

GENERAL

Lawrence is a unique community. To maintain that uniqueness, LPRD is an essential component. I would prefer to see steps taken that keep costs low - reduce hours and/or offerings, family discount, monthly passes, etc. It makes sense for people that use these services and facilities to pay more, but MANY of the people that use and need these facilities are not able to do so. Our youth are faced with more challenges - I believe decreasing sport and activity offerings will increase juvenile crimes and other unfavorable outcomes. Healthy lifestyles go far beyond physical appearance - self-esteem, decreasing medical problems, longevity and better quality of life, etc. For Lawrence to continue to be a desirable and wonderful community, we need to take the necessary steps to preserve what we have and plan for a solid future.

Funding of physical activity is more important today than it has ever been. We fail so many health concerns related to obesity/physical inactivity. Ultimately, the cost of physical activity will far less than the healthcare costs related to lack of physical activity. On a related note, adult physical activity needs to increase, which leads to my concern. Lack of lighting at the new tennis courts will effectively kill adult tennis in Lawrence - tennis arguably one of the least expensive sports to participate in. It is a life sport. To essentially delete the opportunity for the community to participate would be a HUGE mistake.

Would there be any Federal funds available to encourage bicycle commuting - including building separate bicycle trails from residential areas to downtown?

I would like to see one bathroom located on the river levee. It is essential for runners, bikers, walkers, public to have a bathroom to use while at the river. I love the adult exercise class offerings at the Community Building and South Park Rec. They are good classes, with quality instructors, at a reasonable fee. I would pay more money vs. reduce class offerings or hours.

Park and Rec. is an essential community service and is very important in providing a healthy lifestyle in Lawrence.

Special Events are great & Duane Peterson does a great job putting them together & handling them.

This is a very biased survey?

51 years, am a 4th generation residence.

*Enjoyed class on Ballroom dancing. *Very concerned that tennis facility would be downgraded if lights are not installed.

Affordable Parks & Rec is critical to The quality of life in Lawrence.

advertising question - within reason!

What consideration given to "no mow" zones? What initiative responded to AIA-SDAT/2006 benchmarking for sustainable services? What impacts will increased travel & tourism generated by Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area have on service level assurance metrics? What future initiatives empower no child left inside innovations - Healthy US with USD-497 & Private Happy Earth sector partnerships? See KDWP - On tracks/Winter 2009 (region 4)

I would agree there is a greater need to serve teenagers. The city is really lacking in terms of a roller skating rink, an ice rink, putt-putt golf, go-kart track. I would love to see an indoor ice rink-youth & adults could all use it. Also the water exercise seems to be in the morning. What about people who work??

Football is not funded by city skateboarding is used by many and maintenance is vital and appreciated.

It would be important to see annual usage of each of these categories. How many people are using the services? What % of the Lawrence population uses these facilities? How else does one evaluate the function?

you have difficult decisions ahead of you. These are tough times for everyone. Hopefully, you will compile this survey data and use it for the basis of concrete proposals which will be open to the public feedback and input. This survey should be a start to support the decision-making of a small group of people.

I BELIEVE LAWRENCE (CITY OF) SHOULD CONTINUE AGGRESSIVELY ACQUIRING PARK SPACE WHILE IT REMAINS AVAILABLE. CONNECTIVITY WOULD BE NICE.....

FEES

GREAT PROGRAMS! IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO HAVE TO CUT ANY OF THEM. I WOULD SUPPORT HIGHER FEES(10-15% INCREASES) TO CONTINUE THE SPORTS PROGRAMS.

* I support raising downtown parking fees, at least to \$5.00 per ticket. Also increase parking meter fees slightly. * I support fees for gym use. Those who use it can probably support a small fee. *Rather than a large indoor rec facility, I support smaller, more local facilities - embedded within the various region of Lawrence North, South, East, West, Southeast, Northeast, Center.

1. Raise golf course fees. Golfers are used to paying more than what Lawrence charges. 2.Raise fees on adult activities, but not youth activities. 3. Landscaping of Downtown should fall on the city. Not Parks & Rec. 4. We stopped going to the outdoor pool when it went from costing our family of 4 \$6 - \$15.

I had no idea that so many things were offered without a fee. I think it is very acceptable to introduce/increase fees at all events, but provide "scholarship" assistance where possible.

BAND

I play in the band but would attend (the concerts) if I didn't The band concerts are one of the few programs that are for everyone (underlined) - it goes back in history 150 years bandstand built with \$ raised by the band and given to the city for band concerts. It would be a shame to keep using the shell and throw out the band concerts!

Don't forget the city band. Lawrence's city band is one of the 'top" city bands in the nation. I know as I have heard other city bands play at city band conventions. They don't come close. We have a real inexpensive treasure here.

A collection could be taken up at Lawrence City Band concerts which could probably significantly knock down the amount the City has to pay.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Leave all kids pricing about where it is. Charge more for adult softball. What a bargain - \$2.90 a game.

Need more youth baseball and softball facilities.

Don't raise fees for kids 5-17. Keep Prairie Park Center free. Charge more for adults if necessary but not (underlined) Special Pops. I don't want to hear concerts at the Budweiser Gazebo! For plantings you could use volunteers. Need youth camp programming for over 12 years old.

Youth need things to do and parents need to be able to accommodate that at a reasonable cost. Continually raising fees will drive a lot of people away from many services LPRD tries to provide, thus resulting in a loss of revenue. Please work to build a fieldhouse or work better with the schools to have available facilities. Most all kids participating will be in one of these schools at one time or another. It benefits all.

I am vexed by the priority of adult recreation over youth recreation. As well as there has not been new sports facilities built in sometime. There are obviously gym space issues that we face every year. IT seems as if we have the same problems every year and no solutions.

Spring break/summer youth camps are necessary for our community. They serve a population that can't afford expensive summer camps & vacations! We must not take away from those who have very little...the

less these children have to do, the more trouble they will get into! *Also stuff for kids to do at night are important! Basketball. TENNIS!! other organized sports.

Based on the slide presentation this evening, the Recreation Fund receives \$ from tax dollars & program fees. Lawrence is losing more and more money each year by people choosing to take their kids outside of Lawrence to participate in youth sports activities. Reasons: 1. Lack of Facilities 2. Lack of opportunity or programs Several (5-12) local girls softball teams travel to Olathe and pay \$1700 per team to play. Many kids are choosing private programs for sports outside of Lawrence.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

I did not see any information about special populations in the edited PowerPoint video. This is an essential service and greatly enriches the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in our community.

I would hate to lose services as I am in a wheelchair and my daughter would be very bored in the summer without the activities she is use to participating in.

My family are strong supporters of Parks and Rec over the year. However, it is most meaningful for our son who is disabled. Only through Parks and Rec classes is Jonathan able to fully participate in programming such as sports and rec classes. For his quality of life throughout the rest of his life, we strongly (underline) hope that you do not undermine the Special Populations programming which children and adults look forward to. For some children and adults, it is the sole highlight of their week.

Give us our white bus back!

Please consider a combination of increases from both taxes and fees charged for services. A nominal increase in most of the classes should be acceptable as should providing people the option to become a member of the cardio/workout rooms. Even at \$10/month you would generate revenue as most people could not join a gym for that cheap elsewhere. My five year old son has Autism. He loves participating in the Special Populations programs. We are really looking forward to having him be a part of the community through this. Please (underlined) try and keep it going. Its so vital to so many special needs folks and their families. Thanks.

Please don't consider cuts in Special Pops classes. Increase fees if necessary, but remember these are people on fixed -usually minimal- incomes.

SALES TAX

Is the recreation funding that comes from the non-sunseted sales tax being used for purposes - such as housing assistance - that are not recreational programs? If it is, how is that justified?

DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPE

I believe downtown landscape enhancements serve to promote commerce, reduce crime, and generally help the community at large support downtown. Empty planters will lead to more vandalism, crime and littering.

I didn't fully understand the planting survey. Don't eliminate or reduce funding of the band. Many (underlined) people enjoy the band. Attendees spend \$ when they come to concerts. Lawrence has a "top notch" band for Ks and nation.

TENNIS COURT LIGHTS

I want to take this chance to say that the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Dept does a GREAT job of providing services, programs, and green space for Lawrence. I am here tonight to advocate for lighting at the Lawrence High tennis courts. It really is important.

1. During evening nights I spend 4-5 nights a week at LHS tennis courts teaching my kids to play and playing myself. I work in KC and often do not get in till almost dark. The lights on the tennis courts are very necessary for me and my family. 2. Raise parking tickets to \$10.00 ea. 3. Raise fees for meters one quarter 1/2 hour. 4. Raise fees on LHS Football and Basketball games.

Please put in lights at the tennis courts. Even if we had to meter the time or consider reusing the existing lights at LHS to help offset the cost and make sure you are getting multiple bids on the project.

PLEASE keep the night lights on the new tennis courts!

Main concern is the tennis court lights. #1. There are already lights - why can't we relocate them? #2. Topeka has an awesome tennis facility - how do they do it? #3. How much did the parks and recs video cost?

Tennis court lights are a must. It's an improvement to any community. It can be paid by a timer light. Maybe \$.50 an hour up to 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. Don't be ridiculous!!! I can definitely say I pay a lot in taxes. So do the tennis constituents of this city. I would say more in taxes and we use less of the city programs as other portions of the population.

Concerned about the plan to eliminate lighting at outdoor tennis facility. Bike trails in streets are not often used because we don't feel they are safe. Separate bike paths, such as the one on 23rd St., are frequently used and additional paths should be added throughout Lawrence to promote health and eco-friendly modes of transportation. Increasing fees is a non-progressive approach that will have side effects that the "75-25" crowd does not work/expect. Please ignore these comments. I don't want to pay for some items in the Federal budget, but I do as a member of the community. When our lower-income youth have no programs, what will they do? Some will pursue activities that are not as pro-social as those they could do if Parks & Rec was appropriately funded.

My main purpose here tonight is to show support for having lights at the New Tennis Center. I believe it is absolutely essential that a city the size of Lawrence have a public, lighted tennis facility.

Please, Consider improvements to the tennis facility and programs. If sufficient funds are not available for installing the lights, keep the existing and functional tennis center with lights in operation!!!

Greater emphasis should be placed on outdoor tennis. I understand that the current courts at LHS are scheduled to be moved. I am concerned about this move and if the new facility does not have lights, there will be no evening tennis available in the city. This will eliminate leagues (WTT, USTA), recreation, lessons, etc., affecting a significant number of residents and students in Lawrence. These facilities should be improved, not just an afterthought. Fund the outdoor courts, and fund lights for these courts. I would be willing to be contacted about this issue.

Very many of us are very serious about the continuation of Adult Community Tennis which would require either the installation of new lights or the moving of existing lights from the old facility scheduled for replacement. Without lights - we are gone!

Gee, guys... its pretty obvious that tennis is off your radar screen. We are very disappointed that the City agreed to fund the lights at the new facility being built by the school district, but now says NO, never mind we are not funding any lights. That leaves tennis players with 2 sets of 2 lighted courts. That is not enough. You have taken our game away from us. Tennis requires very little maintenance from you-no mowing, no umpires, no leagues-we run our own leagues. Tennis is a growing sport. Great for women, great for older people. For a town this size not to be able to host a USTA or a WTT league is ridiculous. We have put up with crappy courts for years. Please, please give our sport some consideration. Kay Pettit

Very interested in maintaining lighting for the new community Tennis Courts (the 8 courts being replaced.)

I am here mainly for lights at the tennis courts. I feel we need them. Many of us work throughout the Day and the only exercise we get is tennis.

We need lights at the new tennis courts. Use existing lights. Have them metered if necessary.

Youth sports are very important and every effort need to be made to maintain. It is imperative that there are lights on the new tennis courts. Other than KU, no courts with lights would exist. Move lights from existing courts to new courts to save on capital!

I want to thank the P&R Dept. for this opportunity. I also want to voice my concern, as a long-time resident tax payer that we may be losing a service/facility we have had for many years. That is the tennis court lighting.

Lawrence needs to move forward not backward and we need lights for the courts. They are currently used every night, all year except in rain. Please consider re-use of existing lights when relocating courts to save significant funds. These lights were new only a few years ago, still are in perfect condition and if they are not relocated what may happen to them - write-off, scrap? Excellent job overall by P&R! Greatly appreciated.

RECREATION CENTERS

Please keep rec centers open weekends. Play and recreation is what it's all about! All (underlined) tennis courts need lights even the school meets use the lights. Don't limit them to duals and starting early (missing more (underlined) class) and having to travel more. If you're building courts, do it right. Put in lights! Make them worthwhile.

I plead to keep the recreation buildings open as often as possible. It helps keep teens and pre-teens out of crime and leaves them something active to do or to get away from stress (if you think about it, the centers practically are cops that prevent crime from occurring).

I use the walking/jogging tracts at: Community building (infrequent) Holcom Center (Tuesday and Thursday 7-11 am; East Lawrence - Mon., Wed., Friday from 7-10 a.m. These walking/jogging facilities are extremely important for my health. (I am 70 years old). I would be willing to pay a fee for walking/jogging for weekend/holiday use. I would be willing to pay fee provided hours/days would be reserved for senior use only.

Excellent Programs We have. At 76 I really enjoy The Holcom Complex-Early AM Walking-Weight Room-ETC Please consider keeping it open at 6:00AM. Several of us like the early morning hrs and would help you if needed.

No charge- keep the community buildings free. Keep activities free. Free.

A number of us use The Holcom Rec Center early in the morning Monday to Friday. Someone made the decision to move our early morning cleaning and maintenance person to the community building and move in another person who doesn't allow us to get in before 7:00AM. There are so few of us and we are friends with current maintenance person. We do not understand why this change was made. question about advertising - added "if done tastefully & small"

AQUATICS

Possible of cutting hours at indoor pool. Or maybe share budget w/ school district and possible discount to school district personnel i.e. Classified and Certified Staff

Prefers not to reduce hours at pools

1. My family and I stopped using the outdoor aquatic center last year when the fee for children went up from \$1.75 to \$3.00. We did have a birthday party this year at LIAC but reduced the # of children invited because of the fee increases. We are a household with an income above the median and can't see using either aquatic facility at current or raised prices. 2.If the golf courses make so much money it might be in the city's best interest to sell "golf"(as an idea or sport) to the youth in Lawrence at a reduced price w/more lessons and camp available. The more youth that get involved the brighter the future of the courses and ability to make money from them.

Total Responses: 66

Comments from Online Survey

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

My main concern is the special populations department. I am willing to do whatever needed to keep that program to its high standard. The program serves a large population in Lawrence, and surrounding areas, and, without it, the majority of those served would be left without anything to participate in.

Our family uses and appreciates all the activities that are available through parks and recreation. It would be shame to get rid of any of these programs. We have three daughters - our oldest is very active in the Special Populations Program. Annette Deghand runs this program wonderfully! We have participated in sports, arts, exercise, etc. These programs are all very important to the well being and happiness of our family. They are affordable and convenient for our family. I especially would be very disappointed to see changes in the Special Populations Programs. We have participated in the long trips, etc with Annette and her staff. The people who participate in these programs look forward to these events. For many this is the only entertainment they receive. Many have no family to assist them and save to afford these trips. Annette assures them affordable trips that will be fun for all. Our daughter also participates in the Acting Classes, Art Classes, Nutrition Classes, etc for special populations - all great programs! Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

The special populations programs are essential to Lawrence Parks and Rec. Those types of programs are not offered at many other places and I feel as though that should be one of the last things to face cuts.

just wanted to underscore my family's feelings of how essential the special populations program is to us (the family) and our community. we participate in these programs and see them as a great way for people with special needs to fit right in with others in the community. we are quite proud that lawrence has such numerous and varied special populations class/activities. every city should provide such a service. thank you.

It is my sincere hope that funding for the special pops program is not cut and that fees are not raised. Individuals who access this program have such limited opportunities available to them that it would be horrible for our community if it was deleted or if it became more cost prohibitive than it already is for some of the individuals who access services from BNC, CLO and Cottonwood, Inc. The same goes for the elderly, if fees are raised to access Parks and Rec buildings and I sincerely hope that there is an exception made for the elderly and disabled. Particularly after seeing Lawrence's Parks and Rec's department with the award last year for most inclusive community from InterHab.

I think it's important to maintain activities for kids for a full spectrum of reasons. Having been a Spec Educator I obviously see the need for activities for that population as well. My age limits some of the things I participate in....but I have a very special passion for the Nature Center. I do think "some of Lawrence" could afford to contribute a little/little more to help these programs.

I feel like the Special Populations program is an area that is needed in this community. I work with this population and activities for this population are very limited. The Special Population programs provide these individuals with opportunities to learn new things, travel and participate in a variety of activities.

I always hold up LPRD as an example of the wonderful things a city can do to support its special populations, and I hope I can continue to do so. Please do not cut this important programming for a group of citizens that have few other options.

I feel strongly that LPRD should not cut programming especially to special populations, teenagers - i.e weight rooms etc, and for youth while at the same time expanding the bike trails and paths. If you are going to expand paths / bike trails then reduce cost and have these paths be dirt NOT CONCRETE!

I am particularly concerned about funding for events that serve special populations. For many families the events you sponsor represent an important source of support for both the individual with disabilities and for their families. Often, individuals with disabilities have few or no outlets other than those provided by the city and county. PLEASE do not withdraw support for these essential services. Lawrence has many families who literally moved hundreds of miles to live in Lawrence in order to access the resources at the University, school district and Lawrence Community. So often, I hear people say how much they appreciate how devoted the city is to people with special needs. Please do not withdraw services for the most vulnerable members of our community. Thank you,

The special populations program is not duplicated anywhere else in the city or in the area. I would be very sorry to see it reduced or eliminated. Please think very hard before increasing fees: families with special needs children already have extra stress on their finances and the pinch may make it impossible for them to enroll their children in these classes. The special populations program has been an essential part of my daughter's ability to learn the rules of social behavior, have fun with children like her, and participate in activities that otherwise be off limits because other instructors simply do not accommodate for disabled or cognitively impaired children.

before you reduce/eliminate special pops programming, please give us the chance to be able to pay more for programming rather than eliminate programs. These participants will not understand elimination of their programs, and we would rather come up with extra money than not have the programs at all.

While my children haven't done Special Populations camps, I know many families who have and would support continued funding (even w/ higher fees) for this programming. I also really hope you will keep the Youth summer camps. Those are great. I would rather pay more than have corporate sponsorship displayed in public places (yuck!).

I find the questions interesting in that they appear to center on specific programs. That is, the special populations programs appear to be at least a 1/3 of the questions offered. I wonder why questions concerning golf, youth sports, adult sports, the baseball fields, and the like are not

included? Is this because the special population programs impact a population that generally does not have the ability to voice their own opinions and concerns? Is it seen as a population that will offer the least resistance? I ask because as a father of four children who use the Lawrence Park and Recreation facilities on a regular basis, am a home owner, shop and pay taxes in the Lawrence area and believe at the core of who supports Lawrence in many respects; I am concerned at what appears to be on the chopping block. I have a 10 year old who is involved in aquahawks, piano, girl scouts, and plays on a variety of park and recreation teams. I have a 6 year old that plays Kaw Valley Soccer, is a boy scout, and plays on a variety of park and recreation teams. I have a preschooler that uses the facilities but not on team as of yet. Then I have a 8 year old who participates in community events but relies on the Special Population Programs for a great deal of his community activities. We have tried other options but have found for meaningful participation, the special population programs offer the best options. We pay for this and want to continue to pay for this, however, would urge the board to consider other services offered and what those cuts would mean to these individuals. That is, if you were to cut indoor soccer my 6 year old would be disappointed. He played on a team this past winter. However, he also has outdoor soccer, basketball, baseball, riding his bike, scouts, friend pick-up games in the neighborhood, and a variety of other activities that my son with a disability does not have access to. Please consider this as you go forward.

Special populations programs are essential...that is one of the reasons why Lawrence is a great place to live for these folks. They have lots of wonderful leisure activities for the handicapped which is important to overall mental health and well-being. And that is one of the reasons that Lawrence is the best place to live in the state!!

I feel of all the things listed, it is most important to maintain AS IS, the pools, Prairie Park Nature Center, AND Special Populations Activities. The opportunities offered through Parks and Rec. for Special Populations are some of the very few enjoyable things this population have available to them and to cut this section would be devastating to many people with disabilities!

The special populations program is a great asset to the community and the families it serves!

If at all possible, other things should be cut or fees increased BEFORE anything changes with the special populations programming. Children and adults with special needs already have increased costs in nearly every aspect of their lives and families already struggle with those additional costs. They are the last people that should have to incur additional costs, especially when money can be saved on landscaping (which is beautiful), the community must prioritize.

I was unable to attend the meeting last week, but I am glad you made this survey available. Families with children (young and adult) with special needs desperately need the social and physical opportunities provided by the special populations division. These services are critical as an inclusion measure in the Lawrence community. Without the program our son would not have the opportunity to further his gross motor abilities and communication skills. He is excited about these fun activities that he would otherwise miss out on if there were no all star sports teams. All kids deserve the opportunity to play sports and be a kid. Furthermore, I would imagine that many adults with special needs rely on the planned community events to get out and experience life, something they may not get to do otherwise.

I would not mind a slight raise in costs for the program I have used in the past, but the Special Populations group should not have such an increase. Most people with disabilities are on a fixed income, and unable to pay much more for their entertainment and enjoyment. The Special Populations programs, and the people who work with these programs are terrific. I hope there is not much change in what is currently being done with this.

please increase the number of low-cost recreational/social and educational opportunities for special needs populations: more dances with DJ's, computer classes, dance classes, local social outings. Please decrease the more expensive Out-of-town outings...They are too expensive.

Lawrence runs a great Park and Rec department. We are happy to support them to the best of our ability. We love the Special Populations programs and REALLY do not want to see them changed!

PROGRAMMING

I take fitness classes offered through LPR and I exercise in the weight room or cardio room on days when I do not have a class. I would prefer not to pay extra for using the cardio room, if I have enrolled in a class.

Parks and Rec is essential for the community. However, it needs to be kept affordable for those who can not afford private programs/facilities. Please do not terminate any programs.

I only take adult dance lessons which I believe are priced way more than reasonable. It would be likely I would continue attending if the "tuition" fee were raised a reasonable amount.

I use the cardio room weekly, and really enjoy the option of having that. I hope you can find a way to not charge for that service. Keep up the fantastic work, but cut back on all the holiday stuff you put up, plant more permanent things that don't need to be maintained as closely.

The hyvee- easter egg hunt....I would pay money for these events if necessary , a nominal fee.

I participate in the Senior fitness classes. Would be willing to pay more to continue those classes and to support other programs.

I think the sports and fitness programs/classes are essential to keeping Lawrence healthy and socially engaged! Please don't reduce hours at the Rec. centers.

I like the summer sports and fall sports programs. And I don't think it is too pricey at all. My children like the gymnastics offered instead of the much more expensive classes LGA has to offer. My children enjoy the aquatics special events also. It gives us parents a nice break and the kids get to enjoy theirselves! Also, the spring and summer camps are affordable and I depend on them when my children are not in school.

Great programs and great department -- as important as any function the city operates especially in this time that the community needs reasonably priced activities that can benefit the health

and well being. Can not over price activities for public recreation but need to set a reasonable user fee recovery rate. Can not expect community Parks and Recreation to cover 100% in user fees. I would rather see a few pot holes not get repaired than to limit or over price activities and parks that children and adults alike. We should be encouraging people to utilize Parks and programs and not make them restrictive by over pricing users. I would rather see slight increases in taxes to be designated to Parks and Recreation than to over price users. Lets make sure that the 94 sales tax is getting used where it was originally vested--for improvements and operations of Parks and Recreation programs and facilities that are to benefit the quality of life for the citizens of Lawrence.

My answers to some of these questions might be misleading. For example, I am unlikely to use the weight rooms (whether or not there is a charge). Here's the reason: I took weight training classes there a few times (once or twice from Park Lockwood, and once or twice from someone named Sue ??). I LOVED it so much that I bought my own weights that I can use in my basement at my convenience. So, these courses were very valuable to me and improved my life a lot. I am happy to keep paying taxes for these facilities, even though I am unlikely to use them in the future (although there are a few pieces of equipment that I miss and might come in to use, just for fun). I support all of Parks and Recreation's programming! Thank you!

Some of these survey questions had strange answers that didn't apply. Specifically, changing the hours of services would not lead me to be more or less likely to use them, unless the hours were so short that I could not use them. I generally support higher fees so that the employees don't get cut out of the deal. Maybe students on reduced/free lunch programs could get vouchers for reduced rates with city programs. I would hate to see the fees go up so high that only the rich kids could use the services. I would support more perennial native plants in the parks, which would reduce the cost of maintenance.

Thanks to Parks & Recreation we have a beautiful city. Please do whatever it takes to keep it that way.

Parks and Rec does a marvelous job - our grandchildren use their services constantly, and we do many times. They deserve to be maintained and well-funded. User costs could rise a bit and still be well used and popular in the community. This is a vital service and cannot be reduced. I believe people will pay \$1 more for the services...beyond that it may be prohibitive for some users and then you will actually take in less money.

I would hate to lose Parks and Recreation events and classes. It's part of what makes Lawrence a great community. I am all for fundraising and/or corporate sponsorships. I would be interested in seeing LPR go through a "reBranding" of sorts. The LPR youth sports program has the reputation of being for kids who are not as good. If you are good, you participate in Hoopsters or DCABA. Now that LPR has absorbed these programs, I would like to see them all listed under the same umbrella organization (LPR) but organized as different leagues. I know in my son's 2nd grade class there are boys who are embarrassed to join a Parks and Rec league but don't feel good enough for the other so they don't play at all. Second grade is too young for kids to be discouraged! I would be happy to discuss these thoughts with someone or be a part of a committee to evaluate. Thanks for listening!

My daughter is an active participant in soccer, gymnastics, and dance through LPRD. Most lower income families utilize these services through Lawrence Parks and Recreation because they are less expensive than gymnastics academy or the dance academy or KVSA. Increasing the cost of youth sport programs and special programming will put more of a financial burden on low income families. The Lawrence Aquatic Centers are already charging high admittance fees. Increasing these fees will also harm low income families who utilize these facilities during the summer months. I don't participate in summer youth camps because my daughter attends a year round school and therefore there is not the need for summer camps. However, many families utilize these services to keep their kids busy and active during the summer. Raising the cost of summer camps will again, put a financial burden on already struggling families. My daughter's dance class is in the community building. Each time I am there, I see many people using the weight room. The same goes for the East Lawrence Center. Again, the majority of people who use these services are low income families and individuals who can't afford a gym membership. A small fee is understandable but more than \$1-\$2 each visit will be difficult for some to manage.

With the population aging, the Senior Strength Training classes are so essential to help keep this population fit.

People pay a lot of money for classes for their kids, that money could go to LDPR if you hire competent instructors instead of aloof teenagers. When one talks to parents, they always say the same thing "With Parks and Rec it's hit and miss" For example, I can't afford a private swimming instructor but I would pay a little more for the class if I was sure that my boy was going to learn some skills and not just have some fun in the water. As it's been, to sign for a class is to buy a lottery ticket. You need to build a reputation for quality!

cut all the parks programs

I especially appreciate the reasonably priced offerings for children of all ages. Having such a wide range of things available at a price we can afford for our kids is part of what makes Lawrence such a great place to live. On the "corporate sponsorship" question, I would not be opposed to local businesses having the opportunity to advertise in some ways (like they do in the Activities Guide already), but I would strongly oppose having national brands like soft drinks, etc. being allowed to do it. And I am totally opposed to signage being added to open spaces.

I grew up in Lawrence. I've had the benefit of LPRD's camps, programs and facilities first hand. Now, my family is enjoying the benefits of this fine city department and its programs. I feel a slight increase in fees is acceptable. Please don't "out price" the less fortunate citizens of this city. Everyone should be able to enjoy Lawrence's Youth Sports programs, pools, day camps, etc. Please find a good middle ground. Hopefully, a slight increase in services for people over 18 years of age, a decrease in hours and a little less spending on plantings will do the job. LPRD and its programs are one of the reasons why people live in Lawrence. In this current economy it will be hard to fund LPRD. I think most people realize this. Please do your best to save as much as possible, while keeping it affordable.

Please keep Zumba Jam Party - have it once each month!

I would like to see more weight, and free weight, and low impact cardio facilities. i enjoy gymnastic center, hip-hop/break dancing. i have psych-disability low income, and university student. I feel very busy, and the facilities seem to far away for me and my neighborhood does not have one. I would pay a dollar or more per visit, however sometimes I would like to exercise just very briefly for free. I enjoyed the parks and rec center and arts center yoga and pilates course and am interested in aereobic classes if had time. Last time I checked the website for Holcom I could not find the hours or was confused by the schedule on the door (varying hours are fine I just need to write down to remember.)

The special events that occur in the park are vital to this community. My family and I have always looked forward to the art in the park and the fall arts and crafts. We mark our calendars well in advance so we don't miss it and friends come into town from Kansas City to join us. It is a big day downtown and we end up having dinner at a downtown restaurant after the fair. It is important to the community in that we can support local artists since this is such an "art" community. We also lookforward to the band concerts.....that is where we see all our friends and we get to enjoy the beautiful park that the city provides for us. My daughter grew up running around while the band played and it has always given me the feel "small town feel" which I think is so important to maintain as we watch our community grow.

I think the craft shows should be moved back to Sat. instead of Sun. I think more people will go to them if they are on a Sat. my sales have been down and I think that is why. When I do sales on Sat. I have better sales. thanks Crafter

I participate regularly in fitness classes offered by Parks & Rec. I find the price of these classes to be extremely reasonable. Why wasn't there a suggestion to increase by a few dollars the cost of fitness instruction? In the face of tough economic times, I doubt many participants would object to a small increase.

My answers regarding special events programming refer only to the Daddy/Daughter Date Night - that is the only special event my family has participated in.

I was an exhibitor at the Holiday Bazaar in Dec. 2008. I certainly did not make enough money to justify paying an increased exhibitor fee.

Currently I do not live in Lawrence But i do Attend the Spring Arts and Crafts Festivals and the Fall Arts and Crafts festivals. I look forwards to being there. this coming Fall.

I would rather see an INCREASE in the selection of Special Events, not a decrease. I know children/family activities are important but so are adult activities. Beer and wine tastings are a great example. Alot of participants probably could not afford to attend a privately-sponsored wine tasting. Golf uses alot of resources and seems to have fewer players than alot of other activities. LPRD should reconsider an activity that seems costly and appeals mostly to people who could probably afford to use private courses. The choice of fitness classes seems to be shrinking, while some (examples Zumba and Pilates) have so many class times. Why so many choices for one type of fitness class that may not appeal to all? More 6:00 - 6:15 PM starting

times for fitness would be great. Love the summer film series in downtown! Please continue it! Thanks.

Please, keep woodworking shop. It allows single, widowed or divorced women the ability to repair and complete new and necessary projects around the house. It will empower women to be knowledgeable of work to be done on their home by others. The Douglas County Senior Center has already taken away their woodworking shop. Keep the Concert in the Park a Lawrence tradition.

AQUATICS

What about encouraging the monthly and summer or yearly passes? Does that make more money for the dept? For what does the band use it's \$12,000? How about turning off the fountains at the pools? They scare and spray us in the face. It's also very loud. I dislike them and I'm sure the pump costs to operate. What about increasing the cost of reserving the shelters by \$5? Please don't cut swimming lessons. \$40 for 8 lessons is still reasonable. You may need to cut dance lessons, etc. for adults and focus on kids. You know what is not well attended better than I do and what services are available other places. Those are what may need to be cut...at least temporarily.

answered mainly the areas that impact me or people I know. My boys are 2 and 4. I do not feel comfortable taking them to the city pool on a weekend. It's very crowded and it only took a second for my son to hop into the deep-end from the kids area last summer. I ran and got him, but since then have LOVED the wading pool. It's perfect for toddlers and much safer. To have keep that as an option for families with small children, I would happily pay up to \$5 per trip. Thank you!

I strongly believe that use of the South Park wading pool should be free and that children should pay only a nominal fee for swimming in other pools. Also the City Band brings much more than \$12,000 worth of entertainment for the many who attend the concerts. Do not discontinue the City Band concerts!

In the last 2 years, our participation in the LP&R programs, services and facilities has increased. We love the pools!

What about Senior citizens? Reducing the hours of swimming in the warm water lap swimming would be very difficult. So would a raise in fees. It's difficult enough now, and summer is almost impossible. The children always get preference. One hour is just not enough in that pool, and many walkers take up all the space. The main lap pool is much too cold. Many Seniors have arthritis and surgeries which need special exercising in warm water. Believe it or not, swimming in the a.m.s in the outdoor pool is difficult because of the direction of the lanes. The early a.m. sun blinds the swimmers, and many older people are light sensitive. I hope that you will regard my ideas as serious and a necessity.

I really enjoy the indoor aquatic center. I would be willing to pay more than the current charge. I did not indicate how much more I would be willing to pay because my "age group" is lumped with children. I hate to see charges for young kids raised.

swimming is such an important skill and parks has always done a good job with that instruction and having great pools. leave that price alone and charge more for little league baseball, the cost of those lights and lighting is way more than expense at pool. I do think weight rooms should have a charge, I pay \$3 per at LMH south, why should others have same thing free. thanks for letting us have input.

I'd rather see other city services cut than Parks & Rec. The already reduced pool hours seem ridiculous to me. It always seems to be crowded.

I would be better able to utilize Carl Knox facility if the hours weren't so limited. I seldom use the indoor facility in West Lawrence as it is a 40 minute round trip drive from my home. I would like to swim year round, but don't feel it is a feasible option. Just opening an hour earlier would make a big difference. I use the outdoor pool almost daily during the summer and reduced hours at this facility would be devastating. It is a highly utilized resource in our community and actually more lifeguards are needed. Often the slides and diving areas aren't all open due to staff availability. There is frequently no lifeguard monitoring the lap lanes in the afternoon, which creates a safety issue as people use it to cross from different areas of the pool constantly.

The Lawrence Aquatics program is fantastic and enjoyed by competitive and recreational swimmers. The competition pool is extremely busy in the morning, afternoon and evening with hundreds of swimmers training. During the middle of the day, the competitive pool is frequented by competitive and recreational swimmers. The weekends can be extremely busy with swimming meets. The recreational pool is super and families and children have a great time there. The same can be said for the outdoor aquatic center. Both the indoor and outdoor aquatic centers are needed to accommodate competitive and recreational swimmers during the summer when the swimming population increases. I can remember before the LIAC was built. The tension was palpable as teams vied for pool time and LPR staff tried to accommodate competitive and recreational swimmers. Please do not cut the aquatics program. Most people will understand that the cost of energy is increasing and wages are increasing as well. Swimming is an excellent activity to maintain the health of citizens of all ages and abilities. In a time when obesity and inactivity is a major health problem, I feel it is illogical to cut the aquatics programs. Swimming is a lifetime sport for all generations, all abilities and those with disabilities. Finally, Jimmy Gibbs is an excellent aquatics director. The program under his direction has improved significantly. He is a skillful manager that has done a wonderful job responding to the needs of the patrons. Please give him you full support.

We want the outdoor pool to be open to those of us with young children earlier in the day...before naps and the heat of the afternoon sun, when burning on little bodies is more likely. There is a huge group of Moms who feel that we should be able to bring our little ones to the public pool between 10 and noon. Our public pool's late opening time of 1:00 is the only one I've heard of in any of the many towns I've lived in or of that of my friends. There has to be another, better way. We are thinking of starting a petition for better pool hours. Another problem is the

pool clientele. There are a lot of youth who are doing and saying unsavory things and I don't feel comfortable having my older children there without me or another adult, and even then my kids are exposed to some pretty lude and crude behavior. I don't know what the answer to this, but there has to be a more specific code of conduct. Also, it's pretty hard to enjoy your time lying in a chair or playing with your baby in the zero depth area while you're breathing the second hand smoke of so many people. Can we make the pool non-smoking? I don't know why it's not included in the city's smoking ban. One more problem, I have never been to a pool where there were closings due to fecal matter. This is such a frequent problem and has sent us home multiple times. It got to the point last year, where I was ready to have days added onto our monthly passes since the facility I paid for was so many times unavailable to us. We live in Old West Lawrence, so this is our neighborhood pool, and it is getting so that we can't even use it. The idea of being charged more for it will just keep us away since it is already an unpleasant situation.

If hours need to be reduced at the indoor aquatic center, please consider eliminating hours in the middle of the day. I can only go in the evening and the Aquahawks take up most of the pool, so it isn't possible to swim until nearly 7:00. If the Aquahawks didn't take up as much of the pool, it would be possible for more people to swim. I realize that the Carl Knox Natatorium is open, but the Indoor Aquatic Center is so much nicer.

Wading pool should be a "no lifeguard on duty" -- city held-harmless for injuries type of situation if it isn't already. should look for business contributions for chemicals needed for the swimming pool or be subsidized by indoor and outdoor aquatics and REMAIN FREE. Lawrence Band... WTF?? \$12,000?? For what? Why aren't these people just volunteers? Heck, sign up any orchestral band groups or local bands who want to get out and get noticed. They would happily do it for free, right? Let LMH/FSHS and Jr. High bands rotate one concert each week during the summer! City plantings? I thought city was getting funded for this through business taxes from the businesses in those areas? Let the Downtown Lawrence Association pay or, require each business (or two closest businesses) be responsible for the planting areas in front of their stores. Failure to do so results in fines. Let's get creative here, people. :) business signage in parks, no, i don't like it but i understand the need (though don't like it). If they aren't tasteless, in other words, SIMPLY business names, not their trademarked logos or adds or locations or phone numbers....why not! Good luck.

You didn't ask anything about the age of my children at the end of the survey. My highest funding priority is for the Aquatics centers staying open and maintaining hours. Thank you for providing this opportunity to be heard.

Raising pool fees will make it cost prohibitive for my family and I to enjoy one of the few city programs available. Why isn't the city raising fees for the Arts center?

What about having a Family Pass for the pool, especially during the summer? For me to take my two children is \$10 a visit--which quickly adds up.

Please don't close the wading pool!

I have a 12 month old and we are really looking forward to using the South Park wading pool this summer. Please keep it!

I would DEFINITELY support paying \$1 or \$2 to get into the wading pool. As for city band concerts: I KNOW there are many local bands who would be happy to play for free. Bluegrass, Folk, etc.

I purchase the annual swim pass so the daily fees don't matter to me. I think a 10% increase in the annual swim pass would be a fair increase. Perhaps an annual pass for the cardio and weight rooms would work too.

I love the indoor aquatic center! I attend the Jivin Joints and Aqua Fit classes 5 days a week and I swim laps f-6 days a week. Please do keep the hours the same. I would be glad to pay an increased fee to keep these programs. The \$20.00 monthly swim pass is a bargain. I would even pay 25;00 or 30;00 a month for that. What a gift to the community. I have brought my grandchildren to activities at South Park, indoor aquatic center, prairie park nature center, and seasonal events.

If you need to cut costs, why not look at the facilities and see when they aren't being utilized the most. If the indoor aquatic center is packed from 5am to 9am but practically empty at 6pm to 9pm, then why not reduce the hours during times of non-usage. People won't like it, but sometimes we have to get used to it. I swim at the indoor aquatic center at 6am, and it's packed, but almost empty at 8am. I would love to swim at 6am on Saturdays, but it is closed and have to wait or skip it. I understand that opening the pool at 6am for one or five people is not efficient and I will just have to deal with it.

I have never ever been able to use the wading pool because of the silly age limit. If you have a 7yo, you can't go with your 3 and 4yo's because of the 7yo being over the age limit. I usually don't say "In my old town we...", but in our old town of Norman, OK. They went through a similar deal with their wading pool and whether or not to shut it down. At that point they were even charging for the wading pool. Instead of closing it, they turned it into a really cool giant splash pad (almost like in the shallow, 0-depth entry areas of the pool, but no standing water). They were then able to extend the hours and open it to all ages. People use it a lot more now and even have birthday parties at it, renting the covered picnic areas nearby, that were formerly left unused. It's now a hot-spot of activity in Norman, when it's open, even in cloudy weather. It saved the town a ton of money and made many parents very happy. It's worth considering, as there are no drowning incidents, parents can come and go with all their children as they wish, and income can be gained by rental of nearby covered picnic shelters (easily built). Thanks for leaving such a generous comment area and giving me the opportunity to present the idea to you.

don't mess with the pool!

As the parent of young children, I benefit from and use heavily LPRD. I go to the pool less because it is too expensive for us. We are on a very limited budget. The best way to consider a fee is collectively, I think. For us, a family of four going to the pool is expensive. I am

disappointed that the LPRD continues to fund the golf course. There are other opportunities to golf in this city. I would very much like to see the golf course be part of the funding discussion.

Being a single mother with 5 young children on a very tight budget, I really hate to see the swimming fees raised. It's expensive enough as it is and that is our all time favorite activity in the summer. On the other hand I so appreciate your scholarship funding for my children to be able to participate in the sport activities.

If you are forced to reduce hours, please take a careful look at when maximum usage is. Closing the Knox pool and closing the other pool at 7 just reduces the number of users. Close during the middle of the day. Leave the rec centers open for jr. hi-h.s. students. There are few enough options for this age group as it is.

I don't think that the aquatic hours should change as there are people that use the aquatic centers during the evenings due to conflicts or work during the day. The current prices are reasonable. If the prices continue to increase, the less likely people will be able to afford to continue to use these facilities.

I used to participate in the Aqua Fit Class on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. I stopped for two reasons. Twenty people in the class is TOO MANY and the water was TOO COLD. I would be interested in returning if you made the class no larger than 12-15 and kept the water warmer. With Rheumatoid Arthritis, the pool is too cold. And twenty people in the class causes one another to bump in to each other and you can't properly do the exercises. Quality is more important than quantity (translation - the City of Lawrence is more interested in MONEY than the quality of the class. I tolerated it for several years and finally decided it wasn't worth it.

My children love the indoor aquatic center and we use it often. They also enjoy taking a variety of classes and camps especially ones at the Prairie Park Nature center.

I worked several years at the outdoor pool and feel raising admission and/or reducing hours would be a huge mistake. Kids and families don't have many options for things to do in this town already! I understand cuts must be made and would recommend they come from somewhere else, such as city hall/administrative positions...or something with less impact on the community.

We use the swimming pool alot. The rates should stay where they are. Adults should not be charged any more. We don't incur the costs that the kids do. Also, it encourages parents to go to the facility with their child and this makes it safer for everyone!!! We use the softball/baseball fields ALOT! Make these nice and useful for all. More tournament hostings in this town would be great. Just think of the income incurred when you have families in town...food, shopping, hotels. It is a good family atmosphere.

We love and value the opportunities provided for us and our children by parks and rec. We would be willing to pay increased fees for all facilities, but I am concerned that too much of an increase (especially at the pools) would not be feasible for many families. Just an aside-The kid/baby portion of the Indoor Aquatic Center is entirely too cold. Myself and many others have stopped taking our babies and small children due to the blue, shivering, cold factor. We have

even driven to a community pool in Kansas City with a warmer zero-entry play area indoor pool. Thanks for listening and giving us the opportunity to communicate with you.

The indoor aquatic center is the best run of it's kind I have ever had the priveledge of using. The early hours it is open (5:15 on weekdays for lap swimming) is one of the biggest draws. I would be willing to pay as much as \$10 a month additional to the current monthly pass cost to continue to use it with the hours it is open. Additionally the aquatic classes are incredible, and I would be willing to pay more per class to keep the variety of type and times available.

What about encouraging the monthly and summer or yearly passes? Does that make more money for the dept? For what does the band use it's \$12,000? How about turning off the fountains at the pools? They scare and spray us in the face. It's also very loud. I dislike them and I'm sure the pump costs to operate. What about increasing the cost of reserving the shelters by \$5? Please don't cut swimming lessons. \$40 for 8 lessons is still reasonable. You may need to cut dance lessons, etc. for adults and focus on kids. You know what is not well attended better than I do and what services are available other places. Those are what may need to be cut...at least temporarily.

I think that if you would set the pricing at the pools to one set price for all ages. Lake Shawnee swimming area pricing is set at \$2.00 per person no matter what age. I think that is reasonable and more affordable then if you charge different prices for ages. That way you are making up for lower pricing by getting admission on the age groups that you would normally let in for free...just a thought

I have two small children; one of whom has severe autism. I cannot take my children to the aquatic center. It is too crowded and I'm likely to loose one or both of my children. One year I was chasing my son with autism and my daughter nearly drowned in the pool! I can easily take them to South Park Wading pool where they are safe, fenced in, and I can closely watch them swim in the shallow water. We often spend 3 or 4 hours there every day in the summer. My son's favorite activity is swimming and we cannot live without it. I would be willing to pay \$1 to get into the facility if it meant that I could still bring my children.

I think the hours at the wading pool and public pool are already rather limted and hat eto see them cut back, so would rather pay fees or slightly higher fees to see these resources stay open. After all they still have to be maintained and we paid to build them so it seems silly not to use them. I have often brought my son to Praire Park Nature Center and would be happy to pay a fee to help maintain it. I also wonder about asking dog owners to pay a licensing fee to help maintain the dog parks. In Madison, WI, where I lived before, we paid to license the dogs and then paid for a park tag (it was \$10/dog and \$1/additional dog annually 10 years ago). Now these were checked very sporadically at a park now and then, but it seemed like most people bought park tags as we were happy to help pay for maintenance of parks we used (the licensing fee was required by the city and went to them).

what is Carl Knox Natatorium?

I think it is a great idea to charge a fee for the South Park Wading pool, even a \$1-\$2 per/child would help. I would also be willing to pay an extra dollar for my children to swim at the indoor or outdoor pool. Charging a dollar or two admission to the Nature center is acceptable as well.

I use the Carl Knox pool three times per week and the LIAC several times per month. I'm hopeful that the hours will not be cut as they are already pretty limited.

Please keep the pools affordable for Lawrence families.

-\$1 is very reasonable to the wading pool. People take it for granted when its free. -Does P&R have resources to organize a 5K race to raise funds? -the city band should have donations collection station during their concerts but still keep it free for all to enjoy. -otherwise, you can sell seats in front of the stage for \$1. I would pay for a seat rather than drag my lawn chair out. - same goes for 4th of July fireworks. I would pay \$5 for a good seat in advance rather than fight the crowds to stand on the bridge. I'd pay \$10-20 if there's a band with the fireworks.

Since there are very few choices for pools in the Lawrence area, I am very opposed to raising the prices on admittance. It is already on the higher end of what we can afford to pay to go occasionally, and if the price were raised further we would hardly be able to go at all. Except for the wading pool. My family does utilize that, and a small fee to go there seems ok to me.

Parks and Rec of Lawrence is very important to me and my family. We love the using the indoor and outdoor aquatic centers and we participate in a variety of classes through parks and rec. We do so because they are accesible and affordable and fun. One of the reasons we were so excited about moving to Lawrence was because of the indoor and outdoor aquatic centers. Thank you for all you do!

Lawrence is a brilliant and beautiful community, that I am proud to call my home. I always have been proud to call our community home. That being said, the greatest part of our community is just that, we are a community. To participate in the rec centers excorcise programs is already costly. In fact, currently, I could join a gym, with their own classes, and it still would be less expensive than what I currently pay to participate in the city programs. Furthermore, to raise prices at the public pool will do nothing more than to further allienate our local children of lesser means. While the children whose parents with money get to swim and slide in the August heat, the poor will stand outside the fence wathching them swim. This is not right. Dont punish our community for being a part of our community, by charging all of us more to do our community activities. I understand that the city is strapped for cash, however, so is every citizen within this community. The city stands, in the long run,to make more money by leaving all prices at the status quo. Any price increases, currently, will keep more people from participating in our local programs. The fewer people through the door, the less money there is to be made. Enough is enough. To reiterate, I am proud to be a citizen of Lawrence, and price increases in these economic times is not my Lawrence. Thank you.

The indoor aquatic center is a God-send to me as I have severe arthritis and use the pool daiy. I take the Jivin Joints and Aqua Fit class 5 days a week. I, too swim 5-6 days a week for 1 hour in

the lap pool. An increase in fee would not be a problem. The \$20.00 monthly pass is a great bargain and I would be willing to pay \$25.00. Thank you.

My young family loves the wading pool in South Park. I would recommend laying off the wading pool life guards and placing signs that declare there is no life guard on duty, children must be attended at all times, and to swim at your own risk. I would put in a turn-style payment system. It would be staff-free except for maintenance.

Please don't do away with the Southpark wading pool. It is a great facility for young children and parents. The children's area at the large outdoor aquatics center is full of older folks and teens who lounge in the kids area for sun bathing purposes or just to stay cool which makes the area more crowded. I would definitely pay to go to the Southpark wading pool with my 2 year old!

Charging nominal fees \$1-\$3 for most events would not be too much of a hardship. I think the fees for swimming are already a little exorbitant when taking a family of 4 and we don't go too often because of this. PPNC, camps, and classes are very important to us.

I think the aquatic program in Lawrence is an impressive attraction. Free State pool is really special, the outdoor pool is wonderful, and South Park wading offers such a unique attraction that makes downtown Lawrence attractive. The people of Lawrence have no clue how lucky they are to have so many wonderful, well keep, swimming facilities. I work at St. John (across the street from South Park Wading) and so many young families use that pool. My office window overlooks South Park so I can speak first hand from experience. More people are coming to downtown Lawrence. I would love to see Carl Knox pool open during the summer but I understand that the outdoor pool is more attractive for all in the summertime and that is where our focus should be. I swim 4 times a week at Carl Knox but will swim during the lap swimming hours in the morning at the outdoor pool once that pool opens. Otherwise, I would swim at Carl Knox during the summer if it was available. I am just so grateful to have the opportunity to have so many choices for swimming. Thank you and thank all the staff for making these services available to the people of Lawrence. The band concert is a very interesting thing. At St. John, we make a special evening of it by inviting parishioners to a special picnic at 5pm in South Park at the corner of South Park & Vermont. Then, after the picnic, members journey to the band concert. This happens every Wednesday concert night. Although I have never attended a concert, many church members have and say it is good. Would love to serve on an Aquatic Board if we have one. I have a background in aquatics not competitive swimming but water safety and instruction. Thanks,

As a person who finds himself working during all daylight hours, late night swimming hours would be appreciated perhaps until 11 PM a few day a week. A late night pool hour program could accommodate pool parties on nights which are not public nights. I have participated in a number of programs over the years--none recently--so the survey doesn't reflect recent use of facilities. Between taking care of business and having a home garden--not much time to participate in what tax dollars provide through this program. I used to go to a number of events in the Community Building (downtown) but something changed--the overall feel of the staff/property is not as friendly as in the past (now distant past). [A side-bar--I met my wife at a square dance held in the community building.] When community organizations are planning

events--no one ever suggests the Community Building--in the past that was the preferred locale for activities/meetings/programs. Same goes for the building in the middle of south park--groups just do not consider activities there as in the past--why? My wife reports that she enjoyed late night swimming in Lawrence (Jayhawk Plunge) --pre daylight savings.

I might suggest you institute a charge at the indoor aquatic center that is based on time used. I can only afford enough time to be in the indoor pool to walk for exercise for about half an hour. That shouldn't cost as much as it costs someone to come in and swim for 3 hours. I just can't afford to pay \$4 or \$5 for that small an amount of time. This is particularly true since I often spend as much time trying to find a place to park at the Free State pool as I do IN the pool. Perhaps you need specifically designated, short-term parking there that turns over quite a bit and is separate from the school activity parking (just TRY to find a place to park to go in the pool when the football field is being used or the marching band is practicing!!)

Carl Knox pays for itself with the LPRD classes. Please don't reduce the already limited hours available at this center that serves a larger area of Lawrence and people that can't get the Indoor Aquatic Center.

I understand that decisions are needing to be made in regards to the budget. However, when economic times are tough, I feel that the city, and the county need to maintain certain programs. Imagine, that it has been in the high 90's low 100's for several days. You are out of work, have choosen not to turn on your ac to save money and you can not afford to take the kids to the pool. Tensions raise in these types of situations, we need to have affordable outlets of recreation for our community. I thought that part of the city sales tax increase a while back was specifically for parks and recs? If we can not budget to provide the things that we have promised the community, then we need to find a creative way to raise that money. What is the total we are looking for? Do a sporting event, that would raise the money to fund these programs. Please do not cut or raise the fees at the pools. Families need these services, this is what summer is about! Thank you.

I have a young child and we are planning on having more children and the South Park Wading Pool is our main activity in the summer. If it costs even \$1 admittance we wont be able to go very often. Our budget is really tight b/c I'm a stay at home mom. The free activities are the only ones we can go to.

My main issue is the wading pool. Charge admission, but keep it open! Thanks.

We love all that this city has to offer. Any additional fee increases to the Aquatic facilities will make it almost impossible for our family of 5 to continue to participate. If possible, please consider a "summer pass" which would run from Memorial Day to Labor Day at sold at a prorated level from the annual pass. So, instead of only having a monthly & annual, that would encourage families to maximizes usuage in these months. Also, consider family packs for summer pool rates for Families containing 2-4 people with rates for additional children. I would recommend that you look at the Urbana IL Parks department at for their annual rates. When we lived there it made much more sense to purchase a three month pass than to pay the daily admission and would recommend something similar in Lawrence. Their site is located at: <http://www.urbanaparks.org/facilities/43.html>

The LIAC is fabulous!

Increase swimming pool hours. Keep Aquatic center open.

My family, and many others with whom I've spoken, already can not afford to go to the aquatic centers for recreational swimming. Raising the already high prices seems exorbitant and counter-productive. The higher the prices are raised, the fewer people will be able to attend. Starting to charge minimal prices for the wading pool and/or the Nature Center seems, on the other hand, completely reasonable.

SALES TAX

With the one cent sales tax we voted on in 1994 redirected a few years ago to bail out the sad conditions of our city streets will that funding now come back to where the public "thought" was voted on to support parks and recreation? I would bet that the majority of the public who voted for this sales tax and its initial intent have no idea that this funding is no longer used for parks and recreation. The fact that the new tax just recently voted on should free up that funding to go back to where it was intended. Maybe that '94 tax funding should now be reallocated as city "bail out" tax for those departments/programs that are currently in need. PARKS AND RECREATION is just as important as the condition of our streets.

Public was lead to believe the one cent sales tax voted on and approved in 1994 was going to Parks & Recreation. The city commission found a loophole that enabled them to reallocate that funding to other areas of city government (streets, etc). The majority of the public doesn't even know this took place. Now that the streets has it's own funding is any of that money going to go back to parks and rec? If we think that pot holes are more important than our kids in this community then it's my belief our "priorities are all messed up. Let's get back on track to make Lawrence what it used to be - the place where everyone wanted to live. Not the number one retirement community in the state.

I am curious to know the amount of money generated by the, I think a 1 cent tax on liquor that is to be used for recreation over the past few years. I have heard that a portion of this money (approx \$800,000) was used/borrowed by other city entities and has never been returned to the Recreation dept!!!!

GENERAL

I think the Parks and Rec department needs to closely examine its priorities and not expand its spending. For instance, I have seen several articles in the paper about tennis players who are upset that the school board isn't putting lights at the new sports complex. I don't think that Parks and rec should pay for these lights when there are already lighted courts. I think marginal fees to use the wading pool and nature center would be okay, but if they get too high, I know that I will/my kids will use these things less.

The parks and rec, are vital to Lawrence and all families here and around. This program is vital to the children big and small. We Love Parks and Rec. Please, Please, Please we must keep it!

A strong Parks and Rec program helps to define a community. Please continue to make Parks and Rec a priority in the budget. Our Special Populations program is award winning and unmatched in any other Kansas community. Lawrence citizens need these programs and facilities to enhance their quality of life.

Baldwin area uses it too. You are the major city for the entire Douglas county area. Your services are vital to the county.

Thank you.

Parks and Recreation services are very important to the mental and social health of a community. It is important not to price these services out of reach of community members, especially those who cannot afford a private gym membership or the like. Prairie Park is unique in the county and city and access should not be restricted to those with the ability to pay.

The levee going east from the brige needs more chat from Mass street to the 1 mile east marker. All of it, but ESPECIALLY some places are bare dirt. Can a bathroom be installed near the brige? If the cardio rooms are changed to a payment system, please use a system like the pool where a monthly pass is cheaper than paying each day. I go 6 days a week during winter. And the monthly price should be competative vs the gyms in town or you will loose business to them. It would also be good "PR" for you if you were able to advertise that your rates are cheaper than theirs. My sister & her family live in KC and have for years come here every week for the band concerts in summer. She spends money in town when she comes. I would pay for anything on your questionnaire or pay more taxes before I gave up having the band concerts! I think it is reasonable to charge non-Lawrence residents to use the community buildings, cardio rooms, etc. (eg anyone whose taxes do not support them) Thanks for your time.

We retired to Lawrence because of all the wonderful things that the parks and recreation department offers. We love the band concerts, the activites in South Park, as well as all the trails we use for walking. If you remove decrease these, you may lose some of the appeal this town has for retirees.

Services provided by parks and rec are essential for our community to thrive. i have young son and have been looking forward to going to the wading pool this summer all year! Also, we utilize the play group offered at the community center weekly. Finally, the south park band concerts are a wonderful way to get the community out on a beautiful summer evening. It is these things that sets Lawrence apart from other towns. please don't let them disapear!

You have a tough job balancing the city budget. Good Luck!

Continued programming at an affordable rate is essential to the community in keeping the kids off of the streets and out of trouble. Keep up the good work!

My family used to live in Columbia, Missouri and they have an amazing trail system that is very popular. We would love to see a totally integrated trail system throughout Lawrence...for biking, running, walking, etc. We love Parks and Rec...

We thoroughly enjoy all the activities and events offered through the Parks and Recs department, and appreciate all that it adds to Lawrence.

I believe that part of the pleasure of living in Lawrence is the availability of cultural events as well as opportunities for classes, sports, healthy exercise and networking with many people within our community. I am most reluctant to see us begin to charge for (or increase charges) for the majority of these events/opportunities because it will first impact those of the lower incomes--and that would be a terrible shame on our community. There are few enough options available for our teens--and those who are facing financial difficulties without adding to their burdens. If there is no other choice then I would vote to reduce the number of hours available before we eliminate availability for those who cannot afford the charges. When our grandchildren visit from out of town we love to be able to expose them to this wonderful city of ours sharing activities that we can enjoy together. I understand that every funded program does not want to have funding cut--but please use the knife very gently!! Thank you Tom & Lee Hedrick

There should be no increases for children's activities up to at least age 18 such as classes, swimming, etc. Our youth must have activities to keep them out of trouble as well as keep them healthy and fit. It will pay off in other ways, fewer delinquents, etc, illnesses, etc. Our children must have first priority in keeping the costs the same. Also, as a retired person on a small income, I would not like to see raises for 65 plus. Thanks,

As a lifetime Lawrencian, I am very proud of what P&R offers. I would be very sorry if anyone were excluded because it became necessary to pay for something that used to be free, for example PP Nature Center, or for heavens sake, the Arts and Crafts Festival.

Lawrence is fortunate to have such an excellent Parks and Recreation department. The programming is outstanding.

Parks and Rec is doing a great job! Keep it up!

You may want to think about more creative funding mechanisms that simply fee increases. You could have memberships with tiers and amenities, for example. This may work well with something like Prairie park nature preserve. I think parks and recs provide VITAL resources for many elements of the community. I hope that you can minimize the cuts in budget.

I fully support keeping opportunities for youth participation for as low of fees as possible. Please keep the swimming pool fees low and close the pool early...maybe 7:30 or 8:00. Families cannot afford to send their children to the pool if it costs \$4.00-\$5.00 for each child. Our city does not have an indoor skating arena, mini-golf or a low cost movie theater so our recreation facilities/programs are essential for the children and youth. Thank you for putting this survey online so I could participate.

I think the Parks & Rec programs are essential to the quality of life in Lawrence. I hate to see significant reductions or fees since, even if the economy improves, it's hard to regain. Removing a fee and making it once again a free service almost never occurs.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and hope that the reductions that are made are more to plantings for landscaping and areas that are not service impacting. I do understand that fee's will most likely increase; however, the reason I enroll my child in the parks and rec programs is because of the reasonable pricing and hope that the fee's are not greatly increased! Thank you

My family really enjoys the programs held through the city and I would like to see them continue. I would not mind paying a little more for the programs, but I would not like to see them just disappear. I understand that some things will have to be cut, but I hope that you will still be able to continue with programs and classes.

Parks and Recreations services are important to me, and they benefit our community. I am a particular fan of the summer concerts at South Park and the fall Arts and Crafts fair. I particularly like the array of summer playground/science camp options available to youth through the Parks and Recreation program. The availability of these services helps relieve stress due to childcare, providing my child with fun and engaging activities when school is not in session. Keeping these services available and affordable would certainly benefit my family. Thanks for all that you do and for developing mechanisms for obtaining public input.

I appreciate all that the parks and rec department offers. I recommend this programming to everyone I meet coming into Lawrence. Thanks for all the good work!

I am very supportive of the Parks and Recreation programs and activities. My basic stance, although we do not have children ourselves, is that I would like to see you charge us, as adults, for our activities a fee, for example to use the weights or the cardio room, but let the kids use the gym for free. Also, for the swimming, I'd like to see us pay more to swim, but not the kids. I know this gets tricky if parents are taking kids to swim, so I'm not sure about the details, but you understand what my intent is: provide more opportunities for people 18 and under, and have us pay the cost, however we can work that out, taxes, fees, something. Good opportunities for good activities for kids benefit the whole community in the long run. We are very supportive of the Prairie Park Nature Center, the Indoor Aquatic Center, the Outdoor Aquatic Center, the Community Building weights and cardio, the dogpark, Burcham, Centennial, Hobbs, South Parks, and the Band Concerts in the summer in the gazebo. The plantings downtown are really great and we walk there everyday and enjoy them and notice when they change. The trees and flowers make everyone want to go downtown and then when they're there they may buy something! All these wonderful services are why we moved to Lawrence to retire and why we love living here and why we don't ever want to leave. One point I would like to make is that I heard a splash park was planned for Parnell Park, in conjunction with the Rails to Trails. I'm all for the trail, that will be great, and I don't want to be negative about the splash park, but I can't see closing the wading pool or shortening the season or the daily hours at the other pools while building a new water park! Let's utilize what we have to the fullest. and when we are able we can

add new programs. Same with Prairie Park Nature Center, let's build it up and support it, it is so excellent and so enjoyable for folks of all ages. Anyway, thanks for all that you do!

I will use the park & rec classes and facilities more as my daughter gets older. She is only two and already we have participated in several classes, gone to both indoor and outdoor pools several times and go to the park almost every day.

The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreations programs are outstanding! As the parent of a son who regularly participates in Special Populations activities, as well as many other opportunities sponsored through the Parks and Recreation agency, I complement and applaud you for the work you do. I am optimistic that the programs will continue in such a way that everyone will still have the ability to participate. If businesses/ corporations sponsor events or activities, I think it is fine to have tasteful signage acknowledging their contributions. I filled out the form for my son who told me his responses.

I love Lawrence and believe that Lawrence Parks & Recreation enhances the quality life of this community. It would be hard for me to think what my children and family would have done if we didn't have the services and programs of this Park & Recreation Dept. We truly support everything they do especially the Special Event Division with all the children's summer camps, spring break camps, kids day off program, and the arts & crafts festivals and brown bag concerts. The Lawrence Parks & Recreation Dept. is truly a service core of this community and without it this would just be another hopeless city to live in. Please don't take our Parks & Recreation services and programs away from us. I don't want to move away from Lawrence because you are considering cutting services and programs from the Parks & Recreation Dept. By cutting programs and services you would be taking away the core services of this community which makes this community very special.

It seems like Lawrence is taking away all of the recreational opportunities for our community. We have no skating rink, no \$1 movie theater. Do not touch the parks and rec programs. Instead, cut the number of assistant city managers we have. You can look at the administration level and see where to cut there.

Thank you for the opportunity to fill out this survey.

Thank you for the opportunity to fill out this survey. I feel the camps, both playground and special population, for spring break and summer are very important for the safety of the children of this community as well as being fun and keeping them physically strong. I know many people who take part in the special populations programs. This is very near and dear to my heart. I had a sister who is no longer living that would have benefited so much from these programs. Once again I truly feel that these programs keep the participants mentally and physically strong. I would think money could be saved if there were no more roundabouts put in. I think stop signs are just as effective and there is not planting etc needing to be done and maintained with a simple stop sign.

The taxes we pay in Lawrence are high - there has not been ONE year, since we bought our home 11 years ago, that our taxes did not increase. We have lived in seven other cities in several

states before settling in Lawrence. Lawrence is by far the most expensive place we have ever lived. In Riverton, Wy. there weren't any property taxes and the incredibly nice indoor Olympic-sized pool was free to all residents, along with a 20 person hot-tub and dry sauna that seated 30. We love the town of Lawrence, but if prices continue to escalate, we will consider moving someplace more affordable. There are already few things that are family friendly and affordable, in Lawrence. It is a town geared toward the entertainment of college students. Raising prices for adults at the swimming pool just hurts your lifeguards, who will then be required to "babysit"...as a mother, I NEVER swim - I pay admission so I can help the lifeguards watch my children. It is currently \$36.00 for our family to attend a matinee, and eating out for dinner is usually \$50.00 dollars or more. Don't raise prices, please, on the few affordable options families have here for outings.

Times are hard. There should be cuts. There should be fee increases. I think it would be interesting to see if fees could be increased at this time, but later retracted again in the future. The services the city provides are a big reason why I want to live here forever. I'd gladly pay more to keep a lot of the things we have, but I'd like to see fees go down if economic times improve so that things are accessible to everyone again. I've also thought a "membership" system might work for some facilities. For example, allow people to purchase memberships to Prairie Park Nature Center. The city could then make these memberships available for discounted rates for K-12 students or those eligible for financial assistance from other agencies, similar to how bus pass discounts are given.

I have used numerous programs for my kids and myself. I have found them to be worthy of the cost. I've not met an instructor I didn't like or a bad facility. I'd hate to cut programs but maybe offer the most popular and reduce the one time classes. I know the camps are set up to accommodate working parents but my kids always got tired and wanted to come home by 1pm. Maybe Master Gardeners could help with the plantings. I didn't know 4 plantings were done every year. That could be reduced to 2, spring and fall with more perennials. Reducing the hours of operation is a good option for some of the facilities.

I must commend the Lawrence Recreation department for providing excellent educational, health related programs, and entertainment for multiple age groups at a reasonable cost. I've taken classes, taught others, and used the exercise equipment to great advantage. However, above all things, the offerings to the special population groups is unique, highly developed, and outstanding. Thanks for the commitment to service and education. You make our community a wonderful place to live.

My family uses public parks constantly. We use both aquatic centers frequently, and especially enjoy the city band.

Parks and rec services are most definitely needed in Lawrence and the prices need to stay reasonable so that all children have the opportunity to get active and involved! Other businesses activities are so expensive many are unable to pay to participate. Currently prices are very reasonable through parks and rec. I think a small increase would be OK, but it needs to stay reasonable so all, kids especially, have the opportunity to continue being active. We currently enroll in P&R activities because we can do more for our money and the staff is excellent. Our

family loves to use parks and rec facilities, classes, town band, and sports. It is a way our family gets together and stays healthy together. Please continue to maintain these services at a reasonable rate.

If we start charging admission to previously free activities, we will have extra problems and expense from administration, money-handling, and safety. Charging a dollar or two could cut down usage and might actually cost you more in problems and expenses. A charge of \$3 or more might radically cut usage and put Parks and Rec jobs "out of business."

Parks and Rec. are an essential part of our city. We need these areas and activities even more now that the economy is tight. People (adults & youth) really need to be active and to gather with others during difficult times. It makes everyone feel better and helps them to forget for a while the stress that we are all feeling with the economic situation our country is in. Raising rates or reducing hours is the wrong thing to do! These facilities and services are more essential now than ever. To cut people out with higher fees or reducing hours really is an injustice. We all need to escape, even for a short while the wows of our lives. Being physically active helps the mind, body and soul. Please try and find the savings the city needs in other places. These services are sorely needed now more than ever! Thank you for this opportunity for giving feedback.

The parks and recreation department programming and operations is essential to quality of life and cutbacks are not acceptable. This community needs to invest in parks and recreation to update facilities as seen in the Johnson County area. It is shameful Lawrence does not have a state of the art community center(s).

Some of these questions were impossible to answer because of the way they were worded. It would be a little misleading to draw conclusions from these results.

I'm willing to pay more for the services. One of the reasons I live in Lawrence (vs. Topeka where I work) is because of all the great activities that happen all during the yaer. It is what makes Lawrence special!

I feel it is very important to keep prices affordable for everyone. Raising the prices may keep people from enrolling in classes/sports due to money shortages. One dollar is not going to break a person, but when that person may want to enroll in more than one course then it adds up. I have lived in Lawrence for many years and appreciate all it has to offer. Please don't make it so people won't be able to afford to do things. Thanks.

Please work closely with other staff who are exploring energy (electricity & water) reduction grant opportunities. I notice there is alot of room to reduce electricity and water consumption in the Parks & Recs' facilities. Grants are out there to municipalities to help defer the steep cost of retrofitting facilities so that they consume less electricity. This would represent a cost saving in running the parks 'n' recs programs.

Coming from a city in CA that had almost no recreational programming, I found in Lawrence a fabulous resource for my family. If the City hopes to maintain services at a constant level, I

would encourage P&R to raise fees for camps and swimming pool entrance; some of the revenue could be put into scholarships for the truly needy.

I don't think this is a good time to raise fees for Parks and Rec usage while we are all struggling. Sponsorship is a very good idea. Let's make Parks & Rec very valuable programs available for all of us! This is a great time for increased usage; I believe fees/increased fees will create less usage.

Privatize as much as possible or simply eliminate these various programs, they are not an essential role of government.

Parks and Recreation is a wonderful program

Our family really values your offerings. Please figure out a way to keep them as a part of what makes Lawrence so special! I know the city is experiencing difficulty with budget issues, but as all the families who live here start experiencing more & more financial stress with the current economy, they are going to want to be able to rely on their city public facilities for their entertainment needs. Things like the free concerts in the park, and the recreational/swimming facilities are SO important, especially with an economic downturn. Please do what you can to maintain the strength of what you currently offer, at a low-to-no cost if at all possible. Thanks so much for all you do!

I think our parks and recreation department does a wonderful job. I am not apposed to a moderate increase in fees for services. Some of their activities are very reasonable. Charging a small fee for using weight machines at recreation centers is reasonable. However, I think charging a fee where all of the cost is paid thru tax dollars already isn't really fair. However, it will get the KU students using the facilities to help pay for the cost, since most of them don't pay any advalorem tax here.

Thanks to all who work hard to make Lawrence a beautiful and unique place.

I think that Lawrence should carefully consider any additional charges. Our taxes (all of them) are already higher than most cities with this population. If people cannot afford to live here--they won't. We would consider moving if all the taxes keep going up. Don't our taxes support parks & Rec? What about all the other 'special taxes' that have been added on over the years to build facilities and sports fields? These taxes never stopped even when the project was over. Yes, we noticed.

Parks & Rec contributes significantly to the quality of life in Lawrence. Keep up the good work!

Do the best you can with what ever cuts you must make. You're doing a great job. Keep it up.

A good parks and recreation program is probably more important to economic development than tax incentives. Educated people who can do skilled work want to live in physically pleasant communities with bike trails and athletic programs for adults and children. Our community is also better off when its uneducated people who can't do skilled work and are likely to be poor

still have a chance to work out, play basketball, etc for free. Good funding for our parks and recreation department is vital to our community's well-being. I sound like someone who works for parks and rec, but I'm not. I've used the cardio machines for years, and I've had a chance to see how much good the rec centers do for our community, how heavily used they are.

Most good for the most people.

Dear Friends, The way to promote community health is to promote free activities that promote healthy lifestyles for those who will one day become workers and citizens and who need to maintain health to avoid being emergency room expenses. Such activities save money on the police and health care end, promote excellence in schools, and give people of all ages a sense of community and interaction. I believe we must have good recreational activities for all ages, and that these should be very very affordable for all levels of income without drawing attention to those with difficulties paying. I think one of the reasons we have a crime rate as low as we do is that there are activities to do in Lawrence for young people. Please do not make recreational activities inaccessible to those with low incomes. Many young people use the free facilities in East and the Community Center on 11th Street and South Park. These free activities are very important to young people developing healthy lifestyles, skills, basketball interests, and other aspect that would be destroyed if their families had to spend a dollar for such activities. Many people are completely unable to afford any activities for their children for which there is a charge. I think activities that promote the health of the population--all ages--is a poor way to save money. We would have an increase in other costs--including mischief that police would have to supervise. This is a time to think long-term about the general welfare. Again, the way to promote community health is to promote healthy lifestyles for those who will one day become workers and citizens and who need to maintain health to avoid being emergency room expenses. It is unacceptable in my view to cut the things that keep this community a healthy and low crime place. Otherwise, have a look at the climate of KC and Topeka--and think if that will save money even three or four years ahead. It just takes one period of two or three or even one year for a class of students, for instance, to be lost. Other administrative expenses may need to be cut instead. Better to have holes in streets than holes in hearts, families, and the cultural health.

This is a tough time and hard choices need to be made. I can afford to pay and am willing to. There are others in the community who can not pay, but should also have these services available to them. I wish you could find a way to make a sliding scale to be able to include all. Good luck with this hard work.

Keep up the great work!

I think that the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Program is spectacular and we are so lucky to have so many great options in our community. There is something for everyone in Lawrence! As a Special Education Teacher, I especially appreciate the Special Pops Programs. As a mother of 3, I especially appreciate all of the youth activities that are offered to my children. As an active adult, I am thankful for all of the recreational facilities and parks. Thanks so much!!

It is outrageous that the City is even considering increasing the costs to users of Parks and Rec facilities at this time. The City should be reducing the amount of money it spends on

administration costs, which have risen 30% over the past five years! Reduce the size of city government, don't tax the people who are already paying for Parks and Rec facilities.

During these economic challenges it is important for communities to try to continue to provide opportunities for individuals and families to reduce stress and find reasonably priced entertainment and learning opportunities. Having to reduce hours and/or types of services is better than pricing items beyond people's means or completely eliminating programs. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to give our input.

I would like to see an ongoing, updated calendar for sports seasons. i.e. Rookie baseball takes place May 11 - Aug. 1.

Good Work Guys...feel free to charge a dollar for stuff that was free...always support the arts! Without them there is no hope

You didn't check in your questionnaire if the person who fills it has kids and their ages. This will obviously affect the results. I think that combining the farmers market with community event like big band could be a great get together, similar to what is done in other cities across the US. Like this one <http://www.davisfarmersmarket.org/picnic> The sellers benefit because there is more sales, the residents enjoy and the community benefit.

I understand the budgetary problems. We have done a very good job of making services available to all Lawrence residents. I am concerned that we not penalize those least able to afford increases in cost. Let's not move back to our previous state of haves and have nots.

This survey is too long. Sorry I couldn't finish.

Even though I do not avail myself of many of the community amenities all that often any more- (I'm getting further along in years), I feel they are an important part of maintaining a cohesive community. I fully support and commend the city and its efforts toward that aim. I wish to heartily thank you for the truly remarkable job you are doing daily.

I think Lawrence is beautiful, but we don't have to go the extremes we do. Children need these camp programs or there's nothing to do and they could get into trouble. I worked for CLO and they can fit it into their budgets for their people to pay more and participate. These parents want babysitters for their children so they put their kids in these camps which is good for the kids, but they should be charged more. Everyone wants something for nothing. If they had to hire a babysitter they would be paying an extreme amount more. Charge a fee for these fitness rooms. The clubs here in town charge plenty. The special events are a part of our community. It costs a lot more to have booths in towns around plus most have a fee for those who attend. I understand why the city trucks are necessary to take equipment to places and for the parks. But I've seen 3 or 4 trucks at the same sights planting with only one driver each. Is that necessary? And why do the big shots need city cars? They don't. The nature center is neat, but free? Why hasn't the city put in the paper how much it costs to run that place and how it causes a great expense for the city. If everyone thinks its so important then charge to get in. Charge for the classes. Have you explained to the city people what happens if you get rid of the special events person? Like no

place for kids to go or do especially in the summer. We have a unique city and its great, but lets stop paying for everyone to attend everything for nothing. Why do we pay the schools for crossing guards. The schools should be doing this. They can put it in their budgets. Where I have previously taught they did. And why are we helping out these private clubs like Boys and Girls clubs. They are our competition for the cities kid programs. Let them raise their own money. We shouldn't be paying for anything that is not directly related to the cities programs other than rental for buildings maybe. If money is so tight then why are we planting all those plants and flowers downtown every spring and summer? Let the store owners make their areas look good themselves. Other businesses in town do. If lights are an issue for summer baseball and softball then charge more for the teams to play. Quit giving everyone in this town every thing for nothing.

A robust Parks and Recreation program is essential to quality of life in Lawrence - they should not be considered optional.

While I wouldn't like to see the parks plastered with advertising/sponsorship, it would be appropriate during events - for intance: While \$12000 seems like a lot for the city to pay for the band concerts, I would like to see them continue. Splitting that cost with a advertising sponsor would be a good cost savings for the city, and be an appropriate and reasonable venue for sponsored advertising. I wouldn't mind seeing their logo during the event itself, but not a permanent placard on the bandstand. Aquatics are a great value and I would like to see them continued as is, even expanded. Evening hours are important to me as a working adult - more important than afternoon hours for children. I would also like some weekend hours at CKN; more convenient for lap swimming than driving across town to LIAC. Thank you for making the survey available beyond the public forum last Thursday.

This was a pretty poor survey. Many of the last questions in a series couldn't be answered with the very likely to not likely scale.

I HAVE NOT ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS WHEN EITHER I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE PROGRAM IS OR WHEN I NEVER HAVE PARTICIPATED.

These features make Lawrence the wonderful community for families that it has become well-known for! Don't jeopardize the welfare of so many kids with drastic changes!

If you allow corporate sponsorship for the Parks & Recreation Department, keep them on a leash in regard to self-promotion in the parks, buildings, etc. A small sign or plaque stating their help and commitment would be great; a giant billboard, not so much. Thanks for offering the survey. This is important stuff and I hope my input helps.

"Please circle the number corresponding with how satisfied you would be to reducing the number of plantings in the Downtown and Downtown area parks. One planting yearly"--this series of questions is written in a confusing manner. That is why I responded I "I don't know". However, I support plantings four times a year.

It would seem that your questionnaire missed two important points. 1 reduction of staff. Perhaps it is time to cut back those who are not absolutely necessary 2. cost of renovation of buildings. ie The Carnegie Library. If money is needed to be raised and funds are so short that Parks & Rec. need to consider raising fees, then renovation of the building should not be a consideration. at this point monies are being considered for just that and in this time of financial cutbacks that should not be a priority for Parks and Rec. There is already too much space that is not being used efficiently enough.

I would prefer that fees go up across the board -- at the same percentage increase -- for all programs for participants and even for vendors. What type of percentage increase would it take to get where the department's budget needs to be?

A vital Parks and Rec program was a major factor in deciding on Lawrence as a place to live.

-on question about advertising they put "Too Vague?" Not easy to satisfy everybody.

All the things listed w/ fee's for increase should remain the same. And if the citizens of Lawrence have to pay, please as the City Manager, City Commissioners, County Commissioners to forfeit their pay raise that they gave themselves. And let the three level of tax we just past do such and please fix the city streets with the money the city has got from the government (the stimulus money). There are a lot of single parents in this city and you should not be asking them to pay fee's any more for their children to participate in activities.

We rely on the LPRD school break activities for our kids. As long as we can afford to pay more for them we would be happy to do so.

I have lived in various communities. The programs and amenities offered through Lawrence Parks and Recreation are some of the best I've experienced in terms of quality, quantity and price for my entire family. Keep up the good work!

Parks & Rec makes Lawrence a special place. We need the programs designed for the general public incl. classes, City Band Concerts, Art in the Park, Swimming indoors & outdoors. Even if we have to increase funding revenues. These are the kind of amenities which attract people to shop, live, and establish businesses in our community.

Having lived in several other cities throughout the country (and utilized the city parks & rec dept offerings in those communities as well) I have been incredibly impressed with the quantity and quality of the offerings. One of my favorite parts of living in Lawrence is the City Band concerts in the summer. We now have family that plan their summer visits so that it falls during at least one concert. I would hate to see that eliminated or underfunded to the point of elimination. Additionally, I work with a number of children in the community who have special needs. While I don't utilize that programming for my own family I know many families that benefit from the number (and affordability) of the offerings.

Cut all non-essentials

In some cases I indicated I was not opposed to cutting funding or to allowing corporate sponsorship. This was NOT because I actively support such cuts, but because I realize that the City faces a tough budget and some things do have to go.

I've really been too busy in school since we moved here, but I'm hoping to use the facilities more now that school is finished for me. My son and daughter have used facilities and we were all glad they were available. The only problem I have w parks n rec is the website. Even if I know what class I want o sign my daughter up for, I can't find it on the website.

Please don't cut funding to LPRD! Their programs and facilities are essential to the Lawrence community!

Please keep family-oriented and kid-oriented programs at a reasonable cost (they could be increased some). People 60+ should ABSOLUTELY pay the full adult price for going to the pools. \$1 more isn't significant and it's not going to break the bank. Social security isn't laying people off or forcing furloughs right now...it's families in this community that need the support, not the senior citizens.

Lawrence is a wonderful city with a strong sense of community. There are programs that can take some reductions (in frequency) but some programs are essential (e.g. special population programs). I enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt at South Park a couple weeks ago, program like this with corporate sponsorship seem to be working. I would suggest small donation (optionals)for attendees so funds collected from such functions can help out other essential programs (programs for the special programs and course fees for families that require financial assistance). Or organize gardening/flower planting class at the park so people can sign up to learn and help in one session!

I know cuts have to be made, but I think you should support the poorest of Laurentians, particularly children, especially during summer months, when working parents need some reliable place for their children.

This is a poorly written survey. Should have hired a professional firm like ETC to develop the questions....

P&R should seek corporate or individual sponsorship of various events. However, permanent signage and other indications of generalized support would detract from the parks.

I believe this survey should look at using words like important vs. essential. Nothing the Parks and Rec dept does is essential to the ongoing survival of this town or its residents. Having said that, the dept's work is important and is very appreciated. Obviously, its services (along with other city services) however, must be bound by the a sound monetary policy. Paying for everything is not an option and I appreciate LPRD's efforts to look for alternative ways to fund including "pay to use," which is arguably the best gauge of value and most fair to the residents who choose not to use the service.

When it comes to raising fees related to Family type activities I would prefer to see the adult fee raised higher and child admissions left or raised to a lesser degree. This would not discourage larger families from attending. I would consider a membership (one price) in addition to admission to Nature Center type programs.

I take lifelong classes & I would be willing to pay a little more for them if it would keep the fees for the pool reasonable & if we could have scholarships for children who need them. I do think the weight rooms should carry a fee before other things are cut or increased in price. I don't want to discourage folks exercising but I don't think a small fee would do that. Would it help to have volunteers do some of the work? I think there could be some saving on printed matter. Most everyone has access to computers, if not, they could request a printed booklet but a lot get wasted. Thanks for working on this.

We are a family of 5, we are actively engaged in the community and we believe Parks & Recreation Department is a vital part of the character of Lawrence and the quality of life we enjoy. Personally, I volunteer to coach my children, and participate in a number of ways and always try to be supportive and show my support. The Parks & Recreation Department should be consider one of the core city services provided our community.

The survey asks if various LPRD services are "essential" and I replied "no," But I do believe they are very important. Just not "essential." Water, police and fire protection are "essential." Also - I was unable to understand how I should respond to the survey when you asked pricing questions about services I don't use. Final thought - Why did you pose the question about corporate sponsorships in the negative? Why not ask, "Would you support corporate sponsorships of ... services if that was needed to maintain the current free or low fee structure?"

Do not tax plus charge fees. One or the other if you want continued support.

I understand that we have to find money somewhere for programs that we are currently running. I do not believe this should come from special populations or by increasing fees for children's activities or admissions with the exception of South Park wading pool. I would definitely be accepting of entering with a small admissions fee. I do not like the idea of raising pool rates at the outdoor and indoor aquatic centers. I feel that it is expensive enough for families to attend there and the rates were recently increased. I do not feel that closing programs would be beneficial either and reducing times for the nature center, and aquatic center would just decrease the time families who work could use the facilities. I already feel that many of the programs are not geared to working families and feel that more activities should be scheduled for working parents. Working parents want to experience activities with their children, but are not allotted the schedule with Parks and Recreation's schedule. For example, I wanted to put my daughter who is in level 4 swimming lessons, in this summer, and there was only one time the entire summer on Saturday mornings for me to sign her up. That is very limited and not very practical for working parents. I do however, really appreciate all the programs that parks and recreation offers, and feel they are vital to making Lawrence a wonderful city to live. What about raising parking tickets downtown, to fund planting?

Hey, times are tough for everyone. But, the services provided by LPRD are essential to making Lawrence the best community to raise a family in the midwest.

Even though I don't use the facilities or attend many of the offerings, I still feel that Parks & Rec is a vital part of what makes Lawrence the special place that it is. I realize that the economy is the bad guy in all this and not the city per se, but I would hope that the city can find a way to compromise on some of the services and continue to make all offerings accessible to most Lawrencians.

I like the way LRPD is reaching out to the community and asking for their opinion. I am also very pleased with the on-line possibility to fill in the survey, because I wasn't able to come at the evening at LHS last Thursday.

Time are tough. Lawrence is a great town. Good luck.

The Parks and Rec department is an important part of our city and it's programs are an asset to Lawrence. We expect our Parks department to be a thriving part of Lawrence. We would like to see the position of Director filled. We would like to see girls fast pitch softball added to the activities. We would like the department to encourage more physical activities (paths, trails, green space) to be built in neighborhoods. We would like to become a healthy community and the Parks Department needs to have a strong presence in the community to achieve this. Yes our expectations are high in a time of tight budgets. However as you plan for the future you should know this department can bring people to the city or watch them choose a surrounding town to reside.

We will adapt to changes.

I think there must be a way to balance the budget without cutting wonderful programs. Honestly, I'd consider paying more for the pool if it wasn't a chlorinated pool--the chemicals are expensive and toxic. Native plants/flowers could be put in at some parks and public places that would require little maintenance--plant things that will come back, no annuals. I love the nature center and love that we can explore it for free. We have a family of 5 and it wouldn't make sense to pay \$5 every time we visited just to walk in the door (I have no problem paying for nature classes). I just learned about the city band, so please keep funding this as I'm looking forward to going to my first concert. Thank you.

I'd like the ability to pay via Paypal during online enrollment. Reducing the amount of plantings a year could save money as long as it doesn't make Lawrence look completely awful. I don't feel anyone should pay to use exercise equipment (weight room included) that tax dollars already payed for.

Like most surveys, the questions don't offer the actual answer. I have chosen to mark "don't know" for those questions where I have no background or information on the program or activity. I do want to comment on the Parks & Rec Department. I have spent a great deal of time researching the City Budget based on my objection to the recently passed sales taxes for public transportation. I am in favor of public transportation but I was totally opposed to the sales tax for

many reasons. Not the least of those was the fact that public transportation costs will rise from \$3.5 million dollars in 2008 to \$7 million dollars in 2009. That is a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars, considering the city kept the \$1 million in property taxes which were being spent on public transportation. Now, on to Parks & Rec. I want to offer my support for your services and the fact that much of your budget is paid for by the people who use your services. The fees don't totally cover the costs but they come much closer than any similar service offered by the city. People who ride the bus paid 6% of the cost of the service in 2008 and the % will be much less in 2009. I don't use many of your services but I would be willing to pay increased fees to help pay for the services. My last comment is on Eagle Bend Golf Course. I work there as a volunteer marshal. The golfers who use Eagle Bend pay for the entire cost of the operation of the course and they are paying off the cost of the financing to build the course without city funds and without any bailout. I don't believe fees in one area, like golf, should be raised to offset the costs in other services. The golf course brings people to Lawrence from outside the area who spend other dollars when they are here. I hope that Parks & Rec will be able to continue to provide services and hopefully, small increases in fees will be able to help cover the costs. I'm sure there are always ways to economize while providing the same level of service. I hope you are able to do that. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

I don't live in the City of Lawrence, but frequent the above-marked facilities and programs because of their excellence. You could consider charging two-tier fees, like Topeka Parks & Rec does: one charge (for sports and recreation classes, and facilities rentals) for local residents, and a slightly higher charge for enrollees who live outside the city limits. For example, a 4-week session of a class in Topeka might cost \$25 for a city resident and \$33 for someone who lives outside the city, in the surrounding county, etc.

I am a single mom with 2 small kids (5 and 8) and rely on Parks and Rec programs to allow my children to participate and experience a variety of things. I can't always afford the more expensive programs run by other organizations such as Kaw Valley Soccer, and Lawrence Gymnastics Academy. I would not mind an increase in fees as long as it's reasonable and not steep. I appreciate everything the city and its employees do for everyone in Lawrence!

I find it interesting that this survey asks a lot of questions about programs that have ways of generating money through admission fees and programs that seem to address the needs of a relatively small group (ie, the city band, special population programs, one day special events programs) yet don't ask much about programs that deal with a broader population in the community. Having been involved in the youth sports programs in Lawrence for several years I feel that the issue of needed youth sports facilities is continually ignored. I feel that this makes a statement about our community that effects growth and potential revenue. It also makes a statement about how the community feels about our youth. As a business owner in this community I feel that we miss out on a lot of opportunity because we do not have adequate facilities to host major youth baseball tournaments that generate major dollars in the towns our teams travel to. Many of our better teams leave the community to play in leagues in Topeka and KC and pay between \$1,400 and \$1,600 to do so because of lack of adequate facilities in Lawrence. This is money that should stay in this town and be used by our parks and recreation department. Until this issue is addressed and we become a magnet program, drawing teams from surrounding communities, we will always be fighting for money. IF YOU BUILD IT THEY

WILL COME. We can continue to worry about how many plantings we will have a year in our parks and fund the city band or we can address the issues that will have the most impact for our community and it's youth. You make the choice, or have you already do so and this is just more window dressing to make it appear that something is really being done or that someone really cares?

I love our Parks and Rec Department! My family and I take part in many activities and I don't want to see that change.

Go Lawrence, WOO HOO!!

Why was the Clinton Lake Regional Park project not included and its'cost to taxpayers?

Please keep the city band! reduce hours at pool reduce special programs in LPRD keep Prairie Park nature center-charge admit reduce Adult sports programs, keep kids Thanks or your time! I appreciate this survey!

All the events and programs that are mentioned/provided here in Lawrence, are all very important to me and my family and friends. One of the reasons we live here is because of the opportunities we have for our children and family. I understand we have an economy issue just like everyone else,, i think going to far with cutting things or raising fee's are going to make things worse when the community is not happy and not able to have the options the parks and rec provides. I truley am thankful that we have the parks and rec. I think many of us here in Lawrence just take it for granted but with the way things are,,this is a very improtant issue and want to say I hope we things are not cut entirely.

I LOVE LPRD... it is such a vital resource to our community. The people I meet in classes help me feel more connected to the community at large. It is also a fabulous, inexpensive way to keep in shape and keep the health of the community up and active! I have benefited so much over the years of taking classes and learning from our local teachers. I think that Lawrence is fortunate to have your services and I will continue my word-of-mouth advertising and requiting to your programs. Thank you so much for all that you do!!!!

There many areas where Parks and Rec can make money, here are some examples: 1. Soccer 2. Gymnastics 3. Martial Arts 4. Swimming Charge a little more than what you charge now but match the quality of instruction that's offered privately in town.

My family currently lives north of Perry, but we truly appreciate the Rec services and still consider ourselves a part of the Lawrence community.

The parks and Rec programs is what makes this community such an unusually great place to raise children. It would be a shame to let it go...

Lawrence Government seems to keep growing and the service's keep getting smaller.

I'm always bragging about the parks and rec programs to my friends in other cities. It's been wonderful for me and I look for every opportunity to take advantage of what it offers. Over the last year I've involved many of my local friends in the parks and rec adult sports also. Thank you for dedicating resources to these wonderful community assets.

I don't think there would be much left in the city of Lawrence if we didn't have our Parks & Recreation dept.

It is unfortunate that the first things staff targets for cuts are programs that directly affect the citizens of Lawrence and greatly enhance their quality of life. I have asked this question before and I will continue to ask: Why are we continuing to provide cars and gasoline to city staff members? How many people are given a car? Has this perk ever been evaluated? Is Lawrence staff aware that many companies throughout the country have eliminated this perk for their employees? I think this is a far better place to find extra money rather than cutting or reducing services to Lawrence citizens - especially children.

FEES

I am interested paying small fees for currently free options, increasing fees (somewhat) to paid events, and reducing hours. I think we should keep within the budget and make some sacrifices in order to be able to do this. Maybe a volunteer group could be gathered to do the beautification around town including plant donations. Thanks!

Your price range of the programs is very likely reasonable so your activities are first pick for my family especially for my children, but in my financial situation, I can not tell you that you should raise class fees. Sorry. My best recommendable activities are summer camp, swimming lesson and youth sports. If you are available to have some classes related to music lessons such as voice, piano, violin and other musical instrument and painting lessons, it will be greatly appreciated and connected to our community. Another thing to suggest of your facility is we need an another indoor aquatic center. Since I am living so far from indoor aquatic center, it's so hard for me to take children to the lessons. If it is greatly unrealistic, how about open zero-depth swimming zone' during the swimming lessons so I could take all my children to the lessons and let small children play during the hour - for the satisfaction of all my family. The last thing of my recommendation is transportation. I don't have any idea about between T-bus schedule and the bus stops and the locations of the activities - South park, ELS, CB, IAC, OAC. To encourage for more participating, it will be helpful for some people like me who struggle for give a ride to the classes, and it will promote more useful and community related service for the bus. I am always appreciate the courtesy of your staffs especially at South park. Thanks..

I understand that some cuts in services or some increase in fees are necessary. I believe you should charge \$1 - \$2 for the wading pool (children only, not adults) and \$1 -\$2 for Prairie Park (if this would make a difference. If it wouldn't make a difference, don't do it b/c it will likely reduce donations to the nature center.) Perhaps you can charge more for Prairie Park programs, like programs for scouts or for schools. I think the daily charge for pool use is as high as it should go. However, if prices went up, I'd more likely get a monthly pass in the summer months. Can you reduce costs at the golf course? I think it's important to keep planting in downtown, to

keep our downtown an attractive destination. PS I hate to say it, but your survey is worded poorly. The wording of the questions doesn't flow well, and often doesn't really get at what you want to know. You want to know if people would *continue* to use the service if prices went up, or how *willing* we are to pay more. And the last question in each series doesn't fit with the opening question. And why isn't there an "somewhat unlikely" category?? These are examples of problems that reduce the usefulness of your findings. If at all possible, you should have someone who's knowledgeable about survey research review your surveys before collecting data. But I am a supporter of Parks and Rec Programs. The programming is one of the things that makes Lawrence a great place to live.

Just because I said I was ok with fee increases doesn't mean they'd be doable. We would really miss the wading pool being free, and we LOVE the city band concerts.

I think there should be a balance between cutting out the overabundance without cutting everything all together. I think everything could stand to scale back a little, but don't necessarily think it should be cut completely. I also think events/sports/activities for the youth are more important than adult sports/activities. Our family definitely values the youth sports through LPRD. We love the fun learning environment the sports create, as opposed to the competitive nature other associations promote. I would really hate to see the aquatic centers raise prices significantly, although I do feel a \$1-\$2 raise in cost would not keep us from going at all. The aquatic center is one of the few places for a family with small children to go for a fun time that costs under \$15-20. We just can't pay that every Saturday for a fun day (2 adults/3 kids). As far as the camps and other events, we usually can't afford those either, but it's great that you provide those things for the citizens who can afford to go. The fitness classes are great, and I feel well priced. Again, if those were to be raised by a few dollars, it wouldn't keep me from signing up. But if they were raised \$10, it might. So basically, money is an issue to most everyone in this economic climate. Or if you are a young family like us, it was an issue even before this economic climate came crashing down! However, I don't see a raise of a few bucks here and there or across the board a breaking deal. If that helps you make your budget to keep providing these services to the community, then that's what's needed. But if you are doing so, then other things should also be scaled back as well, such as the beautification and planting projects. We all like to look at pretty landscaping, but it is definitely not a necessity and can be cut back. Thank you for your time!

It was unclear in many of the questions as to what "admission" means with regard to families. For example, I'd be willing to pay \$3 to visit the wading pool with my 3 young children if it were a per family fee (same thing with the nature center, art festivals, etc.), but I wouldn't want to pay \$3 per person for each visit. I answered the questions as if they were per family, not per individual, since it was not clearly specified. If it is per person, no, I wouldn't pay \$3 or \$4 for myself plus 3 kids (therefore a total of \$9 or \$12) just to visit the Nature Center, wading pool, etc. one time. I'd gladly pay the fees if it would include the whole family. Likewise, \$10 or \$15 to enter the art festivals is reasonable for a family, but clearly too much per person for a family of 5.

This survey is a little confusing - The pricing questions ask you by how much you'd be willing to increase the fee for a certain service, then you are offered the choice of "maintain existing

fee/reduce hours". The "maintain existing fee/reduce hours" should have a different set of buttons, like "agree, disagree, etc...". The "maintain existing fee/reduce hours" is also a tough one to assess, as I'd need to know by how many hours an activity is to be reduced prior to choosing a better answer. Also, it is unclear on the downtown planting section if you are reducing the planting by one, two, three times a year or going to one, two, or three times a year. I support the current planting levels. The gist of my comments is that I'd rather pay/pay more for a service than see it removed or its hours reduced drastically. The activities/programs listed above are so vital in keeping Lawrence's quality of life high - please find a way to keep them going.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

There are a lot of families and children in this town. I think we need to keep that in mind. Lawrence isn't just a college town. We need more ways for children to be involved in the community.

I think that the Summer Camp Programs at the Neighborhood Parks are essential to the community. They give children a safe place to be in the summer where they are able to play games, work together to accomplish goals, and just have fun. This is a great supervised activity for children in the summer time. The Recreation Centers that provide free play basketball are also essential to this community. The children and teenagers are able to come into a safe environment and hang out with their friends. Whether they choose to play basketball or shoot pool they are doing it in a safe environment. At these centers the children/teenagers have the ability to hang out with their friend and make new ones. If these children and teenagers did not have these facilities to hang out then where would they be? On the streets? I think that the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department needs realize that if they take away Summer Camps or the Recreation Centers, the children in this town will not have many options left. I think that there will be a rise in complaints of loitering, because these children will have no place to hang out. I think that the department should really consider keeping these options open for the youth of Lawrence.

Fees for kids' programs should remain low. Adults taking classes/using facilities could pay slightly increased fees. (Of course, adults should pay to use weight/cardio equipment!) Scholarships for low-income families should continue to be available. Sliding-scale fees could be offered based on a family's ability/inability to pay. I have no problem with local company sponsorship of special events (Egg Hunt, Art in Park, Arts and Crafts Fair, Turkey Trot, Dam Run, Fishing For Fun, etc.), but I don't want to see advertisements/banners in parks, open spaces and youth playing fields/playgrounds. Parks and Recreation staff/staff hours could be reduced. Parks and Recreation should increase use of volunteers. KU, senior citizens and civic groups should continue to be tapped as volunteers. City Band Concerts are a community gem. Pass the hat; attendees would be willing to donate. Landscaping/maintenance of flower beds/parks/trails are quality of life issues essential to Lawrence's character. More programming for teens is needed in Lawrence. I appreciate Parks and Recreation supporting intramurals for teens and LPD volunteers coaching youth football.

Having free and inexpensive services keeps kids off the streets and keeps adults healthy. Health and wellness are not privileges; they are rights. If we choose to view our community as just

that, a community, then we must take care to provide these accommodations to our youth and our adults. I know that I can not afford a gym, and I get incredible benefits from your facilities and activities. I teach in this community, too, and many of my students use your open gyms, cardio rooms and games of all the recreation centers. To charge them would be to eliminate one more thing they can do for free besides get into trouble. I think the price to swim is ridiculous, and many people already can't afford it, especially when transportation is included. We are only as strong as our weakest link, right?

Need to cover more for ages of 13 to 14 or 15 more. Need more grandparent - grand child programs

Please ADD more programming for 13 - 16 year olds (volleyball, soccer, softball, fitness classes). We feel the need to join a private club just for the swimming this year - the outdoor pool is too unhealthy. How about a juried outdoor art show (like Brookside?) I'd LOVE to see that! Thanks for doing this - we appreciate all you do!

I have two small children so my focus is on activities that they can participate in. The wading pool is essential for us. I am willing to pay to use it but I would also like to see it be open on Sunday. There are no other "drop-in" activities for a working parent with young children to utilize. I realize that there is open gym at the Community Building but for a working parent that isn't an option. Winter is a very difficult time for us because there is nothing to do with toddler aged children. Unfortunately we have to take a trip to KC for something to do. When we do this that means we are eating there also and removing our tax dollars from Lawrence. If the fees are raised at the other aquatic facilities we would not use them. Because of the cost we rarely use them as it is. If we don't go to the wading pool we usually go to the Eudora pool. With two small children we only stay a limited amount of time and paying those prices makes it cost prohibitive.

I would like to see more programs offered to Middle School Children. Most of your programming ends at 12 for children and then starts at 16 up to adults. There are no special events geared at children in this age and very few, (if any), programs that last more than 1-2 hours which is very inconvenient for working parents who still have to drive these kids to and from events.

Small fee increases for older kids and adults are fine with me. I would like to see fees for young children and seniors stay the same. Families with young children often have a smaller income, and older adults often have a fixed income.

Youth programming is the number one need in Lawrence. Absolutely no cuts, only increases.

Parks and Rec programming is essential to the quality of living in our community. The reasonable fees have allowed my children, and many other children from lower income families, to have opportunities that they would not have had otherwise. We enjoy the classes that the children have attended. If the fees go up drastically it will be cost prohibitive for many of us. When I sign up for a parks and rec class I know that my daughters will be safe but also understand that the quality of the instruction will not be as good as private instruction. If the fees are raised the quality of the instruction MUST also be addressed. I would rather see annuals planted downtown

- have volunteers to that then raise the prices of services for children. I and also VERY CONCERNED that if the price of Pool Entry Fees are raised we will have more parents dropping the kids off without supervision to save the extra \$5-\$10. It already is very expensive to go for a family. Maybe offer family memberships? Unfortunately, money is tight everywhere. I would encourage Parks and Rec Dept to look at other ways to save money. I know that everytime I fill up with gas during the week I see a Parks and Rec Truck at Quick Trip? I would look at administrative situations and see what cuts can be had there. I have also used the wading pool A LOT during the past several years. An increase in the cost to rent the wading pool and \$1 entry fee would be appropriate. If the person attending the pool would be more responsive and do something other than sunbath/watch their own kids/read a book that may be a plus.

Everything should be done to avoid raising prices or cutting hour for all youth programs, especially those that affect at risk youth.

We have two children ages 7 and 9. We love the parks and rec. baseball program and the winter basketball programs. It is an inexpensive way to expose our boys to rules and fair play without a heavy competitive focus. Summer band concerts, landscpaing, and art fairs are important to give Lawrence it's unique character. We would be extremely sad to see these special features go. Thank you for the survey to allow more input into the value of the Parks and Recreation Department.

It is most important that programs and facilities be available to all youth and children at no charge or low fees, or scholarships. These should be the last programs cut. The beautiful parks are a part of the city that somehow must be maintained. Visitors comment on them positively. I will volunteer to plant flowers and weed them in the downtown and swim pool area. Please try to keep the swimming at an affordable price for youth and children. Perhaps the hours could be slightly less rather than increase admissions for children and youth. If a parent comes with children to swim, perhaps that parent would pay less. I very much appreciate all personnel of Parks and Recreation. You do an outstanding job for the good of all!

Do not raise the cost of activities involving the youth/children. Instead increase or have a fee for the concerts in the park, etc. Adult activities should have the price increased before the children's prices.

The summer parks programs need to be offered weekly, not just bi-weekly or monthly.

Summer camp and youth programming is indispensable, especially the PP Nature Center programs. Charge more for programs if necessary and offer scholarships for low income. Southwest Lawrence needs a public park!

We all know funds and programs have to be cut. Please try to avoid the after school and summer programs for kids. if adults have less choices that's fine, but the kids should be able to choose from a wide variety of things to do in the summer. I also think you should raise greens fees for the golf course. Oh.. and please please! cut the grass, spray for bugs and weed out the flowerbeds in the downtown parks more often. This summer you will be amazed how many people will use

the parks with the down economy. Tall grass,weedy flowerbeds and bugs are real joy kill when you are having a family picnic.

My son loves the Nature Center class and the sports offered by parks and Rec. If they had less choices it would affect the students and children of this community.

I used to sign my kids up for many of the day camps, swimming lessons, etc. but the prices have already increased so much that we don't participate as much as we used to. The housing costs in Lawrence are such that it seems very difficult for an average middle class family to be able to afford much else. We love Lawrence and have always enjoyed all the programs we've participated in but are just not able to afford it. We hope that you will not increase fees that will continue to cause families with lower incomes to not be able to participate in these programs.

I think the fees for the youth and childrens' activities are too high. I have enrolled my children in many different art and sports classes and activities many of which have been cancelled at the last minute due to too little people signed up. You would think at some point you would figure out that the fees are too high and this is why no one is enrolling. There are other ways to make cuts or make money without just raising the charge. The youth sports in Lawrence also needs a major makeover. It is so unorganized and I realize some of this is due to the fact no one wants to be involved with their children anymore or so it seems. I have also been involved in indoor womens rec league volleyball which you have raised the price of the the conditions are worse than ever before. The officials are terrible and rarely know the rules. We had one answering a cell phone while officiating our match! It just seems if you are going to continue to raise the price then you should at least maintain the facilities and pay people who have some clue about the game. It's the same way with softball-we had many games last summer in the co-ed league when NO umpire showed up at all. The best thing you could do for the parks is get the homeless people out of them-especially South Park. I think it is a fun place for my kids, but I would never take them there by myself even in the middle of the day. We have also been to the Wading Pool many times which I would have no problem paying for as long as the lifeguard enforces the rules of no children over the age of 5. The point of the pool is for small children and when the older kids come and no one says anything to them they ruin it for the little ones. And I am not sure how you could cut the hours any more-it is already closed on Sundays and in the evenings.

Regarding Youth Camps, I would be more likely to use them and pay a little more if the supervision and training of teachers increased.

Prioritize youth activities and sports.

I don't live in Lawrence, but in the county. My two children (ages 12 and 10) participate very actively in Lawrence Parks and Rec Camps and activities. The prices that are charged for the various activities are very reasonable and the quality of instruction very high. I would definitely be willing to pay more than current rates. However, I realize that there are many families that cannot afford more. Maybe offset some of the fee increases with scholarship opportunities-and do some fundraising specifically targeted to offering scholarhsips to those in need.

Please do not cut back on children activities. Kids need to be out and active. I would also appreciate minimal cut backs on adult sports. I enjoy getting out of the house myself!! :)

I wish LPRD would have a wider variety of sports/activities for children throughout the year.

PARKS

I would love to see the park area near Hallmark developed.

We would love to see progress made on the Peterson Road Park. We believe that the location will be well used and appreciated if it is further developed.

We just visited Clinton Park, behind Pinkney, and it it a beautiful little park. Thank you. We love our parks, Veterans and South Park, and downtown. Lawrence is a beautiful town and we appreciate what you do to keep it nice!

I notice there was no mention of the skate park which I feel is one of the most useless expenditures ever.

please open the riverfront park on time.....0600-----this morning it was 730-----though, posted at 0600--why is that so hard.....hire me to do it if you want --i can tell time

Downtown planters: I hope we can work toward using perennials and native species instead of annuals. This would save much labor and watering in the long run. I love Prairie Park Nature Center and am so glad it was left out of budget cuts. I think the more natural parks are very important to maintain as wilder areas for public access. Every park doesn't need to be paved and sprayed and mowed to be appealing. I really love the native grasses that have been established out along the west levee area over the last couple of years. Beautiful. Given that we are sitting on former prairie here I've love to see much more establishment of tallgrass/native wildflower plantings wherever possible. Thanks very much!

We use the train park daily. Very important to me to keep the play area mulched, and improve the drainage. Last year, the mulch was nearly gone, and the standing water attracted sewer flies. Very unsightly for a time. Made several calls, and had some success in adding mulch to the playground. Would like the city to have better control of the homeless population that frequents the area with "brown paper sacks" of beverages at all hours of the day. Pretty creepy to a preschooler.

Save money by eliminating the use of pesticides in all parks. Poisoning children and animals is a poor use of taxpayer money. Invite retired volunteers to take responsibility for planters downtown. They are gorgeous, more this year than ever, and we all really enjoy them. This could create more ownership of the downtown, save money, and preserve downtown's attractiveness. I really enjoy the classes Parks and Rec offers, and special events bring the community together like nothing else does. I hope these can be kept in the budget and kept affordable, even if the prices have to go up a little bit. Keep up the good work, Parks and Rec, and thanks for making our community so pleasant.

Save money by not spraying so much poison on grass, plants in parks. Have volunteers weed and trim parks and or use prison volunteers do it too. Way too much pesticide and herbicide use. Save money on that instead of charging kids at the pools or saving \$12,000 for the band concert.

have all parks be pesticide free- this would save some money. decrease frequency of mowing at city parks. they mow too often. no need for lifeguard at wading pool; parents watch kids anyway. have fees be on a sliding scale based on income (property value?) for city facilities and programs.

Cut administration. Don't cut Parks and Rec. So much money is wasted. Why did you build the wading pool at South Park in the first place? It wasn't needed and it messed up the beautiful park space with that awful toilet building, and now you don't have the money to fund it. Stop building buildings all over the place, and don't take money away from athletics which young and old need for their health. By cutting Parks and Recreation you are drastically reducing the quality of life here in Lawrence.

FACILITIES

The City needs more ball fields for softball and baseball. The number of fields is inadequate given the number of teams...

You guys do a great job and I understand that you need to save money, but the Nature Center is sooooo important, and I feel a low- to no-fee for the cardio/weight rooms is important for folks who can't fit in fitness classes or who can't afford fitness classes (especially in winter months when they might not be able to get outside for fitness). I know it's a tough call...do your best!

I use the East Lawrence Center gym 4 days per week year round. If I have to start paying for it I will just go to a bigger gym with more equipment. Also, the people who are inclined to go to the ELC gym may not be able to afford to go someplace else and they should continue to have access to the weight room free of charge.

The Parks & Rec facilities and events in Lawrence are fantastic, they are invaluable to the community and I really appreciate them!

The existing facilities need to be maintained better. Especially the restrooms and shower areas. Get some plumbers in there and get them fixed up!!! The womens restrooms at the community bldg are a site!! The doors don't open and close properly and they need serious attention. I have left this comment before and NOTHING was done.

Who will be responsible for collecting the fees at the various sites? How will the tax-paying participants be assured that others are--in fact--paying a fee? The 'kids' who now monitor the East Lawrence, Holcom, and Community centers seem unlikely to insist on collecting fees from their friends and/or peers--given the current lack of supervision they currently model after the building supervisors are gone. Folks like me are tired of the above-mentioned sites becoming teen-age singles bars. Not to mention dope and cigarette-smoking outside the buildings where they can't be easily seen. There are too few on-site supervisors/monitors. Security cameras would help, but are an additional expense.

Walking indoors at Holcomb gym is very unsatisfactory. Years ago I voted for a P&R tax after Mr. DeVactor promised me that an indoor walking track would be built at a 9th & Iowa facility. Instead neighbors protested AFTER the vote. No facility was built there, and the only improvement was a skate park. I'm glad there's a skate facility for the kids and I'm happy to support it, but it's NOT why I voted "yes". An indoor walking track is still needed in this area. Downtown plantings are lovely. But shouldn't downtown merchants take some responsibility for beautification that benefits them? Just sweeping their sidewalks and cleaning the bugs out of their windows (Penny Annie's) would be great. (I know that's not up to P&R, but merchants owe the city something in return, don't they?) It is sad that P&R had to ask the community to plant the flowers this spring. Why weren't the merchants out there doing the planting and thanking the taxpayers for buying the plants for them? Therefore, I no longer support downtown plantings until the merchants get out there too!! Thanks. Your comments?

I believe there need to be more playing fields for both youth and adults. A community building is needed on the west side of town. The many bike/walking paths you have built are a nice plus. Need to keep improving your public golf course as you will continue to have competition for the golfers in town. Speed up the zoysia grass plantings. Ten years to convert is too long! For our town it was lucky YSI was built.

I am in a group that rents the East Lawrence Recreation Center for volleyball. I definitely think the City should continue to make facilities available for group rental.

Thanks for all you do for the community! The instructors you have for Adult Fitness classes are fantastic! The Holcom center is a nice facility. The Community Building is not kept up very well (in terms of cleaning/maintenance). I'm glad the PP Nature Center is staying open!

With no new ballfields (Football, baseball, soccer, etc.) and population increasing, parents are taking their kids out of the city to other leagues. Basketball also suffers with scant facilities. As a multiple year coach of many different sports, it would be nice if the city put as much time and money into the youth of this community as the parents who do all the work of coaching and paying taxes. With no real facilities built since 1994, and the population expanding, or trying too, you are sitting back and watching the parade go by. You also need more administrative help in the holcom office. Lee needs more staff. what happened to the .5 cent sales tax for sports bond?

I think that the people who use the facilities/classes, or whatever should be the ones to pay the extra costs. I do not have a problem with a fairly minimal fee increase.

I don't think there should be a fee to get into the recreation facilities.

I understand that there has been talk of not playing night baseball games to save on electricity of the lights. That is ridiculous. That, in my opinion is what parks and rec is for. For youth sports primarily. Cut back on all the other junk. Save the parks and the rec. Get rid of all the other fluff. Look through your parks and rec catalog and cut that junk out that nobody really cares about. But Baseball, soccer, basketball and swimming should be primary concerns of the department, not square dancing and underwater basket weaving. I'm being sarcastic but you get the point.

Overall, I would not like to see any of this reduced, but in our economic environment we have to be willing to compromise. I am willing to pay more for these services for my son and I so these programs and faculties survive without loss of hours. My family uses the community buildings for sports and working out at least twice a week, most the time more often (Holcom, down town & ELC). We have to pull together so these programs and building up keep and availability continue to thrive, as the people of Lawrence will continue to prosper.

Overall we have been very happy with Parks & Rec (P&R) programs, especially Prarie Park Nature center. Unless you are going to really step it up regarding arts festivals - continuous name entertainment, etc., I don't see how you could charge persons to go to that type of event. We also love the Frisbee dogs and go to that every year. Have you considered a kite flying contest (they do this on the Mall in Washington D>C> every spring and it attracts many people). Also, this is off topic, but could you consider installing boulders along the road to the river by the Bowersock dam/water treatment building? Currently, that field is being used to joy-ride and it is getting big ruts in it which preclude easy dog walking, etc. Persons could still get down to fish, if they walk, but I don't think it is necessary to enable them to drive to the river when they can go to Burcham Park for that. Also, Burcham park has blocked off the trail access to vehicles and I wish you would do the same. Thanks.

Gym space and usage for youth sports need to increase. Currently, adult usage dominates the gyms too much. Future gym, ballfield facilities for youth need to be built.

I would much rather see reduced hours rather than closure of facilities.

While a charge to use the cardio room would not be fun, I understand the necessity during these times. I would continue to use the cardio room so long as the cost would still make it cheaper than joining a gym.

I like being able to use the cardio rooms at the community buildings. I would use the one in East Lawrence. But some of the equipment would not work and if there were more than just a couple of people there I could not use a machine. I like being able to go there when it is convenient to me and not have to pay a Gym Membership. I would be willing to pay a couple of dollars for the days I use it. But with the equipment that is there now I would Not be willing to pay. Thank You

We could sure use more baseball/softball fields. Many schools have space, but they need to be revamped and maintained. Broken Arrow does a great job with one of the fields, but could use the other field if it were maintained. The same for Sunflower, Quail Run and Langston Hughes...plenty of great, useable space.

If you charge too much for the East Lawrence Rec Center people won't go. You can get a membership at a club for around \$20/month and there is more and nicer equipment. I love to go there because it is free(which always helps), and is close to my house, and it's not too crowded.

Don't we pay a tax for the Rec Centers? All basic services should be covered by that, like open gym and no cost cardio/weights. Charge for the extracurricular activities that are very limited in scope or that people use as a subsidized day care (Spring Break/Summer Youth Care, etc.). The

intramurals already pay for themselves through the user fees. Lawrence has the worst parks system of any city of this size I have been too. There are too many useless crummy small parks with no real traditional open space/nature type park. Look at what Columbia MO has to offer-- nice dog parks, MKT trail, an City-MU hike/bike trail system, a nice public lake/small beach/open green space park in the hear of the city (Not dirty and unsafe like Mary's Lake)...including their Rec Center. Until Lawrence actually offers more than a couple half-decent parks and a decent rec center, the tax money should be sufficient to operate the basic needs of the system that is open to all. Why not eliminate the 3 rec centers and build one nice center and charge a modest rate for it? Or get a YMCA, remove the rec centers and direct those savings to keep the Y membership lower?

The format of this survey is confusing. I'd be reluctant to draw any conclusions from it. I use the cardio and weight rooms at East Lawrence rec 3 times per week. I often work out side by side with homeless or disadvantaged patrons who seem to benefit physically and emotionally from using these facilities. Imposing a fee on this population would probably prohibit their ability to use the resource. It might be cheaper for the city in the long run to support healthy lifestyles rather than tend to the lack thereof. I'd be willing to pay a dollar per visit, but would probably be inclined to join private gym before paying more.

have you thought about doing a low monthly fee for unlimited use of the weight/cardio rooms, good at any of the rec centers? Please don't cut back on the number of classes offered/special events. We love the work you're doing for the community!

I would be more willing to pay for fitness machines and facilities if they were upgraded and maintained-- otherwise, less likely to pay a fee.

Please maintain programing for kids. A rec center is for needed for those who cannot afford the expensive programs out there. Kids should be able to play in a gym or swim for free or very cheap. Pretty flowers look nice but do not help the youth of Lawrence get out of their houses, socialize, (and stay out of trouble.) Raise green fees before pool fees!

Something needs to be done to address the baseball/softball field situation. I have not looked at the budget - but I would assume this is a significant contributor to the LPRD department. We have clearly been surpassed by KC/Topeka - and the situation gets worse as time passes. Our youth popultion continues to increase - and more and more fields are becoming unusable/booked. I think the city would be well served to look into creating something similar to Mid-America in KC - possibly including some type of indoor facility for winter use - (batting cages/infields/etc...) The facility would be in constant use - and I am certain the city would be able to recoop through fees/etc... and potentially make this profitable in a relatively short period of time. I would be willing to invest in this - how about taxpayer/stock (ownership offering)/debt. I think a lot of individuals would be responsive - just would be nice to see something on the table.

Have been enrolled in fitness classes for decades at the community building. The gym is frequently very dirty and the weight room is marginal and usually filthy and unsanitary. Often

problems with homeless, overheard one bragging about using the cardio room for sex. I would possibly be interested in volunteering some time to clean, even seasonally. Also the parking lot is frequently littered with broken glass, and perhaps the police could drive through more often. I have always felt that classes are a great value, and would like to see instructors paid more.

Please try to find some funding to improve the sand volleyball courts at Holcom park. When playing on the courts it's nearly impossible to not dive and cut one's leg. The "sand" there is basically like gravel. There is grass on portions of the courts, the boundary lines are usually snapped and out of place. There are no lights for playing at night time. The quality of the courts has discouraged our team from playing there any further. We now play at the courts on the KU campus. The courts there are far superior.

My children, now 23, 20, and 12 have always played summer ball and ever since we moved to town in 1986 there has been a shortage on practice and playing fields! I think we absolutely NEED to have the 4-H fields in working condition and should pay to have the lights fixed. I suggest maybe the Optimist, Rotary Club, etc be asked for donations or hold an event such as a Fun Run specifically for the lights. Also, I think that it wouldn't be too much to ask to increase the softball/baseball registration \$1-2 as well as adding an optional \$5, 10, or up donation to all of the registration forms for upkeep on fields and for facilities. (The Art Center does this.) We need to be looking ahead to the future...if we already didn't have enough fields and now without the school district supporting the city with their fields, we HAVE to get on the ball and plan to build some more...another four fields out at YSI with some practice areas/fields included would be WONDERFUL!!! (Thank goodness the school district lets the city use their gym space or we wouldn't have any of those either.)

I think the aquatic center and gym facilities are a great thing, I just don't use them because I belong to a gym that now gives pool access with membership. However, we are in the process of adopting children, and when we do I am sure we will be using the parks and rec facilities more often. We would be willing to pay increased fees for the services.

Regarding my comments on the wading pool and playground programs: I am unlikely to use these programs regardless of cost because my children are essentially grown. There is a possibility that I might use these programs again if I have grandchildren.

I ruly enjoy the sports activities provided, especially for children. Has Parks & Rec ever considered renting youth baseball/softball field space from local schools? Hillcrest, Schwegler, the one just north of LMH could be maintained (either by the schools, Parks & Rec, or volunteers) and it would be beneficial to both Lawrence Schools (increased income over the summer months) and Parks & rec (increased youth playing fields).

NATURE CENTER

Keep the nature center open and funded. It's a wonderful local resource!

Retain the Prairie Park Nature Canter

I am concerned that the amount of staffing needed at Prairie Park to collect fees would not pay for itself. I would rather see hours reduced so that this can be kept open and free to people to visit. Also, having a fee would make it difficult for those using the trail to come in and use the restroom or the drinking fountain. I also would hate to see the pool at CKN closed or open for fewer hours than the limited hours it is already open. The pool is quite popular during the limited hours it is open and is a really important resource for those of us on the East side.

I think it is extremely important for the Parks and Recreation programs to remain available. It saddens me to think of things like the Nature Center closing down. It is important for our children and for us adults, to learn, to experience... to enjoy. I wonder if some kind of fundraiser (yearly) would be helpful? Just a thought. I know I would (and know others that would) gladly attend something like a lunch in the park. You could have local stores donate goods (and advertise it for them) and then charge the guests for the lunch. Making it something easy like hot dogs, chips, desserts.. Goodness... a cake walk (charging for tickets). Hmmm.. like a town festival in south park. That would be great! I am all for things that bring the people together, that help Lawrence remain "Lawrence".

Continuing a thriving Parks and Rec program is essential to helping kids develop into better adults. Particularly important are the sports and the Prairie Park Nature Center. This will be the first generation of children that are termed as "Nature-deficit". We need these programs to continue and expand to give kids an opportunity to learn about nature and learn to respect it which in turn will help them learn to respect other things as well. Prairie Park Nature Center should be the LAST program to be looked at as far as beginning to charge admission or increase fees for many families that use those educational programs. This center should, in fact, be expanded.

Please don't close the nature center!

With the recognition that today's youth do not have enough opportunities to experience the natural world, I think it is essential that the city provides expanded access and use of Prairie Park Nature Center.

Our family loves Prairie Park Nature Center. What is brilliant about the Center is that it is free and educational. During the summer, we go there 2-3 times a month. It could probably raise the fees on birthday parties. We hired the facility for a birthday a two years ago, and it was easily the best deal in town at \$75. Perhaps the Center could offer some other special fee-based family events. I think that keeping the eagle days at Free State High School type events as free community events is very important. I might support the raising of downtown parking meter rates and tickets to fund community programs. I might support an annual community membership fee or frequent user card that gave me discounts on the fees I pay for swimming, camps, and kids programs. This might allow for the individual program fees to be raised without forcing my family to cut back on our parks and rec program use.

For the Prairie Nature Park how about a \$2-\$3 charge for adults but free for kids? That way families with multiple kids could still use the facilities with it becoming cost prohibitive. Or you could have a "recommended contribution" of \$2 per adult and \$1 per child or something like that

so that people with resources could pay but those that are very poor would still be able to use the facility. The pools are *wonderful* city resources. You could increase the charge for swimming classes. You should consider closing the facilities on Sundays. The tennis courts are likewise wonderful resources. I support keeping the lights on in the evenings. Consider installing "timed lights." You push the button and it keeps the lights on the court you are using on for 60 minutes then turns them off. That way electricity is being used only when someone is actually playing on the court.

As a family with young children, we believe that the wading pool and Prarie Park Nature Center are vital to life in Lawrence.

GOLF

I think it makes a lot more sense to eliminate Eagle Bend golf course than to cut Parks and Rec services or make them exorbitantly expensive. I'm always reading in the paper that Lawrence teenagers feel they have no place to go--increasing the fees at the swimming pool, charging for Arts in the Park, etc. would just make it more difficult for them. I think cutting back on the plantings would hurt Lawrence as a destination city--people really like how special our downtown is. And with the importance of exercise in maintaining health, it seems wrong to me to be eliminating exercise options for those people who can't afford to belong to a club, etc. If you have to, maybe some sort of sliding scale would be a possibility. I know retirees who use the parks and rec facilities--maybe some of them could afford to pay prices almost equivalent with fitness clubs but a lot of them couldn't. I would also really hate to see the city put a price tag on band concerts, the nature center, etc. Again these are things that make Lawrence special.

I am supportive and appreciative of almost all the parks and rec programs. Personally I make most use of Eagle Bend. I have been told that revnues exceed operating costs so it more than pays for itself (except for bond payments in some years). If this is true, I would like to see this fact recieve more publicity. Non-golfers seem to view this facility as a playground for rich people, but it provides healthy recreation for those of us with modest means.

Please stop subsidizing golf over children and nature.

why is there no question about raisilng fees to golf?

Golf seems an inordinately expensive activity for the city to subsidize. Is the per-user cost comparable to the per-user cost for other activities? This particular activity should be studied carefully. More 6:00 fitness class starting times may increase participation, since Lawrence residents who work out of town need more time to get to classes after work. I can no longer enroll in the 5:30 or 5:45 classes for this reason, and those seem to be the best classes! Increasing costs more than \$5 per special event or recreation class would make participation more difficult for my family. Thank you for requesting opinions from actual LPRD activity participants!

Generally believe that services that should be offered by private entities are preferable to growing and expanding LPRD. LPRD competes with too many private entities (Eagle Bend).

Quit supporting the golf and keep the rest.

Please consider curtailing Eagle Bend golf course operations before anything else.

DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION

I think it is really important to beautify our city. A beautiful city will invite visitors as well as businesses and new families. I also think asking for volunteers on those days for plantings is a great idea. I think it would be a big mistake to drop the city band. Music is an essential part of Lawrence, as well as life in general. On that note however, I wonder what the \$12,000 is for. I was under the impression that they were volunteering to get together to play. It would probably be worthwhile to pay the conductor, but are musicians being paid? Some would play just for the fun of it, and maybe lunch money would be nice.

P & R should be seen as an essential service. I include in this the beautification and landscaping.

DOWNTOWN LAWRENCE ASSOC. SHOULD BE HELPING PAY FOR THE PLANTS AND THEIR CARE AND ALSO FOR THE CLEAN UP OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

I ANSWERED "I DON'T KNOW" ABOUT THE PARK PLANTINGS AND THE QUESTION WAS CONFUSING. I BELIEVE REDUCING THE PLANTINGS BY ONE WOULD BE OK.

I think the "Art Work" that is downtown is an unnecessary expense!

I think the plantings downtown and in the parks are beautiful and make our city really stand out. However, I have sometimes wondered if the less common nature of some of the plantings makes them more costly. Given tough budgetary times, it makes sense to try to stretch that budget differently. Has a monthly pass to the cardio rooms been considered? What about charging for use of the gyms? (I didn't notice that in the survey). It makes sense for the gyms to be open for basketball for young people as a safe place to hang out, however, I notice a lot of business men, attorneys, etc playing bball at the East Lawrence Center, and I'm sure they could afford a dollar or two each time they play---for that matter I could as well when my girls and I go to play ball for fun. Maybe a pay if you can, but no one is turned away for lack of funds type of policy would allow for both crowds to get their needs met/contribute. Also, I wonder if a summer long pass to the aquatic centers would be helpful?

We should be looking at ways to beautify our parks, downtown, and community. Lawrence is beautiful but we can do better and take pride in it. I would like to see a push for Lawrence residents to stop littering. I am tired of picking up others trash off the streets.

I was confused by the wording of the downtown landscape planting questions.

grow plants ourself from seed's chang the type of plants to more bointifull bloomsers have doantion from different groups to help with the planting of different corner or highlighthed area around town i.e. local planters; Flowere shops??? nursries ,local gardens; give them a planqe wth

name and date. they could be responsible for maintaining . have to report their designs to P&R answer to P&Rec

LAWRENCE CITY BAND

Save the Band please!

Basically I have completed this survey to address the one question regarding the City Band. We tend to get wrapped up in saving programs for the disabled and children and forget all the other programs. I can say that I haven't missed but one or two concerts in over 7-8 years. This event is a community event that draws all ages and exposes many people to the arts. Let's not eliminate programs just because it's not sports.

The summer band concerts are ONE feature that makes Lawrence so wonderful.

I feel the \$12,000 budget for Wednesday night summer band concerts is a steal! Look at your audience....newborns to elderly care facilities. That should speak loudly to the effectiveness of money spent towards reaching a diverse population (audience).

We're really hoping the City Band Concerts can be preserved somehow. Especially in these tough times, these concerts provide welcome relaxation and some relief from our troubles, at least for a short time! Perhaps the schedule could be reduced by a concert or two, or concerts could be held every other week instead of weekly. Would it be possible to take up a collection each time to help defray the cost?

I would really, really, really hate to see the band concert go away. Also, I love the flowers and the landscaping. It could be reduced a little bit if absolutely necessary. I would rather see my taxes go up. Things like these are exactly what makes Lawrence great. Also we need more things for kids to do not less.

The Lawrence City Band is not only a wonderful tradition in Lawrence. It reaches a population (the elderly) that makes somewhat less use of other Lawrence Parks and Recreation services, and it is a distinctive addition to summers in our community. Please fund it at some level if you cannot afford the \$12,000. You could also pass the hat at concerts--I expect that the \$12,000 could be raised at the concerts. This is not the kind of thing that should be allowed to die because of financial exigency!

Lawrence would not be the same with out the bands during the summer! Please keep the band! And, I'm hoping the wading pool is kept open, too. Let's have FUNDRAISERS! Thanks!

Live in rural Gardner but come to Lawrence for band concerts and often have a meal and shop while there

I mainly took this survey to support the Lawrence City Band. It is such a rare point of pride for Lawrence. You have to travel an hour in any direction to find another band as active as this, and

none are nearly as high-quality. This tradition MUST continue. It is a gem of Lawrence, KS!
Thank you.

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consider the Lawrence City Band Concerts and the Prairie Park Nature Center essential parts of our unique community, please continue to support these entities.

I'm very interested in keeping the Lawrence City Band Concerts. They are by far the most important to me.

We love the City Band concerts during the summer. Please consider keeping this, there are hundreds of people who attend each concert and it is wonderful to see so many people from the community involved in supporting this group.

I can't imagine even considering for a moment discontinuing the summer Band Concerts. This is a Lawrence tradition that is over 150 years old and is particularly enjoyed by its senior population. Surely there is a better way.

The summer band concerts are a wonderful family involved event that have been a part of American cities & towns since the 1800's. I hope we don't let this very important part of Americana die.

THE LAWRENCE CITY BAND CONCERTS IN THE PARK ARE A TRADITION THAT IS RARELY FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE IN AMERICA. WE, THE CITIZENS OF LAWRENCE, SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE CITY BAND, REGARDLESS OF THE COST!

I believe the city band concerts are a valuable and worthwhile activity for the community. It would be a shame to let such a historical and entertaining tradition deteriorate.

Parks and rec are critical to making Lawrence Lawrence. South Park band concerts are one of the most charming things I have ever attended,

I don't live in Lawrence, however my family attends the City Band concerts at least 3 times during the summer. It is a great venue, and it should continue. I would be willing to pay admission of \$2-3, if this would help. The band is one of the greatest we've seen, and the 4th of July concert is unbeatable. Thank you.

I love Lawrence City Band! Don't stop funding!

Our Parks and Recreation programs are outstanding. If we want to keep them, we need to pay for them. Especially outstanding is our summer band, which is better by far than those in surrounding, larger communities.

I especially like the Band Concerts that are held downtown.

I think the City Band is an especially important tradition, dating back to our origins.

Thanks for our good parks and good programs. Please continue the summer band concerts.

I suggest you collect donations at the summer City Band Concerts. I think many people would pay a few dollars to support these events.

Wednesday evening band concerts in South Park reach a large number of people, many from nearby retirement centers who are bussed to the park and without charge truly enjoy themselves. This, and other inexpensive programs for the public are what makes my city of Lawrence unique, a very special place to live. I also love to swim at the downtown pool but cannot afford to do so too often. Still, it is a great place to go. Lawrence is so unique, full of fun and caring people, and parks & rec has always reached out to offer, to care for all of us, of all abilities and ages. I want our town to continue to be like this.

Fund the community band

please keep the band concerts going, and the downtown beautiful.

The special programs available in Lawrence, especially the arts events (Lawrence City Band), are part of the culture of this city. On another note, this survey tool is poorly constructed and of questionable reliability or validity. It appears that whoever created this form did not fully comprehend the purpose and sophistication needed to create a useful and meaningful data collection tool. I certainly hope that the decision-makers within our local government are not basing their decisions on questionable data acquired by this collection device. Perhaps some pro bono consulting could be utilized in an attempt to develop a much more useful tool.

Some of these questions are set up as yes/no, when maybe there are other options. For instance, I'd rather see the city's funding of the city band reduced before it was eliminated.

When we moved here two years ago, we were floored by the awesome parks and the outdoor concert. We had no clue what was going on that Wednesday evening in June, but we walked towards the sounds in South Park. We loved every moment of the concert. What a great community to have such wonderful music and get together. My family now travels up to see the concerts at least twice a season. We have not missed a concert since the summer of 2007.

The City Band concerts are a wonderful and important tradition. All you have to do to realize how important they are to families is to go down there on a Wednesday night and see the crowds of people of all ages enjoying the concerts. They should absolutely be funded or at least start thinking about ways to supplement the city funding for what is needed. Downtown plantings are also wonderful, but why not "hire" out the labor to stores whose employees could volunteer to maintain a box. Then a discreet sign could be placed in the planter saying which stores contribute to its upkeep. Free labor for the city; free advertising for the stores; beautiful plantings downtown.

Please please please do not discontinue city band concerts. They are such a great asset to our city.

Please keep the City Band Concerts as part of our community. This tradition roots us in our history and brings us together. When I first came to Lawrence I was amazed at the attendance and happy to see a tradition being kept. Perhaps there is a way to reduce the cost of the program, without eliminating it? Thank you for including us in your deliberation.

I think that the city should strongly consider corporate sponsorship for special events like the Art Shows and the Summer Band concerts. If there are people in the community who consider these to have essential value to the community, give them an opportunity to voluntarily contribute to seeing those services continue. I definitely support increasing fees across the board, rather than raising taxes, because the fees mean that the people who actually take advantage of the programs and facilities pay directly for what they use. I don't think taxpayers should be forced to support programs and facilities that they do not use. I would also suggest considering turning ownership or management of the outdoor aquatic centers over to private companies, whether for-profit or not-for-profit. Thank you for making this survey available online!!!

Save the band concerts!

The suggestion that the City Band Concerts would no longer be financially supported by the city is unthinkable. These are occasions that bring Lawrence citizens of every age and circumstance together in a way nothing else that I am aware of ever has. It is a tradition valued and enjoyed by hundreds. It cannot be sustained at an acceptable quality without this remarkably minor public financial outlay.

A very important thing for the City to continue and fund properly are the weekly summer band concerts. It makes our town special and is very well attended. Please don't cut funding

keep the band it is well attended you could pass a donation box? improve the use of community volunteers to operate facilities during budget shortfalls I think people would step in to keep our services going if they knew how and it were made uncomplicated for them

Is there a way to continue to fund the city band, but lower the amount of funding for the band? I enjoy the concerts, but questions whether they need/justify \$12,000.00 per year?

I would be willing to donate money to help keep the Lawrence City Band concerts in the park. This is one of our favorite summer activities, and we are there almost every week.

What about accepting donations at City Band concerts, but not requiring them? I wouldn't be surprised if people attending quickly came up with money to support the concerts.

In question of the Lawrence City Band Summer Concert. I always look forward to attend each year. The Band is awesome and i wouldn't mind even paying \$1 for admittance, Especially during the fireworks, last evening. Even if you don't charge, a donation jar wouldn't hurt for people who can afford it. All children, free(underlined). Keep up the good work. Lawrence is a

great town(underlined), I love it. Since the United States has a lot of obese people, charging isn't the answer to using the recreation center weight/cardio rooms. It's great to put it into use especially in the winter months. Thanks(underlined), City of Lawrence for all.

Keep concert in the park. Pass the hat if necessary. Keep the pool affordable, some visits are short depending on the weather, the kids I appreciate you looking for alternatives before decisions are made.

I absolutely love the City Band concerts during the summer. They are truly one of my favorite things about living here in Lawrence and it would be a tragedy if they stopped.

The band concerts have been a regular summer event since before Quantrill's Raid. This is part of our heritage and should not be eliminated. When our children were very young we took them to the band concerts and I see young families doing the same today. \$12,000 is a very small piece of the city budget and I believe it should continue to support this institution. The appearance of Downtown Lawrence make a statement about our pride. Few cities in the country have what we have. We need to continue plantings four times a year! Furthermore, the cleanliness of downtown should be stepped up. It's looking shabby with cigarette butts everywhere. This is our community living room!

Please do not cut the the Lawrence Civic Band concerts. My family enjoys the wonderful music and sense of community when attending these events.

Cutting the City Band funding sounds like the best bet. The band will continue without the stipends.

The very thought of no more Wednesday night band concerts makes me sick to my stomach. Those concerts are so important to the spirit of this community. It would be tragic to lose them.

I feel that it is absolutely essential that the Lawrence City Band continue to be funded at the current rate. 100+ years of continuous contributions to the city by this organization has greatly contributed to Lawrence's reputation as a community that cares about and supports the arts. Also, the concerts on the summer series are consistantly well attended by people of all age groups.

ADULT SPORTS

Get the drunks, abusers(physical and verbal) out of softball!!!!

I do not live in Lawrence but come from Kansas City to play with friends in the adult softball league. The league locations are good however the fee is already \$40+ depending on the number on the team. I feel raising the entry fees would really hurt the leagues and like the idea of allowing advertising to supplement the costs. The summer league also starts too early and the fall league ends too late. It would also be nice to have the nights rotated from season to season as the women are always on Monday nights which I find more difficult. Lawrence is a great town and I wish I could join my friends in living there. Also, partnering with businesses could help generate dollars for park improvements that could not be afforded otherwise.

Please do not reduce the hours at the Lawrence Indoor Aquatic Center. I am happy to pay more!

How about not starting Spring/Summer Softball the 1st week of April & start in May instead! It is usually cold enough that many players wind up w/injuries. How about after Mother's Day? In addition, some players at the High School and College level could play. They cannot participate due to KHSAA & NCAA restrictions on other team sports during their designated seasons. Please, do not raise the fees for league play. Let's try instead, to recruit more teams and players by accommodating the teams & players. I just hate that we went from 2-3 nights a week of Women's Softball to 1 night and 3 divisions. This might even take care of the ongoing Division One dilemma.

What about golf fees and adult sports fees? Most of the fee increases and/or proposed reductions seem to be in programs that affect children and families.

Sports fees should be increased more for adults than children.

I participate on the Lawrence Womens Futsal League-- thank you for helping us locate a place to play this spring! We really like playing in the East Community Building, and appreciate the support for our league.

I do think that the charge for teams to play organized sports such as softball are too expensive.

I wish there was a greater diversity of adult sports offered. I wish soccer was offered through parks and rec instead of just LASL. I wish there was a soccer program for kids under 5. I also wish that Holcom's weight room had a few more elliptical machines and/or treadmills and was open later. I wouldn't mind paying \$1 or 2 for that.

YOUTH SPORTS

Youth sports should be by far the most important activity. Not only can we not reduce, but in many cases need to expand; especially facilities. Downtown beautification is important but could easily be sponsored.

The support and response I have received from Lee Ice and his staff have been exceptional. as a volunteer coach he knows how to make you feel good about working with the youth for free.

My children play parks and rec sports year round and i would be very sad to see anything happen to these we can not afford the other sports offered in lawrence so for my kids this is the only opportunity they have. I have a five year old that loves the nature center and would go daily if we would let him these programs and the parks are essential to our community. I love the flowers and other plantings done in the community but feel that if something needs to be cut it should come from there and slightly raising prices on things not by closing or getting rid of programs.

I think the Parks and Rec program is very important for our city. I was at Holcum on a Wednesday afternoon and notice the place was full of kids because of early release from the schools. I'm glad these kids had a place to go instead of getting into trouble. I feel Parks and

Rec's first responsibility is to the kids then the adults. Lee Ice does a great Job! He has always had the right ideas. He studies and knows what is going on and I hope the city leaders would ask him before making changes. Our city is fortunate to have him.

The city band concert is part of what makes Lawrence unique and special, I have been taking my kids there since they were babies. Let's keep the tradition going for years to come.

I understand that the Parks/Rec programs may need to be downsized, but I caution against anything too extreme. Our youth need activities to learn and grow into productive citizens of Lawrence. I think Parks/Rec programs provide a viable option for many of us expand our children's knowledge, skills, and/or abilities while being exposed to different children and different settings. Keep up the great work that you do!

TENNIS

Tennis wasn't mentioned; both adults and children in my family use those facilities.

Put lights at the new tennis facility at LHS.

PUT LIGHTS ON THE NEW TENNIS COURTS!!!!

If feasible, lights should be provided for the new Lawrence Tennis Center.

wE ARE ALSO IN FAVOR OF LIGHTS AT THE NEW TENNIS COURTS WHICH SHOULD BE PAID COOPERATIVELY BY PARKS AND REC., SCHOOL DISTRICT, GRANTS, AND PERSONAL DONATIONS

In a community of this size, available outdoor, tennis courts with lights are important.

I feel it is a mistake to build new tennis courts to replace the courts at LHS without committing to providing lighting. The courts at LHS are heavily utilized by the public during the evening hours. Not providing lighting reduces their value to the community substantially.

Make sure at LHS there will be lights installed on the Tennis courts when the new courts are finished.

424 Comments