



OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION



WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS CHAPTER:

- ❖ Discussion of today's conditions and tomorrow's projections
- ❖ Discussion of challenges and opportunities
- ❖ Discussion of the open spaces and recreation goals, objectives and policies



INTRODUCTION

The natural environment enhances the quality life for the community as it lies on the cusp of the prairies leading to western Kansas. Quality recreational opportunity, in particular, outdoor opportunity as evidenced by the municipal system of parks and open spaces, is among the primary indicators of the lifestyle and the living environment available in the community.

Although not easily quantifiable in terms of monetary units, it is well known that parks and green spaces add significant value to the community as a whole. Quality parks and recreational facilities exert a strongly positive influence upon development and beneficially impacts every citizen in the community.

The comprehensive plan recognizes that the park system is maximized by offering a wide variety of education, recreation and social opportunities for all members of the community and the communities value in preserving and protecting natural resources.

Park maintenance, renovation, and development supports the city's long-standing tradition of providing impeccably maintained and highly functional parks, trails and open spaces. Cooperative efforts between public, state, and private funding continues to be the supporting factors that provides the community with a wide variety of programs and services.

TODAY'S CONDITIONS & TOMORROW'S PROJECTIONS

TODAY'S CONDITIONS



Hundreds of Colwich residents, workers, and visitors regularly use the 75 acres of park and open spaces. When surveyed in 2010 the community expressed that they wanted hiking and biking trails and the disc golf course enhanced. Colwich Memorial Park, 73 acres of park and open space, continues to meet the need for the hiking and biking trails, baseball fields, playground, volleyball, fishing and picnic amenities.

The disc golf course continues to be the premiere disc golf course for the region thanks to private and public funding. Veterans Park, 2 acres of park land nestled in the heart of the city provides picnic, playground, and tennis courts for the public to enjoy.

TOMORROW'S PROJECTIONS

Factors that will impact the future of the parks, recreation and open spaces in Colwich are age diversity, competing demands for the fixed supply of land within the city for commercial and residential development and funding. Careful planning will be necessary to ensure that all areas of the city have equitable access to quality recreation opportunities.



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Colwich maintains low-density single family residential neighborhoods. Potential future requirements for park and open spaces for recreation may be determined through application of appropriate space standards. When balanced with current and future population levels, growth patterns and usage trends, this process with present development levels determine the need for future recreational opportunity.



Population Density

The generally accepted standard for overall recreation acreages of a city is one acre per 100 persons. Using this standard and applying it to the population estimates quoted earlier in this document indicates that the overall needs for park and recreation land currently in the City is adequate for now and in the foreseeable future.

Regional Partnerships

Colwich has the opportunity to work with regional partners to design a new separated, non-motorized trail by participating in the Wichita-Sedgwick County Pedestrian Plan adding the walking trails through the western portion of Sedgwick County.

Rising Land Costs

Colwich residents believe that the city should continue to invest in its city parks and when adding new housing developments open spaces should be allocated. However, the high cost of land for private developers discourages the designing of open spaces to service individual neighborhoods.

GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL

Assure adequate recreational opportunities for all citizens of the city.

OBJECTIVES



- OBJ-1. Continue to develop city parks to provide a complete range of recreational opportunity for citizens of all ages.
- OBJ-2. Cooperate with local organizations to plan and implement effective approaches to provide for recreational opportunities keyed to the specific needs of the city.
- OBJ-3. Work with area groups to develop improved recreational facilities for tourists as a facet of the economic development program.
- OBJ-4. Plan and implement a hike and bike trail system as a recreational facility as well as an alternative transportation mode.
- OBJ-5. Maintain a continuing policy of assuring the newly developing neighborhood areas include adequate allowances for play lots and other public spaces.



POLICIES

- OSR-1. Assure adequate recreational opportunity in all areas of the city.
- OSR-2. Maintain and improve existing park areas
- OSR-3. Provide alternate access to major community facilities
- OSR-4. Add play lots in remote neighborhoods
- OSR-5. Add improvements based on public demand
- OSR-6. Expand the hike and bike trail system