

VILLAGE OF GODFREY

CITIZENS' PARK SYSTEM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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VILLAGE OF GODFREY

CITIZENS' PARK SYSTEM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Introduction

The Village of Godfrey developed this comprehensive plan is to provide the Village with an accurate, usable tool to guide its actions and decisions concerning park and recreation development. The comprehensive plan is based on a review of the entire community, an analysis of the existing park system, review of programs, budgets and cooperative use arrangements and the identification of user needs and desires.

The key to the success of this plan is the community's involvement, hence the name Citizens' Park System Comprehensive Plan. Throughout the process, an effort was made to meet with key stakeholders not only within the community but also with adjacent users. Three public meetings, conducted in an open forum with presentation format were conducted. Two of the public meetings included workshops at the end, with a rating of desired improvements and a prioritization. Finally, a Community Attitude and Interest Citizen Survey (needs assessment survey) was conducted to solicit further input. The needs assessment survey also validated the findings and conclusions of the stakeholder and public meetings. Throughout the process, regular meetings were held with Parks and Recreation Department staff and the Village Park Board. This desire to involve the community at every level is the foundation of the Citizens' Park System Comprehensive Plan.

In addition to the community's involvement, facilities and programs within the Village of Godfrey were compared to traditional standards and to other communities. In addition to traditional park and recreation planning guidelines, the park system was reviewed to determine if it was an effective park system that met the needs of its constituents. In most areas, the Godfrey park system meets the criteria that the Urban Land Institute identifies as commonalities of successful, effective parks throughout the country. This is reflected in the fact that park users give the Godfrey parks system a 95% approval rating. There are however, short-comings that are identified here-in that must be addressed as the Village of Godfrey continues to grow and the parks system and programs expand.

The implementation period of the Citizens' Park System Comprehensive Plan is for up to twenty years. The planning horizon initially was for a ten year period, but demand and need for facilities and improvements was so great that it was decided to extend the period to allow a level of improvements that can be readily accomplished in a twenty year period. Godfrey is currently at a crossroads. Located on the urban fringe, indicators suggest that Godfrey is poised for growth. Proposed highway improvements will improve access to the entire St. Louis metropolitan area, and potentially will facilitate development within the community. If Godfrey experiences the population and economic growth that is desired, the proposed improvements contained in this comprehensive plan will likely be completed in far less than a twenty year period. If growth and the economy slow or become flat in the Village of Godfrey, then the plan will likely require the full twenty years or longer for implement.

Regardless of the ultimate economic conditions or the time frame for implementing the proposed improvements, it is recommended that the Citizen's Park System Comprehensive Plan be periodically updated to reflect changing conditions in the community.

Existing Conditions

Community Analysis

The Village of Godfrey is located on the urban fringe of the St. Louis metropolitan area, just north of Alton, Illinois, about thirty miles from downtown St. Louis, Missouri. It lies in northwestern Madison County, Illinois, and is the northernmost community of what is known locally as the River Bend Area. In 1991, the citizens of what now comprises the Village of Godfrey voted to incorporate the entire area of the Godfrey Township. The Village of Godfrey stretches from the banks of the Mississippi River to the Madison County line with Jersey County. At approximately 35 square miles, Godfrey is one of the largest communities of its type in Illinois.

Godfrey sits at the heart of a key crossroads, Illinois Route 3 and U.S. 67. U.S. 67 is the "main street" of the Village. U.S. 67 is the primary arterial serving west central Illinois. Route 3 is an arterial that extends from Grafton, along the Mississippi River just northwest of Godfrey southward to serve southwest Illinois. Route 3 is a primary route through the metropolitan east St. Louis area.

The Illinois Department of Transportation will be extending Illinois 255 north from its terminus at Illinois 143 to Godfrey. This will be a limited access highway constructed to interstate standards. Completion of Illinois 255 will give Godfrey interstate access throughout the St. Louis metropolitan region. Ultimately, Illinois 255 will extend northward, roughly paralleling U.S. 67, and will provide easy access to west central Illinois.

Other roadway improvements that will affect Godfrey include the completion of the U.S. 367 in St. Louis County, Missouri. This route is a major arterial that crosses the Lewis (Missouri River) and Clark (Mississippi River) Bridges. U.S. 367 is a congested arterial with multiple intersections with that is being upgraded to limited access. It is a direct link between St. Louis and St. Charles Counties in Missouri and the City of Alton. In Alton, U.S. 367 intersects with U.S. 67.

The Village of Godfrey itself is proposing a Cross-Town Connector that will be an extension of the existing Airport Road. It will begin at U.S. 67 near the proposed interchange with Illinois 255 and will head in a northwesterly direction and intersect with Illinois Route 3. The Cross-Town Connector will then continue westward and terminate at Illinois Route 100.

Approximately one-third of Godfrey's land area is developed. The remainder is devoted to primarily agriculture. The majority of the developed area is in single-family residential. The Lewis and Clark Community College is one of the largest employers in Godfrey.

Demographics

The overall population of Godfrey changed little between 1990 and 2000. However, there has been a demographic shift in the region. A number of communities in the River Bend area of northwest Madison County lost population in the 1990's. These were older communities, with heavy industrial based economies, many on them located at the northern end of the American Bottoms. Population has shifted from these bottomland areas to the uplands, and further out from the St. Louis metropolitan area core. This is a trend that has been repeated throughout the Metro-East area.

Although the overall population has had a minor increase since 1990, some areas of Godfrey have had a significant amount of growth. Much of this growth, however, has occurred in rural areas, where population densities are low and a slight increase in actual numbers can translate into a large percentage

increase. Analysis of the Transportation Analysis Zones of the East-West Gateway Council of Governments projects that some areas of Godfrey will experience growth rates in excess of 100 percent.

There has been a significant amount of new home construction in Godfrey, particularly since 2000. Since 2000, between 50 and 100 new homes have been constructed per year in Godfrey. Many of these communities are in the northwest portion of town, off of the Route 3 corridor, and along Pierce Road. The occupants of the newer homes tend to be early middle age, and slightly more affluent than much of the population of Godfrey.

An anchor in the community is the Lewis and Clark Community College. It is the Village's largest employer, and serves a student population of over 30,000. Beverly Farms, an institutional residential community serving those with disabilities, is the second largest employer.

Godfrey is poised for growth. There are too many unpredictable issues, however, that can affect that growth. These include the impact of Illinois 255, the Cross Town Connector, other regional roadway improvements, the employment base and other factors.

Godfrey is fortunate to have a number of unique natural features that make it attractive. Its western boundary is defined by the Mississippi River. Immediately adjacent is the southern end of the Piasa Palisades, bluffs lining the Mississippi River that rise from 150 to 200 feet. Deep draws cut the palisades allowing access to the upland interior.

Much of Godfrey lies in the Piasa Creek watershed, particularly Rocky Fork. Much of this stream has been protected over the years, providing a corridor of open space. One of the largest areas of interior bottomland forest in Madison County occurs within the Piasa Creek watershed in Godfrey. A small sink-hole plain also is located just to the north of the Warren Levis Boy Scout Camp in Godfrey.

The northern portion of the Village is flat to gently rolling, and primarily agriculture.

The attractiveness of the community, improved highway access all mean that there will be continued growth in the Village of Godfrey. Once Illinois 255 is complete, providing interstate access throughout the region, this growth will likely accelerate.

Standard Parkland and Park Facilities

Parkland Types

There are various types of park land recommended for a community, based primarily on population and geographic area. These types are defined by park and recreation professionals, primarily through the National Park and Recreation Association, and affiliated state and national organizations. The types of park land applicable to a community like Godfrey include:

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are intended to serve a very small group of people, such as a subdivision. They are typically one acre in size or less. Limited facilities occur in a mini-park, typically a small playground and picnic tables and seating. Elementary school facilities frequently function as mini-parks in a community.

The service area for a mini-park is usually ¼ mile to ½ mile.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve a broader population and geographic area than mini-parks. It is usually the basic unit of a park system, and serves as a recreation focus for the neighborhood. Neighborhood parks typically are five to fifteen acres in size. Facilities at a neighborhood park include field games, court games, playground equipment, picnic tables and shelters, and restroom facilities. In higher density urban areas, neighborhood parks may include spray pools, and neighborhood centers.

Neighborhood parks are easily accessible, and are a safe walking and biking distance for their service area. The service area ranges from ½ mile to 1.0 mile.

Community Parks

Community parks are large parks that include the facilities typically found in a neighborhood park. Community parks include major athletic complexes for baseball, softball, soccer and football. They can include large recreation and community centers, and a major swimming or aquatic center. Indoor swimming pools are becoming more common in community parks, providing year round enjoyment. Community parks may include natural areas.

Community parks are usually fifty to one-hundred acres in size. They have a service area of up to three miles.

Some community park are developed entirely as family sports parks, with the major focus being on sports playing fields.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are large parks that serve several communities and counties. They offer unique facilities and/or attributes that are not common to most parks. The size of a regional park varies, but smaller regional parks are typically 100 acres to 500 acres. Large regional parks may be up to several thousand acres in size.

Linear Parks

Linear parks are built or natural corridors that flow through a community. They can include such areas as utility right-of-ways, abandoned rail corridors, creek and stream channels or other features. Linear parks can become a vital part of the park land facilities in a community. They can provide greenway and trail linkages between parks, schools and other community facilities.

Linear parks can provide for one or more modes of recreational travel including driving (parkway or boulevard), walking, jogging, biking or others.

Special Use Parks

Special use park land includes such single purposes as golf courses, marinas, performing arts centers and similar. The service area for special uses is usually community wide, and can occasionally be regional.

Natural Resource Areas

Natural resource areas are park land that consists of significant or unique natural areas or features. Natural resource areas used as park land usually have limited development of facilities.

Park Facilities

Facilities found in parks vary greatly, and change with popularity and innovation. Some facilities remain popular, and are the backbone of recreational programs.

Baseball and Softball Fields

Baseball and softball fields are timeless, and have been the heart of American recreational pursuits for over one hundred years. These facilities can range from multi-use facilities with minimal protective fencing and seating for players at a neighborhood park to regulation size fields for league play. Ideally, larger complexes have several lighted fields to offer a broader range of programs and playing times, and to more readily accommodate tournaments. Spectator seating, restroom and concession facilities are included in the larger complexes.

Soccer and Football Fields

These are multi-use or single purpose fields with either portable or permanent goals. Size varies for soccer fields, but not for football. Soccer and football fields may be lighted for nighttime play, and may include spectator seating.

Court Facilities

Typical court facilities include basketball, tennis, volleyball and handball. Basketball may be an indoor or outdoor facility. Indoor facilities are frequently associated with schools and community centers. Recreational and league basketball programs require indoor basketball court facilities. Outdoor basketball facilities are usually used more for informal activities. Basketball facilities can be part of a multi-purpose court, or can be developed separately.

Volleyball may be indoor or outdoor, and can be part of multi-purpose court facilities that include basketball. Sand volleyball is popular with teenagers and young adults.

Tennis facilities are hard surface. As part of a park system, they are usually located outdoors, and are typically found in neighborhood or community parks. Occasionally a park system will include indoor tennis courts as part of a recreation complex. Tennis has declined in popularity since the 1990's.

Handball courts are not as popular as they once were, and are frequently only included in the larger urban park systems.

Community Recreation Centers

These are multi-use facilities that serve a variety of recreational needs for a community. They can include a minimum of one indoor gym, indoor track and several meeting and athletic rooms. Activities can include dance, fitness, basketball, volleyball, karate, aerobics and others. A community center can function as a banquet center, conference center, senior citizen center, teen center and be a venue for large events. Depending on market feasibility, a community recreation center can include an indoor aquatic facility or an ice skating rink.

A community recreation center helps provide for the social, recreational and educational needs of a **community**.

Aquatic Centers

Aquatic centers range from including a large 25 yard or 50 meter pool and a "kiddie" pool to a diving pool, zero depth entry pools, water play structures and slides and a diving pool. Depending on the program and size, components of an aquatic center may be developed indoors.

Existing Parkland and Facilities

The Village of Godfrey has six park sites. Each one has unique features and attributes that make them attractive. The diversity of these six sites gives the citizens a variety of park experiences.

The existing parks are shown on Exhibit __ __ .

Homer Adams Park

Homer Adams Park is located on Godfrey Road (U.S. 67) about one mile east of the main part of town in Godfrey. Homer Adams Park is located behind the Village government complex, which includes the Village Hall, Mayor's office, Village Clerk, Township office, Police, Public Works, Planning and Zoning, Parks and Recreation Department and related offices and facilities. With the development of Illinois 255 and the Cross Town Connector, this area will become the new town center for the Village of Godfrey.

Homer Adams Park has the characteristics of a traditional town square or town green. Approximately two acres in size, the site is relative flat. There are large canopy trees throughout the park. Facilities at the park include a playground and related equipment that serves both toddlers and older children, a picnic shelter and picnic tables. Parking is shared with the parking for the Village government complex.

Homer Adams Park functions as a neighborhood park.

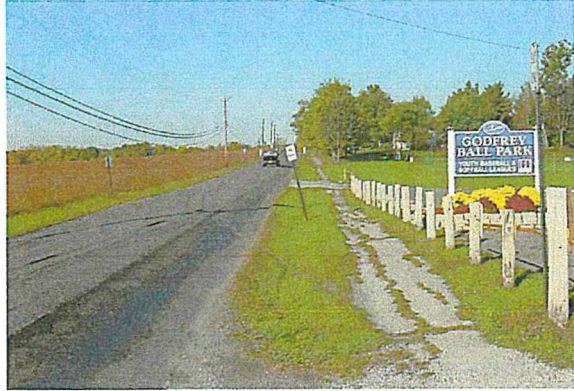
Godfrey Ball Park

Godfrey Ball Park is located on Stamper Lane, approximately one-half mile west of U.S. 67. Stamper Lane is a main east-west connector that leads to the center of town, and connects to Pierce Lane. Godfrey Ball Park is ten acres in size.

Godfrey Ball Park is the location of the baseball and softball fields used by the town. The land is owned by Lewis and Clark Community College, which uses several of the fields. The Parks and Recreation Department leases the property from Lewis and Clark Community College, and in return maintains the fields. There are six fields located at the Godfrey Ball Park. A small concession facility is also located at the site. There is a paved parking area along Stamper Lane, adjacent to the ball fields

Godfrey Ball Park abuts a natural area on the main part of the Lewis and Clark Community College. This natural area includes the headwaters of Rocky Fork, and is part of the Botanic Garden East initiative between Missouri Botanical Gardens and Lewis and Clark Community College.

Based on size alone, Godfrey Ball Park would be classified as a neighborhood park. However, as the major ball field complex for Godfrey, it functions as a community park.



Robert E. Glazebrook Community Park

Robert E. Glazebrook Community Park (Glazebrook Park) is located on Stamper Lane, immediately across from the Godfrey Ball Park. It is 120 acres in size.

Glazebrook Park consists of two parts. The original park consisted of 40 acres. It was property donated by Norma Glazebrook. This portion of the park is partially developed. One of the unique features of this park is that it is home of the Great Godfrey Maze, site of a seven acre corn maze. Other features of the park include a concession building and shelter, a lake, hiking trails and a playground. There are four soccer fields located in the northeast corner of this portion of the park.



Concession and Shelter at Glazebrook Park



Gazebo Overlooking the Lake at Glazebrook

A new maintenance facility for the Parks and Recreation Department is located in the northwest corner of the park.

The undeveloped portion of Glazebrook Park is approximately 80 acres in size. Currently, it is farmed for row crops. The site is relatively flat to gently rolling. The southern edge of the site is wooded.

Robert E. Glazebrook Park functions as a community park. It has a diverse range of facilities and activities that attract people from throughout the community. Some activities at Glazebrook Park, particularly the Great Godfrey Maze, have a regional draw.

LaVista Park

LaVista Park is located on Route 3. The main portion of the park consists of a relatively open upland area. This quickly drops off into a deep draw that cuts through the bluffs along the Mississippi River. The park does not connect to the river, however. The deep draw is a mix of mature, second growth hardwoods and softwoods. The southern edge of LaVista Park abuts to property owned by the Oblate Fathers, which has a monastery on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River.

There are limited facilities at LaVista Park. At the front end, there is limited parking. A children's organic garden has been developed on the site, and is used and maintained by a variety of schools and youth organizations. A cooperative agreement has been established with a not-for-profit organization, the Community Cultivators, to maintain and operate program activities.

LaVista Park is natural resource park, but because of its size and uniqueness, it functions as a community park.



Clifton Terrace Park

Clifton Terrace Park is located on Illinois Route 100, also known as the Great River Road. The park is across from and overlooks the Mississippi River. This portion of the river is part of the Alton Pool (lake), created by Lock and Dam No. 26. Clifton Terrace Park is located approximately one-quarter mile south of the intersection of Clifton Terrace Road and Route 100.

Clifton Terrace Park rises slightly in elevation from the low bench along the Mississippi River. It is at the foot of some river hills, with part of the Clifton Terrace subdivision immediately behind and adjacent to the park. It consists of three acres.

Facilities at the park include a small playground, picnic shelter, gazebo and information kiosk. One of the unique features is a wine cellar, built into the limestone that underlays the river hills. A small paved trail connects Clifton Terrace Park to the Vadalabene Trail, which runs parallel to the Great River Road.

There is some adjacent property to Clifton Terrace Park, located between the Great River Road and the Mississippi River. This approximately seven acre site is undeveloped, and is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The site has been excavated in the past for use as a marina.

Clifton Terrace Park functions as a neighborhood park. Because of its location on the Mississippi River and the Vadalabene Trail, it does attract some regional usage.

Great Rivers Park

This is the newest addition to the Godfrey park system. Great Rivers Park is located along the Great River Road, approximately 1.6 miles south of Clifton Terrace Park.

Great Rivers Park consists of 12.3 acres, and is located at the base of some of the bluffs that make up the Piasa Palisades. Part of the site was quarried. Great Rivers Park backs up to land owned by The Nature Institute. The office of the Great Rivers Land Trust is also located adjacent to Great Rivers Park.

Great Rivers Park has limited facilities. There is an unpaved parking lot, and a small kiosk structure. Immediately across the Great River Road from Great Rivers Park is a small, flat open area that potentially provides access to the Mississippi River. The Vadalabene Trail runs along the edge of the park.

A painting of the mythical Piasa Bird once existed on the rock face at Great Rivers Park.

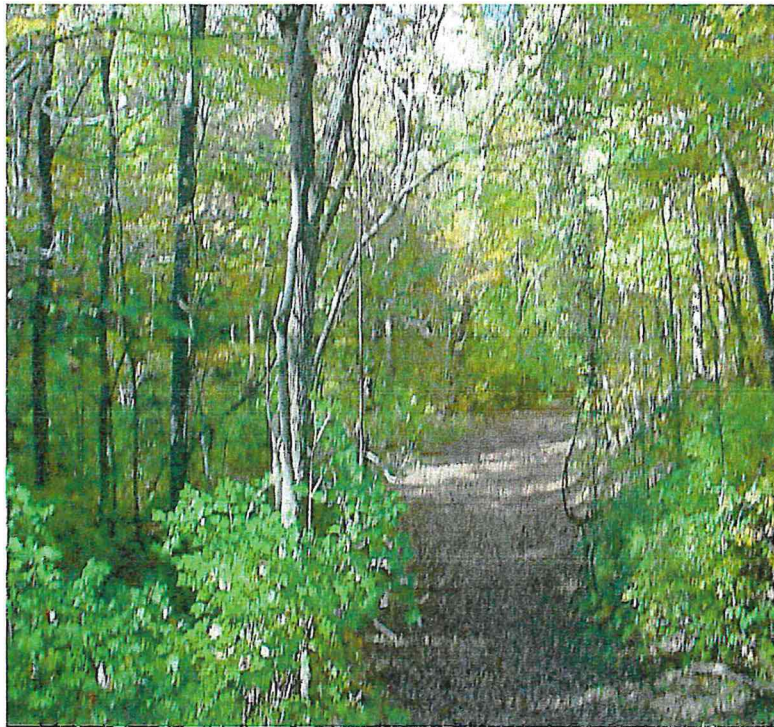
Great Rivers Park is of the size to function as a neighborhood park, but it has no neighborhood service area. Great Rivers Park has a community and a regional draw.



Trails

There are few multi-use or specialty trails located within Godfrey. The most notable is the Vadalabene Trail, which runs along the Great River Road from the City of Alton to Pierre Marquette State Park, located at the confluence of the Mississippi River and the Illinois River.

There is a small walking trail within Glazebrook Park. This trail is paved, and is approximately one-third mile in length. LaVista Park contains a one-half mile former road that is used as a trail. A one-half mile dirt road along Youngblood Hollow in LaVista Park is also used as a trail.



In 2003, there were several proposed trails for the Village of Godfrey. These trails include Stamper Lane from U.S. 67 to Pierce Lane, Pierce Lane from Airport Road to Illinois Route 3, Airport Road from U.S. 67 to Pierce Lane, LaVista Park from Illinois Route 3 to the Vadalabene Trail, the Cross Town Trail

paralleling the proposed Cross Town Connector, Illinois Route 3 Trail from Pierce Lane to the Cross Town Connector.

Other Facilities

There are limited other recreation facilities that are available to the citizens of Godfrey. The Parks and Recreation Department has cooperative agreements with a number of institutions.

Lewis and Clark Community College works with the Village on a number of programs. Lewis and Clark Community College owns the land and facilities that comprise Godfrey Ball Park, where the Village ball fields are located. The baseball and softball programs that the Parks and Recreation Department offer occur at this facility. The Parks and Recreation Department has a lease agreement with Lewis and Clark Community College for use of the fields. The Parks and Recreation Department provides most of the maintenance for the fields and operates concessions.

Lewis and Clark Community College makes their tennis facilities available to the Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department. The indoor swimming pool at Lewis and Clark Community College is available for the use by the citizens of Godfrey.

The Alton School District makes some of their facilities available for use by the Parks and Recreation Department. In particular, school gymnasiums are used for basketball and volleyball programs. The baseball field located at North Middle School on Godfrey Road and Stamper Lane is available for scheduling games by the Parks and Recreation Department during the summer months.

The Nature Institute provides ecological based nature programs, on their property, located in Godfrey. The Great Rivers Land Trust has been purchasing property or acquiring conservation easements along the Mississippi River and along the Piasa Creek and Rocky Branch of the Piasa Creek in Godfrey. The Boy Scouts of America operate Camp Warren Levis in Godfrey.

Lewis and Clark Community College is developing a natural area on approximately 60 to 70 acres of their property. This is in conjunction with the Great Rivers land Trust, and will consist of trails and the proposed Great Rivers Research and Education Center. Lewis and Clark Community College is also one of the sites of the Botanic Gardens East. They will be developing a garden area, in conjunction with the Missouri Botanic Garden in St. Louis.

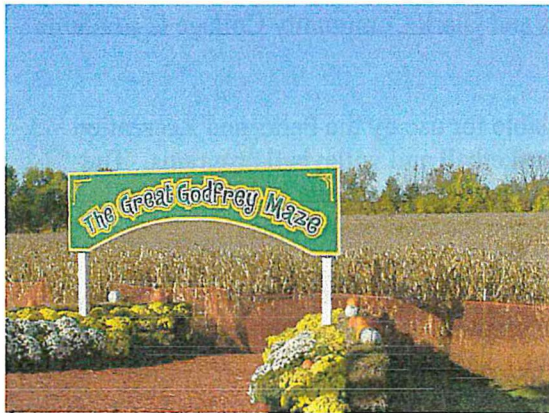
Programs

The Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide range of programs and activities to the Village of Godfrey and nearby residents. The size of some programs or the number of participants in some programs is limited due to a shortage of facilities. Some programs are limited due to a shortage of staff to direct and operate the program. Volunteers are used as appropriate to help operate some programs. The Parks and Recreation operates "Team-Up", a program initiated to help solicit and coordinate volunteers for assisting with athletic programs. In many cases, some programs or activities that are desired or are not offered due to a shortage of facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Department uses facilities at cooperative institutions to offer some programs. This is particularly true of basketball related programs, as there are no indoor facilities operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. The lack of indoor facilities also limits the number of programs that are available to senior citizens.

Many of the programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Program are starter programs, geared toward young children. Godfrey operates a "Start Smart" program for children 3-5 years old. The Start Smart programs are offered in baseball, soccer and basketball. Baseball and softball programs are offered starting at age six and continuing through ages 13 to 14. Godfrey also offers a youth basketball league for children 7-12 years of age and a youth soccer league for children 5-12 years of age. Very few activities are geared toward junior and senior high school youth, and very few programs are provided to serve senior citizens.

Some of the major activities offered by the Parks and Recreation Department include the Annual Arbor Day Celebration in April, the Annual Family Fun Day in July, and the Annual Fall Com Festival in October. These activities attract a wide range of participants from throughout the community and northwestern Madison County and nearby Jersey and Macoupin Counties. The Parks and Recreation Department also operates the Great Godfrey Maze. The Great Godfrey Maze is an activity that draws participants from throughout the region. The Great Godfrey Maze and the annual festivals take place in Glazebrook Park.



Another unique program offered by the Parks and Recreation Department is the Discovery Garden located in LaVista Park. The concept of Discovery Garden is to teach children, through organic gardening, about our natural source of food. The Discovery Garden is approximately one acre in size, and is coordinated by the Community Cultivators, a group of volunteers that helps manage the program.



The Parks and Recreation Department makes every effort to provide the opportunity for people to participate regardless of their ability to pay user fees. The department also strives to make all facilities and activities accessible to those with disabilities, as appropriate, although that is not always possible. Ideally, a parks and recreation department has facilities and the capability to offer programs to all age groups and skill levels within a community.

Citizens' Involvement

Stakeholder Meetings

A series of stakeholder interviews were held with different groups within the community. The purpose of the meetings was to solicit input into the Citizen's Park System Comprehensive Plan from key groups and individuals within the community. The interviews were structured to set up a dialog with the participants, allowing them to state what their issues and concerns were regarding parks, recreation programs and other element of the parks and recreation system in the Village of Godfrey.

The stakeholder groups interviewed included:

- The Mayor, Village Board of Trustees and the Village Clerk
- Parks and Recreation Department Staff
- The Village Attorney, Finance Director and Department Heads
- Administrators and Athletic Directors from Alton High School
- Administrators and Athletic Directors from Marquette High School
- Administrators and Athletic Directors from the Lewis and Clark Community College
- Great Rivers Land Trust
- The Nature Institute
- Representative Students from West Elementary School (Grades 4 and 5)
- Representative Students from North Middle School (Grades 6 to 8)
- Representative Students from Alton High School (Grades 9 to 12)
- The Godfrey Parks and Recreation Committee

The information provided at the stakeholder meetings was summarized into several key points. Generally, most people are very pleased with the Parks and Recreation Department, and the progress that has been made over the past five years. Most people believe there is an adequate amount of land in the short-term, but that additional acquisition will be necessary in the future. It was also felt that the existing parks and recreation holdings could be better developed to meet the needs of the community.

Regarding programming most people felt that while the needs of younger children were generally being met, there was a shortage of activities for teenagers and senior citizens. People suggested that demand exceeds the capacity of current programs and facilities to fulfill them.

Following is a summary of the items discussed. The identified items are those in which there was general consensus among the stakeholders.

Park Land

- o It is important to acquire land when a good opportunity presents itself, but then should let it remain dormant until funds and the timing are appropriate to develop.
- o Land acquisition should be done within the guidelines of a well-conceived plan. They feel this is important to guide how the system should grow geographically.
- o Quality programs will require more land. Future growth areas have no parkland.
- o There is adequate land to meet short term needs, once the land is developed.
- o Distribution of parkland is generally good, but some sections of the community are underserved. This situation will increase as the community grows.
- o The Parks and Recreation Department must plan for the future acquisition of property to serve an expanding community.
- o Believes the parks and recreation department should have the vision to have one of the best systems in the area.
- o Should build on unique attributes of the existing parks. LaVista is a natural asset. Some park land should remain more natural, while others should be more intensely developed.
- o Consideration should be given to land dedication ordinances for developers.
- Trails
 - o Would like to see an integrated linked system of parks and trails, with tie-ins to neighborhoods and schools.
 - o There is also a need for more walkways and trails in the existing parks, as people currently must walk on park roads.
 - o A community trail system should link to regional trail systems.
 - o Conservation groups prefer non-paved trails. Trails on property with conservation easements would have to be discussed with individual land owners.
 - o There needs to be safe opportunities for walking, jogging and biking from neighborhoods to parks.
- Facilities
 - o There is an expressed interest for a recreation complex; however, there are questions on how this can be funded.
 - o There is interest in a community center.
 - o A recreation complex/community center could accommodate a variety of programs, and would be used by schools and other entities.
 - o Need facilities to handle baseball/softball tournaments.
 - o There is a lack of developed facilities owned by the Village.
 - o There are no lighted ball fields.

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- o Existing ball fields cannot accommodate many more teams.
 - o There are no facilities for viewing wildlife.
 - o Facilities for developing indoor non-sports activities are lacking. Indoor facilities are owned by other institutions, and there are frequent scheduling conflicts. Many of the indoor facilities do not meet current standards.
 - o Facilities used for youth basketball cannot accommodate parents or spectators.
 - o Facilities for age twenty and up basketball programs are extremely limited.
 - o Maintenance facilities are limited. The Parks and Recreation Department will soon outgrow maintenance space.
 - o Office space is limited, and must be shared with other Village departments.
 - o No public swimming pools are in Godfrey or neighboring communities. There is some desire for a public outdoor/indoor swimming pool for Godfrey.
 - o Tennis courts are owned by Lewis and Clark Community College.
 - o No skateboard, in-line skate and BMX facilities are located in Godfrey. There is interest for these facilities from older children.
 - o There is slight interest in a public golf course. However, there is concern about whether this would be fiscally responsible and whether the market is saturated.
 - o There is no outdoor venue in the area that can support large crowds in the 3000 person range.
 - o There are not enough facilities for lifetime leisure activities. Older children soon realize they are not athletically competitive enough, and drop out of the system.
 - o All facilities must be well-maintained.
 - o More pavilions/shelters/picnic tables are desired.
 - o Youth would like to see an indoor facility where they could "hang-out" with pool table, ping-pong and other activities.
 - o There is a potential need for a dog park.
- Programs
 - o Godfrey has good "starter" programs for young children. There are not enough facilities and programs to keep them as they advance.
 - o Community has quite a few senior citizens. Programs do not address the needs of senior citizens. Few senior citizen programs are offered because of a shortage of adequate facilities and staff.
 - o Few programs are available for teenagers, as a result, they don't participate in many parks activities.
 - o Programs can be better advertised.
 - o There are no programs offered for non-athletic youth, primarily because of a lack of facilities. By the time students reach middle school, they drop out of athletics due to competition.
 - o Programs could greatly be expanded if there was a recreation complex and community center.
 - o Youth were interested in non-competitive activities like biking, fishing, youth golf, gymnastics, in-line skating, ice skating, rock climbing, skateboarding, disc golf, swimming and non-competitive team sports.
 - o Older teens would like to see a venue for music in the park. This could serve a variety of age groups and music interest. For teenagers, local bands could be showcased.
 - o Great Godfrey Maize draws people from all over the region.
 - o Younger children like the fun, family oriented activities.

- Financial

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- o Expansion should be in a logical manner and in fiscally responsible pace.
 - o Need to identify projects for groups in the community to fund.
 - o Taxes are low for the Village. There is reluctance to raise taxes.
 - o The Village has no tax dedicated to parks and recreation. Parks and recreation funding is out of the general revenue. There should be a dedicated funding source for parks and recreation.
 - o The current level of general revenue funding is barely adequate for supporting the current level of facilities, programs and staff. Current funding will be insufficient for significant increases in facilities, programs and staff.
 - o Ideally, facilities and programs are revenue generating, to help offset costs. Trails are non-revenue generating.
 - o Youth would be willing to pay activity fees or purchase a park pass for admission to facilities such as recreation complex, pool or community center.
 - Staffing
 - o Need to continue to rely on volunteers to operate programs. However, volunteers don't always follow-up or provide the level of service that is expected.
 - o The number of staff in the Parks and Recreation Department is limited. They are at the limit of the facilities and programs they can run and operate.
 - o Need to plan for adequate staff to accommodate development of existing properties, new facilities and expanding programs.
 - o Many older teenagers would be interested in community service activities and summer jobs with the Parks and Recreation Department.
 - o Financial support is needed to encourage staff to participate in professional development and continuing educational opportunities.
 - Community
 - o Feel that parks are a great asset, and contribute to a sense of community. Also feel that parks potentially are important for economic growth. People have high expectations for their park and recreation system.
 - o Believes it is important for the parks and recreation department to work with other groups in the community and region to maximize resources and opportunities.
 - o There are strong relationships with the Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department and local schools. Programs are advertised through the schools.
 - o There is strong desire to work with the Metropolitan East Parks and Recreation District on opportunities in Godfrey.
 - o Godfrey is one of the few areas in Madison County that is growing. The opening of the I-255 extension and other arterials will facilitate growth.
 - o Zoning influences growth in Godfrey. Developers will build just beyond the Village boundaries to avoid zoning issues. These people use Godfrey facilities.
 - o Balancing other Village needs with parks will always be an issue.
 - o Lots of new homes are being constructed, with lots of young families moving in. This will lead to higher demands for recreation.
 - o The Parks and Recreation Department must continue to satisfy the citizens and plan for what the citizens want or need.
 - o The Parks and Recreation Department should build on the unique opportunities for the region. The Department should think regionally, but also meet the needs of the neighborhood.
 - o All facilities, programs and activities should take into consideration those with special needs where possible.
 - o Balancing other Village needs with parks will always be an issue.

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- o Believe that quality programs will require more land. Future growth areas have no park areas.
 - o Trustees want to expand at a logical and fiscally responsible pace.
 - o Many people can't get into programs because they are so popular.
 - o In five to ten years, they would like to have facilities to keep kids in programs. The starter programs are great, but not enough facilities and programs to keep them. Need baseball tournament facilities for older teams.
 - o Need a place for viewing wildlife, particularly eagles.
 - o Need to develop a recreation complex.

Parks and Recreation Staff

The park and recreation system has limited staff, and is almost at the limit of what they can handle with the staff they have. There are four full time employees. They will add ten part time employees added in the summer, with up to twenty-five added for the Great Godfrey Maize in the fall. League programs will increase this to sixty people, mostly paid umpires and referees. Will draw on volunteers who need community service hours from local colleges. They have used some work release people from the Madison County Probation Department.

A big concern is the lack of developed fields owned by the Village. Most of the ball fields are owned by institutions. There are no existing indoor facilities owned by the Village for parks and recreation programs. As a result, P&R must work around other schedules, but have had to limit some programs. This has not been too great of a problem yet, but the staff sees this increasing. There are no lighted ball fields. This is a problem in the spring, as most non-weekend games will not get underway until 6 p.m.

If the baseball program grows by ten teams, they could not accommodate them.

The youth basketball program uses facilities at several schools, and the facilities are not designed to current standards. These facilities cannot accommodate parents or spectators. There are extremely limited facilities to accommodate 20 and up basketball. Program would grow if they had facilities.

A recreation complex is desired. That could accommodate a variety of programs. Schools and other entities in the community could use this. There is extremely limited office space for parks and recreation staff. Currently share facilities with three other departments.

Very few programs are offered for senior citizens, because of lack of facilities. No programs are offered for non-athletic youth because of lack of facilities.

The parks and recreation department wants to grow, but at a reasonable pace. A new facility, such as a rec-plex will rapidly fill up with programs.

There are no public swimming pools in neighboring communities. The closest facility is at least a twenty-minute drive away. Some limited private facilities are closer.

Parks would like to see a battery of six tennis courts.

Feels that there is adequate land to develop and accommodate new programs. However, once several major highways open, they feel this will change. Distribution of park land is good, but only based on current conditions. Feels there is a need to plan for changing conditions, as the developed area expands northward and eastward.

Lots of new construction in the community with many younger families moving in. This will lead to higher demands for recreation.

The Village has very low taxes, but the trustees are reluctant to raise taxes.

In the next five to ten years, the number one priority is a recreation complex and their own athletic fields. This is followed by desire for a community pool and a single-track trail. They would like to have a system of multi-use trails. In LaVista Park, they would like to develop an observation tower to take advantage of the views and location. They would also like to have adequate staff and facilities for O&M.

Very interested in working with the Metropolitan East Park and Recreation District for developing the MEPRD regional park. The regional park was conceptually located in Godfrey.

Recreation center should have two gyms with the ability to expand. Need an indoor outdoor pool complex associated with a recreation center.

Would like to expand youth baseball to adult baseball and softball fields.

Feels there is a strong need for a skateboard facility and a BMX facility. The closest is almost an hour drive away.

Department Heads, City Attorney and Finance Director

Believes there is a need to move from programs targeted for a young age to programs that better serve older teenagers, young adults to older adults (middle age) and senior citizens.

New families are moving in with a mix of younger and older children. Established residents are aging. There is a belief that this population shift will dictate when programs change or expand.

Feels that west side of town is under served, particularly for small children.

Village has no tax dedicated to parks and recreation.

The finance director suggests there is no need for a public swimming pool because of the large number of homeowner swimming pools and subdivision pools.

Almost all other officials are interested in a public swimming pool.

The main park, Glazebrook, needs to be developed to include baseball, soccer and tennis, with a plan for a recreation/community center.

A recreation/community center potentially should include an indoor and outdoor pool complex.

There was limited interest by public officials for a P&R operated golf course, but there was concern about saturation of the market.

Parks funding is out of the general revenue funds, which will soon be maxed out. General P&R operations and maintenance can be handled at the current level of funding of approximately \$500,000. Status quo operations for parks can be supported by general revenue for another 4 to 5 years.

Wants to make sure the citizens are satisfied with the current P&R services, and if not, what is needed or wanted?

There is a strong feeling that ball fields are a critical need.

In the next five to ten years, they would like to see a full complement of ball fields, soccer and tennis opportunities. Would like to see more activity oriented recreation rather than more passive. Would like to see a rec-plex that is as financially self-sufficient as possible.

School Administrators and Lewis and Clark Community College

There are currently strong relationships with the Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department and local schools. Administrators see these opportunities growing.

Ballgames are all on facilities owned by Lewis and Clark Community College or North Middle School. Tennis courts at LCCC are available for use by the community.

LCCC believes that Godfrey should look at unique opportunities for the region. The Great Godfrey Maize is an example of a program that no one else does in the St. Louis region. Are there other programs that would be unique?

As part of the Botanic Garden East program, LCCC is a strong proponent of parks and natural area protection. These should be linked, including links to the campus.

A multi-use trail system in Godfrey should connect to regional systems.

Elementary, middle and secondary schools are trying to help with advertising programs available for children and teenagers.

Entire area lacks indoor recreation facilities. A recreation complex would be an asset for the community, and would open up opportunities that can't be provided by the schools.

Schools do not have all the outdoor facilities they need. Having a park system with multiple facilities would help parks and schools.

Limited facilities for teenagers. Should consider skateboarding and BMX trails.

Need to work with hospitals in developing wellness programs.

There is no venue in the region that can handle 3000 people or more for a major outdoor event.

Many parents are asking for indoor swimming facilities.

Concern that trails are non-revenue generating. Attractive natural areas in the region should be conducive to a trail system.

they would not compete for the ball, but start to develop an interest in lifetime sports such as tennis and golf.

Concern that parks department has limited funds to make sure no child gets turned away. Want programs to be fully accessible.

System needs to think regionally, but also meet the needs of the neighborhoods.

Parks department needs to develop a vision. Should focus on what is most beneficial for families.

Continue to develop partnering opportunities and pursue alternative sources.

The Nature Institute and the Great Rivers Land Trust

These groups support acquiring land for parks and open space.

Feel that some parks should be intensely developed, but others such as LaVista should be almost left alone.

Any acquisition of land for parks in environmentally sensitive areas is good, as it limits development. These areas in turn should generally be left in a natural state.

Both the Great Rivers Land Trust and the Nature Institute own properties or have conservation easements on properties adjoining Village parks. They would entertain trail linkages, but not likely paved ones. Trails on land with conservation easements have to be discussed with the individual land owners.

Would like to see developers required to set aside land for parks or conservation purposes, particularly along riparian corridors. Setbacks from streams should be required to create a conservation corridor. Limited trail development could be allowed.

Elementary School Students, Middle School Students, High School Students

Middle School Students

Representatives of the middle school student body were very interested in providing their input. They focused mostly on the types of activities they would like to see.

Most felt that there were not enough activities or programs for their age group. By the time students reach middle school, they drop out of organized sports because of the competition. They would like to see facilities where they can participate in sports on a non-competitive basis.

Primary activities desired include baseball, basketball, biking, fishing, football, youth golf, gymnastics, in-line skating, ice skating, rock climbing, skateboarding, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball.

Would like to see safe opportunities for walking, jogging, and biking from neighborhoods to parks.

Very interested in organized activities in the summer, because they don't want to just sit around a TV or video screen.

Not enough facilities in community (Alton and Godfrey) for lifetime sports 70

11/1/11

Expressed concern that anything that is done should take into consideration those with special needs.

This age group loves to visit parks with their families, and particularly likes activities like the Great Godfrey Maze, the fall festival and others.

They would like to see a recreation complex, with a swimming pool.

Most find out about programs through flyers at schools.

High School Students

Maintenance of facilities could be better, particularly baseball fields.

Don't participate in many programs, because there aren't many geared to their age group. There is little to do for older teenagers.

Many would be interested in non-competitive sports.

Would like to see an outdoor venue for music in the parks. Local bands would be extremely popular. Want a place to hang out besides the mall or the movies.

Would be interested in activities such as nature camps, rock climbing, and hiking.

Need places for teenagers to hang-out. Suggested more pavilions and shelters where kids could do nothing.

Would be interested in a recreation complex with pool, particularly if there were a club type facility for teens to hang-out with ping-pong, a pool table.

Would be willing to pay activity fee or buy a park pass.

Disc golf would be a great activity.

Skateboard facility would be popular.

Many are not aware of activities for parks, but feel the ones they are aware of aren't geared to them.

Many expressed an interest in community service opportunities.

Elementary School Children

This group, consisting mostly of third, fourth and fifth graders focused on activities.

Want to see more general summer recreation programs and fun activities like relay races, sack races.

Not enough playgrounds that would appeal to their age group.

Like doing things with their families, like hiking and picnics.

Want activities that would be challenging but safe. Rock climbing, a tree house, and obstacle course.

Really enjoy family activities at the parks and special events.

Would like activities that they don't get at school, but can't get unless they are in a scouting program. Archery, nature activities, scavenger hunts, canoeing, paddle boats.

Want a swimming pool with lots of slides.

Would like a place where they can have kids' only activities.

Park Board Interview

The planning process should provide as much information from the community as possible. Unless something is wrong, the park board and staff do not hear much from Village residents about how the park system is working for the community. One comment that has been forwarded to park board member is about the lack of marketing of programs and the park system.

The Parks and Recreation Department sends out flyers to schools, radio stations, newspapers, etc.

The plan should answer how to implement the ideas gathered from the community.

Funding should be another key element of the plan.

The vision for the park system should balance the vision of residents, board members and staff.

As the park system grows, it is likely that community interest in the park system and programs will grow.

The I-255 extension will effect community growth. There might be opportunities to acquire "leftover" land for parks or open space from highway construction. The highway planning document needs to be reviewed.

The Village currently has a lot of land that is undeveloped.

The current amount of parkland may be adequate; however there is minimal parkland east of Godfrey Road. Future parkland acquisition needs to be evaluated.

There are no bike trails connecting parks.

The county owns land for parks and trails. Their plans should be considered in the park plan.

The Growth Association should be contacted during the planning process.

The Village Center Plan and the Village Comprehensive Plan need to be reviewed.

Evaluate the amenities of other recreational providers to determine where there may be areas of competition and areas where collaboration can occur. *"What are other opportunities/or partnerships?"*

There should be opportunities for partnerships with organizations such as Lewis and Clark Community College, the K-12 school system. Currently, Village residents can use the Lewis and Clark gymnasium and ball field complex.

Partnerships are important because that can limit the expenses for facilities development and maintenance. Other potential partnerships could include the Nature Institute and Great Rivers Land Trust. Another potential partnership is with the Boys and Girls Club.

Service organizations have been helpful in the past. These partnerships should be encouraged to grow.

LaVista Park will have a bike trail. In the public meeting there was interest in developing other trails including some primitive trails. If the main focus of this park is conservation, then there needs to be a balance between access and conservation.

The Village baseball program is doing OK. However the program loses young players when they get older. One reason is that kids begin to specialize in one or two sports in their early teens and don't have time for a wide variety of sports.

Programs have to relate to all Village residents of all ages. Is the Village serving seniors adequately?

A recreation center should provide more than just sports activities; there should be other non-sports related activities, festivals, etc.

Cost does effect participation in programs. Are there ways to provide scholarships, grants etc. for residents?

Consider development of a Recreational Vehicle Park. It would cost money to build, but it would provide a service and bring in revenue. It should be somewhere on or close to SR 100 to capture some of the tourist traffic.

A bike trail is important, but the location of the trail system should be tied to the Village growth plans. Evaluate potential trail routes that are not associated with the road system.

Is there state grant money for trail development? Can a bike trail be associated with the I-255 corridor?

A Blueway (canoe trail) would not be a good idea for a river like the Mississippi.

New subdivisions require sidewalks on one side to the street.

A payment-in-lieu-of system would increase the cost of home construction.

How can the parks and recreation system be funded? There needs to be additional sources in addition to the Village General Fund.

Taxes are a concern. The Village has not raised taxes in at least a decade.

There should be dedicated funding source for the parks and recreation department.

The plan should address a parks and recreation department versus a park district.

Public Meetings

There were two public meetings held to solicit input from the citizens of Godfrey to determine their needs and desires with regard to parks and recreation. The meetings consisted of an open house type format, with displays for citizens to review. Personnel were also available to answer questions. The open house was followed by a brief presentation as to the status of the comprehensive master plan, and a summary of findings. The presentations were followed by a workshop, in which participants were asked to form small groups to discuss what their particular issues or concerns were, and to ask what their vision of the future was for the Godfrey Parks and Recreation system. Finally, the results of the small group meetings were discussed, and participants were asked to vote on the issues they considered most critical. Some of the general statements that came out of the first public meeting include:

- Strong interest for a bike trail that links the parks with schools and neighborhoods.
- Would like to see primitive trails in natural areas as well.
- Would like to see an ice skating facility.
- Definitely a need for programs to appeal to teenagers and senior citizens.
- Recreation complex with pool is a big desire.
- Not enough publicity about parks and activities.
- Strong interest in a dog park.
- Feels village should acquire open space now and develop later to accommodate growth.

The results of the second public meeting can be summarized by the following issues and opportunities statements:

Issues and Opportunities
Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department

Issue: The amount of park land is adequate serve the Village population in the short-term.

Opportunity: Available land area within the Village boundaries to identify areas for future acquisition based on demographic trends and service areas.

Issue: The current developed areas of the Village are generally well-served by park land.

Opportunity: Land is available in undeveloped areas that can help provide better park and recreation service area coverage.

Issue: There is an identified demand for more athletic fields.

Opportunity: Potential to be developed into an athletic field complex on centrally located park land properties.

Issue: Current athletic fields are not on properly owned by the Village.

Opportunity: Possibility to enter into a long-term lease arrangement with the owner. Potential to develop athletic fields on Village owned properly.

Issue: Shortage of adequate athletic complexes to serve the region, particularly in the Metro-East area.

Opportunity: Could develop an athletic complex that would be a local and regional draw.

Issue: Expressed desires to develop a recreation complex with indoor facilities to accommodate a variety of age groups. Could possibly include a pool complex.

Opportunity: Potential to develop a centrally located recreation complex on existing Village park land.

Issue: Inadequate staff, office, program and community space.

Opportunity: Such space can be incorporated into a centrally located recreation complex. Expanding existing facilities can also accommodate such space.

Issue: Desire to provide an integrated system of multi-use trails.

Opportunity: Opportunities exist for developing a trail system that would link park sites, institutions, schools and neighborhoods. The opportunity exists to tie in a system of this type with a regional multi-use trail system.

Issue: Desire to provide different and diverse recreation opportunities for a variety of age groups and interests.

Opportunity: Current park land assets are very diverse in terms of location, facilities and recreation opportunities. Many of these areas are not fully developed. There is the potential for development, over time, of multiple facilities and programs to better serve the community.

Issue: The Metro-East Park and Recreation District, along with other regional agencies, has expressed a desire to develop a regional park in the general Godfrey area to serve the entire St. Louis region.

Opportunity: The opportunity exists for the Village of Godfrey to leverage their assets and become the framework for a regional park.

Issue: More programs and opportunities need to be made available for K-12 school age children and youth.

Opportunities: The Village has developed and can continue to develop relationships and partnerships with other institutions.

Issue: How is all of this going to be paid for?

Opportunities: Opportunity to continue to build on grant programs at the federal, state and local levels. Opportunity to capture additional revenue sources. Opportunities to identify other sources of revenue.

Issue: Similar trends for park and recreation issues can be seen on a regional basis.

Opportunity: The Village of Godfrey has the potential to become a leader for parks and recreation in Madison County. In many areas population growth and the subsequent demand for park land and adequate facilities and recreation programs will soon outstrip existing facilities and programs. The Village of Godfrey is well positioned to act, and reap the economic benefits of a well-developed park and recreation system.

A third public meeting was held to review the overall findings and recommendations of the master plan.

Citizen Surveys

A Community Attitude and Interest Citizen Survey was conducted to further determine the needs and desires of the citizens of Godfrey regarding parks and recreation facilities. The survey was distributed randomly to 1200 residents in the community. More than 300 completed surveys were returned. The survey was designed to give a representation of all age groups, as well as both rural and in-town residents.

The result of the survey that was conducted provides a good overview of the direction to be considered for the Parks and Recreation Department for the Village of Godfrey. The survey generally strengthens the trends that were noted in the stakeholder meetings and in the public meetings that have been held.

The Community Attitude and Interest Citizen Survey has been submitted independently to the Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department and the Godfrey Park Board for further review and analysis. Following are representative trends from the survey.

Improvements That Citizens Most Wanted

- Multi-use trails are the most popular, and walking and biking represent activities that are popular across all age groups and demographic groups.
- The next cluster of items are support facilities, benches, tables, etc. These facilities continue to be programmed by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Other high points include tree and aesthetic considerations. This would suggest a desire for protecting well established trees in parks as well as support for a tree planting program.

Recreational Facilities that Respondent Households Have a Need For

- This reiterates some of the findings of question four.
- There is the greatest need for walking and biking trails.
- With multiple choices, 20% can be considered a threshold, based on demographics.
- By age group, 56% of families with children under age 15 have a need for athletic fields.

How Well Existing Facilities Meet Respondent Household Needs

- 52% say that athletic fields are only partially being met.
- 86% say that their need for trails is only partially met or not met at all.
- There is a cluster of facilities related to a recreation complex where over 75% of respondents indicate that their needs are not being met.

Use of potential indoor programming spaces

- This question addresses specifics of an indoor recreation complex.
- A high percentage of facilities would be used.

Support for actions to improve the parks and recreation system.

- First three items emphasize natural parks and passive activities.
- The next three items are related to a recreation complex/aquatic center.
- 52% indicate support for more athletic fields.

Actions respondents are most willing to fund with tax dollars

- This indicates broad support for trails, a recreation complex/aquatic center, and natural/passive parks.

Allocation of \$100 (percentage) among various categories of funding for parks and facilities.

- The emphasis is on developing existing and new facilities at existing parks. A strong allocation was given to acquiring new park land.
- 81 % of families with children under age 15 indicated a need for more neighborhood parks.

Non-tax Actions (for funding) that respondents most support

- 54% of citizens support forming a private foundation to help fund park development and recreation programs.
- 54% also supported requiring developers to set aside a portion of their land for recreation purposes.
- 30% supported an increased user fee for adult programs, while only 19% supported a user fee increase for youth programs.

Support for voting on a bond referendum to fund the most important types of parks and facilities.

- Thirty percent of respondents indicated they would vote for a referendum.
- Thirty-one percent indicated they might vote in favor of a referendum.
- Fifteen percent of respondents would vote against a referendum
- Twenty four percent of respondents were not sure.

Demographic Considerations

- There are differences between age group and households with children versus without.
- There is no significant gender difference.

There are many more findings contained in the needs assessment survey. Copies of the Community Attitude and Interest Citizen Survey are available at the offices of the Parks and Recreation Department for review.

Summary of Citizens Input

Based on the analysis of the existing parks and recreation system, stakeholder meetings, public meetings, the citizens' survey, and multiple meetings with the Godfrey Park Board and Parks and Recreation Department staff, there are a number of trends and priorities that have been established.

Priorities and Trends

Develop trails within parks and linking parks. Connect to a regional system.

Provide adequate support facilities.

Provide aesthetics such as tree planting and other landscaping.

Develop athletic fields.

Evaluate the potential for a recreation complex/aquatic complex.

Plan for future land acquisition.

Evaluate staffing needs, programs and budgets.

Comprehensive Master Plan

Visioning Statements

The Village of Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department has the opportunity to truly take a leadership role in northwestern Madison County in promoting and developing parks and recreation. Furthermore, because of the unique geophysical characteristics of the much of the landscape in Godfrey, the Parks and Recreation has the opportunity to address local needs while supporting a greater regional role in providing open space, parkland and recreation opportunities.

The Parks and Recreation Department must look at the assets they currently have, and improve and develop those assets as appropriate. The Department must also look to the future and be prepared to address needs of citizens within areas of Godfrey that have yet to develop.

The Parks and Recreation Department strives to effectively meet and serve the needs of its constituents, the citizens of Godfrey, and those who interact with the parks system on a regional basis. In an analysis of parks systems nationwide, the Urban Land Institute identified several common factors that will lead to an effective park system. Primary author of the study, Peter Harnik, concluded that there are several key factors that focus on qualitative issues rather than quantitative measures. These steps are:

1. Clear expression of purpose: The Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department strives to put citizens first. Their philosophy is to make the needs and requirements of residents foremost in the operations and management of the parks system and recreation programs.

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2. On-going planning and community involvement: The Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department uses public meetings, stakeholder meetings and other means to involve the community in decisions regarding parks. A needs assessment survey was conducted as part of this comprehensive planning effort. Parks and Recreation Department staff meet with community leaders on a regular basis as it relates to parks and recreation programs and developments. The Parks and Recreation Department has an effective Parks Board, which is in turn responsive to the Village Trustees. All meetings are open, and the general public is invited.
 3. Sufficient assets: Assets include land, staff and finances. At the current time the Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department overall has sufficient assets of land. However, there are areas of the community that are currently underserved. As the community continues to grow, additional areas will become underserved. Staff is sufficient to handle the current level of operations and maintenance and current recreation programs. However expansion of facilities and programs will require additional staffing. The Urban Land Institute indicates that an effective parks system invests an average of \$88 per citizen per year. In some communities, this is in the fifty to sixty dollar range. The Village of Godfrey invests less than half of that amount per person on its parks.
 4. Equitable access: This includes such factors as financial, distance from or location of parks, and disability issues. The Godfrey parks system strives to be as open and accessible as possible. No child is turned away from a program if a family does not have the resources available to pay for it. To the extent possible, the Parks and Recreation Department works to make its facilities accessible to those with physical disabilities. For the most part, the parks are easily accessible to most families, but there are entire areas of the community that are underserved.
 5. User satisfaction: The Village of Godfrey receives high marks from its citizens for its parks. The needs assessment survey indicated a user satisfaction rating of ninety-five percent.
 6. Safety and security: Users must feel safe and secure when using park facilities and participating in programs. People generally feel safe and secure when using Godfrey parks. There are almost no incidences of theft, harassment, vandalism or other crimes within the parks. Godfrey fosters a strong sense of community, and in turn people look out for each other. This is reflected by the volunteer participation and involvement in the park system.
 7. Benefits to a community beyond the boundaries of a park: These benefits include ecological benefits such as preserving natural areas, improving water and air quality; health benefits; education benefits; tourism benefits, an improved quality of life and an improved business climate. All of these factors are spin-offs from having an effective park and recreation system. All of these factors can contribute to the economic well being of a community.

Generally, Godfrey achieves many of these factors, and is taking measures to correct any short-comings. Godfrey currently is at a crossroads, and has the opportunity to continue to be proactive with regards to parks and recreation improvements. These will continue to be a contributing factor in the quality of life of its residents, and will also be a factor in economic growth for the community.

Priority Needs

Godfrey is in a unique position to take a leadership role in the River Bend area of northwestern Madison County, and in the region as a whole. Godfrey can take advantage of the unique opportunities it has, particularly in terms of open space and park and recreation development. Godfrey is poised to take advantage of regional transportation improvements and other developments and can use parks and recreation to attract and support growth. The parks and recreation assets will continue to improve the quality of life for the citizens, and will help promote Godfrey as a destination. The Comprehensive Park and Recreation Department Master Plan helps the Parks and Recreation Department to fulfill its mission to serve the citizens of Godfrey.

There are a number of parks and recreation trends that have come out of the various stakeholder meetings, public forums and surveys that have been conducted. Following is a brief synopsis of some of the major points or priority needs that have been identified. These in turn can be translated into recommendations for the improvements to the parks and recreation system.

To that end, there are a number of priority needs for the community:

Park Land

- Adequate park land for short-term needs.
- Develop existing properties.
- Acquire new park land as the opportunity presents itself.
- Plan for future acquisitions to provide better service area coverage north and east of town center.
- Establish process for park land dedication and/or funding for future acquisition from new developments.

Programs and Facilities

- Develop an athletic field complex.
- Develop facilities to support indoor programs for a variety of age groups.
- Develop facilities to support outdoor active and passive activities.
- Build on the assets of each park site.
- Provide access to the Mississippi River.
- Continue to develop partnerships with other institutions.
- Provide adequate support facilities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, concessions, office space, storage and maintenance.

Athletic Fields

- Develop Glazebrook Park as a major recreation complex.
- Supplemental practice areas at LaVista Park as greensward.
- Plan for additional fields east of town center.

Recreation/Community Center Complex

- Develop a recreation/community center complex at Glazebrook Park with indoor facilities to serve a variety of age groups and interests.
- Develop an aquatic center as part of a recreation/community center complex.
- Include office and program space.
- Conduct a feasibility and market study.

Trails and Linkages

- Develop multi-use trails within existing parks.
- Link existing parks to neighborhoods, institutions and other parks.
- Connect the local trail system to a regional and state system.
- Provide opportunities for single track trail riders and for equestrian trail users.

Regional

- Utilize MEPRD assistance for development of local parks.
- Become the leader in developing a framework for a regional park.
- Build on the unique assets of Godfrey to promote economic development.
- Link the local trail system to regional systems.

Other Objectives

- Plan for additional staff as programs, services, facilities and park land increase.
- Salaries and benefits should be competitive.
- Implement a tree planting plan and program for streetscapes and boulevards.
- Establish guidelines for protecting riparian corridors for linking park land and neighborhoods.

Additional Considerations

- Develop a skateboard park with other youth oriented activities.
- Develop a disc golf facility.
- Establish programs for wilderness adventure/nature activities in conjunction with other institutions and facilities.

Revenue

- Provide a dedicated revenue source for Parks and Recreation.
- Continue to utilize grant programs.
- Make programs as self-sufficient as possible.
- Make programs as accessible financially as possible.
- Use ballot issues for special, large scale projects.
- Promote parks as a key component of economic development.

Specific Comprehensive Plan Recommendations

Following are the comprehensive plan recommendations for implementation. These items cover individual parks, an integrated trail system, as well as addressing operations and staffing, land acquisition and others.

Homer Adams Park

Homer Adams is the town center park. Consideration should be given to expanding Homer Adams Park, as the area around the town center continues to grow and expand.

The focus on Homer Adams is relatively passive, although there are some playground facilities and tennis courts. The tennis courts are generally in disrepair, and should ultimately be replaced. The current sidewalks at Homer Adams currently terminate at or near an activity. The walk should be expanded to form a continuous loop.

Following are some of the recommendations for Homer Adams Park:

- Replace tennis courts

-
- Pave loop trail
 - New shelter or gazebo
 - Multi-use hard surface court
 - Sand court
 - Open lawn area

Consideration should be given to making Homer Adams Park a traditional town square park. Expansion will allow some activities to be developed, but generally this park should remain passive.

Godfrey Ball Park

As the Godfrey Ball Park is owned by the Lewis and Clark Community College, minimal improvements should occur at the Godfrey Ball Park. Once the athletic fields are developed at Glazebrook Park, the Village will not be as dependent on the fields at the Godfrey Ball Park. Godfrey Ball Park is an asset, however, that will allow athletic programs to continue to grow. The Department of Parks and Recreation should continue to build on their relationship with the Lewis and Clark Community College and determine an appropriate level of investment. Recommendations for Godfrey Ball Park include:

- Improve existing parking
- Develop new parking
- Add a practice soccer field
- Upgrade existing fields as needed

Glazebrook Park

Glazebrook Park is the true community park for the Village of Godfrey. Its near central location is easily accessible to much of the Village. The original Glazebrook Park is heavily used by residents, and is the site of all of the community festivals that occur throughout the year. The original Glazebrook Park is home of the Great Godfrey Maze. The soccer complex for the Village is located on the original Glazebrook Park. The Glazebrook Park expansion consists of an additional eighty acres that is almost directly across from the Godfrey Ball Park.

Glazebrook Park should remain as the primary community park within the Village. With almost 120 acres of land, and a central location, it will meet many of the needs of the community once the park is developed. There is however, limited space at Glazebrook, and not all of the Village's recreation needs can be met there.

Some of the major improvements at Glazebrook Park center on the development of an athletic field complex that includes baseball, softball, soccer and others. A second, larger lake would be developed at the park, along with paved and unpaved trails. Other improvements include:

- Landscape entry, restroom, event facilities such as electrical service and other utilities in the original Glazebrook Park
- Additional parking and vehicular access to serve special events and activities in the original Glazebrook Park
- Vehicular access to the gazebo
- Paved multi-use trails
- Baseball / softball complex
- Dredge existing lake and add fishing access
- Develop new lake and provide fishing access

- Expand soccer complex
- Develop small court complex including basketball, volleyball
- Interpretive, unpaved nature trails

In addition to the identified recommendations, an area should be set aside within Glazebrook Park for the development of a community recreation complex and aquatic center. These facilities were identified and supported by the stakeholder meetings and public meetings, and were validated by the needs assessment survey. The first step toward developing a community recreation complex and aquatic center will be to conduct a market analysis and economic feasibility center. Facilities of this type are very popular, and will draw users from a wide area, far beyond the boundaries of Godfrey. It is possible for a region to become over-saturated with facilities of this type. The metro-east area of St. Louis currently has a shortage of facilities of this type. Two of the nearest facilities to Godfrey are the Wood River aquatic complex, which has limited facilities, and the Raging Rivers Water Park, north of Grafton. Raging Rivers is a theme park type of operation, and users tend to make a visit there an all day activity. A community recreation complex and aquatic center would target a broader range of users, offer other non-aquatic activities, and offer structured as well as non-structured aquatic activities. Users of a community athletic complex and aquatic center tend to be short term, single event or recurring users, rather than all day. However, depending on the other park facilities, all day participation will occur with some users. Community recreation centers and aquatic complexes can generate a significant amount of revenue through user fees. A higher user fee is usually charged non-residents than residents.

Because of the shortage of facilities of this type in northwest Madison County, it is almost inevitable that a community will develop one. If Godfrey does not take the lead and develop a community recreation center and athletic complex, and a nearby community does, then market and economic considerations would suggest that Godfrey never will.

LaVista Park

LaVista Park functions as a community park. However, it is of a completely different character than Glazebrook Park. LaVista Park is a relatively passive nature park, with few activities. Because of the unique natural attributes of LaVista Park, it should remain as a natural park. The option should remain open, however, to develop practice fields on the north end of LaVista Park. No permanent facilities should be developed in conjunction with the practice fields. These facilities would serve the growing population in the Route 3 corridor.

Improvements to LaVista Park include developing an outdoor classroom and interpretive area, improved wildlife viewing area, parking facilities and possible expansion of the Discovery Garden for children. Other improvements include:

- Infrastructure including sanitary sewer and water
- Paved trail connection to the Vadalabene Trail along the Mississippi River
- Wildlife viewing improvements including an observation deck/ platform
- Unpaved interpretive nature trail
- Low intensity use practice fields
- Expanded Discovery Garden
- Outdoor classroom and interpretive area
- Entry improvements and parking
- Resurface existing access road to serve parking areas and to function as a multi-use trail

LaVista Park should remain as a natural park, with limited improvements.

Clifton Terrace Park

Clifton Terrace Park is one of two parks in the Village of Godfrey that provides access, at least via the view shed, to the Mississippi River. Clifton Terrace Park functions in part as a neighborhood park. Playground facilities, benches and an interpretive kiosk have been developed. Park lies along the Vadalabene Trail. Its position along the Vadalabene Trail gives Clifton Terrace Park a regional role as well as its function as a neighborhood park. Clifton Terrace Park is approximately one-quarter mile north of where the LaVista Park paved trail would link with the Vadalabene Trail at Young Blood Hollow. Because it is situated on a lower bench in the limestone bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, LaVista Park affords extensive views to the river. The remnants of a winery remain carved into the base of the bluffs.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources owns the property immediately across the Great River Road from Clifton Terrace Park, along the Mississippi River. At one time the IDNR property was used as a small marina. It is recommended that the Village of Godfrey acquire the IDNR property, and provide river access at this point. Improvements in the expanded Clifton Terrace Park include a boardwalk or platform for fishing access. This should be developed so that it could withstand fluctuating water levels and occasional flooding. It should also be developed so as to be protected from barge traffic. Limited parking could be accommodated on the IDNR site. Safe pedestrian access between the two areas of Clifton Terrace Park could be provided using a well-marked crosswalk. Additional improvements include:

- Restroom facilities along with necessary infrastructure
- Walkways and crosswalks
- Fishing platform or boardwalk
- River access including a marina
- Additional interpretive signage



Acquire IDNR property; Background and to Provide River Access and Possible Marina at Clifton Terrace

Great Rivers Park

The Great Rivers Park is the former Norman's Landing. It is the second park that the Village of Godfrey has along the Mississippi River. As the newest acquisition in the park system, very few improvements have been made to Great Rivers Park. Great Rivers Park serves as a tourist oriented park. Proposed improvements include:

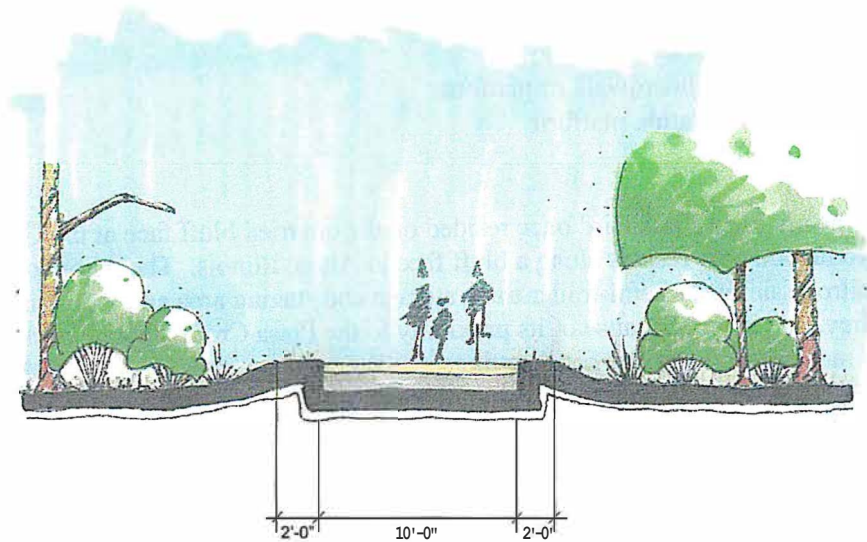
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- Paved parking
 - Providing a crosswalk and walkways
 - Developing a fishing boardwalk or platform
 - Developing an observation platform
 - Interpretive signage

A replication of the mythical Piasa Bird once resided on the quarried bluff face at the Great Rivers Park. However, a reproduction now resides along a bluff face in Alton, Illinois. The Alton location is obstructed by railroad sidings, a semi-trailer truck storage and staging area and industrial facilities. The Village of Godfrey, due in part because of its proximity to the Piasa Creek, should work to restore the Piasa Bird to its more natural, unobstructed setting.

Trails and Linkages

The most requested improvement by the residents of the Village of Godfrey was for walking and biking trails of all types. The first part of this integrated system should focus on developing trails within existing parks. Secondly, this integrated system should develop trails that connect parks and trail segments within the Village. Finally, this trail should develop practical links to the regional trail system, and ultimately with connections to the statewide trail network. Ultimately, consideration must be given to developing equestrian trails and single-track trails for mountain biking.

The design standards of the trails vary, depending on the type and the targeted user. For a paved walking trail, that is primarily a sidewalk within a park, a minimum of four feet wide is preferred. This will accommodate limited bicycle traffic, however, and could lead to pedestrian and bicycle conflicts. For multi-use paved trails that are intended for use by bicyclists, rollerbladers, skaters and skateboarders, as well as pedestrians, the preferred trail width is ten feet, striped for two way traffic. This type of trail is also preferred when paralleling a roadway, if there is sufficient right-of-way. In cases where there is insufficient right-of-way for a separate paved trail parallel to a road way, a bicycle trail may be striped adjacent to the traffic lane. These are set at a minimum of four feet wide for one way traffic. Bicycle flow must be in the direction of traffic flow.



BIKE TRAIL

Un-paved trails usually have a surface of rolled crushed stone with granular fines or rolled bark mulch. These range in width from three feet to ten feet, depending on the intended users. Rolled crushed stone will accommodate bicycle traffic, but is not acceptable for equestrian traffic.

Equestrian trails are usually designed to loop on itself, and the surface is rolled mulch or rolled compacted earth. Equestrian trails are usually only three feet wide.

Single track trails for generally only twelve inches wide, and are limited to off-road bicycles. They usually do not have a surface material, and are designed to minimize erosion.

The integrated trail system includes the following trails and linkages

- LaVista Park, paved central trail
- LaVista Park unpaved nature trails
- LaVista Park paved link to Vadalabene Trail via Young Blood Hollow
- Glazebrook Park sidewalks and paved loop trail around developed areas and along Stamper Lane.
- Glazebrook Park unpaved nature trails
- Paved loop sidewalk through Homer Adams Park
- Separate paved and striped link between Glazebrook Park and LaVista Park using existing right-of-ways
- Paved trail link and crosswalks between Glazebrook Park and Godfrey Ball Park, including a paved link through and around Godfrey Ball Park
- Link from Godfrey Ball Park to the Lewis and Clark Community College campus and beyond to the Homer Adams Park using existing and future right-of-ways and dedicated land
- Paved and/or striped trail along Airport Road and the proposed Cross Town Connector
- Nature trail along Rocky Fork Creek
- Paved and/or striped trail along Airport Road and continuing to Route 3

-
- Regional link across Godfrey Road to the east part of Godfrey, ultimately tying in with the regional system and the proposed Illinois Central trail using existing rights-of-way.
 - Parallel trail along U.S. 67 north to ultimately tie in with state system

For links to regional and state trail networks, the Village of Godfrey should work with Madison County, the Metropolitan East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD), state agencies and trail advocacy groups such as Gateway Trailnet to determine the preferred route or tie-in point. The Village of Godfrey would work with the appropriate groups to develop the links as far as the Village boundaries only.

Park Land

The Village of Godfrey is currently (2004) adequately served by parks. However, most of the park land is concentrated in the southwest portion of the Village. There are no facilities east of Godfrey Road, and except for Homer Adams Park, there are no facilities north of Lewis and Clark Community College or in the undeveloped northwest area of the Village. As population continues to increase and as other areas of the Village develop, these areas will be underserved, and the population as a whole will be underserved. This process will be accelerated once Illinois 255 and the Cross Town connector are completed.

Due to the unique characteristics of several of the parks within the Village, it is difficult to characterize those using traditional standards. For example, La Vista Park and Glazebrook Park are both of a size and type that they could function as community parks. However, because of the unique characteristics of La Vista Park, it functions as a natural park. Even though it has sufficient acreage to accommodate many of the functions of a community park, to intensely develop La Vista would be a disservice to both the Village and the River Bend region. Similarly, even though Clifton Terrace Park and Great Rivers Park could be classified as neighborhood parks (Clifton Terrace in particular) their location on the Great River Road Scenic Byway, the Vadalabene Trail and the Mississippi River give them characteristics that have a regional function. Furthermore, the uniqueness of several of the parks makes them unsuitable for certain types of recreational activities.

These factors make it imperative that the Department of Parks and Recreation plan for the future, and acquire additional parkland as the opportunity arises. Several acquisitions are proposed. Clifton Terrace Park should be expanded to include the IDNR property along the Mississippi River. This will provide direct river access to the Village. Three neighborhood parks are proposed. These would be distributed to accommodate the needs of citizens in areas that are either currently underserved or that would be underserved in the future as growth continues and areas develop. The three locations are in the north or east parts of town, east of Godfrey Road. The areas proposed are projected to have high rates of population increase. Finally, consideration should be given to developing a combined regional and Community Park to serve the future needs of the community.

The MEPRD regional master plan proposes the development of a regional park in the Godfrey area. Such a park should have unique physical features, be accessible to the community and to the region. Several locations could be considered to have these characteristics within the Village of Godfrey. If a property is developed nearer to the center or northern half of the Village, it would serve a broader range of citizens. If the Village of Godfrey were to take the lead in this endeavor, they could manage the development and incorporate features and facilities that could better meet the recreational needs of the Village. It is important to note that the expanded Glazebrook Park is landlocked, and cannot accommodate further development than what is indicated. If the use of fields at the Godfrey Ball Park were to cease, then the Village would have a shortage of athletic fields. Even if those factors did not occur, the residents of the north half of the Village would benefit from access to facilities in a regional park. Development of a regional park that functions in part as a community park could accommodate facilities, programs and activities that cannot be accommodated with the current park land assets that Godfrey has.

General Operations

General operations of the Department of Parks and Recreation must be considered along with the physical improvements that are recommended. Generally, departments strive to maintain an idea or sustainable level of operations. At this level, the facilities are generally well maintained, and there are few complaints from the public. Small projects and improvements to parks are developed and there is limited stress on the level of funding. The Godfrey Department of Parks and Recreation is starting to operate more frequently at the maximum level of operations. At this level of operations, projects are not completed as quickly as desired, and maintenance operations are occasionally delayed. At the maximum level of operations, employee stress levels can be high, and if continued, will ultimately result in a higher than normal employee turn-over rate. At the maximum level of operations, facilities and programs cannot expand without staffing changes and budget increases. In short, operating at the maximum level operations for extended periods will result in quality decreases in the programs and user satisfaction.

The Godfrey parks system receives extremely high satisfaction ratings from the public. At current staffing levels and funding levels, the parks are well maintained, and most recreation programs receive high marks from the public. However, it should be noted that most recreation programs cannot expand beyond current levels unless there are staffing, facility and budget increases. Similarly, as new facilities are brought on line, particularly at the expanded Glazebrook Park, additional staff must be brought on line to maintain the facilities and help operate expanded programs.

The Department of Parks and Recreation should move toward a structure that includes a Parks Superintendent and a Recreations Superintendent under a Parks and Recreation Director. These two branches in turn would add appropriate recreation and maintenance staff as needed to support and maintain operations at a sustainable level.

Consideration should also be made to moving to a park and recreation district structure, independent of the Village. A district has the advantage of being financially independent of the Village budget, and can taxes propose bond issues separate from the Village. A district can also have geographic boundaries that are different from the Village. There are disadvantages to establishing a park and recreation district structure. These include an antithesis on the part of the public to another layer of government and to another taxing structure. Although a district would be independent of Village election cycles and administration changes, it would have to establish its own election cycles and would be responsible to its own elected board.

Miscellaneous Improvements

One of the recommendations for the Parks and Recreation Department is to develop a tree planting and maintenance program for the community. This will include tree planting within parks as well as tree planting along streets in the Village. Developing a tree planting program will also entail planting and maintenance costs, and ultimately the hiring of additional personnel, including an arborist. A plan should be developed to establish areas where planting should occur, and to determine ultimate costs.

There are a number of improvements that warrant long range consideration. Many of these would be developed as neighborhood parks or a regional park is developed. Consideration must be given to development of an equestrian trail and associated trail-head facilities. This would be relatively independent of walking, biking and skating trails. A future skate park could be developed in a new community / regional park. There is limited space available in other parks to develop a skate park. Disc golf is extremely popular in most regions of the country, but did not receive wide-spread support from the stakeholder meetings or community survey in Godfrey. High school age stakeholders in particular

expressed an interest in disc golf. This is a relatively low cost improvement, and could be considered in future years, particularly if acreage is acquired for development of a future community/ regional park.

Project Prioritization and Implementation Costs

There is demand for a wide range of programs and facilities to serve the citizens of the Village of Godfrey. These needs have been identified at stakeholder meetings and public meetings. They have been validated by the public meetings, as well as by a needs assessment survey of the community. In addition, the needs and resultant recommendations have been based in part on an analysis of trends, standards and comparison to typical parks and recreation facilities and programs in the Midwest.

Following is a general prioritization of the recommended projects. The list indicates short-term priorities, that potentially could be achieved within a five year period, and long-term projects, that would occur in a five to twenty year period. The list is intended to be flexible, and to reflect the realities of economics, budgets and Village policies. It also intended to allow for adjustment for future years as Village and area demographics change and the economic development of the region changes.

The listed priorities also reflect the fact that current funding levels and uncertainties of grant programs are not sufficient to meet the needs identified. There is flexibility in that priorities may shift, and short-term goals may become long-term and vice-versa.

Because of the potential for growth in the region, Godfrey has the opportunity to be a leader, particularly regarding park and recreation issues. The document is flexible enough that if other communities take the initiative, the priorities can be adjusted, and some items eliminated if necessary.

Short-term: 2005 - 2009

Infrastructure improvements to Glazebrook Park, including water line and sanitary sewer extensions, restroom facilities, electrical service for large event activities and security lighting.

Permanent restroom facilities in Clifton Terrace Park, with appropriate infrastructure improvements.

Improve existing entry to Glazebrook Park with curb and gutters, landscaping and irrigation.

Pave Young Blood Hollow trail in LaVista Park to link to the Vadalabene Trail. This provides a link to Norman's Landing Park and Clifton Terrace Park. This provides a tie-in to the regional multi-use trail network.

Extend paved trails in Glazebrook Park around maze and link to Stamper Lane, provide access and drop-off area to gazebo.

Establish a Park Foundation as an additional funding source for park improvements.

Establish land set-aside or fee in lieu of land requirements from developers.

Improve parking in Godfrey Ball Park by paving overflow areas and creating new parking, develop practice soccer field.

Install permanent restroom and drinking fountain facilities in LaVista Park, along with necessary utility infrastructure.

Add a full time maintenance employee as the need dictates to support improvements to parks.

New parking in existing Glazebrook Park to support major events.

Provide a paved trail connecting Glazebrook Park to Godfrey Ballpark and Lewis and Clark Community College.

LaVista Final Master Plan.

Replace tennis courts in Homer Adams Park.

Prepare LaVista Park Construction Documents, based on the Master Plan recommendations. This may be accomplished in conjunction with the master plan.

On-going development of LaVista Park including an observation platform for wildlife viewing, supplemental planting for wildlife, repavement of main access drive for use as a trail, parking, signage, landscape entry, expand Discovery Garden, entry signage and an unpaved interpretive nature trail.

Long-Term Projects, 2010 to 2025

Land acquisition west of U.S. 67 for use as a regional park, approximately 120 acres. Said park to be developed with assistance from the Metropolitan East Parks and Recreation District.

Market analysis and economic feasibility study for a combined community recreation center and aquatic complex.

Glazebrook Park Final Master Plan.

Glazebrook Park Construction Documents. This may be accomplished in conjunction with the master plan, and construction documents may be completed for the entire park or developed and coordinated as individual phases of the master plan.

Referendum initiative for park development. This should focus on large expenditure items that cannot be accommodated by grants and general revenue funds.

Hire a full time park maintenance employee to support on-going development of the parks.

Hire one part time arborist to support tree planting and maintenance within parks, and to assist with a street-tree planting program. Ultimately, this employee may become full-time.

Reorganize the parks and recreation department to establish a parks superintendent position (new) and a recreation superintendent (new). The superintendents will report to the director (department head) and current supervisor positions will report to the appropriate superintendent.

Develop tree planting program to include overall Village planting plan for parks and streets, consideration of street tree ordinance, identify maintenance considerations and responsibilities.

Develop lighted baseball and softball complex at Glazebrook Park, with related facilities such as concessions, restrooms, parking, signage and playground. This will include a second and possibly third entrance to Glazebrook Park. Entrance improvements should be comparable to those of the existing entrance.

Dredge existing lake in Glazebrook Park and install fishing bridge or pier.

Develop paved trail linking Glazebrook Park with LaVista Park, utilizing street right-of-ways whenever possible. Develop spurs as appropriate to community facilities such as schools.

Design and construction documents for community recreation center and aquatic complex.

Develop master plan and construction documents for Great Rivers Park.

Parking and landscape improvements for Great Rivers Park. Entry features should be compatible with Scenic Byway requirements and with other parks within the system.

Develop master plan and construction documents for Clifton Terrace Park.

Develop master plan and construction documents for Homer Adams Park.

Link trail from Godfrey Ballpark and Lewis and Clark Community College to Homer Adams Park and Village Hall using street right-of-ways whenever possible. This will provide a continuous trail link from the Village Center to the Mississippi River, linking major parks and institutions.

Develop new and improve existing soccer complex at Glazebrook Park, to include one lighted field and related facilities such as concessions, restrooms, parking and playground.

Improve Homer Adams Park, to include new shelter or gazebo/band stand, loop trail, open multi-use lawn area, sand volleyball and multi-use hard-service court. Possible expansion of Homer Adams as Town Center develops.

Develop small court complex at Glazebrook Park, to include tennis, basketball, and sand volleyball.

Complete other improvements to Glazebrook Park including a new fishing lake, additional internal vehicular circulation and parking, an expanded internal unpaved interpretive trail system, additional shelters and picnic areas, horseshoe pits, new playgrounds and a second gazebo.

Construct community recreation center and aquatic complex.

Hire part time personnel to assist with operating complex.

Improve and upgrade facilities and fields at Godfrey Ballpark.

Hire full time parks maintenance employee to support continued improvements to parks.

Acquire IDNR property for expansion of Clifton Terrace Park for development of a fishing boardwalk, river side parking, trails, boat launch and short-term use dock.

Connect to regional trail systems east, south and north of Godfrey, using existing and proposed highway corridors, and where possible, abandoned rail corridors. Include an equestrian trail link to and through

the regional park. Assist with the development of single track trails at appropriate locations within the park system.

Complete miscellaneous improvements to Glazebrook Park, including fishing access and landscaping.

Complete miscellaneous improvements to LaVista Park, including additional landscaping and native planting areas, and outdoor classroom area.

Planning and developing for a regional park with trails, playgrounds, athletic facilities, parking, restrooms and picnic shelters and tables. Establish an off-lease dog facility.

Complete improvements to Great Rivers Park, including cross walk, parking on river side, walkways and fishing boardwalk and viewing platform.

Complete improvements to Clifton Terrace Park including parking on river side, cross walk, walkways and marina.

Land acquisition east of U.S. 67 near the I-255 corridor for use as a neighborhood park (neighborhood park northeast). This area should include at a minimum playground facilities, picnic shelter and tables, parking and restrooms.

Land acquisition north of Airport Road for use as a neighborhood park. This area should include at a minimum playground facilities, picnic shelter and tables and restrooms.

Develop additional facilities as demand indicates and budget permits to include a potential skate park and disc golf.

Replace playgrounds in three parks as part of an on-going upgrade and replacement program. Typical life expectancy of playground equipment with moderate use is fifteen to twenty years.

Land acquisition east of U.S. 67 and south of Tuller Lane for use as a neighborhood park. This area should include at a minimum playground facilities, picnic shelter and tables and restrooms.

Recommended Projects and Implementation Cost Opinion

There are a number of costs associated with implementation of the Citizens Based Comprehensive Master Plan. These costs range from planning and design services, physical construction, operations and maintenance, equipment and staffing needs. Operations and maintenance, equipment replacement and staffing will be ongoing costs. As improvements are made, consideration must be given to staffing needs. Each project results in incremental increases in workload. As facilities, services and programs are brought on-line, additional staff must be brought on-board.

The following costs are an opinion of what potential costs would be. The costs are based on 2004 dollars, but have not been adjusted for inflation for outlying years of the program. They have, however, been increased for later years of the program. As such, the costs should be considered useful for order of magnitude estimates only. Costs may also vary depending on the amount of work that is completed in-house by Village employees.

The projects listed are the results of projects identified in stakeholder meetings, community meetings and on the citizen's survey. The projects listed are also based on comparison of the Village of Godfrey with similar communities in the Midwest. Finally, a review was made based on published recreation standards and trends.

The projects listed and costs are in a general sequence, with short-term and long-term projects identified. This allows the Village of Godfrey maximum flexibility to adjust priorities, add or delete projects. This also allows the flexibility to adjust the time for implementation based on revenue sources, growth, the economy and other factors. The projects indicated are typical for a fifteen to twenty year program. The numbering shown is for identifying and organizing the information only.

Short-term Projects, 2005 to 2009

1. Infrastructure improvements to Glazebrook Park to include:
 - Electric, water line and sanitary sewer for restroom facilities Lump Sum \$50,000
 - Restroom facilities by playground Lump Sum \$45,000
 - Electrical service, transformer and security lighting to server vendors, maze and stage area for large event activities Lump Sum \$120,000
2. Clifton Terrace restroom facilities, including utilities and waste water treatment Lump Sum \$281,500
3. Improve existing entry to Glazebrook Park to
 - Include landscaping, irrigation, curb and gutter Lump Sum \$25,000
4. Phase 1 (1/2 mile) pave trail from LaVista Park To the Vadalabene Trail with signage And kiosk structures Lump Sum \$212,000
5. Extension of paved trails in existing Glazebrook Park including limited public access road to gazebo 3500 LF@ \$40/LF \$140,000
6. *Establish Park Foundation*
7. *Legislation to require developers to set aside land or establish an escrow account for parkland acquisition based on number of units developed.*
8. Improve parking in Godfrey Ballpark:
 - Pave existing grassy area adjacent to Stamper Lane 30 cars @ \$350/car \$10,500
 - Access drive to parking Lump Sum \$15,000
 - Construct practice soccer field Lump Sum \$10,000
 - New parking lot at back by Field #6 40 cars @ \$500/car \$20,000
 - Access Drive Field #6 parking Lump Sum \$20,000
9. LaVista Park restroom and utilities Lump Sum \$80,000

10. Add full-time maintenance employee (new employee)	LS (base + benefits) (+17 years base salary)	\$40,300 \$685,100
11. New parking in Existing Glazebrook Park		
Lot 1	100 cars @\$500/car	\$50,000
Lot2	130 cars@ \$500/car	\$65,000
Lot3	130 cars @ \$500/car	\$65,000
Lot4	70 cars @ \$500/car	\$35,000
Access drive to new parking	Lump Sum	\$35,000
12. Paved trail from Glazebrook Park to Godfrey Ballpark and Lewis and Clark Community College	2500 LF @\$40/LF	\$100,000
13. LaVista Park Final Master Plan	Lump Sum	\$18,000
14. Replace tennis courts at Homer Adams Park (demolition, paving and sealing, new fencing)	Lump Sum	\$120,000
15. LaVista Park Construction Documents	Lump Sum	\$75,000
16. On-going development of LaVista Park		
• Phase 2, Repave trail from north parking lot to Young Blood Hollow	2700 LF@\$40/LF	\$108,000
• Improve wildlife viewing area	Lump Sum	\$20,000
• Signage	Lump Sum	\$5,000
• Discovery Garden	Lump Sum	\$2,000
• Un-paved nature trail and interpretive loop	2800 LF@\$10/LF	\$28,000
• Improve entry into LaVista Park	Lump Sum	\$20,000

Long-Term Projects, 2010 to 2025

17. Land acquisition west of U.S. 67/Godfrey Road for use as a regional park, approximately 120 acres	Lump Sum	\$600,000
18. Market analysis and economic feasibility study for community recreation center and aquatic complex	Lump Sum	\$50,000
19. Glazebrook Park Final Master Plan	Lump Sum	\$25,000
20. Glazebrook Park Construction Documents	Lump Sum	\$150,000
21. <i>Referendum initiative for park development. This should focus on large expenditure items that cannot be accommodated by grants and general revenue funds.</i>		
22. Hire one full time park maintenance employee		

(new position)	Lump Sum	\$36,000
	(+14 years base salary)	\$504,000
23. Hire one part time arborist (new position)	Lump Sum	\$18,000
	(+ 14 years base salary)	\$252,000
24. Reorganize Parks and Recreation Dept. Staffing		
• Parks Superintendent (new position)	Lump Sum	\$52,000
	(+ 13 years base salary)	\$676,000
• Recreation Superintendent (new position)	Lump Sum	\$52,000
	(+13 years base salary)	\$676,000
<p>Reorganize department to accommodate new positions. With the parks supervisor (existing positions) reporting to the parks superintendent (new position) and the recreation supervisor (existing position) reporting to the recreations superintendent (new position).</p>		
25. Develop Tree Planting Program		
• Plant 100 new trees per year	\$200/tree	\$20,000
	(+ 12 year continuation)	\$240,000
• Maintenance - Village wide	Lump Sum	\$10,000
	(+12 year continuation)	\$120,000
26. Develop lighted baseball and softball complex at Glazebrook Park		
• Eight Fields	\$400,000 Each	\$3,200,000
• Two concession stands with restrooms	\$120,000 Each	\$240,000
• Playground	\$80,000 Each	\$80,000
• Parking for 250 cars	\$500 Each	\$125,000
• Access and service roads	1500 LF @ \$85/LF	\$127,500
• Entry improvements (2 entries)	Lump Sum	\$50,000
• Signage and miscellaneous improvements	Lump Sum	\$20,000
27. Dredge existing lake in Glazebrook Park and install fishing bridge	Lump Sum	\$180,000
28. Paved trail linking Glazebrook Park with LaVista Park with spurs to community facilities (Assume separate trail parallel to road system)	24,000 LF @ \$50/LF	\$1,200,000
29. Design and construction documents for community recreation center and aquatic complex	Lump Sum	\$450,000
30. Master plan for Great Rivers	Lump Sum	\$15,000
31. Parking and landscape improvements in Great Rivers Park	Lump Sum	\$200,000

32. Master plan for Clifton Terrace Park	Lump Sum	\$15,000
33. Master plan for Homer Adams Park	Lump Sum	\$10,000
34. Link trail from Lewis and Clark Community College to Homer Adams Park and Village Hall, This cost assumes a mix of on-street striping as new roads are constructed and some new multi-use trail pavement on acquired and dedicated right-of-way. It also includes links to the Town Center.	6000 LF@\$30/LF	\$480,000
35. Develop new and improve existing soccer complex at Glazebrook Park		
• One lighted field with bleachers	Lump Sum	\$300,000
• Three fields	\$150,000 Each	\$450,000
• Three practice/starter fields	\$75,000 Each	\$225,000
• Concession and restrooms	\$120,000 Each	\$120,000
• Playground	\$80,000 Each	\$80,000
• Parking for 250 cars	\$500 Each	\$125,000
• Access and service roads	2100 LF @ \$85/LF	\$178,500
• Signage and miscellaneous Improvements	Lump Sum	\$20,000
36. Improve Homer Adams Park, to include new shelter, loop trail and basketball court		
• Shelter	\$25,000 Each	\$25,000
• Multi-use court	\$25,000 Each	\$25,000
• Loop walkway	1000 LF @ \$50/LF	\$50,000
37. Develop small court complex at Glazebrook Park to include tennis, basketball, and sand volleyball (6)	\$20,000 Each	\$120,000
38. Other improvements to Glazebrook Park include:		
• New Fishing Lake	Lump Sum	\$150,000
• Internal vehicular circulation and parking	Lump Sum	\$150,000
• Expanded internal trail system (unpaved)	4200 LF@\$10/LF	\$42,000
• Shelters and picnic areas (8)	\$20,000 Each	\$160,000
• Horseshoes (4)	\$5,000 Each	\$20,000
• Playground (2)	\$80,000 Each	\$160,000
• Gazebo	Lump Sum	\$40,000
39. Construct community recreation center and aquatic complex in Glazebrook Park, based on 72,000 square foot building.	Lump Sum	\$15,000,000.
40. Hire part time personnel to operate complex (8)	\$4000/person/year	\$32,000

	(+10 years base salary)	\$320,000
41. Improve and upgrade facilities and fields at Godfrey Ballpark	Lump Sum	\$250,000
42. Hire full time parks maintenance employee	Lump Sum	\$30,000
	(+5 years base salary)	\$150,000
43. Acquire property adjacent to Clifton Terrace Park from IDNR for fishing boardwalk, boat launch, short-term dock and river side parking	Lump Sum	\$200,000
44. Connect to regional trail systems east, south and north of Godfrey, using existing and proposed highway corridors, and where possible, abandoned rail corridors.	Lump Sum	\$830,000
Equestrian Trail Link to Regional Park	Lump Sum	\$50,000
Single Track Trail	Lump Sum	\$30,000
45. Complete improvements to Glazebrook Park	Lump Sum	\$100,000
46. Complete improvements to LaVista Park	Lump Sum	\$100,000
47. Planning and develop regional park (120 acres) with trails, playgrounds, athletic facilities, parking restrooms and shelters	Lump Sum	\$3,050,000
48. Complete improvements to Great Rivers Park including cross walk, parking on river side, walkways and fishing boardwalk and viewing platform	Lump Sum	\$800,000
49. Complete improvements to Clifton Terrace Park expansion, including parking on river side, crosswalk, walkways, fishing boardwalk and short-term use dock	Lump Sum	\$1,500,000
50. Land acquisition east of U.S. 67 for use as a neighborhood park (Neighborhood Park Northeast). This area should include at a minimum playground facilities, picnic shelter and tables, parking and restrooms.		
	Land Cost	\$200,000
	Planning and Development	\$1,000,000
51. Land acquisition north of Airport Road for use as a neighborhood park (Neighborhood Park Northwest). This area should include at a minimum playground facilities, picnic shelter and tables, parking and restrooms.		

Land Cost	\$200,000
Planning and Development	\$1,000,000

52. Develop additional facilities as demand indicates and budget permits to include a potential skate park and disc golf. (Locate at regional park site)

53. Replace playgrounds in three parks \$25,000 each \$75,000

54. Land acquisition east of U.S. 67 for use as a neighborhood park (Neighborhood Park Southeast). This area should include at a minimum playground facilities, picnic shelter and tables, parking and restrooms and a multi-use trail.

Land Cost	\$400,000
Planning and Development	\$1,000,000

Total for Twenty Years: \$41,131,400

Additional Operations and Maintenance Costs

With each acre added to the parks and recreation system, additional funding will be need on an annual basis for the programming, services and maintenance of the land. The cost for programming, services and maintenance will vary with the level and intensity of development. For example, development of the additional 80 acres of land at Glazebrook Park will have a higher annual cost of operations and maintenance than development of LaVista Park.

In the Midwest, an average of \$2,000 per acre should be added to the budget for each additional acre of parkland that is brought on line. This may be significantly less for LaVista Park, and depending on the ultimate level of development, may be as much as \$2,500 per acre for Glazebrook Park.

The increased funding to operate and maintain new parkland should be added to the annual budget as the parkland is brought on-line, and included thereafter.

Similarly, community recreation centers may need as much as \$20 per square foot of space for annual operations. The cost will vary greatly depending on the programs offered, facilities provided and the fees and charges established for the use of the facilities.

Only the need for additional staffing has been factored into the cost opinion. Additional staff costs will include periodic salary and benefit increases, as well as additional equipment costs.

The costs can be broken down by several categories. These include:

- System wide improvements and operations..... \$6,175,400
- Integrated trail system..... \$3,270,000
- Glazebrook Community Park..... \$7,086,000
- Community Recreation Center and Aquatic Complex..... \$15,500,000
- Land acquisition and development.. \$9,100,000

Total \$41,131,400

Glazebrook Park overall has the most improvements. As the community park for the Village of Godfrey, it has a relatively intense level of development, to serve a wide range of community needs. The single largest cost item is the planning, design and development of a community recreation center and aquatic complex.

Depending on a variety of factors that could influence costs over a twenty year period, the total implementation of the recommendations contained here-in is anticipated to be in the range of forty to forty-two million dollars.

Funding Strategies

The Citizens' Park System Master Plan for the Village of Godfrey outlines recreation needs and long-term parks and recreation improvements for the Village for the next 15 years. The Master Plan is a flexible document, and the implementation time line can be adjusted base on a variety of issues. Those issues include, among others, funding, demographics and the local and regional economy.

There are a variety of sources of funding available to implement the recommendations of the Master Plan. Multiple sources of funding must be utilized to realize the full potential of the parks and recreation system for Godfrey.

General Funds

The Village of Godfrey already budgets funds for the operation and maintenance of the parks and recreation activities. This is not a dedicated revenue source, and can vary from year to year. The needs of the Parks and Recreation Department must compete against all the other needs of the Village, such as roads, infrastructure and services. Funding has generally been in the range of \$450,000 per year. Additional funding comes through other using other departments to provide services such as paving, grading and others. Special appropriations are occasionally made over and above the base budget.

Current funding levels are only sufficient to meet minimal operations and maintenance. A dedicated budget as a percentage of general funds would provide a guaranteed source of revenue. Even this would vary year to year, but would provide some funding stability.

Grants

Grant funding programs are available at the state, federal and local levels. Unfortunately, due to the economic down-tum and reduced state and local revenues, there are not as many grant opportunities as there once were. Some of the main grant programs that are available include:

The OSLAD funds are administered by the state and are pass-through funds from the Federal government.

The Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program provides funds for the development of bike trails that link to a regional trail system.

Transportation enhancement fund grants are part of the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) and its predecessor the Inter-modal Surfaced Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). These funds are pass-through funds from through the Illinois Department of Transportation. Available funds

can be used for transportation enhancement projects including street tree projects. Funds can also be used for the development of bicycle trails and lanes developed in conjunction with the street system. Funding for these programs has expired, and as of August, 2004, a Federal transportation bill has not been passed by Congress or approved by the Administration.

The Metropolitan East Parks and Recreation District (MEPRD), established in 2001, provides funds for the development of parks and improvements to parks within communities. In addition to local parks, the MEPRD provides funds for the development of trails and greenways as part of a regional network. MEPRD has also proposed the development of four regional parks for the metro-east area, two in St. Clair County and two in Madison County. One of the regional parks is proposed for northwest Madison County, in the Godfrey / Alton area. Funding for a regional park is over and above the funding that is available to a local community.

Madison County provides a grant for parks and recreation equipment to communities at the rate of \$2 per capita. For Godfrey, with a population of 16,300, that equates to over \$32,600 per year.

The Parks and Recreation Department has acquired over one million dollars in grants over a five year period. Many of the grant applications are complex and time consuming and require appropriate supporting information. Currently only the Director of Parks and Recreation has the experience and technical capability to complete grant applications. If matching funds are available, and if personnel are available to work on grant applications, the level of grant funding potentially can increase beyond the average of \$250,000 per year for the past five years.

User Fees

Parks and recreation departments frequently require users of parks and recreation facilities to pay for the facilities they use. These may be a fee that is charge for each use, or may be charged on a daily permit of seasonal basis. User fees are insufficient by themselves to pay for capital improvement projects. However they are important sources of revenue for offsetting operations and maintenance costs.

User fees are common for indoor recreations facilities and programs, and labor intensive outdoor facilities such as baseball, softball and others. User fees also use of facilities such as shelters. The goal of user fees is to generate sufficient income sufficient to cover or exceed the cost to operate a facility or program.

Analysis of community recreation and aquatic centers indicate that if designed properly to attract a wide range of users, and if strategically located in the regional "marketplace", the operations and maintenance of these centers can be mostly covered by user fees. As a result, the impact of these fees on budgets can be minimal.

General Obligation Bonds

The Village of Godfrey can use its bonding capacity to place a bond referendum on a ballot. Is passed, the Village would be allowed to sell bonds to raise capital for development and improvements to the park system. The bonds are retired through a tax increase over the term of the bond. Bonds are frequently used for major capital improvements, such as development of a family aquatic center of community recreation center.

The current bonding capacity of the Village of Godfrey is approximately twenty million dollars.

Tax Levies

Tax levies can be source of revenues for parks and recreation departments. The state of Illinois currently allows a village to assess a tax of up to nine cents for parks improvements and up to seven cents for recreation improvements, for a total of sixteen cents. The Village of Godfrey currently has over 6,800 residences, with an assessed value of over \$100,000,000. The can generate a revenue stream of up to \$160,000 per year, at the highest rate.

As the Village continues to grow, tax revenue from property taxes will continue to increase. Since 2000, between 50 to 100 new homes have been constructed per year in the Village.

The Board of Trustees of Godfrey historically has been proactive in working to keep property taxes low, or level as the rate of assessment increases. While this is very attractive to the community, it does limit the growth in services that the Village can provide. There is some potential support within the community for a property tax increase dedicated to parks and recreation improvements.

Sales taxes are one potential source of revenue. However, at this point there is not a strong retail base in the Village of Godfrey.

Parkland Dedication, Development Impact Fees and Fees in Lieu of Land

Dedication of open space or payment of fees for park development by private developers can be negotiated in exchange for developmental considerations for their projects. It is often better to offer incentives to developers in return for land dedication. Parkland dedication ordinances must be carefully written to avoid the threat of lengthy court battles. There are a successful parkland dedication ordinances used by communities throughout the state of Illinois. One way to help avoid accusations of the local government of taking valuable land is to use the dedicated land of development fees for the benefit of the development.

Fees in lieu of land dedication are often used when there is unsuitable land within a development for parks and recreation use. Fees are frequently preferred over land dedication because parcels dedicated to parkland use within individual developments can often be small and unsuitable for recreation use.

Public/Private Partnerships and Foundations

Community foundations such as a parks conservancy can frequently be a source of revenue for parks and recreation. Community foundations build their endowments through contributions from several donors, usually private. Community foundations in turn dedicate their funds to meeting local needs in the community, such as for parks and recreation.

The advantage of a community foundation dedicated to parks and recreation include tax exemptions and tax deductibility. Illinois and national laws and regulations regarding foundations must be reviewed to ensure compliance the requirements governing the establishment and operations of a foundation.

The Village of Godfrey has worked with several not-for-profit organizations such as the Great Rivers Land Trust to acquire property for parks and recreation purposes.

There are several other organizations and foundations within the Village of Godfrey that potentially compete for contributions to a foundation or trust. These include the Great Rivers Land Trust, the Nature Institute, Lewis and Clark Community College and Beverly Farms, among others.

Many citizens groups have assisted or have expressed interest in assisting with special projects for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Cooperative Use Agreements

Cooperative use agreements can be established between the Parks and Recreation Department and school or other agencies and groups to share the use of facilities. These are particularly common between parks and recreation departments and schools. The Village of Godfrey currently has cooperative use agreements with Lewis and Clark Community College and the Alton School District, among others. The Parks and Recreation Department has worked closely in the past with the Great Rivers Land Trust in acquiring and developing park land. The Oblate Fathers assist with the management and operations of the Discovery Garden in LaVista Park.

Cooperative use agreements to include access, trail development and other activities will be essential if The River Green concept is to be developed.

Potential Revenue Sources

Citizens indicated that they prefer having user fees, foundations and development fees fund parks and recreation improvements. Given a choice, fifty-four percent indicated they support establishing a foundation for funding park improvements. Fifty-four percent indicated they would support establishing development fees imposed on new development projects in Godfrey. Said fees would be used to fund parks improvements that would in turn benefit the development. Thirty percent indicated that they would support user fee increases for adults, and nineteen percent supported user fees for youth programs.

Thirty percent of the citizens that responded to the needs assessment survey indicated they would support a tax increase for parks and recreation improvements. Thirty-one percent indicated they might support a tax increase while twenty-four percent were not sure. Fifteen percent would oppose a tax increase.

Of the funding sources identified, the amount of revenue generated will vary from year to year. For example, the Department of Parks and Recreation may not be able to fully realize its potential to acquire grants if it does not have the revenue available for providing the local match. Tax levies and bond issues can generate a wide range of revenue, but this is frequently dependent on the economic and political climate at the time. Main funding sources could generate the following potential levels of revenue:

- General Revenue: \$400,000 to \$500,000
- Grants: \$250,000 to \$500,000
- Park Foundation: \$100,000 to \$1,000,000
- Property Tax: \$0 to \$384,000
- User Fees: \$30,000 to \$150,000
- Miscellaneous: \$25,000 to \$50,000

- Totals: \$805,000 to \$2,584,000
- Bonding: \$0 to \$15,000,000

The River Green

Analysis of the existing park land in the Village of Godfrey, along with analysis of the open space associated with many of the cooperative agencies that the Department of Parks and Recreation works with shows that there is a near continuous corridor of open space that extends from the Mississippi River to the heart of Godfrey.

Herein referred to as The River Green, this corridor flows through neighborhoods, and links neighborhoods, businesses and schools. It contains some of the most unique natural features and attributes in the River Bend area of Madison County, if not the region. Parks within the corridor include Clifton Terrace Park, Great Rivers Park, LaVista Park, Glazebrook Park and the Godfrey Ball Park. If the Village of Godfrey moves forward with acquisition and development of a regional park, that would become part of The River Green.

Major non-park land holders of open space within The River Green include the Nature Institute, Great Rivers Greenway, the Oblate Fathers, Warren Levis Boy Scout Camp, Lewis and Clark Community College, and the Rolling Hills Golf Course, among others. These entities either own land within The River Green or hold conservation easements that would preclude development of the parcel with the conservation easement.

Natural features within The River Green include the Mississippi River and Piasa Palisades, deep hollows and draws such as Young Blood Hollow, areas of bottomland forest, and open and closed upland forest, upland prairie, a karst sinkhole plain and others.

The Village of Godfrey has the opportunity to be a leader in the development of The River Green. Most of the components are in place, so little additional investment would be involved on the part of the Village. By taking the lead, the Village will be able to work with the other entities to permit passive use of properties not controlled by the Village. In particular, the Village could work with other entities to develop trails and trailheads, and scenic overlooks or observation platforms. The Village owned properties could be used for more intense recreation development, particularly in locations such as Glazebrook Park. By looking at The River Green as a whole, the Department of Parks and Recreation would be able to determine the best locations for active and passive uses.

Taken as a whole, The River Green will function as a true regional park, with easy access to the entire region. It can become a destination point, particularly with the unique natural attributes, institutions such as the Nature Institute and Lewis and Clark Community College. Other unique attractions include the Great Godfrey Maze and the Great Rivers Research and Education Center on the LCCC campus. The River Green would have links to the regional trail system. It can provide easy access to the charm associated with the Village of Godfrey, and help to promote tourism and economic development.

Conclusions

The Citizens Park System Comprehensive Plan outlines a program that will guide the Village of Godfrey as it strives to meet the short term and long term park and recreation needs of its citizens. It is an ambitious program, but it is also a doable. Outlined as a twenty year program, implementation may be in a shorter or longer time frame, depending on a number of factors. Chief among those factors is financial, but other major factors include population growth and changing demographics, economic development and highway development in the region that affects Godfrey. As the St. Louis region continues to grow, Godfrey will become an increasingly popular place to live. Younger, more affluent families place a greater emphasis on leisure activities. The Department of Parks and Recreation promotes activities that

are family oriented and that appeal to a wide range of age groups and interests. This comprehensive plan will help the Department of Parks and Recreation continue to fulfill its mission.