

III. Recommendations and Steps for Action

Community leaders are more often recognizing that park, recreation, and forestry facilities, programs, and services are essential to creating and maintaining communities in which people want to live, work, play, socialize, recreate, learn, and visit. These facilities, programs, and services should be seen as investments in the long-term vitality and economic sustainability of any active and desirable community. The WPRF is committed to providing comprehensive and high quality programs and services to the community of Waukesha. The WPRF recognizes these factors and seeks to make improvements and enhancements to the community.

A. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the totality of the needs assessment study conducted. These recommendations will assist the City of Waukesha in meeting the needs, desires, and expectations of its residents.

- Ensure continuation of the high-quality maintenance of facilities, parks, trails, open spaces, medians, and forested area residents of Waukesha have come to expect.
- Ensure affordability of services and programs related to facilities, parks, trails, and open spaces.
- Explore the addition of indoor facilities such as recreation centers and aquatic centers.
- Improve/add trail and pathway connectivity, shelters with restrooms, open space/natural area preservation, and playgrounds.
- Add or expand outdoor aquatics facilities.
- Consider amending rules and post appropriate signage permitting dogs on leash (six foot maximum) in all City parks, trails, and pathways.

B. Action Plan and Prioritization

The following Areas of Focus with Action Steps are outlined to create a process to move forward. Over the next five to ten years, many influences will impact the success of the development of future facilities, programs, and services. Funding availability, staff buy-in, and political and community support will play significant roles in future planning efforts.

Area of Focus 1: *Ensure continuation of the high-quality maintenance of facilities, parks, trails, open spaces, medians and forested area residents of Waukesha have come to expect.*

Actions

1.1

Continue to monitor maintenance operations.

- Utilize regular standardized evaluation methods and instruments to measure and track the level of quality of maintenance of facilities, parks, trails, open spaces, medians, and forested areas.
- Emphasize training and mentoring of staff to ensure continuous improvement and customer satisfaction.
- Monitor park maintenance staffing and adjust as needed to meet current demand for services and develop a plan for future growth.
- Address park maintenance projects and annual maintenance needs to minimize backlog.
- Identify priorities of future maintenance projects for facilities, parks, trails, open spaces, medians, and forested areas.
- Develop capital improvement plan, cost, and phasing recommendations and implementation plan for priority items/projects.

1.2

Continue to monitor the condition of existing community and neighborhood parks, trails and pathways, park shelters, Scheutze Recreation Center, and aquatics facilities, as these facilities have been identified by residents as of high importance.

- Utilize regular standardized evaluation methods and instruments to measure and track the level of quality of maintenance of these areas.
- Emphasize training and mentoring of staff to ensure continuous maintenance of these areas.
- Monitor maintenance staffing and adjust as needed to meet current demand for services and develop a plan for future growth.
- Address maintenance projects and annual maintenance needs to minimize backlog of maintenance.
- Identify priorities of future maintenance projects for these areas.
- Develop capital improvement plan, cost, and phasing recommendations and implementation plan for priority items/projects.

1.3

Improve the condition of existing street medians, boulevard care, and weed control of park grass as these areas have been identified by residents as of high importance but not currently meeting community needs.

- Analyze, study, and categorize the deficiencies of these areas and develop a maintenance plan to address them.
- Utilize regular standardized evaluation methods and instruments to measure and track the level of quality of maintenance of these areas.
- Emphasize training and mentoring of staff to ensure continuous maintenance of these areas.
- Increase maintenance staffing and adjust as needed to meet current demand for these areas and develop a plan for future growth.
- Address maintenance projects and annual maintenance needs including any backlog of maintenance.
- Identify priorities of future maintenance projects for these areas.
- Develop capital improvement plan, cost, and phasing recommendations and implementation plan for priority items/projects.

Area of Focus 2: *Ensure affordability of services and programs related to facilities, parks, trails, and open spaces.*

Actions

2.1

Continue to monitor affordability of programs and services.

- Monitor resource allocation, spending, and cost recovery associated with program and services.
- Perform a detailed study of the costs associated with each program and service.
- Emphasize training and mentoring of staff for cost-efficient program and service delivery.
- Monitor program and services staffing and adjust as needed to meet current demand for services and manage resources effectively.
- Manage facility and park maintenance resources to maximize effectiveness.
- Identify priorities of future expenditures related to programs and services.
- Develop equipment and supplies purchasing plans to maximize resources.

Area of Focus 3: *Explore improving/adding trail and pathway connectivity, shelters with restrooms, open space/natural area preservation, and playgrounds.*

Actions

3.1

Based on trends and demand, look for opportunities to improve/add trail and pathway connectivity, shelters with restrooms, open space/natural area preservation, and playgrounds.

- Identify priorities for future development of trail and pathway connectivity, shelters with restrooms, open space/natural area preservation, and playgrounds.
- Develop conceptual plans for trail and pathway connectivity, shelters with restrooms, open space/natural area preservation, and playgrounds.
- Develop financial projections for trail and pathway connectivity, shelters with restrooms, open space/natural area preservation, and playgrounds.
- Develop O&M budget projections and pro-forma for operations of trail and pathway connectivity, shelters with restrooms, open space/natural area preservation, and playgrounds.

Area of Focus 4: *Explore the addition of indoor facilities such as recreation centers and aquatic centers.*

Actions

4.1

Conduct a Feasibility Study to determine the potential advantages and disadvantages of building a community center and/or indoor aquatic center.

- Identify priorities for future development of a community recreation center and/or indoor aquatics center.
- Develop conceptual plans for a community recreation center and/or indoor aquatics center.
- Develop financial projections for construction of a community recreation center and/or indoor aquatics center.
- Develop O&M budget projections and pro-forma for operations of a community recreation center and/or indoor aquatics center.

Area of Focus 5: *Explore additional land acquisition for new parks.*

Actions

5.1

As part of a comprehensive master plan, conduct an inventory and level of service analysis to identify potential gaps in service within the community:

- Identify priorities for future development of a new parks.
- Develop conceptual plans for future new parks.
- Develop financial projections for construction of future new parks.
- Develop O&M budget projections and pro-forma for operations of future new parks.

Area of Focus 6: *Explore whether the resources supporting the Rotary Building at Frame Park, Baseball/softball fields, Soccer fields, and E.B. Shurts Environmental Center outweigh the benefits.*

Actions

6.1

- As part of a comprehensive master plan conduct a financial analysis of the current services and facilities.

Area of Focus 7: *Monitor the participation and usage of the tennis courts, outdoor ice rinks, basketball courts, and pickleball courts to determine if these facilities warrant future continuation or improvements.*

Actions

7.1

Conduct regular facility and participation counts for these areas to determine usage.

- Develop a method to conduct and record daily facility and participation counts.