

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goals are broad statements that express general public priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of keys issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the park system.

Objectives are more specific than goals and are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

Policies are rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. Policies often accomplish a number of objectives.

The following list of goals, objectives, and policies based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this Plan including public input and discussions amongst City staff and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members.

Goals

1. Ensure the provision of a sufficient number of parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of City residents and visitors. Such facilities should be diverse in accommodating to many different groups such as the elderly, the handicapped, adults, and young families.
2. Preserve the City's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.
3. Prioritize improvements and expanded facilities in existing parks and undeveloped City-owned properties, in addition to the development of new parks in key locations.

Objectives

1. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Elkhorn residents, generally within $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
2. Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities available (active and passive, resource-oriented and non-resource-oriented, water-based and land-based), and ensure that these opportunities are well distributed throughout the City.
3. Provide quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space lands for each planned residential neighborhood.
4. Provide pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities.
5. Provide for a well-integrated network of sidewalks, recreation paths and trails, and bike lanes throughout the City which connect with other facilities in the area.
6. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.
7. Leverage public-private partnerships, local associations and foundations, and other creative funding sources to help improve and meet the long-term park and recreational needs of the community.



Policies

1. All residents should be provided with an opportunity for engaging in recreational experiences, and recreational facilities should be equitably located in the City.
2. The City should continue to maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them. In addition, focusing on developing several City-owned parcels that could be used for additional parks.
3. Neighborhood Parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods. All new residential development should be within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of a park.
4. Parks should be integrated into future neighborhood and development designs and linked by a network of trails, bike routes, and open space corridors.

5. Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning. Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.
6. The City should continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, the surrounding land uses, and natural resource features.
7. The City should explore various means of acquiring land for parks and for developing park facilities, including impact fees/park improvement fees, parkland dedication requirements, state and federal grants, conservation easements, and non-profit organizations.
8. The preservation of primary and secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands and forests, lakes, ponds, streams, lakeshores, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as vegetative, wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, as areas for passive recreation, and as stormwater management areas, where appropriate.
9. All new residential development should meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this Plan and implemented by the City of Elkhorn's zoning and subdivision ordinances.
10. The provision of safe and convenient bike connections between park and open space facilities should be emphasized in on-going City planning and acquisition efforts, and should follow State and AASHTO standards.
11. The City should encourage public awareness of the City's parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, wayfinding signage, and other materials.
12. The City should explore opportunities to work in collaboration with the School District and Walworth County to provide parkland and recreation facilities, better integrate programming, and improve services City-wide.
13. The City should partner with stakeholders to consider formation of a Friends of Elkhorn Parks group to lead private fundraising efforts, assist with park maintenance, and raise awareness about the City's park facilities.
14. The City should examine policies regarding waiving park usage fees for nonprofit groups and consider requiring these groups to provide non-monetary assistance. Groups could donate time for park maintenance, invasive species removal, or equipment construction or upkeep.
15. The City should take measures to ensure that existing park facilities are upgraded to comply with ADA design guidelines. Future parks should be designed so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.
16. The City should continue to follow the Comprehensive Plan to identify future land uses, road and lot layouts, and the locations of parks, open space corridors, and trails.
17. The City should provide a diversity of recreational opportunities to adequately serve different age groups, including children, teenagers, adults, and senior citizens.
18. Continue to work with the DNR and Walworth County on future planning of bicycle routes, trails, and infrastructure to promote connectivity throughout the area.
19. Participate in Walworth County's update of their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
20. Develop a City-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to further prioritize active transportation facilities, connections, and utilization. Prioritize the connection of the White River Trail to the park system, downtown, and other regional multi-use trails.
21. Work with the Police Department, the School District, and other local groups to develop bicycle and pedestrian educational programs like bicycle rodeos and other trainings to increase safety and utilization of trails, paths, sidewalks, and streets.
22. Implement the City's Sidewalk Improvement and Maintenance Program to prioritize upgrading existing sidewalks and infilling gaps in the sidewalk network.
23. Prioritize new facilities and upgrades to existing facilities through the City's 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan.
24. Develop a partnership with the local non-profits and private businesses to help in the long-term maintenance and upgrading of facilities.
25. Seek becoming a designated Wisconsin Healthy Community and work with Walworth County to maintain its Silver-level Wisconsin Healthy Community status.
26. The City should explore developing new facilities, infrastructure, and programming for outdoor winter recreational opportunities.