



Kirkwood, Missouri 2024 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

Open-Ended Comments

Presented to City of Kirkwood
September 2024



ETC
INSTITUTE

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Q5. Please CHECK ALL of the following reasons that prevent you or members of your households from visiting City of Kirkwood parks and recreation facilities more often.

Q5-14. Other

- AQUATIC CENTER IS TOO EXCLUSIVE-FIND IT EASIER TO GO TO DES PERES AQUATIC CENTER
- Assortment and timing of classes.
- Between work and housework, there is little time available.
- busy
- busy
- Busy with other things except Greentree Festival
- Cars are prioritized over walkers & bikers. Needs to be easier for pedestrians. For example, pedestrians to Kirkwood park from the East all must cross the massive parking lot with no dedicated/protected pedestrian walkways.
- Community center is an embarrassment to this community. Look around at the facilities in other towns. Kind of sad to see the number of Kirkwood residents join those
- Completely outdated and amenities completely unacceptable compared to all surrounding cities. Quality of aquatics (indoor-non existent/outdoor and lack of gym center in ratio of taxes is shameful
- Cost and lack of chairs
- Cost of aquatic center is a little high... then to pay more to river walk ...
- During the summer having more planted shade trees in the parking lot for pool and park is a must. And more trees for older kids playground area
I personally want more trees and greens spaces throughout the densest parts of town, more multimodal protected bike and walk trails that connect all of the Kirkwood parks and also connects us to neighboring towns, maybe a nice cafe like Rockwell brewery has in Francis park, and improved calisthenics stations. This will be the reason why people want to live, invest and stay in Kirkwood.
- Health reasons
- I HAVE PROPERTY AT INNSBROOK-I SWIM THERE
- If the aquatic center offered programs like River Walking through the entire summer rather than ending when kids go back to school it would be much better. Think outside the box, hire area college kids. Sunset hills does it. Theirs is open until Labor Day. You could make more money and fix the things that are broken. For example the clock tower and the height marker who is missing his head in the tot pool. The clock tower has been broken for about 4 years.
- JUST BUSY BUT WILL USE MORE THIS YEAR
- Just choose not to
- Kirkwood park is poorly maintained, dirty, and could use a major refresh. Memorial park by the police station is very poorly maintained and an eyesore, buy some equipment for the kids. the aquatics center needs major renovations. Ballwin's pool is fantastic.
- Kirkwood Park needs more public bus transportation, even if that means with rubber tired trolleys. With photography and filming, I think the rules need to be rewritten to where only the user that uses the videos for illegal uses would be the ones to be banned from taking photos or videos. Otherwise, with a photo and video ban on everyone, it seems that just about many people are being punished for no reason and that's stupid.
- LACK OF FREE TIME
- Lack of safe multimodal access
- McEntree park is one of our favorites - however, lately it is packed with teenagers yelling profanity and inappropriate language for young children. The equipment has also been broken for months; likely because these teens are typically using the equipment made for toddlers.

- Might fall under maintenance, but the pool is slowly falling apart and becoming out dated. McEntee park is geared towards babies, need to add things for bigger kids like it used to be. Community center is WAY outdated. Not sure what green tree park's use is.
- No dog park for off leash area for dog
Would like to see 10 lane pool without diving boards do diving boards in separate pool that could also be for water polo
Fillmore park has lots of hills/gradients and sinks holes so not usable green space and parking around the park is horrible
- no dog to walk
- No work out facility
- none of the above. Just not enough time to visit as much as we'd like
- Not enough time
- NOT ENOUGH TIME
- NOT INTERESTED
- Nothing Parks and Rec can fix - lack of time on our part.
- Organized pickleball clinics and open play is what gets me to the park most often.
- Physical issues currently, but intend to use more soon!
- pool is busy
- Pool needs to be replaced.
- The community center and rink have been long over due and need to be updated. The rink roof has been bad for years yet when it was slated to be rebuilt, you wasted tax payers money on the performing arts building. As I citizen it still angers me that that building was built. The cost of that center put the community center and rink so far behind compared to other communities.
- The community center DESPERATELY needs a fitness center. The Y is not an appropriate substitute.
- The community center is an embarrassment to a great community like Kirkwood. We deserve what we expressed we wanted, and instead we got the KPAC, which sits empty most nights. As a society in general desperately needing more human interaction, we're in need of a community center like the Lodge in Des Peres, where we can congregate as a community, get to know our neighbors, and be a place where ALL Kirkwood citizens can feel welcome, exercise, and feel safe.
- The facilities are out dated and need to be improved.
- The lack of offerings for off road bike trails
- There is no reason we don't "use" our parks more often other than we wish life afforded us more time to actually use the parks more. Gotta work!
- TOO BUSY
- TOO BUSY
- TOO EXPENSIVE
- Trails
- Trails and facilities are overgrown at Meramec highlands
- travel a lot
- walking paths
- We don't plan visits to the parks in our daily schedule.
- We go whenever we want. There is no reason we don't go more often
- We have a lot of green space which is great, but within many of the parks, there is not a ton of activities for kids older than 12 to young adult. Our playground areas have significantly fallen behind neighboring municipalities

- We have only visited the Performing Arts Center twice since it opened. Once for a city open house, the other for a gallery opening. We can't afford the music events, and don't see this venue as a "parks" amenity. It may belong to the City, but designating it a park does not seem to make sense.
- WE LOVE OUR PARKS BUT IF THEY NEED IMPROVEMENT-LETS DO IT
- We need a trail to connect Emmen Egger park to Greentree park.
- We prefer getting outside if Kirkwood whenever possible due to its lack of diversity
- We visit the facilities that are closest to our house.
- Webster Groves is updating its pool, and it's time for Kirkwood to update also. We need a pool that is better maintained and has shaded areas and pavilions, more landscaping, a main pool that isn't a combination lane swim and diving pool. We also should have a gym facility for residents that includes exercise equipment.

Q6. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the ways you learn about the City of Kirkwood parks, recreation facilities, programs, and events.

Q6-14. Other

- City of Kirkwood "newsletter" enclosed in bill
- Driving by or walking. Asking friends.
- Driving past
- ELECTRIC BILL INSERTS
- Geocaching
- Going to the park
- Google
- Google maps
- Google maps
- Happen upon one on a walk around town.
- I like the flyers that come in the Kirkwood bills
- I've lived here my entire life and worked for the city in the past for many years.
- Information is communicated through our local school and church bulletin as well if relevant.
- INSERTS IN UTILITY BILL
- Just visiting the parks
- Kirkwood website
- Kirkwood, Webster times
- KIRKWOOD-WEBSTER TIMES
- KW TIMES
- Living in Kirkwood
- mail
- Mailer with the City of Kirkwood utilities bill
- need new social media person
- Police Picnic
- texts
- US MAIL
- utility bill insert
- utility bill insert

- DEs Peres
- Des Peres
- Des Peres
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- Des Peres
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- Des Peres Lodge
- Des Peres Lodge
- Des Peres Lodge
- Des Peres Lodge
- Des Peres Lodge
- Des Peres Manchester
- Des Peres Park / Des Peres Lodge
- Des Peres Parks Youth Flag Football
- Des Peres Webster
- Des Peres, Ballwin
- Des Peres, Ballwin, Fenton, Brentwood, Creve Coeur
- Des Peres, Brentwood
- Des Peres, Brentwood, Town and Country, Webster
- Des Peres, Brentwood, Webster Groves
- Des Peres, Chesterfield, Town and Country, Fenton, Sunset Hills, St. Louis City, Valley Park
- DES PERES, ST CHARLES
- Des Peres, St. Louis City, Shrewsbury
- Des Peres, Sunset Hills and Ballwin
- Des Peres, Webster Groves,
- Des Peres, Webster Groves, Brentwood, Clayton, Chesterfield, St. Louis City, Crestwood
- Des Peres, Webster groves, Manchester, eureka
- Des Peres. Clayton
- Fenton & Des Peres
- Fenton YMCA
- Fenton YMCA

- Fenton, sunset hills, Warson woods
- Frontenac, Des Peres, WG
- Glendale
Des Peres
- Jewish community center
- Manchester
- Maryland HTs
- Nashville
- Oakville
Webster groves
Manchester
Fenton
- Parks in Bridgeton, Clayton, Maryland Heights, Oakville, St Louis, Olivette
- Queeney Park trail
- Queeny Park
- Richmond Height's
- Richmond Heights
- Shrewsbury
Webster
- St Charles
- St Louis City
- St Louis City
- St Louis parks, Tower
- St. Louis City
- St. Louis city, university city, Maplewood, Brentwood, Webster groves, Creve Coeur, Olivette, Maryland heights, Hazlewood, overland, Florissant, Ferguson, anywhere that has more diversity... which is almost everywhere in St. Louis (typically due to more affordable housing opportunities that Kirkwood does not offer).
- St. Louis- forest park pickleball/tennis center
- STL city, Manchester, Ballwin, Fenton, Des Peres
- STL, Ballwin, St Charles, Webster groves, des Peres,
- Sunset Hills
- Sunset Hills
- Sunset Hills
- Sunset Hills
- Sunset Hills
- Sunset Hills
- Sunset Hills
- Sunset Hills River walk. Take a look at their schedule.
- Sunset hills, Ballwin
- Sunset Hills, Des Peres
- Sunset Hills, Des Peres
- Sunset Hills, St. Louis
- The Lodge Des Peres
- The Lodge in Des Peres
- Valley Park

- Valley Park, Webster Groves, Chesterfield, Des Peres
- Watson Woods Royal Oak Park
- website
- Webster
- Webster
- Webster
- Webster
- Webster
- Webster
Ballwin
- Webster
Chesterfield
- Webster and Des Peres
- Webster and Ladue
- Webster Groves
- Webster Groves
- Webster Groves
- Webster Groves
- Webster Groves parks
- Webster Groves
St Louis City
- Webster Groves, Chesterfield, Ballwin
- Webster Groves, Clayton, Frontenac
- Webster Groves, Creve Coeur
- Webster Groves, Des Peres
- Webster Groves, Des Peres, Brentwood
- Webster Groves, Des Peres, Crestwood
- Webster Groves, Des Peres, Shrewsbury, Affton, Cool Dell pool
- Webster Groves, Des Peres, St Louis County
- Webster
Des Peres
- Webster, Ballwin
- Webster, Brentwood
- Webster, city of St. Louis, Des Peres
- WEBSTER, CRESTWOOD, DES PERES
- Webster, Creve Coeur, chesterfield
- Webster, Des Peres, Huntleigh
- Webster, Glendale
- Webster, St. Louis City, Crestwood, Clayton, Grants Farm area, Brentwood, Fenton, Ballwin
- YMCA
- YMCA Brentwood

Q8. Please CHECK ALL of the following reasons that prevent you or members of your households from visiting City of Kirkwood parks and recreation facilities more often.

Q8-10. Other

- Boy and girl scouts
- Club sports
- Des Peres Fitness Center, Des Peres Aquatic Center
- Des Peres lodge
- Dog Park at Queeny - Kirkwood Park needs a dog park.
- Dog parks, we really need a large, fenced and shaded dog park in Kirkwood.
- Dog parks. Kirkwood needs a Dog Park as most likely 50 or more percent of Kirkwood residents own one or more dogs and we need a place to take them as they are socializing animals.
- Fitness classes and recreation activities at Bethesda Gardens (429 S Kirkwood Rd, 63122). BTW, here are 3 suggestions: 1. Shaded chess/checkers tables & benches in pocket parks near downtown. 2. Shuttles or trips to take folks like us to various parks & back. 3. At Recycling Center, native plants (& short trees) demo garden instead of grass!
- Forest Park
- Girl Scouts
- golf courses
- Lumiere Park Botanical Gardens Forest Park Simpson Lake
- local nature/environment organization activities: Webster Groves Nature Study Society botany hikes, Open Space StL "Operation Clean Stream" volunteering.
- Local shopping
Train station
- Meramec College
- MO Dept of Conservation (Powder Valley), STL County Parks
- My place of employment.
- phone apps, Pilates studio
- Private fitness groups
- ST LOUIS COUNTY PARKS
- St. Louis county parks & trails
- STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS

Q10. Please CHECK ALL of the following reasons that prevent you or members of your household from participating in City of Kirkwood Parks and Recreation Department programs more often.

Q10-19. Other

- big bands, make it free
- children are young
- Diving team was a mess this summer.
- have a newborn at home
- Have other means and methods for exercise
- Health reasons
- Health reasons
- I belong to a private swimming club.
- I would be at the Community center every day if it had the right offerings. Wasn't a work out facility already planned? Pool hours need earlier opening
- I would be nice if Kirkwood summer camps ran a few weeks longer into August. It might also be nice if there were some no/low cost pre-teen meetup summer programs, as some kids do not want to be at Camp Kirkwood past 11-12 years old.
- Lack of child care
- Lack of free time
- lack of time
- More programs for seniors
- Mural is awful at the park.
- My schedule
- Need a dog park
- Need more walking paths!
- No classes/activities I want to do.
- no nature activities/programs that I know of.
- not enough exercise classes
- Not enough people registered for event.
- online registration did not match what instructor advised, issues registering
- Parking
- programs cancelled due to low enrollment
- Registration for summer camp open later than others.
- SCHOOL SPORTS-CLUB SPORTS
- The bathroom floors at the aquatic center need to be power washed
You need to clean the sides of the pool above the water line
- TIME
- Too busy
- Too busy
- Too busy
- Too hot during the summer.
- We are too busy
- WE LOVE GOING TO SPLASH PADS IN THE SUMMER. ST CHARLES HAS SOME AMAZING ONES-I WOULD LOVE TO SEE ONE HERE IN JAYCEE PARK
- We need indoor pool, weight equipment and indoor track! No reason that we don't have this. We have to go to other cities to use their facilities.

- We tried to attend an advertised concert at the outdoor amphitheater and it was closed— must have been advertised in Kirkwood Times incorrectly!
- Young kids

Q11. Please indicate how well your needs are being met for each of the facilities/amenities listed below on a scale of 1 to 4, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met," and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. If you do not have a need for an item listed, please circle 9 for "No Need."

Q11-23. Other

- aquatic center
- Bike trails
- COMMUNITY CENTER BASKETBALL COURTS ARE TERRIBLE
- Community center is sad
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Finished bike trail from Grants trail to summit market. Also need bike trail from emenegger park to green tree park trails.
- Fitness center
- gym
- Gym, indoor pool
- Ice for hockey
We have the largest youth hockey program and the least amount of ice
- ice rink
- ice rink
- Improved or expanding ice rinks.
- In answer to the question of satisfaction, I've ranked trails and paths high. This means I do not see need for more trails and paths, I'm satisfied with those we have now. In fact, I think more trails and paths would do environmental damage, especially mountain biking.
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool with deep end and diving boards, etc.
- Indoor year round exercise facility
- Kirkwood could use another ice rink in addition to the current facility.
- Kirkwood does not have an indoor fitness club/gym
- Kirkwood has hundreds of youth and adults that play ice hockey and needs at least 3 more sheets. Our facilities are embarrassingly inadequate. If you can find the money to build a performing arts center that nobody wanted or uses please do so for the hockey program that is thriving despite our lack of ice.

- Kirkwood lacks a nice indoor pool and modern fitness center. The pool at the "Y" is old and has limited lap swim lanes and times. The "Y" is ok as a fitness center, but has really dropped off in number of classes since the pandemic and is an old building with a closed-in basement-y cinder block feel. A fitness center more similar to The Heights in Richmond Heights would be great! We used to live there and liked: library in same building as gym, childcare, nice workout facility, indoor track, indoor pool that includes dedicated lap swim lanes and a kids' area, meeting/party rooms available for rent, and workout classes. Our kids were small then - we'd go to story time at library, then work out with them in the childcare and we all had a good time. I know the library idea is probably not feasible given the relatively recent library update.
- Nearly 1/2 of the homes in Kirkwood have at least one dog. Kirkwood needs a dog park that is located in a central location. There is plenty of space at Kirkwood Park for a dog park. The park can be self funded with membership fees. volunteers can also help with maintenance and security.
- Need an indoor track and indoor workout facility
- No mountain bike trails
- Playground equipment
- Probably need more things to draw in interest from Preteens, 11-12 years old and slightly older kids. These kids really have little interest in attending summer camp, but cannot work summer jobs yet. As of this survey, I was totally unaware the Kirkwood parks had skate board ramps.
- Remote working spaces.
- See answer about community building
- See previous suggestions for lectures, classes, free concerts, chess tables at KPAC lobby or black box; and shaded chess/checker tables & chairs at small parks near down town.
- Shaded picnic areas.
- Summer camp
- The amenities at the Kirkwood Community Center are a joke compared to Des Peres Lodge, Sunset Hills and Webster Groves. The second gym/basketball court is comparable to a 1970's elementary school gym and there's absolutely no logical reason a city as populated and tax-heavy as Kirkwood shouldn't have a respectable workout facility/area in the gym. There's a rarely used flat area just west of the parking lot by the swimming pool that would allow plenty of room to build a workout facility without giving up valuable, heavily used land. The other option would be to use one-half of the grossly-underutilized second gym for the workout area (possibly adding an upstairs level for additional space).
- The community center needs a fitness center!
- We have no indoor workout facility. It would be nice to have something similar to Des Peres.
- We need a dog park in Kirkwood Park
- We need a dog park that people pay a yearly fee to join!
- We need gym with indoor aquatic center, weights, and gym equipment.
- We spend a lot of time at the ice rink. However. Even with recent improvements the basic needs aren't fully met - that is to say the concessions and seating for spectators are both subpar.
- work out facility
- Workout facility is needed!
- Would love to see an indoor workout facility.
- We need a dog park!
- You added the pickleball courts but fore those of us who play tennis the courts are not kept up for playing - pickleball nets not removed, trash not removed. Build more courts.

Q13. Please indicate how well your needs are being met for each of the programs/activities listed below on a scale of 1 to 4, where 4 means your needs are "Fully Met," and 1 means your needs are "Not Met" at all. If you do not have a need for an item listed, please circle 9 for "No Need."

Q13-28. Other

- Community center is an embarrassment
- Cooking classes for kids and also adults
Comic classes for kids
Affordable and more theatre plays for children and teens, that are not musical.
Social emotional program and activities for children, teens and adults
More information for the population that doesn't speak English or does not have the resources to pay the complete price of programs etc.
- Dog friendly events are needed.
- Dog park
- Dog park is needed. Other cities have dog parks. Kirkwood needs a dog park.
- Dog park
- fitness center
- Fitness center in the community center
- I do all my exercising at the Kirkwood YMCA. Not at the community center. Twice per week.
- I do like riding the Holiday trolley. And my needs would be met if it ran all year.
- I think a new park would be amazing for the community with a bunch of trees and hilly terrain, or if that's not possible we need a park between Essex-Manchester road and between Geyer-Kirkwood road.
- Ice for hockey
- ICE RINK-HOCKEY
- If you subscribe to NextDoor, you are familiar with the fact that Kirkwood residents are grossly uninformed about even our most common birds, wildlife, insects, plants, trees, etc. People are continually posting photos and asking, "Can anyone identify this?" It seems a shame, as Kirkwood is blessed with such wonderful ecological assets. It would be great if Kirkwood would promote our park assets with nature education activities. Some years ago there was a parks program that offered 2-4 nature hikes every spring and fall, each with a theme of bird, butterfly, wildflowers, etc. identification. The hikes were free to all ages and open to the public. Leadership was provided by naturalist expert volunteers from Audubon StL, Webster Groves Nature Study Society, etc. These hikes were very popular and well-attended. It would be great if Kirkwood started up this nature hike program again!
- Indoor recreation pool
- indoor water fitness
- Interesting programs for retired people.
- JULY 4TH FIREWORKS
- Library
- Need more low/no cost programs for 11-12 year olds.
- Racquetball-indoor
- rec center for exercise
- Remote working space, small group meeting space.
- There needs to be a dog park in Kirkwood - we have a dog and almost all of our neighbors have one-two dogs. Having a park in Kirkwood for dogs to use for exercise and socialization is needed.

- utilities grid
- We need a dog park
- We need a dog park that requires a yearly fee for the upkeep and maintenance.
- We need an indoor aquatic center and gym
- Would love for there to be an indoor lap pool and updated fitness center. Unfortunately our rec center only seems to cater to hockey and tennis, which many families have no interest in (or no financial means for, as those are extremely expensive sports). I will also say that we have been very disappointed with the swim lessons we attempted for our daughter years ago. As a former lifeguard and swim instructor/coach I can state what's obvious to most of the swimming community; using floaties and holding children until they're back on the wall (and having them wait and wait and wait for turns) does not teach them to swim
- Would love to have a dog park closer to home.

Q16. If you had \$100, how would you allocate the funds among the parks and recreation categories listed below?

Q16. Other

- add a second ice rink
- Add dedicated pickleball courts.
- add electronic message boards in other parts of city
- Aquatic center
- Better Music programming.in the pavilion Partner with a local organization like Jazz St. Louis, The blues society, the symphony etc. to bring the quality up.
- Bicycle trails
- Build a community center with workout facilities and classes
- Build a new community center or keep adding to improvements going on currently. The money being spent won't make much of an impact.
- build a new community center with rink, aquatics, more theater options
- Build another sheet of ice
- Build hiking and off road biking trails
- Build new pool
- build new rec center
- build the community center that was designed and planned
- BUILDING A SKATEPARK
- Built a massive rubber tired trolley system in Kirkwood so that those who are coming off the train would have easier access to hotels.
- Construct new year round water and physical fitness facility
- Create a dog friendly park
- Develop a dog park at Kirkwood Park. There is plenty of underutilize space for a dog park that the city can be proud of.
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park

- Dog park as stated before .
- Dog park in Kirkwood Park in the green space that is currently not utilized.
- Dog park
- Eliminating church pressure to usurp kirkwood land
- Fillmore park has unusable hill and sink hole areas could make an off leash GoGo park and try to fix some of the holes and issues with the hill/gradient greenspace
- Financial assistance
- fitness center
- Fitness center in the community center
- Having a dog park for different sizes of dogs.
- IMPROVE/MAINTAIN MEACHAM PARK
- Indoor aquatic and gym like all other comparable cities have!
- Indoor pool hot tub
- indoor swimming pool
- INDOOR WORKOUT GYM
- It would be nice if the pool stayed open on weekdays into the evening after school starts as it is only open on the weekends after August 19th of this year, for example.
- Kirkwood needs a dog park that has a yearly fee for upkeep and maintenance!!
- Kirkwood needs a rec center similar to Des Peres.
- Make Kirkwood park like the new Brentwood park!
- more family programs
- More ice rinks
- More pickleball courts
- More senior programs.
- mountain bike trail
- Move the OK Hatchery - that is prime real estate for an amazing restaurant downtown. (no more banks PLEASE)
- PARKING IN DOWNTOWN KIRKWOOD-COME ON CITY PLANNERS, DONT ADD MORE RESTAURANTS AND BUILDINGS WITHOUT ADEQUATE PARKING
- Parking! No high rise apartments.
- Pickleball courts
- Planting trees, making more community hangout spots with places to sit down or go on a long hike
- Provide better maintenance of existing trails (some are horrible!) and expand trail system
- Provide for a dog park within Kirkwood Park or some other area - part of athletic fields on Marshall Road
- PROVIDE SAFE OUTDOOR BASKETBALL FOR YOUTH AT MORE PARKS-KIRKWOOD PARK
- Raises for all staff in the department. Part and full time
- Remote working space, small group meeting space. A small coffee shop within the community center with added amenities and gathering spaces/play spaces for kids (sensory rooms/quiet rooms), study spaces, would be a huge success!
- Remove all Asian Honeysuckle.
- reopen , enhance Kirkwood Athletic fields
- roads
- roads and downtown parking
- social media hire new person

- Things I don't use it know about, but people in your office do.
- Update the swimming pool and community center.
- We need a dog park in Greentree or Kirkwood Park
- We need an additional sheet of ice.
- website with consolidated information on what is available
- Would like addition of new community fitness center.