

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

An early step in the park and open space planning process is to establish goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the base for all subsequent planning efforts. The terms goals, objectives, and policies are frequently used interchangeably even though each has its own distinct definition. For the City of Whitewater Park and Open Space Plan, 2008- 2013, considerable attention was given to identifying the community's priorities with respect to planning for future Park and Open Space needs. These priorities point out the critical themes that the goals, objectives, policies, programs, and recommendations of this plan should be based upon. The "highest" priorities identified in the public participation process are summarized in the following section.

Improved interconnectivity and visibility of City parks and open spaces throughout the community

- Parks connected by trail system
- Multi-use trail uninterrupted within and throughout the city
- "Safe Routes" to school as a grant program to enhance trail development
- Maintain/improve access and use for disabled
- Maintain/ enhance access and use for Senior population
- Improved signage
- Improved and/ or updated park maintenance
- Continue to build on publicity (mapping, brochures, outreach, etc.)
- Focus on new "Comfort Spots" - beautification with natural enhancements as well as limited physical improvements to encourage passive use
- Incorporate into new residential and commercial developments
- Establish as more well-defined components of larger neighborhood and community parks

Greater diversity of sports facilities

- Youth soccer fields
- Adult outdoor sports (e.g., softball)
- Winter sports

Lakes and water-centered activities and uses

- Improved water-quality
- Potential for outdoor swimming opportunities - address potential health risks

Park and Open Space Goal: Ensure provision and stewardship of sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and natural areas to satisfy the health, safety, and welfare needs of citizens and visitors - including special groups such as the elderly, the disabled, and pre- school age children - and to enrich the aesthetic and scenic quality of the City's neighborhoods, gathering spots, and entry points.

Park and Open Space Objectives and Policies:

Objective 1. Preserve natural features and amenities and conserve natural

resources for the benefit of the community and society as a whole, realizing that these resources are finite and, for the most part, irreplaceable.

- 1.1 Encourage public awareness of the City's environmental and cultural resources by promoting appropriate educational programs.
- 1.2 work to preserve conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected without public expenditure. Direct public funds to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a priority.
- 1.3 Pay special attention to preserving pristine lowlands, waterways, marshes, and adjacent contributing uplands in their natural state to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, areas for passive recreation, and reservoirs for stormwater.

Objective 2. Provide quality recreation and open space lands and facilities for each neighborhood.

- 2.1 Site and design neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide common neighborhood gathering places. All residents should be within a 10-minute walk (1/2 mile) of a neighborhood park or community park with active recreational facilities.
- 2.2 Working with the School District, provide community parks for more intensive and specialized recreational needs. All new residents should be within 1 ½ miles of a community park.
- 2.3 Provide or require smaller parks and recreational facilities within intensive development areas, such as in or near multi-family residential developments.

Objective 3. Coordinate public park and open space lands with private developments and other uses of land.

- 3.1 Work with the development community, property owners, and environmental interests to site and design parks and other open spaces to meet multiple objectives.
- 3.2 Site and design parks and associated facilities to avoid nuisance situations between neighbors and park users.
- 3.3 Combine parks and recreational facilities with school facilities where appropriate and feasible. Continue to coordinate recreation service provision with the Whitewater Unified School District and the University.
- 3.4 Whenever possible, require that residential developments dedicate parkland, provide recreational facilities, and dedicate or otherwise preserve conservancy areas like wetlands and floodplains. In such special cases that this is not possible, the City will require that residential developments provide fees-in-lieu of parkland

dedication and fees-in-lieu of park development.

- Objective 4.** Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities so that residents of all ages and abilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy parks and open spaces.
- 4.1 Provide supervised and coordinated recreational activities for all City residents on a year-round basis. This may include offering recreational programming for youth after school and in the hours and days that school is not in session.
 - 4.2 Encourage active citizen participation in developing recreational programs and parks. This may include setting up a youth services committee of students from 6 to 12th grades to explore recreational programming opportunities for that age group, and implementing appropriate recommendations.
 - 4.3 Encourage educational opportunities in park and recreation activities and work with county extension, 4-H, and the School District to assist with developing and operating programs such as community gardens, nature center(s), arboreta, botanical gardens, and lake and stream testing.
 - 4.4 Maintain all parks to ensure the safety of users and replace worn or damaged equipment.
 - 4.5 Provide special use areas and unique recreational facilities where necessary to protect an exceptional resource or supply a community demand.
 - 4.6 Maintain all facilities in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. Operate all services, programs, and activities so they are accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with ADA guidelines.
- Objective 5.** Provide good pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to parks and recreation facilities.
- S.1 Provide multiple access points of sufficient width from surrounding neighborhoods.
 - S.2 Follow the recommendations of the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* and the updated bike and pedestrian facility map in this *Park and Open Space Plan* when reviewing private development proposals, completing road projects, and planning for bike paths.
 - S.3 Require sidewalks in new developments per the City's Land Division and Subdivision regulations, and follow the recommendations of the Citywide Sidewalk Plan map (within the *Central Area Plan*) when making sidewalk decisions on existing streets.
- Objective 6.** Acquire and develop new recreational facilities where City growth creates a need for additional facilities and where existing residents are underserved by City parks.

- 6.1 Direct new park and open space facilities to current and future population needs.
- 6.2 Acquire park and open space lands in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate coordinated neighborhood and park development.
- 6.3 Coordinate land acquisition, planning, and transportation programs of all federal, state, county and local agencies concerned with parks and conservation.
- 6.4 Cooperate with other governmental bodies, including the Whitewater Unified School District and the University to provide joint recreation service wherever possible.
- 6.5 Review and update the City's *Park and Open Space Plan* every five years.