

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER - AGENDA ITEM DATA SHEET

Agenda Item: Consider Approval of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan 2026-2030

Requested & Presented by: Jodi Mieden, Parks & Recreation Director

Meeting Date: Park Board on 11-24-2025

Committee Review: Public Works Committee on 11-20-2025 – Motion by Schultz to forward Resolution 2025-____, regarding updating the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan, to the Park Board for review and recommendation to the Common Council. Seconded by Walters. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Background: The City of Richland Center’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan provides the strategic framework for maintaining, improving, and expanding the City’s parks, trails, and outdoor recreation facilities. Updating the plan every five years is required to remain eligible for Wisconsin DNR Stewardship, LAWCON, and other state and federal recreation grants.

The 2026–2030 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan outlines a forward-looking strategy that responds to changing demographics, evolving recreation trends, and environmental challenges. It reaffirms the City’s commitment to:

- Equitable and ADA-accessible recreation spaces for all residents.
- Conservation and protection of environmentally sensitive areas.
- Trail connectivity within the City and to County systems to support alternative transportation and tourism.
- Strategic capital planning, maintenance scheduling, and responsible stewardship of public resources.
- Collaboration with the School District, Richland County, Southwest Partners, civic groups, and the broader community.

The plan highlights major accomplishments since 2021—including new playgrounds, athletic field upgrades, expanded pickleball facilities, refreshed branding, ADA kayak launches, and trailhead improvements—and establishes updated priorities aligned with the latest Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Overall, the updated plan provides a modern roadmap that balances recreation, environmental sustainability, tourism development, and community health while guiding policy decisions and supporting ongoing grant eligibility. It was developed in collaboration with the Park Board, Public Works Committee, and community stakeholders to reflect current needs, future growth, and priority improvement projects.

Department Recommendation: Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 2025-____ by the Common Council.

Financial Impact: No direct expenditure required; Approval maintains grant eligibility and supports future cost-sharing opportunities.

Requested Action:

PARK BOARD: Motion to recommend to the Common Council adoption of Resolution 2025-____, regarding updating the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan.

COUNCIL: Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-____, regarding updating the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan, as presented.

Attachment(s):

- DRAFT_2026-2030 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan