

WYOMING PARKS AND
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FY 2008 ANNUAL
REPORT

The Honorable
Mayor Carol S.
Sheets



Lifestyle Choices—Wyoming the Place to Be

Whether you're young or old, new to the area or a long-time friend of West Michigan, Wyoming is the place to be.

Our community offers a variety of amenities that are sure to fit every lifestyle – from quality educational facilities to a diversified business base, friendly and affordable neighborhoods to vibrant retail corridors, excellent public infrastructure to nationally recognized public safety departments.

All of these outstanding features are enhanced and complemented by our award-winning parks and exciting recreational programs.

The residents of Wyoming, now numbering over 70,000, have made parks and recreation a high priority and we have gladly responded to their commitment through the construction and maintenance of our splashpads, bike trails, nature preserves, and parks. We also continue to serve them by offering dozens of

recreational programming activities that take place throughout each of our four beautiful seasons.

We are extremely proud of the community in Wyoming, and we are blessed to be so rich in spirit, diversity and heart. Our Parks and Recreation Department has played an integral role in making this happen, and we look forward to its future success as we continue to strive to be a City of Vision and Progress.

Making a Difference—Building Blocks for Our Community

Park facilities and recreation programming are tools used to improve the community's overall quality of life. Community supported recreation is a catalyst for:

- Improved health and wellness
- Increased property values
- Reductions in social isolation
- Nature preservation
- Improved communication and social skills
- Reductions in juvenile crime, delinquency, and inappropriate behavior
- Increased family unit interactions
- Improved cultural appreciation and connection
- Improved community identity
- Economic development

Rebecca Rynbrandt
Director of Community
Services





Making a difference in our community!

Park Facilities Continue to Grow in Numbers

The City of Wyoming is blessed with 692 acres of park land, expanded in 2008 by .25 acres through the acquisition of property to Marquette Park and .92 acres for Ideal Park. Our facilities include 2 lodges, 12 picnic shelters, 23 softball and baseball diamonds, 12 basketball courts, 29 tennis courts, 6 sand volleyball courts, 19 playgrounds, 1 skateboard park, 1 in-line hockey court, and 2 splashpads, including the newest pad opened at Southlawn park this year. Annually we operate and maintain 16 restrooms.



“Your attendant is a really nice person. Our family reunion had a goodtime at Ideal Park- thank you for a nice park.”

- Park facility reservation comment

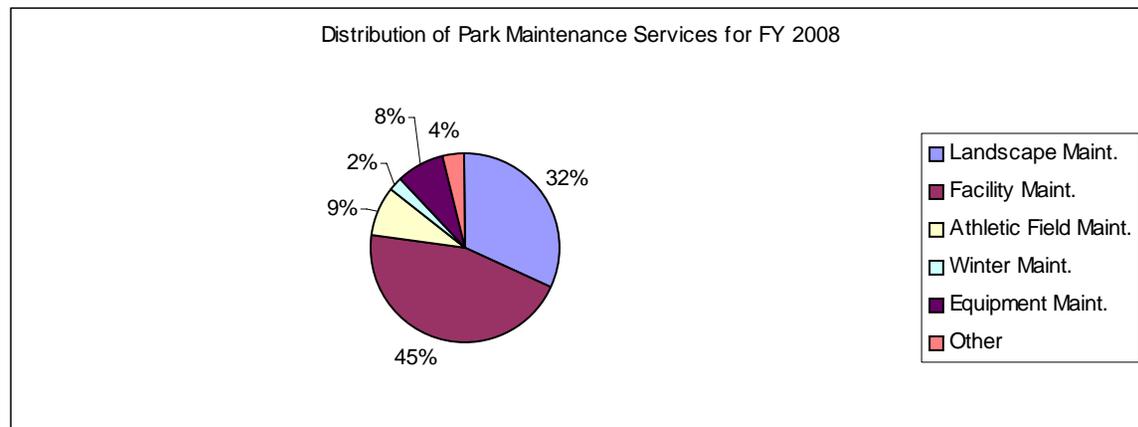


Citizen Satisfaction Remains High

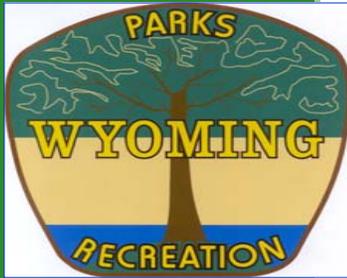
During this past year 1,191 reservations were accepted for lodge, shelter, and section rentals at Pinery, Lamar, and Ideal parks. As self-reported by user groups 38,276 people enjoyed the park system through these reservations. Our annual reservation survey affirmed:

- 97% of patrons were very satisfied/satisfied with the cost of facility rental
- 96% of patrons were very satisfied/satisfied with the overall condition of our facilities
- 100% of patrons were very satisfied/satisfied with park safety
- 98% of patrons were very satisfied/satisfied with office personnel
- 97% of patrons were very satisfied/satisfied with service by park maintenance personnel

Staff Work to Ensure Safe, High Quality Facilities







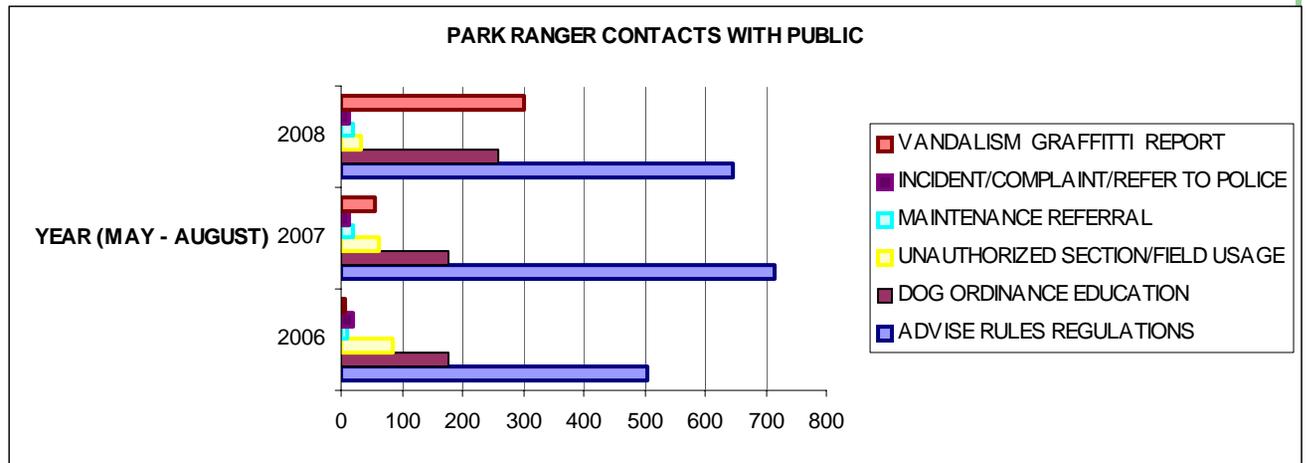
"We enjoyed Lamar very much. Finally we found a shelter that was a wonderful experience."

-Park facility reservation comment



Park Ranger Program Enters 6th Year

In the sixth year of operation, the Park Ranger Program's goals are to reduce related maintenance costs associated with improper use of park property, and to improve the experience of all park visitors through customer service and education. Park Rangers work closely with the Wyoming Police Department and general park maintenance staff in ensuring safe, well maintained facilities. While referrals to the Police Department and general incidents declined in 2008, we noted a significant increase in reporting of graffiti throughout the park system. Once reported, our staff is committed to, and successful at, removing all such vandalism within 48 hours. With over 1,190 reservations of park facilities in 2008, we are pleased to report that 100% of patrons were very satisfied/satisfied with the safety of our park system.



Adopt-A-Park Program Retooled, Expanded

Well maintained parks improve the quality of life for our community - keeping property values high, ensuring safe play environments for children, maintaining wildlife habitat, and promoting community health and wellness. With almost 700 acres of park land, miles of walking and bike trails, and over 120 restrooms, playgrounds, and recreational facilities, Adopt-a Park volunteers make a difference through litter pick-ups, flower planting, garden maintenance, and much more. In 2008 staff worked to re-establish the City of Wyoming Adopt-a-Park program. Re-released to the community in January 2008, seven parks were adopted by 11 groups in 2008.



Protecting our natural resources

Youth Program Spotlight—Bowling



Continuing a trend started in 2007, participation in the Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department's youth bowling program increased yet again. Total yearly participation increased by 25% over 2007 and the spring session used every lane at Park Center Lanes, the Wyoming bowling propriety where the program is held. Participants indicated that it was a fun and active program that gave them something to do after-school before going home to homework. Youth bowling also provided an environment to improve socialization skills as participants noted the opportunity to make friends as another main reason for participation.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS RE-DESIGNED FOR 2008

Over the past several years, the Parks and Recreation Department offered summer pre-school programming over a two-week, day camp style format. With declining participation, it was decided to change the focus from the two-week commitment to individual themed preschool programs for FY 08. Individual offerings included, Discovering Dinosaurs, Once Upon a Time, Hawaiian Luau, Little Seedlings, Olympics and Music. These six two-hour long programs had a total of 52 participants, increasing participation in pre-school summer programming 300% over the last time the two-week, day camp format was offered.

Community Master Plan Program Distribution Benchmarks

Millage funded programming:

<u>Desired Distribution:</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Preferred</u>	<u>Actual FY 2008</u>	<u># Offered</u>
Youth	30%	50%	35%	32%	91
Family	5%	15%	10%	3.2%	9

“The instructor was great and knew his stuff and interacted well with the kids and also had enough equipment and more than enough room for all the kids.”

– a participant evaluation comment received from Smart Start Basketball







“The instructor was great and knew his stuff.”

“We are so glad you offered this program “

-Participant evaluation comments



Adult Kickball Leagues Kick Into Wyoming

Expansion of adult sports programming saw the development of a summer kickball league in FY 08. Famous as a physical education/gym class during many individual’s grade school years, kickball brought that child-like spirit back for adults as they relived those days of yesteryear. Utilizing existing softball fields, kickball proved to be a sport that did not require a lot of skill, just the willingness to have fun, prompting one participant to state, “Come on! I am playing kickball in my 20’s what more could I ask for?” Plans are under way to offer kickball in both the summer and fall of FY 09.

ZUMBA IS NEW FITNESS RAGE IN WYOMING

Being committed to providing the most current adult fitness opportunities to Wyoming residents, the Parks and Recreation Department began offering Zumba this past December. Starting with a Zumba Party in early December, eight-week Zumba classes started in January and maximum participation was reached in the winter and spring sessions. Zumba is a fusion fitness class that combines Latin/International music and dance moves to create an aerobic/fitness training opportunity based on fast and slow rhythm movements. Unlike other fitness classes, there is very little verbal direction from the instructor, as more emphasis is placed on movements that follow the rhythm of the music.

Community Master Plan Program Distribution Benchmarks

Millage funded programming:

Desired Distribution:	Minimum	Maximum	Preferred	Actual FY 2008	# Offered
Adult	20%	30%	25%	33.5%	95





“According to the US Census, Michigan can anticipate residents aged 65+ to grow 71% by 2030.



Serving Older Adults Faithfully Over 30 Years

Opening its doors in 1977, the City of Wyoming’s senior center is the go to place for older adult recreation and leisure programs. Operated and maintained by the Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department, its core funding is provided by the citizen approved Parks and Recreation Operational Millage, completed by program grants obtained through the Area Agency on Aging and Kent County Senior Millage, and partnerships with area non-profits such as the Senior Meals Program, Inc. The center offers a multitude of programs and services for persons aged 50 years and older, including:

- Health and wellness programs, including hearing screenings, flu shots, and exercise classes
- Social and cultural programs, such as concerts, art exhibits, and dances
- Leisure activities, including golf, billiards, and bowling
- Hosting a Senior Meals Program site which provides home delivered and congregate nutritional meals
- Therapeutic recreation and transportation services for homebound older adults residing in Kent County

Wyoming Senior Center Overall Facility and Program Monthly Participation

	<u>FY 03</u>	<u>FY 04</u>	<u>FY 05</u>	<u>FY 06</u>	<u>FY 07</u>	<u>FY 08</u>
TOTALS	68,945	61,553	54,416	59,588	63,874	61,649

(Based on Monthly Report Statistics)

Community Master Plan Program Distribution Benchmarks

Millage funded programming:

<u>Desired Distribution:</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Preferred</u>	<u>Actual FY 2008</u>	<u># Offered</u>
Older Adult	20%	50%	30%	31.3%	89

In addition to millage funded programs, the Wyoming Senior Center is blessed by the support of the Wyoming Fellowship Club, its internal non-profit organization, which funded an additional 42 programs in 2008.



Creating Community Connections For All Ages

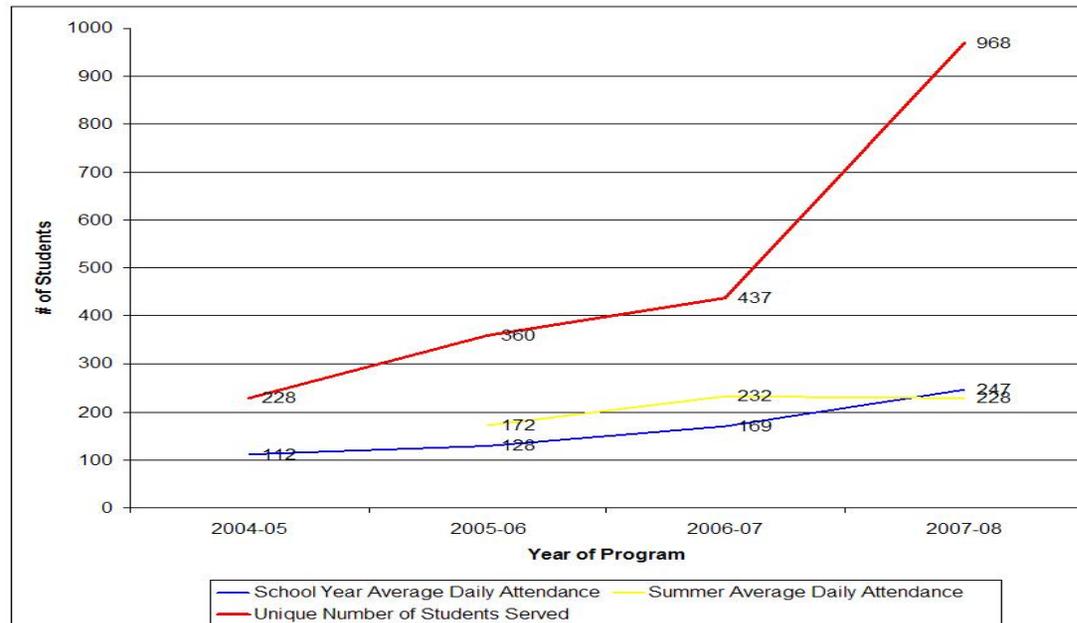
TEAM 21 Expands to Middle Schools

Our T.E.A.M. 21 After-school Program expanded to include two Wyoming Public School District (WPS) middle schools, Newhall and Jackson Park. This was made possible by additionally funding of our 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grants. These new sites complement our grant funded after-school program located within three WPS elementary schools, Taft, Parkview and Rogers Lane. 21st CCLC funding is provided by the Michigan Department of Education as part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Participants in the middle school programs have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including homework help, academic credit recovery, physical fitness, team sports, leisure enrichment offerings (cooking, musical arts, etc.), character education and leadership development. The middle schools are unique in that, unlike the elementary schools, students can drop-in. An average of 247 at-risk students participated on a daily basis during the 2008 school year at the five T.E.A.M. 21 locations, representing a 48% increase over 2007. An average of 228 at-risk students participated on a daily basis during the summer in 2008 at the five T.E.A.M. 21 locations, a 121% increase.



"Thank you so much for everything...I just wanted to thank you fro helping me study for my tests and also helping me to raise my grade in English to a B. When I started going to T.E.A.M. 21, I noticed that my grades started to improve and I don't want to fail the 7th grade again, so thanks a lot for studying with me."

– a note received from a T.E.A.M. 21 student at Jackson Park Middle School





Expanding & Enhancing Education

Stepping Stones—Serving Homebound Older Adults



“Stepping Stones has been a great help to strengthen me both physically and spiritually. It has motivated me to get going and gave me the encouragement to try things even when I thought I would not be able to do them.”

- Stepping Stones Client

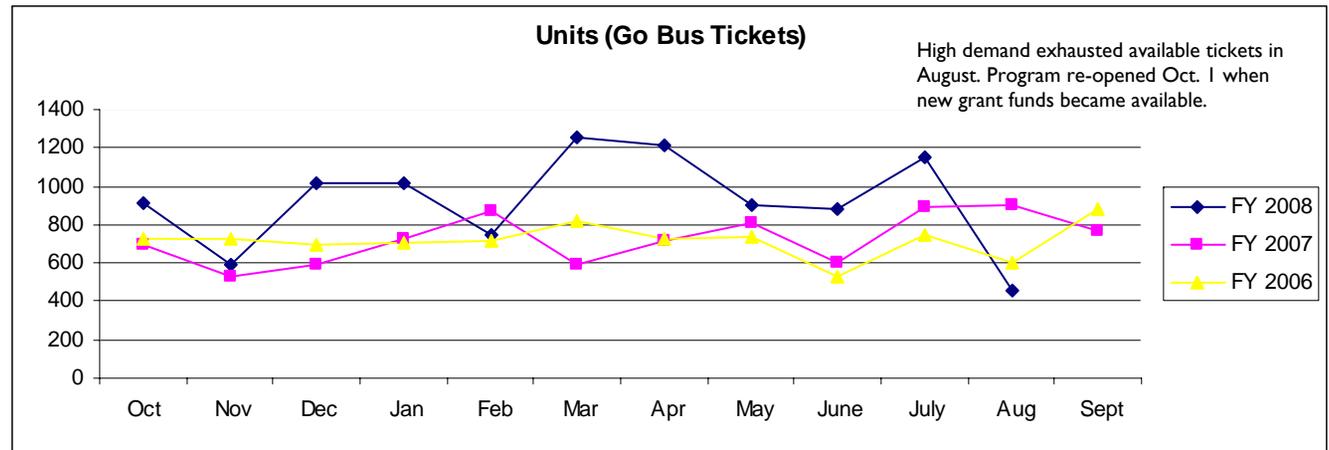
Wyoming’s innovative Stepping Stones in-home therapeutic recreation program serving all of Kent County helps those who are disabled or in need of special assistance to participate in meaningful recreation activities and experiences that are intended to maintain and improve health status, daily activity, and quality of life. All activities are performed by a certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and include individualized treatment (including aquatic therapy), education, including transportation assistance training, and many other recreation opportunities. Funding for this program is made possible by the Kent County Senior Millage.

2008 Program Highlights

- * 1,570 units of service were provided
- * 43% of enrollees seek aquatic therapy
- * 121 clients received therapy
- * 65% of discharged clients met their goals and are independent once again in the community

Demand Results in Shortage for Transportation Assistance

Funded by an Older American Act grant through the Area Agency on Ageing of Western Michigan, the transportation assistance program provides Go!Bus tickets to at-risk, homebound senior citizens aged 60+ to access medical services, food, and activities to alleviate social isolation. 138 older adults obtained 10,156 tickets during the grant year ending September 30, 2008. The high demand resulted in exhaustion of funds during August, closing ticket sales until October 1, 2008.





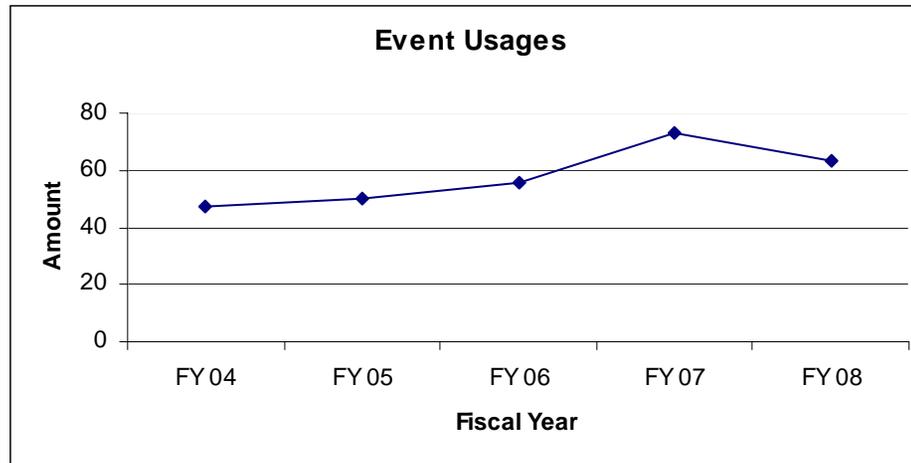
Encompassing People of All Abilities

Athletic & Community Events

2008 Athletic and special event usages for organizations and individuals were down 14% from 2007, but were still significantly higher than the previous three years. Some of the organizations that made athletic and special event requests this fiscal year included:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Wyoming Public Schools | Michigan Special Olympics Area 11 |
| Kelloggsville Public Schools | ViChem Corporation |
| Godwin Heights Public Schools | Classic Chevrolet |
| Godfrey Lee Public Schools | Gordon Food Service |
| Tri-unity Christian Schools | Amerikam |
| Potter's House Christian Schools | American Cancer Society |
| Aquinas College | Mars Hill Bible Church |
| Pinery Park Little League | Cherry Street Health Services |
| Wyoming Jaycees | Diamond Sports |
| South Kent Recreation Association | Wyoming Community Enrichment Commission |
| Olive Garden | Butterball Farms |
| Wedgewood Christian Services | Hearing Loss Association of America |
| Hope Network Foundation | Holy Trinity Lutheran School |

*Athletic tournaments
and special events
are proven
contributors to the
local economy.*





Bringing the Community Together

Our 2008 Partners, Sponsors



“This was our first time and I was very impressed. We got exercise and learned about some businesses I wasn’t aware of.”

– a participant evaluation comment received from the Pumpkin Path



AARP
 Altrusa
 Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan
 Aquinas College
 Bayberry Farms Village
 Blandford Nature Center/Mixed Greens
 Consumers Energy
 District 7 Umpire Association
 DTE-MichCon
 Edward Jones Financial Services
 First Assembly Church
 Godfrey Lee Public Schools
 Godwin Heights Public Schools
 Grand Rapids Community College
 Grand Valley Metro Council
 Grand Valley State University
 Heartland Health
 Holland Home
 Huron Potawatomi Tribal Youth Program
 Judy Dykema & Family
 Kent District Library – Wyoming Branch
 Kent County Senior Millage
 Kent Optimist Club Grand Rapids
 Laurels of Hudsonville
 Lenger Travel Center

Mars Hill Bible Church
 Metro Health Hospital
 Michigan Amateur Softball Association
 Old Country Buffet
 Papa Murphy’s
 Park Center Lanes
 Parkview Elementary PTA/PTO
 Paul and Michelle Simons
 Pines Golf Course
 Pinery Park Little League
 Pizza Cab Company
 Premier School of Dance
 Rogers Heights Christian Reformed Church
 Rogers Lane Elementary PTA/PTO
 Rogers Lane Neighborhood Association
 St. John Vianney Catholic Church

 South Kent Recreation Association
 Taft Adopt-a-Block
 Taft Elementary PTA/PTO
 The Giving Gardens
 Theresa Wolf Hearing Consultants
 Walgreen’s

Wesley Park United Methodist Church
 West Michigan Physicians
 Wyoming Clean Water Plant
 Wyoming Community Foundation
 Wyoming Engineering Department
 Wyoming Fellowship Club
 Wyoming Fire Department
 Wyoming Park United Methodist Church
 Wyoming Police Department
 Wyoming Public Schools
 Wyoming South Day Adventist Church

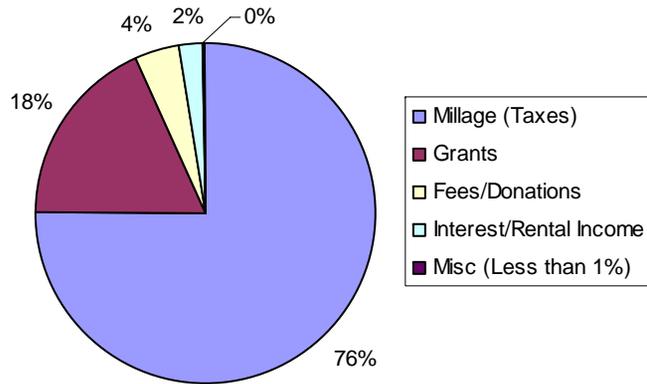
Our supporters work directly with the Parks & Recreation Department to bring quality recreation programs and park facilities to the citizens of Wyoming. We sincerely apologize if we have inadvertently left an organization, or business from this listing.



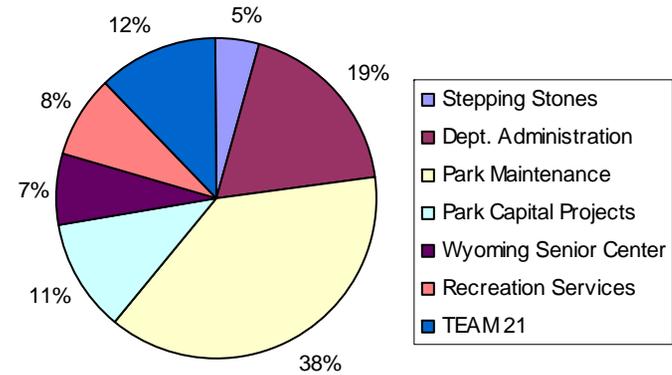
Connecting With Community

FY 2008 Funding and Service Highlights

Revenue Sources



Service Distribution



The mission of the City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department is to provide services that positively impact the social, economic, health and environmental quality of our community.

Our vision is to offer services that allow community members to experience physical, mental, and social benefits through their leisure time participation, providing opportunities for young people, adults, and senior citizens to live, grow, and develop into healthy, contributing members of our community.

We are committed to providing leisure and recreation opportunities by developing and maintaining green spaces, facilities, and programs to enrich the quality of life for the citizens of the City of Wyoming.



Making Memories

City of Wyoming Parks & Recreation Department

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Creating community through people, parks, and programs!