

II. Goals and Objectives

Mission Statement

To provide a park and recreation system that will meet the needs of our existing citizens and future generations, preserve and protect the Village’s open space, water, historical, cultural, natural and economic resources; and provide a park and recreation program that is designed to enhance the Village’s economy and quality of life.

Goal: Maintain an adequate amount of active and passive recreational lands to meet current and future recreational needs.

Objectives:

- Acquire additional lands for active and passive park use based on current demand, projected demand and environmental significance as recommended by the action plan of the Village Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Stress the importance of acquiring appropriate, developable land for active recreation facilities in areas targeted for future park development.

Goal: Provide adequate facilities at all parks within the Village’s park system as dictated by park use and type (i.e., neighborhood vs. community park facilities).

Objectives:

- Community park facilities should begin to be developed to meet current needs and should continue as additional needs are identified.
- Neighborhood park facilities should begin to be developed when 25% of the proposed park’s service area is residentially developed.
- Park site development shall coincide with the growth of the population located within the park service area.

Goal: Coordinate development efforts and the use and maintenance of recreational facilities among the Village of Weston, the D.C. Everest School District and public recreation associations.

Objectives:

- Encourage increased public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities.
- Encourage cooperative Village/school/association development projects to help improve and expand recreation opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.
- Develop formal use/revenue/maintenance agreements among the Village, the School District and public recreation associations to help operate and maintain recreation facilities in the Village.

Goal: Stress the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks, which provide a wide range of facilities over the development of small playground and mini parks.

Objectives:

- Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks in annexations or if zoning changes occur.
- Utilize park service area criteria to help determine the location of future park sites.

Goal: Encourage the preservation of environmentally sensitive and historically significant areas.

Objectives:

- Identify and incorporate historical entities in the development of Village parks.
- Encourage the appropriate use of natural features such as floodplains, wetlands and woodlands as passive recreation areas.
- Encourage the preservation and appropriate development of environmental corridors.
- Encourage the designation and preservation of local historic landmarks.

Goal: Provide residents with safe and reliable recreation equipment throughout the Village park system.

Objectives:

- Replace old and deteriorating recreation equipment at all Village parks and school sites.
- Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.
- Identify and replace park facilities that do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.
- Identify and replace all playground equipment that does not meet CPSC or ASTM safety guidelines.

Goal: Utilize all available resources to further enhance the quality of the Village’s park system.

Objectives:

- Pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase or development of desired park system improvements.
- Recognize the potential, which exists with other public and private organizations for donations to aid in park system development.
- Update the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years to maintain grant eligibility.
- Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.

Goal: Coordinate subdivision review with all departments responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.

Objectives:

- Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan before subdivision plats are approved.
- Continually evaluate and update the subdivision ordinance so that it adequately addresses the recreational needs of Village residents.

Goal: Maintain a Village-wide urban forestry program, which will manage the Village's urban forest.

Objectives:

- Maintain the urban forestry ordinance and management plan that regulates the planting, removal and management of trees on public lands in the Village and makes the Village eligible for state and federal urban forestry grant-in-aid programs.
- Remove dead trees and/or treat diseased trees on public lands within the Village.
- Establish and maintain a continuous tree planting and tree maintenance program for public lands in the Village.
- Maintain "Tree City USA" status for the Village.

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

Objectives:

- Utilize the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan's capital improvements program as a guide to establish yearly park budgets.
- Invest funds to develop facilities, which will maximize existing park and recreation areas and increase park use.

Goal: Provide residents with multi-purpose trail systems that utilize environmental corridors and provide linkages between parks and other appropriate features within and outside of the Village.

Objectives:

- Secure additional lands along environmental corridors to ensure public control.
- Develop trail systems, which have multiple uses and are barrier free.

Goal: Recognize the importance of park maintenance, which will improve the quality of recreation available to residents and will reduce the likelihood of hazards.

Objectives:

- Utilize the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan's maintenance program recommendations as a guide to establish yearly budgets.
- Develop an appropriate and equitable use fee system to help offset maintenance and operations costs.

Plan Updates

It is important to periodically review and update the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to ensure that the Village is meeting the needs and wants of its constituents. Comprehensive plans, such as the Village of Weston Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, are generally useful for a five year planning period, while the action plan and the capital improvements programs are accurate for only one or two years.

At a minimum, the Village should review and update the entire plan every five years. In addition to being good planning, the five-year update is a requirement of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to maintain grant-in-aid eligibility for many state and federal grant programs.

Additionally, the Village should review and update the existing conditions and better plan for future needs and improvements.