



INTRODUCTION

Platte County has made many accomplishments since 2000 in the parks program, including the acquisition of 880 acres of protected open space, construction of 15 miles of trails, a partnership for a 22,000 sq. ft. outdoor aquatics center, the development of 90,000 sq. ft. of indoor recreation space, \$4.5 Million in clean water/flood control projects, \$1.8 Million awarded in Outreach Grants, and \$20.6 Million total partnership contributions to parks projects in the County.

This updated Master Plan is based upon *citizen preferences and needs* for parks, trails, recreation facilities and open space in the County. The Plan will be a valuable tool to help guide the allocation of resources as the County strives to enhance livability for citizens and for attracting *future* residents and visitors.

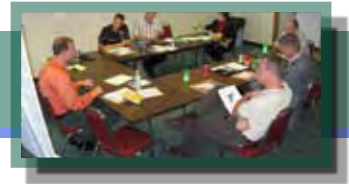
The Park System Master Plan is a citizen-driven guide for the Parks and Recreation Department to follow and will provide a proactive approach for responsible development and management of the park system. The Master Plan identifies many needs and challenges. As in the past (since 2000), it will require an ongoing commitment by the County Commissioners, the volunteer Board of Park Commissioners, Parks and Recreation Department staff, and key stakeholders to advocate for the updated Plan. However, as has been seen and often noted in various meetings in the County, the benefits are enormous and worth the effort. Platte County is already an attractive destination and its exceptional quality of life will be reaffirmed and further enhanced when this Plan is implemented.

The citizens of Platte County have provided clear direction for the development of the updated master plan. Now is the time to advance the citizens wishes and to begin implementation of the new plan.

METHODOLOGY FOR PRIORITIZATION OF OUR RESOURCES

The Platte County Park System has evolved over a period of approximately nine years. Based on citizen preferences for taking care of the parks and facilities that have been constructed during that time and for new project needs, a method for evaluating and categorizing projects has been developed which will guide the allocation of resources as they are received from sales tax revenues, program fees, and other leveraged sources. Percentages and priority categories are used in this plan to maintain consistent allocation of resources, regardless of source. Project scopes developed within this plan are based upon citizen priorities, estimated costs to implement the plan, and projected funding over a ten year period from all sources, including renewal of the parks sales tax. Funding estimates are based on anticipated 2009 revenues with an estimated 3% growth rate, and an estimated future obligation to Tax Increment Financing of 12.5% annually. As new resources are identified they can be allocated in increasing amounts to the highest citizen needs such as trails and the protection of additional open space.

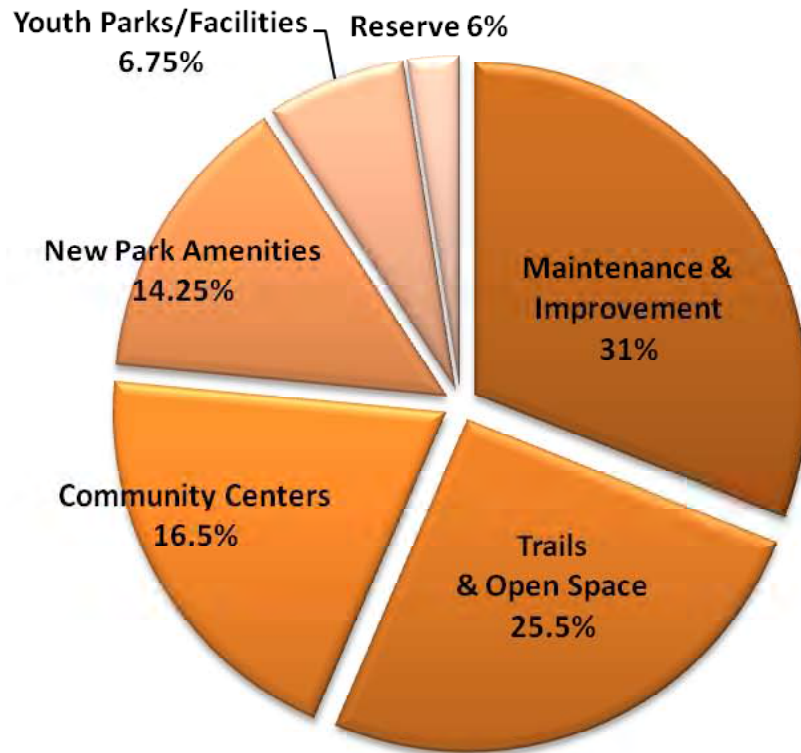




“The County needs to continue funding parks and recreation services as (cities) are not able to keep pace, by their own admission, with amenities and quality of life services that are needed in Platte County.”

– Community Recreation Focus Group, December 18, 2008

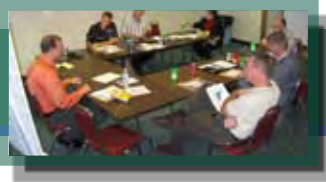
RESOURCE ALLOCATION CHART



PLANNING SCENARIO

The development of this Master Plan is occurring as the initial ten year master plan of 2000 is nearing an end. This Plan's key initiatives are supported by a community (County) whose profile is represented by:

- a rapidly expanding population base that is projected to increase by 20,000 people during the life of this Plan making it one of the fastest growing counties in the Midwest
- a household income that is capable of financially supporting the sales tax required to implement the Plan
- a community who consistently expects high standards from their government, dictating that the proposals and projects in this Plan are representative of their expressed needs for recreational options
- a community whose support for protecting the environment is clear, especially for clean water
- a community whose support for providing opportunities for individual citizens to be healthy is clear
- a community whose support for providing opportunities for children to grow in an environment that is safe, fun, and educational is clear



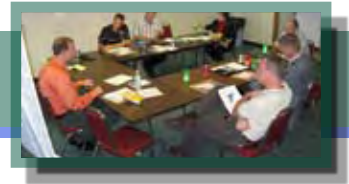
EVALUATION FILTERS AND FUNDING CATEGORIES

Evaluation Filters

The evaluation filters through which all project-related discussions, prioritization, and funding should flow are listed below. At the core of these filters is the *GUIDING PRINCIPLE* of the Parks and Recreation Department that each be *citizen focused, sustainable, and collaborative*. It is clear from the planning process that each of these filters represents the vision that citizens share for their park system. The filters are:

- Citizen preferences - As expressed and supported in the statistically valid survey, focus groups, public meetings, steering committee meetings, Park Board, and the political process.
- Geographic considerations – Relationship between the project and the location where the majority of users live, with balance across the county so that all shall benefit
- Life cycle of the program – Evaluation of the popularity of the program to determine if it is growing, stable/mature, or declining.
- Demographics – Assessment of demographic characteristics that will affect the success of the project, including age, household income, ethnicity, education, and gender.
- Facilities provided by the County and others – Availability of facilities provided by the County and others such as the private sector, churches, schools, and not-for-profits (YMCA). For new initiatives requiring substantial investment, the project or program meet established standards for county participation.
- Best practices in the park and recreation profession – Consideration of the successes of others who are highly regarded in the profession throughout the United States.
- Quality of life – Consideration for equitable citizen access to quality parks and facilities. Evaluation of proposed projects or programs to significantly contribute to our quality of life.





Funding Categories

A series of four categories have been developed which are used to segment projects according to their priority and alignment with the importance placed by citizens on the maintenance of existing facilities before building new ones and meeting current and future needs for open space protection, health and wellness and opportunities for children.

The four project categories are listed below:

- Category 1 - Funding to maintain and improve what we have and continue partnership programs
- Category 2 – Funding for more open space protection and development of highest priority facilities including extension of greenway trails network and indoor recreational opportunities
- Category 3 - Funding to expand the existing parks system and create new opportunities for children and families
- Category 4 - Funding to respond to trends and new visions

Principle Correlation

Each new or continued effort by the Platte County Parks and Recreation Department recommended by this Master Plan must be consistent with the stated foundational principles of the Plan. Therefore, as the Plan is implemented, it will be important for staff and elected leaders to track the progress of each area to keep new initiatives consistent with what the citizens of Platte County have said is most important to them. The following key will be used to track each project/program back to the principle (macro area) in the Master Plan it will support and advance.

NR – Natural Resource Protection Principle

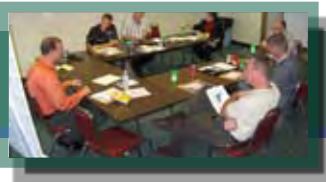
HW – Health and Wellness Principle

YO – Youth Opportunities (Providing Safe Recreation Places for Children Principle)

Su – Sustainability Principle

Co – Collaborative Principle

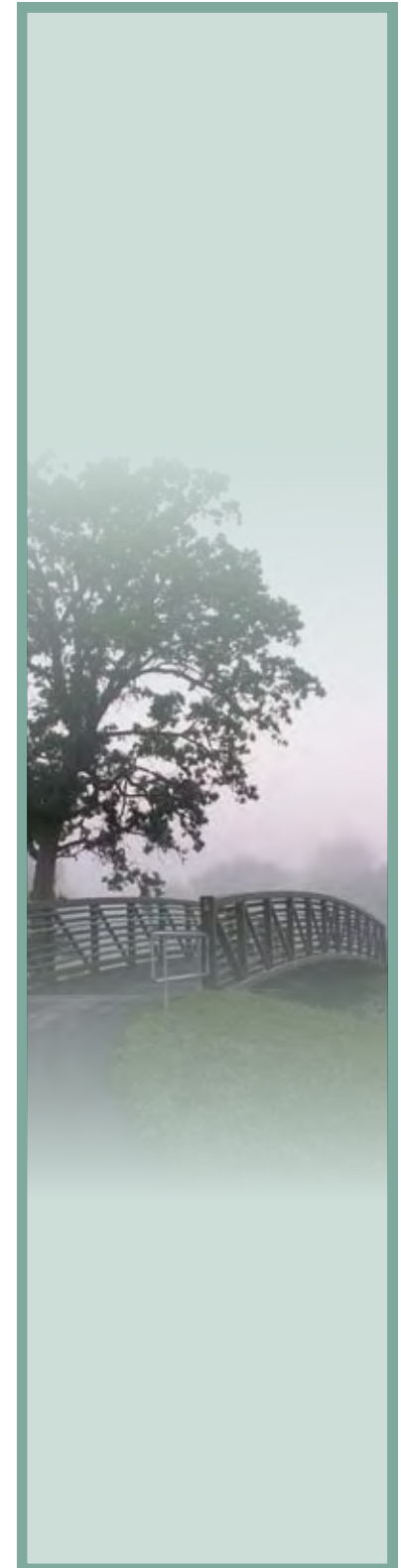
Ci – Citizen Focus Principle



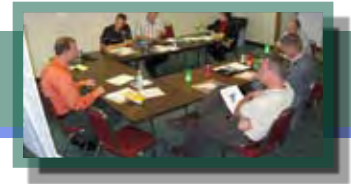
Implementation

Table: Funding Priorities by Category

Project, Priority, Primary Master Plan Principle(s) Served, and Resource Allocation %			
Category 1 – Funding to maintain and improve what we have (existing parks, trails, community centers, and stormwater programs)			
Maintenance and operation of existing parks and trails	Very High	Su/Ci	14.5%
Community Center capital maintenance & replacement	Very High	Su/ HW	3.25%
Stormwater Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater Infrastructure • Grants to local communities & organizations 	Very High	Su/ Co	8.5%
Outreach Grant Program, expanded to include maint.	Very High	Co/ YO	3.25%
Shiloh Springs capital maintenance & replacement	High	Su	1.5%
Category 2 – Funding to protect more open space and for development of highest priority facilities including extension of trails network and indoor recreational opportunities (next segment/phase and new opportunities; land acquisition)			
Trails and Open Space (30+ trail miles; 400 acres protected open space)	High	NR/ HW	24%
Acquire additional 350 acres (minimum) along streams through Stormwater Program can also accommodate passive recreation	High	NR/ Su	1.5%
Expand/enhance existing Community centers	High	HW/ YO	16.5%
Category 3 – Funding to expand the existing parks system and create new opportunities for children and families (new parks, diverse trails, youth facilities, and high value programs)			
New community parks and amenities (land banked) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West of English Landing Park • 52nd & Northwood Road near Riverside • P Highway and Spratt Road near Weston 	High to Medium	HW/ Ci	4%



Implementation



<p>Implement next phase at existing parks; e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic areas and shelters • Amphitheaters & areas for music and arts • Dog Park (s) • Diverse trails & natural areas • Children’s playgrounds • Sports areas 	High to Medium	NR/ YO	4%
<p>New outdoor youth parks and facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer/football complex • Playgrounds & outdoor educational facilities 	High to Medium	YO/ HW	6.75%
Partnership Grant Program renewed	High	Co/Ci	1.5%
Complete Purchase/Development Shiloh Springs	High	HW	4.75%
<p>Category 4 – Funding to respond to trends and new visions (partnership projects with potential county participation, based on need and established criteria)</p>			
<p>Reserve/New Opportunities Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive aquatic facilities & leisure pools • Indoor ice rinks • Tennis complexes • Extreme Sports; e.g. skatepark, BMX Bike Track/cycle park, In-line skating • Facilities unique to Missouri/region 	Must be High for County to participate; Low if no partnerships are available meeting established standards	6%; Funds sit in reserve until unique, highly leveraged opportunities are available; funds can be reallocated to existing County priorities if no partnership projects are presented	

ESTIMATE OF PROJECT COSTS

The Appendix of this report contains cost estimates for planned improvements, MINUS the infrastructure costs.

For some of the planned improvements, it is possible that infrastructure costs will be the most expensive component and those costs cannot be calculated until a specific site is selected. Upon site selection, the designer can determine the proximity of utilities, grading requirements, etc.