

Section 3

Implementation Strategies

Listed in this Plan, there are 4 resource initiatives, 16 goals, 45 objectives, and 176 actions. **So how is all of that work going to get done?** This section provides a detailed outline of the steps that can help the County and its locally based partner organizations and agencies implement this Plan over the next twenty years and beyond. Through small, incremental steps that are coordinated with citizens and landowners, this Plan can be successfully implemented.

A. Overall Implementation Approach and Strategy

Overall Approach

The following is generalized step-by-step approach that should be used to by the County as it works to meet its next challenge, the successful implementation of this Plan:

- Prioritize the goals and refine the objectives and action items as listed in Volume 2.
- Select a specific project and assign it to a specific group.
- Build community support, intergovernmental coordination and volunteer group.
- Consider formalizing partnerships with written agreements (memorandums of understanding).
- Design the project and secure financing.
- Construct the project.
- Communicate the results with the public.
- Celebrate success, then move onto the next project.

Overall Strategy

An overall implementation strategy for guiding the development of the parks, open space and trail systems in the County was developed early in the planning process. The CAC has recommended that the County Board approach the implementation of this Plan in a **priority** fashion as a means to be cost effective and at the same time deliver the best possible services to the public as noted below:

- 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.

As described in Section 2 of Volume 2, the County intends for this 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.

B. Optional Implementation Tools

The following is a list of optional implementation tools that could be used by the County and its partners in implementing this Plan. The list is not exhaustive but meant to provide users of the Plan with an introduction to the range of options that exist in implementation.

Education and Information

- County fair booth.
- County website and links.
- County recreation map – location of public parks, trails, public access sites, WMAs, etc.
- Commercial recreation businesses list – resorts, golf courses, hunting preserves, ski resorts, horseback riding, etc.
- Workshops – example, two landowner workshops held for this planning process or the Todd-Wadena landowner workshop scheduled for fall of 2005.
- Training Sessions – topics such as recreation, open space, forestry, agricultural, habitat improvement, etc. (Woodland Advisors program and other Extension Service programs, Headwaters Forestry Cooperative events, etc.).

Inventory and Mapping

- Sense of Place Project/Recreation Inventory (3-ring binder) – update and maintain the inventory of recreation sites, facilities and equipment available at each site.
- Parcel Mapping.
- Public waters inventory.
- Wetlands inventory.
- Forest inventory.
- Soils and geologic maps.

Incentives

- Cost Share Programs – programs to help landowners protect open space and natural resources – tree planting, water quality projects, soil conservation, etc.
- SWCD/NRCS Programs – CRP, EQIP, WRP, etc.
- Conservation Easements.
- Property Tax Programs – SFIA, Green Acres, etc.

Regulations and Ordinances

- Zoning Ordinances
 1. Standard Zoning Design Standards – setbacks and lot coverage requirements, landscaping requirements, etc.
 2. PUDs Requirements – common open space for residents and guests in the development, required amenities, design incentives that protect open space and natural resource features, etc.
 3. Shoreland Protection Standards – state and local standards to protect sensitive areas around lakes, rivers and streams.
 4. Tree Preservation Requirements – local standards to protect significant stands of trees and forest resources in new developments.
- Subdivision Regulations
 1. Park Dedication Requirements – cities, towns and counties can require lands and/or fees in lieu of land to be dedicated to the public.
 2. Public Sidewalks and Pedestrian Facilities – local governments can require that sidewalks and pedestrian facilities be constructed in new subdivisions.
 3. Wetland Delineation and Protection – requiring the delineation and protection of wetlands in new subdivisions.
 4. Forest Resource Protection – ordinances that require the protection of significant forest resources in new subdivisions.

Administration and Coordination

- Intergovernmental Meetings – periodic meetings with school district, city and township officials to address recreation projects, funding, maintenance, etc.
- Annual Township Meetings – update township officials on recreation matters.
- Joint Meetings – convene meeting with recreation organizations such as the Headwaters Forestry Cooperative, Drumlin Hills Coalition, lake associations and neighborhood groups.
- MOUs – Prepare written agreements such as memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that define and clarify the roles and responsibilities of partners working on recreation and open space projects.

Further Planning and Design

- Master Park Plans – develop a detailed plan for each park. Address recreation activities and equipment, landscaping, parking signage, etc. See the example plan prepared by Jim Mohler, resident of Staples for Pine Grove Park.
- Town Hall Parks – support efforts by townships to provide recreation facilities on the town hall sites.
- Lake Management Planning – Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership program (Initiative Foundation). Lake associations can work with their members to protect lakeshore areas, public accesses, surface water use management, water quality, etc.

Land Acquisition and Equipment Purchases

- Potential Park Sites Inventory – maintain and update the list of landowners who would like to sell their land for park List of interested sellers.
- County Tax Forfeited Lands – prior to the sale of county tax forfeit lands, consider the potential use of par to r all of the properties for recreational activities.

C. Use of this Plan

The strategic policy framework in Volume 2 provides a detailed listing of goals, objectives and action items to guide the future development of outdoor recreation and open space resources in the County. This policy framework should be the starting point each year for the Citizens’ Advisory Board (CAB) and its recreation partners as they decide the specific projects that they wish to pursue.

Recreational groups, conservation organizations, lake associations and other private stakeholder groups interested in outdoor recreation and open space should read through the policy framework and look for potential projects that they can collaborate with the County on.

The cities, townships and school districts should become familiar with the goals and objectives outlined in Volume 2. There are many potential partnerships that they can share in with the County in efforts to serve their citizens and residents while at the same save money.

Developers and private landowners should also be referred to this Plan when they are considering future development possibilities on their lands. Incorporating their projects into the overall recreation and open space system can help increase the value of their property as well as its livability. This can also help reduce or even prevent land and water use conflicts.

The preparation of a comprehensive recreational plan is just the first step in creating parks, open space, and trail systems. As described in Section 1 of Volume 1, the County has defined four major stages in the overall recreation planning and implementation process as follows:

- Stage 1 – Long Range Planning – Parks, Open Space and Trail Plan
- Stage 2 – Recreation System Development – Design and Funding.
- Stage 3 – Project Construction and Management.
- Stage 4 – Operations and Maintenance.

All interested groups when applying for financial assistance from agencies and foundations should refer to the policy framework outlined in this Plan. Given the support by the County in approving this Plan, reference to the County’s adopted policies can help substantiate the grant request and make it easier for funding organizations to approve the application.

As groups begin to move into the design and construction stages, the maps and data can also be of great value. Many of the state and federal grant programs for recreation projects will require site plans and construction documentation to verify the appropriateness and feasibility of constructing the proposed project. All groups proposing to implement recreation projects should contact the Todd County GIS and Land Services Department to obtain available map and data information.

D. Example Implementation Project: Osakis Area Recreation Projects

At their fifth meeting held on March 10, 2004, Bill Balcom, one of the CAC members suggested that representatives from the CAC and the County meet with the Osakis Sportsmens Club and the Osakis Lake Association to discuss potential improvements to Battle Point Park. The CAC agreed to having Bill Balcom, Alex Weego and Lindberg Ekola met with these two groups to discuss potential collaborative efforts on the Battle Point Park project. One of the major principles in meeting with the two organizations was to promote local ownership and control of the recreation project.

On March 15, 2004, the two organizations from the Osakis area agreed to take a lead role in pursuing the park improvement project. The TCDC with funding from the Blandin CIP program, agreed to provide seed funding for facilitation services to help the groups get the project moving forward.

After this initial meeting, interest by other groups has grown including the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Osakis and the Osakis Onward group. To date, two design workshop meetings have been held along with a presentation at the Osakis Onward community meeting (part of the Minnesota Design Team process) and a informational session with the Todd County Board of Commissioners (see attached workshop meeting summaries).

The County Board recently authorized the preparation of a topographic and property boundary survey to assist in the park site design process. The survey has revealed two land ownerships issues, which the County Board is now working to address. A third workshop will be held later this year after the resolution of the property ownership matters.

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