

Data Collection



Dames Park View of Omer J. Dames Memorial.

Introduction

The O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed using information from a variety of sources. Among those sources were a Community Attitude and Interest Survey, Working Committee meetings, public forums, meetings with City officials and staff, citizen input, and various contributing reports. The information from these sources was compiled and reviewed to determine the recreational needs and desires of the people in O'Fallon. The Data Collection section presents the information gathered and sets the framework for the analysis of the needs and desires identified in the Plan Analysis section of this document.

Community Profile

Every community is unique, and as such, needs to be addressed in a manner specific to its own personality. The following information presents a snapshot in time of O'Fallon and examines the traits that contribute to the character of the City. It also illustrates demands being placed upon O'Fallon by those wishing to become a part of the community.

Community Image and Character

The City of O'Fallon is located in the central portion of eastern Missouri, in St. Charles County, thirty minutes west of St. Louis City limits. The City encompasses 29.28 square miles (18,752 acres), with access to Interstate 70 at the north and Interstate 64 in the south. Not only is the City of O'Fallon at the center of one of Missouri's fastest growing counties, it is also near the population center of the United States. O'Fallon is about fifteen minutes from one of the nation's largest airports, with interstates and other federal and state highways serving the surrounding community.

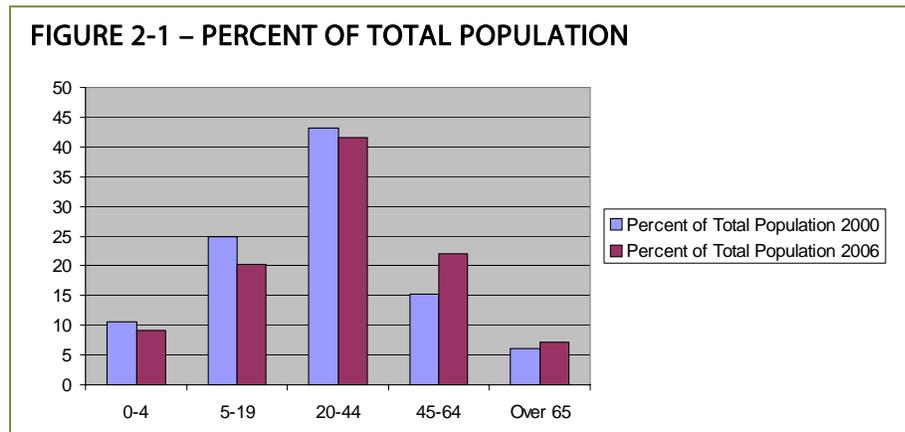
O'Fallon has a long history which includes its initial establishment as a depot stop of the North Missouri Railroad in the early 1850's. 50 Years after the town was laid out, it was incorporated as a 4th class city. In 1956, O'Fallon's 100th anniversary, the city had a population of 1,327, and included 20 square blocks. By 2000, the US census put O'Fallon's population at 46,169 people. Today, the estimated 2010 population is expected to reach 80,000.

The City of O'Fallon has been one of the fastest growing cities in the metropolitan area and St. Charles County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Missouri for two decades

and is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. From 1990 to 2000, O'Fallon's population increased by approximately 174%. In the same time frame, the county's population increased by approximately 33%. According to statistics from the Census Bureau, the population increase over the same period was 13.1% for the United States and 9.3% for the State of Missouri.

The City's 2008 population of 72,477 is a combination of U.S. Census data and the number of housing permits issued up to that date to more accurately reflect the City's growth.

For 2000 and 2006, the breakdown of the population by age has remained nearly identical as is depicted in the following graph below.



In 2006, the median age of O'Fallon residents was 32.6 years (31.1 in 2000). Compared to the national average of 36.4 years old, the population of O'Fallon is clearly much younger - the most significant difference being that only 12.4% of the national population is over the age of 65. The population of O'Fallon became both wealthier and more highly educated. In 2006, 90% of individuals over age 25 had graduated from high school in O'Fallon, compared to the national percentage of 84.1%. Additionally, the percent of college graduates increased in O'Fallon to 33.3% in 2006 (from 27.2% in 2000). In 2000, the median household income was \$60,179, which was 43% higher than the national average (\$41,994). In 2006, the median household income was \$69,578, which is 44% higher than the national average (\$48,451).

Using this information, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- O'Fallon's overall population is expected to increase over the next 10 years by approximately 4-4.5%, based on trends in the estimated annual number of building permits issues for the construction of single family homes, as referenced in the 2008 O'Fallon Comprehensive Plan. This increase in population is anticipated to place additional demands on park resources.
- The population bulge in the 20-44 age group is significant and should be addressed when considering new recreation opportunities for the

O'Fallon community. As the 20-44 age group matures, its future needs should be considered.

- The needs of a maturing population should be a significant future consideration of the O'Fallon Park and Recreation System.

Community Park Facilities/Amenities

There are currently eight city parks that serve the recreational needs of O'Fallon residents. These parks include Civic Park, Dames Park, Fort Zumwalt Park, Knaust Park, O'Fallon Sports Park, Ozzie Smith Sports Complex Park, and Paul A. Westhoff Memorial Park. Winter Haven Park is currently 22 acres of open space which is currently undeveloped. A master plan has been completed for O'Fallon's recently purchased undeveloped park, O'Day Park, also referred to as DD Park. In addition, the Renaud Spirit Center, the City's community recreation center, is located near O'Fallon Sports Park. Refer to Figure 2-2 (Existing Community Park and Recreation Facilities/Amenities) for a listing of public recreation opportunities in and near the O'Fallon community. For the purposes of clarity, a "facility" is defined as a building or structure whose primary purpose is recreation or recreation related activities. An "amenity" is a land based feature whose primary function is recreation or recreation related.



Fort Zumwalt Park View of Historic Heald Home.

FIGURE 2-2 – EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES/AMENITIES

O’Fallon City Parks	Location	Recreation Facilities/Amenities
Civic Park	Civic Park Dr. and Woodlawn Ave.	Alligator’s Creek Aquatic Center, Bandstand, Civic Hall, Pavilion, Playgrounds, Horseshoe Pits, Log Cabin Museum, Parks and Recreation Office, Comfort Stations, and Paved Walking Path
Dames Park	Highway P	Lighted Football Fields, Practice Half Field, Playgrounds, Pavilions, Concession Stand, Bike and Walking Paths, Fitness Course, Vietnam War Memorial, Maintenance Building, and Comfort Stations.
Fort Zumwalt Park	Veterans Memorial Parkway	Fishing Lake, Zumwalt’s Fort Historic Stone Chimney, (Log Cabin currently under reconstruction), Historic Heald Home, St. Charles Model RR Club, Pavilion, Playground, Walking Path, Maintenance Building, Comfort Stations and Nature Trails.
Knaust Park	Sea Side Ct. in Hutchings Farm Subdivision	Playground, and Walking Path.
O’Fallon Sports Park	Highway K	Soccer Complex, Comfort Station, Concession Stand, Children’s Garden and Playground, Pavilions, All Weather Practice Area, and Renaud Spirit Center with Cultural Arts Center Gallery.
Ozzie Smith Sports Complex	T.R. Hughes Blvd.	Lighted Baseball/Softball Fields, Comfort Station, Concession Stand, Playground, T.R. Hughes Ballpark (minor league baseball), and St. Charles County Amateur Sports Hall of Fame.
Paul A. Westhoff Memorial Park	St. Matthew Ave. and T.R. Hughes Blvd.	Lighted Baseball/Softball Fields, Youth Fields, Sand Volleyball Courts, Lighted Horseshoe Pits, Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Handball Court, Playgrounds, Pavilion, Comfort Stations, Concession Stands, and Mini Skate Park.
O’Day (DD) Park	Highway DD	Undeveloped. Master Plan includes: Playground, Comfort Stations, Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheater, Walking Trail, Maintenance Building, Primitive Camping, Fitness Nodes, Wi-Fi Zone, and Shelters.
Winter Haven Park	S. Woodlawn Ave. and Mexico Rd.	Undeveloped.
Community Recreation Center	Location	Recreation Facilities/Amenities
The Renaud Spirit Center	2650 Tri-Sports Circle	Fitness Center, Natatorium, Gymnasium, Art Gallery, Classrooms, and Locker Rooms.

Schools

There are a number of schools that have outdoor recreational amenities within the city limits and are used by residents to satisfy their recreation demands. These facilities typically consist of playgrounds and sports fields. When not in demand by the school, some of the associated amenities are often made available for public use. Sports fields typically require a facility use agreement, while playgrounds do not. Due to the location of these schools, they contribute recreation amenities to the community in areas where park amenities currently do not exist. The benefit of such facilities is that the City is not responsible for maintaining them, yet they help satisfy the recreation demands in the community. For purposes of denotation, each school that contributes recreation amenities for community use is indicated on the Community Influences Map (Figure 2-5). Refer to Figure 2-3 (Existing O’Fallon School Outdoor Recreation Facilities/Amenities) for a listing of school related recreation opportunities in the O’Fallon community.

FIGURE 2-3 – EXISTING O'FALLON SCHOOL OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES/AMENITIES (PUBLIC & PRIVATE)

Ft. Zumwalt School District	Location	Recreation Facilities
Dardenne Elementary	2621 Highway K	1 Playground
Emge Elementary	250 Fallon Parkway	2 Playgrounds, 1 Multi Use Court
Forest Park Elementary	501 Sunflower	2 Playgrounds, 4 Multi Use Courts
Fort Zumwalt North High	1230 Tom Ginnever Ave.	1 Outdoor Track, 6 Tennis Courts, 1 Baseball Field, 1 Football Field, 2 Soccer Fields
Fort Zumwalt South High	8050 Mexico Rd.	1 Outdoor Track, 6 Tennis Courts, 3 Baseball/Softball Fields, 1 Football Field, 1 Soccer Field
Fort Zumwalt West High	1251 Turtle Creek Dr.	1 Outdoor Track, 6 Tennis Courts, 3 Baseball/Softball Fields, 1 Football Field, 1 Soccer Field, 2 Practice Fields
J.L. Mudd Elementary	610 Prince Ruppert	3 Playgrounds, 3 Multi Use Courts
Mt. Hope Elementary	1099 Mount Hope Lane	2 Playgrounds, 2 Multi Use Courts
North Middle	210 Virgil Street	1 Half Size Outdoor Track, 3 Baseball/Softball Fields
Ostmann Elementary	200 Meriwether Lewis Dr.	2 Playgrounds, 1 Multi Use Court
Pheasant Point Elementary	3450 Pheasant Meadow Drive	2 Playgrounds, 2 Multi Use Courts
Progress South Elementary	201 Knaust Road	2 Playgrounds, 2 Multi Use Courts
Rock Creek Elementary	8970 Mexico Rd.	3 Playgrounds, 2 Multi Use Courts
South Middle	300 Knaust Rd.	1 Half Size Outdoor Track, 1 Soccer Field
Twin Chimneys Elementary	7396 Twin Chimneys Blvd.	2 Playgrounds, 5 Multi Use Courts
West Middle	150 Waterford Crossing	1 Half Size Outdoor Track
Westhoff Elementary	900 Homefield Blvd.	2 Playgrounds, 3 Multi Use Courts
Wentzville School District	Location	Recreation Facilities
Crossroads Elementary	7500 Highway N	3 Playgrounds, 3 Multi Use Courts
Frontier Middle School	9233 Highway DD	1 Baseball Field
Private Schools	Location	Recreation Facilities
Assumption Grade School	203 West 3 rd St.	1 Playground, 1 Soccer Field
First Baptist Christian School	8750 Veterans memorial Parkway	1 Playground, 1 Sand Volleyball, 2 Basketball Courts
Living Word Christian Academy	1145 Tom Ginnever Ave.	1 Outdoor Track, 1 Baseball/Softball Field
St. Dominic High School	31 St. Dominic Dr.	1 Outdoor Track, 1 Football Field, 2 Baseball/Softball Fields

Other Facilities

O'Fallon is fortunate to be surrounded by communities that offer excellent recreation opportunities, some of which residents of O'Fallon use as a result of their close proximity. The August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area is located on the south side of I-64 adjacent to O'Fallon. This 6,987 acre facility owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation has 72 fishable lakes and ponds ranging from tiny ponds of a few hundred square yards to the expansive 182-acre Lake 33. The 550 acres of water provide opportunities to catch bass, catfish, trout, muskie, crappie, and sunfish. The visitor center has 120 rental boats, bait, tackle, and licenses.

City of St. Peters Rec Plex is located at 5200 Mexico Road and is home to family recreation and athletic events as well as fitness club-quality workout facilities, fully accessible to all abilities. Built in 1994, the Rec-Plex

opened to the U.S. Olympic Festival's aquatic events. For its 10-year anniversary, the Rec-Plex played host to the 2004 U.S. Olympic Diving Trials. In 2007, the Rec-Plex nearly doubled in size to 236,000 square feet with an expansion that added the Rec-Plex South facility and tripled the space for workout facilities in the original Rec-Plex building. It also features a world-class natatorium for swimming and diving, and NHL-size ice rinks. A number of local schools and athletic clubs take advantage of the Rec-Plex's top-notch facilities and call the Rec-Plex their home for sports such as swimming, diving, hockey and figure skating.

Youth Activity Park was designed to provide a safe place for area youth to enjoy an assortment of alternative recreational opportunities. This 25-acre park offers something for everyone to enjoy. The crown jewel of the park is the 33,000-square foot skate park - the largest in the state. Crafted of concrete, the facility offers challenges for every skill level with bowls, ramps, trick rails, and much more. Additional facilities include an indoor recreation facility; a sand volleyball court; half-court basketball; indoor and outdoor rock climbing walls, open play fields, a disc golf course, a table-tennis table, and a video-game electronics nook.

Private (Non-Public Recreation Providers)

There are numerous private (non-public) recreation providers in and around the O'Fallon area that contribute recreation facilities to the community. The City focuses on the provision of recreation facilities that meet the demands of the majority of residents. Considering recreation demands on a regional scale and the presence of superior private sector facilities within the community necessitates that the City does not need to provide for every recreation demand. Each facility or opportunity must be examined on an individual basis and weighed against the benefit the community will derive from such a facility before the City chooses to provide for a specific activity. Private recreation facilities in the O'Fallon area are summarized in Figure 2-4 below.

FIGURE 2-4 – EXISTING PRIVATE RECREATION PROVIDERS IN O'FALLON

Provider	Location	Recreation Facilities/Opportunities Offered
YMCA	3451 Pheasant Meadows Drive, O'Fallon, MO	Indoor Recreation Facility
Great Skate	130 Boone Hills Drive St. Peters, MO	Inline Roller Skating
Gold's Gym	2601 Highway K O'Fallon, MO	Fitness
Brunswick Zone	8070 Veterans Memorial Parkway St. Peters, MO	Bowling
Frontier Bowling	177 Frontier Park Drive O'Fallon, MO	Bowling
Club Fitness	225 O'Fallon Plaza O'Fallon, MO	Fitness
River City Rascals	900 T.R. Hughes Blvd O'Fallon, MO	Semi Professional Baseball
Lindenwood Ice	910 Main Plaza Drive Wentzville, MO	Ice Arena
Falls Golf Club	1170 Turtle Creek Drive O'Fallon, MO	Golf Course
Links Golf Club	7008 Brassel Drive O'Fallon, MO	Golf Course
Links of Dardene	7000 Brassel Drive O'Fallon, MO	Golf Course
Winghaven Country Club	7777 Winghaven Boulevard O'Fallon, MO	Golf Course
Pheasant Run Golf Course	3465 Highway K O'Fallon, MO	Golf Course
Golf Club of Wentzville	1460 Devonshire County Drive Wentzville, MO	Golf Course
Bear Creek Golf Club	158 Bear Creek Drive Wentzville, MO	Golf Course

Additionally, many of the newer residential subdivisions located throughout the City also provide playgrounds, multi-purpose trails, pools, and multipurpose courts for use by their residents and guests. Approximately 32 subdivisions collectively offer the following recreational facilities shown in Figure 2-5 below.

FIGURE 2-5 – EXISTING PRIVATE SUBDIVISION RECREATION FACILITIES IN O'FALLON

Amenity	Total Provided by Subdivisions
Pool	22*
Pool House	13
Clubhouse	6
Fishing Pond/Lake (Each)	13
Golf Course	3
Tennis Court	14
Multi Use Court	12
Playground	24
Horseshoe Pit	9
Picnic Pavilion	11
Parking Spaces	823
Walking Trail (Each)	11

* Total includes one pool available by private membership only.

Surrounding Communities

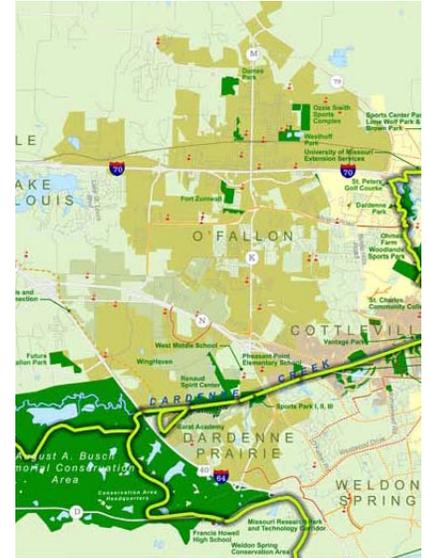
O'Fallon is bordered by eight cities: Cottleville, Dardenne Prairie, Josephville, Lake Saint Louis, Saint Paul, Saint Peters, Weldon Springs, Wentzville, and unincorporated St. Charles County. These communities also contribute recreation facilities and amenities that help satisfy the demands of O'Fallon residents. Many of the recreation facilities and amenities are provided through individual public parks and community centers, as well as through private recreation providers.

Regional Greenway/Trail Systems

The Great Rivers Greenway, formerly known as the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District, was established in November 2000 by the successful passage of the Clean Water, Safe Parks and Community Trails Initiative ("Proposition C") in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County, Missouri. Great Rivers Greenway is funded by a 1/10th of 1 cent sales tax. The Great Rivers Greenway is currently developing "The River Ring", a concept of interconnected greenways, parks and trails that link three counties, join two states, and cover an area of 1,216 square miles. This regional plan offers significant recreation opportunities to the O'Fallon community. The Dardenne Greenway component of this greenway system will link St. Charles and St. Louis counties and the City of St. Louis. Dardenne Greenway parallels the 36 miles of Dardenne Creek from western St. Charles County to its confluence with the Mississippi River. This greenway is envisioned as a linear park that will connect existing parks and natural areas, recreational centers, schools, and civic and cultural amenities.

The Dardenne Greenway also will intersect with several future greenways in St. Charles County, including the Boschert, Centennial, Belleau, Spencer, Busch, Little Dardenne, Western and Daniel Boone Greenways. As a regional greenway, Dardenne Greenway will serve as an important component of The River Ring, providing connections to the Katy Trail, the Missouri River Greenway and the Mississippi River Greenway.

The "Middle Section" of the Dardenne Greenway will serve as O'Fallon's link into the system, by connecting at the O'Fallon Sports Park. As currently planned, the route will pass under Highway K and connect with the park. Within the park, the greenway will be north of the creek to avoid private property conflicts and will bridge the creek to connect to the next segment west. Although not yet designed, a multi-use trail is preferred for over the one and a quarter mile length.



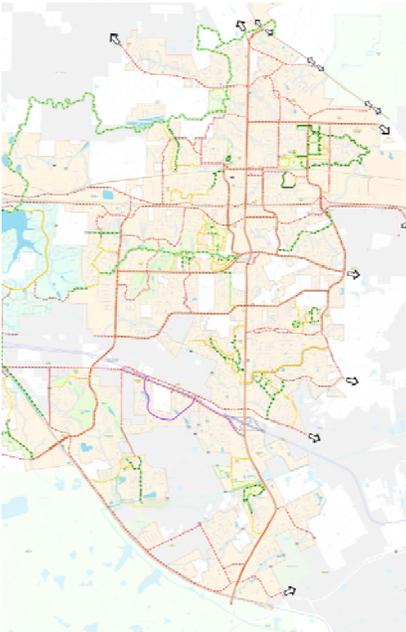
Dardenne Greenway View of the Master Plan.

Contributing Report Information

Several contributing reports were used as background for developing this plan. Below is a synopsis of the germane topics presented by each contributing report.

Comprehensive Plan:

The 2008 O'Fallon Comprehensive Plan identifies the City of O'Fallon development policies, capacities, and trends, and it provides a basis for making decisions on current and future projects and initiatives. It identifies existing and future land use patterns, as well as development goals, opportunities, and constraints. The Comprehensive Plan evaluates land use alternatives, makes recommendations concerning future land use patterns, and establishes development guidelines. The Comprehensive Plan, in summary, attempts to answer the basic questions about the physical, economic, and social conditions of O'Fallon and the aspirations of its citizenry by integrating knowledge of existing conditions with a plan for the future. This Park and Recreation Master Plan has been coordinated and designed to work with the 2008 O'Fallon Comprehensive Plan as mentioned in the introduction. The goals and action items listed in Appendix G have been considered as guiding principles of the master plan. Any updates to the Comprehensive Plan should be evaluated for potential impacts to the Park and Recreation Master Plan.



O'Fallon Bikeable-Walkable
Community Plan

The Bikeable-Walkable Community Plan for the Cities of O'Fallon, Wentzville, and Lake St. Louis, Missouri (OWL):

Completed in October of 2008, the purpose of the Bikeable-Walkable Community Plan for the Cities of O'Fallon, Wentzville, and Lake St. Louis, Missouri was to examine and analyze existing conditions relative to bicycling and walking in the three-city area and to formulate a bikeable-walkable community plan that addresses both recreational and transportation needs. The Bikeable-Walkable Community Plan has two broad goals:

- To develop bike/pedestrian ways as a functional element in O'Fallon, Wentzville and Lake St. Louis's transportation and recreation system.
- To establish programs to effectively and safely use the bike-pedestrian system.

The plan is intended to function as a guide for the development of a system of interconnected trails and on-street bicycle facilities – for recreation, transportation and other purposes. It will be implemented over a period of time as funding opportunities and interest in particular segments meet. Demands on municipal funds will be minimized through leveraging to obtain financial assistance from outside sources. It is also hoped that volunteer support will be available to facilitate and enhance the effort. The anticipated implementation horizon is eight-to-ten years.

Missouri Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):

The 2008-2012 Missouri SCORP reviews and analyzes information relating to state and nationwide outdoor recreation trends, and projects recreation needs for the State of Missouri through the year 2012. It also identifies statewide priorities for the local outdoor recreation grant programs administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The priorities presented in the report are an integral part of DNR's local grant evaluation process, designed to make project selection equitable and responsive to statewide and local outdoor recreation needs. This document also contains standards used to determine land and facility demand, and these are referenced in the Plan Analysis section of the document.

Summary of Existing Park Facilities/Amenities

Civic Park

Civic Park is O'Fallon's oldest park which has been in existence for over 100 years. Located on Civic Park Drive near City Hall, the 20 acre park features walking trails, two play structures, horseshoe courts, a concession stand, and a picnic area. Civic Park is also home to Alligator's Creek Aquatic Center which contains a competition pool, leisure pool with a zero-depth beachfront entrance, two 20' water slides, two tube rides, one-meter spring diving board, vortex whirl pool, interactive play structures, and deck-side water area for infants and toddlers. The park also contains Civic Hall (available for rent with a kitchen and seating for 275), Civic Pavilion, Civic Bandstand, and an 1870's log cabin operated by the O'Fallon Historical Society. The park serves as the site of the annual Summer Day Camp, the Fall Festival and Craft Bazaar, Halloween Fest, and the weekly O'Fallon Jammin' Outdoor Concerts showcasing popular local bands from June through August each year.

Dames Park

Dames Park consists of 59 acres located on Highway P. Named in honor of the family which farmed the site, the park features three lighted football fields, a half-sized practice football field, two playgrounds, three picnic pavilions, a concession stand, and an outdoor fitness course. The roadway is lined with a walking trail along one side. This park was purposely designed to accommodate frequent flooding when the water level of the nearby Peruque Creek reaches a critical level, thus alleviating potential flood damage downstream.



Dames Park Pavilion

Fort Zumwalt Park

Fort Zumwalt Park is located off Veterans Memorial Parkway, and was the site of the first battle of the War of 1812 fought in the State of Missouri. The fort and park were named after Jacob Zumwalt, a contemporary of Daniel Boone, whose log cabin became the centerpiece of the fort. To remind visitors of Zumwalt's Fort, the original stone chimney is still on display in the park. Acquired from the State of Missouri for \$1 in 1978, this 48 acre park features Lake Whetsel, a four acre lake stocked with crappie and bass open for fishing from February through October, the Fort Zumwalt Shelter House, the Fort Zumwalt Pavilion, walking trails, and a children's playground (constructed with a log cabin theme). The park is also home to the historic Darius Heald Home, whose family bought the fort from Jacob Zumwalt in 1817. This two-story "German-Italianate-Victorian" brick home was built in 1884 and was restored by the City in 2001 to much of its original grandeur, and is now open to the

public. Fort Zumwalt Park is also home to the City's annual month-long winter Celebration of Lights. The Celebration of Lights provides thousands of guests each year with the opportunity to enjoy a mile-long drive through a fantasyland of magical holiday displays featuring over a million lights. Additional amenities include asphalt walking paths, a playground, pavilion and restrooms.

Knaust Park

This small 6 acre park is located on Sea Side Court in the Hutchings Farm Subdivision. It features playground equipment, picnic tables, an asphalt multi-purpose trail, and parking for four cars.

O'Fallon Sports Park

O'Fallon Sports Park is located on 95 acres along Highway K, and consists of a 12-field soccer complex (all fields unlit), a children's garden, two pavilions, one playground, and the Renaud Spirit Center (see description below). The park site is divided by tributary of Dardenne Creek.

Ozzie Smith Sports Complex Park

Ozzie Smith Sports Complex occupies 76 acres and contains seven lighted baseball/ softball fields. This park features a playground and a concession stand while serving as the center of many tournaments throughout the season. The Ozzie Smith Sports Complex is also home of the City's annual O'Fallon Heritage and Freedom Fest, which has become one of the region's biggest and most entertaining 4th of July celebrations. The annual two-day celebration features carnival rides, specialty exhibits, parades, national entertainment acts, fireworks and laser light displays.

Paul A. Westhoff Memorial Park

This 65 acre park was named in honor of the City's longest serving Mayor, who served for a total of nineteen years between 1939 and 1961. This park was first developed in the 1960's and features two lighted baseball diamonds, two lighted softball fields, one unlit softball field and two Pee Wee softball fields. There are also two sand volleyball courts, eight lighted horseshoe pits, three tennis courts, basketball courts, a football field, a skateboard area, two playgrounds, restrooms, and a picnic pavilion.

O'Day (DD) Park

In 2001, a 55 acre wooded parcel was donated to the City on the north-side of Highway DD, one half-mile west of I-64. A "conceptual plan" for O'Day Park has been prepared creating a passive park that includes a focal entry sculpture, an outdoor classroom/amphitheater, a "teen" tree house, a primitive camping area, an adventure playground, a pond, wetlands, picnic shelters, trails and a maintenance building. Implementation of the master plan is on-going.

Winter Haven Park

Winter Haven Park is located at the intersection of Mexico Road and Woodlawn Rd. It consists of 22 acres of undeveloped rolling natural low lying land adjacent to several residential areas.

Renaud Spirit Center



Ozzie Smith Sports Complex. Entry Sign

The Renaud Spirit Center opened to the public in October 2004. This 66,000 sq. ft. indoor recreation complex is fully equipped for all ages and abilities and offers a superb fitness center, a natatorium, a state of the art gymnasium, an art gallery with monthly exhibits, classrooms, and locker rooms.

Citizen and Community Input

Parks and Recreation Community Survey

As part of the master planning process, ETC Institute conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey during the months of May and June 2009 to help determine parks and recreation priorities for the city. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from a randomly selected sample of residents. While the survey and executive summary are a separate document, the results were reviewed, and the salient points which influenced the development of this plan included:

1. Civic Park is the park that has been visited by the highest percentage of households during the past 12 months. Other parks that the highest percentage of households have visited at least once during the past 12 months include (ranked in order of highest to lowest):
 - Fort Zumwalt Park
 - Ozzie Smith Sports Complex,
 - O'Fallon Sports Park. It should also be noted 81% of households have visited at least one City park during the past 12 months.
2. The top rated parks used by the citizens of O'Fallon are (in order from highest to lowest):
 - Ozzie Smith Sports Complex
 - O'Fallon Sports Complex
 - Dames Park
 - Fort Zumwalt Park
 - Civic Park
 - Knaust Park
 - Westhoff Park
3. Over 50% of the respondent households have a need for the following facilities (ranked in order of preference):
 - Walking & Biking Trails
 - Large Group Picnic Areas and Shelters,
 - Playground Equipment
 - Nature Trails and Nature Center
 - Outdoor Swimming Pools
 - Fishing Lakes
 - Indoor Leisure Pool at The Renaud Spirit Center
 - Baseball and Softball Fields
 - Outdoor Amphitheater
 - Off-Leash Dog Parks
4. Residents rated the following facilities as most important(ranked in order of preference):
 - Walking and Biking Trails
 - Playground Equipment
 - Outdoor Swimming Pools



Dames Park Respondent households identified a need for playground equipment.



Alligators Creek. Residents indicated a high participation in Aquatics during the past 12 months.

- Baseball and Softball Fields
 - Nature Trails and Nature Center
 - Fishing Lakes
 - Large Group Picnic Areas and Shelters
 - Off-Leash Dog Parks
 - Indoor Leisure Pool at The Renaud Spirit Center
 - Soccer Fields.
5. Residents indicated their participation in the following City provided recreation programs during the past 12 months as follows(ranked in order of highest to lowest participation):
 - Aquatics
 - Youth Athletics
 - Fitness
 - Youth Activities
 - Adult Athletics
 - Cultural Arts
 - Adult Activities/Trips
 6. The recreation programs that the highest percentage of households have a need for include:
 - Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs
 - Youth Sports Programs
 - Youth Learn to Swim Programs
 - Nature Programs
 7. Residents rated the following recreation programs as most important (ranked in order of preference):
 - Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs
 - Youth Sports Programs
 - Youth Learn to Swim Programs
 - Nature Programs
 - Adult Sports Programs
 - One-Day Special Events
 - Youth Summer Camp Programs
 - Water Fitness Programs
 8. 52% of the survey respondents were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the overall values their household receives from the City of O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Department.
 9. Amenities that could be added to The Renaud Spirit Center that households would use include:
 - Hot Tub
 - Sauna
 - Youth Fitness Center
 - Steam Room
 - Indoor Ice Rink
 - Batting Cages
 - Indoor Soccer
 10. The following are the top ten reasons which prevent people from using parks, recreation facilities and programs offered by the City of O'Fallon:

- Fees too high
 - Program/facility times are not convenient
 - Don't know what is being offered
 - Location is not convenient
 - Don't know location of parks
 - Use parks/facilities in other cities
 - Parks too far from our residence
 - Program or facility not offered
 - Use other agencies in City of O'Fallon
 - Classes are full
11. 75% of the survey respondents were either very supportive or somewhat supportive of using public funding to support parks and recreation facilities and programs.
12. Both park facility and program usage are higher than the national benchmarks.
- Park Usage
 - O'Fallon=81%
 - National Average=72%
 - Program Usage
 - O'Fallon=42%
 - National Average=30%

Stakeholder Interviews

The Planning Team conducted approximately 9 stakeholder group interviews on May 20, 2009. The interviews were arranged by the Parks and Recreation Director and conducted at The Renaud Spirit Center. The following list contains the categories of groups, organizations, and individual types that were interviewed during this process:

- Senior Citizens
- Schools
- Health and Fitness
- Inclusion
- Cultural Arts/Historic Preservation
- Aquatics
- Athletic Organizations
- O'Fallon Parks Board
- O'Fallon City Council

Approximately 38 individuals representing these categories participated in the interviews. Each session lasted approximately 40 minutes. Every group interviewed was given a brief overview of the planning process, and how important the interviews are to that process. The participants were told that while notes were being recorded, no quotes or statements would be linked to an individual and that the comments would be recorded in general concepts not word for word record. All interviews were conducted "open door".

The interviews were generally based on the following questions:

1. What existing features within the O'Fallon Park System are positive elements?



Nine stakeholder groups represented a wide range of community interested during a day long interview process.

2. What existing features within the O'Fallon Park System are negative elements?
3. What are your top priorities for improving the O'Fallon Parks and Recreation System?
4. Identify the top three parks within the O'Fallon Park system that you use and what improvements would you like to see made to them?
5. What could be done to better meet your recreation needs?

The responses were recorded via hand written notes, then typed and edited. Edits were made for clarification and deleting material not relevant to the planning process. The responses were organized per the above stated questions; items not associated with a question were placed in the miscellaneous category. Each person interviewed was pleasant, engaging and grateful to be a part of the process. More importantly, the majority of participants expressed their hope for a positive outcome of the planning process.

The responses from the stakeholder interviews are included in Appendix E and are summarized below:



Renaud Spirit Center.

What existing features within the O'Fallon Park System are positive elements?

- Quality of athletic facilities.
- Unique qualities of each park.
- Landscaping-High level of maintenance in the parks.
- Parks Department very easy to work with.
- Spirit Center is great.
- Lots of diversity throughout the system.
- Good programs.

What existing features within the O'Fallon Park System are negative elements?

- Handicap accessibility needs to be improved throughout the parks.
- Not enough restrooms.

- Lack of a competitive pool facility. Community is underserved in this category.
- Better connections between parks.
- Parking at festivals is a real problem.
- Permanent Concession Stand is needed at O'Fallon Sports Park.
- Lack of sports fields.
- Not enough passive experiences.

What are your top priorities for improving the O'Fallon Parks and Recreation System?

- Add new/additional restrooms.
- Increasing park land.
- Add more open space to use as sports fields.
- Open Green Space.

- Classroom space is lacking .
- Better fishing access at Fort Zumwalt Park.
- Providing clear routes to accessible features in the parks.
- Provide more neighborhood parks in the 2-4 acre size.
- Update/expand outdoor amphitheater area (location of Jammin' festivals).
- Improve the locker room floors in the RSC.
- Westhoff Park needs to be completely redone.
- Better Parking.

Identify the top three parks within the O'Fallon Park system that you use and what improvements would you like to see made to them?

- Ft. Zumwalt Park
- Dames Park-but it doesn't feel like a park, not enough trees.
- Ft. Zumwalt Park for fishing.
- Civic Park.
- Ozzie Smith Park-works well for tournaments.

What could be done to better meet your recreation needs?

- Make parks an asset which draws people to O'Fallon.
- North side of town needs more facilities. Everything seems to be focused on the south side of town.
- Need outdoor amphitheater like Muny to bring community together.
- Dog park is needed.
- Better utilize historic Heald House.
- Better parking at all parks with athletic fields.
- There is a need for smaller parks, 10 acres in size.
- Provide an inclusive playground at some location in O'Fallon.
- Provide ADA accessibility to waters edge at Fort Zumwalt Park.
- Add a performing arts center/ice arena (May be economically difficult).
- More passive parks.
- Fort Zumwalt Lake needs dredging and improved fishing.

Miscellaneous

- Don't charge small non-profit groups like neighborhood organizations for use of Civic Hall.
- Information about the park system and its programs needs to be delivered to households. The old neighborhood journal newspapers use to provide this in the past.
- Provide better community service announcements.
- Amenities are needed along trails like Comfort Stations, Drinking Fountains, and Benches.
- Spirit Center needs better signage, and a better presence on Highway K.
- The north and south portions of O'Fallon are very separate. Need more things to bring them together.
- Consider possible Cultural Arts expansion of Spirit Center. Building was designed for expansion.
- Many people won't drive to Alligators Creek but use subdivision pools.



Fort Zumwalt Park Historic Fort Area

- Segregation of athletic uses is both a good and bad thing.
- Consider fee reduction on some facilities for O'Fallon citizens.

Public Workshop #1

A component of the planning process also involved soliciting input through Public Workshops. As part of the data collection process, the first event took place on June 18, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the City Hall Multi Purpose Room. Approximately 25 people attended. The agenda included the following topics:

- Welcome
- Purpose of Workshop
- Planning Process & Schedule of Events
- O'Fallon Park System Orientation
- Blue Sky Workshop
- Parks & Recreation Community Survey Review
- Meeting Adjournment

After a brief overview of the O'Fallon Park System, a "Blue Sky" session was conducted which included grouping the audience into teams of 4-5 people. One person was elected leader/scribe, and the group was given a series of questions to answer. The questions covered the same topics as the Stakeholder Interviews. After 40 minutes, each team leader presented the groups findings to the larger audience. The responses were very similar to the Stakeholder Interviews. The final activity included requesting each participant rank what they felt were the three most important ideas discussed during the workshop session. A summary of these responses is included below.

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1
MOST IMPORTANT IDEA SUMMARY**

<u>Responses</u>	<u>Topic</u>
18	Improved and additional pool space/amenities
15	Improved skate park
14	Improved and additional sport fields
13	Historical/cultural amenities and awareness
12	Improved and additional security and lighting
11	Additional parking
8	Improved and additional restroom facilities
7	Improved or additional park maintenance
6	Water feature for kids/youth (pool amenities)
5	Handicap-accessible parks
4	Additional jogging/hiking trails (with stations)
3	Improved and additional playgrounds
1	Severe weather alert system for sport complexes
1	Camouflage cellular tower at Knaust Park
1	Inclusion of ice rink
1	Additional small, walk-able neighborhood parks

Influencing Factors

Figures 2-5 and 2-6 on the following pages contain data collected relative to factors that influence the location and distribution of proposed park land and park facilities/amenities. One map indicates regional influencing factors while a second map indicates local community influencing factors. Physical features such as highways, roads and light rail tracks divide the community, isolating some neighborhoods from direct recreation opportunities and forcing others to utilize neighboring community's parks.

As illustrated in Figure 2-6 there is a lack of park and recreational space in central O'Fallon and a lack of passive park space in southern O'Fallon. While Civic Park, Dames Park, Westhoff Park and Ozzie Smith Complex represent the core of park facilities in O'Fallon, they are concentrated in historic O'Fallon area and north of Interstate 70 (which poses a barrier to pedestrian/bicycle access from the south). Southern O'Fallon is served by Renaud Spirit Center and O'Fallon Sports Park but lacks passive park opportunities, playgrounds and other activities for youth and hiking/jogging trails. Despite the lack of opportunities for passive park opportunities, the area of southern and central O'Fallon is in close proximity to neighboring community parks (i.e., Youth Activity Park and Boulevard Park in Wentzville, August A. Busch Wildlife Area in unincorporated St. Charles County, and Podhorns Lake, Rabbit Run Park, and Dardenne Park in St. Peter's). Figures 2-5 and 2-6 are also included in Appendix C.

FIGURE 2-6 – REGIONAL INFLUENCES MAP

