

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Method used in the needs assessment:

- Focus groups with different segments of the community and members of the staff of the public recreation providers in Jefferson County.
- Mailing of questionnaires by direct US mail resulting in a response rate of 13.5% with 528 usable questionnaires.
- Data collection from the youth of McHenry
- Analysis of the two separate data set

Top 10 major findings

1. More than 80% of the respondents are interested in special events.
2. A community center and a year-round swimming facility are the top two needs in Jefferson County.
3. The top four most frequently visited facilities historic sites, fairgrounds, trails and picnic facilities.
4. Lack of information and lack of clarity about opportunities offered appear as the two most important reasons for not attending programs and facilities.
5. The 7 to 10 pm time slot on weekdays is the best time for the residents to participate in recreation activities.
6. Nearly all the respondents agreed that, “well-maintained parks add to the quality of life in the community.”
7. Nearly half the respondents felt that they were unaware of “the recreation programs and activities the JCPRD offers.”
8. Nearly all the respondents agreed that they were “willing to pay reasonable user fees for new recreation opportunities.”
9. Direct mailed brochures and the advertisements in the newspapers appear to be the two most effective ways of getting information to the community.
10. The most widely supported source of funding are bonds to be paid by voter approved property taxes.