



## 3-YEAR ACTION PLAN

August 2019 - July 2020

August 2020 – July 2021

August 2021 – July 2022

### MISSION

Enhance the quality of life for individuals with barriers to participation through access to recreation activities that promote fitness, wellness, and social growth for all ability levels.

### VISION

Access to recreational sports and activities through community collaboration to improve the wellness of individuals with diverse abilities within the Kansas City metropolitan area.

### WEBSITE

[www.AS-GKC.net](http://www.AS-GKC.net)

### FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/accessiblesportsgkc/](http://www.facebook.com/accessiblesportsgkc/)



## PREFACE

Accessible Sports-Greater Kansas City is a bi-state, multi-sector collaboration of nonprofit organizations, agencies, and businesses formed with support from a 2018 Healthy Communities grant awarded by the Health Forward Foundation to The Whole Person.

Since fall 2018, a diverse array of stakeholders in the delivery of accessible/adaptive sports and recreation opportunities have gathered in quarterly Regional Roundtable meetings to share their challenges, successes and ideas about improving access to healthy and active living options for the more than 230,000 people of all ages and with all types of disabilities who live in the Kansas City metro area.

Regional Roundtable partners and participants (listed in Appendix B) have also worked collaboratively on the development of a mission and vision statement; a shared website and community-wide calendar; a Community Gaps Survey that requests feedback from affected populations about their experiences and needs; and an Accessible Venues Survey to inform the community about the accessibility of local sports and recreation facilities such as tennis courts and parks. One of the founding partners, Midwest Adaptive Sports, is a subgrantee of the Healthy Communities grant received by The Whole Person. Their wonderful adaptive sports-based inclusion and diversity program for middle schools and high schools, Educate the Educators, will be spotlighted in the first AS-GKC newsletter in fall 2019.

Regional Roundtable partners and participants began the process of developing the AS-GKC Plan for the next three years, 2019-2022, in a February 2019 brainstorming session. The 3-Year Plan Committee fine-tuned and expanded on the input received from the larger group. For now, all proposed action steps are on the table. From the following list of desired activities, Regional Roundtable partners and participants will “whittle down” the AS-GKC priorities for each of the next three years when they convene in the fall. The Plan will be updated each summer to reflect progress toward goals, lessons learned, and additional feedback from the community, particularly people with disabilities seeking better access to sports and recreation opportunities.

On behalf of Accessible Sports-Greater Kansas City, The Whole Person wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to the Health Forward Foundation for supporting the launch of this new collaboration. It has been an honor for us to spearhead its formation. Now, with momentum building to expand the partnership and offer needed resources throughout the bi-state metro area, AS-GKC is poised to improve the active living options for potentially thousands of Greater Kansas City residents with disabilities – such as a child with a spinal cord injury who watches her siblings play tennis but never gets invited to hit the ball; a teenager with a cognitive disability who wants to swim or shoot an arrow, or join a soccer team coached by someone who knows how to make it a welcoming, affirming experience; a downhill skier who does not want his age and blindness to keep him off the slopes; and many, many more.



# ACCESSIBLE SPORTS – GREATER KANSAS CITY 3-YEAR ACTION PLAN

In the AS-GKC Healthy Communities Grant proposal, the Foundation's Theory of Change provided a tool for identifying long-term outcomes and strategies for achieving them.

## Theory of Change for AS-GKC

### Equitable Engagement & Access

**Proposed Outcome:** Increased community knowledge and awareness of issues affecting the health of people with disabilities through sports and recreation accessibility

**Outcome Indicator:** Increased use of community input; increased use of project resources (website/calendar)

**Measurement:** Community Gaps Survey data collected from affected community members; Venue Accessibility Survey results available to the public; shared website and calendar continuously updated and usage tracked; partners assess changes and increases in activity participation

### Mobilization for Action

**Proposed Outcomes:** Strengthened collaborations increase awareness of and support for healthy communities through sports and recreation accessibility; increased community action for accessible active living opportunities based on public will and community input

**Outcome Indicators:** Strengthened partnerships show increased project support/activity/engagement; new partners join AS-GKC Regional Roundtable

**Measurement:** Regional Roundtable participation and partner support activities tracked in TWP database by project coordinator. The 3-Year Accessible Sports Action Plan is based on community and partner input with steps for increasing public awareness of accessibility needs

### Multi-Sector Collaboration

**Proposed Outcome:** Increased public resources and investment in infrastructure for healthy living

**Outcome Indicator:** Progress achieved by collaborations and partnerships

**Measurement:** Accessible Sports Action plan is published and partners join in presenting it to the public via a press conference. Partner collaboration ideas and solutions recorded in minutes.

# ACCESSIBLE SPORTS – GREATER KANSAS CITY

## ACTION STEPS

### 2019 - 2022

#### Ongoing Actions

- Advocate to local communities
  - Presentations to city councils about AS-GKC resources, the accessibility of venues in their community, and the barriers and interests indicated by Community Gaps Survey respondents in their ZIP Codes
  - Offer ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) advice to venues and programs
- Advocate to local colleges
  - Present to athletics programs regarding the benefits of adapted/accessible sports programs
  - Promote volunteer opportunities and internships
- Seek out and promote AS-GKC resources to patrons/consumers/clients of current and new partners
  - Hospitals and Acute Rehab Centers
  - Blind/Low Vision organizations
  - Deaf/Hard of Hearing organizations
  - Mental Health agencies
- Put a process in place for regular/annual feedback and improvement strategies
  - Feedback needed on venue usability from consumers and member organizations
  - Feedback needed on programming gaps
  - Promote an annual month-long Community Gaps Survey campaign to collect feedback on programs and venues

#### Next Steps

- Identify goals and action steps for 2019-2020 (AS-GKC Year 2)
- Kick-off event
  - Media Invited
  - Committee within the Regional Roundtable partners to organize/plan
- Annual community event/fundraiser
  - Centerpiece will be a competitive event that draws from throughout the metro area – “games for good”
  - A gate fee (either a set price or suggested donation) will be collected
  - Food and/or merchandise sales will benefit AS-GKC
- Launch quarterly newsletter for members and friends
  - Highlight recent past events and upcoming events
  - Include stories about advocacy-related activities
  - Spotlight volunteers and list volunteer opportunities
- Corporate Challenge with Adaptive/Accessible Sports Arm
  - Individual sports
  - “Adaptive” bracket for local events/tournaments (wheelchair, blind/low vision etc.)
  - Advocacy for inclusion

- Community-wide Centralized Volunteer Pool
  - Share resources and knowledge about how to start new volunteer programs
  - Website-generated list of volunteers
  - Indicate areas of expertise, training
- Members-only site attached to the website
  - Share resources such as equipment
  - Provide a members tool kit with training materials; education on disabilities, inclusive language, etc.; legal/liability documents, venue assessment forms
  - Provide a forum for questions and ideas
- Generate (and maintain) list of school districts and point person for SPED (special education) at all levels

## MARKETING

- Banners
- Promotional materials for distribution (flyers, pamphlets, business cards)
- Postcards for consumers to drive them to the AS-GKC Community Calendar and other website resources
- Postcards for prospective volunteers (e.g. high school students and others in need of community service hours) to drive them to the volunteer sign-up page on the AS-GKC website
- Piggyback with information packets provided to the newly injured or newly diagnosed (e.g., rehabilitation liaison visit, hospital baskets, Down Syndrome Guild and Greater Kansas City Spinal Cord Injury Association support groups)
- Event tables
  - Vendor fairs of diagnosis-specific organizations/support groups, meetings and events (Spina Bifida Kansas City, Autism Society of the Heartland, American Stroke Foundation, Down Syndrome Guild, Greater Kansas City Spinal Cord Injury Association)
  - Professional organization meetings and conferences
  - School district start-of-year convocations
  - Fall/summer community events/celebrations (festivals, SantaCaliGon Days, etc.)
  - Midwest Ability Summit

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Sustainability Needs

- AS-GKC Project Coordinator (20 hours/week)
- Marketing materials and website maintenance
- Fees for event tables and other community outreach

### Membership Fees

- Assessed to members (partners) for use of AS-GKC resources
- First year free to demonstrate the value of partnership
- Membership benefits include:
  - Shared volunteer pool
  - Shared resources forum (equipment, liability/legal materials, community connections)

- Teaching/training opportunities and toolkit
- AS-GKC membership “badge” draws users to partner page and activities
- Venue assessments provide accessibility “accreditation”
- AS-GKC Coordinator helps to funnel media to member organizations
- Data/analytics provided on web page usage/viewership

### Internal Leadership and Infrastructure

Infrastructure may include committees and officers with AS-GKC responsibilities, including:

- Ongoing grant writing
- Advocacy at local level
- Seek out and promote AS-GKC to clients/consumers and new member organizations

### FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE 3-YEAR PLAN COMMITTEE

- AS-GKC does not create the opportunities. Members need to create the opportunities.
- Members will benefit from training on the use of inclusive language, especially for speaking to the public.
- Member organizations need to be aware that individuals and families with all types of disabilities (physical, cognitive, vision, mental health, hearing, etc.) will have access to their offerings through AS-GKC.net.
- Website information should be organized to help consumers search for opportunities specific to their individual needs. For example, a website option may be explored to filter opportunities by disability type.
- AS-GKC should educate member organizations to be specific about the type of populations they are equipped to serve on their website partner page.

# APPENDIX A

## LINKS

- **AS-GKC Website with Citywide Calendar, Partner Pages, and many other resources**  
— [www.AS-GKC.net](http://www.AS-GKC.net)
- **AS-GKC Facebook Page**  
— [www.facebook.com/accessiblesportsgkc/](http://www.facebook.com/accessiblesportsgkc/)
- **Community Gaps Survey** (available at specified times)  
— [www.AS-GKC.net/gapssurvey](http://www.AS-GKC.net/gapssurvey)
- **Accessible Venues Survey** (survey will appear when completed and available)  
— <https://www.as-gkc.net/accessibility/accessibility-checklist.html>
- **Health Forward Foundation Blog**  
— <https://healthforward.org/the-whole-person-community-partners-launch-accessible-sports-roundtable/>

## APPENDIX B

### FOUNDING PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS: 2018-2019

Partners (in bold) are defined as organizations, agencies and businesses that have a Partner Page on the AS-GKC.net website as of June 2019. Participants are those without a Partner Page currently, but have attended Regional Roundtable meetings or otherwise expressed interest in/support for AS-GKC activities. Committees are listed for those with a committee assignment.

#### **68'S INSIDE SPORTS**

- Duane Zinke (Community Gaps Survey Committee)

#### **ABILITY KC**

- Nancy Petersen (Website Committee)
- Ashli Mosby (Website Committee)
- Jessica Spradley

#### **ALPHAPOINTE**

- Jake McLaughlin (Missouri Statement Committee)

#### **AUTISM OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP**

- Betty Sharp (Mission Statement Committee)
- Terri Pigue

#### **BELTON PARKS AND REC**

#### **BLUE SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- James Faris
- Matthew Asikainen

#### **BLUE VALLEY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Nan Kanter

#### **DISABLED BUT NOT REALLY FOUNDATION**

- Wesley Hamilton

#### **EITAS**

- Cheryl Carlin (Website Committee)
- Amy Mesplay
- Sam Stepp

#### **GRANDVIEW PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Sue Yerkes (Mission Statement Committee)

#### **GREATER KANSAS CITY SPINAL CORD INJURY ASSOCIATION**

- Erin Brown (Accessible Venues Survey Committee)

#### **INDEPENDENCE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Chase Carper

#### **JACKSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Terri McMillan (Community Gaps Survey Committee)

#### **JOHNSON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Jill Leiker
- Jodie McMahan (3-Year Plan Committee)
- Rhonda Pollard (Community Gaps Survey Committee)

#### **KANSAS CITY ATHLETIC CHEER**

- Shelby Hallam

#### **KANSAS CITY CORPORATE CHALLENGE**

- Jeremie Ballinger

#### **KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Taryn Andersen (Community Gaps Survey Committee)
- Sheronda Stonum (Accessible Venues Survey Committee)
- Jordan Brown (Website Committee)

#### **KANSAS CITY REVOLUTION WHEELCHAIR RUGBY CLUB**

- Tony Durham (Mission Statement Committee)

#### **KANSAS CITY SPORTS COMMISSION & FOUNDATION**

- Dave Borchardt (3-Year Plan Committee)

#### **KC TREADZ WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL**

- Michael Minor (Accessible Venue Survey Committee)

#### **KEARNEY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Scott Hayden

#### **KOMA MARTIAL ARTS**

- Master Bronson
- Erin Snider



**LEE'S SUMMIT PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Jodi Jordan (Website Committee)

**LIBERTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Brittany Johnston (Mission Statement Committee)

**LIBERTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- Sara McGuff (3-Year Plan Committee)
- EJ Meany (3-Year Plan Committee)

**MID-AMERICA GAMES FOR THE DISABLED, INC.**

- Teri McGuire (Accessible Venues Survey Committee)
- Joe Dold

**MIDWEST ADAPTIVE SPORTS**

- Stan Weston (3-Year Plan Committee)
- Matt Bollig (Accessible Venues Survey Committee)
- Brad Hudspeth

**MOBILITY FIRST**

- Mason Vallery (3-Year Plan Committee)
- Karen Atkins (Accessible Venues Survey Committee)

**NORTH KANSAS CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Derrick Schupp

**OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Mallory Ozier (Accessible Venues Survey Committee)

**PLATTE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Travis Anderson

**PLATTE COUNTY BOARD OF SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED**

- Venessa McCloud (Community Gaps Survey Committee)
- Joe Henson (Mission Statement Committee)

**RAYTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Mike Conrad

**SMITHVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Matthew Denton (Community Gaps Survey Committee)

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS KANSAS**

- Terri Price (Community Gaps Survey Committee)
- Chris Burt (Website Committee)
- Taylor Obersteadt (Mission Statement Committee)
- Kassidy Albright

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSOURI – KANSAS CITY METRO AREA**

- Alyssa Cress (Website Committee)

**THE WHOLE PERSON**

- Rick Haith (3-Year Plan Committee)
- Sheila Styron (Community Gaps Survey Committee)

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY SWINNEY RECREATION CENTER**

- Nikeila Jensen

**UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS**

- Angel Obert

**WHEEL IT FORWARD**

- Jim Pfeffer

**WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT**

- Corey Wright

**WYANDOTTE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

- Jeremy Rogers
- Tyrone Weaver

**YOUTH 4 KANSAS CITY**

- Sarah Castle

**YMCA OF GREATER KANSAS CITY/ CHALLENGER PROGRAM**

- Kyle Evans (Mission Statement Committee)
- Raegan Schurr

**ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT FROM THE WHOLE PERSON PROVIDED BY:**

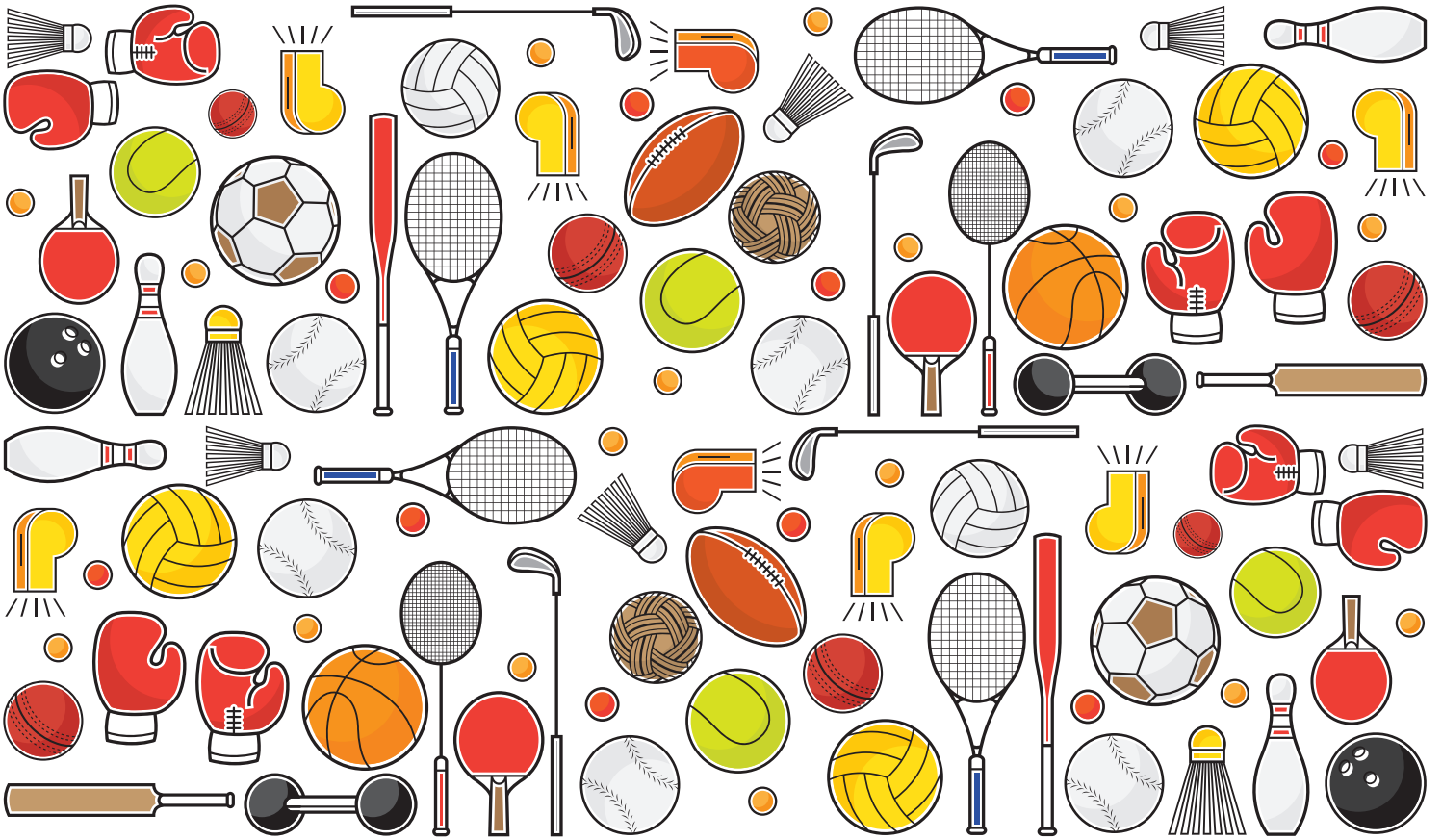
- Terri Goddard
- Ashley Frerking
- Kelly Grooms
- Lea Klepees
- Carla Norcott-Mahany
- Kim Krueger
- Vivian Strand
- Mike Wiley
- Laura Casselman

## APPENDIX C

### COMMUNITY GAPS SURVEY RESULTS

- Survey responses will be collected and compiled during the 2019-2020 grant year.





**ACCESSIBLE**  
**SPORTS**  
*Greater Kansas City*