

CITY OF COLUMBUS

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2021

Mary Arnold, Mayor

City Council

Ian Gray, Council President
Sarah Motiff
Paul Pyfferoen
Trina Reid
Shelly Albright
Mike McCabe

Plan Commission

Uriah Monday
Brad Basten
Mary Arnold
Paul Pyfferoen
Eric Lewis
Andy Traxler
Jason Theilen

STAFF

Matt Schreiber

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
Trends Influencing the Planning Process	2
Setting	3
Location	3
Physical and Cultural Features.....	3
Land Use and Economy	5
Population	7
Trends and Projections.....	7
Age Composition	7
Other Population Characteristics.....	8
Park and Open Space Classification System	9
Community Parks	9
Community Playfields.....	9
Neighborhood Parks	9
Neighborhood Playgrounds.....	9
Special Purpose Parks	10
Mini-Parks.....	10
Linear Parks	10
Reservations, Preserves and Greenbelts.....	11
County and Regional Parks.....	11
Recreation and Resource Inventory Summary	12
Community Parks	12
Community Playfields.....	12
Neighborhood Parks	13
Neighborhood Playgrounds.....	14
Special Purpose Parks.....	16
Mini-Parks.....	16
Linear Parks	17
Open Space	17
Properties not Included in the Park System.....	18
Analysis of Needs and Demands	25
Standards	25
Space Standards and Needs.....	25
Facility Standards and Needs.....	26
Playground Standard and Needs	28
Playground Surfacing	29
Service Areas	30
Policies for Park and Open Space Planning	33
Goals and Objectives	35
Plan Recommendations	37
General Recommendations.....	37
Specific Site Recommendations.....	39
Bike Routes and Linear Parks.....	48
New Acquisition and Development Recommendations.....	48

Related Recreational Issues	51
Operation and Maintenance	51
Funding.....	51
Public Participation in the Planning Process	53
Changes and Amendment Procedures	53
Conclusions	54

TABLES

<u>Number</u>		
1	Population Trends and Projections, 1980-2025	7
2	Age Composition Trends 1990 - 2000.....	8
3	Median Age Trends 1990 - 2000	8
4	Inventory of Active and Passive Recreational Facilities.....	21
5	Inventory of Playgrounds and Recreational Support Facilities.....	23

6	Space (Acreage) Needs, 2005 -2025	26
7	Facility Needs, 2005 -2025	27
8	Playground Equipment Needs, 2005 -2025.....	28
9	Critical Heights (in feet) of Tested Materials.....	30
10	Proposed Active and Passive Recreational Facilities.....	44
11	Proposed Playgrounds and Recreational Support Facilities.....	46

MAPS

Number

1	Regional Setting, City of Columbus, Wisconsin.....	4
2	City of Columbus, Physical Characteristics.....	6
3	City of Columbus, Existing Recreation Areas and Open Space, 2005.....	20
4	City of Columbus, Recreation Facilities Service Areas.....	32
5	City of Columbus, Suggested Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes.....	49
6	City of Columbus, Proposed Recreation Areas and Open Space, 2025.....	51

CITY OF COLUMBUS
PARKS, OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN - 2005

INTRODUCTION

This is an updated Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan for the City of Columbus. The original plan was prepared by Max Anderson Associates in 1974. It was updated in 1990 by the University of Wisconsin, Department of Urban and Regional Planning and in 1996 by the Columbus Board of Public Works. This plan updates the previous plans and proposes recreation improvements through the year 2025. Additionally, some inventory work and general recreational considerations in the City of Columbus were undertaken as part of the 2003 Dodge County Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan. Applicable recommendations and considerations from that plan are reflected in this plan.

The purpose of this plan is threefold: To guide the decisions of the City and other providers of open space and recreational lands in the area in order to provide for the increasing demand for recreation facilities; To revise and update proposals for recreation development within the City and; To maintain the City's eligibility for recreation grant funds. Updates of this plan should be done every five years to maintain the City's eligibility for recreation grant funds and to update and revise the City's development goals and proposed recreation improvements.

The demand for outdoor recreation resources has been increasing dramatically for some years and will most likely continue to grow based on changing lifestyles which allow for more leisure time, greater mobility and larger incomes to spend on recreational activities. Also, as the resident and tourist population of the area continues to grow, demand for recreational facilities will increase. It is important to keep pace with these trends in order for all government levels, as their responsibility dictates, to adequately provide parks and recreational facilities for active recreation and preserve open space to protect natural habitats and provide renewal for the human spirit.

The State requires an approved recreation plan not more than five years old to maintain eligibility for grant funding through the Department of Natural Resources. Grant funding is often vital to the undertaking and completion of needed projects.

This plan addresses recommendations for future park development, including the acquisition of additional lands for future parks and expansion of existing ones, as well as the provision of additional facilities in existing and future parks. A number of projects are proposed in this plan to improve, update, preserve and further develop park and recreation areas of the City. All providers of recreational facilities should coordinate their recreational developments with other providers in order to compliment resources and prevent unnecessary duplication of facilities.

The process of updating the plan began with a detailed inventory of public and private outdoor recreation facilities in the City of Columbus. Policies and Goals and Objectives were then developed on which to base the planning process. The inventory, comments of City officials, and public input was then used in the analysis phase to determine the needs of the City. Recreation needs were analyzed in light of recommended per capita standards for acreage and facility requirements and were analyzed for geographical distribution. Based on identified needs; proposals were developed for the 20 year period from 2005 to 2025, recommending a plan for acquisition and development to meet the recreational needs of the people of the City of Columbus.

TRENDS INFLUENCING THE PLANNING PROCESS

A number of nationwide trends can affect the park and open space planning process. These environmental, social, economic, and demographic trends should be considered in order to efficiently and effectively plan and deliver park and open space services and facilities. National trends adapted from Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines, which may be applicable to park and open space planning in the City of Columbus are included among the following:

1. **Disappearing Resources** - Significant open spaces and natural habitats, original landscapes, wetlands, and natural drainage ways are being lost to development.
2. **Environmentally Sensitive Lifestyles** - Low impact, nonconsumptive activities such as walking and biking, and aesthetic appreciation are increasing in importance.
3. **No Growth and “Not in My Backyard” Attitudes** - Resistance to change, growth, and development remain prevalent.
4. **Water Quality Concerns** – Wetlands and waterways, the natural drainage systems, have become more important.
5. **Personal and Family Health, Safety, and Well-being** - Such issues are of increasing concern.
6. **“Wellness” and Health Conscientious Activities** – These personal matters have increased in importance.
7. **Increased Inclusiveness** - Laws and public policies addressing accessibility of public facilities and services regardless of race, gender, and physical abilities are enforced.
8. **Leisure Services Provided by Multiple Partners and Providers** - Private and public partnerships are commonly used to address needs.
9. **Eco-Tourism and Eco-Travel** – These issues include natural resource based and manmade attractions. They are receiving growing interest in the Mid-west.
10. **The Economic Value of Parks and Open Spaces** – These values are being recognized with regard to community attractiveness to residents, tourists, businesses and industries.
11. **Aging of the Population** - By 2030, one-third of population will be senior citizens.
12. **Increased Sprawling Development** – Poorly controlled development is primarily following and congesting major transportation corridors.
13. **Historic Preservation** - Valuing heritage resources as historic treasures has become popular.
14. **Dumping Unprofitable Land** – Developers attempt to get the City to maintain undevelopable lands which are part of their development.

SETTING

Those features of Columbus's character that have some bearing on its parks, recreation and open space needs are considered in this section. These include its location relative to other communities which influence it or are effected by its actions. The potential for a tourism industry is a factor in this analysis. The physical and cultural features of Columbus are also considered. Of particular importance are the river, the creeks and the floodplains within the City. The heritage of historic architecture is also an attractive feature of Columbus. Land use patterns and the economy of the City also influence its recreational needs.

LOCATION

The City of Columbus is located on the southeastern edge of Columbia County. It is located within four miles of rapidly urbanizing Dane County and 25 miles from Madison to the southwest. The Milwaukee metropolitan area is located to the southeast with the City of Milwaukee about 50 miles away. The Fox Valley metropolitan area is located to the north with the City of Oshkosh about 60 miles north of Columbus. Map 1 shows the regional setting of the City of Columbus. The City is also readily accessible to the Chicago metropolitan area to the south through Interstate Highways. U. S. Highway 151 and State Highways 16, 60, 73 and 89 are the primary highway routes into and through the City. Interstate Highway 90 is about 22 miles west, and Interstate Highway 94 which is a major east-west transportation route is located about 16 miles south of the City. The City of Columbus's central location in a growing region and its proximity to other population centers may lead to a demand for recreation and park resources in excess of what the local population itself would demand.

PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES

Physical features play an important role in the planning, designing and developing of recreation and open space areas. Natural and cultural resources and climate of the area affect the type and amount of recreational and open space facilities that should be provided. Wetlands, surface waters, and unique natural resources in an area require more parks and open space areas to protect and preserve the resources. In turn, more fishing, boating, bird watching and nature enjoyment can be expected within these areas. Timing becomes critical in order to protect and preserve unique resources before they are lost, damaged, or destroyed by development. Certain outdoor recreation activities such as nature study are dependent upon these natural resource amenities. Others, such as picnicking and hiking rely on the natural resource amenities to the extent of enhancing and creating quality recreational experiences. Still other types of activities such as court or field games are more independent of the natural resource base and only require land suitable for development of the desired facilities. Lands with a mix of natural resource amenities and developable areas provide the greatest ability to accommodate the widest array of outdoor recreation facilities.

The climate of Columbus is moderate, with temperature ranges from minus 10 to as high as 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The annual average temperature is 45.8 degrees with an average of 16 in January and 72 in July. Annual average precipitation is 32 inches with an average of 1 inch in January and 4 inches in July. Columbus experiences four distinct seasons, which expands the recreational opportunities locally.

A prominent topographic feature of the City of Columbus is the glacial drumlin that extends from the northeast portion of the City to the southwest, a distance of about one and a half miles. From this drumlin the land slopes gently downward about 70 feet to relatively flat plains which encompass the greatest portion of the developed City. Much of the City is covered by poorly drained soils which are

MAP 1 – REGIONAL SETTING

shown on Map 2 – Physical Characteristics. These soils are difficult to develop because the high water levels create difficulty and extra cost for construction and building maintenance. They can also cause poor quality surfaces and periodic sponginess in active recreational areas.

The physical features within the City of Columbus that affect the planning and development of park and open space facilities and services include the Crawfish River which flows through the City's east and north sides. Its general direction in the City is north to south. It's an important natural resource which helps make Columbus an attractive place to live. The topography in the City and surrounding area is characterized by a series of drumlins, or long narrow hills, which lie in a northeast-southwest direction. The portion of the City nearest to the river is on a relatively flat river valley. The hills and river combine to give the community an attractive and interesting physical character.

Amtrak maintains a train station in Columbus, the nearest such station to Madison. The Columbus downtown area is on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. There are many historic homes outside the downtown area as well. Columbus is also a Wisconsin Main Street community. The Columbus Public Library and Christopher Columbus Museum are important cultural features of the City. Columbus's major tourist attractions include the Carriage Classic, the Antique Mall and shops, and the Independence Day parade and festival. The Columbus School District serves an area nearly 10 miles in diameter. The City Recreation Program extends into the rural area as well as the Fall River School District. The City's youth baseball/softball programs and youth soccer program have about 500 participants each summer.

LAND USE AND ECONOMY

Columbus has been a support community for the surrounding agricultural community since it was first settled in 1839. Agriculture in the immediate vicinity remains a dominant economic activity although it supports far fewer people than it once did.

Most residential development in the City has occurred on the west side of the Crawfish River and only limited residential development has taken place on the City's east side. However, the east side's natural neighborhood boundaries and open space amenities give it potential for future residential growth. Other areas in the City are experiencing or are planned for future residential development. These areas include: the northwest side of the City and the southwestern portion of the City west of the river.

Industrial and commercial development in Columbus is extensive. Fabricated metal products dominate Columbus's manufacturing industry. The City is one of the largest manufacturing employment centers in the County. Columbus also has a significant number and variety of retail establishments. Industrial development has for the most part occurred along the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The railroad lies in a north-south direction bisecting the community. Most of the City's industries are located along the rail line with the largest plants at the northwestern side of the City. The City's industrial park is also located on the northwest side of the City. Commercial development has occurred primarily in two areas, both along major highways. The largest commercial area is the central business district which is just west of the river and approximately in the center of the incorporated area. State Highways 16, 60, 73 and 89 follow the same routes through the middle of the central business district. A second commercial area is along State Highways 16-60 at U.S. Highway 151 on the northwest side of the City. Only a few commercial establishments are outside these two areas.

MAP 2 – PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

POPULATION

Population trends, projections, distributions, age compositions and other population characteristics are important elements in effective park and open space planning. National standards for park and open space developments are based upon population trends and projections. Population distributions helps determine where facilities should be located; and age compositions help determine the types of facilities to be developed.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

The City of Columbus population increased by 690 people (18.2%) between the 1970 and 2000 Census of Population at an average five year growth rate of about 2.9%. The Wisconsin Department of Administration provides official population projections for municipalities within the State. However, these projections may underestimate Columbus's actual future population growth when recent and expected development trends are taken into account. For the purposes of this plan, the population projections have been modified to better reflect the expected population. These modified projections as well as the Department of Administration's projections and past trends are identified in Table 1.

TABLE 1
City of Columbus Population Trends and Projections, 1970 - 2025

Year	U.S. Census & Dept. of Administration Projections	U.S. Census and Dodge County Planning and Development Projections
1970	3,789	3,789
1980	4,049	4,049
1990	4,093	4,093
2000	4,479	4,479
2004	4,704	4,704
2005	4,594	4,610
2010	4,743	4,760
2015	4,879	4,920
2020	5,003	5,100
2025	5,151	5,290

Source: US Census of Population, the Department of Administration and Dodge County Planning and Development

AGE COMPOSITION

A review and analysis of the age compositions for the City is helpful in understanding who lives in the City and, thus what types of recreational facilities will be most in demand. Generally, older populations require more passive facilities such as picnic areas, trails, and natural areas. A greater emphasis is needed on active recreation facilities such as ball fields and playgrounds for younger populations. Table 2 identifies age trends from 1990 to 2000.

TABLE 2
Age Composition Trends: City of Columbus 1990-2000

	Age 0-4	Age 5-20	Age 21-64	Age 65+
1990 Census	313	880	2,119	771
2000 Census	281	979	2,446	773

Source: US Census of Population

Similar to the nationwide trend, the City of Columbus's population is aging. The population of Columbus is divided between a group of retired, fixed income elderly, and young, growing families. Although the number of residents under 20 years of age has grown moderately, the number of additional youths in the City has been felt by the School District and the City sponsored recreation programs. Table 3 shows the median age of the City of Columbus and Columbia County. On average, the population of the City is slightly younger than the population of the County as a whole.

TABLE 3
Median Age for City of Columbus and Columbia County: - 2000

	City of Columbus Median Age	Columbia County Median Age
2000	37.5 years	38.0 years

Source: US Census of Population

The age characteristics indicate a need for a good mixture of active and passive recreation facilities to accommodate all age groups. There should be increasing emphasis on passive recreation and facilities geared more to younger adults.

OTHER POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The median family income in the City of Columbus was \$42,667 in 2000, compared with \$45,064 for Columbia County as a whole. Columbus residents still will have discretionary income for leisure activities and can be expected to demand more recreational opportunities.

The majority of Columbus residents are of German ancestry. Persons of Norwegian, English and Irish heritage are also prevalent in the population.

About 15.6% of the adult population in Columbus has some type of mobility limitation. This reinforces the need to design and develop handicapped accessible facilities.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Definitions used in this plan are modifications of definitions used by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). They are used to classify the existing recreation system and to guide plans for its future. They begin with the most intensely developed and used, and proceed to the least developed. Community and neighborhood facilities are normally provided by municipalities. Larger recreation areas are normally provided by larger units of government or private developers.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The community park is intended to serve the passive recreational needs of a number of neighborhoods or a medium sized municipality. It may include wooded areas, varied topography and water features, undisturbed natural areas, scenic lookouts, picnic areas, hiking or riding trails, boating and swimming areas, and some area for active recreation on a less formal scale than the community playfield. The park may also be utilized for winter activities. It should include sanitary facilities and use landscaping to define views and activity areas. The area served by a community park should have a radius of one to two miles. Community parks also serve as neighborhood parks for the surrounding neighborhood. Community park size should be determined by the size and density of population, but should be at least 15 acres.

COMMUNITY PLAYFIELDS

The community playfield provides for the active recreational needs of several neighborhoods. It provides more facilities than a neighborhood playground. Such facilities may include: a tennis complex, swimming pool, multi-purpose courts, community center, fields for sporting competition, ice-skating area, sanitary facilities, a playground and landscaping to buffer the playfields from surrounding properties. A community playfield might adjoin a public middle schools or senior high schools. Population size and density are important for determining the space needs of a community playfield. It should serve an area with a radius of one to two miles. Neighborhood parks or playfields or a community park might be included with a community playfield. The minimum size for a community playfield should be 15 acres.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

A neighborhood park provides open space for the passive recreation of all age groups in a neighborhood and enhances the overall neighborhood environment. An attractive natural setting such as a lake, stream, hilltop or woods is a desirable location for a neighborhood park. Facilities may include trees, lawn, benches and tables, open areas for sitting and sunning, walks, paths, shelters, drinking fountains, lighting and sanitary facilities. Population density is important in determining the space needs and service area of a neighborhood park. It should be within easy walking distance of intended users from one-quarter to one-half mile. Neighborhood playgrounds may be included within neighborhood parks. The minimum size for a neighborhood park should be 10 acres.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUNDS

A neighborhood playground mainly serves the active recreational needs of children from 5 to 15 years of age, and it may offer passive recreation opportunities to adults. Neighborhood Playgrounds are typically developed for intensive recreational activities and usually offer play apparatus; open areas for games; fields for baseball or football, courts for basketball or volleyball; and sanitary and shelter facilities. Buffered play areas are desirable. If size permits, an area for more constrained activities, such as quiet games or handicrafts, is advisable. Neighborhood Playgrounds may be associated with, or located in close proximity to elementary and middle school sites. Population density is important for determining the space needs and service area of a

neighborhood playground. Walking distance of one-quarter to one-half mile should be the maximum service radius to accommodate younger children and the elderly with mobility limitations. Neighborhood parks may be included with neighborhood playgrounds. The minimum size for a neighborhood playground should be 10 acres.

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS

Special purpose parks may be created by a municipality or by a larger unit of government. These areas are located to take advantage of natural or unusual features of the landscape or to preserve areas of historic value and provide a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Special purpose parks might be created to provide access to lakes and rivers or to protect ledges and areas with steep slopes. Sites of cultural, archaeological or historical importance and certain recreation facilities such as golf courses, boat launching ramps and marinas might be considered special purpose parks. Waysides and historical markers are special purpose parks designed to serve motorists. They are important to a tourist industry as a means of providing rest and information. They may include restrooms, picnic areas, shelters and other facilities needed by motorists. The size and location of special purpose parks depends upon natural features and the functions they are intended to serve. If oriented to motorists, traffic volumes must be considered. Size requirements, specific functions and service radius are difficult to assign to special purpose parks because of their variety and uniqueness.

MINI-PARKS

Mini-parks are a type of special purpose park that serve a specific concentrated or limited population such as tots or senior citizens, or feature something of historical or cultural significance. They should not be substituted for a neighborhood park or playfield, but might be contained within one. Mini-parks should be located within neighborhoods and possibly in close proximity to apartment complexes, condominium developments or housing for the elderly. The desirable service radius for a mini-park is less than a quarter mile. The minimum size for a mini-park is about a quarter acre, but not over an acre unless special conditions exist.

LINEAR PARKS

Linear parks are areas developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. Typically linear parks are built on or follow existing natural or man-made corridors. Examples of these include, railroad or utility right-of-ways, bluff lines, rivers and streams, roads and other systems that link facilities or components of a recreational system. Linear parks can be located within communities to link schools, parks, downtown areas, and other community facilities or they can be located within rural areas to link other communities, park systems or significant facilities or sites. There are no particular size standards for linear parks, but they do need to have sufficient width to protect the resource or provide a buffer between adjacent uses. Additionally, the types of uses allowed, the expected amount of use and future use potential all should help determine the desired width. Linear park development has been the most significant growth sector in recreation facilities over the past 10 to 20 years and indications are that this will continue. Rail-Trails (trails built on abandoned railroad beds) and even Rails-With-Trails (trails built along side active railroad beds) are increasing in popularity and quantity. Linear parks can also serve as important transportation links for alternative modes of transportation. Pedestrian and biking paths and trails should be 8 to 10 feet wide in a right-of-way of at least 20 feet. They should be paved.

RESERVATIONS, PRESERVES, AND GREENBELTS

Reservations and preserves are usually located outside urban concentrations and include large tracts of land which are undeveloped or have limited development potential. Such areas have the primary function of resource protection. Reservations and preserves may be established to conserve forest lands, marshlands, floodplains, wildlife habitats and other areas having cultural, scenic or natural values. Reservations and preserves may include several hundred acres of undeveloped land, although some improvements may be provided which are incidental to the enjoyment of the natural scenery. Improvements are usually located in one section on the reservation or preserve so that the area remains largely undeveloped. Improvements may include parking areas, interpretive centers and scenic waysides. Hunting may be a primary recreational activity in such areas when they are located away from urban populations. Other recreational uses might include backpacking, camping, trail use, picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, and water sports.

The greenbelt has basically the same characteristics and function as the reservation or preserve. However, a greenbelt may be used to shape urban development. It may be a buffer between an urban area and surrounding rural areas and may connect parks within an urban area.

COUNTY & REGIONAL PARKS

County or regional parks might fill the gap between intensively developed urban facilities and resource protection-oriented state parks and resource areas. County parks should offer a variety of active and passive recreational experiences and be designed for day-long or overnight use by the entire family. Proximity to significant population centers and scenic areas, accessibility from highways, location in relation to existing recreation areas and a maximum travel time of one-half hour must be weighed when considering locations for county parks. In general, a location for a county park should emphasize interesting topography and be characterized by scenic views, wooded areas, lakes, or rivers. Generally 100 - 200 acres is a desirable size range.

RECREATION AND RESOURCE INVENTORY SUMMARY

The City of Columbus has an extensive system of parks and playgrounds comprised of city-owned, school-owned and privately-owned properties. The park system provides opportunities for citizens to enjoy a wide variety of passive and active recreational opportunities. In addition to the recreational facilities within the City, Rotary Park is located on the east City limits, and Astico County Park is about four miles east of the City. These parks provide the residents of Columbus with additional recreational opportunities. However, since Astico Park is located well outside of the City limits and is owned by Dodge County, this park is not included in the inventory. The following are brief descriptions of each of Columbus's recreation sites. A detailed inventory of existing recreation facilities available in the City of Columbus is shown below and in Tables 4 and 5.

FIREMAN'S PARK

LOCATION – south of Park Avenue between Farnham and Ingalsbe Streets

CLASSIFICATION – community park

ACREAGE – 32 acres

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

1 football field (lighted)	1 baseball field (lighted)
1 open playfield (carnival area)	4 tennis courts (lighted)

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

3 shelters	72 picnic tables
1 round, stone speaker's platform	18 benches
5 cooking grills	1 deer pen
1 8/6 foot paved walking path, 0.61miles (3,221 linear feet).	
2 foot bridges	

PLAYGROUNDS – 2, with pea gravel bases

4 swinging horses (1)	1 swinging rings (1)
3 toddler swings (1)	2 adult swings (1)
1 merry-go-round (1)	1 chinning bar (1)
1 jungle gym (1)	2 rocking horses (1)
1 slide (2)	1 barrel roll (2)
1 toddler swing (2)	4 adult swings (2)
3 swinging horses (2)	1 sand box (2)

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

1 pavilion (1916)	1 Boy Scout cabin (1930)
1 fenced concession stand with restrooms (1964)	
1 concession/meeting building with restrooms (1928)	
1 rest haven with restrooms (1981)	1 stone water fountain
1 garage with storage	1 pay telephone
2 dugouts	1 coaches' box
1 press box	9 bleachers
2 electric scoreboards	8 overhead lights
39 waste containers	3 soft drink machines

PARKING - no defined parking spaces or handicapped spaces

COLUMBUS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

LOCATION – south side of City, west of Farnham Street

CLASSIFICATION – community playfield

ACREAGE – 2 acres

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

1 eight lane, rubberized running track	
4 basketball hoops	1 open playfield with paved jumping track
1 football field	1 soccer field

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

6 picnic tables	4 benches
SUPPORT FACILITIES:	
6 track bleachers	4 soccer bleachers
1 track storage building	1 soccer storage building
1 portable toilet	1 scoreboard
PARKING –226 regular spaces and 5 handicapped spaces.	

KIWANIS PARK

LOCATION – on the Creek south of Park Avenue between Farnham and East School Streets

CLASSIFICATION – neighborhood park

ACREAGE – 13.4 acres

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

6 baseball fields	1 net enclosed batting cage
-------------------	-----------------------------

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

Walking path, 6 feet wide, 0,20 miles, (1,056 linear feet).

1 foot bridge over Creek

1 shelter

8 picnic tables

1 cooking grill

PLAYGROUNDS – 2 with pea gravel base

2 slides(1)

1 monkey bars(1)

2 raised platforms(1)

1 slide(2)

1 raised platform(2)

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

6 waste barrels

1 water fountain

12 bleachers

4 dugouts

1 concession stand with bathrooms

1 storage shed

6 scoreboards

no lighting

PARKING – undesignated graveled area with no designated handicapped access

MEISTER PARK

LOCATION – on the north side of Ludington Street between the Crawfish River and Middleton Street.

CLASSIFICATION – neighborhood park

ACREAGE – 7.0 acres

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

2 soccer fields

2 softball fields

4 soccer practice nets

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

1 picnic table

2 benches

PLAYGROUNDS – 2, one with pea gravel and the other with a sand base

1 play system (1)

2 adult swings (1)

1 swinging rings (1)

1 swinging bar (1)

1 slide (1)

1 monkey bars (1)

1 play system (2)

1 slide (2)

1 raised platform (2)

2 climbing bars (2)

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

1 concession building with restrooms

1 water fountain

4 bleachers

fences and backstops

2 scoreboards

1 identification sign

PARKING – undefined gravel with no designated handicapped spaces

ROTARY PARK

LOCATION – on the eastern edge of the City in the Town of Elba. On the south side of

Ludington Avenue on the Crawfish River

CLASSIFICATION – neighborhood park

ACREAGE – 1.4 acres

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

1 open playfield

1 ice skating (hockey) rink

1 boat launch

shore fishing

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

1 picnic area

4 benches

12 picnic tables

2 cooking grills

1 shelter building

4 single table shelters

PLAYGROUNDS – 1 with pea gravel base

1 play system

1 slide

2 adult swings

1 tot swing

1 monkey bars

1 sliding pole

1 bench swing

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

1 portable toilet

1 identification sign

1 warming hut

2 trash barrels

PARKING – 30 undefined spaces, no handicapped accessible

MEADOW LANE PARK

LOCATION – at the eastern end of Meadow Lane on the south side, on the Creek

CLASSIFICATION – neighborhood park

ACREAGE –

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

1 picnic table

2 benches

1 access bridge over Creek

PARKING – none

COLUMBUS MIDDLE SCHOOL

LOCATION – corner of School, Dickason and Richmond Streets

CLASSIFICATION – neighborhood playground

ACREAGE – 1.5 acres

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

1 paved play area

4 wiffle ball poles

1 softball field

1 funnel ball pole

2 basketball courts

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

3 picnic tables

PLAYGROUNDS – 1

6 adult swings

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

6 bike racks

PARKING – none on site

COLUMBUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LOCATION – corner of Fuller, Seldon, Dickason and Richmond

CLASSIFICATION – neighborhood playground

ACREAGE – 2 acres

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

1 paved play area

1 baseball field

1 softball field

2 funnel ball poles

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

2 picnic tables

PLAYGROUNDS - 1 with pea gravel base
 2 merry-go-rounds 1 climbing bars
 1 play system 4 slides
 1 hanging bridge 1 tic-tac-toe
 1 tunnel 4 raised platforms
 12 adult swings
 PARKING – none on site

KESTREL RIDGE PARK

LOCATION – north side of Avalon Road at Ridgeview Lane and the Golf Course.
 CLASSIFICATION – neighborhood playground.
 ACREAGE –
 FACILITIES – none
 PARKING - none

SAINT JEROME’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

LOCATION – 1550 Farnham Street south of the Senior High School
 CLASSIFICATION – neighborhood playground
 ACREAGE –

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

9 basketball hoops	1 grass volleyball court
1 paved play area	1 open playfield
1 funnel ball pole	1 wiffle ball pole

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

2 picnic tables

PLAYGROUNDS – 1 with ground rubber base.

1 large play system	3 slides
4 raised platforms	2 climbing structures
1 suspended bridge	1 tic-tac-toe
5 standing swings	3 ladders
15 adult swings	1 rings swing
1 swing bar	1 chinning bar
1 teeter totter	1 tire tunnel

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

2 bike racks

PARKING – 40 regular spaces and 4 handicapped spaces.

ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

LOCATION – on the western side of the City, south of Fuller Street, west of Warner Street and north of Western Avenue.

CLASSIFICATION – neighborhood playground.

ACREAGE –

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

1 soccer field	1 basketball court
3 basketball hoops	1 softball diamond
2 paved play areas	1 wiffle ball pole

PLAYGROUNDS – 1 with pea gravel base.

5 adult swings	1 slide
1 large play system	3 raised platforms
6 climbing structures	1 chain-tire bridge
3 pole slides	5 teeter totters
4 chinning bars	2 jungle gyms
1 monkey bars	4 climbing tires
1 parallel bars	

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

1 softball backstop
2 bike racks

2 soccer goals
partial sidewalk access

PARKING – 42 regular spaces, 2 handicapped spaces.

COLUMBUS GOLF COURSE

LOCATION – south of Park Avenue between Farnham Street, Avalon Road and Fairway Drive

CLASSIFICATION – special purpose park

ACREAGE – 89.5 acres

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

1 nine hole golf course

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

1 clubhouse

3 storage buildings

PARKING – 95 regular spaces, 2 handicapped spaces

KESTREL RIDGE GOLF CLUB

LOCATION – primarily east of State Highway 89 and west of River Road on the south edge Of the City

CLASSIFICATION – special purpose park

ACREAGE –

ACTIVE FACILITIES: 1 eighteen hole golf course

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

1 clubhouse

PARKING – 93 regular spaces and 2 handicapped spaces.

COLUMBUS AREA AQUATIC CENTER

LOCATION – west of Farnham Street between Poet and Folsom Streets

CLASSIFICATION – special purpose park

ACREAGE –

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

1 zero depth entry swimming and diving pool

1 large water slide

1 youth slide

1 spring board

2 spray arches

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

6 umbrellas

lounge chairs

straight backed chairs

9 memorial benches

SUPPORT FACILITIES:

Bathhouse with rest rooms and a concession stand

2 bike racks

overhead lighting

PARKING – 57 regular spaces and 4 handicapped accessible

WASHINGTON PARK

LOCATION – corner of Park Avenue and Fuller Street

CLASSIFICATION – mini-park

ACREAGE – 0.7 acres

ACTIVE FACILITIES:

open play field

PASSIVE FACILITIES:

4 benches

1 stone circle platform

PLAYGROUNDS – 1 with pea gravel base

2 adult swings

1 toddler swing

1 slide

1 teeter totter

1 swing bar

1 merry-go-round

SUPPORT FACILITIES:
1 waste container
PARKING - none

DAVIS PARK

LOCATION - north of Ludington Street next to the railroad station
CLASSIFICATION – mini-park
ACREAGE – 0.2 acres (60 x150 feet)
PASSIVE FACILITIES:
1 shelter 2 picnic tables
1 historic marker
SUPPORT FACILITIES:
1 waste container
PARKING – none

TOWER DRIVE WALKING PATH

LOCATION –
CLASSIFICATION – Linear Park.
PASSIVE FACILITIES – eight foot wide, paved walking path, 0.46 miles (2,429 feet).

OPEN SPACE 1

LOCATION – City owned parking lot on Water Street near James Street
CLASSIFICATION – open space
ACREAGE –
PARKING – 44 regular spaces and 2 handicapped spaces.

OPEN SPACE 2

LOCATION – south James Street at the Creek
CLASSIFICATION – open space
ACREAGE –

OPEN SPACE 3

LOCATION – Udey Dam
CLASSIFICATION – open space
ACREAGE –
ACTIVE FACILITIES – shore fishing
FACILITIES – dam on the Crawfish River.
PARKING – Small undefined area.

OPEN SPACE 4

LOCATION – north side of the Creek at the Public Works Dept. building
CLASSIFICATION – open space
ACREAGE –

OPEN SPACE 5

LOCATION – north side of Maple Avenue between Lyco and Water and Light properties.
CLASSIFICATION – open space.
ACREAGE –

OPEN SPACE 6

LOCATION – east side of River Road and west bank of the River at Lowell Road.
CLASSIFICATION – open space.
ACREAGE –
ACTIVE FACILITIES – shore fishing.

OPEN SPACE 7

LOCATION – Recycling Center property along the west side of the River.

CLASSIFICATION – open space

ACREAGE –

ACTIVE FACILITIES – shore fishing.

FACILITIES – restroom available when the building is open.

PARKING – Small, undefined area.

PROPERTIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE PARK SYSTEM

CITY HALL

SUGGESTION – This is part of the municipal complex and has no recreational amenities.

161 N. DICKASON BOULIVARD

SUGGESTION – This is part of the municipal complex and has no recreational amenities.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

SUGGESTION – There is no outdoor recreation component of the building.

HOSPITAL HILL

SUGGESTION – This is the lawn of a multi-family residential building. It has no recreational amenities.

MAYSTEEL HILL

SUGGESTION – This is not a buildable lot, nor does it have recreational amenities.

LIBRARY

SUGGESTION – Any extra space should be used for off-street parking.

FIRE STATION

SUGGESTION – There is no extra space for recreation and the uses would conflict.

WELCOME SIGN ON WEST JAMES STREET

SUGGESTION – Too near a busy street for safe inclusion in the park system.

WESTSIDE LIFT STATION

SUGGESTION – Too small and isolated, but could be included in a larger park if one is developed on adjacent land.

LIFT STATION AT HWY 89 AND WATERLOO STREETS

SUGGESTION – Too small and isolated.

HIBBARD STREET EXTENDED BETWEEN DIX AND WARNER STREETS

SUGGESTION – This lot should be retained to extend Hibbard Street.

FARNHAM STREET EXTENDED NORTH OF PARK AVENUE

SUGGESTION – This lot should be retained to extend Farnham Street.

VACANT LOT ON THE WEST SIDE OF RIVER ROAD

SUGGESTION – Too small and isolated for a park. Sell it for development and place the money in the non-lapsing park system development fund.

DICKASON BOULIVARD MEDEAN STRIPS

SUGGESTION – Retain as part of the street for esthetics and snow removal.

HIGHWAY 89 AT AVALON ROAD

SUGGESTION – Too small and isolated for a park. Sell it for development and place the money in the non-lapsing park system development fund.

CHAPEL STREET WATER TOWER

SUGGESTION – The property is too small to provide recreational amenities, but could be incorporated in a larger park if one is developed on adjacent land.

MAP 3 – EXISTING RECREATION AREAS AND OPEN SPACE

TABLE 4

Inventory of Active and Passive Recreational Facilities, City of Columbus – 2005

		PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS											
		Fireman's Park	Kiwanis Park	Meister Park	Rotary Park	Meadow Lane Park	Kestrel Ridge Park	Columbus Golf Course	Kestrel Ridge Golf Club	Columbus Area Aquatic Center	Washington Park	Davis Park	Tower Drive Walking Path
CLASSIFICATION		Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Playground	Special Purpose Park	Special Purpose Park	Special Purpose Park	Mini-Park	Mini-Park	Linear Park
ACREAGE		32.0	13.4	7.0	1.4			89.5			0.7	0.2	0.6
ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES	Soccer Field			2									
	Softball Field			2									
	Baseball Field	1	6										
	Football Field	1											
	Tennis Court	4											
	Basketball Court												
	Basketball Goal												
	Shuffleboard Court												
	Horseshoe Pit												
	Running Track												
	Volleyball Court												
	Paved Play Area												
	Open Playfield	1			1						1		
	Wiffle Ball Pole												
	Funnel Ball Pole												
	Golf Course							9 holes	18 hole				
	Cross Country Skiing												
	Sledding												
	Ice Skating Area				1								
	Swimming Pool									1			
	Boat Launch				1								
	Shore Fishing			yes	yes								
	Miscellaneous		Batting cage	4 soccer nets									
PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES	Picnic Acres				1.0								
	Picnic Tables	72	8	1	12	1						2	
	Cooking Grills	5	1		2								
	Shelter Building	3	1		1							1	
	Benches	18		2	4	2				9	4		
	Walking Path	1	1										1
	Foot Bridge	2	1			1							
	Stone Platform	1									1		
	Historical Marker											1	
	Miscellaneous	Deer pen			4 single shelters								

Continued

TABLE 4 (Continued)

		PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS							PUBLIC SCHOOLS			PRIVATE SCHOOLS	
		Water St. Parking Lot	James St. at the Creek	Udey Dam	Public Works Department	Maple Ave. at Water & Light	River Road at Lowell Road	Recycling Center	Columbus Senior High School	Columbus Middle School	Columbus Elementary School	St. Jerome's Catholic School	Zion Lutheran School
CLASSIFICATION		Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Community Playfield	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground
ACREAGE									2.0	1.5	2.0		
ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES	Soccer Field								1				1
	Softball Field									1	1		1
	Baseball Field										1		
	Football Field								1				
	Tennis Court												
	Basketball Court									2			1
	Basketball Goal								4			9	3
	Shuffleboard Court												
	Horseshoe Pits												
	Running Track								1				
	Volleyball Court											1	
	Paved Play Area									1	1	1	2
	Open Playfield								1			1	
	Wiffle Ball Pole									4		1	1
	Funnel Ball Pole									1	2	1	
	Golf Course												
	Cross Country Skiing												
	Sledding												
	Ice Skating Rink												
	Swimming Pool												
	Boat Launch												
	Shore Fishing			yes			yes	yes					
	Miscellaneous												
PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES	Picnic Acres												
	Picnic Tables								6	3	2	2	
	Cooking Grills												
	Shelter Building												
	Benches								4				
	Walking Path												
	Foot Bridge												
	Stone Platform												
	Historical Marker												
	Miscellaneous												

Source: Dodge County Planning and Development Department.

TABLE 5
Inventory of Playgrounds and Recreational Support Facilities, City of Columbus – 2005

		PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS											
		Fireman's Park	Kiwanis Park	Meister Park	Rotary Park	Meadow Lane Park	Kestrel Ridge Park	Columbus Golf Course	Kestrel Ridge Golf Club	Columbus Area Aquatic Center	Washington Park	Davis Park	Tower Drive Walking Path
CLASSIFICATION		Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Playground	Special Purpose Park	Special Purpose Park	Special Purpose Park	Mini-Park	Mini-Park	Linear Park
PLAYGROUND FACILITIES	Play System			2	1								
	Elevated Platforms		3	1									
	Adult Swings	6		2	2						2		
	Tot Swings	4			1						1		
	Swinging Bar			1							1		
	Other Swings	8		1	1								
	Teeter Totter										1		
	Slide	1	3	2	1						1		
	Sliding Pole				1								
	Sandbox	1											
	Jungle Gym	1											
	Monkey Bars		1	1	1								
	Other Climbing Struc.	1		2									
	Merry-Go-Round	1									1		
	Spring Rider	2											
	Misc. Equipment	barrel											
RECREATION SUPPORT FACILITIES	Regular Parking Sp.							95	93	57			
	Handicap. Parking							2	2	4			
	Undefined Parking		1	1	1								
	Restrooms	3	1	1						1			
	Portable Toilet				1								
	Pavilion	1											
	Cabin	1											
	Clubhouse							1	1				
	Bathhouse									1			
	Warming Shelter				1								
	Concession Building	2	1	1						1			
	Dugouts	2	4										
	Coach's Box	1											
	Press Box	1											
	Drinking Fountain	1	1	1									
	Overhead Lighting	yes								yes			
	Backstop			2									
	Fencing	2		2									
	Bleachers	9	12	4									
	Scoreboard	2	6	2									
	Identification Sign		1	1	1								
	Storage Building	1	1					3					
	Bike Racks									2			
	Soft Drink Machine	3											
	Pay Telephone	1											
	Waste Containers	39	6		2						1	1	
	Misc.												

Continued

TABLE 5 (CONTINUED)

		PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS							PUBLIC SCHOOLS			PRIVATE SCHOOLS	
		Water St. Parking Lot	James St. at the Creek	Udey Dam	Public Works Department	Maple Ave. at Water & Light	River Road at Lowell Road	Recycling Center	Columbus Senior High School	Columbus Middle School	Columbus Elementary School	St. Jerome's Catholic School	Zion Lutheran School
CLASSIFICATION		Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Community Playfield	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground
PLAYGROUND FACILITIES	Play System										1	1	1
	Elevated Platforms										4	4	3
	Adult Swings									6	12	15	5
	Tot Swings												
	Swinging Bar											1	
	Other Swings											6	
	Teeter Totter											1	5
	Slide										4	3	1
	Sliding Pole												3
	Sandbox												
	Jungle Gym												2
	Monkey Bars												1
	Other Climbing Struc.										1	5	15
	Merry-go-Round										2	1	
	Hanging Bridge										1	1	1
	Spring Rider												
	Misc. Equipment										Tic-tac-t tunnel	Tic-tac-t tunnel	
RECREATION SUPPORT FACILITIES	Regular Parking Sp.	44							226			40	42
	Handicap Parking Sp.	2							5			4	2
	Undefined Parking			1				1					
	Restrooms							1					
	Portable Toilet								1				
	Pavilion												
	Cabin												
	Clubhouse												
	Bathhouse												
	Warming Shelter												
	Concession Stand												
	Dugouts												
	Coach's Box												
	Press Box												
	Drinking Fountain												
	Overhead Lights												
	Backstop												
	Fencing												
	Bleachers								10				
	Scoreboard								1				
	Identification Sign												
	Storage Building								2				
	Bike Racks									6		2	2
	Soft Drink Machine												
	Pay Telephone												
	Waste Container												
	Miscellaneous			dam									

Source : Dodge County Planning and Development Department

ANALYSIS OF NEEDS AND DEMANDS

STANDARDS

Basic minimum standards to help communities assess their local recreational system have been established by the National Recreation and Park Association and are generally accepted across Wisconsin and the nation. These standards, primarily based upon a community's population, offer guidelines for the minimum size and number of recreation areas and facilities that would be necessary to provide an adequate level of recreational opportunity for the people of a community. They also establish desirable service areas for recreational sites and recognize barriers to access for the young and infirm. Park standards offer guidance and provide a scale against which the outdoor recreation system can be measured and future directions for park system development set. Many communities strive to exceed recommended standards. The standards will suggest goals toward which Columbus can aspire.

SPACE STANDARDS AND NEEDS

Space standards are the most commonly used measure of a recreation system's adequacy. Recreational space needs are expressed as a ratio of land acreage per 1,000 population. Based on a compilation of standards taken from recommendations from the National Recreation and Park Association a "core" system of park and recreational land should be based on about 12.5 acres per 1,000 population. The "core" system covers active and passive activities for all ages and would typically be found in community and neighborhood park facilities. A well rounded recreation system goes beyond the "core" system and includes special purpose parks, linear parks, and reservations and preserves.

An analysis of existing recreational areas is provided to determine if the recreational needs of the residents are being met. This analysis includes an evaluation of the space devoted to recreational use, the existing recreational facilities, and the service areas. The 2005 estimated population of 4,610 will be used in determining current recreational needs. The projected population of 5,290 for the year 2025 will be used in determining future recreational needs. Table 6 shows the amount of land devoted to community and neighborhood recreation facilities on City owned property and evaluates whether or not the current and future population of Columbus can be adequately served.

TABLE 6
Park Space Needs: City of Columbus 2005 - 2025

<u>Type of Park</u>	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Minimum Required</u>		<u>Surplus or Deficiency</u>		
	<u>Acreage</u>		<u>2005</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2025</u>	
Neighborhood:							
Playgrounds	5.0 acres	2.5/1000 People	11.5 acres	13.2 acres	(6.5 acres)	(8.2 acres)	
Parks	21.8 acres	2.0/1000 People	9.3 acres	10.6 acres	12.5 acres	11.2 acres	
Subtotal:	26.8 acres	4.5/1000 People	20.8 acres	23.8 acres	6.0 acres	3.0 acres	
Community:							
Playfield	2.0 acres	3.0/1000 People	13.9 acres	15.9 acres	(11.9 acres)	(13.9 acres)	
Parks	32.0 acres	5.0/1000 People	23.1 acres	26.5 acres	8.9 acres	5.5 acres	
Subtotal:	34.0 acres	8.0/1000 People	37.0 acres	42.4 acres	(3.0 acres)	(8.4 acres)	
Totals:	60.8 acres	12.5/1000 People	57.8 acres	66.2 acres	3.0 acres	(5.4 acres)	

Source: Dodge County Planning and Development Department, based on National Recreation and Park Association standards and current and projected populations.

Based on the standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association and current population figures, an overall minimum of 57.8 acres and 66.2 acres are recommended for the years 2005 and 2025, respectively. Columbus provides 60.8 acres of neighborhood and community park facilities at present, which is enough to meet the minimum recommended parkland standard for 2005. However, if no additional land is added to the park system by the year 2025, the system will fall 5.4 acres short of the recommended minimum acreage.

Table 6 suggests that deficiencies occur in neighborhood playgrounds and community playfields. These supposed shortages are misleading. There are playgrounds in several of the neighborhood and community parks which might otherwise be classified as neighborhood playgrounds. There are also extensive playfields in Kiwanis and Meister Parks which fulfill the needs for community playfields.

FACILITY STANDARDS AND NEEDS

Standards for recreational facilities are also expressed as a ratio of facilities to population. They estimate the number of people necessary to justify developing one facility. Too few facilities per recommended population standard could result in facility overcrowding. Facility analysis is necessary in addition to space analysis since an adequate number and range of facilities are needed to meet most recreational needs. Some facilities should be present in order to satisfy the demand for them regardless of the size of the community. Such facilities as baseball and softball diamonds, basketball courts, tennis courts, picnic areas, and picnic tables are primary facilities because of the general popularity of the activities associated with them.

Table 7 lists some of the more popular recreational facilities and those that might be considered for City owned facilities in Columbus and evaluates whether or not the population can be adequately served by these facilities. This analysis is based on the 2005 estimated population and the 2025 projected population in relation to the standards for amount of facilities.

TABLE 7
Facility Needs: City of Columbus 2005 - 2025

Facility	# of Existing	Minimum Ratio To Population	Minimum Recommended		Above/Below (-) Minimum	
			2005	2025	2005	2025
Picnic Tables	109	1/100	47	53	62	56
Picnic Acres	6.0 acres	1/500	9.3 acres	10.6 acres	(3.3 acres)	(4.6 acres)
Shelter Buildings	6	1/1000	5	6	1	0
Playgrounds	11	1/1000	5	6	6	5
Shore Fishing Sites	2	1/1000	5	6	(3)	(4)
Fishing Piers	0	1/1000	5	6	(5)	(6)
Boat Launches	1	1/1000	5	6	(4)	(5)
Basketball Goals	8	1/2000	3	3	5	5
Basketball Courts	2	1/2,000	3	3	(1)	(1)
Tennis Courts	4	1/2000	3	3	1	1
Volleyball Courts	1	1/2,000	3	3	(2)	(2)
Soccer Fields	3	1/2,000	3	3	0	0
Softball Fields	4	1/2,000	3	3	1	1
Shuffleboard Courts	0	1/2,500	2	3	(2)	(3)
Horseshoe Pits	0	1/2,500	2	3	(2)	(3)
Football Field	2	1/4000	2	2	0	0
Baseball Fields	8	1/5,000	1	2	7	6
Running Track	1	1/5,000	1	2	0	(1)
Badminton Courts	0	1/5,000	1	2	(1)	(2)
Sledding Hills	0	1/5,000	1	2	(1)	(2)
Ice Skating (Hockey) Rink	1	1/5,000	1	2	0	(1)
Trails: Multi-use (miles)	1.27 miles	1/5000	1 mile	1 mile	0.27 miles	0.27 miles
Golf Course	2	1/10,000	0	1	2	1
Swimming Pool	1	1/10,000	0	1	1	0

Source: Dodge County Planning and Development Department, based on National Recreation and Park Association, Department of Natural Resources and others.

The table indicates that most facilities meet or exceed the minimum standards for the population. In fact, the City of Columbus has several facilities such as a swimming pool and two golf courses that are generally associated with larger populations. Table 7 shows some deficiencies in picnic areas, shore fishing sites, fishing piers, boat or canoe launching sites, basketball courts, volleyball courts, Shuffleboard Courts, Horseshoe Pits, Badminton Courts, and sledding hills. These deficiencies can be corrected as future development occurs, except that Columbus is limited in it's ability to offer a suitable sledding hill. Sledding can be accommodated at Astico County Park about four miles east of Columbus. In addition, Columbus may have lost it's only ice skating pond when the dam gave way in 2004. Unless the dam is being rebuilt, a new skating rink will be needed as soon as possible.

PLAYGROUND STANDARDS AND NEEDS

As a result of inventorying playgrounds throughout the area, average standards of playground equipment to population levels for ages 0 - 15 have been obtained. This information allows an evaluation of playground equipment provided in each playground, and in a community as a whole based upon the population of the age group most likely to use such a facility. Columbus's estimated under age 15 population of about 955 in 2005 and about 1,095 in 2025 will require, in general, the playground facilities identified below. Table 8 compares Columbus's City owned playground equipment inventory with needs based on population ratios reflecting the average for the area. School District and privately owned playground equipment is not included in this analysis.

TABLE 8
Playground Equipment Needs: City of Columbus 2005 - 2025

<u>Equipment</u>	<u># of Existing</u>	<u>Minimum Ratio To under 15 Population</u>	<u>Minimum Recommended</u>		<u>Above/Below (-) Minimum</u>	
			<u>2005</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2025</u>
Playgrounds	8	1/176	6	7	2	1
Adult Swings	12	1/40	24	28	(12)	(16)
Tot Swings	6	1/189	6	6	0	0
Other Swinging Devices	12	NA	NA	NA	12	12
Slides	8	1/105	10	11	(2)	(3)
Other Sliding Devices	1	NA	NA	NA	1	1
Climbing Equipment	7	1/162	6	7	1	0
Teeter Totters	1	1/235	5*	5*	(4)*	(4)*
Sandbox	1	1/263	4	5	(3)	(4)
Play Systems	3	1/271	4	5	(1)	(2)
Elevated Platforms	4	NA	NA	NA	4	4
Spring Rider	2	1/320	3	4	(1)	(2)
Paved Play Areas	0	1/430	3	3	(3)	(3)
Merry-Go-Round	2	1/452	3*	3*	(1)*	(1)*
Barrel Roll	1	NA	NA*	NA*	1*	1*

Source: Dodge County Planning and Development Department

* Adding teeter-totters, barrel rolls or merry-go-rounds will not be recommended due to a recent increase in safety concerns regarding these facilities. However, safer facilities providing similar types of challenges and learning experiences could be substituted.

Columbus provides an adequate number of playgrounds, but they are not well equipped. More attention is needed to the way playgrounds are laid out, and more equipment is needed in most playgrounds. An entirely new playground is needed in Meadow Lane Park and possibly Kestrel Ridge Park now, and a new playground should be a part of any new neighborhood parks.

Small mini-park facilities might be considered within or adjacent to residential areas that are not served by existing neighborhood facilities. A typical playground consists of four adult swings, one tot swing, two slides, climbing equipment, and a sandbox. Play systems with a variety of components and activities are becoming very popular as a way to provide a good mixture of equipment and activities. They should provide the base equipment for all playgrounds.

PLAYGROUND SURFACING

Ten of the playgrounds in Columbus are surfaced with pea gravel. Pea gravel is one of the safer surfacing materials, but it does not afford handicapped access. One playground is surfaced in fine sand and another in shredded rubber tires. Sand is not as good a surface as pea gravel as far as absorbing falls, and it does not improve handicapped accessibility significantly. Shredded rubber is not rated for safety or accessibility.

Surface materials used in playgrounds are critical to the safety of a playground, and its accessibility to the disabled. Surfacing under and around playground equipment is a factor in determining the extent of potential injuries from a fall. Some injuries due to falls cannot be prevented. However, the harder the surface, the greater the injury potential. Asphalt, concrete and other hard surface materials are not acceptable under or around playground equipment. Natural soils, hard packed dirt and grass are not recommended, as their ability to absorb shock can vary with moisture, temperature, wear and other climatic and natural conditions. Acceptable playground surfacing materials consist of "unitary" and "loose-fill" materials.

Unitary materials include rubber or rubber-like mats. The shock absorbency of these materials varies between products and manufacturers, so test data from the manufacturer should be reviewed to determine a product's adequacy for a particular site. Unitary materials are typically more expensive than loose-fill materials; however, they afford the best access for the disabled.

Loose-fill materials consist of sand, gravel, wood chips, shredded tires, and similar materials. Table 9 identifies the maximum (critical fall heights at which various compressed and uncompressed materials and depths may be expected to prevent life-threatening head injuries. The table provides only a general guideline. The highest accessible part of a piece of playground equipment should not exceed the critical height of the surfacing material. For example, a slide installed over six inches of uncompressed fine sand should not to exceed five feet in height. All surfacing and playground equipment should be installed according to manufacturer directions and the applicable standards and guidelines set forth by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). Loose-fill materials are generally not suitable for handicapped access. However, wood chips and wood fibers provide the best accessible surfacing of the loose fill material.

TABLE 9
Critical Heights (in feet) of Tested Materials

<u>Material</u>	<u>Uncompressed Depth</u>			<u>Compressed Depth</u>
	<u>6 inch</u>	<u>9 inch</u>	<u>12 inch</u>	<u>9 inch</u>
Wood Chips	7	10	11	10
Double Shredded Bark Mulch	6	10	11	7
Engineered Wood Fibers	6	7	>12	6
Fine Sand	5	5	9	5
Coarse Sand	5	5	6	4
Fine Gravel	6	7	10	6
Medium Gravel	5	5	6	5
Shredded Tires	10-12	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Handbook for Public Playground Safety, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 1997.

SERVICE AREAS

Service radius reflects normal maximum walking or driving distances to serve intended resident users. Persons living outside the service radius of recreation facilities may seldom use them. Service areas determine the adequacy of the location of recreation sites to serve the intended population. In urban areas, such as Columbus, the maximum distance standard from a residence to a neighborhood park or playground is one-quarter to one-half mile according to the National Recreation and Park Association. A maximum service radius of two miles is the standard for community recreation facilities.

In determining the adequacy of neighborhood recreation facility locations, barriers to access must be considered within the service radius. Barriers to access may exist where children or families normally walk or bike to recreation areas. Access can be restricted by major roadways, railroads, and waterways. The City of Columbus is segmented by several barriers to access, and as a result, requires more recreation facilities in order to provide safe access for citizens. The barriers to access in Columbus consist of the Crawfish River and associated creeks (unless conveniently bridged), the Canadian Pacific Railroad, James Street, Park Street, Ludington Street, Fuller Street, Western Avenue, State Highways 16-60, 73 and 89, County Highways K and V, and U.S. Highway 151.

Parks which are considered to be, or contain neighborhood recreation facilities include Fireman's Park, Columbus Senior High School, Kiwanis Park, Meister Park, Rotary Park, Columbus Middle School, Columbus Elementary School, Meadow Lane Park, Saint Jerome's Catholic School Playground and Zion Lutheran School playground. Parks which do not include playground equipment are not included unless playground equipment is recommended as part of this plan. St. Jerome's and Zion School's playgrounds are not included for service area identification purposes since they are private facilities beyond the control of the City. In general, the distribution of neighborhood recreation areas serves Columbus residents well, despite the many barriers to access. This is in part the result of strategically located bridges crossing the Creeks. The only residential neighborhoods which are not adequately served are located:

- Northeast of James Street and west of the Crawfish River. This area is further divided by the Canadian Pacific Railroad and east Ludington Street.
- North of Lowell Street, east of the Crawfish River. This area is further divided by the Canadian Pacific Railroad.
- The southeastern portion of the City, east of Farnham Street and west of the Crawfish River.
- The Parkview Drive area and land to the west, south of Park Avenue.
- The Faith Drive area and land to the west, south of Western Avenue.
- The neighborhood north of Western Avenue and west of Dix Street.
- A small and primarily commercial area near the intersection of James Street and Dix Street.

Map 4 identifies the service areas of existing neighborhood recreational facilities and the barriers to access.

MAP 4 - RECREATION FACILITY SERVICE AREAS

POLICIES FOR PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING

Before park and recreation standards are applied and recommendations developed, basic policies should be considered. Listed below are policies which are paramount in obtaining a balanced allocation of land to meet Columbus's social, physical and economic needs. Most of these policies have been adapted from the National Recreation and Park Association.

1. The park and outdoor recreation system should provide opportunities for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, gender, disability or economic status.
2. Advanced land acquisition based on this park, outdoor recreation and open space plan should begin immediately in order to prevent the loss of high quality sites to other developments.
3. Park facilities should be centrally located within the area they are intended to serve and must have safe and adequate access for maximum convenience to persons being served.
4. Land acquired for use as parks or recreation areas should be suitable for the specific intended use, and when possible, for multiple uses. Wetlands and floodplains may be included within parks, but should not represent the majority of the park land. Wetlands and floodplains are better preserved as open space.
5. Land adjacent to parks or open space areas should be used in ways which will not interfere with the purposes for which the recreation land was intended. Parks and open space areas should also be compatible with surrounding land uses. Recreation land should be protected in perpetuity against encroachment by other uses which will inhibit the recreational nature of the land.
6. The design of individual park and recreation sites should be as flexible as possible to reflect changing patterns of recreation needs.
7. Special efforts should be made to provide easy access and use of facilities by the elderly, ill and handicapped, the very young, and other less mobile groups.
8. Park and recreation areas should be used to separate incompatible land use and guide future development.
9. Citizen involvement in the recreation and open space decision-making process should be encouraged and expanded. Participation in planning, acquisition, development and financing of the park and recreation system is encouraged.
10. Park and recreation facility development must be done with safety in mind, adhering to accepted installation and maintenance standards.
11. Annual or on-going funding should be allocated for acquisition of high priority open space areas. Budgeted funds should be used as leverage to obtain grants and other local contributions.
12. Whenever feasible, designated open space should form the spine on which other recreational lands and activities are located. Park facilities should be linked together by open space environmental corridors, trails or other non-vehicular access.

13. Parks and recreational areas should be linked by sidewalks to the pedestrian circulation system.
14. Landscaping should be used in parks to screen adjacent uses, to separate activities, and to enhance the beauty of the land.
15. While need for recreation land and facilities is based upon generally accepted standards, modifications to those standards may be necessary to accommodate specific local characteristics which influence needs and demand, such as significant variations in age distribution.
16. Minimum recreation area size guidelines should apply when determining needs within the community. Where the City's population is insufficient to justify a minimum sized recreation site, combined recreational development with an adjoining municipality should be considered.
17. Efforts should be made to promote eco-tourism, both locally and regionally as natural areas are added to the City's park system.
18. When some of Columbus's historic structures are contiguous to park land or open space, incorporate them into the park system to combine interest and increase the visibility of structures which might otherwise remain isolated.
19. Be selective in accepting the dedication of land by developers. The City can and should require that suitable land in adequate amounts be dedicated to the park system when a residential development is proposed. The City is under no obligation to accept the dedication of unsuitable land, or land in the wrong location.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and objectives establish an end to be achieved and means to achieve the desired end. The outdoor recreation and open space goals and objectives which provide the basis for this plan and represent its purpose are:

1. A city-wide system of parks, recreation, and open space that provides safe and accessible recreational opportunities to meet the needs and demands of the citizens of the City of Columbus and its visitors.
 - A. Acquire park and recreation sites and develop facilities to meet or exceed recommended standards and community needs.
 - B. Provide recreational lands and facilities for all City residents within a readily accessible location and distance.
 - C. Acquire open space recreation corridors where possible to link developed areas with recreation facilities.
2. A system of recreation and open space areas that preserve significant natural, cultural and historical resources of the City.
 - A. Acquire or encourage other governmental acquisition of environmentally sensitive and unique lands for open space recreation to preserve them from incompatible development.
 - B. Design park and recreational facilities with the natural environment in mind by considering project impacts to the environment.
3. Parks and open space areas used as a means to guide urban development and growth.
 - A. Proactively acquire lands for recreation and open space use in areas where development is likely to occur.
 - B. Seek lands not well suited for development such as steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands and wooded areas to include within permanent open space.
4. A City park system utilizing input and resources from the public, interested organizations, and other agencies in the planning, development and operation.
 - A. Coordinate park activities/facilities with civic, private, City, County, and State agencies and organizations to compliment offerings without unnecessary duplication.
 - B. Update the City Park and Open Space Plan every five years and solicit input from interested City residents.
 - C. Encourage the establishment and activities of "Friends" and local user groups as a means to obtain valuable comments, recommendations, assistance and resources.
5. A City park system developed, improved and operated in a cost efficient and effective manner.
 - A. Utilize this plan following the recommendations established for facility planning.
 - B. Utilize, to the extent possible, state and federal resources and grant programs to offset local expenditures to develop and maintain needed facilities.
 - C. Utilize, where practical, a multi-jurisdictional approach to acquiring and developing park and open space areas.
 - D. Utilize, to the extent possible, local private resources such as friends groups, organizations and Individuals willing to donate time, labor, money, land and other resources to develop and maintain needed and quality facilities.
 - E. Coordinate and utilize the resources and expertise of County officials, particularly where projects meet mutual goals and objectives.
6. An ongoing source of funds for parkland acquisition and development that reflects growth of the City's population.

- A. Adopt a Park and Recreation Fee of \$500.00 for each new residential living unit intended to be developed as a result of new land divisions.
 - B. Maintain a designated, non-lapsing park and recreation account to be used exclusively for the acquisition and major development of parks within the system.
 - C. Clearly define in the City's Subdivision Ordinance how much and what type of land must be dedicated when residential development is proposed.
 - D. Encourage bequests of land or money to the City's park system.
7. All parks in the Columbus park system at least meeting minimum size guidelines of 10 acres for neighborhood parks and 15 acres for community parks.
- A. Purchase land to expand the existing, undersized parks when possible.
 - B. When accepting land for new parks, be sure that amounts sufficient to meet minimum size guidelines are, or can be made available.
 - C. Consider the space and conditions needed to accommodate the functions intended for each future park.
8. The park and open space system highlighting those unique features that reflect the character of Columbus.
- A. Encourage residents to offer suggestions to City officials for developing the park system, and bring these to the attention of the City Planning Commission.
 - B. At least every two or three years have the Planning Commission hold a public meeting on the condition of the park system and encourage suggestions for improvements.
 - C. Consider themes to be reflected throughout a park or even throughout the entire park system which reflect the character of Columbus.
9. Ordinances that clearly spell out the conditions and procedures for the dedication of park land when residential subdivisions are proposed.
- A. Map all future parks as accurately as possible so that developers know when a portion of their property is planned for a public park.
 - B. Make it clear to all residential developers that they are expected to dedicate land to the park system if they own land that the City wants, or to make a payment to the park system in leau of making a dedication.
 - C. Have a procedure in place for deciding whether a dedication of land will be accepted or if a park and recreation fee will be required instead.
 - D. Accept the dedication of undevelopable land only if it is a logical addition to the open space system.

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations contained in this plan are intended to maintain and upgrade the recreation system in the City of Columbus by providing and distributing a diversity of recreational facilities equitably throughout the City. Map 5 shows the general location of proposed new recreation sites.

Plan recommendations are divided into General Recommendations, Specific Site Recommendations, Bike Routes and Linear Parks, and New Acquisition and Development Recommendations. General Recommendations primarily reflect administrative functions in carrying out the policies established in this plan. Specific Site Recommendations, Bike Routes and Linear Parks, and New Acquisition and Development Recommendations address both administrative and facility development functions in order to upgrade or enhance existing facilities and develop new facilities according to the Goals and Objectives of the plan.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Parks and recreation facilities should be available to all people, regardless of their personal disabilities. Special attention should be given to the needs of young mothers, senior citizens and the handicapped in the development of park facilities.
2. All park and recreational facilities should be connected to the City's sidewalks for safe, accessible access by the young, elderly and handicapped.
3. This plan and the City's comprehensive plan should guide the acquisition of future park and open space land.
4. Invite the Village of Fall River and the Towns of Columbus and Elba to meet to discuss park and recreation needs and plans.
5. There should be close cooperation among City, School, County, State, and private business officials in providing recreation facilities in order to prevent unnecessary duplication of facilities and maximize recreational opportunities for children, residents, and visitors.
6. Priorities should be established for acquisition, development and maintenance. Costs should be estimated for each plan element. A five-year capital improvements program for parks and recreation that generally reflects the proposals made in the plan should be developed and reviewed annually.
7. The City of Columbus should continue to require the dedication of land for recreation sites or fees in lieu of site dedication for all new plats and land divisions. This is a commonly used method of fairly distributing the cost of part of Columbus's recreation site acquisition program.
8. The City should make maximum use of LAWCON, Stewardship, and other cost-sharing grant funds for outdoor recreation planning, acquisition and development.
9. Identify a staff person, consultant or volunteer to write park and recreation grant applications as needed.
10. Submit a grant application for all parkland acquisitions and most park development projects.
11. Civic and service organizations should be approached for help in defraying costs and assisting with development of park and recreation facilities.

12. A “Friends of the Columbus Park System” group should be created to champion the expansion and development of the City’s park system. This group should be responsible for private fund raising for park projects.
13. The City should be sensitive to potential acquisition of recreation land inside and outside its present boundaries. This is particularly important where a recreational resource can be preserved for future use, or development pressures indicate that a site will eventually serve a neighborhood.
14. Insure that where land is to be dedicated or acquired for the park system, the amount of land will at least meet minimum standards for the type of facility planned. Don’t accept the dedication of lands that don’t fit into the park and recreation plan for the City. End the practice of accepting small, wet parcels that are not useful as part of the open space system.
15. In the interest of cost effectiveness, identify areas within the parks that can be restored to a More natural state and discontinue mowing the grass in these areas.
16. Use landscaped buffers to enhance the borders where recreation land meets residential neighborhoods.
17. Use structure and landscaping to separate areas intended for small children from facilities for older children.
18. City and school officials should review the surfacing of all playgrounds and parks and make modifications where safety and handicap accessibility may be deficient. Since playground surfacing for the handicapped is quite expensive and can reduce the impact protection in a fall, a single, central playground should be made fully handicapped accessible.
19. Phase out playground equipment now considered unsafe to avoid injuries and potential resulting lawsuits.
20. More emphasis should be placed on utilization of the Crawfish River. It is an important natural feature that should be preserved and promoted. Make more of the riverfront accessible and promote it in tourist publications. Development along the river should be carefully managed. Sensitive floodplain and wetland areas along the river should be acquired for public protection.
21. Encourage the dedication of land along creeks and drainage ways to help filter runoff into the waterways.
22. The City should generally accept the dedication of wetlands and floodplains as part of the expansion of the open space system, but not as a substitute for the required dedication of suitable uplands or the payment of a park and recreation fee.
23. River and Creek cleanups should be promoted and conducted annually.
24. Columbus should explore the possibility of utilizing the Crawfish River as a recreational resource for canoeing and fishing. Providing canoe launch sites, dam portage sites, and better river access is desirable if river navigability is determined feasible.
25. The City should explore the possibility of developing a system of linear parks, pedestrian paths, and bike routes to provide connections between recreational resources in the City.

26. Identify and promote low impact recreation such as bird watching, walking and cross-country skiing.
27. The City of Columbus is in a good position to expand its benefits from the tourism industry by promoting its cultural and recreational opportunities. With this in mind, the City should be aware of opportunities for natural resource conservation, environmental protection and the preservation of natural amenities.
28. In providing a park and recreation system unique to Columbus, review the needs of the summer recreation program and the interests of tourists to the area.
29. In order to be of value in expanding the tourism industry, tourists must be attracted to the parks and be able to find them easily. This requires good informational and directional signs within the City and along the major highways leading into the City. A signage system is recommended.
30. Be sure that enough parking is available where the parks attract larger numbers of users.
31. Columbus should promote year-round recreation. Events and activities such as cross-country skiing, equestrian and carriage events, and historic tours should be promoted to extend the tourist season.
32. Create rental fees or user fees for the exclusive use of park facilities as a source of funds for park maintenance and development.
33. Budget at least a minimum allocation annually to improve and expand the park system.
34. Try to schedule more tourist oriented events at the Pavilion.
35. Work with a local caterer to promote events in the parks such as family reunions, wedding receptions and company picnics.
36. Detailed site plans should be developed for some existing parks that don't have them.
37. Promote the park system on Columbus's website.
38. Ordinances should be prepared or revised to guide the dedication of parkland. The City should verify that land being divided does not encroach on proposed future parkland, or that the required dedication of land occurs at the time of a preliminary plat or certified survey map approval.
39. If less than a complete new park is required to be dedicated by a land developer, plan on purchasing additional land to complete the new park.

SPECIFIC SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

FIREMAN'S PARK

1. Develop a comprehensive site plan for the park which takes into account the following suggestions.
2. Develop parking areas in strategic locations for at least handicapped parking spaces.
3. Add a lift to the Pavilion to allow handicapped access to the upper level.
4. Renovate the restrooms in the Pavilion to accommodate the handicapped.
5. Replace the Pavilion roof.

6. Alter the Pavilion as necessary to accommodate the handicapped.
7. Bury all overhead wiring.
8. Replace the old merry-go-round and barrel roll with safer, new play equipment.
9. Add a play system to each of the two playgrounds.
10. Build the two volleyball courts currently staked out.
11. Develop an ice skating rink near the Golf Course entrance and use the Boy Scout Cabin as a warming shelter.
12. Replace the current 6 foot wide walking path west from the Golf Course entrance with one 8 feet wide, about 1,900 linear feet.
13. Rebuild the tennis courts.
14. Add two lighted basketball courts.
15. Provide a paved area for skateboard and roller blade play.

COLUMBUS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

KIWANIS PARK

1. Develop a comprehensive site plan for the park which takes into account the following suggestions.
2. Add suitable playground equipment to enlarge the playgrounds on both sides of the Creek.
3. Pave some defined parking areas and designate at least two handicapped parking spaces.
4. Repave the walking path at an eight foot width and extend it across the bridge and through the entire park from School Street to Farnham Street.
5. Add at least two more cooking grills near the shelter.
6. Add overhead lighting for the ball fields.
7. Plant shade trees near the playgrounds and along the walkways.
8. Mark the VFW parking lot on Farnham Street and include a handicapped space.
9. Consider taking over the VFW building as a warming, restroom and storage building.

MEISTER PARK

1. Develop a comprehensive site plan for the park which takes into account the following suggestions.
2. Develop an eight foot wide river walk, preferably paved, and connect it to the existing sidewalk system.
3. Remove the rip-rap and other debris from the River edge and bottom.
4. Bury the overhead wiring in the park.
5. Define and pave parking areas and identify at least four handicapped parking spaces.
6. Add overhead lighting for the play fields.
7. Consolidate the two playground areas.
8. Build a picnic shelter with about six picnic tables and two cooking grills.
9. Develop shore fishing areas.
10. Develop two handicapped accessible fishing piers.
11. Add a canoe launching site on the north end of the park.

ROTARY PARK

1. Pave a parking area and designate two handicapped parking spaces.
2. If water levels are to remain below previous levels, rebuild the boat launch at the new edge of the River.
3. Provide parking suitable for vehicles with boat trailers.
4. Remove the rip-rap debris from the old pond edge.
5. Develop an eight foot wide river walk, preferably paved.
6. Develop shore fishing sites.
7. Develop two handicapped assessable fishing piers.

MEADOW LANE PARK

1. Expand the size of the park to at least 10 acres and include land on both sides of the Creek.
2. Develop a comprehensive site plan for the park which takes into account the following suggestions.
3. Give the park a broader name.
4. Plant trees and shrubs to define activity areas.
5. Develop a playground.
6. Build a picnic shelter and furnish it with picnic tables, cooking grills and waste barrels.
7. Create an open playfield area.
8. Add a basketball court.
9. Add a volleyball court.
10. Build an eight foot wide walking path through the park and develop the sidewalk system in the area to connect to it.

COLUMBUS MIDDLE SCHOOL**COLUMBUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL****KESTREL RIDGE PARK**

1. Give the park a broader name.
2. Add a playground.
3. Keep the Creek beds brushy.
4. Add two off street, paved parking spaces.
5. Or, just add the property to the Golf Course since it is too small to be a neighborhood park.

SAINT JEROME'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1. Extend the sidewalks from Farnham Street to Avalon Road.

ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

1. Extend the sidewalk on Warner Street to Western Avenue and install sidewalks on Western Avenue and Fuller Street.

COLUMBUS GOLF COURSE

1. Allow cross country skiing and sledding in winter.
2. Allow the Clubhouse to be used as a warming house on occasion.

KESTREL RIDGE GOLF CLUB

1. Allow cross country skiing and sledding in winter.

COLUMBUS AREA AQUATIC CENTER

1. Extend sidewalks on both sides of Folsom and Poet Streets from Farnham Street to the Aquatic Center.

WASHINGTON PARK

1. Identify one handicapped parking space on the street adjacent to the park.
2. Replace the merry-go-round and teeter totter with a safer, new play system.

DAVIS PARK

1. Install one park bench.

TOWER DRIVE WALKING PATH

1. The northern 845 feet (both sides of Meadow Lane) should be replaced with private sidewalks.
2. Extend sidewalks across the Chester Bandit and Associated Bank properties to connect with the path.
3. Repair the damage done by trucks.
4. Promote limited sledding on tower hill.
5. Acquire land as necessary on the south side of the Creek and extend the 8 foot wide paved walking path into Meadow Lane Park.

OPEN SPACE 1 (WATER STREET PARKING LOT)

1. Remove the stored trucks adjacent to the property including those on private property.
2. Install plantings along the edge of the parking lot to retard runoff from the lot.

OPEN SPACE 2 (JAMES STREET AT THE CREEK)

1. Remove the junk and trucks adjacent to the property including those on private property.

OPEN SPACE 3 (UDEY DAM)

1. Develop a comprehensive site plan for the park which takes into account the following suggestions.
2. Establish safe shore fishing sites.
3. Consider expanding this site to neighborhood park standards.
4. Pave the access road coming in from Campbell Street.
5. Pave 4 parking spaces, one of them handicapped accessible.
6. Remove debris from the river bed and shoreline.
7. Provide a portage around the dam for small boats.
8. Develop two fishing piers that can be handicapped accessible.
9. Add two picnic tables.
10. Add two benches.
11. Reroute the overhead wires to cross the River at the railroad bridge.
12. Consider adding an elevated picnic and observation platform.
13. Consider adding a foot bridge across the dam to connect with Udey Street.

OPEN SPACE 4 (PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT)

1. Add a few more trees and scrubs.
2. Provide a picnic table if Department workers would use it.

OPEN SPACE 5 (MAPLE AVENUE AT WATER AND LIGHT)

1. Consider expanding this site to become a linear park along the Creek.
2. Extend the park north across James Street to its intersection with U.S.H. 151 and south from Maple Avenue and west to its intersection with U.S.H. 151.
3. Acquire or retain a 30 foot wide strip on each side of the Creek where possible.
4. Allow brush, trees and natural grasses to fill the space.
5. Ask the Water and Light Department to clean up and screen their cluttered and messy grounds along the Creek.
6. Construct an 8 foot wide, paved walking-biking trail along the entire Creek course.
7. Promote bird-watching along this path.
8. Connect the park with the pedestrian circulation system by extending sidewalks along Maple Avenue.
9. Add three benches, one north of James Street, one between James and Maple Streets and one south of Maple Avenue.

OPEN SPACE 6 (RIVER ROAD AT LOWELL ROAD)

1. Bury the overhead wiring.
2. Promote this area as a duck pond.
3. Install shoreline stabilization plantings on the steep slopes.
4. Provide a sidewalk along River Road.
5. Add two benches.

OPEN SPACE 7 (RECYCLING CENTER)

1. Provide access to the River, and maintain the River frontage for public use.
2. Extend public River frontage across the treatment plant site as well.
3. Clean up the area, including removal of the old garage.
4. Create a welcoming access point or two if possible.
5. Landscape the front yard.
6. Provide a sign identifying the parkland.
7. Provide shore fishing sites.
8. Develop a canoe launching site.
9. Provide parking suitable for vehicles with boat trailers.
10. Extend sidewalks on River Road to the Kestrel Ridge Apartments to access the park.
11. Close this area to the public during gun deer season for safety.

TABLE 10
Proposed Active and Passive Recreation Facilities, City of Columbus, 2025

		PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS											
		Fireman's Park	Kiwanis Park	Meister Park	Rotary Park	Meadow Lane Park	Kestrel Ridge Park	Columbus Golf Course	Kestrel Ridge Golf Club	Columbus Area Aquatic Center	Washington Park	Davis Park	Tower Drive Walking Path
CLASSIFICATION		Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Playground	Special Purpose Park	Special Purpose Park	Special Purpose Park	Mini-Park	Mini-Park	Linear Park
ACREAGE		32.0	13.4	7.0	1.4	10.0		89.5			0.7	0.2	
ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES	Soccer Field			2									
	Softball Field			2									
	Baseball Field	1	6										
	Football Field	1											
	Tennis Court	4				1							
	Basketball Court	2				1							
	Basketball Goal												
	Shuffleboard Court					1							
	Horseshoe Pits					1							
	Running Track												
	Volleyball Court	2				1							
	Paved Play Area	1				1							
	Open Playfield	1			1	1					1		
	Wiffle Ball Pole												
	Funnel Ball Pole												
	Golf Course							9 holes	18 hole				
	Cross Country Skiing							yes	yes				
	Sledding							yes	yes				yes
	Ice Skating Area	1				1							
	Swimming Pool									1			
	Boat Launch			1	1								
	Shore Fishing			yes	yes								
	Miscellaneous		Batting cage	4 soccer nets									
PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES	Picnic Acres	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0							
	Picnic Tables	72	8	6	12	6						2	
	Cooking Grills	5	3	2	2	4							
	Shelter Building	3	1	1	1							1	
	Benches	18		2	4	2				9	4	1	
	Walking Path	1	1	1	1	1							1
	Foot Bridge	2	1			1							
	Stone Platform	1									1		
	Historical Marker											1	
	Miscellaneous	Deer pen			4 single shelters								

CONTINUED

TABLE 10 (CONTINUED)

		PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS							PUBLIC SCHOOLS			PRIVATE SCHOOLS	
		Water St. Parking Lot	James St. at the Creek	Udey Dam	Public Works Department	Maple Ave. at Water & Light	River Road at Lowell Road	Recycling Center	Columbus Senior High School	Columbus Middle School	Columbus Elementary School	St. Jerome's Catholic School	Zion Lutheran School
CLASSIFICATION		Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Community Playfield	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground
ACREAGE									2.0	1.5	2.0		
ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES	Soccer Field								1				1
	Softball Field									1	1		1
	Baseball Field										1		
	Football Field								1				
	Tennis Court												
	Basketball Court									2			1
	Basketball Goal								4			9	3
	Shuffleboard Court												
	Horseshoe Pits												
	Running Track								1				
	Volleyball Court											1	
	Paved Play Area									1	1	1	2
	Open Playfield								1			1	
	Wiffle Ball Pole									4		1	1
	Funnel Ball Pole									1	2	1	
	Golf Course												
	Cross Country Skiing												
	Sledding												
	Ice Skating Rink												
	Swimming Pool												
	Boat Launch							1					
	Shore Fishing			yes			yes	yes					
	Miscellaneous												
PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES	Picnic Acres			0.5									
	Picnic Tables			2	1				6	3	2	2	
	Cooking Grills			1									
	Shelter Building												
	Benches			2		3	2		4				
	Walking Path					1							
	Foot Bridge			1		2							
	Stone Platform												
	Historical Marker												
	Miscellaneous												

Source: Dodge County Planning and Development Department

TABLE 11
Proposed Playgrounds and Recreational Support Facilities, City of Columbus – 2025

		PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS											
		Fireman's Park	Kiwanis Park	Meister Park	Rotary Park	Meadow Lane Park	Kestrel Ridge Park	Columbus Golf Course	Kestrel Ridge Golf Club	Columbus Area Aquatic Center	Washington Park	Davis Park	Tower Drive Walking Path
CLASSIFICATION		Community Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Playground	Special Purpose Park	Special Purpose Park	Special Purpose Park	Mini-Park	Mini-Park	Linear Park
PLAYGROUND FACILITIES	Play System	2	2	2	1	1	1				1		
	Elevated Platforms		3	1									
	Adult Swings	8	8	4	2	4	4				4		
	Tot Swings	4	2	1	1	1	1				1		
	Swinging Bar			1							1		
	Other Swings	8		1	1								
	Teeter Totter												
	Slide	4	4	2	1	2	2				2		
	Sliding Pole				1								
	Sandbox	2	2	1		1	1				1		
	Jungle Gym	1											
	Monkey Bars		1	1	1								
	Other Climbing Struc.	2	1	2		1	1				1		
	Merry-Go-Round												
	Spring Rider	2											
	Misc. Equipment												
RECREATION SUPPORT FACILITIES	Regular Parking Sp.	20	40	40	20	20	2	95	93	57			
	Handicap. Parking	4	3	4	2	2		2	2	4			
	Undefined Parking												
	Restrooms	3	1	1		1				1			
	Portable Toilet				1								
	Pavilion	1											
	Cabin	1											
	Clubhouse							1	1				
	Bathhouse									1			
	Warming Shelter				1								
	Concession Building	2	1	1		1				1			
	Dugouts	2	4										
	Coach's Box	1											
	Press Box	1											
	Drinking Fountain	1	1	1	1	1							
	Overhead Lighting	yes	yes	yes						yes			
	Backstop			2									
	Fencing	2		2									
	Bleachers	9	12	4									
	Scoreboard	2	6	2									
	Identification Sign	1	1	1	1	1	1						
	Storage Building	1	1					3					
	Bike Racks	2	1	1	1	1				2			
	Soft Drink Machine	3											
	Pay Telephone	1											
	Waste Containers	39	6	6	2	6	1				1	1	
	Misc.												

CONTINUED

TABLE 11 (CONTINUED)

		PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS							PUBLIC SCHOOLS			PRIVATE SCHOOLS	
		Water St. Parking Lot	James St. at the Creek	Udey Dam	Public Works Department	Maple Ave. at Water & Light	River Road at Lowell Road	Recycling Center	Columbus Senior High School	Columbus Middle School	Columbus Elementary School	St. Jerome's Catholic School	Zion Lutheran School
CLASSIFICATION		Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space	Community Playfield	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground	Neighborhood Playground
PLAYGROUND FACILITIES	Play System			1							1	1	1
	Elevated Platforms										4	4	3
	Adult Swings			4						6	12	15	5
	Tot Swings			1									
	Swinging Bar											1	
	Other Swings											6	
	Teeter Totter											1	5
	Slide			2							4	3	1
	Sliding Pole												3
	Sandbox			1									
	Jungle Gym												2
	Monkey Bars												1
	Other Climbing Struc.			1							1	5	15
	Merry-go-Round										2	1	
	Hanging Bridge										1	1	1
	Spring Rider												
	Misc. Equipment										Tic-tac-t tunnel	Tic-tac-t tunnel	
RECREATION SUPPORT FACILITIES	Regular Parking Sp.	44		3				10	226			40	42
	Handicap Parking Sp.	2		1				1	5			4	2
	Undefined Parking												
	Restrooms							1					
	Portable Toilet								1				
	Pavilion												
	Cabin												
	Clubhouse												
	Bathhouse												
	Warming Shelter												
	Concession Stand												
	Dugouts												
	Coach's Box												
	Press Box												
	Drinking Fountain												
	Overhead Lights												
	Backstop												
	Fencing												
	Bleachers								10				
	Scoreboard								1				
	Identification Sign			1				1					
	Storage Building								2				
	Bike Racks									6		2	2
	Soft Drink Machine												
	Pay Telephone												
	Waste Container												
	Miscellaneous			dam									

Source : Dodge County Planning and Development Department

BIKE ROUTES AND LINEAR PARK

The importance of safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout Columbus cannot be overemphasized. Sidewalks five feet in width should be available throughout the City, but are essential on both sides of streets designated as primary pedestrian routes. Off-street pedestrian and bicycle routes should be hard surfaced and at least eight feet in width. Ten foot widths are preferable. Bicycle routes should provide a separate paved surface next to the curb or shoulder of not less than five feet in width.

Map 5 suggests some pedestrian and bicycle routes to connect various parts of the City and to provide safe connections to areas outside the City. The proposed routes which lead out of the City are not recommended for young children. The following suggestions could extend the linear park system within the City of Columbus.

- Linear Parks – Pedestrian and Bicycle Route
 - A. Identify and develop a pedestrian and bicycle route throughout the City.
 - B. Acquire right-of-ways or easements where necessary or appropriate.
 - C. Consider a pedestrian bridge over the Crawfish River connecting Meister Park with the neighborhood to the north.
 - D. Examine the feasibility of developing a bike path / trail corridor along the railroad tracks.
 - E. Install appropriate signs and trail markers.
 - F. Where feasible, develop a trail along the river.
 - G. Connect the community parks with a pedestrian path and bike route and provide connections from these parks to the City's sidewalk system.
- Canoe Route on the Crawfish River
 - A. Develop a canoe route through the City along the Crawfish River.
 - B. Develop two canoe launching sites, one above and one below the dam.
 - C. Develop a dam portage site to facilitate canoeing in the City.
- Area along Crawfish River.
 - A. Acquire park or open space land along the River.
 - B. Develop shore fishing sites as appropriate.

NEW ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of space needs, service areas, facility needs and population concentrations revealed that some new sites and facilities should be developed in order to provide adequate and equitable

MAP 5 – SUGGESTED BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

recreational opportunities for all the residents of Columbus. The following recommendations are intended to provide facilities on growing edges of the City for local residents and add a dimension to

the recreational offerings for both residents and tourists. General recommended locations for new park development in relation to existing facilities are shown on Map 6.

Additional park and recreation facilities should be considered for acquisition and development when it is economically feasible or when the opportunity presents itself and where it is appropriate to serve the needs of City residents. Special consideration is necessary as new subdivisions are proposed which substantially increase residential densities of a particular area. Sites of about 10 acres each should be acquired as residential development begins to occur in the general areas.

1. West of Warner Street, south of Sunset Road (extended) and north of Brevity Lane (extended).
2. West of Tower Drive, north of Park Avenue, on the Creek.
3. East of River Road along the Crawfish River, preferably south of Cardinal Drive. Include the narrow, undevelopable strip of land between River Road and the Crawfish River currently beyond the south City limits.
4. Along Lewis Street northeast of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. If land at the end of Chapel Street could be acquired, the Chapel Street Water Tower property might be included with it. This area could be served with a pedestrian bridge connection to Meister Park instead.
5. Between James Street and the Canadian Pacific Railroad northwest of Lewis Street.
6. East of the Crawfish River, north of Lowell Road.
7. West of the Hospital, south of Park Avenue.

The following recreational facilities should be considered when developing new neighborhood recreation sites:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Biking-walking-skiing paths. | 2. Picnic areas. |
| 3. Natural areas and preserves. | 4. Playgrounds. |
| 5. Open playfields. | 6. Paved play area. |
| 7. Tennis Court | 8. Volleyball court. |
| 9. Shuffleboard Court | 10. Horseshoe pits. |
| 11. 6 Picnic tables | 12. 4 Cooking grills |
| 13. Shelter building | 14. Restrooms |
| 15. Drinking fountain | 16. Service building |
| 17. Paved and marked parking | 18. Security lighting |

The following playground facilities should be considered when developing new neighborhood recreation sites:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 1 play system | 2. 4 adult swings |
| 3. 1 tot swing | 4. 2 slides |
| 5. 1 sandbox | 6. 1 climbing structure |

MAP 6 – PROPOSED RECREATION AREAS AND OPEN SPACE

RELATED RECREATIONAL ISSUES

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance of the park system is necessary to keep the parks in good shape and safe. Inadequate inspections and maintenance can lead to playground injuries and run down facilities making the park system a community liability instead of an asset. Additionally, a maintenance schedule should be developed to identify all maintenance functions, the person responsible for the function and its timing. At present, the park maintenance and operations functions are the responsibility of the Public Works Director. Public Works staff mow the grass, clean the facilities, make routine inspections and repairs, and perform other maintenance functions as necessary.

FUNDING

Funding assistance for acquiring and developing parks and recreation facilities can be obtained through a variety of grants and programs. Additionally, local fund-raising campaigns for large specific projects and local service organizations can be an excellent source of manpower and funding for smaller projects. Local business and corporate funding and support should also be encouraged. Another potential source of funding to acquire and develop parklands is parkland dedication or impact fees placed upon developers when creating residential lots.

Some of the grant and financial programs administered by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources which are available to cities include:

1. ADLP - Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks. Provides up to 50% matching grants for the acquisition, development and renovation of local parks.
2. NRTA - (NM) National Recreational Trails Act, Non-motorized. Federal program which provides 50% grants to acquire, develop, renovate and maintain non-motorized trails.
3. RBF - Recreational Boating Facilities Program. Provides 50% matching grants to develop facilities for access to water. Program also provides 50% cost sharing assistance for the dredging of channels of waterways for recreational boating.
4. UGS - Urban Green Space Program. Provides 50% matching grants for land acquisition with the intent to provide natural space within or near urban areas or protect scenic or ecological features.
5. URGP - Urban Rivers Grant Program. Provides 50% matching grants for land acquisition on or adjacent to waterways to preserve or restore riverfronts for economic revitalization or recreational development.

Staff at the Department of Natural Resources - South-Central Region should be contacted for additional information and assistance in preparing applications for projects. Contact:

Department of Natural Resources - South-Central Region
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711

(608) 275-3218

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING PROCESS

Public involvement in the planning process is vital to ensure the development of a plan that serves to meet the needs and demands of its citizens and intended users. Development of this plan update involved two basic levels of public involvement or comment.

1. Plan Commission Survey:
Prior to the drafting of the plan, a survey of concepts dealing with the development and financing of the park and recreation system was conducted. The survey was completed by members of the Plan Commission and City Council as well as some department Directors.
2. Plan Commission Meetings:
Meetings open to all interested City residents were held by the Plan Commission to solicit ideas and provide feedback on components of the plan in its development stages. Needs and demands, policies, goals and objectives and recommendations for the park, recreation and open space plan and system were reviewed and developed in part at these meetings.
3. Public Hearing:
A public hearing was held prior to adoption by the City Council of the plan to solicit final comments on the draft plan.

The City Council and the Plan Commission should continue involvement with and maintain communication links to municipal officials and interested citizens and groups to keep up with changing attitudes and priorities. As needs and demands and priorities change the plan will need to be updated.

CHANGES AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

This plan should be scheduled for a review, update or complete revision at least every five years. However, various circumstances and certain opportunities may warrant changes to the plan prior to the next scheduled update or revision. Changes or amendments to this plan require a petition to or by the City Council. The petition shall specify the change requested and reasons for the change.

The City Council must hold a public hearing after publishing a Class I notice and upon giving the City's Plan Commission 30 days to review and comment on the petition. When deemed appropriate by the City Council, written notification of the public hearing may be sent to user groups, organizations, other municipalities or individuals believed to be directly or adversely affected by the proposed change.

After the public hearing and consideration of the comments of the Plan Commission, the City Council shall vote on passage of the proposed change or amendment. The change or amendment shall be effective upon passage.

CONCLUSIONS

This plan is intended to guide decision makers in acquiring and developing parks and open space and to make the City eligible for recreation grants. The population of Columbus is projected to increase by 680 people, from 4,610 in 2005 to 5,290 in 2025. Twenty-four public and private properties, ranging in size from a tenth of an acre to more than 80 acres, are included in the Columbus park and open space system. Columbus meets minimum standards for park land with 60.8 acres, but will fall short of minimum acreage unless more land is added to the park system as the City grows. The park system appears to be well maintained.

Some portions of the City, particularly the west and south sides, are not adequately served by neighborhood parks. Seven sites are identified for the acquisition of new parks as residential growth increases in these areas. The park system currently provides for most recreational needs, including some which are more characteristic of larger cities. However, there are some deficiencies in water oriented recreation, court games and winter activities. There are enough playgrounds in Columbus presently, but some upgrading of play equipment would be desirable. One central playground should be made handicapped accessible. This plan identifies the basic facilities which should be considered in each neighborhood park and each playground.

Significant wetlands and floodplains extending through many parts of the City are best left as open space to accent nearby developments. Parks and open space are essential urban land uses which should be located and designed to enhance other uses.

Public participation in the park system should be encouraged. A volunteer leader is needed and a "Friends of the Parks" group should be formed to promote the parks and raise private funds for park projects. Appeals should be made to civic and social groups for support and assistance. Bequests to expand the park system should be encouraged.

The cost of expanding the park and open space system should be shifted from existing taxpayers to the developers of new residential land. The City Subdivision Ordinance should be amended to better define the dedication of land for parks. The acceptance of small parcels in unplanned locations that require maintenance should be avoided although small parcels that can remain in a natural state are acceptable components of the open space system. When land is divided for residential purposes that does not contain land planned for parks, a \$500.00 fee in lieu of dedication per residential dwelling unit should be assessed and placed in a dedicated, non-lapsing Parks and Recreation account. This account should be used only for the acquisition and development of the park system, not for normal maintenance. State and federal grants should be used whenever possible to significantly reduce the cost of park system development for Columbus taxpayers.

The Crawfish River should be better integrated into the City's park and open space system, and more use of it should be encouraged. A system of bike routes and pedestrian paths should be identified and promoted throughout Columbus. All overhead wiring in the parks should be relocated underground. Parking in the parks should be defined and paved, and handicapped spaces should be identified.

This park plan should be updated at least every five years if its purposes are to continue to be achieved. Comprehensive park plans and landscape plans should be developed for the larger parks.

