

V. Facilities Inventory

A. Inventory of Existing Public Facilities Through Parks System - The residents of Winchester-Clark County are provided with a wide variety of parks and recreation facilities. These facilities, however, are in older growth areas and do not provide ease of access to newer neighborhoods. There are a total 93 acres within nine separate parks located in the jurisdiction of the Winchester-Clark County Parks and Recreation Department staffed by three full-time, 7 part-time, including inmate labor, and 14 seasonal employees. Additionally, a skateboard park is being planned to fill a need from the community along with the passive West Washington Neighborhood Park. Photos (Figures 6 - 14) of each of the public parks with a list of facilities is included at the end of this section. Following is a narrative summary of each of the nine public parks offered through the Department.

1. Lykins Park

- a. Site location - This regional park contains 40 acres and is located in a rural area on Mt. Sterling Rd. It was acquired in 1975. It is used for concerts, firework shows and other events.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - picnic area with shelter
 - 3 lighted tennis courts
 - 1 basketball court
 - baseball field complex with lighted Little League field, lighted Babe Ruth baseball field, unlighted Little League field, 2 tee ball fields and 1 girls softball field
 - 1 concession/maintenance/storage building
 - 1 storage building
 - playground area
 - 2 volleyball courts
 - 1 play area with backstop for unorganized play
 - 1 foot bridge to playground and 1 to tennis courts
 - 1 concert stage
 - parking areas
- c. Site Analysis and General Assessment
 - i. Positive Site Features
 - the large size of the park allows for a wide variety of activities
 - rolling landscape provides for good visual appeal
 - ii. Negative Site Features/Needs
 - access for children not adequate due to location and lack of bike trail
 - need for walking trail
 - need for large shelter to seat about 150+ at top of the hill near second entrance with paved entrance and parking
 - lighting needed for large night-time events
 - pave access road and parking lots
 - Minor League and Softball fields should be lighted
 - although open space is attractive, more trees would provide shade and enhance the site
 - due to the expansiveness of the park, it would be a good location for a dog park

2. Community Park

- a. Site Location - This district park is located on Friendship Drive. It includes 15 acres within a primarily residential neighborhood. Acquired in 1960's.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - 1 lighted softball field
 - concession building with 2 restrooms
 - 2 tennis courts
 - picnic area with shelter
 - playground area
 - Gene Gay Swim Complex with 1 junior Olympic size pool and bath house
 - 12 lighted horseshoe courts
 - 2 off-street parking areas
- c. Site Analysis and General Assessment
 - i. Positive Site Features
 - adjoins Harmon Park
 - parking lot recently improved
 - although pool is old, it is in good condition
 - pool is rented for events which adds to usage
 - ii. Negative Site Features/Needs
 - attendance is low due to location and the perception of attracting "bullies"
 - concession building needed for swim complex
 - construct access road to shelter
 - develop walking trail with linkage to Harmon Park
 - add wading pool within swim complex
 - bath house requires renovation
 - repairs needed for concession/bathroom building
 - provide for more landscaping including trees

3. Harmon Park

- a. Site Location - This district park, located on Meadow Street was acquired in the 1950's. It includes 5 acres within a neighborhood.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - softball field
 - 1 concession building with 2 restrooms
 - 2 lighted basketball courts
 - playground area
 - off street parking area
 - shelter
- c. Site Analysis and General Assessment
 - i. Positive Site Features
 - attractive facility within neighborhood
 - adjoins Community Park
 - paving recently completed
 - ii. Negative Site Features/Needs
 - neighborhood complains of site inadequacy
 - playground should be updated
 - landscaping, including trees, would provide shade and enhance appearance
 - usage low due to location

4. College Park

- a. Site Location - This facility was acquired in 1981. The park is on the site of the previous Southeastern Christian College. Two deteriorated buildings were demolished to allow for the park space. This district park is located on Wheeler Avenue within a residential area. The facility contains 8.5 acres.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - picnic area with 6 grills, 14 tables, 1 shelter and 1 gazebo
 - 1 basketball court
 - 2 tennis courts
 - 1 community building originally a College library
 - 1 gym originally used as a gym by the College, parks department offices, restrooms
 - walking path
 - practice field
 - playground area
- c. Site Analysis and General Assessment
 - i. Positive Features
 - architectural elements from college incorporated in park design
 - good re-use of school buildings (gymnasium and library) and grounds
 - blends well with the neighborhood
 - good access
 - attractive, well-maintained facility
 - recent improvements made to community building (previous library) to provide for greater usage
 - new playground equipment installed
 - high usage and demand at the site
 - ii. Negative Site Features/Needs
 - gymnasium requires a vast amount of attention to make it more usable; funding for part of the renovation secured
 - restroom facility needed
 - community building needs air conditioning
 - walking paths require resurfacing
 - directional signs from main roadways required

5. Wiseman Park

- a. Site Location - This neighborhood park is located on Holiday Road. It was acquired in 1977. The park contains 5 acres.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - basketball court with 2 goals
 - 2 tennis courts
 - 1 Little League size ball diamond with backstop
 - playground area
 - picnic area with shelter
 - off-street parking
- c. Site Analysis and General Assessment
 - i. Positive Site Features
 - a proposed 600 - 700 ft. trail is being constructed on the old railroad bed with a second access point from Fitch Avenue at Fulton Road
 - a new shelter has been recently built
 - large well-maintained open space
 - ii. Negative Site Features/Needs
 - playground equipment should be up-dated
 - landscaping, including trees, would enhance the site

6. Massie Park

- a. Site Location - This mini park contains 1 acre located on Park Avenue. It is the oldest park, being acquired in the 1890's.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - lighted softball field
 - playground area
 - concession building with 2 restrooms
 - basketball court
 - picnic shelter
 - off-street parking
- c. Site Analysis and General Assessment
 - i. Positive Site Features
 - Pepsi is a corporate sponsor through land donation
 - parking area recently paved
 - renovated in 1999
 - ii. Negative Site Features
 - compact area compared to other sites
 - limited open space
 - landscaping would enhance the site

7. Fairfield Park

- a. Site Location - This mini park was acquired in the 1960's. It is located on Arlington Street and includes 1/2 acre.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - basketball court with 2 goals
 - play area with backstop
 - apparatus area
 - picnic shelter
- c. Site Analysis and General Assessment
 - i. Positive Site Features
 - new shelter constructed
 - within neighborhood with good access
 - ii. Negative Site Features/Needs
 - playground needs updating
 - landscaping would enhance site

8. Melbourne Park

- a. Site Location - This neighborhood mini park was acquired in the 1960's. It contains 1 acre on Melbourne Street.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - 1 basketball court with 2 goals
 - apparatus area
 - picnic shelter
- c. Site Analysis and General Assessment
 - i. Positive Site Features
 - extensive use
 - well-maintained
 - ii. Negative Site Features/Needs
 - playground requires updating
 - landscaping would enhance site

9. Winchester Farms Dairy Soccer Complex

- a. Site Location - Within the industrial park off of I-64 and Old Paris Road. This district park was acquired in 1988. The facility contains 17 acres.
- b. Existing Facilities
 - 4 soccer fields
 - concession building with restrooms
- c. Site Analysis and General Assessment
 - i. Positive Site Features
 - parent involvement provided for construction of concession building
 - site donated by Winchester Farms Dairy, located within industrial park with good partnerships
 - ii. Negative Site Features/Needs
 - existing gravel access road should be paved
 - parking areas need paving
 - additional landscaping would enhance site

B. School Recreational Facilities - The public school system has eight elementary schools, all with adjoining recreation facilities. These facilities complement the public parks system. There are two middle schools--Conkwright and Clark Middle - each with extensive play fields. There is one high school, George Rogers Clark High School, with various facilities. There are three private schools within the community. St. Agatha provides K-8, with 7th and 8th grades recently added. Clark County Christian School provides education at two separate facilities. The Hickman Street facility provides for grades K through 5. Recently added was space at First Church of God for grades 6-12. Calvary Christian provides for preschool through first grade.

1. George Rogers Clark High School

Facilities include a walking track along with practice fields for football and soccer. The high school soccer field is located at Strode Station Elementary; however, it is not open to the public. The school football and softball fields are closed to the public. The school's baseball field is beside McClure Elementary.

2. Clark County Middle School

School grounds include practice areas for soccer, baseball and basketball. Gym rental is available on a limited basis.

3. Conkwright Middle School/Central Elementary

Conkwright and Central Elementary share facilities which include: playground, practice areas for baseball and soccer. Each school has a gym--Conkwright's is utilized by Civitan's Basketball Little League program and Central's is available for public rental off hours.

4. Strode Station Elementary

Outdoor facilities include a less than 1 mile nature trail and playground. A gym is available for public rental off hours.

5. Shearer Elementary

Practice fields and playground are available along with a gym that is open to the public off hours for a rental fee.

6. McClure Elementary

A playground and gym are available. The gym is available for public rental off hours.

7. Fannie Bush Elementary

Facilities include 2 playgrounds--preschool and elementary--and gym. The gym is available for public rental off hours.

8. Pilot View Elementary

Outdoor facilities include a playground. A gym is available for public rental off hours.

9. Trapp Elementary

Outdoor facilities include a playground and practice fields. A gym is available for public rental off hours.

10. Providence Elementary

Playground and baseball practice field are available. The gym is open for public rental off hours.

11. St. Agatha's

Facilities include a playground and gym. Although the gym is shared with church programs, it is available for public rental off hours.

12. Clark County Christian School

The Hickman Street facility offers a playground for grades K through 5. The First Church of God facility includes a gym which is also utilized by the YMCA.

13. Calvary Christian

The school provides for a playground for preschool through first grade children.

C. Private Recreational Facilities

1. Golf

The community has two privately owned, public, 18-hole golf courses--Southwind and Sportland. Meadowpark provides a driving range and miniature golf. The Country Club also provides an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, and swimming pool.

2. History/Cultural Arts

The Leeds Theater and Performing Arts Center, located in downtown Winchester, is the site for a year-round program of musical theatrical productions sponsored by the Winchester Council for the Arts. A history museum is being established in the Winchester downtown district. Holly Rood Clark Mansion provides interpretive tours. The Winchester Ballet provides seasonal programs. Land was recently acquired which includes a Civil War site with ties to the Camp Nelson Union Army Supply Depot and Training Camp for African-Americans in southern Jessamine County. A management plan with recommendations for development will be prepared. The Lower Howard's Creek historic farm is proposed for development. The Daniel Boone Pioneer Festival, held over the Labor Day week-end, is an outstanding event including a 5K run, entertainment, and arts and crafts.

3. YMCA

The YMCA was recently established in Clark County. It has made great strides in enhancing and supplementing recreational opportunities in the community for youth and adult sports programs. Although attendance is through memberships, the YMCA works with the disadvantaged to provide for their recreation needs. About two years ago it purchased the old Breakers facility which includes a wave pool, indoor fitness center and outdoor tennis courts. Construction of a gymnasium is underway. Presently, the basketball program is located at the First Church of God facility for preschool to 4th grade children. The basketball program for children in grades 7 to 12 is conducted in the College Park gym.

4. Churches

As in other communities, the churches in Winchester-Clark County are providing expanded facilities for their congregations which, in addition to worship, include socialization and recreation. The churches with gym facilities include: St. Agatha (school and church use); Christview Christian; Calvary Christian; First Church of God (school and church use); First Baptist (Highland Street); Central Baptist; and Fellowship of Believers. Trinity Methodist will be constructing a gym. Churches with playgrounds include: St. Agatha (school and church use); Belmont Church of Christ. Christview and Church of God Cathedral each provide a ball field and Immanuel Episcopal provides soccer fields. Picnic shelters are available at Mount Zion Methodist and Church of God Cathedral.

There are three separate campgrounds affiliated with churches--Methodist Wesley Woods, Boone Creek, and Bluegrass Christian.

5. Other

The Clark Regional Medical Center provides space for football, soccer and little league.

The City of Winchester leases property to the Fish & Game Club. Included on the property is a reservoir utilized for fishing. Also provided are picnic facilities, archery, and a meeting hall for members of the club. The existing lease expires in 2005.

Swimming is provided, by membership, at the Best Western, Comfort Suites and Country Club. Comfort Suites provides for a therapeutic indoor pool.

Forest Park Lanes provides bowling.

There are five facilities which provide aerobics, dance, gymnastics and other instructions. These studios are: Thoroughbred Gymnastics; Excel Gymnastics; High Sprits Tumbling; Fara School of Dance; and Winchester Ballet Company.

Private fitness centers include Powerhouse Gym and Total Body Fitness.

Three private boat docks are available: Davis Boat Dock, Happy Hour Marina; and Red River Boat Dock.

Clark County is within easy driving distance to the Daniel Boone National Forest and Natural Bridge State Park. Nature and hiking trails along with camping facilities are provided at both sites. Natural Bridge recently constructed an outdoor swimming pool. The Red River Gorge within the Forest is recognized as an excellent rock-climbing site.

D. Programming

1. Winchester-Clark County Parks & Recreation Department

Due to insufficient staffing, the Parks & Recreation Department provides limited programming. No seasonal programming is available. The Department does manage the softball program.

2. Other Providers

Little league baseball and soccer are run by parent groups. Civitan manages a football and basketball program and the YMCA manages a basketball program.

3. Comparison to National Surveys

A nationwide survey conducted for the National Recreation and Park Association indicated that the average parks and recreation department in communities of similar size would provide a mix of programming by the following percentages:

- 35% sports activities
- 35% enrichment/art/social programs
- 11% outdoor passive recreation
- 19% fitness programs

The Parks Department only manages one sports program--softball--with adult volunteer groups and other organizations running the other sports programs. Although there are some social and art programs in the community, this is an area that needs to be expanded through the Parks Department, which would require additional staffing. A walking path is provided at one park and planned for another; however, this does not meet the demands for trails or passive recreation. Since an indoor facility which would provide fitness programs is not available, there is also a deficiency in this area.

Fig. 6 - Lykins Park



Area: 40 acre

Type: Regional park **Proposed Type:** Community

Location: Mt. Sterling Rd.

Facilities: Picnic area with shelter, three lighted tennis courts, one lighted basketball court, parking area, ballfield complex (1 lighted Little League, 1 lighted Babe Ruth, 1 unlighted Little League, 2 Teeball, 1 girls softball), one concession stand/maintenance/storage building, apparatus area, foot bridge to tennis courts, play area with backstop for unorganized play, two volleyball courts, one concert stage, one storage building, one foot bridge to playground



Fig. 7 - Community Park



Area: 15 acres

Type: District recreational park

Proposed Type: Community

Location: Friendship Dr.

Facilities: Lighted softball field, concession building with two restrooms, two tennis courts, off-street parking areas, picnic area with shelter, apparatus area, swimming pool complex (junior Olympic size pool, bath house), twelve lighted horseshoe courts

Fig. 8 - Harmon Park



Area: 5 acres

Type: District recreational park

Proposed Type: Community

Location: Meadow Street

Facilities: Softball field, one concession building with two restrooms, basketball court (2 lighted), apparatus area, off-street parking area, shelter

Fig. 9 - College Park



Area: 8.5 acres

Type: District park

Proposed Type: Community

Location: Wheeler Ave.

Facilities: Picnic area (6 grills, 14 tables, 1 shelter, 1 gazebo), one basketball court, two tennis courts, one community building, one gym, apparatus area, walking path

Fig. 10 - Wiseman Park



Area: 5 acres

Type: Neighborhood recreational park

Location: Holiday Rd.

Facilities: Basketball court with two goals, two tennis courts, one little league size ball diamond with backstop, apparatus area, picnic area with shelter, parking lot

Fig. 11 - Massie Park



Area: 1 acre

Type: Mini park

Location: Park Ave.

Facilities: Lighted softball field, apparatus area, concession building with two restrooms, off-street parking area, basketball court, shelter

Proposed Type: Neighborhood

Fig. 12 - Fairfield Park



Area: .50 acres

Type: Mini park

Location: Arlington St.

Facilities: Basketball court with two goals, play area with backstop, apparatus area, shelter

Fig. 13 - Melbourne Park



Area: 1 acre
Type: Mini park
Location: Melbourne St.
Facilities: One basketball court with two goals, apparatus area, one shelter

Fig. 14 - Soccer Complex



Area: 17 acres
Type: District park
Location: Old Paris Rd.
Facilities: Four soccer fields, concession building and restrooms
Proposed Type: Special-Use