

Community Involvement Process



supportive” or “somewhat supportive”, a 4% increase over the first survey conducted in August 2008.

Citizen Team Meetings – Members of the Citizens Team included active and knowledgeable stakeholders from all geographic areas of the County. The advantage of meeting with this group was to ensure that geographic preferences were made known to the consultant team.

Steering Committee Meetings – Members of the Steering Committee included County Commissioners and senior staff of the Parks and Recreation Department. The advantage of meeting with this group was to ensure that all phases of the planning process (the public involvement process, responsiveness to urgent issues, political ramifications, etc.) were in alignment with the vision of the group.

Public Meetings (Open Houses) – On two occasions, the public-at-large was invited to attend an Open House – one at the County Courthouse in Platte City and the other at the Community Center in Parkville. Each meeting was well attended by citizens who had an opportunity to visit with County Commissioners, Parks and Recreation Department Staff, Park Board Members, Citizen Team Members, Steering Committee Members, and Consultant Team Members. Comments were taken from citizens in a variety of ways; e.g. direct input into a computer, comment cards, and face to face communication.

Park Board – As appointed by the County Commission, members of the Park Board are entrusted with a very high level of responsibility as they work closely with Parks and Recreation Staff to develop policies which ensure that resources are being allocated in a manner which is consistent with the recommendations in this master plan update. The Park Board has been involved during this process as a “sounding board” as the plan has been developed.

Interactive Web Site – A web site (www.platteparks.org) was designed for the update of the master plan. The site was used to keep citizens informed by sharing meeting summaries from all meetings, by encouraging citizen feedback about their preferences, and for sharing various educational articles which served to educate the public about important elements of the park system.

Focus Groups – A very high level of emphasis was placed on focus group meetings. In fact, there were 26 during the planning process. Each focus group was carefully selected to ensure that special interest groups, existing partners, potential future partners, diverse age groups both young and old, and Federal and State Agencies were included. The three purposes for the focus groups were:

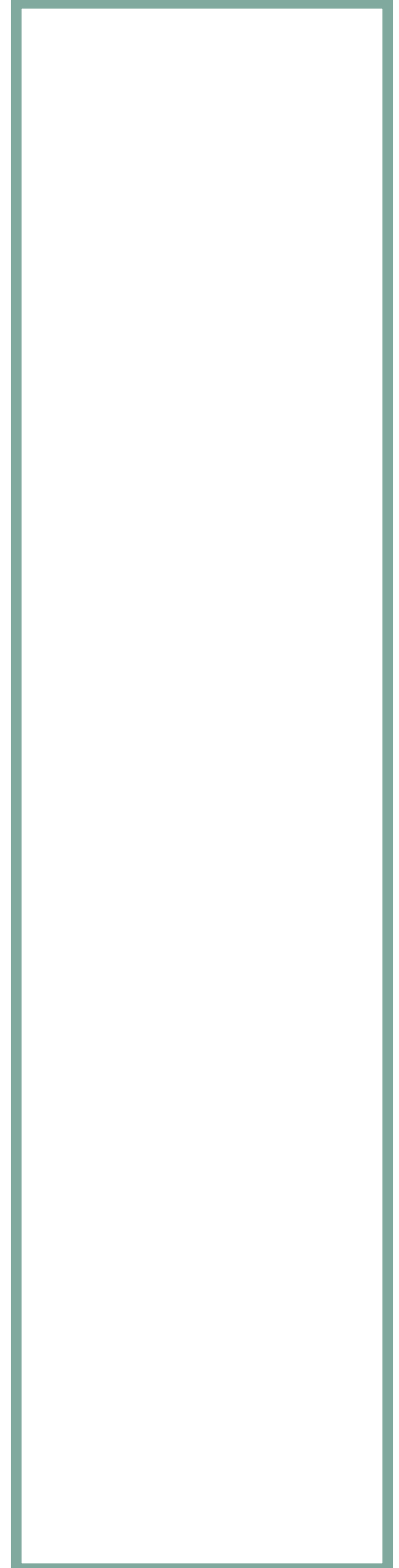
- to engage citizens in the process and create ownership
- to update attendees about the status of the master planning process with emphasis on the citizen survey results
- to learn about current projects that are going on around the County and to listen to their ideas and preferences regarding future parks and recreation needs in the community



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Comment Cards – At each venue, Parks and Recreation Staff distributed comment cards for citizens to use to provide feedback. Comments were routinely placed on the platteparks.org website for review by those who submitted them and for others to be aware of.

Explorer Newsletter – The *Explorer* Newsletter is a tool used by the Parks and Recreation Department to directly email to those residents who choose to be on the distribution list. It is sent out four times annually to approximately 1,000 households in the County in addition to being posted on the website. Its purpose is to keep citizens informed about current events within the park system.





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