

Great Bend Parks and Recreation Survey 2001

Executive Summary



**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY:**

**A BROAD AND
USUALLY BRIEF
ABSTRACT OF
CONCISE
STATEMENTS TO
BE MORE FULLY
CONSIDERED AT
A LATER TIME OR**

The specific objectives of the survey include:

- \$ Determine the extent of Great Bend Recreation Commission programs usage and city and school facilities usage.
- \$ Ascertain attitudes toward the mix of athletic fields, playgrounds, and open space in Great Bend parks.
- \$ Determine preferences for the concentration of athletic fields into one major complex.
- \$ Assess levels of satisfaction with certain types of recreational facilities in Great Bend.
- \$ Assess opinions about needed improvements to existing recreation facilities in Great Bend.
- \$ Assess levels of support for a sales tax increase and a property tax increase to fund improvements to Great Bend parks and recreation facilities.

From analysis of survey results, we find that:

- \$ Great Bend Recreation Commission indoor and outdoor programs are similarly popular among respondents, with the average (mean) usage by someone in the household at about 12 times a year for each. The majority (61%) of respondents have a household member that currently uses City of Great Bend park or School District recreation facilities. Non-school playgrounds receive the most use, while organized activity fields and open space areas are the next most used.



ANALYSIS:

THE SEPARATION OF ANY MATERIAL OR ABSTRACT ENTITY INTO ITS CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS.

THE PROCESS OF STUDYING THE NATURE OF SOMETHING OR OF DETERMINING ITS ESSENTIAL FEATURES AND THEIR

- \$ Most respondents (61%) feel the mix of open space and athletic fields/playgrounds in parks is about right. A significant minority (22%) suggest that parks need more athletic fields and playgrounds *and* more open space.
- \$ A majority of respondents (57%) do not want athletic fields to be concentrated in one major complex.
- \$ Overall, satisfaction with parks and recreation facilities is moderate. Respondents are most satisfied with Great Bend Recreation Commission Programs and baseball and softball fields. Respondents are least satisfied with biking trails.
- \$ Concerning improvements to the existing Great Bend parks and recreation system, from among the list of possible items respondents consider to be the most important are constructing more trails in parks and constructing more picnic areas in parks. The least important items were adding more outdoor athletic fields and creating more open space areas in parks.
- \$ Concerning possible major/substantial changes to the Great Bend parks and recreation system, from among the list of possible changes respondents consider the construction of a large multipurpose indoor facility for activities like indoor soccer, basketball, volleyball, leisure activities, and a walking track most important. The least important item was the construction of a golf course.
- \$ A majority (88%) of respondents view improving existing parks, recreation, and athletic facilities as “very important” or “somewhat important.”
- \$ There is moderate support for a sales tax increase to fund improvements, with 55% of the respondents either “somewhat supporting” or “strongly supporting” the increase. There less support for a property tax increase, with only 23% either “somewhat supporting” or “strongly supporting” the increase.



METHODOLOGY:

A SYSTEM OF METHODS, PRINCIPLES, AND RULES, AS THOSE OF AN ART OR SCIENCE.

THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES AND RULES OF AN ORGANIZATION OF A PHILOSOPHICAL SYSTEM OR INQUIRY PROCEDURE.

Methods

Between February 19 and March 2, 2001, the Docking Institute's University Center for Survey Research conducted a survey of 410 households in the City of Great Bend. A random sampling technique was utilized to generate the telephone numbers. The survey was conducted using a Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system. The CATI system allows interviewers to code survey information into a computer database as the interviewers administer a questionnaire to a respondent. A total of 517 households were successfully contacted after up to six call attempts. In 410 of these households a resident agreed to complete the survey. This represents a response rate of 79%.

Using a 95% confidence interval, the results from the survey of households have a margin of error of $\pm 5\%$. In other words, given 100 different random samples of 410 Great Bend households, only 5% of the time would the results obtained from the sample population vary by more than $\pm 5\%$ from the results that would be obtained if the total population were surveyed (assuming no response bias). Importantly, the margin of error for subgroups is higher. Any statistics for subgroups with less than 40 to 50 respondents are primarily suggestive.

Survey Instrument



The instrument used for this research project contained 46 survey items. Question wording and the design of the survey instrument are the property of the Docking Institute and are not to be used for additional surveys unless written permission is given by the Director of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs. The survey instrument along with relative frequency distributions (percentages) or measures of central tendency on survey items is provided in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 shows results for open ended survey items.

SURVEY:

**TO TAKE A
GENERAL OR
COMPREHENSIVE
VIEW OF OR
APPRAISE.**

**A SAMPLING OF
FACTS, FIGURES,
OR OPINIONS
TAKEN AND USED
TO APPROXIMATE
WHAT A COMPLETE
COLLECTION AND
ANALYSIS MIGHT
REVEAL.**

DEMOGRAPHICS:

**THE STATISTICAL
DATA OF A
POPULATION,
ESPECIALLY,
THOSE SHOWING
AVERAGE AGE AND
INCOME.**

Sample Demographics

The mean (average) age of the respondents is 52 years and the median is 50 years. The number of years lived in Great Bend ranges from less than one year to 86 years. The mean number of years lived in Great Bend is 20. The household income distribution is shown in Figure 1. Among those who answered this question, the income category representing the largest percentage (about 16%) is the \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year group. At about 13% each, the next largest income categories are the \$10,000 to \$20,000 and \$20,000 to \$30,000 groups. About 8% reported family incomes of greater than \$70,000. The majority (about 84%) are registered voters. These demographic characteristics are similar to data gathered from a representative sample of respondents in the Great Bend area for a labor study recently conducted by the Docking Institute (see *Great Bend Labor Availability Analysis 2001* available from the City of Great Bend).



Respondents were also asked to indicate the number of people living in the household. The number of people living in a household ranges from one to eight, and the mean number is 2.42. Almost half (47%) of the households in the sample have a member who is 20 years old or younger.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

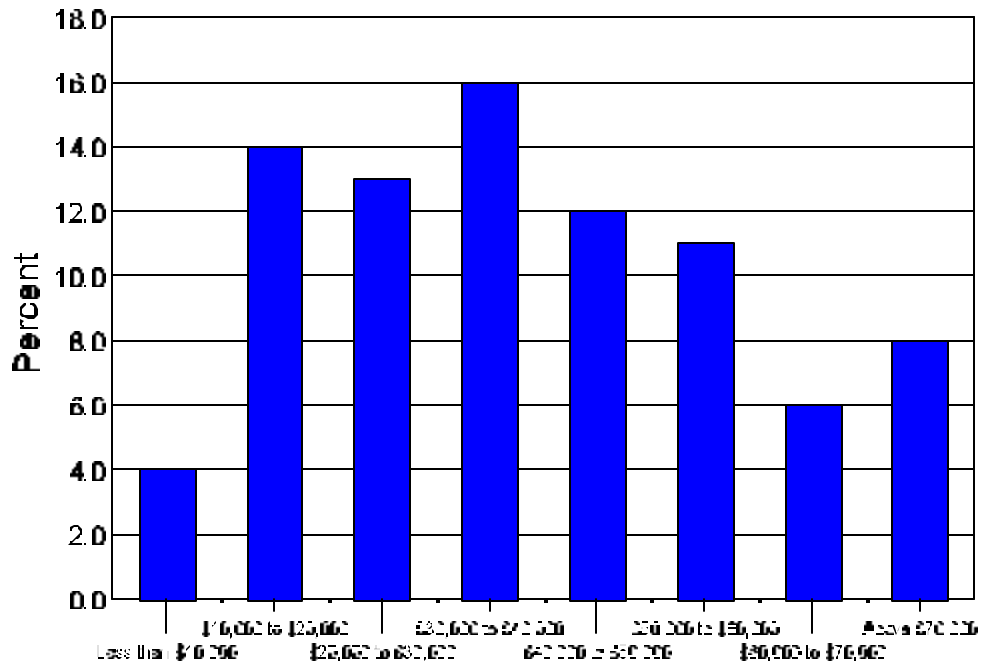
THE INCOME EARNED BY ALL MEMBERS WITHIN A HOUSEHOLD

UCSR FACTOID:

16% OF GREAT BEND HOUSEHOLDS EARN BETWEEN \$30 AND \$40 THOUSAND ANNUALLY.

Figure 1

Household Income Distribution (N=408)



Recreation Commission Programs and City/School Facilities Usage

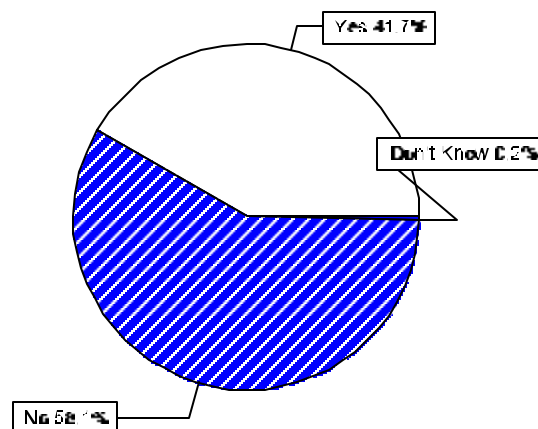


UCSR FACTOID:

40% OF GREAT BEND HOUSEHOLDS HAVE MEMBERS THAT USE RECREATION COMMISSION PROGRAMS.

Respondents were asked to indicate whether any household member uses “Great Bend Recreation Commission programs.” Figure 2 shows that about 42% of the households surveyed have a member that uses Recreation Commission programs. The respondents that indicated that they have a family member using Recreation Commission programs were asked a follow-up question addressing the number of times that a member participated in a commission program within the last year. The average (mean) number of times was about 12, with median of 4. This indicates that a majority of commission program participants participate fewer than 12 times a year, but some participants are involved with commission programs more than 12 times a year.

Figure 2
Use Recreation Commission Programs (N=410)

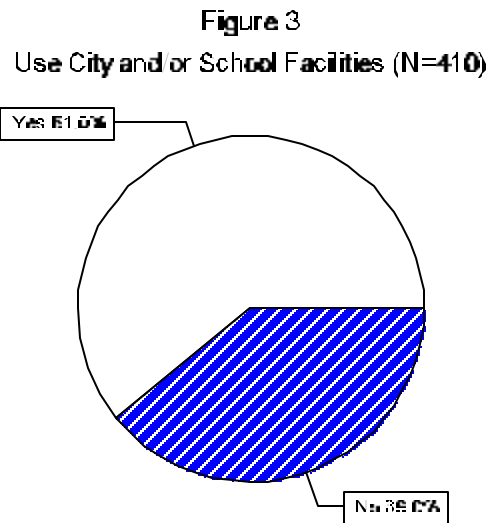




UCSR FACTOID:
61% OF GREAT BEND HOUSEHOLDS HAVE MEMBERS THAT USE CITY AND SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES.

Respondents were then asked if they, or other members of their household, use City of Great Bend or school district recreation facilities like playgrounds, athletic fields, park, and indoor facilities. Figure 3 shows that a majority (61%) of households have members that use city or school facilities for recreation.

Table 1 (on the next page) shows that the number of times a household member used a non-school playground (column Q5d) in the past year ranges from 0 to 365 times, with a mean of approximately 12 times. The number of times using a non-school, organized athletic field (column Q5e) ranges from 0 to 150, with a mean of approximately 8 times. The number of times in which an open space area (column Q5f) is used ranges from 0 to 365, with a mean of approximately 8 times. Columns Q5b and Q5c indicate the number of



times respondent family members participated in indoor and outdoor Recreation Commission programs (regardless of the type of facility within which the program took place) in the past year.



UCSR FACTOID:

**GREAT BEND
HOUSEHOLD
MEMBERS USE
RECREATION
COMMISSION
PROGRAMS ABOUT
12 TIMES A YEAR.**

Table 1
**Recreation Commission Programs
and Park/School Facilities Usage**

| | | Q5b Indoor Commission Programs | Q5c Outdoor Commission Programs | Q5d Non- School Playgrounds | Q5e Organized Athletic Fields | Q5f Open Space Areas |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| N | Valid | 137 | 138 | 250 | 246 | 244 |
| | Missing | 273 | 272 | 160 | 164 | 166 |
| Mean ^a | | 12 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 8 |
| Median | | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| Mode | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Std. Dev. | | 21 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 18 |
| Minimum | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maximum | | 150 | 200 | 365 | 150 | 365 |

^a Because the mean is highly influenced by outliers, and there only a few cases of these variables above 100, all values above 100 were truncated to 100 for purposes of calculating the mean and standard deviation.



Attitudes Toward the Mix of Space Usage

To ascertain preferred uses of athletic fields, playgrounds, and open space in Great Bend parks, the following survey item was used:

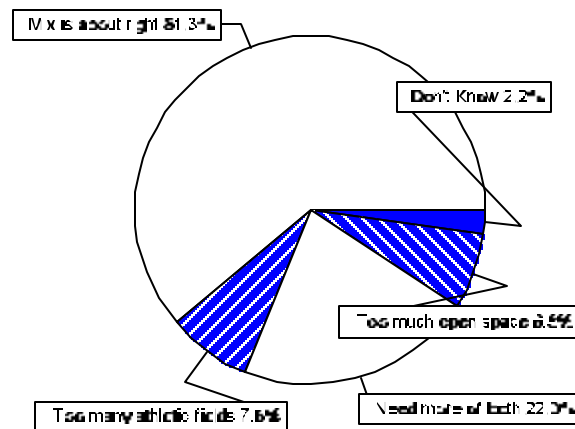
UCSR FACTOID:
22% OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS DESIRE MORE ATHLETIC FIELDS AND OPEN SPACE IN PARKS.

... do you think that there are 1) too many athletic fields/playgrounds and not enough open space, 2) too much open space and not enough athletic fields/playgrounds, 3) that the mix is about right as it is, or 4) Great Bend needs more athletic fields/playgrounds **and** more open space?

Figure 4 shows that the majority (about 61%) of respondents feel the mix between athletic fields/playgrounds and open space in parks is about right. The next largest percentage (22%

) prefer more of both athletic fields/playground

Figure 4
Preference for Mix of Usage (N=407)



s and open space. About 7% percent of the respondents feel

that there is currently too many athletic fields/playgrounds and

not enough open space, while nearly 7% feel that there is too much open space and not enough athletic fields/playgrounds.

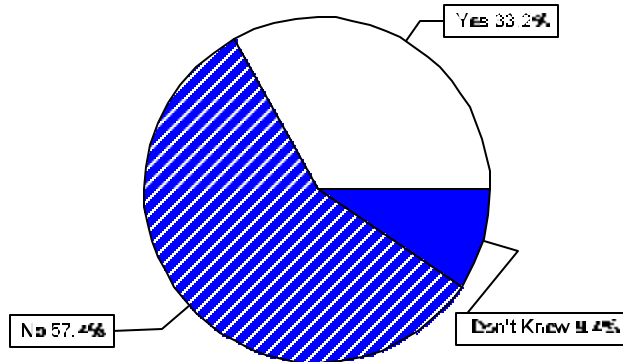


Respondents were also asked, “Would you prefer that athletic fields be located in one major complex.” Figure 5 shows that a majority (about 57%) do not prefer that athletic fields be concentrated in one major complex. About 33% do feel that athletic fields should be concentrated in one complex, and about 9% do not know.

UCSR FACTOID:
33% OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS PREFER THE CONCENTRATION OF ATHLETIC FIELDS IN ONE MAJOR COMPLEX.

An analysis (not shown) of a potential association between participation in recreation commission programs and a preference toward locating athletic fields in one major complex shows no significant relationship. In other words,

Figure 5
Preference for One Major Complex (N=410)





using commission programs has no influence on the desire to have athletic fields concentrated in a single complex.

Furthermore, there is no relationship between preference for athletic field concentration and the extent to which someone in the respondent's household uses city and/or school facilities.



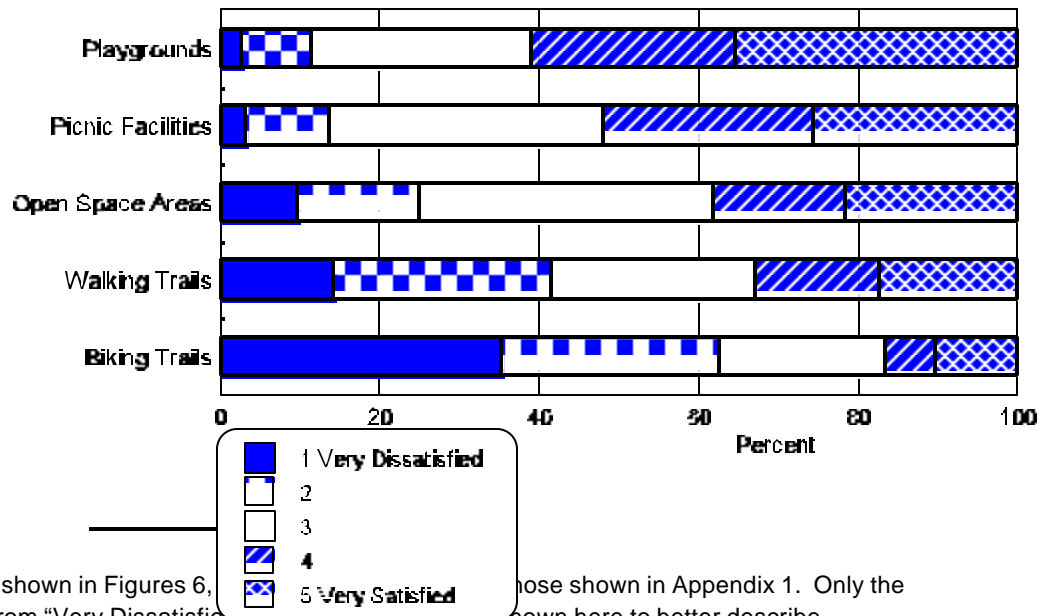
UCSR FACTOID:
35% PERCENT OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS ARE "VERY SATISFIED" WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF PLAYGROUNDS FOR

Satisfaction with Parks and Facility Availability

Respondents were also asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with a number of Great Bend Park and Recreation facilities on a scale from one to five, where 1 means “very dissatisfied” and 5 means “very satisfied.”¹ Of the facilities or areas reported in Figure 6 respondents express the most satisfaction with playgrounds for children, with about 35% giving it a 5 (very satisfied) and 25% giving it a 4 on the five point scale. Twenty-eight percent give playgrounds a 3, which can be interpreted as “neutral.” Eight percent give playgrounds a 2, and only about 2% give

Figure 6

Satisfaction with Availability (Chart 1)



¹ The frequencies shown in Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9 are those shown in Appendix 1. Only the response options ranging from “Very Dissatisfied” to “Very Satisfied” are shown here to better describe respondent satisfaction levels. In addition to these options, the “Don’t Know” responses are shown in the appendix.



UCSR FACTOID:
25% PERCENT OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS ARE "VERY SATISFIED" WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF PICNIC FACILITIES.

it a 1 (very dissatisfied).

Respondents tend towards being satisfied with the availability of picnic facilities and open space and natural areas. Both of these variables receive high "neutral" scores but more respondents express satisfaction than dissatisfaction with each. For example, a combined 51% of respondents give picnic areas a 4 or 5, while only a combined 13% give picnic areas a 1 or 2. Furthermore, a combined 37% of respondents give open areas a 4 or 5, while only a combined 24% give open areas a 1 or 2. Respondents tend towards being dissatisfied with walking trails, with more expressing dissatisfaction than satisfaction (a combined 40% give walking trails 1 or 2, while a combined 32% give walking trails 4 or 5).

The lowest level of satisfaction with availability of a facility reported in Figure 6 is found for biking trails, with more than 30% very dissatisfied with the availability of bike trails, and about 25% giving biking trails a 2 on the five point scale.

Figure 7 (on the next page) continues with the same satisfaction scale. Of the items in Figure 7, the highest levels of satisfaction with availability are found for Great Bend Recreation Commission Programs with slightly more than 40% of the respondents giving a 5 (very satisfied) and about 30% giving a 4 on the five point scale. Large multiple-use parks also receive very high marks, with about 35% scoring

them 5 and 28% giving them a 4.

Respondents tend towards being satisfied with the availability of neighborhood parks, with most respondents (about 30%) giving the “neutral” response of 3, but with about 45% expressing satisfaction (4 or 5) and about 23% expressing dissatisfaction (2 or 1).

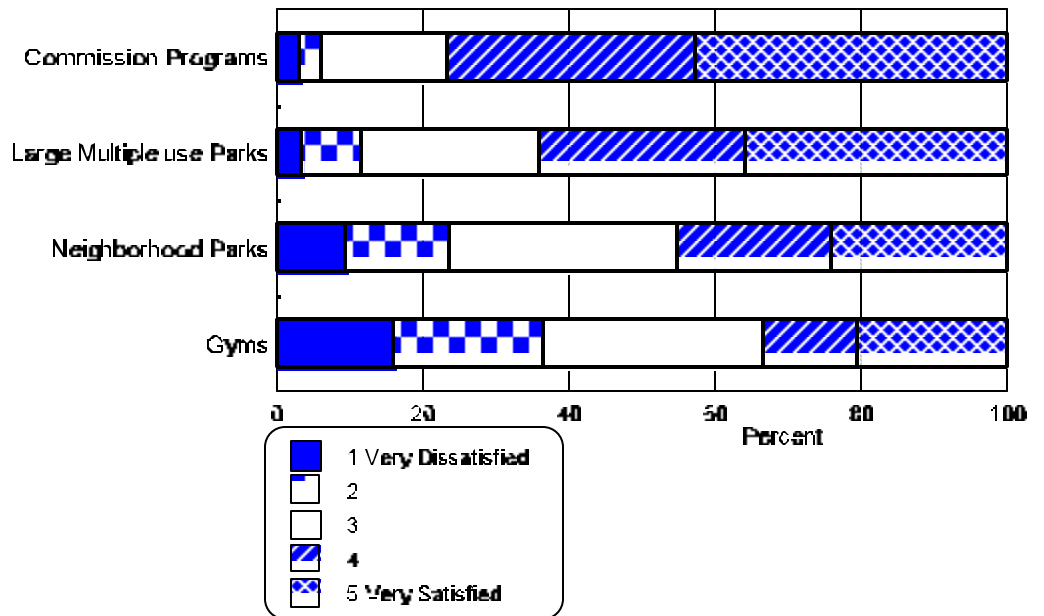


UCSR FACTOID:
23% PERCENT OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS ARE “VERY SATISFIED” WITH NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.

Respondents give the lowest level of availability satisfaction to gyms, with slightly more being dissatisfied (about 35%) than satisfied (about 35%).

Figure 8 (on the next page) shows that the highest levels of satisfaction with availability are expressed for baseball and

Figure 7
Satisfaction with Availability (Chart 2)



softball fields, with almost 40% giving them a 5 (very satisfied) and about 30% giving them a 4. Respondents are

generally satisfied with the availability of tennis courts, with about half of the respondents scoring them 4 or 5.

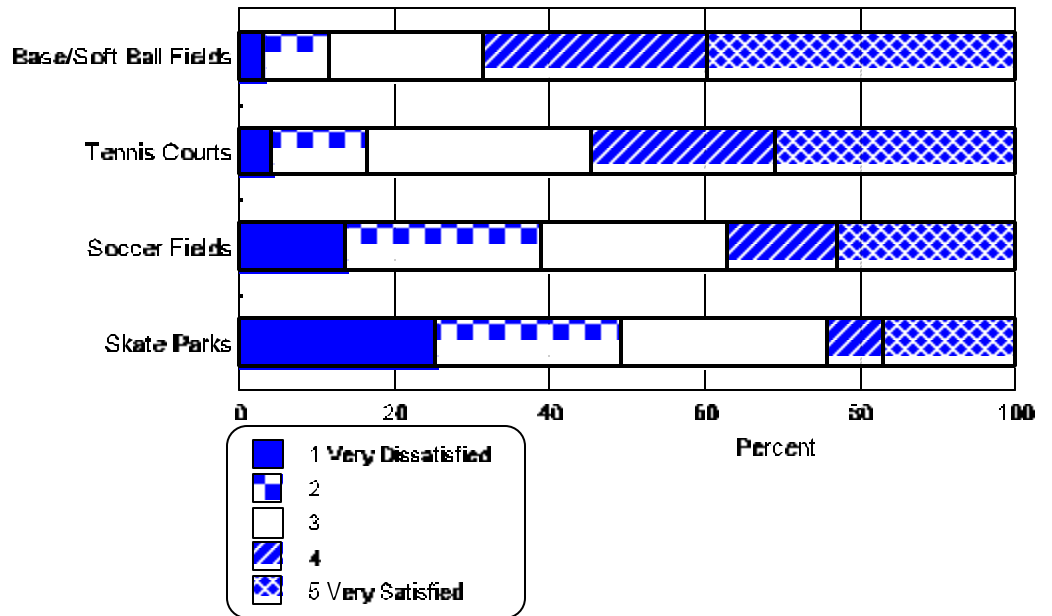


Respondents are split on the issues of availability of soccer fields, with about 20 giving a neutral response (3), and about 40% being generally satisfied (4 or 5) and about 40% being dissatisfied (1 or 2).

UCSR FACTOID:
40% PERCENT OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS ARE "VERY SATISFIED" WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF BASEBALL AND

Figure 8

Satisfaction with Availability (Chart 3)



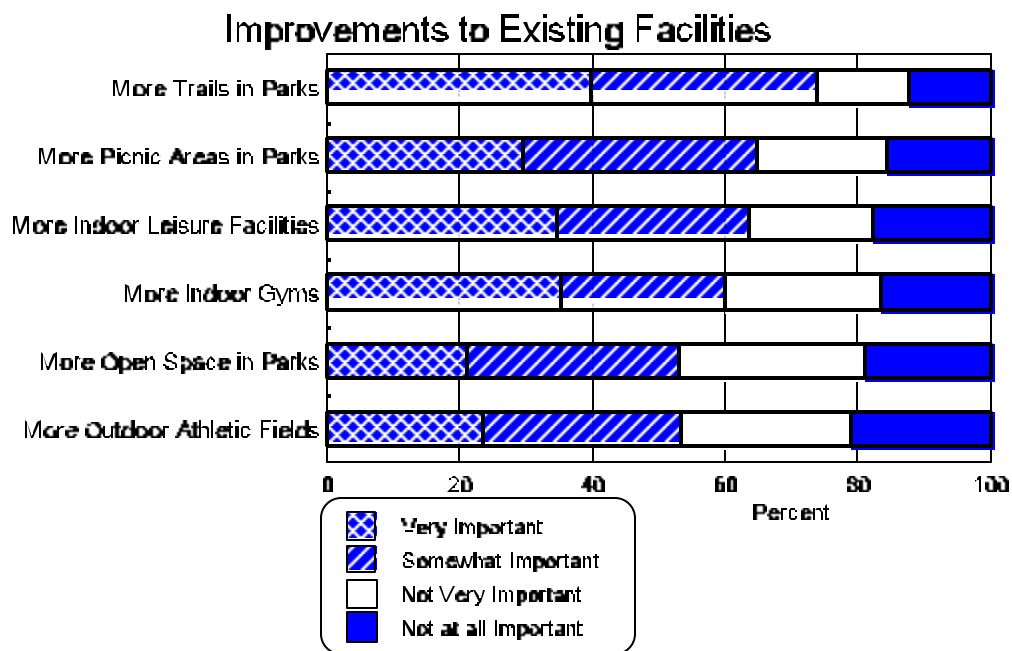
Improvements to Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities



UCSR FACTOID:
38% PERCENT OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS THINK IT IS "VERY IMPORTANT" TO ADD MORE TRAILS

Respondents were read a list of possible improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities and asked to indicate whether the improvement is "very important," "somewhat important," "not very important," or "not at all important."² Figure 9 shows that "adding more trails in parks" is the improvement with the largest percentage of respondents indicating "very important" or "somewhat important" (a combined 75%). Respondents indicate that the second area in most need of improvement is "more picnic areas in parks",

Figure 9



² The frequencies shown in Figure 9 vary slightly from those shown in Appendix 1. The response options ranging from "Very Important" to "Not at all Important" are shown, while the "Don't Know" responses are shown in the appendix.



UCSR FACTOID:

**34% PERCENT OF
GREAT BEND
RESIDENTS THINK
IT IS "SOMEWHAT
IMPORTANT" TO
ADD MORE PICNIC**

with a combined 65% indicating this as “very important” or “somewhat important.” About 63% feel that the “constructing more indoor leisure facilities like the recreation center building” is “very important” or “somewhat important.”

Improvements that respondents deem less important are “constructing more indoor gyms,” “adding more outdoor athletic fields,” and “creating more open space areas in existing parks,” with combined “very important” and “somewhat important” scores of about 60%, 55%, and 55%, respectively. It should be noted, however, that all of the proposed improvements are perceived by respondents as important (i.e., none of these options receive less than 50% combined “very important” and “somewhat important” scores).

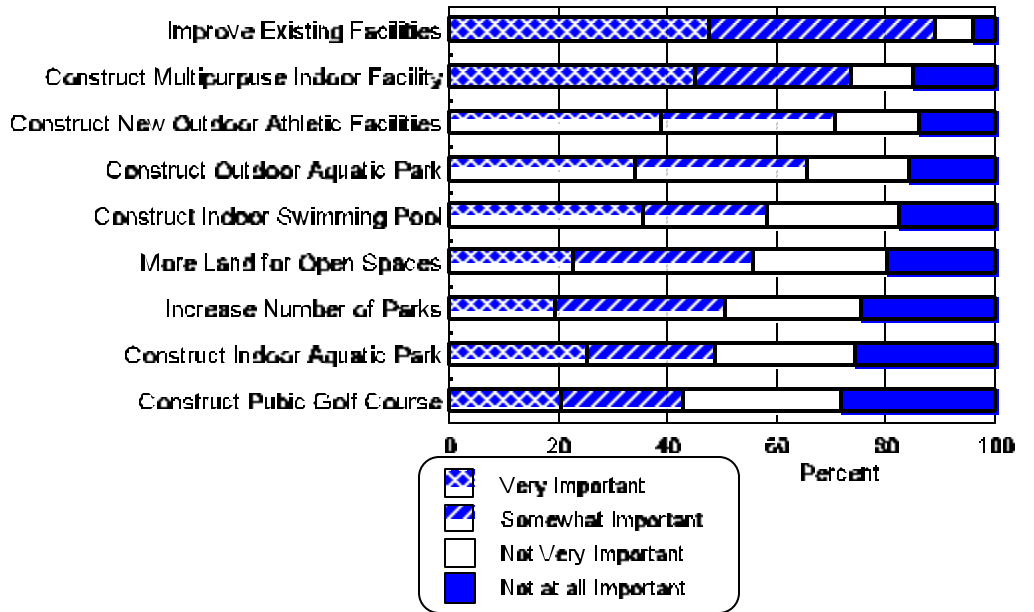
Importance of Substantial Changes to the Great Bend Parks and Recreation System



UCSR FACTOID:
47% PERCENT OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS THINK IT IS "VERY IMPORTANT" TO IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

Respondents were read a list of possible major/substantial changes to Great Bend parks and recreation facilities and again asked to indicate whether the improvement is "very important," "somewhat important," "not very important," or "not at all important."³ Included in the same list are the responses to a separate question but with the same response options that asks about "improving existing park facilities." This was included to measure the importance of making certain types of large changes relative to the importance of improving facilities

Figure 10
Major Changes to Parks/Rec System



³ The frequencies shown in Figure 10 vary slightly from those shown in Appendix 1. The response options ranging from "Very Important" to "Not at all Important" are shown, while the "Don't Know" responses are shown in the appendix.

that are already present.



UCSR FACTOID:
44% PERCENT OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS THINK IT IS "VERY IMPORTANT" TO CONSTRUCT A NEW MULTIPURPOSE INDOOR FACILITY.

Of the items shown in Figure 10 (on the previous page), the item with the largest percentage of respondents indicating "very important" (47%) and "somewhat important" (41%) is "improving existing park facilities."

The major change that respondents view as next in importance is "constructing a large multipurpose indoor facility" with about 72% of the respondents indicating that this is "very important" or "somewhat important." Next in importance is "constructing new outdoor facilities for organized athletics" with almost 70% viewing this as "very important" or "somewhat important."

An "outdoor aquatic park" and an "indoor swimming pool" both receive some support with 64% and 57% of the respondents indicating these ideas are "very important" or "somewhat important."

"Constructing an indoor aquatic park" and "constructing a public golf course" receive less support with only about 45% and 40% of the respondents indicating these ideas are "very important" or "somewhat important."

Support for Sales and Property Tax Increases to Fund Parks and Recreation Improvements



Final survey items measured support for a sales tax increase and a property tax increase to fund improvements. Figure 11 shows moderate support for a sales tax increase, with about 19% of respondents strongly supporting a sales tax increase to fund improvements to the parks and recreation system, and nearly 37% somewhat supporting an increase. However, almost 30% are strongly opposed to a sales tax increase.

UCSR FACTOID:
37% PERCENT OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS "SOMEWHAT SUPPORT" A SALES TAX INCREASE TO OFFSET

Figure 12 shows generally no support for a property tax increase, with about 60% of respondents strongly opposed to a tax increase of this type.

Figure 11

Support for Sales Tax Increase (N=401)

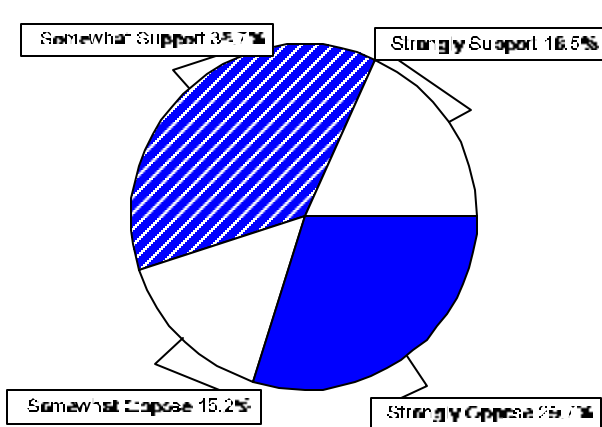
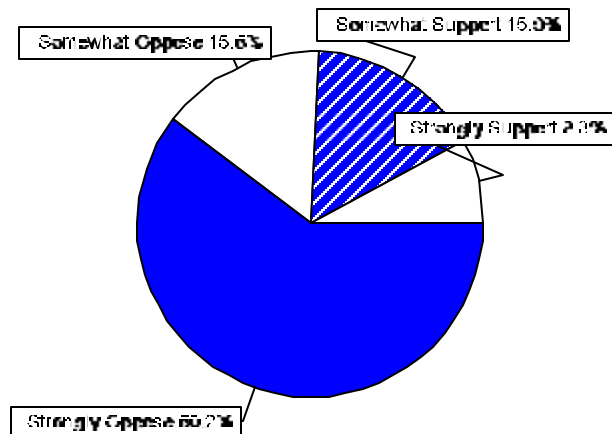


Figure 12

Support for Property Tax Increase (N=397)



Summary

About 42% of the households surveyed have a member that currently uses Recreation Commission programs. Of those facilities, respondent household members use non-school playgrounds most often, with non-school activity fields receiving the next most use.



SUMMARY:

**A BROAD AND
USUALLY BRIEF
ABSTRACT OR
COMPENDIUM OF
PREVIOUSLY
STATED FACTS
OR**

UCSR FACTOID:

**88% PERCENT OF
GREAT BEND
RESIDENTS THINK
IT IS "VERY
IMPORTANT" OR
"SOMEWHAT
IMPORTANT" TO
IMPROVE EXISTING
PARKS AND
RECREATION**

A majority (61%) feel the mix of open space and athletic fields/playgrounds in parks is about right, and a majority (57%) do not want athletic fields to be concentrated in one major complex. Overall, satisfaction with the availability of parks and recreation facilities tends to be high. Respondents are most satisfied with the availability with baseball and softball fields and least satisfied with the availability of skate parks and walking trails.

Among existing facilities, respondents describe "constructing more trails in parks" as the most important improvement needed, followed by "constructing more picnic facilities in parks." Among the list of possible major changes to the Great Bend parks and recreation system, those items respondents consider to be the most important are constructing a large multipurpose indoor facility and constructing new outdoor facilities for organized athletics. The items viewed as least important are building an indoor aquatic park and the construction of a new public golf course. About 88% of respondents think that improving existing parks, recreation, and athletic facilities is "very important" or "somewhat important."



There is moderate support for an increase in sales tax to fund improvements, with about 55% of the respondents either “somewhat supporting” or “strongly supporting” an increase.

There is less support for a property tax increase, with only 23% either “somewhat supporting” or “strongly supporting” the increase.

UCSR FACTOID:

55% PERCENT OF GREAT BEND RESIDENTS ARE “STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE” OR “SOMEWHAT SUPPORTIVE” OF A SALES TAX INCREASE TO OFFSET IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM.

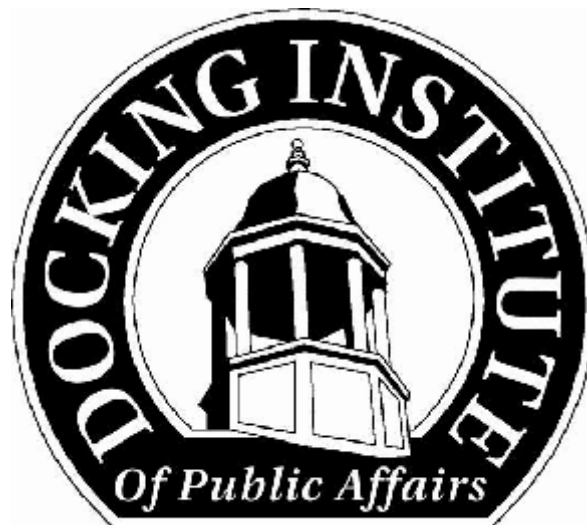


Appendix 1

Great Bend Parks and Recreation Survey Instrument

APPENDIX:

AUXILIARY
MATERIAL
PLACED AT THE
END OF A BOOK,
ARTICLE,
REPORT, OR
OTHER TEXT,
USUALLY OF AN
EXPLANATORY,
STATISTICAL, OR
BIBLIOGRAPHIC



| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|----|---|---|------|
| 51% | 24% | 24% | 1% | 0 | 0 | 100% |
|-----|-----|-----|----|---|---|------|

[SURVEYOR: SLOW DOWN WHEN READING THIS INFORMATION AND QUESTION!]

Several of our questions involve opinions on open space. For this survey, open space means areas like an open field and areas with vegetation in a park but no playground equipment, athletic facilities, or picnic facilities. Currently most parks in Great Bend are a mix of athletic fields and playgrounds with some open space.

Thinking of Great Bend parks **in general**, do you think that (1) there are too many athletic fields and playgrounds and not enough open space, (2) that there is too much open space and not enough athletic fields and playgrounds, (3) that the mix of athletic fields and playgrounds with open space is about right as it is, or (4) Great Bend needs more athletic fields and playgrounds **and** more open space? [Q3]

- 1 Too many athletic fields/playgrounds and not enough open space 7%
- 2 Too much open space and not enough athletic fields/playgrounds 7%
- 3 Mix is about right 61%
- 4 Parks need more athletic fields/playgrounds and more open space 22%
- 8 Don't Know 2%
- 9 No Answer 0.7%

Do you or other members of your household use Great Bend **Recreation Commission** programs? [Q4a]

- 1 YES 42%
- 2 NO 58%
- 8 Don't Know 0.2%
- 9 No Answer 0.0%

Over the past year, about how many times have you or someone in you family used any Great Bend Recreation Commission programs [Q4b] mean⁴ 12.4
.....median 4.0

Do you or other members of your household use City of Great Bend or School District recreation facilities, like playgrounds, athletic fields, parks, and indoor facilities? [Q5a]

- 1 YES 61%
- 2 NO 39%

⁴ Because the mean is highly influenced by outliers, and there only a few cases of these variables above 100, all values above 100 were truncated to 100 for purposes of calculating the mean.

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| 8 Don't Know | 0.0% |
| 9 No Answer | 0.0% |

Over the past year, about how many times have you or someone in your family used... [ENTER "0" IF NOT USED IN PAST YEAR]

- an indoor facility while participating in a Great Bend Recreation Commission program. [Q5b]
- an outdoor facility while participating in a Great Bend Recreation Commission program. [Q5c]
- a playground in Great Bend that is **not** a school playground. [Q5d]
- an organized athletic field in Great Bend that is **not** a school facility. [Q5e]
- an open space area. [Q5f]

| | | Q5b Indoor Commission Programs | Q5c Outdoor Commission Programs | Q5d Non- School Playgrounds | Q5e Organized Athletic Fields | Q5f Open Space Areas |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| N | Valid | 137 | 138 | 250 | 246 | 244 |
| | Missing | 273 | 272 | 160 | 164 | 166 |
| Mean ² | | 12 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 8 |
| Median | | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| Mode | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Std. Dev. | | 21 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 18 |
| Minimum | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maximum | | 150 | 200 | 365 | 150 | 365 |

² Because the mean is highly influenced by outliers, and there only a few cases of these variables above 100, all values above 100 were truncated to 100 for purposes of calculating the mean and standard deviation.

I am going to read several improvements that could be made to the existing City of Great Bend parks and recreation facilities. Please tell me whether you think each improvement is very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important.

- 1 VERY IMPORTANT
- 2 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
- 3 NOT VERY IMPORTANT
- 4 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 No Answer

| | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not Very Important | Not At All Important | Don't Know |
|---|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Adding more outdoor athletic fields [Q6a] | 23% | 29% | 25% | 20% | 3% |
| Creating more open space areas in parks [Q6b] | 21% | 31% | 28% | 18% | 2% |
| Constructing more trails in parks [Q6c] | 38% | 33% | 13% | 12% | 3% |
| Constructing more picnic areas in parks [Q6d] | 29% | 34% | 19% | 15% | 2% |
| Constructing more indoor gyms [Q6e] | 33% | 23% | 22% | 15% | 6% |
| Constructing more indoor leisure facilities like the recreation center building [Q6f] | 33% | 27% | 18% | 17% | 5% |

On a scale from 1 to 5, where (1) means "very dissatisfied" and (5) means "very satisfied", please rate your overall satisfaction with the availability of the following types of recreational areas in Great Bend.

[ENTER THE NUMBER MENTIONED, 8 Don't Know, 9 No Answer]

| | 1 Very Dissatisfied | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Very Satisfied | DK |
|--|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-----|
| Playgrounds for children [Q7a] | 2% | 8% | 26% | 24% | 34% | 4% |
| Picnic facilities [Q7b] | 3% | 10% | 34% | 26% | 25% | 2% |
| Walking trails [Q7c] | 14% | 26% | 25% | 15% | 17% | 3% |
| Biking trails [Q7d] | 30% | 23% | 18% | 5% | 9% | 14% |
| Open space/natural areas [Q7e] | 9% | 15% | 35% | 16% | 21% | 5% |
| Neighborhood parks [Q7f] | 9% | 14% | 30% | 21% | 23% | 3% |
| Large multiple use parks with playgrounds and open space like Veteran's Park [Q7g] | 4% | 8% | 24% | 28% | 35% | 1% |
| Soccer fields [Q7h] | 11% | 21% | 19% | 12% | 19% | 18% |
| Baseball and softball fields [Q7i] | 3% | 8% | 19% | 27% | 38% | 5% |
| Tennis courts [Q7j] | 4% | 11% | 26% | 22% | 28% | 9% |
| Skate parks [Q7k] | 21% | 20% | 22% | 6% | 14% | 17% |
| Gyms [Q7l] | 15% | 19% | 27% | 12% | 19% | 8% |
| Recreation Commission Programs [Q7m] | 3% | 3% | 16% | 31% | 39% | 8% |

Would you prefer that athletic fields be located in one major complex? [Q8]

1 YES 33%
 2 NO 57%
 8 Don't Know 9%
 9 No Answer 0.7%

I am going to read several possible changes for City of Great Bend and School District parks, recreation, and athletic facilities. Please tell me whether you think each change is very important, somewhat important, not very important, not at all important.

- 1 VERY IMPORTANT
- 2 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
- 3 NOT VERY IMPORTANT
- 4 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 No Answer

| | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not Very Important | Not At All Important | DK |
|--|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----|
| Constructing new outdoor facilities for organized athletics like little league baseball, softball, soccer, and football [Q9a] | 38% | 31% | 15% | 14% | 2% |
| Constructing a large multipurpose indoor facility for activities like indoor soccer, basketball, volleyball, leisure programs, and a walking track [Q9b] | 44% | 28% | 11% | 15% | 2% |
| Getting more land for open space areas [Q9c] | 22% | 32% | 23% | 19% | 3% |
| Increasing the number of parks [Q9d] | 19% | 31% | 24% | 24% | 2% |
| Constructing an indoor swimming pool [Q9e] | 35% | 22% | 24% | 17% | 1% |
| Constructing an outdoor aquatic park facility with things like slides, a lazy river, and diving boards [Q9f] | 33% | 31% | 18% | 15% | 2% |
| Constructing an indoor aquatic park facility with things like slides, a diving well, lap lanes, and water play toys [Q9g] | 24% | 22% | 25% | 25% | 3% |
| Constructing a public golf course [Q9h] | 20% | 21% | 28% | 27% | 4% |

Please tell me whether you think that improving the existing parks, recreation, and athletic facilities is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important. [Q9i]

- 1 VERY IMPORTANT 47%
- 2 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT 41%
- 3 NOT VERY IMPORTANT 7%

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| 4 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT | 4% |
| 8 Don't Know | 0.5% |
| 9 No Answer | 0.2% |

Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a **sales tax** increase that would be used to make improvements to the parks and recreation system? [Q10a]

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| 1 STRONGLY SUPPORT | 18% |
| 2 SOMEWHAT SUPPORT | 36% |
| 3 SOMEWHAT OPPOSE | 15% |
| 4 STRONGLY OPPOSE | 29% |
| 8 Don't Know | 2% |
| 9 No Answer | 0.0% |

Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a **property tax** increase that would be used to make improvements to the parks and recreation system? [Q10a]

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| 1 STRONGLY SUPPORT | 8% |
| 2 SOMEWHAT SUPPORT | 15% |
| 3 SOMEWHAT OPPOSE | 15% |
| 4 STRONGLY OPPOSE | 58% |
| 8 Don't Know | 3% |
| 9 No Answer | 0.2% |

Is there any thing else you would like to mention about the Great Bend parks system or the Great Bend Recreation Commission? [Q11] **SEE APPENDIX 2**

Now I'd like to ask a few questions about yourself.

About how many years have you lived in Great Bend? [Q12] mean 29
 median 30

What year were you born? [Q13] mean 1949
 median 1951

Are you registered to vote? [Q14]

| | |
|--------------|------|
| 1 YES | 84% |
| 2 NO | 15% |
| 8 Don't Know | 0.5% |
| 9 No Answer | 0.2% |

Was your total family income for the last year above or below \$30,000? [Q15]

[IF BELOW \$30,000, READ THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES]

- 1 Was it less than \$10,000, 4%
- 2 Between \$10,000 and \$20,000, 14%
- 3 or between \$20,000 and \$30,000? 13%

[IF ABOVE \$30,000, READ THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES]

- 4 Was it between \$30,000 and \$40,000, 16%
- 5 Between \$40,000 and \$50,000, 12%
- 6 Between \$50,000 and \$60,000, 11%
- 7 Between \$60,000 and \$70,000, 6%
- 8 or was it over \$70,000? 8%
- 9 No Answer 16%

Okay, that's all the questions I have. Thank you very much for your participation.

Was the respondent [Q21]

- 1 Female 53%
- 2 Male 47%



Appendix 2

Great Bend Parks and Recreation Survey Instrument

Open-ended Question Responses

APPENDIX:

AUXILIARY
MATERIAL
PLACED AT THE
END OF A BOOK,
ARTICLE,
REPORT, OR
OTHER TEXT,
USUALLY OF AN
EXPLANATORY,
STATISTICAL, OR
BIBLIOGRAPHIC



| Response Themes | Frequenc y | % of Total |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Satisfied with facilities/enjoy recreation programs | 47 | 27.5 % |
| Director and/or personnel do a good job/great improvements made recently | 43 | 25.1 % |
| Improvements Suggested: | | |
| Need better maintenance on outdoor facilities/better management of outdoor programs | 14 | 8.2 % |
| Need more for children/better management of children's programs | 13 | 7.6 % |
| Need better maintenance on indoor facilities/better management of indoor programs | 8 | 4.7 % |
| Need to improve pool facilities/support indoor aquatic facility | 7 | 4.1 % |
| Need to expand/improve zoo | 4 | 2.3 % |
| Need more for elderly/better management of elderly programs | 3 | 1.7 % |
| Need to clean parks/maintain restrooms | 3 | 1.7 % |
| Need more lights in parks | 2 | 1.2 % |
| Need place to walk/exercise in winter | 2 | 1.2 % |
| Need better publicity | 2 | 1.2 % |
| Need more open space/parks on east side | 2 | 1.2 % |
| Need more activities on west side | 1 | .6 % |
| Need hockey rink | 1 | .6 % |
| Need more public fishing facilities | 1 | .6 % |
| Miscellaneous Answers | 8 | 4.7 % |
| Have enough fields, parks, programs | 10 | 5.8 % |
| Total | 171 | 100 % |

