

Introduction

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been prepared to provide the City of O'Fallon with guidance in continuing efforts to meet recreation needs for the citizens of O'Fallon. The Master Plan is organized into the following sections which are outlined below:

- *Data Collection*, an understanding of the community's resources, facilities and existing conditions that influence the type, size and location of park land and facilities.
- *Plan Analysis*, the development of a program statement for the City's future needs for park land and park facilities.
- *Master Plan*, the synthesis of existing conditions and future opportunities with the identified recreation needs of the community, graphically illustrated to provide the City with general guidance to communicate and implement the Plan.
- *Implementation Strategies*, a description of the existing opportunities that will aid in accomplishing the goals of the Master Plan including the generalized impacts of achieving these goals.



Civic Park View of Log Cabin.

This Master Plan illustrates several design concepts for mini, neighborhood, district, metropolitan parks and open space & greenway linkages throughout the community. These illustrations present the vision of the Plan and the quality of planning and design that will be required to meet the expectations of the community.

Goals of the Master Plan

The goals of the Master Plan are numerous and varied depending on whom or what group you ask. Several key goals include:

- *Consensus* - the development of a plan that is supported by a broad-based section of the community.
- *Direction* - the development of a plan that provides recommendations that are based on the opportunities and dynamics of the community.
- *Flexibility* - the development of a plan that allows for choices and changes to be made over time while preserving the vision of the plan.

O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Department

The O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the City's park system, the Renaud Spirit Center, and public landscaping projects. The department also designs, implements and monitors City events and programs such as the Heritage & Freedom Festival, Celebration of Lights, sporting events and leagues along with summer camps and other recreational classes. Program offerings are wide ranging and include: special events, adult activities,

cultural arts programs, fitness, youth activities, learn to swim programs, athletics and various facility rentals.

O'Fallon Parks Board

The Parks and Recreation Department works under the guidance of the O'Fallon Parks Board. The Parks Board consists of nine members appointed by the Mayor with City Council approval. The Parks Board presides over a comprehensive array of park and recreation services including establishment, operation, and maintenance of a diverse range of leisure, conservation, recreation, and aesthetic resources for all residents of O'Fallon. The Board is vested with the power, duties and obligations necessary to accomplish this purpose and is charged with responsibility for the recreation programs and park facilities under their direction.

2008 O'Fallon Comprehensive Plan

The City of O'Fallon completed a Comprehensive Plan in October 2008 that includes sections on the Community Profile, Goals, Action Items and Implementation Strategy. The Comprehensive Plan is a City-wide plan that outlines policy decisions regarding the physical development of O'Fallon. A subsection in the Comprehensive Plan entitled "Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities" outlines existing conditions and makes general observations and recommendations pertaining to parks and recreation issues. Additionally, it includes a series of goals, action items and implementation strategies. These goals include the following:

Parks and Recreation Facilities

The City of O'Fallon should continue to acquire and develop parks and recreation facilities directly related to the desires of residents, particularly in areas where the City will likely expand in the future.

Parks and Recreation Facility Maintenance

The City of O'Fallon should continue to preserve, maintain, and enhance existing parks and recreational facilities through the use of adequate operating budgets, user fees, voter-approved general obligation bonds, innovative funding techniques, and proper management techniques.

Recreation Opportunities

The City of O'Fallon should continue to sponsor a wide range of recreational programs and special events that meet the desires of a variety of users and age groups.

Multi Use Trail System

The City of O'Fallon should implement the 2008 Trails Master Plan (The Bikeable-Walkable Community Plan for the Cities of O'Fallon, Wentzville, and Lake St. Louis, Missouri, October 16, 2008) and promote alternative means of travel to become a walkable/bikeable community.

Tourism

The City of O'Fallon should promote its various attractions and the reasons why people should visit O'Fallon.

Provide Unique Attractions

The City of O'Fallon should support the cultural arts for the residents of the City and provide unique attractions of local, regional and national significance.

Beautification

The City of O'Fallon should continue to provide for the beautification of the City.

Appendix G provides a list of these goals with corresponding action items. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will expand upon the ideas and provide the City with a more detailed plan for parks and recreation issues.

Purpose Statement

"The purpose of the Working Committee is to offer the consultant planning team direction and guidance throughout the development of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Through a consensus building process, the Working Committee shall strive to develop a plan that will be presented to the public, supported by the Parks Board, approved by the City Council, and ultimately implemented, thus enriching the quality of life for the citizens of O'Fallon.

2009 O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Master Plan Working Committee

Mission and Objectives

The O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Department created the following values, purpose and mission in December 2008 as an exercise with staff and the Parks Board.

Values

- Community—Determine, evaluate and strive to meet the expectations of the community.
- Communication—Provide open and honest communication with all stakeholders.
- Quality Services—Deliver effective parks, facilities and programs that meet or exceed our community's needs.
- Innovation—Lead the way in concepts that improve the user experience.

Purpose

- To enrich the quality of life through People, Parks and Programs.

Mission

- To remain as one of the premier park and recreation destinations within the St. Louis area and the state of Missouri.
- To achieve these objectives the Parks Maintenance Division must address these tasks.
 - Provide appropriate levels of maintenance to parks, trails, sports fields, recreation amenities, trees, landscapes and structures to maximize their asset value and use by the community.
 - Work closely with the Recreation Division of the Department to ensure recreation facility maintenance requirements are tied to user expectations and the fees paid to access the resources provided by the City.
 - Ensure that park lands and open spaces are maintained to a level acceptable to the community. This then helps enhance the property values and the image value of the City for economic and livability purposes.

Planning Methodology

The planning process began in March 2009 with the selection of Planning Design Studio to prepare the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of O'Fallon. The foundation of the planning process began with the formation of a Working Committee to help guide the development of the Master Plan. Twelve individuals representing appointed officials, the Park Board, City staff, and the public were contacted and asked to serve on the Committee. All candidates responded enthusiastically to the invitation to serve on the Working Committee. On June 18, 2009 the Working Committee conducted its first workshop with Planning Design Studio. The Committee adopted the purpose statement show to the right.

From the first meeting, over a nine month period, the Working Committee, Parks and Recreation Department members, appointed officials and interested citizens invested their time assisting in the development of a plan that, while may be ambitious in its recommendations, will become the standard expected by the citizens of O'Fallon.

Work Plan

As a part of the planning methodology, Planning Design Studio prepared a Work Plan for the preparation of the Master Plan. The Work Plan was intended to aid in the Working Committees' understanding of the planning process, and assist in the scheduling of events and activities throughout the planning period. The Work Plan was also utilized to illustrate the steps of the planning process to the public.

Figure 1-1 – Work Plan

