

## 5.1 Parks & Recreation

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Assessment Process	
<b>A.</b>	A Vision 20/20 survey was distributed in the year 2000, the results of which are still being utilized as a tool to gauge the wants and needs of the community.
<b>B.</b>	A web site and email access was established to ensure constituents could both receive and comment on parks & recreation information and plans.
<b>C.</b>	The volunteer boards that direct Parks & Recreation are spokespersons and information gatherers, who regularly assess the needs of the community through conversations with constituents. They meet regularly to process and validate information and plan responses.

Program Standards	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Organization:</b> The Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Lamar is supervised by a Parks and Recreation Director, a city department head. The Director reports to the City Administrator. Various aspects of the operation of the department are directed by volunteer boards; a Park Board, Pool Board, and the Recreation Board, all of which are advisory committees and policy-influencing and policy-making bodies.
<b>B.</b>	<b>Mission Statement:</b> To provide quality parks and recreational facilities and opportunities to all segments of the community in order to enhance the quality of life for the Lamar area.
<b>C.</b>	<b>Program Development &amp; Improvements:</b> The Lamar Parks & Recreation Department includes in its operation a plan for development and improvement. Each of the volunteer boards has a vision plan which is updated periodically after periods of evaluation and strategic planning.
<b>D.</b>	<b>Maintenance:</b> The Lamar Parks and Recreation Department has a permanent staff of maintenance personnel dedicated to the upkeep of parks properties and the improvement of facilities. Daily, weekly and monthly checklists are utilized to ensure all items are reviewed and maintained properly.
<b>E.</b>	<b>Recreation and Leisure:</b> A year round program of recreational opportunities is integral to the mission. Programs include youth sports, water fitness, Community Theater, etc., and collaboration with area schools to support their recreational and artistic programs. The program collaborates heavily with the schools to share facilities and skilled personnel. Periodic assessment tools - surveys, checklists, interviews, etc. - are utilized to gauge the extent to which the department is reaching its goal to serve all segments of the community.
<b>F.</b>	<b>Personnel:</b> The Parks & Recreation Department hires six permanent full and part-time employees, and up to seventy seasonal employees. Staff training and high standards are keys to professional staff that provide services for Parks & Recreation. Volunteers are trained in job expectations for youth sports. Paid staff are trained and tested on safety issues related to their positions. Supervisors are part of a management team that meets regularly to discuss safety, employee/resource management, and character building.
<b>G.</b>	<b>Budget:</b> Funds to operate the Parks & Recreation Department are part of the city's annual budget. Projects are also funded by grants, donations, and user fees. Capital improvement expenses are managed separately in accordance with MoCAP standards as addressed in Section 3.2.

<b>H.</b>	<p><b>Coordination:</b> The Lamar Parks &amp; Recreation Department is a member of, or collaborative partner with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missouri Parks &amp; Recreation Association</li> <li>• The National Recreation &amp; Parks Association</li> <li>• Missouri Division of Parks &amp; Recreation/Historical Preservation</li> <li>• Missouri Department of Natural resources</li> <li>• The Arbor Day Foundation</li> <li>• The Missouri Department of Conservation</li> </ul>
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**Program Goals and Planning**

Goal Setting is a two part process for the Parks and Recreation program:

1. The volunteer boards draw up and periodically update visionary plans for upcoming years. They prioritize and set goals for the coming years with the Director, usually during the Spring budgeting process. Attention is paid to each separate department in the budgeting / planning process: Aquatic Park, City Park, Wheeler Park, City Lake, Recreation, Thiebaud Auditorium, Moore Pavilion, Community Theater, etc. Programs and equipment or construction needs are considered separately.
2. The Director takes the goals and budgets for the income and expenses involved based on the input from the volunteer boards, experience, and constituent feedback. The City Council must approve budgeted items.

Goals are achieved through the collaboration of many city departments, city planning, a professional director, collaborative efforts with other agencies, and work of the paid and volunteer staffs. The responsibility for seeing that the goals adopted are reached falls upon the Director. Evaluation standards for each goal are listed in the following heading, "Program Evaluation."

<b>Goal #1</b>	<b>Improve the effectiveness and utilization of the Aquatic Park by local senior citizens</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Expand Water Fitness programs for senior citizens at the Aquatic Park
<b>Funding</b>	City of Lamar Parks and Recreation Department funding allocated through the annual budget and planning process
<b>Timeline</b>	Within one year

<b>Goal #2</b>	<b>Improve accessibility, appearance, utilization, and long-term stability of the Lamar City Park</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New roofs on all shelters</li> <li>• Pave walking trail</li> <li>• Update bathrooms on Ball Field 2</li> <li>• Add bathrooms and concessions on Ball Fields 7&amp;8</li> <li>• Turf the infield areas of Ball Fields 2 &amp; 3</li> <li>• Add dugout covers on Ball Fields 7&amp;8</li> <li>• Improve maintenance of Burlington Caboose</li> <li>• Upgrade RV Park</li> <li>• Pave parking areas south of Ball Fields 1&amp; 2</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	City of Lamar Parks and Recreation Department funding allocated through the annual budget and planning process
<b>Timeline</b>	Within one year

<b>Goal #3</b>	<b>Provide recreation opportunities to new housing developments on the east side of Lamar through continued improvements to Wheeler Park</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add a shelter and restroom facility</li> <li>• Expand plantings of trees, flower, and shrubs</li> <li>• Expand plantings to the Memorial Avenue of Trees</li> <li>• Add a permanent memorial pylon</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	City of Lamar Parks and Recreation Department funding allocated through the annual budget and planning process
<b>Timeline</b>	Within one year

<b>Goal #4</b>	<b>Improve accessibility and increase usage of Lamar City Lake</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Add an at-grade fishing pier, add four additional boat slips to those currently available
<b>Funding</b>	City of Lamar Parks and Recreation Department funding allocated through the annual budget and planning process
<b>Timeline</b>	Within one year

<b>Goal #5</b>	<b>Expand participation and options of Recreation programs</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve existing horseshoe pits and add two additional horseshoe pits</li> <li>• Continue to improve soccer fields and soccer program</li> <li>• Procure improved sports equipment</li> <li>• Improve and expand exercise classes and arts programs</li> <li>• Develop a summer theater workshop for children</li> <li>• Collaborate with the US Youth Tennis Association to provide a tennis camp</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Country Club to provide a golf clinic/ program for youth</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	City of Lamar Parks and Recreation Department funding allocated through the annual budget and planning process
<b>Timeline</b>	Within one to five years

<b>Goal #6</b>	<b>Expand specific recreational options for youth</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Construct a Skate Park
<b>Funding</b>	\$80,000.00 is currently the beginning budget – to be achieved through fund raising, grants, and donations as well as sponsorships and memberships.
<b>Timeline</b>	Three to five years

### Program Evaluation

Department evaluation is ongoing and is a daily, weekly and monthly process for all volunteers and management team. Examples are sited below.

A.	A prior MoCAP report stated a fitness center was a priority goal. After the center was in operation successfully, a new fitness business was established in town. One of the primary tenets of the City is to not compete with businesses in its own tax base. So as to not duplicate services unnecessarily or compete with businesses, the fitness center was closed. A fitness center for city employees' usage was established using some of the equipment left over. This is a prime example of the evaluation and response process at work in this department.
B.	At the Lamar Aquatic Park, the Pool Board recommended after six years of use the department replace the climb-upon pool toys. They were selected, budgeted and purchased by group involvement. This year a pool cover for the competition pool was purchased using the same method. In future, this successful process will be repeated for major improvements. The next dream on the drawing board to be considered is a diving well east of the current leisure pool, and the addition of a training/ community room. All such dreams become reality with the volunteers dedicated to seeing them through, and the city departments working together too. Future improvements will involve the expansion of hours of service and/or classes for water fitness, additional instructors and more collaboration with local health professionals.
C.	The City Park – a gem of Lamar - will continue to update and/or replace as needed any playground equipment, flowers, trees and shrubs, and make improvements to parking areas, while continuing its ongoing program of maintenance and repair by staff that live on property.
D.	Wheeler Park was added after the last MoCAP report. It is a 7-acre new park with a playground, three bridges, and new trees, shrubs and flowers, developed with the expansion of the city in mind. The future expansion seems to be headed in the direction of town served by this new park. Park Board is now developing a new five-year plan for trees and equipment.
E.	Regarding the City Lake, the constant maintenance of the lake property is provided by a one-man staff. The lake is a recreational facility, and improvement of fishing and fish habitat is a primary goal. Fish are stocked annually.
F.	The Thiebaud Auditorium, home of the Lamar Community theater, is also site of multiple schools, civic and professional programs. It is highly utilized during Lamar Free Fair, and the meeting/ conference rooms are constantly in use throughout the year. Improvements to equipment and replacement of carpeting throughout are to be considered in years to come.
G.	In the Recreation program, a code of participant and parent conduct has been added to every registration form, with sportsmanship being included as a major segment of volunteer coaches training. The anti-violence/mutual respect message is repeated and not compromised.