

## Introduction & Purpose

Public open space and recreation facilities are great assets and increasingly important investments for municipalities and residents. Parks and recreation facilities:

- Strongly influence the image and perception of a community
- Provide leisure time opportunities for the community residents and visitors
- Contribute to general satisfaction, morale, and civic pride
- Promote the general health, welfare, and safety of citizens
- Serve an essential role in preserving natural resources, providing carbon-reducing landscapes, and providing a connection to nature
- Benefit the community economically. According to the NRPA's nation-wide study entitled *The Economic Impact of Local Parks*, local and regional park agencies' \$32.3 billion in operations spending and \$22.4 billion in capital spending led to nearly \$140 billion in economic activity and almost 1 million jobs in 2013.

Today parks and open space are viewed as essential to the public good in much the same way that roads, sewers, and other public infrastructure is. As the desire for recreation and open space has continued to grow, local communities across the world are finding it necessary to supply more park, open space, and recreational opportunities for their citizens.

Good planning is essential to making sure these services are provided in an efficient and effective manner. Several important components of planning are: keeping up with changing regulations, creating a schedule for improving existing facilities, deciding when and where to implement additional facilities, and identifying and adapting to meet evolving community needs. This planning process is typically outlined and explained in a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP).

A CORP also provides an inventory of existing facilities and village demographic info, lists goals and objectives, identifies future needs, lists and prioritizes actions to pursue including deciding when and where to site new facilities, taking public need assessments and NRPA guidelines into consideration.

This plan is a cooperative effort based on resources from the original Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, the Village of Allouez Comprehensive Plan, and input from Village staff and citizens. It is intended to formally update the previous Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan adopted by the Village of Allouez in 2009. Approval of this plan will maintain Village eligibility to apply for and receive federal and state grants. It is also intended to guide the Village in continuing to meet the open space and recreation needs of its citizens for the next five years.

## *Village of Allouez Mission Statement*

We are “to be a responsive municipal government which provides efficient and cost effective services to a mature residential community.”

## *Allouez Parks, Recreation & Forestry Mission Statement*

To “provide parks, recreation, outdoor opportunities, and green space stewardship, for the enjoyment and wellbeing of all, in a fiscally responsible manner.”

## Goals and Objectives

**Goals** represent desired situations toward which planning efforts should be directed. They are broad and long-range. They represent an end to be sought, which may never be fully realized.

**Objectives** describe more specific purposes which should be sought to advance toward achievement of the goals. They are targets along the path to satisfying the goals.

### **2016-2020 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)**

The following goals and objectives are meant to guide Village officials and staff as they work to improve the Village's park and open space system. Together, the goals and objectives indicate the type of outdoor recreation and open space system the Village would like to provide for its residents and visitors, and a means to work toward providing it. The goals address three aspects of a recreation system, the first dealing with the provision of outdoor recreation sites and facilities, the second dealing with the provision of open space, and the third dealing with the intent and purpose of this Plan.

**Goal:** Establish and maintain high quality park, recreation, and urban forestry services.

**Objectives:**

- Plan and develop existing parks and recreation facilities to their fullest potential.
- Institute and follow a capital improvement plan.
- Pursue alternative funding sources to aid in development and maintenance of park facilities.
- Maintain all parks and recreation facilities at or exceeding the current level of service (LOS).
- Ensure that all facilities are accessible to all and compliant with regulations.

**Goal:** Develop diverse recreational opportunities for all ages and interest groups.

**Objectives:**

- Expand recreational programming for all ages and demographics.
- Develop public/private relationships.
- Partner with current providers and neighboring communities.
- Continue to partner with sport groups to offer athletic programming to the community.
- Expand year round recreational opportunities.

**Goal:** Develop and promote water based recreation.

**Objectives:**

- Provide opportunities for water paddle sports and watercraft.
- Provide additional access to Fox and East Rivers.
- Explore recreational uses for all water bodies within the community.
- Explore recreational aquatic facilities within the community.

**Goal:** Promote bicycling and pedestrian facilities.

**Objectives:**

- Plan and develop east / west trail linkages throughout the community.
- Provide additional bicycle and pedestrian trails and sidewalks throughout the community.
- Support Safe Routes to Schools programs and the Allouez Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- Support bicycle accommodations on road construction projects where feasible.

**Goal:** Promote and preserve the community's natural resources and green spaces.

**Objectives:**

- Protect environmentally sensitive areas and shorelines.
- Support green infrastructure to protect water resources.
- Support and expand the community urban forestry program.
- Ensure existing parks and natural areas remain available to the public.
- Explore and institute an invasive species management plan for parks and natural areas within the community.