AN EVALUATIVE STUDY TO DETERMINE THE PRESENT STATUS
OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC RECREATION IN
DENTON, TEXAS, WITH A PROPOSED PLAN FOR
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North
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MASTER OF SCIENCE

By

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

"Play with no aim, no object, only the joy of doing it," states Dr. Arthur T. Morgan, the president of Community Service, Inc., "has effects on us that are so deep-seated that we dare not leave it out of well-ordered living."\

The reason for recreation is that simple; that is why children and adults engage in it. It does not occur to them to seek other sanction for their own play. The thing is a part of life, like love or food. Yet this truth has never inspired action beyond the family circle or other small social units from nineteen adults out of twenty.\(^2\) The twentieth person has had the social imagination to realize that the recreational hungers of other people and other people's children were just as powerful as those of himself and his children.

The demand for "practical reasons" for organized recreation is insistent. Fortunately, these reasons are sound and they are backed by experience, and even by science.\(^3\)

\(^1\)National Recreation Association, Recreation, a Problem of Grass Roots, Bulletin, 1948.

\(^2\)Ibid.

\(^3\)Ibid.
They center about physical and mental development, and about social adjustment.

With the growth of cities, streets have become crowded and unsafe for play, vacant lots have had buildings constructed upon them, and the habitual recreation spaces have slowly disappeared. With the complexity of city life, people have become largely dependent upon special agencies to provide opportunities for recreation. Under conditions of urban living, these opportunities are found largely through organized recreation. Recreation takes its place with education, health, religion, and work as an essential process molding individual personalities and creating abundant community living. All these elements, in proper balance, constitute the nucleus of total social stability. Dynamic public recreation programs are woven deeply into the design for the good life, while the lack of organized recreation tends to create individual and social pathology. Its positive contributions to the community are now recognized and more widely accepted than ever before. The administration of public recreation programs is as important as the performance of the executive duties of a business or an institution.

4 George D. Butler, Introduction to Community Recreation.

5 Harold D. Meyer and Charles K. Brightbill, Community Recreation.
Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to determine to what extent the public recreation of Denton under the present administrative setup is serving the needs of the citizenship of Denton. Various agencies affording recreation for their own members or sponsoring recreation activities affecting other inhabitants of Denton were surveyed to determine the present status of administration of public recreation in Denton. The results of the survey were compared with standards set up by the National Recreation Association for cities the size of Denton.

From a comparison of the present status and the standards, an effort was made to formulate a basis of administration that would be sound and businesslike, well co-ordinated, and consistent with good governmental practice.

Definition of Terms

Administration is defined in this study as the capacity of carrying out the executive duties of public recreation agencies in relation to organization and management, finance, personnel, activities, facilities, community relations, records and reports, and publicity.

Public recreation is defined in this study as organized leisure-time activities conducted by governmental, semi-public, private, and commercial agencies.
Limitations of the Study

The investigation will be limited to a study of the literature in the field of recreation regarding the administration of public recreation, and to a proposed plan for future development.

Sources of Data

The nature of the facts gathered and presented in recreation surveys varies according to the purpose of the individual study, its scope, and the method by which it is carried on. As a rule, the data relate to general community facts, existing public recreation facilities and services, recreation provided by private and semi-public groups, and commercial recreation. In the summary of the study made in Baltimore in 1937, the material was presented under the following headings:

I. The Present Situation
   Facilities; Employed Leaders; Activities; Numbers Reached by Private Agencies; Expenditures; Total Cost of Organized Public Recreation; Relationships.

II. Public Recreation in Other Cities
   Administration; Facilities; Employed Leaders; Activities; Expenditures for Leadership; Relationships.

III. Recommendations for Baltimore
   Reasons for a Separate Municipal Department;

6Butler, op. cit.
The Leisure of a People, a report of the survey conducted in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was more comprehensive in scope, contains the following sections:

I. What Manner of City Is This Indianapolis?
II. Leisure.
III. Play and Recreation.
IV. Agencies Related to the Leisure Needs of the People
   - The Home and Leisure
   - The Church and Recreation
   - Public Agencies--Parks and Playgrounds, The Recreation Department, The Board of Education, Public Library, County and State Parks
   - Semi-public Agencies--Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Scouts, etc.
   - Art Association of Indianapolis
   - The Children's Museum
   - Recreation by Private Groups
   - Industrial or Vocational Recreation
   - Commercial Recreation

V. Special Chapters
   - A Modern Movement for Securing Lands for Public Recreation
   - Opportunity for Adult Leisure-time Studies
   - Social Work and Recreation
   - Municipal Camps

Sixteen major recommendations growing out of the survey were presented and carried out immediately.

Recreation authorities today recognize the need for evaluation of the work they are doing and have been stimulated by the distribution of an appraisal form for rating

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public recreation in a city. This form, Schedule for the Appraisal of Community Recreation, published by the National Recreation Association in 1937, and revised in 1946, was used as a measuring rod in this study. As a result of inquiries concerning surveys of public recreation, the National Recreation Association supplied the investigator with other material pertinent to the study. The history of the Association is summarized in the following chapter.

All of the above mentioned sources are utilized in the background material for this investigation.

Factual material on the administration of public recreation in Denton was obtained by interviewing the administrators of public recreation agencies and utilizing a questionnaire during the interviews. Also, various officials of the city were interviewed in regard to basic facts concerning Denton.

Previous Studies

Bales reported in her study of the recreation program in Denton in 1938 that in the City of Denton there were 66.5 acres available for public recreation. This acreage included the City Park and the school play areas of the city. In park space, this acreage allowed 0.15 acre per

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Marguerite Bales, "Methods and Procedures in Determining the Recreation Program of Denton, Texas" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Physical Education, North Texas State Teachers College, Denton, Texas, 1938).
person. There were included in this acreage two city parks, one park for Negroes, three elementary school playgrounds, one junior high and one senior high school playground, two neighborhood playfields, and one athletic field. This acreage did not include the recreation facilities of the two colleges. The delinquent and crime records showed that fourteen delinquent cases were brought to trial in 1937. The population of Denton at that time was 10,500, with an additional 4,500 yearly enrollment in the two colleges, the North Texas State Teachers College and the Texas State College for Women. Assessed valuation was $6,190,932.00, and the total city budget for 1937 was $404,224.00. The tax rate for 1937 was $175.00.

The city debt service budget for the previous year was $724,000.00. Also, the city's current budget for education was $105,000.00. The recreational budget was $1,650.00, which sum provided for a park caretaker's salary, for all beautification of the city parks, as well as $250.00 for recreational equipment, and $425.00 for the summer salary of a man supervisor. The above mentioned investigator was interested in the extent the recreation program provided for the leisure-time needs of the citizens of Denton. Bales' conclusions were that the City of Denton needed an additional 38.5 acres in order to meet the recommended standards set up by the National Recreation Association, which suggest one
acre of playground space for every one hundred persons. Also, the investigator found that the schools were not making available to the citizens of Denton various areas and facilities which could have been utilized in the recreation program.

In 1938, the Federal Government had taken specific steps in assisting the development of a recreation program in Denton. Under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, recreation projects were set up and given leadership in cities and counties over the United States. The Division of Recreation Projects, one of the four Works Divisions of the Federal Works Progress Administration, was under the general supervision of the Deputy Administrator, and was under the direct supervision of a Federal Director of Recreation Projects. In the State of Texas, the recreation program was a state-wide project under the Division of Operations. A state supervisor was responsible to the Works Progress Program Administrator, through the office of the State Director of Operations, for promotion, selection, planning, and operation of recreation projects in the state.

Directly responsible to the State Supervisor were the District Supervisors of Recreation. In each district there could be five to twenty-five Recreation Project Superintendents who were directly responsible for city and county recreation programs. All of these offices were filled by
persons paid by the funds made available through the Works Progress Administration.

The Denton Works Progress Administration Recreation Project was opened July 7, 1937. The Denton Park Board, for whom the government set up certain requirements, sponsored the project. The present study differs from the Bales report in that there was no Municipal Recreation Program in operation in Denton which could contribute to the total city recreation picture when this study was undertaken.

Another study related to the present one was conducted in 1949 by Arthur J. Seely, director of El Centro, a youth center, in regard to the successful operation of a youth center in Denton. Factors contributing to its successful operation for a period of five years, and factors considered essential to successful operation of any youth center were surveyed. Conclusions of the study were that youth centers are a comparatively new phase of organized recreation for teen-age youth, and they were the urgent outgrowth of war conditions which resulted in many youth-disturbing influences. El Centro, when its activities were evaluated in comparison with essential factors of successful operation,

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was found to be adequate in the majority of instances. The greatest weaknesses were found in lack of play space at the site, and lack of swimming-pool facilities for the members.

Recommendations offered in the light of the data revealed in Seely's study were the development of an alert interest in advancement in youth recreation and continued research for opportunities to expand and improve the program, and keeping the activities of the center and of all the youth of Denton before the public. Also, enlisting further public support and co-operation toward an expansion of youth recreation facilities was recommended. The present investigation includes the contribution of El Centro in the manner of activities sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Denton. Other organizations will also be taken into consideration.

Procedures for Development of the Study

The present study will be based along the lines of what is offered the citizenship of Denton in regard to public recreation. The investigator used the survey and questionnaire methods with the aid of an interview because they were more readily adaptable and practical for this particular study. In most cases, the administrators or the recreation directors of agencies were the presidents of the organizations, or secretaries or treasurers. As for the commercial agencies, the managers were interviewed.
Treatment of the Data

The writer sought to determine the present status of the administration of public recreation services in regard to activities, finance, areas, facilities, program services, participation and use, community relations, direction and management, and organization. The administration of public recreation is then evaluated by comparing the findings with standards set up by the National Recreation Association, for a city the size of Denton. The commercial agencies will not be evaluated by utilizing the Appraisal Schedule, but by separate criteria set up by the Association. A proposed plan for future development is then submitted, with major emphasis on a central element of control of public recreation utilizing existing services.
CHAPTER II

PUBLIC RECREATION MOVEMENT

The pioneers who set up the first facilities for public recreation did not anticipate all of the social by-products such as prevention of juvenile delinquency, health and safety, mental health, preparation for family life, or intellectual growth. Yet they did passionately desire to free children from the frightful moral and physical hazards of city slums and to give them a happier life. Efforts to improve health and morals, to aid child welfare, to promote civic beauty and other streams of influence contributed to the public recreation movement. One of the leaders was Joseph Lee of Boston. In 1889, Boston created one of the first public playgrounds, a ten-acre area called the Charles-back Outdoor Gymnasium. Jane Addams, in 1892, established a model playground next to Hull House in Chicago. In 1903, Chicago astonished the country with a bond issue of five million dollars for park playgrounds and field houses.

In 1906, forty-one cities boasted organized playgrounds. It was in 1906 that the Playground Association of America was founded, later to become the National Recreation Association. In 1946, the number of cities had grown to 1,743,
and they reported 26,185 play areas, recreation buildings, and indoor recreation centers.

The recreation movement has caused important changes in community life. It has an integral part in sound city and regional planning. It has converted many parts of the city, especially park areas, into sites for activity as well as for beauty. Physical education, through the influence of recreation, has been swung away from formal calisthenic drills to an emphasis on the freer and more joyous sports and games. Churches formerly regarded play as trivial, if not dangerous, but now they look upon it as an asset in character building. Many churches have developed recreational facilities and activities, though few have full-time leaders. One of the most significant trends in the management of prisons and reformatories, state hospitals for the insane, and other public institutions, is the place given to recreational activities. Testimony in favor of their disciplinary and very pronounced curative values is widespread.

Homes show the influence of recreation in the growth of backyard playgrounds, recreation rooms, and family recreation programs. Statistics from the commercial world show a large relative increase in sales of equipment for recreational activities involving personal participation, as opposed to those that are passive.
Among the major trends in public recreation today is co-recreation, that is, activities in which young men and young women may engage together. These activities include nature study, the building of nature trails and trailside nature museums, festivals in music, drama and folk dancing, exhibitions of arts and crafts designed to recognize the gifts of immigrants to American life, classes for hobbyists, the extension of bathing beaches, picnic sites, outlying naturalistic parks, and other out-of-town facilities made accessible by the automobile. The adult public displays increased activity in swimming, winter sports, and other outdoor recreations. There is also much greater emphasis on training. Recently, special consideration has been given to the recreational needs of older adults who, for the first time, find themselves with a great deal of free time on their hands due to the present extent of governmental and business old-age pension and retirement plans.

The National Recreation Association

The National Recreation Association functions as a headquarters and clearing house for public recreation. It issues a monthly magazine, Recreation, a semi-monthly bulletin service, and through a bureau of correspondence and consultation, free to all, it answers questions on all types of recreation. A National Recreation Congress, held annually,
and regional conferences are conducted by the Association. The organization is supported by membership fees and contributions. While it serves municipal, county, state, and federal governmental agencies as well as private agencies and individuals, it has no integral connection with the government and it is not financed by the government.

Butler, in preparing a publication for the National Recreation Association, states:

The National Recreation Association is to playground departments what the Federal Reserve is to member banks—a sustaining influence, a source of information, and an able representative on matters of national import. For nearly thirty years the National Recreation Association, serving as the clearing-house for the recreation movement in America, has been the means for focusing the attention of the nation upon the need for and the importance of public recreation. It has worked to determine needs, to plan adequate programs, train leaders, and raise standards of service and leadership. It has put its resources behind private and governmental agencies interested in recreation and has served as a unifying force for all who are working through recreation to make life in America a rich, joyous experience.1

Standards

A sound rating system is possible only if there are acceptable standards by which a local recreation program can be appraised. There is considerable agreement as to standards in the case of a number of major recreation items in the schedule. Some of the standards used as a basis

1Butler, op. cit., p. 67.
for appraisal have been adopted by committees of recreation executives and have been largely accepted by the profession. Others represent the opinions of groups of individuals based upon a study of experiences in various committees. Certain important items are not readily susceptible to standardization or to absolute ratings, but essential procedures or other general criteria relating to them have been indicated. The possible harm that may result from the use of outmoded, inadequate standards makes it necessary that a rating system be based upon the latest and best standards relating to public recreation service.

There are few, if any, standards in this schedule that are not now achieved in at least a few communities and in some cases they are already met in many cities. On the whole, they represent standards that are possible of achievement by a majority of cities. On the other hand, there is probably no city which has so far attained all of them.2

This schedule is designed for use by a small community as well as by a larger city. Some of the items can be more easily achieved by the larger cities than by the small ones, whereas in other instances the reverse is true. On the whole, since the standards are largely related to

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population units, the schedule is equally applicable to all cities and communities.

The Schedule

Theoretically, any system designed to measure accurately the recreation services of a city should lay major emphasis upon the contribution which these services make to its abundant life, to the development of individual and community happiness, and to satisfactory and wholesome use of leisure time by the people of the city. However, since no accurate basis has yet been devised for recording these factors, the schedule is based upon other items which lend themselves to fairly accurate measurement. The schedule has seven general divisions representing major items which contribute directly or indirectly to the adequacy of recreation services in a city. To facilitate scoring, one hundred points have been allotted to each of these items, but since they are not all of equal importance, a suggested value is indicated for each to enable an arrival at a percentage basis for the individual items of the whole schedule. The weighings given not only to the major items but also to the subdivisions of each are more or less arbitrary. In general, they represent what are believed to be the relative importance of the respective items, but in a few instances the availability of accurate or even carefully estimated
figures has influenced the weighing. For example, whereas "Participation and Use" is perhaps more important than the other six items as indicating the volume and appreciation of the city's recreation services, nevertheless the lack of accurate statistical information as to participation and use in most cities makes it inadvisable to score this heavily.¹

The following are the seven major divisions in the schedule and the weighing suggested for each:

I. Land and Water Areas ............ 6
II. Buildings and Indoor Facilities ... 3
III. Leadership Personnel ............. 6
IV. Program Service ................. 8
V. Participation and Use ............. 2
VI. Current Expenditures ............ 4
VII. Administration ................... 3

Total ........... 32

Unless otherwise specifically indicated, a city that does not fully meet the standard indicated for a given item should be credited with a lesser number of points than the full score, the number being proportional to the extent to which the city meets the standard provision. Thus, if the standard calls for one acre of total recreation space for

¹Ibid.
each one hundred people, and if thirty points are given for meeting this standard, a city with only one acre for each two hundred people should be given one half of the total points, or a score of fifteen for the item. In order to determine a general percentage for a city based upon the entire schedule, the number of points scored under each of the seven major items is multiplied by the weighting suggested for each and the total number of points divided by thirty-two.

The standards as set up by the National Recreation Association for a city the size of Denton are as follows:

I. Land and Water Areas
   (100 Points)

   All publicly owned park and recreation areas within the corporate limits of the municipality should be included in this section. Also acreage that is available for full and regular community use, and that is either permanently dedicated to the local government, or is held in perpetuity under private auspices for unrestricted public park or recreation uses should be included. School recreation areas available for community use should be included in this section. Credit proportionately for lesser provisions.

   A. Total Acreage (30 points). -- There should be at least one acre to each one hundred of the total population.
B. Playgrounds and Playfields (30 points)

1. Neighborhood Playgrounds (15 points)

In general, a playground should be from four to six acres in area, and afford a diversified play program for children from six to fourteen years in age, together with limited facilities for the use of young people and adults. There should be at least one acre of neighborhood playground space to each eight hundred of population.

2. Playfields (15 points)

In general, the playfield is an area developed for diversified recreational use primarily by young people and adults as well as areas for children. There should be one acre of playfield space to each eight hundred population.

C. Special Recreation Areas and Facilities (25 points)

1. Outdoor Swimming Pools (4 points)

The capacity of pools is determined by estimating fifteen square feet of water area per individual. City facilities should serve three per cent of the total population.

2. Baseball and Softball Diamonds (3 points)

The standard for baseball diamonds is one for each six thousand of the population and for softball diamonds, one for each three thousand.

3. Golf Courses (1 point)

The city should provide one hole for each three thousand of population.
4. Tennis Courts (2 points)

The city should provide one tennis court for each two thousand population.

5. Other Game Courts and Fields (5 points)

The city should have the total number of the following facilities equal to or exceeding one for each 1,500 population:

   a. Archery ranges.
   b. Fields for soccer, football, field hockey, etc.
   c. Handball courts.
   d. Hard-surfaced multiple-use areas.
   e. Shuffleboard courts.
   f. Shooting ranges.
   g. Golf-driving ranges.
   h. Boccie courts.

6. Special Features (10 points)

There should be most of the following features in each playfield:

   a. Corner for preschool children.
   b. An apparatus area.
   c. Open space for informal play.
   d. Area for quiet games, storytelling, etc.
   e. Volleyball court.
   f. Space for table games for older people.
g. Shelter house.
h. Wading pool.
i. Trees and shrubs.
j. Open theater.
k. Picnic center for small groups.
l. Areas for seven major field games for men and women.

D. Design, Construction, and Maintenance (15 points).
-- The city should have good design and construction and proper maintenance with emphasis on marking of game areas, and cleanliness of grounds and structures.

II. Buildings and Indoor Facilities (100 Points)

A. Recreation Buildings and Indoor Centers (50 points)

1. General Recreation Buildings and Centers (30 points)

The city should provide two buildings for community use, with minimum facilities consisting of:

a. An auditorium or assembly hall with removable seats or a gymnasium.
b. Lounge for informal reading and quiet games.
c. Room for specialized activities such as arts and crafts, or game room.
c. Two rooms for clubs, hobby groups, or other multiple-use.

2. Shelter House (10 points)
There should be one such building for each 4,500 population.

3. Field House (10 points)
There should be one such building for each 15,000 population.

B. Indoor Recreation Facilities (50 Points)

1. Gymnasium (10 points)
The city should provide one gymnasium for each 10,000 population.

2. Auditoriums or Assembly Halls (5 points)
The city should provide one auditorium for each 15,000 population.

3. Social Room or Play Room (5 points)
There should be one such room for each 10,000 population.

4. Lounges for Informal Reading and Quiet Games (5 points)
The city should provide such a room for each 10,000 population.

5. Game Rooms (5 points)
There should be provided a room equipped for such games as table tennis, billiards, or pool, darts, and other games for each 10,000 population.
6. Club and Multiple-use Rooms (5 points)
There should be one such room for each 5,000 population.

7. Arts and Crafts Workshop (5 points)
The city should provide a workshop equipped for various arts and crafts activities for each 10,000 population.

8. Indoor Swimming Pools (10 points)
The city should provide one such pool.

III. Leadership Personnel
(100 Points)

A. Number of Leaders (43 points)

1. Superintendent of Recreation (6 points)
There should be one such person employed full time.

2. Other Executive Leadership (6 points)
There should be provided one person employed full-time whose duties include the acquisition, improvement, and operation of areas designed for recreation use.

3. Assistant Superintendent of Recreation or General Supervisor (4 points)
The city should have one such person whose chief job is to serve as supervisor of playgrounds and indoor centers.

4. Supervisors of Special Activities (6 points)
The city should have one person on a part-time basis serving in charge of program developments on a city-wide basis, such as athletics, music, drama, arts and crafts, nature activities, or industrial recreation.
5. Director of Centers (10 points)
   The city should provide two such directors.

6. Assistant Directors, Recreation Leaders' Assistants (8 points)
   The city should provide one such worker for each 6,000 population as assistant directors of centers, or to help in conducting activities, in organizing groups, or in supervising parts of the program.

7. Specialists or Special Teachers (3 points)
   There should be one such person employed, totaling three months of service out of the year, teaching some specific form of activity such as tennis, folk dancing, archery, or a special craft.

B. Training and Qualifications (42 points)

1. Superintendent of Recreation (8 points)
   Minimum age, twenty-four years; college education or equivalent plus special training in two of the following: recreation administration, community organization, personnel management, public administration and finance, public education, city planning, educational administration, social welfare, with previous experience of one and one-half years in an executive position.

2. Assistant Superintendent or General Supervisor (5 points)
   Minimum age, twenty-three years; education, in general,
the same as for the Superintendent; experience, two years in executive or supervisory recreation positions.

3. Supervisor of Special Activities (5 points)
Minimum age, twenty-two years; education, special training in the particular field, such as music, arts and crafts, athletics, etc.; experience, one year.

4. Directors of Recreation Centers (6 points)
Minimum age, twenty-three years; education, equivalent of a four-year college course; experience, two full years as assistant director of a recreation center.

5. Recreation Center Workers (6 points)
Minimum age, twenty-one years, for work with adults; for work with children, eighteen years; education, college graduation or at least equivalent of two years of college; experience, one year's experience in teaching or conducting activities of group type.

6. Playground and Playfield Directors (6 points)
Minimum age, twenty-one years; education, college graduation; experience, two years of related recreation work.

7. Specialists or Special Teachers (6 points)
Minimum age, twenty-one years; in general, college education or its equivalent is recommended; likewise, experience as a leader or instructor.

C. Personnel and In-service Training Methods (15 points)

1. Selecting Workers (6 points)
Workers should be selected according to a genuine merit system. Vacancies should be widely announced, and examinations intelligently prepared and administered.

2. Personnel Practices (9 points)

There should be monthly staff meetings, a sound and fairly administered plan governing hours of work, sick leave, vacations, and retirement, weekly meetings of the playground staff during the summer, a training institute for workers during the year, and workers rated regularly on sound basis and promoted if merited.

IV. Recreation Programs (100 Points)

A. Program Criteria (15 points)

1. Afford equal opportunity in the way of facilities and activities to all parts of the city.

2. Afford activities well distributed throughout the entire year.

3. Serve all age groups.

4. Provide a reasonable balance between the indoor and outdoor activities.

5. Provide equal opportunities for both sexes.

6. Provide for varying levels of skill and ability.

7. Have a definite relationship to the school program of teaching leisure-time skills and of developing recreation interests.
8. Definitely encourage individuals and groups to initiate and carry on their own activities.

9. Give participants a share in the planning and conduct of activities.

10. Afford opportunities for co-operative activity as well as competition.

11. Be sensitive to changing conditions, interests, and needs of the people.

12. Encourage informal individual activity as well as highly organized group projects.

13. Include community-wide features as well as activities conducted at individual playgrounds and centers.

14. Provide special service to racial groups, industrial and commercial organizations, churches, and other institutions.

15. Provide definite means for people to indicate their recreation desires.

B. Programs under Leadership (45 points)

1. Playground Program (14 points)

There should be one playground session under leadership for each twelve population.

2. Neighborhood Playfield Program (10 points)
There should be one playfield session under leadership for each forty population.

3. General Recreation Buildings and Indoor Centers (21 points)

There should be one session for each thirty population.

C. Recreation Activities (40 points)

1. Active Games and Sports (10 points)

There should be one period of active games and sports for each ten population.

2. Arts and Crafts, Drama, and Music (8 points)

There should be one period of arts and crafts, drama, or music for each thirty population.

3. Nature, Gardening, Camp and Outing Activities (8 points)

The city should provide one period of activities of this type for each one hundred population.

4. Social Recreation and Dancing (5 points)

There should be one period of such activity for each forty population.

5. General Club and Other Activities (9 points)

There should be one period of general club activity or of other types of organized or group activity for each one hundred population.
V. Participation and Use
(100 Points)

This section is intended to record the use made of various areas and facilities and the amount of participation in public recreation programs. In order to measure adequately the extent to which a community takes advantage of its recreational services it is necessary to record (1) the number of individuals served, (2) the total attendance which indicates the volume of service rendered. Careful estimates covering latest one-year periods should be utilized. This section is given a relatively low rating because of the divergence in local reporting methods and also because of the lack of complete attendance records.

A. Registration (25 points)

1. Playgrounds (5 points)

The total number of individuals registering at the playground should represent at least one to each ten population.

2. Buildings and Indoor Centers (5 points)

The total individuals registering at the recreation buildings and indoor centers should equal one to each twenty population.

3. Athletic Games and Sports (5 points)

The total number of individuals registered in all athletic teams or groups should equal one to each twenty population.
4. Other Group Activities (5 points)

The total number of different individuals registered, enrolled, or holding membership in non-athletic groups or programs should represent one for each twenty population.

5. Total Number Served (5 points)

The total number of different individuals registered with or regularly served by the recreation groups through their activities, programs, or facilities should equal one for each twenty population.

B. Attendance and Use (75 points)

1. Neighborhood Playgrounds (25 points)
   a. Participants (24 points)
      The total yearly attendance of participants should equal eight times the total population of the city.
   b. Spectators (1 point)
      The total attendance of spectators at all children's playgrounds should equal one-half the total population of the city.

2. Recreation Buildings and Indoor Centers (25 points)
   a. Participants (22 points)
      The total yearly attendance of participants should equal three times the total population of the city.
b. Spectators (3 points)
The total yearly attendance of spectators should equal the total population of the city.

3. Pools, Picnic Areas, and Winter Sports Facilities (5 points)
The total attendance should equal five times the total population.

4. Athletic Games and Other Sports (10 points)
   a. Participants (8 points)
The total attendance of participants in organized games and sports should equal five times the total population.
   b. Spectators (2 points)
The total number of spectators at organized athletic games and sports programs and facilities should equal three times the total population.

5. Other Outdoor Scheduled Activities and Programs (10 points)
   a. Participants (8 points)
The total attendance or units of service at non-athletic activities and programs scheduled by the public recreation agencies should equal the total population.
b. Spectators (2 points)
The total attendance watching or listening to non-athletic outdoor activities sponsored or conducted by the departments should equal twice the population of the city. Such activities include band concerts, pageants, community celebrations, and outdoor entertainments not conducted on children's playgrounds.

VI. Current Expenditures (100 Points)

A. Leadership (30 points). -- The total amount spent for leadership personnel should equal seventy-five cents per capita of the total population of the city.

B. Facilities and Programs under Leadership (30 points). -- The total amount spent for organized recreation, for the operation and maintenance of areas and facilities used for recreation, should equal $1.50 per capita of the total population.

C. Total Recreation Expenditures (40 points). -- The total expenditures for all types of recreation by all public recreational agencies should equal $3.00 per capita for the entire population of the city.
VII. Administration  
(100 Points)

A. Form of Organization (20 points). -- The city should have a separate recreation department, the sole function of which is to furnish recreation services, administered by a board or a commission of citizens with full authority to determine policies and administer the department.

B. Procedures and Policies (20 points). -- The recreation agencies should meet all of the following requirements:

1. Regular meetings monthly to adopt rules, regulations, and policies by the board or commission.
2. Organization of departments by divisions to render the most efficient service and cooperation.
3. Rules and regulations governing the use of the areas and facilities by the public.
4. Adoption of long-range plans for the extension and improvement of areas and facilities.
5. Provisions for making studies of recreation needs or evaluating present work.

C. Interpretation and Publicity (18 points). -- The recreation agencies should meet the following requirements:

1. Announcement of seasonal programs by leaflets or directory.
2. A definite program of speaking before community organizations.

3. Arrangement of inspection tours of areas, facilities, and centers.

4. Exhibits of materials, demonstrations of activities, or reviews of recreation activities brought before the public.

5. Annual report designed for the public issued and circulated widely.

6. Effective use of posters in stores, industries, and buildings in the city.

D. Records and Reports (28 points)

1. Recreation agencies should operate on an effective budget system.

2. There should be a careful system of bookkeeping with records of receipts and expenditures.

3. There should be complete records of facilities, equipment, and materials, inventories, contracts, concessions, insurance policies, etc.

4. Complete personnel service records of all employees should be kept.

5. Service rendered by managers of all centers and agencies should be regularly reported.
6. Complete lists of all individuals enrolled in leagues, clubs, groups, and classes should be kept.

7. Lists of individuals serving the agencies as volunteers should be kept together with their qualifications and services rendered.

E. **Community Relationships** (14 points). -- The following requirements should be met:

1. A city-wide recreation council representing various organizations and interests concerned with recreation problems.

2. The recreation executive should belong to a city-wide leisure-time group such as a committee of the Council of Social Agencies for facilitating co-operation between community agencies interested in recreation.

3. Formation of neighborhood committees or parents' groups at playgrounds.

4. Formation of neighborhood recreation councils around the recreation buildings or indoor centers to foster interest and participation in the programs.

5. A definite part of the time of playground and center workers designated for neighborhood visitation and community relationships.
6. Co-operative relationships between municipal authorities.

7. Co-operative relationships between recreation workers and all agencies interested in recreation.  

Criteria for Commercial Recreation Surveys

The purpose of information on commercial recreation is fourfold, according to a publication of the National Recreation Association:

1. To learn the numbers reached by constructive commercial recreation and its bearing on the city's obligation to provide recreation.

2. To locate weaknesses in regulation which lead to low moral tone.

3. To discover assets available to municipal agencies such as bowling alleys and other facilities for city leagues.

4. To learn how much the community is spending on passive and other amusements.  

Commercial recreation surveys are very important in any public recreation survey, as is suggested by Neumeyer and

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5 National Recreation Association, Know Your Community, Bulletin, 1946.
Neumeyer in the following statement: "Public recreation is the most highly developed form of leisure activity in America outside of commercial amusements."⁶

⁶Martin H. Neumeyer and Esther S. Neumeyer, *Leisure and Recreation*. 
CHAPTER III

SURVEY OF THE RECREATION AGENCIES
OF DENTON, TEXAS

The investigator found that Denton had no organized year-round recreation program. A softball league composed of thirteen teams sponsored by various business firms was carried on during the summer months. The majority of the civic organizations and similar agencies provided some form of recreation for their members, or sponsored activities which were available to the public at different seasons of the year.

There were no organized leisure-time activities provided on the school playgrounds, although the tennis courts, softball diamonds, and other areas were used consistently, weather permitting.

The following facts relative to public recreation in the City of Denton were obtained:

Population

The City of Denton had a population of more than 18,000, according to the latest figures of the city and of the Texas Power and Light Company. Ninety-two per cent of the total population was native white, and eight per cent was colored.
The above figures do not include the students at the two state colleges which have a combined average enrollment of over seven thousand students eleven months of the year.

Public Finance

The financial rating of Denton was as follows:

1. Assessed valuation was $17,200,000.00.

2. The total city budget for the year 1949-1950 was $537,265.70, and the tax rate was 2.18 mills per $1.00 valuation. Of this, 25.25 mills went for school bond retirement and interest payments, and 92.75 mills, for all other general government functions and debt service on tax-supported bond issues.

3. The city's current allocation to public schools is $165,540.00.

4. Tax allocation for the Park Department was $8,480.00.

This chapter has been divided into four parts: governmental, semi-public, private, and commercial agencies, with organizations affording recreational activities listed in their respective section.

Governmental Agencies

The recreational agencies included in this section are those created or maintained by the local government. The investigator surveyed the Park Department and the public-school system and obtained the following facts:
The City of Denton had sixty acres available for public recreation. Included in this acreage were two parks and the school play areas of the city. The acreage at the two colleges was not considered in this study, since these areas are not available to the public for full and regular community use. The city had purchased an additional eighteen acres to be developed into playground, but this acreage could not be counted in the study, since it was not completed for recreational activities.

Land and water areas. -- The city had the following recreational areas available:

City Park, 27.0 acres.
Negro Park, 7.0 acres.
Junior and senior high school playgrounds, 2.5 acres.
Athletic field, 14 acres.
Sam Houston School playground, 2.5 acres.
Stonewall Jackson School playground, 2.5 acres.
Robert E. Lee School playground, 2.5 acres.
Fred Moore School (Negro) playground, 2.0 acres.

There was a total of fourteen softball diamonds and one baseball diamond in the City of Denton. There were three softball diamonds in the City Park, one of them lighted, and one lighted diamond in the Negro Park. There were two diamonds on each of the three elementary school playgrounds, and four diamonds on the junior and senior high
school playgrounds. There was one lighted baseball diamond on the athletic field, along with a lighted football field and stadium. There were three tennis courts on the junior and senior high school playgrounds, the only ones available for the public, although the two colleges had a total of fifteen courts for their use.

The City Park had a portion of its area equipped for pre-school children, which included play apparatus, wading pool, and swings. Also available was open space for informal play, an area for quiet games for older people, a shelter house and band shell combined, and forty-six picnic tables. The park received good care and numerous trees, shrubs, and flowers added to its beauty.

The Negro Park had no playground equipment with the exception of the softball equipment and a few picnic tables and chairs. The Negro school had one dirt basketball court and free play space that could be used interchangeably for seasonal sports and free-play activities. Each of the three elementary school playgrounds had done something toward providing limited equipment for free-play periods.

There were no city-owned swimming pools, golf courses, handball courts, shooting ranges, or hard-surfaced multiple-use areas. All of these were available at the two colleges, and sometimes used by the citizens of Denton. The swimming pools and golf courses will be taken into consideration under
the discussion of commercial agencies, later in the chapter.

Buildings and indoor facilities. -- Available to the public in the City Hall was an auditorium with a seating capacity of 344, and it was used for forums, lectures, and other gatherings. There were two buildings on the playfields. One was in the City Park and was used interchangeably as a band stand and as an outdoor theater. There was a recreation building in the Negro Park given to the Negroes by the Federated Women's Clubs of Denton. There was only one large recreation room in the building, used for dancing and games. The room was equipped with one ping-pong table and a juke box. There were no chairs or other equipment available.

The City of Denton provided three gymnasiums, one at the junior high school, one at the senior high school, and one at the Negro school. All of the gymnasiums were sometimes used as auditoriums, with folding chairs being utilized. The high school had a shop building that could be used in a recreation program as an arts and crafts workshop. The Negro school also had one section of the building available for arts and crafts, but no organized program was carried on during leisure hours.

Leadership. -- No recreation leaders were employed by the City of Denton.
Recreation programs. -- The City Softball League in operation during the summer months consisted of thirteen teams: four girls' teams, five men's teams, and four junior boys' teams, through fifteen years of age. There were two games each night, Monday through Friday, and special games were scheduled on Saturday nights.

Three teachers in the junior high school sponsored a square dancing club at the gymnasium, composed of one hundred junior high school boys and girls. They met on Tuesday nights during the school term. The fifty-cent monthly membership fee paid for the band hired to play at the dances. Also restricted to junior high school students, roller skating was offered on Thursday nights at the senior high school gymnasium. There were one hundred pairs of rubber-tired skates, and they were all in use each session. A small fee of twenty-five cents was charged to help pay for the skates purchased during the school year 1949-1950. Supervision of these sessions was an extracurricular activity.

All of the elementary schools had organized clubs, and various activities and projects under way to create interest in their school, and could not be classified as leisure-time recreational activities. The three elementary schools sometimes had seasonal leagues formed on an intra-school basis, and games were played at four o'clock on the school playgrounds.
The Negro Park and recreation building were under the supervision of one man, whose work was voluntary. At the recreation building, the children could dance to juke-box music, but nickels were required to play the records. There was only one ping-pong table, and the waiting line to play was always long. Most of the girls did not even venture out at night. There was one movie theater downtown they could attend, with the maximum number of seats available to them being thirty-three.

Attendance and use. -- No records were kept at the playfields or playgrounds of the actual number of spectators or participants in the programs. In the survey, with the help of the interviewees, and through careful observation, the investigator attempted to estimate those figures for the past year. There was no registration of members in recreational activities in the City of Denton.

Current expenditures. -- The Park Department budget for recreation, and for the operation and maintenance of areas and facilities used for recreation totaled $8,480.00. The breakdown of this total was as follows:

Salaries . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $ 5,680.00

These included:
Superintendent or caretaker
Assistant superintendent
Extra help

Maintenance of equipment . . . . . . . $ 1,000.00
Softball program .......... $ 1,325.00
Other supplies .......... $ 475.00

Each team in the softball program supplied the league with an entrance fee of $68.00, which paid for lights, umpires, and other incidental expenses. This amount was paid by the sponsoring agencies.

Administration. -- A Park Board of seven members, selected by the Mayor every three years, not to succeed themselves, headed the administration of procedures and policies of the Park Department. A president, secretary, and treasurer served as officials of the board. They were responsible for drawing up the budget to be approved by the City Commission. The board met once a month. They were constantly drawing up long-range plans for a better program, and improvement of areas and facilities.

The Park Department kept records of expenditures and receipts pertaining to the softball program. The school system had no records of the recreational activities carried on.

The Negro Park was controlled by a board similar to the City Park Board. The members reported to a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club each month concerning plans and recommendations for bettering the situation of the park.
Semi-public Agencies

The City of Denton did not have a year-round organized recreational program. Instead, it seemed that the people as a whole enjoyed belonging to small groups having their own recreational activities separate from other groups, or preferred to donate part of their salaries to worth-while organizations sponsoring recreation which would affect persons desiring recreational activities. In general, the semi-public organizations in Denton provided quite a variety of activities along recreational lines. Some were commercialized, and others were free for certain ages. The organizations surveyed which will be included in this section were the Lions' Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Optimist Club, the Rotary Club, the City Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Legion, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Square Dance Club.

Kiwanis Club. -- The greatest contribution toward providing recreational activities for teen-agers in the City of Denton was credited to this club. This was true because of the operation of the highly popular youth center, El Centro, in the heart of town. Seely, in his study of the center,¹ reviewed the success of El Centro in regard to practically eliminating juvenile delinquency, and at the same

¹ Seely, op. cit.
time providing a varied program of activities desired by the majority of the youth of Denton and surrounding towns. The center was established during the last war as a place to get the teen-agers off the streets and into something worth-while. The Kiwanis Club was responsible for purchasing an old building and making it into a youth center in November, 1944.

There was an El Centro fund contributed to by the Kiwanis Club as well as nearly everyone in the City of Denton. Most of the donations were of the fifty-cent and one-dollar type. Cost of operating the center during 1950 was estimated to be $6,000, which included buying supplies and equipment, a salary of $100.00 a month to Mr. Seely, who directs the center, and a salary of $75.00 a month to a married couple, who mix and mingle with the teen-agers, operate the snack bar, etc. Another director alternates with Mr. Seely in directing the activities of the center. There was no membership fee, but it was restricted to high school students and those younger than high school age. The hours were Tuesday nights through Thursday nights, 5:00 o'clock until 9:00 o'clock, and Friday and Saturday nights, 5:30 o'clock until 10:30 o'clock.

Approximately 1,200 to 1,400 children patronized the center during the week. The average nightly attendance was around two hundred. The facilities included three pool
tables, eight ping-pong tables, boxing gloves, phonograph and records, television set, radio, snack bar, one large lounge for reading and quiet games, an enclosed darkened area for social dancing, a piano, and rest rooms.

The center closes during the summer months, except on Friday and Saturday nights, since the teen-agers desire to be participating in activities out-of-doors. The Kiwanis Club served as an adult committee for the center, and a youth committee was organized from the participants.

The Kiwanis Club reported regular weekly luncheons for their own members, and sponsored a men's softball team in the City League.

*Optimist Club.* -- The Optimist Club reported joining with the Kiwanis Club in providing recreational activities for teen-agers in the form of the Junior Optimist Club Building and its facilities. Financing the activities was made possible by receipts of concerts by the Civic Boys' Choir, by Golden Gloves tournaments, as well as by donations to the fund by members of the Optimist Club. The activities sponsored by this club were, the Boys' Choir, with forty-five or fifty boys participating; Golden Gloves fights, with approximately thirty boys participating; a circus each fall; luncheons weekly for the club members; a softball team in the City League; and the activities conducted in the recreation building. Activities carried on
in this building included basketball, ping-pong, weight lifting, volleyball, boxing, singing, choir practice, movies, and arts and crafts. Financing the various programs during the last fiscal year totaled $14,000.00, but this included concert tours by the Boys' Choir. The same year's total donations reached $1,338.00. A leader was in charge of the building and supervised the activities. The cost of his salary and other expenses connected with the building totaled $1,500.00.

The Junior Optimist building was open four nights a week, Monday through Thursday, from 6:00 o'clock until 9:00 o'clock. There was no membership fee, and the total number of members reached one hundred. Membership was restricted to boys of high school age and under. Square dancing, camping trips, and other activities were available at times. An adult committee from the Optimist Club regulated the procedures and policies of the building and its activities, according to the recreation administrator.

Voluntary leaders taught various arts and crafts, refereed ball games in the gymnasium, and offered their services in other work to assist in the various programs.

The average attendance at the weekly luncheons of the Optimist Club was sixty-five.

City Federation of Women's Clubs. -- This organization reported approximately five hundred women as members, the
over-all membership of the Federation being composed of members of nine affiliated clubs, namely: The Business and Professional Women's Club, Ariel Club, Denton Gardening Club, Denton Garden Culture Club, Shakespeare Club, Junior Shakespeare Club, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Macabee Lodge, and the Lioness Club. Fifty delegates from the clubs, consisting of a president, a chairman, and a secretary from each of the nine different clubs, met monthly at their club building, located in the City Park. The building consisted of a stage, a women's lounge, a men's lounge, and one large room where meetings were held. The seating capacity of this room was 250.

The activities carried on for the members included teas, art exhibits, recitals, showers, receptions, and bazaars. These were financed by membership fees of ten cents per month, and rental incomes from other clubs renting the club building.

The Business and Professional Women's Club was responsible for getting other civic organizations interested in providing the recreation building and picnic tables for the Negro Park. The building was constructed in 1950 at a cost of $3,000.00.

A governing board consisting of seven members regulated the policies of the club, and various committees were formed
when special projects arose. The gardening clubs held their annual spring flower shows, and also beautified the school areas.

**Lions' Club.** -- The Lions' Club reported approximately seventy members with a governing body similar to that of the City Federation of Women's Clubs. Committees were appointed to make a study of various projects as they arose, and other committees were appointed to carry them out. The recreational activities carried on under the sponsorship of this club included supporting a softball team in the City League, a Boy Scout troop, a barn-dance show each Saturday night at the fair grounds, a carnival each year in September on the City Square, and wrestling matches each Tuesday night at the fair grounds. Most of their activities were commercialized, but they did provide entertainment and relaxation for many spectators throughout the year.

The activities were financed by receipts of the various shows and events, since a fee had to be paid to entertaining groups appearing in the City of Denton.

**Chamber of Commerce.** -- The Chamber of Commerce reported approximately 550 members. They held monthly gatherings in the form of luncheons. Membership fees provided for financing their activities. This organization worked with the two colleges considerably in regard to sponsoring concerts, lectures, forums, etc. The Chamber of Commerce
constructed the fence at the local baseball park, and installed the lights. Cost of this installation was reported to be $8,000 during the past year.

In November, this organization sponsored a newcomers' party in the Student Union Building at the Texas State College for Women, attracting four hundred people. In July, the watermelon feast took place on the dancing pavilion at the North Texas State College, attracting a thousand persons.

**Rotary Club.** -- The Rotary Club reported practically no recreational activities under their sponsorship. Weekly luncheons were reported for Rotarians. A Boy Scout troop received the club's financial support to the extent of $100.00 a year.

**American Legion.** -- The American Legion reported approximately 140 people reached by their recreational activities. A dance was reported held once a month, and dinners served once a month. A meeting was held every Monday night in the American Legion hut, located on City Park property. Half of their meetings were business meetings, with quiet games being carried on immediately afterwards.

The hut contained two large rooms available for recreational purposes. Equipment included three pool tables, two checker tables, and two domino tables. The Legion sponsored a junior softball team in the City League. The officers of
the Legion were the commander of the post, and the adjutant. Various committees organized the dinners and dances. The programs were financed by membership fees, approximately $5.00 per year.

Community Square Dance Club. -- One of the most popular clubs in Denton was reported to be the Community Square Dance Club which met every Wednesday night in the Student Union Building at the Texas State College for Women. The club was formed each semester during the regular school year. An instructor at the college served as caller for the dances. A fee of $5.00 per semester was charged to finance the band and other minor expenses. This club reported reaching approximately two hundred people.

Private Agencies

The agencies providing recreational activities for their own members that were surveyed were the following: the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the Denton County Pointer and Setter Club, and the Round-up Club. Also surveyed were five industries and fifteen churches in the City of Denton. It was impossible to survey all the bridge and canasta clubs of Denton, but it is the opinion of the investigator that the number of such clubs and the people reached fully meet the standards set up by the National Recreation Association for that type of club.
Scouts. -- The Girl Scouts of Denton numbered approximately 250, including the Brownies. There was reported a weekly meeting for each Scout group, the meeting place varying according to neighborhood facilities. Some troops met in school buildings, or at playgrounds. Some troops met at the Public Library located in the City Park. Seventy-five per cent of each meeting was devoted to recreational activities, according to the secretary. The activities carried on included arts and crafts, dramatics, sports and games, music and dancing, and camping. There was one building at their disposal, located in the City Park also.

The Boy Scouts of Denton numbered approximately five hundred. Meetings were held on the fourth Friday nights at the City Park. Four small huts were available for these meetings. Fifty per cent of all meetings were reported dealing with recreational activities. Some troops met on the school playgrounds. Most of the activities were competitive games and sports. The Scouts had access to all of the City Park, but seldom utilized all of its facilities.

Denton County Pointer and Setter Club. -- The Pointer and Setter Club reported six hundred members from Denton County, with approximately 250 members from the City of Denton. Hunting was the sole activity afforded.

Town and Country Round-up Club. -- This club afforded monthly get-togethers and horse riding into the country,
and sponsored horse shows during the year. Members totaled approximately 120.

**Industries.** -- None of the industries surveyed reported an organized recreational program. Most of them reported some type of recreation for their own personnel in the form of parties, picnics, bridge clubs, or social games. One firm sponsored a men's and girls' softball team in the City League, and one bowling team. All team members were personnel from the plant. These activities were financed by an athletic association within the company.

**Churches.** -- Some of the churches of Denton provided facilities for the recreation of their membership, and others made no provisions whatsoever. Four of the churches had recreation rooms in the basements of their churches, with a room equipped for church socials, as well as a small stage in the basement for plays and programs. Eight churches in Denton reported only church socials as a recreation program. One church reported no facilities. Two churches reported no socials at all for their membership. One church reported a recreation room equipped with ping-pong tables and with other game tables for their membership, who participated in these activities three nights a week.

**Commercial Agencies**

The motion picture theaters of Denton constituted the most important phase of commercial recreation. There were
five theaters in the City of Denton: the Campus, the Texas, the Plaza, the Dreamland, and the Palace. The seating capacities of the theaters ranged from 1,400 for the Campus Theater to 249 for the Plaza. The picture shows had divided their schedules so as to provide five performances daily with an average weekly attendance ranging from 15,000 to 25,000. Admission charges for these shows were nine cents, twenty-five cents, thirty cents, thirty-five cents, fifty cents, and sixty cents. The Campus provided a show on Saturday mornings for the children of Denton, for which the admission was nine cents.

The only regulatory ordinances in regard to the shows were safety regulations, and the prohibition of stage shows on Sundays. The local newspaper provided ratings for forthcoming movies.

Denton had no public dance halls in the city. The two colleges and the high school had school dances in their gymnasiums. Denton had one bowling establishment equipped with eight alleys. There were two leagues, six men's teams, and four girls' teams, bowling on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Admission was twenty-five and thirty cents for holidays and weekends. The average weekly attendance ranged from two hundred to five hundred persons.

There were two swimming pools in the City of Denton, available to the public five months of the year. They were
both at the colleges, but were in constant use during after-
noons and nights by the general public. Admission was
twenty-five and thirty cents. Both pools were approximately
150' x 60', totaling 18,000 square feet of water space. The
pools were a credit to Denton, but due to the large enroll-
ment at the colleges, they were overcrowded most of the
time.

In the City of Denton there were two golf courses.
The one located at the Texas State College for Women was
well kept and attractive, and it constantly attracted play-
ers from Dallas and other near-by towns and cities. This
was an eighteen-hole course. The other course, located at
the North Texas State College, contained nine holes. With
the exception of a few weeks, the weather in Denton during
the past year was ideal for golf. That accounted for the
popularity of the game, because at times the weekly attend-
ance reached as high as eight hundred at each course, ex-
cluding college classes. Admission was twenty-five and
fifty cents. North Texas State College was defending NCAA
golf champions, which also provided enthusiasm to the game
for out-of-towners.

Football games at the college and the high school pro-
vided entertainment to approximately 5,000 persons a week
in Denton during the football season of 1949. This figure
does not include the college and public-school students. The
average amount spent weekly on football games amounted to approximately $5,750.00. Evidently, there would be even a greater figure if facilities were expanded at the college.

Also available to the public were basketball games and track meets provided by the college and the high school. Approximately 1,000 to 3,000 persons attended these events weekly during the season of 1950. Located at the high school was a $15,000 baseball park, constructed by various civic organizations, and local donations. All high school baseball games at home were played there. Also, a semi-professional organization of five towns comprised a league, with Denton being one of the members of the league, and home games were played in this park. Games were played on Sunday afternoons. Admission was fifty and seventy-five cents, with an average weekly attendance during the summer estimated at from five hundred to 3,000 fans.

The Golden Gloves tournaments at the high school gymnasium during the past year attracted approximately 15,000 fans. Boxing was well liked in Denton, but lack of sufficient seating space made it impossible to attract professional boxers to the city.

There were many other events at the two colleges available to the public. There was usually one event each week throughout the year, in the form of concerts, lectures, recitals, ball games, etc. However, it appeared to the
investigator that most of the public felt that they would go if most of the seating space would not be taken up by college students.

According to the records of the City Secretary, there were four shuffleboard tables in the City of Denton. Also, there were twenty-seven juke boxes and twenty-two marble tables located in the City in business establishments such as cafes, drug stores, and drive-in restaurants. According to the investigator's survey, $15.00 a week was spent on each juke box in the City of Denton, estimating that each establishment was open six days per week, ten hours per day, with at least five records per hour being played. This would total $405.00 per week. Estimating ten games an hour on a marble table, and the same number of hours available, the total spent on marble machines would be $660.00 weekly.
CHAPTER IV

EVALUATION AND INTERPRETATION OF
THE FINDINGS

In evaluating the administration of public recreation in Denton, the investigator secured a scoring sheet for the Appraisal Schedule set up by the National Recreation Association. Each of the seven major divisions is listed with the highest possible score in the extreme left column. The next column contains the number of points earned, with the total listed in the third column. The total points earned are then multiplied by their respective weight number, and a grand total found in the fifth column. The grant total was divided by thirty-two as suggested in Chapter II, and a percentage rating obtained for Denton’s public recreation program under the present administrative setup. Table 6, later in this chapter, shows the scoring of public recreation in Denton.

Land and Water Areas

There were sixty acres available for public recreation in the City of Denton. The population of Denton stood at 18,000. This made one acre to each three hundred population, including the playgrounds of the elementary schools, the
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>City of Denton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total acreage</td>
<td>1 acre to each 100 population</td>
<td>1 acre to each 300 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's playgrounds</td>
<td>1 acre to each 800 population</td>
<td>1 acre to each 900 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playfields</td>
<td>1 acre to each 800 population</td>
<td>1 acre to each 450 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pools</td>
<td>Serve 3 per cent of total population</td>
<td>Serve 7 per cent of total population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball and softball diamonds</td>
<td>1 for each 3,000 population</td>
<td>1 for each 1,500 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf courses</td>
<td>1 hole for each 3,000 population</td>
<td>1 hole for each 800 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis courts</td>
<td>1 for each 2,000 population</td>
<td>1 for each 6,000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other game courts and fields</td>
<td>1 for each 1,500 population</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special features</td>
<td>In each playfield</td>
<td>In one playfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design, construction, and</td>
<td>Good design, proper construction, and</td>
<td>Good design, proper construction,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maintenance</td>
<td>proper maintenance</td>
<td>maintenance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

junior and senior high school playgrounds, an athletic field, the City Park, the Negro Park, and the Negro school
playground. According to the standards, the City of Denton was in need of three times the amount of acreage that was available for full and regular recreational use. A comparison of the playgrounds, playfields, and special areas in Denton with standards can be found in Table 1 on the preceding page.

Buildings and Indoor Facilities

The only recreation buildings and community centers in Denton were El Centro, the Junior Optimist Club building, and the Negro recreation center. El Centro had one lounge for informal reading and games, and a large, active game room. There were no facilities for arts and crafts. There was an area for social dancing, and an area for boxing. The Optimist building had one large area for basketball, and other active games, an arts and crafts workshop, a small library, and one small room for weight lifting and gymnastics. The Negro recreation center had one large multiple-use room, and an office. Social dancing and ping-pong were the only activities offered. A comparison of the buildings and indoor recreation facilities with standards can be found in Table 2.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>City of Denton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General recreation buildings and centers</td>
<td>2 buildings with minimum facilities of auditorium, lounge for reading and quiet games, 1 room for arts and crafts or game room, 2 rooms for clubs, hobby groups, and other multiple-use</td>
<td>1 building with lounge for reading and quiet games, 1 active game room. 1 building with 1 game room and 1 building with gymnasium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter house</td>
<td>1 building for each 4,500 population</td>
<td>1 building in City Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field house</td>
<td>1 building for each 15,000 population</td>
<td>1 building at high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
<td>1 for each 10,000 population</td>
<td>3 gymnasiums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditoriums or assembly halls</td>
<td>1 for each 15,000 population</td>
<td>3 auditoriums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social room or play room</td>
<td>1 for each 10,000 population</td>
<td>2 such rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lounges for informal reading and quiet games</td>
<td>1 room for each 10,000 population</td>
<td>2 such rooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 2 -- Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>City of Denton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Game rooms . . . .</td>
<td>1 room for each 10,000 population</td>
<td>2 such rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club and multiple-use rooms . . .</td>
<td>1 for each 5,000 population</td>
<td>4 such rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and crafts workshop . . . . .</td>
<td>1 for each 10,000 population</td>
<td>1 such room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor swimming pools . . . . .</td>
<td>1 for each 10,000 population</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leadership Personnel

No recreation leaders were employed by the City of Denton. Workers employed for the maintenance of properties, clerical work, construction, financial record-keeping, and other non-leadership routine services are not considered in this section. The City of Denton had two directors of recreation centers. They alternated nightly at El Centro. For a city the size of Denton, there should be two full-time directors. Also, there should be one assistant director employed for each 6,000 of the total population, to conduct activities, organize groups, or help supervise various phases of the program. El Centro employed a married couple as assistant directors whose hours on duty were the
same as those of the directors. There was one leader at
the Optimist building, who directed activities and super-
vised games and sports.

All of the employed directors and assistant directors
and the leader met the requirements for training and ex-
perience. There were no in-service training methods in
use in the City of Denton. Workers were chosen from the
colleges in the recreation programs in the centers. Um-
pires in the Softball League were hired if experience was
evident. The Softball League president was chosen for his
outstanding record in such work.

Program Criteria

The various recreation programs in the City of Denton
provided a reasonable balance between the indoor and out-
door activities, gave participants a share in the planning
and conduct of activities, and encouraged individuals and
groups to initiate and carry on their own activities. The
activities were well distributed throughout the year, but
the programs were not sensitive to changing conditions, in-
terests, and needs of the people. The programs did not af-
ford equal opportunities in the way of facilities and ac-
tivities to all parts of the city. They did not serve all
age groups, nor did they provide equal opportunities for
both sexes. There were no definite relationships in the
school programs. There were no community-wide efforts in recreation to combine with activities conducted at individual playgrounds, nor was there equal service to racial groups, industrial and commercial organizations, churches, and other institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>City of Denton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active games and sports</td>
<td>1 period of active games and sports for each 10 population</td>
<td>1 period for each 60 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and crafts, drama, and music</td>
<td>1 period for each 30 population</td>
<td>1 period for each 240 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature, gardening, camp, and outing activities</td>
<td>1 period for each 100 population</td>
<td>1 period for each 500 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social recreation and dancing</td>
<td>1 period for each 40 population</td>
<td>1 period for each 90 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General club and other activities</td>
<td>1 period for each 100 population</td>
<td>1 period for each 200 population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The only playground program under leadership was the Softball Program. There were 108 sessions, as compared to 1,500 sessions set up by the National Recreation Association as a standard. There were no neighborhood recreation programs. For general recreation buildings and indoor centers, there should have been one session for each thirty population, which totaled six hundred. There were two hundred sessions at El Centro during the past year, and 180 sessions at the Junior Optimist Club building, totaling 380 sessions.

The recreational activities under leadership carried on in the various programs are listed in Table 3 on the preceding page.

Participation and Use

Since there were no accurate records of participation and attendance at playgrounds, recreation centers, and athletic games and events, the investigator estimated as carefully as possible the figures found in Table 4. The figures were obtained after careful observation, and with the help of the persons interviewed in collecting the data for this study.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>City of Denton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration at playgrounds</td>
<td>1 to each 10 population</td>
<td>None registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration at buildings and indoor centers</td>
<td>1 to each 20 population</td>
<td>None registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic games and sports</td>
<td>1 to each 20 population</td>
<td>1 to each 90 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other group activities</td>
<td>1 for each 20 population</td>
<td>1 for each 20 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number served</td>
<td>1 for each 4 population</td>
<td>1 for each 10 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance at playgrounds of participants</td>
<td>8 times total population</td>
<td>3 times total population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance of spectators at playgrounds</td>
<td>Half of total population</td>
<td>One tenth of total population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance of participants at recreation buildings or centers</td>
<td>3 times the total population</td>
<td>Total population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 4 -- Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>City of Denton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance of spectators at recreation buildings and centers</td>
<td>Total population of the city</td>
<td>Spectators are not invited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pools, picnic areas</td>
<td>5 times the total population</td>
<td>2 times the total population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic games and other sports (participants)</td>
<td>5 times the total population</td>
<td>Half the total population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic games and other sports (spectators)</td>
<td>3 times the total population</td>
<td>Total population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other outdoor scheduled activities and programs (participants)</td>
<td>The total population</td>
<td>Half of total population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other outdoor scheduled activities and programs (spectators)</td>
<td>2 times the total population</td>
<td>Total population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Expenditures

The total amount spent for leadership personnel should equal seventy-five cents per capita of the total population. There was no part of the Park Department's budget which provided for leadership personnel. The total amount
spent for organized recreation, for the operation and maintenance of areas and facilities used for recreation, should equal $1.50 per capita of the total population. The City of Denton had $8,480.00 set up for these purposes. For a city the size of Denton, this would amount to forty-six cents per capita.

The total recreation expenditures for all types of recreation by all public recreational agencies should equal $3.00 per capita for the entire population. This total in the City of Denton amounted to approximately $55,000.00. This would be a little over the suggested $3.00 per capita.

Administration

The agencies providing recreation had regular meetings to adopt rules, regulations, and policies by a board or commission. There were rules and regulations governing the use of areas and facilities by the public. Long-range plans were on paper, but nothing had been done to carry them out with the exception of the purchase of a new area to be developed into playgrounds. There were no provisions for making studies of needs or evaluating present work along recreational lines. There were two organizations set up by departments to render the most efficient services and cooperation.

In regard to publicity, the local newspaper, leaflets, and loudspeakers were utilized in informing the public of
seasonal programs offered by the recreational agencies. There were no annual reports of recreational activities placed before the public, however. Most of the organizations kept records and reports of receipts and expenditures, an effective budget system, and names of individuals serving as volunteers. The Park Department and two civic organizations were the only ones keeping complete records of facilities, equipment, and materials, inventories, contracts, concessions, insurance policies, etc. There were no accurate records of all individuals enrolled in leagues, clubs, groups, and classes, and those individuals present at meetings.

Community Relationships

A city-wide recreation council representing various organizations and interests concerned with recreational problems was not in evidence in the City of Denton. There were no neighborhood committees of parents' groups at playgrounds. There seemed to be good co-operative relationships between agencies providing recreational activities, but none between the schools and the Park Department.

Commercial Agencies

Table 5 reveals the estimated average weekly attendance at commercial amusements, and the average amount spent weekly in the City of Denton on commercial amusements.
TABLE 5
COMMERCIAL AGENCIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commercial Agencies</th>
<th>Average Weekly Attendance</th>
<th>Average Amount Spent Weekly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Movie theaters</td>
<td>15,000 to 25,000</td>
<td>$5,000 to $15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling alleys</td>
<td>200 to 500</td>
<td>50 to 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pools</td>
<td>2,000 to 6,000</td>
<td>500 to 1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf courses</td>
<td>400 to 1,600</td>
<td>100 to 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football games</td>
<td>2,000 to 6,000</td>
<td>1,500 to 7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>400 to 2,500</td>
<td>200 to 1,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>500 to 3,000</td>
<td>250 to 2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>20,500 to 44,600</td>
<td>$7,600 to $29,425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated income from all juke boxes . . . $405.00 wk.
Estimated income from all marble tables . . 660.00 wk.
Estimated weekly income . . $1065.00

Schedule of Community Recreation Appraisal

In Table 6 is presented the appraisal schedule for evaluating community recreational agencies and services as suggested by the National Recreation Association. The evaluation of the Denton recreational program is indicated by numbers in comparison to the suggested standards.
TABLE 6
SCORING SHEET FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION APPRAISAL SCHEDULE AND EVALUATIONS OF THE DENTON RECREATION PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highest Possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Land and water areas (100)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Total acreage . .</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Playgrounds and playfields (30)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Children's playgrounds . .</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Playfields . .</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Special recreation areas and facilities (25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Outdoor swimming pools and bathing beaches</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Baseball and softball diamonds . .</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Golf courses . .</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Tennis courts . .</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other game courts and fields . . .</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Special features . .</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 6 -- Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highest Possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Design, construction, and maintenance (15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Design</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Construction</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Maintenance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Buildings and indoor facilities (100)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Recreation buildings and indoor centers (50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. General recreation buildings and centers</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shelter and field houses</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Shelter houses (10)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Field houses (10)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Indoor recreation facilities (50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Gymnasiums</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Auditoriums or assembly halls</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 6 -- Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highest Possible</td>
<td>Earned</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Social rooms or play rooms . . .</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lounges for informal use . . .</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Game rooms . . .</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Club and multiple-use rooms .</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Arts and crafts workshops . . .</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Indoor swimming pools . . . . . .</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III. Leadership personnel (100)

#### A. Number of leaders (43)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Superintendent of recreation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Other executive leadership</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Assistant superintendent of</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recreation or general supervisor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Supervisor of special activities</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Directors of centers . . .</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>Points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highest Possible</td>
<td>Earned</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Assistant directors, recreation leaders, assistants</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Specialists or special teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B. Training and qualifications (42)**

| 1. Superintendent of recreation | 8 | 0 | | | |
| 2. Assistant superintendent or general supervisor | 5 | 0 | | | |
| 3. Supervisor of special activities | 5 | 0 | | | |
| 4. Directors of recreation centers | 6 | 6 | | | |
| 5. Recreation center workers | 6 | 6 | | | |
| 6. Playground and playfield directors | 6 | 0 | | | | 12 |
| 7. Specialists | 6 | 0 | | | |

**C. Personnel and in-service training methods (15)**

| 1. Selecting workers | 6 | 0 | | | |
| 2. Personnel practices | 9 | 0 | | | | 16 x 6 96 |
### TABLE 6 -- Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Highest Possible</th>
<th>Earned</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IV. Recreation programs (100)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Program criteria</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Programs under leadership (45)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Playground program</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Neighborhood playfield</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. General recreation buildings and indoor centers</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Recreation activities (40)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Arts and crafts, drama, and music</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3. Nature, gardening, camp and outing activities</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>4. Social recreation and dancing</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5. General club and other activities</td>
<td>9</td>
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<table>
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<th>Total</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
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<td>Facilities</td>
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<td>Facilities</td>
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<td>Earned</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>Grand Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. Participation and use (100)</td>
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<td>A. Registration (25)</td>
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<td>2. Buildings and indoor centers</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Athletic games and sports</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Other group activities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5. Total number served</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Attendance and use (75)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1. Children's playgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Spectators (1)</td>
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<td>10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Recreation buildings and indoor centers</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Spectators (3)</td>
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<td>3. Pools, beaches, picnic and winter facilities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>Points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>---</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Earned</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Weight</td>
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<td>4. Athletic games and other sports</td>
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<td>a. Participants (8)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>b. Spectators (2)</td>
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<td>5. Other outdoor scheduled features</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>b. Spectators (2)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. Current expenditures (100)

| A. Leadership | 30 | 0 | | |
| B. Facilities and programs under leadership | 30 | 10 | | |
| C. Total recreation expenditures | 40 | 40 | 50 x 4 | 200 |

VII. Administration (100)

| A. Form of organization | 20 | 0 | | |
| B. Procedures and policies | 20 | 8 | | |
### TABLE 6 -- Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Earned</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>Grand Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Interpretation and publicity . . .  .</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Records and reports (28)</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Business and financial records</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>2. Service records</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>E. Community relationships . . . . .</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>57</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand total . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1254</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Divide by 32:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage rating . . . . . . . . . . .</td>
<td>39%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Summary

This chapter has presented an evaluation of the administration of public recreation in Denton. Each of the seven major divisions of the Appraisal Schedule was compared with standards and scored accordingly. The City of Denton's score was thirty-nine per cent of a possible one hundred.
per cent. This was the degree to which the public recreation of Denton under the present administrative setup was serving the recreational needs of the citizenship.

The total points earned in the order of highest percentages reached were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Land and water areas . . . . 399</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Buildings and indoor facilities . . . . . . . . . . 186</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Current expenditures . . . . 200</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Participation and use . . . . 68</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Recreation programs . . . . 248</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Administration . . . . 57</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Leadership personnel . . . . 96</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following conclusions were reached as a result of the evaluation:

1. The City of Denton was in need of an additional 120 acres of publicly-owned recreational areas for full and regular community use. This should include six tennis courts, an archery range, a field for soccer, field hockey, and football, handball courts, hard-surfaced multiple-use areas, shuffleboard courts, shooting ranges, golf-driving ranges, and bocce courts.

2. Facilities for an arts and crafts program were not available in the youth center. There was needed in the
Negro recreation center a lounge for reading and quiet games, together with two rooms for club meetings, hobby groups, etc.

3. An indoor swimming pool was needed in the City of Denton to meet the requirements of the National Recreation Association.

4. There was need of three more shelter houses in the City of Denton; one for the Negro Park and the other two for playgrounds.

5. For a city the size of Denton, there should be a superintendent of recreation, a general supervisor of playgrounds and centers, and one special teacher of activities. These persons should be employed for full-time and regular recreation work.

6. To meet the standards, the City of Denton should have an organized year-round recreational program under competent leadership. There should be equal opportunity in the way of facilities and activities afforded to all parts of the city. The activities should include active games and sports for each season, arts and crafts, music, more camping and outing activities, and social recreation.

7. Registration of participants and spectators at playgrounds and centers had not been practiced. This was needed to enable recreational workers to make long-range plans to meet the needs and interests of the people of Denton.
8. The amount spent on recreational activities during the past year by public recreation agencies was more than the per capita figure of $3.00 needed to operate efficiently a year-round recreational program under the auspices of the local government.

9. There was no system of administration of public recreation by the recreational agencies in the City of Denton, with the exception of the Park Department, and two civic organizations.

10. More than $1,000.00 a week was spent on marble tables and juke boxes in the City of Denton during the past year.

11. The amount spent on other commercial amusements in one week was more than half of what was spent on public recreation in the City of Denton during the entire past year.
CHAPTER V

PROPOSED PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Any community that undertakes the organization of a year-round recreation program must have the co-operation of all agencies interested in recreation. A great deal of planning is necessary to utilize existing recreational facilities to the utmost, and at the same time make long-range plans for expanding and bettering the program. A well-organized, practical program is also necessary to continue to receive the co-operation of these agencies and the interest of the public.

As pointed out in Chapter I, recreation needs to be a local function, for the people, and by the people. Since the local government is tax-supported, and the administrators of the local government are elected by the people, it appears evident to the investigator that the administration of public recreation should be in the hands of the local government. The National Recreation Association supports this belief, and recommends that any town with more than 10,000 population should have a municipal recreation program.

The investigator has attempted in this chapter to work out a system of administration of public recreation in
Denton, on the basis of the study and its findings, that will be sound and businesslike, well-co-ordinated, and consistent with good governmental practice.

The climate in Denton is seldom extreme in either winter or summer. This makes for an ideal arrangement for a well-balanced playground and playfield program throughout the year. With the addition of the eighteen acres in the western sector of town, there was some acreage for playgrounds in every part of Denton. Under proper management, the buildings in the City Park, at the high school, El Centro, the Junior Optimist Club building, the City Hall, the Negro recreation center, and the Negro school, could provide facilities for a year-round community recreation program.

It is the opinion of the investigator that the City of Denton could provide a year-round recreation program by assuming the responsibility of setting up a Recreation Department, supported by taxes, and funds donated by the local recreational agencies. Recreation could then be interpreted to the public, and the studies of the interests and needs of the people could be handled efficiently. Too many people still do not realize how important recreation is and what it means in their lives.

The following steps for future development are submitted:
1. Reorganization of the Park Department to include a Recreation Department as a municipal function.

2. The setting up of a Recreation Board with the following functions:
   a. The interpretation of the public recreation program to public officials, and to the general citizenship in terms of adequate moral and financial support.
   b. The maintenance of high standards in recreation leadership and in quality of program service.
   c. The selection of the recreation executive and the defining of the scope of his powers and duties.
   d. The appointment, upon recommendation of the recreation executive, of all employees, and the determination of their functions and duties.
   e. The establishment of the general policies of the department.
   f. Approval of the budget, and the securing of the required funds.
   g. The authorization of expenditures within the budget.
h. A strict accounting to the people of the community through the proper fiscal authorities of the use of all funds.

i. A full report to the public of all activities of the department during the year.¹

3. The setting up of an organizational chart as outlined in Figure 1.

4. The acquisition of experienced and trained personnel for the required positions.

5. The setting up of a year-round playground program including the following activities:
   - Games and sports to reach all ages.
   - Music and drama.
   - Story-telling.
   - Arts and crafts, including sewing, drawing, beadcraft, and stagecraft.
   - Intra-playground tournaments in all types of games and sports.
   - Nature and outing activities, including gardening.
   - Discussion groups, including lectures and forums.
   - Holiday celebrations.
   - Hobbies.

¹"The Duties of a Recreation Board Member," Recreation, April, 1937, p. 12.
Fig. 1. -- Proposed organizational chart for the recommended Recreation Commission of Denton, Texas.
Reading.

Parents' day, and other special events.

6. The setting up of a year-round program for the recreation buildings and indoor centers to include the following activities:

   Quiet games.
   Movies, plays, story-telling, pageants, carnivals, and minstrels.
   Drama and music.
   Athletics, competitive games, and leagues.
   Gymnastics.
   Social dancing.
   Square dancing.
   Arts and crafts, including leather craft, basketry, pottery making, and sewing.
   Collecting clubs, book clubs, other clubs and groups.
   Social activities, such as fun nights, parties, treasure hunts, etc.

7. The acquisition of additional areas and facilities to enlarge the program to meet the growing population of Denton.

8. The co-operation of all governmental, semi-public, and private agencies interested in recreation.
9. Consideration of the values of commercial agencies in a public recreation program.
CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY OF THE STUDY AND FINDINGS

Summary

The present study has been a survey of the administration of public recreation in the City of Denton, with a proposed plan for future development submitted in the light of the findings. From the facts gained through the personal interviews with recreational administrators, an attempt was made to compare the existing recreational procedures in Denton with standards prepared by the National Recreation Association for cities the size of Denton. Attention was given to organization, management, finance, personnel, activities, facilities, community relations, records and reports, and publicity. The study was limited to organized leisure-time activities conducted by governmental, semi-public, private, and commercial agencies.

Conclusions

The following conclusions were formulated from the results of the study:

1. There was no organized year-round recreation program in the City of Denton. The majority of semi-public and private agencies provided some type of recreation for
their members, or sponsored recreational activities for other groups.

2. The population of Denton has increased by eight thousand during the past twelve years. Twelve years ago there was an organized recreation program in the city, sponsored by the Works Progress Administration.

3. The teen-age center, El Centro, was providing the best recreation program for that age group in the City of Denton.

4. The City of Denton scored thirty-nine per cent on the Appraisal Schedule which measured the degree of adequacy of the recreation services.

5. Of the seven major divisions scored, land and water areas earned the highest percentage. There was still needed, however, an additional 160 acres of publicly owned recreational areas to meet the standards set up by the National Recreation Association.

The seven major divisions in the order of their highest percentage were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land and water areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings and indoor facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. The standards of the Association revealed that cities the size of Denton should have a superintendent of recreation, a supervisor of centers and playgrounds, and a special teacher of activities. Also there should be a year-round recreation program as a function of the local government.

7. The amount spent by governmental, semi-public, and private agencies on recreational activities for their own members or other groups totaled more than the suggested $3.00 per capita of the total population needed to operate a separate recreation department in the city.

8. The following facts were developed concerning commercial agencies of recreation:
   a. Movie theaters' average weekly attendance doubled that of all other amusement places combined.
   b. The amount spent on juke boxes in the City of Denton was $405.00 weekly.
   c. The amount spent on marble tables was $660.00 weekly.
   d. The amount spent on commercial amusements in one week was more than half of the sum spent

Per Cent

Administration ........................................ 19
Leadership personnel .................................... 16
on public recreation in Denton during the past year.

9. More adequate funds could be secured and assured for recreation if they were not combined with some other service or subordinated to some other function.

10. A municipal recreation department could best study the recreational needs and interests of the people, interpret recreation to the public, and conduct a program for all of the people.

11. To meet the standards, the City of Denton should have an organized year-round recreation program under competent leadership. There should be equal opportunity in the way of facilities and activities afforded to all parts of the city. The activities should include active games and sports for each season, arts and crafts, music, camping, nature study, social recreation, and community events.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are offered in the light of the data revealed in this study:

1. An alert interest in youth and adult recreation, and continued research for the co-ordination of the various separate recreational procedures.

2. Keeping the activities and needs of a year-round recreation program before the public.
3. Continued surveys of community needs relating to recreation.

4. A survey of public opinion concerning the financing of a separate recreation department as a function of the city government.

5. Continued research on ways and means of financing a year-round recreation program in Denton.
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