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Guidelines for Evaluating Public Parks and Recreation

James A. Peterson

W. Donald Martin
Guidelines for Evaluating Public Parks and Recreation

- Open Space - Facilities - Programs

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Cooperative Extension Service • Purdue University • West Lafayette, Indiana
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Checklist of Information Needed in Order to Complete This Evaluation

Section I—Open Space Evaluation

☐ Knowledge of the total amount of park acreage existing in your community.

☐ Knowledge of the size of each park in your community.

☐ A current copy of your community and/or park and recreation master plan if one is available.

☐ A map of your community indicating where your parks are located.

Section II—Facility Evaluation

☐ A current copy of your community and/or park and recreation master plan if one is available.

☐ A list of all public facilities used for recreational purposes.

Section III—Program Evaluation

☐ Knowledge of any agreements which allow for the use of public facilities, such as schools, libraries, etc., beyond their normal period of operation or in conjunction with their daily operation.

☐ Knowledge of all activities which public and quasi-public agencies in your community may sponsor, such as park and recreation departments, libraries, schools, YM/YWCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.

☐ Knowledge of the methods used in your community to promote recreational activities.

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How This Publication Will and Will Not Help You

This publication will...
- help you determine how your agency compares with state and national guidelines concerning park facilities and programs.
- pinpoint areas of concern that may require more detailed analysis.
- aid planners, landscape architects, and other park and recreation specialists serve your special needs.
- serve as an aid to convince local authorities, corporations, foundations and private citizens of the need to expand your facilities and programs.

This publication will not...
- make a park and recreation planning expert out of the person(s) using it; nor does it attempt to do so.
- equate one community with another, but tends to generalize into broad categories possible community strengths and weaknesses.
- make recommendations on specific procedures that need to be applied to alleviate a particular problem. Please refer to the technical assistance page for further information.
- serve to fulfill all state regulations for participation in the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Local Government's Responsibility in Providing Leisure Services, Open Space Areas and Recreational Facilities

The question is often asked, “Why should a community provide park and recreation services? Where does a community’s responsibility begin and end?”

A community’s responsibility begins by providing a basic park, recreation, and leisure service system. It ends when an acceptable balance of service from all community resources is reached, as determined by the people.
- The city park, with its great promise for recreation, beauty, and balance in our urban environment, is an essential part of what makes life in the city worthwhile.
- The quality of park and recreation services is a reflection on the entire city—on the appointed park board, on elected officials. It is a mirror of their perception of what life in the city is all about.
- Leisure, used in a constructive manner, is basic to the self-fulfillment and life enrichment of the individual and therefore helps to strengthen the stability of the family, the community, and the nation.
- How people use their leisure time is an important social question. By providing recreation resources, a community is contributing to the physical, mental, and social health of its residents.
- Leisure and recreation are recognized as effective ways to enhance life in a community by developing leadership potential and stimulating popular participation for community betterment.
- It is only through public recreation services that a large portion of the population will have access to many recreational facilities, such as pools, tennis courts, picnic areas, and golf courses.
- Recreation and leisure services consume space. Local government is best suited to acquire, develop, and maintain that space in the best interest of the entire community.
- Government sponsorship of recreation services assumes equal participation by all ages, races, and creeds, all seasons of the year; it is democratic and inclusive.
- It is only through government that equitable fair-share financing is available for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of park facilities and programs.
- A park and recreation board can, through cooperative agreements with school boards, library boards, and other governmental agencies, energize and maximize the leisure and recreation potential of a community.
What Should Your Park System Look Like?

Local/Close-to-Home Space:
(6.25-10.5 acres per 1,000 population)

Community Park*
Use: Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.

Service area: Several neighborhoods; 1 to 3 mile radius.

Desirable size: 25+ acres

Space guideline: 5 to 8 acres/1,000

Desirable characteristics: May include natural features such as bodies of water, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhoods served.

Neighborhood Park*
Use: Areas for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, etc.

Service area: 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000(a neighborhood).

Desirable size: 15+ acres

Space guideline: 1.0 to 2.0 acres/1,000

Desirable characteristics: Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population—geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as school-park facility.

Mini-Park*
Use: Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.

Service area: Less than 1/4 mile radius

Desirable size: 1 acre or less

Space guideline: 0.25 to 0.5 acres/1,000

Desirable characteristics: Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse developments, or housing of the elderly.


Space That May Be Local or Regional and Is Unique to Each Community:
(No applicable space guideline)

Almost every community has environmental corridors, flood plains, or unique resources that should be an integral part of the community's open space system. Efforts should be made by local government to acquire and protect such properties. Examples of these areas are as follows:

Linear Parks: Areas developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, jogging, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, canoeing, pleasure driving, etc.

Special use areas: Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboretas, gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, downhill ski areas, etc.

Conservancy areas: Unique natural or cultural areas with recreation use as a secondary objective.

**COMMUNITY PARK**
## HOW MUCH PARK LAND SHOULD YOUR COMMUNITY HAVE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of community</th>
<th>Community parks</th>
<th>Neighborhood parks</th>
<th>Mini-parks</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (acres)</td>
<td>5.8-8.0 acres per 1,000 pop.</td>
<td>1.0-2.0 acres per 1,000 pop.</td>
<td>.25-.50 acres per 1,000 pop.</td>
<td>6.25-10.5 acres per 1,000 pop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>.25-0.5</td>
<td>6.25-10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>.50-1.0</td>
<td>12.50-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>.75-1.5</td>
<td>19.00-31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>1.00-2</td>
<td>25.00-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>25-40</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>1.25-2.5</td>
<td>31.00-53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>50-80</td>
<td>10-20</td>
<td>2.50-5</td>
<td>63.00-105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>75-120</td>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>3.75-7.5</td>
<td>94.00-158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>100-160</td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>5.00-10</td>
<td>125.00-210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>125-200</td>
<td>25-50</td>
<td>6.25-12.5</td>
<td>156.00-263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>250-400</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>12.50-25</td>
<td>313.00-525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>500-800</td>
<td>100-200</td>
<td>25.00-50</td>
<td>625.00-1050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refer to this table to determine how much land there should be in your park system based on the size of your city. For example, if your city has a population of 38,000, you would combine the suggested ranges for populations of 25,000, 10,000, and 3,000 to arrive at the appropriate range for your community. Using this formula, a city of 38,000 should have in the range of 190-304 acres of community parks, 38-76 acres of neighborhood parks, and 10-19 acres of mini-parks.

## How Do You Compare?

Inventory your park lands and compare the acreage with the ranges in the table. Answer question 1 in the chart below using the following scale:

- **3** = top 1/4 of the range or higher
- **2** = middle of the range
- **1** = lower 1/4 of the range
- **0** = below minimum in the range

### Top

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Please circle number in appropriate column)</th>
<th>Top</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Below range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How does your community compare with the chart above for park land of each type?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-Parks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total park acreage (a combination of all types)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Has your community completed a long range plan within the past five years for parks and recreation?

3. In addition to the master plan above, or contained within, does your community have a specific plan for future park land acquisition and development?

4. Has your town’s master plan been accepted by the Division of Outdoor Recreation for participation in the Land and Water Conservation Fund?

5. Does your community have a board or commission (e.g., Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works and Safety) that is charged with the responsibility for acquisition, development, and maintenance of public land for recreational purposes?

6. Are your park lands and open space distributed throughout the community so each citizen can walk to a park?

### What Is Your Range?

27 - 24 = It appears your community is meeting the minimal standards for community space allocations and proper development of these areas.

23 - 15 = Your community should address itself to acquiring needed park land and/or have professional planning started to enable proper development.

14 - 0 = Your community should be concerned about the provision of park lands. Both your land acreage and initiation in planning for parks and recreation areas is not in proper proportion with existing state and national planning guidelines. Your community should begin to give greater attention to park and recreation land acquisition and planning.
Why Should a Community Plan for Leisure Services?

1. Plans are made to meet expected change. As an example, a community might plan to extend and improve existing park and recreational facilities to accommodate increased population.

2. Desired change requires planning to be accomplished. For instance, landscaping a riverfront might be planned to make the community more attractive.

3. Planning is a means to prevent undesirable change. Downtown beautification is an example of planning as a precaution against community deterioration.

Savings Resulting from Planning

1. Savings resulting from advance land acquisition.

2. Savings resulting from eliminating conflicting public uses.

3. Savings resulting from postponing or eliminating premature or uneconomic projects.

4. Savings resulting from projects constructed in advance of apparent need.

5. Planning encourages gifts of land and money.

6. Savings resulting from early financial planning.

7. Savings resulting from preparedness for unforeseen developments.

8. Savings resulting from sharing community information collected for other purposes.

Open Space

Guidelines for Evaluating Land Acquisition

As you work through this section, keep the following guidelines in mind.

- These prepared guidelines are based on recommendations established by the National Recreation and Park Association.

- The design of individual open space should emphasize variety and avoid park stereotypes. The charts shown represent only a general concept of space utilization to help the reader visualize the areas being discussed.

- Land guidelines must reflect the particular resources and needs of each individual community. The guidelines set forth are general and their application to all communities in Indiana should only serve, as the title indicates, as "guidelines."

- A prime responsibility of government is to preserve those natural areas of land still remaining and to insure protection of these areas for future generations. If an area has unique land characteristics, a major effort should be made to acquire this property even if the acreage exceeds the guidelines listed.

- These guidelines represent a minimum for land acreage and should not be interpreted as ideal or maximum.
Facilities

Guidelines for Evaluating Community Recreational Facilities

As you work through this section, keep the following guidelines in mind.

- These prepared guidelines are based on scales established by the National Recreation and Park Association.
- These prepared guidelines are based on an incremental scale reflecting the practicality of a community size, budget, and space limitations.

- When using these guidelines, facilities associated with public organizations, such as schools, should be included in the determination provided these facilities are open to the general public on a regular basis.

- Even though a community has met the minimal standards outlined for facilities, this is not necessarily a reflection of the type or quality of service offered. Therefore, the effectiveness of the facility may be reduced and not meet the minimal amount of people it was designed to serve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Facility</th>
<th>No. of Units per Population</th>
<th>Service Radius</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball (official)</td>
<td>1 per 5000 (lighted, 1/30,000)</td>
<td>1/4 to 1/2 mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)</td>
<td>1/4 to 1/2 mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1 per 5,000</td>
<td>1/4 to 1/2 mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1 court per 2,000</td>
<td>1/4 to 1/2 mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1 court per 5,000</td>
<td>1/4 to 1/2 mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>1 per 20,000</td>
<td>15 to 30 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>travel time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>1 per 10,000</td>
<td>1 - 2 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pools</td>
<td>1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time)</td>
<td>15 to 30 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>travel time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf (9 hole standard)</td>
<td>1 per 25,000</td>
<td>1/2 to 1 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(18 hole standard)</td>
<td>1 per 50,000</td>
<td>travel time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice hockey</td>
<td>Indoor - 1 per 100,000</td>
<td>1/2 to 1 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>travel time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: The above-mentioned facilities are desirable in small communities, even though their population may actually be less than the guideline. Also efforts should be made to light appropriate facilities for night use, thus extending their utility.
## Facilities Check List

(Please circle number in appropriate column)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Almost</th>
<th>To Some Degree</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Has your community completed a long-range plan for parks and recreation?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Based on the population of your community and using preceding charts, does your community meet the established minimum guidelines for facilities?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Have you ever conducted any type of community survey to establish how effective your facilities are in reaching the people in your community?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Does your agency have any written or verbal joint arrangements with the schools to use the facilities for general recreation purposes beyond the normal school day?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Does your community have a non-reverting capital improvement fund for parks and recreation development? (Capital improvements include pools, buildings, land acquisition and development, etc.)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Are your facilities totally accessible to the handicapped (e.g., ramps where needed, accessible parking for handicapped, etc.)?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Column Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What Is Your Range?

18-16 = Your community is meeting a minimal standard in providing services to the community through use of facilities (see page 11).

15-9 = Your community should address itself to developing and expanding its facility base for parks and recreation (see page 11).

9-0 = Your community has a potential limitation in delivering leisure services. Basic facilities available to the public are not in proportion to the size of your community (see page 11).

### Have You Considered These Facilities?

| Aquaria | Arboreta | Arenas & coliseums | Beaches | Bike right-of-ways | Boccie courts | Botanical gardens | Campgrounds | Casting pools | Coasting & tobogganng areas | Cultural centers | Day camps | Environmental studies areas | Exercise/Fitness trails | Fishing piers | Football fields | Handball/Racquetball courts | Hiking & riding trails | Historic building preservation | Horseshoe courts | Jogging pathways | Lake & water sports | Libraries | Libraries—bikes, canoes, horses | Nature centers | Nature trails | Picnic areas | Public access areas | Running tracks | Scenic overlooks | Shuffleboard courts | Ski centers | Soccer fields | Spray pools | Stables | Stadiums | Surfaced play areas | Community centers | Volleyball courts | Wading pools | Wildlife preserves | Zoological parks |
|---------|----------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|---------|---------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
Program Section
Guidelines for Evaluating Community Recreation Programs

As you work through this section, keep the following guidelines in mind:

☐ The recreation program should attempt to meet the individual and group needs and desires of the people.

☐ The recreation program should be diversified. All too often, recreation means only sports and games, although the scope of recreation is limitless, covering programs from aquatics to visiting the zoo.

☐ The program should provide equal opportunity for all regardless of race, creed, social status, economic need, sex, age, interest, or mental and physical capacity.

☐ Programs should be offered at a wide variety of times to meet the diverse living schedules of the population.

☐ Recreation programs for the community should be planned and coordinated through a central agency to make best use of community facilities and personnel resources, not to mention making things less complex for the citizens.

☐ Leadership must be employed as the backbone of recreation offerings. It is the responsibility of the local recreation agency to seek out, train and extensively develop the talents of people to meet this capacity.

☐ Adequate financial backing is necessary if programs are to succeed. Statutory regulations have been established to help make funds available for recreation programs.

☐ Programs should be constantly re-evaluated both during and after programs in light of set objectives and public acceptance. Records should be kept concerning this information.

☐ Programs should be offered in each season of the year.

General Program Inventory

Preface

The intent of this section is to identify the scope and variety of public recreational programs offered in your community. The purpose is not to evaluate or make judgments of program offerings. By checking the appropriate boxes, you will be able to look at your current program offerings and observe how they are balanced.

Directions

Place a ( ) in the appropriate box in which your community offers public park and recreation programs. By using a different symbol (use key) identify program offerings by other agencies in your community.

In the example it is obvious that the five agencies included in the analysis are providing only minimal recreational opportunities. Preschoolers have been completely ignored; young adults and the disabled have few programs offered. Program areas such as arts and crafts, social recreation, and special events for all age groups are practically non-existent.

To get a more accurate picture of year-around planning this overview of spring programs should be coupled with the summer, fall, and winter inventories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
<th>SPRING—March</th>
<th>APRIL, MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTS &amp; CRAFTS—ceramics, painting, leadership, etc.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE—social, folk, square, etc.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENTAL—book clubs, lectures, puzzles</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSIC—band concerts, choirs, glee clubs, etc.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTDOOR RECREATION—nature programs, trails, gardens, etc.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL RECREATION—banquets, parties, fun-night, etc.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOBBIES—hobby clubs, hobby shows, talks and demonstrations</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERVICE ACTIVITIES—voluntary programs, leadership programs, commission or advisory membership</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL EVENTS—city-wide festivals, fish fries, athletic contests</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS &amp; GAMES—sport leagues, tournaments, bridge, chess, etc.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAMA—theatrical productions, playground skits, storytelling, etc.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KEY

☑ PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
★ PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
● YM-YWCA
☐ CHURCH GROUPS
▲ LIBRARY
In order to have a complete inventory of activities for the entire year it is suggested that you photocopy the chart below and complete an inventory for the fall, winter, spring, and summer seasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>PRE-SCHOOL</th>
<th>ELEMENTARY</th>
<th>JR HIGH</th>
<th>SR HIGH</th>
<th>YOUNG ADULTS</th>
<th>ALL AGES</th>
<th>SPECIAL POP.</th>
<th>DISABLED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APRIL—March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTS &amp; CRAFTS—ceramics, painting, leathercrafts, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE—social, folk, square, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENTAL—book clubs, lectures, puzzles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSIC—band concerts, choruses, glee clubs, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTDOOR RECREATION—nature programs, trails, gardens, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>SOCIAL RECREATION—banquets, parties, fun-night, etc.</td>
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<td>HOBBIES—hobby clubs, hobby shows, talks and demonstrations</td>
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<td>SERVICE ACTIVITIES—voluntary programs, leadership programs, commission or advisory membership</td>
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<td>SPECIAL EVENTS—city-wide festivals, fish fries, athletic contests</td>
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<td>SPORTS &amp; GAMES—sport leagues, tournaments, bridge, chess, etc.</td>
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<td>DRAMA—theatrical productions, playground skits, storytelling, etc.</td>
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**Program Discussion Questions**

1. Looking at the overall inventory you have just completed, does it appear that there is a balance of program offerings when comparing one season with the others? If not, where is there an imbalance?

2. Looking again at the inventory, do there appear to be recreational opportunities for each age level and both sexes in all seasons?

3. Does your community offer recreational opportunities for special populations (all types of disabled) in each season?

4. In what area does there seem to be an abundance of program offerings?

5. Is there any individual or group of individuals who are excluded from participating in these programs because of transportation restrictions? (Either they don’t have cars, or perhaps are disabled and can’t get to the program, or a major intersection is the prohibitive problem.)

6. Could the cost of any of the programs offered be prohibitive to any individual? If so, what might be done to alleviate this problem?

7. What are your current methods for promoting activity programs? Can you think of any other ways to reach the people?

8. Has your community conducted a recreational attitude interest survey?

9. Has your park and recreation department established a non-reverting operating fund which allows for expanding recreation activities on a fee basis?

10. Have you considered the commercial sector in providing recreation services to the public, e.g., movie theaters, bowling alleys, etc.? Consider the types of persons who may be excluded from using these facilities.

**Recreational Program Summary**

As stated earlier, the inventory and accompanying questions are only to serve as guidelines for making observations and raising pertinent questions. If, after answering these questions, there appears to be a potential or identifiable problem in the area of recreational programming, turn to the technical assistance page and consult the sources listed for advice and/or help.
What Does It Mean?

Now that you have completed open space, facility, and program services evaluations, or have chosen only to investigate a particular segment of your operation, you are probably ready to take some sort of action. BUT WHAT TYPE?

It is understandable that your community will fall into one of two categories after the evaluation: 1) SATISFACTORY or 2) AN EXISTING OR POTENTIAL CONCERN. In either case, some specific steps should be taken.

Satisfactory (meeting minimal standards)

☐ Check with the Division of Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, to make sure your current master plan is in accordance with recommended state guidelines. Determine if you are still eligible for participation in the Land and Water Fund (50% federal matching program for land acquisition and development).

☐ Consider special research studies on needs and attitudes taking place in your community.

☐ Don’t become complacent, particularly if you are on the low side of the satisfactory scale. This evaluation deals with minimal standards, and if your community is to maintain a satisfactory rating, you must continue to move ahead. No community stands still—it either progresses or falls behind.

☐ Avoid obsolescence by joining the Indiana Park and Recreation Association and the National Recreation and Park Association; attend state, regional, and national workshops and conferences.

Existing or Potential Concerns

☐ If your community has an existing or potential concern about delivery of leisure services, contact one of the technical assistance resources listed on this page or consider employing a professional planning firm to develop a long-range program that will bring your community up to satisfactory standards.

☐ Write to the Park and Recreation Specialist for his mimeographs on “Park and Recreation Consultants—Guidelines for Selection” and “Master Planning for Parks and Recreation.”

Summary

This publication has been developed to assist you and your community in determining the present status of your park and recreation system and to help you identify and think about your community’s leisure service in an organized manner. Its purpose is not to evaluate or make judgments about specific problem identification but to help you look at the potential and vast sources of opportunities for creative agency development and service.

Technical Assistance—Where to Write or Call

I. Primary Contacts

Cooperative Extension Service—each county in Indiana has an Extension Office capable of referring you to local, area, or university resources to assist you on problems relating to soils, forestry, turf management, wildlife management, lake and pond management, surveying population data, community development and planning—call your county Extension Agent for assistance.

II. Park and Recreation Specialist, Indiana/Purdue Universities

James A. Peterson
Room 133, HPER Building
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 335-8037

III. Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation

Room 612
State Office Building
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-4070
Selected State and National Resources

American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
1900 Association Drive
Reston, VA 22091

American Camping Assn.
Bradford Woods
Martinsville, IN 46151

Athletic Institute
Merchandise Mart, Room 805
Chicago, IL 60656

Bicycle Manufacturers Assn. of America, Inc.
1101 Fifteenth St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Ice Skating Institute of America
1000 Skokie Boulevard
Wilmette, IL 60091

Indiana Arts Commission
155 East Market St. 6th Floor
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Indiana Committee for the Humanities
4200 North Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Indiana Department on Aging and Community Services
115 North Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Indiana Park and Recreation Assn.
HPER 148
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

National Golf Foundation, Inc.
804 Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL 60654

National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102

National Recreation and Park Assn.
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

National Rifle Assn. of America
1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

National Swimming Pool Foundation
2000 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
Corporate Square West, Suite 2200
5010 Crawfordsville Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46224

United States Lawn Tennis Assn.
51 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, State of Indiana, Purdue University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. H. A. Wadsworth, Director, West Lafayette, IN. Issued in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. It is the policy of the Cooperative Extension Service of Purdue University that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.