



8-1-1964

## A Study of the Status of Municipal Sponsored Summer Recreation Programs in the Twenty-Two Largest Cities in North Dakota

Clarence H. Laber

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/theses>

---

### Recommended Citation

Laber, Clarence H., "A Study of the Status of Municipal Sponsored Summer Recreation Programs in the Twenty-Two Largest Cities in North Dakota" (1964). *Theses and Dissertations*. 3968.  
<https://commons.und.edu/theses/3968>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Theses, Dissertations, and Senior Projects at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [und.common@library.und.edu](mailto:und.common@library.und.edu).

This abstract of a thesis submitted by Clarence H. Laber in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in the University of North Dakota is hereby approved by the committee under whom the work of the thesis has been done.

W.C. Koenig  
Chairman  
John L. Quaday  
[Signature]

Christopher J. Hauke  
Dean of the Graduate School

**A STUDY OF THE STATUS OF MUNICIPAL SPONSORED  
SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS IN THE  
TWENTY-TWO LARGEST CITIES IN  
NORTH DAKOTA**

Clarence H. Laber, Master of Science

The thesis here abstracted was written under the direction of Walter C. Koenig and approved by Dr. John L. Quaday and Dr. Alton J. Bjork as members of the examining committee, of which Mr. Koenig was chairman.

The purpose of this study was an attempt to show the status of summer recreation programs in the twenty-two largest cities of North Dakota.

A two page questionnaire was mailed to the city recreation director in municipalities, within the state of North Dakota, having a population of 2000 or larger. The data obtained from the questionnaires were tabulated and a comparison of the recreational programs was made between the larger and smaller cities. Smaller cities included those with a population less than 10,000 people. Larger cities included municipalities greater than 10,000 people.

The following conclusions could be drawn from this study:

1. Larger communities employed full time qualified recreational directors while the smaller communities utilized members of the schools physical education departments.
2. Larger cities financed the program by a tax levied for recreation. The majority of the smaller cities financed the program by contributions or donations.
3. Sufficient facilities and equipment were available in the municipalities surveyed to carry out an adequate summer program.
4. Most of the activities provided were for children and youth with the greatest concentration on activities for boys.

T 1964  
L 11

**A STUDY OF THE STATUS OF MUNICIPAL  
SPONSORED SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS IN  
THE TWENTY-TWO LARGEST CITIES IN NORTH DAKOTA**

by

**Clarence H. Laber**

**Bachelor of Science in Education**

**Valley City State Teachers College 1950**

**A Thesis**

**Submitted to the Graduate Faculty**

**of the**

**University of North Dakota**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements**

**For the Degree of**

**Master of Science in Education**

**Grand Forks, North Dakota**

**August  
1964**

**448186**

This thesis submitted by Clarence H. Laber in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in the University of North Dakota is hereby approved by the committee under whom the work has been done.

W.C. Koenig  
Chairman  
John L. Quaday  
[Signature]

Christopher J. Hauke  
Dean of the Graduate School

COTTON FIBER CONTENT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of all those whose interest, time and effort made this study possible. Special recognition is extended to the recreational directors for their efforts and cooperation.

Appreciation is also extended to Mr. Walter C. Koenig, and to Dr. John C. Quaday, Professors of Physical Education at the University of North Dakota, for their guidance and assistance in the preparation of this study.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS . . . . .	iii
LIST OF TABLES . . . . .	v
Chapter	
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Statement of the Problem	
Nature of the Problem	
Delimitations	
II. RELATED LITERATURE . . . . .	3
Background of Recreation	
The Recreation Platform	
Review of Related Studies	
III. METHODOLOGY . . . . .	11
IV. PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA . . . . .	13
Leadership and Staff Organizations	
Financing the Recreation Program	
Publicity	
Program Data	
Area Served	
Facilities	
Available Summer Activities	
Summary	
V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . .	31
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	34
APPENDIX A . . . . .	37
APPENDIX B . . . . .	41
APPENDIX C . . . . .	43

## LIST OF TABLES

Tables	Page
1. Summer Staff Organization . . . . .	14
2. Age, Sex, Education and Experience of the Recreation Director	16
3. Sources of Funds for Financing Recreation Program . . . . .	18
4. Budget Preparation . . . . .	19
5. Responsibility of Purchasing for the Recreation Program . . . . .	20
6. Types of Media Used for Publicity and Public Relations . . . . .	20
7. Responsibility for Handling Publicity . . . . .	21
8. Number of Years Program Has Been Functioning . . . . .	22
9. Number of Facilities in Municipalities Available for the Summer Program . . . . .	23
10. Available Summer Activities to Various Groups . . . . .	25
11. Activities Cities Would Add or Drop If a Change Was Made in Their Program . . . . .	26



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The importance of community recreation cannot be over emphasized if the implications of this era of mechanization are recognized and understood.<sup>1</sup> Increased leisure time has resulted from shorter working hours, longer vacations, and an earlier retirement age, but should become an asset rather than a liability.<sup>2</sup> The same factors which have contributed to the increase of free time have intensified the problems created by it.<sup>3</sup> The trend toward organized recreation programs has moved more swiftly in urban areas, where the need has been more urgently felt, but rural communities have also made progress in furnishing recreation for their citizens by providing space, facilities, leadership and programs of activities. No community is too large or small to meet the need for creative recreation and constructive use of leisure time.

#### Statement of the Problem

This study was concerned with determining the status of municipally sponsored summer recreation programs in the twenty-two largest cities of North Dakota.

---

<sup>1</sup>John L. Hutchinson, "The School Administrator and Community Recreation," Teachers College Record, LV, (May, 1954), p. 417.

<sup>2</sup>William L. Hughes and Esther French, The Administration of Physical Education, (New York: Ronald Press Company, 1954), p. 210.

<sup>3</sup>Martin H. Neumeier and Esther Neumeier, Leisure and Recreation, (New York: Ronald Press Company, 1949), p. 45.

### Nature of the Problem

This study sought to determine the extent communities with the largest populations are keeping step or being retarded in the advancement of recreational opportunities for people of all ages. These twenty-two cities have a total population of 237,170, and, with the rural people adjacent to these cities, comprise most of the population in North Dakota.

### Delimitations

The data used in this study was obtained in the summer of 1963 and concerns municipally sponsored recreation programs in the twenty-two largest cities in North Dakota. No municipality with a population of less than two thousand was included in this study. Only the summer recreation program was included. The cities were divided into two groups. Those with a population over 10,000 comprised one group and those under 10,000 population were included in the other group.

## CHAPTER II

### RELATED LITERATURE

#### Background of Recreation

In the early days of the United States emphasis was placed on the development of the country and little attention was given to recreation. The Industrial Revolution, with its increased leisure time, and increased immigration of northern Europeans, saw apparatus activities increase in popularity. Other national groups brought with them their native costumes, songs, dances, games, and other activities.

By the end of the nineteenth century, there was a breaking away from "old country" recreative activities and an increase in "American" type activities such as baseball, basketball and football. Cities began to recognize their responsibility for organized recreation and many associations, boards, and agencies came into existence because of the ever increasing leisure time to provide recreational programs to meet the needs and demands of people for recreation. A good community, recognizing this basic need, accepts recreation as a public responsibility and it will provide an adequate program for its people.

Recreation may be defined as activity voluntarily engaged in during leisure time and primarily motivated by the satisfaction or pleasure derived from it.<sup>4</sup> The term recreation was created from the philosophy of the

---

<sup>4</sup>Harold D. Meyer, Charles K. Brightbill, Community Recreation, (Boston: D. C. Heath and Company, 1948), p. 28.

humanists who saw the need for re-creation of man. As time passed this term became defined as the program for man's leisure. In our modern culture, recreation becomes a term which encompasses understanding the need, the education, the facilities, and the leadership for those activities which are worthy for man's leisure time.<sup>5</sup>

Organized community recreation as we know it today, however, is largely a product of the twentieth century with its emphasis upon industrialization and the concentration of major segments of the population in the densely populated urban areas.<sup>6</sup> Recreation has become recognized along with education, health and religion as a major force in social control and well-being. In the past fifty years, the work week has been reduced from sixty hours to forty hours with every indication of a thirty hour work week in the near future. Technological advances and mass production with its stress and strain both physically and mentally, has shortened man's working years forcing him into early retirement. Labor has been divided into small routine tasks and increased specialization in the professions has tended to make work dull. Many workers find that employment is seasonal in their field which may further be complicated by a very low standard of living. Modern industrial conditions, then, with the increased leisure for everyone, leisure at odd hours for workers on special shifts, and extensive leisure for seasonal workers challenge recreation to provide for greatly increased free time for all workers.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup>John H. Jenny, Introduction to Recreation Education, (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1946), p. 18.

<sup>6</sup>Harold D. Meyer, Charles K. Brightbill, Recreation Administration, (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1956), p. 4.

<sup>7</sup>Meyer and Brightbill, op. cit., p. 38.

A constant trend in recent years has been the movement of our people from rural areas to urban centers. Families have been separated by many miles and residents of large cities frequently do not even know the names of their neighbors. This situation has led many people to become spectators instead of participants. People with few social contacts often move by themselves, and as a result they watch others perform in commercialized activities. Television, movies, radio, a huge volume of literature of all types, and the automobile here flooded the market causing more people to become inactive. The average man who has time on his hands turns out to be a spectator, a watcher of somebody else, merely because that is the easiest thing.<sup>8</sup>

Butler in discussing recreation, states: "Recreation is so essential that it is a matter of public concern that recreational opportunities should be available for all people."<sup>9</sup> It is true that today there is an expansion of recreation services by state and community, and the public is more and more being made aware of the importance of what is done with leisure time. Recreation programs are a very important means of satisfying the needs of many people in local communities today. However, more extensive effort should be made to reach more of the populace in providing an outlet for their leisure time not only as spectators but as active participants.

#### The Recreation Platform

Committees from three of the leading professional fellowship groups in recreation, The American Recreation Society, The American Association

---

<sup>8</sup>Jay B. Nash, Spectatoritis, (New York, A. S. Barnes and Company, 1938), p. 4.

<sup>9</sup>George D. Butler, An Introduction to Community Recreation, (New York, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1949), p. 8.

of Group Workers, and the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, issued a Recreation Platform<sup>10</sup> which has been endorsed by many national groups. It forms the general basis of simple agreements on which the field can move ahead cooperatively.

#### Preamble

Recreation is a basic need for living in a democratic society. It may be an organized or a spontaneous activity under governmental, voluntary, or private auspices. For the individual, recreation may be any wholesome leisure experience engaged in solely for the satisfaction derived therefrom. It includes games and sports, camping, hiking, dancing, picnics, discussion groups, drama, music, arts and crafts, and other activities of personal choice. Recreation may be an individual hobby or an experience shared with others. It is a man's principal opportunity for enrichment of living.

The present mechanized age and its prospect of increased leisure demands comprehensive planning for recreation. In every community there should be a citizens' recreation council representing all interested groups and, in addition, a board or commission officially responsible for direction of a tax-supported public recreation program. As part of the complete community plan the voluntary and private agencies can provide significant opportunities for individual and group recreation. The modern community supports education, health, recreation, welfare, and related services as essential to the individual and society. The provision of these services is a responsibility of the entire community including public, private and voluntary agencies.<sup>11</sup>

#### Platform

1. A program of recreation should be provided in every community, rural and urban; and for all people, children, youth, and adults.
2. Opportunities and programs for recreation should be available twelve months of the year.
3. The program of recreation should be planned to meet the interests and needs of individuals and groups.

---

<sup>10</sup>Meyer and Brightbill, op. cit., pp. 200-202.

<sup>11</sup>Meyer and Brightbill, op. cit., pp. 200-202.

4. Education for the "worthy use of leisure" in homes, schools and other community institutions is essential.
5. Community planning for leisure requires cooperative action of public and voluntary agencies including civic, patriotic, religious, social and other groups which have recreation interests and resources.
6. A recreation plan for the community should result in the fullest use of all resources and be integrated with long-range plans.
7. Wherever possible, federal, state, and local agencies should correlate their plans for the planning, acquisition, and use of recreation facilities.
8. Recreation facilities, public and private, should be planned on a neighborhood, district, and regional basis to provide the maximum opportunities and services for all age groups.
9. Local planning boards, recreation commissions, boards of education, and park boards should cooperate in long-range planning for the acquisition, development, and use of recreation facilities.
10. Schools should serve as adequately as possible the education-recreation needs of pupils and be planned so that they will be efficient centers for community use.
11. Parks should be planned wherever possible to include facilities for sports, games, and other recreation activities which are suitable for children, youth and adults.
12. Recreation personnel should have professional training and personal qualifications suited to their specific services.
13. Civil Service and/or state certification procedures should be adopted to insure the employment of professionally trained and qualified personnel in public recreation programs.
14. Each agency, organization, or group which has recreation functions and facilities should employ an adequate staff of qualified personnel to meet its share of the community needs.
15. Professional associations and societies on the national, state and local levels should cooperate in establishing and improving professional standards and in achieving the objectives of recreation.
16. Every state should create necessary and appropriate enabling legislation which permits every community to plan, finance, and administer an adequate public recreation program.
17. Public recreation programs should be financed by tax funds under a department of the local government.

18. Adequate financial support for the recreation services rendered by voluntary agencies should be provided by contributions.

19. A fundamental and continuing obligation of all responsible agencies is to develop a public awareness of the social significance of recreation by interpreting its needs, services and opportunities.

20. Recreation services, actual and potential, should be evaluated continuously in terms of their contributions toward enriching individual and community life.<sup>12</sup>

### Review of Related Studies

No studies seem to have been done recently concerning summer recreation in the larger municipalities of North Dakota. Surveys have been conducted and studies written concerning specific programs of certain areas, states and cities.

Trushenski<sup>13</sup> made a study of the summer recreational facilities in Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1948. He concluded that schools and parks are both public facilities from which the tax payer is justified in expecting maximum returns. Only cooperation between these two agencies will bring this about. A full time recreation director is necessary to coordinate programs and make better use of facilities. This individual should have training and experience in the recreational field. The staff working the recreational program should be carefully chosen. Publicity should be given to the program so more people become aware of the recreational program available.

---

<sup>12</sup> Meyer and Brightbill, op. cit., pp. 200-202.

<sup>13</sup>William W. Trushenski, "The Summer Recreational Facilities in Grand Forks, North Dakota," Unpublished Masters Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1949.



Clark<sup>14</sup> in 1949 cited the history of recreation in selected North Dakota communities. He found that much of the population of North Dakota was centered in rural areas of the state and recommended that emphasis be placed on rural recreation. Utilizing school functions of nearby towns, more outdoor activities, and belonging to such organizations as 4-H Clubs, Homemakers Clubs, extension services of the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to provide more community recreation were suggested.

In 1950 Olson<sup>15</sup> conducted a study of existing cooperation between the schools and community recreational groups in North Dakota. He found that ninety per cent of the communities have a program during the summer, while only sixty-one per cent of the communities conduct some type of recreational activities the year around. Teachers were assisting in the recreational program during the school year in about one-third of the communities. The school, according to the survey, was the greatest source of financial support for all aspects of recreation.

Layton<sup>16</sup> in 1951 made a study of the leisure time activities of business and professional men in North Dakota. His conclusion was that older business and professional men dislike the more active games and sports. Young men claimed a non-preference in individual sports and games. Older

---

<sup>14</sup>D. A. Clark, "The Development of Community Recreation in North Dakota," Unpublished Masters Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1949.

<sup>15</sup>Leonard J. Olson, "Degree of Existing Cooperation Between the Schools and Community Recreational Groups in North Dakota," Unpublished Masters Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1950.

<sup>16</sup>Donald G. Layton, "Leisure Time Activities of Business and Professional Men in North Dakota," Unpublished Masters Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1951.

men were spectators primarily because they were not physically able to take part in the vigorous activity any longer but their interest remained.

Poier<sup>17</sup> made a comprehensive study of recreation in the eastern area of North Dakota in his survey of summer recreation programs in the small communities of the Red River Valley and adjacent areas. He found that most communities had some type of recreation program. Most of them were sponsored by some local agency and were on a part-time basis. The activity most often sponsored was a baseball program.

A study of the recreational practices and preferences of North Dakota youth was made by Pavek<sup>18</sup> in 1960. She believed recreation needed to be extended in the rural areas. Schools and county organizations can aid in providing recreation for the rural people. A State Director of Physical Education and Recreation should be selected. He would assist in organizing and operating recreation programs throughout the year.

---

<sup>17</sup>Harold W. Poier, "A Survey of Summer Recreation Programs in the Small Communities of the Red River Valley and Adjacent Areas," Unpublished Masters Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1954.

<sup>18</sup>Bernice Wiegandt Pavek, "A Study of the Recreational Practices and Preferences of North Dakota Youth," Unpublished Masters Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1960.

## CHAPTER III

### METHODOLOGY

The method of gathering data for this study was the use of a questionnaire and in a few cases a personal visitation was made with the summer recreational director. (Questionnaire, See Appendix A, Page 37).

For the purpose of this study cities with a 1960 population of 2000 and greater were chosen. Twenty-two questionnaires were sent out during the summer of 1968 and 20 or 90.9% were returned. Of the cities sampled, 13 were under 10,000 and 7 were over 10,000 population. (See Appendix B, Page 41). These cities are located throughout the entire state.

The writer was particularly interested in surveying the recreational program in the larger communities because most of the people in North Dakota are found in these cities or in rural areas adjacent to them. It was felt a general picture of the recreational program throughout the state could be attained.

The questionnaire contained items that pertained to the leadership and staff organization, finance, publicity, facilities, program data and activities available in the community. This data was a compilation of ideas gained from books, magazines and informal interviews with recreational leaders. The questionnaire was sent to the summer recreational director. In addition to the questionnaire, personal interviews were made with the summer directors of recreation in Devils Lake, Rugby, and Carrington.

When all the questionnaires were received, and personal interviews were made, the data was tabulated. The average number of staff members in the summer was determined. Sex, age, education and experience of the recreation director were placed in tables and a comparison was made between the larger and smaller communities. The chief source of funds for financing the recreation program was tabulated and the average amount spent for each individual and community was determined. Budget preparation, responsibility of purchasing for the program, responsibility for publicity, total number of facilities and the available activities in the various communities was shown in tables. Comparisons were then made between the larger and the smaller communities. A summary was made, conclusions were drawn and recommendations were proposed for improving municipally sponsored summer recreation programs.

## CHAPTER IV

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

#### Leadership and Staff Organization

The key to the success of a recreation program is the quality of its leadership. The leader is to recreation what the teacher is to education.<sup>19</sup> Recreation leadership requires a knowledge of laws, program planning and operation, facilities, equipment and supplies, the securing of financial support and public relations.

As far as recreation leadership is concerned, the staff consists of the supervisors and the recreation leaders. The major function of the supervisor is to lead, guide, stimulate and counsel the recreation leaders. The major function of the recreation leader is to plan, organize, conduct and evaluate recreation programs, services and opportunities.<sup>20</sup>

Table I, page 14 points out the number of individuals on the staff in the summer and the year around. The number of volunteers and part time employees was also indicated.

The survey revealed eleven of the twelve largest cities in North Dakota had a staff the year around. Eight of the smallest cities in this study had only a summer staff.

---

<sup>19</sup> Harold D. Meyer, Charles K. Brightbill, Community Recreation, (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1956), p. 473.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 461

TABLE I  
SUMMER STAFF ORGANIZATION

NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE STAFF				
Population	Year Around	Summer	Part Time	Volunteers in Summer
2,093	0	3	2	0
2,151	0	4	2	3
2,168	0	7	0	0
2,177	0	2	3	0
2,365	0	5	2	0
2,438	0	1	1	2
2,613	0	0	0	8
2,972	2	26	3	26
3,328	1	6	1	0
5,885	1	1	3	0
6,299	1	18	2	0
7,809	1	4	4	20
9,971	2	20	0	0
10,525	0	13	0	20
11,866	2	25	16	0
15,163	2	6	15	0
27,670	3	20	62	1
30,604	3	22	54	0
34,451	3	60	15	0
46,662	3	90	4	0

The average number of members, in the summer, on the staff in the cities below 10,000 population was one for approximately each 507 people. Cities over 10,000 had one staff member per 750 population. The smaller cities employed one part time worker for each 2,375 people while the larger cities had one per 1,065 inhabitants. Only seven of the cities surveyed used volunteers in the summer.

Table II, page 16 shows the sex, age, education and experience of the recreation director.

The survey indicated that all recreation directors were men. Three cities, Bottineau, Dickinson and Mandan had no summer director. The average age of the director of recreation in cities below 10,000 was 32 plus. The average age of the recreation leader in cities with a population greater than 10,000 was 45 plus. The director in six of the seven larger cities was employed by the park district the entire year. The director in seven of the smaller cities was a coach during the school year. Three of the communities had a full time director, and one community hired a college student to supervise the summer recreation program. Sixteen of the cities surveyed indicated the recreational director had a college degree. Two cities, Jamestown and Fargo, had directors with Master of Science Degrees in Recreation.

#### Financing the Recreation Program

The financing of recreation must result from sound policy and must be one of the important factors in an effective city government. During its infancy recreation was supported through donations, an insecure and unrealistic method. As people began to realize the importance of recreation, municipal governments adopted the practice of levying taxes for this

TABLE II

## AGE, SEX, EDUCATION, AND EXPERIENCE OF THE RECREATION DIRECTORS

City	Sex	Age	Education	Years of Experience
Lisbon	M	40	B. S. in Education	8 coach
Langdon	M	30	B. S. in Education	6 coach
Mayville	M	24	B. S. in Education	2 coach
New Rockford	M	19	1 year college	2 summer program
Harvey	M	43	B. S. in Education	1 coach
Carrington	M	32	B. S. in Education	3 coach
Rugby	M	29	B. S. in Education	8 coach
Southwest Fargo	M	26	B. S. in Education	4 coach
Grafton	M	48	High School	5 recreation director
Devils Lake	M	37	3 years college	5 park supervisor
Valley City	M	30	2 years college	2 recreation director
Williston	M	31	B. S. in Recreation	5 recreation director
Jamestown	M	52	M. S. in Recreation	6 recreation director
Bismarck	M	31	B. A.	3 recreation director
Minot	M	46	B. A.	15 recreation director
Grand Forks	M	52	B. A.	31 recreation director
Fargo	M	60	M. S. in Recreation	30 recreation director



purpose. Many recreation authorities believe that the rapid development of community recreation has been made possible to a great degree by the laws authorizing the expenditure of public funds for recreation purposes. The Enabling Act of the state of North Dakota, which allows the levying of a special tax has assured a minimum income and permits long-range planning. (See Appendix C, page 43) for Enabling Act.

The various sources of income included:

1. Millage tax or special tax levy
2. Fees and charges
3. Bond issues
4. Special assessments
5. Excess condemnation
6. Gifts
7. Finance drives
8. State and federal aid

Table III, page 18 shows the chief source of funds for financing the recreation programs of the 20 communities.

Only five of the communities below 10,000 population used the special recreation mill levy as a means of financing a recreation program. In the larger municipalities, six of seven used the special recreation mill levy. All of the other towns relied on a general fund, the appropriation for which came from the park board. In the smaller communities private individuals and organizations contributed greatly to financing the program.

The total amount raised for recreation purposes ranged from \$1,000 to the amount of \$112,000. The average fund on which the communities below 10,000 population operated on was \$4,713 or an average of \$1.17 for each individual. The average for the larger municipalities was \$46,735.71, or an average of \$1.84 for each individual.

Table IV, page 19 shows who had the responsibility for preparing the budget.

TABLE III  
SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR FINANCING RECREATION PROGRAM

Population	Mill Levy	General Funds School City Park	Private Donations	Organizational Donation	Total Amount
2,093			\$1,200	\$ 800	\$ 2,000
2,151		\$ 1,000		\$ 500	\$ 1,500
2,168		\$ 1,500		\$ 300	\$ 1,800
2,177		\$ 700		\$ 700	\$ 1,400
2,365		\$ 1,200		\$ 500	\$ 1,700
2,438	\$ 2,000				\$ 2,000
2,613				\$1,000	\$ 1,000
2,972	\$ 3,200		\$ 800		\$ 4,000
3,328		\$ 1,800		\$ 800	\$ 2,600
5,885	\$ 4,500			\$ 500	\$ 5,000
6,299	\$ 12,170			\$ 600	\$ 12,700
7,809	\$ 12,000				\$ 12,000
9,971		\$13,000		\$ 500	\$ 13,500
10,525		\$13,000			\$ 13,000
11,866	\$ 22,000				\$ 22,000
15,163	\$ 22,000				\$ 22,000
27,670	\$ 46,250			\$ 150	\$ 46,400
30,604	\$ 52,500		\$2,000		\$ 54,500
34,451	\$ 57,250				\$ 57,250
46,662	\$ 112,000				\$ 112,000

TABLE IV  
BUDGET PREPARATION

Responsibility	Cities	
	Under 10,000	Over 10,000
Baseball Association	1	
Park Board	5	
City Clerk	1	
Park Board and Recreation Commission	2	
Recreation Council	2	
City Council	1	1
Park Board Treasurer	1	
Recreation Director and Board		3
City Auditor and Park Superintendent		1
Park Superintendent and Recreation Director		2

The survey indicated every community prepared a budget. One city had the baseball association prepare the budget and the other communities had city government officials, park board members and recreation leaders prepare the budget.

Table V, page 20, indicates the responsibility of purchasing for the recreation program.

A variety of persons was responsible for purchasing. For the most part, people connected with the recreation program were in charge of this phase. In the larger cities this responsibility was given to the recreational director, park superintendent, or to the city council.

Table VI, page 20, indicates the various types of media used for publicity and public relations.

The most common medium used for publicity was the newspaper. All of the smaller and larger communities surveyed indicated the use of this

TABLE V

## RESPONSIBILITY OF PURCHASING FOR THE RECREATION PROGRAM

Purchasing Responsibility	Cities	
	Under 10,000	Over 10,000
Baseball Director	1	
Park Board	4	
Individual in charge of specific program	2	
Director and Park Board Chairman	2	
City Council	1	1
Park Superintendent	1	2
Recreational Director and Park Superintendent		2
Recreational Director and Board	2	2

TABLE VI

## TYPES OF MEDIA USED FOR PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Media	Cities	
	Under 10,000	Over 10,000
Newspapers	13	7
Personal Contact	1	
Radio	7	7
Billboards	3	
Television	2	4
Poster, leaflets and mimeographed items		2
Park and recreation brochure		1

medium. The radio was used in seven smaller and seven larger cities as a means of informing the public. Two of the smaller and four of the larger municipalities made use of television as a means of promoting the recreation program. Fargo, Bismarck and Grand Forks used posters, leaflets,

mimeographed items or a brochure to inform the public about their recreational program.

Table VII, page 21, shows who is responsible for handling publicity.

TABLE VII  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR HANDLING PUBLICITY

Responsibility	Cities	
	Under 10,000	Over 10,000
Secretary of Baseball Association	2	
Park Board and Legion Post	1	
Park Board Director	4	
Recreation Council	2	
Recreation Director	3	5
Park Superintendent	1	
Individuals in charge of specific program		2

In five of the larger cities and three of the smaller cities the recreation director was responsible for handling this phase of the program. Four smaller cities delegated this to the park board director. Others listed as being responsible for handling publicity were the baseball association, Legion Post, recreation council, park superintendent and individuals in charge of specific programs.

#### Program Data

The recreation programs which have been in operation the longest time in the area surveyed were at Fargo and Minot. Their programs started in 1946. Three of the smaller communities, Lisbon, Harvey and Rugby have had their present recreation program in effect for a period of fifteen years.

Table VIII, page 23, illustrates the number of years the program has been functioning in the various communities surveyed.

TABLE VIII  
NUMBER OF YEARS PROGRAM HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING

Years	Cities	
	Under 10,000	Over 10,000
0 - 3	1	
4 - 6	4	1
7 - 9	1	
10 - 12	1	1
13 - 15	5	2
16 - 18	1	3

The average number of years the recreation program has been functioning in the smaller cities is approximately 10 years. In the large municipalities the average number of years the program had been functioning is 13 years.

#### Area Served

The largest area served by any one program extended to approximately 55,000 people including the residents of the city and the immediate surrounding rural territories. The average large city offered recreation opportunities to 29,143 people while the average smaller community surveyed in this study offered the opportunity to 5,592 people.

#### Facilities

Table IX, page 23, lists the number of facilities that were available during the summer months.

TABLE IX  
 NUMBER OF FACILITIES IN MUNICIPALITIES AVAILABLE  
 FOR THE SUMMER PROGRAM

Facilities	Cities	
	Under 10,000	Over 10,000
Baseball fields	20	33
Swimming pools	13	11
Parks	24	56
Concession stands	8	10
Golf courses	9	8
Playgrounds	31	70
Softball fields	29	79
Fireplaces	58	30
Horse shoe courts	15	69
Lighted fields	12	10
Wading pools	8	8
Tennis courts	19	56
Picnic Center	24	58
Camps	7	3
Auditorium	4	3
Track	4	6
Game rooms	7	11
Outdoor theater	0	2
Libraries	6	6
Roller Rink	1	1
Golf driving range	1	5
Boating facilities	5	3
Archery range	3	5
Gyms	4	20
Reading lounge	1	3
Shelter buildings	7	17
Band shell	3	3
Rifle range	0	2
Zoos	0	3
Handball court	0	1

Twenty of the communities surveyed had areas known as "parks". The smaller communities averaged nearly two parks each while the larger cities averaged eight parks. Every city had at least one swimming pool available. Several of the larger cities had two public pools.

Baseball and softball fields were facilities available in all of the communities. The smaller cities averaged one baseball field and two softball fields. The larger municipalities averaged four baseball fields and eleven softball fields. One small community, Harvey, had four lighted softball fields and conducted many tournaments, including the state championship softball tournament.

Golf courses were found in all of the large cities while nine of the thirteen smaller communities had a course available for the public.

Tennis facilities were available in all of the cities surveyed. The smaller communities averaged one court while the larger cities averaged eight courts.

Other facilities most commonly listed were playgrounds, fireplaces, horseshoe courts, wading pools, picnic centers, game rooms, gyms and shelter buildings.

#### Available Summer Activities

Table X, page 25, indicates the activities available to the various age groups. The age groups used in this study were children, youth and adults. Participants eleven years of age or under were labeled children. The youth group included people ranging from age twelve through eighteen. The adult group included all people nineteen years of age and over.

Supervised swimming was provided for children, youth and adults in each of the communities studied.

Baseball was provided for children and youth in twelve of the smaller communities and in all of the larger communities. Adults in eight of the smaller and two of the larger cities had this activity available.



TABLE X  
AVAILABLE SUMMER ACTIVITIES TO VARIOUS GROUPS

Activity	Cities					
	Under 10,000			Over 10,000		
	Children	Youth	Adult	Children	Youth	Adult
Swimming	13	13	13	7	7	7
Baseball	12	12	8	7	7	2
Music	5	6	2	1	1	0
Camping	2	21	1	0	0	0
Archery		1	1	1	2	2
Softball	5	5	5	1	2	2
Golf	5	6	7	4	7	7
Handball	0	1	1	0	1	1
Horseshoe	0	6	6	0	1	1
Tennis	6	8	8	7	7	7
Track and Field	0	0	0	2	2	2
Teen Canteen	0	5	0	0	2	0
Table Tennis	2	2	0	1	1	0
Social Dancing	3	3	2	0	1	0
Square Dancing	4	5	3	0	0	0
Plays	0	1	1	0	0	0
Carving	1	1	0	1	0	0
Weaving	1	1	0	1	0	0
Painting	2	2	1	2	2	2
Badminton	1	1	0	1	1	0
Volleyball	1	1	0	1	1	1
Photography	0	0	0	0	1	1
Riflery	0	0	0	0	1	1

In seven of the smaller cities golf was provided for adults only. Six of the smaller cities provided this activity for youth and adults. Only five of the smaller cities provided golf for children, youth and adults. All of the larger cities provided golf for youth and adults in their communities. Four cities provided this activity for children, youth and adults.

Tennis appeared to be a very popular activity. Six of the smaller cities had tennis for children and eight for youth and adults. All of the larger cities provided tennis for youth, children and adults.

Music was available in five smaller cities for children and youth and in six cities for children, youth and adults. In the larger cities, only one provided music during the summer program for children and youth and no large city provided music for adults.

Other available activities listed most commonly in the smaller cities were softball, social dancing, square dancing and camping. Additional activities most often mentioned in the larger cities were painting, track and field, softball and archery.

Table XI, page 26, shows the activities cities would add or drop from their summer program if they were making a change.

TABLE XI  
ACTIVITIES CITIES WOULD ADD OR DROP IF A CHANGE  
WAS MADE IN THEIR PROGRAM

Cities				
Under 10,000		Over 10,000		
Add	Drop	Add	Drop	
Activities for girls Crafts Social Events Golf Volleyball Tennis Playground supervision	Tennis Music	Music Camping Arts & Crafts Folk Dancing Handball	Some sports Badminton Supervised playgrounds Riflery	

Three of the smaller cities would add more crafts if a change were made in their programs. Two cities would include more activities for girls. Two of the smaller cities favored dropping the music program during the summer and one preferred dropping tennis.

Four of the larger cities would add more arts and crafts and two would add camping, music, folk dancing and handball to their summer programs. One of the larger cities would drop some sports, supervised playgrounds and riflery. Four of the larger cities preferred no change in their program.

### Summary

#### Leadership

The results of this study showed that the larger communities in North Dakota employed full time recreation directors. The smaller cities, in almost all instances, hired members of the school's physical education or athletic department, both closely allied to recreation, as their summer directors. The education of directors pointed out the importance cities and park boards place upon leadership. Sixteen of the municipalities employed leaders that had college educations.

All but two of the cities used part time or volunteer members on their staffs. This was due to the scarcity of trained personnel and because many municipalities can only afford to hire one fully-trained employee.

#### Financing the Program and Purchasing Responsibility

Eleven municipalities were making use of the Enabling Act of North Dakota passed in 1947. It states in Section 8, that the governing body of any municipality, school district, or park district may establish, maintain, and conduct a public recreation system, and levy an annual tax for such purpose of not more than 2.5 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the corporate limits or boundaries of such municipality, school district, or park district. All that is needed is a majority vote in favor of this issue.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>21</sup>North Dakota Century Code-Annotated, 1960, Allen Smith Co., p. 353-357.

The six largest cities in North Dakota made use of the mill levy tax for recreation. Five of the smaller communities in this study also financed their programs in this way. The mill levy type of tax for recreation should be the best and fairest way of obtaining the necessary revenue, or at least most of it. Five of the smaller cities had a mill levy for park purposes and the park board then budgeted a definite amount from that for recreation.

It was found that in most of the smaller cities the recreation program was partially or totally financed by contributions from organizations and private individuals. This would appear to be an unpredictable way of financing a program and of planning for the future.

Most of the cities permitted the recreation director, park superintendent or individuals in charge of specific programs to do the purchasing for the program, similar to the way in which school districts have superintendents of schools do most of the buying for those public institutions. This was a commendable method as long as the keeping of money and records is systematic.

### Publicity

Most of the recreation directors seemed to make a conscientious effort to advertise and inform the public of the activities on the program. The larger cities had several different types of media at their disposal. The most common media were television, daily newspapers, radio and mimeographed material. The smaller cities used their weekly newspapers and radio stations in the nearest large cities, if none were available in their own community, as a means of informing the public. Billboards and banners were also commonly used in the smaller cities to announce activities.

### Program Data

Summer recreation programs, as found in the cities studied, had their beginnings after World War II. The larger cities were the first to organize recreation programs. Six of the seven largest cities had recreation programs for at least ten years, while seven of the smaller cities have had their programs for ten years or more.

The survey indicated that the population to be served was considerably larger than the population indicated for each city. With the ease of travel today, rural people were also making use of the municipal recreation facilities and programs.

### Facilities

Sufficient facilities and equipment were available in the municipalities surveyed to carry out a well-rounded summer program. Nearly all of the cities had facilities for programs to include arts and crafts, music, drama, dancing, nature and outing, social activities, literary activities and sports and games.

School facilities, such as playgrounds, softball and baseball fields, tracks, libraries, and playground equipment were found in all of the communities. These, along with facilities provided by the park board, were sufficient in each city to carry on an excellent summer program.

All of the large cities and twelve of the smaller cities indicated they had lighted athletic fields. These fields were utilized for only one or two activities such as football, baseball, or softball. They could be used for various other activities to enrich recreation programs.

Facilities were available in nearly all of the cities for individual activities. Swimming pools, game rooms, golf courses, and libraries were indicated as existing in most of the cities surveyed.

### Available Summer Activities

Swimming was the number one activity provided by cities during the summer. All of the cities indicated the program was available for children, youth, and adults. Several of the larger cities had two public swimming pools available. This was one of the activities that requires highly trained personnel to supervise the program.

Baseball was provided by twelve of the smaller cities and seven of the larger cities for children and youth. It loses its appeal as a participating activity as only two of the large cities and seven of the smaller cities continued the program for adults.

Golf was provided in seven large cities for adults and youth and in seven smaller cities for adults.

In conclusion it would appear that most of the activities provided were for children and youth with the greatest concentration on activities for boys. However, many cities did have activities available for every interest in the community.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study was an attempt to show the status of summer recreation programs in the twenty-two largest cities of North Dakota.

A questionnaire was mailed to the city recreation director in municipalities, within the state of North Dakota, having a population of 2000 or larger. The information contained in the questionnaire pertained to the following topics: leadership, financing, publicity, facilities and program changes. The data obtained were tabulated and a comparison was made between the larger and smaller cities.

The following conclusions could be drawn from this study:

1. Larger communities employed full time qualified recreational directors while the smaller communities utilized members of the schools physical education departments.
2. Larger cities financed the program by a tax levied for recreation. The majority of the smaller cities financed the program by contributions or donations.
3. Sufficient facilities and equipment were available in the municipalities surveyed to carry out an adequate summer program.
4. Most of the activities provided were for children and youth with the greatest concentration on activities for boys.

#### Recommendations

To meet the recreational needs, interests and desires of people in the larger municipalities of North Dakota, and to aid in their physical, social and emotional development, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Because of the scarcity of trained leaders and because many municipalities can afford to hire one full-trained employee only, there is a necessity for training part-time workers, volunteer employees and others interested in recreation. Leadership training institutes and in-service training should be utilized to better prepare the recreational employees for their jobs. The only entire group of summer recreation employees adequately trained was the swimming personnel. Other employees could be trained in a similar manner before they were able to go on the job as recreation supervisors and assume the responsibility of directing a group of youth or adults in an activity.

2. Colleges should offer more courses in recreation and set up a program that would train recreation personnel for the state. Many people who are in recreation in North Dakota, particularly in the smaller cities, were enrolled in physical education, general education or the arts while in college. At least one college in North Dakota should offer curricula in recreation.

3. There is a need for certifying or licensing in order to give official, professional recognition to recreation personnel. This movement could be started by the leaders in the larger cities of North Dakota as they are the most qualified personnel presently in this field. This would tend to attract more capable people into the field of recreation and give it the professional status it deserves.

4. The recreation program in most of the cities of North Dakota is handicapped by a lack of money. The national suggested standard for public recreation services is \$3.00 per capita for programs, services, and leadership. The communities below 10,000 population operate on an average of \$1.17 per capita, and the cities with populations over 10,000 operate on



an average of \$1.84 per capita. This does not include fees charged for certain activities which is then spent on recreation in North Dakota. In order to improve and maintain a suitable recreation program, necessary finances must come through additional taxation or an increase in fees charged.

5. More adequate use should be made of existing recreational facilities, school gymnasiums, libraries, music rooms, shops and art rooms. This is particularly true of the cities under 10,000 people. By making use of these facilities, programs could be expanded to include more activities that would meet the needs of a greater number of people.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Books

- Butler, George D. An Introduction to Community Recreation, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1949.
- Fitzgerald, Gerald B. Leadership in Recreation, New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1951.
- Forsythe and Duncan. Administration of Physical Education, New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1951.
- Hughes, William L. and French, Esther. The Administration of Physical Education, New York: Ronald Press Company, 1954.
- Jenny, John H. Introduction to Recreation Education, Harper and Brothers, 1946.
- Jones, Anna M. Leisure Time Education, New York: Harper and Brothers, 1946.
- Kilander, Frederick H. Health for Modern Living, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1957.
- Meyer, Harold D. and Brightbill, Charles K. Community Recreation, Boston: D. C. Heath and Company, 1948.
- Nash, Jay B. Spectatoritis, New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1938.
- Neumeyer, Martin H. and Neumeyer, Esther. Leisure and Recreation, New York: Ronald Press Company, 1949.
- North Dakota Century Code, Annotated, Allen Smith Co., 1960.
- Williams, J. F. and Brownell, C. L. The Administration of Health and Physical Education, Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, 1951.

### Periodicals

- Doell, Charles E. "How Much Money Should be Spent on Community Recreation?", Recreation, (June, 1953), p. 173.

- Galagher, Mrs. Paul. "Selecting Community Leaders", Recreation, (February, 1951), p. 507.
- Green, Leon G. "The PTA Believes in Recreation for American Youth", Journal of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, (May-June, 1959), p. 28.
- Huchins, H. C. "School Facilities for Recreation," Recreation, (March, 1941), p. 705.
- Hutchinson, John L. "The School Administrator and Community Recreation," Teachers College Record, LV (May, 1954), p. 417.
- Nash, J. B. "Education for Leisure--A Must," Journal of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, XXX, (January, 1960), p. 18, 62.
- Bureau of the Census, United States Census Population, 1960, p. 20-21.

#### Unpublished Material

- Clark, Donald Arthur. "The Development of Community Recreation in North Dakota," Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1949.
- Layton, Donald G. "Leisure Time Activities of Business and Professional Men in North Dakota," Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1951.
- Olson, Leonard J. "Degree of Existing Cooperation Between the Schools and Community Recreational Groups in North Dakota," Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1950.
- Pavek, Bernice Wiegandt. "A Study of the Recreational Practices and Preferences of North Dakota Youth", Unpublished Masters Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1960.
- Poier, Harold W. "A Survey of Summer Recreation Programs in the Small Communities of the Red River Valley and Adjacent Areas", Unpublished Masters Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1954.
- Trushenski, William W. "The Summer Recreational Facilities in Grand Forks, North Dakota", Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Education, University of North Dakota, 1948.

## CITY RECREATION PROGRAM

All information asked in this questionnaire is for the summer of 1963.

Name of City \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Leadership and Staff Organization.

1. How many members are on the staff?
  - a. Year around \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Summer \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Part Time \_\_\_\_\_
2. Recreational Director.
  - a. Sex \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Age \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Education \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Experience \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many volunteers do you use in the summer to carry out your recreational activities? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Finance.

1. Is a special mill levy used for recreation? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many mills? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Total amount of money collected by mill levy? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Total amount of money raised for program? \_\_\_\_\_
5. List other sources and amounts of money raised for program?
  - School \_\_\_\_\_
  - Park Board \_\_\_\_\_
  - City \_\_\_\_\_
  - Civic Club \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
6. Amount of budget, and what part of budget is used for recreation? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who prepares the budget? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who does the purchasing for the program? \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Publicity.

1. Who handles this phase of your program? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What methods of publicity do you use? \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Program Data.

1. How many years has program been functioning? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the population of area to be served? \_\_\_\_\_

V. Facilities.

List the number of facilities available during the summer in the blank space.

_____ Camps	_____ Theaters
_____ Gymnasiums	_____ Shelter Buildings
_____ Playgrounds	_____ Dance halls
_____ Auditoriums	_____ Baseball Fields
_____ Softball Fields	_____ Reading Lounges
_____ Tracks	_____ Tennis courts
_____ Fireplaces	_____ Horseshoe courts
_____ Archery ranges	_____ Handball courts
_____ Rifle ranges	_____ Picnic centers
_____ Zoos	_____ Libraries
_____ Game Rooms	_____ Swimming pools
_____ Roller Rinks	_____ Parks
_____ Wading pools	_____ Lighted fields
_____ Concession stands	_____ Bandshells
_____ Golf courses	_____ Boating facilities
_____ Golf driving ranges	_____ List other:

VI. Available activities.

Check the activities that are available in the summer recreation program, by answering yes or no. Indicate the groups or group that participate in each activity by placing an X in the blank space provided. Children include all through age 11, Youths 12 through 18, and Adults 19 and over.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Yes-No</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Adult</u>
Carving	_____	_____	_____	_____
Metal Craft	_____	_____	_____	_____
Weaving	_____	_____	_____	_____
Photography	_____	_____	_____	_____
Painting	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sewing	_____	_____	_____	_____
Folk Dancing	_____	_____	_____	_____
Social Dancing	_____	_____	_____	_____
Square Dancing	_____	_____	_____	_____
Plays	_____	_____	_____	_____
Pageants	_____	_____	_____	_____
Readings	_____	_____	_____	_____
Discussion Groups	_____	_____	_____	_____
Music	_____	_____	_____	_____
Camping	_____	_____	_____	_____
Swimming	_____	_____	_____	_____

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Yes-No</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Adult</u>
Archery	_____	_____	_____	_____
Badminton	_____	_____	_____	_____
Baseball	_____	_____	_____	_____
Softball	_____	_____	_____	_____
Golf	_____	_____	_____	_____
Handball	_____	_____	_____	_____
Horseshoe	_____	_____	_____	_____
Riflery	_____	_____	_____	_____
Tennis	_____	_____	_____	_____
Volleyball	_____	_____	_____	_____
Flower Shows	_____	_____	_____	_____
Track and Field	_____	_____	_____	_____
Teen Canteen	_____	_____	_____	_____
Table Tennis	_____	_____	_____	_____
List Others	_____	_____	_____	_____

## VII.

1. What recreational activities would you add in the summer if you were making a change in your program?

---



---

2. What recreational activities do you feel could be dropped from your your program in the summer due to lack of interest?

---



---

## LIST OF COMMUNITIES IN THE SURVEY

<u>Community</u>	<u>Population</u>
Bismarck	27,670
Bottineau	2,613
Carrington	2,438
Devils Lake	6,299
Dickinson	9,971
Fargo	46,662
Grafton	5,885
Grand Forks	34,451
Harvey	2,365
Jamestown	15,163
Langdon	2,151
Lisbon	2,093
Mandan	10,525
Mayville	2,168
Minot	30,604
New Rockford	2,177
Rugby	2,972
Southwest Fargo	3,328
Valley City	7,809
Williston	11,866

## RECREATION ENABLING ACT OF NORTH DAKOTA

AN ACT AUTHORIZING CITIES, INCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES, PARK DISTRICTS, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE SYSTEMS OF PUBLIC RECREATION AND TO ACQUIRE, ESTABLISH, CONDUCT AND MAINTAIN PLAYGROUNDS, RECREATION CENTERS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL AREAS, STRUCTURES, FACILITIES AND SERVICES: TO APPROPRIATE GENERAL MUNICIPAL, COUNTY, PARK SCHOOL FUNDS THEREFORE: TO LEVY A SPECIAL TAX THEREFORE DEFINING THE POWERS OF SUCH CITIES INCORPORATED TOWNS AND VILLAGES, COUNTIES, PARK DISTRICTS, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN CONNECTION WITH ALL SUCH MATTERS; AND PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A RECREATION BOARD OR COMMISSION, THE ELECTION AND TERMS OF THE MEMBERS THEREOF, AND THE POWERS THEREOF.

## SECTION 1

## Definitions:

1. The term "governing body" as herein used means city council, board of trustees or commissioners of any city, incorporated town or village, township, the trustees of any school district and the commissioners of any park district in North Dakota.
2. The term "Municipality" as used in this chapter refers to and means any city, incorporated town or villages, townships, in North Dakota.

## SECTION 2

The governing body of any municipality, park district, or school district may dedicate and set apart for use as playgrounds, recreation centers, and other recreation or character building purposes and community centers, lands or buildings, or both, owned or leased by such municipality, school district, or park district, and not dedicated or devoted to another, inconsistent public use; and such municipality, school district, or park district, in such manner as may now or hereafter be authorized or provided by law for the acquisition of lands or buildings for public purposes by such municipality, school district, or park district, may acquire or lease lands or buildings, or both, within or beyond the corporate limits of such municipality, school district, or park district, so dedicates, sets apart, acquires or leases lands or buildings for such purposes, on its own initiative, it may provide for their conduct, equipment and maintenance according to the provisions of this chapter by making an appropriation from the general municipal, school district, or park district funds.

## SECTION 3

The governing body of any municipality, school district, or park district may establish a system of public recreation and it may vest the power to



provide, maintain and conduct playgrounds, community centers, recreation centers, and other recreational and character building areas, structures, facilities, and activities in any existing municipal body, in the school district, in the park district, or in a recreation board or commission, as the governing board may determine. Any board, commission or other body so designated shall have the authority to maintain and conduct community centers, playgrounds, recreation centers and other recreational and character building areas, structures, facilities, and activities, and for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter it may employ play leaders, playground and recreation center directors, supervisors, recreation superintendents and such other employees as they deem proper.

#### SECTION 4

Any two or more municipalities, school districts, or park districts, jointly, may provide establish, maintain and conduct a public recreation system, and acquire property therefore, and establish and maintain community centers, playgrounds, recreation centers and other recreational and character building areas, structures, facilities and activities.

#### SECTION 5

The governing body of any municipality, school district, or park district, pursuant to law, may provide that the bonds of such municipality, school district, or park district may be issued in the manner provided by law for the issuance of bonds for other purposes, for the purpose of acquiring lands or buildings for community centers, playgrounds, recreation centers and other recreational and character building purposes and for the equipment thereof.

#### SECTION 6

If the governing body of any municipality, school district, or park district determined that the power to provide, establish, conduct, and maintain a public recreation system shall be exercised by a recreation board or commission, such governing body shall by resolution or ordinance establish in such municipality a recreation board or commission which shall possess all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities of the local authorities under this chapter. Such recreation board or commission when established shall consist of at least five but not more than nine persons, as the governing body may determine, to be appointed by the mayor or presiding officer of such municipality, with the consent of the governing body. One member of such recreation board or commission shall be chosen from the legal membership of the park district board, or board of park commissioners of the municipality, and one member of the legal membership of the school district board or boards within the corporate limits of such municipality. The term of office of all members of such recreation board or commission first appointed shall be for staggered terms, so that the terms of at least one but not more than three members expire annually. If

a vacancy occurs during the term of office of any member, the major or presiding officer, with the consent of the governing body, shall appoint a successor to serve for the unexpired term. Membership on such recreation board or commission shall be without compensation or remuneration.

#### SECTION 7

The governing body of a municipality, school district, or park district, recreation board or commission or other authority in which is vested the power to provide, establish, maintain and conduct such supervised recreation system may accept any grant or devise of real estate or any gift or bequest of money or other personal property or any donation to be applied, principal or income, for either temporary or permanent use for playgrounds or recreation purposes, but if the acceptance thereof for such purposes will subject such municipality, school district, or park district, to additional expense for improvement, maintenance or removal, the acceptance of any grant or devise of real estate shall always be subject to the approval of the governing body of such municipality, school district, or park district. Money received for such purposes, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the gift or bequest shall be deposited with the treasurer of such municipality to the account of the recreation board or commission or other body having charge of such work, and the same may be withdrawn and paid out by such body in the same manner as money appropriated for recreation purposes.

#### SECTION 8

The governing body of any municipality, school district, or park district to which this chapter is applicable, may and upon receipt of a petition signed by at least ten qualified voters but not less than five per cent of those citizens who voted at the last general election of the municipality, school district, or park district, shall submit to the electors the question of the establishment, maintenance, and conduct of a public recreation system, and the levying of an annual tax for the conduct and maintenance thereof of not more than two and five-tenths mills on each dollar of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the corporate limits or boundaries of such municipality, school district, or park district, to be voted upon at the next general election or special municipal election, provided, however, that such questions shall not be voted upon at the next general election unless such action of the governing body shall be taken or such petition to submit such question shall be filed thirty days prior to the date of such election.

#### SECTION 9

Upon the adoption of such a proposition at an election by a majority of the votes cast upon such proposition, the governing body of such municipality, school district, or park district, by resolution or ordinance, shall provide for the establishment, maintenance, conduct of a public recreation system, and thereafter levy and collect annually a tax of not more than two and five-tenths mills on each dollar of all taxable property within the corporate limits

or boundaries of such municipality, school district, or park district, such tax to be in addition to the maximum of taxes permitted to be levied in such municipality, school district, or park district. The governing body of such municipality, school district, or park district, shall continue to levy such tax annually for public recreation purposes until such time as the qualified voters, at a regular or special election, by a majority vote on the proposition, decide to discontinue the levy. The governing body of such municipality, school district, or park district, in its discretion, may appropriate additional funds for the operation of the public recreation system if in the opinion of the governing body additional funds are needed for the efficient operation thereof. Nothing in this section of this chapter shall be construed to limit the power of any municipality, school district, or park district to appropriate on its own initiative general municipal, school district, or park district tax funds for the operation of a public recreation system, a community center or character building facility.

#### SECTION 10

The provision, conduct, operation, and maintenance of a system of public recreation under the provisions of this chapter shall be a governmental function of municipalities, school districts, or park districts.

#### SECTION 11

Recreation centers or systems may be established as memorials. The community centers, playgrounds, recreational centers and systems or any recreational or character building facility provided for herein, may be erected or established as memorials in commemoration of the men and women of the locality who lost their lives in the service of their country during World War II and in gratitude to all who served in the armed forces. In such cases the names of those so remembered shall be preserved in some manner in connection with the memorial.