

CHAPTER 7

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

The following policy recommendations and programs were developed through the research, discussion and evaluation of the park and open space facilities by the Village Board, Village Park Commission, and Village staff as a part of the comprehensive and detailed park planning efforts. In addition, public input was gathered by the Public Research Consultant firm through the public participation park meetings and survey work process to help assist in determining perceived park needs and priorities in the Village.

The recommendations are based upon the recent demographic changes, growth projection rates and park system inventoried deficiencies within the Village. Using the 2035 population projections, these recommendations would satisfy the park and recreation standards for the community. The timing of park and open space land acquisitions and park facilities development should coincide with not only the actual demand for the recreational park and open space facilities, but also the current financial and budgetary limitations of the Village. As such, in order to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Park Plan, this chapter sets forth the policy recommendations and programs that will be used to implement the Plan over the next five years.

BASIC DEFINITIONS

The following basic definitions are being used to explain the park planning implementation process:

Recommendations: Recommendations are specific policies that establish the courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. Policies may often accomplish a number of objectives.

Programs: Programs are specific budgetary action items or programs to be implemented to carry out the Plan.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROGRAMS

1. **Objective:** Identify, acquire and provide land for quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space in the Village.

Policy Recommendations:

- a. Continue Neighborhood Planning to identify future land uses, road and lot layouts, and appropriate locations for public parks, open space corridors, and trails systems. All new residential development should be within one (1) mile of a neighborhood, community or regional park.
- b. Continue to plan for a diversity of park sizes and park types based on the demographic characteristics and needs of the Village.
- c. Design future parks so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.

- d. Locate new parks and open space areas that complement the existing and future surrounding land uses and natural resource features.
- e. Design parks to enhance community cohesion and to provide opportunities for community gathering places. All parks should have multiple access points from various transportation modes from the surrounding neighborhoods.
- f. Continue to acquire park and open space lands in advance of or in coordination with new development in order to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and to facilitate site planning. Park and open space areas in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.
- g. Parks should be integrated into future neighborhood designs and linked by a network of sidewalks, pedestrian/walking/bicycle trails, and open space corridors.
- h. Support the WI Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) and The Nature Conservancy's purchase of the remaining conservancy lots in Chiswaukee Prairie acquired on a willing seller-willing buyer basis as referenced in the Land Use Management Plan for the Chiswaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area of Pleasant Prairie.
- i. Accept land donations for the future expansion of Village Green Neighborhood Park.

Programs: (proposed to be implemented within next five (5) years as funding allows)

- a. Prepare an update to the Pleasant Farms Neighborhood Plan which presents revised lot and street layouts, park areas and the revised location of Prairie Farms Trail.
- b. As the opportunities arise and funding becomes available, acquire additional lots adjacent and abutting to Pleasant Prairie Park per the Comprehensive Plan.
- c. Accept land donations and acquire land as funding allows for specific properties within the Des Plaines River Watershed for the expansion for park/recreational opportunities and open space conservancy purposes.

2. **Objective:** Prepare marketing information and educate the community about park and recreational opportunities and facilities available in the Village.

Policy Recommendations:

- a. Continue to promote a Village-wide park system that addresses the needs and desires of the existing and future Village residents and businesses.
- b. Create public awareness of the Village's parks facilities and open space preservation areas by promoting them through maps, signage, and other paper and electronic media materials.
- c. Educate the public on the locations and benefits of unique park elements within Village parks and open space areas.
- d. Continue to provide and create new opportunities for park and open space areas for special events in the Village.
- e. Develop feedback methods to assess the existing and future park service needs of Village residents, schools and businesses.
- f. Identify handicapped accessible park and recreational facilities that can accommodate individuals and groups with special needs.

- g. Continue to evaluate and identify opportunities to share park and recreational facilities with public and private school needs where appropriate and feasible, by joint planning, maintenance and facility sharing agreements.
- h. Continue to work with the Kenosha Area Convention and Visitors Bureau in the creation of and promotion of new recreational activities and venues to promote tourism in the Village.
- i. Identify locations where public access is and can be provided to lakes, rivers and other water resources in the Village.

Programs: (proposed to be implemented within next five (5) years as funding allows)

- a. Promote park and open space areas of the community by providing maps, details and locations of outdoor, planned recreational events in the parks such as: "Music by the Lake", "Music in the Park", farmers markets, Prairie Family Days, etc. through various electronic media methods including special interviews on Channel 25, Village e-newsletter and web-site and via social media networking.
- b. Create electronic hyperlinks from the Village's web-site to the various non-profit private and public interest group web-sites that provide educational and informational details on the Chiwaukee Prairie, Chiwaukee Prairie Trails, Kenosha Sand Dunes and other environmentally significant areas of the Village.
- c. Prepare hard copy brochures, park maps and other quality of life marketing materials and promotional items to display on information racks in Village municipal buildings, Chamber of Commerce and for Village welcome packets.
- d. Create marketing materials targeting various age groups which explain the health benefits of the utilizing the Village parks and trail system.
- e. Work with non-profit, school and special interest groups to promote an "adopt a beach" clean-up program similar to "adopt a highway" program.
- f. Speak at the local grade schools to promote Earth Day activities at the parks.
- g. Develop new ways to advertise opportunities to solicit funding for the "Memorial Tree Program" in honor or in memory of a loved one in the Village Parks.
- h. Continue the tradition of promoting and hosting the annual Veterans Day tribute at the Veterans Memorial Ballfield area at Prairie Springs Park.
- i. Continue to market, promote and host the annual Village-wide Prairie Family Days event as to showcase the park and recreational activities in Prairie Springs Park.
- j. Encourage and work in cooperation with Village residents and businesses in the creation of a "Friends of Pleasant Prairie Parks" group or other non-profit organization or club that can:
 - Assist in identifying, promoting, raising funds and developing park facilities for community garden or farmers market projects.
 - Work to develop policies for Friends' volunteers.
 - Encourage businesses and their employees to support a Friends group.

3. **Objective:** Preserve the Village’s natural, cultural and archeological resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future community residents and businesses.

Policy Recommendations:

- a. Continue to evaluate and utilize alternative means of reserving lands required for open space to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public (e.g. non-profit organizations, conservation easements, purchase of developments rights).
- b. Consider applying for grants and other State and federal funding resources to preserve natural and scientific resource conservancy areas.
- c. Work with non-profit groups to encourage their Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) or Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs to protect environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites.
- d. Encourage the protection of high-quality open space lands through public and nonprofit conservation organization fee simple purchases and conservation easements.
- e. Continue to work with other public and private non-profit agencies to identify, preserve and protect archeological and historical resources.
- f. As new development advances in the Village, continue to encourage the preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas within parks and open spaces areas of the Village, where possible.
- g. Work with community businesses, non-profit groups and residents in the preparation and implementation of oak opening and savanna woodland restoration plans.

Programs: (proposed to be implemented within next five (5) years as funding allows)

- a. Prepare a conceptual development plan and feasibility study for the development a new Nature and Educational Center at Momper’s Woods.
- b. Work with the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust, Inc., to acquire land and prepare conservation easements for the protection of environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites in the Des Plaines River Watershed.
- c. Work with area residents and volunteers to establish partnerships in the development and implementation of an Oak Opening Woodland Restoration Plan for the Sorensen Woods at Kildeer Park.
- d. Work with area residents and volunteers to establish partnerships in the development and implementation of an Oak Opening Woodland Restoration Plan and Master Plan for the development of the Momper’s Wood’s Nature Center.
- e. Partner with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), WI DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and non-profit organizations such as Ducks Unlimited to create new wetlands, enhancements, and restorations within the Des Plaines River Watershed.
- f. Consider working with public State and federal agencies and non-profit agencies to apply for Kenosha County, State and federal grants to acquire properties in the 100-year floodplain along the Jerome Creek east of STH 31.

- g. Identify passive, low impact open space viewing opportunities within Prairie Springs Park that provide for an overlook or scenic viewing of the flora and fauna.
 - h. Evaluate the impacts of how new development projects may affect historic properties and archaeological sites that are eligible for listing on the National or State Registers of Historic Places.
 - i. Preserve archaeological sites inventoried in the Village's Comprehensive Plan or identified through various federal, State or local surveys, studies, and reports prepared for the Village or areas within the Village.
 - j. Encourage the development of educational facilities such as a museum, nature center or cultural center in or near the Village parks to promote the historical and archeological significance of the Village.
 - k. Have the Park Commission work in a cooperative effort with the Pleasant Prairie Historical Society in developing and distributing educational materials about historical or archeological areas of significance in the Village.
 - l. Install a historical marker for the Jambeau Trail that discusses the importance of the ethnic trail.
4. **Objective:** Provide off-street and on-street interconnected bike and walking trails and related public open space areas that will provide Village residents and community businesses with adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities.

Policy Recommendations:

- a. Identify specific bike trail capital improvement projects as set forth in with the Village of Pleasant Prairie, 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails Plan (Appendix E).
- b. Design an internal trail system within parks and open space areas so that they are linked to the larger Village-wide trail network.
- c. Develop and execute agreements with other trail building and trail maintaining partners, that identify the sections that each group would build and the financial responsibilities of each party.
- d. Identify public and private funding sources for the trail system within the Village.
- e. Continue to apply for State and federal grants and work to assemble matching resources to fund construction of the specific trails.
- f. Provide an interconnecting system of trail-oriented facilities, such as bikeways, hiking trails, in the Village and where possible, to adjacent communities.
- g. Continue the development, enhancement, and management of recreational trail facilities to ensure connectivity of such facilities to Regional Park and open space areas.
- h. Provide for safe convenient and paved pedestrian bike connections between the Kenosha County Bike Trail, Prairie Springs Park, Lake Michigan Park and other park and open space facilities.
- i. Discuss the interconnection of the Pleasant Prairie's on-street trail network with on-street trails in the City of Kenosha and Lake County, Illinois.

Programs: (proposed to be implemented within next five (5) years as funding allows)

- a. Implement the grant award for the development of Prairie Farms Trail and the adjacent parking lot and landscaping.
- b. Obtain permits and complete the construction of the extension of Prairie Farms Trail over the backwater discharge of the Des Plaines River.
- c. Design and evaluate funding sources for the construction of the Des Plaines River Trail extending from State Trunk Highway (STH) 50 to STH 165.
- d. Construct a portion of the Village Green Trail located within the Village Green Neighborhood Park located east of future Cooper Road.
- e. Work with Kenosha County to construct, pave and/or stripe the on-street bike lanes located within River Road, CTH C (Wilmot Road), Prairie Farms Trail (the former Sewer D drive road) to the connection to the Des Plaines River Trail and to the paved off-street paths at CTH C and I-94.
- f. Develop plans for a bicycle/pedestrian bridge crossing over I-94 to facilitate employer-employee connections.

5. **Objective:** Continue to maintain and provide upgrades to the Village’s existing park sites and park facilities.

Policy Recommendations:

- a. Continue to implement measures to ensure that existing park facilities are upgraded to comply with ADA design guidelines.
- b. Evaluate the existing parks for the development of special recreational facilities such as dog parks, cross country ski trails, sledding hills, etc. through more detailed park planning and development efforts.
- c. Continue to collect and utilize park impact fees as set forth in the Village municipal code for the expansion and development of park capital improvements.
- d. Continue to utilize existing Public Works Department staff and/or volunteers to complete minor capital improvements in the parks to ensure a cost effective approach to construct and to complete projects.
- e. Continue to maintain and upgrade existing parks facilities for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them.
- f. Continue to evaluate the costs associated with the development new parks with the need to upgrade and maintain existing park sites.
- g. Continue to utilize recycled material available to the Village for park construction activities.
- h. Incorporate green building technology into capital projects where feasible.
- i. Continue to apply for WI DNR Stewardship funds, Wisconsin Conservation Management Program (WCMP) grants, and other State and federal funding.
- j. Continue to review implementation mechanisms such as impact fees and subdivision dedication requirements for park and open spaces areas during the platting and development review process.

- k. Review the park development capital improvement projects each year as part of the Public Works budgetary process.
- l. Evaluate funding sources for the construction of soccer fields and associated parking facilities along the south side of the east-west segment of the Prairie Farms Trail.
- m. Prepare an annual Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to help identify major public park projects, including land acquisition, equipment acquisition, building maintenance and development, and other park projects; and the funding sources to implement desired projects. Implement capital improvement projects based on available resources as determined by the Village Board.
- n. As funding becomes available, implement the conceptual park development improvements as shown in this Plan for Prairie Springs Park, Ingram Park, Momper's Woods Nature and Educational Center, Carol Beach Park, Lake Michigan Park, North Creekside Park, Rolling Meadows Park, Village Green Park, Becker Park, and Woodlawn Park.

Programs: (proposed to be implemented within next five (5) years as funding allows)

- a. Review the Impact Fee Ordinance and recommend updates to the needs analysis to determine whether additional impact fees should be collected for capital improvement projects.
- b. Continue to support and implement the Kenosha County Gypsy Moth Suppression Programs and Emerald Ash Borer Programs.
- c. Continue to work with nonprofit conservation organizations to support implementation of methods to control the spread of invasive species (e.g. cutting, spraying and controlled burns), with a focus along major environmental corridors through the Village, such as the Des Plaines River watershed, Chikwaukee Prairie, Kenosha Sand Dunes, and Carol Beach natural areas.
- d. Complete the seeding and install handicapped accessible playground equipment in the Village Green Neighborhood Park.
- e. Install handicapped accessible playground equipment and create a playfield in Creekside Park within the Creekside Crossing Development.
- f. Plant trees, landscape monument sign and pave entrance; construct a dog park and construct a fishing pond; install new perimeter fencing and construct a sledding hill and cross country ski trails in Ingram Park.
- g. Construct a new restroom/concession building; grade and seed the park to create two full-sized soccer fields; install irrigation, fencing and soccer goals; and repair lighting for the redevelopment of Pleasant Prairie Park.
- h. Install irrigation system for south ballfields along STH 165 in Prairie Springs Park.
- i. Construct a parking lot expansion adjacent to the north ballfields in Prairie Springs Park.
- j. Construct a pavilion at Picnic Area 2 in Prairie Springs Park.
- k. Extend sanitary sewer and water to serve the new concessions building and pave the north ballfields parking lot in Prairie Springs Park.
- l. Install a park identification sign for Harrison Road Park (Woodlawn Park).

- m. Install curb and gutter, paving and landscaping within and adjacent to the existing south gravel parking lot in Prairie Springs Park.
- n. Begin constructing site improvements in the Momper's Woods Nature and Educational Center.
- o. Apply for grants/funding for the development of soccer fields on Village-owned land adjacent to Park Drive at the northwest corner of Prairie Springs Park.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The implementation of the program recommendations shall be based upon the projected and anticipated available staff time, budgeted financial resources, community donations, and volunteer participation. In reality, the programs would be implemented in an incremental basis over the next several years. The Village Board, Commissions and the various Village Departments including—Parks, Public Works, Recreation (RecPlex), Administration, Community Development, Engineering, Information Technology, etc. should all be considered stakeholders involved in the Plan implementation, depending upon the specific activity or program event.

The final Chapter, Chapter 8, will specifically set forth the recommended park and open space acquisition areas; park, open space and trail conceptual plans; specific proposed improvements for several of the Village's park, open space and trail areas and the locations identified for future neighborhood parks, school-park neighborhood parks and community park land acquisitions.