



executive summary

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The City of Grove City's Parks and Rec does a fabulous job. The opportunities you provide to all ages is why we chose Grove City over all the other suburbs to raise our family.

- Planning Area B Resident

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INTRODUCTION

Grove City has had a long and strong tradition of offering quality parks and recreational opportunities to its citizens. The parks system has continually evolved and developed to become the current network of more than 260 acres of public parkland and 135 acres of public open space to meet the growing demand of residents. To supplement this system, the Parks and Recreation Department also offers a growing number of recreational and educational programs.

To ensure that the wants and needs of residents continue to be met, the Parks and Recreation Department has prepared the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan to guide the development of parkland, recreational offerings and departmental organization for years to come. The intent of this plan is to provide decision makers with a comprehensive understanding of existing conditions and a policy framework to advance the parks system and recreational programs offered by the City.

PLANNING PROCESS

In the spring of 2010, the Parks and Recreation Department began preparing for the renewal of its accreditation through the Commission of Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). One of the requirements for accreditation is a comprehensive plan that guides the department and is updated every five years. In order to complete this task, the department began formulating an update to the 2006 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. The updated plan would involve heavy input from the public as well as a series of analyses conducted by staff in

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order to understand the needs of community in terms of parks and recreation. The result of this process is the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan.

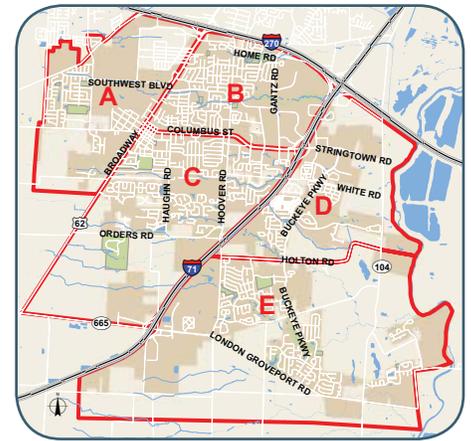
The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan is a culmination of both technical research provided by City staff as well as input from the public, gained through a series of public meetings and online surveys. All recommendations outlined in the plan are based on either comments received from the public or findings from staff research.

Public Participation

The Parks and Recreation Department sought input from the public in order to compile the goals and objectives of this plan through a series of public meetings and online surveys. Three public meetings were held during the months of September and October 2010 in order to let residents state their needs and desires. The meetings were formatted in a way that residents were able to discuss their ideas for the parks system on a city-wide level as well as comments about parks in their neighborhood. After the public meetings, a survey was made available online for residents to give their comments who were unable to attend the public meetings.

Thirty-six people attended the public meetings and 332 surveys were completed online, for a total of 368 residents that gave their input as part of the public input portion of the plan.

In March 2011, the department presented a draft of the goals and objectives for the plan in another public open house, to ensure that the plan was being drafted in accordance with the public's desires. An online survey was also made available for additional feedback. For all plan elements, the majority of residents responding to the survey felt the proposed goals and objectives either met or exceeded their expectations.



PLANNING AREAS

In order to get a better understanding of residents' needs throughout the community, the city was divided into five planning areas. People attending the public meetings and completing the online survey were asked to indicate what planning area they lived in (or if they did not live in Grove City, they were asked to indicate the area they were most interested in).

Planning Area	Public Meeting Questionnaires	Online Survey Responses	Total
A	1	38	39
B	7	57	64
C	11	100	111
D	2	24	26
E	6	110	116
Unmarked	9	3	12
Total	36	332	368

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Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

- Planning Area E Resident

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KEY DIRECTION OF PLAN

Based on the more than 750 comments received at the public meetings and through the online survey, the Parks and Recreation Department formulated five main themes to guide the plan. These themes are carried out throughout the plan, in terms of the ideas discussed and the policies proposed to improve the system. The five goals formulated based on public input are:

1. **Improve Access and Connectivity**

The most popular theme in both the public input meetings and the online surveys was the need for better connectivity throughout the community, particularly by providing safe access to parks and expanding the City's recreational trail system. The majority of residents indicated that connecting trails to parks, schools and the regional trail network was either important or very important to them.

- Walking trails in parks
- Off-road bike trails
- Safe on-road bicycle options

2. **Upgrade Park Facilities**

While many comments were about creating new parks, more comments were received about maintaining existing parks through utility upgrades and proper maintenance. Although surveys indicated that 59 percent of residents want more invested in developing new parks rather than maintaining existing parks, the second most common comment was about the need to upgrade and expand existing facilities.

- Lighted ball diamonds
- Running water in parks

3. **Create Parks Appropriate for All Interests and Abilities**

Residents felt it was very important to have a variety of options in the parks. This includes active and passive recreational opportunities, ranging from basketball courts and picnic areas to preserved natural settings. Residents also discussed the need for parks that are appropriate for all ages and abilities.

- Dog park
- Natural areas
- Large parks

4. **Provide a Variety of Quality Programs for All Ages and Abilities**

The City of Grove City strives to offer a variety of programs throughout the year. Participants in the public input process voiced their desire to continue to expand the programs offered, including more educational opportunities within the parks, more sport leagues for children and adults and various other program ideas.

- Programs for teens
- Winter sports
- Programs for children with disabilities

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5. Be Mindful of Future Land Development Potential

Grove City is one of the fastest growing communities in central Ohio and is anticipated to continue at this pace in the coming decades. In order to ensure that land is set aside for proper park land programming, a broader view of potential future development should be taken. Concerns were voiced at the public meetings and through the online survey that the City be more proactive in targeting land for park development as well as anticipating future community needs for parks.

- Utilize undeveloped City-owned land
- Purchase land for parks before it is developed for another purpose

KEY FINDINGS AND POLICY FOUNDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan is comprised of nine chapters, which contain policy recommendations related to the chapter content (excluding Chapter 1).

The policy foundation can be described at three levels: goals, objectives and actions. Their definitions, as they related to this plan, are as follows:

Goal

A goal is a broad policy statement expressing a desired outcome in simple terms.

Objective

An objective is a refinement of the goal necessary to give more detailed policy direction to strategies to implement the goal.

Action

An action is a detailed action step, program, project or policy necessary to initiate and complete an objective.

Each chapter is summarized as part of the executive summary, including the recommended policies.

CHAPTER 1 – BACKGROUND, CONTEXT, TRENDS & GROWTH SUMMARY

Grove City has grown considerably in recent years. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) anticipates that Grove City will have the highest population growth rate of all cities in Franklin County between 2005 and 2030. However, this growth will not be distributed equally throughout the city.

Grove City is home to a variety of neighborhood layouts and a diverse population. Because of this, the city was divided into five planning areas for the purpose of this plan in order to ensure that the needs of all residents are met with the parks system. In general, areas east of Interstate 71 are expected to experience more growth than neighborhoods west of I-71 because of the amount of land available for development.

POLICY FOUNDATION DEFINITIONS

Goal

A goal is a broad policy statement expressing a desired outcome in simple terms.

Objective

An objective is a refinement of the goal necessary to give more detailed policy direction to strategies to implement the goal.

Action

An action is a detailed action step, program, project or policy necessary to initiate and complete an objective.

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PLAN LIMITATIONS

When reading the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan, please be aware that the ideas outlined in it are guidelines and recommendations. Not all ideas discussed in the plan will be implemented and all will require detailed planning and consideration before any action is taken. The Parks and Recreation Department is not bound to this document for all decisions. Should an issue or topic arise that requires the attention of the Parks and Recreation Department that is not covered in this plan, the department has the right to address it. This plan is meant to be flexible and allow the parks system to grow with the community.

As part of the Parks and Recreation Department's accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the department's comprehensive plan must be updated every five years. These five year updates ensure that topics discussed remain relevant and that recommendations are current with the needs and desires of the community.

Planning Area A

Planning Area A includes all land west of Broadway, between Interstate 270 and Rensch Road. This planning area has the youngest population with the lowest median age of all five planning areas.

Planning Area B

Planning Area B is made up of land between Broadway and I-71, north of Columbus Street and Stringtown Road. The population in this planning area is the second highest of all areas, but is not expected to increase much because of the lack of developable land.

Planning Area C

Planning Area C contains land between Broadway and I-71, south of Columbus Street and Stringtown Road. This planning area is an interesting mix of older and newer developments and has the largest population of all planning areas with room to grow.

Planning Area D

Planning Area D is bordered by I-270 to the north, Holton Road to the south, I-71 to the west and the Scioto River to the east. This planning area includes the most commercial land of all planning areas and is anticipated to have the most population growth in the next five years.

Planning Area E

Planning Area E is the largest of the five planning areas and includes land east of I-71, west of the Scioto River and south of Holton Road. There is a large amount of undeveloped land in this area, and the population is expected to grow to reflect this fact. This planning area is the only one where the median age is expected to decrease in the next five years.

Growth Patterns

The manner in which Grove City is growing is also changing. New neighborhoods are being developed at much lower densities than older neighborhoods, meaning that houses are being built on bigger lots. Apartment and condominium developments are also getting larger. The existing parkland dedication requirements are based on the number of housing units proposed, meaning that lower density developments do not have to dedicate as much land to the City for parks or open space. This growth trend means that a single park cannot serve as many residents, as it takes people a longer distance to walk to reach a park. This presents a unique challenge to the parks system.

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CHAPTER 2 – PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The Grove City Parks and Recreation Department currently manages 18 public parks on more than 260 acres and an additional 135 acres of public open space. The parks system offers a variety of recreational opportunities, both active and passive, for residents to enjoy. In 2010, the estimated park attendance was roughly a quarter million visitors.

Types of Parks

The types of parks in Grove City can be divided into various categories, listed below. Park type is primarily based on size, how many people the park is expected to service and who maintains the park.

- Mini-Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- School Parks
- Private Parks

The various types of parks and open spaces in Grove City play an important role in creating a welcoming and vibrant community as well as providing recreational opportunities for residents.

Access to Parks

Many residential areas in planning areas C, D and E are not within safe walking distance to a public park. In fact, there are no public parks in planning area D, only private parks. There is still undeveloped land in these planning areas, making the development of new parks to serve these residents a possibility. In planning areas A and B, where developable land is harder to find, residents not within safe distance to parks will likely travel to a school to use their facilities.

As discussed in Chapter 1, homes are being developed on larger lots, meaning that a single neighborhood park cannot serve as many residents in newer subdivisions as in older ones. Furthermore, the popular response from the public was to have larger community-level parks, over smaller neighborhood parks. Because of this, the Parks and Recreation Department will be putting more of a focus on proactive acquisition of new land in desirable locations to serve the population at a community level.

Variety in the Parks

One of the five main themes identified from the public during the planning process is to create parks appropriate for all interests and abilities. While the parks system contains a variety of recreational opportunities, a number of additions were requested during the public input portion of the planning process. The most popular requests were:

Dog Parks

Dog parks create a safe environment for residents to take their dogs to enjoy off-leash play. A number of potential locations for a dog park have been identified by the City. A suitable site will be appropriately screened from neighboring properties

CHAPTER 2 POLICY FOUNDATION

Goal 1: A community knowledgeable of the city's parks and open space system

Objective 1: Promote public open space within the community and make the community aware of current parks, their sizes and components

Goal 2: A parks system offering the community a variety of park and open space options

Objective 2: Make all parks welcoming and accessible for all levels of users

Objective 3: Pursue and encourage joint uses with schools

Objective 4: Facilities should be able to support multiple activities

Objective 5: Create areas in the parks system for peaceful, passive, non active recreation

Objective 6: Create parks appropriate for the population they serve, while keeping in mind the greater parks system

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and will be large enough to accommodate separate areas for small breeds and large breeds.

Recreation Center

Although the Grove City YMCA in Fryer Park and the Vaughn E. Hairston Southwest Community Center YMCA in Urbancrest provide recreational amenities similar to those that would likely be found in a public recreation center, residents voiced their desire to have a separate public facility to meet the growing recreational demands of the community.

Adult Swimming

The Big Splash is currently the only public pool located in Grove City, and while this facility provides a great recreational opportunity for families, the public voiced their desire for a separate adult-focused swimming facility.

Passive Recreation

Land in future and existing parks should be identified for passive recreation, such as garden areas, tree stands and trails.

Utilities in Parks

Having clean and comfortable facilities is an integral part of a welcoming parks system. Installing lights and running water in parks will ensure they can be safely and comfortably enjoyed by residents.

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CHAPTER 3 – NATURAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

The desire for more natural areas in the City's parks was the sixth most popular comment gathered in the public meetings and online surveys. The preservation of natural resources plays an important role in regulating the impact of new development on the environment as well as providing important recreational opportunities to attract tourists. As Grove City continues to grow, it will be important to preserve natural resources within the City and on land to be developed for the enjoyment of current and future residents.

Natural Resources in Grove City

Grove City is home to a variety of natural resources, including streams, wetlands, ponds and large stands of trees. About 70 miles of streams flow through Grove City, the largest of which is Grant Run, which flows through Meadow Grove Park and Indian Trails Park before it flows into the Scioto River. Many of the City's other streams flow through parks or public open space, including Marsh Run (in Gantz Park) and Brown Run (along the Skate Park). Many of Grove City's parks also feature tree stands with trails through them such as Gantz Park, Fryer Park and Henceroth Park.

Threats to Natural Resources

Some natural resources are being threatened as development occurs in Grove City. According to the Central Ohio Greenways Plan, produced by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, many of the streams in Grove City are not in favorable ecological condition. Marsh Run is one of only two streams in Franklin County that was given a rating of "very poor" in the plan. In the same plan, Republican Run was rated "fair", and Grant Run was rated "poor" before it joins with Patzer Ditch and "fair" after it joins with Patzer Ditch. No streams in Grove City included in the analysis were given a "good" rating. As development expands and the city grows, it will be important to keep in mind potential threats to natural resources and determine ways to deter these threats.

Preserving Natural Resources

Although Grove City partners with a variety of regional groups to preserve natural resources and is involved in a number of natural resource protection initiatives, one of the most important ways to ensure that natural resources are protected is by educating the public. This can be done in a number of ways including signage in the parks, online initiatives and more courses about how to help protect natural resources.

CHAPTER 3 POLICY FOUNDATION

Goal 1: The protection of the city's natural resources

Objective 1: Follow the principles outlined in the Central Ohio Green Pact through the sustainable development of parks

Objective 2: Preserve natural resources on land to be developed

Goal 2: A community aware of the natural resources found in and around the city

Objective 3: Provide the community with natural resource education opportunities

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources are any feature occurring naturally within the environment that exist relatively undisturbed by mankind in a natural form.

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CHAPTER 4 POLICY FOUNDATION

Goal 1: A network of trails providing residents with connectivity to important elements throughout the community and surrounding region

Objective 1: Create a dynamic system that integrates easily into the surrounding regional systems

Objective 2: Strengthen inter-neighborhood connectivity and connect parks through the city's trail network

Goal 2: A community knowledgeable of the city's trail network

Objective 3: Keep the public informed and involved in the trail planning process

Objective 4: Provide bicycle and trail safety education opportunities

CHAPTER 4 – TRAILS AND CONNECTIVITY

The most popular topic raised by residents during the planning process was the desire for greater connectivity in the trail system. Bike paths and pedestrian trails are not only great recreational assets, they can also be vital to the development of the community. Grove City has more than 30 miles of bikeways, in a variety of forms, including recreational trails, sidepaths and bike lanes. Miles of additional bikeways are planned to accommodate residents' desires for non-motorized connectivity, particularly between the city's parks. Eighty percent of residents who participated in the public input portion of the plan felt that having parks connected by trails was important. By developing a complete and connected network of trails and bikeways, residents will have the ability to travel to parks, schools, and other local and regional destinations by bike or foot rather than relying on automobiles.

Six types of bikeways have been identified for installation to create a connected bikeway system.

Recreational Trail

A recreation trail is a bikeway within its own right of way, separate from the road network. These paths may be used by walkers, runners, skaters and wheelchair users in addition to cyclists.

Sidepath

A sidepath is a bikeway constructed on the side of the roadway within the street right of way, usually on only one side of the road.

Bike Lane

A bike lane is part of the roadway for exclusive use by cyclists. They are commonly used on higher volume streets that experience high demand due to multiple destinations being served. Space for a new bike lane may come from restriping the other lanes or removing parking.

Bicycle Boulevard

A bicycle boulevard is a low-volume roadway designed to give priority to bicyclists and pedestrians that has been modified to enhance bicycle safety and security.

Signed, Shared Roadway (Bike Route)

A signed, shared roadway is a system of on-street bikeways designated with appropriate directional and informational route markers where bicyclists share the roadway with motor vehicles.

Sharrow

Vehicular lanes marked with a "sharrow" symbol indicate that motor vehicles share the roadway with bicycles. Shared lanes are typically used when there is not adequate space for a separated bike lane.

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Grove City Bikeways

Fewer than half of the residents who attended a public meeting or completed an online survey felt that the City was well served by and accessible to trails. While the total miles of bikeways in Grove City increases every year, there is a strong desire in the community to expand the system even more. The Parks and Recreation Department will increase the number of recreational trails that are completely separated from the roadway network, as well as install a variety of other bikeways to create a complete system offering both recreational and non-motorized transportation options able to accommodate users of all skill levels.

Regional Connectivity

Grove City's bikeway network does not currently tie into any of the existing or proposed central Ohio bikeways, yet the City is within a few miles of many existing and proposed regional trails.

- Tying into the Camp Chase Trail would connect Grove City to the Ohio Erie Trail, connecting Cleveland to Cincinnati
- Creating a recreational trail between the Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and the future Metro Park along the Scioto River (the former Talbott Park) would not only give Grove City residents connectivity to the two parks, but also encourage regional cyclists to travel through Grove City and promote the city as cyclist-friendly

Creating a safe crossing over I-71 will be the one of the largest obstacles faced when finding a safe route for cyclists crossing the city.

Miles of Bikeway by Planning Area

Planning Area	Miles of Existing Bikeways
A	4 miles
B	5.8 miles
C	12.3 miles
D	5.3 miles
E	7.1 miles

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CHAPTER 5 POLICY FOUNDATION

Goal 1: A Parks and Recreation Department engaged in partnerships with agencies throughout the community to ensure a variety of recreational and leisure opportunities are available for residents

Objective 1: Encourage local businesses and service organizations to donate services and/or provide sponsorships

Objective 2: Remain aware of other recreational offerings provided by other agencies and continue to partner with other associations to provide a greater variety of recreational opportunities to residents

Goal 2: A community with a wide variety of recreational opportunities available

Objective 3: Continue to provide and enhance recreation and educational opportunities for an aging population

Objective 4: Provide a greater variety of classes for adults

Objective 5: Provide more recreational opportunities for teens

Continued on page 22

CHAPTER 5 – RECREATION

The Grove City Parks and Recreation Department has always strived to offer classes appealing to all residents. Some of the first programs offered by the department included tennis tournaments, softball and baseball leagues and hayrides. The department now offers more than 700 activities and programs, taught by more than 65 skilled instructors, each year. In 2010, more than half of all residents in Grove City and Jackson Township participated in a recreation service hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department can be categorized based on the age of the participant:

Preschool

Toddlers to six-year-olds are offered a variety of programs such as gymnastics, dance and arts and crafts. Enrollment in these courses has remained steady in recent years, drawing more than 1,200 participants annually.

Youth

Children between the ages of six and 12 are offered a variety of programs and athletic opportunities. Baseball, basketball and volleyball are the most popular programs for Grove City youth.

Teens

Grove City teenagers in seventh through 12th grades are able to participate in a variety of sports and get involved in City events through the Volunteer Involvement Program (V.I.P.).

Adult

More than 100 classes are offered each season for adults with a mix of informal and formal sporting activities and other programs. Some of the most popular adult programs are yoga, dance and card games.

Seniors (55+)

More than 130 classes and programs are offered annually to residents who are 55 and older. Popular programs include cards and local and regional shopping and entertainment trips.

Grove City partners with a number of service providers within the community including South-Western City Schools, the Grove City Kids Association, the Grove City YMCA, the Vaughn E. Hairston Southwest Community Center YMCA and Southwest Franklin County Historical Society to provide residents with a variety of recreational programs. These partnerships ensure that the Parks and Recreation Department has accessibility to proper facilities and can meet the recreational needs of residents.

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To expand the department's ability to offer recreational and educational programs, many residents requested the creation of a public recreation facility. Such a facility would help alleviate the strain on existing facilities and allow the department to grow its existing programs as well as offer additional programs.

CHAPTER 5 (CONTINUED) POLICY FOUNDATION

Objective 6: Provide more opportunities for families to participate in programs together

Goal 3: Facilities available for a variety of formal and informal recreational opportunities

Objective 7: Provide facilities and classroom spaces that can accommodate a variety of programs to meet the needs and desires of the community

Recreation Participation in 2010

Program	Participants
Preschool	1,250
P.A.R.K.	1,773
Youth Sports	2,121
Adult Sports	1,992
Evans Center Memberships	1,249

Programs Offered in 2010*

Age Category	Number of Programs
Preschool	37
Youth	136
Adults	81
Seniors	131
Total	385

* Not including multiple sessions of the same class

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CHAPTER 6 POLICY FOUNDATION

Goal 1: Grove City benefits economically from parks, recreation, and open space amenities

Objective 1: Demonstrate a positive return on major park investment

Objective 2: Review existing recreation development fees to determine if rates are appropriate and make necessary changes as needed to ensure that the park system will properly serve the growing population

Objective 3: Identify and secure land for future park creation, before adjacent land is developed in order to maximize the value of park investment

Objective 4: Demonstrate a positive economic impact from parks and recreation-related tourism

CHAPTER 6 – IMPACT OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the recreational, environmental and aesthetic benefits that parks and open space offer, they are also beneficial to the economic wellbeing of a community. Parks and open space have been shown to increase the value of surrounding properties and are important to attract and retain residents and businesses as well as tourists.

Increase in Property Values

Even in areas with forms of nuisance, such as traffic or noise, property values are positively affected by having a park nearby. A well-maintained, easily visible park increases the benefits even more. An increase in property value means an increase in tax revenue generated from those properties. In some cases, the cost to develop a park can be offset by the increase in property value and increased property tax generated from the development of the park. Furthermore, developing a park can be more fiscally beneficial to the community than developing the same land as residential.

In Grove City, the school district benefits greater than the City in terms of revenue from property taxes. Examining the effect on property taxes on neighboring properties from five parks spread throughout the community, the City gains approximately \$10,000 annually through income tax revenue, while the school district gains more than \$219,000 in revenue attributable to the five parks.

Attracting Residents, Tourists, and Businesses

Parks help create an environment in which people want to reside. In a technologically driven market, where businesses can generally choose where to locate, the perception that a business can attract and retain highly skilled workers is key. Quality of life for employees is ranked high among reasons why businesses locate where they do – particularly in the case of small businesses. Grove City currently has many items in place to help it attract businesses, such as CRAs, TIFs and Enterprise Zones. However, promoting the parks system may improve the likelihood of a business locating in the City.

Parks and recreation amenities can also help attract tourists to Grove City. Out-of-town visitors may come for special park and recreation programs such as cultural events and festivals, as well as competitive athletic events like races, golf tournaments and regional sports competitions. These visitors spend money in the community, which helps to support jobs in the local economy.

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CHAPTER 7 – LAND ACQUISITION AND PARKLAND DEVELOPMENT

As Grove City grows, land is being consumed for the development of a variety of uses including residential, commercial and industrial. The acquisition and development of parkland in Grove City should continue to be viewed as just as important as the development of land for other purposes.

Parkland Acquisition

Grove City currently provides 7.4 acres of public parkland for every 1,000 residents, which is below the City's goal of 20 acres per 1,000 residents as identified in City Code. This deficit exists citywide, in all planning areas. Given this fact, it is important that the City identifies key pieces of land for acquisition and future development, both for park development and trail connectivity. Land can be acquired either through purchase, using the Recreation Development Fund, General Fund or a combination of the two; dedication, where developers set aside a portion of land to be developed for parkland or open space; or donation from land owners.

New land dedicated to the city as part of a residential subdivision is reviewed by City Administration and Planning Commission prior to being approved by City Council. This review process should be expanded to include the review by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Park Board to ensure that the proposed land for dedication meets the goals outlined in this plan for the development of the parks system. A variety of design considerations should go into the placement and development of parks such as the preservation of natural resources, the orientation and accessibility of the park and access to utilities for installation of water and electricity in the parks.

Parkland Development

After land is acquired for parks, it is programmed for public use. The development process establishes the use of the parks including what types of facilities are constructed and the quantity and location of park amenities, such as playground equipment, trails and restrooms. Public meetings are held when new land is acquired to ensure the park will meet the needs and desires of the community.

Sustainable practices should be used in the development of new parks, aligning with the principles of the Central Ohio Green Pact. Installing fixtures such as benches and shelters made of partially recycled materials, using permeable pavement for recreational trails, and installing storm water management tools such as rain barrels and rain gardens are all examples of sustainable development practices that should be considered when developing parkland.

CHAPTER 7 POLICY FOUNDATION

Goal 1: Parkland is acquired and developed to meet the needs and desires of the growing community

Objective 1: Establish land acquisition policies to promote the growth of the park system at a comparable rate to serve the growing population

Objective 2: Provide more opportunities for review and collaboration regarding land acquisition and development

Objective 3: Review existing recreation development fees to determine if rates are appropriate and make necessary changes as needed to ensure that the park system will properly serve the growing population

Objective 4: Preserve natural resources on land to be developed

Objective 5: Encourage residents to donate property for open space uses throughout the community

Objective 6: Provide adequate amenities in parks to serve the community

Objective 7: Follow the principles outlined in the Central Ohio Green Pact through the sustainable development of parks

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CHAPTER 8 POLICY FOUNDATION

Goal 1: A Parks and Recreation Department that grows with the community

Objective 1: Adequate staffing levels should be maintained for all departmental functions including administrative staff, program instructors, and parkland maintenance staff

Goal 2: A Parks and Recreation Department that strives to provide the best possible service to the public

Objective 2: Necessary training should be provided for departmental staff

Objective 3: A schedule of park maintenance should be outlined, prioritizing parks and trails for maintenance

Goal 3: The creation of a Grove City Parks Foundation

Objective 4: Encourage and provide support to community members interested in establishing a Grove City parks foundation

CHAPTER 8 – ORGANIZATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Parks and Recreation Department operates under the direction of the Mayor and City Administrator of Grove City. The department employs 18 full-time, 40 part-time and more than 100 seasonal staff. The department holds a variety of positions including a Director, Superintendent, Coordinators and support staff. There are a variety of components to the department, including Preschool/RecSchool, Youth/P.A.R.K., Sports, Adult, 55+, Herbs, Aquatics and Community Relations. A separate park maintenance crew is charged with the maintenance and operations of all City parks. The department also partners with a number of other departments including the Community Relations Office, the Public Service Department and the Development Department.

Park Board

The Park Board, per City Charter, acts as the eyes and ears of the community to serve as an advisory board for the Parks and Recreation Department. It consists of five citizen members appointed by the Mayor. Board members review and make recommendations regarding parks, recreation, open space and cultural arts.

Program and Service Evaluation

Evaluations of the programs and services offered by the Parks and Recreation Department are conducted throughout the year in a variety of forms. At the end of all classes, instructors distribute evaluations, asking the participants various questions about their enjoyment of the program and how it could be improved. The department also receives feedback from a survey conducted by an independent public opinion research firm. These surveys indicate that residents feel that they are treated well by staff and that they rank all programs offered by the city above average.

Professional Growth and Development

The Parks and Recreation Department encourages its employees to be involved and affiliated with professional organizations as well as attend conferences and seminars to stay informed of current events and trends in the field. Certifications are also required to be maintained for certain positions, such as CPR and First Aid for P.A.R.K. staff.

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CHAPTER 9– IMPLEMENTATION

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan is a guiding document, intended to assess the current status of the City's parks and recreation services as well as provide an analysis of future needs to ensure that as the parks system grows it continually meets the needs of residents. The goals contained in this plan are intended to lay the groundwork for future project and policy implementation. The plan will be used by a variety of bodies, including staff, City Council, Park Board and the public.

A total of 14 goals, 35 objectives and 131 actions have been identified in this plan for the continuous improvement of Grove City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space system. Realizing that some of these goals are ongoing while others require more immediate action, the Parks and Recreation Department reviewed all recommended policies in order to prioritize certain actions. The prioritization will help the department identify and determine appropriate projects for annual work programs and projects for the Capital Improvement Plan.

Just as important as the prioritization of the plan, is the monitoring of the plan. On an annual basis, at minimum, the plan should be reviewed, where the goals, objectives and actions are monitored for effectiveness and relevancy. This review will also allow the Parks and Recreation Department to monitor their progress toward the completion of the policies outlined in the plan.

	Goals	Objectives	Actions
Chapter 1	0	0	0
Chapter 2	2	6	71
Chapter 3	2	3	9
Chapter 4	2	4	12
Chapter 5	3	7	14
Chapter 6	1	4	6
Chapter 7	1	7	15
Chapter 8	3	4	4
Chapter 9	0	0	0
Total	14	35	131