

A NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE RESIDENTS OF  
PERRY (OKLAHOMA) AND EVALUATION  
OF THE CITY PARKS SYSTEM

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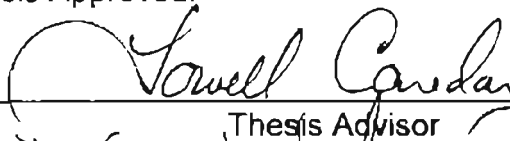
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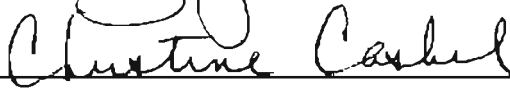
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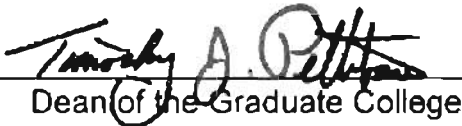
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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### Introduction

As a growing and developing community, the residents and staff of the city of Perry, Oklahoma have recognized the need for the parks system to grow and develop along with the city. Anticipated growth due to recent job openings, and the recognition of the importance of the park system, the staff of the city of Perry has discussed the necessity for a needs assessment to support future city planning. In addition, the city leadership has observed that the parks are currently receiving limited use. This circumstance reiterates the demand for change to meet the requirements of this growing community.

This study was designed to investigate the recreational needs of residents of Perry and the potential to meet those needs through the provision of public parks and recreation areas. This study examined the eight existing parks (Brookwood, Century, Jaycee, Klein, Leo, Lion, Rainbow and Rotary) as well as the CCC and Perry Lake areas. In an initial survey it was found that Century, Leo and Lion Parks all have pavilions with picnic tables; these areas also have new style playground areas. In addition, Lion Park has an outdoor swimming pool. Rotary, Klein, and Jaycee Park show the least amount of development and upkeep. Many of the structures in these parks are in disrepair. Rainbow and

Brookwood have some older play structures; however, the safety of these structures needs to be addressed. The Perry Lake area consists of some outdated playground equipment, picnic areas, and a Recreational Vehicle (R.V.) hook-up area. More detail is provided regarding each of these parks later in this study.

The city of Perry has recently contracted with the city of Stillwater to purchase water and have it piped to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Lake located southeast of town. For this reason, and because of its unique features, special attention was given to the CCC Lake area. The CCC Lake and Recreation area is in disrepair. The few play structures in the area are old and safety is a concern. The sandstone picnic areas and pavilion are rundown. Much of the area has simply returned to nature.

Having introduced this study, the following sections will address the problem and purpose of the study. The significance of the study will also be discussed. Additionally, any assumptions, delimitations, and limitations of this study will be presented. Finally, unique or ambiguous terms will be defined.

### Statement of the Problem

The problem to be addressed in this study was the present pattern of recreational use of public parks in Perry by its residents. That recreational use pattern may be affected by population characteristics, including but not limited to social, economic, educational, and ethnic factors (Wellner, 1997). As a result,

this study focused on the recreation patterns of the residents. It also includes an evaluation of the existing public recreation properties.

The parks in the city of Perry are outdated and receiving little use, according to city staff (J. Davis, personal communication, Dec 29, 1999). These parks need to be updated to meet the needs of the growing community.

Additionally, because of the anticipated changes in the CCC Lake area to accommodate the piping of water from Stillwater to Perry and the storage of this water, new uses and possibilities of this area should be explored. Specific problems are identified as follows:

1. Perry has not conducted a recreational needs assessment in recent history; thus, the city leadership needs information about residents' attitudes and opinions related to the provision of public parks.
2. The current parks appear to present limited recreational opportunities, and in some cases safety concerns, when evaluated on the current standards as established by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. An assessment of existing facilities is important to provide safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities in the public parks.
3. The role and purpose of public recreation areas varies with the characteristics of a given community. As Perry changes demographically, physically, and economically, the recreation patterns within the community may change. These changes need to be documented.

### Purpose of the Study

The goal of this study was to understand what the citizens of Perry want in their parks system and how the parks might best meet these demands. This study investigated compliance with national standards regarding parks and playgrounds where available, and as they applied to the community of Perry. Playground areas were evaluated to determine compliance of the area with national standards. The following objectives were identified for this study:

1. Identify the present recreation use patterns of Perry residents as well as their attitudes and opinions regarding public recreation areas within the city.
2. Assess the existing public recreation spaces for compliance with appropriate national standards and recommend corrective or maintenance actions as needed to assure safe recreational settings.
3. Present a preferred future for recreational development in Perry based upon the attitudes and opinions expressed by the present residents.

### Significance of the Study

This study identified the needs and recreational use patterns of the citizens of Perry. Once these needs and patterns are known, the city can then work toward meeting these needs. This study resulted in a written and electronic report that were delivered to the city of Perry in addition to the thesis submitted to Oklahoma State University. This report may be utilized by city officials to aid in a renovation of the parks system. Such renovation may provide

the citizens of Perry with (beautiful) places to recreate and parks designed in keeping with the preferences of the residents.

### Research Design

This study utilized a modified Dillman's total design method (Dillman, 1978) and was a descriptive study based on survey research. It included on-site evaluations of existing recreational facilities for compliance with appropriate national standards. Five hundred households in the city of Perry were randomly selected based on utility billings to receive a survey designed according to specifications of the total design method. Similarly, 300 additional surveys marked with yellow covers were placed at several public areas throughout the town for those individuals who wished to have their voices heard, but who may not have been selected in the random sample.

Responses from the two surveys were coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) database program version 9.0 for Windows. If the responses from the randomly selected sample and the self-initiated response group were shown to be statistically similar, (i.e. they were from the same "sample") those results were combined and analyzed further. If the responses from the two groups were dissimilar, indicating the random sample and the self-initiated responses were statistically different, both groups would be reported, but only the random sample would be employed for the purposes of this study.



### Research Questions

In developing this study, the researcher identified various questions that she, and the city of Perry, desired to have answered. These questions are identified below:

1. In what types of recreation do Perry residents participate?
2. What preferences do Perry residents indicate for public parks and recreation areas in their community?
3. What constraints prevent the citizens of Perry from utilizing the park areas?
4. What facilities can be provided to make the Perry parks more desirable?
5. What attitudes and opinions related to public recreation opportunities are shown by Perry residents?
6. How do these attitudes and opinions reflect demographic patterns within the city of Perry?

### Delimitations

This was a descriptive study based on survey research. The unit of analysis that was used for this study was groups, more specifically households. This study was delimited to a sample of 500 households of the city of Perry. The sample was selected from a pool of 2,886 addresses as listed on the Perry utility bill mailing list. In addition, 300 surveys marked with yellow covers were placed at public areas throughout the town for those individuals who wished to have their voices heard, but were not selected in the sample. Respondents under the age of 18 were not included.

### Assumptions

There were three major assumptions in this research. These assumptions are identified as follows:

1. The households chosen in the random sample were assumed to be representative of all the citizens in Perry.
2. The subjects responded honestly and reflected the intentions, motives and behavior of the members of the household.
3. The subjects were knowledgeable and cared about public parks in Perry.

### Limitations

Because of the nature of this study, certain limitations were recognized and considered. They are as follows:

1. Non-response bias may result from individuals who did not return the surveys or chose not to answer certain items on the surveys.
2. The sample was chosen from those households that receive a Perry utility bill; therefore, some renters or other residents who were not on this mailing list could have been excluded.

### Definition of Terms

Some terms mean different things to different individuals. For this reason and to avoid confusion, the following terms were defined:

1. Benefit: "A change that is viewed to be advantageous, an improvement in condition or a gain" (Driver, Brown, & Peterson, 1991, p. 4).

2. **Carrying Capacity:** "The level of use at which quality remains constant" (Wagar, 1964, 2).
3. **Household:** Consists of all those individuals who reside in the same house or apartment.
4. **Leisure Constraints:** "Factors that are assumed by researchers and perceived by individuals to inhibit or prohibit participation and enjoyment of leisure" (Jackson, 1991, p. 279).
5. **Perry Resident:** An individual whose permanent residence is within the city limits of Perry, Oklahoma.
6. **Playground:** All mention of playgrounds refer to public playgrounds, unless otherwise noted. Public playgrounds refer to "equipment for use in the play areas of parks, schools, child care facilities, institutions, multiple family dwellings, restaurants, resorts and recreational developments and other areas of public use" (USCPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety, 1997, p. 1).
7. **Need:** "Something that drives individuals to act in a certain way" (DeGraaf, Jordan, & DeGraaf, 1999, pg. 76).
8. **Needs Assessment:** "A systematic inquiry about needs, attitudes, behaviors, and patterns of both participants and nonparticipants" (DeGraaf, Jordan, & DeGraaf, 1999, p. 75). For the purpose of this study the term "needs assessment" will be used interchangeably with the term "survey".

9. **Random Sample:** This refers to those individuals who were randomly selected to receive the survey. This sample was identified by a Blue Cover placed on the Survey.
10. **Standard:** "A benchmark or acceptable measure of performance or delivery that has been agreed upon by a profession, a professional organization, required by policy or as a matter of law by a state or local government entity" (Mertes & Hall, 1996, p. 69).
11. **Voluntary Sample:** Those individuals who wished to answer the survey, but were not chosen in the random sample. These individuals were able to pick up surveys, marked with a Yellow Cover, at various locations throughout the town.

### Organization of the Study

In following chapters the researcher discusses the history of the area and the literature related to parks. The development of the needs assessment is presented and methodology for the selection of the recipients is discussed. Finally, an analysis of the data resulting from the survey was performed, and the conclusion and recommendations are presented.

## CHAPTER II

### BACKGROUND

#### Introduction

Chapter two is a review the literature pertaining to this project. A discussion of the history of Perry is presented and the Civilian Conservation Corps is discussed. The various benefits of parks are briefly presented. Carrying capacity will be reviewed. Recreation standards, including playground safety and open space guidelines, will be examined. Demographics and their impact on recreation patterns will be presented. This review will also include methods of questionnaire and survey development as related to parks and recreation.

#### Brief History of Perry, Oklahoma

At noon on September 16, 1893, the Cherokee Strip Land Run began. "The strip was 57 miles wide, stretching south from the Kansas border to a line running north of Stillwater and Orlando and 200 miles long from the Texas line to the Cherokee Reserve in Northeastern Oklahoma. The Panhandle was not included" (Beers, 1991, p. 10). An estimated 100,000 people took part in this land run. "Roughly one quarter of that number chose Perry as their destination. To have 25,000 visitors descend upon the few acres of bare prairie that had not been surveyed says something about this town. There must have been a lot going for it" (Cunningham, 1973, p. 80). The town was named after J.A. Perry,

one of the township location commissioners. The city of Perry is the county seat of Noble County, and is laid out in a traditional township format.

The township format is cartographically represented by imaginary, surveyed lines running north and south or east and west. The survey lines are six miles apart and the squares formed by these lines are called Congressional townships. Each township is further subdivided into thirty six sections, each one mile square. This system of survey originates from the intersection of a principal meridian and a base line. This survey system established the basis from which the Cherokee Strip land run permitted land to be claimed based on survey boundaries. Appendix A is a pictorial representation of the U.S. Land Survey System.

The downtown area of Perry is located in the Northeast Quarter of Section 22 in Township 21 North, Range 1 West. The CCC Lake is located the West half of Section 26, Township 21 North, Range 1 West. Because of the size of Perry Lake, it is located mainly in the Northeast Quarter of Section 6, Township 20 North, Range 1 West and the Southeast Quarter of Section 31, Township 21 North, Range 1 West. See Appendix B for a map of these areas.

Several of the parks, Jaycee, Rotary, and Lion, were named for local civic organizations. According to the historical marker posted at Leo Park, it was named after an American Quarter Horse owned by Perry Resident, Bud Warren. Leo was a 1940 stallion who had reputedly won 20 of his 22 races. Leo and Bud Warren were inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 1989.

The park located at 15<sup>th</sup> and Cedar is said to have obtained its name from the local butcher shop, Klein's, however this is not documented (J. Reim, personal communication, August 23, 2001). The CCC lake and park was named after the Civilian Conservation Corps which built it; more information about this area is provided in the next section. Perry lake was named after the town. Brookwood and Rainbow are probably named for the streets on which these parks are located (J. Reim, personal communication, August 23, 2001). The origin of the name of Century Park is not known.

In 1990, the population of Perry was 4,978 and the median age of the citizens was 36.8 years of age. The majority of the residents were white and had at least a high school diploma. The median household income was \$20,417 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1990). According to 2000 census data, the total population of Oklahoma was 3,450,654. The median age of Oklahoma residents in 2000 was 35.5, slightly younger than those residents in Perry whose median age in 2000 was 38.3 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The majority of residents in Oklahoma, 76.2% were white; 90% of Perry residents were white (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

Today, Perry is a growing population of approximately 5,230 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Charles Machine Works, Inc., the maker of Ditch Witch machinery, calls the city of Perry its home and birthplace. Perry has a strong wrestling heritage. It is the smallest town in Oklahoma with a daily newspaper, and the smallest town in the U.S. with a full service YMCA (Beers,

1991). "Early day reporters from cities roundabout called the struggling community the 'Princess of the Prairie' back in 1893. It still is" (Cunningham, 1973, p. 94).

### The Civilian Conservation Corps

In 1933, the United States was in the middle of a deep depression and President Franklin D. Roosevelt had the task of bringing prosperity back to the U.S.. In Oklahoma, farmers were suffering from severe drought and low agricultural prices (Holland, 1969). In his famous novel, The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck outlined the plight of Oklahoma Farmers calling them "people in flight from the terror behind" (Steinbeck, 1939, p. 150). On March 21, 1933 President Roosevelt sent the idea of the Civilian Conservation Corps to Congress as a way to improve the unemployment rate (Holland, 1969). The bill creating the Civilian Conservation Corps became law on March 31, 1933 with the Civilian Conservation Corps Reforestation Relief Act (1933). The Department of Labor supervised selection and enrollment of CCC workers, the Department of War was in charge of equipping and processing the enrollees, and the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture planned projects (Holland, 1969).

Oklahoma quickly embraced this movement and soon "CCC Camps" were established all over the state. The young men who enrolled in the Corps accepted a wide variety of tasks, including the building of roads and bridges,



erosion and flood control projects, planting grasses and trees, landscaping, fighting forest fires, developing lakes and ponds, and stocking fish (Holland, 1969). By the end of March 1942, most of the Camps in Oklahoma had been abandoned. The CCC had done its job in fighting unemployment. The men who participated in the CCC received education and on-the-job training. Many went on to accept better jobs, or join the military. While the Corps is no longer active, many of the projects that these young men worked on are extant today.

Historians have often referred to the CCC as "one of the more popular of the New Deal's famous initiated programs" (Holland, 1969, p. 58).

One such camp was located near Perry, Oklahoma May 1934 to June 1935. The city of Perry received a new park area, which is still referred to as the CCC Park (Beers, 1991). The April 27, 1934 edition of the Perry Daily Journal announced that the CCC would begin their work on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The CCC camp in Perry was located at the site of the current CCC park area (Beers, Apr. 13, 1995). Approximately 200 CCC workers traveled from a camp in Oklahoma City to work on the project in Perry. The CCC workers even put a softball team together for the summer league (Beers, Apr. 15, 1995).

Lt. Walter F. Berg was the Army officer who supervised the work and Max Seton was the civilian camp work supervisor at the CCC camp in Perry (Beers, Apr. 15, 1995). A boat dock was built, along with a playground and recreational center, picnic areas, pavilions, rest rooms, and a boathouse. Many of these structures were built from native stones taken from that area. Hundreds of tons

of sand were hauled in for a swimming beach, but after a girl drowned, the beach was shut down (Beers, Apr. 18, 1995). In 1938 the swimming was reopened, but was closed down again when the pool was opened at Lion Park. Currently there is no swimming at CCC Lake (Beers, Apr. 20, 1995). The city council made "CCC Park" the official name of that area in 1989. The CCC camp was moved to Ponca City on July 1, 1935 to work on a similar park project (Beers, Apr. 18, 1995).

### Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Much research has been conducted on the benefits of leisure activities; this section will give a brief discussion about these benefits. Driver, Brown and Peterson (1991) outlined three categories of benefits people receive from recreation: physiological, psychological, and sociological. It is generally accepted that leisure activities result in a wide variety of intrinsic and extrinsic rewards (Driver, Brown, & Peterson, 1991). It is important to remember that because everyone is different, what is rewarding for one person, may not be rewarding for another. John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, is quoted as, "Each year thousands of nerve-shaken, over-civilized people find that going to the mountains, forests, and deserts is sort of like going home. These areas are useful not only as fountains of timber and water, but fountains of life" (Mertes & Hall, 1996, p. 6).

Fredrick Law Olmstead, the architect of Central Park in New York City, had this to say on the subject of parks: "In the densely populated central portion of an immense metropolis, a means of certain kinds of refreshment of the mind and nerves which most city dwellers greatly need and which they are known to derive in large measure from the enjoyment of suitable scenery" (Mertes & Hall, 1996, p. 5). Olmstead believed that parks existed in order to be experienced, to harmonize with nature and connect with the natural cycles of life (Soderberg, 1995). By making this connection, we are "better able to understand ourselves and to appreciate our relationships with other people and different forms of life" (Soderberg, 1995, p. II-31).

In addition to physiological, psychological and sociological benefits, economic benefits of parks have also been discussed. "The primary purpose of acquiring parkland or encouraging the preservation of open space may not be financial, but financial justification for these actions is nearly always required" (Crompton, 2001, p. 63). Crompton (2001) looked at the effect of parks on the property values of homes and the resultant increase in property taxes. He found that the closer a park is to a home, the higher the property value is of that home.

Correspondingly, the property taxes on that home are also higher because of the increase in property value. According to Crompton (2001), these additional taxes could be used for the development and upkeep of the adjacent park. For example, a home (directly adjacent to the park) that costs \$240,000 would cost \$200,000 if it was located away from the park. The additional

property taxes on this home (at 2%) would be \$800. In addition, "there is evidence to suggest that investment in parks affect the comparative advantage of a community in attracting future businesses and desirable residential relocators such as retirees" (Crompton, 2001, p. 65).

### Carrying Capacity

"To cherish we must see and fondle, and when enough have seen and fondled, there is no wilderness left to cherish" (Leopold, 1949, p. 101). It is of the utmost importance for humans to preserve the natural areas that remain or these areas will be lost forever. The management tool of determining the carrying capacity of an area is one way in which resource managers can ensure that the natural area is being preserved against unacceptable change.

"When too many people use the same area, some traditional wildland values are lost" (Wagar, 1964, p. 2). This same concept of "lost values" has been applied to a variety of outdoor recreation properties including some properties of a developed nature. In an effort to assist managers in determining the level at which these values may be lost, Wagar applied terminology commonly used in wildlife management. He defined carrying capacity as "the level of recreation use an area can withstand while providing a sustained quality of recreation," or "the level of use at which quality remains constant" (Wagar, 1964, pp. 2-3).

The idea of recreational carrying capacity assumes that if use is permitted at higher levels, unacceptable consequences will occur. Wagar (1974) pointed

out that determining what is acceptable is a value choice. More recently in a study on the carrying capacity of Lake Powell, carrying capacity was defined as “the user population that a given resource will support without undergoing deterioration” (National Park Service, 1987, p. 5).

Along with its applications in wildlife and range management and various land based activities involving humans, the concept of carrying capacity has been expanded to include water based recreation. Rea and Warren (1986) addressed carrying capacity as it was related to recreational uses of water resources, especially boating. They developed the following table for determining the number of acres needed for various types of boats:

TABLE 1  
RECOMMENDED ACRES PER TYPE OF BOAT

Type of Boat	Acres Needed Per Boat
Unlimited Power	9 Acres
Power with Skiers	12 Acres
Limited Power	4.3 Acres
Non Power	1.3 Acres
Sailing	4.3 Acres

In addition to these guidelines, Rea and Warren (1986) identified five factors that should be considered when considering carrying capacity. These factors were: 1) location of the lake in relation to population served; 2) multiple use of water area; 3) the shoreline configuration; 4) the amount of open water;

and, 5) amount of facility development. These factors should be used along with the acre per boat guidelines to determine the appropriate carrying capacity for a lake.

Shelby and Heberlein (1986) identified four types of carrying capacity. Ecological capacity refers to ecosystem impacts such as soil erosion; physical capacity refers to space requirements (number of people per acre); facility capacity impacts such things as visitor staff ratios and occupancy for various facilities. Finally, social capacity relates to social impacts, such as the number of people encountered. Each of these impacts should be considered when determining carrying capacity.

Carrying capacity may also be viewed from a minimum, maximum, and optimum standpoint. Dasmann (1964) introduced these definitions in relation to the number of animals an area can sustain, and as shown in the work of Shelby and Heberlein (1986), these definitions can be applied to recreation settings. "Minimum" refers to the minimum number of patrons needed to continue providing a service or maintaining a facility. "Maximum" refers to the maximum number of visitors that a facility can handle, such as the maximum capacity of a restaurant or other facility. Optimal capacity deals with the ideal; this is evaluated from a comfort and safety standpoint.

The Carrying Capacity Assessment Process (C-CAP) is outlined by Shelby and Heberlein (1986). This process may serve as a useful guide in determining carrying capacity for a site. The following are the steps involved:

1. Organize and evaluate background information.
2. Identify the type of experience opportunity to be provided.
3. Identify important impacts.
4. Collect data.
5. Develop management alternatives.
6. Select a management strategy.
7. Monitor impacts.

Through the use of these steps managers can work toward effectively managing areas against unacceptable change or deterioration.

Wagar (1964) identified four management procedures for maintaining high quality recreation with high usage rates. First, reduce conflicts between competing uses through zoning. Second, reduce the destructiveness of visitors by educating them. Third, increase the durability of the resource by engineering for the increased traffic. Finally, provide more opportunities for enjoyment through the use of interpretive services.

There is no “magic number” or simple formula to calculate carrying capacity, rather it is a management tool. “For evaluating recreational carrying capacity human needs and desires provide the primary criteria for judgement” (Wagar, 1964, p. 12). Carrying capacity is dependent upon the individual site and potential participants. The more destructive the behavior of the participants (e.g., littering, cutting down trees, etc.) the greater the negative impact on the environment.

## Parks and Recreation Standards

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission published a Handbook for Public Playground Safety in 1981. The guidelines in this handbook cover surfacing, fall heights, protrusions, entrapments and various other hazards. (USCPSC, 1997). This handbook has been revised continuously through the present. While some states require adherence to these standards, all public playgrounds should meet or exceed these standards according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) sponsors the National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI), which certifies National Playground Safety Inspectors (Wallach, 1998). The standards outlined in the Handbook for Public Playground Safety can be used to evaluate the safety of playgrounds and ways in which playgrounds can be made safer.

Playground injuries, how they occur, and how to minimize them is a topic of concern for many recreation providers. Mack, Thompson, & Hudson (1998) compiled a study on playground injuries from 1990-1995 based on data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System. In this study, the authors discovered that "sixty-eight percent of the playground injuries occurred on public playgrounds" (p. 91). Each year, fractures, lacerations, and contusion/abrasions were the most frequent diagnoses from playground related injuries. Seventy percent of all seesaw injuries and 95% of all merry-go-round injuries occurred on public playgrounds. In addition, "falls to the surface was [sic] the number one



contributing factor for most of the equipment" (Mack, Thompson, & Hudson, 1998, p. 93).

In 1995, Frost and Sweeney put together a case study of 187 playground injuries and 13 fatalities which resulted in lawsuits from 1981 through 1995. These studies were based on legal cases on which these two individuals had served as expert witnesses (Frost & Sweeney, 1995). Frost and Sweeney discovered that 94% of the injuries/fatalities involved violations of the Consumer Products Safety Commission's (CPSC) Handbook for Public Playground Safety (1995). Lack of adequate loose fill under and around equipment resulted in 53% of all injuries. Of the falls, those on asphalt, concrete, or hard packed earth made up almost all of the surfaces that resulted in injury. (Frost & Sweeney, 1995). The authors made recommendations to "expand, illuminate, or supplement existing information" (Frost & Sweeney, 1995, p. 7). A brief look at these recommendations follows:

- The guidelines outlined in the CPSC handbook should be used as the minimum standards for playgrounds.
- Unitary, or one piece, materials should be used directly underneath the fall hazard, loose-fill can cover the other fall zones.
- Heavy swings, old-style merry-go-rounds, excessively tall slides or equipment, and metal slides should not be used.
- S-hooks should not be used; these pose a catch hazard even when properly closed.

Mertes and Hall (1996), writing for the National Recreation and Park Association, established guidelines for parks, recreation areas, open spaces and greenways. These guidelines are used in establishing appropriate uses for recreation areas. By developing an effective parks system, managers can ensure that the needs of the community are being met. Each park in the system can be utilized to meet different needs; Mertes and Hall (1996) identified five classifications for these parks.

Mini-parks are less than one acre in size and serve an area approximately 1/4 mile around the park. These parks address limited or special recreational needs. Neighborhood parks are generally 5-10 acres in size and focus on meeting the needs of the surrounding community, within 1/4 to 1/2 of a mile. According to these guidelines, a neighborhood park is the basic unit in a park system. A school park is one that serves as a park for a school and the community; this type of park will not be addressed in this study. Large areas between 30-50 acres in size which serve more than one neighborhood, are classified as community parks. Community parks serve an area from 1/2 to 3 miles in distance. Large urban parks are extremely large areas with 75 acres or more. These large urban parks may serve one or more communities.

### Demographics and Recreation

A community is defined by its inhabitants and the demographic profiles of those inhabitants. Knowing the demographics of a community will allow for an

understanding of the potential customers (Mertes & Hall, 1996). In 1997, Wellner compiled the U.S. Forest Service's *1994-95 National Survey of Recreation and the Environment* along with the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *1995 Consumer Expenditure Survey* to create a comprehensive look at outdoor recreation patterns by demographics. The top three outdoor recreational activities for the total population were: walking (66.7%), sightseeing (56.6%), and picnicking (49.1%) (Wellner, 1997). Fishing (29.1%) and wildlife viewing (31.2%) both ranked in the top ten for the total population (Wellner, 1997). In this report, recreational activities were broken down by age, income, sex, ethnicity, and educational level.

Age plays a large part in the recreational activities in which one participates. For instance, younger adults are more likely to participate in running, while older adults enjoy bird watching (Wellner, 1997). All age groups listed walking as the number one activity in which they participated, with picnicking and swimming (pool) in the top five of activities ranked by participation. Bicycling was popular for ages 25-39, and bird watching increased in popularity from ages 40-60+. "In the next decade, participation in sports and recreation will surge within the fifty-something age group as it fills with boomers. This group will be one of the biggest growth markets for participatory sports" (Wellner, 1997, p. 5). These "baby boomers" will demand recreational activities that meet their specific needs.

In Wellner's discussion of recreational activities by household income, middle income (\$25,000-\$49,999) households were compared to high income (\$100,000 +) households. "Households with incomes of \$100,000 or more have higher rates of participation in activities that require expensive equipment or travel" (Wellner, 1997, p. 20). This makes sense, because individuals in this income bracket have more discretionary money to spend than those individuals in lower income brackets. Interestingly, the top five activities in both of these categories consisted of walking, swimming (pool), swimming (non-pool), picnicking, and bicycling.

"The gender gap is still alive and well in outdoor sports and recreation" (Wellner, 1997, p. 25). Men are more likely to participate in such activities as: freshwater fishing, golf, basketball, and hunting (Wellner, 1997) Conversely, women participate more frequently than men in bird watching, picnicking, walking, and horseback riding. The number of women in most sports and recreational activities is growing. Looking at the big picture, both sexes most frequently participate in walking, picnicking, and swimming.

Wellner examined the ethnic groups of White, Black, and "Other" (1997). "Other" consisted of Asians and Hispanics. Income differences among the various ethnic groups, as well as the geographic locations in which they lived, played a large part in the differences seen among the races. All ethnic groups listed walking and picnicking as the top two outdoor recreational activities based on rates of participation.

Finally, education can impact the outdoor recreational activities an individual chooses. There are three reasons for this impact: (1) "income rises steadily with education; (2) being in college exposes young adults to sport and recreational activities in which they would not otherwise take part; and, (3) age" (Wellner, 1997, p. 38). College graduates are likely to participate in walking, hiking, swimming, and golf. High school graduates are likely to participate in freshwater fishing and big game hunting. Once again, walking, picnicking, and swimming were in the top three activities in which people participated.

Additionally, Wellner specifically looked at participation in fishing because it "is one of the most-popular recreational activities in the United States" (1997, p. 70). Fishing can be inexpensive; therefore, popularity in this activity varies little by income. It is a popular activity across age groups and educational levels. Men, however, were found to be more likely to fish than women (Wellner, 1997).

According to the 2000 census, the total population of Perry was 5,230. The ages were split fairly equally with males numbering 2,512 and females at 2,718. The median age of Perry residents in 2000 was 38.3 years. The overwhelming majority (4,693) of residents were white. The average household size in 2000 was 2.31, and the average family size was 2.88.

### Leisure Constraints

An emerging field of research in leisure is related to leisure constraints. "Leisure constraints are factors that are assumed by researchers and perceived by individuals to inhibit or prohibit participation and enjoyment of leisure" (Jackson, 1991, p. 279). According to the work of Jackson (1991), this research has three important functions. First, it helps the profession to understand the ways in which leisure is confined. Secondly, the research provides insights on new areas of leisure that until recently have been "undiscovered" in certain population segments. Thirdly, it can serve as a means to identify new connections in leisure.

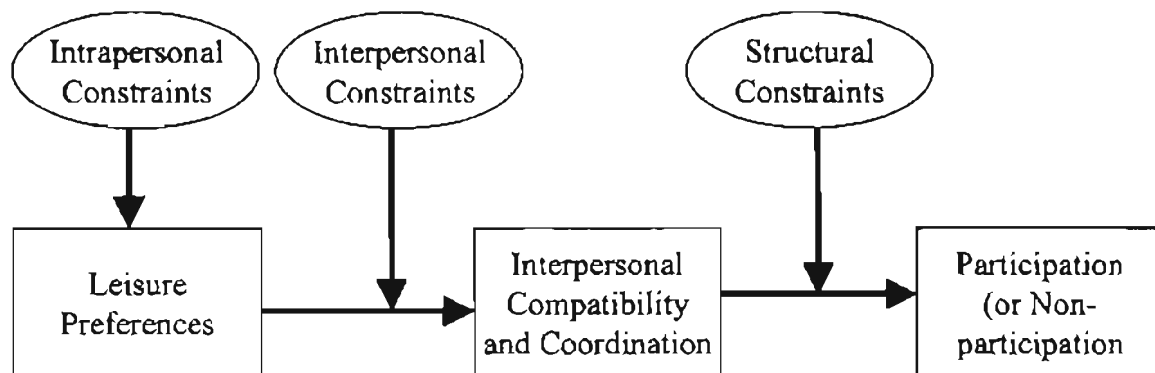
Shaw, Bonen, and McCabe (1991) identified two types of constraint: internal and external. Internal constraints include such things as "personal skills, abilities, knowledge, and health problems" (p. 287). Examples of external constraints are "lack of time, financial cost, lack of facilities, and transportation or location of facilities" (p. 287). By understanding the reasons why individuals do not participate in leisure activities, leisure providers can be better equipped to provide services for their customers.

Crawford, Jackson, and Godbey (1991) categorized constraints as structural, intrapersonal, and interpersonal. Structural constraints include things such as financial resources, place, availability, season, climate, etc. Intrapersonal constraints are within the person and include stress, depression, perceived skill, appropriateness, anxiety, etc. Interpersonal constraints include

relationships with others, or not having a partner with whom to participate. In addition to identifying types of constraints, Crawford et al. (1991) developed a hierarchical model of leisure constraints. Figure 1 illustrates this model.

FIGURE 1

## HIERARCHICAL MODEL OF LEISURE CONSTRAINTS



To see this model in action, assume an individual wants to participate in a particular activity. Depending on the activity, the individual will first need to overcome any intrapersonal constraints. The appropriateness of the activity as well as the individual's perceived ability, their skill level, along with other intrapersonal factors is evaluated by the person. If the individual feels that he or she will be successful at the activity, that it is appropriate for him or her to participate in the activity, and no other intrapersonal barriers exist, the individual then moves on to the next step in the model.

The next barrier to participation is interpersonal constraints. Some activities require other individuals to participate. If an individual does not have a ballroom dance partner, it is difficult for that person to participate in that activity.

Structural constraints make up the final barrier. Many activities require a special area for participation; golf, for example, requires a course. If an individual does not have a place to participate, or if the weather or financial resources are not sufficient, the individual will be prevented from participation.

### Needs Assessments

Before needs assessments are examined, the definition of needs requires presentation. Needs are defined by Rossman (1995) as a "state of deprivation arising out of the basic innate biological characteristics of humans" (p. 137). Needs are also defined as "something that drives individuals to act in a certain way" (DeGraaf, Jordan, & DeGraaf, 1999, p. 76). People need to participate in activities that they find intrinsically rewarding (Rossman, 1995). These needs are innately provided by leisure and recreation programs (Rossman, 1995).

One of the most popular models for looking at needs was created by Abraham Maslow (1970). This model outlined four needs that must be fulfilled before the person can achieve "self-actualization". At the base, or foundation, lies physiological needs, such as a person's need for air, food, water, sleep, etc. Safety makes up the next set of needs that require fulfillment and consist of shelter, protection from the environment, other people who wish to do them harm, etc. Social needs rest third on the hierarchy and are concerned with love and affection, the need to belong, to be understood by others, to be around other people, etc. Esteem needs are those needs for self-respect, self-worth,



dignity, respect from others, etc. Once all these needs are met, the individual can strive for self-actualization (Maslow, 1970). Self-Actualization is defined as “striving to realize one's inherent potential – to fully develop one's capabilities and talents” (Gerrig & Zimbardo, 1999, p. 563). While Maslow's theory is criticized for being too simple and linear, it does show that it is possible to know needs and “that meeting one set of need may leave a person open to experiencing another set of more complex needs” (Reviere, Berkowitz, Carter, & Ferguson, 1996, p. 4).

Needs are also dependent on an individual's values. Values consist of an individual's ideas about what is good, right, and desirable. These values are believed to form the basis for that individuals behavior and decisions (Reviere, 1996). Historical antecedents, such as wars, depression, etc, along with age, also affect how an individual defines needs (Reviere et al, 1996).

DeGraaf, Jordan, and DeGraaf (1999) defined five different types of needs. Expressed needs are those activities “in which people are currently participating” (pg. 77). If someone participates in basketball, then that person has a need for that activity. Needs that a person has, but has not yet acted upon, are felt needs. Felt needs would be if someone would like to play basketball, but has been playing it. Comparative needs are when an individual compares those recreation opportunities available to them to those opportunities available to people in surrounding areas. Normative needs are those needs “established by experts in the field” (DeGraaf, Jordan, & Degraaf, 1999, pg. 78).

“Assessing needs allows an understanding of issues and concerns that are confronting the community and agency within the context of a planning framework” (Mertes & Hall, 1996, p. 23). Various planning models have been developed for programming recreation services (DeGraaf, Jordan, & DeGraaf, 1999; Kraus & Curtis, 1990; McCarville, 1993; Mertes & Hall, 1996). In every one of these models, one of the steps is discovering the customer's needs. By understanding the customer needs, the leisure provider can take steps to meet those needs and develop a productive recreation program.

The use of needs assessments and surveys is one way that this information can be obtained. “Needs assessments enable leisure professionals to seek out participant and citizen input about programming ideas, desires, and needs of various constituent groups” (DeGraaf, Jordan, & DeGraaf, 1999, p. 75).

Kelsey and Gray defined a community survey as “the process of identifying the interests, desires, participation, priorities and awareness factors of randomly selected citizens regarding parks and recreation programs, resources and facilities” (1986, p. 1). Their writings on the Citizen Survey Process specifically relate to the use of surveys in parks and recreation. This work includes all the steps involved in the survey process and includes sample surveys for use as reference.

Because of time constraints on research, difficulty locating willing interviewees, cost and difficulty finding competent interviewers, alternatives to the face to face interview needed to be developed. Mail surveys, however, have

historically been seen as inadequate and as having little worth (Dillman, 1978). To address these concerns, Dillman developed the “Total Design Method” for mail and telephone surveys. His process outlines various tips and design layouts to help increase the response and effectiveness of mail and telephone surveys. In his work on surveys, Dillman (1978) identified three key ways a researcher can improve response on mail surveys: (1) reward the respondent, (2) reduce cost to the respondent, and (3) establish trust.

Tips for developing the questions for a survey are divided into three parts: (1) information sought; (2) question structure; and, (3) choice of words (Dillman, 1978). Information sought by researchers includes attitudes, beliefs, behaviors and attributes. Questions may be open-ended, closed ended, closed ended with unordered response choices, and partially closed ended. In choosing the words to use in the survey, the researcher must use simple language, but not talk down to the respondent; be specific, but not too specific; avoid bias, objectionable and hypothetical questions (Dillman, 1978)

After the questions are identified, the researcher needs to construct the survey. First, Dillman (1978, p. 121) offered these suggestions:

1. The questionnaire is printed as a booklet;
2. No questions are permitted on the front or back pages;
3. The questionnaire pages are printed in a photographically reduced form (79% actual size); and,

4. The questionnaire booklet is reproduced on white or off-white paper by a printing method that provides quality very close to the original typed copy.

Dillman (1978) then discussed the order of the questions. Questions about demographics should be reserved for the final items on the questionnaire. The first question should be easy to understand, convey a sense of neutrality, be applicable to all respondents, and interesting to everyone. Dillman went on to outline the formulating of the pages in the survey including: using lower case letters for questions and upper case letters for answers; identifying answer categories; establishing a vertical flow; providing directions on how to answer the questions; designing items in a series; using multiple columns, showing how to skip screening questions; making the questions fit the page; and using transitions. Dillman (1978) also described how to design the front and back covers of the survey.

Once the survey is developed, it must be implemented. Dillman (1978) offered several ideas. The first step in this process is writing a cover letter. This letter should introduce the survey and motivate the respondent to complete and return it expeditiously. In addition, the cover letter should "explain what the study is about and convince the respondent that the study is useful" (Dillman, 1978, p. 165). The cover letter should let the respondent know that he/she is important to the success of the study and that his/her answers will be confidential. The letter should end by thanking the respondent, and with a proper closing, the sender's name and his or her title (Dillman, 1978).

Once the survey is mailed, it should be mailed first class and include return postage. The questionnaire should be mailed out on a Monday or a Tuesday and should not be mailed out close to a holiday or during the month of December (Dillman, 1978). Dillman (1978) suggested that three follow-up mailings should be used. Following these guidelines could result in a response rate of anywhere from 60-80% (Dillman, 1978)

## CHAPTER III

### METHODOLOGY

#### Introduction

This study was designed to determine what the citizens of Perry perceive as valuable in a parks system. Furthermore, the researcher wished to learn why the citizens currently do not use the parks as much as city staff desired and what can be done to make the parks more “user friendly”. In order to determine these things, a survey was designed and distributed to the residents of the city of Perry.

Chapter three will discuss the descriptive research method used in this study. The subjects who received the survey will be defined and the development of the survey instrument will be presented and discussed. The design of the research and finally, the procedure used in conducting the research will be outlined.

#### Subjects

The subjects for this project were randomly chosen from those households listed on the city utility services provided by the city of Perry. The total number of households served by the city was estimated at 2300. According to the 2000 census data, the city of Perry contains 5,230 residents, 90% of those identified as Caucasian. Females comprise 2,718 (52%) of the residents. Males

number 2,512 (48%) of residents (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The 1990 Census showed that 26% of Perry residents had a high school diploma; 25% of residents did not have a high school diploma; college graduates made up 6% of the population, while individuals with post-graduate degrees made up 2% of the population (U.S. Census Bureau, 1990).

Because this was a descriptive study, 10-20% of the population was considered minimum for a sample size (Gay, 1987) or in this case a sample size of 230-460 households was appropriate. According to Riddick and Russell (1998), for a population of 2400, a sample size of 331 should be used to keep sampling error to +/- 5%. Assuming a 66% response rate, 500 surveys were sent out to have 331 returned. This sample size of 331 falls within the 10-20% range prescribed by Gay. The mathematical calculations are as follows:

Sample Size:

$$10\% \times 2300 = 230$$

$$20\% \times 2300 = 460$$

Surveys Returned:

$$66\% \times 500 = 330$$

### Instrument

This survey was aimed at discovering why the parks were not being utilized and what can be done so that the citizens of Perry will make the most of them. The instrument was subject to approval by the Institutional Review Board

of Oklahoma State University and was reviewed for approval by representatives of the city of Perry.

The survey was developed using a modified Dillman Total Design Method for mail and telephone surveys. The tips presented by Dillman in writing the cover letter were used, as well as the ideas on the basic layout of the survey. Because some of the information presented by Dillman was based on a typewriter, the researcher adapted it to fit the new technology available today. The use of follow-up letters suggested by Dillman was not used. Because of cost, time, and in an attempt to keep the response strictly voluntary and not pressured or coerced in any way, these methods were not utilized. Also, similar surveys were used in development of the survey items.

The survey was a nine page, pen and pencil survey with 19 items. The survey was presented in booklet form and titled: "Perry Parks Community Needs Assessment". A copy of the survey is located in Appendix D. Two sets of the survey was utilized, the first had a blue cover and was mailed out to the randomly selected sample of Perry residents via the U.S. Postal Service. The second set had a yellow cover and was made available at the following locations throughout the community: Perry City Hall, Noble County Courthouse, Carnegie Library, First Bank and Trust, Exchange Bank and Trust, Wheatheart Nutrition Center, the Senior Citizen Center and Wal-mart. The surveys sent to the randomly selected sample included a cover letter that outlined the purpose of the study and thanked the resident for their participation. A copy of this letter



may be found in Appendix C.

The questions on the survey were aimed at determining current use of facilities and the recreational activities in which residents currently participate within the city of Perry. A question concerning leisure constraints, why the residents do not use the facilities, was also included. The time of day the residents have free for recreation and locations that they use for recreation were also asked.

Residents were asked to rate their satisfaction of the park areas and rank the importance of several leisure activities. Residents were also asked to rank the importance of future facilities and activities that could be incorporated into the parks system. Additionally, residents were asked if they would use a trail that would link the Ditch Witch facility to shopping areas, and if they would use a trail that would link the city to the CCC Lake area. The activities listed in the various questions were taken from information provided by Wellner (1997) and Perry city leadership.

Six items on the survey addressed the demographic profile of the respondents. These items were included to help determine whether or not the sample chosen for this survey was representative of the population of the city of Perry. This information was developed using the categories presented on the 1990 census information and the categories presented by Wellner (1997). Sex, age, employment status, education level, and ethnic group were all included because of their impacts on the recreational choices of the individual.

The survey was reviewed by Mr. Jim Davis, Public Services Director for the city of Perry, Mrs. Brenda Stotts, city of Perry, and Mr. Leeroy Rolling, Perry Mayor. They suggested no significant changes. The survey was also submitted for approval with the Oklahoma State University Institutional Review Board for an exempt review. The application was approved on June 4, 2001. The IRB approval form may be found in Appendix E.

### Research Design

This study utilized a modified Dillman's total design method and was conducted as a descriptive study based on survey research. It also included on-site evaluations of the present recreational facilities for compliance with appropriate national standards. Five hundred households in the city of Perry were randomly selected, based upon utility billings, to receive a survey designed according to specifications in the total design method. A six-sided die was used to randomly select those households that received the survey. Similarly, 300 additional surveys were placed at several public areas throughout the town for those individuals who wished to have their voices heard, but who may not have been selected in the random sample.

Responses from the two surveys were coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 9.0 for Windows. Chi-Square and t-tests were utilized to determine if the two groups were representative of the same population. If the responses from the randomly

selected sample and the self-initiated response group were shown to be statistically similar, meaning from the same "sample," those results would be combined and analyzed further. If the responses from the two groups were dissimilar, indicating the random sample and the self-initiated responses were statistically different, both groups would be reported, but only the random sample would be employed for the purposes of this study.

### Procedure

A randomly selected sample of approximately one fifth of the citizens of Perry, or 500 residents, were chosen to receive the survey. The city utility bill listing (estimated at 2300 residential meters) was the basis for a selection of a random, scientific sample. Individuals who wished to have their voices heard, but who were not selected in the sample, were given the opportunity to pick up surveys at various public locations in the city. The surveys were made available to residents on 1 July 2001. Upon completion, respondents mailed the surveys back to Oklahoma State University by 15 July 2001 on prepaid postage. The respondents were randomly chosen from the estimated 2300 meters listed on the Perry Utility Bill listing. The city of Perry provided a listing of 2,886 address labels. These labels were on sheets of 12 and divided into sets of 6. In order to obtain 500 labels for a random sample, one six sided die was rolled for each set of six labels and the label that corresponded with the number rolled on the die

was used. If the label was for a business, the next label was chosen, so that only households were chosen for the sample.

Using this method, five hundred residents were chosen to receive the survey. With a 66% anticipated response rate, this sample size should result in 330 questionnaires returned. This response size fits within the 10-20% range outlined as an appropriate sample size by Gay (1987). This response size also correlates with the recommendation of Riddick and Russell of having a sample size of 331 for a population of 2400 to keep sampling error to +/-5% (Riddick & Russell, 1999).

A press release was written and delivered to the local paper, the Perry Daily Journal, for publication. A copy was also given to the local radio station for a public service announcement. This release was provided on June 14, 2001. (See Appendix F). The release appeared on the front page of the June 19, 2001 newspaper.

Surveys marked with a yellow cover were provided at various public areas around town for those residents who wished to complete a survey, but who were not selected in the sample. These surveys were required to be mailed back to Oklahoma State University by 15 July 2001 on prepaid postage.

Both sets of surveys were compiled and Chi-Square and T-test analyses of the data were compared to those sent out to the randomly selected sample. If no significant difference was evident in the two groups, meaning that they came from the same population, these two groups would be combined and analyzed

as a whole. However, if when analyzed, the two groups were shown to be statistically different, from a different population, only the information gained from the randomly selected sample would be used.

### Statistical Analysis

The data gathered through the survey were compiled and analyzed using chi-square, t-test, ANOVA, Spearman Correlation, and frequencies statistical methods and presented using texts, charts and graphs. For the purpose of this study, a 5% significance level was selected for all analyses. The data received from the survey were coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 9.0 for Windows computer program. This computer program was used to calculate frequencies, means, standard deviations, chi-square, t-test, ANOVA and Spearman correlation data.

### Research Questions and Hypotheses

In developing this study, the researcher identified various questions that she and the city of Perry desired to have answered. These questions are identified below:

1. In what forms of recreation do Perry residents participate?
2. What preferences do Perry residents indicate for public parks and recreation areas in their community?
3. What constraints prevent the citizens of Perry from utilizing the park areas?
4. What facilities can be provided to make the Perry parks more desirable?

5. What attitudes and opinions related to public recreation opportunities are shown by Perry residents?
6. How do these attitudes and opinions reflect demographic patterns within the city of Perry?

Some of these research questions must be answered using qualitative information gained from library research, archival data, on-site evaluation, or survey responses. Other research questions may be addressed as research hypotheses. The following hypotheses were tested as a part of this project. All hypotheses were tested at an  $\alpha = .05$ .

$H_{01}$ : There is no difference in attitude or opinion related to public recreation opportunities based upon demographic characteristics of the respondents.

$H_{02}$ : There is no difference in present participation in recreation among respondents based upon demographic characteristics.

$H_{03}$ : There is no difference in preferences for future development of public recreation facilities based upon demographic characteristics of the respondents.

$H_{04}$ : There is no difference in attitudes or opinions expressed by the random sample and the voluntary sample.

The survey questions were divided into three groups in order to analyze the hypotheses. Question 7 (how satisfied were you with the parks) and Question 11 (importance of various activities) were related to attitude and

opinion and used t-tests to answer hypothesis one and four. Question 1 (how often have you used the parks), Question 2 (why do you not use the facilities), Question 3 (what times do you have free for recreation), Question 4 (other locations visited for recreation purposes), Question 5 (activities participated in at the parks), Question 6 (facilities used at the parks), and Question 12 (activities participated in at CCC or Perry Lake) were related to participation and used to analyze hypothesis two. Question 8 (rank the importance of the following facilities), Question 9 (use of a trail on the west side of Perry), Question 10 (use of a trail on the south side of Perry), and Question 13 (rank the importance of the following facilities at CCC and Perry Lake) were related to future development and used to analyze hypothesis three. Chapter four will go more in depth about the analysis of these data and the decisions for each of the hypotheses.

### Playground Evaluations

In order to determine whether or not the playgrounds in Perry met the Consumer Products Safety Commission Standards on Playground Safety, it was necessary to perform on-site evaluations of these areas. Brookwood, Century, Klein, Leo, Lion, and Rainbow parks all contain some type of play equipment. CCC and Perry lakes also had play equipment. The play equipment was evaluated using the Handbook for Public Playground Safety published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (1997).

## Interviews

In addition to the surveys which were used to gather information about what the citizens of Perry thought about the parks, the researcher visited with several members of Perry city leadership in order to gain information about the history of the area. June Reim provided information regarding the CCC lake area and some stories about the names of the parks. Brenda Stotts provided information about the physical addresses of the parks and other information. Jim Davis was consulted during the development of the survey to ensure that the survey would meet the needs of the city.

Chapter four presents the research findings in depth. Responses to the survey are included in this chapter. The decisions related to the research questions and hypotheses are presented.



## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS

#### Introduction

The city of Perry wanted to have a survey conducted in order to determine what the residents want to have in their parks and what efforts may increase use of parks. This survey was also aimed at determining the attitudes and opinions of Perry residents towards their parks system. Additionally, questions were asked regarding use or non-use of these parks. All eight existing parks in Perry were included in this study, as were the CCC and Perry Lake areas.

After the survey was developed, it was mailed out to a sample of 500 households in the city of Perry. The city utility bill listing was used to obtain a random statistical sample. These surveys were marked with a blue cover and were mailed out on 1 July 2001 and were to be returned by 15 July 2001. In addition to these surveys, 300 surveys, marked with a yellow cover, were made available at various locations throughout the city of Perry so that those individuals who wished to have their voice heard, but were not chosen in the random sample, could reply.

This chapter will review the procedures used in analyzing the data obtained from these surveys. The results from various statistical analyses are presented. This chapter also reviews the research questions and hypotheses developed as a part of this study.

### Return Rate

Out of the 500 surveys mailed out to the random sample, 117 surveys were returned. This resulted in a 23.4% return rate for the randomly selected sample. Out of the 300 surveys made available for other residents, 30 were returned. This resulted in a 10% response rate. Overall, out of 800 surveys, 147 were returned for an overall response rate of 18.4%. This response rate was well below the anticipated response of 66%. In addition, four surveys were returned by the U.S. Postal Service because they were undeliverable. The following table illustrates the return rate of the surveys.

TABLE 2  
RETURN RATE OF SURVEYS

Surveys Sent	Number Returned	Percentage
500 Blue (Random)	117	23.4%
300 Yellow (Voluntary)	30	10%
800 Total	147	18.4%

Some respondents chose not to answer all of the questions on the survey.

Regardless, all surveys and the information that they contained were used in the analysis.

### Demographics of Respondents

The first step in analyzing the data was to determine if the two survey sets were from the same sample. This was accomplished by examining the

demographics data requested on the surveys. Chi-Square analyses were used to compare respondent's Sex, Education, Ethnicity, and Employment. Using a 5% significance level ( $\alpha = .05$ ), it was found that no statistical differences existed between the two groups on these areas. Table 3 shows the results of the Pearson Chi-Square analysis of the color of the survey (blue the 500 random sample or yellow the volunteer sample), and the demographics of Sex, Education, Ethnicity and Employment.

TABLE 3  
DEMOGRAPHICS COMPARED TO METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

Demographic	Blue Surveys	Yellow Surveys	Total	Degrees of Freedom	Chi-Square	Probability
Sex	113	29	142	1	3.271	.071
Education	113	28	141	5	7.241	.203
Ethnicity	112	29	141	2	1.623	.444
Employment	113	29	142	4	5.024	.285

A t-test was used to compare the groups on Age, Family Size and Members of the Family Under the Age of 17. Using a 5% significance level, it was found that there was a significance difference in the age of the two groups. The voluntary respondents tended to be younger than the random sample. Family Size showed no significant difference. There was also no significant difference in the number of Members in the Family Under the Age of 17.

TABLE 4  
AGE/FAMILY SIZE/FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER 17  
AND METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

Demographic - Survey Color	Mean	Standard Deviation	Degrees of Freedom	t	Probability
Age Blue Yellow	53.07 44.93	15.22 14.92	139	2.543	.012*
Family Size Blue Yellow	2.71 3.03	1.70 1.12	138	-.967	.335
Members Under 17 Blue Yellow	1.14 1.18	1.56 1.01	86	-.128	.898

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

Using the 5% significance level ( $\alpha = .05$ ), a difference was discovered with respect to age, the voluntary sample was younger than the random sample. It was decided that even though the two groups were different in age, they were similar in the other areas. Thus, to increase the number of surveys available for analysis, the two groups were combined and analyzed as a whole, with the understanding that there was a difference in age.

The mean age of the respondents was 51.5 years. The youngest respondent was 22, and the oldest respondent was 81. The mean family size was 2.8 persons in household and the mean number of persons under the age of 17 in the household was 1.1. Thirty eight point nine percent of the respondents were male and 61.1% were female. Education was split fairly evenly between high school graduates with 28.7% of respondents, respondents who had some college (27.3%), and respondents who were college graduates (28.0%).

TABLE 5  
EDUCATION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

Education	Frequency	Percent
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	2	1.4%
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , No diploma	5	3.5%
High school graduate	41	28.7%
Some college	39	27.3%
College graduate	40	28.0%
Post-graduate degree	16	11.2%

The respondents were overwhelmingly white as demonstrated by 95.8% of respondents. The majority, 54.2%, of respondents were employed full time; 27.1% of the respondents were retired.

TABLE 6  
ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENTS

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
White	137	95.8%
Black	4	2.8%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	2	1.4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
Other	0	0

TABLE 7  
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

Employment	Frequency	Percent
Employed Full Time	78	54.2%
Employed Part-Time	8	5.6%
Homemaker	16	11.1%
Retired	39	27.1%
Unemployed	3	2.1%

Table 8 compares the demographic data from the 1990 Census, 2000 Census and the data obtained from the surveys. The age, number in household, and number in the household under 17 are presented using the median values. All other data are presented as frequencies and percentages of the total population. Percentages were rounded to the nearest tenth (in most cases) and may not total to 100%. Additionally, percentages listed under the survey data columns may not total 100% because some respondents failed to respond to that question. Some areas contained no data from the two different censuses; therefore, those items were left blank. It should be noted that while the census data includes all ages, the survey data include only the ages of the respondents who were over the age of 18.

TABLE 8

## 1990 CENSUS, 2000 CENSUS, AND SURVEY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Demographic	1990 census	1990 percent	2000 census	2000 percent	Survey Data	Survey percent
Total	4,978		5,230		147	
Age (median)	36.8		38.3		50	
Male	2,329	47%	2,512	48%	56	38%
Female	2,649	53%	2,718	52%	88	60%
Family size (median)			2 31		2	
Family members under 17 (median)					1	
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	375	13%			2	1.4%
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> no diploma	589	12%			5	3.4%
High school graduate	1,306	26%			41	28%
Some college	680	14%			39	26%
College graduate	299	6%			40	27%
Post-graduate degree	112	2%			16	11%
Ethnicity: White	4,549	91%	4,693	90%	137	93%
Ethnicity: Black	198	4%	164	3.1%	4	3%

TABLE 8  
CONTINUED

Demographic	1990 census	1990 percent	2000 census	2000 percent	Survey Data	Survey percent
Ethnicity: American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	176	3.5%	175	3.3%	2	1.4%
Ethnicity: Asian or Pacific Islander	11	0.2%	29	0.6%	0	
Ethnicity: Hispanic	65	1.3%	96	1.8%	0	
Employed full-time					78	53%
Employed part-time					8	5.4%
Homemaker					16	11%
Retired					39	26%
Unemployed					3	2%



When comparing the survey data to the data available in the 1990 and 2000 censuses, it was found that those individuals who responded to the survey tended to be older than census numbers. Also, females were more likely to respond to the survey than were males. The survey respondents were also more educated than those on the census. The rate of response increased with the education level of the respondents.

Next, frequencies and means were calculated for all survey responses. Appendix D has a listing of all the questions on the survey and the responses. Frequencies were used for all questions, with the exception of Question 8 (rank the importance of the following facilities), Question 13 (rank the importance of the following facilities at CCC and Perry Lake), age, number of persons in your household, and number of persons in your household under 17 years of age. Means were calculated for these questions. Means were also calculated for Question 7 (how satisfied were you with the parks) and Question 11 (importance of various activities).

#### Response to Survey Items

The Perry Community Needs Assessment contained 13 questions and 6 demographic items. The following is a listing of all the questions on the survey and the responses to those questions.

**Question 1. "How often during the past 12 months have you, or someone in your household, used the following park areas? Check the**

**box that most closely matches your frequency of use for the identified park.”**

Century Park is the most used park in Perry, 108 respondents (79.4%) indicated that they used that park. Lion Park is second in terms of use with, 90 respondents (68.7%) who indicated that they used that park. Perry residents were not familiar with several of the parks. Thirty-five respondents (28.0%) were not familiar with Brookwood Park, while 36 respondents (28.3%) were not familiar with Rainbow Park. Twenty-six respondents (20.8%) indicated that they were not familiar with Jaycee Park, and 26 respondents (20.5%) indicated that they were not familiar with Klein Park. Five of the parks had over 50% of responses indicating that respondents never used that park: Brookwood (56.8%), Jaycee (67.2%), Klein (69.3%), Rainbow (63.0%), and Rotary (65.4%). Table 9 shows the responses by park; frequency and percentages are included.

TABLE 9  
RESPONSES TO QUESTION 1 - USE OF PARK AREAS

	Not familiar with the park	Never use the park	Once or twice per year	Once or twice per month	Once or twice per week
Brookwood Park	35 (28.0%)	71 (56.8%)	17 (13.6%)	2 (1.6%)	0 (0%)
CCC Lake	4 (3.0%)	2 (20.5%)	77 (58.3%)	19 (14.4%)	5 (3.8%)
Century Park	5 (3.7%)	23 (16.9%)	51 (37.5%)	32 (23.5%)	25 (18.4%)
Jaycee Park	26 (20.8%)	84 (67.2%)	12 (9.6%)	2 (1.6%)	1 (.8%)
Klein Park	26 (20.5%)	88 (69.3%)	11 (8.7%)	2 (1.6%)	0 (0%)
Leo Park	4 (3.1%)	60 (46.5%)	49 (38.0%)	13 (10.1%)	3 (2.3%)
Lion Park	2 (1.5%)	39 (29.8%)	55 (42.0%)	25 (19.1%)	10 (7.6%)
Perry Lake	5 (3.8%)	52 (39.1%)	60 (45.1%)	10 (7.5%)	6 (4.5%)
Rainbow Park	36 (28.3%)	80 (63.0%)	9 (7.1%)	2 (1.6%)	0 (0%)
Rotary Park	20 (15.4%)	85 (65.4%)	16 (12.3%)	2 (1.5%)	7 (5.4%)

**Question 2. "If you have NOT used any of the facilities at any of the parks, please check why you do not use these facilities."**

The majority of respondents to this question indicated that the facilities did not meet their needs (39.5%). Lack of transportation was not an issue identified by any respondent. No time for recreation (15.6%) and other reasons

(15.0%) were second and third respectively. Table 10 shows these items, the frequency of responses and the percentages of those responses. Additionally, Table 11 lists those responses listed under "other", the responses were copied just as the respondent wrote the comment on the survey.

TABLE 10

RESPONSES TO QUESTION 2 - WHY RESIDENTS DO NOT USE THE PARK FACILITIES

12 (7.8%)	Distance to the park
0 (0%)	Lack of transportation to get to the park
23 (15.0%)	No available time to participate in recreation
58 (37.9%)	Facilities do not meet my needs or those of my family
12 (7.8%)	Physical disability or lack of accommodation at the park
13 (8.4%)	Lack of lighting
13 (8.4%)	Lack of security
22 (14.4%)	Other: (specify)

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153 Total Responses

TABLE 11

**"OTHER" RESPONSES TO QUESTION 2 - WHY RESIDENTS DO NOT USE  
THE PARK FACILITIES**

Color	Survey	Response
Blue	28	Not familiar
	33	Other interests than parks
	35	am 79 - take grandkids
	40	We have three children who also live here in town so we use our homes
	42	Need more than playground equipment for young or just walking tracks for old add exercise stations, bike trails, horseshoe pits
	45	Century park is the only area worth going to - the rest are just around
	47	I am an older widow
	52	No longer have children at home
	74	My recreational activities aren't done in parks
	89	Due to my age (75) I no longer take part in activities that I enjoyed in the past
	99	Just not interested
	101	No reason, have land in country
	107	No need
Yellow	122	Just had no reason
	126	We currently don't have small children in our home
	130	Age
	133	Rotary park is inaccessible
	135	Family growing older
	136	CCC and Perry lakes have no available campsites except primitive
	140	Grass not kept mowed; no restrooms

**Question 3: “What time or times of day, during the week, would you most often have free for participation in activities that you would consider social or recreational? (Check all that apply.)”**

The majority of respondents indicated that from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm was the time that they had available for recreation. Table 12 shows the frequencies of responses to this question. Since multiple responses were possible, the total number of responses exceeded the number of respondents.

TABLE 12

## RESPONSES TO QUESTION 3 - TIMES AVAILABLE FOR RECREATION

N (%)	Available Time	N (%)	Available Time	N (%)	Available Time
30 (11%)	6 am to 9 am	40 (14.8%)	3 pm to 6 pm	7 (2.6%)	12 midnight to 3 am
21 (7.8%)	9 am to 12 noon	104 (38.7%)	6 pm to 9 pm	5 (1.9%)	3 am to 6 am
24 (8.9%)	12 noon to 3 pm	29 (10.8%)	9 pm to 12 midnight	9 (3.3%)	No free time

269 Total Responses

**Question 4: “Please indicate other locations that you or members of your household visit for recreational purposes. Check all that apply.”**

On this question, “church” received the most responses (32%). This indicates that other than the parks, Perry residents are most likely to use church facilities for recreation. The Perry YMCA rated second with 71 responses (22%). Lake McMurtry (12.7%) and Lake Carl Blackwell (14.9%) received about the

same number of responses. See Table 13 for the frequencies and percentages of responses on question 4.

TABLE 13  
RESPONSES TO QUESTION 4 - OTHER LOCATIONS VISITED FOR RECREATION

Frequency	%	Location
71	(22%)	YMCA in Perry
103	(32%)	Church
39	(12.1%)	Private facilities
41	(12.7%)	Lake McMurtry
48	(14.9%)	Lake Carl Blackwell
20	(6.2%)	Other

322 Total Responses

**Question 5. "Please check which of the following activities you or someone in your household have participated in at the following parks during the past 12 months. (Check all that apply.)"**

This question specifically addressed those activities in which the respondent participated at the different parks. As can be seen in Table 14, Century Park was the most frequently used park with the greatest variety of activity. Picnicking, playing on play equipment and walking or jogging, were the most frequently reported activities. Table 14 shows the frequency of responses for Question 5.

TABLE 14

**RESPONSES TO QUESTION 5 - ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN AT THE PARKS**

Number of Responses Multiple Responses Possible	Brookwood	Century	Jaycee	Klein	Leo	Lion	Rainbow	Rotary
Bicycling	0	8	1	1	1	2	0	2
Bird Watching	0	4	0	1	4	6	0	3
Picnicking	2	59	0	3	23	42	2	1
Playing on Play Equipment	6	57	2	0	26	46	6	0
Relaxing	5	29	1	2	12	28	2	2
Sports Activities	0	25	2	0	11	19	0	0
Walking/jogging	5	77	0	3	7	7	1	11
Other: (specify the activity)	1	7	0	0	1	5	0	2

**Question 6. "Please check which facilities you or someone in your household have used at the following parks during the past 12 months. (Check all that apply. The darkened squares indicate that a given park does not include the identified facility.)"**

Question 6 addressed the various facilities that were utilized in the different parks. Century Park received the most number of responses. Play equipment and picnic areas were the most frequent responses. Walking or jogging trails also received a large number of responses. Refer to Table 15 for the frequency of responses to this question.



TABLE 15

## RESPONSES TO QUESTION 6 - FACILITIES USED AT THE PARKS

Number of Responses Multiple Responses Possible	Brookwood	Century	Jaycee	Klein	Leo	Lion	Rainbow	Rotary
Play Equipment	7	54		1	28	50	7	
Basketball Court	3	30			8	11	1	
Volley Ball Court		25						
Soccer Field		7						
Tennis Court					8			
Walking/Jogging trail		80						11
Pool Area						51		
Picnic Area	3	71	0	3	23	46	3	1

Multiple Responses Possible

**Question 7. "If you, or someone in your household, has used the following areas, how satisfied were you with the area and facilities? If you are not aware of a specific park, or have no information about that park, please leave the item blank."**

For the most part, the respondents were fairly satisfied with the parks. Century Park received by far the most satisfactory responses. Lion and Leo Parks also received a majority of satisfactory responses. Brookwood received more satisfactory responses than dissatisfactory responses. CCC, Jaycee, and Perry received almost an even number of satisfactory and dissatisfactory responses. Rainbow, Rotary, and Klein received more dissatisfactory responses

than satisfactory. Table 16 shows the frequency of responses on this question. The total number of responses for each row are given. The percentages shown are the percent of the total responses for that row.

TABLE 16

## RESPONSES TO QUESTION 7 - SATISFACTION WITH THE PARKS

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	No opinion	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Row Totals
Brookwood Park	1 (2.9%)	4 (11.7%)	18 (52.9%)	9 (26.5%)	2 (5.9%)	34
CCC Lake	13 (14.9%)	25 (28.7%)	7 (8.05%)	26 (29.9%)	16 (18.4%)	87
Century Park	6 (5.8%)	4 (3.8%)	2 (1.9%)	24 (23.1%)	68 (65.4%)	104
Jaycee Park	4 (13.8%)	1 (3.4%)	19 (65.5%)	3 (10.3%)	2 (6.9%)	29
Klein Park	3 (12.5%)	0 (0%)	19 (79.2%)	2 (8.3%)	0 (0%)	24
Leo Park	1 (1.7%)	6 (10.2%)	13 (22%)	23 (38.9%)	16 (27.1%)	59
Lion Park	3 (3.5%)	5 (5.9%)	8 (9.4%)	34 (40%)	35 (41.2%)	85
Perry Lake	11 (16.7%)	12 (18.2%)	10 (15.2%)	22 (33.3%)	11 (16.7%)	66
Rainbow Park	2 (8.3%)	5 (20.8%)	14 (59.3%)	2 (8.3%)	1 (4.2%)	24
Rotary Park	4 (11.4%)	9 (25.7%)	14 (40%)	5 (14.3%)	3 (8.6%)	35

**Question 8. “Rank the importance to you of the following facilities knowing that some may not be available in Perry parks. Rank the top ten from among the following, using 1 as the most important and 10 for the tenth most important facility.”**

Table 17 shows the mean responses on this question along with the total number of responses for each item. Walking/jogging track was ranked number one, with picnic areas second. A disc golf course was ranked last. The responses on this question were ranked 1 through 10, 1 being the most important and 10 the tenth most important. The lower the number, the more important that activity was ranked. The order of items in this table is presented identically to that in the survey.

TABLE 17

## RESPONSES TO QUESTION 8 - IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES

Rank	Mean	Standard Deviation	Number of Responses	Item
8	6.0706	3.2543	85	Camping Areas
12	8.0484	2.4657	62	Disc (Frisbee) Golf Course
9	6.9231	2.8502	78	Off-Road Biking Trail
11	7.0423	2.8757	71	Outdoor Theater
6	5.5165	2.7259	91	Paved Biking Trail
2	3.5625	2.3202	112	Picnic tables with picnic shelter
7	5.8065	2.4815	93	Play courts (basketball, volleyball)
4	4.2021	3.0500	94	Playground designed for Children aged 2-5 yrs
3	4.0404	2.6066	99	Playgrounds designed for Children aged 5-12 yrs
5	4.2551	2.8477	98	Swimming pool or swimming beach
10	7.0000	2.8065	82	Tennis courts
1	3.3917	2.6578	120	Walking/Jogging Track with Exercise Stations

**Question 9. "If a trail were developed on the west side of Perry linking Ditch Witch to shopping areas, would you use that trail?"**

The responses on this question were split fairly evenly. Forty-five point six percent of respondents indicated that they would use the trail, while 44.9% said that they would not use such a trail. Fourteen (9.5%) of survey respondents chose not to respond to this item. Table 18 shows both the frequency and percentages of responses.

TABLE 18  
RESPONSES TO QUESTION 9 - USE OF A TRAIL ON THE WEST SIDE OF  
PERRY

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	67	45.6%
No	66	44.9%
"No Response"	14	9.5%

**Question 10. "If a trail were developed on the south side of Perry linking the city to the CCC Lake, would you use that trail?"**

The majority of respondents, 54.4%, indicated that they would use a trail on the south side of Perry. The number of respondents who said they would not use the trail was 38.1%. Eleven (7.5%) of survey respondents chose not to respond to this item. Table 19 illustrates the frequency and percent of the responses.

TABLE 19  
RESPONSES TO QUESTION 10 - USE OF A TRAIL ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF  
PERRY

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	80	54.4%
No	56	38.1%
"No Response"	11	7.5%

**Question 11. "Please indicate how important it is to you or a member of your household to have the opportunity to participate in the following recreation activities in a Perry park. (Check all items with their respective levels of importance.)"**

The majority of residents indicated that walking, picnicking, swimming and fishing were important activities. Birdwatching and tennis were fairly split between unimportant and important. No activities received more unimportant responses than important responses. Table 20 indicates the frequency of responses and shows the activities and how they were rated by the respondents.

TABLE 20

## RESPONSES TO QUESTION 11 - IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

Activity	Very Unimportant	Unimportant	No opinion	Important	Very Important	Row Totals
Basketball	7 (6.1%)	22 (19.3%)	30 (26.3%)	43 (37.7%)	12 (10.5%)	114
Bicycling	5 (4.4%)	15 (13.2%)	26 (22.8%)	46 (40.4%)	22 (19.3%)	114
Birdwatching	15 (12.9%)	21 (18.1%)	41 (35.3%)	28 (24.1%)	11 (9.5%)	116
Boating	9 (7.8%)	23 (19.8%)	25 (21.6%)	37 (31.9%)	22 (18.9%)	116
Camping	8 (6.8%)	16 (13.6%)	26 (22%)	45 (38.1%)	23 (19.5%)	118
Fishing	7 (5.6%)	11 (8.8%)	14 (11.2%)	43 (34.4%)	50 (40%)	125
Picnicking	3 (2.4%)	4 (3.2%)	7 (5.6%)	60 (47.6%)	52 (41.3%)	126
Swimming	6 (5%)	10 (8.3%)	12 (10%)	51 (42.5%)	41 (34.2%)	120
Softball	7 (6.4%)	20 (18.2%)	25 (22.7%)	43 (39.1%)	15 (13.6%)	110
Tennis	10 (9.2%)	20 (18.3%)	41 (37.6%)	30 (27.5%)	8 (7.3%)	109
Volleyball	9 (8.3%)	16 (14.7%)	35 (32.1%)	42 (38.5%)	7 (6.4%)	109
Walking	3 (2.3%)	2 (1.5%)	8 (6.2%)	53 (40.8%)	64 (49.2%)	130

**Question 12. "Which of the following activities have you or someone in your household participated in at CCC Lake or Perry Lake during the past 12 months. (Check all that apply. The darkened squares indicate that a specific activity is not permitted at the CCC Lake.)"**

Picnicking was the most frequent activity in which respondents participated at the lakes, with more indicating that they used the CCC Lake for picnics than Perry Lake. Fishing received the second highest number of responses. Again, CCC Lake was more frequently used for fishing than Perry Lake. Of the activities that were available at both lakes, more respondents indicated that they used CCC Lake than used Perry Lake. Table 21 shows those activities included on the survey and the frequency of responses they received.

TABLE 21

## RESPONSES TO QUESTION 12 - ACTIVITIES AT THE LAKES

Number of Responses - Multiple Responses Possible

CCC Lake	Perry Lake		CCC Lake	Perry Lake	
49	22	Walking/Jogging	58	32	Fishing
18	4	Bicycling	0	15	Boating - Motorized
30	12	Bird/Wildlife Watching	10	6	Boating - Non-motorized
62	33	Picnicking	0	9	Use of Personal Watercraft
12	6	Camping	0	6	Shooting
0	9	Skiing	6	6	Other: (specify)



**Question 13. “Rank the importance to you of the following facilities at CCC Lake or Perry Lake. Some facilities may not be available at the CCC Lake or Perry Lake areas. Rank the top five from among the following, using 1 as the most important and 5 for the fifth most important facility.”**

Picnicking was ranked number one at Perry Lake and CCC Lake. Fishing docks were ranked number 2 at Perry Lake and at CCC Lake. Camping areas ranked last at Perry Lake, and multi-lane boat ramps were ranked last at CCC Lake. Table 22 shows the means and number of responses for each item, with the items presented in the same order as in the survey.

TABLE 22  
RESPONSES TO QUESTION 13 - IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES AT THE LAKES

At Perry Lake

Rank	Mean	Standard Deviation	Number of Responses	Item
8	3.3226	1.7774	31	Boat Ramp - multiple lanes
5	3.3200	1.4907	50	Boat Ramp - paved
7	3.4533	1.5448	75	Camping Areas
2	2.8378	1.6637	74	Fishing Docks
3	2.9398	1.5877	83	Lighting
1	2.2581	1.2502	93	Picnic area with pavilion
4	2.9275	1.5841	69	Play Equipment
6	3.3421	1.8784	38	R.V. Trailer Hook-ups

TABLE 22  
CONTINUED

At CCC Lake

Rank	Mean	Standard Deviation	Number of Responses	Item
6	3.7586	2.1155	29	Boat Ramp - multiple lanes
5	3.0208	1.7923	48	Boat Ramp - paved
8	3.4286	1.5776	84	Camping Areas
2	2.6627	1.6400	83	Fishing Docks
4	2.8737	1.4677	95	Lighting
1	2.3725	1.3925	102	Picnic area with pavilion
3	2.9880	1.4524	83	Play Equipment
7	3.0732	1.7232	41	R.V. Trailer Hook-ups

### Research Questions

During the development of this study, the researcher identified several questions that she, and the city of Perry, wished to have answered. While some of these questions were answered using hypotheses (which will be addressed later in this chapter), some of the questions are not. The following is another look at those research questions and how they were answered.

**1. In what types of recreation do Perry residents participate?**

This research question may be answered by looking at Question 5 (what activities have you participated in at the various parks) and Question 12 (what activities have you participated in at Perry or CCC Lakes). The following table

shows a breakdown of which activities respondents participated in at the parks and which ones were participated in at the lake areas. The "other" responses for these questions may be found in Appendices I and L. Table 23 shows the frequency of responses. Items left blank indicate that those activities do not occur at those locations.

TABLE 23  
PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION ACTIVITIES AT PARKS AND CCC AND  
PERRY LAKES

Number of Responses - Multiple Responses Possible

Activity	Parks	Lakes
Bicycling	15	22
Bird Watching	18	41
Boating - Motorized		15
Boating - Non-Motorized		16
Camping		18
Fishing		89
Picnicking	132	94
Playing on Play Equipment	143	
Relaxing	81	
Shooting		5
Skiing		9
Sports Activities	57	
Use of Personal Watercraft		9
Walking/Jogging	111	70
Other	16	12

Participation in the parks consisted predominantly of playing on play equipment (143 responses), picnicking (132 responses), and walking or jogging (111 responses). Use of the lake areas was mainly picnicking (94 responses), fishing (89 responses), and walking or jogging (70 responses). When combined, park and lake areas in Perry received most frequent use with picnicking, play equipment and walking/jogging.

**2. What preferences do Perry residents indicate for public park and recreation areas in their community?**

In order to answer this research question, survey items 7 (satisfaction with the parks) and 11 (importance of various activities) were examined. Question 7 (satisfaction with the parks) offered a scale from very dissatisfied (1) to very satisfied (5). The mean values, frequencies, and standard deviations for the parks are shown in the following table.

TABLE 24

SATISFACTION WITH PARKS, MEAN VALUES  
 1= very dissatisfied, 2 = dissatisfied, 3 = no opinion,  
 4 = satisfied, 5 = very satisfied

Park	Frequency of Responses	Standard Deviation	Mean Satisfaction
Brookwood Park	34	.8449	3.2059
CCC Lake	87	1.3912	3.0805
Century Park	104	1.0999	4.3846
Jaycee Park	29	.9975	2.9310
Klein Park	24	.7614	2.8333
Leo Park	59	1.0134	3.7966
Lion Park	85	1.0308	4.0941
Perry Lake	68	1.3552	3.1176
Rainbow Park	24	.8836	2.7917
Rotary Park	35	1.0977	2.8286

Question 11 addressed various activities and their importance. These items ranged from very unimportant (1) to very important (5). The following table lists those activities and the mean values, frequencies and standard deviations.

TABLE 25

**IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, MEAN VALUES**

1 = very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = no opinion,  
4 = important, 5 = very important

Activity	Frequency of Responses	Standard Deviation	Mean Importance
Basketball	114	1.0831	3.2719
Bicycling	114	1.0806	3.5702
Birdwatching	116	1.1534	2.9914
Boating	116	1.2166	2.3448
Camping	118	1.1528	3.5000
Fishing	125	1.1730	3.9440
Picnicking	126	.8753	4.2222
Swimming	120	1.1089	3.9250
Softball	110	1.1218	3.3545
Tennis	109	1.0614	3.0550
Volleyball	109	1.0433	3.2018
Walking	130	.8481	4.3308

<p><b>3. What constraints prevent the citizens of Perry from utilizing the park areas?</b></p>
--

Question 2 (why do you not use the facilities) deals directly with the issue of constraints. Facilities not meeting the needs of the residents was the number one response with 58 responses (39.5%). "No time for recreation" (15.6%) and "other constraints" (15%) were second and third respectively. Table 26 illustrates the various constraints and the number of responses.

TABLE 26

## QUESTION 2 - WHY RESIDENTS DO NOT USE THE PARK FACILITIES

Constraint	Frequency	Percent
Distance	12	7.7%
Lack of transportation	0	0%
No available time	23	15.1%
Facilities do not meet needs	58	37.9%
Physical disability	12	7.8%
Lack of lighting	13	8.5%
Lack of security	13	8.5%
Other	22	14.4%

**4. What facilities can be provided to make the Perry parks more desirable?**

As a part of this survey, residents were asked to rank the importance of various facilities. Facilities were to be ranked in order of importance with 1 being the most important. Question 8 dealt with the importance of park facilities. Table 27 shows the responses to this question.

TABLE 27

## QUESTION 8 - IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS PARK FACILITIES

Rank	Number of Responses	Mean	Standard Deviation	Facility
1	120	3.3917	2.6578	Walking/Jogging track
2	112	3.5625	2.3202	Picnic areas
3	99	4.0404	2.6066	Playgrounds for 5-12 year olds
4	94	4.2021	3.0500	Playgrounds for 2-5 year olds
5	98	4.2551	2.8477	Swimming pool or beach
6	91	5.5165	2.7259	Paved biking trail
7	93	5.8065	2.4815	Play courts
8	85	6.0706	3.2543	Camping areas
9	78	6.9231	2.8502	Off-road biking trail
10	82	7.0000	2.8065	Tennis courts
11	71	7.0423	2.8757	Outdoor theater
12	62	8.0484	2.4657	Disc (frisbee) golf course

Question 13 dealt specifically with facilities at CCC and Perry Lakes.

Table 28 shows the importance of facilities at CCC Lake ranked 1 through 8.

Table 29 shows the importance of facilities at Perry Lake also ranked 1 through 8. Picnic areas were rated as number one in importance at both CCC and Perry Lakes. Fishing docks also ranked second at both lakes. Multiple lane boat ramps were ranked eighth in importance at CCC Lake, and camping areas ranked eighth in importance at Perry Lake.



TABLE 28

## QUESTION 13 - IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES AT CCC LAKE

Rank	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	Facility
1	102	2.3725	1.3925	Picnic area
2	83	2.6627	1.6400	Fishing docks
3	95	2.8737	1.4677	Lighting
4	83	2.9880	1.4524	Play Equipment
5	48	3.0208	1.7923	Boat ramp - paved
6	41	3.0732	1.7232	R.V. trailer hook-ups
7	84	3.4286	1.5776	Camping Areas
8	29	3.7586	2.1155	Boat ramp - multiple lanes

TABLE 29

## QUESTION 13 - IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES AT PERRY LAKE

Rank	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	Facility
1	93	2.2581	1.2502	Picnic area
2	74	2.8378	1.6637	Fishing docks
3	69	2.9275	1.5841	Play Equipment
4	83	2.9398	1.5877	Lighting
5	50	3.3200	1.4907	Boat ramp - paved
6	31	3.3226	1.7774	Boat ramp - multiple lanes
7	38	3.3421	1.8784	R.V trailer hook-ups
8	75	3.4533	1.5448	Camping Areas

**5. What attitudes and opinions related to public recreation opportunities are shown by Perry residents?**

Survey Question 7 (satisfaction with the parks) and 11 (importance of various activities) were used in answering this research question. In addition, Hypothesis 1 and 4 also looked at these two questions. Hypothesis 1 addressed Question 7 (satisfaction with parks) and Question 11 (importance of various activities) in relation to demographic characteristics. Hypothesis 4 compared these two questions with the different methods used for distribution of the survey.

**6. How do these attitudes and opinions reflect demographic patterns within the city of Perry?**

This research question was answered using Hypothesis 1. The decision on this Hypothesis is covered later on in this chapter.

Hypotheses

In order to determine whether or not to reject the null hypotheses presented, the survey questions were placed into three categories. Question 7 (how satisfied were you with the parks) and Question 11 (importance of various activities) were related to attitude and opinion, these questions were used t-tests to answer Hypothesis 1 and Hypothesis 4.

Question 1 (how often have you used the parks), Question 2 (why do you not use the facilities), Question 3 (what times do you have free for recreation), Question 4 (other locations visited for recreation purposes), Question 5

(activities participated in at the parks), Question 6 (facilities used at the parks), and Question 12 (activities participated in at CCC or Perry Lake) were related to participation, these survey items were used to analyze Hypothesis 2.

Question 8 (rank the importance of the following facilities), Question 9 (use of a trail on the west side of Perry), Question 10 (use of a trail on the south side of Perry), and Question 13 (rank the importance of the following facilities at CCC and Perry Lake) were related to future development, these questions were used to analyze Hypothesis 3. The decision on each of the four hypotheses is as follows.

**$H_{01}$ : There is no difference in attitude or opinion related to public recreation opportunities based upon demographic characteristics of the respondents.**

Question 7 (how satisfied were you with the parks) and Question 11 (importance of various activities) were used to answer this hypothesis. Because of the low response rate, not enough responses were obtained to run a valid Chi-Square test.

It is generally accepted that for Likert Scale type questions that are based on a continuum, means may be calculated and t-test statistics may be used to analyze these types of questions. For this reason, ANOVA and t-test calculations were used to analyze Question 7 and 11. For the sex demographic, a t-test was used to compare the answers of male and female respondents to see if there was a difference in how they answered the questions. Age, number of persons in household, and number of persons in household under 17 years of

age, education, ethnicity, and employment were all compared to the responses using an ANOVA statistical test.

On both questions, respondents were asked to utilize a scale from 1 to 5. On Question 7 (satisfaction with parks), 1 represented being very dissatisfied, 2 represented dissatisfied, 3 represented no opinion, 4 represented satisfied, and 5 represented very satisfied. On Question 11 (importance of activities), 1 represented very unimportant, 2 represented unimportant, 3 represented no opinion, 4 represented important, and 5 represented very important.

When the groups were compared, it was discovered that there was a difference in attitude or opinion related to public recreation opportunities based on demographics using a 5% significance level ( $\alpha = .05$ ).

Significant differences were found in various areas. Differences were found in age as related to bicycling and picnicking (Table 30). Younger respondents rated these activities as being more important than did older respondents. In the sex demographic (Table 31 and 32), women were found to be more satisfied with Jaycee, Klein, and Rainbow Parks than were males. Male respondents rated fishing higher in importance than did female respondents.

Differences were found in family size in the activities of basketball and swimming (Table 33). Respondents with a smaller family size rated basketball lower in importance than did those respondents with larger family sizes. Respondents with larger families rated swimming higher in importance than did respondents with smaller families. Family members under 17 showed

differences in picnicking and swimming (Table 34). Respondents with smaller families rated picnicking and swimming higher in importance than did respondents with larger families. Education and bicycling showed a significant difference as did employment and swimming (Table 35 and 36). Respondents with higher education levels rated bicycling higher in importance than did respondents with lower education levels, and respondents who were employed full or part time rated swimming higher in importance than did respondents who were not employed. The following tables show the ANOVA calculations for those areas where significant differences were found (Tables 30-36).

TABLE 30

## ONE WAY ANOVA - AGE AND IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

		Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Probability
Bicycling	Between groups	84.274	50	1.685	2.201	.002*
	Within groups	47.479	62	.766		
	Total	131.752	112			
Picnicking	Between groups	49.161	50	.983	1.542	.046*
	Within groups	45.912	72	.638		
	Total	95.073	122			

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 31

## T-TEST - SEX AND HOW SATISFIED WERE YOU WITH THE PARKS

Park	Sex	Mean	Standard Deviation	Degrees of Freedom	t	Probability
Jaycee	Male	2.3000	1.3375	27	-2.745	.011*
	Female	3.2632	0.5620			
Klien	Male	1.8000	1.0954	22	-4.745	<.001*
	Female	3.1053	0.3153			
Rainbow	Male	2.1667	0.9832	22	-2.153	.043*
	Female	3.0000	0.7670			

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$ 

TABLE 32

## T-TEST - SEX AND IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

Activity	Sex	Mean	Standard Deviation	Degrees of Freedom	t	Probability
Fishing	Male	4.2041	0.9350	122	2.016	.046*
	Female	3.7733	1.2900			

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$ 

TABLE 33

## ONE WAY ANOVA - FAMILY SIZE AND IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

		Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Probability
Basketball	Between groups	25.685	8	3.211	3.143	.003*
	Within groups	104.207	102	1.022		
	Total	129.892	110			
Swimming	Between groups	20.928	8	2.616	2.269	.028*
	Within groups	123.373	107	1.153		
	Total	144.302	115			

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 34

## ONE WAY ANOVA - FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER 17 AND IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

		Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Probability
Picnicking	Between groups	7.148	6	1.191	2.269	.046*
	Within groups	38.852	74	.525		
	Total	46.000	80			
Swimming	Between groups	17.358	6	2.893	3.414	.005*
	Within groups	61.021	72	.848		
	Total	78.380	78			

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$ 

TABLE 35

## ONE WAY ANOVA - EDUCATION AND IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

		Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Probability
Bicycling	Between groups	14.267	5	2.853	2.599	.029*
	Within groups	117.485	107	1.098		
	Total	131.752	112			

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$ 

TABLE 36

## ONE WAY ANOVA - EMPLOYMENT AND IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

		Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Probability
Swimming	Between groups	22.346	4	5.586	5.140	.001*
	Within groups	122.807	113	1.087		
	Total	145.153	117			

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

Because of the differences discovered when using a significance level of  $\alpha = .05$ , Null Hypothesis 1 was rejected. There is a difference in attitudes and opinions related to public recreation opportunities based on demographic characteristics of the respondents.

**H<sub>02</sub>: There is no difference in present participation in recreation among respondents based upon demographic characteristics.**

Data from Question 1 (how often have you used the parks), Question 2 (why do you not use the facilities), Question 3 (what times do you have free for recreation), Question 4 (other locations visited for recreation purposes), Question 5 (activities participated in at the parks), Question 6 (facilities used at the parks), and Question 12 (activities participated in at CCC or Perry Lake) were related to participation and were used to address this hypothesis.

In analyzing Question 1 (use of the parks) for this survey, the items were reorganized into those who never use the park and those who use the park once per year/month/week. The "not familiar with the park" category was not used in this analysis. There were no significant differences found between Question 1 (use of the parks) and any of the demographics (Age, Sex, Family Size, Family Members Under 17, Education, Ethnicity and Employment). Question 2 (why do you not use the facilities) was broken down into how the demographics responded to the constraints listed. Table 37 shows the frequencies of responses on Question 2.



TABLE 37

## LEISURE CONSTRAINTS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

	Number of Responses	Distance	Lack of transportation	No Time	Facilities do not meet needs	Physical disability	Lack of lighting	Lack of security	Other
Age	20-29			2	5				
	30-39	1		2	9	1	3	1	2
	40-49	3		5	12	2	4	5	1
	50-59	2		1	4		1	1	2
	60-69	1		2	5	1	1		1
	70-79			1	6	4	1		5
	80-89			1	1	1			
Sex	Male	5		8	25	6	1	3	9
	Female	6		14	32	4	12	9	12
Family Size	0								1
	1	1		2	5		1		4
	2	6		11	17	7	8	6	9
	3	1		2	12	2	1	1	2

TABLE 37  
CONTINUED

	Number of Responses	Distance	Lack of transportation	No Time	Facilities do not meet needs	Physical disability	Lack of lighting	Lack of security	Other
Family Size Continued	4	3		4	19	1	2	4	3
	5			2	2		1	1	
	6				1				
	7								1
Under 17	0	4		8	10	1	4	5	10
	1			3	9	1	2	1	3
	2	3		3	17	1	1	3	
	3			1	1		1	1	
	4				1				
	7								1
Education	Less than 9th			1					1
	9th-12th, no diploma	1			1		2	1	

TABLE 37  
CONTINUED

	Number of Responses	Distance	Lack of transportation	No Time	Facilities do not meet needs	Physical disability	Lack of lighting	Lack of security	Other
Education Continued	High school graduate	2		5	15	5	6	5	6
	Some college	2		4	14	5	2	2	8
	College graduate	6		7	23		3	4	4
	Post-graduate			5	4				2
Ethnicity	White	11		23	52	10	13	12	20
	Black				4				
	American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut				1				
Employment	Full time	6		14	29	2	6	6	10
	Part time	2		2	4	1	3	3	1
	Homemaker	1		2	8		3	2	1
	Retired	1		4	14	6	1	1	8
	Unemployed	1		1	2	1			1

Question 3 (what times do you have free for recreation), and Question 4 (other locations visited for recreation purposes) are shown in the following tables with the frequency and percentages of responses.

TABLE 38

QUESTION 3 - TIME OF DAY RESPONDENTS HAVE AVAILABLE FOR RECREATION

Time of Day	Frequency	Percent (of 269 Responses)
6 am to 9 am	30	11.2%
9 am to 12 noon	21	7.8%
12 noon to 3 pm	24	8.9%
3 pm to 6 pm	40	14.9%
6 pm to 9 pm	104	38.7%
9 pm to 12 midnight	29	10.8%
12 midnight to 3 am	7	2.6%
3 am to 6 am	5	1.9%
No free time	9	3.3%

The majority of the respondents (70.7%) indicated that they had the times from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. available for recreation. Three p.m. to 6:00 p.m. was second with 27.2 % of respondents. The third most frequent time available for recreation was 9:00 p.m. to midnight with 19.7% of respondents. Since multiple responses were possible on this question, the percentage is reported based on the total number of responses.

TABLE 39

## QUESTION 4 - OTHER LOCATIONS VISITED FOR RECREATION

Location	Frequency	Percent
YMCA in Perry	71	48.3%
Church	103	70.1%
Private facilities	39	26.5%
Lake McMurry	41	27.9%
Lake Carl Blackwell	48	32.7%
Other	20	13.6%

Church was the most frequent location (70.1%) for recreation outside the parks. The YMCA was second with 48.3% of respondents using its facilities for recreation. Lake Carl Blackwell (32.7%) and Lake McMurry (27.9%) together made up over 50% of the responses. Table 14 shows the frequency of responses on Question 5, Table 15 shows the frequency of responses on Question 6, and Table 21 shows the frequency of responses on Question 12. No statistical formula could be found to analyze these data.

No significant differences were found when analyzing Question 1 and demographic characteristics. When looking at Question 2, there was a difference in sex and reasons residents do not use the parks. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to indicate that they did not have time for recreation, and that lack of lighting and lack of security were a deterrent. Null Hypothesis 2 was not rejected. Therefore, there is no difference

in present participation in recreation among respondents based upon demographic characteristics.

**H<sub>03</sub>: There is no difference in preferences for future development of public recreation facilities based upon demographic characteristics of the respondents.**

Question 8 (rank the importance of the following facilities), Question 9 (use of a trail on the west side of Perry), Question 10 (use of a trail on the south side of Perry), and Question 13 (rank the importance of the following facilities at CCC and Perry Lake) were related to future development.

The Spearman correlation statistic was used to analyze these data to determine relationships between demographics and preferences. Statistical differences were found in several areas. Differences were found with age in relation to preferences for an outdoor theater, a walking track and fishing docks at Perry Lake. The younger respondents ranked the importance of an outdoor theater and a walking track lower than older respondents ranked these items. Younger respondents also showed more of a preference for fishing docks at Perry Lake than did older respondents.

Responses to Question 10 (use of a trail on the south side of Perry) differed with regard to age, family size, number of family members under 17, education, and employment. Younger respondents, those respondents with smaller family sizes, those respondents with fewer family members under 17, respondents with higher education levels, and respondents who were employed

full or part time were more favorable toward having a walking track on the south side of Perry.

Women were more likely to express a preference for lighting at Perry Lake and at CCC Lake than were males. Significant differences were evident between family size in relation to preference for picnic areas, play courts, a walking track, and lighting at Perry Lake. Respondents with smaller families ranked picnic areas, play courts, and a walking track higher than respondents with larger families ranked these areas. Smaller families also showed more of a preference for lighting at Perry Lake than larger families.

Number of family members under 17 differed in preferences for picnic areas, playgrounds for five-twelve year olds, a walking track, and playgrounds at Perry Lake. Respondents with fewer family members under 17 showed more preference for picnic areas and a walking track. Respondents with more family members under 17 showed greater preference for playground for children aged 5-12 years old and playgrounds at Perry Lake than respondents with fewer family members under 17.

Significant differences were found in education in relation to preference for picnic areas at Perry Lake, and ethnicity in relation to preference for play courts and playgrounds for two to five year olds. Respondents with higher education levels ranked the importance of picnic areas at Perry Lake higher than those respondents with lower educational levels. White respondents showed

less of a preference for play courts and playground for 2-5 year olds than did respondents of other races.

In the demographic of employment, differences were found in relation to preferences for a multi-lane boat ramp at Perry Lake, fishing docks at Perry Lake, and R.V. hookups at Perry Lake. Respondents who were employed full-time or part-time ranked these activities higher than respondents who were retired or not employed ranked these items. The following tables indicate where the statistical differences were found on each variable (Tables 40-54).

TABLE 40

SPEARMAN - AGE AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Outdoor Theater	-.225	.091	-2.394	.018*
Walking Track	-.263	.085	-2.939	.004*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 41

SPEARMAN - AGE AND USE OF A TRAIL ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PERRY

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Question 10	.370	.080	4.556	<.001*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$



TABLE 42

SPEARMAN - AGE AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES AT CCC AND PERRY LAKES

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Fishing Docks At Perry	-.257	.112	-2.225	.029*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 43

SPEARMAN - SEX AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES AT CCC AND PERRY LAKES

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Lighting at Perry	-.240	.105	-2.214	.030*
Lighting at CCC	-.314	.095	-3.168	.002*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 44

SPEARMAN - FAMILY SIZE AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Picnic Areas	.219	.090	2.316	.022*
Play Courts	-.212	.102	-2.045	.044*
Walking Track	.302	.087	3.403	.001*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 45

SPEARMAN - FAMILY SIZE AND USE OF A TRAIL ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PERRY

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Question 10	-.258	.082	-3.039	.003*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 46

SPEARMAN - FAMILY SIZE AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES  
AT CCC AND PERRY LAKES

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Lighting at Perry	.345	.106	3.264	.002*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 47

SPEARMAN - FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER 17 AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE  
OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Picnic Areas	.320	.106	2.884	.005*
Playgrounds 5-12	-.311	.109	-2.676	.009*
Walking Track	.360	.106	3.368	.001*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 48

SPEARMAN - FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER 17 AND USE OF A TRAIL ON THE  
SOUTH SIDE OF PERRY

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Question 10	-.257	.106	-2.411	.018*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 49

SPEARMAN - FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER 17 AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE  
OF FACILITIES AT CCC AND PERRY LAKES

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Playgrounds at Perry	-.275	.132	-2.083	.042*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 50

SPEARMAN - EDUCATION AND USE OF A TRAIL ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PERRY

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Question 10	-.172	.089	-1.995	.048*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 51

SPEARMAN - EDUCATION AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES AT CCC AND PERRY LAKES

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Picnic Areas at Perry	.209	.099	2.015	.047*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 52

SPEARMAN - ETHNICITY AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Play Courts	-.219	.071	-2.129	.036*
Playground 2-5 yrs	-.216	.072	-2.112	.037*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 53

SPEARMAN - EMPLOYMENT AND USE OF A TRAIL ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PERRY

	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Question 10	.312	.083	3.777	<.001*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 54

SPEARMAN - EMPLOYMENT AND RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES AT CCC AND PERRY LAKES

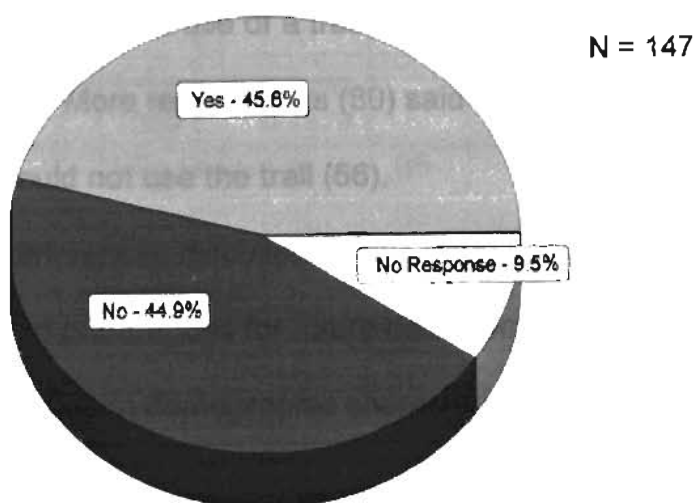
	Value	Standard Error	T	Probability
Multilane Ramp at Perry	.412	.159	2.392	.024*
Fishing Docks at Perry	-.299	.111	-2.639	.010*
R.V. Hookups at Perry	.324	.149	2.027	.050*

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

In addition to the Spearman Correlation data, the frequencies and percentages were determined for Question 9 (use of a trail on the west side of Perry) and Question 10 (use of a trail on the south side of Perry). The following figures show those data.

FIGURE 2

QUESTION 9 - USE OF A TRAIL ON THE WEST SIDE OF PERRY

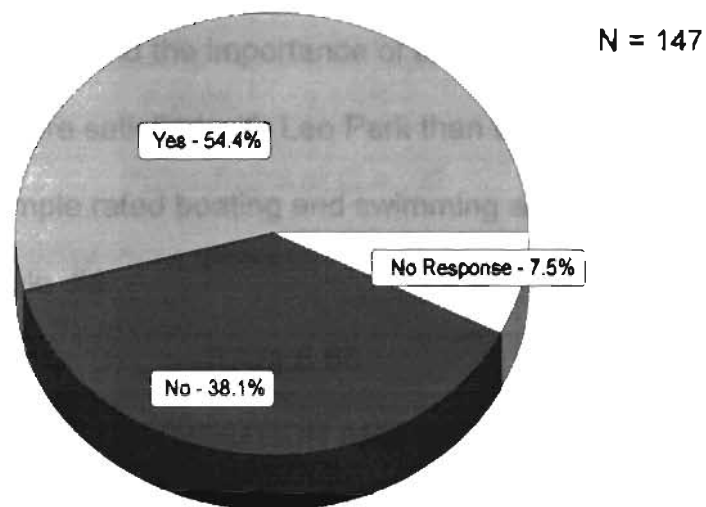


Respondents were fairly evenly divided on possible use of a newly developed trail on the west side of Perry. This trail was suggested as linking Ditch Witch to

shopping areas. Sixty seven respondents indicated that they would use the trail, while 66 respondents indicated that they would not use the trail.

FIGURE 3

QUESTION 10 - USE OF A TRAIL ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PERRY



Question 10 addressed the use of a trail on the south side of Perry linking the city to the CCC Lake. More respondents (80) said that they would use such a trail, than said they would not use the trail (56).

Because of the differences discovered, Null Hypothesis 3 was rejected. There was a difference in preferences for future development of public recreation facilities based upon demographic characteristics of the respondents.

**H<sub>04</sub>: There is no difference in attitudes or opinions expressed by the random sample and the voluntary sample.**

This hypothesis utilized Question 7 (how satisfied were you with the parks) and Question 11 (importance of various activities). The data on these

questions were analyzed according to response group coded by the color of the survey. Blue covers were used for the randomly selected samples and Yellow covers were used for the voluntary samples.

A t-test was used to determine if these two groups were statistically different from one another. Differences were discovered with respect to satisfaction with Leo Park, and the importance of boating and swimming. The random sample was more satisfied with Leo Park than the voluntary sample. Also, the voluntary sample rated boating and swimming as being more important than the random sample did.

TABLE 55

## T-TEST - METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION AND SATISFACTION WITH THE PARKS

Park	Survey Color	Mean	Standard Deviation	Degrees of Freedom	t	Probability
Leo	Blue	3.9388	1.0085	57	2.490	.016*
	Yellow	3.1000	0.7379			

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$

TABLE 56

## T-TEST - METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION AND IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

Activity	Survey Color	Mean	Standard Deviation	Degrees of Freedom	t	Probability
Boating	Blue	3.2111	1.1945	114	-2.241	.027*
	Yellow	3.8077	1.2006			
Swimming	Blue	3.8065	1.1727	118	-2.209	.029*
	Yellow	4.3333	0.7338			

\*Significant at  $\alpha = .05$ 

Because of the differences between the voluntary and random samples on satisfaction with Leo Park, and importance of boating and swimming, Null Hypothesis 4 was rejected. There is a difference in attitudes and opinions expressed by the random sample and the voluntary sample.

### Playground Evaluations

In addition to conducting the survey, the researcher also evaluated park playground areas for compliance with the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission's Handbook for Public Playground Safety. Century, Rainbow, Brookwood, Klein, Lion, Leo, Perry Lake and CCG Lake parks all had some type of play structures. All of the parks were mowed at the times the researcher visited the parks and had trash receptacles available.

Before the evaluations are discussed, an understanding of the terms used in the Handbook for Public Playground Safety should be addressed. A composite play structure is a combination of two or more play structures, such as

a combination of slides and climbers. The use zones are those areas under and around a piece of equipment with which a child would be expected to come into contact with when falling from or exiting that equipment. Protective surfacing describes materials used in the use zones for shock absorption. Protective surfacing can either be loose fill or a unitary surfacing material. Loose fill "consists of loose particles such as sand, gravel, wood fibers, or shredded rubber" (USCPSC, 1997, pg. 3). Unitary surfacing is a one piece material such as rubber mats or tiles. Depending on the height of the play structure, different depths of this loose fill are required. An entrapment occurs when a child is unable to remove their body or body part after it has penetrated an opening. Crushing injuries can result when a body or body part is crushed between two objects, such as a seesaw and the ground.

Century Park is large and has a variety of play equipment. There is a large composite play structure consisting of slides, climbers and a bridge. There are adequate use zones around all of the structure, except the exit area of the straight slide and the area around the multi-axis tire swing. The loose-fill around this area and the swings consists of small gravel on top of sand. The areas are bordered with railroad ties. No protective surfacing material was present around the 'exercise stations' which are set up along the walking track.

Two spring rockers were present at Century Park; one was a police car made from a plastic, the other is a bull or buffalo. The plastic interior of the police car has been broken out and had some sharp edges that could cut. Both



of these spring rockers are mounted to concrete squares that have sharp corners.

The swing set did not have adequate use zones in front or behind. According to the Handbook on Public Playground Safety, the use zone for swing sets should be a “minimum distance of twice the height of the pivot point above the surfacing material” (USCPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety, 1997, p. 7). Additionally, S-Hooks were used on the swing set and some were not closed properly. Overall, the park was well maintained with only a minimal amount of rust visible.

Rainbow Park had a merry-go-round, a swing set, and seesaw. The merry-go-round was very heavy and old. No protective surfacing material was present around the merry-go-round, swing set, or the seesaw. The seesaw was not anchored to the ground, had missing seats and posed a crush hazard to children.

Brookwood Park did not have protective surfacing material under any of the structures. This park had a large metal slide, seesaws, and a swinging gate. The swinging gate consisted of a gate that rotates around a post anchored into the ground. The intent is for children to ride the gate around, similar to a merry-go-round. This type of structure was found at several of the parks. There was also a structure consisting of a 55 gallon drum with a platform and a slide. This structure was not anchored and was coming apart. While the metal slide was facing north, it was in the sun and got hot in the afternoon. The seesaws were in

disrepair and had seats missing. These also posed crush hazards to children. One of the seesaws was mounted on a post so that it rotated as well as moved up and down. The swinging gate was a gate mounted on a post and rotates around in a circle. The gate posed an entrapment hazard in the bottom rung.

The only play structure at Klein Park was a seesaw. This seesaw did not have any protective surfacing under it, and it was missing seats. In addition, this seesaw posed crush hazards to children.

Lion Park was home to the city's municipal pool. The composite play structure in this park had a medium gravel loose fill under it. This area was bordered with a large diameter PVC pipe. The composite structure was the only structure with protective surfacing under it.

The swing set at Lion Park had three swings in a bay, the USCPSC recommends two swings per bay (USCPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety, 1997). Crimp hooks were used on the tot swing and have sharp points. The old metal slides were in the sun, and were facing north. The swinging gate was loose and did not fit securely on the post. This park also had a wheelchair swing. This swing was set on an asphalt base and could be hazardous to children who are not in a wheelchair and attempt to play on it.

Leo Park had a composite play structure with medium gravel fill under it. Like Lion Park, this area was bordered with PVC pipe. The composite structure was the only area where protective surfacing was present. This park also had a large metal slide, swings, a swinging gate, and a maypole type element. The

metal slide was in the sun, facing north. The maypole structure had handles hanging from chains which rotate around in a circle.

The only play structures at Perry Lake consisted of an old swing set missing the swings, and an overhead horizontal ladder. Both of these structures were in disrepair and neither had protective surfacing beneath them.

CCC Lake's play equipment consists of an old swing set missing the swings, another swing set with swings, seesaws, a metal person statue, and a swing with an overhead horizontal ladder. One set of seesaws was wooden and splintered. The other seesaws were missing a seat, and positioned right to a tree. Both sets of seesaws pose crush hazards. The metal person statue has sharp edges and points. The one swing set that had swings, had a large rock in the use zone. The swing connected to the overhead horizontal ladder was old and the pipes were inhabited by wasps. None of the structures had protective surfacing under them.

### Summary

The following table outlines the four hypotheses and the decision for each of them. Hypothesis One, Three and Four were rejected because significant differences were found. Hypothesis Two was not rejected because no significant differences could be discovered.

TABLE 57

## SUMMARY OF THE DECISIONS ON THE HYPOTHESES

Hypothesis	Decision
Ho1: There is no difference in attitude or opinion related to public recreation opportunities based upon demographic characteristics of the respondents.	Reject
Ho2: There is no difference in present participation in recreation among respondents based upon demographic characteristics.	Do Not Reject
Ho3: There is no difference in preferences for future development of public recreation facilities based upon demographic characteristics of the respondents.	Reject
Ho4: There is no difference in attitudes or opinions expressed by the random sample and the voluntary sample.	Reject

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

#### Introduction

The city of Perry wanted to know what the residents need and desire in their parks system. A 19 item survey was developed to meet the needs of the city leadership and answer the research questions developed by the lead researcher. The survey was marked with a blue cover and mailed out to a random sample of 500 residents on 1 July 2001. In case some residents of Perry wished to have their voices heard, but were not chosen in the random sample additional surveys were provided for their input. Three hundred surveys marked with yellow covers were placed at various public locations for those interested residents.

Data from the surveys were compiled and analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 9.0 for Windows. The random and voluntary samples were compared using Chi-square and T-tests. A significant difference was found with relation to age, but it was decided that since the two groups were statistically similar in all the other demographic areas, they were combined and analyzed as a whole. This chapter will summarize the conclusions reached and presents recommendations for the city to implement.

## Conclusions

Conclusion 1. Response to this survey was relatively low. Only 23.4% of those chosen in the random sample responded. Only 10% of those available to the voluntary respondents were returned. This low response rate could indicate a lack of interest in the Perry parks or lack of knowledge regarding the research. This low response rate could also have occurred because the residents did not feel that their voice would be heard.

Conclusion 2. Perry residents do not use the parks for a variety of reasons, but mostly because the park facilities do not meet their needs or the needs of their household. Of the total number of responses to why residents do not use the parks, 37.9% indicated that the facilities do not meet their needs or the needs of their household. Additionally, 15% responded that they had no time for recreation.

Conclusion 3. The majority of Perry residents (38.7% of responses) were free to participate in recreational activities from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This was by far the most popular response. The majority of respondents (54.2%) also indicated that they were employed full time. This would correspond with the times most residents have available for recreation, although numerous Perry residents do work in settings requiring evening shifts.

Conclusion 4. Walking was ranked as the most important activity for Perry residents. Walking was also the most popular recreational activity for the nation (Wellner, 1997, p. 12). While walking and jogging are important

activities to the residents of Perry, there was no clear desire for a trail on either the west side of town linking Ditch Witch to the shopping areas, or the south side of town linking the town to CCC Lake. Residents did express interest in the renovation of the trail in Rotary park and many (80 respondents) indicated that they use the trail in Century park.

Conclusion 5. None of the parks complied completely with the guidelines as outlined by the USCPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety. The most common discrepancy was not having adequate protective surfacing around the play structures. Also, some of the structures posed hazards to children playing on them. In almost every case, the seesaws in the parks were broken.

Conclusion 6. Based upon the demographics of the residents, there was a difference in attitudes and opinions related to public recreation opportunities. Most differences found were with respect to various activities. Male respondents rated fishing as being more important than did female respondents. This discrepancy was to be expected since men are more likely to participate in fishing than women (Wellner, 1997).

Conclusion 7. Based upon demographic characteristics of the residents, there was a difference in preferences for future development of public recreation facilities. Lighting and security were more important to female respondents than to male respondents.

Conclusion 8. The individuals who were selected in the random sample differed from those voluntary respondents with regard to attitudes and opinions

related to parks. The random sample indicated higher satisfaction with Leo park than did the voluntary sample. The random sample also rated swimming as being more important than did the voluntary sample, while the voluntary sample rated boating as being more important than did the random sample.

### Recommendations

1. The researcher recommends continued investment in parks for economic, psychological, sociological and physiological benefit. Parks are crucial components of community development and should be maintained. Recreational activities, such as walking, picnicking, and playing on playground equipment, were all ranked as very important activities to Perry residents. All of these activities take place in parks. By neglecting the park areas, residents will not have the facilities required to participate in these activities and they will find other means of meeting these needs.

2. The researcher recommends that the city management take steps to ensure that the playground equipment in the parks meets the USCPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety. According to Frost and Sweeney (1995), 94% of injuries/fatalities involved violations to the standards identified in this handbook. Furthermore, falls to the surface make up the majority of playground injuries (Mack, Thompson & Hudson, 1998).

For this reason, the researcher recommends that the city of Perry ensure that each piece of playground equipment have adequate use zones and



protective surfacing as prescribed by the USCPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety. In addition to ensuring adequate surfacing, equipment that does not meet the USCPSC standards should be removed. The merry-go-rounds and seesaws should either be removed, or steps should be taken to ensure safety on these structures. All metal slides should be placed in the shade, where possible. Any broken equipment should be removed.

3. The development of walking and jogging tracks was the number one ranked desired facility on the survey. Additionally, numerous respondents indicated a preference for the renovation of Rotary Park and the development of exercise stations. The researcher recommends that the walking/jogging track in Rotary Park be resurfaced and exercise stations be incorporated along the track.

Bicycling was rated as being an important activity to Perry residents. Many respondents indicated that they have a strong desire for bicycling trails, especially at the CCC Lake area. The researcher recommends that a multi-use trail be developed at CCC Lake. Parameters for this trail are available from the recreational trails program or the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Numerous resources are available for help in developing and planning trails. The following is a list of possible resources.

Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO): 1999.

Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access: Part II of II: Best Practices Design Guide, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): 2000.

Minnesota Bicycle Transportation Planning and Design Guidelines, Minnesota Department of Transportation: 1996.

Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Oregon Department of Transportation: 1995

Portland Pedestrian Design Guide, City of Portland, Oregon, Office of Transportation: 1998

National Park Service Trails Management Handbook, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service: 1983.

In addition to resources for development and planning, resources are also available for funding these trails. The Transportation Enhancement Program Implementation Manual, and the Oklahoma Transportation Enhancement Program Application Packet can be obtained through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Also the 2001 Oklahoma Recreational Trails Grant Application Guidelines Packet is published by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD).

4. The researcher recommends that adequate lighting and security measures be provided at all park areas. The majority of residents indicated that they were free for recreational activities from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Lack of lighting and security (combined) made up 17.6% of the reasons residents do not use the parks. In particular, women were constrained in their use of the parks due to inadequate lighting.

5. Picnic areas were ranked second in importance at the parks and first in importance at the lakes. While most of the parks had developed picnic areas, the picnic areas at the lakes were rundown and unsuitable for most users. The

researcher recommends that picnic areas be improved, maintained and provided at the lakes. Maintenance of these areas should include upkeep of equipment and mowing. Also, adequate trash receptacles should be provided.

6. Fishing was an important activity to Perry residents. Perry residents have access to two local lakes (Perry Lake and CCC Lake), but neither of these lakes have very good access to the water for fishing. Fishing docks were ranked second in importance of facilities at the lakes. The researcher recommends that fishing docks be provided and that the lake banks be landscaped to provide access to fishing from the bank.

7. Because CCC Lake and Perry Lake are isolated restroom facilities should be provided at these areas. While both lakes each have one restroom available, they are not accessible or useable. The restrooms at CCC Lake were locked every time the researcher visited that area. The restrooms at Perry Lake were in disrepair, inhabited by wasps, and did not have any toilet paper or paper towels. Century Park offers a model for restrooms that could be duplicated at the Lakes.

8. The city of Perry should develop a Master Plan for their parks system. This system should outline the roles for the parks in the city. Some of the parks, such as Rainbow, Brookwood, Leo, Jaycee, and Klein, could be classified as neighborhood parks and as such would only serve those residents in the local area (Mertes & Hall, 1996). Lion Park serves more of a special use, since it has

the outdoor swimming pool. Rotary also serves a special use with its unique walking track and natural areas. Century Park, Perry Lake and CCC Lake are well suited as community parks (Mertes & Hall, 1996). These areas could also be used to draw individuals from outside the area to Perry, however, the information about these areas would need to be advertised.

9. Because of the current size of CCC Lake, only human powered boats should be allowed access. As water levels are increased and stabilize with the additional purchased water, the lake should remain a "passive" recreation space. This area should be maintained for recreational purposes such as non-motorized boating, fishing, and picnicking. Trails should also be provided for hiking. Many of the historic CCC build structures in this area are in disrepair. These structures should be repaired and restored as part of the heritage of the lake and the community.

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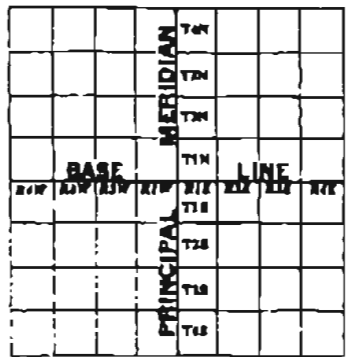


## APPENDICES

APPENDIX A  
U.S. LAND SURVEY SYSTEM

# THE UNITED STATES LAND SURVEY SYSTEM

**OFFICIAL PLAN OF NUMBERING CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIPS FROM MERIDIANS AND BASE LINES**



THE UNITED STATES LAND SURVEY SYSTEM is cartographically represented by lines running North and South and East and West. These lines are six miles apart and the squares formed in this manner contain thirty-six square miles and are called Congressional Townships. This system of survey starts from the intersection of a principal Meridian and a Base line.

The numbers starting from each intersection of a principal Meridian and Base line, increasing North or South along the Meridians are known as Township Numbers, and those going East and West along the Base lines are called Range Numbers.

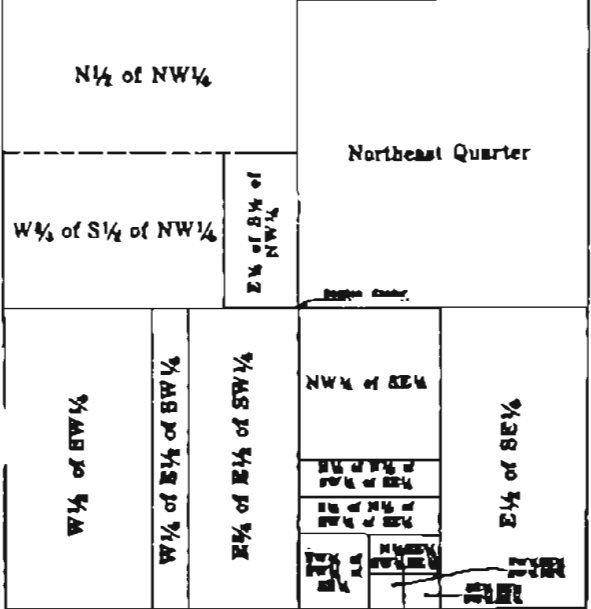
**OFFICIAL PLAT OF TOWNSHIP SECTIONIZED AND NUMBERED, WITH ADJOINING SECTIONS.**

36	31	22	23	24	25	26	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
12	7	8	9	10	11	12	7
18	13	14	15	16	17	18	13
24	19	20	21	22	23	24	19
25	20	19	20	21	22	23	20
30	25	26	27	28	29	30	25
36	31	22	23	24	25	26	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6

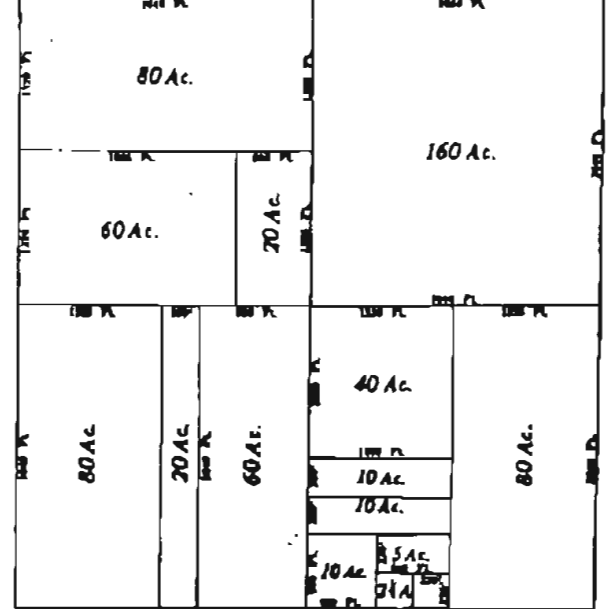
**LAND MEASURES**

- A Rod is 16 1/2 ft.
- A Chain is 100 links, 66 ft. or 1 rod.
- A Mile is 5280 rods, 32 chains or 1760 ft.
- A Square Rod is 272 1/4 sq. ft.
- An Acre contains 4840 sq. ft.
- An Acre contains 160 sq. rods.
- An Acre is about 3600 ft. square.
- An Acre is 1 rod wide by 170 rods long, or any two numbers of rods whose product is 160 square rods.
- 3600 ft. is 177 1/2 ft. or 177 1/2 ft. is 3600 ft.
- A Section is 36 sq. rods.

**LEGAL METHOD OF DESCRIBING FRACTIONAL PARTS OF A SECTION**



**ACREAGE & DIMENSIONS OF FRACTIONAL PARTS OF A SECTION.**



APPENDIX B

PERRY MAP

This map is located in the pocket inside the back cover.

APPENDIX C  
SURVEY COVER LETTER



School of Applied Health and Educational Psychology  
434 Willard/103 Colvin Center  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078  
405-744-5493  
Fax: 405-744-6756 Willard  
Fax: 405-744-6507 Colvin

June 12, 2001

Dear Perry Resident:

You have been randomly selected to participate in a community needs assessment as a part of planning for the City of Perry. Oklahoma State University is working with the Perry City Council through the Department of Public Service. This survey will take about fifteen minutes (15 minutes). Your response is important since it represents your opinions and perspectives as a member of this community.

Participation in this study is voluntary and there is no penalty if you choose not to participate. Your response is confidential and completely anonymous.

Please complete the enclosed survey in pen or pencil. Fold the completed survey exactly as it came to you. Tape or staple it closed and drop it in the mail. You **do not** need to add postage. Please return the completed survey by July 15, 2001.

If you have questions regarding the needs assessment or your participation in the survey, please contact University Research Services at Oklahoma State University (Sharon Bacher, 203 Whitehurst, 405-744-5700) or Lowell Caneday, Ph.D. (405-744-5503).

Thank you very much for your participation in this study. Your cooperation in providing information related to parks in Perry is important to the development of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lowell Caneday".

Lowell Caneday, Ph.D.  
Professor, Leisure Studies  
Oklahoma State University  
(405) 744-5503

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Curtin".

Kelly Curtin  
Graduate Student  
Leisure Studies  
Oklahoma State University

APPENDIX D  
PERRY PARKS SURVEY



AA-5-65161  
Perry Parks  
103 Colvin Center

NO  
POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED IN  
THE  
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY LABEL  
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 325 STILLWATER OK  
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



UNIVERSITY MAILING SERVICES  
STILLWATER OK 74075-9988

## Perry Parks Survey

**PLEASE MAIL BY July 15, 2001**

Survey of Perry Residents  
by  
Oklahoma State University

Perry Parks  
Community Needs Assessment

Conducted by  
Kelly Curtin  
Student, Master of Science Program  
Leisure Studies  
Oklahoma State University

Under the direction of -

Lowell Caneday, Ph.D.  
Deb Jordan, Re.D.  
Oklahoma State University  
Leisure Studies  
103 Colvin Center  
Stillwater, OK 74078

(405) 744-5503

## Perry Parks Community Needs Assessment

This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. This survey should be completed by an adult in the home to which the survey is addressed and reflect the views of the entire household. Additional surveys are available at the following locations: City Hall, Noble County Courthouse, Carnegie Library, First Bank and Trust, Exchange Bank and Trust, Wheatheart Nutrition Center, the Senior Citizen Center and Wal-mart.

The Perry Parks Department has asked Oklahoma State University to help them conduct a community needs assessment related to the recreational needs of the community as they relate to various parks and the CCC Lake. Your household is one of about 500 selected for a scientific sampling of Perry area residents. Your answers are important and your opinions will have influence. Thank you for your help. Your response will be anonymous and confidential. This survey will take about 15 minutes of your time. Please complete the survey and place it in the mail by July 15. We appreciate your assistance in this project. Please answer the questions from your personal viewpoint.

1. How often during the past 12 months have you, or someone in your household, used the following park areas? Check the box that most closely matches your frequency of use for the identified park.

	Not familiar with the park	Never use the park	Once or twice per year	Once or twice per month	Once or twice per week
Brookwood Park	35	71	17	2	0
CCC Lake	4	27	77	19	5
Century Park	5	23	51	32	25
Jaycee Park (5 <sup>th</sup> & Kaw)	26	84	12	2	1
Klein Park (15 <sup>th</sup> & Cedar)	26	88	11	2	0
Leo Park	4	60	49	13	3
Lion Park	2	39	55	25	10
Perry Lake	5	52	60	10	6
Rainbow Park	36	80	9	2	0
Rotary Park	20	85	16	2	7

Please continue to the next page -->

2. If you have NOT used any of the facilities at any of the parks, please check why you do not use these facilities.

12	Distance to the park
0	Lack of transportation to get to the park
23	No available time to participate in recreation
58	Facilities do not meet my needs or those of my family
12	Physical disability or lack of accommodation at the park
13	Lack of lighting
13	Lack of security
22	Other: (specify)

3. What time or times of day, during the week, would you most often have free for participation in activities that you would consider social or recreational? (Check all that apply.)

30	6 am to 9 am	40	3 pm to 6 pm	7	12 midnight to 3 am
21	9 am to 12 noon	104	6 pm to 9 pm	5	3 am to 6 am
24	12 noon to 3 pm	29	9 pm to 12 midnight	9	No free time

4. Please indicate other locations that you or members of your household visit for recreational purposes. Check all that apply.

71	YMCA in Perry
103	Church
39	Private facilities (ex. Country club, Lodge, other organization)
41	Lake McMurtry
48	Lake Carl Blackwell
20	Other: (specify)

Please continue to the next page ->

5. Please check which of the following **activities** you or someone in your household have participated in at the following parks during the past 12 months. (Check all that apply.)

	Brookwood	Century	Jaycee	Klein	Leo	Lion	Rainbow	Rotary
Bicycling	0	8	1	1	1	2	0	2
Bird Watching	0	4	0	1	4	6	0	3
Picnicking	2	59	0	3	23	42	2	1
Playing on Play Equipment	6	57	2	0	26	46	6	0
Relaxing	5	29	1	2	12	28	2	2
Sports Activities	0	25	2	0	11	19	0	0
Walking/jogging	5	77	0	3	7	7	1	11
Other: (specify the activity)	1	7	0	0	1	5	0	2

6. Please check which **facilities** you or someone in your household have used at the following parks during the past 12 months. (Check all that apply. The darkened squares indicate that a given park does not include the identified facility.)

	Brookwood	Century	Jaycee	Klein	Leo	Lion	Rainbow	Rotary
Play Equipment	7	54		1	28	50	7	
Basketball Court	3	30			8	11	1	
Volley Ball Court		25						
Soccer Field		7						
Tennis Court					8			
Walking/Jogging trail		80						11
Pool Area						51		
Picnic Area	3	71	0	3	23	46	3	1

Please continue to the next page →

7. If you, or someone in your household, has used the following areas, how **satisfied** were you with the area and facilities? If you are not aware of a specific park, or have no information about that park, please leave the item blank.

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	No opinion	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
Brookwood Park	1	4	18	9	2
CCC Lake	13	25	7	26	16
Century Park	6	4	2	24	68
Jaycee Park	4	1	19	3	2
Klein Park	3	0	19	2	0
Leo Park	1	6	13	23	16
Lion Park	3	5	8	34	35
Perry Lake	11	12	10	22	11
Rainbow Park	2	5	14	2	1
Rotary Park	4	9	14	5	3

**Please comment on those items that were satisfying or dissatisfying during your visit to a Perry park.**

Please continue to the next page ->

8. Rank the importance to you of the following facilities knowing that some may not be available in Perry parks. Rank the **top ten** from among the following, using 1 as the most important and 10 for the tenth most important facility. (Mean Values)

6.0706	Camping Areas
8.0484	Disc (Frisbee) Golf Course
6.9231	Off-Road Biking Trail
7.0423	Outdoor Theater
5.5165	Paved Biking Trail
3.5625	Picnic tables with picnic shelter
5.8065	Play courts (basketball, volleyball)
4.2021	Playground designed for Children aged 2-5 years
4.0404	Playgrounds designed for Children aged 5-12 years
4.2551	Swimming pool or swimming beach
7.0000	Tennis courts
3.3917	Walking/Jogging Track with Exercise Stations

9. If a trail were developed on the west side of Perry linking Ditch Witch to shopping areas, would you use that trail?

67 Yes                       66 No

10. If a trail were developed on the south side of Perry linking the city to the CCC Lake, would you use that trail?

80 Yes                       56 No

Please continue to the next page ->

11. Please indicate how important it is to you or a member of your household to have the opportunity to participate in the following recreation activities in a Perry park. (Check all items with their respective levels of importance.)

Activity	Very Unimportant	Unimportant	No opinion	Important	Very Important
Basketball	7	22	30	43	12
Bicycling	5	15	26	46	22
Birdwatching	15	21	41	28	11
Boating	9	23	25	37	22
Camping	8	16	26	45	23
Fishing	7	11	14	43	50
Picnicking	3	4	7	60	52
Swimming	6	10	12	51	41
Softball	7	20	25	43	15
Tennis	10	20	41	30	8
Volleyball	9	16	35	42	7
Walking	3	2	8	53	64

**Please add any additional comments that may be helpful in planning for the future of parks in the City of Perry. Feel free to add comments on the back page of the survey as well.**

Please continue to the next page ->



For the next two questions think specifically about your use of Perry Lake and CCC Lake. Also think in terms of your preference for the future of Perry Lake and CCC Lake.

12. Which of the following **activities** have you or someone in your household participated in at CCC Lake or Perry Lake during the past 12 months. (Check all that apply. The darkened squares indicate that a specific activity is not permitted at the CCC Lake.)

CCC Lake	Perry Lake		CCC Lake	Perry Lake	
49	22	Walking/Jogging	58	32	Fishing
18	4	Bicycling		15	Boating - Motorized
30	12	Bird/Wildlife Watching	10	6	Boating - Non-motorized
62	33	Picnicking		9	Use of Personal Watercraft
12	6	Camping		6	Shooting
	9	Skiing	6	6	Other: (specify)

13. Rank the importance to you of the following facilities at CCC Lake or Perry Lake. Some facilities may not be available at the CCC Lake or Perry Lake areas. Rank the **top five** from among the following, using 1 as the most important and 5 for the fifth most important facility. (Mean Values)

**At Perry Lake**

3.3226	Boat Ramp - multiple lanes
3.3200	Boat Ramp - paved
3.4533	Camping Areas
2.8378	Fishing Docks
2.9398	Lighting
2.2581	Picnic area with pavilion
2.9275	Play Equipment
3.3421	R.V. Trailer Hook-ups

**At CCC Lake**

3.7586	Boat Ramp - multiple lanes
3.0208	Boat Ramp - paved
3.4286	Camping Areas
2.6627	Fishing Docks
2.8737	Lighting
2.3725	Picnic area with pavilion
2.9880	Play Equipment
3.0732	R.V. Trailer Hook-ups

Please continue to the next page -->

The last few questions are for classification purposes only. They assist us in knowing how representative our sample is of all Perry area residents. The information is not personally identifiable and will be presented in summary totals only. The person responding to the survey should answer these questions from his or her personal viewpoint.

Age:

Sex:  Male  Female

Family size:  Number of persons in your household

Number of persons in your household under 17 years of age

Education

<input type="text" value="2"/>	Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade
<input type="text" value="5"/>	9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , No diploma
<input type="text" value="41"/>	High school graduate
<input type="text" value="39"/>	Some college
<input type="text" value="40"/>	College graduate
<input type="text" value="16"/>	Post-graduate degree

Ethnicity:

<input type="text" value="137"/>	White
<input type="text" value="4"/>	Black
<input type="text" value="2"/>	American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut
<input type="text" value="0"/>	Asian or Pacific Islander
<input type="text" value="0"/>	Hispanic
<input type="text" value="0"/>	Other

Employment status:

<input type="text" value="78"/>	Employed full-time
<input type="text" value="8"/>	Employed part-time
<input type="text" value="16"/>	Homemaker
<input type="text" value="39"/>	Retired
<input type="text" value="3"/>	Unemployed

PLEASE CLOSE THE SURVEY. STAPLE OR TAPE IT SHUT AND PLACE IT IN THE MAIL BY JULY 15, 2001.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!

APPENDIX E  
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL

Oklahoma State University  
Institutional Review Board

137

Protocol Expires: 6/3/02

Date: Monday, June 04, 2001

IRB Application No. ED01132

Proposal Title: A NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE RESIDENTS OF PERRY OKLAHOMA AND  
EVALUATION OF THE CITY PARKS SYSTEM

Principal  
Investigator(s).

Kelly Curtin  
103 Colvin Center  
Stillwater, OK 74078

Lowell Caneday  
106 Colvin  
Stillwater, OK 74078

Reviewed and  
Processed as: Exempt

Approval Status Recommended by Reviewer(s): Approved

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Dear PI:

Your IRB application referenced above has been approved for one calendar year. Please make note of the expiration date indicated above. It is the judgment of the reviewers that the rights and welfare of individuals who may be asked to participate in this study will be respected, and that the research will be conducted in a manner consistent with the IRB requirements as outlined in section 45 CFR 46.

As Principal Investigator, it is your responsibility to do the following:

1. Conduct this study exactly as it has been approved. Any modifications to the research protocol must be submitted with the appropriate signatures for IRB approval.
2. Submit a request for continuation if the study extends beyond the approval period of one calendar year. This continuation must receive IRB review and approval before the research can continue.
3. Report any adverse events to the IRB Chair promptly. Adverse events are those which are unanticipated and impact the subjects during the course of this research; and
4. Notify the IRB office in writing when your research project is complete.

Please note that approved projects are subject to monitoring by the IRB. If you have questions about the IRB procedures or need any assistance from the Board, please contact Sharon Bacher, the Executive Secretary to the IRB, in 203 Whitehurst (phone: 405-744-5700, sbacher@okstate.edu).

Sincerely,



Carol Olson, Chair  
Institutional Review Board

APPENDIX F

PERRY DAILY JOURNAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

## Survey to be sent to Perry residents

Employees of the Perry Parks Department, in conjunction with Oklahoma State University, will be conducting a survey regarding the various parks in the community as well as the CCC and Perry Lakes.

This survey will be used to determine what improvements need to be made that would best serve the recreational needs of the citizens of Perry. The surveys will be mailed or made available around the first of July.

The survey will be mailed to about 500 households that have been randomly selected.

(continued on pg. 3)

(continued from pg. 1)

If you do not receive one in the mail, additional surveys will be made available at the following locations: City Hall, Noble County Courthouse, Carnegie Library, First Bank and Trust, Exchange Bank and Trust, Wheatheart Nutrition Center, and the Senior Citizen Center. Any interested individuals are encouraged to participate.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and all answers will be anonymous and confidential. The completed survey should be mailed back to the address on the survey by July 15 and does not require any postage.

It is important for the residents of Perry to complete this survey since your

answers are important and your opinions will have an influence in the planning of future renovations, improvements and additions to the Parks and CCC and Perry Lake areas. Your cooperation and honesty will be sincerely appreciated.

APPENDIX G

"OTHER" RESPONSES TO SURVEY QUESTION #2:

Question # 2 - If you have NOT used any of the facilities at any of the parks, please check why you do not use the facilities.

Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Blue (Random Sample)	28	Not Familiar
	33	Other interests than parks
	35	am 79 - take grandkids
	40	We have three children who also live here in town so we use our homes
	42	Need more than playground equipment for young and just walking tracks for old, add exercise stations, bike trails, horseshoe pits
	45	Century park is the only area worth going to - the rest are just around
	47	I am an older widow
	52	No longer have children at home
	74	My recreational activities aren't done in parks
	89	Due to my age (75) I no longer take part in activities that I enjoyed in the past
	99	Just not interested
	101	No reason, have land in country
	107	No need
Yellow (Voluntary)	122	Just had no reason
	126	We currently don't have small children in our home.
	130	Age
	133	Rotary park is inaccessible
	135	Family growing older
	136	CCC and Perry lakes have n available campsites except primitive
	140	Grass not kept mowed; no restrooms



APPENDIX H

"OTHER" RESPONSES TO SURVEY QUESTION # 4

Question # 4: Please indicate other locations that you or members of your household visit for recreational purposes. Check all that apply.

Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Blue (Random Sample)	12	Sooners - Kaw - Keystone
	16	Sooner Lake and Farm Ponds
	25	Our farm for walking, biking, fishing, paintball, cook-outs, fireworks, motorcycling, go-karting, camping, sitting, napping
	33	Hunting and fishing in other spots.
	35	Cherokee Museum
	38	Stillwater - movies/restaurants
	42	State lodges, square dance clubs around the state, state, national, and mini festival of square dancing.
	43	Local creeks and ponds
	53	Family farm
	68	Sooners Lake - Kaw Lake
	72	Zoo-OKC / Cherokee Strip Museum
	76	Private Ponds
	92	Canton Lake or private ponds for fishing
109	Farm ponds	
Yellow (Voluntary)	119	Sooner lake, Lake Keystone
	120	Cherokee Strip Museum
	126	School track to walk
	128	Sooner Lake

APPENDIX I

"OTHER" RESPONSES TO SURVEY QUESTION # 5

Question # 5: Please check which of the following activities you or someone in your household have participated in at the following parks during the past 12 months. (Check all that apply.)

Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Blue (Random Sample)	4	relax at CCC
	9	Swimming at Lion
	14	B-day party at Century, Wedding at Leo, Political/Church at Lion
	38	Snow sledding in winter at Century
	39	Horseshoe pitching at Century
	50	Tennis at Lion
	66	Rollerblading at Century
Yellow (Voluntary)	116	Soccer at Century
	142	Swimming at Lion

APPENDIX J  
COMMENTS REGARDING SATISFYING OR DISSATISFYING  
ITEMS ABOUT THE PARKS

Please comment on those items that were satisfying or dissatisfying during your visit to a Perry Park.

Survey Color	Survey Number	Comment
Blue (Random Sample)	39	<u>CCC lake</u> - the shelter was trashed - the grass was not cut. Playground equipment needs to be improved. <u>Leo Park</u> - is a pretty park and would be used more if - there were rest rooms and water available.
	41	availability, maintenance
	42	*Rotary park need picnic table, exercise stations for jogging trail and bike trail. Also more benches to rest on. *Klein park need something for kids to play on and upgrade the picnic tables. *Perry lake park need items for kids to play on if it is to be a park not just camp trailer, boating, fishing, picnics. *CCC Park could be a crown jewel for Perry to improve it add mountain bike trails and pave street bike trails. Sponsor bike trail ride or get the Stillwater bike club to sponsor one. Need to upgrade shelter, BBQ pits and picnic area Promote camping/fishing recreation at CCC Park. Maybe even put in a few cabin to rent out for week or weekends. Upgrade play equipment. Birdwatch and fishing are already great but the park could rejoin it great past with youth groups and class reunion being there for cookouts and coverdish dinners.
	44	Rotary park hard to walk on uneven trails
	45	The only " <u>Park</u> " in Perry is Century Park - please come look - the only one maintained is Century - Go look at shabby shape of others.
	46	Very well kept and clean
	51	The road to CCC Lake was very bad, but I think they have worked on it recently - we are retired and in poor health so don't go out as we used to.

Survey Color	Survey Number	Comment
Blue (Random Sample)	55	CCC Lake - needs new play equipment desperately! Nice area just not much to do. Century park - very nice but gets crowded because it is the most popular. Has the most and best equipment. Leo Park - close to home. nice picnic area, ok equipment. Perry lake - no equipment, no swimming, dirty water. Rotary park - nice place to walk or jog.
	56	CCC lake has long weeds and grass. Century needs to allow skating on path. Perry lake has nothing. What was once there is destroyed or gone.
	64	*At century park, there needs to be more lighting around the north curve of the walking/jogging trail. *At lion park, there needs to be more trees planted around the play equipment to provide more shade and keep the equipment from getting hot in the sun.
	65	We participated in church activities at the park. There was ample room for everyone.
	66	The playground equipment had sharp edges and were unsafe for children to play on. The volleyball area was unkept and there were sharp items in the sand.
	67	The parks are kept neat and clean.
	68	CCC Lake - Beautiful area-Roads terrible. Century Park - Well kept. Security, close to home. Leo park - Well kept, security, close to home. Perry Lake - Can't get into good camping or fishing area without a boat. Weeds and grass too high in other areas. RV camping only, none available. Can't drive out to "the island" road is out.
	70	All ages use the park for walking, jogging, badminton, basketball, soccer, picnicking. There is also playground equipment for the smaller and younger persons. Neat restroom facilities. Public telephone available. Picnic shelter.
	71	The ones I was real pleased with we used when there wasn't too many trying to use them - at Leo and Lion had to clean up messes left by people ahead of us - the others were very good about picking up trash.

Survey Color	Survey Number	Comment
Blue (Random Sample)	72	CCC Boathouse needs some work as do the roads. Century park has nice walking path and playground equipment. Both Leo and Lion have ok playground equipment - need more swings and better ground cover around slides.
	73	You cannot swim in Perry lake nobody uses this lake because of this.
	76	CCC Lake - Needs updating for safer family outings, walking, jogging, etc. Perry Lake - nothing there. Need to improve water quality and fish habitat.
	77	(1) Tennis Courts need regular maintenance at Leo and Lion Park. (2) CCC Park getting reputation as a drug center. (3) "Church n a Perch" at CCC Park should be made ready for public use. (4) Some parks need stylized signage
	79	Perry lake some of playground equipment didn't look safe. CCC Lake needs cleanup and general maintenance. Walking/running paths at century and Rotary are appreciated. The one at rotary needs work.
	80	Clean and nice
	81	Trash cans where over running with trash. Had no other place to put trash.
	82	Rotary park is well kept except for the walking trail. Grass is taking over the blacktop!
	83	Care Taker! (Beside Perry Lake)
	84	Vandalism at the CCC Lake Boat Dock water fountains torn up. This is a beautiful place to visit.



Survey Color	Survey Number	Comment
Blue (Random Sample)	85	I feel that the Rotary park could use some improving. The "track" for walking/jogging is not satisfactory and I feel is a bit dangerous. With some improvement, I feel it would also be used for other activities. Such as, sledding during winter, walking/fogging, picnic, etc. It use to be a beautiful area to walk but has been let go too long. I felt the handicap swing at the Lion's park needs repair or taken out. I have lived in Perry for almost 25 years and have also had a child for 7 years now who I feel is dangerous to her health if let play on this equipment. Even though she herself is not handicapped. All children assume all the play equipment is for all of their use. No safety signs are on these toys. Such as the handicap swing. Such as, for handicap equipment (chair) use only. For your safety do not use. The chains can be hazzardous. Thank you for listening.
	87	A bit more playground equipment at Brookwood. Some concern about the stagnant water in the creek that runs thru Brookwood park.
	89	On 7-7-01, I was at CCC Lake with my 2 adult daughters. This location had always been special to us and one daughter took pictures of various views for possibility of entry in Red Carpet Photo contest. I was pleased that it was well mowed. Thicket obscures the upper shelter and wishing well. I was reluctant to return this survey since I no longer make use of the recreation places, but for three generations, (my own, children, grandchildren) they are important to me. When the Perry Daily Journal encourages readers to send letters for publication about what they liked about Perry I included a comment about CCC Lake park. A friend from out of town remembered reading it and since she likes it also sent a computer print of the boathouse to me. When I was a leader for Blue Birds, Camp fire and Church youth groups, many activities were at the park. In my youth, I lived one block from Lion Park, and when my grandchildren were small I took them to the parks. Hopefully this hasn't been too boring for you since you need answers to the present situation.

Survey Color	Survey Number	Comment
Blue (Random Sample)	90	Century park has clean restroom facilities. All the parks are nicely maintained. Brookwood park has older play equipment but seems to be safe. Do not care for the dogs across the street from lions park.
	91	The lions is kept very clean and the kids like to go swimming at the pool.
	92	Appeared clean and well staffed (ie lifeguards)
	143	We like to go to CCC Lake fishing and relaxing. It would be a better place if the grass was cut more often and the brush cut around the lake for better fishing access, the Lake needs some of the snakes killed, they are thick and aggressive.
Yellow (Voluntary)	115	My family could use the pool at Lion's park more if it were open more hours. Maybe 8:00pm or so.
	116	CCC Lake is a great community asset; however the facilities are in poor condition. We enjoy fishing there, but the facilities could be much nicer. The boat house is not in very good shape. A couple of more docks could be built and the picnic area could be kept in better condition.
	118	CCC lake is such a beautiful location but such a terrible facility - It would be a great place to run, walk, ride bikes, take kids to play and fish. But the roads are difficult to navigate and because of the blind hills dangerous to share with autos. - The biggest thing that keeps us away is poor safety. I often take my kids to the park by myself and wouldn't dream of taking them to CCC because I wouldn't feel safe. I wonder if the backside of it were opened for <u>housing</u> (houses only no trailers) whether this wouldn't contribute to greater safety.
	119	Parks are not kept up. Landscaping is very poor. Parks with jogging trails (except for century) are unkept.
	120	If money were no object - a toilet would be nice - maybe open pool facilities at Lion Park for accessibility to rest rooms.

Survey Color	Survey Number	Comment
	123	Century park at times has had very poor lighting in new area of the walking trail. That made it unsafe. My friend and I used to walk a mile on that track at least once and usually twice each week, sometimes more. But we quit going there because of the lighting (or lack of).
	124	Perry lake boat ramp is in need of a walkout dock to get in your boat after you unload. CCC Lake needs more access to the water.
	125	CCC - Picnic tables and benches not clean Not all trash picked up. Century - clean, lighted, maintained walking area. Lions - Pavilion well maintained, play equipment for children.
	134	CCC Lake needed to be mowed
	135	The Perry Lake area could really be expanded to have a great park for teenagers. It needs a better boat dock, picnic areas, volleyball, frisbee course - something for older children.

Survey Color	Survey Number	Comment
Yellow (Voluntary)	136	<p>We did use the CCC Lake for family reunions but the rest rooms became worse and worse and the condition of the park overall was not well kept. There are no camping facilities at all which is a real drawback for us. The roads are tolerable but could be better. We use to camp every week-end at Perry lake but security became a factor. Plus the fact no swimming was allowed even though skiing was. The caretaker became very intolerable and has run everyone away. There are no trailer electric hood-ups except those on the spillway berm and those are taken year round mostly by city employees or retired employees. I have fished the CCC, Perry lake and Lake Carl Blackwell since moving to Okla. in 1944 at the age of 12, with my father, and mother. At that time they did not charge for the lakes use. 1963 I build my first boat dock at Perry Lake and held that spot, paying the necessary fishing, boating, boat dock, and camping fees until I turned 65 in 1996. Then I decided to start going to Lake Carl Blackwell and have spent most of every summer since then there at a cost of 500 to 600 dollars each year. At least there we have electricity, water, rest rooms, showers, and last but not least security, plus the fact that my children and grand children can swim without being threatened by the caretaker. I think most of the parks in Perry are sufficient except for play ground equipment for the very young and maybe some biking trails for the teens and young adults. You did not ask for names but I will give you mine anyway (named deleted for anonymity)</p>
	139	I think the parks and lakes are really good place to go to have a picnic or go walking or jogging.
	140	Roads in bad conditions not enough picnic tables / grills for cooking grass not mowed trees not trimmed.
	141	harrassment by Perry Police Dept
	142	Perry Lake -> Toilet facilities are bad. You can't use them because they are well guarded by wasps. Rotary park -> ?

APPENDIX K  
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE SURVEY

Please add any additional comments that may be helpful in planning for the future of parks in the City of Perry. Feel free to add comments on the back page of the survey as well.

Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Blue (Random Sample)		We feel some of the parks need to be upgraded for small kids as well. (4)
	5	We need to improve all of the areas around the Lakes and our Parks with a place to have a concert when we want too. We need sand boxes and little equip for the 3 and younger. We also need more bathrooms in the park and at the lakes. I would like to see more interest in our kids games. We need things to get our kids out of doors into the outside more.
	9	Although there are only two in our household many of the questions were answered keeping in mind grandchildren visit us frequently.
	25	See page 5 for comments about CCC Lake Park. With proper facilities CCC Lake Park could be used for: -Bicycling: competition events (paved loop), family recreation (prepared trails), group recreation. -Walking: (prepared trails), family rec., group rec. -Jogging: competitive events, family, group, and individual recreation. -Camping: tourists, family, group events, kids camping events. -Entertainment: outdoor theatre, RR facilities, concession facilities, lights. -Paintball. -Nature trails: need trails and animal habitats prepared.
	32	CCC Lake is a beautiful place, it's a shame that not more attention and money is dedicated to the upkeep and restoration for such a place that could be so much more.
	33	As you can tell I'm not a park person.
	34	There really need to be more covered picnic areas and playground equipment for children 10 years and younger.

Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Blue (Random Sample)	38	Incorporate a city park dept facility in juxtaposition to the downtown square county park to compliment what is the most popular location for special activities for the Perry Community - the downtown square.
	40	we have attended several little league games since our grandson plays
	42	Also think about adding horse shoe pits to at least 2 parks Need bike trails: paved and off road trails. Bike trail rides and improving CCC Park are probably most need to increase recreation in Perry and to add tourism dollars. Ways to provide or pay for improvement. Social/community clubs have organization interested in areas of improvement sponsor them with cash or volunteer labor to build them.
	55	We have plenty of parks. Just need better and well maintained equipment in the parks we have.
	66	The walking trail at century park is a wonderful asset to the community and is widely used by residents of all ages. Not as many young people use the basketball courts at Leo's as use to. One reason, their never seems to be nets on the basketball goals. Students prefer the Court at Century park because of the large concrete area and the nets are kept on.
	70	Perry parks have a variety of activities - all of which are used by others. I would not want to see any activity curtailed. My heart and lungs/allergy problems have restricted outdoor activities for me.
	74	There are quite a few runner's in Perry, running and biking trails (or paths) would be good - they need to be "miles" long - "tracks" are too short. Also, the football stadium already has a good track.
	78	We need more walking trails marked with the distance for mile walkers
	80	Age 60 two in home.

Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Blue (Random Sample)	84	We use the parks to play with our grandchildren. Century parks is a wonderful park. Still it saddens me to see damage done to the facilities by the people using the park. City crews work hard to keep parks looking good. Severe fines should be given for people caught defacing parks.
	85	Every park should be age appropriate. You do not have anything for smaller children a the Klein park. No toys at all for any children a the Jaycee Park. And older children tend to be bored at the Lions park. The upkeep and police patrolling of all the parks are not too good. Toys are damaged or broken. Swings are wrapped around tops of the swing set. And these days there is no such thing as to much police patrolling when it comes to our young children.
	87	CCC park is really getting run-down.
	90	Wish there was a paved bicycle trail so children could be safe to ride their bicycles.
	92	How about staffed and supplied batting cages for public use and/or a miniature golf course.
	143	Keep the grass mowed and the brush cut, keep up the equipment.
	144	We need places to ride bicycles and rollerblading!
Yellow (Voluntary)	118	Allowing a housing development at the back of CCC lake would insure a safer traffic of people in and out of the park It is too isolated. Lighting along won't fix that. Biking trail is <u>very</u> important there is no good location for biking around Perry without getting on a highway. Jogging and walking sidewalks are much more used than trails. Especially when build with the proper type of surface for impact sports. And can be safely shared with bikers. Lawrence Kansas has a terrific example of this on 23 <sup>rd</sup> st.
	119	Frisbee golf would target the teen population who feel they have outgrown parks.



Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Yellow (Voluntary)	120	Suggest City incorporate organizations or students-sr. citizens build, place & maintain bird houses and feeders, especially purple martin apartments, in <u>at least one</u> Perry park. Perry area is on main flight path of many species that migrate from south to north USA and back again. Would be a good community project.
	123	I have noticed that, in a few of the parks in Perry, playground equipment has been updated. I have many grandchildren here and they need a place (besides the streets) to ride their bikes and need swings and slides that are safe and repaired. Thank you, whomever for doing work in sme of those parks! However, there are no bike trail for young children or adults for that matter, to use. HELP !!!
	126	1. We need to let people swim and camp at Perry Lake to fully utilize it. Same at CCC Lake. 2. If church could be finished - weddings could be held there.
	139	I think we should add more stuff to the parks like swing sets and slides for kids and picnic areas and parking areas.
	141	We love anything to do with the outdoors. The more we stay outside the happier we are.

APPENDIX L

"OTHER" RESPONSES TO SURVEY QUESTION # 12

Question # 12: Which of the following activities have you or someone in your household participated in at the CCC Lake or Perry Lake during the past 12 months. (Check all that apply. The darkened squares indicate that a specific activity is not permitted at the CCC Lake.)

Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Blue (Random Sample)	4	Riding 4-wheeler, CCC lake
	14	Walking, Perry lake
	28	We go to Pawnee lake now, can't use boat at Perry Lake. to many stumps to many shallow spots (to ski) we use too (boating motorized at Perry Lake), not anymore.
	42	Photography at CCC and Perry lake
	49	Easter Service at CCC
	64	July 4 <sup>th</sup> at Perry
	66	Volleyball at CCC
	91	Let campers set up tents to stay all night at the lake.
	96	throwing rocks in lake at CCC and Perry
	106	walking at CCC
Yellow (Voluntary)	116	4 <sup>th</sup> of July at Perry

APPENDIX M  
MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS ON THE SURVEY

## Miscellaneous Comments

Survey Color	Survey Number	Comment
Blue (Random Sample)	5	but I might if it was safe enough (on question 10)
	6	We work all of the time
	17	probably not, but maybe (on question 10)
	21	yes, if it was a safe trail (on question 10) all married but we have lots of picnic's
	22	Sorry, Sorry I don't use these places. Cause I can't walk or do anything for myself. Sorry I can't help you all with your Questions. Thank You.
	29	You don't need a "given" trail to go for a walk. (on question 6)
	34	We haven't used either of these lake parks. (on question 13)
	35	Visiting grands 60% of time. (one family size).
	38	Trees -1, Public rest room facilities - 1 at Perry lake, Public rest room facilities - 1 at CCC. (on question 13)
	40	rarely any of them (on ques 1) no, but I think it is a good idea (on question 9) no, can't see it with the big hill - (on ques 10)

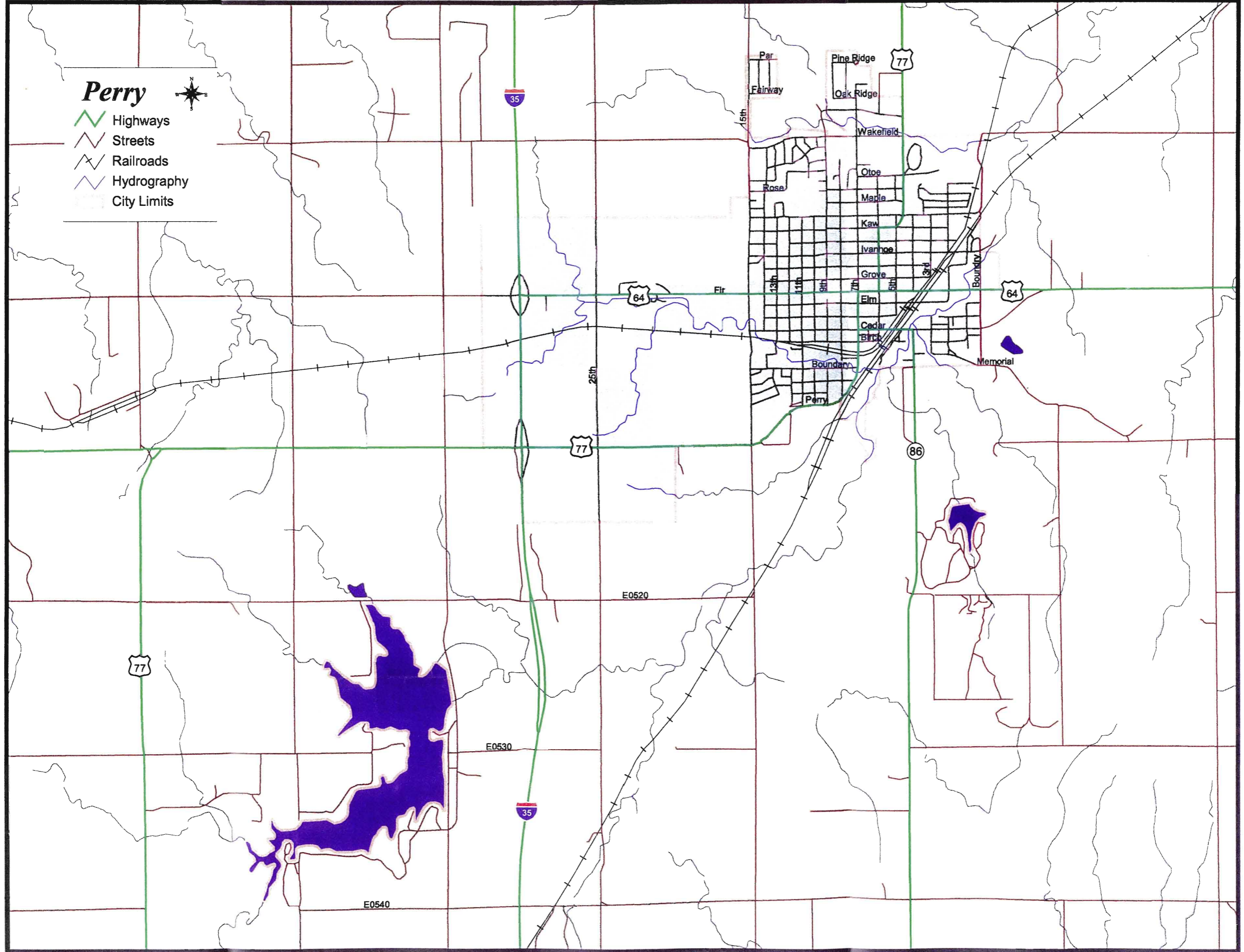
Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Blue (Random Sample)	45	<p>no one ever use's this area (ques 1, Brookwood), Everybody goes here - Exchange Bank - makes sure it is keep up (ques 1, Century), 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks - if we have it - (ques 1, Perry lake) If cost factor given to Perry citizen - all would be closed except Century and CCC Lake - Good development land for homes or require organizations to pay up keep. (ques 1), This is a "no win" question for size of Perry and our present City Budget (ques 8), There is nothing west of D.W. except malzahn home and museum - the same goes for South of Perry what definition of trail do you mean?, <u>2</u> hoops is all we have (ques 11, basketball), we have "<u>no</u>" bicycling in Parks (ques 11, bicycling), no camping in Parks (ques 11, camping), Perry has a valuable local calling card for all citizens - CCC Lake - neglected for 40 years - this could be a shining star for all - would be happy to discuss and take on as a gift to all -</p>






Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Blue (Random Sample)	68	<p>My family consists of 9 adults and 6 grandchildren. I have lived in Perry since 1944. I have swam, fished, skied, and camped Perry's CCC Lake and Perry's City Lake along with Lake Carl Blackwell. Perry stopped all "open camping and <u>swimming</u>" in the city water supply lake. They have a few RV sites (10). They are taken by city retirees or employees. There are none available to the "waiting public". My family and others went to: Kaw Lake-Sooner Lake and Lake Carl Blackwell. There are 7 private and public RV sites at Lake Carl Blackwell. I now belong to one of them. There is 10 families from Perry in our's. There is approximately 35 Perry families in these RV camps. We spend per year approximately: \$5,000. Rent for RV site: \$750 (includes water electricity and sewer per year), Fuel for Cars: \$1,500, Fuel for Boats: \$500, Food: \$2,000, Misc: \$200 (permits-fish and ski, license, mowing, wash room, shower, private beach and swimming area, private fishing dock-winter and summer) Our children use these too, they spend their own monies. OSU owns Lake Carl Blackwell. Stillwater uses the water. Too bad Perry is missing this oppertunity.</p>
	70	<p>I am a one-person, two dog household (on ques 1). You left off your list our beautiful courthouse park. Many activities occur there and there is a wonderful sidewalk for walking. (on ques 1) 1 person household (on ques 5) Don't need any of them as far as I am concerned (on ques 8)</p>
	73	<p><u>Swimming</u> would be nice.</p>
	75	<p>At the Century park walking track need to be marked on the miles so you will no how far you go! And more tables and cookers. Good luck on doing more for Perry. It is a great park we enjoy it.</p>
	101	<p>maybe (ques 10)</p>

Survey Color	Survey Number	"Other" Response
Yellow (Voluntary)	117	Maybe (ques 9)
	118	I used to walk this path often but traffic kept me from continuing even at 530am (on ques 9) Biking would be great (on ques 10)
	124	1 - Boat docks (on ques 13)
	126	Need to be able to swim at Perry <u>Lake</u> (on ques 8)
	133	Please open up Rotary park for vehicles or close it all together.
	136	Does not apply we are both retired (on ques 3)



# Map of Perry, OK.



- Perry**
-  Highways
  -  Streets
  -  Railroads
  -  Hydrography
  -  City Limits



Prepared for the Oklahoma Tax Commission Ad Valorem Division (405) 521-3178. All boundary changes or annexations should be directed to this agency.



Map produced by Geo Information Systems, University of Oklahoma. For additional copies contact (405) 325-3131. July, 2000

VITA

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Master of Science

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Experience: OSU Challenge Course Instructor, 2 yrs and American Red Cross First Aid and CPR Instructor. An active member and Deputy Commander of the Stillwater Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol for 4 yrs.

Professional Memberships: Association of Challenge Course Technology, 1 yr, Oklahoma Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, 2 yrs, Oklahoma Recreation and Parks Society, 2 yrs