



*Rockford Beach,
House Springs*



Master Plan

2013



It is the mission of the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation to enrich the quality of life for County citizens by providing open natural space, the best possible recreational facilities and quality programs.

I Executive Summary

In 2013, the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation Board of Park Commissioners recognized the need to update their planning mechanisms and develop a guiding document to assure a prosperous future for at least the next 10 to 15 years. They commissioned Ms. B.J. Eavy, the Community Development Specialist from the University of Missouri Extension Service, to facilitate the preparation and writing of a new Master Plan for the Parks Department. This process included three Town Meetings, each in a different part of the county, a formal community resource and needs survey, and several meetings with a Master Plan sub-committee of the Board. Serious input from all elements of the county was thus recruited to guide and define the direction and nature of the recreational future of our county parks. Once adopted, the Plan, which is a living document, will be reviewed on an annual basis and revised as necessary to ensure that it continues to meet the planning needs of the community.

Currently, Jefferson County has 15 (fifteen) areas designated as park lands totaling 360 acres. Of these areas, 10 (ten) are open to the public totaling 146 acres. Five areas totaling 214 acres are “Land Banked” until funds are available for development. Historically, Jefferson County has not provided funds to purchase park lands. As a result the parks are located in areas where the donors owned property. The following is a current list of Jefferson County parks. More details about each park are included in the master plan under the heading “Description of Parks” (chapter VI, pg. 16).

- Big River Saddle Club (10 acres)
- Brown’s Ford (3 acres)
- Cedar Hill Park (7 acres)
- High Ridge Civic Center (2 acres)
- Rockford Beach (8 acres)
- Jefferson County Winter Park (40 acres)
- Morse Mill (10 acres)
- Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve (40 acres)
- Sunridge Park (6 acres)
- Northwest Sports Complex (20 acres)

Included in the current Land Bank of Park properties are:

- The Beck Property (125 acres)
- The Kimmswick Property (40 acres)
- The Stone Bridge Property (12 acres)
- Ball Memorial Park (7 acres)
- McMullin Park (7 acres, used for the location of the county Administration Building, no longer used as a park)
- River Bend Park (30 acres)

Current leisure and recreational opportunities provided by existing open space and recreational facilities continues to be deficient for serving the population of Jefferson County as defined in the Missouri Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan. This master plan includes measures, suggested by the residents, to remedy this situation.

The spectrum of recommended improvements, which are listed in Chapter VIII "Recommendations", spans the wide-ranging needs and interests of Jefferson County residents. The Parks Department Master Plan supports the Jefferson County Master Plan with many of the same goals and issues being reflected. These goals include much-needed changes to existing parks, including improvement and expansion, with designs that make the parks safer, with greater functionality, while maintaining the present natural beauty. With these suggested improvements, visitors will find the parks more conducive to a healthier lifestyle. The history and culture of Jefferson County, as well as preservation of heritage and landmarks, will be considered important in any decisions concerning the parks. Interconnected parks, "Green Spaces", landscaping/urban forestry, Dog Parks, playgrounds, and community centers are all part of the vision of this plan. "Community Pride" campaigns and efforts will be undertaken through the educational and healthy lifestyle programs in the plan. There will always be attention paid to environmental quality concerns and education for the public, which will lead to a better Quality of Life for citizens of Jefferson County.

This Jefferson County Parks Master Plan will become the guiding document for Jefferson County leaders and residents to develop their parks and recreation programs well beyond the 21st Century. It has been developed and written with a great deal of community participation, with the goal of encouraging the continuation and enhancement of citizen investment in their community through committed involvement. As we implement the plan, the park system and its programs will prosper and grow, becoming a source of great pride for Jefferson County.

Signed:

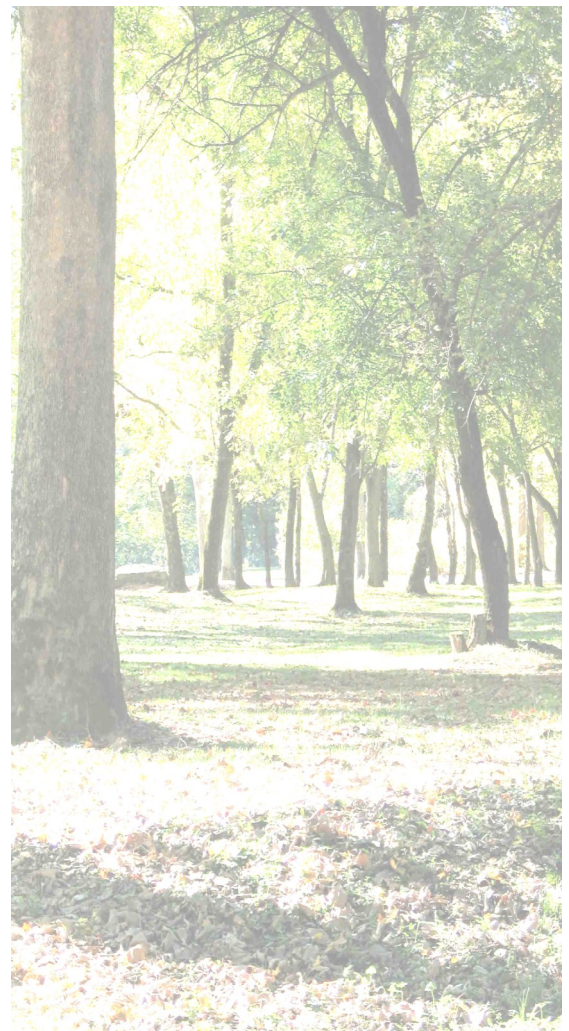
Gerald Thomas, President

Date: _____

II

Table of Contents

- I. Executive Summary - 3
- II. Table of Contents - 5
- III. Jefferson County Governance - 6
- IV. Jefferson County Parks & Recreation Governance - 7
- V. The Jefferson County Park System - 10
 - A. Yesterday - 10
 - B. Today - 12
 - C. Tomorrow - 14
- VI. Description of the Parks - 16
- VII. Conclusions - 28
- VIII. Recommendations to the County Executive - 29
- IX. Vision for Tomorrow - 30
- X. Appendices - 31
 - A. Community Survey & Meetings - 32
 - 1. Community Survey - 33 - 46
 - 2. Questions 5 and 11 Survey Narratives - 47 - 50
 - 3. Town Meetings - 51 - 53
 - 4. Summary - 54 - 55
 - 5. The List I The List Prioritized - 56 - 58
 - B. Jefferson County Demographics - 59 - 65
 - C. Jefferson County History I Plan Conclusion - 66 - 71
 - D. 2007 Parks Master Plan (in original form) - 72



III Jefferson County Governance

In both the 2003 Official Jefferson County Master Plan and the 2007 Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan, Missouri Statute 64.815 is cited as the legal authority for a First Class non-charter county to prepare and implement a master plan. This same statute applies to a First-Class Charter County as well; Jefferson is now such a county.

As a result of the November 2008 election, voters of Jefferson County approved the Home Rule Charter of Jefferson County, Missouri. This enabling legislation altered the County Government from a First Class Non-charter County to a First Class Charter form of local government within the limitations defined by the Missouri Constitution. With the powers approved by its citizens, Jefferson County is empowered to establish legislation, codes, and departments essential to the well-being and self-determination of the residents of the County.

In the discharge of its responsibilities and duties, Jefferson County is accountable to initiate efforts for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its function and those of the departments created by Jefferson County. In the endeavors to these ends, Jefferson County functions to govern through administrative and legislative bodies.

The administrative body consists of the County Executive, a County Administrator, elected officials and appointed department directors, such as the director of the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation. The elected governance consists of the County Executive and a seven member Council.



The Courthouse in Hillsboro, MO

Jefferson County Governance

County Executive:

Mr. Ken Waller -
Email: kwaller@jeffcomo.org

Jefferson County Administrator:

Mr. David Courtway -
Email: dcourtway@jeffcomo.org

Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation:

Director, Mike Ginger -
Email: mginger@jeffcomo.org

Jefferson County Council:

Council Chairman, Mr. Robert Boyer, District 3 -
Email: rboyer@jeffcomo.org

Council Vice-Chairman, Mr. Kelly Waymon, District 7 -
Email: kwaymon@jeffcomo.org

Councilman Mr. Don Bickowski, District 1 -
Email: dbickowski@jeffcomo.org

Councilwoman Mrs. Renee Reuter, District 2 -
Email: rreuter@jeffcomo.org

Councilman Mr. George Engelbach District 4 -
Email: gengelbach@jeffcomo.org

Councilwoman Mrs. Teresa "Terri" Kreitler, District 5 -
Email: TKreitler@jeffcomo.org

Councilman Mr. Cliff Lane, District 6 -
Email: CLane@jeffcomo.org

Jefferson County Board of Park Commissioners

Mr. Gerald Thomas, President, Email: t864t@aol.com

Mr. Mike Devlin, Vice-President Email: cmikedev@hotmail.com

Mr. Bill Seek, Public Relations, Email: bseek@eaglebankandtrust.com

Mrs. Linda Schroeder, Secretary, Email: linda@gilschroedersodsales.com

Mr. Thomas Johnson, Email: toma.johnson@yahoo.com

Mrs. Mary Reitz

Mrs. Rita Brandt

IV

Jefferson County Parks & Recreation Governance

One of the departments created by Jefferson County is the Department of Parks and Recreation, whose mission is:

To enrich the quality of life for County citizens by providing open space, natural space, the best possible recreational facilities and quality programs.

It is the responsibility of the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation to address the leisure and recreational issues of county residents while maintaining a responsible fiscal position. To this end, the County Executive appointed, as the director of the department, a certified professional who manages daily activities and implements long range plans to address the needs of County residents.

The volunteer advisory Park Commission is empowered to act on behalf of the citizens of Jefferson County through Ordinance 10-31-95. This Ordinance establishes a Board of Park Commissioners consisting of five (5) to seven (7) members. This Commission is charged with the task to represent the citizenry of Jefferson County and assist with the establishment of policies and programs providing recreational and leisure services. All actions of the Park Commission are submitted to the administrative body of Jefferson County government in the form of a recommendation. It is the responsibility of the county administration to respond to the Commission by approving or rejecting the recommendation.


Jefferson County Board of Park Commissioners

Mr. Gerald Thomas, President, Email: t864t@aol.com
Mr. Mike Devlin, Vice-President Email: cmikedev@hotmail.com
Mr. Bill Seek, Public Relations, Email: bseek@eaglebankandtrust.com
Mrs. Linda Schroeder, Secretary, Email: linda@gilschroedersodsales.com
Mr. Thomas Johnson, Email: toma.johnson@yahoo.com
Mrs. Mary Reitz
Mrs. Rita Brandt



Jefferson County Park Foundation

The Jefferson County Park Foundation is an organization consisting of up to twelve (12) citizens of Jefferson County who are registered to vote. The foundation has established by-laws that govern its function and operation. The foundation was formed to assist the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation with fundraising and the development of park amenities. The purpose of the Foundation is to:

- 
- Generate revenue and hold land;
 - Educate the public about the function and services provided by the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation;
 - Identify and pursue vital endeavors that will address the recreational and leisure needs of county residents;
 - Assist with the election efforts of the Park Commission; and other efforts identified by the Foundation Board of Directors and approved by the Park Commission.

The origins of the park foundation developed from the efforts of several golf courses owners' efforts to develop and operate a Junior Golf program. Over time, the various individuals formed the Jefferson County Parks Foundation to sponsor the Junior Golf program and to undertake other actions that would result in support and enhance the actions of the Jefferson County Board of Park Commissioners. The current Board of Directors members of the Jefferson County Park Foundation are:

- Mr. Danny Tuggle, President
- Mr. Ron Deichman, Vice-President
- Mr. Michael Ginger, Secretary, Email: mginger@jeffcomo.org
- Mr. Ralph Meuser, Treasurer
- Mr. Brian Haskins, Assistant Treasurer
- Mr. Bill Seek, Member Email: bseek@eaglebankandtrust.com
- Mr. Stanley Shryock, Member
- Mr. Tom Johnson, Member Email: toma.johnson@yahoo.com

The Jefferson County Park System

Yesterday

The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department was established by a resolution signed on October 10, 1965 by Judge Walter Steinbeck and Park Commission President, Claude Hansen. The establishing legislation authorized the formation of a nine member park board. The inaugural Board of Park Commissioners was Judge Walter Frazier, Jesse Erisman, Harvey Toulouse, Harold Wright, Thomas Law, Claude Hansen, Harold Vance, Arthur Frohse, and Truman Post Young. These individuals were charged with the implementation of policies and plans that would result in the development of parks to address the recreational and leisure needs of the County's 66,377 residents.



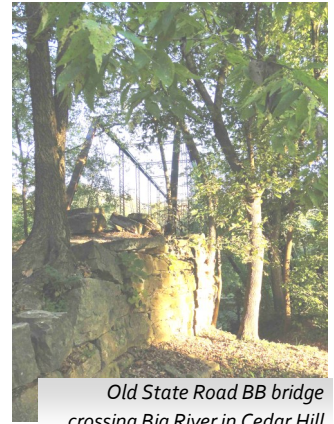
Canoeing on Big River

Funding methods of the newly created Parks Department were defined by State law; the funding method deemed to be the best, by authorities in Jefferson City, was a property tax. The local authorities, the County Commission, had the authority to set the tax rate up to \$.10 (ten cents) per \$100 assessed valuation. In 1979, the County Commission established the property tax rate of three cents (\$.03) per \$100 assessed valuation. Over the years, the public had opportunities to vote into law tax increases to provide funding of additional parks and development of park amenities. At each opportunity, the voters said no to the request. The result of the voters rejecting tax increases is a current tax rate of \$.0279 (2.79 cents) per \$100 assessed valuation in 2013.

Due to the funding realities the Department grew through donations of land. The donations of properties became the only method through which the County was able to acquire park lands. Over time, the donated properties that became the Jefferson County Park System were:

- Ball Memorial Park, 7 acres (land banked)
- Big River Saddle Club, 10 acres
- Browns Ford, 3 acres
- Jefferson County Winter Park, 40 acres
- McMullin Park, 7 acres
- Pleasant Valley Park, 40 acres
- Sunridge Park, 6 acres

These seven county parks constituted the Jefferson County Park System for many years and efforts to expand services were not undertaken due to budget restrictions; the three cent tax rate did not provide funds necessary to develop park facilities. As a result, the services provided by these facilities were narrow in scope; river fishing, picnic, equestrian area (outdoor) and nature trail. The philosophy of the Department was simple; trees, picnic tables and grass constitute a park. Over the years, the services demanded by the public quickly exceeded the Department's ability to respond, because of the limited type of facilities and available budget. In 1989, the people of Missouri passed the Hancock Amendment requiring that all tax increases be passed by a vote of the people.



*Old State Road BB bridge
crossing Big River in Cedar Hill*

In 1990, the philosophy of the Department was altered to expand the scope of services for County residents. This philosophical adjustment has been responsible for major changes in the direction of the Department. These efforts are focused in three areas:

- 1) Expand the available park acreage,
- 2) Expand the scope of service available at the county parks and
- 3) Establish recreational program offerings that will focus on youth and adults and provide special events.

The 628 square miles of Jefferson County, Missouri are bounded on the north by St. Louis County, east by the Mississippi River, south by Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois and Washington Counties, and west by Franklin County. The land is generally hilly with narrow ridges, which are separated from each other by deep ravines. There are many creeks and tributaries which crisscross Jefferson County and flow into the Meramec, Big, or Mississippi Rivers. All parts of the county are well watered. There are many springs and wells that produce water of excellent quality.

The history of Jefferson County is a colorful one and the legacy lives on. The people of Jefferson County are strong, independent and resourceful, which is evident in their ability to keep progressing favorably through the ebb and flow of life. The pioneers withstood much and not only survived, but prospered as well. The beauty and natural resources of this place are as important to the residents now as they were in those days when the Jefferson County Parks Department was established. People donated pieces of their land to have preserved for the enjoyment of all. We protect our park system through the work of the Parks Department, whose master plan we are writing today.

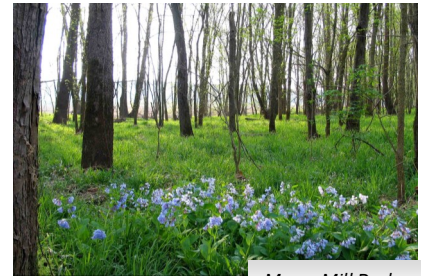
Today

With the change in philosophy and direction, yesterday was a great leap forward and today is proving equally important in the quest for a park system that will meet the needs of our highly diverse and growing population.

With the new philosophy of expanding acquisitions of land and providing more services and programs for all ages, major changes have taken place in the direction of the Parks & Recreation Department, resulting in more inclusive and satisfying outcomes for County residents.

Since 1990, with its new director and philosophy, the County's park system has added the following parks:

- Beck Park, 125 acres (Land Banked facility - purchase price of \$20,000)
- Cedar Hill Park, 7 acres (Donated)
- High Ridge Civic Center, 2 acres (Donated)
- Kimmswick Property, 40 acres (Land Banked facility -Donated)
- Morse Mill Park, 10 acres (Donated)
- Northwest Sports Complex, 20 acres (Purchase price -\$20,000)
- River Bend Park, 30 acres (Land Banked facility acquired in 1992 - through a combination of the Federal Flood Buy-Out-Program and \$30,000 of county funds to purchase the remaining land)
- Rockford Beach, 8 acres (Donated)
- Stone Bridge Park, 12 acres (Donated Land Banked facility)



Morse Mill Park

From 1990 to present, the available park land in Jefferson County has increased from 113 acres to 360 acres, a 200% increase. In addition, the available recreational program offerings have expanded from none to over twenty different opportunities in multiple locations. The accomplishments have been achieved without a tax increase.

Programs include, but are not limited to:

- Youth Instructional Basketball Program, Fall
- Youth Instructional Soccer Program, Spring & Fall
- Summer Soccer Camp Program,
- Summer Basketball Camp Program
- Jr. Golf Program, Summer
- Sr. Golf Tournament, Summer
- Adult Softball Leagues
- Softball Tournaments, Spring, Summer & Fall
- Baseball Tournaments, Spring, Summer & Fall
- Martial Arts (Jujitsu), year around
- Martial Arts (Karate), year around
- Zumba Classes, year around
- Moonlight 10K Run, annual event
- and an assortment of special events

The result of these achievements has been more balanced offerings of recreational and leisure services to the County's expanded population of 218,733 citizens. The existing park system and recreational programs are supported with user fees and a tax rate of 2.79 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. A way of picturing the financial draw upon the tax-payers of Jefferson County is to look at an actual tax bill. This illustration is from a home in the Hillsboro School District, which has an annual property tax bill of \$1,363.13. The share of tax which is paid to the Department of Parks and Recreation from that home is \$6.17, which is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the total tax bill.



Big River

In order to plan for the county residents' future needs, the time has come for Jefferson County to take the next step in defining the direction of its Parks and Recreation Department. Currently the Jefferson County Board of Parks Commissioners is writing this Master Plan. This plan is a document developed with the help of the citizens of Jefferson County to be used as a guide for the Parks and Recreation Board in making decisions in the years to come. Public input and views have been an important element for developing this plan, which reflects the values and views of the citizens of Jefferson County.

Tomorrow

A Look to the Future

This long-range plan has been developed in compliance with Missouri State Statutes reflected in the Standard State Zoning Enabling Act, Sections 89.010 through 89.144 (impact of land use, development, roadway network, parks and recreation).



Soccer Program at the Northwest Sports Complex

A 15-year vision mandates that residents embrace the plan for posterity and choose to support it financially and programmatically.

With this kind of community commitment and response, over time there will be a significant increase in the development of recreation and leisure services for county residents through a variety of facilities and program offerings.

The diversity of the facilities developed and the program offerings will mirror the diversity of the demographics of county residents; with significantly different developments and services provided in the northern and southern parts of the county.



Skate Park at the Sports Complex



A quality park and recreation system will provide recreational and leisure services by addressing three elements;

1. Current and future needs of the public,
2. Developing a maintenance and operational plan including daily operational elements and short and long term maintenance functions of facilities, and
3. Planning for the needs of the citizens of Jefferson County beyond 15 years.

The northern part of the county will have facilities with highly developed parks composed of 20 to 80 acres with a trail network connecting parks and various communities and municipalities. Each park will be developed to provide access by motor vehicle and non-motorized transportation. County parks will provide an assortment of sports facilities, spray parks, river access, and pavilions for large groups and family gatherings, as well as open fields suitable for civic festivals and special events. Specific parks will provide specialized services, such as, dog park(s), soccer fields, baseball and/or softball fields, picnic facilities, river access, natural areas and wetland management facilities. These facilities should be designed for a visitation duration of 2 to 4 hours per visitor.

Based upon the population density, there will be a community center based in both central and northern Jefferson County. These centers will be accessible by motorized and non-motorized transportation. Each development will provide gymnasium(s), indoor/outdoor swimming pools; exercise facilities that will include weight rooms, walking track, classrooms, multi-purpose rooms and conference rooms for large community meetings. These parks will also have outdoor sport facilities providing adult and child sports programs. As a result of the anticipated usage levels, these facilities will be designed for a high traffic flow with visitation duration of 2 hours or less per visitor.

The southern part of the county will provide three large tracts of land 200 or more acres each. They will be designed to provide outdoor non-structured recreational activities, including lake fishing, trails, picnic facilities, large open fields and overnight camping facilities. Each development will have unique natural features which will provide its own identity. By the nature of the facility and amenities provided, the typical park patron will have visitation duration in excess of 4 hours per visit to overnight camping.

A 15-year plan, such as this, is possible because of a Board of visionaries who know that Jefferson County has the ability to make this happen and that the public will support efforts to develop a quality parks and recreation system. This is an exciting time and even though the economy is tight right now, we know the future will find Jefferson County a leader in many endeavors, including recreational opportunities.



Learning to Canoe

VI Description of Parks Lands

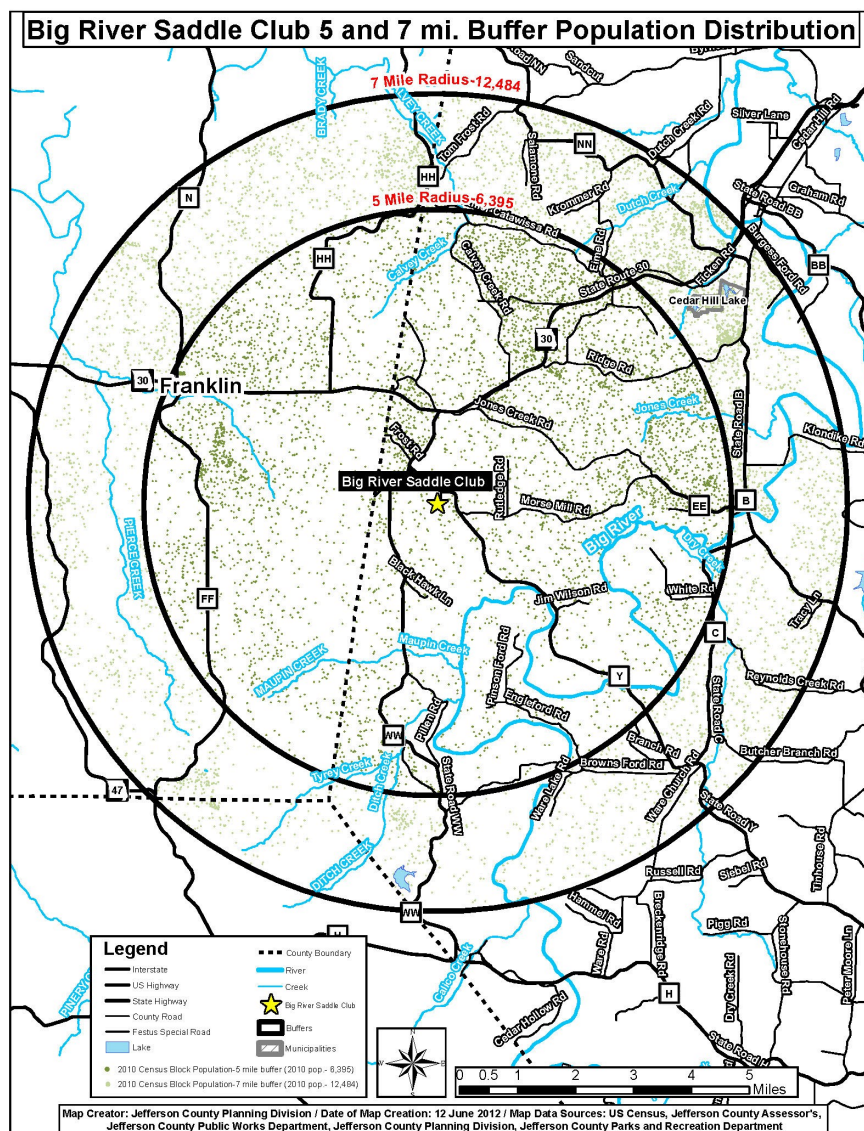
Jefferson County government provides recreational services to its citizen population. These services are provided through park lands and organized recreational activities. The services provided are open to all county residents and non-residents. Currently, Jefferson County has 15 (fifteen) areas designated as park lands totaling 360 acres. Of these areas 10 (ten) are open to the public totaling 146 acres. Five areas totaling 214 acres are "Land Banked" until funds are available for development.



Big River Saddle Club

The following narrative describes the 10 (ten) parks that are open to the public. Historically, Jefferson County has not provided funds to purchase park lands. As a result the parks are located in areas where the donors owned property. Of the 10 (ten) parks, 9 (nine) parks have been donated to the citizens of Jefferson County. The single purchase was 20 acres now known as Jefferson County Northwest Sports Complex; the purchase price was \$20,000.

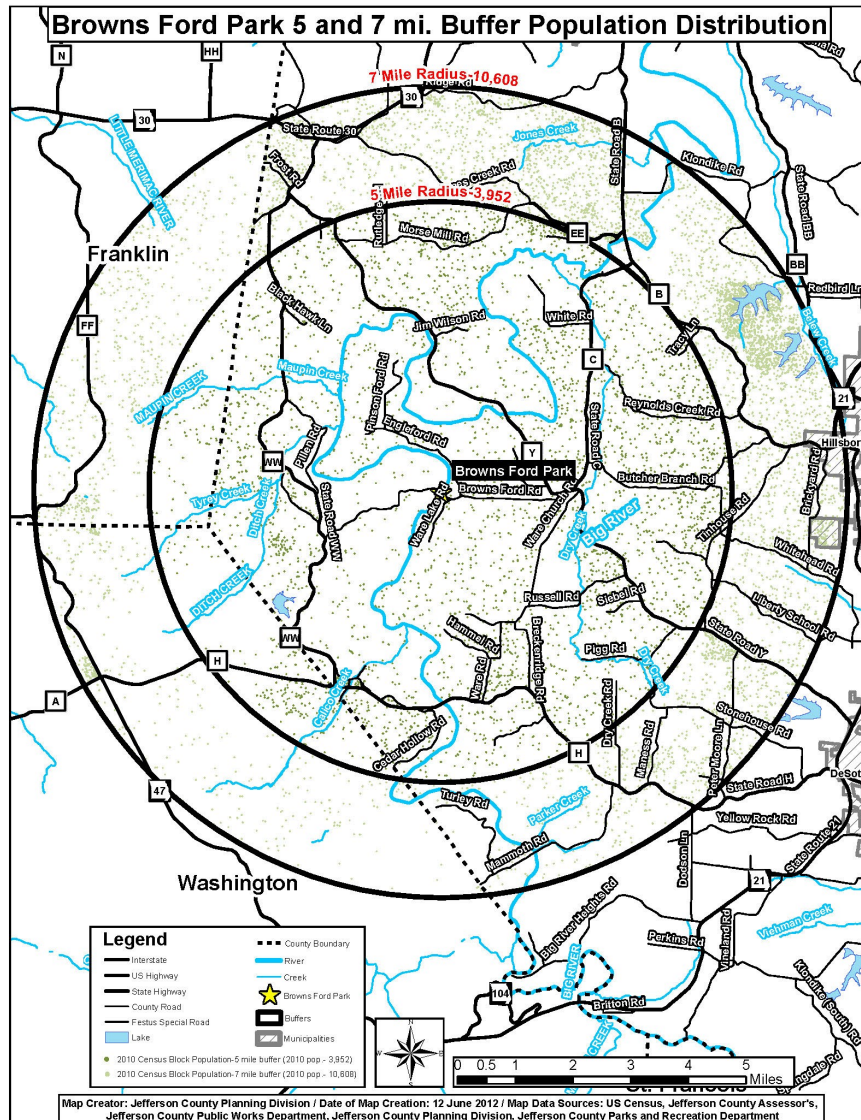




Big River Saddle Club: This is a 10 (ten) acre facility designed for the equine enthusiast. The amenities provided on this facility include a fenced horse arena, a small playground, a shelter house, nature area, open field and restrooms.

The public is encouraged to attend any of the horse shows held at this facility. These events are sponsored by the Trail Rider Club and Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation. This facility allows you to exercise your horse and improve your talent anytime there is not a scheduled event. When there is a scheduled event, you may enter to display your skills and the ability of your horse. Typically equestrian events are scheduled from March to October. If you own a horse or enjoy watching horses, this facility is for your enjoyment.

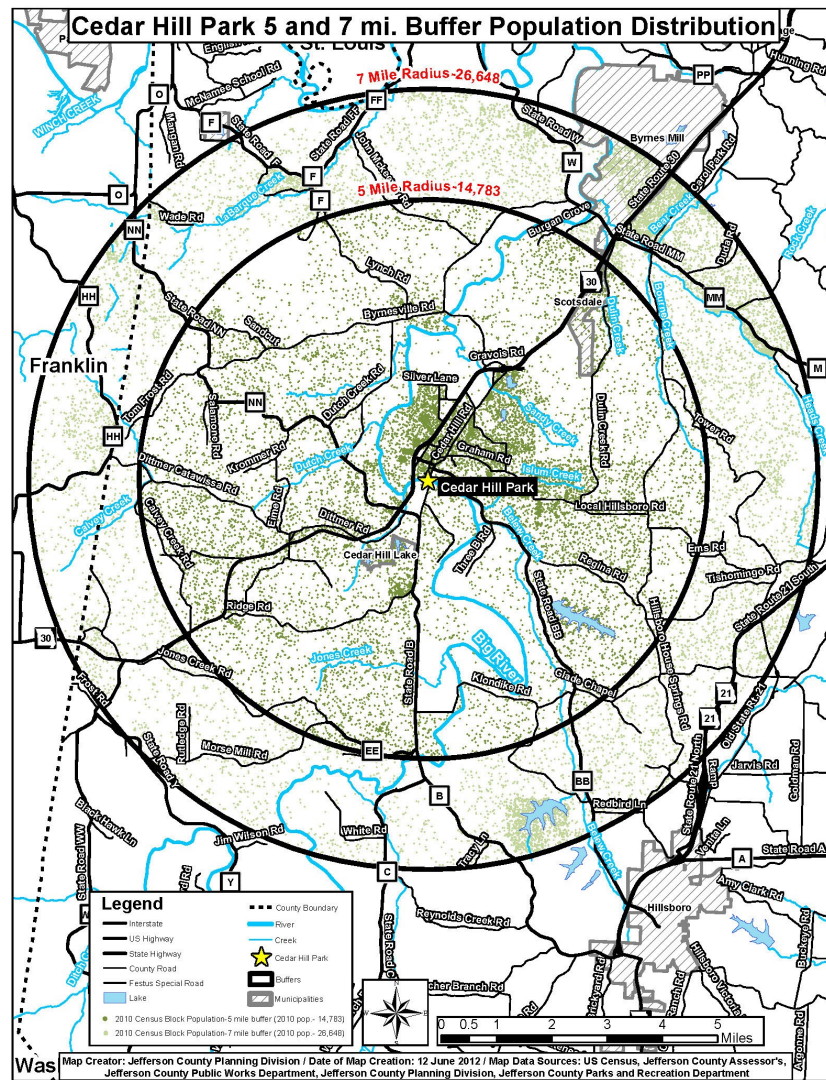
2



Brown's Ford: This 3 (three) acre facility provides access to the Big River for fishing and canoeing. Amenities include a concrete boat ramp, picnic facilities, restrooms and a parking area. This facility is located within a designated Smallmouth Bass Trophy area. This designation is one of several throughout the State of Missouri intended to identify above average fishing areas and ensure the habitat and fishing quality maintain a high standard. Because of this designation special restrictions apply. Be sure you contact the Missouri Department of Conservation to become aware of the restrictions.

If canoeing or floating is your choice of recreational activities, this facility offers an 18.3 mile trip to Morse Mill Park. This is a long trip, so start early to assure you complete the journey before dark.

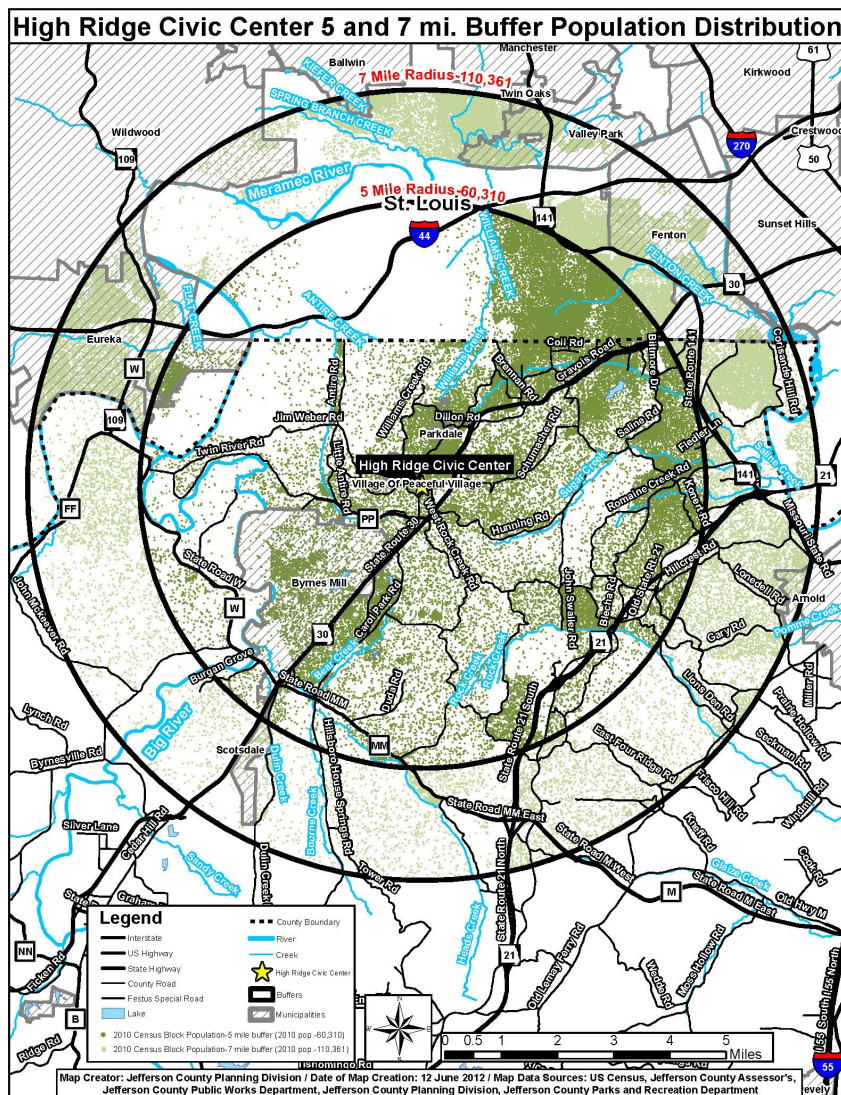
3



Cedar Hill Park: This facility is a 7 (seven) acre facility providing access to the Big River, including swimming (lifeguards are not on duty) fishing, canoeing, and floats; in addition, picnic facilities are available for your enjoyment. Remnants of the old Cedar Hill Mill Dam have become a popular swimming area utilized to beat the heat of the Missouri summers. However, use caution, as strong currents can produce a dangerous swimming environment.

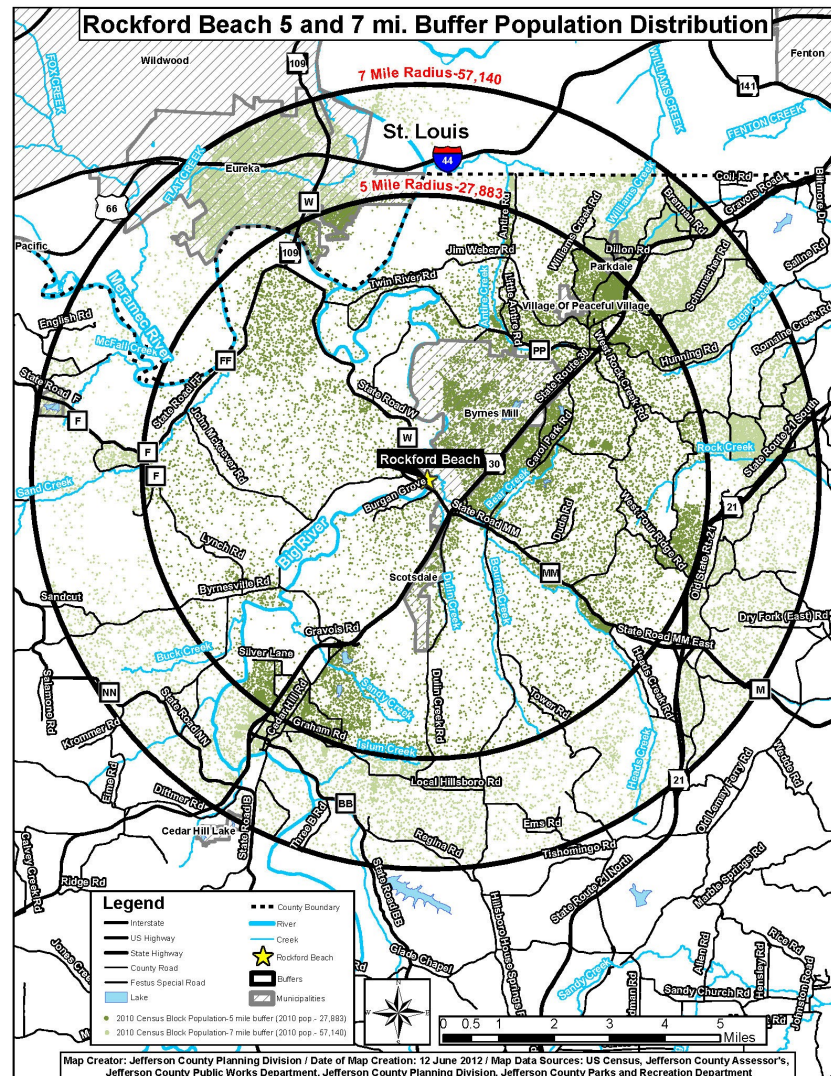
This facility is located within a designated Smallmouth Bass Trophy area. This designation is one of several throughout the State of Missouri intended to identify above average fishing areas and ensure the habitat and fishing quality are maintained at a high standard. Because of this designation, special restrictions apply. Be sure you contact the Missouri Department of Conservation regarding these restrictions.

4



High Ridge Civic Center: The High Ridge Civic Center provides a wide range of services, young or old, active or passive, where various programs and services are available. Outdoor amenities include a sand volleyball court, lighted in-line hockey rink and picnic facilities. Indoor services include facility rental for your wedding reception, family reunion or other private event. In addition, Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation provides many recreational programs and various classes at this facility.

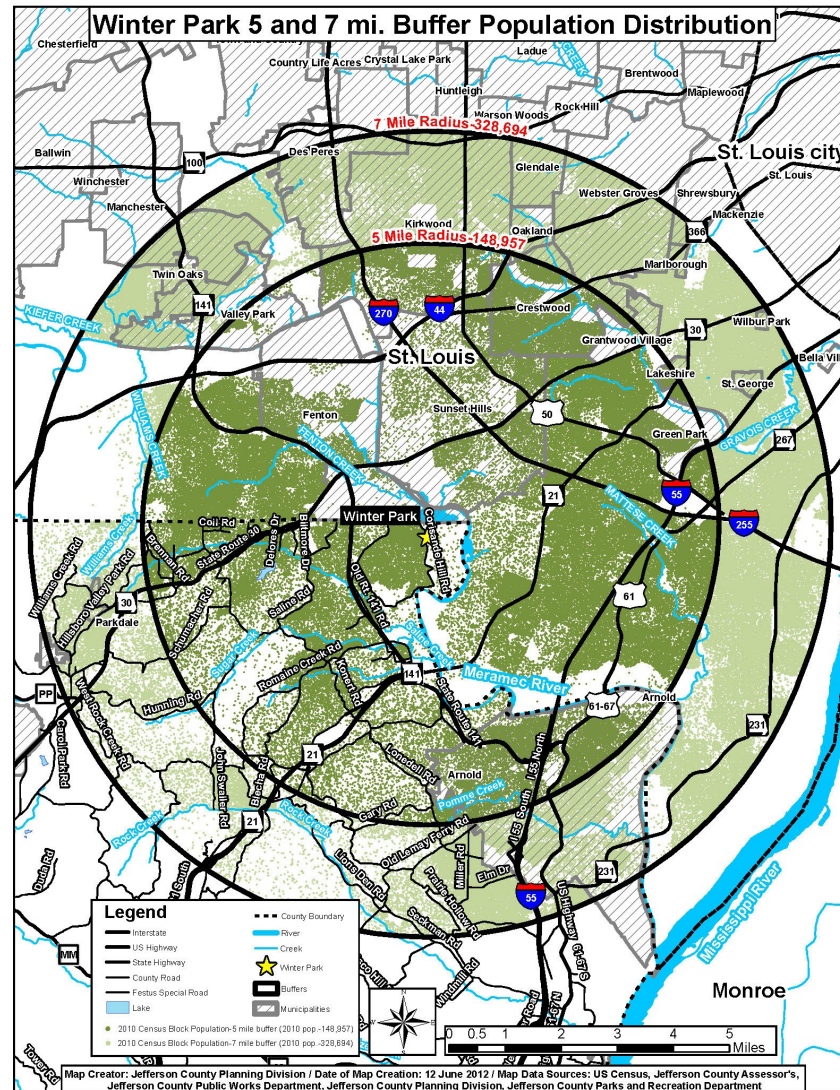
5



Rockford Beach: This is the facility you want when your plan is to spend the day next to the Big River. The 8 (eight) acres offer a concrete boat ramp for upstream access to the Big River. In addition, this facility offers picnic areas, open field activities, horseshoe pits, restrooms, and ample parking. The dam provides an impoundment of water utilized for swimming (lifeguards are not on duty), fishing and boating. The area has very strong currents and does produce dangerous conditions that should be respected. This facility is heavily used and admission is restricted during the summer months to prevent over utilization.

This facility is located within a designated Smallmouth Bass Trophy area. This designation is one of several throughout the State of Missouri intended to identify above average fishing areas and ensure the habitat and fishing quality are maintained at a high standard. Because of this designation, special restrictions apply. Be sure you contact the Missouri Department of Conservation regarding these restrictions.

6



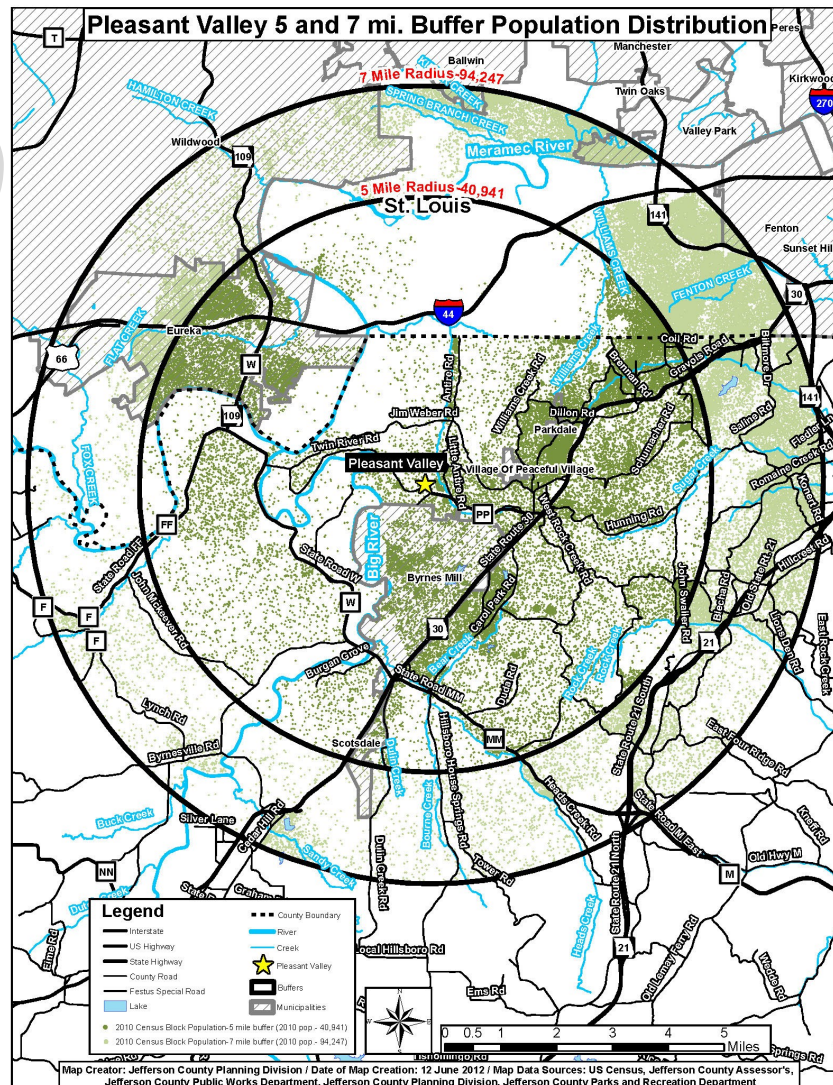
Jefferson County Winter Park: If you enjoy a sand beach, swimming (lifeguards not on duty), fishing and fun in the sun, this is the park for you. Overlooking the Meramec River, this facility provides a view allowing you to survey the swimming area, powerboats, personal watercrafts, anglers and picnicking activities. This development for the citizens of Jefferson County was made possible with the generous donation of 40 acres by Winter Brothers Material Company.



Morse Mill: The Big River is the focal point of this facility as it supports recreational activities for the citizens of Jefferson County. Utilizing the resources of the Big River, amenities include a concrete boat ramp providing up stream access to the river, swimming (lifeguards not on duty), and fishing. In addition, primitive camping facilities, picnic facilities and restrooms are available. This 10 (ten) acre facility is heavily used and has been the preferred site for many families.

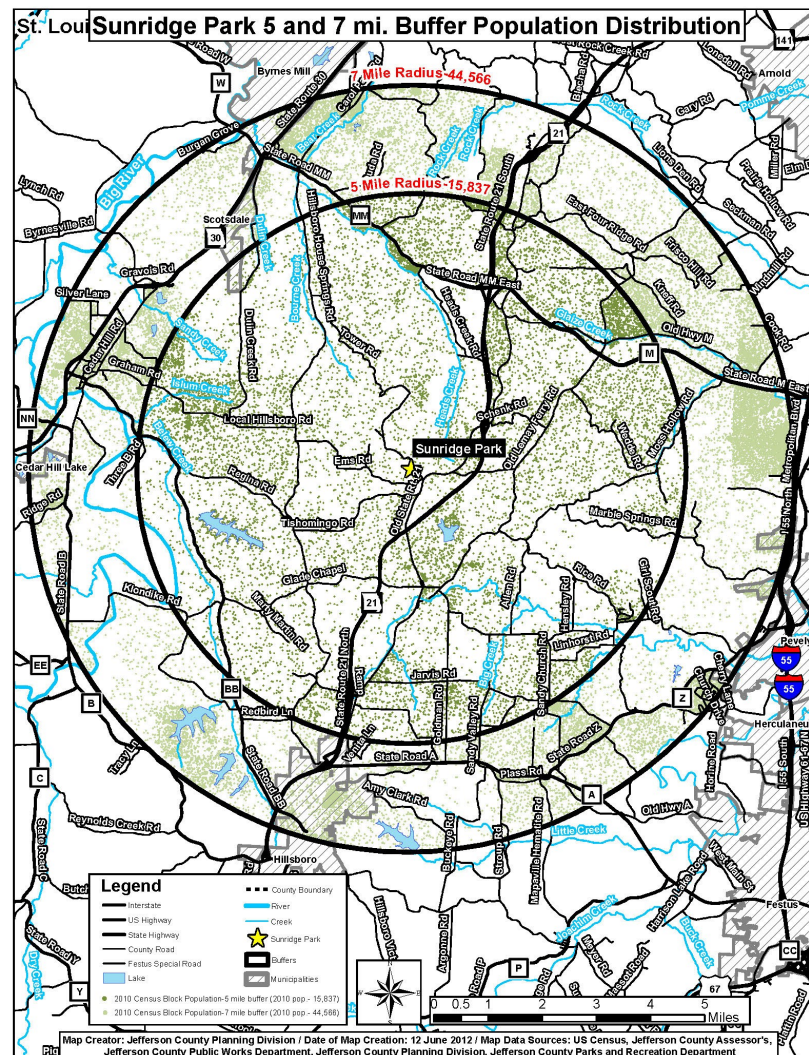
This facility is located within a designated Smallmouth Bass Trophy area. This designation is one of several throughout the State of Missouri intended to identify above average fishing areas and ensure that the habitat and fishing quality maintain a high standard. Because of this designation, special restrictions apply. Be sure you contact the Missouri Department of Conservation regarding these restrictions, and know them before you fish.

8



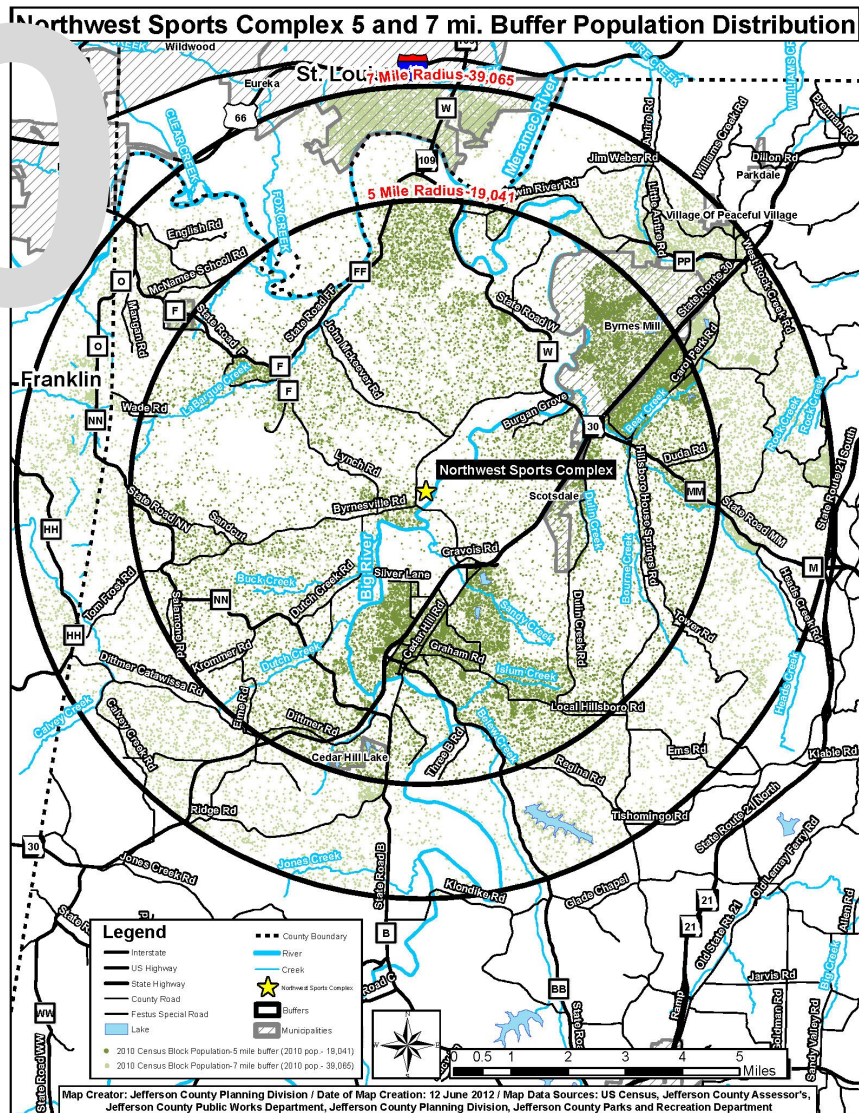
Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve: If you prefer secluded acres, wild flowers, wildlife and walking trails you will enjoy Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve. This facility will allow you to use 40 acres of an undeveloped natural area, preserved to maintain the natural beauty of Jefferson County. This facility provides a playground, walking trails, shelter house and picnic facilities. If you are focusing on wildlife and natural beauty, you have a good chance to view turkey, white-tail deer, hawks and occasionally a bald eagle.

9



Sunridge Park: The focal point of this 6 (six) acre facility is the view provided from one of the highest points Jefferson County. If you want the best vista in the county, climb the stairs to the top of the tower. As you climb, you will pass the treetops exposing the expansive natural features. Upon completion of your climb you will be rewarded with a spectacular view of Jefferson County. Perched atop the tower you will be able to see Festus, Crystal City, De Soto, High Ridge, Arnold and, on a clear day, you can see the Gateway Arch. Additional amenities found in this 6 (six) acre park include picnic facilities, playground, shelter house and walking trails.

10



Northwest Sports Complex: Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation is excited to provide this 20 acre facility. Amenities include four ball fields, a walking track, a concrete sculptured skate park, and picnic facilities. The skate park is the only sculptured skate park with lights available in the St. Louis area, and is open daily, depending on weather conditions. This facility is home to the youth instructional soccer program, adult softball program and several tournaments during the year. The construction for the skate park was made possible through a donation made by the Highway 30 Foundation.



Land Banking

Jefferson County is currently “Land Banking” properties that have been donated to the people of Jefferson County. “Land Banking” is the practice of acquiring raw land with the intent to hold it until such time as it is practical to develop the property for public use. This decision has been made in reaction to lack of funds necessary to develop the areas for public use. Currently Jefferson County has 5 (five) parcels totaling 214 acres. The land banked facilities are: the Ball Memorial Park—7 acres, the Beck property - 125 acres, the Kimmswick property - 40 acres, the River Bend Park—30 acres and the Stone Bridge property - 12 acres. These lands will remain undeveloped until the people of Jefferson County decide it is time to develop these facilities for public use.

VIII

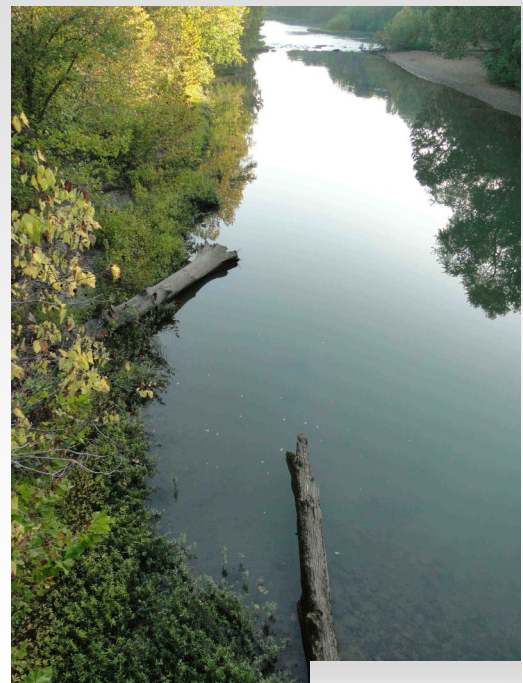
Conclusions

This Plan is based on public input gathered in surveys, public meetings and group sessions. Jefferson County residents have given feedback showing they appreciate being close to nature and recreational opportunities. Our parks, sports facilities, activities, trails and natural resources are a huge part of a quality of life that our residents desire. This plan is designed to protect and enhance that resource.

Future demand for parkland and facilities is based on comparing projected populations with recognized levels of service standards and responding to changing trends. Areas to consider would include age related populations. For example, areas with young children require more outdoor recreation, while areas with older populations can benefit from having open spaces located near residential areas. A balance of parks and facilities is necessary to accommodate the population mix.

The reality is, due to budget constraints, some parks and facilities require updating and are not meeting resident's expectations. To revitalize and renew aging facilities we must consider:

- Creating sustainable funding for improvements and acquisitions
- Enhancing our natural resources for management and sustainability
- Anticipating the needs of the changing community and plan programs and facilities accordingly.
- Viewing this Master Plan as a "Living Plan" that should be revisited annually.



Big River

VIII

Recommendations to the County Executive

Through a widely circulated survey and three public meetings in various areas, the residents of Jefferson County framed the vision of this Master Plan. In addition to amenities they feel are necessary for a good quality of life, the public discussed preferable methods to pay for improvements, such as, public/private partnerships, corporate sponsorships, a mill tax, grants, gifts, and bequests. As a result of this public input, a list of amenities was created (appendix A-4). The list was prioritized by the Parks Commission based on current and expected future needs and resources. The list is below and also in appendix A-4.

Immediate (1-2 years):

- Playgrounds for children
- Safety for all park visitors (lighting, even surfaces, and patrolling officers)
- ADA Compliant in all places where appropriate
- Family picnic tables and bar-be-cue grills, camping facilities, kite-flying areas
- Sports activities (softball/baseball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, golf, outdoor swimming pools, water park, hunting, shooting range, archery, fishing, and ADA compliant)

Intermediate (3-5 years):

- Do a better job of development and maintenance on the existing county parks
- Trails (walking, running, obstacle course, biking, horse, ATV/4-wheel, and ADA compliant)
- Classes for young and old such as: swimming, tennis, arts and crafts
- Dog parks (where dogs can be off leash - suggested member fee for upkeep)

Long-Term (6 or more years):

- River parks and access to river with docks
- Indoor center (pool, exercise equipment, encourage fitness, and ADA compliant)
- Farm animals for kids to see

As a result of this input from residents, the following vision of Jefferson County parks was created by the Parks Commission to summarize our recommendations to the County Executive (also see 14-15 - Tomorrow). The vision for the Jefferson County Park System is set forth below (page 30).

IX

Vision for Tomorrow

By 2020, the northern part of Jefferson County will have facilities with highly developed parks each composed of 20 to 80 acres, with a trail network connecting parks and various communities and municipalities. Each park will be developed to provide access by motor vehicle and non-motorized transportation. County parks will provide an assortment of sports facilities, spray parks, river access, and pavilions for large groups and family gatherings, as well as open fields suitable for civic festivals and special events. Specific parks will provide specialized services such as dog park(s), soccer fields, baseball and/or softball fields, picnic facilities, river access, natural areas and wetland management facilities. These facilities should be designed for visit durations of 2 to 4 hours per visitor.

Based upon the population density, there will be a community center based in both central and northern Jefferson County. These centers will be accessible by motorized and non-motorized transportation. Each development will provide gymnasium(s); indoor/outdoor swimming pools; exercise facilities that will include weight rooms, walking track, classrooms, multi-purpose rooms and conference rooms for large community meetings. These parks will also have outdoor sport facilities providing adult and child sports programs. As a result of the anticipated usage levels, these facilities will be designed for a high traffic flow with visitation duration of 2 hours or less per visitor.

The southern part of the county will provide three large tracks of land 200 or more acres each. They will be designed to provide outdoor non-structured recreational activities, including lake fishing, trails, picnic facilities, large open fields and overnight camping facilities, which includes cabins, hookups, and restrooms. Each development will have unique natural features which will provide its own identity. By the nature of the facility and amenities provided, the typical park patron will have visitation duration in excess of 4 hours per visit.

This can all be accomplished in the allotted time-frame because it is what everyone wants and it is the right thing to do. It will require cooperation, determination, and hard work on the part of the residents of Jefferson County and their elected officials. Quality of Life is important to the people of Jefferson County, and we all know they can accomplish whatever they set their minds to do. That independence and fortitude is not likely to change anytime soon.

X Appendices

A. Community Survey & Meetings

1. Community Survey
2. Questions 5 and 11 Survey Narratives
3. Town Meetings
4. Summary
5. The List | The List Prioritized

B. Jefferson County Demographics

C. Jefferson County History

D. 2007 Original Parks Master Plan

A Community Survey & Meetings



1 Community Survey



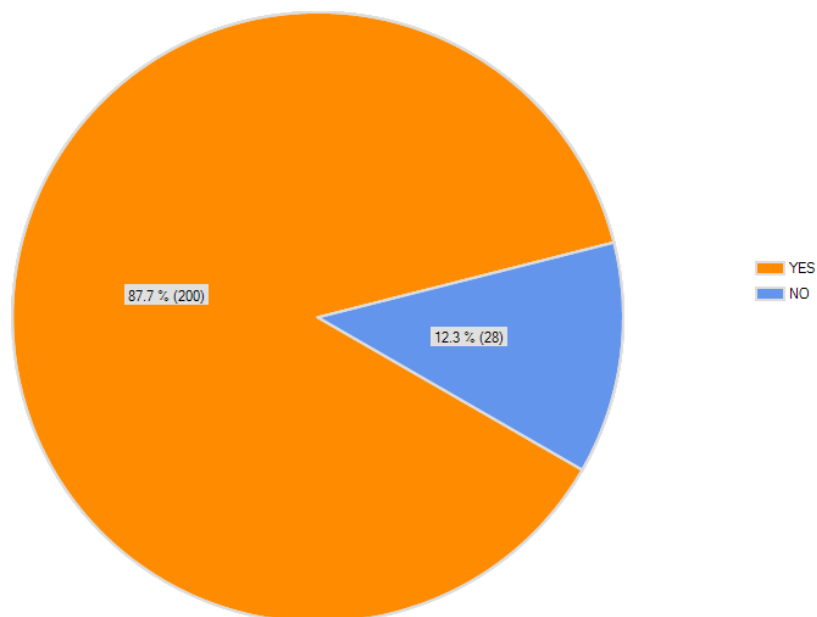
Question 1

Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation - Master Plan Survey 2011






1. Does Jefferson County need additional parks? (If you answered "NO", please proceed to question five).

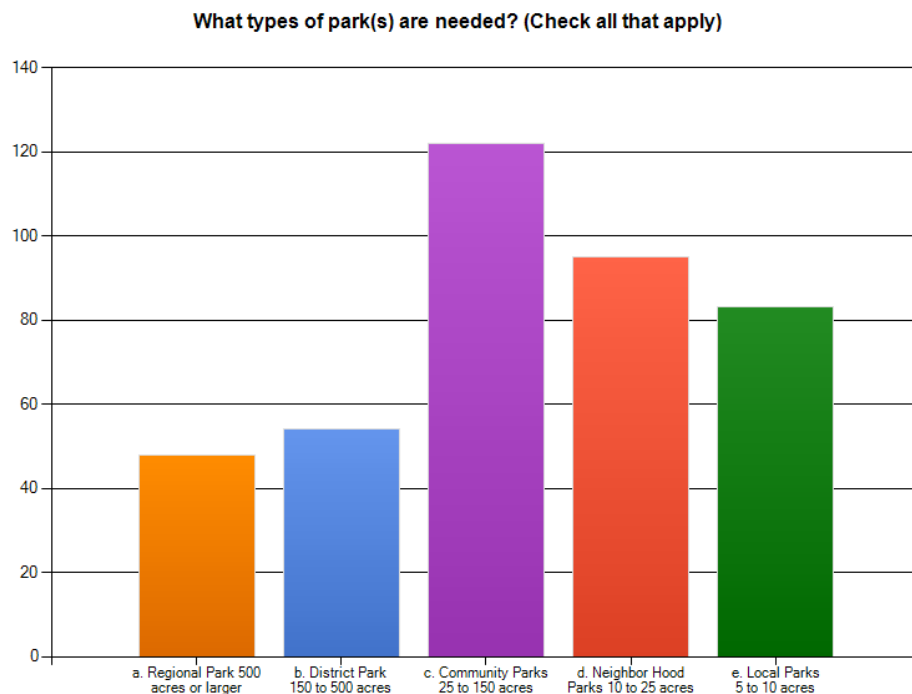
		Response Percent	Response Count
YES		87.7%	200
NO		12.3%	28
answered question			228
skipped question			0

Does Jefferson County need additional parks? (If you answered "NO", please proceed to question five).








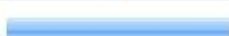
Question 2

2. What types of park(s) are needed? (Check all that apply)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
a. Regional Park 500 acres or larger		25.3%	48
b. District Park 150 to 500 acres		28.4%	54
c. Community Parks 25 to 150 acres		64.2%	122
d. Neighbor Hood Parks 10 to 25 acres		50.0%	95
e. Local Parks 5 to 10 acres		43.7%	83
answered question			190
skipped question			38

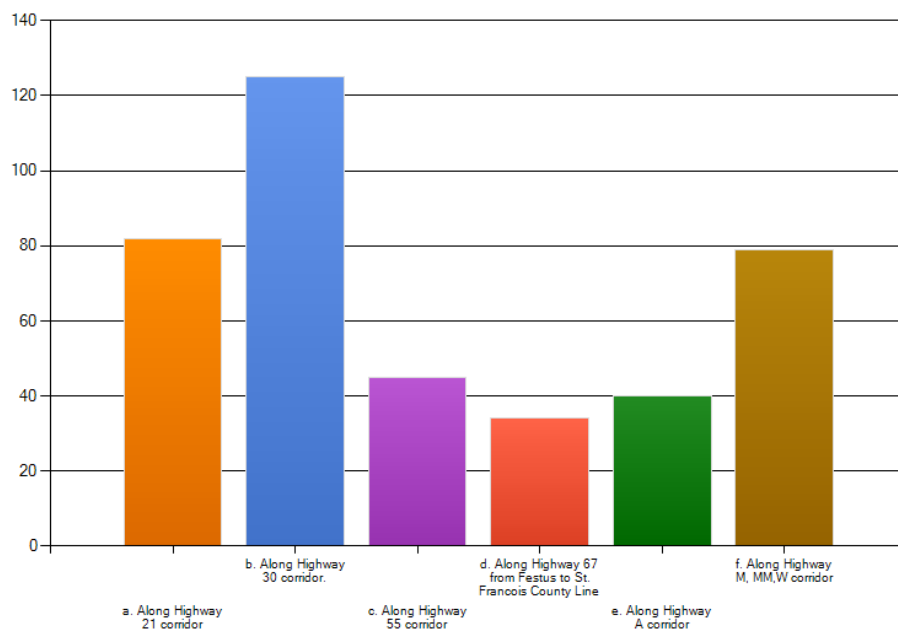


Question 3

3. Where should new parks(s) be located? (Check all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
a. Along Highway 21 corridor		44.3%	82
b. Along Highway 30 corridor.		67.6%	125
c. Along Highway 55 corridor		24.3%	45
d. Along Highway 67 from Festus to St. Francois County Line		18.4%	34
e. Along Highway A corridor		21.6%	40
f. Along Highway M, MM,W corridor		42.7%	79
answered question			185
skipped question			43

Where should new parks(s) be located? (Check all that apply)

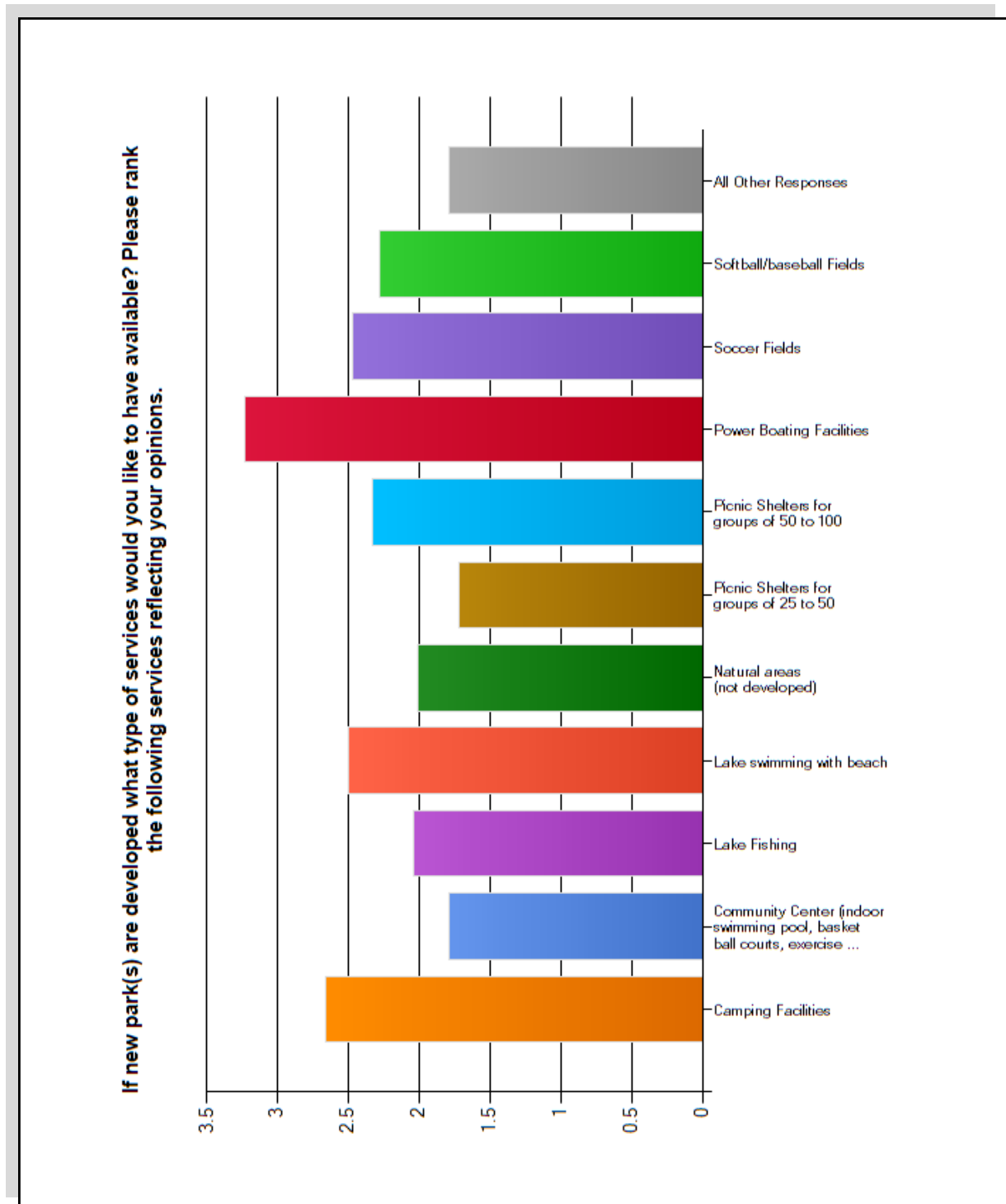


Question 4

**4. If new park(s) are developed what type of services would you like to have available?
Please rank the following services reflecting your opinions.**

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Camping Facilities	24.7% (39)	19.0% (30)	22.2% (35)	34.2% (54)	2.66	158
Community Center (indoor swimming pool, basket ball courts, exercise facilities, weight room, meeting rooms)	57.8% (100)	17.3% (30)	12.7% (22)	12.1% (21)	1.79	173
Lake Fishing	34.9% (58)	35.5% (59)	19.9% (33)	9.6% (16)	2.04	166
Lake swimming with beach	23.9% (38)	25.8% (41)	27.0% (43)	23.3% (37)	2.50	159
Natural areas (not developed)	40.3% (64)	30.8% (49)	16.4% (26)	12.6% (20)	2.01	159
Picnic Shelters for groups of 25 to 50	46.0% (80)	37.4% (65)	14.9% (26)	1.7% (3)	1.72	174
Picnic Shelters for groups of 50 to 100	23.2% (36)	32.3% (50)	32.9% (51)	11.6% (18)	2.33	155
Power Boating Facilities	10.3% (16)	12.3% (19)	21.9% (34)	55.5% (86)	3.23	155
Soccer Fields	24.5% (40)	25.8% (42)	28.2% (46)	21.5% (35)	2.47	163
Softball/baseball Fields	30.1% (49)	30.1% (49)	21.5% (35)	18.4% (30)	2.28	163
Swimming Pool (out door)	38.0% (60)	24.7% (39)	16.5% (26)	20.9% (33)	2.20	158
Trails Bike	51.4% (89)	29.5% (51)	14.5% (25)	4.6% (8)	1.72	173
Trails-Walking	63.6% (112)	26.7% (47)	8.0% (14)	1.7% (3)	1.48	176
answered question						188
skipped question						40

Question 4 Graph



Questions 5 & 6

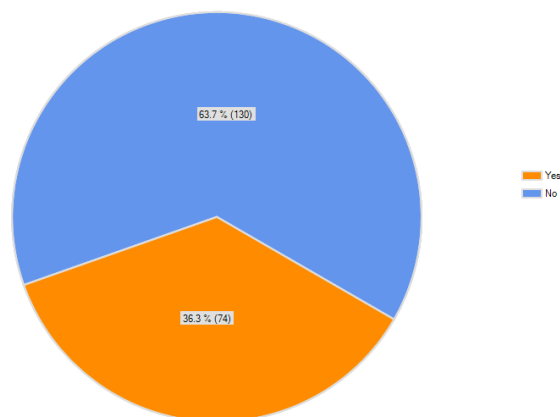
5. If you would like to see an activity we did not listed on questions 4 please enter that service here.

	Response Count
	53
answered question	53
skipped question	175











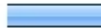
6. Have you used the organized recreational programming services provided by Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation? (If you answered "NO" please go to question number 9).

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	36.3%	74
No	63.7%	130
answered question		204
skipped question		24

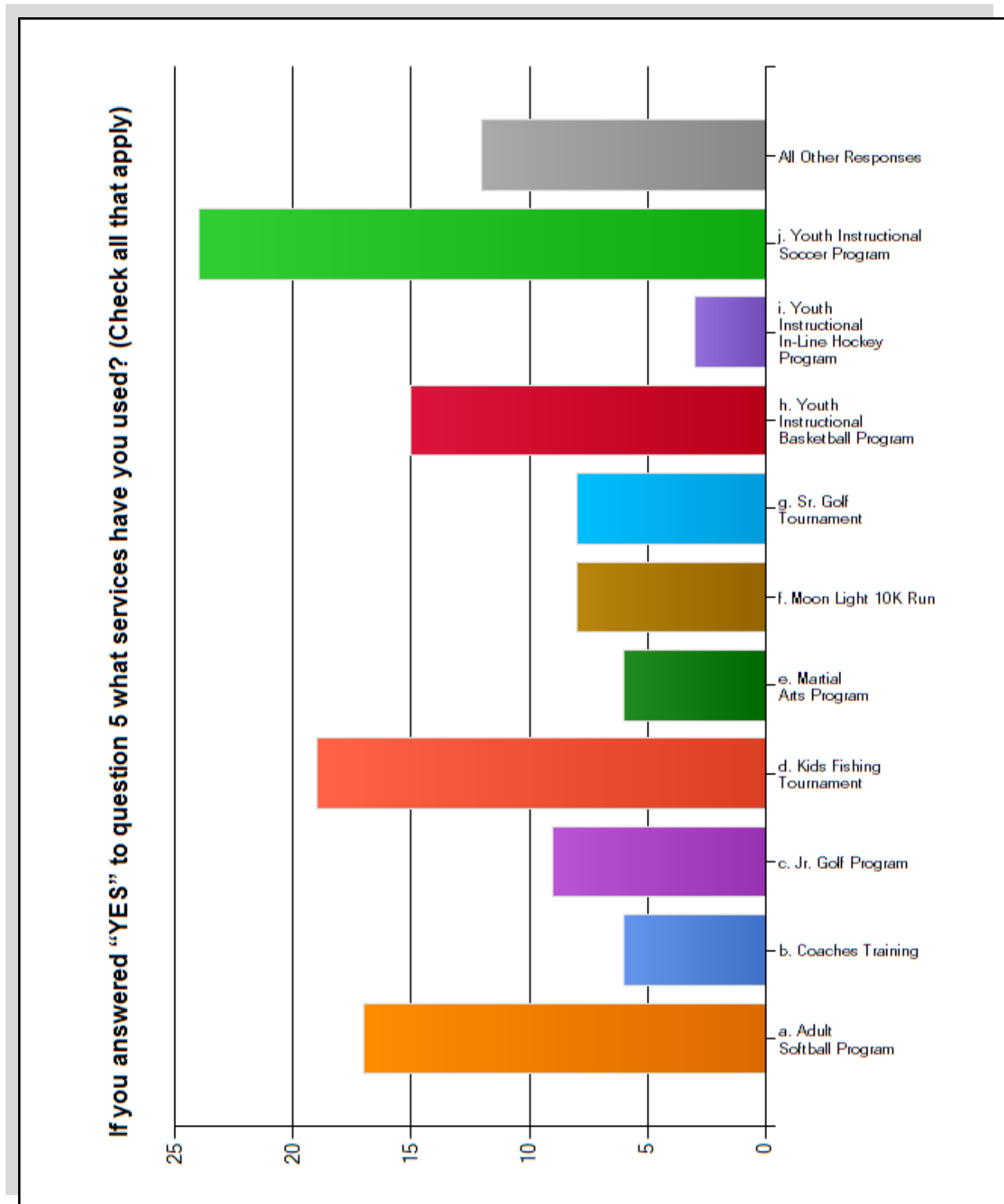
Have you used the organized recreational programming services provided by Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation? (If you answered "NO" please go to question number 9).



Question 7





7. If you answered "YES" to question 5 what services have you used? (Check all that apply)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
a. Adult Softball Program		24.3%	17
b. Coaches Training		8.6%	6
c. Jr. Golf Program		12.9%	9
d. Kids Fishing Tournament		27.1%	19
e. Martial Arts Program		8.6%	6
f. Moon Light 10K Run		11.4%	8
g. Sr. Golf Tournament		11.4%	8
h. Youth Instructional Basketball Program		21.4%	15
i. Youth Instructional In-Line Hockey Program		4.3%	3
j. Youth Instructional Soccer Program		34.3%	24
k. Zumba Program		17.1%	12
answered question			70
skipped question			158

Question 7 Graph

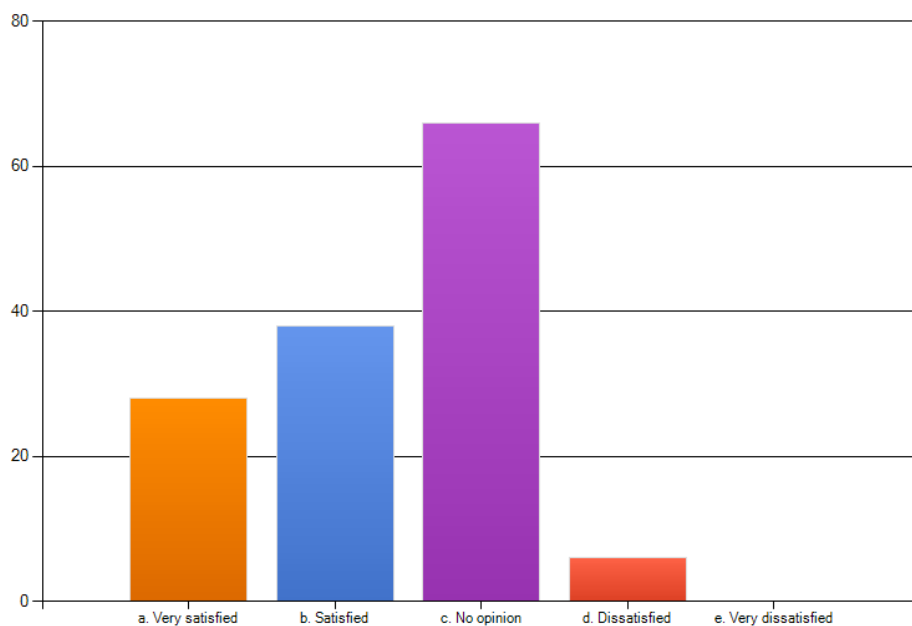


Question 8

8. If you have used any of the program services listed above, how satisfied were you with the service?



		Response Percent	Response Count
a. Very satisfied		20.3%	28
b. Satisfied		27.5%	38
c. No opinion		47.8%	66
d. Dissatisfied		4.3%	6
e. Very dissatisfied		0.0%	0
answered question			138
skipped question			90

If you have used any of the program services listed above, how satisfied were you with the service?

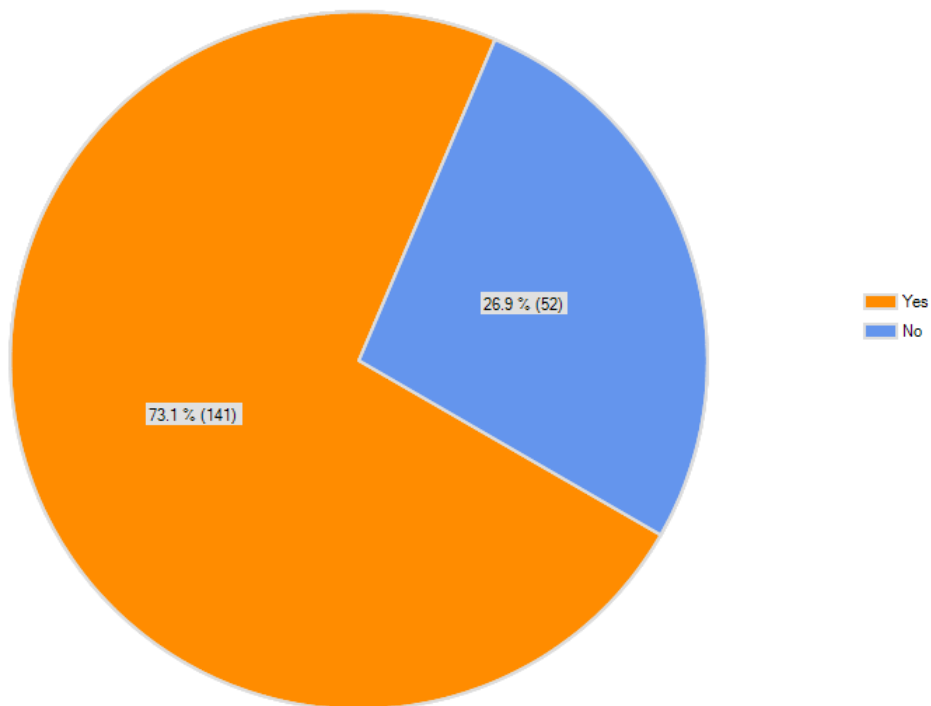


Question 9

9. Would you like the Parks and Recreation Department to provide new organized recreational programming?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		73.1%	141
No		26.9%	52
answered question			193
skipped question			35

Would you like the Parks and Recreation Department to provide new organized recreational programming?

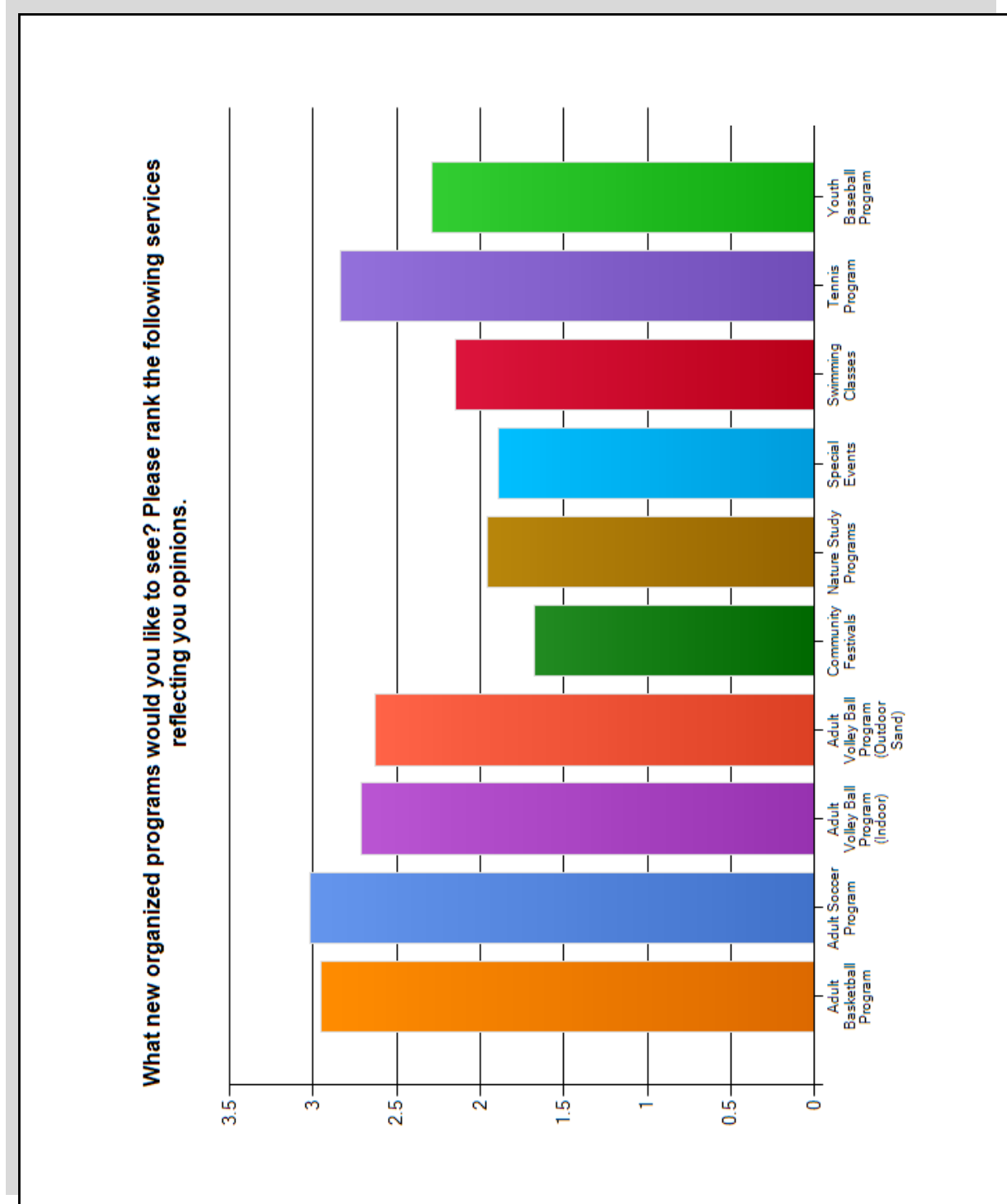


Question 10

10. What new organized programs would you like to see? Please rank the following services reflecting you opinions.

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Adult Basketball Program	6.8% (9)	27.8% (37)	29.3% (39)	36.1% (48)	2.95	133
Adult Soccer Program	6.3% (8)	21.9% (28)	35.2% (45)	36.7% (47)	3.02	128
Adult Volley Ball Program (Indoor)	12.2% (17)	34.5% (48)	23.0% (32)	30.2% (42)	2.71	139
Adult Volley Ball Program (Outdoor Sand)	16.3% (22)	33.3% (45)	21.5% (29)	28.9% (39)	2.63	135
Community Festivals	55.5% (86)	27.7% (43)	9.7% (15)	7.1% (11)	1.68	155
Nature Study Programs	43.8% (67)	28.8% (44)	15.0% (23)	12.4% (19)	1.96	153
Special Events	43.3% (65)	34.0% (51)	12.7% (19)	10.0% (15)	1.89	150
Swimming Classes	32.6% (47)	36.8% (53)	13.9% (20)	16.7% (24)	2.15	144
Tennis Program	11.8% (16)	26.5% (36)	27.9% (38)	33.8% (46)	2.84	136
Youth Baseball Program	31.4% (44)	30.7% (43)	15.7% (22)	22.1% (31)	2.29	140
answered question						173
skipped question						55

Question 10


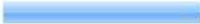



Question 11 & 12

11. If you would like to see a service not listed above please define that service here.

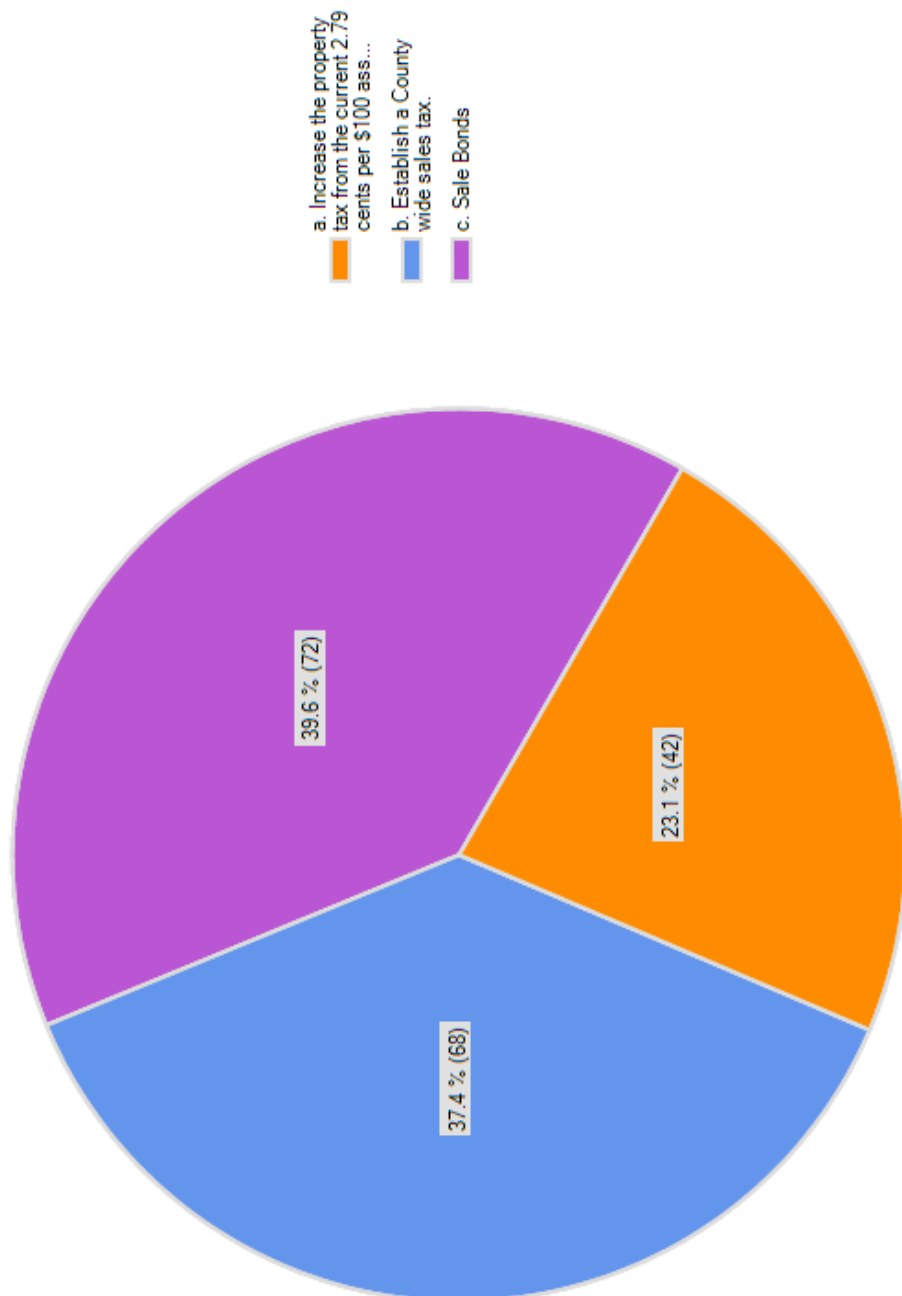
	Response Count
	39
answered question	39
skipped question	189

12. Acknowledging that providing new park facilities and new recreational programming opportunities will cost money. How would you prefer to pay for the improvements?

		Response Percent	Response Count
a. Increase the property tax from the current 2.79 cents per \$100 assets valuation.		23.1%	42
b. Establish a County wide sales tax.		37.4%	68
c. Sale Bonds		39.6%	72
	answered question		182
	skipped question		46

Question 12 Chart

Acknowledging that providing new park facilities and new recreational programming opportunities will cost money. How would you prefer to pay for the improvements?



Question 5 Survey Narratives

QUESTION 5 RESPONSES (Written exactly as entered)

Q. If you would like to see an activity we did not list on questions 4 please enter that service here:

1. Perhaps horse riding trail?
2. Basketball courts
3. for handicap people also
4. in door
5. exercise rooms
6. Boat Ramp
7. Take care of Cedar Hill Park
8. river parks
9. Cedar Hill Park (access) is terrible!
10. In Existing Parks - Camping Facilities, Power Boating Facilities, Soccer Fields, Trails - Bike, Trails-Walking
11. no
12. Encourage Fitness! Save our Friends lives!
13. Playground
14. Every day we drive to Fenton Park to walk because there is "NO SAFE PLACE" for the general public to walk except for Valley Middle School's awful cinder track or - drive 10 miles to NW High School. One cannot walk or bike safely on our roads. It is not just the terrible drivers but the stupid, rude morons that yell and/or throw objects from their cars. We NEED parks. More than half of Jeff. Co. is too lazy & Fat!! (thanks)
15. Develop Winter Park further
16. Volleyball
17. small atv/4wheeler trails
18. Dog Parks (Membership fee required - used for upkeep of the park)
19. Playgrounds..high end.
20. Outdoor swimming pools
21. Farm animals for the kids

(continued on page 48)

Question 5 Survey Narratives (continued)

22. The government should stop spending money that it does not have. The government should stop robbing the people of money so they can spend, spend and spend more. Does Jefferson County have a balanced budget and are those funds gotten in a moral fashion? Are you robbing the rich to pay the poor? Are you charging more money than necessary to pay things that aren't a need? We want a minimal government. That does not include a huge police force, public aid, municipal ordinances are unnecessary and seem to be just another way to rob our money. We want our freedom back. We want to get rid of 90% of the government. We simply can't afford to pay you.
23. I would love to see more parks in Jefferson County. Nice parks, such as the sculpture park in Sunset Hills, or something beautiful like Suson Park. On the other hand, it would be very important that the parks are patrolled because they could also be drug havens.
24. Playground for the kids
25. nice playground for kids
26. Playground equipment
27. PLAYGROUND
28. hunting,fishing
29. Tennis. More adult leagues, i.e. tennis, golf, etc.
30. Shooting Range (like Henges)
31. seasonal education: mushroom hunting, bird watching, plant and tree identification. you get the idea.
32. Fishing lakes
33. Dog Park (like City of Arnold)
34. There are no parks near the Cedar Hill area for children that have slides, swings and general playground equipment. We need a place to take our children to play in a child friendly environment in this area. The closest place would be 25-30 miles one way. Please help our children in this area.
35. Handicap Playground
36. Festivals in the Park
37. Hunting. small game
38. handicap fac.
39. Water Park
40. Braille, handicapped hiking trails;
41. Playgrounds!
42. archary range
43. Hiking trails. I wasn't sure if that would be included with natural area.

(continued on page 49)

Question 5 Survey Narratives (continued)

44. Running trails paved and unpaved (pea gravel), and obstacle course along running/ walking trails. This, combined with biking trails would offer an opportunity for some of our county residents to reverse the obesity issue. This is a serious issue that needs to be addressed, and I am willing to volunteer time to make this an example of a healthy county
45. family picnic tables and bbq grills
46. kite flying areas
47. Community festivals, Dog park, Expanded recreational programming
48. an area where a dog can be off leash Not a big pen
49. HIGH VISIBILITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
50. Playground
51. expanding parks at this time would not be a wise financial move with the current uncertainties in tax revenues
52. A waterpark would be fantastic!

Question 11 Survey Narratives

QUESTION 11 RESPONSES (Written exactly as entered)

Q. If you would like to see a service listed above please enter that service here:

1. Hunter safety, Boating safety
2. Youth basketball or any where to go, play & practice
3. didn't know we had. Arobics water for handicap adults (seniors)
4. in-door walking weights
5. All children & teens programs
6. adult kickball
7. Use the money you have!
8. Canoe
9. Community Garden
10. Adult Fitness!

(continued on page 50)

Question 11 Survey Narratives (continued)

11. I go to St. Louis County
12. Horseriding Trails
13. Handgun training classes (shooting range) Swing Dance Classes Also - paying for improvements idea: 9+9+9 tax plan
14. Parks give the community something to do
15. Ice skating Rink
16. Develop Winter Park further
17. Racquetball courts
18. St Louis county parks is involved with geocaching opening there parks up to the practice. www.geocaching.com.
19. Stop spending Money you don't have!
20. Telescopes for night star viewing
21. Aerobics Classes
22. Community Center - Cedar Hill area with park facilities
23. bike trails, bike park, motor cross facilities, deer hunting muzzle loader, rabbit hunting bird hunting, duck hunting, geese hunting
24. Youth football
25. kids fishing day. or Flyfishing instruction.
26. County community center and indoor/outdoor pool.
27. fishing and hunting
28. fitness/exercise opportunities
29. A safe place to walk in the Cedar Hill Hwy. 30 area. Night and day. We have no sidewalks or streetlights in this area.
30. 5K Run/Walk
31. I would like to see a rec center on the I-55 corridor
32. outdoor & hunting , fishing classes
33. dog park
34. Again, walking/running/biking trails. I travel the country for a living and there are many municipalities that are offering these amenities. San Antonio recently received over \$1M in federal money to begin numerous exercise programs. We should learn from them before our obesity rate is beyond control. With our climate, we should have wonderful outdoor accommodations.
35. Not a service, but would like to see tyou open the Mastadon Park at 7:00 a.m. instead of 8:00
36. None. Please cut back on services! Tighten your belts like we've had to tighten ours!
37. Biking safety and bike trips sponsored by Park Service
38. natural area where my dog could swim. The fine for this activity is not nice.
39. conservation and pollution education

2 Town Meetings



Jefferson County Parks and Recreation

Notes from Town Hall Meetings 2011

What do you know and like about your County Parks?

1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good maintenance • Your sports programs well used • River access points • Variety of parks and programs • Good attention to parks with limited funds and personnel • Great deal of unincorporated area of Jefferson County and they depend on the parks • Parks are important • Parks bring families together • Fewer calls for help – fire dept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible – open to all people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockford Beach • Becoming more important with grandchildren • Programs for children • Not much

What parks could use some changes to make it better for Jefferson County?

1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds needed • Handicap accessible play equipment • Elder navigation • Benches • Lighting in shelter (pavilion) • Lighting in parking lot • Lighting for trails • Open area (flying model planes) • Hard surface trails • Dog parks (fenced) • Community center • Bigger & better lit signs • Archery range • Shooting range • Ponds/lakes (fishing) various sizes (not for swimming or boats) like Suson Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking trails for all people • Safety – level & smooth well lit areas • ADA accessible • More publicity for parks • Biking trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter park programs • We want to keep kids here • Walking trails • Basketball courts • Bike trail • Playgrounds • Swimming pools • Dog parks • Easter egg hunts • Sports programs • Mentoring programs

What park policy could use some change to make it better for Jefferson County?

1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research possibility of extending park hours If it isn't an enforceable rule, why is it a rule? Request a certain area (reservation) Family area (alcohol free) marketing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> information policies online dog park (allow dogs) parks should be publicly available or not parks

What suggestions do you have for funding the changes identified in question 2, or any other improvements? (In addition to current tax mechanism)

1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sales tax bonds fee based utilizing grants foundations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants – obesity related Master plan will open doors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property tax increase Friends of the parks (donor incentives) Corporate sponsors Endowment program

3 Summary



At first glance, the list on page 53 seems daunting; a person might think, “It is just a wish-list that will never happen”. However, if we look at it together, as a community, and do some creative thinking, it is not so overwhelming after all. Part of the list consists of features and services people have seen and experienced in other places, so we know they are possible. They are possible in those communities because the citizens have made them a priority. To make them possible here in Jefferson County, we must look at the existing parks and land owned by the county that could be parks and ask these questions: “What needs to be done to help the existing parks offer some of the services and programs identified in this list?”, “What things need to be looked into more deeply to determine answers?”, “How are we going to fund all these ideas?” These are questions we have discussed in more detail when we talked about current individual parks and possible future parks. This discussion took place in the “Recommendations to the County Executive”, Chapter VIII.



4 The List



The List

1. Safety for all park visitors (lighting, even surfaces, and patrolling officers)
2. Playgrounds for children
3. ADA Compliant in all places where appropriate
4. Do a better job of development and maintenance on the existing county parks
5. Trails (walking, running, obstacle course, biking, horse, ATV/4-wheel, and ADA compliant)
6. Sports activities (softball/baseball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, golf, outdoor swimming pool, water park, hunting, shooting range, archery, fishing and ADA compliant)
7. Indoor center (pool, exercise equipment, encourage fitness, and ADA compliant)
8. Family picnic tables and bar-be-cue grills, camping facilities, kite-flying areas
9. Classes for young and old such as: swimming, tennis, arts and crafts
10. Dog parks (where dogs can be off leash – suggested member fee for upkeep)
11. River parks and access to river with docks
12. Farm animals for children

The List—Prioritized

Immediate (1-2 years):

- Playgrounds for children
- Safety for all park visitors (lighting, even surfaces, and patrolling officers)
- ADA Compliant in all places where appropriate
- Family picnic tables and bar-be-cue grills, camping facilities, kite-flying areas
- Sports activities (softball/baseball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, golf, outdoor swimming pool, water park, hunting, shooting range, archery, fishing and ADA compliant)

Intermediate (3-5 years):

- Do a better job of development and maintenance on the existing county parks
- Trails (walking, running, obstacle course, biking, horse, ATV/4-wheel, and ADA compliant)
- Classes for young and old such as: swimming, tennis, arts and crafts
- Dog parks (where dogs can be off leash - suggested member fee for upkeep)

Long-Term (6 or more years):

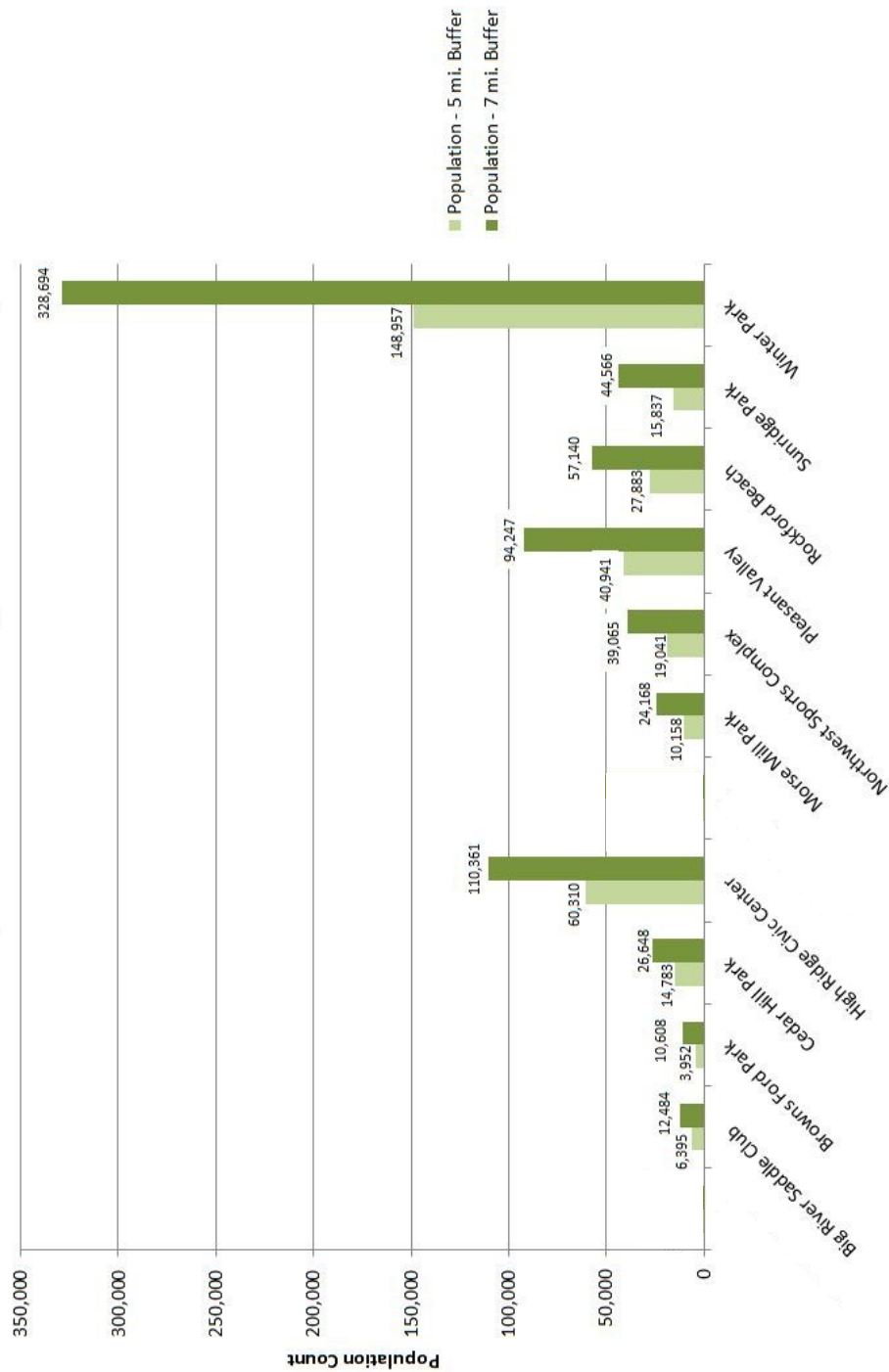
- River parks and access to river with docks
- Indoor center (pool, exercise equipment, encourage fitness, and ADA compliant)
- Farm animals for children

B Jefferson County Demographics

1 Population near County Parks



Jefferson County, Missouri - 2010 Population near County Parks



Jefferson County, Missouri Parks

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Table 1—Population Change

Population Profile: Population Change

Population change within the 1 county report area from 2000-2010 is shown in Table 1. During the ten-year period from 2000-2010, U.S. Census population counts for the report area grew by 10.42%, increasing from 198,099 persons in 2000 to 218,733 persons in 2010. This was greater than the 7.0% population increase for Missouri during the same time period. An estimated 3.72% of Missouri's population resided in the 1 county report area in 2010.

Table 1. Population Change 2000 - 2010

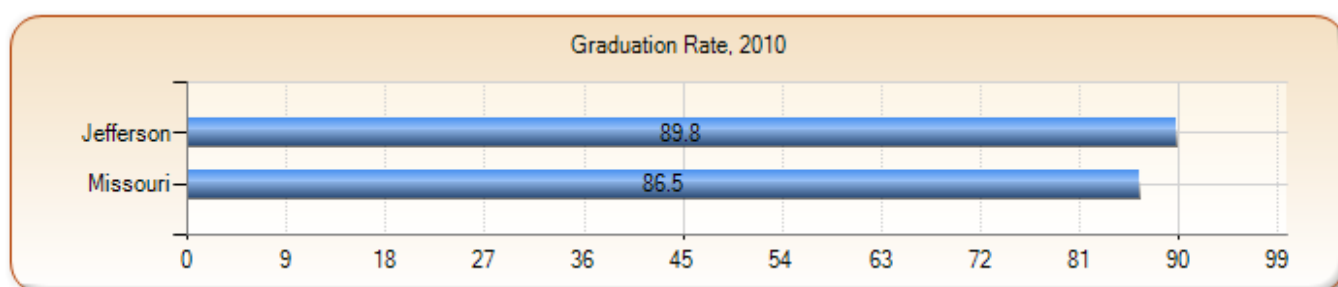
County	Census 2000 Pop- ulation	Census 2010 Population	Population Change	% Change
Jefferson	198,099	218,733	20,634	10.4
Statewide	5,595,211	5,988,927	393,716	7.0

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, 2010 Redistricting Data Summary File \(PL 94-171\), Release Date: February 2011](#)

Table 2—Education: High School Graduation Rate

Education: High School Graduation Rate

The number of high school graduates and the graduation rate in the 1 county report area are shown in this Table. The 1 county report area average graduation rate was 89.8%, above the statewide rate of 85.92%.



Source: [Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Annual Reporting of School District Data, 2009/2010 Academic Year](#). Data provided by school district, summarized by DESE school district - county association.

Table 3—Educational Attainment

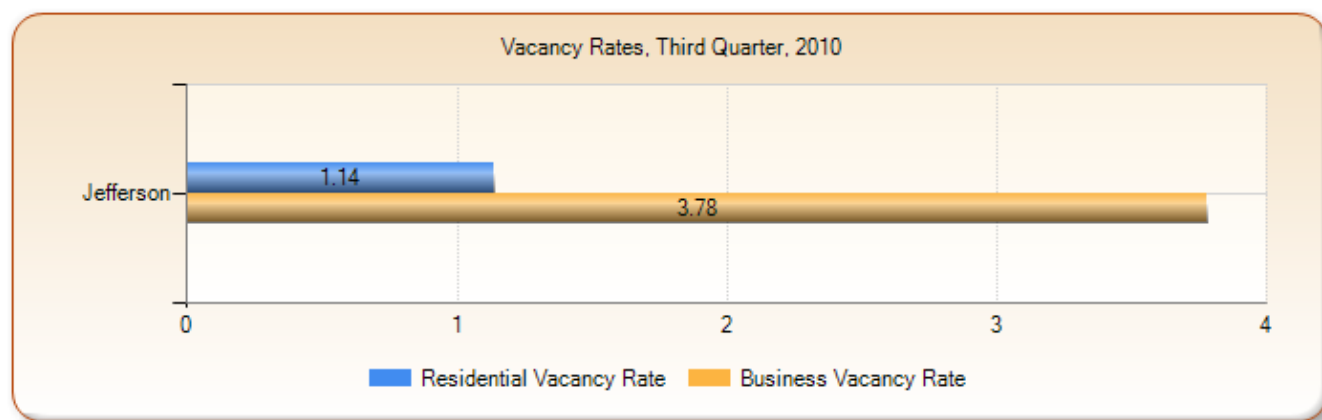
This Table shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in the 1 county region. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, and is based on samples for the period from 2005 to 2009 in the American Community Survey data.

County	No High School Diploma, 2005-2009	High School Only, 2005-2009	Bachelors, 2005-2009	Graduate or Professional, 2005-2009
Jefferson	15.41	34.62	10.76	5.46
Statewide	14.42	32.98	15.63	8.96

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009 5-Year Data Release, September 2010](#).

Table 4—Housing: Vacancy Rates

The U.S. Postal Service provided information quarterly to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on addresses identified as vacant in the previous quarter. Residential and business vacancy rates for the 1 county report area in the third quarter of 2010 are reported in Table 8. In the third quarter of 2010, a total of 1,062 residential addresses were identified as vacant in the report area, a vacancy rate of 1.14%, and 177 business addresses were also reported as vacant, a rate of 3.78%.



Source: [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Aggregated USPS Administrative Data on Address Vacancies, Third Quarter, 2010.](#)

Local Government: Taxable Sales

Generally, taxable sales provides an indicator of current county health as it fluctuates with the economy and economic activity more than property tax revenue. The table provides a comparison of total taxable sales for the five most recent years for the area selected as compared to the state.

Taxable Sales (Dollars) by County, 2007 - 2011

County	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jefferson	1,745,407,945	1,746,971,875	1,711,005,829	1,720,329,831	1,779,224,499
Statewide	68,084,070,295	67,669,172,931	64,563,908,445	65,223,196,610	71,992,735,839

Source: [Missouri Department of Revenue Public Information Reports, 2007-2012](#)

Health: Obesity

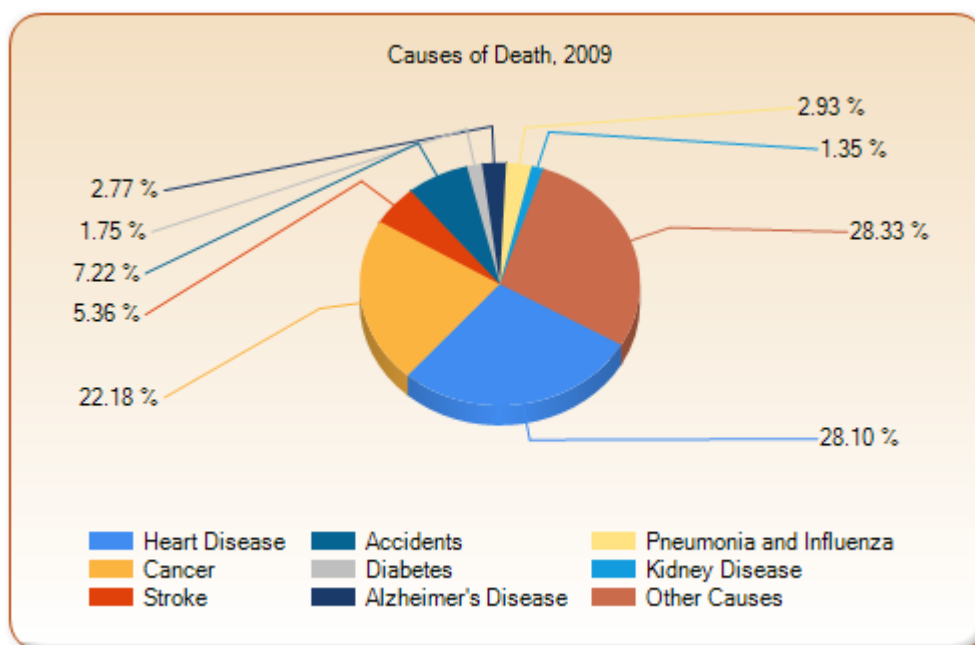
Obesity among adults in 2009 in the report area is shown in this Table. The information shown is an age-adjusted estimate of obese persons age 20 and older.

County	Adult Population	Obese Persons	Percent of Population Considered Obese
Jefferson	158,163	48,760	30.83
Statewide	4,352,714	1,301,091	29.89

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Diabetes Surveillance System, [County Level Estimates of Obesity](#), 2009 estimates, retrieved August 2012.

Health: Causes of Death

Total deaths broken down by cause for the 1 county report area are shown in Table 12. According to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in 2009, there were 1,772 deaths in the report area.



Causes of Death, 2009

County	All Deaths	Heart Disease	Cancer	Stroke	Accidents	Diabetes	Alzheimer's Disease	Pneumonia and Influenza	Kidney Disease	Other Causes
Jefferson	1,772	498	393	95	128	31	49	52	24	502

Source: [Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Information for Community Assessment \(MICA\), Deaths, 2009.](#)

Table 2						
Leading Causes of Death with Rates: Missouri Residents 1999, 2008 and 2009						
Leading Causes of Death	Numbers			Rates per 100,000 Population		
	1999	2008	2009	1999	2008	2009
Heart	17,954	14,550	13,845	322.8	244.3	231.2
Cancer	12,177	12,497	12,435	218.9	209.8	207.7
Lung cancer	3,632	3,933	3,836	65.3	66.0	64.1
Chronic lung disease	3,063	3,743	3,436	55.1	62.8	57.4
Stroke	4,018	3,252	3,013	72.2	54.6	50.3
Unintentional injury	2,303	2,876	2,868	41.4	48.3	47.9
Motor vehicle	1,074	969	903	19.3	16.3	15.1
Falls	419	699	666	7.5	11.7	11.1
Poisonings	184	687	776	3.3	11.5	13.0
Other	626	521	523	11.3	8.7	8.7
Alzheimer's disease	920	2,014	1,719	16.5	33.8	28.7
Pneumonia & influenza	1,678	1,428	1,346	30.2	24.0	22.5
Diabetes	1,553	1,332	1,327	27.9	22.4	22.2
Nephritis & nephrosis	915	1,275	1,226	16.5	21.4	20.5
Suicide	698	775	857	12.5	13.0	14.3
Other Causes of Death						
Septicemia	623	826	801	11.2	13.9	13.4
Homicide	382	486	440	6.9	8.2	7.3
AIDS	148	116	99	2.7	1.9	1.7
Maternal Deaths	12	13	11	15.9*	16.1*	14.0*

*Per 100,000 live births

Source: [National Vital Statistics Reports](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Health Status Indicators. In 2003, over 20.2 percent of Jefferson County residents reported their health was "fair or poor" compared with 16.9 percent statewide. While 12.3 percent of Missourians reported having no health coverage, the percent without coverage in Jefferson County was estimated at 8.7 percent. State health data report the top two prevalence indicators for the county were Current Smoker (32%) and High Blood Pressure (36.7%). Missouri reported 26.5 percent and 28.5 percent in those same categories.

—*OSEDA Social & Economic profile ("cntypage")*

C Jefferson County History



1931 Hillsboro and Barnhart Schools Annual Tog of War



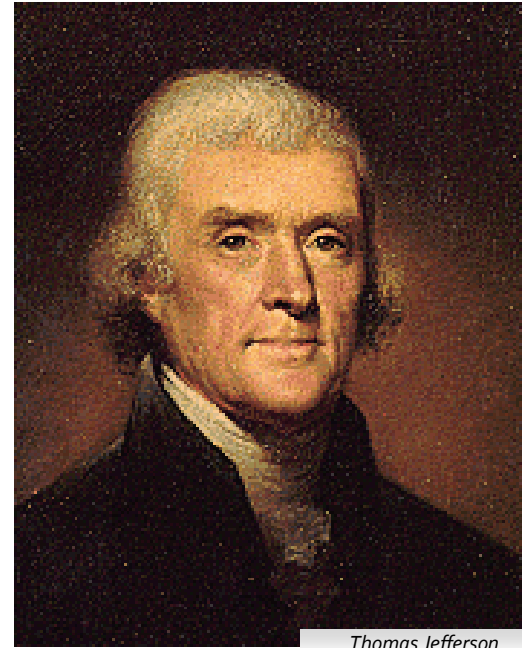
Hillsboro Ball Team - 1934

Photos provided by Audrey Vreeland

C County History

Jefferson County is located in the east central part of the State of Missouri. Its position, approximately 30 miles south of St. Louis, provides an abundance of natural resources with rolling hills and level terrain in the many valleys. In the 1700's, these amenities, as well as the water corridors, Mississippi River, Meramec River, Big River and the many creeks and streams compelled the Osage Indians and the European settlers to make this their home.

From the early settlements along the Mississippi River to its current development, Jefferson County has experienced rich local history and significant developments that have impacted the St. Louis area. The Jefferson County community has progressed and evolved through many physical changes from the 1,800 residents who called Jefferson County home in 1820 to the current population of 229,000 in 2010. Development of the physical and cultural characteristics of Jefferson County has produced a modern, vibrant county which provides excellent services to its citizens both in the unincorporated and the incorporated communities.



Thomas Jefferson



Early Map of
Jefferson County—1851

It is unknown when the first settlement was created. Evidence of the earliest settlements in Jefferson County dates back to the early 1700's, but physical evidence of the settlements can not be found. Mr. John Hidebrand was the first known "white" settler in the area that was to become Jefferson County. In 1774, he settled along Saline Creek and founded Meramec settlement. Visible evidence of this settlement has long-since been removed; however, it is believed to have been where the City of Herculaneum is now located. The recorded first town, New Hartford, was laid out in 1806 by Christian Wilt and John W. Honey along the Mississippi River. The exact location of the town of New Hartford is unknown. It, too, is believed to be near the City of Herculaneum.

The rich mineral resources of the area did not go unnoticed.

In 1798, Mr. Moses Austin realized the significance of the natural lead mineral deposits. He introduced improved, "modern" mining and smelting processes and began commercial operations with modern mining equipment ordered from Virginia. Stimulated by monetary gain,

settlements near the mines grew rapidly. Native Indians were not agreeable with the changing conditions and as a result the Osage Indians occasionally raided the settlements in an effort to motivate the settlers to leave the area. Unwavering in their resolve to settle this land, the lead mining industry grew, in spite of the Osage raids against the settlers. In 1808, Moses Austin and Samuel Hammond laid out a town near the mouth of Joachim Creek as a lead shipping point. That town has grown into the modern City of Herculaneum.



St. Joe Lead Smelter-Herculaneum

The 628 square miles of Jefferson County, Missouri is bounded on the north by St. Louis County, east by the Mississippi River, south by Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois and Washington Counties, and west by Franklin County. The land is generally hilly with very narrow ridges which are separated from each other by deep ravines. There are many creeks and tributaries which crisscross Jefferson County and flow into the Meramec, Big, or Mississippi Rivers. All parts of the county are well watered. There are many springs and wells that produce water of excellent quality.

The history of Jefferson County is a colorful one and the legacy lives on. The people of Jefferson County are strong, independent and resourceful, which is evident in their ability to keep progressing favorably through the ebb and flow of life. The pioneers withstood much and not only survived, but prospered as well.



*Frank Liverar homestead near
Big River at Pilgrim's Rest
(Grandview area)*



*A Jefferson County Winter –
Fletcher Barn behind home*

The economic activity and population growth of the area did not go unnoticed. The authorities, realizing the need for an organized governmental structure, created eight counties on December 8, 1818 by an “Act of the Territory”. The eight counties were created from parts of St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve Counties; Jefferson County was one of the counties created by this Act. Named in honor of the third president of the United States and father of the Louisiana Purchase, Jefferson County was carved from the frontier and the citizens prepared to build a better life for themselves and future generations.

Herculaneum had a population of 200 and was the center of economic activity and social interaction when the “Act of Territory” established the county. As a result, Herculaneum was defined as the first County Seat.

The first Circuit Court for the Northern Circuit of Missouri Territory, with Judge Nathaniel B. Tucker presiding, was convened on March 22, 1819. One of the actions taken on that day was the establishment of a tax rate. A tax on possessions was imposed; Jefferson County residents had taxation on horses, mules, cattle, slaves, billiard tables, mills, tanning-yards, and distilleries.

With the dawn of 1831, lead industry production began declining, which resulted in the shift of economic activity and population within Jefferson County. As a result, the concept of moving the County Seat to a more central location gained support. The location of the new County Seat became Hillsboro. Hillsboro was more centralized allowing easier access for Jefferson County citizens and was along an established trail between Potosi and St. Louis. The first Court House was built in 1838-40 and was located adjacent to a spring utilized as a watering stop for travelers. When a new Court House was built in 1865, the original courthouse structure was used as a public school.



Growth was slow until 1857, when the Iron Mountain Railroad crossed from St. Louis County into Jefferson County. With this development, industrialization followed, including railroad shops and supporting business. In 1868, three individuals discovered excellent sand deposits necessary to make high quality plate glass. From this discovery, the American Plate Glass Company was created in Crystal City, providing a quality product

throughout the country and good jobs in Jefferson County. In the 1890's, the St. Joseph Lead Company was established in Herculaneum and quickly became the largest lead smelter in the United States. With the construction of the Frisco Railroad along the east side of the county in 1902, the industrial foundation for Jefferson County was established.



Iron Mountain Railroad Steam Engine



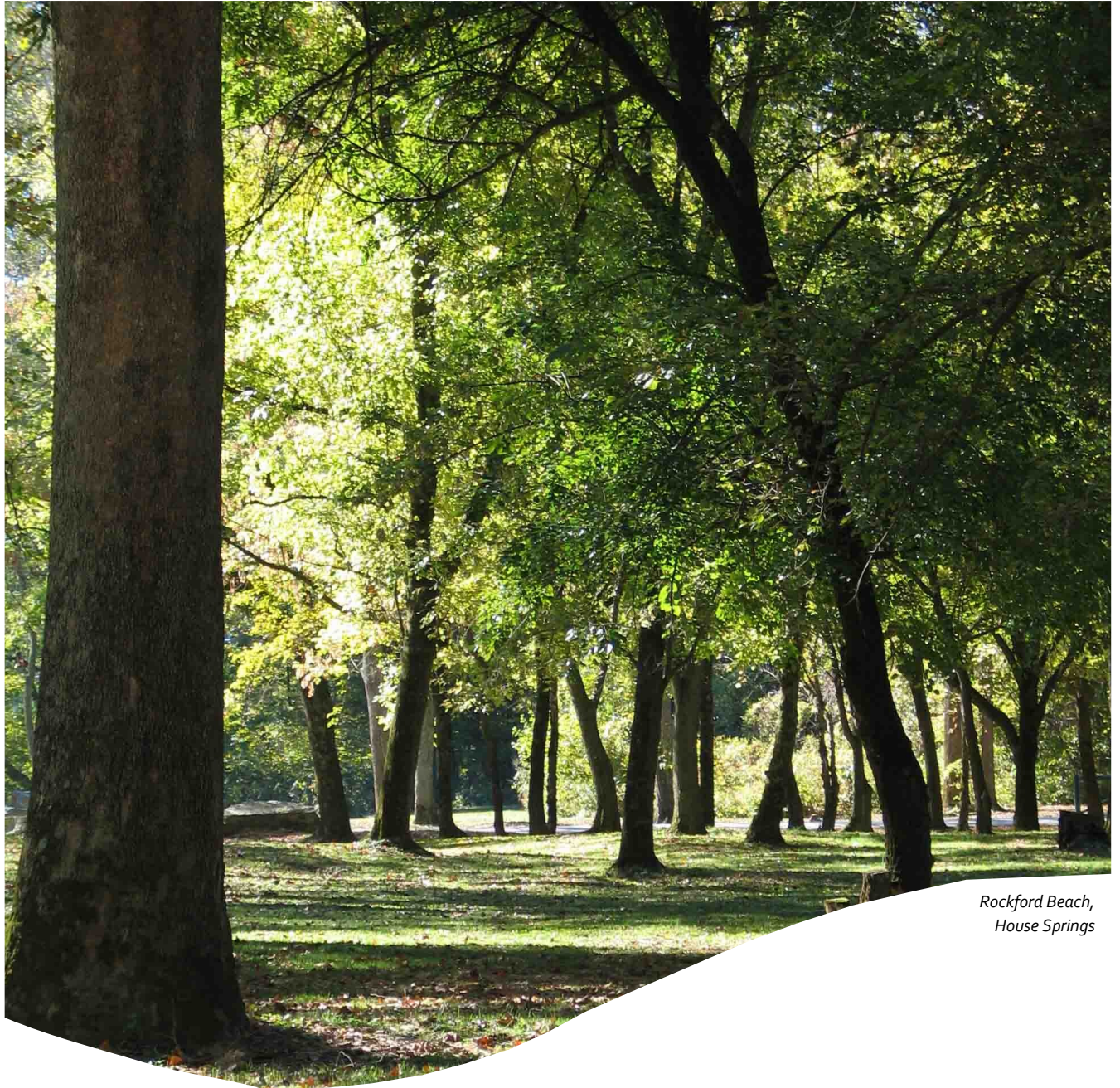
Hillsboro Main Street circa 1930



Aerial of Hillsboro, 1971

As Jefferson County grew, the demands placed upon the governmental structure increased. To respond to these demands Jefferson County government had to adjust the services provided. Expanding population demographics were placing greater demands upon existing services and demands for new services were realized. As a result, the Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation was established.

The beauty and natural resources of Jefferson County are as important to the residents now as they were in those days when the Jefferson County Parks Department was established. People donated pieces of their land to have preserved for the enjoyment of all. We protect our park system through the work of the Parks Department, whose master plan we are writing today.



*Rockford Beach,
House Springs*

This concludes the 2013 Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This can all be accomplished because it is what everyone wants and it is the right thing to do. It will require cooperation, determination, and hard work on the part of the residents of Jefferson County and their elected officials. Quality of Life is important to the people of Jefferson County.

D The 2007 Master Plan



JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MASTER PLAN

2007



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Meeting Draft Plan Summary

Mission and Governance

It is the mission of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department is to enrich the quality of life for County citizens by providing open natural space, the best possible recreational facilities and quality programs.

The Parks and Recreation Department is part of Jefferson County Government. The County is classified as a first class non-charter government with its county seat in Hillsboro. The county is governed by a three-member County Commission led by the Presiding Commissioner and has 13 incorporated municipalities.

A volunteer Park Commission (referred to as the Park Board) exists to provide guidance to the department. The Park Board consists of seven individuals appointed by the Jefferson County Commission. Each member serves for a specified term. The formation and role of the Park Board is stipulated in Missouri Revised Statute 64.330. This authority provides for 1st class non-charter county governments to establish a citizen advisory park board. This body has no legal authority to enter in to any contract or commit the County Commission to any financial obligation. The board can define and recommend to the County Commission for approval, rules of operations and policies regulating the programs and services provided by the park department.

Long Range Planning and Timelines

In order for Jefferson County to take advantage of more immediate parks and recreation grant opportunities it is crucial that a Parks and Recreation Plan be approved in the short term. Once this plan is approved it is the intention of Jefferson County officials to undertake a long-term assessment and update of current and future-park plans. The second phase of the master planning process will provide for a broad based citizen engagement and public participation process as well as comprehensive assessments of facilities, users, priorities, goals and funding mechanisms.

Inventory of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Jefferson County has approximately 145 acres of parks and recreation space for public use. There are 11 county parks that include hiking trails, passive recreation space, and fishing and boating opportunities. Current leisure and recreational opportunities provided by existing open space and recreational facilities is significantly low to serve the population of Jefferson County as defined in the Missouri Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan. Future development opportunities should include measures to remedy this situation.

Project List

The following are a list of new projects that the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation has prioritized at this time

Northwest Jefferson County Sports Complex – Softball/Baseball Field Lights: The department currently has three softball fields and one baseball field under construction to provide county residents with a much needed facility for adult softball leagues and tournaments, and a baseball facility for use by the local American Legion baseball program and other groups as needed. This facility is also used as a host site for a Youth Instructional Soccer Program in the spring and fall, with over 800 children served. In order to maximize facility use for leagues and tournaments, lights, at current Amateur Softball Association standards, will be required for each field. No funding for the acquisition of these lights and standards currently exists.

Kimmswick to Arnold Walking Trail: The Northeast quadrant of Jefferson County is the most populous area of Jefferson County, and also the fastest growing area in our county. There is a great need for walking trails, and the potential for inter-agency cooperation exists between Jefferson County, the cities of Arnold and

Kimmswick, and state agencies for the development of a walking trail that extends from Kimmswick into the city of Arnold. The trail would be heavily used and would be a great asset to area residents. Currently, no funding exists for the construction of this trail or the maintenance of the trail once built.

Riverbend Soccer Complex: Plans are in place for the construction of a Soccer Complex on flood buyout property that is owned by the county along Twin Rivers Road in northwest Jefferson County. Currently, the department has no soccer fields, and is supporting a youth soccer program that services over 1,200 children annually. Currently, baseball/softball outfields at the Northwest Jefferson County Sports Complex and the Imperial Youth Association's Ross Fields (baseball) are being used for this program.

Governor Thomas Fletcher House: The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department has shown it's continuing support of historic preservation by it's administration and promotion of the Governor Thomas Fletcher House, Route BB and Elm Streets in Hillsboro. The Department has several longstanding relationships with other county historical organizations, garden clubs, and the Fletcher House Foundation. These relationships help us to promote and preserve the Fletcher House by offering tours to local schools, organizations, and private citizens, and to offer special events on site for educational purposes. The Department will continue to look for ways to expand interest and pool resources for the funding and efforts necessary to continue the legacy of this important historic site.

Population Growth and Funding: Funding remains the biggest challenge and hurdle to implementation of any of the above plans as well as the Department's ability to fulfill the future parks and recreation needs of the growing number of county residents. This is a problem that will require a solution if the department hopes to continue to achieve its mission.

While urbanization in the northern part of Jefferson County has been increasing, much of the remainder of the county retains its rural, small town character. Once predominantly rural, Jefferson County has experienced more than 50 years of growth pressure from the St. Louis area. This growth has influenced the county, putting pressure on existing land uses, natural resources and infrastructure. The population of Jefferson County tripled from 1950 to 1970, with 16.9 percent of the residents living in incorporated areas. In 1990, the population had increased to 171,380 with 27 percent of the residents living in incorporated areas. The county will likely see an increase of population of 11 percent or 22,000 people over the next 10 years and an increase of almost 28 percent over the next 25 years

The existence of both suburban and rural communities paired with substantial population increases in the county has ensured an increase in the demands for Parks and Recreation services and has also caused a diversification in the types of parks and recreation services wanted by constituents. Unfortunately the funding streams available for parks and recreation have not kept pace with population growth. The type of user and the service/type of facility desired is largely tied to geographic location, making the importance of planning and resource allocation even more important.

Table of Contents
Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

• Executive Summary	1
• Mission and Governance.....	1
• Long Range Planning and Timelines	1
• Existing Community Plans.....	2
• Intergovernmental and Community Partnership	2
• Context and Demographics	3
• Population Growth and Density	4
• Land Use	5
• County Demographics.....	6
• Endangered Species, Wetlands, Historic Properties/Districts, Archeological Sites	7
• Inventory of Parks and Recreation Facilities	8
• Recreation Programs	10
• Parks and Recreation Facilities Operated by Other Jurisdictions	12
• Project List	14
• Park Funding	14
• Jefferson County Park Foundation.....	15

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Mission and Governance

The mission of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department is to enrich the quality of life for County citizens by providing open natural space, the best possible recreational facilities and quality programs.

The Parks and Recreation Department is part of Jefferson County Government. The County is classified as a first class non-charter government with its county seat in Hillsboro. The county is governed by a three-member County Commission led by the Presiding Commissioner and has 13 incorporated municipalities. The county government is divided into the following departments and divisions: Assessors office, Auditor's office, Circuit Court Clerk, Collector of Revenue, County Clerk, County Commission, Data Processing, Department of Administration, Economic Development, Jefferson County Health Center, Juvenile Office, Land Use Development and Code Enforcement, Parks and Recreation, Public Administrator's Office, Public Works, Recorder of Deeds, and the Sheriff's Department.

A volunteer Park Commission (referred to as the Park Board) exists to provide guidance to the department. The Park Board consists of seven individuals appointed by the Jefferson County Commission. Each member serves for a specified four-year term. The formation and role of the Park Board is stipulated in Missouri Revised Statute 64.330. This authority provides for 1st class non-charter county governments to establish a citizen advisory park board. This body has no legal authority to enter in to any contract or commit the County Commission to any financial obligation. The board can define and recommend to the County Commission for approval, rules of operations and policies regulating the programs and services provided by the park department.

Long Range Planning and Timelines

In order for Jefferson County to take advantage of more immediate parks and recreation grant opportunities it is crucial that a Parks and Recreation Plan be approved in the short term. Once this plan is approved it is the intention of Jefferson County officials to undertake a long-term assessment and update of current and future-park plans. The second phase of the master planning process will provide for a broad based citizen engagement and public participation process as well as comprehensive assessments of facilities, users, priorities, goals and funding mechanisms.

Park and recreation planning typically occurs at four levels: Short term planning updates, system wide master planning, site planning and operational and maintenance planning. The current effort is the first step in the planning process. Following two opportunities for public input scheduled for May 2007, this plan will be provided to both the Park Board and the County Commission for consideration in June 2007. Once approved, this plan will provide the basis for the long-range master planning process that may take a year or longer to complete.

Existing Community Plans

There are numerous planning processes that are undertaken by Jefferson County Government. Notably the Planning Division within the Department of Land Use, Development and Code Enforcement conducts the planning efforts for the county government primarily in the area of land use, but increasingly in the areas of infrastructure and public services. The Planning Division produces plans and reports, the Comprehensive Master Plan, program guides and demographics, maps and statistics. Planning documents released to date include Jefferson County's Master Plan, Rock Creek Watershed Management Plan, Jefferson County Transportation Mobility Plan, Jefferson County Transit Needs Study and the Jefferson County Economic Development Plan.

The Department of Parks and Recreation works closely with the Department of Land Use Development and Code Enforcement to make sure that all plans remain consistent and reference each other appropriately.

The Jefferson County Master Plan has identified the following five goals pertaining to trends:

- Promote growth and development that creates a quality environment, preserves natural resources and provides community amenities.
- Create a housing plan for economic development to attract quality development and jobs to the county.
- Provide infrastructure and transportation that adequately services the community and new development.
- Ensure the maintenance of the environment and open space in an environmentally sensitive development, especially in large-scale development areas.
- To provide quality public awareness and high levels of education and communications regarding planning and development issues.

In addition to the above goals that recognize the importance of environment and open space preservation, the implementation section of the current Jefferson County Master Plan includes an action item calling for the creation of a county park plan. All current and future park planning efforts will be attentive to the goals and objectives outlined in the county master plan.

Intergovernmental and Community Partnerships

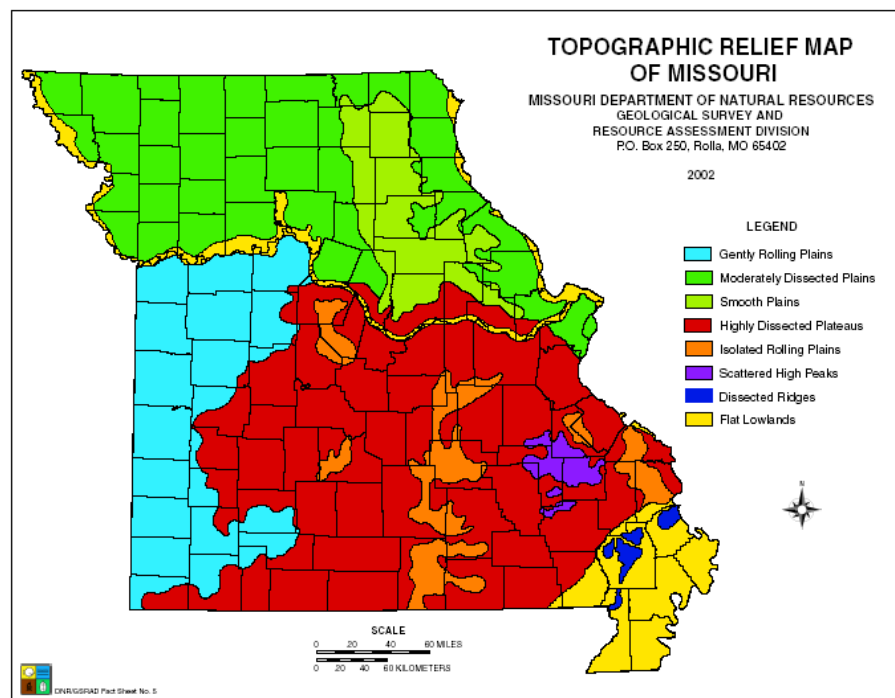
As part of the EWG region, Jefferson County collaborates on numerous issues including transportation, infrastructure, parks and open space, law enforcement and emergency services. MoDOT, Franklin, St. Francois, Washington, Ste. Genevieve and St. Louis Counties collaborate on county lines, as well as transportation issues where it applies to infrastructure systems across the Meramec Rivers. Other community partnerships include the Rock Creek Watershed Management Plan group and the St. Louis-Jefferson County Solid Waste Management District. Jefferson County Planning Division, along with the Missouri Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Great Rivers Alliance of Natural-Resource Districts (GRAND) are working together to address watershed plans for Jefferson County. Organizations that closely participate with various hazard mitigation activities include Jefferson College, Jefferson County Soil and Water District, Jefferson Online Information Network, and the University of Missouri Outreach and Extension Office. In addition Jefferson County Parks and Recreation communicates regularly with the municipal

jurisdictions that maintain a city park system including Arnold, Festus, Crystal City, Hillsboro and Byrnes Mill, and state agencies MDNR and MDC.

Context and Demographics

Jefferson County is located in eastern Missouri, just west of the Mississippi River. It is bordered on the north by St. Louis County and the Meramec River, on the south by Ste. Genevieve and St. Francois Counties, and on the west by Washington and Franklin Counties. The county is part of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the United States Census Bureau. The county has an area of about 425,280 acres that includes about 2,176 acres of water in the Meramec, Mississippi and Big Rivers and other large impoundments. Interstate I-55 runs north and south through the county. Jefferson County was separated from St. Louis and St. Genevieve Counties and established in 1818 (effective January 1, 1819).

The Topography varies considerably throughout Jefferson County. Much of the county can be classified as rugged. Large areas, with greater than 20 percent slopes are common throughout northern and southern portions of the county. The central one-third of the county consists of wider and flatter crests and shallower valleys. The highest point in the county on Vinegar Hill is about 1,060 feet above sea level. The lowest point is about 385 feet above sea level in the Mississippi River bottoms. Floodplains of the Big, Meramec and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries are the most fertile of the county. The three largest rivers in Jefferson County are the Mississippi River, Meramec River and Big River. These waterways offer commercial and recreational opportunities, but a significant portion of the county is subject to flooding due to the amount of waterways, as well as fluctuations in water levels.



Jefferson County is divided into seven distinct physiographic regions. The Dissected Till Plains consist of rolling and partially dissected basin with low hills and broad ridges adjacent to the lower Meramec and Mississippi Rivers. Thick layers of alluvium and loess have covered glacial till and outwash materials. The River Hills consist of a narrow band of

uplands bounded on the east by the Mississippi River and on the west by the Burlington Escarpment. The Glaize, Joachim, Platin, Pomme and Rock Creeks dissect this area. Ridges and north and east slopes are covered with loess. West and south slopes consist of upper cherty red clays and limestone outcrops on the lower slopes. The Zell Platform is a small valley with rolling topography east of Selma south to Ste. Genevieve County.

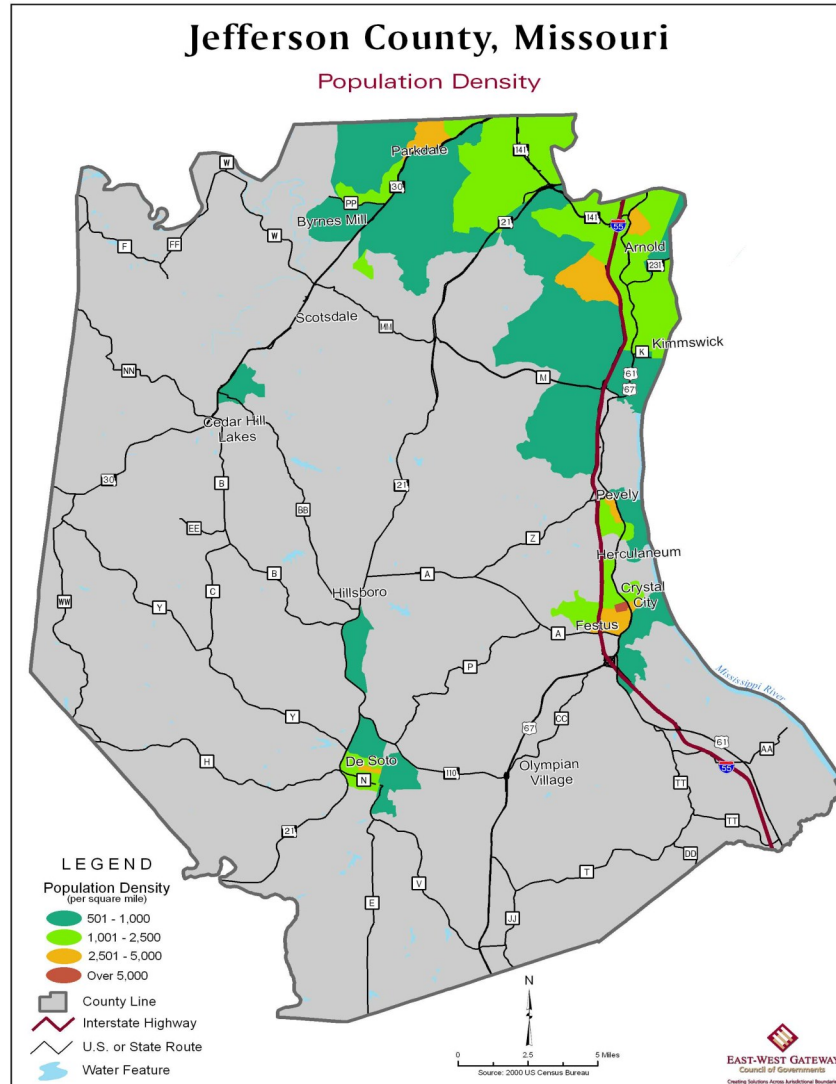
Population Growth and Density

While urbanization in the northern part of Jefferson County has been increasing, much of the remainder of the county retains its rural, small town character. Once predominantly rural, Jefferson County has experienced more than 50 years of growth pressure from the St. Louis area. This growth has influenced the county, putting pressure on existing land uses, natural resources and infrastructure.

The existence of both suburban and rural communities paired with substantial population increases in the county has ensured an increase in the demands for Parks and Recreation services and has also caused a diversification in the types of parks and recreation services wanted by constituents. Unfortunately the funding streams available for parks and recreation have not kept pace with population growth. The type of user and the service/type of facility desired are largely tied to geographic location, making the importance of planning and resource allocation even more important.

The population of Jefferson County tripled from 1950 to 1970, with 16.9 percent of the residents living in incorporated areas. In 2005, the population had increased to 211,639 with 26 percent of the residents living in incorporated areas. The county will likely see an increase of population of 11 percent or 23,200 people over the next 10 years and an increase of almost 28 percent over the next 25 years.

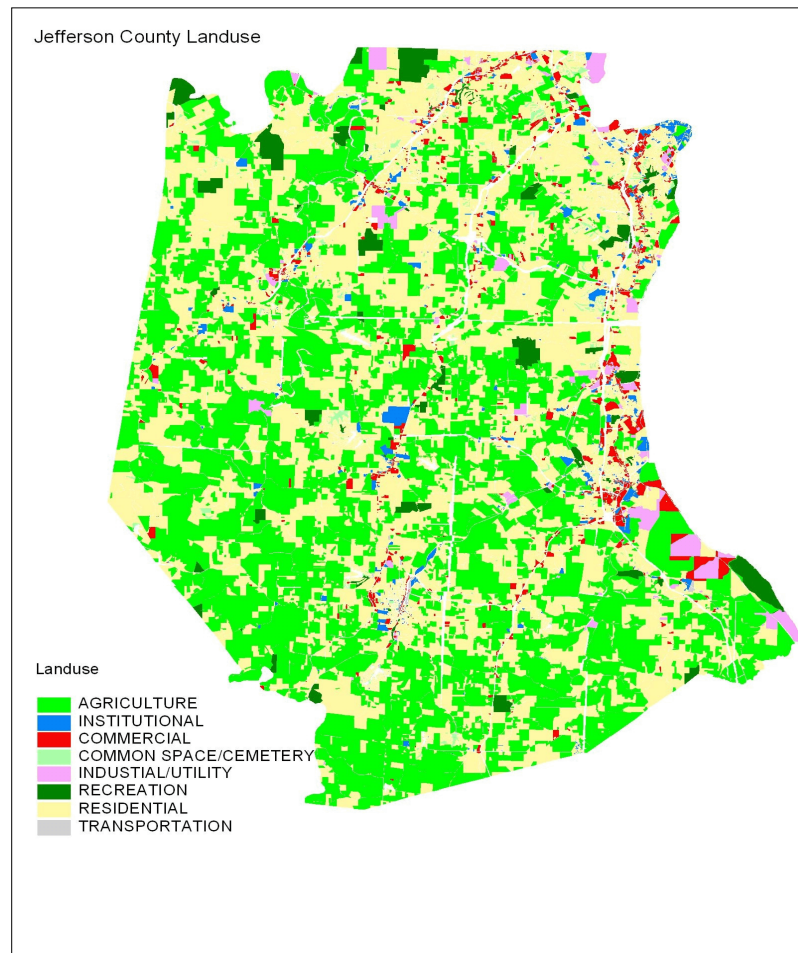
The economy in Jefferson County has improved, as indicated by a growing labor force, increased employment opportunities and lower unemployment rates. Growth in residential and commercial building permits has also helped the county prosper. While the rest of the state has been in a recession, Jefferson County has had good residential growth. Residential building permits for 2001 were up over 15 percent. This growth is expected to continue.



Land Use

Land use in Jefferson County, per data from the East-West Gateway Council of Governments, is divided into the following categories: residential (35,753 acres) commercial (2,491 acres), industrial (2,379 acres), public (4,137 acres), recreational (2,932 acres), transportation, and undeveloped (farmland with 376,217 acres).

JEFFERSON COUNTY LAND USE MAP



Source: Jefferson County Planning

County Demographics

All the following data, unless otherwise noted, is drawn from the 2005 American Community Survey (ACS) for Jefferson County, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Different from the actual census conducted every decade, the ACS provides updated, annual estimates. The county has a population of 211,639. There are 89,302 registered voters comprising 74.2 percent of the voting age population. There are 77,492 households in the county averaging 2.73 persons per household. The median age of residents is 36.2 years. There is a median household income is \$50,850 annually and a per capita income of \$22,579.00, 8.8% of county families and 11.1% of the total population have incomes below the poverty level.

Jefferson County has a total of 58,462 persons under the age of 20; 133,063 persons between the age of 20 to 64 and 30,169 persons 65 years of age and older. Jefferson County has a younger population and has fewer residents over the age of 64 years when compared to Missouri statewide population. The median age of 36.2 years is slightly higher than the 36.0 median age for Missouri. Of the population aged 25 years and older, 81.9% have completed high school or higher and 16% have achieved a Bachelor's degree or higher. The vast majority (98%) of Jefferson County residents can be classified as Caucasian. The largest minority, Hispanic/Latino has 2,514 residents, followed by African-Americans with 2,155 people. There are also 1,577 Native Americans and 1,686 Asians.

Endangered Species, Wetlands, Historic Properties/Districts, Archaeological Sites

The federal and state listing of endangered species in Jefferson County includes the Pink Mucket, Gray Bat, Indiana Bat, Ozark Big Eared Bat, Flathead Chub, Crystal Darter, Bald Eagle, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier, Lake Sturgeon and the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker.

The United States Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, issues Nationwide Permits for wetlands in their jurisdiction within Jefferson County. This pertains to the following watersheds in Jefferson County: Saline/Sugar/Romaine Creeks, Rock Creek, Dulin/Bourne/Heads/Bear Creeks, La Barque Creek, Glaize Creek, and Joachim/Sandy Creeks.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 and the Antiquities Act of 1906, information regarding specific locations of archaeological sites cannot be released. The Missouri State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) within the Outreach Office of MDNR is in the process of setting up a GIS database that will house archaeological sites in Missouri. Individuals in need of information may contact the SHPO for information on specific sites. Reference for further information can be made to Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1-800-361-4827 or their website at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/homepage.htm>. The Missouri Archaeological Society's website is located at <http://coas.missouri.edu/mas/> and provides reference documents on archaeological sites in Missouri.

There are eleven sites listed on the national register of historic properties in Jefferson County. A list of these are found below and can also be found on the Missouri state website at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/Jefferson.htm>. Of the sites listed below, the Fletcher House is maintained and operated by the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department.

Beaumont-Tyson Quarry District,
Boemler Archaeological District,
Boland Archaeological District,
Thomas C. Fletcher House, (Jefferson County Park and Recreation Property)
Gustave Greystone-Meissner House
Kimmswick Bone Bed, Mastodon State Historic Site,
Leight, Valentine, General Store,
Moder Archaeological District,
Sandy Creek Covered Bridge State Historic Site,
Louis J. and Harriet Rozier House
Windsor Harbor Road Bridge,

Inventory of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Jefferson County has approximately 145 acres of parks and recreation space for public use. There are 11 county parks that include hiking trails, passive recreation space, and fishing and boating opportunities. Current leisure and recreational opportunities provided by existing open space and recreational facilities is significantly low to serve the population of Jefferson County as defined in the Missouri Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan. Future development opportunities should include measures to remedy this situation.

Big River Saddle Club- Located on Joe Buck Road off Highway Y is the site of numerous shows. The Trail Rider Club, The Tri Angle Club and The Jefferson County 4H Horsemanship Club utilize this facility for several scheduled equine events each year from May to October.

Morse Mill Park- The Big River is located at Morse Mill Park. Small Mouth Bass, Crappie, Catfish and other game fish are present in the river. This location offers a concrete boat ramp can be used to launch canoes or inner tubes for a 10.9-mile float to Cedar Hill Park.

Brown's Ford Park- This facility is located on the Big River. This area produces some of the best small mouth fishing in the state. A canoe or inner tube can be launched at the boat ramp and take 18.3-mile trip down to Morse Mill Park.

Cedar Hill Park- This facility provides picnicking, fishing and swimming opportunities on the Big River. The old mill and dam are overlooking the fast flowing water dropping over rocks while anglers pull in Crappie and Small Mouth Bass. This is a good location to launch a canoe or inner tubes for a 9.8-mile float to Rockford Beach.

Governor Thomas Fletcher House-Built in 1851 by Thomas E. Fletcher (Missouri's first native-born Governor, and Friend of the Sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln), this structure provides a snapshot of Missouri's past. The Fletcher House is operated as a "House Museum" through the cooperative efforts of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department and the Fletcher House Foundation.

High Ridge Civic Center- A wide variety of services provided at the Civic Center. Activities include Senior Citizen Services through an mutually beneficial agreement with Mid East Area Agency on Aging, dance programs, martial arts, aerobics, tumbling, clinics, in-line hockey, hunter training, other community events.

Rockford Beach- Located on the Big River. A dam creates a cascading waterfall. The river is commonly used for fishing, swimming and boating. Amenities provided are picnic facilities including tables, grills, horseshoe pits and a boat ramp.

Jefferson County Winter Park- Facilities include volleyball courts and picnic tables overlooking the Meramec River. Swimming, personal watercrafts, powerboats and fishing are welcomed activities.

Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve: This facility offers 40 acres of secluded areas, wild flowers, wildlife and walking trails. This facility has picnic facilities, playground, and trails, and is the location of several camps and special events conducted by Civic organizations.

Sunridge Park- This facility has the only tower open to the public. The individuals who are willing to climb the tower will reward with a view east to Festus, west as far as High Ridge, south to DeSoto and north to Arnold and on a clear day you can see the Arch. Shelter house, picnic facilities and playground are available.

Northwest Jefferson County Sports Complex- The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department acquired the Northwest Jefferson County Sports Complex, formerly the Cedar Hill Ball-fields. This 20-acre complex, which currently is the site of the construction of four baseball/softball fields and a walking track, and also offers a sculptured concrete skate park, is the home of Youth Instructional Soccer Program and Summer Soccer Camps and home field for the House Spring American Legion Baseball Team.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT FACILITIES																	
	ACRES	MEETING ROOMS	HISTORIC SITES	VOLLEYBALL	NATURE STUDY	SHELTER HOUSES	OPEN PLAY AREAS	RESTROOMS	PLAYGROUNDS	FISHING	BOAT RAMP	RIVER ACCESS	PICNICKING	WALKING TRAILS	CLASSES	GRILLS	SOCCER & BASEBALL FIELDS
Big River Saddle Club	10				*	*	*	*	*				*			*	
Brown's Ford	2				*					*	*	*	*				
Cedar Hill	7						*	*		*		*	*			*	
Fletcher House	.6	*	*				*						*				
High Ridge Civic Center	2	*		*		*	*	*					*		*	*	
Rockford Beach	8.2			*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			*	
Jefferson Winter Park	40			*	*		*	*		*		*	*			*	
Morse Mill	10			*	*		*	*		*		*	*			*	
Pleasant Valley	40				*	*		*	*				*	*		*	
Sunridge	6				*	*	*	*	*				*	*		*	
NW Jefferson County Sports Complex	20				*		*	*					*				*

Recreational Programs

The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department provides the citizens of Jefferson County with various recreational program opportunities. These programs focus on youth offerings at various locations and several special events for all ages are provided. In addition a few programs target the Senior Citizen for recreational options. The following is a detailed listing of the recreational program offerings and their location.

RECREATION PROGRAMS AND LOCATIONS

Youth Instructional Sports Programs:

Basketball (ages 7-12) – Sacred Heart Gym, Crystal City
Grandview Middle School Gym

In Line Hockey (ages 7-12) – High Ridge Civic Center

Soccer (ages 4-12) – Fall – Ross Fields, Kimmswick

Spring and Fall – Northwest Jefferson County Sports Complex,
House Springs

Jr. Golf Program (ages 8-18) – Tee It Up Range and Sportsplex, Pevely;
House Springs Golf Course; Cottonwood Golf Course,
DeSoto; Raintree Country Club, Hillsboro; Pomme Creek Golf Course,
Arnold; Joachim Golf Course, Herculaneum

High Ridge Civic Center Programs:

Senior Meal Program (MEAAA)
Martial Arts (All ages)
Building and In Line Rink Rentals
Hunter Education Classes
Community Events
Youth Instructional In Line Hockey Program (mentioned above)
National Youth Sports Coaches Association Clinics

Northwest Jefferson County Sports Complex:

Adult Slow Pitch Softball (Men's, Women's and Co-ed Leagues)
Sculpted Concrete Skatepark (Open to public, Skateboard Events)
American Legion Baseball
Youth Instructional Soccer Program (mentioned above)

Sacred Heart Gymnasium, Crystal City

Martial Arts (all ages)
Tai Chi (all ages)
Youth Instructional Basketball Program (mentioned above)

Special Events:

Kid's Fishing Tournament (ages 0-16) – VFW Lakes, Festus
Managed Turkey Hunt Lottery (all ages) – Beck Park, Eureka
Jefferson County Senior Golf Tournament (55 and over) – House Springs
Golf Course
Youth Basketball Academy (ages 6-12) – Crystal City High School
Jefferson County Moonlight 10K Run and 1.5 Mile Fun Run (all ages) – Crystal City Park
Managed Deer Bow Hunt Lottery (all ages) – Beck Park, Eureka
Fletcher House Ghostwalk (all ages) – Thomas Fletcher House, Hillsboro
Fletcher House Christmas Festival of Trees – Thomas Fletcher House, Hillsboro

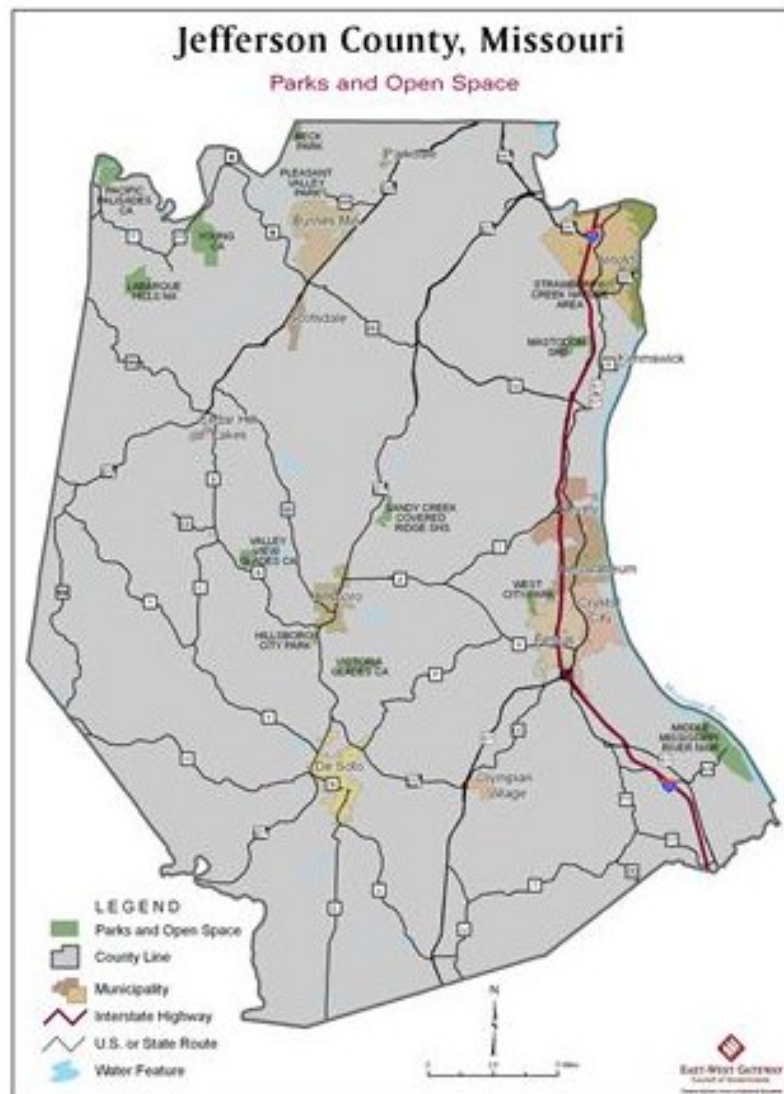
Department Services:

National Youth Sports Coaches Association Clinics (Seven different sports)
Fletcher House Tours (by appointment year round)
Christmas Tree Recycling Program
Jefferson County Parks Foundation

Parks and Recreation Facilities Operated by Other Jurisdictions

There is often confusion between parks and other facilities paid for, maintained and operated by Jefferson County and the many resources available in Jefferson County that fall under the authority of other jurisdictions.

The cities of Arnold, Pevely, Herculaneum, Crystal City, Festus, Hillsboro, Desoto and Byrnes Mill all have city parks. In addition, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources owns and operates several historic sites and the Missouri Department of Conservation provides several large tracts of natural areas devoted to wildlife and natural resources conservation. These resources all represent great Jefferson County assets and thus are listed here but it must be clear that Jefferson County Parks and Recreation do not fund them nor does Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department receive any of their dedicated tax revenue or fees.



Jefferson County Parks System

Park Type

- State Parks and Conservation Areas
- Jefferson County Parks
- Municipal Parks

Municipal Park Names

- The Point (Byrnes Mill)
- Byrnes Mill City Park
- Springdale (Fenton)
- Hillsboro City Park
- Kimmswick City Park
- Anheuser House (Kimmswick)

Scale: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles

Park Type

- State Parks and Conservation Areas
- Jefferson County Parks
- Municipal Parks

Municipal Park Names.

- 8: The Point (Byrnes Mill)
- 9: Byrnes Mill City Park
- 22: Springdale (Fenton)
- 35: Hillsboro City Park
- 36: Kinnswick City Park
- 37: Anheuser House (Kinnswick)



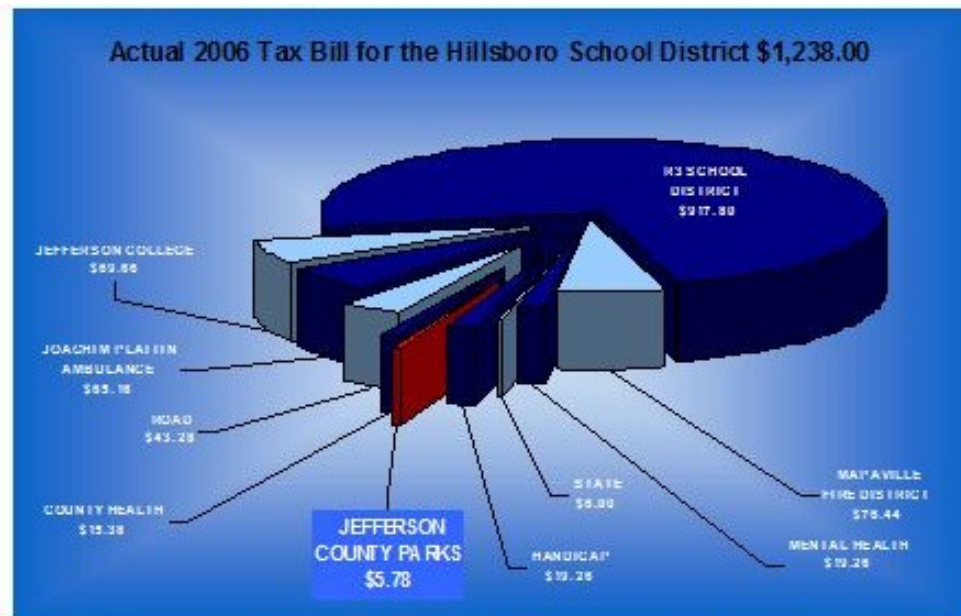
Project List

The following are a list of new projects that the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation has prioritized at this time

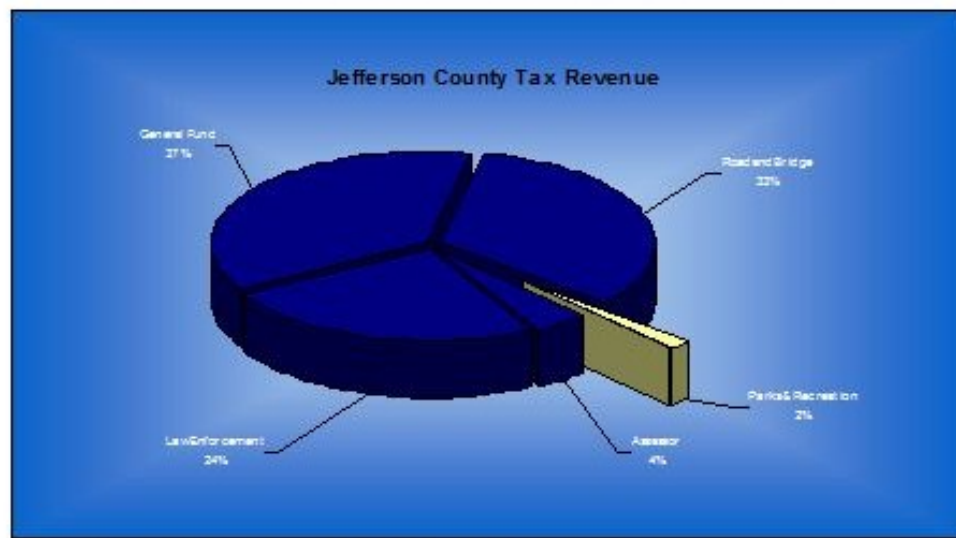
Northwest Jefferson County Sports Complex – Softball/Baseball Field Lights: The department currently has three softball fields and one baseball field under construction to provide county residents with a much needed facility for adult softball leagues and tournaments, and a baseball facility for use by the local American Legion baseball program and other groups as needed. This facility is also used as one host site for the Youth Instructional Soccer Program in the spring and fall, with over 800 children served. In order to maximize facility use for leagues and tournaments, lights, at current Amateur Softball Association standards, will be required for each field. No funding for the acquisition of these lights and standards currently exists.

- **Kimmswick to Arnold Walking Trail:** The Northeast quadrant of Jefferson County is the most populous area of Jefferson County, and also the fastest growing area in our county. There is a great need for walking trails, and the potential for inter-agency cooperation exists between Jefferson County, the cities of Arnold and Kimmswick, and state agencies for the development of a walking trail that extends from Kimmswick into the city of Arnold. The trail would be heavily used and would be a great asset to area residents. Currently, no funding exists for the construction of this trail or the maintenance of the trail once built.
- **Riverbend Soccer Complex:** Plans are in place for the construction of a Soccer Complex on flood buyout property that is owned by the county along Twin Rivers Road in northwest Jefferson County. Currently, the department has no soccer fields, and is supporting a youth soccer program that services over 1,200 children annually. Currently, baseball/softball outfielders at the Northwest Jefferson County Sports Complex and the Imperial Youth Association's Ross Fields (baseball) are being used for this program. Our soccer programs are at risk of being pushed out of these facilities by increased demand for softball and baseball programs in the near future. Currently, no funding exists for the construction of this complex for our county's active youth.
- **Governor Thomas Fletcher House:** The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department has shown it's continuing support of historic preservation by it's administration and promotion of the Governor Thomas Fletcher House, Route BB and Elm Streets in Hillsboro. The Department has several longstanding relationships with other county historical organizations, garden clubs, and the Fletcher House Foundation. These relationships help us to promote and preserve the Fletcher House by offering tours to local schools, organizations, and private citizens, and to offer special events on site for educational purposes. Due to limited resources, the Department will continue to look for ways to expand interest and pool resources for the funding and efforts necessary to continue the legacy of this important historic site.
- **Parks and Recreation Funding**
Funding remains the biggest challenge and hurdle to implementation of any of the above plans as well as the Department's ability to fulfill the future parks and recreation needs of the growing number of county residents. This is a problem that will require a solution if the department hopes to continue to achieve its

mission. The following graphs illustrate the small amount of taxes that are actually allocated for use by the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department.



Actual property tax bill of \$1,238; only \$5.78 or 0.46 % goes to the Parks and Rec. Dept.

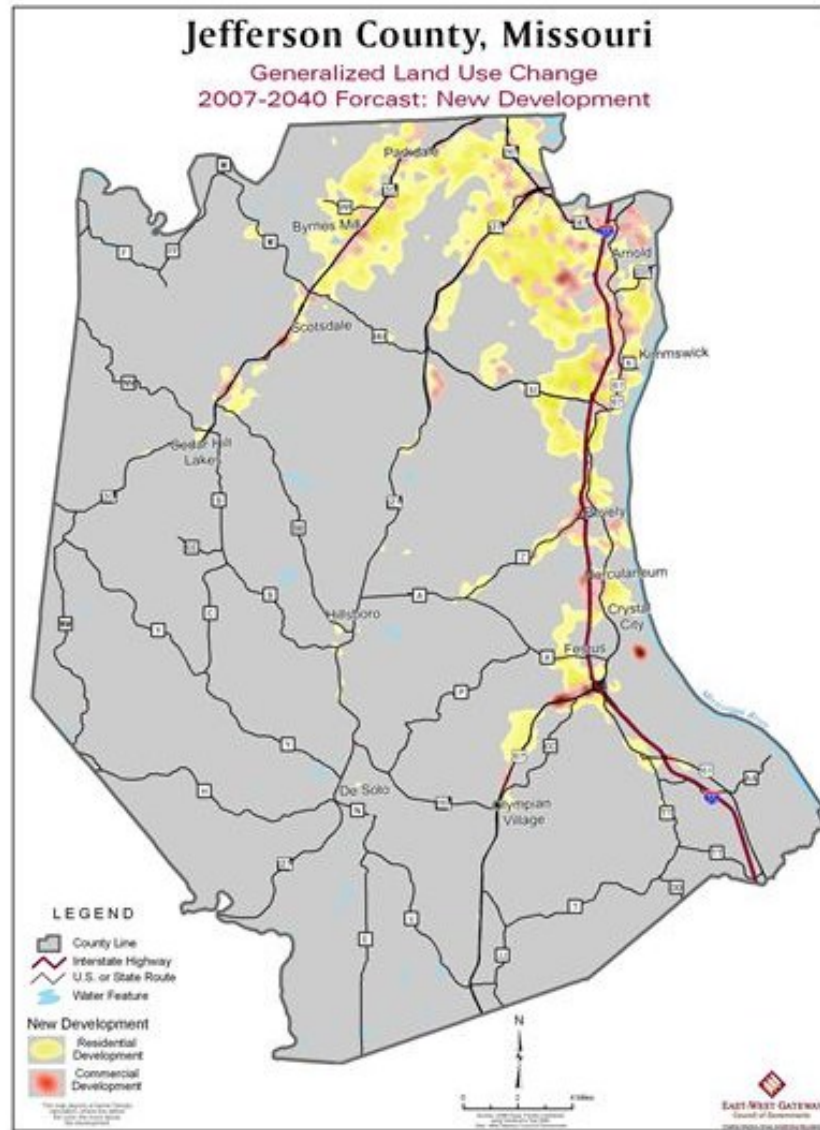


Parks and Recreation Department's receives 2% of the total tax revenue collected by Jefferson County.

Jefferson County Park Foundation:

It should be noted that there is a group of private citizens who have formed the Jefferson County Park Foundation. This not-for-profit group applies its resources to some of the recreational demands that the department is not able to address.

Currently, the Foundation focuses on Junior Golf programs. The Department also charges program and facilities fees to help cover costs.



It is clear that development models predict that Jefferson County will continue growing. The above map forecasts new development in the County through 2040. The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Department must be prepared for these changes. Only with a plan in place to provide a roadmap that is flexible and responsive and has an adequate source of funding to achieve its goals can the department hope to continue to fulfill the needs of Jefferson County residents and provide the excellent level of service that residents demand and deserve.