SUMMARY OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN
JUNE, 1987

The idea to reorganize the City's Parks and Recreation Departments into one department was proposed by consultants hired by the City after a study of the present system. The plan was developed by Assistant City Manager Roseanne Riddick and others within the government as a means to address the existing short comings and to provide a mechanism for the continuing attention the park system requires.

The plan, as outlined by the Assistant City Manager, has the following goals:

1. To improve the quality and safety of existing parks;
2. To implement a maintenance system that can better manage existing, rehabilitated or new parks; and
3. To use current resources to better meet the City's recreation needs.

Strategies to attain these goals include a reorganization plan which would merge the current Parks, Cemeteries and Recreation Departments into a new Department of Parks and Recreation. This would be done using existing management personnel and be accomplished by July 1, 1987. Other strategies are to implement management reporting systems and, very importantly, conduct a recreational needs assessment which would serve as a basis for future planning.

Specific operations to be carried out include the provision of appropriate equipment through replacement or new purchases beginning in fiscal year 1987; adding or upgrading key personnel while reducing the use of contractors; immediate implementation of productivity techniques; designing and implementing training programs addressing safety, administration, planning, chemical application, etc.; and creating a process to systematically address problems such as vandalism, festivals, beautification programs, scheduling, etc.

Under Capital Improvements, the plan calls for the incorporation of a recreational needs assessment by prioritizing spending on parks; the utilization of existing available funding such as the Community Development Block Grant; enlisting the private sector in innovative public-private partnerships; and the integration of the Capital Project Plan with the operational plan.

The main advantage of the plan is that a new department of Parks and Recreation would be created with a Commissioner reporting directly to the City Manager's office. This would allow resources and attention to be focused on the park system, improve the management and maintenance, and establish clear lines of authority and responsibility. In addition, the position of Planner would allow for better use of facilities through needs assessments, scheduling, training, and liaison with the state and national parks.

Also, the plan calls for the development of some private-public cooperative ventures which would increase the awareness of the value of the recreational system and provide for citizen input in the use of facilities.
CITY COUNCIL

CITY MANAGER

COMMISSIONER OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNER

SUPERINTENDENT OF CEMETERIES

RESPONSIBILITIES
- CEMETERIES
- TREE CREW
- CLEAN-UP PROGRAMS
- SUMMER OET PROGRAMS

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

RESPONSIBILITIES
- PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
- DOWNTOWN CREW
- VANDELSM REPORTING
- VACANT LOT CLEAN-UP PROGRAM
- TOWING PROGRAM
- FESTIVALS

SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION

RESPONSIBILITIES
- COORDINATION OF RECREATION PROGRAMS
- AQUATIC PROGRAMS
- SPORTS PROGRAMS
- COORDINATION OF ORGANIZED SPORTS ACTIVITIES
- IMPLEMENTATION OF RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- INDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS
- SPECIAL PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION