Watertown Charter Township
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
2008-2013

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Overview

• The Client
• The Purpose
• Key Findings
  – Community Demographics
  – Existing Facilities Inventory
  – Standards
• Goals
• Action Program/Recommendations
  – Connectivity
  – Neighborhood Mini-park
  – 125.5 Acre area
The Client

- Watertown Charter Township
  - Board of Trustees
  - Parks and Recreation Committee
  - Jennifer Tubbs, Township Manager
  - Andrea Polverento, Planning Director
The Purpose

Create a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

• Provides Watertown Township with a guide for recreational priorities and implementation
• Makes Watertown Township eligible for Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant funding
Key Findings

• Demographics
• Existing Facilities
• Standards
Demographics

2010 Projected Population: 4,422
Age Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 5 yrs</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>-18.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 to 19</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 to 44</td>
<td>1439</td>
<td>1278</td>
<td>-11.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 to 64</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>1264</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>65 to 74</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>75 &gt;</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
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</table>
Existing Facilities

- Heritage Park

- Wallace F. Watt Community Center

- Looking Glass Valley Park
Existing Facilities

Inventory Based On:
– Amenities
– Accessibility
– Conditions
Heritage Park

Amenities:
• 1 ADA compliant bathroom
• Pavilion with electricity
• Play ground equipment
• 2 Full Size baseball fields
• 1 Tee Ball Field
• Canoe Launch
• Soccer Field
• Sand volleyball court
• Walking Trails

Existing Facilities
Wallace F. Watt Community Center

Amenities:

- Basketball court
- Shuffle board court
- Small kitchen
- Seating for approximately 125 people

Existing Facilities
Looking Glass Valley Park

Amenities:
• Play ground equipment
• Baseball Field
• Volleyball court
• Basketball court
• Canoe Launch
• Dock
• “Warming-house”

Existing Facilities
Standards

MDNR Facility Standards

- NRPA Standard for developed park land
  - 6.25 - 10.5 acres of developed park land per 1000 population
- Population categories-under 5000
  - Township requires roughly 28.1 - 47.25 acres
- Exceeds suggested minimums for most facilities
  - Currently has 12.3 acres ....... Deficit of roughly 15.8 - 35 acres of “developed park land”
Goals
Goals

Goals Based on Public Input:

1. Increase community involvement and knowledge
2. Improve the health and well being of the community
3. Engage the citizens of the township
4. Efficient use of limited resources
5. Preserve natural land
6. Encourage regional collaboration
7. Facilitate universal access
Action Program

“Identify how you intend to meet, or work towards meeting, your goals and objectives over the next five years (MDNR).”
Barrier-Free Accessibility
• ADA Compliance

Community Involvement & Knowledge
• Mass Mailings
• Signage

Short-Term Action Program

Maximize Potential of Existing Facilities
• Infrastructure Maintenance
• Budget Constraints
Non-Motorized Connectivity

Future Land Possibilities

- 125.5 Acre Area
- Neighborhood Mini-Park
Non-Motorized Connectivity

- Focused in Wacousta Area
- Emphasis on paved shoulders
- Pedestrian easements
- Pedestrian infrastructure

Action Program: Long-Term
Neighborhood Mini-Park

- SW corner of Airport Road and Driftwood Drive (Eastern Corridor)
- 0.25 acres (surrounding a small pump station)
- Located within high population census block

Action Program: Long-Term
Neighborhood Mini-Park

- Low-maintenance facilities
- Aimed at serving the large population within a close proximity

Action Program: Long-Term
125.5 Acre Area

- Located South of I-69

- 4 separate undeveloped parcels

- Future Land Use Map: Public / Semi-Public Land

- Emphasis put on multi-use facility (disc-golf & mountain bike trail)

- Professional Disc Golf Association: *A Large Course consists of 1 acre per hole*

**Action Program: Long-Term**
Proposed Option 1: Develop Only Southern Portion

- 80.5 Acres
- More than adequate for disc-golf and mountain biking
- Existing access off of Watertown Parkway
- Leaves 45 acres undeveloped

Action Program: Long-Term
Proposed Option 2: Develop Only Northern Portion

- 45 Acres
- More than adequate for disc-golf and mountain biking
- No direct access- Lowell Road opportunity
- Site constraint: MDOT drainage ditch
- Leaves 80.5 acres undeveloped

Action Program: Long-Term
Proposed Option 3: Develop Entire 125.5 Acres

- More than adequate for disc-golf, mountain biking, and even more
- Access from Watertown Parkway, Lowell Road or both
- Leaves zero acres undeveloped for future economic development opportunities on the site

**Any of the options would allow Watertown Township to meet the NRPA acreage standard for developed park land**
Summary

• Set **Goals** based on input

• Followed **Standards** set by MDNR and NRPA

• Create an **Action Program** consisting of short-term and long-term actions

• Made **recommendations** for Future Land Possibilities with an emphasis on low-maintenance facilities
Questions