

Environment/Recreation Small Group Meeting Summary

Sauk Prairie Comprehensive Plan

Date: January 7, 2003

Attendees: Steve Barrett, John W. Bass, Nancy Breunig, Anna Bruhn, Larry Clifford, Diane Goodman, Sue Kohlbeck, Julie Rogers, Craig Schollian

What are the existing assets in terms of parks and other public open space?

- Diverse area for recreation users
- The river, the path along the river
- School property – green space behind high school and middle schools are a great asset – Park at Grand Avenue
- Hispanic population utilizes for soccer
- Land by St. Al's – entire community uses

Are there things community should be doing differently in terms of acquiring, developing, and maintaining the community's park and open space system?

- South of highway 12 there is nothing
- No central facilities
- VFW park – work more to develop some of this area to make it nicer
- Number of things to be done to improve existing facilities
- Nature interpretation
- Business community needs to come into play with respect to the river
- Recreation trail from Devils Lake to Ferry Bluff
- Highway 12 project will make crossing 12 more difficult
- Coop – owns greenspace south of 12
- 1995 – joint property – 10-18 acre plot still exists, hasn't gotten a lot of discussion—west, midpoint of the two cities – no traffic flow

Is there anything that should be done differently in terms of recreational programming?

- Taking advantage of potential multiple uses is important
- Adds to the value of the community
- Intangible – hard to put a price on
- Skateboard park– approached Sauk City, Prairie du Sac wants to find a location
- Kids don't have a place to go
- School districts generally handle active recreation space
- Neighborhood parks need to be encouraged
- Communities are not addressing elderly at all—adult day care
- No senior center in community (aging population – reality, baby boomers aging, what is necessary to take care of)
- Time for recreation programming – time in gyms is getting scarce, never enough space

New joint recreation director

- Villages agreed that they supported the hiring of a recreation director
 - Two villages and the school district – no job description
 - Example of working well together
- Town of Prairie is very supportive
- Villages are funding, but outside townships will contribute
- School district employee – need to define population
- Moving toward more joint activities
- Roxbury contributes
- Westpoint is setting aside some space for park space
- Important to focus as a group
- Grassroots organizing is better than a mandate—sharing of ownership

Should there be more trails in the area?

- Trail for people to walk on – communities like to walk. Lueders Road is dangerous to walk on
- Appleton example – developer put trees in between the housing the berm area, wild grasses
- More interesting
- Green trail/space type systems
- Open to people walking through backyard – possible marketing point
- Brochure from hospital showing walking trails

Should more be done to promote certain types of recreation? Fishing? Hunting? Nature Viewing?

- Protection for shooting ranges
- County ordinance to prohibit new housing from shutting down existing shoot ranges
- Firearm range for multiple uses

Should the communities, and possibly the school district, consider consolidating their park systems? Recreation Programs?

- Maximize use instead of duplicating
- Stadium with tractor pull
- A lot of stuff people aren't aware
- Make sure there is an impact fee for greenspace – ordinance

Access/Use of the Wisconsin River

- Boat launch—not great access to the river
- No place to put boats – no place to park
- More accessible to kayakers and fishermen
- A lot of local economic benefits
- Stream bank erosion and riprapping?
- Shoreline protection – a lot of improvements could be made
- Lost control of some of river levels--wild water fluctuations – computer generated-big flows

- Don't have a good handicapped fishing pier
- A diversity activities along the river-- Whitewater kayaking a park at the edge of the dam
- Last dam on the river – the fishing is good
- Awareness of shoreline protection
- Scour hole has changed