

e. Community aspects of recreation program:

In the opinion of the recreation committee, it is thought to be imperative that a community recreation program be preserved. The city program has been developed as a logical outgrowth and an expansion of the summer program for school children sponsored by the local branch of the American Association of University Women, by the Parent Teacher Council, and by the Board of Education. The fact that the city of Lawrence has only recently become aware of its civic responsibility for maintenance of a recreation program (the mayor's committee was appointed less than two years ago) has a very decided social significance; an interruption of community planning for an interval would seriously retard progress. At present there is no legislation enabling the imposition of a mill tax for recreation purposes and, until such legislation can be secured, the only legal available source of funds other than park maintenance is a small sum allocated for the purchase of capital equipment and for the maintenance of recreation facilities now owned by the city.

It is not an insignificant fact, from a community point of view, that the non-council members of the mayor's committee are all three members of the executive committee of the recreation council which administers the summer program for school children: (1) the director of the program the first summer and an active advisor since that time; (2) a member of the Board of Education, a man whose help has been invaluable and whose civic vision is unquestioned; and (3) the chairman of the executive committee. The advisory members are, in addition to the incumbent city recreation director, the superintendent of schools and the head of the Univ. of Kansas physical education department. The personnel was chosen with the deliberate intention of coordinating the efforts of all groups concerned for and interested in the development of a well-rounded recreation program. The wisdom of the choice was evident when, without duplication of effort or financial outlay, all groups cooperated in providing recreation facilities during the summer months just passed and in organizing a successful program for the service men after plans were announced for the establishment of the naval training unit. It would be short-sighted to disregard the possibilities for coordinated effort which now exist.

f. Available facilities:

Although Lawrence is now faced with the problem of providing recreation for large numbers of new people, the majority of whom are active young adults, their widely varying recreational interests can be met fairly well with available facilities. The city owns a Community building which lends itself admirably to recreation needs, since it has a large basement game room, and an auditorium with a stage, a well equipped kitchen, and an archery and rifle range; the auditorium serves as a gymnasium or ball room as occasion demands. At present the building's use is also extended to the rationing board, the CPT, Home Guard, draft board, Red Cross, Bundles for America and similar groups, but recreation activities have had ample space to date.

Park space, approximately 40 acres, is not adequate, but the colored population has its own ball park and there is also a lighted diamond in both the north and south sections of the city. Each of the six elementary schools has ample play space and excellent equipment. (A special section on Board of Education contacts is attached-- See Section AA).