

Section 1

Overview of Volume 2

A. Introduction

What course of actions should be taken over the next ten to twenty years to guide recreational opportunities in Todd County? What needs to be done to protect and enhance the quality of life in the County? What kind of a future do we want?

This part of the Todd County Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan provides an organized and comprehensive outline that addresses these central questions. This second volume of the Plan is referred to as the County's **Strategic Policy Framework**. Collectively, the statements in Volume 2 provide an overall vision as well as more specific details on how the County intends to work with its citizens, landowners, and partnering agencies (townships, cities, regional, state and federal agencies and foundations) to guide the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the public and private recreational opportunities in the County.

This first section provides a brief overview of the organization of the Strategic Policy Framework and the terminology it used herein. Section 2 describes **guiding principles** set forth by the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the recreational planning process and the **vision** they have for the County. Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 represent the policy framework for parks, open space and trail opportunities, and they are organized into an outline of **goal, objective, and action** statements.

B. Planning Terminology

Too often, plans prepared for local units of government in the past have not provided enough depth or comprehensiveness from a policy and an implementation standpoint. As a result, plans have had limited usefulness and become door stops or book ends on a shelf. This problem is further compounded by the inconsistent use of planning terms.

In contrast, the principles and policies developed in the Todd County Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan are intended to provide a comprehensive and meaningful guide for citizens and local officials in their ongoing decision making processes over the next ten to twenty years to create and maintain a good recreational system.

This collaborative approach requires more consistent use of terms. A review of the terms used in the planning process and their meanings is important. The following narrative summarizes major planning terms used in this process:

Guiding Principles

“Guiding principles” are statements that groups of people or citizen committees develop to set out parameters or boundaries for a process such as how to prepare a plan. Given that most advisory committees assembled for community planning processes consist of people representing a diverse array of interests, there are competing points of view. Guiding principles simply help groups find common ground to work together.

Vision Statement

Vision statements capture what people believe their community should be like in the future. Vision statements should establish a broad sense of what a community desires in a few sentences or phrases. A community’s vision statement can be characterized as its declaration of independence from a more reactive or crisis management style to a more proactive approach that works to shape the community’s future.

Goals, Objectives and Action Items

A good planning process should work to thoroughly incorporate suggestions made by people who are affected and/or benefit from a plan’s implementation. Good plans should also be well organized and written in a consistent fashion.

To develop a useful plan that can be more successfully implemented, the CAC adopted a series of terms to clearly define and better organize the multitude of ideas and concepts suggested by all the people involved in the planning process. The planning process terms used in this Plan are defined as follows:

- **Goals:** Statements that outline the general directions that the County should pursue over the next five or more years to enhance, expand and create recreational opportunities. Goal statements are intended to provide a long-term view or direction for a given resource initiative (open space, trails, parks, etc).
- **Objectives:** Statements that provide more specific direction on the programs or projects that are needed to implement each goal. Goals may have one or more objectives.
- **Action Items:** Statements that provide further direction for each of the objectives. Action items tend to have language that is specific, attainable and measurable. The list of action items serve as an initial outline of the tasks or efforts that the County, in collaboration with citizens and landowners, local organizations, township and cities, and state and federal agencies should take to implement the programs or projects listed under the various objectives. Collectively, the objectives and action statements define the methods needed to achieve the goals.

In general, the goals, objectives, and action items developed in this Plan are intended to provide a detailed outline of what the County proposes to implement over the next ten to twenty years to improve recreational opportunities. Readers of the Plan are encouraged to first briefly review the headings of goals and objectives to develop a general sense of direction that the County has chosen.

It should be further noted that the order of the goals, objectives, and action items in this section generally have been placed in a chronological or sequential order. In some instances, the statements may have been organized in order of diminishing control that the County has in implementation. Lastly, the format of this Plan follows the format used in the County's Community Based Comprehensive Plan and the County Water Plan.

The goals, objectives, and actions for this Plan have been organized into the following four categories:

- Open Space.
- Parks.
- Trails.
- Administrative/Fiscal Resources.

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