

Bowling Green Parks & Recreation Five Year Master Plan 2016-2021



*Enhancing quality of life through
Parks, Programs & Facilities.*

Core Values:

Community
Commitment
Education
Service
Health

PROCESS

The planning process began in 2015 under the previous Parks & Recreation Director. With her departure in February, the department went through transition of leadership as well as some slight restructuring. With new leadership it was determined that the process of planning was important enough to not rush through just to have it done by the start of 2016. It was also determined that a ten year plan was no longer a useful planning tool as circumstances change at such a rapid pace.

- Recreational Needs Survey Administered – January 2015
- Transition in Leadership – Interim Director Callecod (March-June 2015), new Director Otley named in April 2015, began July 1, 2015
- Goals for 2016 set during budget process – October 2015
- Preparation of Major Financial Needs Document (mostly facilities & infrastructure for the next ten years) – February 2016
- Community Focus Group Meetings (5) – April & May 2016
- Park Board Retreat (SWOT Analysis) – August 2016
- Staff Retreat (SWOT Analysis) – September 2016
- Review of prior Ten Year Plan
- Continual discussion and interaction with citizens and users

PARAMETERS & ASSUMPTIONS

- BGPR's biggest priority will be maintaining the acreage and facilities that we have. The department experienced tremendous growth over the last 15 years in order to meet the needs of our citizens. This was very exciting but now the time has come to focus on taking care of what we have, especially some of our aging facilities and infrastructure so that we can continue to meet citizens needs for years to come!
- Revenue sources will remain through the five year span – levy, fees for service and income tax.
- Accomplishing all of these items in the five year span will be dependent on donations, grants, partnerships and the support of our Foundation.
- The priority in terms of which year each item will be accomplished will be determined with the budget process and goals established each year of the five year span. This plan will also be revisited annually to track progress and revise as necessary.
- Items that we can't control or forecast beyond the current budget year: minimum wage, price tag for projects that will have to be bid out and the overall health of the economy.

- As with all plans – this is a living, breathing, fluid document. Try as we may to plan there will be things that surface which require adjustment and may cause projects to be moved forward or pushed back. (Example – Ridge Park was not listed in previous versions of the master plan. However, when it was made a priority, the budget was shifted resulting in the development of Ridge Park moving forward and other projects being pushed back).

PARKS

BG Athletic Fields

- Open the four acres of game fields
- Work on building an outdoor obstacle course on four acres on the far east end
- Level & seed remaining 10 acres for open field play and practice
- Add storage building with restrooms. The building will be used to store maintenance equipment for the fields and the Community Center. Also included in this building will be classroom space for Crossfit and outdoor fitness classes as well as the storage of that fitness equipment.

Bellard Park – maintain as is

Black Swamp Preserve – work with joint owner WCPD

Carter Park

- Work with Arborist to plant more trees along disc golf course & continue improvements (landscape beds & tee signs).
- Continue to manage the established natural area & improve educational signage
- Replace playground (the one for ages 5-12 year olds)
- Potentially remove the A frame shelter houses and replace with one large modern, more useful shelter house

City Park

- Depot Building – tuck pointing & painting
- Stone Shelter – new shingle roof
- Needle Hall – new “metal shake” roof
- Kiwanis Shelter – new metal roof
- Kiwanis Memorial Shelter – replace roof & stain shelter

- Maintenance Building – new roof
- Girl Scout Building – needs major renovation or this could be taken down and space incorporated into Vet Building remodel/rebuild & a shelter built in its footprint.
- Veterans Building – desperately in need of renovation or demolish/rebuild. There is widespread agreement that, if the building is demolished, it should be rebuilt. It will make more financial sense to demolish and rebuild but we need to explore perhaps incorporating more rental spaces so as to alleviate the need to spend major money on the remodel of the Scout Building.
- Fix outer wall (WPA project)
- Fix inner stone wall
- Redesign Front Entrance & revamp some of the gardens

Conneaut/Haskins Park – maintain as is

Dunbridge Soccer Fields – maintain as is

Raney Playground – maintain as is

Ridge Park

- Level & reseed open play area on the back of the property
- Get one or two picnic benches donated

Simpson Garden Park

- All garden areas have now been added
- Add third bay to storage facility
- Continue Paving Trails

Wintergarden/St. John’s Nature Preserve

- Phase One of Building on Nature Campaign was completed in August 2016
- Phase Two, which is the remodel of the interior of the Rotary Nature Center, will begin in late 2016 or early 2017. Money for these projects included state grant money and private donations through our Foundation.

ADA Issues continue to be addressed at all parks – these can be costly!

PROGRAMS

BGPR will continue to provide the wide variety of programs, classes and events for all ages. Some of the major areas that we are looking to increase, modify or expand in the next five years are:

- Mature adult programming
- Outdoor obstacle course runs/events/training & fitness classes
- Outdoor fitness classes
- Crossfit classes
- Days Off School programming
- Family Fitness classes, programs and/or events
- Sport specific fitness programming & training classes
- Running/Walking Clubs
- Food related classes & activities
- Research various themed runs
- Birthday Party Package Offerings to Community Center & Nature Center
- Outdoor adventure programming – Archery, etc.
- Work with partners & sponsors (examples of major partners are BG Schools, Library & WCCOA)

FACILITIES

For All Facilities:

- ADA Issues
- LED Lighting Upgrades necessary – there may be grants available
- Review rental policies & prices

Trails

- Help to connect parks via trails throughout the city – this will probably not mean funding from our budget but helping through partnerships, grants, etc.
- Partner with Wood County Hospital on a fitness trail connecting parks and providing outdoor fitness equipment

City Pool & Waterpark

- Splash Pad – add creatures to make this area more exciting and more apt to be rented. There is a fundraiser already underway for one creature and grants have been submitted for two additional.
- Speed Slide – this will more than likely be obtained through sponsorships and fundraising but as this facility enters year number five it would be advantageous to add a new component to keep numbers and revenues up.

Community Center

- Projects for replacement or renewal by 2025 include: Roof, HVAC Renovation, Electrical, Windows & Doors, Plumbing, Masonry, Paving & Interior Painting.
- Interior painting (2017) – this may be a split with all three partners.
- Estimated lifespan for other items is 20 - 25 years and the building opened in 2005 so we need to plan for 2025 – 2030 time-frame. We will need to start putting aside money each year for the next ten years to pay our portion of these repairs. This is the worst case scenario and some of these items may or may not need to be completely renovated within this time frame.
- Replace final round of cardio equipment since opening the facility.
- Put in a crushed gravel roadway behind the building that will be used as a walkway to the athletic fields but if Newton Road floods again this could be used as an emergency roadway so the Community Center does not have to close.
- Look in to the possibility of partnering with the new assisted living facility that will be going in across the street.
- Create border around parking lot to buffer low mow grass & add educational signage.
- Help with community project to create large mosaic tiles to be installed on front windows to help with sunlight issues – grants & donations.

Simpson Building

- New roof over Banquet Room area & portico
- New HVAC units (4) for Meeting Room & Banquet Room
- LED Lighting Upgrades
- Pave Parking Lot

ADMINISTRATION

- Technology Upgrades to enhance customer service:
 - Key Pads to enter certain buildings will enable more support program use & utilizing volunteers will be easier.
 - Continual upgrades to our registration software to enhance participant ease of use, including online shelter rentals and pass renewals.
- Assist with the Community Action Plan
- Create a Long Range Infrastructure Plan (LRIP)
- Create a Land Acquisition Policy
- Work on Succession Planning Within the Department
- Address Workload of Maintenance Employees with recent addition of more acreage
- Update Donation & Memorial Policies – have a book of opportunities available

SUMMARY

We need to focus on maintaining and taking care of our parks, programs and facilities, while being aware and open to new opportunities.

***Life is Better with
Bowling Green Parks
& Recreation!***

Revised 11/17/16