

- Regarding the theme of safety, users commented that they general feel safe while utilizing the trail system, but there are suggestions that could improve year-round feasibility. Commenters suggested continuing to clear/sweep the trails throughout the winter months (63% of trail users reported utilizing the trail system at least once per week beyond the summer months), repair areas with cracking and settling as needed, improve signage to clarify user right-of-way and at dangerous street crossings, and consider additional lighting or emergency call boxes for added safety during dark or quieter usage times.
- The theme of inclusion addressed users concerns with the closing of availability of amenities such as bathrooms and water fountains from November thru March and how restricting dogs year-round affects those who feel safer with them on the trail and who may benefit from their assistance. Users also requested the continued improvement of trail connectivity for users with mobility issues, as well as improving designated locations for skating or BMX and the addition of safe public bicycle racks city-wide.
- Finally, surveyed users addressed quality of life. They believe the trail system is an invaluable asset for health and wellness in Janesville. In order to continue to support healthy active lifestyles, they requested more bathroom and drinking water access, as well as more trash and dog waste containers.

These results help to shape and inform the goals, objectives, and strategies presented in this Chapter, as well as the more detailed recommendations provided later in this *Plan*.

B. Goals, Objectives, Strategies

In order to conduct a meaningful and directed planning process, it is important to establish a set of goals, objectives, and strategies that will serve as the basis for the recommendations in this *Plan*.

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.

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

The following list of goals, objectives, and strategies is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this *Plan*, including citizen input and discussions amongst City Staff and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members. These serve two basic purposes. First, they provide the foundation upon which a parks and open space system will be developed. Second, they establish the general criteria on which alternative plans and parks and open space systems will be evaluated.

Goals

1. Ensure the provision of a variety of quality parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of City residents and visitors.
2. Preserve the City's and region's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.

Objectives

1. Continue to provide an exemplary level of service related to parks and recreational facilities, maintaining current ratios of parkland and open space in current as well as future neighborhoods.
2. Provide adequate recreational facilities aligned with demand for those facilities.
3. Provide quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space lands for each future neighborhood area in the City.
4. Develop a highly interconnected system of City and Regional parks and open space that maintains and enhances the quality of life in the community – including providing for the health, well-being and safety of residents of the City.
5. Protect areas of special geological, geographical, biological, and historical significance – for instance the Rock River and its shorelines, wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, prairies, Native American sites, and segments of the Ice Age NST.
6. Preserve sensitive environmental and natural resources by focusing low-impact recreational uses in these areas.
7. Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities (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.
8. Provide for a well-integrated network of sidewalks, recreation paths and trails, and bike lanes throughout the City that connect with other facilities in the area.
9. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.

Strategies

Location/Service Area/Acreage Standards

1. For all new parks and recreational facilities, follow size and service area standards for new parks, provided in Chapter Four.
2. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Janesville residents; generally, within ½ mile.
3. Strive to equitably provide new recreational facilities throughout the City.

Considerations for Neighborhood Planning and Park Design

4. As a component of the City's detailed neighborhood level planning efforts, continue to identify the locations of future parks, open space corridors, and trails to ensure that these areas are included in development proposals.
5. Require new park and open space facilities to be sited in areas identified as *Planned Neighborhood* on the *City's Future Land Use Map* (adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan).
6. Site and design neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place, strongly integrating them into future neighborhood and development design through neighborhood plans, and preliminary plats.
7. Encourage parks to have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods.

8. Preserve environmental corridors, natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands and forests, shoreland areas, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation and greenbelts, where appropriate.
9. Plan for and implement new bicycle and pedestrian paths in proposed and future development areas consistent with recommendations of this *Park and Open Space Plan* and the *2015-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan*.

Transportation, Trails, and Connections

10. Strive to link existing and future parks through a network of trails, bike routes, and open space corridors.
11. Provide pedestrian, bicycle, and/or vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities, corresponding with the orientation and service area of the park.
12. Connect missing links in the bicycle and pedestrian trail system through acquisition or trail easements. Priority segments are described in Chapter Five.
13. Work toward the development of an urban Riverwalk on both sides of the Rock River between Racine Street and Centerway.
14. Complete the Janesville Heritage Trail Loop to coincide with the existing and planned riverfront trail (Riverwalk) and off-river trail, spotlighting the unique historical and cultural assets of the City.
15. Promote the Rock River corridor as an environmental corridor of regional significance and work to continue to acquire riverfront park and open space to build an interlinked regional park and open space system.
16. Continue to coordinate with the National Park Service, Ice Age Trail Alliance, and other partners on planning for the Ice Age Trail through Rock County.

New Facilities

17. 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.
18. Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities to adequately serve different age groups, including youth, teenagers, young adults, families, and senior citizens.
19. Continue to actively pursue the acquisition of riverfront property for park and open space facilities.
20. Identify and work toward acquisition of a site for a future regional park, potentially in collaboration with Rock County, and/or other surrounding jurisdictions.
21. Provide for open space and recreational facilities in Downtown Janesville, consistent with ARISE.
22. Continue to designate, preserve and provide public access to greenbelts along key environmental corridors, and areas supporting recreational corridors and connections.
23. Prioritize the development of new parks, or portions of new or existing parks, to focus on natural resource preservation and passive, nature-based recreation.

24. Participate in, and encourage County participation, in State and regional efforts to connect natural areas of significance through open space preservation – for instance, the Yahara River corridor, to Lake Koshkonong, or to the terminal moraine.

Existing Facilities

25. Maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them.
26. Continue to prioritize maintenance of and investment in parks and open spaces in the City's historic and existing neighborhoods as key public gathering places to demonstrate the City's continuing commitment to maintaining the quality of life in these areas.



Peace Park

Access and Service

27. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian and bike connections between park and open space facilities in line with State and AASHTO standards.
28. Meet compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design guidelines, including park design that is barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Acquisition and Development Implementation Strategies

29. Identify and acquire land for park and open space in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning.
30. Acquire parklands through land developer dedications, when feasible.
31. 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.
32. Consider preparation of a needs assessment for parks fees, and applying park impact fees.
33. Work in collaboration with local school districts to provide parkland and recreation facilities, including exploring the promotion of shared facilities to maximize the efficiency of land use.
34. Work in collaboration with Rock County to provide park and recreational facilities. In particular, regional park and open space facilities.
35. Enforce the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this *Plan* and implemented by the City of Janesville zoning and subdivision ordinances.
36. Encourage and dedicate resources to collaborating with friend's groups for maintenance and improvements to parks and trails.

Promotion of Parks, Recreation and Open Space

37. Encourage public awareness of the City's parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, social media, signage/wayfinding, and other methods.
38. Embrace the City's parks, recreation and open space system as a key component of the City's quality of life.
39. Consider organizing and promoting the City's parks, recreation, and open space facilities as part of an initiative for health and well-being – leveraging private and outside investment and regional cooperation.