

Chanute Recreation Commission Strategic Plan Summary

2016 – 2020

Rationale for this strategic plan:

Recent health statistics reports from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and other sources highlight health problems in Chanute/Neosho County including higher-than-average rates of obesity and diabetes, a lack of physical activity, and a lack of access to places for physical activity. These are correctable community health problems that must be addressed.

According to the World Health Organization, health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of infirmity. A healthy community as described by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services *Healthy People 2010* report is one that continuously creates and improves both its physical and social environments, helping people to support one another in aspects of daily life and to develop to their fullest potential. Healthy places are those designed and built to improve the quality of life for all people who live, work, worship, learn, and play within their borders - where every person is free to make choices amid a variety of healthy, available, accessible, and affordable options. (1)

The Kansas Health Foundation defines civic health as “a measure of the well-being of a community, state, or nation...determined by how actively citizens are engaged in their communities and in solving community issues. A community with strong civic health is resilient, has effective governance, and is a better place to live.” (2)

Correcting major community health problems requires a multi-pronged approach involving many entities. Chanute Recreation Commission pledges to work professionally and proactively with city commissioners and city departmental staff and to actively seek ways to form working partnerships and relationships with community individuals, businesses, industries, and organizations who are also committed to working positively toward the broad goal of achieving community health for the common good of all residents. We want Chanute to be a vibrant, thriving, healthy place to live and work.

The Chanute Recreation Commission believes that planned leisure activities and accessibility to public parks and recreational facilities should be available to all those who reside in USD 413 and the surrounding area. We offer a variety of programs and activities to enhance the social, cultural, educational, physical and emotional growth of our patrons. (3)

Goals and strategic plan of action:

Chanute Recreation Commission (CRC) has developed this strategic plan to guide forward progress toward three target goals. Chanute Recreation Commission is committed to:

1. Promoting community health for all Chanute residents.
 - a. Continuing to develop Lakeview Recreational Area to offer a wide variety of opportunities for physical activity.

- b. Establishing a kitchen facility to serve as a shared-use kitchen and potential emergency community feeding station.
2. Improving, updating, upgrading, and maintaining facilities.
 - a. Improving and upgrading softball/baseball field complex at Santa Fe Park.
 - b. Improving and upgrading Ralph Miller Gym to meet multiple-use standards.
3. Promoting excellence and quality in programs, activities and sports and in hiring, training and retaining staff.

Goal 1: CRC plans to be a leader and willing partner in working toward a mutually beneficial goal of community health for all Chanute and area residents.

- A. Establishing the Lakeview Recreational Area by re-purposing the former public Safari Golf Course is already a positive step in that direction. It is purposely designed to be a multi-use, multi-generational facility. To that end, we have developed 18 holes of disc golf, 18 holes of foot golf, 2+ miles of hiking/trekking trails, adult outdoor fitness equipment and children's Nature Trail play pods. No other community within 150 miles has a facility that offers the variety of options for physical activity found at Lakeview. This area is becoming and will continue to be a consideration for those planning to move to Chanute, to establish businesses or industries here, and for events that bring in tourism dollars. Lakeview is a designated National Demonstration Site. Plans for continued development and possibilities under consideration include, but are not limited to:
 - Establishing Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites (OWLS) in partnership with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
 - Adding an outdoor basketball court
 - Utilizing and maintaining the former Safari Golf Course clubhouse as a snack bar and public restroom facility, with possible area for equipment storage.
 - Possible development of a sand volleyball court
 - Possible development of horseshoe pits
- B. Establishing a kitchen within the Recreation Center has become an almost critical need. We plan to establish a kitchen as a shared-use facility which can be used for new programs by the Rec Center or by individuals or families to rent space for food preservation. Farm-to-table and self-sustenance are important building blocks of a healthy lifestyle. One community garden is within three blocks of the Rec Center. A kitchen facility would allow us to teach healthy food preparation and preservation skills and to form new working partnerships with local food growers, farmers' markets, and extension agents. If properly designed, the kitchen facility could also serve as an emergency community feeding station in the event of a major community crisis or weather-related emergency situation. Plans for establishing a kitchen and possibilities under consideration include, but are not limited to:
 - Purchasing and installing sinks, stove, dishwasher and refrigerator/freezer that meet city code requirements
 - Purchasing and installing at least two food preparation tables
 - Building proper storage areas for food supplies and kitchen equipment
 - Installing proper venting and emergency safety exits

Chanute Recreation Commission, 400 S. Highland Ave., Suite 2; Chanute, KS 66720. 620-431-4199.

<https://www.chanuterecreation.com/>. 1) World Health Organization. 2) Kansas Health Foundation. 3) CRC Employee Handbook.

- Purchasing kitchen equipment for cooking and serving food
- Purchasing and installing an emergency generator
- Purchasing and installing a washer and dryer (perhaps in a separate area)

Goal 2: Chanute Recreation Commission is committed to improving, updating, upgrading, and maintaining facilities.

- A. Improving, upgrading and maintaining recreation facilities is important to the success and safety of recreation programs, activities and events. Providing a wide variety of program options is necessary for increasing participation and for offering many choices for physical activity. Plans for upgrading and updating the softball/baseball complex at Santa Fe Park include, but are not limited to:
- Purchasing and installing new lights
 - Purchasing and installing new scoreboards
 - Completing necessary groundwork (which may include buying fill or soil and equipment for field maintenance)
 - Installing new fencing
 - Possibly re-designing the field layouts to a cloverleaf pattern
 - Possibly adding practice fields
 - Possibly adding batting cages
- B. Improving and upgrading the Ralph Miller Gym to meet multiple-use needs is necessary to be able to offer a variety of program options to residents and to make better and more efficient use of the space. Plans for improving and upgrading Ralph Miller Gym include and possibilities under consideration include, but are not limited to:
- Purchasing and installing a half-court net/divider
 - Removing bottom bleachers to add floor space
 - Building stairs to upper level seating
 - Possibly installing rafter-or wall-mounted full body exercise bands.
 - Possibly purchasing and installing new basketball goals
 - Possibly installing batting cages

Goal 3: Chanute Recreation Commission is committed to promoting excellence and quality in programs, activities and sports and in hiring, training and retaining staff.

Chanute Recreation Commission values excellence and professionalism. Staying informed and implementing best practices and on current and trending recreation initiatives is imperative for offering quality programs, sports, and activities. Safety and security are of primary importance for participants. Hiring, training, and retaining highly qualified staff is critical. Plans for promoting excellence and quality in programs, activities and sports include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining membership in Kansas Recreation and Parks Association and National Recreation and Parks Association
- Attending workshops, trainings, and conferences to stay informed on current practices, programs and trends
- Using research and data to plan and monitor success of programs, activities and sports
- Follow planned periodic evaluation of programs, activities and sports to make changes as necessary

Plans for hiring, training and retaining highly-qualified staff include, but are not limited to:

- Following current fair hiring practices and retention guidelines and policies and as adopted in the Employee Handbook.
- Creating and updating job descriptions as needed
- Training part-time workers to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their jobs
- Properly training staff in safety and security standards and procedures as required and as necessary.