

I. PREFACE**Introduction**

As the demand for leisure and recreational activities continues to grow throughout the country, the Village of Weston has taken the proper steps to not only create a solid recreational base, but also to maintain and improve recreational opportunities in the community. By the development of the plan, the Village of Weston has recognized the importance of providing quality recreational opportunities to its residents and visitors. Properly located sites that provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities and are convenient to potential users can only meet recreational needs. These sites should possess natural characteristics appropriate to their intended functions. Providing these facilities has become an accepted responsibility of all governmental levels – local, county, state and federal. The increasing demand for outdoor recreation has produced three issues for local government decision makers.

1. The need to improve existing facilities and provide additional facilities to meet and satisfy current and future demand for recreational activities.
2. To provide recreational opportunities and facilities in a manner compatible with limited natural resources.
3. To provide recreational opportunities and facilities in a manner compatible with limited fiscal resources.

Planning is an integral element in identifying community needs and providing facilities efficiently, effectively, and economically. The acceptance of this plan by the Village Board and subsequent approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will enable the Village of Weston to be eligible for the next five years to pursue funding through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LAWCON), the State Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Program (ADLP), the Urban Greenspace Program and through other state grant-in-aid programs.

Definitions

In order to understand this plan, it becomes necessary to define certain terms as they are used in the context of this report.

Passive Use Area

Primarily designed for picnic areas, passive trail use (e.g., hiking), hunting, fishing and other non-organized recreation activities. This type of facility often emphasizes natural settings and de-emphasizes active recreational facilities.

Active Use Area

An area designed primarily for organized or non-organized active recreation of one or more age groups. This type of design may have, as its primary feature, play fields, playground equipment, ball fields, active trail use (e.g., ATV use, snowmobiling and cross country skiing), tennis and/or basketball courts or a combination thereof.

Land Based Recreation

Those activities, which can be participated in without the requirement of a recreational water supply. Camping, hiking, and field sports are examples of land-based recreation.

Water Based Recreation

Those activities requiring the availability of a recreational water supply. Swimming, fishing, boating, water skiing and ice-skating are examples of water-based recreation.

Play Structure

A play system that incorporates a variety of functions such as slides, climbing bars, suspended platforms and railings, interconnected in one unit. Structures are usually sized for preschool and elementary users with structure height and apparatus complexity being the determining criteria.

Environmental Corridor

A defined area, usually oriented in a linear pattern along a river or drainage pattern, which contains a high concentration of environmentally significant features. (Plant species, wildlife, landforms, water features, etc).

Multi-Purpose Trail System

A recreational system of trails in a community that affords a variety of year-round uses to a wide segment of the community (e.g., hiking, bicycling, jogging, cross-country skiing, etc.) Multi-purpose trail systems typically contain barrier free, hard surface segments that are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Urban Forestry

Urban Forestry, which is also referred to as community forestry, is the establishment, monitoring and management of trees on publicly owned land and the regulation of certain trees on privately owned land within the community.

Park Service Area

A park service area is the zone of influence of a park or recreation area. The average distance users are willing to travel to reach a facility usually determines service areas. Although usually expressed in terms of service radius, it must be remembered that features such as major traffic arteries and rivers influence the distance users must travel. Also, a park or recreation area may be unique in the county or region and will therefore extend the zone of influence of that facility to the entire county or region. Where service areas are not influenced by the other factors, the zone of influence is generally considered as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Mini parks (tot lots) | 1/8 to 1/4 mile radius |
| • Neighborhood parks | 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius |
| • Community parks | 1 mile radius |
| • Municipal special purpose park | entire community |
| • Conservancy park | entire community |
| • County park | 30 minute travel time |
| • County special purpose park | entire county or region |
| • County forest | entire county or region |
| • County-wide trail system | entire county or region |

Skate Park

A skate park is a purpose-built recreational environment for skateboarders, BMX riders and aggressive skaters to ride and develop their sport and technique. A skate park may contain half-pipes, quarter pipes, handrails, trick boxes, vert ramps, pyramids, banked ramps, full pipes, stairs, and any number of other trick-oriented objects.

Disc Golf (Frisbee Golf)

Much like golf, a disc game in which individual players throw a flying disc into a basket or at a target with the least amount of throws.

Aquatic Center

Much larger than regular swimming pools, aquatic centers offer a variety of activities such as; a large pool, sand play areas, volleyball, miniature golf, arcades and concession stands. Aquatic Centers can have slides, diving boards, water play structures, and water obstacles.

Park Type Criteria

Municipal Parks

Municipal parks are designed primarily to serve residents within the boundaries of the municipality. There are six specific municipal park types.

Mini Parks (Tot Lots)

Mini parks provide open space for passive and some active recreation opportunities within a limited walking distance of primary users. The service area is confined to sub-neighborhood level from 250-1,250 persons within a 1/8 mile radius. Average area size ranges from 1,000 square feet to one acre.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are designed to provide both active and passive short-term recreation activities. The primary user ranges from 5 to 15 years of age. However, informal recreation opportunities cater to groups of all ages. The service area of ¼ mile radius includes the entire neighborhood, with some neighborhood overflow if features are unique. The average neighborhood park serves from 500 to 2,500 people, basically one park for every elementary school. Neighborhood parks commonly range from 5 to 10 acres.

Community Parks

This type of park is designed to serve several neighborhoods while minimizing park travel distance. Though community parks are designed to accommodate all age groups, most activities cater to the active recreation needs of junior/senior high school students and adults. Although size is not always a sound criterion for classifying parks, it is generally recognized that community parks are more spacious than neighborhood parks or playgrounds. Community parks have an effective service radius of 1 mile and can serve from 2,500 to 20,000 people. Most community parks have an average size of between 20-35 acres.

Urban Greenspace

In addition to providing passive recreational opportunities, these types of parks can protect environmental quality and act as land use buffers. They also help break up development congestion and provide aesthetic quality. Most urban greenspace parks contain natural areas such as environmental corridors, woodlands, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat areas and

scenic views. Though no set standard exists, several communities use a ratio of one to two acres per 1,000 population as a basis to project community demand.

Special Purpose Parks

This type of park facility emphasizes a chief feature or features, which are unique to the municipality. Examples of this type of facility include children's zoos, marinas, fairgrounds and historical features to mention a few. Due to the varying degree of features these types of parks offer, the age group of users is often widespread. The service area of this type of park includes the entire municipality. No average park size or service area standard exists.

County Parks

County parks are designed to provide a wide range of long and short-term active and passive recreation opportunities to several communities and/or municipalities. County parks are designed to accommodate all ages of users, and usually provide a more limited range of recreation opportunities than municipal parks. Most county parks are located in areas with distinctive natural features and provide nature oriented passive outdoor recreation such as fishing, swimming, camping, hiking and boating. County parks are generally large, usually being 200-400 acres in size. County parks usually have an effective service radius of about 30 minutes drive time.

County Forest

County forestlands are designated by policy to provide for multiple use of their resources. In addition to timber management, county forestlands provide county residents with a variety of nature related recreation opportunities. County forests typically provide facilities for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, cross country skiing and other multi-purpose trail use. County forests, however, offer few active recreation opportunities such as organized sports, children's play areas and game courts. No average county forest size or service area standard exists.

State Park

State parks are designated and designed to provide recreational facilities in a unique natural setting for a wide range of users. State parks usually are located around a significant natural feature, and provide extensive activities including; elaborate visitor centers, gift shops and developed campgrounds. State parks usually have an on-site staff, including a park ranger and full-time maintenance staff. State parks do not have an average size or service radius, but generally can draw users from a local, state and multi-state area.