

A Gardner Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Introduction

The City of Gardner, Kansas initiated a Park System Master Plan which was adopted by the City Council in February of 2002. There have been three updates since then, one in 2003, one in 2005 and this 2009 update. Additionally, citizen surveys were conducted to gauge the community's interest and needs. Together, the City and the Parks and Recreation Department have aggressively followed that Master Plan to accomplish many improvements and developments which most recently include the Gardner Aquatic Center and Celebration Park. Gardner's rapid growth has dictated that the Plan be updated often to accommodate the increase in population and the citizens' evolving needs.

This Update includes a summary of previous planning efforts and updates, previous accomplishments and goals yet to be accomplished, current and future deficiencies related to parks and recreation, park and facility classifications, revised goals and priorities for Gardner, costs of recommended improvements, and updated trail and landscape guidelines.

Summary of Previous Plans and Updates

A more detailed summary of the 2001 and 2007 survey results, as well as outcomes of the previous Master Plan and Updates can be found in the Appendix. A brief summary of these documents is given below. The *Goals and Accomplishments Matrix* shown on pages 19 and 20 summarizes the list of major goals and accomplishments the City of Gardner has achieved since the initial Park System Master Plan was written in 2002. Goals are listed according to their associated Plan or Update. The year(s) in which each goal was accomplished is also listed. Several goals have not yet been accomplished.

In March of 2001, a Parks and Recreation Citizen Survey was completed. The results of this survey led to the creation and adoption of the 2002 Gardner Park System Master Plan. The 2001 Survey highlighted the rapid growth and change taking place in Gardner, the increased demand for leisure activities, recreational programs and facilities, and the need to maintain and acquire additional green space.

The 2002 Gardner Park System Master Plan identified the parks and open space character, needs, and wishes of the Gardner community. It expressed the community's desires for parks development and prioritized those desires based on input from the general public, the 2001 Citizen Recreation Survey, national park standards, examples from other communities, and an understanding of current programs.

Following the 2002 Master Plan, an Update to the Master Plan was prepared in 2003. This 2003 Update reviewed the accomplishments of the community in the past year in terms of parks and open space development,

updated the graphic map of the Plan, and revised budgets and planning timetables.

In 2004/2005, another Update was prepared. The 2004/2005 Update highlighted parks and recreation accomplishments since the 2003 Update, and set current priorities for the future development of the Gardner Park System.

In 2007, the City of Gardner conducted its fifth DirectionFinder® survey. Similar to the previously conducted DirectionFinder® surveys, this version gathered input from residents regarding the quality of services provided by the City.

| <i>Planning Year</i> | <i>Planning Emphasis</i> |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 2002 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified the parks and open space character, needs, and wishes of the community • Prioritized future land acquisition, park development, trails, and facilities |
| 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the graphic map of the 2002 Plan • Revised budgets of the 2002 Plan • Revised planning timetables of the 2002 Plan |
| 2004/2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hi-lighted accomplishments since the 2003 Plan • Set current priorities for the future development of the park system |
| 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was the year of the fifth DirectionFinder® Survey and included questions about the quality of services provided by the City, including Parks and Recreation |
| 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights the accomplishments since the 2004/2005 Plan, including the opening of the Aquatic Center, Celebration Park, development of the Kill Creek Master Plan, development of Stone Creek Park and the design of a park in the Quail Meadows Subdivision • Highlights the 2002 Plan projects that are yet to be accomplished; e.g. community center, a bicycle/pedestrian master pan, greenway/bikeway connections, senior center, etc. • Identifies future needs based on demand of the current and projected future population by 2020, including such things as a community center, land acquisition, trails and greenways, and high-level maintenance of existing parks and facilities |

2009 Plan Update

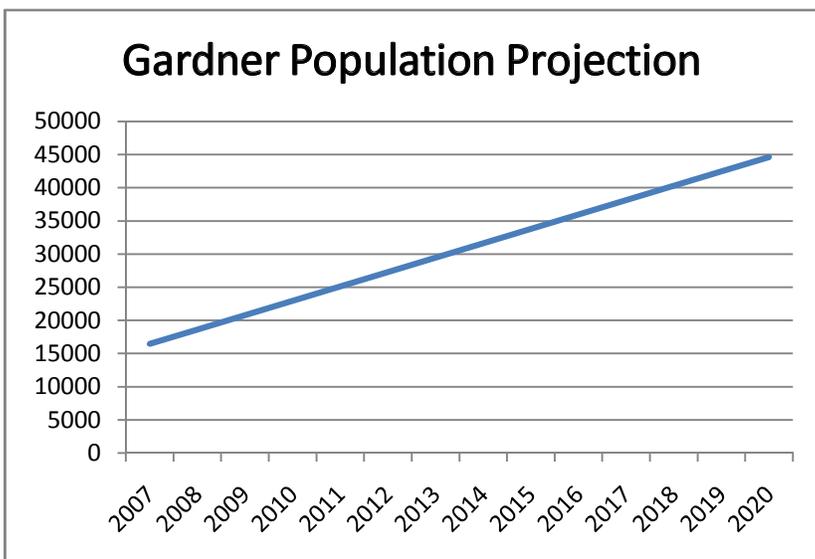
The population of Gardner is on the rise, and the City's Parks and Recreation Department must respond to the community's growing needs. Additionally, the Update will continue to guide the City in making important decisions related to improving and developing facilities as well as acquiring additional park land. The purpose of the 2009 Park System Master Plan Update is to evaluate Gardner's current park-related assets and conditions, and to present guidance on new planned improvements, operations and maintenance

factors related to the Update, and associated costs of recommended improvements. The 2009 Plan Update also revises the Gardner Trails System Design Guidelines and incorporates them into the Parks Master Plan.

Population Projections for 2020

Population projections for Gardner for the year 2020 were prepared for the 2009 Update. The 2007 Census population estimate for Gardner is 16,462. The projected population in 2020 is approximately 44,600, or an annual increase of more than 2,000 people from 2007-2020. To calculate this projection, the study team reviewed the "City of Gardner Transportation Master Plan Land Use Assumptions-03/23/09" prepared by Gardner's Community Development department. The report provides population information through 2009 for Gardner and building permit history and projections. Growth projections were based on an average of 500 new building permits per year, of which 350 will be for construction of single-family residential and the remaining 150 permits for other residential development.

Figure A-1.
Gardner's
Population
Trend



500 permits is an average, so in some years building permits will be less than other years.

Projections were prepared using two scenarios. Scenario 1 applied past cycles of population growth rates to actual population data. This approach reflects that there will be times of booming growth and times of minimal growth. Based on this scenario, the population estimated for 2020 is 45,300. The second scenario is based on an average of 500 new dwelling units being constructed each year and households with an average size of 2.5 persons moving into homes. This scenario assumes that all homes will be occupied immediately, which is an aggressive assumption. The result of Scenario 2 estimates a 2020 population of 43,900. Thus, the average of both scenarios predicts an estimated population of 44,600 in 2020.

These projections were evaluated by reviewing the population certified in 2008 by the Kansas Secretary of State for July 1, 2007; detailed projections provided in the March 23, 2009 Land Use Assumptions report; and other presentations made in the past two years regarding impacts of the future BNSF Intermodal and Logistics Park to be located adjacent to Gardner. The Secretary of State certification for 2007 was 16,462 compared to the Land Use Assumptions presentation population projection of 17,110 for 2007.

Planning Process

To most accurately assess Gardner's existing park system, the study team reviewed previous planning efforts outlined in the 2003 and 2005 Plan Updates. Additionally, results from the 2001 Citizen Satisfaction and 2007 DirectionFinder® surveys were used in the analysis. A statistical comparison of benchmark communities was performed to measure the City of Gardner's population, facilities, parks and fields against other similar cities. An inventory of existing parks and facilities was also completed to assess the condition and usage of the facilities. Much of this information is contained within the Appendix.

Based on the evaluation of the original Master Plan and its Updates, as well as National park standards, and the Johnson County Parks and Recreation District MAP 2020, recommendations were then made for potential parks and facilities. This includes proposed sizes, location of facilities, and the areas that they will serve. An overall map was created to show environmental vulnerability as well as locations and recommended sizes of these future parklands and facilities.

A Steering Committee was formed to provide guidance and direction throughout the planning stages of the Update. The Steering Committee was comprised of Gardner City Council members and Planning Commission members, Gardner City staff, representatives from the Johnson County Park District and Gardner-Edgerton Unified School District (USD) 231, and Gardner citizens.

Findings of the 2009 Update

This section of the Update highlights previous accomplishments since the 2004/2005 Update, previously unaddressed goals, current and future deficiencies, maintenance needs, and redefined park standards. These components are addressed below, and details can also be found in the Appendix.

Parks and Recreation Accomplishments since 2004/2005 Update

After the 2004/2005 Update was written, the most notable accomplishments include the opening of the Gardner Aquatic Center in 2007, the opening of Celebration Park in 2008, the development of the Kill Creek Master Plan, development of Stone Creek Park, and a new neighborhood park in the Quail Meadows subdivision although development of Quail Meadows is currently on hold.

- The new Gardner Aquatic Center at Cornerstone Park was completed and opened to the public in May

2007. A number of state of the art features were added, including a new zero depth entry, an active water play area, a lazy river, multiple water slides, a new tot pool, and a new concession area. Swimming lessons and other activities are offered at the Aquatic Center. The new Aquatic Center has averaged 100,000 visitors per season, compared to the previous facility that averaged only 18,000 visitors per season.

- The grand opening of Celebration Park, the largest park in Gardner, kicked off on May 10, 2008. This 83-acre community park better serves existing programs and events as well as allows for the expected continued growth in participation numbers and programs for traditional activities such as baseball, softball, soccer and football. The athletic facilities are supported with concessions, restrooms, playgrounds, and parking. Additionally, the park has amenities such as a trail system, large picnic shelters, landscaping, a large destination playground, planned passive open space areas,

and a 10-acre recreational lake that will also be the irrigation source for the park. The park is located on the southwest corner of 159th Street and Kill Creek Road, adjoining the 45-acre school site of Pioneer Ridge Middle School. Because of the efforts made between the Parks and Recreation Department and the School District, students are able to overlap their recreational needs.

- The Kill Creek Master Plan was developed for a greenway system along the west fork of Kill Creek. The Plan identifies property needed along the creek to develop a trail system from 151st Street south to 175th Street. It indicates potential locations for trails as well as possible neighborhood park locations that could tie into the greenway system. Recently, Gardner Parks and Recreation requested that the Johnson County Park and Recreation District adopt the Plan into the District's Master Action Plan (MAP) for 2020. The Board approved the request, qualifying the City of Gardner for district funding for the development. \$150,000 was approved for 2010, and \$91,000 was approved for 2011.
- Stone Creek Park is a new 11-acre park located at Stone Creek Drive and Stone Creek Circle. In 2004, the Parks and Recreation Department worked with nearby subdivisions to master plan this neighborhood park. It opened in 2005 and includes a large playground, picnic shelter, trails, and landscaping.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on design plans

for Quail Meadows Neighborhood Park. The 10.5 acres scheduled for development is located in the Quail Meadows subdivision off of 167th Street and west of Waverly Road. Park features will include amenities such as a picnic shelter, playground equipment, trails and landscaping. The park is also adjacent to Kill Creek, providing an opportunity to connect to the future Kill Creek Greenway Trail.

Parks and Recreation Goals Yet to be Accomplished

The following goals outlined in the 2002 Master Plan and subsequent updates have yet to be accomplished:

- Build a new Community Center
- Develop a bicycle/pedestrian plan
- Add greenway/bikeway connections:
 - » Extension from Santa Fe Trail to Brookside Park to future Metrogreen connection
 - » Moonlight Elementary School to Bull Creek watershed
 - » New open space corridors linking natural areas with housing, school and community services
 - » Corridor from Gardner to Edgerton
 - » Kill Creek Trail
- Build a new park maintenance facility
- Build a new Senior Center
- Add a skateboard park
- Acquire land for Kill Creek Trail
- Pave parking lot at Meadowbrook Park
- Continue to add 1 new neighborhood park every other year

- Continue to add community parks and sports fields to meet current and future demand

Revised goals for the 2009 Update will be addressed in the next section. Although the goals listed above are still important to accomplish in the future, several of the goals have been revised to reflect Gardner’s current and future needs. For instance, a Senior Center may be incorporated into the overall design of a new Community Center, rather than a standalone facility. Similarly, the rate of adding new neighborhood and community parks must reflect future population projections.

Current and Future Deficiencies

A comparison of similar communities, park acreages and facility requirements, and field needs were explored to draw attention to both existing and future deficiencies faced by the City in terms of parks and recreation needs.

National Recreation and Park Association’s (NRPA) *Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines* determine requirements for various kinds of parks, recreation areas, and facilities. NRPA standards, Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD) MAP 2020 recommendations, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) 2009 SCORP as well as Gardner’s standards from previous Plans and Updates were used to calculate existing and future park facility requirements.

Detailed data concerning benchmarking, facility requirements and field needs may be found in the Appendix. The following paragraphs summarize these findings.

Recreation Center

Gardner has one existing recreational center, which is its Senior Center. The City is exploring options to build a new community center, which may house future senior activities. A community center is Gardner’s citizens’ highest recreation priority at this time according to previous Direction Finder survey results.

Developed Park Acres

Currently, Gardner has more developed park acres per 1,000 population (11.4 acres/1,000 - not including the golf course) than Grandview, Olathe, and Shawnee, but fewer than the other benchmarked communities. This places Gardner as average among its peers in the amount of parkland provided for its citizens.

Other communities in the benchmarking study do not include golf course acreage in their total park acreage numbers, so to level the playing field during benchmarking, Gardner is compared without this 123 acres. If the golf course acreage is factored in, Gardner currently provides 18.9 acres/1000 population.

Previous master plan updates recommended Gardner maintain approximately 18 acres of parkland/1000 population to keep up the existing level of service and did not take into account the joint effort of the JCPRD and the KDWP in providing park facilities for Gardner citizens. Johnson County’s MAP 2020 plan sets forth a standard of 12 acres per 1,000 population to be provided by local communities.

This park acreage includes land developed as parks, golf courses and greenways; and is in addition to the 22 acres provided by the District and 6 acres provided by the

Park Acreage Level of Service (LOS) Comparison

| 2005 Average Park Acreage for all Benchmarked Communities | 2009 Average Park Acreage for all Benchmarked Communities* | 2009 Gardner Park Acreage Actual LOS* | 2009 Update's Recommended Park Acreage LOS ^d for Gardner 2020 |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 19.2 acres/1000 | 11.1 acres/1000 | 11.4 acres/1000 | 12 acres/1000 |

*Golf course acreage is not included in this comparison

Park Land Needs Summary

| Park Type | 2005 Park System Master Plan Recommended Space Requirements | 2005 Park System Master Plan Service Radius | 2009 Update Recommended Space Requirements | NRPA Service Radius | NRPA Standard Units/Population ^a | JCPRD MAP 2020 Recommended Parkland |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Parkland Area | | | | | | |
| Regional Park/Facilities | N/A | N/A | No Regional Park development recommended | 3-5 miles | 5-10 acres/1,000 | 28 acres/1000 ^e |
| Community Park/Facilities | 5-50 acres ^b 10 preferred | 1-3 miles | 40 acres min. for passive uses - 40 acres min. for sportsplex uses | 1-3 miles | 5-8 acres/1,000 | 12 acres/1000 ^c |
| Neighborhood Park/Facilities | 1-10 acres 5 preferred | 1/2-1 mile | 3-10 acres | 1/4-1/2 mile | 1-2 acres/1,000 | |
| Greenway Facilities | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Total Acres | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 10 acres/1,000 | 40 acres/1000 |

| Park Type | Existing Developed Park Acreage | Current MAP 2020 Demand Based on 17,000 pop. | Current Surplus or Deficit Acres | Future MAP 2020 Demand Acres Based on 44,600 pop. | Future MAP 2020 Surplus or Deficit Acres to Develop |
|--|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Parkland Area | | | | | |
| Regional Park/Facilities (not Gardner-owned) | 1388 | 476 | 912 | 1248.8 | 139.2 |
| Community Park/Facilities | 121 | 204 | 107 | 535.2 | -224.2 |
| Neighborhood Park/Facilities | 24 | | | | |
| Greenway Facilities | 43 | | | | |
| Golf Course Facilities | 123 | | | | |
| Total Acres | 1699 | 680 | 1019 | 1784 | -85 |

^aNRPA 1983, which is now recommended by the NRPA to be enhanced by locally established LOS

^bMore acreage required if including both passive recreation and sports complexes in one park

^cProvided by municipalities and can include acreage devoted to golf courses and/or greenways

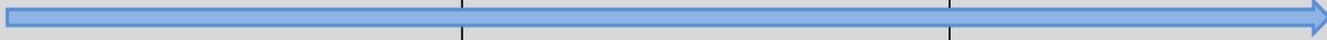
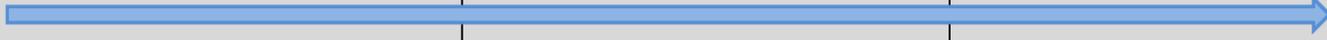
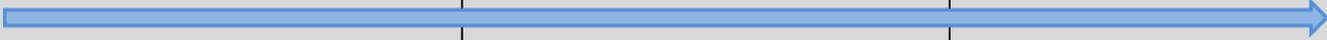
^dBased upon JCPRD's MAP 2020 Recommendations

^eMAP 2020 recommends 22 acres/1000 provided by JCPRD and 6 acres/1000 provided by the State

Goals and Accomplishments Matrix

| Goals | Accomplished By 2003 Update | Accomplished By 2004/2005 Update | Accomplished By 2009 Update | Other Notes |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| 2002 Plan | | | | |
| Westside Park : Acquire adjacent land and build 2-4 additional fields and support facilities, maintenance shed, replace field lighting system, upgrade playground, pave parking lot, replace fencing, install irrigation, replace concession/restroom facility, renovate fields. | ✓ Renovated baseball diamond #4 with lights and scoreboard, fencing, grading, seeding | ✓ Fields 1-3 dugouts renovated, fence and backstops replaced, re-crowned fields, replaced bleachers | ✓ Maintenance barn added, lighting improvements fields 1-3, improved parking lot | Land acquisition and construction of 2-4 fields not yet accomplished, upgraded play equipment, concession/restroom building, and irrigation still needed |
| New Sports Complex/Community Park (Celebration Park) | ✓ Funds requested for acquisition of 1st 40 acres NW of town for sports complex | ✓ 2005, purchased 40 acres; Completed Plan for proposed park site at 159th St. | ✓ Purchased additional 43 acres in 2006. Park opens 2008 at 159th and Kill Creek Rd. | 83-acre community park and sports complex |
| Meadowbrook Park : Upgrade play equipment | → | ✓ New play equipment | Completed | |
| Cornerstone Park: Upgrade amenities | ✓ Upgraded electrical supply and painted swimming pool | ✓ Upgraded play equipment | Completed | |
| New Community Center | → | | | |
| Brookside Park: Upgrade play equipment | → | ✓ New play equipment | Completed | |
| New Aquatic Center | → | ✓ Completed Master Plan for renovations and expansions | ✓ Opening of Aquatic Center at Cornerstone Park | |
| Greenways: Preserve and maintain greenway corridor | → | | | Preservation and maintenance of greenways should be ongoing |
| Winwood Park: Develop as a neighborhood park | ✓ Land acquired and asphalt path installed | ✓ Site plan and construction of park completed | Completed | |
| Gardner Lake: Renovate boat access/dock, road and shelter improvements | ✓ New dock and fish feeder | → | ✓ Rehab of Gardner Lake shelter and access | Road and guardrail improvements not completed |
| Greenways: Develop Craigmere subdivision extension to the Gardner Greenway | → | | | ✓ Trails tie into greenway system Craigmere sold to another developer; now Genesis Creek |
| Neighborhood Parks: Develop new neighborhood parks where opportunity exists | ✓ Plans to acquire land for 2 neighborhood park sites | ✓ Plans for Stone Creek Park completed | ✓ Stone Creek Park opened, design plans for Quail Meadows Park are complete | Development of neighborhood parks should be ongoing |
| Greenways: Extension of Gardner Greenway north to 167th St, and further, repair culverts | ✓ Bike path loop extension to 167th Street with bridge | → | ✓ Completed development from Colleen Dr. north to 167th St. | Culvert repairs not completed |
| Greenways/Streamways: Coordinate acquisition and development with Johnson County | → | | | Ongoing |
| I-35 Park: Develop I-35 rest area as a new neighborhood park | ✓ Two tracts of land designated for development | ✓ Master Plan for I-35 Park completed | → | Construction of this park is not yet complete |
| Bikeways: New bike route on Highway 56 | → | | | Removed as goal for Parks: to be a part of the new transportation plan. |
| Cornerstone Park: Convert tennis courts to skateboard park | → | | | Tennis courts removed for Aquatic Center, not for skate park. Added lighting to GEHS Tennis Courts |
| Veterans Park: New facilities | ✓ Basketball court, picnic shelter, restrooms, benches, lighting | Completed | Completed | |
| County Fairgrounds: Overflow parking | → | | | ✓ Parking easement obtained to allow for overflow parking Gravel parking lot completed with Aquatic Center expansion |
| Gardner Golf Course | → | ✓ Capital Improvement Plan completed, upgrades at Hole #16 completed | → | Golf course may be expanded in the future |
| Gardner Airport Park: Enhance open space with use of native plantings | → | | | |

Goals and Accomplishments Matrix Continued

| Goals | Accomplished By 2003 Update | Accomplished By 2004/2005 Update | Accomplished By 2009 Update | Other Notes |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| 2002 Plan, continued | | | | |
| <i>New Gardner Senior Center</i> | | |  | Senior facility could be incorporated into new Comm. Center |
| <i>New Park Maintenance Facility</i> | | |  | |
| <i>Bikeways: Complete Madison Bicycle/Pedestrian Path</i> |  Bike/Ped path completed from Waverly to Center Street | Completed | Completed | |
| <i>Greenways: Extension from Santa Fe Trail to Brookside Park to future Metrogreen connection</i> | | |  | These connections are not complete |
| <i>Greenways: New segment from Moonlight Elementary to Bull Creek watershed</i> | | |  | These connections are not complete |
| <i>Greenways: New open space corridors linking natural areas with housing, school, and services</i> | | |  | Linkages should be ongoing, dependent on development |
| <i>Greenways: New corridor from Gardner to Edgerton along creek corridor or along US 56</i> | | |  | |
| 2003 Plan Update | | | | |
| <i>Gardner Lake: Repair shelters below dam and public boat dock</i> | Not Recommended Prior to 2003 Update |  Repairs completed | Completed | |
| <i>Bikeways: Complete South Center bicycle/pedestrian pathway (191st to Grand St.)</i> | Not Recommended Prior to 2003 Update |  Pathway completed November 2003 | | 10' bicycle/pedestrian path |
| 2004/2005 Plan Update | | | | |
| <i>Kill Creek Trail: Complete Master Plan</i> | Not Recommended Prior to 2003 Update |  Master Plan completed |  Completed | |
| <i>Veterans Park: Replace Veterans Park Trail</i> | Not Recommended Prior to 2003 Update | Not Recommended Prior to 2004/2005 Update |  Trail replaced | |
| <i>Westside Park: Recrown fields 1-3; replace backstops, fencing, dugouts</i> | Not Recommended Prior to 2003 Update |  Recrowned fields; replaced backstops, fencing, dugouts |  Completed | |
| <i>Kill Creek Trail: Acquire land</i> | | |  | Ongoing |
| <i>Bikeways: Develop a bicycle/pedestrian pathway plan related to greenways and arterials/collectors</i> | | |  | Ongoing |
| After 2004/2005 Plan Update | | | | |
| <i>Meadowbrook Park: Pave parking lot</i> | | |  | Delayed due to lack of funding |
| <i>Greenway Trail: Crack and slurry seal, and Madison Street Bike/Ped crack and slurry seal</i> | Not Recommended Prior to 2003 Update | Not Recommended Prior to 2004/2005 Update |  Improvements completed | |
| <i>Aquatic Center: Bring Aquatic Center drains and grates into compliance with new laws</i> | Not Recommended Prior to 2003 Update | Not Recommended Prior to 2004/2005 Update |  Improvements completed | Project completed in May 2009 |

KDWP. All of this totals 40 acres of parkland per 1,000 people in Johnson County.

Because tremendous planning effort has been put forth by JCPRD in providing sufficient quantities of high quality park facilities for the residents of Johnson County, the planning team recommends the City of Gardner adopt the 12 acres/1000 population standard from MAP 2020. This standard would require Gardner to *develop* an additional 224 acres of Community and Neighborhood parkland by the year 2020. Because Gardner already owns 19.21 acres of undeveloped parkland (Quail Meadows and I-35 parks),

Gardner will need to acquire approximately 20.5 acres of park land per year until 2020 to meet this level of service (LOS).

Playgrounds

The City of Gardner has the second highest level of service ratio of playgrounds (0.67 playgrounds per 1000 people) of any of the benchmark communities. Lenexa ranked first with 0.68. These numbers were compared with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) 2009 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) current LOS for growing communities. This LOS is 0.38 playgrounds per 1000 population.

Field and Facilities Needs Summary

| Facility Type | 1983 NRPA Standard Units/Population | Existing Facilities or Acreage (City Owned and/or Open to the Public) | Today's Needs by 1983 NRPA Standards | 2020 Needs by 1983 NRPA Standards | Today's Needs by City Participation Numbers ^f | 2020 Needs by City's Participation Projection ^f | Location Notes per NRPA 1983 |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Recreational Courts/Fields/Pools | | | | | | | |
| Baseball/Softball Fields | 1/5,000 - Unlighted 1/30,000 - Lighted | 8 | Meets current population | Additional 1 field | Meets current demand | Additional 15 | Unlighted fields part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex. |
| Football/ Soccer Field | 1/20,000 - 1/10,000 | 4 | Meets current population | Additional 2 fields (based upon programmability of existing) | Meets current demand | Additional 4 | Usually part of a baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school. |
| Basketball Court | 1/5,000 | 11 ^h | Meets current population | Meets Future population | Meets current demand | 11 (combined with volleyball use) | Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings. |
| Tennis Court | 1/2,000 | 8 ^b | Additional 1 court ^c | Additional 4 outdoor courts ^f | Meets current demand | Additional 4 | Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school site. |
| Volleyball Court | 1/5,000 | 10 ^b | Additional 3 courts ^c | Additional 9 courts ^c | Meets current demand | 11 (combined with basketball use) | Same as basketball. |
| Sand Volleyball | No Standard | 2 | N/A | N/A | Meets current demand | Additional 2 courts as demand increases | N/A |
| Swimming Pool | 1/20,000 | 1 | Meets current population | 1 Additional Pool | Meets current demand | Additional 1 pool with splash park | Located in community park or school site |
| Golf Course (18-Hole) | 1/50,000 | 1 | Meets current population | Meets Future population | Meets current demand | Meets Future population | Located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center |
| Play Areas | | | | | | | |
| Childrens' Playground (City owned) | 0.38/1,000 ^d | 10 ^d | Meets current population ^d | Additional 6 playgrounds ^{de} | Meets current demand | 1 per developed park | N/A |
| Other Amenities | | | | | | | |
| Picnic Shelter | No Standard | 19 | N/A | N/A | Meets current demand | 1-3 per developed park | N/A |
| Trails | 0.5 miles/1000 ^e | 7.35 mi | N/A | N/A | Demand exceeds supply ^e | Additional 15 Miles ^e | N/A |
| Community Center | No Standard | 0 | N/A | N/A | 1 center ^f | 1 center ^f | N/A |
| Skate Park | No Standard | 0 | N/A | N/A | 1 skate park ^f | 1 skate park ^f | N/A |

^aNRPA 1983 Standard

^bSchool District owned, but accessible to the public

^cTennis, Basketball and/or Volleyball courts can be constructed as combination sport-courts, accommodating several uses on one court, dependant on design; note that participation numbers suggest a need for 11 basketball/volleyball courts by 2020.

^dKDWP SCORP current LOS for growing communities in Kansas

^eAre currently supplied by School District playgrounds

^fCity defined needs

^gA projected LOS of 0.5 miles/1000 based on current LOS of 0.45 miles/1000

^h2 outdoor park courts, 9 indoor School District courts

Gardner's playground numbers are higher than the KDWP's survey of growing communities LOS; however, a population projection of 44,600 in 2020 requires an additional 6 playgrounds within the community.

None of the statistics above include playgrounds which are available to children on local school district property. However, these playground facilities frequently serve as adjunct neighborhood parks.

Currently, the Gardner Edgerton School District provides 7 playgrounds within its school grounds. The combination of City owned and School District owned playground facilities totals 17 which, according to Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) standards, can take the community into 2020. This relieves the pressure to construct additional playground facilities within existing parks to meet this standard, and allows the City to focus on maintenance and upgrades of existing equipment.

As Gardner continues to develop community and neighborhood parks to meet demand, city-wide playground numbers will also continue to increase; meeting and exceeding the state standard and providing proper service distribution across the City.

As a side note, since the increased population for 2020 will require an additional 3 to 5 schools to accommodate the children, there is potential for a surplus of 4 to 6 playgrounds in Gardner in 2020 over the current statewide LOS, even if no additional playgrounds are developed by the City.

Trails

Gardner has the most miles of improved trails per 1,000 population (0.45 miles) of the benchmarked cities. The 2008 Trails KC Plan sets forth a goal of 0.40 miles of trail per 1000 population in Kansas City, illustrating that Gardner is above average for the metropolitan area.

But because multi-use trails continue to be a top priority for Gardner's citizens, as found in the Direction Finder Surveys, trail connections are needed to meet current and future demand. If Gardner were to increase their current LOS to 0.50 miles of trails per 1000 population, an additional 15 miles of trail will be needed by 2020. This translates to the construction of an additional 1.5 miles of trail per year.

Field Needs

A Field Needs Estimates Matrix for existing recreation participation numbers as well as projected 2020 recreation participation numbers are provided on pages 95-97 in the Appendix. These matrices display the maximum daily need for each field size for youth baseball, youth softball, adult softball, competitive baseball, youth flag football, adult flag football, and soccer, and serve as the source for the Fields and Facilities Needs Summary on the previous page.

Sports are broken down by age group, and field needs are estimated based on the number of games per week held on one field. Some highlights are as follows:

- Since baseball, softball and t-ball games can all be accommodated on the largest sized fields, Gardner has implemented the policy of sharing these single-sized fields to reduce

the number of fields that would be maintained for each division of the sport.

Currently, 8 fields are in demand by 2008's participation numbers, meaning no current surplus or deficiency. By projecting today's participation numbers, it is estimated that there could be up to 23 fields needed on a single day in 2020.

While the NRPA standard reflects the need of one additional field by 2020, Gardner may need to construct 15 additional fields to meet the increased demand based on participation projections. This is an instance where facility planning must sway to the community's needs rather than a specific, potentially outdated, national standard.

As the population of Gardner grows, programming adjustments may also be made to spread out the demand for fields until additional facilities can be constructed.

- A maximum of 4 full-size soccer/flag football fields (360'x165') are needed on a single day by 2008's participation numbers for flag football or soccer. This demand is currently being met in Gardner.

According to participation projections, in 2020 the field needs for soccer and flag football may jump to 8, meaning 4 fields will need to be constructed between 2009 and 2020.

Large soccer fields are subdivided to meet the programming needs of younger teams.

- Basketball and volleyball participation is being added with this 2009 update

in order to assist with community center and other facility planning. By 2020, 11 sport courts may be required to accommodate the number of projected games on a given day.

Gardner is currently utilizing the School District's 4 volleyball courts for sports programming.

Opportunities to Reduce Maintenance, Increase Safety and Other Improvements at Existing Parks

During the inventory of existing facilities taken on February 5, 2009, Gardner's 23 parks, trails, and facilities were examined. At each site, the study team documented the park's amenities, opportunities for improvements or upgrades, opportunities to reduce maintenance, and opportunities to increase safety (where applicable). The results of the site visit are documented in the Inventory of Existing Facilities Matrix, shown in the Appendix. The following points summarize opportunities for increasing safety and reducing maintenance at Gardner's existing parks:

- Eliminate mowing at stream edges or in other locations at Brookside, Celebration, and Meadowbrook parks
- Plant natives at stream edges, detention areas, and around drain inlets at Brookside, Celebration, Meadowbrook, Stone Creek, Veterans, and Winwood parks
- Upgrade playground equipment and/or landing surfaces at Circle (if this park is kept in use), Gardner Municipal Airport, and Westside parks
- Remove low water crossing and replace with pedestrian bridge,

establish vegetation on creek banks, and remove debris upstream of crossing along Gardner Greenway. This becomes increasingly more important as more water becomes directed into the stream through projects such as the current Moonlight Road construction.

- Post park hours signage and encourage a rain garden program at Gardner Lake park
- Reduce erosion at Gardner Junction and Stone Creek parks by planting swales with native vegetation
- Repair the bent existing trail signs along Madison Street and South Center Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths
- Level concrete entry sidewalk at Senior Citizens Center
- Add street trees and reconfigure planting areas along North Center Bicycle/Pedestrian Path so they are approximately 15'x60' or larger in size with fewer plant species in larger masses
- Cover south drainage ditch to add more warm-up space, replace concession stand, upgrade playground equipment, and replace east culvert near maintenance shed at Westside Park
- Provide parking at Madison Practice Fields if use continues
- Enlist the maintenance assistance of the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams at KCPL Wetland Park
- Replace west light poles at Veterans Park

(See appendix for additions)

Redefined Park and Facility Classifications

Gardner's park and facility standards used in previous Master Plan and Updates were reevaluated against NRPA standards in the 2009 Update to assess their future application regarding proposed park and facility locations. Those proposed park and facility locations are explored in the next section of the Update.

These NRPA park and facility classifications pertain to Gardner:

- Regional Park/Facilities
- Community Park/Facilities
- Neighborhood Park/Facilities
- Linear Parks (Greenways and Trails)

Regional Parks and Facilities

Regional parks and facilities supplement neighborhood and community parks, serving broader based recreation needs. For the Gardner area, regional parks are typically provided by the JCPRD and according to the NRPA, are typically 200-500 acres in size.

The national standard for regional facilities is to provide between five and ten acres per 1,000 population. The larger size of these regional parks permits development of both passive and active facilities. Where possible, regional parks should include areas of undeveloped land with natural vegetation and/or water features.

Regional parks near Gardner other than the City-owned Gardner Golf Course are currently provided and maintained by the JCPRD. Kill Creek Park, Bull Creek Park, Reike Lake, and the future park south of Reike Lake are JCPRD-owned regional parks in the area. Only one of these is developed at this time, Kill Creek Park.

Existing Parks and Facilities

| Existing Parks and Facilities Gardner, KS February 5, 2009 | Acres | Aquatic Center | BBO Grills | Baseball/ Softball Fields | Basketball Goals | Drinking Fountains | Memorials | Playground Equipment | Restrooms | Shelters/ Picnic | Shelters/ Power | Soccer/ Football Fields | Tennis Courts | Sand Volleyball Courts | Walking Trails (miles) | Opportunities for Improvements/Upgrades | Opportunities to Reduce Maintenance | Opportunities to Increase Safety |
|--|--------|----------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Developed Parks/Trails | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brookside Park 422 East Washington | 2.56 | - | - | - | - | - | - | Yes | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | Yes | Plant natives at stream edges to improve water quality | Eliminate mowing at stream edges | -- |
| Celebration Park 32701 West 159th Street | 83 | - | 1 | 6 | - | 2 | - | Yes | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | - | - | 1.56 | Add basketball courts; dugouts and spectator seating for field 5 & 6; shade structure for spectators; dugout roofs; spray ground. Asphalt area to field gates. Complete trail development on east side of park. | Plant natives in detention area, near ballfields, ditches and eliminate mowing in these areas; Concrete the section of ag lime trail at the lake's emergency overflow | -- |
| Circle Park Circle Drive | 0.154 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | Yes | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Upgrade or remove playground equipment and landing surfaces | -- | -- |
| Cornerstone Park 215 North Center Street | 5.27 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 1 | Yes | Yes | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | 0.3 | Replace pavers near fountain, repair crack in east shelter concrete | -- | -- |
| Gardner Golf Course 15810 South Gardner Road | 123.16 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Develop a master plan prior to 2018 when the City will take over operations | -- | -- |
| Gardner Greenway Madison Street | 34.47 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1.55 | Remove low water crossings, replace with pedestrian bridges | Establish vegetation on creek banks | Remove logs and debris upstream of crossing to prevent future damage to crossing |
| Gardner Lake Park 30100 West 151st Street | 13.7 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | -- | Rain garden program at boat ramp shelter | Post park hours sign, repair spillway, install guardrails on dam |
| Gardner Junction Park 32500 West US 56 Hwy | 1.44 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | Yes | -- | -- | -- |
| Gardner Municipal Airport Park 31905 West 175th Street | 0.417 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | Upgrade playground equipment | -- | -- |
| Madison Street Bicycle/Ped Path Waverly to Center | 1.57 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1.0 | -- | Reinforce existing trail sign panels with a steel plate or block of cedar to prevent vandalism | -- |
| Meadowbrook Park South Meadowbrook and West Main | 0.92 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | Yes | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | Plant stream edges with natives to filter runoff | Eliminate mowing maintenance at stream edges | -- |
| North Center Bicycle/Ped Path 167th Street to Madison | 1.82 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0.5 | -- | Reconfigure planting areas: larger areas with fewer plant types/species to ease maintenance | -- |
| Senior Citizens Building 128 East Park | NA | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | Level concrete at entry sidewalk | -- | -- |
| South Center Bicycle/Ped Path Grand Street to 188th Street | 5.39 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1.37 | -- | Replace existing trail signs panels with those that will not bend around sign post | -- |
| Stone Creek Park 475 South Moonlight Road | 10.81 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | Yes | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 0.5 | Plant stream/ditch to reduce erosion | -- | -- |
| Veterans Park 121 West Pawnee Lane | 4.63 | - | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | Yes | Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 0.35 | Plant natives around drain inlets to filter stormwater | Replace west light poles, installing them further back from parking lot or add stop curbs to prevent damage | -- |
| Westside Park 321 Bedford | 18.83 | - | 2 | 4 | 2 | - | Yes | Yes | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | Cover south drainage ditch to add more warmup space, replace dumpster surroundings, new secure concession stand. Pave overflow parking lot, Install irrigation on sports fields, add shade structures for spectators, improve common areas with greenspace, trees and hardscape. | Replace east culvert near maintenance shed | Remove metal slide |
| Winwood Park 520 North White Drive | 3.23 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | Yes | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 0.22 | Plant natives around drain inlets to filter stormwater | -- | -- |
| Not City-Owned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| KCPL Wetland Park 18001 Waverly Road | 55.53 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | -- | Enlist the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams | -- |
| Madison Practice Fields Madison Street | 6.87 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Provide parking | -- | -- |
| Tennis Courts (GEHS) 425 North Waverly Road | NA | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | - | - | -- | -- | -- |
| Undeveloped Parks/Trails | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I-35 Park (Stone Creek Park Addition) I-35 | 8.63 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | -- | -- | -- |
| Quail Meadows Park/Greenway Pratt Street | 10.58 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | -- | -- | -- |

This page intentionally left blank

Olathe Prairie Center is a developed regional park in the area and is owned by the State.

Because of the provision of regional parks by JCPRD and the State of Kansas in the area, Gardner has no plans to add regional park locations in the future.

Community Parks and Facilities

Community parks and facilities serve groups of neighborhoods and the City within a one to three-mile radius of the site. These facilities may be public or private, include active and passive recreational facilities, and access may be by car, bicycle, or on foot. Therefore, it is desired for community parks to have direct access to major thoroughfares, greenways and trails, residential areas, and access to parking.

After reevaluating Gardner's standards, it was determined that community parks should range in size from twenty to fifty acres if there is not a sports complex proposed for the park. If a sports complex is proposed for the community park, the park should include an additional forty acres, for a total of sixty to ninety acres. In specific instances, smaller sites may be appropriate based on their location, constraints on property acquisition, or historic significance. The national standard for this category is five to eight acres per 1,000 population. Development typically includes large picnic areas, playgrounds, tennis courts, lighted sports fields or sports complex, bike or pedestrian trails, basketball courts, restrooms, and auto parking. Community parks/facilities in Gardner include:

- Celebration Park
- Cornerstone Park – although the park acreage is less than the standard, the Aquatic Center has a community-wide draw.

- Gardner Lake Park
- Westside Park

Neighborhood Parks and Facilities

Neighborhood parks and facilities are intended to serve residential areas within walking distance or a short drive (1/2 mile to 1 mile radius by the 2005 Master Plan standard. 1/4 to 1/2-mile radius by the NRPA standard). Access is mostly by pedestrians on foot or bike, and park sites are located so that residents do not have to cross a major street to get to the site. Children between the ages of five and twelve are the primary user group.

According to Gardner's standards, sites are generally one to ten acres in size; the optimal size for neighborhood facilities is five acres. NRPA standards recommend a minimum of five acres, with seven to ten acres as optimal. The national standard is one to two acres per 1,000 population. Neighborhood parks/facilities in Gardner include:

- Brookside Park
- Circle Park
- I-35 Park – not yet developed, but will be a part of Stone Creek Park when complete.
- Meadowbrook Park
- Quail Meadows Park/Greenway – not developed; this is not included in greenways/trails because the length of the greenway system at Quail Meadows Park is unknown at this time
- Stone Creek Park
- Veterans Park
- Winwood Park

Linear Parks

Greenways and trails are also known as Linear parks. They provide recreation, transportation options, mitigate stormwater and flooding, improve water quality, protect wildlife movement and ecologically sensitive areas, and offer scenic beauty. They are generally integrated into riparian corridors along streams or associated with major thoroughfares. Particularly, greenways and trails provide key linkages between parks, residential areas, employment and commercial centers, schools, and other institutional uses. The service radius for trails is typically within walking distance of origins and destinations (1/4-1/2 mile). Greenways are significantly wider than trails; a minimum width of 50 feet is recommended for greenways, while the width of a shared use trail is at least 10 feet.

Greenways and trails in Gardner include:

- Gardner Greenway System
- Madison Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Path
- North Center Bicycle/Pedestrian Path
- South Center Bicycle/Pedestrian Path

Special Use Parks

The following parks are listed as special use parks because, while in the Gardner system, they do not fit within the structure of Community, Neighborhood or Linear parks:

- Gardner Junction Park - a historic landmark and pull-off area for highway traffic
- Gardner Municipal Airport Park - a small park that is not accessible by surrounding neighborhoods.
- Gardner Golf Course.