

PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

I. INTRODUCTION

The City's residents and businesses identify parks, trails and recreational facilities as valuable community resources that contribute positively to the quality of life offered in Osakis. Recreation is viewed as an integral part of life, providing a necessary and satisfying change from the things we usually do and the places where we spend most of our time.

The responses to a community survey and comments at public meetings underscore the importance of creating and sustaining parks, trails and recreational facilities. These comments are included within this Chapter.

Providing quality recreational opportunities begins with proper planning. To assure adequacy and maximum usability, recreation areas and facilities shall be developed with regard for the needs of the people and the area they serve. Proper planning must take into consideration a number of factors, including but not limited to, location of existing recreational areas (i.e. proximity to the area served, separation from incompatible land uses), adequacy of existing facilities, site planning for the location of future facilities, access to current and future facilities, provisions for recreation programs, and financing, maintenance and management of existing and proposed parks, trails and recreational facilities.

This Chapter shall:

1. Provide Park Classification;
2. Inventory Existing Park Facilities;
3. Discuss Trails and Pedestrian Ways;
4. Discuss Recreational Opportunities in the City;
5. Examine Existing and Future Park Facility Needs;
6. Review Community Input; and
7. Establish tangible recommended goals and policies for future park, trail and recreation facilities and programs.

II. INVENTORY

A. Park Classifications.

The City of Osakis features a number of existing park and recreational facilities, which are located throughout the community. Recreational facilities within the City can be typically described according to their type, population served and location.

The following terms and descriptions shall be used to classify existing and future recreational facilities:

'Neighborhood Parks' provide open space for passive recreation for all ages within a neighborhood, particularly for the elderly and families with young children. An ideal neighborhood park site is scenic or wooded and located a maximum of one-quarter mile, which is normal walking distance, from primary users. Suggested minimum size for this type of park is one acre. Site development should include sidewalk, benches, landscaping, and play features for preschoolers. Neighborhood parks should connect with trails which connect to other parks and neighborhoods.

'Neighborhood Playgrounds' are usually provided in conjunction with education and institutional facilities and primarily serve the recreation needs of children ages 5 to 12. Individual neighborhood playground size is dependent on the types of activities it supports and the facilities it provides. Play features, ball fields, basketball and tennis courts, and open play fields are

common components. The service area is highly variable, but it usually has a radius of one-quarter mile.

'Community Parks' typically serve several neighborhoods and are under municipal administration. Although size may vary, community parks are usually more spacious than neighborhood parks or playgrounds. In addition to the kinds of facilities provided at neighborhood parks, these parks may provide swimming pools, picnic areas, more elaborate play fields, restroom facilities and tennis courts. Community parks serve people of all ages and have an effective service area radius of one-half mile.

'City-wide Parks' may serve some or all types of a community's recreation needs. They can provide a wide range of activities for all age groups or may be very specific. In addition to some of the facilities provided by other types of parks, City-wide parks may contain an area for nature study, hiking and riding trails, pond fishing, spectator sports and numerous other activities. However, in many small communities, a City-wide park is sometimes designated as such not because of its size and/or variety of recreation facilities, but because it is the only park available to the community.

'Specialized Recreation Areas' may include but are not limited to; golf courses, historic sites, conservancy area, linear trail, and floodplains. Most specialized recreation areas have limited active recreation value, are not developed as multi-purpose recreation areas, or are not always available for use by the public. Specialized areas are an important adjunct to a community and its park and open space program.

'Regional Parks' may include but are not limited to conservancy areas, trails, floodplains, hiking and riding trails, recreational fields, spectator sports, and fishing. Regional parks serve people of all ages and serve a regional population.

B. Existing Park Inventory.

There are several park areas located within the City of Osakis, three of which are City-owned with the remainder owned by the schools. Following is a listing of the park and recreational facilities existing in the City of Osakis. Map 10-1 illustrates the location of said facilities:

Park Osagi. This two block park is located along the south end of Lake Osakis along Lake Street Fourth between 4th and 6th Avenues. The park includes playground equipment, public restroom, gazebo, drinking fountain and three picnic shelters with numerous picnic tables and grills. Numerous large evergreens provide shade and aesthetic appeal in addition to a variety large deciduous trees. The west side of the park includes two playground areas. There is a slide, benches, merry-go-round, animals, climbing area and swing set. The park is fenced on the west side and open to the street south side and has a vast view of the Lake to the north. Parking to service the park is on-street. No off-street parking is provided.

City Park Input: As a part of the survey and community meeting process many participants noted the need to update equipment in City Park; specifically citing a need for a 'tot lot' to serve younger children.

Bill Sliper Lions Park. This community park is located at the intersection of Highway 127 and First Avenue East on the southeast edge of Osakis.

City Swimming Beach. This beach is located on the south end of Lake Osakis near Lakeside Cemetery.

School Recreational Facilities. The Elementary School and High School are located in the center of the community, along County Road 3 with the Athletic Complex located adjacent to

Queen Street and 3rd Avenue West. The schools offer a variety of active recreational amenities including an athletic complex which includes a football field, softball and baseball fields, and track and field, playground equipment, tennis courts and basketball courts. Although these are not “municipal parks”, the amenities are available to serve the public at times in which school or extra curricular activities are not underway. Osakis does not offer any swimming, ice-skating or hockey rinks.

The parochial school (St. Agnes) offers basketball courts along with playground equipment.

C. Access to Public Waters.

The public has access to Lake Osakis on the south side of the lake along 1st Avenue East. On-site parking for vehicles and boat trailers are provided at the public access. The public access is suitable for access via trailer or carry-in and is managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource.

D. Trails and Pedestrian Ways.

Trails. Osakis offers the Central Lakes Trail which is also shown on Maps 10-1 through 10-3. The Central Lakes Trail runs from Osakis to Fergus Falls and has been dedicated as Minnesota's 23rd State Trail. This scenic recreational trail covers 55 miles through the communities of Osakis, Nelson, Alexandria, Garfield, Brandon, Evansville, Melby, Ashby and beyond to Fergus Falls. The Central Lakes Trail is an all season recreational trail that provides a 14' wide bituminous surface for safe off road non-motorized travel by biking, walking or rollerblading in the spring, summer and fall. It also provides safe permanent routes for snowmobiling in the winter (December-April). The Central Lakes Trail offers a variety of scenery and an opportunity for families to participate in outdoor activities and events. The trail also connects to the Lake Wobegon Trail which covers 60 miles from Osakis to St. Joseph, Minnesota.

The City currently does not have a sidewalk plan or policy in place. There are few designated walkways or bikeways within the City.

III. PATHWAYS

A. Classifications

Pathways within communities and connecting to larger regional pathways are often classified by their purpose, type of improvement and location. The following table includes a description of six types of pathways and identification of the pathways within Osakis which are included in each category.

Classification	General Description	Description of each type	Existing Facilities
Park Trail	Multi-purpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus in on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment.	Type I: Separate/single purpose hard –surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type II: Multi-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard or soft surfaced.	None
Connector Trails	Multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters located in independent R.O.W (e.g. old railroad R.O.W). Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrian or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road R.O.W.	Central Lakes Trail Type I
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.	None
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes	Single-purpose loop trails usually locate in larger parks and natural resource areas.	None
Cross Country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.	None
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multi-purpose with hiking and all-terrain biking, where conflict can be controlled.	None

B. Pathway Design

Trails or pathways should be designed with the following goals in mind (1) Safety – protect non-motorized and motorized users (depending on the type of trail) from adjacent or crossing vehicular traffic, (2) Linkages - provide links between local parks and recreational areas and regional trail systems, (3) Natural Environment – protect the natural environment and design

the trail system while protecting natural features, and (4) Continuity – provide continuous trail systems with as few interruptions in user movement as possible.

Following are design guidelines suggested by the National Recreation and Park Association for the various types of pathways:

1. Park Trails

Type 1: These separate or single purpose trails are typically ten feet wide and hard surfaced for pedestrians, bicyclists and/or in-line skaters.

Type II: These multi-purpose trails typically include a natural buffer from adjacent uses on either side of the trail. A 50 foot right-of-way to accommodate the buffers is common with a ten foot paved surface.

Type III: Nature trails are generally six to eight feet wide and are soft surfaced. Trail grades vary depending on the topography of the area in which they are located. Interpretive signage is common along nature trails.

2. Connector Trails

Type 1 and 11: These separate or single/purpose hard surfaced trails are designed for pedestrians or bicyclists/in line skaters. If designed for pedestrians only, a six to eight foot width is common. If designed for bicyclists/in-line skaters, a ten foot paved surface is recommended. The trails may be developed on one or both sides of the roadway and may include one or two-way traffic. The trail is typically separated from the roadway with a boulevard, grass and/or plantings.

3. On-Street Bikeways

On Street Bike Lane: Bike Lanes are typically designed as a five-foot lane adjacent to the driving lane. On--street parking may occur between the on-street bike lane and the curb or edge of the road. In essence each side of the roadway is divided into three sections (1) driving lane, (2) on-street bikeway and (3) on-street parking.

On Street Bike Route: This bicycle route is typically designated so with signage. On Street Bike Routes are typically paved shoulders along roadways.

4. All Terrain Bike Trails: Design and length vary depending on the topography in the area. These trails are generally a part of a larger regional park or natural resource area.

5. Cross Country Ski Trails: The design of the cross-country ski trail is dependent upon its intended use. The traditional diagonal skiing typically includes a packed groomed trail with set tracks. Skate-skiing designs include a wider packed and groomed surface. The length of the trails may vary. Cross-country ski trails may be designed to be used as equestrian trails during summer months.

6. Equestrian Trails: These trails, designed for horseback riding, typically are designed with woodchips or grass as a surface. They are located in larger parks and natural resource areas where conflict with other trail users may be avoided. The length of an equestrian trail varies but is generally looped.

IV. RECREATION.

There are a number of coordinated and uncoordinated recreational opportunities in and around Osakis.

Recreation programs are coordinated by Osakis's School District's Community Education Program. Classes range from academics and athletics to health, safety, and personal enrichment. They are offered at nominal fees throughout the year. Community Education also sponsors several outings to events such as plays, performances, the circus, the zoo, and museums throughout the year.

Adult and family recreational opportunities include adult women's and men's softball and golfing at the Osakis County Club Golf Club, which offers an 18-hole course and driving range.

V. EXAMINATION OF EXISTING AND FUTURE PARK FACILITIES

The City's combination of recreational activities, golf course, Lake Osakis and existing parkland and open space provide residents and visitors with a variety of recreational opportunities. Map 10-2 indicates areas served by existing recreational facilities. As indicated parks are located so as to serve the needs of most residential areas of the City, however additional facilities would benefit residents in the west portion of the City.

Map 10-3 indicates park search areas. As noted in the park classifications, depending on the type of park, the service area will vary. The attached map illustrates a need for parks in the following areas: southwestern portion of City serving residential properties within the Osakis Properties Subdivisions, northwestern portion of City lying on the west side of County Road 3, northeastern lakeshore drive properties along lake and an area between Faille and Stevens Lake.

Accessibility

¹The American With Disability Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The law requires local and state governments, places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to persons with disabilities. ADA statutes affect the City of Osakis and other local and state park and recreation facilities in the following ways:

- Newly constructed buildings (after January 26, 1993) must be constructed to be readily accessible.
- Renovations or alterations occurring after January 26, 1992 to existing facilities must be readily accessible.
- Barriers to accessibility in existing buildings and facilities must be removed when it is "readily accessible". This includes the location and accessibility to restrooms, drinking fountains and telephones.

Other requirements include but are not limited to:

- One accessible route from site access point, such as a parking lot to the primary accessible entrance must be provided. A ramp with a slope of no greater than 1:6 for a length of no greater than two feet may be used as a part of the route. Otherwise a slope of maximum 1:12 is allowed.
- One accessible public entrance must be provided.
- If restrooms are provided, then one accessible unisex toilet facility must be provided along an accessible route.
- Only the publicly used spaces on the level of the accessible entrance must be made accessible.
- Any display and written information should be located where it can be seen by a seated individual and should provide information accessible to the blind.

Parks which are developed with items such as parking lots, swimming pools, tennis courts and basketball courts should have routes which are accessible. Nature parks or areas with limited development should have the minimum of accessible routes to the site. The National Park Service provides design guidelines for accessible outdoor recreation.¹

As the City redevelops City Park, it will be important to include ADA standards in the design. Installation of curb cuts and pathways within the park, designation of handicap parking in the parking lots, remodeling

¹ Source: Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, James D. Meres, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP. © 1996, National Recreation and Park Association

of restroom facilities to provide a handicap accessible stall in each of the men's and women's facilities and pathways to shelters and recreational amenities has been recommended as a method to achieve accessibility goals.

Osakis Park Inventory	Park Classification	Trail Areas	Baseball/Softball	Nature Areas	Horseshoe Pits	Tennis Courts	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Football Field(s)	Volleyball Courts	Track & Field	Playground	Swimming	Pleasure Skating Rink	Hockey Rink	Warming/Changing House	Archery Range	Skateboarding	Restroom facilities	Handicap Access	Picnic Area	Parking	Bike Rack
Park Osagi	CP	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Lions Park	CP	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Swimming Beach	CP	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
LeRoy G. Mackove Athletic Complex	CP	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N
K-12 Public School	NPL	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
St. Agnes School	NPL	N	N	NN	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Central Lakes Trail	RP	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y

CP= Community Park, RP=Regional Park, NPL=Neighborhood Playground, IND= Indoor

Park Assessment

Park Name	Turf	Irrigation	Plantings Trees	Drainage System	Accessible	Parking	Parking Availability	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Playground Equipment
Park Osagi	0	NA	0	0	2	NA	0	2	NA	1
Lions Park	0	NA	2	0	2	2	2	NA	NA	NA
Swimming Beach	1	NA	2	NA	2	3	2	NA	NA	NA
LeRoy G. Mackove Athletic Complex	0	NA	2	0	2	2	0	NA	NA	NA
K-12 Public School	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0
St. Agnes School	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	NA	0

Ranking Key

1. Turf Condition

- NA Not Applicable
- 0 No Problems.
- 1 Turf is in good conditions with some bare areas.
- 2 Turf has a few problems that need some work (aeration and over-seeding).
- 3 Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation.
- 4 Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone.

Ranking Key

4. Drainage System

- 0 No Problems.
- 2 Some saturation/standing water-minor improvements needed.
- 4 Very poor drainage-system needs renovation.
- 5 Dangerous system/conditions exist.

7. Parking Availability

- NA Not Applicable.
- 0 No Problems.
- 2 Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally.
- 4 Not enough parking most of the time.

2. Irrigation System

- NA Not Applicable.
- 0 No Problems.
- 1 System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems.
- 2 System is in fair condition, needs frequent work.
- 3 System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage).
- 4 System is in very poor condition or no system at all.

5. Accessibility

- 0 Entire park is accessible to handicapped.
- 2 Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped individuals.
- 4 None of the park is accessible to handicapped individuals.

8. Basketball or Tennis Courts

- NA Not Applicable.
- 0 No Problems.
- 1 Good condition, need minor routine maintenance, patching or striping.
- 2 Fair condition, needs minor repairs.
- 3 Poor condition – needs major repairs but can still be used.
- 4 Very poor condition. Potholes, cracks; need extensive repair/resurfacing.
- 5 Dangerous surface conditions exist-holes, large cracks, etc.

3. Plantings/Trees

- 0 No Problems.
- 1 Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems.
- 2 Some bare areas that need additional plant materials.
- 3 Several areas have problems that need work.
- 4 Plantings/trees in very poor condition & should be completely removed.
- 5 Condition of trees present dangerous safety situation.

6. Parking

- NA Not applicable.
- 0 No problems.
- 1 Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance.
- 2 Surface in fair condition- spot repairs are necessary.
- 3 Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs.
- 4 Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation.
- 5 Dangerous conditions exist.

9. Playground Equipment

- NA Not Applicable.
- 0 No Problems.
- 1 Equipment is old but can still be used.
- 2 Equipment requires regular routine maintenance.
- 3 Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation.
- 4 Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced.
- 5 Dangerous conditions exist.

VI. RECREATIONAL FACILITY STANDARDS

As parkland is acquired either through dedications or purchase, it is important to plan space according to the desired recreational contents. In existing parks, it is important for the Planning Commission and/or subsequent Park Board and City Council to be aware of space requirements and orientation recommendations to determine if it is feasible to include the item(s) within the park. Following are facility standards for a number of recreational activities:

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. Units Per Population	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Surplus/ Deficit per Standard
Baseball Diamond	3 to 3.85 acres	1. Official: Baselines-90' Pitching dist-60.5' Foul lines-min 320' Center field-400'+ 2. Little League: Baselines-60' Pitching Dist.-46' Foul lines-200' Center field-200'-250'	Locate home plate so the pitcher is not throwing across the sun, and batter is not facing sun. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run east-northeast.	1/6,000	Appr. ¼ to ½ mile radius Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of a community complex	Facilities at the high school and athletic complex	Meets needs. Potential conflict when school activities are in session.
Softball/ Youth Diamond	1.5 to 2 acres	Baselines 60' Pitching dist- 45' men, women-40', Fast pitch field radius from plate – 225' Slow pitch 275' men, 250' women	Locate home plate so the pitcher is not throwing across the sun, and the batter is not facing sun. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run E/NE	1/ 1,500	Approximately ¼ to ½ mile radius	Facilities at the high school and athletic complex.	Meets needs. Potential conflict when school activities are in session.
Tennis Court	7,200 sq. ft. / court. 2 acres/ complex	36' x 78' with 12' clearance on both ends	Long axis north-south	1/2000	¼ to ½ mile radius. Best in batteries of 2 to 4. Located in neighborhood/ community parks or near a school	Facilities at the high school	Meets current needs. Potential conflict when school activities are in session.
Basket-ball	0.25 to 0.59 acre Youth: 2400 to 3036 sq. ft High School: 5040 to 7280 sq. ft	Youth: 46' to 50' x 84' High School 50' x 84'	Long axis north-south	1/2000	¼ to ½ mile radius Outdoor courts in neighborhood/ community parks. Indoor as part of schools	Facilities at the high school	Meets current needs. Potential conflict when school activities are in session.

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. Units Per Population	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Surplus/ Deficit per Standard
Volleyball	4,000 sq. ft	30' x 60' with a minimum clearance of 6' on all sides	Long axis north-south (outdoor)	1/2000	½ to 1 mile	One court in Lions Park	Deficit of one. Recommend additional court.
Football Field	1.5 acres	160' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides.	Long axis northwest or southeast	1/3000	Approx. 2 mile radius	1 regulation 1 practice at the school	Meets current needs.
Soccer Field	1.7 to 2.1 acres	195 to 225' x 330' to 360' with 10' clearance on all sides	Long axis northwest or southeast	1/3000	Approx. 1 to 2 mile radius	None	Deficit of one. Recommend an open field area which could be used for soccer and/or football
Ice Arena	2 acres	Rink 85' x 200' (min. 85' 185') Addt. 5000. 22,000 sq. ft to include support area	Long axis is north-south (outdoors)	1/20,000	15 to 30 minute travel	None in Osakis. One in Sauk Centre – 10 minutes away.	Meets current needs with proximity to Sauk Centre.
Warming House	Variable	Variable	Variable	1/rink area	1 hocking rink/skating area	None	Possible future need for outdoor ice rink
Picnic Area	Variable	Variable	Variable	1/5000	2 mile radius	Various	Plan for additional in each new park.
Play Equipment	0.5 acre	Variable	Variable	1 acre/park	2 to 3 mile radius	Equipment at Elementary School and outdated at City Park	Upgrade City Park Equipment, Add equipment in park search areas. Plan for additional in each new park.
Unit	Land	Recommended	Recommended	No. Units	Service	Existing	Surplus/

	Required	Size & Dimensions	Orientation	Per Population	Area	Facilities	Deficit per Standard
Sliding Hill	2-4 acres	Variable	Variable	1/7,500	1 mile radius	None	No local deficit identified.
Shooting/Archery Range	0.65 acre	300' length x min. 10' between targets. Roped, clear area on side of range min. 30' . Clear space behind targets min. 90' x 45' with bunker	Archer facing north + or - 45 degrees	1/7,500	30 minute travel time. Part of a regional complex	None. Twenty miles away or people have their own practice areas.	No deficit as opportunities in close proximity (20 miles) exist.
Community Center	15-25 acres	Varies	Varies	1/20,000	--	One with limited recreational use.	May need to expand or reuse space for multipurpose (gym, etc).
Horseshoe courts	0.1 acre			1/2000	--	None	Deficit.
Swimming Pool	1 to 2 acres	Teaching- min. 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3-4 ft. Competitive- min. 25 m x 16m. Min. of 25 sq. ft water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2 to 1 deck to water	No recommended pool orientation but care must be taken in locating life stations in relation to afternoon sun	1/10,000	150 person capacity 15 minute travel	None. Sauk Centre and Alexandria within travel proximity.	No deficit as opportunities in close proximity (15 miles) exist.
Off-Street Parking	300 S.F Per Car	Typically 9' x 20 with a 20' driving lane	Variable	NP: 8-12 cars CWR: 25-100 cars SR: 25-100 cars	NA	Off-street parking is available at schools and few parks.	May need to add at City Park if renovated. Plan off-street parking at future community parks.
Toilet Facilities	Varies	Per building code	Variable	1 double unit per park	1 park	1 at Osage (accessible) 1 at Lions Park (not accessible)	Plan restrooms in future community parks.

* Derived from the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration Standards with local standards applied.

VIII. COMMUNITY INPUT IN PARKS AND RECREATION

- A. Public Input.** In conjunction with the creation of this Plan, a survey was distributed to all property owners within the community as well as addressed at a business meeting. Additionally, the community was invited to a community meeting to discuss the components of the comprehensive

plan including parks and recreation. Results indicate residents consider park, trail and recreational facilities a priority:

1. **Areas Served.** Twenty seven persons or 39% of respondents completing surveys indicated all areas in the community were served well by existing parks, while 25 or 36% of the respondents noted there are areas not served by parks. Comments received on the survey relating to this question included a need to add parks on the west side of the City in the new housing area and senior housing area. Additional comments included the need to add new playground equipment in Lions Park and elderly walking paths.
2. **Recreational Items to Add.** When asked what park facilities would add to the quality of life in Osakis, survey respondents responded as follows: trails including the connection of parks with trails (34), picnic shelters (8), playground equipment (24), athletic fields (26).
3. **Ranking of Existing Park Facilities.** Survey respondents were asked to rank the existing park facilities on a scale of one to five with one being poor and five being excellent. The average response was 3.5.
4. **Recreational Opportunities.** Survey participants were asked if various age groups and family types have sufficient recreational opportunities in Osakis. Thirty six persons noted children have sufficient recreational opportunities with 13 indicating there were not sufficient opportunities for children. Only 16% (11) felt teenagers are offered sufficient recreational opportunities while 56% (39) of respondents indicated there were not. Of the respondents, 37% (26) felt adults have sufficient opportunities and 43% (30) felt adequate opportunities are available for seniors. 26% (18) of respondents felt there were adequate recreational opportunities for families and 39% (27) felt there were adequate opportunities for tourists.
5. **Major Recreation Improvement.** Survey participants were asked, "What one major recreation improvement would you like to see made in Osakis during the next five years?" Responses included:

Swimming Pool (adults and kids), Better Playground Equipment, Active Teen Center, Indoor Gym/Recreational Center, The Beach, City Marina, Better Trails, Movie Theatre, Skateboard Park, Soccer Field, Outside Skating Rink, Additions to Parks, Clean the Lake, Camping Area, Expanded Golf Course, New Park, Basketball Court, Badminton, Volleyball Court, More Parking, Tennis Courts, Walking and Biking Trails (non-motor).

6. Additional considerations survey participants were asked with the respective percentages follow below:

Recognizing both are important would you encourage the City to place greater emphasis on:
Roadway construction and improvement projects.

26 37%

Enhancing park and recreational facilities and trail systems.

21 30%

Would you encourage the City to:

Develop more, smaller parks used by neighborhood and community residents.

24 34%

Develop a few larger parks that are used by all City and area residents/tourists.

25 35%

Would you encourage the City to:

Fix up and/or enhance existing parks and recreational areas.
25 36%

Accept the donation of additional parkland in developing areas.
19 27%

Would you encourage the City to:

Begin developing vacant or undeveloped parklands.
17 24%

Fix up or enhance existing park and recreation areas.
35 50%

IX. MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

The proper care and management of park and trail facilities will encourage park/pathway use, improve the quality of life in Osakis and enhance the visual quality of neighborhoods and the City as a whole. Maintenance of the park system is currently coordinated through the City's Public Works Department. The department also assists with park duties and street functions.

Park maintenance tasks may occur on a daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal and/or weather related basis. These jobs include but are not limited to:

Litter and Garbage Clean-up	Mowing and Trimming
Preventative Equipment Maintenance	Moving Tables and Benches
Equipment Repair	Leaf Clean-Up
Facility Repair and Maintenance	

X. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Several resources are available to assist the City of Osakis in providing adequate parks, trails and facilities for residents. Following is a list of typical sources.

1. Property Taxes
2. Park Dedication/Fee In-Lieu of Parkland Dedication Requirements
3. User Fees
4. Volunteer hours/labor
5. Donations by private individuals, civic organizations, organized groups, etc.
6. Grants

The City budgets for operational expenses through its annual budget process. The City currently utilizes donations from organizations and individuals, grant programs and the general tax levy to cover expenses relating to parks. The City should consider the establishment of a capital improvement plan for long-range capital improvements to the park system. Examples of expenditures within the capital improvement plan include purchase of playground equipment, purchase/planting of trees, paving of the parking lot, etc.

Park Land Dedication Ordinance. The City does not have parkland dedication requirements within the Subdivision Ordinance. It is recommended that each subdivision review procedure include a parkland dedication stipulation whereby developer's must either set aside parkland acreage or submit a fee-in-lieu of parkland dedication. Typical standards pertaining to subdivisions require ten percent (10%) (Residential) or two percent (2%) (Commercial/industrial) of the public area platted be deeded to the City for park purposes. Alternately, a fee-in-lieu-of parkland dedication equal to the average value of ten percent (10%) (Residential) or two percent (2%) (Commercial/industrial) of the land to be subdivided prior to utilities being placed. The Planning Commission would recommend to the City Council whether land or fees are desired. The Council would have the authority to approve/disapprove of the land proposed for dedication.

XI. RECOMMENDED GOALS AND POLICIES FOR PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

Following the inventory and evaluation of existing park, trail and recreation facilities and in accordance with park, trail and recreational plans the following goals and recommendations have been prepared.

1. The City should as a part of the development process include within its Subdivision Ordinance, Park Dedication requirements according to M.S. 462.358 Subd. 2b. (b).
2. The Planning Commission and/or subsequent Park Board shall review development proposals to ensure proposed parkland dedication or fee-in-lieu of dedications meet the needs of the City including type and location of land, park configuration, access and parking and compatibility with the neighborhood and other recreational offerings. The City shall strive to provide active and passive park and recreational facilities to meet the needs of diverse groups within the community including, but not limited to, teenagers, physically and mentally challenged, and all household types.
3. Within the downtown area and areas surrounding the school, the City shall focus on enhancing existing parks rather than acquiring additional park land. As additional residential lots are developed to the southwest and west, the City should review areas for a park to service this area with a park which could include an open multi-purpose field, playground equipment, picnic shelters, etc.
4. The City Council shall maximize recreational opportunities available to residents and tourists through cooperative ventures which are mutually beneficial for the City, school district, Douglas and Todd Counties, Department of Natural Resources and civic organizations. Examples include coordinating trail design and construction with reconstruction of county roads and joint grant applications with the school and or county to the DNR.
5. In order to reduce the tax impact of park and recreational (re) development projects, the City shall research and utilize a variety of funding sources for the acquisition, development and renovation of park and recreation facilities; including but not limited to grant applications, providing information to civic organizations regarding desired capital improvements to parks and trails, use of volunteer labor, and use of user fees. The capital improvement plan shall be reviewed annually to address items identified within the Comprehensive Plan.
6. The City should develop a trail plan to link existing parks and neighborhoods and coordinate the trail development with the school district; Douglas and Todd Counties (County Road turn backs and reconstruction projects) and DNR grant programs. The City shall carefully review proposals from developers relative to proposed trail and sidewalk facilities within new subdivisions. The City should develop a sidewalk/trail policy indicating when/where sidewalks or trails should be placed. Trails connecting the new housing areas of the City to the heart of the City should be considered. The Planning Commission and City Council should require developers to install identified portions of trails/pedestrian ways with subdivision construction, even if the trail/pedestrian way temporarily dead-ends.
7. When developing parks, the Planning Commission and/or subsequent Park Board and City Council shall review its intended use, recreational voids or needs within the area and funds available.
8. The City shall design new facilities to be barrier free and provide other accommodations for people with disabilities, in accordance with ADA requirements.

9. As the City grows and additional parks are developed, the Planning Commission and/or subsequent Park Board and City Council shall develop a theme for park signs and budget for the installation in the City's parks.
10. The City should implement an overall maintenance plan, including: Capital equipment costs (i.e. new equipment, new play features, park upgrades) included in the five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and other capital expenses (e.g. pedestrian/bicycle trail construction, etc.).