

Section 2

Guiding Principles and Vision Statement

A. Guiding Principles for the Planning Process

Early in the process, the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed a series of guiding principles that were originally developed for the County's comprehensive planning process. These principles were accepted by the CAC to help guide the development of the Todd County Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan. The following is a list of the principles that the CAC adopted:

Working Together Principles

1. Share and respect ideas of others.
2. Come to listen - not to criticize.
3. "Try walking in other person's shoes."
4. Respect income differentials.
5. Be open to questions.
6. Respect different opinions.
7. Be fair to ourselves and others.
8. Avoid the "Us" versus "Them" mentality.
9. Be a part of solution and not the problem.

Process Principles

1. Encourage ongoing public involvement.
2. Include all segments of the County: intergenerational, economic, and social groups.
3. Respect the natural environment.
4. Money is only one factor.
5. Look forward to the future.

Procedural Principles

1. Respect timeliness.
2. Avoid the analysis / paralysis. Don't overwhelm people with facts.
3. Promote media participation and good communications.
4. Promote fair uniform rules.

B. Vision Statement

Citizen input and the technical information developed for the recreation inventory were two major sources used by the CAC to develop the vision statement for the Todd County Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan. Input from citizens and landowners came through a number of different public participation methods and techniques including:

- Five area meetings.
- Citizen questionnaire.
- County fair booth.
- Landowner workshops.
- Informal conversations, phone calls, and interviews.
- CAC meetings and discussions.

In addition to the public input received during the planning process, the CAC reviewed a series of maps and data from the recreation inventory developed by the Todd County GIS Department. (For more information, please see Volume 1).

Based on the citizen input and the technical information, the CAC created the following vision statement:

Todd County Recreation Vision Statement

We envision a recreation and open space system that maintains and enhances the quality of life in Todd County. Citizens and visitors alike enjoy the rural and small town character that has shaped our County's history. We wisely manage, use, and improve the wealth of natural resources throughout the County.

Through a network of public and private partnerships, we are working together to plan, design, build, maintain, and sustain a range of recreational opportunities and amenities including:

- Open spaces that protect private land ownership, conserve natural resources, and promote private recreation opportunities.
- A variety of public parks and facilities designed to meet the needs of all ages of people from our youth to senior citizens.
- Trails and waterways that provide recreational connections for people as well as critical connections for fish and wildlife.
- Safe and cost effective public recreational services and facilities.

C. Principles for Guiding Implementation: An Overall Strategy

Later in the planning process, the CAC determined that it was appropriate to establish principles or an overall strategy to guide implementation efforts. This overall strategy provides a brief explanation as to the directions that the County and its partners intend to take to implement the goals and objectives in the Plan.

The overall implementation strategy is described through the following four general statements:

- Implementation Principle A: **Enhance** what we already have.
- Implementation Principle B: **Support** private recreational opportunities.
- Implementation Principle C: **Expand** existing public recreational facilities.
- Implementation Principle D: **Create new** public recreational opportunities and facilities.

The County intends for the overall implementation strategy to be applied in a conscientious, comprehensive, coordinated, and continuous manner. Further, the County intends for these implementation principles to generally be applied and administered in a **priority** fashion as a means to better serve its citizens and landowners.

D. Communicating with the Public and Partnering Agencies

The guiding principles, vision statement, and overall implementation strategy have been developed to enable the County the means to more quickly convey its philosophies and approaches in addressing future recreation and open space needs and opportunities.

The CAC, County Board, and staff should frequently refer to the concepts developed in this Volume when communicating with citizens and landowners as to the overall vision for recreational opportunities over the next ten to twenty years and the basic steps to implement that vision.

Additional research and more detailed decisions will be needed for most, if not all projects or programs recommended in this Plan. To help make decisions on future recreational opportunities, the County will continue to seek input from citizens, landowners, local officials and others concerned about the quality of life in Todd County.

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