and improving its park system in the future with confidence that it is doing what the community wants and needs. The project consisted of the following major tasks:

- Step one - citizen input including a public meeting and the completion of a statistically valid citizen survey
- Step two - inventory and assessment of existing parks
- Step three - development of strategies that can be used to upgrade the system as funds become available



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table: Demographic Facts (US Census Bureau)

Data	Shawnee	State of Oklahoma
2010 population	29,857	3,751,616
Population, percent change from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013	3.7%	2.7%
Persons under 5 years	7.6%	7.0%
Persons under 18 years	24.4%	24.8%
Persons 65 years and over	14.5%	13.5%
Female persons	52.7%	50.5%
White alone	73.1%	72.2%
Black or African American alone	4.2%	7.4%
Asian alone	0.8%	1.7%
Hispanic or Latino	5.1%	8.9%
White alone	70.8%	68.7%
High school graduate or higher	85.5%	86.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	21.7%	23.5%
Veterans	2,326	312,492
Mean travel time to work	18.8 minutes	21.0 minutes
Home ownership rate	58.9%	67.1%
Persons per household	2.45	2.55
Per capita income	\$20,003	\$24,208
Median household income	\$35,619	\$45,339
Persons below poverty level	23.8%	16.9%

CURRENT PARK DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Type	Number	Acres
Dedicated Parks	36 including the lake area	137.6
Undeveloped recently acquired land	1	160
Number of employees	12 + 1 Supervisor	
Total regular mowing including dedicated parks	Parks, right of ways, lots and corners, railroad right of ways, lake right of ways, lake dams and spillway, airport walking path	679.4 acres
Buildings	9 (library, community center, coed, auditorium, senior center Santa Fe Depot, City Hall, fire stations #2 and #3)	
Parking lots	7	



(Table continued from previous page)

Type	Number	Acres
Other	Mosquito control, playground monthly inspections, lake fishing docks, camping permit checks and collections, 400 annual park reservations, setup for parades and downtown functions, municipal pool maintenance, beautification areas, sprinkler system repairs and maintenance	
Winter maintenance	Tree removal and trimming, graffiti removal, maintenance equipment repair, snowflake installation with the traffic department, playground and building construction projects	

Section 3 - Here is what you told us about your park system

PUBLIC MEETING - JUNE 2014

A public meeting was held in June 2014 to solicit citizen input about the park system. Those present were asked to a) evaluate the condition of the park system; b) to identify key issues facing the system; and c) to develop a list of new opportunities for the system. Below are the comments from those in attendance:

Park System Rating (overall)

Rating of park system on a scale of 0 to 10 = 5.5

Scores ranged from 2 on the low end to 7 on the high end

Key Issues Identified

- There is a need for a dedicated funding source
- The City may have too many parks of which there are 36
- It is important to develop/strengthen partnerships between the City, school district and YMCA
- There may be a need for additional park maintenance staffing
- Parks are underused
- There is a lack of sporting opportunities/venues in the park system
- Homeless people are occupying the main community park (Woodland Park) at night, and this causes concerns that affect the general public's use and a feeling of being unsafe



- Landscaping needs to be improved
- Maintenance needs to be improved
- Some parks need additional parking
- There needs to be an ADA transition plan
- A plan needs to be created of how to develop the vacant land located at Westech Road and N Leo Street

Preferred Future (new opportunities)

Natural Parks

- Spray parks
- Destination playgrounds
- Natural playgrounds
- Trails
- Branding
- Marketing to increase awareness of the park system
- More amenities
- ADA accessibility

Additional Opportunities

- Possible re-use of some existing play parks as soccer fields or some other activity events
- Develop a Facebook page that is updated regularly
- Develop a rack card or single page double-sided flyer that shows the locations of the parks and their amenities
- Encourage more usage by a wider variety of groups such as running clubs, car groups, senior citizen visits, local school programs, family reunions, sports associations, tai chi groups, the YMCA, and runners
- Build more covered shelters
- Construct more splash pads
- Upgrade play equipment as often as possible
- Consider building more dog parks
- Create a logo that is consistent with the City yet identifies the parks
- Establish an adopt-a-park program
- Develop a long-range plan to improve one or two parks per year and request help from volunteer groups
- Solicit ongoing help from the media to educate citizens about the history and issues of the park system



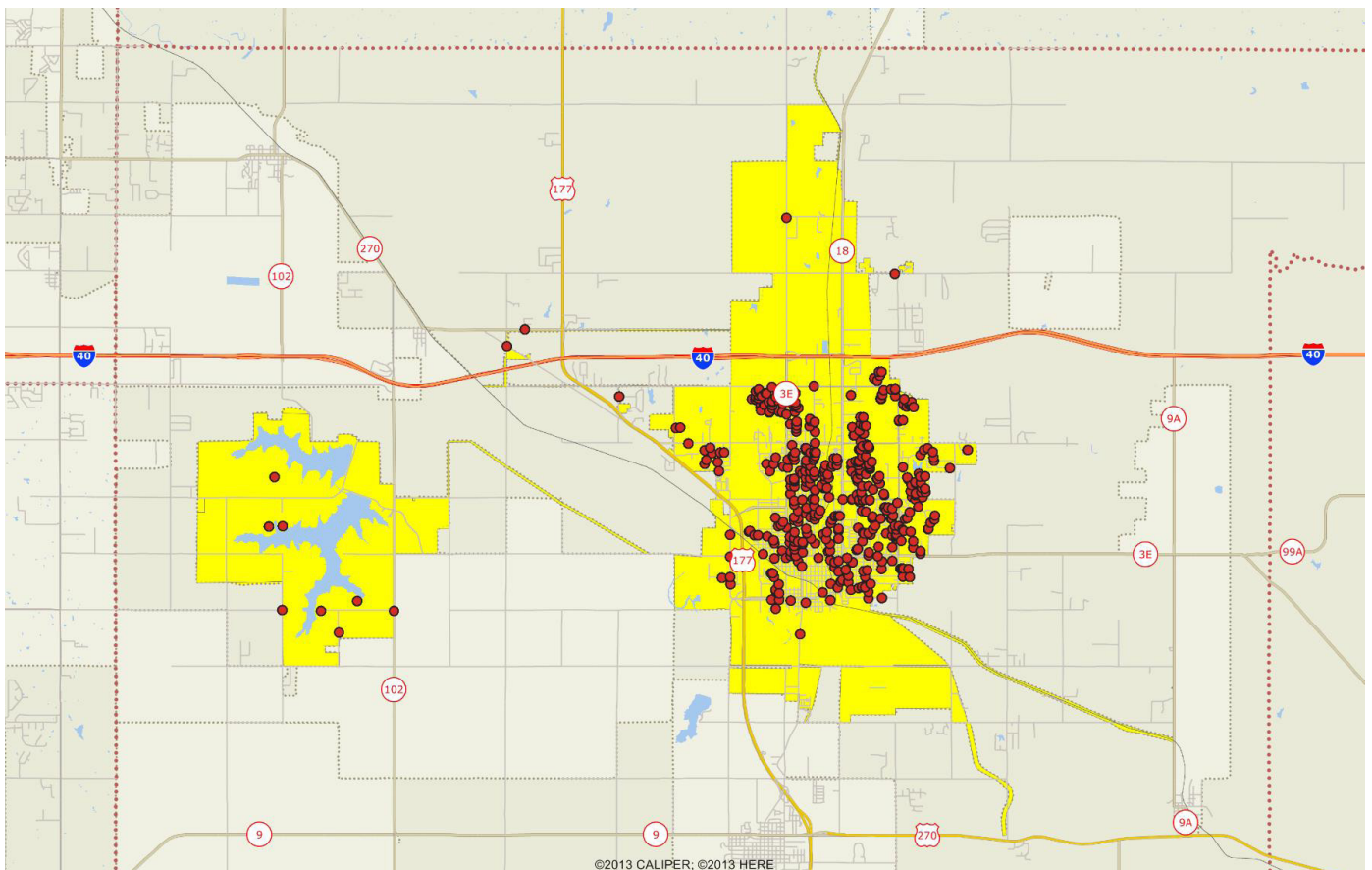
PUBLIC MEETING - AUGUST 2015

A second public meeting was held in August 2015. At that meeting, the consultant presented the draft final report to the audience. The presentation featured the key findings from the on-site assessment, results from the statistically valid citizen survey, and recommendations to address the key issues facing the park system. There were no questions or comments from the audience that challenged the park assessment report's recommendations.

PUBLIC INPUT - STATISTICALLY VALID CITIZEN SURVEY

In May 2015, ETC Institute conducted a Community Interest and Opinion Survey for the City of Shawnee Parks Department to help establish priorities for the future enhancement of parks, trails, sports, recreation facilities and programs within the community. The survey was mailed to a random sample of households in the City of Shawnee.

A total of 480 households completed the survey. The results for the sample of 480 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision rate of at least +/- 4.4%. The following map shows where each respondent resided:



Major Findings

PARK USAGE

- Park visitation: Seventeen percent (17%) of respondent households indicated that they have used the Redbud Park over the past 12 months. Other parks visited include: Celebration of Life Park (14%), Optimist Park (14%), Rose Garden (10%), and Wildwood Park (10%)
- Parks used the most often: Based on the percentage of respondents top three most used facilities, 21% indicated that they used Optimist Park the most often. Other most visited parks include: Redbud Park (20%), Celebration of Life Park (17%), Wildwood Park (14%), Rose Garden (13%), and Milstead Park (13%)
- Rating of parks visited: Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondent households rated the overall physical condition and appearance of all parks they had visited as either good or excellent. Other ratings include: Fair (33%) and poor (10%)

POTENTIAL ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- Additions and Improvements: Based on the percentage of respondent households who indicated additions and improvements that they would like to have made to neighborhood parks close to their residence, 42% indicated that they would like to see restrooms added or improved. Other additions and improvements include: Shade structures (33%), park security lighting (33%), picnic tables/benches (33%), drinking fountains (30%), and picnic shelters (28%)
- Most important additions and improvements: Based on the percentage of respondents' top three most important additions and improvements, 36% indicated that restrooms were the most important to their household. Other most important additions and improvements include: Shade structures (27%), drinking fountains (25%), park security lighting (24%), and picnic tables and benches (23%)

LARGE COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL USE PARKS

- Visitation of large community and special use parks: Fifty-two percent (52%) of respondent households indicated that they have visited Kidspace over the past 12 months. Other large community and special event parks visited include: Woodland park (44%), Veterans Memorial Park (32%), Rotary Boy Scout Park (31%), Lion's Club Park (28%), and Dean Weigant (25%)
- Large community and special use parks used the most often: Based on the percentage of respondents' top three choices, 56% indicated that they visit Kidspace the most often. Other most visited facilities include: Woodland Park (39%), Veterans Memorial Park (26%), Rotary Boy Scout Park (25%), Dean Weigant (24%), and Lion's Club Park (24%)
- Rating of large community parks and special use parks: Sixty-seven percent (67%) of respondent households rated the overall physical condition and appearance of large community parks and special event parks they have visited as either good or excellent. Other ratings include: Fair (29%) and poor (4%)

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- Usage of parks and facilities: Fifty-nine percent (59%) of respondent households indicated that they have used playground equipment. Other parks and recreation facilities respondent households have used include: Picnic area (53%) and walking trails and paths (48%)
- Condition of parks and facilities: Based on the percentage of respondents who indicated the condition of the park or facility as either excellent or good, 79% indicated that the skateboarding park was either excellent or good. Other similar ratings include: Playground equipment (74%), dog park (64%), disc golf course (62%), and walking trails and paths (61%)



- Most used parks and facilities: Based on the percentage of respondents' top three choices, 51% used playground equipment the most often. Other most used facilities include: Picnic areas (40%) and walking trails and paths (35%)

REASONS PREVENTING USE OF PARK, RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES

- Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondent households indicated that they were prevented from using parks, recreation and sports facilities more often because the security is insufficient. Other reasons include: Facilities are not offered (21%), I do not know what is being offered (20%), and parks are not well maintained (18%)

NEED FOR OUTDOOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- Need for outdoor parks and recreation facilities: Sixty-five percent (65%) or 7,506 respondent households indicated that they have a need for walking and biking trails. Other most needed outdoor parks and recreation facilities include: Shelters and picnic areas (57% or 6,634 households), nature center and trails (52% or 6,030), playground equipment (50% or 5,833 households), and outdoor swimming pools/water parks (45% or 5,252 households)
- Most important outdoor parks and recreation facilities: Based on the percentage of respondents top four choices, 43% indicated that walking and biking trails was the most important to their household. Other most important parks and facilities include: Outdoor swimming pools/water parks (28%), playground equipment (27%), and nature center and trails (25%)

WAYS RESPONDENTS LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- Sixty-three percent (63%) of respondent households learn about the City of Shawnee's Parks Department programs and activities from friends. Other ways include: Newspaper articles (45%), social media (17%), and the City of Shawnee web-site (14%)

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondent households indicated that they participated in sports programs, camps, special events, etc. offered in City parks over the past 12 months
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondent households indicated that they have or would participate in adult health and fitness programs. Other programs include: Adult water fitness programs (32%), youth swim lessons (29%), outdoor recreation programs (28%), and youth sports leagues (27%)
- Programs respondents would participate in the most often: Based on the percentage of respondents top three choices, 33% indicated they would participate in adult health and fitness programs the most often. Other programs include: Adult water fitness programs (26%), youth sports leagues (22%), youth swim lessons (21%), and outdoor recreation programs (19%)

SUPPORT FOR A DEDICATED SALES TAX FUNDING SOURCE

- Fifty-six percent (56%) of respondent households indicated that they would either be somewhat or very supportive of a dedicated sales tax funding source for the operations and development of Shawnee's Parks, Recreation, Facilities and Services. Other levels of support include: Not sure (31%) and not supportive (13%)

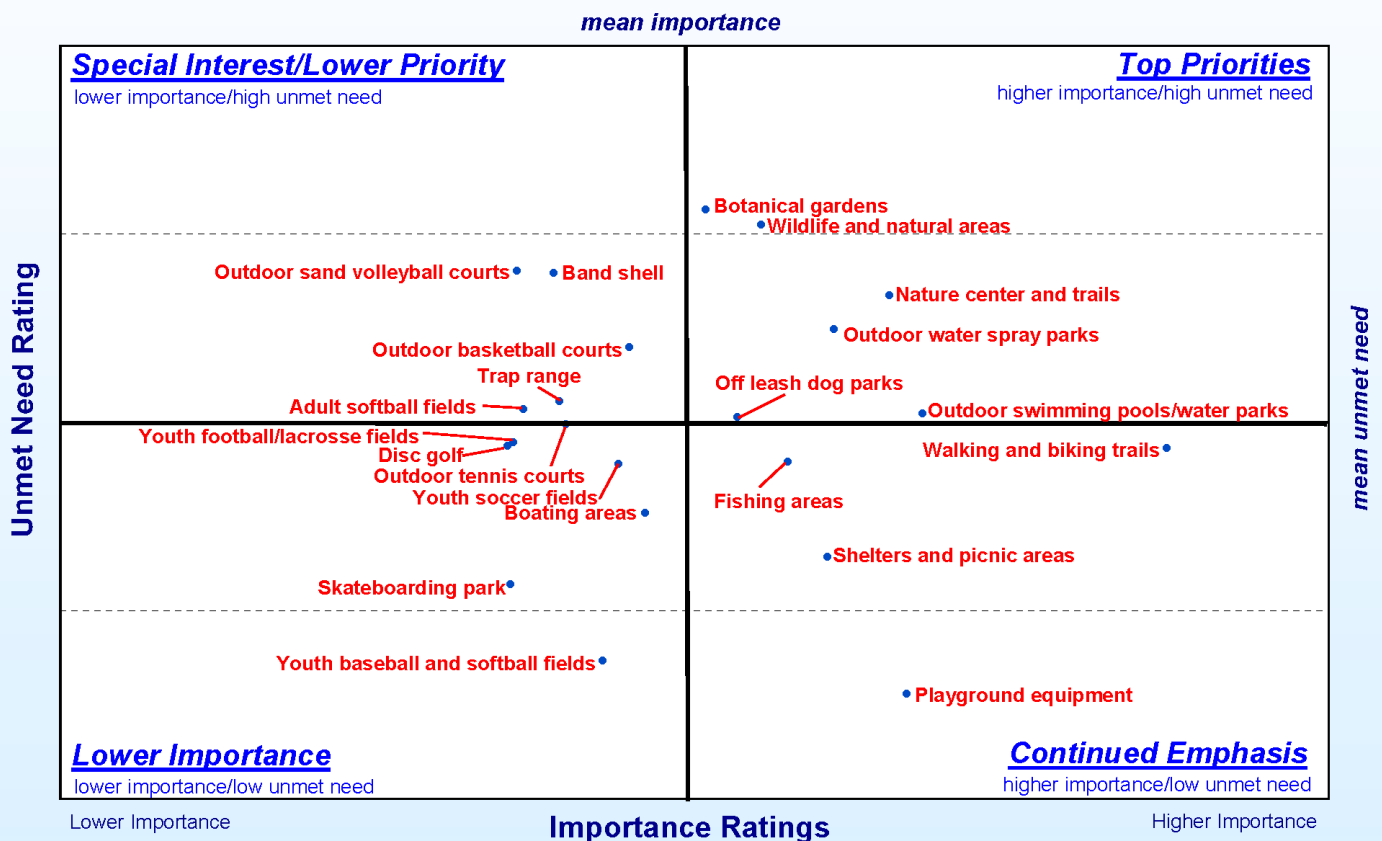


Charts & Graphs

The following charts detail the responses received from the citizen surveys. Additionally, the importance-unmet needs assessment matrix shows the priorities and the likelihood of garnering greater consensus among the public for particular projects:

2015 Importance-Unmet Needs Assessment Matrix for the City of Shawnee OK Parks and Recreation Facilities

(points on the graph show deviations from the mean importance and unmet need ratings given by respondents to the survey)

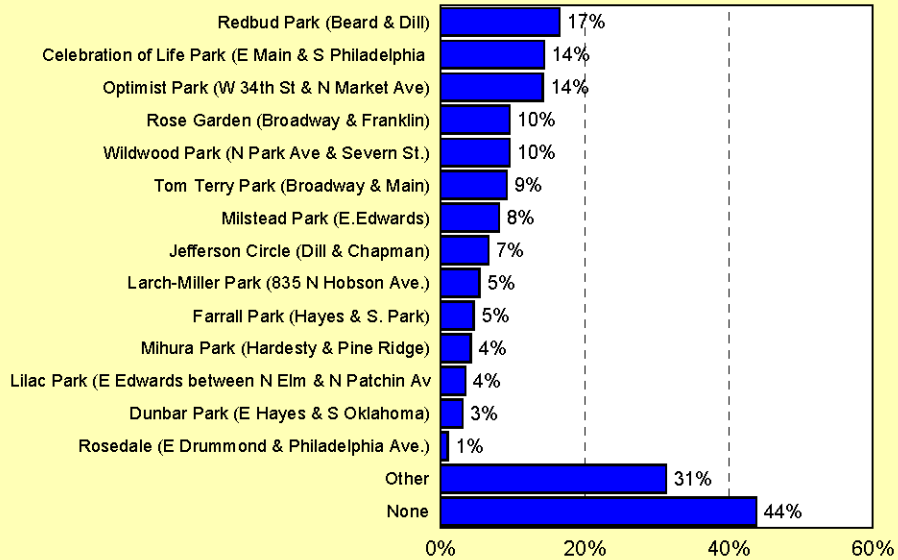


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (2015)



Q1. City of Shawnee Parks Respondent Households Have Visited in the Past 12 Months

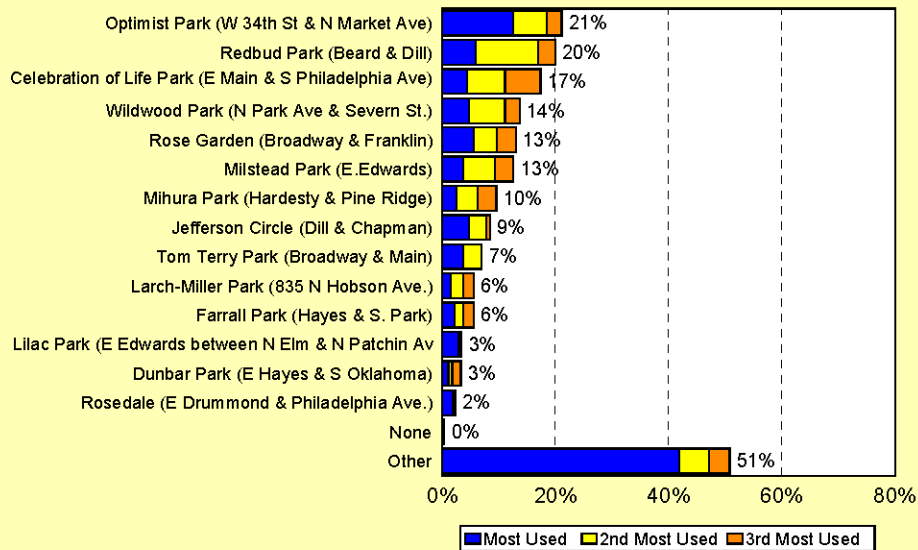
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q2. City of Shawnee Parks Respondent Households Have Used the Most Over the Past 12 Months

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q3. Overall Physical Condition/Appearance of All Parks

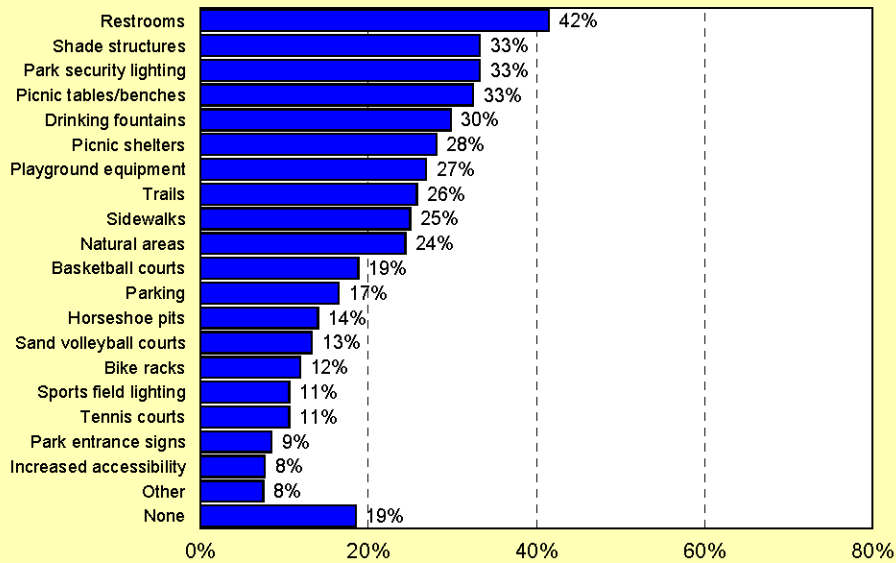
by percentage of respondents who have visited any of the parks over the past 12 months



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q4. Additions and Improvements Respondents Would Like to Have Made to Neighborhood Parks Close to Residence

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)

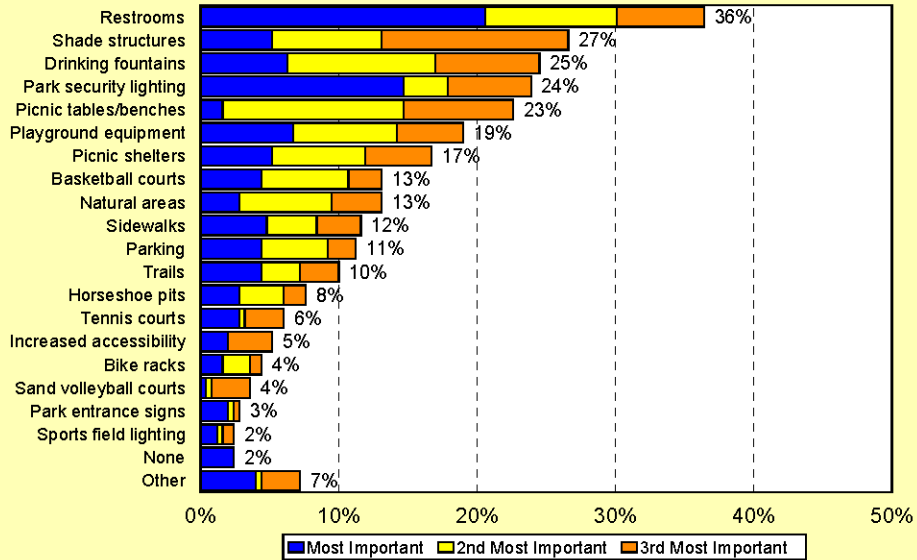


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q5. Potential Additions to Neighborhood Parks Close to Residences Respondents Feel are Most Important

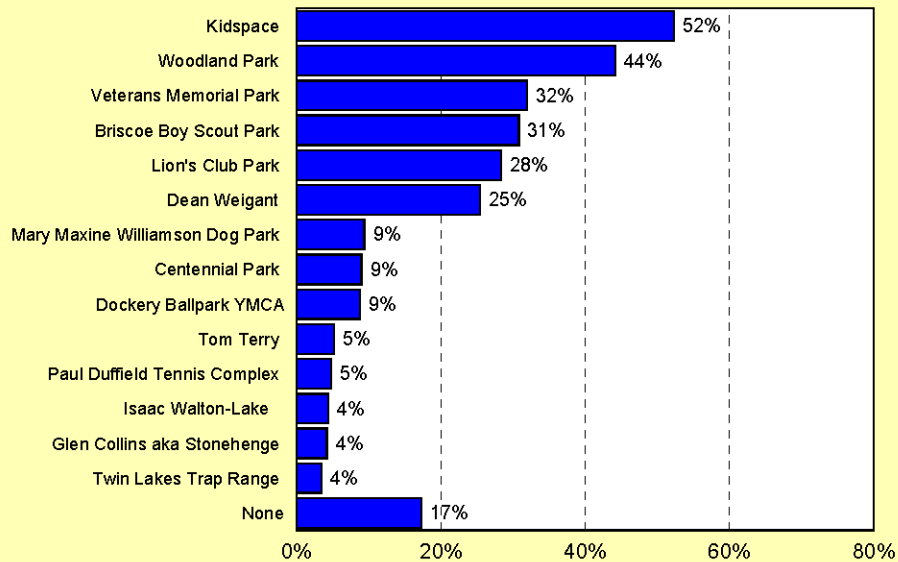
by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q6. Large Community Parks and Special Use Parks Respondent Households Have Visited Over the Past 12 Months

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)

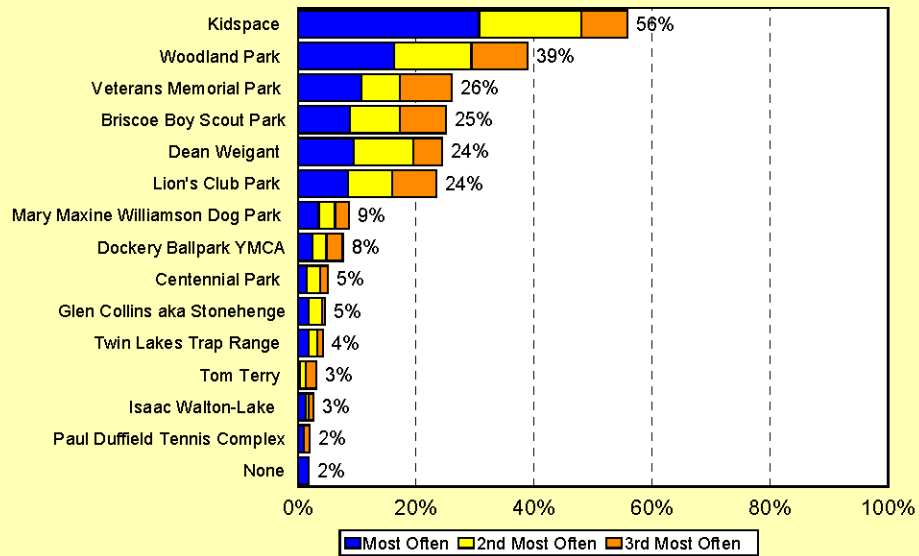


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q7. Large Community Parks and Special Use Parks Respondent Households Have Visited Most Often

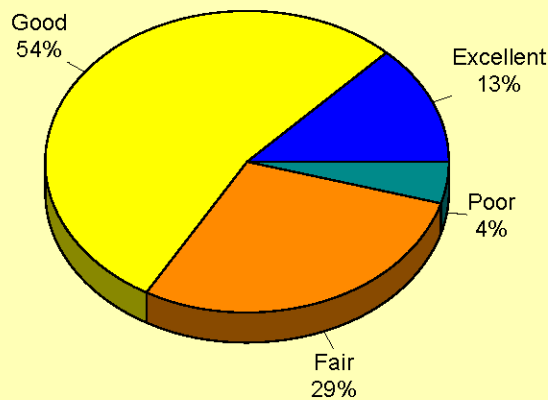
by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q8. Overall Physical Condition/Appearance of All Large Community Parks and Special Use Parks

by percentage of respondents who have visited any of the parks over the past 12 months

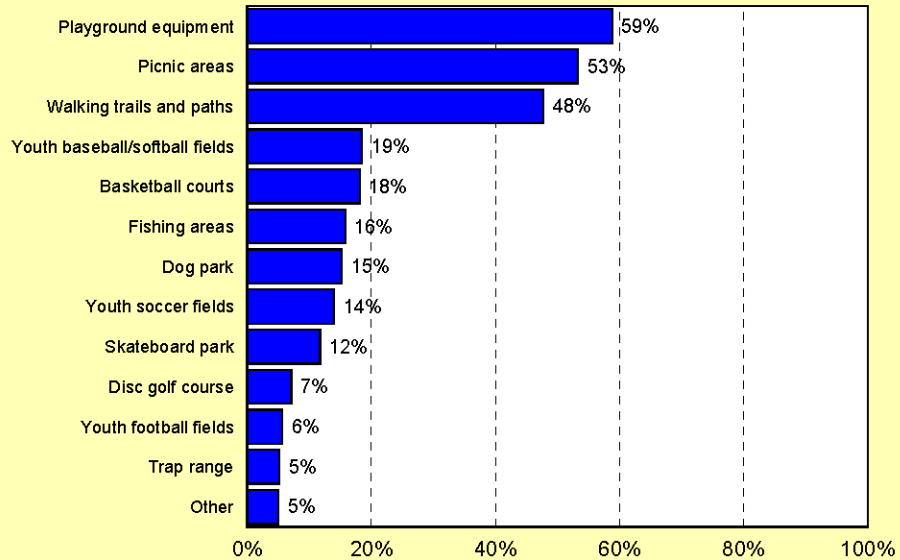


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q9. Parks and Recreation Facilities Respondent Households Have Used

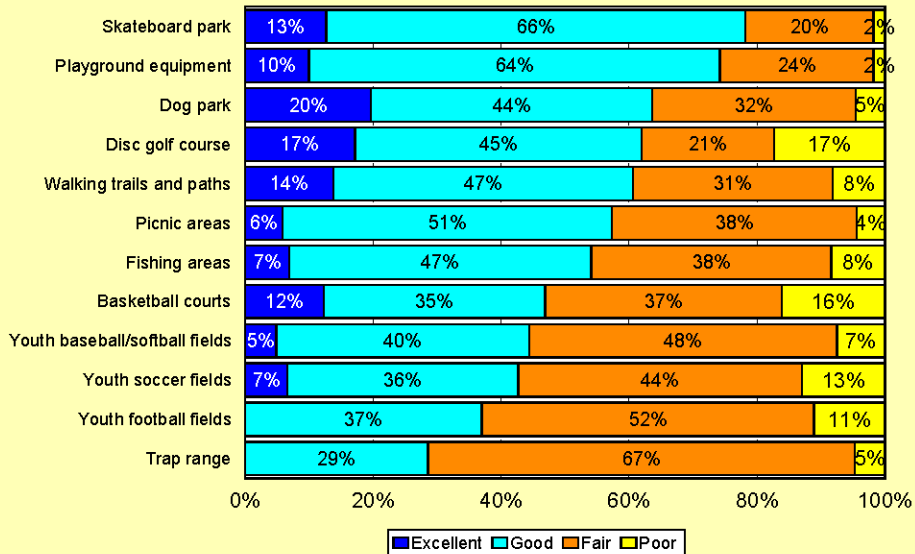
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q9a. Condition of Park and Recreation Facilities That Respondents Have Used

by percentage of respondents who have a need for the facility (excluding "don't know")

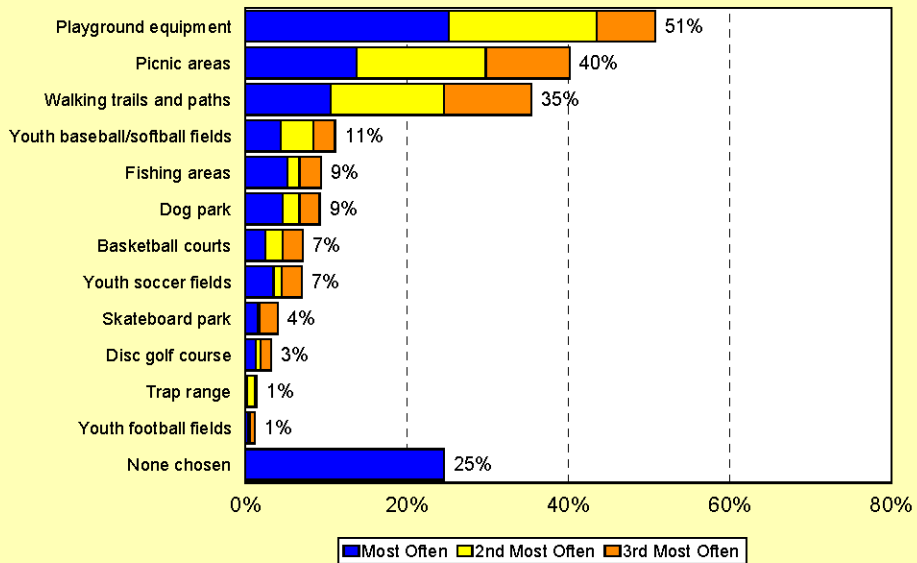


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q10. Parks and Recreation Facilities Respondent Households Have Used Most Often Over the Past 12 Months

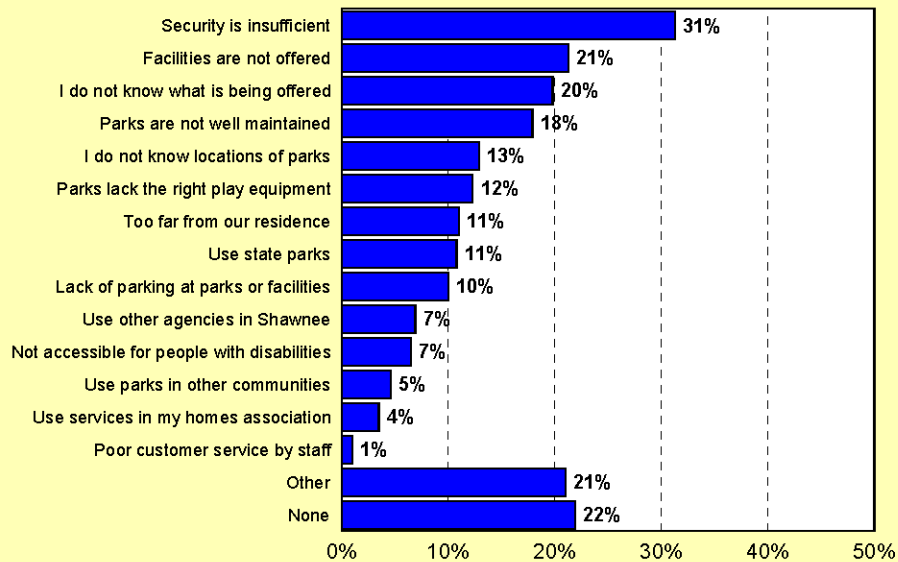
by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q11. Reasons Preventing Households From Using Parks, Recreation, and Sports Facilities More Often

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)

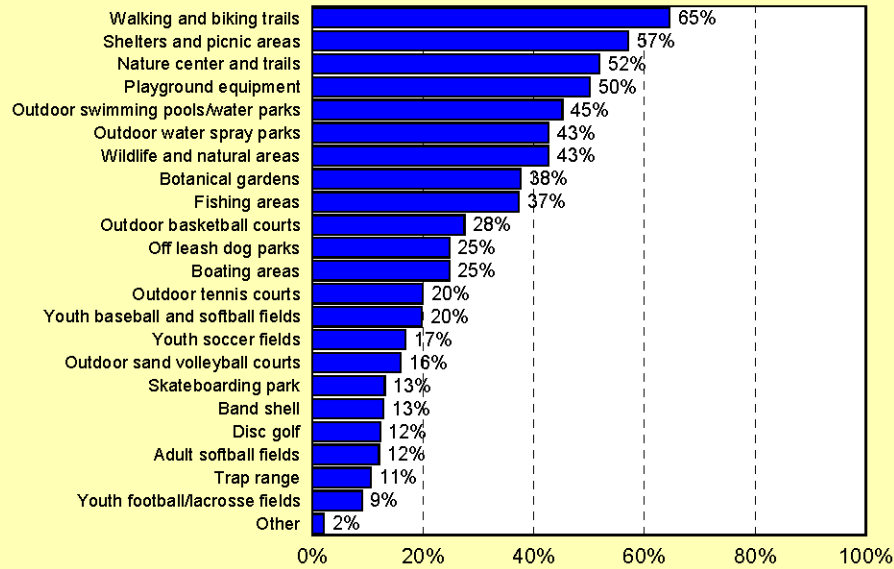


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q12. Households That Have a Need for Outdoor Parks and Recreation Facilities

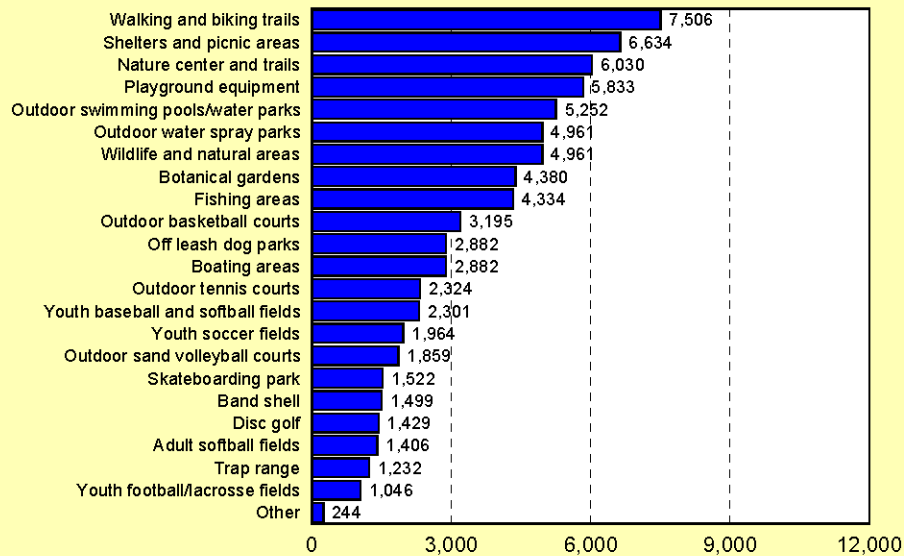
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q12a. Estimated Number of Households in the City of Shawnee That Have a Need for Outdoor Parks and Recreation Facilities

by number of households based on 11,619 households for the City of Shawnee

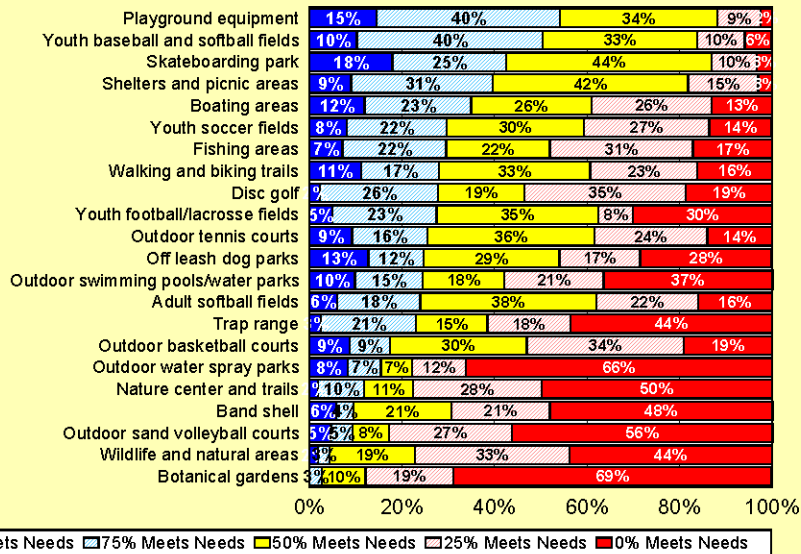


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q12b. How Well Outdoor Parks and Recreation Facilities in the City of Shawnee Meet the Needs of Households

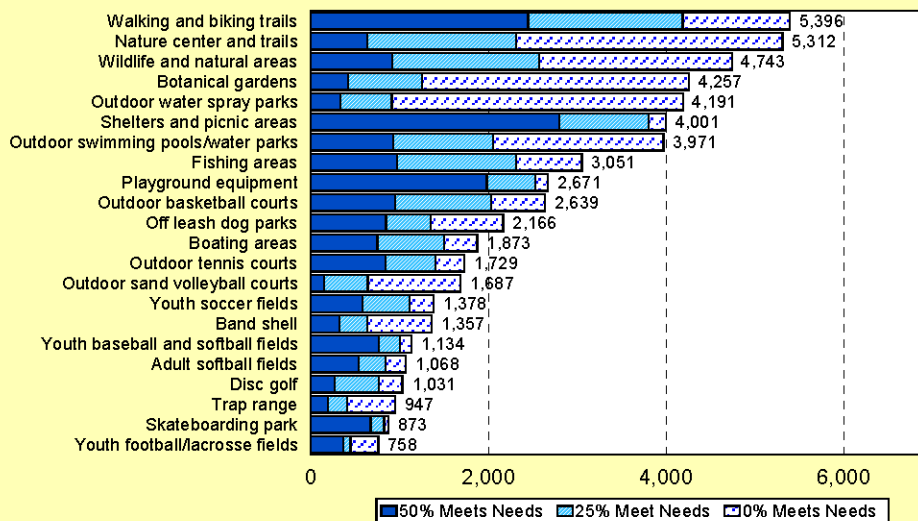
by percentage of households that have a need for programs



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q12c. Estimated Number of Households for the City of Shawnee Whose Needs for Outdoor Parks and Recreation Facilities Are Only Being 50% Met or Less

by number of households based on 11,619 households for the City of Shawnee

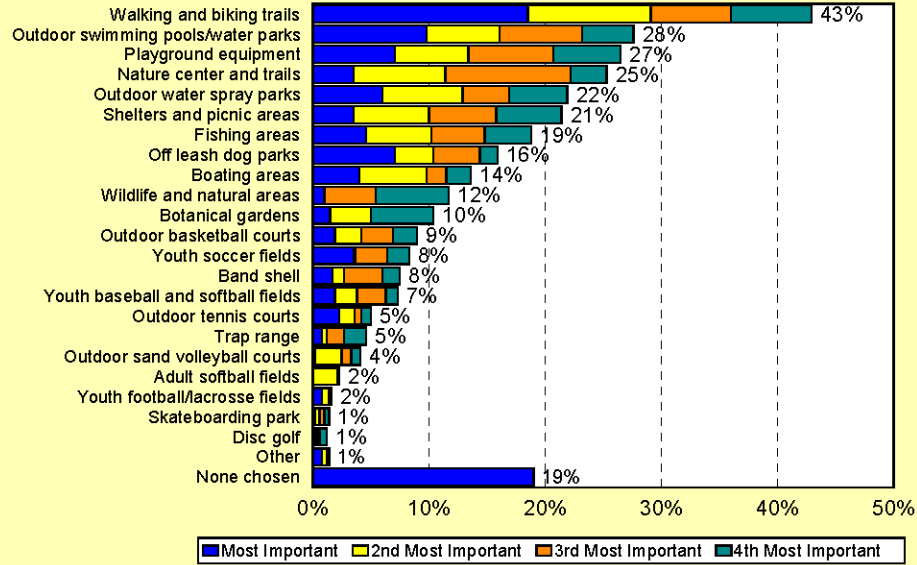


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q13. Outdoor Parks and Recreation Facilities That Are Most Important to Respondent Households

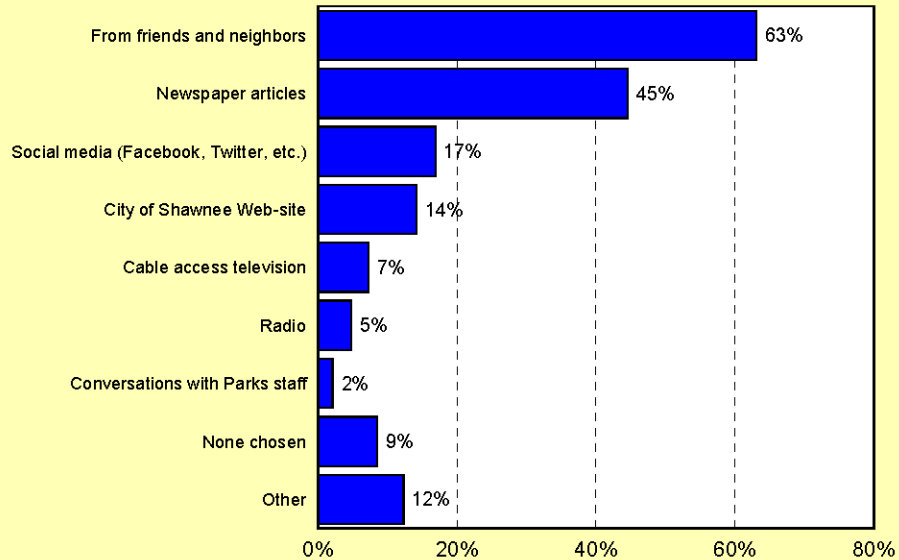
by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q14. Ways Respondents Learn About City of Shawnee's Parks Department Programs and Activities

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)

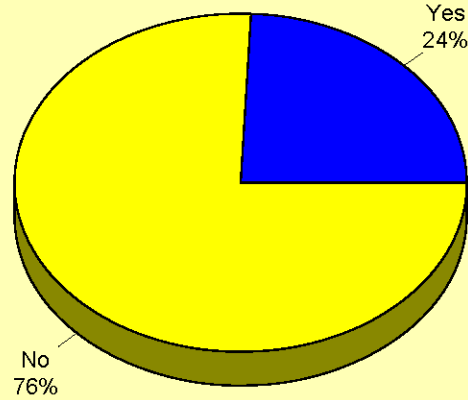


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q15. If Respondent Households Have Participated in Any Sports Programs, Camps, Special Events, Etc. Offered in City Parks

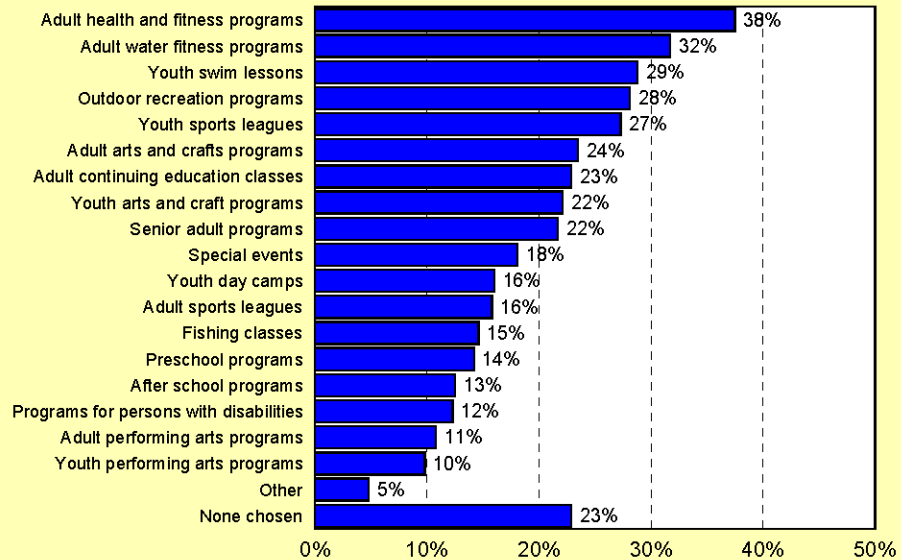
by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q16. Programs Respondent Households Would or Have Participated In

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)

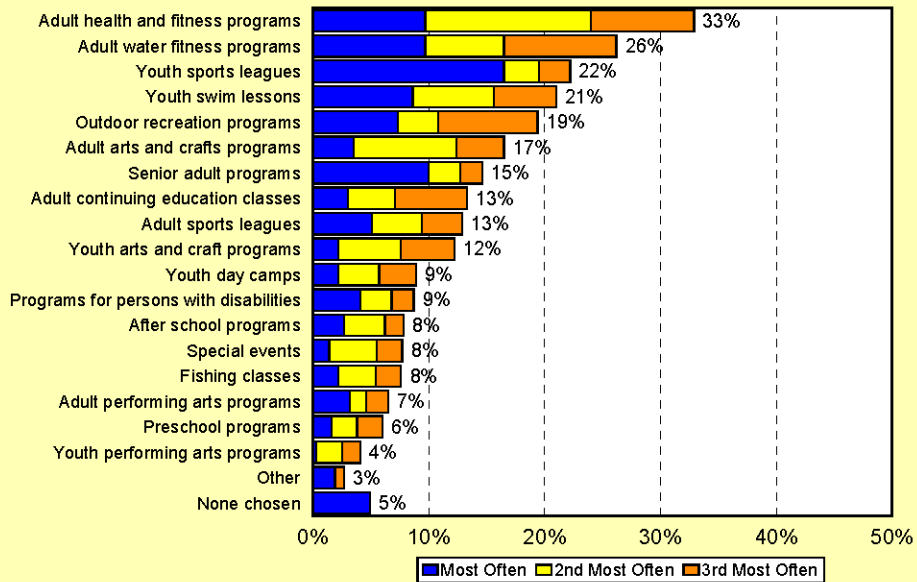


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q17. Programs Respondents Would Participate in Most Often

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q18. Support from Respondents for a Dedicated Sales Tax Funding Source for the Operations and Development of Shawnee's Parks, Recreation, Facilities and Services

by percentage of respondents

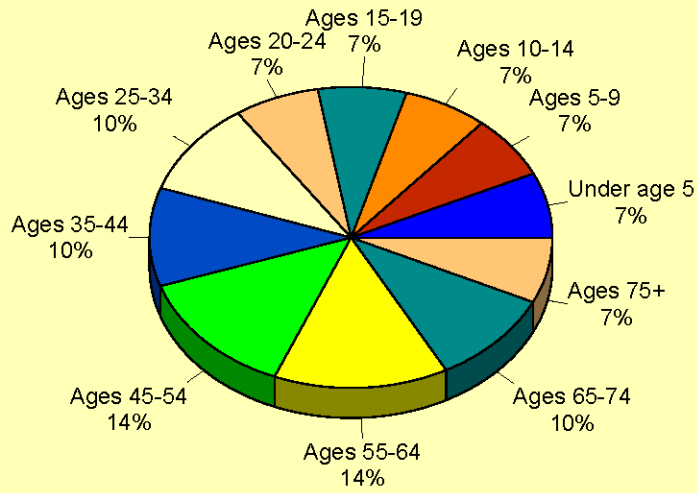


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q19. Demographics: Age of Persons in Household

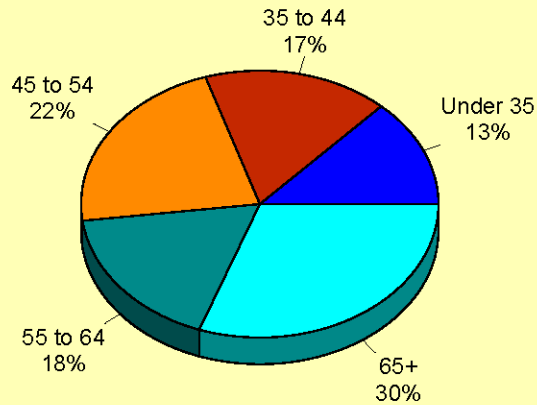
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q20. Demographics: Age of Respondent

by percentage of respondents

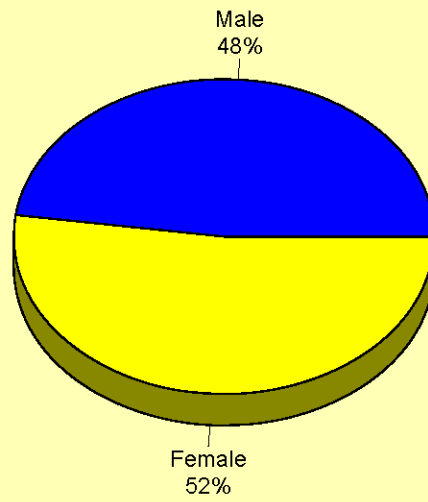


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department



Q21. Demographics: Gender

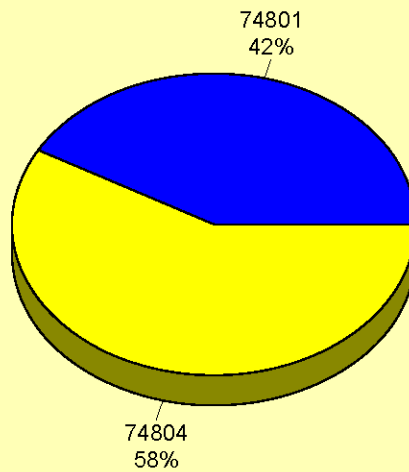
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q22. Demographics: Respondent Zip Code

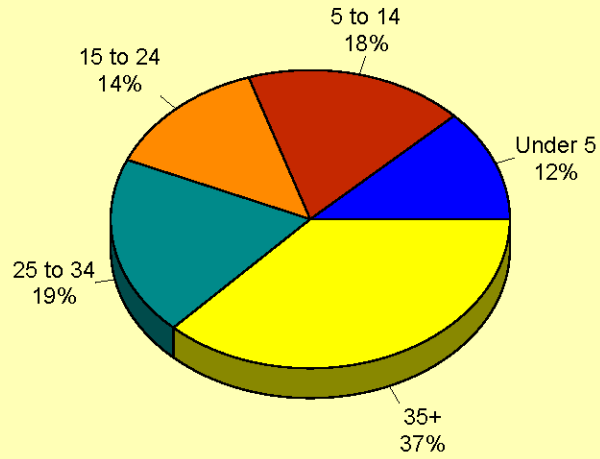
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

Q23. Demographics: Number of Years Lived in the City of Shawnee

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee Parks & Recreation Department

GIS Maps

For a complete account of medium-sized maps that illustrate respondents' answers to several of the questions asked, please see Section Four of the *Findings Report for a Statistically Valid Community Interest and Opinion Survey* completed by ETC Institute for the City of Shawnee in May 2015.

Section 4 - The Consultant's Critique of the Park System

PARK ASSESSMENT

The consultant team evaluated the park system by utilizing the criteria as stated below:

1. Park amenities (accessibility) – park amenities influence level of service by virtue of their accessibility. Amenities are evaluated as to their appropriateness within a park and their accessibility to users
2. Park amenities (condition) – park amenities influence level of service by virtue of their condition. We evaluate needed improvements in four levels: a) does not need repair or replacing; b) needs repair in the next 10 years; c) needs repair in the next 5 years; or d) needs immediate replacing or removal
3. Park performance an overall compilation/rating of a park relative to its access, comfort and image, and its sociability value:
 - How does the park perform relative to its overall access; e.g., parking; ADA access; visual accessibility; and neighborhood connectivity?
 - Park performance – how does the park perform relative to its comfort and image; e.g., shade; landscaping; and lighting?
 - Park performance – how does the park perform relative to its sociability value; e.g., seating, and park connectivity?

Park Assessment Rating Descriptions:

- High – Amenity is in excellent condition and does not need to be replaced or repaired in any way, is appropriately placed within the park(s), is accessible visually and physically, entire amenity is ADA accessible, has good connectivity to surrounding neighborhood or park uses, and has appropriate supporting amenities to draw people to use it. Amenity must meet most, if not all of these parameters and may not have any parameter rankings of low
- Medium – Amenity is in good condition and may need to be repaired or replaced in the next 5 years or longer, is accessible visually or physically but may have some obstacles to accessibility, is at least partially ADA accessible, some connectivity is available to surrounding neighborhood or park uses and is safe to use. Amenity must meet most of these parameters and may only have one parameter rankings of low, as long as that one ranking is not for condition, safety or ADA accessibility
- Low – Amenity is failing or in disrepair and needs extensive repairs or complete replacement within 5 years, is not accessible, is not ADA accessible, is disjointed from surrounding neighborhood or park uses or is uncomfortable or unsafe to use. If an amenity ranks low in two or more categories, it shall be placed in high priority for repair, replacement or removal



Table: Individual performance assessment of parks by type based on an assessment of amenities within each park

ID	Park Name	Park Type	Low Performance	Medium Performance	High Performance
1	Celebration of Life	Mini/Pocket		X	
2	Louise Counts Memorial	Mini/Pocket		X	
3	Mihura	Mini/Pocket		X	
4	Rose Garden	Mini/Pocket		X	
5	Tom Terry	Mini/Pocket		X	
6	Dunbar	Neighborhood		X	
7	Farrall	Neighborhood		X	
8	Jefferson Circle	Neighborhood			X
9	Larch-Miller	Neighborhood	X		
10	Lilac	Neighborhood	X		
11	Milstead	Neighborhood	X		
12	Optimist	Neighborhood	X		
13	Redbud	Neighborhood	X		
14	Rosedale	Neighborhood		X	
15	Wildwood	Neighborhood		X	
16	Rotary Boy Scout	Community			X
17	Dean Weigant	Community			X
18	Glenn Collins Memorial (Stonehenge)	Community		X	
19	Isaac Walton / Lake	Community		X	
20	Kidspace	Community		X	
21	Woodland Veterans / Veterans Memorial	Community			X
22	Lion's Club	Community/Special Use (athletics)		X	
23	Airport Track	Special Use (athletics)			X
24	Centennial	Special Use (museum)			X
25	Dockery	Special Use (athletics)		X	
26	Japanese Peace Garden	Special Use (cultural)			X
27	Kiwanis	Special Use (lake activities and picnicking)		X	
28	Lake #2	Special Use (lake activities and picnicking)			X
29	Mary Maxine Williamson Dog Park	Special Use (dog park)			X
30	Paul Duffield Tennis Complex	Special Use (tennis)			X
31	Twin Lakes Shooting Range	Special Use (shooting range)			X
32	Chastain	Undeveloped			
33	Kenwood	Undeveloped			
34	Strickland	Undeveloped			
35	Wyatt	Undeveloped			
36	160 Acres	Undeveloped			



Section 5 - Our Preferred Future

PARK SYSTEM KEY ISSUES

To begin the process of planning ahead to develop a preferred future, the first step is to identify key issues. Key issues are the ones that have surfaced in the public meeting, the on-site assessment by the consultant team, and from the statistically valid citizen survey. Below are key issue categories:

Funding

Funding is not adequate to maintain the park system. It is reflected in these ways:

- Small park staff of 12 in addition to a supervisor, which is not adequate to maintain 680 acres and nine buildings
- Too few operating dollars for equipment and supplies, as observed during the assessment
- Too little capital funding to replace older amenities and add new experiences from time to time as observed in the assessment

There is not a dedicated funding source to sustain the park system for its operating and capital improvement needs. The absence of a dedicated funding source results in inconsistent funding allocations to the park system and extreme delays in needed improvements.

Safety and Security Concerns

Citizens have expressed a very strong feeling in the survey that they do not use the parks more often because of their concerns with security.

Quantity versus Quality is out of Balance

- Given the City's budget constraints and the reality that many of the parks are not used, there are too many parks in the system, especially smaller parks. Reducing the number of parks, and the amenities in each of those parks, would allow a higher level of maintenance in the remaining parks.
- Adding to the number of parks in the system, the park staff is also responsible for too many tasks that keep them from spending more time tending to the park system.

Park and Program Usage is Low

- Based on a national average of 30% for those who say they participate in a community's recreation program, the City is below that average.
- Based on a national average of 70% for those who say they use their community's park system, the City is below that average.

There are Numerous Park Deficiencies

Most of the parks in the system have the same deficiencies. Generally, each of the deficiencies is typically included in a standard development package that the City should adopt/endorse for all future upgrades and new development. The deficiencies noted in the park assessment include:

1. Safety and security concerns
2. Trash management



3. Shade and water
4. Signage clutter and inconsistency
5. Restrooms
6. Playgrounds
7. Pavilions
8. Park benches
9. Picnic tables
10. Lighting
11. Lack of shaded areas to sit in strategic locations; e.g. adjacent to playgrounds, athletic fields, picnic tables, and park benches

Recreation Program Facilitation is Important

Recreation programs are organized by the YMCA and other special interest groups. These groups rely on the City to provide the facilities for their programs in a safe condition and at a level that provides the users with a fun experience.

Athletic Fields

It was reported by both the park department and the YMCA that there is a shortage of practice athletic fields.

Citizen Support for New Opportunities

As expressed in the statistically valid citizen survey, citizens are most supportive of the following:

- Health and wellness programs
- Trails

PREFERRED FUTURE STRATEGIES

Introduction/Assumptions

The consultant has developed several basic assumptions upon which the preferred future strategies have been created. Assumptions have taken into account several factors:

- Demographics – slow growth, modest household income
- Historical financial support for parks – the past has featured modest financial support for capital and operating needs and heavy reliance on volunteers. It is not likely that significant dollars will become more available in the future to upgrade the park system which features 36 different park sites
- Citizen preferences – it is highly likely in the future that citizens will continue to prefer larger parks which offer more amenities
- Citizens value greenspace, but, not each greenspace must include amenities such as small playgrounds, picnic tables, and pavilions



Recommendation #1- Reshape the Park System

To reshape the park system, the City should reduce the number of parks that are designated as active parks from the existing 36 to 8. In addition, the following steps should be taken as presented in the tables below more specifically:

- Reduce the number of active parks from 36 to 8 major parks
- Remove all amenities from the parks listed as greenspace parks
- Retain the special use parks as they are
- Retain the memorial parks with consideration of combining them into one park site to add value to the memorial experience

The following categories describe how the park system will look when it is reshaped:

Major Park Designations:

1. Kidspace
2. Rotary Boy Scout
3. Woodland Veterans / Veterans Memorial
4. Dean Weigant
5. Lion's Club
6. Optimist Club
7. Dunbar
8. Farrall

Greenspace Parks (remove all amenities from each except as noted):

1. Kenwood
2. Chastain
3. Strickland
4. Mihura
5. Milstead (retain the ball field)
6. Wildwood
7. Rose Dale
8. Larch-Miller
9. Lilac (retain the ball field)
10. Jefferson Circle
11. Redbud



Special Use Parks (to be retained with no changes):

1. Paul Duffield Tennis Complex
2. Mary Maxine Williamson Dog Park
3. Twin Lakes Shooting Range
4. Dockery Ball Fields
5. Isaac Walton at the Lake
6. Lake #2
7. Stonehenge/Glenn Collins Memorial at the Lake
8. Kiwanis at the Lake

Memorial Parks (to be retained in the system but note the options below for consideration):

1. Woodland Veterans / Veterans Memorial
2. Celebration of Life
3. Tom Terry
4. Centennial
5. Louise Counts

Two options are offered for the Memorial Parks' future:

- Option A – continue to treat the memorials as they have been treated in the past relative to their location and amenities.
- Option B – with the exception of Woodland Veterans / Veterans Memorial, remove all plaques, memorial bricks, and sculptures from the other memorial parks and re-locate them at a new location; e.g. Rose Garden Park; Larch-Miller/Red Bud Park. In full bloom at the Rose Garden Park or along a lighted walking path at Larch-Miller/Red Bud Parks, the consolidation of the smaller memorial parks would offer a nice destination for all who are interested. If not already recognized in an appropriate manner in the park system, this would be an opportunity to memorialize the Shawnee Garden Club, Aloysius Larch-Miller, Terry Powell, and Louise Counts among others.

Recommendation #2- Create a dedicated funding source and increase funding for the park system

A quality park system is widely recognized as a financial, environmental, social, and personal benefit to a community. At the top end, New York's Central Park, Chicago's Millennium Park, and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park are examples of the importance placed on parks by three of our largest cities and destination locations.

To that end, Shawnee can elevate the importance it places on its system and take better advantage of the benefits listed above. The recommendation is to:

- Commit to a dedicated funding source to operate and capitalize the park system. There are many challenges to not having a dedicated funding source, not the least of which is not knowing how to plan for the next year.
- Increase the annual funding of the park department for both operations and capital improvements. Indications that additional funding is needed are apparent when comparing Shawnee with national benchmarks.



For example:

- The per capita expenditure for parks in Shawnee is approximately \$27.00 which is well below the national average of \$71.00; and
- The number of park acres maintained by full-time staff is also well below national benchmarks.

Recommendation #3 – Park Upgrade Development Package and Priorities

This recommendation is twofold:

Standard Development Package - As more funding becomes available, the City should adopt a standard development package for its park system. The development package should include all the park amenities that will typically occur in a park and result in a brand for Shawnee that it can be proud of.

Upgrade Priorities – As more funding becomes available, the City should hold fast to upgrades detailed below since they are taken from citizen comments in the survey:

- Remove unsafe amenities (e.g. play equipment, broken concrete tables/benches, etc.)
- Renovate or construct new amenities that reflect citizen preferences in the survey
 - Restrooms
 - Drinking fountains
 - Shade structures
 - Pavilions
 - Lighting
 - Tables and benches
 - Playgrounds

Recommendation #4 – Update the 2007 Trail System Master Plan

Citizens are looking for active transportation opportunities. Walking, jogging, and riding a bicycle on a sidewalk, trail, or path that gives the user a feeling of safety is important to citizens in Shawnee as expressed in the citizen survey. The recommendation is to update the 2007 Trail System Master Plan to continue implementing these opportunities.

Recommendation #5 – Address Security Concerns

The use of the parks by the homeless is a significant issue in Shawnee. It surfaced in public meetings, on the citizen survey, and was noted during the on-site consultant visit. City leaders and social service agencies, working cooperatively with the private sector, are the only ones who can identify an approach to addressing this issue, and it is the recommendation that they collaborate and find ways to do so.

For discussion purposes, security cameras can be helpful as well as park programming that brings more people into the parks.

Recommendation #6 – Recreation Programs / Recreation Facility Facilitation

Recreation programs are organized by the YMCA and other special interest groups. These groups rely on the City to provide the facilities for their programs in a safe condition and at a level that provides the users with a fun experience.



The recommendation is threefold:

- Create a partnership agreement that clarifies the role of both parties (City and user groups) and re-visit the agreement on an annual basis to ensure it is working as it should;
- Work closely with the YMCA and special interest groups to facilitate their needs, as appropriate; and
- Hold all parties - both the City and user group(s) - accountable for the commitments that each has made.

Recommendation #7 – Land Acquisition Policy

The recommendation is for the City Council to adopt a policy that encourages an intense public discussion prior to acquiring any land in the future for park purposes.



1. Celebration of Life Park

PARK LOCATION:

E. Main and S. Philadelphia Streets

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

Mini/pocket park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 picnic table
- 1 waste receptacle
- 2 fire hydrants

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Memorial pavers that remember deceased members of the Garden Club
- There is a sidewalk in the park that is made with dedicated/memorial bricks

WEAKNESSES:

- Benches were removed from this park to deter the homeless from sleeping/hanging out there

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Remove the pavers and re-locate them to another park where they will receive better recognition
- There is a 3rd Friday event at this park which features music, arts/crafts which should definitely be continued to provide energy for this park and this area of the downtown



2. Louise Counts Park

PARK LOCATION:

318 E Main Street, adjacent to the public library

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.10 acre special use / memorial park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 bench
- 1 waste receptacle

STRENGTHS:

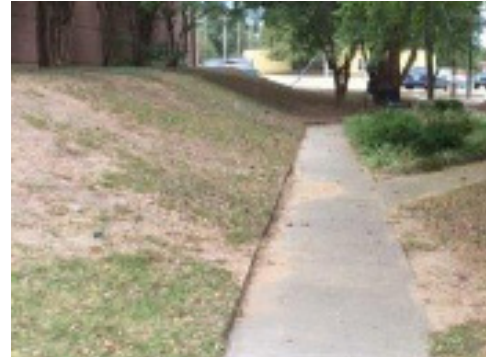
- Provides a shaded spot downtown to sit and relax
- Provides access between parking facilities and downtown businesses

WEAKNESSES:

- Other than having a shaded downtown spot to sit and relax, there are no other amenities in the park that would attract one to it
- Its small size limits any other uses

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Depending on the budget, a much higher level of maintenance featuring a beautiful horticultural display would be an attraction. However, there is no reason to single this park out from the other downtown parks of the same type



3. Mihura Park

PARK LOCATION:

Hardesty Drive and Pine Ridge Road

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.30 acre mini/pocket park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 tee swing with two regular swings
- 1 spring animal
- 1 picnic table
- 1 water faucet
- 1 waste receptable

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage

WEAKNESSES:

- Only features two small pieces of equipment

OPPORTUNITIES:

- All amenities should be removed from this park
- Its future use should be as greenspace



4. Rose Garden

PARK LOCATION:

Broadway and Franklin

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.80 acre mini/pocket park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 picnic table
- 1 waste receptacle
- 2 fire hydrants

STRENGTHS:

- When properly maintained, the garden will provide a natural experience that will appeal to all citizens
- The garden has a public street frontage so it can be visible from the windshield of one's car for daily enjoyment if one travels that road

WEAKNESSES:

- The garden will only be as beautiful as the volunteer help can keep it
- The concrete/stone picnic tables are not comfortable, not portable and not shaded, thus they are not inviting for the public to use and cannot be moved to a more shaded area in the park if someone wants to use them
- No benches to sit on in the park

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Directional lighting on the garden area could enhance the user experience for pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic driving by the park
- The park could be extended by creating a perimeter walkway around it to offer more displays that will enhance the current user experience



5. Tom Terry Park

PARK LOCATION:

NW corner of W. Main Street and N. Broadway Avenue

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.17 acre mini/pocket park

PARK FEATURES:

- Greenspace

STRENGTHS:

- Provides greenspace in the downtown area

WEAKNESSES:

- None evident

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain as green space
- Find ways to utilize the park in downtown revitalization efforts



6. Dunbar Park

PARK LOCATION:

Hayes and S. Oklahoma

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.76 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 regular swing set with two regular and two tot swings
- 1 6' slide
- 2 spring animals
- 1 playground unit with two each 4' slides with rope climber and one each sliding pole
- 3 picnic tables
- 2 water hydrants
- 2 grills

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Good visibility into the park for security purposes

WEAKNESSES:

- Poor parking
- Topography presents a challenge for users

OPPORTUNITIES:

- This park will be designated as one of the eight major parks in the system



7. Farrall Park

PARK LOCATION:

Hayes and S. Park

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

4.17 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- 2 unlighted tennis courts
- 1 basketball court
- 1 regular swing set with two regular and two tot swings
- 1 6' slide
- 1 double arch climber
- 1 horizontal ladder
- 1 merry-go-round
- 2 park benches
- 4 picnic tables
- 3 grills
- Waste receptacles
- There is an old school building at this park site that is used by the Fire Department as a training facility. Very unsightly, of course, but serves a purpose for the Fire Department

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Paved parking
- Nice shade trees
- There is a small community center at this park used by the YMCA for their after school program and summer camp. The playground is used by them to support their program

WEAKNESSES:

- Play equipment is in bad shape
- Picnic tables are not inviting as they are not portable to be moved to shaded areas nor are they comfortable to sit at

OPPORTUNITIES:

- This park should be retained as one of the eight major parks in the system due to its use by the YMCA



8. Jefferson Circle Park

PARK LOCATION:

Dill and Chapman

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.78 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 regular swing set with two swings
- 1 Flippopotamus slide
- 1 treehouse play unit with two slides, one sliding pole and one loop climber
- 1 picnic table

STRENGTHS:

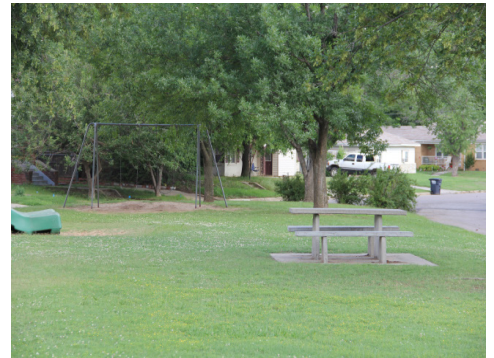
- Public street frontage
- Nice play equipment
- Nice turf
- Nice shade trees

WEAKNESSES:

- Play equipment is too spread out

OPPORTUNITIES:

- This park is on the list to remove all amenities to be used as greenspace
- If for some reason, all amenities are not removed, the equipment should be grouped closer together to enhance the user experience



9. Larch-Miller Park

PARK LOCATION:

Hobson and Bruce

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

1.12 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 regular swing set with two swings
- 1 playground with a handicap swing set that has two swings, a 5' landing with 4' slide that includes a handicap ramp
- 1 walking bridge
- 1 spiral slide
- 1 5' slide
- 1 jungle jim
- 1 pavilion
- 3 picnic tables
- 1 grill
- 2 park benches
- 3 water hydrants
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Nice shade trees

WEAKNESSES:

- No restrooms
- Heavily vandalized
- All play equipment should be removed as it is not ADA accessible nor safe in some instances

OPPORTUNITIES:

- All amenities should be removed from this park
- It could augment Redbud Park on its east side to provide a nice greenway with a lighted walking path, comfortable seating in shaded areas along the path, and perhaps some public art or memorial displays to serve as attractions to those two parks (Larch-Miller and Redbud)



10. Lilac Park

PARK LOCATION:

Edward and Patchin

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

3.93 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- One lighted ball field
- 6 picnic tables
- 1 swingset with two swings
- 1 each 6-foot slide
- 1 park bench
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Few strengths in its current condition. It may be serving some minimal uses as a practice game field

WEAKNESSES:

- The park floods easily with water flowing from north to south across the ball field
- There is no parking and the entire park is on the list to be cleared of all amenities
- There is a ball field, but it was not used by the YMCA this year, which may be an indication that the field should and could be removed along with everything else
- No water
- No restrooms
- Play equipment is not ADA accessible, nor is it user friendly due to its age and lack of shade
- The ball field is not well drained, which results in significant ponding
- The slope of the field makes it difficult to play on
- The ball field fence is in need of repair to correct safety issues

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Remove all amenities from this park and turn it into green space with the exception of the ball field which should remain as a practice field



11. Milstead Park

PARK LOCATION:

Harrison and Walnut

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

6.25 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 girl's softball field that is lighted
- 1 concession stand
- 1 restroom
- 1 regular swing set with two swings
- 1 6' slide
- 1 spring toy
- 1 picnic table
- 1 grill
- 1 water hydrant

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Asphalt parking area
- Mature shade trees

WEAKNESSES:

- Poor signage
- Play equipment should be removed due to its lack of ADA accessibility and unsafe conditions, especially for the landing areas
- Graffiti and vandalism are high at this park, making it necessary to remove all amenities except the ball field

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain the ball field
- Remove all amenities from this park and use as greenspace



12. Optimist Park

PARK LOCATION:

34th and Market

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

2.62 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 t-for-two swing
- 1 merry-go-round
- 1 8' slide
- 1 purple dinosaur adventure mate
- 1 unlighted basketball court
- 1 unlighted soccer field
- 4 picnic tables
- 1 waste receptacle
- 2 fire hydrants

STRENGTHS:

- Paved parking
- Public street frontage
- The location of the park is one of its major contributions to the park system, securing its place as one of the eight major parks

WEAKNESSES:

- Bad parking lot needs resurfacing
- Very little equipment in the park and the existing equipment should be removed
- Too little shade provided by trees

OPPORTUNITIES:

- This is designated as one of the eight major parks in the community
- The park should be re-developed with new equipment and other features that are well thought out
- Future upgrades to this park should include man made shade areas due to the relative lack of trees when compared with some of the other parks in the system



13. Redbud Park

PARK LOCATION:

Beard and Dill

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

1.16 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- 2 picnic tables
- 1 walking bridge
- 1 waste receptacle
- 3 fire hydrants

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage

WEAKNESSES:

- Gravel parking that is unmarked
- The concrete tables should be removed

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Remove all amenities from this park and use it as a greenway to connect to Larch-Miller. The greenway would feature a lighted walking path, comfortable seating along the path, and public art or memorials that would enhance the user experience in the greenway



14. Rosedale Park

PARK LOCATION:

Drummond and Philadelphia

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.67 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 regular swing set with two ea. swings
- 1 playground with a spiral slide, 3' slide, parallel ladder, climbing pole, c-spring animal, purple dinosaur adventure mate, and merry-go-round
- 4 picnic tables

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Nice shade trees
- The play equipment is nicer than most of the smaller parks in the system

WEAKNESSES:

- The concrete tables are not portable and not user friendly
- No shade for playground users or their caretakers

OPPORTUNITIES:

- It is on the list of parks to be used in the future as greenspace



15. Wildwood Park

PARK LOCATION:

Severn and Park

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

1.33 acre neighborhood park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 regular swing set
- 1 spring animal
- 1 8' slide
- 1 playground with a rock climber, loop pole, vertical ladder and two slides
- 3 picnic tables
- 1 grill
- 1 water faucet
- 1 trash receptacle

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Mature shade trees
- Slope of the park adds interest that can be explored with an appropriate design

WEAKNESSES:

- No comfortable places to sit
- Old equipment that needs to be removed
- The topography is challenging for users, especially for adults supervising their children. The terrain may be a deterrent for all users as they may drive by and decide that they would prefer to go elsewhere

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Remove all amenities from the park and dedicate it to the greenspace program



16. Rotary Boy Scout Park

PARK LOCATION:

Main and Pesotum

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

9.12 acre community park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 unlighted basketball court
- 4 tennis courts, two of which are lighted
- 1 volleyball court
- 1 half mile walking track with park benches
- 1 playground unit with a spiral slide, tunnel slide, 4' slide, tic tac toe game and an arch ladder
- 1 playground unit with a loop climber, side by side slide and a tube slide
- 2 springed animals
- 1 regular swingset with two swings
- 1 merry-go-round
- 1 volcano climber
- 1 pavilion
- 1 handicapped accessible picnic area
- 1 handicap accessible drinking fountain
- 13 park benches
- 27 picnic tables
- 8 grills
- 4 water hydrants
- 1 restroom
- 1 storm shelter
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Paved parking
- Public street frontage
- A new splash pad
- The park topography and trees on it is very beautiful. Future development of this park could make it a very nice major park that is included on the list of eight
- Has a nice 1.0 mile walking track around its perimeter

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Add more parking, provided that additional land can be acquired
- Improve the appearance of the storm shelter
- Improve the appearance of the basketball courts



WEAKNESSES:

- Additional parking is needed
- A storm shelter is in the park beneath a very unsightly concrete slab. perhaps some landscaping around its perimeter or possibly a colorful (earth tone) color added to its surface could improve its appearance
- There are two heavily used basketball courts in the park which are unattractive but could be upgraded to improve the appearance of the courts and park



17. Dean Weigant Park

PARK LOCATION:

Leo and Rosa

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

4 acre community park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 playground unit with two 4' slides, two climbing ladders and one arched ladder
- 1 toss-n-score
- 1 merry-go-round
- 1 climbing dome
- 2 spring animals
- 1 6' trail blazer slide
- 1 purple dinosaur adventure mate
- 1 regular swing set with two swings
- 1 t-swing with two swings
- 1 wave slide with chain climber
- 1 6' dinosaur slide
- 1 bike rack
- 3 park benches
- 18 picnic tables
- 4 picnic grills
- 1 pavilion
- 1 restroom
- 3 fire hydrants
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- A variety of reasons to come to the park with perhaps the nicest playground in the system
- Paved parking

WEAKNESSES:

- But for the new playground, the other equipment in the park is outdated and should be removed
- Restrooms in this park are outdated and should be upgraded

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Designate this as one of the eight major parks in the system
- New equipment should be added and configured in one location rather than throughout the park. Scattering of the equipment detracts from the user experience as it requires too much of an effort to use it



18. Glenn Collins Memorial / Stonehenge

PARK LOCATION:

Belcher Road and Hommer Lane

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

3.4 acre community park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 restroom
- 1 handicap picnic area
- 31 picnic tables
- 16 grills
- 4 park benches
- 1 regular swing set with two each swings
- 1 spring animal
- 1 volleyball court
- 1 basketball court
- 1 unlighted pavilion
- 1 swimming area
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Fishing dock that is frequently used

WEAKNESSES:

- Gravel parking

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain as a special use recreation area



19. Isaac Walton / Lake #1

PARK LOCATION:

Lake Road (dead end)

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

4.49 acre community park / recreation area (lake, camping, and picknicking activities)

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 regular swing set with two swings
- 1 8' slide
- 1 lighted pavilion
- 28 picnic tables
- 13 grills
- 1 swimming area
- 1 restroom
- 2 fire hydrants
- 15 camping sites
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Chip seal parking
- Public street frontage
- A unique area for lake-related activities that most communities cannot provide

WEAKNESSES:

- There is always a need for upgrades such as restrooms, but this site looks nice. It appears that the experience at this site would be typical for a lake area with lake #2 devoted to fishing only and lake #1 accommodating recreational boating and fishing
- There is a nice fishing dock that is well used

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain as a special use recreation area



20. Kidspace Park

PARK LOCATION:

Center and Wayne

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

3.5 acre community park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 pavilion
- 14 picnic tables
- 1 play area with various activities
- 1 restroom
- 1 family restroom
- 6 trash receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Paved parking
- A variety of reasons to come to the park
- The pavilion has electricity which is an advantage for users versus other pavilions in the system that do not have electricity
- The grass open field is used by those who like to fly kites and for informal games such as football. The open field is a plus for the park

WEAKNESSES:

- The wood playground is popular but the wood material does rot which is a natural problem with this piece of equipment
- Due to the layout of the playground, and the citizen concerns with security, it is easy for someone to hide inside or behind the playground
- The park is home for a skatepark. Given the average age of the user is likely to be between 14 and 16, there is a noticeable problem with graffiti and vandalism in the park
- The pavilion is dated, but it does have electricity which is an advantage for users

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Begin to educate the public that the playground will outlive its useful life in the near future
- Continue to upgrade the amenities in the park per the standard development package mentioned in this report
- Designate this as one of the eight major parks in the system



21. Woodland Veterans / Veterans Memorial Park

PARK LOCATION:

Highland and Broadway

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

6.87 acre community park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 sculpture and memorials to the veterans
- 2 lighted tennis courts
- 1 volleyball court
- 1 swimming pool
- 1 10' slide
- 2 regular swing sets with four swings each
- 1 playground with a 4' slide, a spiral slide, a c-shaped parallel ladder, a climbing pole, and a tic-tac-toe block set
- 2 springed animals
- 1 bandstand with seating
- 1 restroom
- 1 handicapped accessible picnic area
- 30 picnic tables
- 6 fire hydrants
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Paved parking
- Mature shade trees
- A variety of things to do in the park
- Tennis courts are heavily used

WEAKNESSES:

- The band stand is aged and is being removed at this time
- There are far too many concrete tables in the park which results in clutter and an unsightly appearance
- The play equipment is old and should be removed
- There is a stem wall on the east side of the park that may have some historic significance; however, due to the drainage pipes that run through the wall and onto the adjacent parking, there is a constant mess in the area that the maintenance crew has to clean up. If park appearance trumps any historic significance of the wall, then it should be removed for a better option

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Remove old play equipment
- Re-design the stem wall on the east side
- Remove concrete picnic tables
- Work hard to not over-develop this attractive park



22. Lion's Club Park

PARK LOCATION:

Federal and Airport Drive

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

19.22 acre community/special use park

PARK FEATURES:

- 15 lighted baseball fields
- 3 baseball/soccer fields
- 1 concession stand
- 1 regular swing set with two regular and two tot swings
- 1 8' slide
- 1 merry-go-round
- 1 funnel ball
- 1 purple dinosaur adventure mate
- 1 spring animal
- 1 jumbo flyer adventure mate
- 1 handicap accessible e-z digger
- 1 each playground unit with a spiral slide, oval tube slide, lightning slide, horizontal ladder, oval crawl tube, and deep rung arch climber
- 1 playground unit with a general store, a park ranger panel wheel, and a marble maze
- 1 fire engine climber
- 1 lion drinking fountain
- 5 park benches
- 2 men's and women's restrooms
- 10 picnic tables
- 1 pavilion with two grills
- 6 fire hydrants
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Chip seal parking

WEAKNESSES:

- This playground is closed due its age/condition
- The YMCA manages and maintains the ballfields
- Based on the appearance of the athletic field complex, it appears that the maintenance is not good

OPPORTUNITIES:

- This is one of the eight major parks. It needs to be upgraded with the typical standard development package of restrooms, pavilion, and play equipment
- Re-visit the YMCA contract to search for ways to improve their commitment to the appearance of the athletic fields



23. Airport Track & Workout Area

TRACK LOCATION:

833 W Independence Street, with access through the parking lot located at 1644 N Pottenger Street; SW corner of the airport

TRACK SIZE & TYPE:

3.9 mile special use track

TRACK FEATURES:

- Multiple workout equipment throughout
- Numerous benches and waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- A level 10' wide paved track that is multi-purpose to accommodate pedestrians, joggers/runners, and bicyclists
- The track is sanctioned for 5k events and is also used by the high school for cross country events
- The track is located in a nice park which features community park amenities, including restrooms

WEAKNESSES:

- None evident

OPPORTUNITIES:

- The track is in the process of being lighted at this time, which will significantly expand its availability for evening users



24. Centennial Park and Museum

PARK LOCATION:

E. Main Street next to the Train Depot

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

2,000 sq. ft. mini/pocket park and museum

PARK FEATURES:

- Several memorial monuments

STRENGTHS:

- A nice memorial area

WEAKNESSES:

- Removed benches to serve as a distraction for the homeless using it as a place to hang out

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Continue to maintain it as a memorial park



25. Dockery Park

PARK LOCATION:

West Farrall and Highway 177

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

10 acre special use/athletic park

PARK FEATURES:

- 12 lighted softball fields
- 1 restroom
- 1 concession stand
- 2 picnic tables
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Paved parking

WEAKNESSES:

- None evident

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain this park for use of the athletic fields



26. Japanese Peace Garden

PARK LOCATION:

Airport Drive, north of Independence Street

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

2.5 acre special use horticultural garden

PARK FEATURES:

- This is a horticultural garden with diverse plantings

STRENGTHS:

- Strong community and volunteer support to maintain the garden

WEAKNESSES:

- Difficult to mow as the plantings are too close to allow the park mowers to maneuver between them.
- Although it is maintained by volunteers, communication between the city and the volunteers is critical

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain as a horticultural garden and maintain communication with volunteers



27. Kiwanis Park

PARK LOCATION:

End of Patterson Road north of Homer Lane Road on Lake #2

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

7.0 acre special use park

PARK FEATURES:

- 1 pavilion
- 2 waste receptacles
- 2 tables

STRENGTHS:

- The park is at the lake
- Its location at the lake with a pavilion provides a nice outdoor experience
- Used by the middle school with 300 students for an annual outdoor camp facilitated by the Game Warden. Activities introduce the students to archery, skeet shooting, fishing, and hiking

WEAKNESSES:

- No utilities - electricity nor running water
- No restrooms

OPPORTUNITIES:

- When restrooms and utilities are added, the Department intends to offer the pavilion for rental to Boy Scout groups and large family reunions.



28. Lake #2

PARK LOCATION:

Belcher and No. 2 Dam Road

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.93 acre special use park for lake activities

PARK FEATURES:

- 4 picnic tables
- 3 grills
- 1 regular swing set with two each swings
- 1 playground unit with one each 5' slide, an arch ladder, a set of parallel bars
- 1 unisex restroom
- 1 fire hydrant
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Chip seal parking
- Dedicated for fishing only

WEAKNESSES:

- There is always a need for upgrades such as restrooms, but this site looks nice. It appears that the experience at this site would be typical for a lake area with lake #2 devoted to fishing only and lake #1 accommodating recreational boating and fishing
- There is a nice fishing dock that is well used

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain as a special use recreation area



29. Mary Maxine Williamson Park

PARK LOCATION:

1900 W. Independence (near the Animal Shelter and the Exposition Center)

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

1 acre special use dog park

PARK FEATURES:

- Fenced area for dogs to run off leash

STRENGTHS:

- Basic design for a dog park
- The fence design is as it should be with an area for both larger and smaller animals

WEAKNESSES:

- No seating for users

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain as a special use park



30. Paul Duffield Tennis Complex

PARK LOCATION:

1000 block of N. Kennedy

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

1.78 acre special use tennis park

PARK FEATURES:

- 8 lighted tennis courts
- 1 water fountain
- Waste receptables

STRENGTHS:

- A sizeable number of courts in one location
- Public street frontage
- Paved parking

WEAKNESSES:

- No restrooms

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain this park to meet the tennis needs of the community



31. Twin Lakes Shooting Range

PARK LOCATION:

Patterson Road and Hardesty

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

10 acre special use target shooting park

PARK FEATURES:

- 4 shooting ranges with lights
- 2 picnic tables
- 1 restroom
- 1 water hydrant
- Waste receptacles

STRENGTHS:

- Public street frontage
- Lends itself to a unique recreation need in the community

WEAKNESSES:

- Gravel parking

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain the shooting range as a special use park



32. Chastain

PARK LOCATION:

Oakland and S. Harrison

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.85 acre undeveloped land

PARK FEATURES:

- Open greenspace

STRENGTHS:

- Provides scenic greenspace for nearby traffic

WEAKNESSES:

- None evident

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain this land as greenspace



33. Kenwood

PARK LOCATION:

Dawson and Independence

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

2.87 acre undeveloped land

PARK FEATURES:

- Wooded area that serves as a Bird Sanctuary

STRENGTHS:

- It is heavily wooded and that is exactly the way the neighbors want it

WEAKNESSES:

- None evident

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Nothing should be done to this property



34. Strickland

PARK LOCATION:

Oakland and S. Harrison

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

0.78 acre undeveloped land

PARK FEATURES:

- This site has one small backstop on it that staff is sure is never used

STRENGTHS:

- Provides greenspace

WEAKNESSES:

- The backstop is an eyesore

OPPORTUNITIES:

- The backstop should be removed as this park is on the list for removal of all amenities



35. Wyatt Park

PARK LOCATION:

SW corner of N. Kickapoo Road and Westech Road

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

10 acre undeveloped land

PARK FEATURES:

- This is an undeveloped site on a dead end road

STRENGTHS:

- Provides open greenspace

WEAKNESSES:

- May not be able to fully develop due to access/road requirements stipulated in the city code

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Retain as greenspace or sell/donate the property unless 39th Street or North Beard Street were extended, thereby creating through traffic instead of a dead-end. This would make future development easier



36. (160 Acre Tract of Land)

PARK LOCATION:

1/2 mile west of Kickapoo on Westech

PARK SIZE & TYPE:

160 acre community/regional undeveloped land

PARK FEATURES:

- Open greenspace

STRENGTHS:

- Large space with options for future private development

WEAKNESSES:

- For development of this land, it would require significant investment to fully incorporate infrastructure including utilities, roadways, etc.

OPPORTUNITIES:

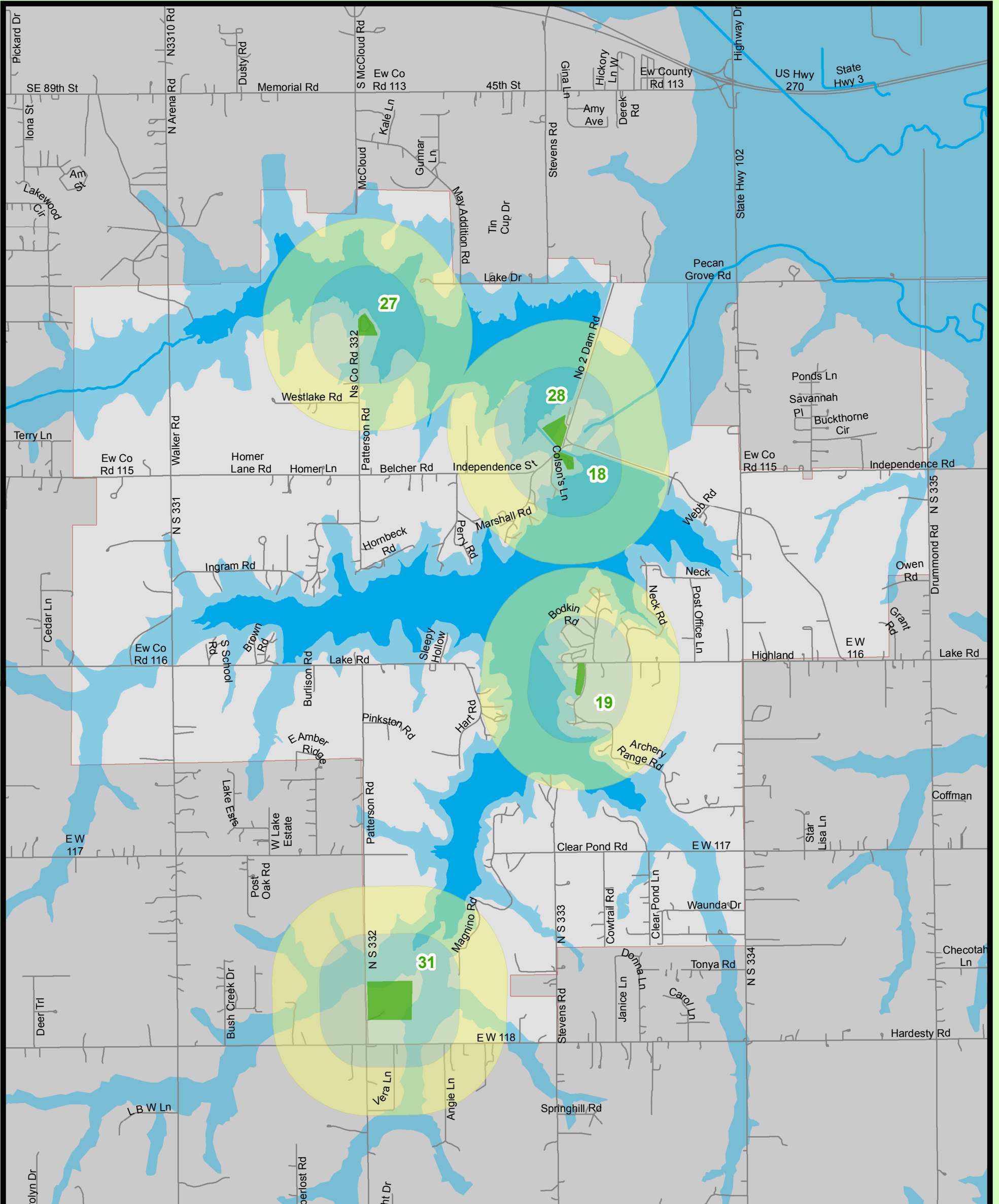
- At this point, there are no opportunities in the foreseeable future as a park, but potentially as a private development



Park System - Inventory & Analysis

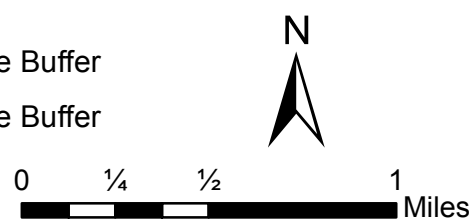
City of Shawnee, Oklahoma

Lake Vicinity



Legend

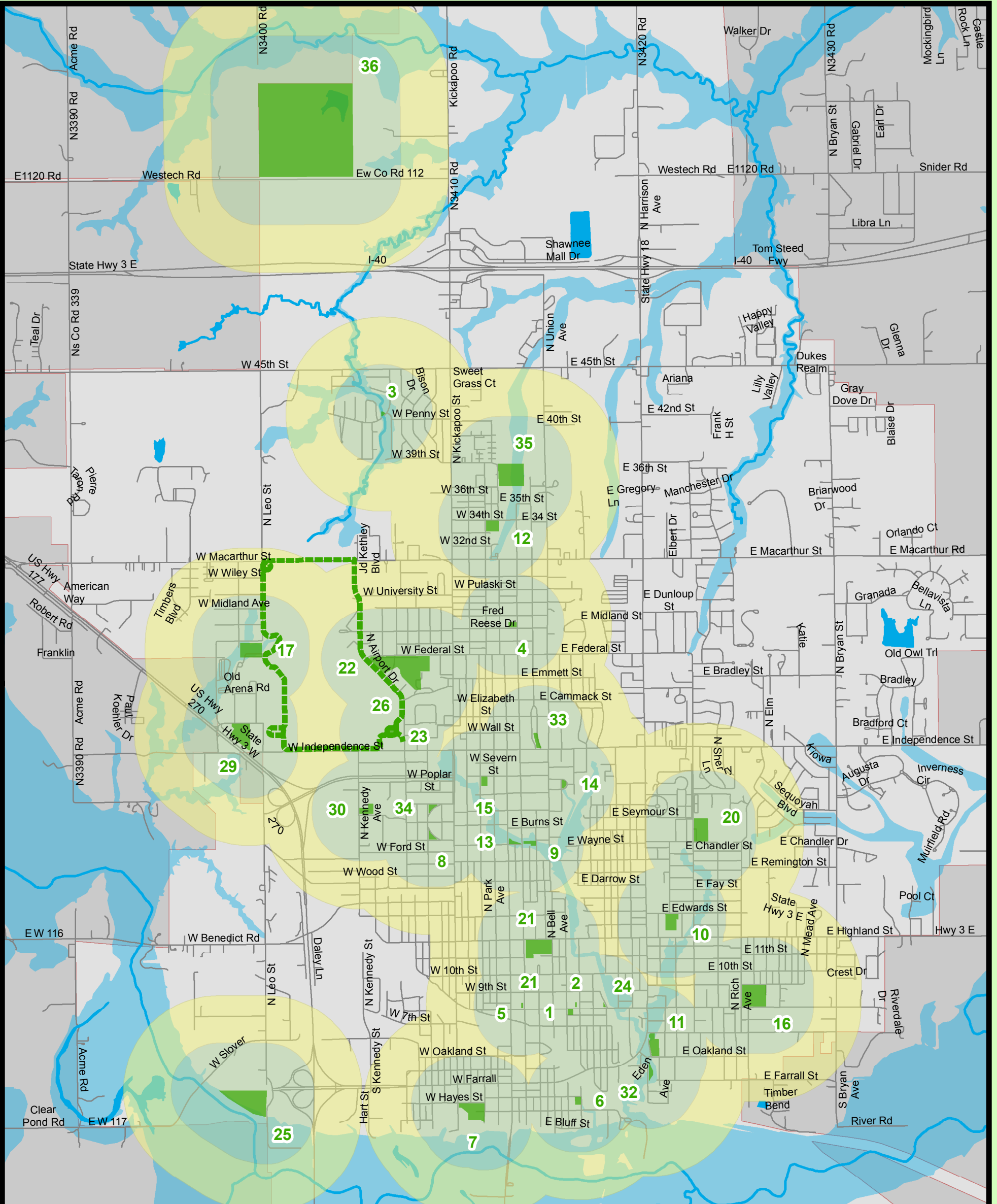
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- Water Bodies
- 100 Year Flood Zones
- Trails
- Parks
- Shawnee City Limits
- 1/4 Mile Buffer
- 1/2 Mile Buffer



Park System - Inventory & Analysis

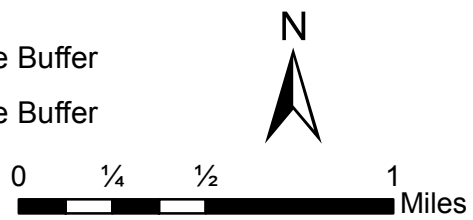
City of Shawnee, Oklahoma

Town Vicinity



Legend

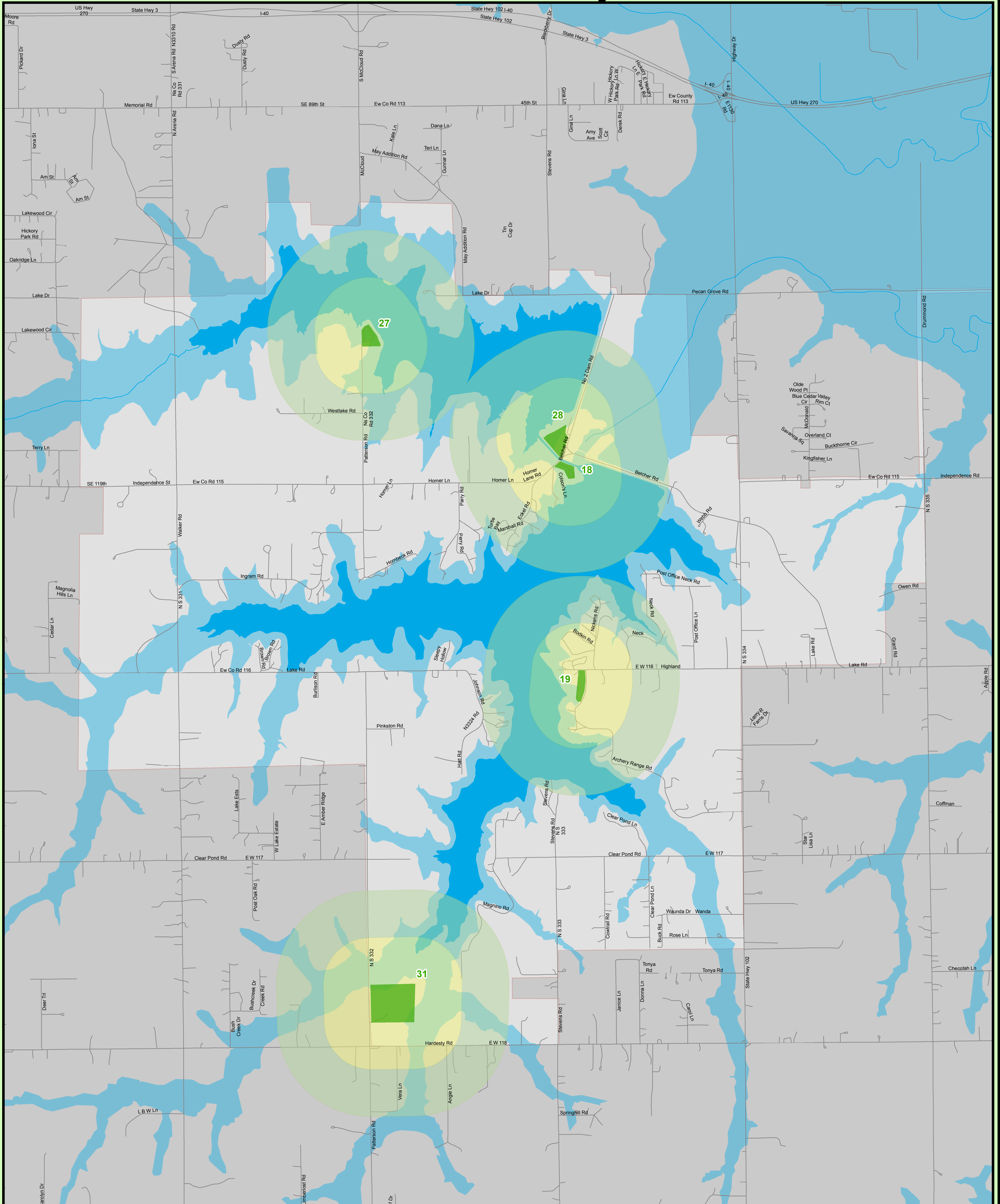
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Park System - Inventory & Analysis

City of Shawnee, Oklahoma

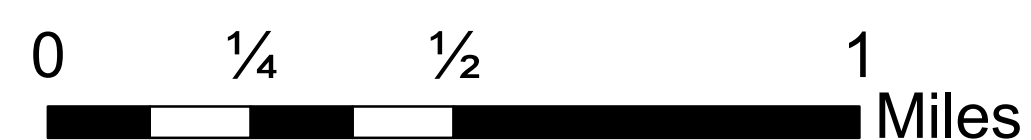
Lake Vicinity



Legend

- Water Channels
- Water Bodies
- 100 Year Flood Zones
- Trails
- Parks
- Shawnee City Limits

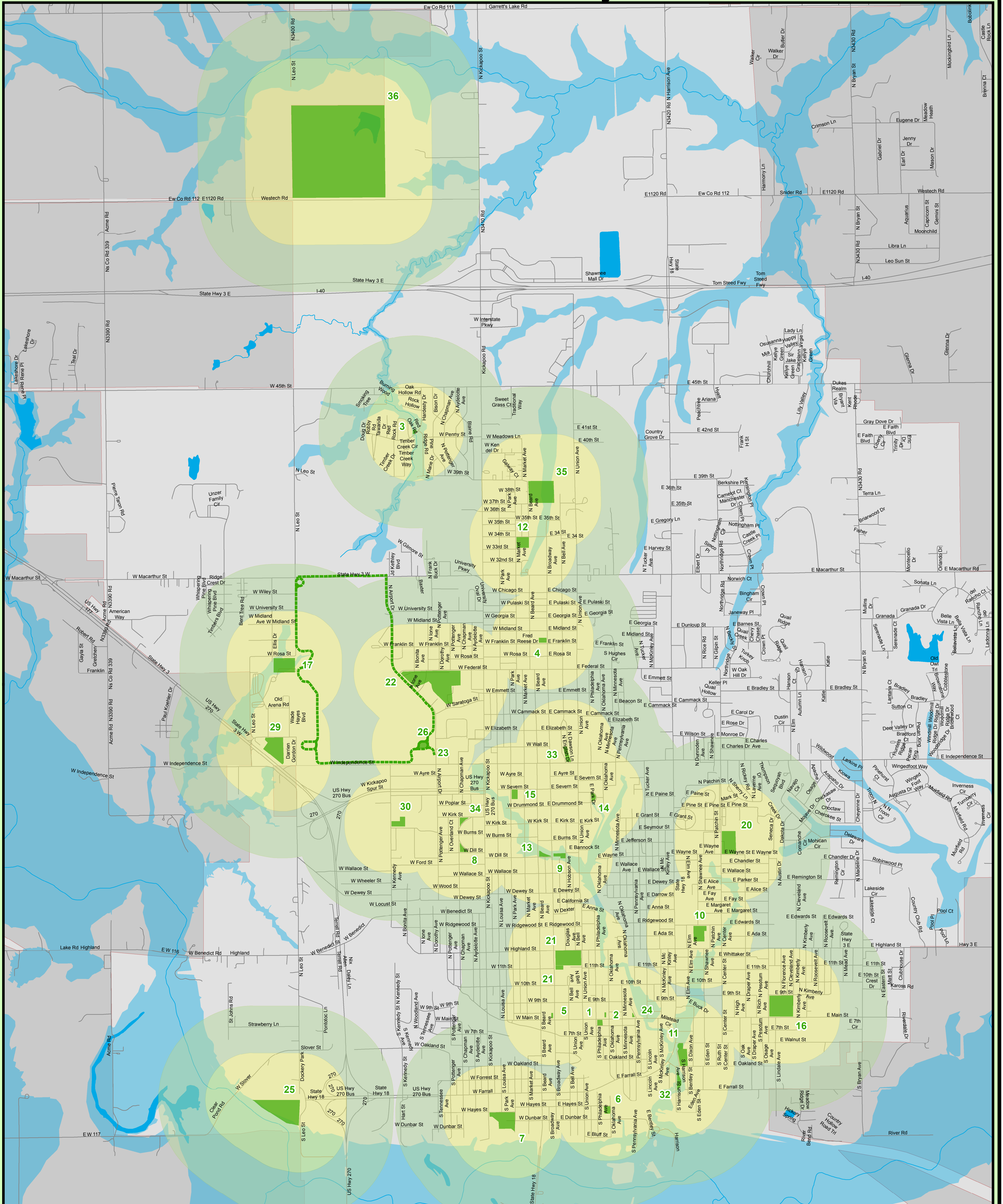
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Park System - Inventory & Analysis

City of Shawnee, Oklahoma

Town Vicinity



Legend

- Water Channels
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