

Chapter Five:
Implementation
Guideline

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This chapter lists the specific action items identified in the plan recommendations from Chapter Four. These items have been prioritized and targeted for action. These items should be used as a guideline and reviewed each year and adjusted as needed to react to changes within the community, funding opportunities, and other

Park District needs. The Action Plan provides an overview of prioritized categories with more detailed actions provided on the following pages. Items that are not financially viable within the near-term have been shown in the next cycle and those that are recurring have been isolated as well.

Action Plan

Priority Group 1				Priority Group 2				Priority Group 3				
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	
Recreation Facility Improvements (Additions & Upgrades)	[Timeline bar]							Perform Compliance Audit/Action Plan for Facilities & Parks	[Timeline bar]			
Acquire Oak Ridge Park (Planning / Grant Application)	[Timeline bar]			Acquire Oak Ridge Park (Land)	[Timeline bar]							
Prepare Meadow Valley Park Master Plan	[Timeline bar]			Submit OS�AD Grant for Meadow Valley Park Plan	[Timeline bar]	Design & Engineer Meadow Valley Park Improvements	[Timeline bar]			Bid & Construct Meadow Valley Park Improvements	[Timeline bar]	
Develop strategy for Bowen Park Challenges	[Timeline bar]			Strategize Upgrades to Neighborhood Parks	[Timeline bar]			Prepare Washington Park Master Plan	[Timeline bar]			
Continue Trail Development with City	[Timeline bar]											
Generate New Revenue Opportunities (Programs & Events)	[Timeline bar]			Implement School Programming Partnerships	[Timeline bar]			Implement Teen Program Enhancements	[Timeline bar]			
Generate Volunteer Advocacy (Watch Groups, etc.)	[Timeline bar]			Establish Policies with City	[Timeline bar]			Improve Maintenance Approach & Resources	[Timeline bar]			
Explore Opportunities for Partnerships (School Districts)	[Timeline bar]			Explore Opportunities for Partnerships (Travel Teams)	[Timeline bar]			Implement Travel Team Enhancements	[Timeline bar]			

Justification considerations used to develop priorities

Identified as a **safety or compliance** issue

Identified as a high priority in **community survey**

Identified as a high priority by **stakeholders**

Identified as a high priority by **staff / elected leadership**

Identified as a high need by **state / national standards**

Aligned with available or **reasonably obtainable funding**

Priority Group 4				Priority Group 5				Long-Term Priorities		Recurring Action Items	
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4				
				Add Elevator to Recreation Center				Prepare 5 Year Master Plan 2025-2030		Promote Activities along with Facility Improvements	
								Revisit Pool Master Plan (current trends, expansion areas, etc.)			
								Continue Trail Development with City		Playground, Furniture & Shelter Replacements	
				Bid & Construct Washington Park Improvements				Balance Needs, Trends, Funding, etc. Concerning Unprioritized Amenities		Natural Area Management	
		Design & Engineer Washington Park Improvements						Design & Engineer Oak Ridge Park Improvements		Trail Management & Maintenance	
Submit OSLAD Grant for Washington Park Plan						Submit OSLAD Grant for Oak Ridge Park Improvements		Bid & Construct Oak Ridge Park Improvements		Continue Initiative to Exceed State Standards (Study Needs)	
Update Oak Ridge Park Master Plan										Program Evaluation & Feedback	
Generate New & Improve Volunteers for Natural Areas				Expand on Platform(s) for Program Evaluation & Feedback							
Improve Public Relations website, e-mail, & marketing upgrades				Research New Capital & Resource Options							
Evaluate Green Initiatives to reduce operational costs											

Legend

	Facilities
	Parks and Open Space
	Planning and Programs

Planning Actions

Priority Group 1

Facilities

- ❑ Continue to implement the Recreation Center master plan focusing on:
 - ⇒ Accessibility
 - ⇒ Restrooms
 - ⇒ Heating and Cooling
 - ⇒ Parking and walkway improvements
 - ⇒ Curb Appeal
- ❑ Beginning planning for the acquisition of Oak Ridge Park
 - ⇒ Discuss opportunities with landholder
 - ⇒ If “willing seller” context is available, consider preparing a Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Acquisition grant application
 - ⇒ If additional time is needed, consider Open Lands Trust (OLT) arrangement to secure land

Parks and Open Space

- ❑ Prepare a Master Plan for improvements at Meadow Valley Park focussing on:
 - ⇒ Natural area improvements/management
 - ⇒ Accessibility
 - ⇒ Parking improvements
 - ⇒ Trails and connections
 - ⇒ Security
 - ⇒ Picnic support facilities
 - ⇒ Grant ready packaging
- ❑ Develop a Bowen Lake Park strategy focusing on:
 - ⇒ Natural area improvements/management
 - ⇒ Fishing pier repair / replacement
 - ⇒ Fishing stations
 - ⇒ Interpretation and education
 - ⇒ Security and safety
 - ⇒ Accessibility
 - ⇒ Shoreline stabilization
 - ⇒ Playground improvements
 - ⇒ Habitat development
- ❑ Continue Trail Development with the City of Washington
 - ⇒ Align geographic priorities with the City
 - ⇒ Assist with transportation related grant funding applications
 - ⇒ Focus on identification/wayfinding signage
 - ⇒ Develop standard sign vocabulary package

Planning & Programs

- ❑ Generate new revenue opportunities/ identify facility improvements needs required to do so
 - ⇒ Evaluate grant opportunities
 - ⇒ Enhance festival and special events
 - ⇒ Enhance tournament play experiences
- ❑ Generate volunteer advocacy
 - ⇒ Create advocacy group for trails
 - ⇒ Create advocacy group / sports affiliate council
 - ⇒ Create advocacy group for natural areas
- ❑ Explore stronger partnerships with School Districts potentially focusing on:
 - ⇒ Joint purchasing
 - ⇒ Parent support
 - ⇒ Professional development
 - ⇒ After school / before school programming
 - ⇒ Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math (STEAM) related programming



Priority Group 2

Facilities

- ❑ Acquire Oak Ridge Park
 - ⇒ Utilize a combination of LWCF, willing seller contribution, and OLT to acquire park property or secure long term lease in excess of 25 years.

Parks and Open Space

- ❑ Submit IDNR Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant for Meadow Valley Park
- ❑ Begin design and engineering for improvements identified in Meadow Valley Park Master Plan
- ❑ Prepare replacement plan for neighborhood parks including:
 - ⇒ Shelters
 - ⇒ Site Furniture
 - ⇒ Play Equipment
 - ⇒ Picnic Amenities

Planning & Programs

- ❑ Implement new programs developed in partnership with School Districts
- ❑ Establish and strengthen policies with the City of Washington:
 - ⇒ Land holdings / maintenance agreements
 - ⇒ Land/ Cash ordinance for incoming development
 - ⇒ Review capacity for incoming development
 - ⇒ Detention basin management / maintenance
 - ⇒ Trail development / maintenance
- ❑ Explore opportunities to strengthen partnerships with sports affiliates / travel teams:
 - ⇒ Accept them as premiere providers within certain bounds
 - ⇒ Identify gaps in youth player, coach, and referee development and develop programs that fill the need
 - ⇒ Consider: age, geographic area, time, level of play, facilities, event planning skills, registration efficiencies, joint purchasing, and shared human resources



Priority Group 3

Facilities

- ❑ Perform compliance audit / develop action plan for all facilities and parks including:
 - ⇒ ADA
 - ⇒ Playground CPSC / ASTM
 - ⇒ Aquatics

Parks and Open Space

- ❑ Bid and construct Meadow Valley Park improvements
- ❑ Prepare Master Plan for Washington Park considering:
 - ⇒ Accessibility
 - ⇒ Parking Improvements
 - ⇒ Shelter Improvements
 - ⇒ Curb appeal

Planning & Programs

- ❑ Evaluate and implement new teen focused programs developed in partnership with School Districts
- ❑ Evaluate and improve maintenance resources considering:
 - ⇒ Human resources
 - ⇒ Vehicles & equipment
 - ⇒ Premiere locations & treatments
 - ⇒ Landscape improvements / minimizations
- ❑ Implement opportunities identified with sports affiliates / travel teams



Priority Group 4

Facilities

- ❑ Continue minor improvements and maintenance

Parks and Open Space

- ❑ Submit OSLAD application for Washington Park
- ❑ Design and engineer elements identified in the Washington Park Master Plan
- ❑ Update Master Plan for Oak Ridge Park considering:
 - ⇒ Softball / baseball
 - ⇒ Soccer / Lacrosse/ Football
 - ⇒ Artificial turf
 - ⇒ Sports lighting
 - ⇒ Shelter Improvements
 - ⇒ Trails
 - ⇒ Picnic amenities / support
 - ⇒ Parking
 - ⇒ Grant Ready Package

Planning & Programs

- ❑ Engage natural area volunteer force at new Meadow Valley Park area including:
 - ⇒ Natural area management
 - ⇒ Nature studies educational programming
- ❑ Review and improvement public relations
 - ⇒ Strengthen communication channels
 - ⇒ Acknowledge/celebrate partnerships
 - ⇒ Celebrate new improvements
 - ⇒ Celebrate related programming
 - ⇒ Evaluate brand identity and market position
 - ⇒ Consider Oak Ridge Park fund raising campaign
- ❑ Evaluate green initiatives aimed at cost reduction
 - ⇒ Energy efficiencies
 - ⇒ Convert low use turf areas to natives
 - ⇒ Consolidate high impact landscaping

Priority Group 5

Facilities

- ❑ Consider the addition of an elevator to the Recreation Facility

Parks and Open Space

- ❑ Bid and Construct Washington Park improvements
- ❑ Submit OSLAD grant application for Oak Ridge Park

Planning & Programs

- ❑ Expand program evaluation and feedback system targeting user satisfaction
- ❑ Research new capital and resource options
- ❑ Engage team for the next 5 year plan master plan update



Elements to be considered in the next planning cycle

- Update Pool Complex Master Plan considering
 - ⇒ Zero depth entry
 - ⇒ Parking improvements
 - ⇒ Splash Pad
- Continue trail development in partnership with the City of Washington
- Valuate un-prioritized elements with interest from the plan
 - ⇒ Artificial turf
 - ⇒ Sports lighting
 - ⇒ Challenge course
 - ⇒ Extreme sports
 - ⇒ Opportunity based land acquisitions
- Design & engineer improvements identified in the Master Plan for Oak Ridge Park
- Bid and construct Oak Ridge Park improvements

Elements to receive continuous improvement throughout the plan life

- Promote activities aligned with facility improvements
- Playground, shelter, furniture repair / replacements
- Natural area management
- Trail management and maintenance
- Evaluation against state and national standards and emerging trends with adjustments as needed
- Program evaluation and feedback

Recommended Neighborhood Park Repair and Replacement Priorities

- Birchwood Park
- Candlewood Park
- Sweitzer Park
- Weaver Park
- Grant Park
- Westgate Park
- Recreation Facility Park
- Harry LaHood Park

Detailed recommendations are provided within each individual park inventory.



