

Executive Summary

Based on expressed concerns of the Village of Webberville, a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan was developed. The purpose was to develop this plan in accordance to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Community Recreation Plan Certification Guidelines so that the community could apply for state funding once the plan is adopted.

First, background socioeconomic data was collected to establish the changing trends throughout Webberville. Such characteristics include the decrease in population size, the increase in the average income level, the increase in the median age of the community, and the projected increase in jobs through the next 20 years, with the development and expansion of an industrial park.

Second, physical characteristics of the community were gathered, such as topography, hydrology, climate, soils, land use, and transportation accessibility, to assess the needs and possibilities for various recreational activities throughout the village.

Third, Webberville's administrative structure shows how groups in the community contribute to the decision making, and how those decisions are carried out in the planning process. The Webberville Village Council has ultimate authority over parks and recreation, and is accountable to the citizens of the Village. The planning process describes specific planning meetings that occurred regarding parks and recreation based on surveys from 2002, and meetings that took place between January and March of 2003. The process speaks to public input, review by committees, adoption by the Village Council, and implementation of recreation plans.

An inventory of the current recreational sites and structures in Webberville was collected and compared with the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards. Such sites include a Tot Lot in the southeast side of the village, a bike trail along Grand River, crossing the Kalamink Creek, and recreational and athletic facilities at both the high school and the elementary school.

Next, based on the requests of the community, potential future sites and proposals were discussed, including: the placement of additional facilities at the Tot Lot, the development of a 95.5 acre multi-use park (which would develop playgrounds, picnic facilities, athletic fields, hiking trails, among other things); the development of a site currently owned by the Calvary Baptist Church into a park; and the extension of the current bike path along the Kalamink Creek.

Following this, an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each of these sites and proposals was addressed. The conclusions were based on: the location of these sites and their attributes (Le., its accessibility, whether its

pedestrian friendly, its safety, etc.); the size of each current and potential location with the possible facilities that could be developed there; and the costs of developing and maintaining the facilities at these locations.

Finally, recommendations of each of the locations were made, as well as the necessary steps needed in order to adopt and implement this plan. Such steps included the gathering of land use and zoning information for the village, and developing a contract with the school district to ensure that the facilities are accessible to the residents during non-school hours.

This information was presented to the Village of WebbeNille, which now needs to collect the needed information, review and adopt the plan and take the final step of implementation.