

Appendix F

Grinnell Telephone Survey Responses to Open-Ended Questions

Q2 If NO in Q1 – What is the reason for you not having visited any park and recreation facilities or participated in any recreational activity in the Grinnell parks in the last 12 months?

Old person does not get out much	Too old	Too old
Too old	Too old	Not interested
Sick	Too old	Disabled
No reason to go	Too old	No reason to use them
Too old	We have no children	Live away 6 months out of the year
Too old	Too old	Too old
Too busy	Nothing of interest to us	Just don't go
Live in rest home	I'm alone and just don't use the park	Too old
Knee surgery	Too old	Too old
Sick	Health issues	Just don't go out
Too old	No need to use the park	Didn't know there was one
Not interested	I just don't use them	Too old
Too old	Disabled	Too old
Sick husband	Sick	Too busy
Work long hours	Too old	Not interested
No reason to go	No time	Too old
No car and widowed	No time	No reason
Too busy	Too old	No time
Too busy	Too old	Too old
Too old	Too old	Too old
No time	Too old	Too old
No time	Don't go out anymore	Too old
Work too much	Don't go out anymore	Too busy
No time	Work too much	Too far
Too old	Too old	Too far
Not interested	No time	Too busy at work
No time	Too old	Too old
No time	No more young grandkids	Too old
No time	Too old	Just moved here
No time	Too old	Too old
No time	Too old	Too old
No time	Too old	Don't go out anymore
Not interested	No time	Not interested
No time	Don't get out much	Not interested
Not interested	No time	Not interested
No time	No reason	Too old
Not interested	Too busy	Not interested
Too old	No reason	Not interested

Moving soon	Can't get around	Not interested
Too busy with work	Too old	Not interested
Not interested	Nothing of interest	Not interested
Not interested	Not interested	Not interested
Too old	Too old	Too old
Too old	Too old	Too old
Too old	Not interested	Too old
Too old	Not interested	Too old
Too busy	Not interested	Too old
Sick	Too old	Don't like to

Q13 In the City of Grinnell, the average cost for the current park system is \$30.97 per person each year in the property taxes. Knowing this information and trying to balance what residents want from their park system, how much do you think the average person should pay for a park system each year?

30.97	30.97	35
I have no idea	30.97	30.97
I have no idea	30.97	Not qualified to answer
62.00	45.00	No answer
30.97	Whatever is needed, parks	50
30.97	are important	30.97
A little lower	Parks need to be free to	30.97
30.97	the public	20.00 – pay less
30.97	Don't know	30
30.97	30.97 is good	30
I don't know	Not sure	30
30.97	Done by sales tax	30
30.97	No increase	30
30.97	No more than 50	30
40.00	Free	50
30.97	Same, no more than \$40	Higher, maybe just a
30.97	60	couple dollars per person
30.97	Same	Slightly higher
30.97	30.97	Probably higher, at least
30.97	Same	10% of that figure
40.00	40	30.97
25.00	50	30.97
30.97	Same	30.97
30.97	30	40
30.97	30.97	30.97
30.97	30	30.97
30.97	30	25
30.97	50	20
30.97	35	30.97
30.97	45	25
30.97	32	30.97
30.97	30.97	30.97
30.97	5.00 more	30.97
30.97	Less than 30.97 per year	30.97
32.00	Fine at 30.97	Not sure
30.97	50	40
35.00	40	45
45.00	35	30.97
30.00	35	50
30.97	30.97 is okay	50

Don't know	45	No higher
25	20	100/year
35	20	30
30.97	30.97	No idea, older don't use;
30.97	30.97	don't know satisfied with
20	30.97	cost as is
40	30.97	Double
30.97	30.97	30.97
30.97	30.97	30.97
30.97	50	20
30.97	40	30.97
25	33	30.97
30.97	75	30.97
30 to 50	20	50
30	40	35
50	20	20
60	40	30.97
30.97	100	Same
30	45	30.97
35	5.25	Same
40 or 50	30.97	35.95
30.97	30.97	Don't know
30	30.97	40+
30	30.97	Don't know
Same, but could go a little higher to ensure activities, have 2 children	30.97	30.97
30.97	30.97	30.97
50	About the same	30.97
30.97	31	30.97
30.97	Don't know	30.97
30.97	35	30.97
30.97	33	30.97
30.97	32	50
30.97	30.97	30.97
30.97	Same	40
30.97	20	30.97
30.97	Less	30.97
30.97	20 or less	30.97
50	Stay the same	30.97
50	20 or less	30.97
30.97	Stay the same	30.97
35	Unsure	40
30	30.97	
40	Don't know	

Q14 What do you like MOST or LEAST about the park & recreation SYSTEM provided by the City of Grinnell?

Don't know

I like Ahrens park the most, it has baseball and softball for children

The lake isn't taken care of as it should be

Most: the number of parks and the fact that they are throughout the city. Least: classes offered by the park system

Most: walking paths, Ahrens Park – indoor walking in winter is great! Arbor Lake – walking trail in natural environment is good, even though water is grungy. No one swims in it anyway.

No opinion

Most: playground equipment for children

Most: Farmer's Market, Thursday's in the Park & the variety for young children

No answer
 I like the indoor walking facilities
 The parks are very well maintained. It would be nice to see the Van Horn Park developed.
 Nice location, parking.
 The quality
 The location of the parks
 Most: the fact that they are well maintained
 It has good accommodations
 Most: the locations of the parks
 Most: the locations
 Most: the activities
 Playground equipment is in pretty good condition
 Farmer's Market and walking trails
 Easy access to the parks
 Dislikes when brushes are not picked up
 We need a better swimming pool
 Cleanliness of the parks and the landscaping
 They are well-kept
 Comfy atmosphere
 Need more play groups for age-appropriate kids
 Don't know
 The availability and accessibility of the parks
 Good locations for most people
 Everything is fine
 The playgrounds for the kids are great
 I like everything just fine
 The programs are fine
 No comment
 Good play equipment but they need to improve the programs offered
 Need more tables and more play equipment for the children
 I like what they currently have
 All is good
 Like the Farmer's Market, I like the parks are in good condition
 Like the Farmer's Market, play areas, walking inside
 Like the Farmer's Market and Ag Appreciation Tour
 Jingle Bell Holiday
 It's all good
 Farmer's Market is good, swimming pools need to be redone
 Nice to have more seating for summer events – Central Park
 Pretty happy
 I'm not sure
 Appreciates playground equipment
 Don't know
 Good place for people to go – ball games
 Playground and picnic facilities need improvement
 Play structure, most – no trees, no shade anywhere, no wooded areas, least
 Most: variety of parks, least: not enough picnic areas
 Benches are needed for older people, it would help out a lot, it wouldn't hurt to have a park past
 David school on Min, good place for kids, there's a lot of houses
 Trees and green space are good, arbor lake is the most grimy, has a bad surrounding view, the
 lake itself is poor, it could be nice
 Farmer's Market is all right
 I like the differences, each park has something that the others don't
 The bathrooms aren't clean, dog poop isn't cleaned
 Scattered around, easily accessible and neighborhood parks
 Activities in Central are very good

I like the beautification, but some need repairs
 They do a good job on all parks
 I like the facilities
 They are very good
 They do good job
 Most: number of parks, least: too many not used
 Most: number of parks that they provide
 Likes baseball at the park, dislikes upgrade of facilities
 No comment
 Parks and facilities are maintained well
 Most: Merrill, Least: they need security for graffiti
 They should do more for Arbor Lake
 Don't know where others are, more advertisement on what's going on
 They need more programs and pools and activities, need a YMCA
 Activities, well kept
 Dealing with people in the office, wonderful helping, pro-Grinnell
 Seem to keep them up, mowing, clean, etc.
 Good programs
 I like that they provide enough activities
 Pretty satisfied with it
 Pleased with the facilities
 Just the availability, but they have too many parks that they don't need
 I like the programs, need more improvement on parks
 I like the quality of parks
 The way they maintain location
 Need to maintain the Tommazine park and need to keep up the playground, need more
 equipment for playgrounds
 I most enjoy playground equipment and I enjoy a volleyball park, they need to clean up parks
 better and the restroom facilities
 Enjoy the Farmer's Market
 I like the natural and recreation
 I like the park's playground equipment
 I like the playground, they need to get the swimming
 I like the park as is
 I like the playgrounds for smaller children
 Most: Farmer's Market and Concert in the Park
 Most; programs are good
 Most: they do a good job
 Least: the city doesn't provide enough funding for programs and have to rely on volunteers, also it
 is taking too long to provide a swimming program, new people moving here look for this
 Arbor lake needs a paved trail
 No answer
 Farmer's Market
 The parks need to be remodeled
 I like the family activities
 I like the numerous activities for the public
 I like that there are numerous parks spread around the city
 The parks need more benches
 I like the upkeep of the parks the most
 Best: a place to go and enjoy solitude
 It is great when the grandchildren come visiting
 I enjoy being able to walk the trails with safety in mind
 I like the walking trails
 I enjoy the different types of parks and how they are kept up
 I enjoy Arbor Lake park because you get to walk around the lake
 I like the beautiful trees

The best thing is that there is no cost to go to the park
 I like the outdoors
 Well kept parks, I would love to see play equipment updated in smaller parks, baseball diamonds,
 room for soccer and maybe a bike trail
 There is a multitude of parks and they are well taken care of
 The central location
 The accessibility
 The family activities
 I like recreation trails the most
 There are lots of family activities
 Most: I like the activities provided in Central park, Least: how rundown the other parks are
 Least: the water quality is bad in the parks
 Least: I least like the appearance of the parks
 Need more bench areas and walkways in the parks
 I like the cleanliness of the parks
 Need more activities for people who work the morning and afternoons
 They do a great job with the programs, they are well maintained
 Most: keeping the facilities clean, least: need to promote
 I like the facilities, they are kept up
 I like most the maintenance
 The lack of parking
 I like how they keep up the parks
 They are doing a good job
 Most: the activities in Central Park, the music, etc. Least: lacking publicity of activities, don't
 usually know until after event
 Most: music in the park, Farmer's Market, 4th of July, Tractor and Jingle Bells
 How well the parks are kept up
 They do a good job
 Most: swimming lessons for children and other kid activities and other continued improvement of
 these
 Most: likes everything, kite day too in Ahren's park
 Most: availability and accessibility
 I like the playground equipment and the recreational trails
 Need more benches and bathrooms
 I like the bike riding trails
 The athletic facilities are outstanding
 Most: the birds at Arbor Lake, Least: cutting down too many trees
 I like the cleanliness
 I like the bike trails and music in the park
 Most: lots of activities that are free
 Most: many parks in different areas of the city, Least: need to expand upon equipment at some of
 the parks
 Most: activities are widespread, there is a variety, a few parks are great, Least: no much variety in
 the equipment for different ages, I have not seen a dog trail yet and would like one
 Most: number of activities that draw the people downtown
 Most: we have a lot of parks and I like that
 Most: location of the parks
 I like the softball facilities
 Most: having parks available when I want them, Central Park and Farmer's Market
 Most: there is a wide variety of activities, Least: the public pool facilities
 The parks serve a great deal to beautify the city
 I like the concerts and car shows
 I like the programs
 I like the number and variety of activities that go on in the parks
 The parks are really nice for recreating and relaxing, Least: that we don't have an updated
 aquatic center

I like the music and Farmer's Market, like the facility and Arbor Lake, nature and wildlife
 Most: the programs in Central Park, Least: a couple of the parks are taken over by teens
 NA
 Parks, Farmer's Market
 Most: Farmer's Market, music in the park
 NA
 Happy days, playgrounds
 Farmer's Market, happy
 Music in the park, Jingle Bell holiday
 Music, like fishing
 Easy to get to the different areas
 Better playgrounds in smaller parks
 Not enough advertising
 Need indoor swimming pool, like the walk trail in Garth Park
 Happy days, night out
 I think the park could provide more modern bathrooms, baby changing tables, sinks
 I'd like to see more activities for small children age 2-5
 Being able to use the parks, especially when the family comes
 I appreciate that they are well taken care of and available to so many people
 It's always clean
 Facilities
 Number of facilities
 Abundance of activities
 We like all the parks
 More evenings for programs
 NA
 I enjoy the baseball and Farmer's Market
 Like them the way are, make trails more pavement to walk on, make more bike trails
 Make this more convenient, programs need to be on weekdays more
 Like the park as is
 Like them all
 No opinion
 They have done a good job with it
 It's alright, run good
 Easy to get to – can walk there, i.e.: Bailey, vandalization
 Most: programs, Least: don't know, we're elderly, not much participation
 No idea
 Most: variety of parks with own speciali features, Least: sometimes their moving ability sticks –
 Lake Nyanza which joins Miller Park
 Need better trails
 The parks need better playgrounds for children
 There are a variety of activities
 The parks are great places to relax
 Like the numerous activities for children
 Need more bathrooms in parks
 Need indoor walking trails
 Like easy access to parks
 Parks are kept up pretty good
 Too many geese at Arbor Lake
 Many panes
 Likes it because its close to his house
 Central needs more seating for the concerts
 Big shade trees, happy days, Central Park is great
 Most: accessibility
 Most: number of parks, Least: allow dogs in dog park
 There is nothing

Most: useful youth act
Walking trail, using gym for winter
Just overall beauty
Everything, walking, overall beauty
Park nearby for everyone
Like having them available
Takes grandkids, love accessibility
Least: not enough activities for senior citizens, Most, number of parks
Easy to get to
Fairly good, fantastic job in equality
Activities at Central Park
Nature parts, water, overall beauty, Grinnell is blessed to have such well kept parks
Very clean, nothing bad happens
Keeping them very clean
Beauty of nature
Very diverse
Big trees, updated equipment at Bailey
The beauty of parks

Q16 What OTHER services/activities should the City of Grinnell park system provide?

Miniature golf
Ice skating
Some activity with horses
Indoor swimming
Shaded area for swimming, get rid of geese
Need a YMCA in Grinnell
Need handicap parking for the parade routes
Skating rink
Less heavy blades, because they ring the old trees and kill old growth trees
Biking and wooded areas
Bolted benches at Central Park, no pets
Softball team, dog park possibly with water
Dog walking rules should be enforced
More baseball fields
Safer equipment
Swimming pool upgrade
Water feature
More trails around the city
Programs for elderly people, retirees
Sounds good – Farmer's Market
Skateboard park, stoplights
I understand there is now a ballet activity provided and hope it will be continued and expanded
Swimming area open at night
Rain forest activities
Rain forest activities
She is not able to be active in activities, prefer to say no opinion and let those very active decide,
there used to be ice skating
Bird habitats, real running surface (soft)
There should be specific dog walking areas
An aquatic center
None
None
Lighting at night
Sidewalks, instead of streets
Bike trails

Need to put a dog facility in Jaycee Park (only Summers St.) since that one isn't utilized,
otherwise, it's a dead end road and not utilized for other activities as other parks, so use
for dog walking
Safe off-road bike trails
More summer programs
Get rid of geese
No shade at Merrill Park for playground
Too many geese
Swimming pool needs to be updated

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