AN EVALUATION OF THE RECREATION PROGRAMS OF THE TOWNS
AND COMMUNITIES OF EASTLAND COUNTY, TEXAS

THESIS

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By

Travis Hilliard, B. A.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to make an investigation of the amount and type of recreation provided by the towns and communities in Eastland County, Texas, to determine the extent to which the recreation programs meet or fail to meet criteria for such community recreation programs.

Significance of the Study

Within recent years, the problem of community recreation has assumed increasing significance. The complexity of modern life, shortened working hours, the introduction of the paved road, and the automobile have all contributed to a need for organized recreation in every community in the country. The public schools, as the agent responsible for training in citizenship, have been given responsibility for taking the lead in developing organized wholesome recreation on a community basis. If it is to meet this challenge, the school must have information on the recreational needs of the community as well as ways and means of meeting these needs.
Limitation of the Study

The present study is limited to an investigation of the recreation programs provided by the towns and communities in Eastland County, Texas. Literature is limited to that dealing with recreation and the responsibility of education in fostering and developing it.

Sources of Data

Two sources of data are used in the study. The first is professional literature in the field of education and recreation. Research studies in recreation are utilized wherever possible in this field.

The second source of data is a personal investigation and survey of the amount and kinds of recreation in the towns and communities of Eastland County, Texas. Using a questionnaire developed from the readings in literature, a study was made of the recreation program in each town and community. Data obtained from this investigation constitute the basis of the study.

Method of Procedure

Reading in the field of education and in recreation was the first step in the study. This was necessary for orientation in the field and to determine what has been done and what is being done in community recreation. Further reading was done to develop standards for evaluating the adequacy of
a recreation program. Attention was directed to the need for community recreation, to ways of learning community recreation needs, to the necessary organization for a recreation program, and to possible activities.

Much of the information required in a survey of recreation programs can be determined only through personal investigation. In order to be certain that the same information was secured in the different towns and communities, a questionnaire was made out, and all information was based on it. Visits were made to each town and community, and information was collected on the number and kind of recreational activities provided by the towns and communities. All types of recreation, commercial, public, and private, were listed wherever found.

Data from the questionnaires were assembled and tabulated; analysis was then made of the recreation program provided. Evaluation of the data were made in terms of the criteria set up as a measuring instrument. Conclusions were developed from the findings of the evaluations, and recommendations were offered where need was indicated.

Related Studies

The problem of organized recreation, while always present, has become more acute since World War II. The large number of boys in the service, the establishment of
army camps in remote areas, and the general disorganization accompanying war resulted in many organized programs for recreation. The beneficial results from such programs caused studies to be made in regard to continuing organized community recreation. In 1945, the Woman's Foundation issued a report, The Road to Community Organization, which laid the framework for community organization of recreation.1

The Woman's Foundation is a part of the National Recreation Association. Its report was based on research carried by the United Service Organizations, the Federal Security Agency, and National Community Chests and Councils. The following findings were listed:

1. Four years of war have placed increased and serious pressure on the American family.
2. Returning veterans and their families require a quantity and quality of service and assistance which many communities are not prepared to provide.
3. Dislocated war workers are equally in need of well-coordinated and well-planned services.
4. The needs of children and youth are of vital importance to the future of the nation and demand attention which is not presently provided in many communities and states.
5. If we are to meet these problems in the spirit of democracy our fighting men have sacrificed to preserve, it is patent that far more effective organization and administration of community, state, and federal services in education, health, recreation, and welfare are immediately required.

1 The Woman's Foundation, The Road to Community Reorganization, United Service Organizations, the Federal Security Agency and National Community Chests and Councils, 1945.
6. The community furnishes the framework and climate within which the family lives and develops; it must therefore provide a healthy atmosphere and a well-organized network of public and community services of the highest possible quality.  

Recommendations were made by the Woman's Foundation for organizations in each community to study recreation needs and to set up services for providing them. This study provided one of the earliest investigations on needs and plans for community recreation.

Meyer and Brightbill made a comprehensive study of community recreation in 1949. In this book the authors attempted to provide an introduction to the study of organized recreation in America for student and teacher and a reference and source book for community and civic leaders. The authors stated that they stressed public recreation because of the growing and widespread interest in it and the enormous demand for information about it. The book furnishes a comprehensive background study for any recreation project and has been used extensively in this study. It sets up the following objectives for recreation:

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2Ibid., p. 16.
3Ibid., p. 18.
5Ibid., p. vii.
1. The primary objective of recreation is to give pleasure, enjoyment and happiness to individuals and groups.
2. Recreation satisfies many of our primary desires.
3. A healthy organism and a balanced personality are major objectives of recreation.
4. In recreation men discover potentialities and venture into new realms of action that provide healthful self-expression.
5. Recreation furnishes opportunities for competition.
6. Recreation is a definite part of the learning process.
7. Recreation assists in the development of good health, for both the individual and the group.
8. Citizenship is a sound objective for recreation.
9. Recreation alone does not mold character, but the activity itself can assist the individual in acquiring traits that society designates as acceptable. The manner in which people spend leisure time weighs heavily in character building.
10. Development of talents is a primary goal of recreation leadership.
11. To enrich family living is a cardinal objective for recreation.
12. Recreation affords opportunities for development of individual qualities and talents.
13. Recreation has preventive and curative values.
14. Recreation can aid in solving social problems, through the medium of wholesome activity.  

Brown prepared a study for the Federal Security Agency in 1945 entitled *Planning for Recreation Areas and Facilities in Small Towns and Cities*.* His study was divided into three parts: (1) background for planning, (2) organization for conducting the study, and (3) procedure for community planning. He outlined ways and means for making needed surveys and set

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6 Ibid., pp. 25-28.

up a form for securing necessary information on location, size, equipment, and use of all outdoor recreation areas; on indoor community center facilities and programs; on church activities; on private halls and clubs; and on youth organizations. The study furnishes a very valuable pattern for research in the field of community recreation.

Recreation is becoming an important part of the school curriculum, and school plants are playing and increasing a part in the development of recreational facilities and activities. Graduate students in teacher-training institutions have made a number of research studies in the field of recreation and education in an effort to better determine what the school can do in furthering development of community recreation. Two studies were made from this standpoint at the North Texas State College in the summer of 1949. W. A. Stevens made a study of the recreation program for boys served by the Junior High School in Waco, Texas, and his wife, Irene Stevens, made a study of the recreation program for girls in the same school.


The conclusions reached by the study on the school's recreation program for girls were as follows:

1. The City of Waco is ideally suited for the development of a recreation program that would meet the needs of all its citizens. It is situated on the banks of a river, has adequate water and land areas, and has an intelligent and self-sustaining population.
2. The city already has a city-financed recreation program that could serve as a basis for further development.
3. The South Junior High School is making no effort to set up a community center or to provide in any way for the recreation of the girls in the community.
4. The girls in the school community spend considerable time each week in recreational facilities.
5. Neither the community or the school or the city as a whole offers adequate facilities and supervision for the recreation needed and desired by these girls.
6. The community is not fully alert to the values of an organized recreation program nor the possibilities existing in the city for an outstanding recreation organization.\textsuperscript{10}

In the companion study made for boys, like conclusions resulted from the development of the data. Both studies indicate that neither cities, schools, nor communities were alert to the needs for recreation and the possibilities of the area for supplying this recreation.

Another study made at the same time of a small rural community related the story of what a community can do when there is recognition of the need for wholesome recreation. Callisburg, a small country school community in Cooke County, Texas, is located near the Red River, the border line

\textsuperscript{10}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 50.
between Texas and Oklahoma. Cooke County does not permit the sale of liquor or beer within its area, but the neighboring Oklahoma territory legalizes the sale of beer. As a consequence, a number of taverns have been built just inside the Oklahoma line, and many of the people from across the Texas line patronize these business establishments. The young people in the community also seek entertainment there.

The people of the Callisburg community were not in favor of this type of entertainment for their growing youth. Instead of forbidding the young people to attend the night clubs and taverns, they began to plan recreational activities in the community that would keep the young people at home. The Callisburg School, with an adequate school plant and funds derived from oil wealth in the community, was the logical center for the recreational activities. Welch, superintendent of the Callisburg School, described the experiment and plans for expanding it in a thesis written in August, 1949. Data developed in the study show the possibilities for recreation even in a small rural community when the need is felt for such type of activities.

CHAPTER II

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING THE ADEQUACY OF A COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

Purpose of the Chapter

The purpose of this chapter is to develop criteria for the evaluation of a community recreation program from studies in the field. Attention is directed to the need for recreation, to the organization of a recreational program, to determination of community needs, and to possible activities included in community recreation.

Need for Community Recreation

The people of the United States have more leisure time at the present than they have ever had before.¹ People have always had some leisure, but, in recent years, shortened working hours and mechanical inventions have greatly increased the amount of free time. Neumeyer and Neumeyer state that "society may find its greatest asset in the constructively used leisure of its citizens, but too much free time without adequate preparation for its use may also become the

The greatest menace to civilization. The increase of leisure time has been hailed as a great blessing to man, but the misuse of this free time could prove to be a grave problem instead. This statement is emphasized by the following quotation:

The civilizations of the world have been made and unmade by the way in which people have used their free time. The direction of civilization is conditioned by what people do when they work as well as what they do when they do not work. People must work to make a living, and many advances have been made in science and technology as the outgrowth of labor. The tone of any society is conditioned by the quantity and quality of leisure, whether it be restricted to a few or indulged in by many. If people engage in creative and constructive activities during their leisure, civilization is advanced; if they indulge in useless and destructive activities, the social order deteriorates and progress is retarded.

The question that has arisen from this increase in leisure time is: What are people doing with their spare time, and is it being used in a constructive manner or in idle search for entertainment? The National Recreation Association made a study during the early years of the depression of the way people spent their free time and the changes that had taken place in the uses of leisure. It was found that home activities had increased sixty-four

2 Ibid.
3 Ibid., pp. 13-14.
4 National Recreation Association, Leisure Hours of Five Thousand People, p. 23.
per cent, whereas outside activities had increased only five per cent. The desires of the people, however, were significant. Of the 34,683 wishes expressed by five thousand people, 22,731, or two-thirds, were for outside activities, predominantly playing tennis, swimming, boating, playing golf, auto riding for pleasure, and various forms of commercial amusement.5

Meyer and Brightbill assert that recreation is a major "social, cultural, educational, physical, and moral essential in the lives of children, youth, and adults."6 It contributes to building physical health, to developing citizenship and character, to reducing crime and delinquency, to promoting vocational and emotional growth, and to the social, cultural, and moral well-being of families. Organized, wholesome recreation, it is emphasized, can do these things; many kinds of so-called recreation may do far more harm than benefit to participating individuals. Meyer and Brightbill further state:

The community is the focal point of recreation. The first and paramount responsibility for recreation rests in the local community. It is here that recreation under governmental, voluntary, industrial, or commercial auspices takes its roots. It is in the town, city, and county that organized recreation is most closely associated with the people. The emphasis is on community generosity and initiative, community planning and organization, and community action.7

5Ibid., p. 25.
7Ibid.
Recreation, therefore, is seen to have liabilities as well as potentialities for good. It must be organized, directed, and guided in a constructive manner and planned to meet the desires and needs of the people in a community.

Organization of a Recreation Program

Besides educating individuals for the wise use of leisure time, the most important preparation for utilizing the free time of people in a constructive, wholesome fashion is to provide facilities and programs for recreation and other leisure pursuits. If this is done on any effective scale, there must be planning and organization. Much leisure activity such as recreation in the home, outdoor life, listening to the radio, and going to the movies appear, on the surface, to be without any plan or organization; in reality, providing the facilities has had to be planned by someone, though the users do not participate in the planning. One of the essentials of any program, regardless of its nature, is that it be planned and organized by some responsible source.

The nature of community recreation requires the interest and active participation of a wide range of local groups and individuals. Without such participation, a plan for recreation areas and facilities cannot be thorough and cannot receive community-wide acceptance and support. This community support is a necessity for any accepted recreational program.
The National Recreation Association states that the first step in the planning procedure is to call together a widely representative committee or council, through which factual information may be assembled and recommendations made and agreed upon. Following is a suggested list of agencies and groups which normally contribute to the joint planning effort:

- City government--the Mayor
- Board of Education
- Planning bodies
- Local housing authorities
- Council of social agencies
- Civic clubs
- Occupational organizations
- Veteran's organizations
- Women's Clubs
- Parent Teachers Association
- Youth organizations
- Religious interests
- Press and radio
- Minority groups

The second logical step in setting up a recreation program, according to the National Recreation Association, is to make a survey of several existing conditions which may be controlling factors in determining the needs of the community for recreation areas and facilities. These will include social and economic conditions, governmental pattern, financial status of governing units, climatic factors, physiographic factors, transportation factors, and the neighborhood pattern.

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8Recreation Division, National Recreation Association, Planning for Recreation Areas and Facilities in Small Towns and Cities, p. 11.
Under social and economic conditions, some of the needed information will concern population composition, occupation and employment, housing conditions, and social problems. A study of the local form of government will indicate the legal authority and ability of the community to provide for an effective administration of recreation. It is important to have information regarding the financial status of the local government in order to determine the limitations and capacity of the community to finance the costs of developing and operating a recreation system. The prevailing climate in the region where the community is located will have a considerable influence on the types of activities which will be popular. Accordingly, a knowledge of climatic factors should be gained before activities are planned. The general characteristics of the topography of a region have an effect on recreation. In a region surrounded by lakes, fishing, swimming, and boating will probably be popular forms of amusement; in a dry land area, other entertainment would likely be more popular.

Transportation factors which affect recreation programs are accessibility of recreation areas and transportation facilities to these areas. The pattern of streets in a community has a definite influence on the planning of the recreation system. The neighborhood pattern includes industries, utilities, streams, lakes, large institutions, and community boundaries.

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9Ibid., p. 13.
Meyer and Brightbill state that, regardless of the size of the community, there is need to establish a body to plan for community welfare and to coordinate action programs. They make the following statement:

Complete understanding of the social and economic conditions of the community and its trade territory should precede any plan of action. A careful survey will reveal the distinctive characteristics and needs of a certain area. Each locality must be studied separately.10

The Federal Security Agency's bulletin, Community Recreation Comes of Age, presents the ten essentials of a public recreation system which form the basis of procedure upon which a sound foundation is built for an effective program:

1. Know your community--the character and distribution of population, the traditions, needs, problems, resources of the community.
2. Pool your resources--work together for full use of all potential assets--from public and private agencies, neighborhood groups, organizations, and individual leaders.
3. Check your legislation--determine what legislation you need and what you have.
4. Establish a legal managing authority.
5. Get good leadership.
6. Make the most of existing facilities.
7. Secure a separate budget.
8. See that the program is community-wide, year-round, and has broad appeal, with interests for old and young, indoor and outdoor activities, sports, athletics, games, music, arts, crafts, drama, lectures, forums, social recreation, and community events.
9. Maintain public partnership--keep popular opinion abreast of your program. Use all media available to interpret community recreation and win public support for it.

10 Meyer and Brightbill, op. cit., p. 136.
10. Plan for the future--make a place for recreation in long-range town planning. Good planning should include not only physical facilities but also program leadership and finance.11

Any program for recreation, therefore, should be planned and organized with definite objectives in view. This plan, to be effective, must be cooperatively worked out by community agencies and be based on the needs, interests, and possible resources of the community.

Facilities for a Recreation Program

Before a community can begin to plan wisely for its future recreation requirements, it is necessary to take an inventory of existing areas and facilities and to evaluate them in terms of some acceptable standards. The following minimum standards are set up by the Recreation Division of the Federal Security Agency:

1. There should be at least one acre of public recreation land for each 100 of the population.
2. There should be a playground within a quarter to a half mile of every home, depending on the density of population and the extent of traffic hazards. There should be an acre of playground for every 800 of present or probable future population.

The playfield should provide most of the following features: a separate sports field for youth and adults, with provisions for baseball, softball, football, and other field games; a multiple-use area for basketball, volleyball, badminton, handball, paddle tennis, shuffleboard, roller skating, and social activities; lawn areas for such activities as croquet, archery, and clock golf; selected

11Division of Recreation, Federal Security Agency, Community Recreation Comes of Age, p. 36.
specialized activities as horseshoe courts, tennis courts, outdoor theater, picnic tables, band shell, and a children's playground. A standard recreation building should be included unless adequate indoor facilities are available in schools or elsewhere. If space is adequate, a swimming pool may be included... The specific needs of the population should be studied carefully...

3. In addition to the intensively developed facilities described above, every community should provide, within or near the city limits, one or more larger areas having the advantages of natural scenery.

The principles governing functional planning of recreation areas are stated by Butler in his book, *The New Play Areas; Their Design and Equipment*:

1. Efficient use of space
2. Adequate space for facilities
3. Efficiency of supervision
4. Accessibility and relationship of activity areas
5. Economy of construction and maintenance
6. Public accommodations
7. Utilization of natural features
8. Esthetic quality

Meyer and Brightbill estimate that a community of 25,000 population will require twenty-five acres, or twenty-five per cent of the gross area of one hundred acres, for...

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playground and playfield space. The remaining seventy-five acres, or seventy-five per cent, in most cases should be for park space.\textsuperscript{14}

Community conditions, Meyer and Brightbill point out, will determine the application of this general standard. The principle of making adequate and wider use of existing facilities, especially physical resources, should be followed at all times. The needs of the community will determine to a large extent the nature of the facilities or equipment for park and recreation areas. The following standards developed from standards prepared by the National Recreation Association, the American Society of Planning Officials, and a number of municipal, regional, and national planning organizations are submitted by Meyer and Brightbill as the minimum for community recreation:

\textbf{The Playlot.--}Area: 1,500 to 10,000 square feet recommended; 2,500 square feet, minimum; 75 square feet per child; 1/4 mile maximum service radius; 1/8 mile recommended in high density area; space available should serve 40 children per 100 families at one time, frequently cannot be provided by municipality except as parts of larger play areas; provision otherwise dependent upon other than municipal help.

\textbf{The Playground.--}Area: 3 to 7 acres; 1 acre per 100 population; maximum population to be served by single playground, 5,000; preferably adjacent to elementary school or centrally located; 150 square feet per child playing at one time; 1/4 to 3/8 mile service radius; 1/2 mile may be acceptable under special conditions in low-density areas.

\textsuperscript{14}Meyer and Brightbill, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 475.
The Playfield.--Area; 20 acres and over recommended, 10 acres minimum; one playfield per 15,000 to 25,000 population; 1 acre per 800 population or 1-1/4 acres per 1,000 population; preferably adjoining high school property; 1 mile service radius--1-1/2 miles at low density.

The Recreation Park.--Area: 30 acres or more; 1 acre per 1,000 population; in smaller areas especially, topography and natural scenery more important than standard spacing; service radius 1 mile and above, depending upon size and features of area.

The Recreation Building.--One building for each 20,000 population depending upon population density and traffic congestion; should include gymnasium, social room, informal reading and quiet-game room, game room, arts and crafts shop for each 10,000 population or less, auditorium or assembly hall for each 20,000 or less and multiple-use clubroom for each 5,000 or less.

The Golf Course.--9-hole public course for community of 25,000 or less; approximately 1 hole per 3,000 population; minimum 50 acres, 9-hole course; 125 acres, 18 hole course.

Swimming Facilities.--Sufficient facilities to serve 3 per cent of the population at one time; approximately 12 square feet of water per swimmer.

The Athletic Field or Stadium.--5 to 20 acres recommended providing seating capacity accordingly.

The Outdoor Theater.--One to each 100,000 population providing seating capacity between 1,000 and 10,000; in some communities need is for number of small informal neighborhood outdoor theaters.

Tennis Courts.--1 court to each 2,000 population.

Baseball and Softball Diamonds.--1 baseball diamond to each 6,000 population; 1 softball diamond to each 3,000 population.

The foregoing recommendations are for the towns and cities of the country. Obviously, rural recreation facilities cannot be measured against these standards because of sparsity of population and amount of space covered by a rural community. Nevertheless, there is a pronounced need

16 Ibid., pp. 454-455.
for recreation facilities in rural areas the same as in the towns. The rural population is distinct from the urban only by reason of location and economic function. In the majority of instances, the rural areas depend upon the municipal areas for recreation, private and commercial. The 4-H Clubs, the Future Farmers of America, the consolidated rural school, and the programs of the Home and Farm Demonstration groups are the main sources of rural recreation, and recreation is not the primary motivating force of these organizations. Meyer and Brightbill assert that the key to rural recreation is county supervision and organization. They state:

A county superintendent of recreation with adequate staff, volunteer leaders, sufficient budget, and areas and facilities, can bring to the rural population opportunities and resources for adequate recreation life.¹⁷

The rural school, as the leader in its community, possesses many possibilities for inauguration and administration of a recreation program for all age levels. In many instances, it has a plant adequate for community recreation. Until recreation becomes organized on a county basis, the rural school must remain the potential base for rural recreation.

A summary of the data on needed facilities for recreation indicates that such facilities are necessary and should be provided by some responsible organization. The number and

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 643.
kind of facilities will vary with the size of the community and the utilization made of physical resources. Need for planning and study for adequate utilization of existing facilities is also indicated.

Activities in a Recreation Program for Towns and Communities

Neumeyer and Neumeyer state that facilities for recreation are important, but that "extensive facilities without an adequate program of activities directed by competent leaders may be useless and wasteful." Programs of activities, of course, vary from city to city and from community to community, but progressive recreation leaders and administrators of the country insist that the program be on a broad basis designed to meet the varied interests and needs of the individuals participating. Some idea of the range of the recreation program is provided in the following quotation from Neumeyer and Neumeyer:

The program of recreation has been broadened to include a variety of activities—physical, manual, mental, aesthetic, and social. The physical activities of various kinds, of course, constitute a large share of the community recreation program. Baseball, football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, golf, hockey, soccer, and dozens of other athletic games and sports, swimming and boating, skating and skiing, dancing, apparatus work, and track athletics are all phases of the program of physical education. Many recreation programs provide opportunities for nature and manual

18 Neumeyer and Neumeyer, op. cit., p. 301.
activities; hiking, camping, nature study, gardening, handicraft, and construction. Reading clubs, mental contests, and literary societies provide mental stimulation. Among the aesthetic activities carried on in the playgrounds and in community centers may be mentioned community singing, harmonica bands, ukulele clubs, boys' and girls' bands, junior orchestras, community orchestras and choruses, music-week programs, art classes and exhibits. To these may be added dramatics and pageantry, storytelling, readings, and theater programs. There are many kinds of social activities: games, parties, dances, concerts, and club meetings.

Meyer and Brightbill state that "the heart of organized recreation is its broad program of activities." They state further that no hard and fast rule can be formulated for choice of the activities, but that this will depend upon the locality and the needs and interests of the population in recreation. Possible activities, however, are divided into eight classifications by Meyer and Brightbill: (1) arts and crafts, (2) dancing, (3) dramatics, (4) literary activities, (5) music, (6) nature and outing, (7) social events, and (8) sports and games. Some activities may be classified under more than one of these headings, but the great majority of recreation activities are included in one or the other.

The problem that confronts a town or community is determination of the needs and interests of the people for

19 Ibid.
20 Meyer and Brightbill, op. cit., p. 529.
21 Ibid.
different types of activities. This may be done by a community survey of activities already prevailing, by a rating scale of these activities to determine participation, and by information tests given to determine interests in various types of recreational activities. The specific requirements for any recreation program are that it have a broad appeal, provide activities for all age levels, and include indoor and outdoor activities, sports, athletics, games, music, arts, crafts, drama, lectures, forums, social recreation, and community events.\textsuperscript{22}

Criteria for Evaluating a Recreation Program in a Town or Community

The following criteria, based on the readings from professional literature in the field of education and recreation, are offered as bases for evaluating the adequacy of a recreation program in a town or community:

1. Recreation must be organized, directed, and guided in order to realize fully its potentialities for good.

2. The recreational activities should be planned to meet the desires and needs of the people in the community.

3. An effective organization for a recreation program requires some adequate means of finance, a responsible sponsor, leadership in direction, and facilities and equipment for recreational activities.

\textsuperscript{22}Division of Recreation, Federal Security Agency, \textit{Community Recreation Comes of Age}, p. 36.
4. A survey should be made of the area in which recreational activities will be organized to determine the resources of the community, the type of local government, climatic conditions, character of the topography, and facilities for recreation already existing in the area.

5. All community agencies should cooperate in the planning, organization, and maintenance of a community recreation program.

6. In rural areas, the logical administration organization of a recreation program would be on a county-wide basis, with the different towns and communities participating in planning, organization, and maintenance.

7. The county-wide program should be uniform in providing types of recreation for all age levels, but the recreational activities should be flexible in order to meet individual needs and desires of the different communities.

8. Recreation should be provided for both indoor and outdoor interests.

9. A survey should be made of the recreational needs and desires of the people in each community and of the facilities already existing for recreation in the community.

10. The schools in rural areas, as well as in the small towns, should take initiative in promoting recreational activities through a wider use of school plants for community recreation.
11. Evaluations of the recreation program should be made annually in order to check on needed improvements or better utilization of existing facilities.
CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA ON THE RECREATION PROGRAMS FOR THE TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES IN EASTLAND, TEXAS

The purpose of this chapter is to present information on the recreation programs for the towns and communities in Eastland County, Texas. Attention will be given to information about the county and its resources for recreation, to the recreation programs, and to the facilities and equipment for recreation.

Physical Resources of Eastland County for Recreation

Eastland County is located in north Central Texas in what is known as the West Cross Timbers area. The country has a rolling to hilly surface, broken by numerous creeks and draws and hills. The altitude is 1,000 to 1,500 feet, the average rainfall is twenty-nine inches annually, and the mean annual temperature is 63.2 degrees. There are no outstanding natural facilities for recreation such as mountains, large natural lakes, or large rivers; the terrain is broken, not level. The temperature and rainfall permit

1The Texas Almanac, 1949, p. 461.
various types of recreational activities at almost all seasons of the year.

One of the major oil fields in Texas was discovered in Eastland County in the 1920's, but the peak of production has long since passed and the industry is stabilized. The other major products besides oil in the county are diversified farm crops. The county grows from six to ten thousand bales of cotton, approximately thirty thousand bushels of wheat, 100,000 bushels of corn, seventy thousand bushels of oats, thirty thousand bushels of grain sorghums, thirteen thousand tons of hay, a considerable amount of peanuts, and some fruits and vegetables. Outside of the oil industry, the county is preponderantly agricultural in nature, and the rural population is the main support of the towns in the area.

Some statistics on the county, its population, income, and related information are shown in Table 1, page 29. According to the data in Table 1, the population of the county at the time of this report in 1949 was 30,345. The number of automobile registrations was 8,576, which would indicate that approximately one out of three persons owned an automobile. The population figures, however, include children as well as adults. The assumption, therefore, is justified that almost every family in the county owns some means of motor transportation. The bank deposits, retail

\[^2\text{Ibid., p. 461.}\]
sales, values and income of the people indicate a comfortable standard of living and an income over and above that required for sustenance. In other words, the figures indicate that the people have money to spend for amusement and recreation.

TABLE 1

INFORMATION ON AREA, POPULATION, RESOURCES, AND INCOME OF EASTLAND COUNTY, TEXAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area square mile</td>
<td>955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>30,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population square mile</td>
<td>31.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax value</td>
<td>$19,241,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total value</td>
<td>$25,654,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$22,692,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cropland (acres)</td>
<td>113,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank deposits</td>
<td>$12,561,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail sales</td>
<td>$12,870,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto registration</td>
<td>8,576</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The country is criss-crossed with a number of paved highways, and this makes it possible for the people to go into towns from the country or to larger cities not very far away. United States Highway 80 which leads from Fort Worth, one hundred miles east of the county, crosses the county from east to west. State highways 283 and 6 run north and south in the western and central parts of the county, respectively. Highway 187 links Cisco to the towns north of it, and numerous feeder roads branch out all over the county. In the majority of instances, these feeder roads are graveled and are available

Ibid.
for travel at all times. The people in the county, it is
indicated, have the means of transportation and good roads
on which to travel as well as money to spend for recreation
and pleasure. If the county does not provide recreation of
some nature for the people, they evidently will seek it
elsewhere.

There are no large towns in the county. Table 2 shows
the number of towns and communities and the population of
each according to latest census data.

TABLE 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastland (county seat)</td>
<td>5,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>7,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising Star</td>
<td>1,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorman</td>
<td>1,157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following quotation from *The Texas Almanac*, 1949,
gives much pertinent information about these towns and the
occupations of the people:

Eastland, county seat, retail and petroleum
center; has novelty plant and potteries, casinghead
gasoline plant, garment factory. Ranger, retail
and oil center; has oil refineries, oil field
machinery shops, garment and trailer factories,

Thus, Eastland County, according to these figures and descriptions, is both rural and industrial in nature. Approximately seventeen thousand of the thirty thousand people in the county live in rural areas, or in very small communities. These facts are important in studying the needs of the people in the county for recreation.

A natural recreation center in Eastland County has made the people recreation-conscious. One of the large artificial inland lakes of Texas is located three miles north of Cisco, the largest town in the county. The area below and surrounding the lake has been designated as a State Park, and a recreation center, developed by private interests, has gradually become established here.

A swimming pool at the lake is 300 by 1,200 feet and provides space for many swimmers. The water in the pool comes directly from the lake, and this facilitates sanitation through frequent changing of the water and preventing the accumulation of mud and mire as in the natural lakes. A permanent skating rink and a dance pavilion, 60 by 200 feet,

5Ibid.
are built near the swimming pool. In the park area there is a full-size nine-hole golf course, a miniature golf course, and various carnival and recreational park facilities. The area is especially popular in the summer time, but boating, fishing, and hunting are year-round activities. The well-kept picnic grounds make it an ideal place for family reunions, and various types of social meetings.

The wide use of the recreational center at Lake Cisco has made the people recreation-conscious. Figures obtained from one of the concessions operated at the lake by a private firm indicate that approximately thirty thousand people visited the recreation center in 1948-1949.

Eastland County, however, has no county-wide recreation program. In fact, little attention has been paid to the need for organized recreation in the county. The people, as a rule, have not indicated a need for such a county-wide program. They have been dependent upon private recreational facilities, and these have varied from community to community. A survey of the needs and facilities for recreation in the individual towns and communities, therefore, is the only means of determining present offerings in the field of recreation.

Recreation Program of Cisco, Texas

As previously mentioned, the recreation center at Lake Cisco is only three miles north of the town. The majority of the people seek outdoor recreation at this spot. The
types of recreation available here and the percentage of participation give some idea of the possibilities and offerings at this place.

### TABLE 3

**TYPES OF RECREATION OFFERED AT LAKE CISCO RECREATION CENTER AND NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Recreation</th>
<th>Number Participating</th>
<th>Percentage of Town Participating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golf course</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miniature golf course</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skating rink</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnival attractions</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance pavilion</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting and fishing</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As previously indicated, the recreation center is widely used by the people of the county. The figures in Table 3, therefore, represent many people living outside the town of Cisco, but the percentages are based on the Cisco population. The types of recreation, it is shown, appeal to many age levels. Many of the older men of the town use the golf course, while the miniature golf course is used by many teenagers and young married people. The carnival attractions such as the merry-go-round, the swings, and the Ferris wheels
attract the younger generation. The hunting and fishing available at the lake and around its borders attract people of all ages and all social stratas.

The facilities for recreation in the town of Cisco and the percentage of participation by the people are shown in Table 4.

**TABLE 4**

**TYPES OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN CISCO, TEXAS, AND APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Recreation</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage of Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive-in theater</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Athletics:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis courts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figures in Table 4, as stated, are approximate. No accurate figures are obtainable, but approximations were secured from theater owners and directors of sport activities in the town.

The school gymnasium has been the center of the town's athletic program. The gymnasium had a seating capacity of 1,500 people and, before it was burned in the spring of 1950, was used for various types of recreational activities. The
most popular type of activities at the gymnasium were basket-
ball and volleyball games. The four tennis courts on the
school campus are also used by the people. One bowling alley
in the town is privately owned. The playgrounds are situated
in the small city park and, during the summer, are widely
patronized by the young people of the town. A softball field
is also located at the city park, and the different indus-
trial firms sponsor teams which compete against each other
during the summer months. These games are free to the public
and attract large numbers of people each night when the games
are played.

The recreational activities in the town are not organized
according to any one particular plan. A steering committee
of the Junior Chamber of Commerce has general direction of
the recreation activities in the town, but it exercises no
real control over them. Representatives from the different
organizations and churches in the town meet with this com-
mittee and help with the planning that is done. One group
of committee members in some instances have direction of one
particular activity while another group directs still another
activity. No tax is levied by the City of Cisco for recrea-
tion purposes, but donations are accepted. The major recrea-
tional expense is the salary of the coaches of the high school
and the junior college during the summer time. These school
personnel direct recreation at the park and other places at
this time.
The city sponsors two fairs during the year, the Eastland County Livestock Show and the Peanut Festival. In addition, rodeos are held in an arena outside the city on Saturday nights during the summer months.

The majority of the recreational activities, it is indicated, are the outdoor type. The people like athletic games, they like fishing and hunting, and they like to attend outdoor entertainments. There is only one nightclub in or near the city, and this indicates a lack of interest in this type of entertainment. The people, it is indicated, have been choosing their own recreation to a large degree, and the fact that the selected recreation is wholesome and of intrinsic worth is a reflection of a typically rural area where the people live very close to the soil and its resources.

Recreation Program of Ranger, Texas

Ranger is the second city in Eastland County from the standpoint of number of population. It has no organized program of recreation and no steering committee to direct activities. The recreation that is offered is sponsored by civic and service organizations or by private individuals and firms. The types of recreation available and the approximate percentage of participation by the people in the community are shown in Table 5, page 37.

As shown in the data in Table 5, there is a wide variety of recreational activities for the people of Ranger. The
golf course is located at the city park and is patronized more, perhaps, than it would be if it were at an exclusive country club. A large number of boys use the course as well as a group of older men in town. These are in addition to the young business men who, as a general rule, are the ones who are the best patrons of a golf course.

TABLE 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Recreation</th>
<th>Percentage of Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golf course</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private lake</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pool</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball league</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two tennis courts</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six bowling alleys</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two theaters</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three rodeos each year</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Ranch Day</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly roping contests in summer</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic games in gymnasium of school</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth center</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in the data in Table 5, there is a wide variety of recreational facilities offered by a country club. The private lake is owned and operated by the country club in the town. Membership fees are low, and a considerable percentage of the people in the town use its facilities in one way or another. It is a popular spot for picnics. A well-stocked lake provides fishing, and boating is a popular pastime with the young people.
The swimming and wading pools are owned and operated by the city. It is estimated that twelve thousand people use these facilities yearly. Picnic grounds adjoin the swimming pool, and these are widely used in the summer time. The American Legion sponsors a junior baseball team, and the games are played in the park near the swimming pool.

A softball league is sponsored by a civic organization, the Quarterback Club. There are six teams in the club, and, during the summer, games are played regularly in the city park. Admission is free to the games, and a large percentage of the population attends them.

The town has two theaters. The owners of these establishments estimate that approximately fifty per cent of the people in the town patronize this type of recreation sometime during the year. Many of the people from rural areas drive in to the theaters in the summer.

There are six bowling alleys in the town. Bowling, it is indicated, is very popular with teen-age youth, young business people, and the middle-aged people. The different industrial concerns in the town sponsor bowling teams, and the competitive games are well attended. Other popular means of recreation are very much in evidence. The rodeos are held three times yearly and attract visitors from a wide area. The Ranch Day festivals are the highlight of the year.
The people of the community take a great deal of interest in athletics. The football games, basketball games, and volleyball games in the school stadium and gymnasium are well attended and liberally supported by the town. The school has a band which also has much support in the town. This organization furnishes music for many of the recreational events held in the community.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsors a youth center and teen-canteen. This organization has been established since the war and has been well-patronized by the young people in the community.

A summary of the data indicates a wholesome program of recreation with emphasis placed on outdoor activities. There is little provision for recreation in the winter except the theater and the athletic contests at the school. Civic organizations and private interests are responsible for the recreation available outside the public school activities.

Recreation Program of Eastland, Texas

The town of Eastland owns and operates a four-acre park located inside the city limits. The recreational activities of the town, to a large extent, are centered in the park. No figures are available on the approximate participation of the people in the different activities, but the types of recreation offered at the park are as follows:
Swimming
Dancing
Softball
Golf
Tennis
Playground
Boy Scout activities
Croquet

All of these activities are summer-time projects. The city owns a swimming pool, and this is widely used by the young people of the community. The Fire Department sponsors and manages a softball league, and games are played in the park all through the summer. There is a dance pavilion operated by a private concern which is regulated very closely. Dances in the summertime are popular, and the barn dance, typically Western in spirit, is a feature which draws attendance from all over the county.

A new nine-hole golf course is in the city park. This is widely used by the boys and men in the town. Few of the women use the course. There are also two tennis courts in the park, and they are extensively used by the young people in the summer time. A playground area is available for the children, but no supervision is provided for this facility. Croquet grounds are also provided in the city park, and these are used by teen-age groups and by elderly people more than by the young people of the community.
A Boy Scout hut is a part of the park equipment. It is the center of youth activities in the summer and provides a meeting place for the boys all during the year. Like other Scout activities in other places, a Boy Scout leader has supervision of the boys at all times.

There are two lakes outside the city. One of these is privately owned, and the other belongs to the city. Facilities for boating and fishing are available at these lakes. One of the popular clubs in the town is the Roping Club. It sponsors weekly roping contests for the public during the summer; these contests are attended by people from a wide area.

There are two theaters and one privately owned night club in the town. A miniature golf club is also privately owned. The town is too far away from major television studios to have good reception, and there were only four television sets in the city in the spring of 1950.

The major celebration in the town during the summer is the Horned Toad Derby. This attraction is very popular and well-attended. Another gala day is Ranch Day. This is a carnival affair and is held to raise funds for the school band.

School athletics are enthusiastically supported by the people in the community. The football and basketball games are well attended. In addition, the community uses the school facilities for many activities. The auditorium is
used for many public gatherings. The older men of the town have a basketball team, and they use the gymnasium.

Recreation Programs of the Smaller Towns and Communities in Eastland County

Rising Star.--Rising Star, with a population of 1,198, has a city park which is used only for softball games. The park has bleachers that will seat about six hundred people. The usual attendance is approximately two hundred per night. Games are played two or three nights per week in the park during the summer.

There is a nine-hole golf course near the city. The course covers approximately twenty acres and is open to the public for a small fee. An invitation tournament is held annually, and attendance is good. A private lake is located near the golf course; this lake is mainly used for fishing and boating. Swimming facilities in the area are very limited.

The city has one theater. No provisions are made for any planned recreation for children. The churches of the area offer some recreational advantages to the youths of the town; these are mainly in the form of vacation Bible schools and camping trips.

The school facilities are used for football, basketball, and other school activities. They are not used by the community as a general practice; however, a few social events
are planned for the public by the school. The school has an adequate gymnasium and stadium for a town of this size, and two tennis courts at the school are used by the pupils and the young people of the community. The facilities of the school for recreation could be utilized by the entire community under a planned recreation program.

Gorman.--Gorman has its own city park of about ten acres. A swimming pool and a skating rink are located in the park. The swimming pool is operated by the city, and the skating rink is operated by a private business concern. Picnic space is also provided in the park. This recreation center is widely used by the people of the community.

The school plant and its equipment is used extensively by the community. The equipment used includes the combination auditorium and gymnasium, the playground, and the stadium. The stadium is used for softball during the summer months, and the games are well attended. Softball teams are maintained for the younger boys. The coach of the school has charge of these games and receives a part of admission charges to the games as pay for his work. No tax is levied in the town for recreation.

Desdemona.--Desdemona is a small rural village. It has no facilities for recreation other than those furnished by the school and the churches. The school equipment, while adequate for wider use, is not used extensively. The auditorium is used for public occasions, but no recreational program is planned.
Scranton.--Scranton is another small community in the county of Eastland. There is no recreation program in the community, and the only facilities for such a program are the school plant and equipment. These facilities are little used by the community for recreation.

Carbon.--The facilities for recreation at Carbon are also very limited. The community sponsors a softball team during the summer, but there is no city park. The school playground is used for this purpose.

Olden.--Olden, while only a small community, has a very active recreation program. The school equipment, including four tennis courts, combination auditorium and gymnasium, and lighted playground, is used extensively. A swimming pool has been constructed in the community, but it was not in use during the summer of 1950. The community has a softball field and sponsors two softball teams, an adult team and a junior team. A junior basketball team is sponsored by one of the churches in the community during the winter months.

There is a drive-in theater in this small community. A near-by lake furnishes opportunities for boating and fishing.

A summary of the data on recreation in the small towns of Eastland County shows that there is no planned recreation to any extent, and that no attempt is made to provide recreation
for all age levels. The majority of the recreation in the communities is athletic in nature.

Summary of the Chapter

The purpose of the chapter was to present information on the types of recreation offered by the county, towns, and communities of Eastland County, Texas, in the summer of 1950. The following findings were developed from the presentation of the data:

1. The climate, topography, and natural resources of Eastland County make possible an all-round the season recreation program.

2. The county has no provisions whatever for financing or planning a recreation program.

3. The town of Cisco has many types of recreational activities but has no city-financed organization; a committee from many organizations plans the recreation.

4. The majority of the recreational activities are of the outdoor type and are summer time features.

5. Little provision is made for public recreation during the winter months.

6. The recreation that is offered is not based on a study of the needs of the people in the community.

7. The town of Ranger has recreational facilities and opportunities mainly for use in the summer time.

8. The recreation program in Ranger is carried on by civic groups and private individuals.
9. The recreation in Ranger is not planned to meet the needs of the people of the community.

10. The recreational opportunities in the town of Eastland are available mostly in the summer time.

11. The majority of the recreational activities are of the outdoor type.

12. No provision is made for recreation for all age levels or for all seasons of the year.

13. No organized plan is followed in the recreation activities, and no finances are provided to support a recreation program.

14. The school plant and equipment are the main source of facilities for recreation in the small towns. Besides a few routine public meetings, these facilities are not utilized widely for recreation by the people in the small towns and communities.

15. No organized plan is followed in the recreation programs of the small towns.
CHAPTER IV

EVALUATIONS OF THE RECREATION PROGRAM FOR THE TOWNS
AND COMMUNITIES IN EASTLAND COUNTY, TEXAS

Purpose of the Chapter

The purpose of this chapter is to make an evaluation of the recreation program for the towns and communities in Eastland County in terms of the criteria developed from readings in professional literature in the fields of education and recreation. The criteria developed in Chapter II of the study are restated in order better to compare the recreation program in Eastland County, Texas, with recommended practices and procedures.

Evaluation of the Recreation Program for the Towns
and Communities in Eastland County, Texas

Criterion 1.--Recreation must be organized, directed, and guided in order to fully realize its potentialities for good.

Evaluation.--The recreational activities in Eastland County are unorganized on either a county or city or community basis. The town of Cisco has a steering committee which plans recreational activities for the community, but it is dependent upon local contributions for support. The leadership, for the
most part, is under the direction of the physical education teachers in the public schools and in the junior college located in the city. This leadership is trained and responsible, but it is utilized only in the summer months. In the winter time, when there is much need for recreation, there are no provisions and no leadership except that which is offered by private individuals or amusement enterprises.

Criterion 2.--The recreational activities should be planned to meet the desires and needs of the people in the community and to conform with established customs and traditions.

Evaluation.--The recreation of the people of Eastland County, as indicated in the data developed in Chapter III, is principally of the outdoor type and is carried on during the summer months of the year. No survey of any kind has been made, however, to determine the possibilities of the county for further recreational activities of this nature or for the development of other types of recreation for the winter months of the year. The recreation, as it exists at the present time, reflects the interests and desires of the people of the community.

Criterion 3.--An effective organization for a recreation program requires some adequate means of finance, a responsible sponsor, leadership in direction, and facilities and equipment for recreational activities.
Evaluation.--No recreation program in the county or in the towns and communities has financial support other than local contribution. Cisco is the only town in the county that has a planned recreation program and trained leadership for its summer month's programs. All of the towns and communities have some facilities and equipment for carrying on recreational activities. In the larger towns, these facilities are chiefly for outdoor activities, but the school plants, if adequately used, furnish equipment and facilities for a much broader program than the one now carried on. In the small communities, the school plants are not used during the week-ends to any extent. The auditoriums and gymnasium present many possibilities for recreation if the program were organized and directed with capable leadership.

Criterion 4.--A survey should be made of the area in which recreational activities will be organized to determine the resources of the community, the type of local government, climatic conditions, characteristics of the topography, and facilities for recreation already existing in the area.

Evaluation.--No survey has been made of the possibilities for recreation in Eastland County. A tentative survey in this study, based on information taken from statistics on the county, indicates that the county is financially able to support a recreation program, that the climate and topography of the county are favorable for an all-year recreation
program of some nature, and that there are many existing facilities for a recreation program. The interests of the people of the county, it is indicated, are in outdoor activities to a large extent. The lack of nightclubs and related types of entertainment indicates a wholesome attitude on the part of the people and a need for recreation that is not expensive or sophisticated.

**Criterion 5.**—All community agencies should cooperate in the planning, organization, and maintenance of a community recreation program.

**Evaluation.**—In the town of Cisco, a number of community agencies unite to form a steering committee for recreation, but this is the only type of organization in the county of this nature. In the other towns and communities, recreation is provided by different service organizations operating independently or by private individuals or amusement enterprises. There is no planned leadership or organization of the people of the county.

**Criterion 6.**—In rural areas, the logical administration of a recreation program would be on a county-wide basis, with the different towns and communities participating in the planning, organization, and maintenance.

**Evaluation.**—Eastland County is predominantly a rural area, and the logical organization for recreation would be on a county-wide basis. Instead, there is no organization of any kind except in one of the larger towns of the county.
and this is voluntarily financed. The recreation program of the county, therefore, fails to meet the standards developed for adequate recreation activities in rural areas.

**Criterion 7.--**The county-wide program should be uniform in providing types of recreation for all age levels, but the recreational activities should be flexible in order to meet individual needs and desires of the different communities.

**Evaluation.--**None of the recreational activities in the county provide for all age levels at all seasons of the year. In the summer time, the camping, fishing, boating, and carnival attractions have activities that provide for all age levels, but in the winter time the majority of the activities meet very limited needs. The theaters and athletic activities of the schools comprise the majority of the recreation available. A much wider type of activities is needed, and facilities for indoor recreation must be provided if more activities are introduced.

**Criterion 8.--**Recreation should be provided for both indoor and outdoor interests.

**Evaluation.--**The data developed in Chapter II indicates that the outdoor interests of the people in the county of Eastland, Texas, are provided for in a very satisfactory manner. In fact, the outdoor recreation activities predominate in all sections of the county. Few indoor activities are indicated. As previously stated, more facilities should be provided for indoor recreation.
Criterion 9.--A survey should be made of the recreational needs and desires of the people in each community and of the facilities already existing for recreation in the community.

Evaluation.--No studies have been made either in the county or in individual communities of the need for recreation or of the facilities already existing which might be utilized for recreational purposes. The communities fail to meet the standards for the criteria in this respect.

Criterion 10.--The schools in rural areas, as well as in the small towns, should take the initiative in promoting recreational activities through a wider use of school plants for community recreation.

Evaluation.--No indication was found in this study of any school in the county taking the initiative to promote better recreational opportunities through better utilization of the school plant. The school plants, it was found, constitute the only available facilities in the small rural areas for amusement. The schools, in this instance, are failing to avail themselves of an opportunity for worthwhile community service and are failing to meet the criterion for schools developed in the literature.

Criterion 11.--Evaluation of the recreation program should be made annually in order to check on needed improvements or better utilization of existing facilities.

Evaluation.--There is no recreation program in Eastland County, from the standpoint of an organized program, to
evaluate. That does not obviate the need for evaluation programs of the recreation that already exists in the county. The problem of organized recreation, it is indicated, has received very little, if any, attention from the people of the county. School administrators, as the educational leaders of their community, should take the initiative in developing a greater interest in the need for more and wider types of recreation in the county. There is a very definite need for this information and this type of leadership.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study was to make an investigation of the recreational program for the towns and communities of Eastland County, Texas, to determine the extent to which these programs meet standards developed by workers and investigators in the field of recreation. Professional literature was read to develop criteria for evaluation, and the recreation program of the towns and communities were studied in terms of this information.

Conclusions

The following conclusions have resulted from the investigation:

1. The complexity of modern life has contributed to a need for organized recreation in every community in the country.

2. The public schools, as the agents responsible for training in citizenship, have been given responsibility for taking the lead in developing organized wholesome recreation.

3. Organized, wholesome recreation contributes to the social, cultural, physical, and mental development of the
individual, but some types of recreation are more harmful than beneficial.

4. Recreation has liabilities as well as potentialities for good.

5. Recreation must be organized, guided, and directed to fully realize its potentialities for good.

6. The recreational activities should be planned to meet the needs and interests of the people in a community.

7. An effective organization for a recreation program requires some adequate means of finance, a responsible sponsor, leadership in direction, and facilities and equipment for recreational activities.

8. The needs of the community for recreation should be determined by a cooperative survey of the resources of the community, climatic conditions, topography, type of government, and facilities for recreation already existing in the community.

9. Any effective recreation program should provide recreation for all age levels and offer a wide range of activities in order to meet a variety of interests and needs.

10. Recreation should be provided for both indoor and outdoor interests.

11. In rural areas, the most effective recreational organization is at a county level with cooperative community participation in planning and maintaining the program.
12. The schools in small towns and rural areas should take the initiative in promoting recreational activities because the school plants have the needed facilities and equipment for recreation.

13. There is no organized recreation program in Eastland County, Texas, either on a county level or in the towns and communities of the county.

14. A survey of the physical resources of the region indicates many possibilities for recreation and many facilities for outdoor recreation.

15. A survey of the different types of recreation programs provided by the towns and communities in Eastland County indicates that the majority of recreational interests are of the outdoor type and are seasonal in nature.

16. Little provision is made for indoor recreation except athletic events in the schools during the winter.

17. There are only two nightclubs in the county, and commercial recreation of this type is very limited.

18. The people of the county indicate an interest in wholesome recreation.

19. In the small rural communities there is only a very limited amount of organized recreation at any time of the year.

20. The school plants in the rural areas constitute the major facilities available for recreation; the survey indicates that the plants are used for community recreation to a very limited extent.
Recommendations

The following recommendations are offered for the development of an organized recreation program in Eastland County, Texas:

1. The schools should take the leadership in developing an interest in organized recreation through the initiative and maintenance of organized recreation programs in the schools. If these programs are planned on a cooperative basis, the interests of the community may be enlisted and a basis established for further enlargement of the program.

2. A representative committee of county officials, civic clubs, school officials, church groups, and other responsible organizations should make a survey of the recreational possibilities of the county and of the recreational interests of the people. An educational program should be launched to promote interest in organized recreation and the need for it.

3. All recreation programs should be initiated and developed on a democratic basis, and activities should be provided for all age levels and wholesome interests.

4. Ways and means should be studied by the individual communities for providing more indoor recreation and for providing facilities for this type of recreation.
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