



CITY OF PARIS

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Parks and Recreation: Master Plan

for the City of Paris, Illinois

**Prepared by the City of Paris
and the City Park Board**

June 2000

“ City of Paris: Parks and Recreation Master Plan “

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Park History

The City of Paris currently has 10 parks and had been given land for the formation of a passive park in the central part of town. The history of our parks begins in 1895 when the dam impounding Paris' first reservoir was build. At that time a park was developed with walks and a pavilion. Today, this area is referred to as the East Lake portion of Twin Lakes Park. During an extended drought several years later, a second dam was needed and the second reservoir was created. This area is known as the West Lake portion of Twin Lakes Park. Combined, Twin Lakes Park is the city's oldest and largest recreational area.

In 1921, Sylvian Park was created as the site of the first water supply. This park, located between the Main St. and Central Ave corridors, was donated by the Sholem family and named after their son Sylvian, today, an above ground water storage tank and playground equipment exist on the site.

Due to a lack of funds in 1928, the City of Paris decided to lease a portion of the Lake Park to the Boy and Girl Scouts. The 10-year lease of this area was the beginning of what is now known as Blackhawk Park.

Union Street Park was deeded to the City of Paris by Ruth O'Hair in 1942 to be used as a public playground. It was developed in 1969 by the Paris Lions Club, and serves as a neighborhood park primarily used by children. Also in 1942, the Horace Link family gave Sunset Park to the City.

Two years later another park was given on behalf of H.B. O'Hair. This Park was named Sunrise Park. As assumed, Sunrise Park resides on the East Side of the City while Sunset Park lies on the West Side. Both parks include either a soccer field or baseball field and playground equipment.

As a tribute to the veterans who lost their lives in World War I & II, Kiwanis Memorial Park was established in 1948. This park is passive is nature and is used as an open space/picnic area.

The City of Paris purchased 10 acres of land in 1960. The Fisherman's Club between-1963 – 1965 developed this area, now known as White Oak Park, as a fishing area. A picnic shelter serves passive recreational needs at this site.

The next part was created to honor the founder of the City of Paris, Samuel Vance. This beautiful park, established in 1971 was a gift from the Paxson Link family. Another of our smaller parks, Peters Park, was created in 1974 in memory of water plant worker, Elmer Peters. This site is small and serves as a buffer between IL Rt. 1 and adjacent residents.

In addition to our present parks, Mrs. Hartman Schwartz bequeathed her property to the city to be developed as a tranquil garden in a natural setting. This park is now in the planning stages. Family picnics, walking, and sitting on park benches are anticipated uses for this site.

FORMER RECREATIONAL USES

Through the years, there have been a variety of recreational activities in locations throughout the City. Many, if not most, of these activities were designated for use by the entire community. However, as population demographics have changed, certain recreational uses have diminished and facility locations have been modified or entirely eliminated.

For example, a community pool, known as the "Surf club", was closed as use diminished. The Surf club was a very popular place for youths during the 1960's and 70's, especially during the typical Memorial to Labor Day summer activity period.

At the West Park of Twin Lakes, there were various recreational outlets including: miniature golf, large amusement park rides, small paddleboat rentals, merry-go-rounds, swings, tilt-a-whirl, beach, a concession area, open-air dance pavilion, a community building, and steam boat rides. These were some of the more popular attractions that brought people from throughout the area to the Park.

A minor league Class D professional baseball team, the Paris Lakers, played at the old Laker Stadium. The existing Laker stadium, named in tribute to the Lakers, is used by the high school baseball team.

In addition, a small zoo was located at Twin Lakes decades ago. The zoo had such animals as ostriches, goats, raccoons, monkeys, bears, and prairie dogs.

MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The intent of developing this master plan was to identify major parks and recreational opportunities in the City and create a means of both implementing improvements and connecting them into an organized system.

Recreational opportunities can include the revitalization of existing park locations together with new projects not currently connected with existing parks. The recommendations developed through this plan represent a combined work effort between the City, its Park Board, and local residents.

PROFILE OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Twin Lakes Park – 223 acres of water and over 50 acres of public area. Developed as a recreational area to include picnic and playground areas, swimming, camping, boating, fishing, horseshoes, and baseball. The West Lake Park serves as the site for the annual July 4th fire works display.

Blackhawk Park – approx. 10 acres used as a Scouting area and fishing area. It is a primitive naturalistic setting.

Sylvian Park - 2.7 acres with limited recreation and city water supply tower.

Union Street Park – 3 acres developed as a neighborhood park with playground equipment and a small ball diamond.

Sunset Park – 6 acres with limited playground facilities, soccer field, basketball court, and picnic area.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#1 Goal: Redevelopment of Twin Lakes park

Objective #1 Implement Year 200 Priority Project recommendation by the Park Board

Objective #2 Reconstruct the West and East lake Parks in accordance with The completed Twin Site plan rendering.

Objective #3 Analyze the potential for constructing a new community outdoor Pool.

#2 Goal: Modernize Existing park Locations

Objective #1 Acquire contemporary playground equipment for Sunrise & Sunset Parks

Objective #2 Purchase new equipment at various park locations

#3 Goal: Develop a Linear Greenways Program

Objective #1 Connect Blackhawk Park with West Lake Park via a recreational trail

Objective #2 Connect various park locations through a trails network system

Sunrise Park – 6 acres developed as a recreational area with limited playground facilities, ball diamond, basketball court, and picnic facilities.

Kiwanis Memorial Park – 5 acres that includes a memorial to Veterans who perished in W.W. I & II and swings.

White Oak Park – 10 acres, including primitive camping with facilities and fishing.

Samuel Vance Park – lot size with sunken garden and a fountain for contemplation.

Schwartz Park – 1 acre tract of land recently acquired by the City. Anticipated uses include picnicking, walking, and similar passive activities.

LAKER STADIUM AND PARIS YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.

The Paris High School boy's baseball team plays its home games at the City owned Laker Stadium. This site is maintained by the City and includes lighting for night use and bleachers for spectators. Located adjacent Twin Lakes Park, Laker Stadium also provides opportunities for regional baseball leagues during the spring and summer seasons.

Paris Youth Baseball, Inc., has six baseball fields for elementary and middle age youths. The site located behind the American Legion off of Rt. 1 North, offers community recreational opportunities for spring and summer activities.

TWIN LAKES

Prior to the 1970's, Twin Lakes Park offered a variety of recreational, cultural, and social activities for local residents. Miniature golf, music and dances, band concerts, amusement rides and a swimming beach area were amount the many activities.

“PARK INVENTORIES”

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Twin Lakes (East&West) Park acreage _____ Owner: City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
Benches	Several	Fair	
Water Fountains			
Picnic Tables	Several	Good	
Grills	Several	Good	
Restrooms	Two	Fair	one located at each side
Shelters/size	Six	Good	
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming-pool			
-beach	One	Fair	located East Lake for swimming
Softball/baseball	One	Good	West Lake
Tennis			
Basketball-indoor			
-outdoor			
Volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment	Yes	Fair	some located on both sides
Other			
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size	223ac.		Includes both East & West Lake

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Blackhawk Park acreage 10ac. Owner: City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
Benches			This is used as a Scouting area & fishing area. Primitive, natural setting
Water fountains			
Picnic Table			
Grills			
Restrooms			
Shelters/size			
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming-pool			
-beach			
Softball/baseball			
Tennis			
Basketball-indoor			
-outdoor			
Volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment			
Other			
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size			
Creeks			

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Sylvian Park **Park acreage:** 2.7ac. **Owner:** City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
Benches	Four	Poor	
Water fountains			
Picnic Tables	Four	Poor	
Grills	One	Poor	
Restrooms	None		
Shelters/size	None		
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming – pool			
-beach			
Softball/baseball			
Tennis			
Basketball –indoor			
-outdoor			
volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment			Swings-slide-Merry-go-round- Poor condition
Other			
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size			
Creeks			

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation area, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: White Oak Park Park acreage: 10ac. Owner: City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
Benches			Primitive camping with facilities & fishing
Water Fountains			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
Restrooms			
Shelters/size			
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming-pool			
Beach			
Softball/baseball			
Tennis			
Basketball-indoor			
-outdoor			
Volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment			
Other			
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size			
Creeks			

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Samuel Vance Park **Park acreage:** Lot Size **Owner:** City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
Benches	Five	V/G	Decrotive Fountain
Water fountain			
Picnic tables		.	This park is near downtown & City Hall
Grills			
Restrooms			
Shelters/size			
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming – pool			
-beach			
Softball/baseball			
Tennis			
Basketball – indoor			
-outdoor			
Volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment			
Other			
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size			
Creeks			

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Schwartz Park Park acreage: 1ac. Owner: City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
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Benches			New area, not yet developed
Water fountains			
Picnic tables			
Grills			
Restrooms			
Shelters/size			
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming – pool			
- beach			
Softball/baseball			
Tennis			
Basketball –indoor			
- outdoor			
Volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment			
Other			
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size			
Creeks			

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Union Street Park **Park acreage:** 3 ac. **Owner:** City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
Benches	One	Fair	
Water fountains			
Picnic tables	One	Fair	
Grills	One	Poor	
Restrooms			
Shelters/size	One-sm.	Poor	
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming –pool			
- beach			
Softball/baseball	One	Poor	
Tennis			
Basketball –indoor			
-outdoor			
Volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment	Swing	Poor	
Other			
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size			
Creeks			

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Sunset Park **Park Acreage:** 6acres **Owner:** City of Paris

Physical amenities	Amount	Conditions	Comments/Problems
Benches	Four	Good	
Water fountains			
Picnic Tables	Ten	Fair	
Grills	One	Poor	
Restrooms	One	Fair	
Shelters/size	One-sm.	Fair	
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming –pool			
-beach			
Softball/baseball	One	Poor	
Tennis			
Basketball-indoor			
-outdoor	One	Poor	One Hoop
Volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment	Swing	Poor	
Other			
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size			
Creeks			

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Kiwanis Memorial Park acreage: 5ac. Owner: City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
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Benches

Water fountains

Picnic tables

Grills

Restrooms

Shelters/size

Indoor facilities

Athletic facilities

Swimming – pool

- beache

Softball/baseball

Tennis

Basketball –indoor

-outdoor

Volleyball

Golf

Soccer

Play equipment

Swings

Poor

Other

Natural features

Lakes or ponds/size

Creeks

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Sunrise Park **Park acreage:** 6ac. **Owner:** City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
Benches	Two	Good	
Water fountain	One	Fair	
Picnic tables	Nine	Poor	
Grills	Two	Poor	
Restrooms	One	Fair	
Shelters/size	One	Good	
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming –pool			
-beach			
Softball/baseball	One	Fair	
Tennis			
Basketball-indoor			
-outdoor	One	Poor	
Volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment	Swing	Fair	
Other	Slide	Good	
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size			
Creeks			

Existing Site Inventory/Checklist

Using a separate copy of this form for each park, describe each park and recreation site within your jurisdiction. Include the facilities and existing programs provided there. Also, fill out a form for any schools, churches, civic group recreation facilities, private recreation areas, and other parks which may be within or outside your boundaries, but which are used by your community members. Discuss particular problems noted at each site.

Park or area name: Elmer PetersPark Park acreage: 10ac. Owner: City of Paris

<u>Physical amenities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Comments/Problems</u>
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Benches			
Water fountains			
Picnic tables	One		
Grills			
Restrooms			
Shelters/size			
Indoor facilities			
Athletic facilities			
Swimming –pool			
-beach			
Softball/baseball			
Tennis			
Basketball-indoor			
-outdoor			
Volleyball			
Golf			
Soccer			
Play equipment			
Other			
Natural features			
Lakes or ponds/size			
Creeks			

Today, Twin Lakes Park has opportunities for picnicking, band concerts, and special events. Additionally the Park provides an excellent area for walking, children using playground equipment, and camping.

On the eastern portion of Twin Lakes to the East of IL Rt. 1, a beach area exists for summer swimming activities. A boat launch ramp provides access for boating and fishing. Access to the bathhouse and concession area are limited to the warmer months. However, access to the boat ramps and horseshoe-pitching area is maintained year round.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK, FOOTBALL FIELD, AND TENNIS COURTS

Off Edgar Street in the Central part of Paris are the high school track, football field, and tennis courts facility. This site provides inter-varsity sporting events for high school students year round.

The basic site is limited in size and has had minor modifications through the years. Improvements to the area are needed and are in preliminary planning stages through the Paris High School.

There are five tennis courts that are used by both students and the general public. All are in need of improvement to both the base and surface area. In addition, construction of a sixth court is anticipated over the next year based upon funding availability.

The Cinder track has been in use for several years and is in need of repair. The School Board is looking into a major resurfacing project that will enhance and maintain effective use of the track for several years. An approximate quarter mile running track is located at Crestwood School on E. Jasper Street. It provides an opportunity for recreational track and field events for school children and general running for citizens during non-school use hours.

CAMPING

A campground is located off W. Steidl Road adjacent to Laker Stadium. Electrical hook ups at individual setups allow modern camping convenience

for campers, trailers, and recreational vehicles. A bathhouse is located on the site for those using the campground. Maintenance is provided by the City.

The camping area is currently limited in size and functional expansion capabilities. There is discussion regarding the possibility of relocating camping activities to another City park.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

A City Parks Division provides annual maintenance for each of the park locations. This includes mowing and trimming, tree and shrub upkeep, painting and refurbishing of buildings and shelters, and the installation or replacement of equipment.

During the summer months, the City hires additional staff to mow the parks and lifeguards to serve at the East Lake swimming area. This Division is within the Department of Streets, Alleys, and Parks. A Superintendent maintains the scheduling and oversight of operations maintenance.

PLANNING PROCESS

The need to develop this Plan was brought about, in part, by comments received from the general public. Residents were specifically concerned about the lack of new recreational equipment, new recreational facilities, and opportunities for youth activities.

The public participation process was initiated out of this concern. In perspective, it was determined that a more formal process was needed to identify programs and implement community projects. Both the Council and Park Board are included in the planning process and will play major roles in initiating improvements based upon Plan results and recommendations.

SUPPORT RESOLUTION

At its May 8th meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution supporting the development of a City of Paris Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This Resolution (Appendix A) helps to reconfirm the Council's desire to support local efforts and give direction in improving the park system and implementing new recreational opportunities.

CITY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

There are eight (8) individual departments that provide services for the community. Each of the departments is managed by a City Commissioner. The City functions under the Commission form of government. The Park Department is supervised by the Superintendent of Streets, Alleys, and Parks. The Commissioner of Parks oversees the overall Divisions.

City Council					
Other Boards	Attorney			Park Board	Treasurer
Streets,Alleys Administration & Parks	Water Treatment	Sewage Treatment	Water & Sewer Distribution	Police Dept.	Fire Dept.

The Park Board is designated by the Mayor to develop recommendations regarding the eleven city Parks. Recommendations are then given to the City Council for final action. The Board meets monthly to discuss all activities regarding the parks.

CITY BUDGET EVALUATION/PARK FUNDING

Each year approximately \$100,000 is appropriated for expenses for the Parks. These expenses include staff, operational and maintenance costs, and capital improvements. A tax levy is issued each year for Municipal Parks in the amount of 7.5 cents per \$100 of property equalized assessed valuation (eav). The property tax revenue issue is typically insufficient to provide adequate income. General Corporate funds must make up the difference for expenses.

At this time, the establishment by referendum of a Park District is not considered feasible. The community has a relatively high percentage of lower income families. And with a population less than 10,000, the likelihood of establishing a Park District is not under serious consideration at this time.

The Park Board has requested the City to dedicate revenue for the restoration and renovations of Twin Lakes Park as a high priority. However, the City is financially constrained on being able to fund the entire recommended improvements to this park project. Estimated costs exceed \$100,000 for complete renovation.

YEAR 2000 PARK BOARD PRIORITIES

As a major component of their advisory responsibilities, the Park Board has identified a list of project priorities for Year 2000. Appendix "B" depicts these priorities which were developed in consideration of technical analysis, funding consideration, citizen input, and ease of implementation.

The list includes replacement of recreational equipment, installation of safety equipment, refurbishing of park buildings, and amenities for park users. Many of these projects are in the East and West Twin Lakes Park areas.

Most, if not all, of the proposed projects focus on refurbishment of areas where activity has declined. Major improvements, such as the construction of new recreational facilities for general public use, are not represented on this list.

The comments and recommendations received from the public participation's process will help the Board develop its Year 2001 Projects List based upon citizen feedback. Many of the projects to consider are shown in the public participation and student input surveys in the "Citizen Input" section of this plan.

ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

Below is a summary of the park and recreation issues facing the community. The issues are based on the committee's knowledge (after going through the planning process) and the public input it has received.

1. Redevelop the Twin lakes Park area
2. Undertake a study to determine the appropriate alignments for a recreation trail
3. Develop an outdoor community swimming pool
4. Construct an ice-skating rink
5. Install new recreational equipment at various park locations
6. Work with various community groups to identify sources of funding to implant projects.

PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION

At its June 12th, 2000 meeting, the Paris City Council adopted this Plan as a major tool to help guide civic, governmental, and community involvement in the implementation of new projects and programs. The overall planning process will be used annually as a means to gather feedback on the conditions, perceptions, and suggestions regarding parks and recreation.

The Plan Adoption Resolution shown in the Appendix "C" emphasizes the Council's commitment to ensuring that sufficient recreational opportunities are available. Various subcommittees that focus on specific new projects, such as the Water Park proposal will continue the coordination of individual projects that have community wide impacts. Adoption of the Plan will enable more effective coordination between the City, the Park Board, and these Subcommittees in regard to individual projects.

CITIZEN INPUT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SURVEY

Public meetings were instituted with the City and its Park Board to gather comments on parks and recreational opportunities within the community. Both entities have encouraged the general public to participate in discussions regarding community needs, suggestions on future activities, comments on existing services, and priority of future projects.

A major public participation meeting occurred on February 10th whereby citizens were asked to provide comments and suggestions on a parks and recreation survey. The results of the meeting and mailed-out comments are shown in Addendix "D". A summary sheet of the meeting is shown on the following page.

A great deal of effort has been taken in getting feedback from the general public on perceptions, current use, and future needs regarding City parks and recreational activities. Throughout the year, the City Council and Park Board have worked together in coordinating improvements to the Park System in conjunction with input from citizens.

PROJECT COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS:

CITY OF PARIS
PARKS AND RECREATION
PROJECT IDEAS

The City of Paris wants to get ideas from local Middle and High School Students about our Parks and Recreational Activities. We want you students to give us your ideas about the kind of outdoor activities you enjoy.

Please use the space below to give us comments and/or suggestions about the things that you would like to have in our parks and on the types of recreation that you would like to participate in.

**PROJECT
COMMENTS:**

During 2000, there have also been workshops with local students to determine their desires and ideas surrounding recreation for young adults. As shown in Appendix "E", we have documented comments from citizens as gathered from public workshops and input from students at local schools.

The priorities developed in the "Proposed Projects" section of this plan represent many of the suggestions gathered from public participation. The Project Development priorities were formulated through this process. A summary of the results from the opinion survey are shown on the attached "opinion survey" sheet.

Students from local schools were also surveyed through special workshop meetings to gather input from youth on their perception of community recreational needs. The City Council and Park Board are concerned about facilitating recreational opportunities with participation among the young.

An ice-skating rink, miniature golf, and an outdoor community swimming pool are among the desires expressed by students. These recommendations have helped the community in developing a Summary of Recommended Projects.

Various organizations are participating in the identification of needs. Sub-committees have been created by the Park Board to look at coordinating specific events at City Park locations throughout the year. Among these include a sub-committee that is involved with planning a "Holiday in the Park" event and a City Band committee in charge of planning musical events at the West lake Park.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

The 1990 Census for the City of Paris indicates a population of around 9,000. Over the past ten years there has been new residential, industrial, and service related development added to the community. Estimates of 10,000 residents are anticipated from the results 2000 Census.

The 1999 medium household income, as provided by Clarities Inc., is estimated at \$21,800. This estimate is inclusive of all households in the

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

A. Census date of your community:

Location	1970	1980	1990	Percent Change
County			19,000	
Local Government	15,000	10,000	9,000	

C. Is this trend expected to continue? Explain.

Community is anticipated to remain fairly constant.

D. Population breakdown per 1990 census:

Under 5 years	824	45-64yrs.	<u>2000</u>
5-18 Years	2482	65 years and over	1808
19-24 years	912	80 years and over	653
25-44 years	3339		
Percent minority	2%	Percent below poverty	23%

E. Based on the above percentages, to which groups should the majority of your recreation services be geared? 24-May

F. Does your community have people with special needs (disability, low income, minority status, etc.)? Explain. Low income (poverty) levels are high

G. What is the average income for your community? \$23,000(medium family income)

H. What occupations are dominant in your local economy?
light industrial, manufacturing, farming

I. What are the sources of your information?
Source of data: Regional or County Planning Commission, library, etc.
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census

CITIZEN INPUT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING AND STUDENT INPUT

- A. General Information
Date of Meeting February 10, 2000
Number of Attendance +50
Location of Meeting First Baptist Church of Paris
- B. Responses, issues, comments, and concerns expressed by those in attendance:

Residents want the City and Park Board to increase recreational opportunities
- C. From the questions and comments at the public meeting, what activities do citizens currently participate in? Walking, boating, children involved in baseball and basketball
- D. If given new opportunities, what programs/activities would citizens prefer to have available? Modern parks, community swimming pool, revitalized Twin Lakes Park
- E. Based on experience of the agency and public meeting input, what facilities are most in need of upgrading? Twin Lakes Park
- F. What additions to your budget will be necessary to develop and maintain your proposed plans? An additional 500,000 over the next few years

community including both single and multi-family residences. Based upon this data, Edgar County is among the lowest income level in Central Illinois.

Estimates reveal that 33% of the population is age 24 or less, while 41% is over the age of 45. Individuals representing all ages have shown interest in having sufficient recreational activities. Additionally, there is an across the board interest among the entire community in seeing increased activities and available recreational opportunities at the park. *See Table 1 for a breakdown of socio-economic considerations.*

Statistically, the City has a sufficient amount of parks based upon the population. However, recreational activities, playground equipment, and infrastructure have not had a survey or analysis through the years to determine citizen needs and desires. There is one city park per 1000 persons. However, two of the parks are not capable of providing any type of recreational activity other than relaxing on a bench. A third park is under plan design to function as a passive park and thus is not currently usable.

Paris High School has approximately 700 students enrolled in the 9th – 12th grades. Comparable to other public school districts in the region, there are competitive recreation opportunities for students. For those student not participating in active team sports through school, the options for recreational activities are somewhat limited.

COMMUNITY VISION

A great deal of communication has occurred between the City and residents regarding the assessment of recreational opportunities within the parks. Citizens, in general, are heavily involved in participating in the recreational planning process. All socio-economic groups have given comments and suggestions on recreation and many individuals are voluntarily participating in this process. This will allow specific project areas to be identified as those with highest priority for further review.

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE USES

OPINION SURVEY

- A. Attach a copy of the survey form.
- B. How was the survey taken (newspaper, mail, phone, public meeting, etc.)? public participation meeting and student workshops
- C. How many respondents did you have? What percent of the total population responded? 5%
- D. Summarize the results. The residents of Paris surveyed were very interested in having Park and recreational areas modernized including the installation of new facilities

The majority of parks within the City have active recreational opportunities and equipment available for all ages. Baseball diamonds, playground equipment, soccer fields, and basketball courts are among the “active” types of facilities available. Many of these are for use by youths especially during organized sporting programs.

In addition, the Paris YMCA provides membership based activities for youths, and families that include such things as swimming and basketball. Outdoor activities during the Spring-Fall seasons are somewhat organized. The High School tennis courts have ongoing use during the typical playing season.

A few of the parks are more “passive” in nature. Schwartz Park, as an example, will have benches for sitting picnicking, walking, and other less active family activities. White Oak Park is another example where picnicking is a primary activity.

The Council and Park Board want to create a variety of activities that will allow every citizen to enjoy one of the parks. One of the primary goals of this plan is to develop strategies that will encourage additional use throughout the year.

For example, a “Holiday in the Park” committee has been established through the Board to coordinate activities at West Lake during the Christmas Season. Other committees will be established based upon direction of the Board and Council as priority projects are more defined in scope.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

One of the primary goals of this Plan is to identify recreational activities that are of an interest to the youth culture in Paris. A number of comments and suggestions were received by Middle and High School students representing their desires for recreational activities within both park and non-park locations.

As shown in the “student input” section of this plan, student comments represent a variety of suggestions for activities. Students from four different

schools including: Paris High School, Crestwood School, Mayo Middle School, and St. Mary's School, participated in this process.

A community outdoor swimming pool, skateboard and roller-blade area, volleyball courts, more basketball courts, miniature golf, and an indoor skating rink were among the most frequently requested projects that students seemed interested in supporting.

The information gathered from the student surveys will be used by the Park Board to recommend the planning of specific facilities. City Council will then take Board recommendations and review strategies for project implementation. A general observation of City residents is that too few recreational opportunities exist for the youth. One of the goals in developing this Master Plan is to provide direction in the planning process.

TWIN LAKES PARKS

Another important project is the redevelopment of the Twin Lakes Parks (East & West). Once a major place of year round social, recreational, and cultural events, activity is much more limited. Fishing tournaments, holiday festivities, and special events are occurring more frequently then during the past two decades.

A high priority for the City Council and Park Board is redevelopment of the Twin Lakes area. Providing recreation and cultural opportunities for community residents, as well as, out of town visitors, is one of the major goals during the next two years. A Master Plan development for Twin Lakes is in the initial stages. Funding to undertake the planning, project designs, and implementation of this Master Plan will need to be found from State sources such as the Department of Natural Resources, (DNR) and the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA).

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR POOL

During the mid 1990's, a group of citizens began looking at the possibility of constructing a community outdoor pool. For a number of years, Paris residents together with those outside the City supported a

privately owned pool. However, the pool was closed and ownership changed.

As interest grew this committee of citizens began looking at the potential of building a Water Park. In various cities throughout the Midwest, Water Parks have been constructed throughout the past 20 years that have incorporated contemporary theme park design with community level amenities.

A water park committee has been established by a group of citizen volunteers to examine the possibility of developing a Water Park. Based upon the costs associated with implementing such a project, the committee has not gone beyond the initial planning phase.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon comments received from Citizens, priorities established by the Park Board and goals of the City Council, the following projects are recommended at the highest priorities for improvements to the City's Parks and Recreation System:

- Twin Lakes Park Development – As the area of highest use and activity among the parks, Twin Lakes represents a major development priority. Redevelopment of both West Lake Park and East Lake Park has been determined to be a major emphasis for the Park Board over the next two years.

Many cultural events occur at West Lake throughout the year that brings in people from different communities within this region. However, there is no organized plan for the Twin Lakes area regarding recreational equipment, public facilities, and comprehensive site use.

A site plan rendering of the Twin Lakes Park area is being developed by a landscape architect with specific recommendations regarding uses of

the two parks. It is anticipated that improvements will be phased in over a two-year period

- Linear Greenways (trail development) – One of the major project recommendations is the connection of various City parks by a trail system. This connection, referred to as a linear greenways concept, will provide continuous movement among various recreation opportunities. This concept is intended to provide open access and connectivity among citywide recreational and cultural facilities.

One of the goals of this plan is to coordinate the development of recreational trails. Preparation of a linear trail plan is forth coming.

- Park Modernization – Many of the parks are lacking in contemporary playground equipment and do not adequately serve the local population. Some of the parks are actually without equipment and need to have installation of such material and facilities.

The Park Board park modernization components in each years capital priority improvement program. As such, modernization is a continuous priority program.

- New Camping Facility – A portion of the West Lake Park adjacent to Laker Stadium has been setup for RV and Trailer camping capabilities. Based upon physical location, site limitations, and comprehensive site use, it has been recommended that camping use be moved to another more effective location. Preliminary discussions have focused on moving this to White Oak Park.
- Accessibility – Making sure that all individuals have access to recreational facilities at park locations is a high priority for the City. The Twin Lakes Park rendering currently being developed will address accessibility as part of its redevelopment.
- Funding Assistance – The City will have to apply for federal and state assistance in order to incorporate changes, improvements, and modernization to its park system. Coordination with the Park Board and State agencies will be essential in this effort.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>COST ESTIMATE</u>	<u>POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>
2000/ 2001	West Lake Park	revitalize	+ 300,000	
2000/ 2001	East Lake Park	revitalize	+ 200,000	
2000	Sunrise & Sunset Parks	playground equipment	+ 45,000	City thru Park Board

Appendix A

Planning Resolution

Support of Community Recreation Plan Effort

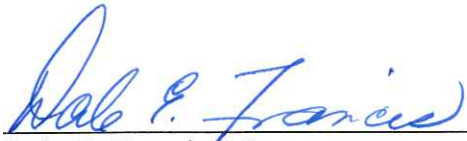
WHEREAS, the City of Paris recognizes a need for parks and recreation for the residents of Paris, Illinois, and

WHEREAS, the community realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizens,

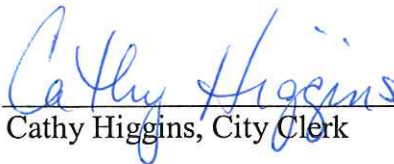
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE City Council of Paris Illinois, by unanimous declaration, does support the effort to prepare a City of Paris Park and Recreation Master Plan to use as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks, and Recreational opportunities within the City of Paris.

Passed and signed this 8th day of May, 2000.

ATTEST:



Dale E. Francis, Mayor



Cathy Higgins, City Clerk

"APPENDIX"

B

PARK BOARD 2000 PROPOSED PROJECTS

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
Restroom Tile	\$2,500.00
2 baby changing tables	\$536.00
Permanent Water Volleyball	\$300.00
Rewire & Circuit breaker at Spicer Pavilion	
Update wiring at Golf Bldg.	
Replace vandalized globes	
Add 4-5 antique lights	\$3,000.00
Boulders at East Lake	
Large fountain in East Lake	
1 Basketball Court @ West Lake	
2 goals	
2 rims heavy duty	
2 steel nets	
2 support posts	
Water Slide East Park	
Drinking fountain at West Lake Park	\$1,200.00
Snack Shack Fix-up	\$400.00
Playground Equipment	\$6,000.00
Promotion - Rides, etc.	\$1,000.00
Lights for Restroom and Sidewalk	\$500.00
Cost for Grant Writer	
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$15,436.00
Year 2000 Budget	\$18,000.00
Cost overrun for concrete sidewalk for Restroom	\$2,000.00
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$16,000.00

Appendix C

ADOPTION RESOLUTION Adoption of the City of Paris Park and Recreation Plan


WHEREAS, the City of Paris is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Paris, Illinois, and

WHEREAS, the agency realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the park and recreational needs of its citizens

WHEREAS, with this authority the City of Paris has completed and submitted for review and adoption a Park and Recreation Master Plan,

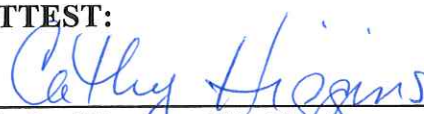
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE City Council of Paris, Illinois, does adopt the Park and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Paris.

Passed and signed this 12 day of June, 2000.



Dale E. Francis, Mayor

ATTEST:



Cathy Higgins, City Clerk

Appendix D

PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING OF THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2000

PROJECTS COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS:

Water Park

Miniature Park

Remodel Laker Stadium – Public restrooms, new fence, grand stands

Get started working on one of these ideas & get it implemented:

Civic Center/Auditorium

East Lake recreational facility

Comprehensive playground at parks not near the lakes

Revitalize the amusement & recreation opportunities that are popular and draw people to Paris.

Something to increase attendance at City Band Concerts

Remove Geese

Walking/hiking trails between Blackhawk and West Park

Large Playground for students

Dredge East Lake

Rides, Goofy golf, swimming pool

Adequate supervision & maintenance of whatever happens

Stocking game fish in both lakes

Boat ramp for West Lake

There is ample access for both lakes now

Need speed limit on East Lake enforced

Decent restrooms & supervision

Appendix E

STUDENT INPUT FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION: **Recommended Projects**

Paris High School Students

Swimming Pool
Skateboard & Roller-blade area
Stock Lakes w/fish
More Basketball courts
Volley Ball Field
Arcade
Paddle Boats
Soccer Field
Open Lakes
Youth Center/Teen Dances
Bike trails
Tennis Courts – more
Public Golf course-smaller
Horse back riding with trails
Inside Skate Rink
Chess Club
Weight room – public
Miniature Golf
Public Football field
Better restrooms and fountains at Parks
Shooting range
Trails for 4-wheeler/Go-carts
Hiking Trails
More food vendors at Parks

STUDENT INPUT FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION:
Recommended Projects

Crestwood – 7th & 8th Grade Students

Batting Cages
Swimming Pool
Skateboard & Roller-blade area
Stock Lakes w/fish
Bike trails
Arcade
Hockey rink
Pool Hall
Tennis Courts
Better Playground Equip.
Re-open Lake
More basketball courts
Inside ice rink
Chess Club
Smaller public Golf course
Weight room- public
Horse back riding
Soccer field
Miniature Golf
Public Football field
Paddle Boats
Better Restrooms & Drinking Fountains
Teen Center/Teen Dances
Shooting range
Trails for 4-wheeler/Go-carts

STUDENT INPUT FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION:
Recommended Projects

Mayo – 7th & 8th Grade Students

Batting Cages
Swimming Pool
Skateboard & Roller-blade area
Stock Lakes w / fish
More basketball courts
Volley Ball field
Arcade
Paddle Boats
Soccer field

STUDENT INPUT FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION:
Recommended Projects

St. Mary's – 7th & 8th Grade Students

Swimming Pool

Indoor Skating Rink

Place where teens can hang out

Football

Appendix F

ACCESSIBILITY CHECKLIST

Below are some categories which your committee or board must address as you evaluate your existing and/or future facilities (refer to page 26, Appendix A).

1. Is **parking** in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?
2. Does a **path of travel** from parking, street, or sidewalk to the area exist and meet ADA requirements?
3. Are **conveniences** (i.e., water fountains) along the path of travel accessible?
4. Is the **entrance signed appropriately** and meet requirements?
5. Is an **accessible path of travel** present from the entrance to the use areas?
6. Are **use areas** (i.e., ballfields, spectator areas, concessions, and passive areas) **able to be reached** from the path of travel for use by a person with a disability?
7. Are **use areas designed to encourage and maximize interaction** between people with and without disabilities?
8. Can **existing structures or sensations be modified for use** by an individual with a disability? Have such modifications been made?
9. Does the **surfacing permit unassisted, unimpeded travel** by a person in a wheelchair?
10. When an area **will be modified in a way in which affects the use of or access to the area**, is **improved accessibility to and use of the resulting area** an objective?
11. When an area is **not readily accessible to and usable by a person with a disability**, is **another playground nearby accessible**?
12. When an area is **not readily accessible to and usable by a person with a disability**, will an **accessible area be constructed by January 26, 1995** nearby the area which is not accessible?

Source: McGovern, 1992

ACCESSIBILITY

Section 504

The 1973 Rehabilitation Act was amended in 1978 by Section 504. This section prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all programs receiving federal financial assistance. Impairments included in this amendment include mobility, visual, hearing or mental disabilities. Each federal agency subject to this must develop and enforce regulations for federally assisted programs under their authority. Section 504 requires self-evaluation of facilities and programs to assess the extent to which regulations are met.

ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a comprehensive law that took effect January, 1992. As a result of ADA, access to recreation and play settings is now a guaranteed civil right for all Americans.

The design that approaches site and facility planning from the overall perspective, not just able-bodied users, is called Universal Design. The key to Universal Design is providing a variety of designs in the park environment to meet the needs of different accessibility levels.

If your organization's accessibility self-evaluation indicates that changes are necessary, a transition plan to accomplish the adaptations must be prepared. Many local organizations have already complied with accessibility requirements. If your agency has done so, you should briefly describe your evaluation and findings in the master plan (see Form 3). Any necessary structural changes to your park and recreation facilities should be included in the action schedule of your master plan.

Facilities constructed with federal or state assistance, or located on land acquired with federal state assistance, must be designed in conformance with the ADA.

Acceptable design criteria have been published in "Illinois Accessibility Code," a document prepared by the State of Illinois, Capital Development Board, and may be obtained from their offices: Third Floor Stratton Building, 401 South Spring Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706

For Americans with Disabilities Act information, contact:

Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board
Suite 1000, 1332 F. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1111
1-800- USA-ABLE (Voice) or
1-202-272-5434
1-800-USA-ABLE (TDD)