

IX. Proposed Action Plan

The following is a list of recommendations for the entire Village of Weston Park and Recreation system. The overall list of recommendations may seem overwhelming, but they are meant to be long-term and they should be implemented over a period of years. The Village-wide improvements should be implemented over a ten to twenty year period, as opposed to implementing the capital improvements program for specific sites in a five-year period. If all the Village-wide recommendations are implemented, the Weston Park and Recreation System will be significantly improved.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONSBarrier Free Access

All parks facilities should be barrier free and should meet the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As park facilities are built they should be designed to be barrier free and accessible to all park users. All existing park facilities should be evaluated and upgraded, as necessary, to meet ADA guidelines.

Playground Safety Surfaces

Surfaces directly under play equipment and within the use area around the play equipment should be covered with a 10"-12" layer of resilient safety surface. Commonly used resilient surfaces are sand, pea gravel and bark or wood chips. Additionally, to meet ADA requirements, the Village should use a resilient rubber or similar product to provide safe, barrier free access to transfer points on the play equipment.

Park Security

Park facilities should be designed to maximize user security, and minimize the probability of vandalism. Park facilities should: be designed to allow adequate visibility to and from active use areas, lighted (where appropriate) to provide safety at night, and utilize materials that are vandal resistant and safe. The Village should maintain an appropriate surveillance and monitoring program to promote safe use in parks and reduce the opportunity for vandalism. Also, existing park facilities should be evaluated, and upgraded, as necessary, to provide adequate security and safety.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Upgrade all existing park facilities to meet the guidelines and standards established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

2. Design and install a full access ADA playground.
 - a. Partner with the DCE School District to help with funding.
 - b. Look for potential grants.
 - c. Pursue private donations.
3. Acquire additional parklands as appropriate to meet current and future recreational needs per the recommendations of the Village's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
 - a. Community Park
 - i. 40-80 acre parcel in the Eastern section of the Village off of Ryan Street.
4. Develop additional parklands as appropriate to meet current and future recreation needs per the recommendations of the Village's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
5. Continue development of the Eau Claire River Trail connecting existing and proposed Village parks as well as surrounding communities and provide support facilities and amenities along the trail route.
6. Develop a funding mechanism for park acquisition, park development, park and recreation program operation and park management.
 - a. Revenue generating activities (fees)
 - i. Summer parks program
 - ii. After school program
 - iii. Aquatic Center programs
 - iv. Other recreational programs
 - b. Payment in lieu of dedication of parkland
 - c. Impact Fee on new development (to meet future needs)
 - d. Grant-in-aid programs
 - e. Local donations (monetary, in-kind contributions and volunteer labor)
7. Develop joint use policies and agreements among the Village, D.C. Everest School District and recreational associations to help develop and maintain Village park facilities.

8. Hire additional staff and acquire additional equipment to adequately operate and maintain the Village Park System.
9. Perform systematic routine maintenance of park facilities and equipment
 - a. Play equipment
 - b. Courts and fields
 - c. Benches and picnic tables
 - d. Eau Claire River Trail
 - e. Restrooms and shelters
 - f. New facilities as they are developed
10. Continual utilization of the Urban Forestry Plan
 - a. Urban forestry ordinance
 - b. Urban forestry guidelines
 - c. Removal/stumping/restoration
 - d. Planting
 - e. Maintenance/management
 - f. Public Education
11. Periodically update the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - a. Update the needs analysis and action plan yearly
 - b. Update the entire plan every five years