

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 1998 in Room 522-S-of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Tom Severn, Legislative Research Department  
Mark Burenheide, Legislative Research Department  
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes  
Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Proponents:  
Steve Williams, Secretary, Wildlife & Parks  
Bud Burke, Issues Management Group, Lobbyist, Recreation & Parks  
Laura Kelly, Executive Director, Kansas Recreation & Park Association  
Ted Ensley, Shawnee County Commissioner  
Linda Schumacher, Utilization Review Coordinator, South Central Kansas Regional Medical Center  
Dr. Richard Erickson, Supt., USD 464, Tonganoxie  
Tammy Petersen, PTO President, Tonganoxie  
Marilyn Uppman, Citizen Board Member  
Don Seifert, City of Olathe  
Steve Thatcher, City of Belle Plaine, written testimony only

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Allen brought the committee's attention to the hearing on HB 2876 - local government outdoor recreation facilities grant program.

Steve Williams, Secretary, Wildlife & Parks, recognized by Chairperson Allen, gave a brief summary of HB2876. Secretary Williams stated HB2876 would establish a Kansas local government outdoor recreation grant program (Attachment 1).

Chairperson Allen recognized Bud Burke, testifying as a proponent on behalf of the 225 local Park and Recreation Districts located throughout the State of Kansas (Attachment 2).

Laura Kelly, Executive Director, Kansas Recreation & Park Association, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. Ms. Kelly stated HB2876 would help communities all across Kansas develop and maintain vital outdoor recreation opportunities for their citizens (Attachment 3).

Chairperson Allen recognized Shawnee County Commissioner, Ted Ensley, to speak to the committee. Mr. Ensley appeared in support of HB2876 (Attachment 4).

Linda Schumacher, Utilization Review Coordinator, South Central Kansas Regional Medical Center, spoke in support of HB2876 on behalf of Arkansas City (Attachment 5).

Dr. Richard Erickson, Superintendent, USD#464, presented testimony in support of HB2876 (Attachment 6).

Tammy Petersen, PTO President, Tonganoxie, recognized by Chairperson Allen, spoke as a proponent of HB2876 (Attachment 7).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE, Room 522-S-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 1997.

Marilyn Uppman, Citizen Board Member, recognized by Chairperson Allen, provided testimony in support of **HB2876 (Attachment 8)**.

Chairperson Allen recognized Don Siefert, City of Olathe, proponent of **HB2876 (Attachment 9)**.

Steve Thatcher, Mayor, City of Belle Plaine, Kansas sent written testimony in support of **HB2876 (Attachment 10)**

Chairperson Allen closed the hearing on **HB2876 - local government outdoor recreation facilities grant program.**

Chairperson Allen informed the committee a meeting would be scheduled next week to work **HB2876.**

The meeting was adjourned.

# SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM GUEST LIST

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 1998

NAME	REPRESENTING
Bud Burke	Ks Rec & Park Assn.
Brian Nowotny	Arkansas City, KS
LAURA KELLY	KRPA
Carol Chrymer	Harris News Service
Jerry Hoyer	KDWP
Jerry Stuart	KRPA Ulysses, Ks
Don Seibert	City of Olathe
Bill Katzenberger	City of Leavenworth
Bill Maasen	Johnson County Park & Rec. District
Steve Herrig	City of Leavenworth
Terry Dewese	City of Manhattan
Walter Jankt	Johnson County Parks & Rec. District
Sherry Saldan	Pete McNeil & Assoc.
Paul Luce	KDWP
Richard Erickson	Tonganoxie USD #464 - Supt.
Sammy Petersen	Tonganoxie
Mark Zerner	Tonganoxie Recreation Commission
Anne M. Jaffe	Shawnee County Parks & Recreation
Terl E. Volney	Shawnee County Comm

Cynthia Hocker  
 GENE WILLIAMS

Arkansas City, KS  
 KDWP





STATE OF KANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Office of the Secretary  
900 SW Jackson, Suite 502  
Topeka, KS 66612-1233  
785/296-2281 FAX 785/296-6953



March 3, 1998

Representative Barbara Allen, Chairperson  
Committee on Tourism  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Allen:

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks appreciates the opportunity to discuss the establishment of the Kansas local government outdoor recreation grant program as contained in House Bill No. 2876. In 1996, the Kansas Commission on Wildlife and Parks created the Task Force on Outdoor Kansas. The task force not only identified funding needs for the Department but also identified critical funding needs in our local communities. The Department and local communities share a common mission to provide adequate outdoor recreation opportunities for the citizens of Kansas. The grant program provided for within HB 2876 would allow for local governments to develop, renovate or repair local outdoor recreational facilities.

The establishment of the Kansas local government outdoor recreation grant program as contained in HB 2876 would allow the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to provide to local governments matching grants for the development of a variety of necessary outdoor recreation facilities. Local governments, as defined within HB 2876, would be eligible for grant assistance to be provided on the basis of \$1 provided by the local government for each \$1 provided by the Department. A portion of the grants awarded annually would be used for improvements in handicapped accessibility under criteria established by the Federal Americans with disabilities act.

The provisions of HB 2876 would require the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to develop and administer a grant program to award grants to local governments for capital improvement projects. Currently, the Department of Wildlife and Parks has established criteria for the awarding of grants from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program. The Department would utilize many of the same criteria for the awarding of grants through the Kansas local outdoor recreation grant program created by this bill. Currently, local projects have been identified ranging in fiscal need from \$2,500 to over \$500,000. A formula would be established whereby each local unit of government would be allowed to compete for matching grants to support local projects.

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Attachment 1

The Department of Wildlife and Parks supports the establishment of a local government outdoor recreation grant program from funds appropriated for that purpose. As stated previously, the Task Force on Outdoor Kansas identified a need for funding to improve local outdoor recreation facilities and the provisions of HB 2876 would address this need. If you or members of the Committee have any questions, I and members of my staff are available.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Williams  
Secretary of Wildlife and Parks

Williams\tohb2876

**ISSUES**



**MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.**

Testimony before the House Tourism Committee

March 4, 1998

Madam Chair and Members of the Tourism Committee. My name is Bud Burke and I appear before you today on behalf of the 225 local Park and Recreation Districts located throughout the State of Kansas.

Whether you live in a community that is growing in population or in a community that is population stable or declining, the need for park and recreation facilities is substantial. In growing communities where commercial and residential expansion threaten the availability of green space for play, relaxation, and community events and in rural areas where deteriorating or non-existent swimming pools, community centers and parks diminish the quality of life, making it difficult to retain or attract new residents and businesses, the need is there for adequate facilities and programs.

The 1996 Task Force on Outdoor Kansas, appointed by the Kansas Department and the 1997 Interim Committee on Tourism, Chaired by Representative Allen recognized the importance that Parks and Recreation programs have on our quality of life. Both have recommended a \$2 million matching grant program.

26391 Cedar Niles Circle  
Olathe, Kansas 66061  
(913) 782-8753 fax (913) 782-0052

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# Kansas Recreation and Park Association



700 SW Jackson St Ste 705 • Topeka Kansas 66603-3758 • (785) 235-6533 PH • (785) 235-6655 FAX

Testimony Prepared for the  
House Committee on Tourism  
Kansas Legislature  
Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Laura J Kelly, Executive Director  
Kansas Recreation and Park Association

Madam Chair and Committee Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this committee today on behalf of the 725 members of the Kansas Recreation and Park Association in support of HB 2876.

In 1995 the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Commission created a Task Force on Outdoor Kansas to identify outdoor recreation needs in the state, determine appropriate levels of funding to meet these needs and identify long-term, stable funding sources to generate the necessary revenues. In its report issued in Spring 1997, the Task Force recommended, among other things, that \$2 million be appropriated annually for a community parks assistance program. These funds would be available on a matching grant basis for the development, renovation and repair of outdoor recreation facilities and the acquisition of park land. In September 1997, the findings of the Task Force were presented to the Special Committee on Tourism. In its report, the Special Committee agreed with the Task Force on Outdoor Kansas and recommended a funding program to address the outdoor recreation needs of local communities.

For nearly 30 years, local communities could apply for matching grants to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LawCon). Revenues for this program came from a small fraction of the billions of dollars the federal government receives as royalty payments for offshore oil and gas drilling leases. Over the years, Kansas received more than \$40 million. That resulted in over \$80 million invested in park land acquisition and recreation facility renovation and development on the local level. I have included in the information provided for you, a comprehensive listing of all 539 LawCon grants made to Kansas communities from 1965 through 1991. (Also included is a list of unfunded grant applications from 1991/92). It is clear that the availability of these funds account for a significant number of the municipal swimming pools, tennis courts, parks, playgrounds and golf courses in operation today. It is also clear that many of these facilities were built 20 to 30 years ago and need to be replaced with more modern structures that meet the

*President*  
Stevens Friend CLP  
Burlington

*President-elect*  
Bill Cobb  
Johnson Co

*Past President*  
Anne Freeze  
Shawnee Co

*Secretary*  
Mary Jane Perry  
Overland Park

*Treasurer*  
Janice Parkratz CTRS CLP  
Salina

*Member at Large*  
Gayle Parker CLP  
El Dorado

*Member at Large*  
Betty Zeka CLP  
Hutchinson

*Executive Director*  
Laura Kelly

*An  
affiliate  
of the  
National  
Recreation  
and Park  
Association*



recreation expectations of today's consumer, federal disability accommodation mandates and acceptable safety standards. In a recent survey of municipal park and recreation agencies, just 15 communities ranging in size from 4,000 (Abilene) to 430,000 (Johnson Co) identified nearly \$23 million dollars in park and recreation renovations and over \$26 million in facility/park expansion that needed to be done now. Regularly take calls from smaller communities all over Kansas looking for funding assistance to fix a playground, install a swimming pool, build a small baseball complex or even rodeo rings to give their citizens some place to play and, often, in hopes of breathing life into their town's economy by drawing others in to use the facilities.

More and more communities are recognizing the economic value of having quality park and recreation facilities. Family aquatic centers like the one opened last year in Lawrence draw in swimmers from miles around. Convention and Visitors Bureaus vie to host soccer, softball and other sports tournaments knowing that they will fill hotels, restaurants, malls and gas stations. In 1994, over the course of 21 weekends, the City of Manhattan hosted 376 out of town teams at the Twin Oaks Softball Complex which cost \$750,000 to build in 1987. The direct benefit to the community in 1994 was nearly \$800,000. Using the Chamber of Commerce's multiplier, the total rollover effect of these tournaments was over \$2.3 million. In 1991, merchants in the City of Salina "complained" about not being able to keep ahead of the demand for baseball and softball equipment. This occurred shortly after Salina developed a multi-field sports complex and became a hot spot for tournaments. These new fields were likely a catalyst in the school district's decision to offer interscholastic baseball and softball at its high schools.

Many communities are sponsoring sophisticated arts, music and heritage programs and multi-day festivals in their parks, drawing hundreds and thousands of people and their discretionary dollars into their towns.

Tourists are also not the only ones drawn to towns by quality parks and recreation opportunities. Surveys show that small businesses, still the major employers and creators of new jobs, consistently rank parks and recreation in the top three reasons they choose to set up shop or stay in a particular community.

Quality parks and recreation facilities are a great investment but they are not cheap. Land costs, particularly in our more crowded urban areas, are high. Facility design and construction and even renovation are very expensive. A simple, pre-fab, 2 fixture per side restroom costs \$40,000 to install. Sturdier models with the same configuration average \$75,000. An installed playground starts at \$20,000 and can go up to \$150,000 or more

depending upon expected usage. Swimming pool renovation ranges from \$500,000-1,000,000. To replace a swimming pool in-kind costs from \$1-1.5 million. To build an upgraded swimming pool with enhancements that significantly increase attendance and revenues will cost a community anywhere from \$1.5-3 million. If a town wants to build a community center, it can expect to spend anywhere from \$2.5 million to over \$5 million for the facility alone. The need to comply with the complex regulations governing accessibility and safety and the liability incurred if a community doesn't, has all but eliminated the old-fashioned "barnraising" approach to building play structures.

Over the years, parks and recreation agencies and local governments have become very creative in finding ways to fund programs. Almost every community has implemented fees for their programs so that actual users bear the brunt of the operating costs. Public/private partnerships abound. Business is doing its part to help underwrite both programs and facility development. Some local communities have assessed themselves through sales taxes and fees on new residential construction with revenues targeted to parks and recreation. Bond issues have been passed to build pools and community centers. Innovative and responsible methods of financing parks and recreation will continue. But it is not enough to keep pace with the demands of growing urban areas and deteriorating rural facilities.

Many other states have responded to these same demands by creating dedicated funding sources that make grant monies available to local units. I have enclosed in your packet a partial list of other states and funding sources that they have used.

Today the Kansas Recreation and Park Association is asking that you support HB 2876 which would establish the Local Government Outdoor Recreation Grant Program to help communities all across Kansas develop and maintain vital outdoor recreation opportunities for their citizens.

Thank you.

**Testimony Prepared for the  
Kansas House Committee on Tourism  
HB 2876  
Wednesday, March 4, 1998**

**Theodore D. Ensley, Vice Chairman  
Board of Shawnee County Commissioners**

Madame Chair and Committee Members,

This testimony is in support of HB 2876 which enables the Kansas Legislature to create and fund the "Local Government Outdoor Recreation Grant Program". This bill provides the Legislature the vehicle to provide funding for local units of government such as Shawnee County for outdoor recreation facility development and land acquisition. Unfunded mandates, mandated services, and the tax lid do not leave any ability for funding of repairs, enhancements, or acquisitions at the local level.

Since the 1930's with the construction of Lake Shawnee in Shawnee County by the Works Progress Administration, Shawnee County acquired additional parklands for its citizens through the federal government's "Legacy of Parks" grant program and from transfers of state properties to the county.

While the interior improvements to buildings inherited have relied solely on county funding, numerous facilities and developments in these new parklands depended on the now extinct federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars through the matching grant programs.

Shawnee County parklands and recreational facilities host more than 1.5 million visitors each year. That is due to the development of facilities through the LWCF which include the following:

Lake Shawnee Campground - 14,000 nights of camping with visitors registering from more than 36 different states annually.

Lake Shawnee Swimming Beach - provides a safe swimming environment for more than 22,000 visitors seasonally.

Shawnee North Community Park Pool - attracts visitors throughout northeast Kansas with over 50,000 users in the 1997 summer season.

Lake Shawnee Golf Course - over 15% of the annual 53,000 rounds travel to play from outside Shawnee County in addition to the many statewide youth, high school age, and ladies tournaments held each year.

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These facilities were constructed in the early 1970's. Through the heavy use they have seen over the years, costly repairs are imminent. Shawnee County tax base and user fees alone cannot support these repairs without serious, detrimental effects to the already existing recreational programs, services, and special events.

The establishment of a matching grant program would tremendously aid in facility repair plus in meeting the ongoing needs and new demands from residents for facilities and improvements. These are just a few of the requests over the past three years that have gone unmet:

- Lake Shawnee Recreation Trail for safety of walkers and bikers around the lake.
- Acquisition and development of parkland in more rural areas and developing areas of the county.
- Tennis court improvements at both Lake Shawnee and Shawnee North Community Parks.
- Expansion of the Shawnee North Community Park Pool.
- Roller blade hockey outdoor surfaces.
- Nature Trail bridges over Indian Creek in Shawnee North Community Park.
- Expansion of youth and adult softball, baseball, and other gamefields.

These facilities, their improvements and new parklands are vital to the QUALITY OF LIFE of the Shawnee County community and all communities across the State of Kansas. New business and industry are attracted; safe and positive recreation environments for youth and adults are provided. The ability of the parks to attract such special events as the Huff n' Puff Balloon Rally, Spirit of Kansas '98 Festival, Great Plains Rowing Championships, US Masters National Rowing Championships, national softball and baseball tournaments, golf tournaments, and provide camping destinations and other recreational opportunities add to increased visitors from out of state and contribute significantly to the tourism industry in the State of Kansas.

Through the development of a matching grant program, Shawnee County residents and the tourism industry would greatly benefit from enhanced and new recreational facilities and parks throughout the community.

Kansas House Committee on Tourism  
March 4, 1998  
HB 2876



My name is Linda Schumacher and I am here to speak on behalf of Arkansas City.

I feel we could be a case study for what the proponents of HB 2876 envisioned. We are a small South Central community of 13,000 who have been hard hit by more than our share of business closures. Despite these setbacks, the work ethic and pioneering spirit of our community has seen us through.

We have a strong, multi-talented group of business and community leaders and volunteers who have had a vision of what they see for the future of Arkansas City and have been very resourceful in plotting that future.

In 1995, The Lower Walnut Valley Greenway Project, a linear park, open space was developed to surround the newly finished U.S. 77 Bypass. Some aspects of the project have progressed as far as they can without financial help, particularly the Sports Complex and the 3.1 mile Shoefly Trail (hike/bike trail).

Many Kansas communities have taken advantage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) to construct hike/bike trails in their areas but as you know, that act expired in 1997 and we do not know if Congress will reauthorize this program.

We have implemented other projects with volunteers and little else. Ninety (90) colorful Maple trees were planted at Arkansas City's North entrance with an Adopt a Tree program, Aunt Sally's Landing Memorial at the intersection of the newly reconstructed U.S. 166/77 Bypass commemorating the landing site of the historic riverboat which once traveled the Arkansas River, a temporary hike/bike trail has been cut out on city property and marked for Spring usage and U.S. Highway 166 Scenic Byway application has been tentatively approved.

As you can see, we have the framework and a backlog of projects and are working hard to attract new companies and opportunities to our city. These projects would help prove we are a viable, progressive community and improve the quality of life for our citizens and those thinking of making Arkansas City their home.

The Rural Culture Tourism Assessment for Cowley County which we requested the Kansas Sampler Foundation perform last year, only confirmed for us what we already knew, we have alot to offer and only want the chance to do so. Your adoption of HB 2876 would do that for us.

Thank you for your consideration!

Linda Schumacher  
3 Lakewynds Dr.  
Arkansas City, Ks. 67005

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Attachment 5

### Support for HB 2876

This bill will provide a competitive and cost effective means of improving the parks in the state of Kansas for the following reasons:

1. The program operates on a competitive grant basis and monies will not be distributed unless the proposals are competitive and there are local effort dollars that are contributed to the project.
2. It provides seed money to stimulate the improvement of parks around the state. Parks are very important component of a community's image and well maintained and equipped parks are important to tourism and economic development for a community.
3. Our parks are an important part of heritage and our history as a nation and as a state. People of all ages can support and relate to the importance of maintaining and equipping parks.
4. The development of parks can encourage the development of strong community partnerships between the school district, city government, the recreation commission and other entities in the community. The recreation commission needs access to school facilities and the school district has a need for the athletic fields and playground areas that are available in the parks. This is the case in the Tonganoxie Community the Tonganoxie Recreation Commission and City are wanting to develop a park that will serve the needs of all people but the Recreation Commission does not have the funding to sufficiently begin or complete this project. A matching grant program would provide state and local support needed to develop this park.

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Attachment 6

Applicant: City of Tonganoxie

1. Briefly describe the community needs that you wish to address with this project.

In the face of heavy predicted growth, Tonganoxie is attempting to enhance the livability and viability of our community by taking proactive measures. We are attempting to insure that all of the components for effectively managing our future are in place prior to receiving an even greater influx of residential, commercial and/or industrial development. Some of the issues the City is trying to address include finding an additional water source, expanding the water treatment capacity and distribution system, increasing wastewater collection and treatment capacity, improving the City's transportation systems, extending our infrastructure to outlying areas for growth purposes, revitalizing the downtown business district, adding to the community's recreational facilities and providing for expanded meeting and banquet facilities.

2. What activities are you proposing to address these community needs?

To meet these needs, the City of Tonganoxie is undergoing exploratory measures to secure an additional water source. We are incurring expense to rehabilitate the City's water treatment plant and to upgrade existing water mains. We propose adding an additional oxidation ditch and clarifier to increase wastewater treatment capacity. Widening and resurfacing major arterial and collector streets throughout the city limits is a priority along with extending identified arterial and collector streets, water distribution and wastewater collection infrastructure into outlying areas to support additional expansion. Revitalizing the downtown business district should include rebuilding 4<sup>th</sup> and Main streets, reconstructing sidewalks along these routes, adding period lighting and providing landscaping for aesthetic purposes. We propose to expand the City's park system by adding additional green space, hiking/biking paths, sports fields and playground equipment. We also foresee providing additional recreational possibilities and meeting/banquet facilities to the community by constructing a community center.

3. What resources are you proposing to address these problems?

<u>KDOC&amp;H resources</u>	<u>Other resources</u> (include local resources plus outside funding sources that may commit or have committed funds to the project)
CDBG, KPF, CSP	Ad Valorem Property Taxes
HERO, CSBG, ESG	Bond Issue
Funds for Weatherization	Land Donation
Kansas Housing Template	Outside Investors & Developers
KEOIF, KEIEP, HPIP, KEZA	School District Funding
KIT, KPF, Etc.	Local Area Business Donations
	City Force Account

4. Are there other needs or activities that you would like to address that are not discussed above (due to inability to locate suitable funding, lack of a clear solution, etc.)?

Some other activities the Community would like to address which are not discussed above include adding a new swimming pool. Assisted living facilities are also needed in Tonganoxie. General cleanup of local area residential and business properties is also a priority.

5. Describe the comprehensive nature of this project. How are the needs and/or solutions interrelated?

We want Tonganoxie to be a community where we can be proud to live, work and play. To preserve and enhance the community's livability, we need to address all areas of community development including business, industrial, residential and community character/amenities. Each of these areas must be addressed in turn for each of the other areas to be viable.

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Attachment 7

**TONGANOXIE RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Facilities Report/Comprehensive Plan**

Some of these activities are responsibilities which the Recreation Commission will undertake. Many will be cooperative effort between different groups within the community.

# 1 Assist in the building of an 11 acre park located across from high school. Include: Soccer fields, playground equipment, horseshoe pits, lighted basketball and tennis courts. Walking/hiking/biking trail linking this park with Reusch/VFW park. Place flower gardens, park benches, water fountains, etc. in park. Also, build sand volleyball courts next to park on either school property or across creek next to VFW park.

# 2 A trail system should link the new 11 acre park with the VFW park and proceed southeast along Tonganoxie creek (west side). Linear trail should continue in phases. Trail system could travel city boundaries while linking parks, Historical Society facilities, large subdivisions, and Recreation Commission facilities.

# 3 Construct small ballfield behind TRC 2. Smaller field would be used for T-Ball (ages 5-6) and K-Ball (7-8). Field would have access to concession stand/restroom facility located nearby. Also gives Recreation Commission additional practice field.

# 4 Build walk bridge or vehicle bridge to link Recreation Commission properties separated by large creek. Has been discussion of entering 6.25 acres from the east and southeast properties.

# 5 Construct two possibly three ballfields on 6.25 acres north of creek. Multi-use fields for both softball and baseball. Will allow for expansion of teams plus adds flexibility to scheduling.

# 6 Floodplain east of Tonganoxie creek and next to highway 24-40 plant and label native prairie grasses. Add park benches to greenspace.

# 7 Build fishing lake surrounded by picnic facilities, flower gardens, park benches, etc. Locate near Tonganoxie creek in southeast portion of City. Park should be linked with community trail system.



# 8 Continue with \_\_\_\_\_ in southeast portion of City limits. \_\_\_\_\_ links 80 acres presently owned by school district.

# 9 Construct multi-purpose facility on school district's 80 acres. Facility could be used by school programs, groups as well as recreation opportunities for the general public. Indoor facility should include:

Large gymnasium (enough space for two basketball courts, volleyball courts), racquetball/badminton courts, swimming pool, exercise/weight room, meeting/conference rooms, aerobics, track above basketball courts. Also include, community theater and administrative offices.

# 10 Another option for a Community Center could be the Elementary school building. If the school district builds on the 80 acres the Elementary school could be turned into a Community Center.

# 11 Build large park in south portion of City, near Community Center, assuming Center is built in southern Tonganoxie. Include sports facilities (baseball/softball, football, and soccer fields) to fulfill youth and adult needs. In addition, construct park facilities (picnic tables, shelters, benches, water fountains, flower gardens, etc.) to give patrons opportunities for passive recreation. Walking/biking trail links Community center to park and proceeds westward to Historical Society facilities. Advise placing volleyball, tennis, basketball courts, as well as horseshoe pits within the park.

# 12 Build neighborhood parks in subdivisions (20 or more homes). Land should be set aside for park use. Include playgrounds, picnic facilities, etc. Incorporate the trail system with each neighborhood park.

# 13 Construct new outdoor swimming pool near largest sub-division. Another location could be near part of community experiencing largest amount of growth.

**TESTIMONY TO  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM  
HOUSE BILL 2876  
BY  
MARILYN UPPMAN, BOARD MEMBER  
JOHNSON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 4, 1998**

Honorable Chairperson Allen and  
Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about funding for outdoor recreation in Kansas and, more specifically, the creation of a fund to meet the future needs of State and local parks.

I have been a member of the Johnson County Park and Recreation District Board of Commissioners since 1987 and prior to that was on the Prairie Village City Council for six (6) years.

Mr. Gary L. Haller, Director of Johnson County Park and Recreation District, had the honor of serving on the Task Force on Kansas Outdoor Recreation this past year and he previously presented testimony to this committee on the merits of creating a statewide fund. HB 2876 is simply recommending the mechanism to allow for the creation of a fund, but without budgetary authority.

HB 2876 will be the first step in establishing a replacement for the former Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars that previously were the life-blood of local park and recreation agencies.

In 1965, the Federal Government, through the Department of the Interior, established the LWCF which, through that fund, appropriated dollars for states having developed, with local units of government, a comprehensive State Outdoor Recreation Plan. The plan needed to address both State and local needs. Projects identified in the plan were then selected for LWCF support. From 1965 to 1987, Kansas received over \$40 million from this fund, which was matched by the State or local units, amounting to a total outdoor recreation investment in Kansas of over \$80 million. Of this investment, over 70% was matched at the local levels of government. Since

*House Tourism  
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Attachment 8*

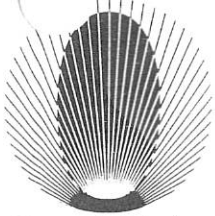
1989, the funding of this program has dwindled substantially and was eliminated entirely in 1995. The question, which was addressed by the Task Force on Kansas Outdoor Recreation, is where will Kansas find the \$80 million over the next 20 years to repair, renovate and improve its outdoor recreation investments.

HB 2876 will authorize the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to create and administer this proposed grant program. It does not identify a source of funds. This bill only creates the mechanism authorizing the Secretary to fulfill the Task Forces' recommendations toward meeting such a challenge. If funds become available at a later date, the grants will be awarded on a competitive basis and, require a local match of dollar-for-dollar of state funds.

The local need varies across the state. In Johnson County, our need is for parkland acquisition before the price and locations are unattainable due to rapid urbanization of the county. In some communities in the western portion of the State, there is a need for facility replacement or renovation, as many of the facilities previously funded, like State Park facilities, are more than 25 years old. There is a tremendous backlog of local projects needing funding assistance, as identified by the Kansas Recreation and Park Association.

At the local level of government, few sources of dollars are available for capital improvements since the LWCF disappeared as a source. For this reason, the Johnson County Park and Recreation District asks for your support of HB 2876 to authorize the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to develop a grant program that will assist in meeting local outdoor recreation and park needs.

Thank you.



City of Olathe

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the House Tourism Committee

**FROM:** Donald R. Seifert, Management Services Director *DRS*

**SUBJECT:** HB 2876; Local Government Outdoor Recreation Facilities Grant Program

**DATE:** March 4, 1998

On behalf of the city of Olathe, thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of this bill which would establish a matching grant program available to local units of government for development and renovation of outdoor recreation facilities.

This bill is an example of the devolution movement from the federal government to the states and cities. It is intended to establish at the state level a program similar to the federal Land and Water Conservation Act (LWCA) grants, which formerly were available to cities through state government. The city of Olathe was the beneficiary of several LWCA grants for three parks in our community. These parks are significant components of our outdoor recreation system, and the city believes they represent a sound investment in the community's quality of life.

The city of Olathe last received an LWCA grant in the mid-1980's. Since that time, the city has turned to other means to finance park improvements. On a limited basis, the city has used sales tax and property tax revenues for park improvements. However, these sources must compete with police, fire protection and all other basic city services. The city's share of the state alcoholic liquor tax and a park excise tax imposed on new construction has allowed the city to acquire land and develop neighborhood parks. However, the city's recently adopted 1998-2002 capital improvements program has identified more than \$9 million in needed improvements and ADA compliance work in existing parks. This figure does not include land acquisition for new community and sub-community type parks, one of the strong points of the old LWCA program.

The city recognizes that at this point HB 2876 has no appropriation, no grant guidelines, and that Olathe may not even be funded if a program were in place. However, the city had a good experience under the federal program, and wishes to lend its support to this legislation which builds for the future. We would encourage the Legislature to expand its thinking beyond a matching grant program to perhaps a revolving loan concept for local communities. Much has been accomplished under this concept for local water and wastewater facilities. SB 648, recently endorsed by a Senate committee, extends this concept to local road and highway improvements.

The city appreciates this Committee's recognition of both the economic value and quality of life benefits of park and recreation facilities. We would urge the Committee to recommend HB 2876 favorably for passage, and encourage its funding at a level to build a successful program.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

rc

House Tourism  
03-04-98  
Attachment 9



# City of BELLE PLAINE

"Incorporated 1884"

March 3, 1998

The Honorable Representative Barbara Allen, Chairperson  
House Special Committee on Tourism  
House of Representatives  
Topeka, KS

Dear Honorable Representative Barbara Allen:

It is the City of Belle Plaine's understanding that House Bill #2876 will come before the House Special Committee on Tourism this week for further discussion and consideration. I would like to express my support and request that the members of the Committee approve this very important bill.

The City of Belle Plaine is attempting to upgrade it's parks to meet ADA standards and conform to safety guidelines. This is a costly venture for a City the size of Belle Plaine. A safety inspection has been conducted, funds dedicated to begin the upgrade, and donations solicited from a local franchise to assist in this project. The funds available fall short of the anticipated \$15,000 to \$20,000 needed to complete a project of this type. At our current level of funding this project, it is estimated to take approximately three years to implement all safety guidelines and to install new equipment. If the City of Belle Plaine were to have the assistance of the State it is anticipated that it would be possible with matching funds to complete this project in 1998 or 1999.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for this very important Bill. I would appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

THE CITY OF BELLE PLAINE, KANSAS

*Steve Thatcher*  
Steve Thatcher  
Mayor

DB

- cc:  Representative Peggy Palmer
- Representative Richard Alldritt
- Laura Kelly, Executive Director, Kansas Recreation and Parks Association
- Representative Bill McCreary
- Senator Greta Goodwin

Box 157, 401 N. Merchant  
Belle Plaine, KS 67013  
(316) 488-3433



House Tourism  
03-04-98  
Attachment 10