

## SECTION FIVE: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The initial task in preparing any type of planning document includes the formulation of a series of goals and objectives that outline the City's intent throughout the planning document. These goals and objectives will serve as a guide for the City to follow in providing a desired community-wide park and recreation system.

**Goal:** A broad statement of direction, purpose, and general public priorities. A goal should be based on the stated needs, key issues, and opportunities of the community. A goal should be long-range, timeless, and optimistic.

**Objective:** Defined as a more-specific and quantifiable aim within a limited time frame. Objectives should be derived from stated goals, quantifiable, specific, and within a limited time frame. Objectives are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

A goal provides the City with its long-term destination; objectives act as mile markers along the way. All recommendations listed in the plan are specifically designed to address the goals and objectives listed here. In order to conduct a thorough and accurate planning process, it is important to establish a set of goals, objectives, and policies that will serve as the basis for the recommendations in this Plan.

The following list of goals and objectives is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this Plan, including input and discussions with citizens, City staff, and the Park and Recreation Commission. It is important to note that the listing that follows are not presented in order of priority. Rather, all of the goals and objectives have equal weight or merit as they guide future community decision-making.

**GOAL #1:** Maintain an adequate amount/acreage of active and passive recreational lands to meet current and future recreational needs.

**Objectives:**

- Acquire additional lands for active and passive recreational use based on current demand, demands created by increasing populations, and environmental significance of the land.
- Strive to maintain the current per capita ratio of acres of land suitable for active recreation.
- Continue to acquire lands adjacent to existing park and recreation facilities to accommodate future growth/needs of the City.
- Acquire lands suitable for park and recreation use by explicitly stating acceptable characteristics of land for dedication in the parkland dedication ordinance.
- Preserve primary and secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands, streams, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as vegetative, wildlife and fish habitats, as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation, and as stormwater and flood management areas, where appropriate.
- Explore the need for special recreational facilities, such as dog parks, splash parks water recreational opportunities, community gardens, and facilities for indoor recreation., through more detailed park and recreation master planning following the adoption of this Plan.
- Continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, and the surrounding land use and natural resource features.
- When possible, acquisition of park and open space lands should occur 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.

GOAL #2: Ensure that open space, recreation facilities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of all residents and visitors, especially the older adults and disabled.

**Objectives:**

- Provide for barrier-free access to all new park facilities and play areas.
- Strive for compliance with accessibility requirements in existing facilities, particularly in Veteran's, Tower, and Phoenix Park.
- Continue to encourage participation of elderly and disabled citizens at park and recreational meetings and in recreational programs.
- Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it applies to communication between the Parks and Recreation Department and the public.

GOAL #3: Coordinate development review with all departments/agencies responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.

**Objectives:**

- Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the Park and Open Space Plan before subdivision plats are approved. All new development should meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this Plan and implemented by the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Platting Ordinance.
- Evaluate land dedicated for parks to differentiate between land appropriate for active park use, land appropriate for open space only, and land requiring protection from development. Land requiring protection from development should be protected via the zoning ordinances.
- Mini Parks and 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 walking distance of a park.
- Continually evaluate and update the subdivision ordinance so that it adequately addresses the park and open space needs of new and existing City residents.

GOAL #4: Coordinate use and maintenance of recreational facilities among the City of Delavan, Delavan-Darien School District, Walworth County, and appropriate public recreation associations.

**Objectives:**

- Coordinate the public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities.
- Encourage cooperative City, County, School District, and organized athletic organizations development projects to help improve and expand recreation opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.
- Continue to explore additional governmental opportunities to help operate and maintain public recreation facilities in the area.
- Continue to work with Walworth County and neighboring municipalities to connect the City's trail system to Elkhorn, the White River Trail, and other recreational amenities in Walworth County. Support regional trail initiatives whenever possible.
- Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Walworth County, and the state to coordinate bicycle and pedestrian planning and to coordinate planning for potential future bicycle trails and routes.

GOAL #5: Stress the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks that provide a wide range of facilities over the development of small playground and tot-lot facilities.

**Objectives:**

- Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks as annexations, residential development or land use changes occur.
- Use park service area criteria to help determine the location of future park sites (1/4- to 1/2-mile for a neighborhood park and 1-mile for a community park).
- Encourage construction and maintenance of smaller, private parks with multi-family residential developments.

GOAL #6: Provide residents and visitors with safe and reliable park facilities and equipment throughout the city park system.

**Objectives:**

- Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating recreation equipment at all city parks.
- Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.

GOAL #7: Continue to develop interconnected biking and walking trails that provide easy and safe access to all neighborhoods.

**Objectives:**

- Advance trail and bike path planning.
- Continue to develop off-street trail connections within the City and close gaps in the current trail network.
- Establish bicycle paths and routes on local streets throughout the community to connect neighborhoods with schools, parks, and shopping.
- The provision of safe and convenient bike connections between parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and other destination should be emphasized in ongoing city planning and acquisition efforts.
- Work with Public Works Committee to improve greenway landscaping and help define possible trails through the greenways.
- Work with Plan Commission and Public Works Committee to add routes or bike lanes, when needed, on newly constructed streets that will serve to connect the existing system of biking and walking facilities.

GOAL #8: Recognize the importance of an adequate park budget, which can financially address existing park hazards and allow for future parkland acquisition and future park facility development.

**Objectives:**

- Use the Park and Open Space Plan's capital improvements program as a guide and continue to establish yearly park budgets.
- Invest funds to develop facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas and provide exciting recreational programs to increase park use.
- Commit to annual funding for both capital and operation funding for maintenance equipment and related facilities to ensure the system meets with expectations of residents and visitors.

GOAL #9: Use all available resources to further enhance the quality of the City's park system.

**Objectives:**

- Continually pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
- Explore opportunities to partner with neighboring communities or athletic organizations to fund and develop multi-purpose parks, athletic facilities, and multi-purpose centers.
- The City's parkland dedication and improvement fee ordinances should continue to reflect the current demand for parkland. Also, alternative means of reserving lands required for open space should be explored to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public (ex. nonprofit organizations, conservation easements, purchase of development rights).
- Cultivate the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteer help to aid in park system development.
- Continue to update the City's Park and Open Space Plan every 5 years to maintain grant eligibility; ensure a significant public participation process.
- Pursue the development of revenue-generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.