

Appendix C

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

OBJECTIVE NO. 1

To provide an integrated system of public outdoor recreation sites and corridors which will afford County residents adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

The provision of public outdoor recreation sites and corridors contributes to the attainment and maintenance of physical and mental health by providing opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities. An integrated system of public outdoor recreation sites and corridors, properly related to the natural resource base, can serve the dual purpose of satisfying recreational demands in an attractive setting while protecting natural resource amenities. An integrated system of public outdoor recreation sites and corridors can also contribute to the orderly growth of the County by lending form and structure to urban development patterns.

A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

PRINCIPLE

Public outdoor recreation sites promote the maintenance of physical and mental health both by providing opportunities to participate in physical activities that help maintain physical strength and flexibility and that help to reduce everyday tensions and anxieties. In addition, well designed and properly located public outdoor recreation sites also provide a sense of community, bringing people together for social and cultural as well as recreational activities, and thus contribute to the desirability and stability of neighborhoods and communities.

STANDARDS

1. The public sector should provide outdoor recreation sites sufficient in size and number to meet the recreation demands of the resident population. Such sites should contain the amenities appropriate to the size and nature of the site and be spatially distributed in a manner which provides convenient access by the resident population, as set forth below:

Site Type	Size (gross acres)	Publicly Owned Park and School Sites							
		Parks				Schools ^a			
		Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^d	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^b		Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^d	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^c	
				Urban ^e	Rural			Urban ^e	Rural
I ^b Regional	250 or more	5.3	Campsites, swimming beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski-touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball diamond, passive-activity area ^a	10.0	10.0	--	--	--	--
II ^b Multi-Community	100-249	2.6	Campsites, swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski-touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball and/or baseball diamond, passive-activity area ^a	4.0	10.0	--	--	--	--
III ^b Community	25-99	2.2	Swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, boat launch, nature study area, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis courts, passive-activity area ^a	2.0 ^d	--	0.9	Soccer field and	0.5-1.0 ^a	--
IV ^a	Less than 25	1.7	Wading pool, picnic areas, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis court, playground, basketball goal, ice-skating rink, passive-activity area ^a	0.5-1.0 ^a	--	1.6	Soccer field and	0.5-1.0 ^a	--

2. Public outdoor recreation sites should, to the maximum extent possible, include portions of the planned primary environmental corridors of the County in order to provide an attractive natural setting for recreational activities. Recreational facilities should, however, be carefully located and designed to protect and preserve such environmentally sensitive areas as wetlands, natural areas, and high-value wildlife habitat.

B. RECREATION CORRIDORS

PRINCIPLE

Certain recreational pursuits such as hiking, biking, pleasure driving, and ski-touring are best provided for through a system of recreation corridors^a located within, or adjacent to, linear resource-oriented open space lands. A well designed system of recreation corridors can serve to connect existing and proposed public parks, thus forming an integrated system of parks and recreation corridors related to the natural resource base.

STANDARDS

The public sector should provide a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors in accordance with the following standards to meet the resident demand for trail-oriented activities:

1. A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation corridors should be provided for each 1,000 persons in the County.
2. Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet.
3. The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas.
4. Recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
 - a. Primary and secondary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities, provided environmentally sensitive resources are protected.
 - b. Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites.
 - c. Existing trail facilities within the County.

OBJECTIVE NO. 2

To provide outdoor recreation facilities to afford County residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participation in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, which include basketball, baseball, soccer, ice-skating, playfield and playground activities, softball, pool swimming, and tennis, provides an individual with both the opportunity for physical exercise and an opportunity to test and expand his or her physical capability. Such activities also provide an outlet for mental tension and anxiety as well as a diversion from other day-to-day activities. Competition in the various intensive nonresource-related activities also provides an opportunity to participate in team play and gain understanding of other human beings.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County, as set forth below:

Minimum per Capita Facility Requirements*				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles)
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Urban Residents	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Total Land Requirement (acres per facility)	
Baseball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.09 0.01 0.10	Multi-community,	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond) Night lighting Concessions and Buffer and landscape	0.28 acre per diamond -- 0.02 acre minimum 1.40 acres per diamond	4.5	2.0
Basketball	Goal	Public Nonpublic Total	0.91 0.22 1.13	Neighborhood parks	0.07 acre per goal	--	--	0.07	0.5
Ice-Skating	Rink	Public Nonpublic Total	0.15 -- 0.15	Neighborhood parks	0.30 acre per rink minimum	Warming house	0.05 acre --	0.35 minimum	0.5
Soccer Fields or Play Fields	Playfield	Public Nonpublic Total	0.39 0.11 0.50	Neighborhood parks	1.0 acre per playfield	Buffer area	0.65 acre minimum	1.65 minimum	0.5
Playground Activities	Playground	Public Nonpublic Total	0.35 0.07 0.42	Neighborhood parks	0.25 acre per playground minimum	Buffer and landscape	0.37 acre	0.62 minimum	0.5
Softball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.53 0.07 0.60	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	1.70 acre per diamond	Parking (20 spaces per diamond) Nighttime lighting Buffer	0.18 acre per diamond -- 0.80 acre per diamond	2.68	1.0
Swimming	Pool	Public Nonpublic Total	0.015 -- 0.015	Community and	0.13 acre per pool	Bathhouse and Parking (400 square feet) Buffer and landscaping	0.13 acre minimum 0.26 acre minimum 0.70 acre minimum	1.22 minimum	3.0 3.0
Tennis	Court	Public Nonpublic Total	0.50 0.10 0.60	Multi-community,	0.15 acre per court	Parking (2.0 spaces per) Nighttime lighting Buffer	0.02 acre per court -- 0.15 acre per court	0.32	1.0

OBJECTIVE NO. 3

To provide outdoor recreation facilities to afford the County residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participation in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, which include camping, golf, picnicking, downhill skiing, and stream and lake swimming, provides an opportunity for individuals and families to enjoy recreational activities in natural surroundings as well as an opportunity for physical exercise.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County. To meet this standard, the following per capita requirements and design criteria for various facilities should be met:

Minimum per Capita Facility Requirement*				Design Standards						Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^b
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)	Resource Requirements	
Camping	Campsite	Public Nonpublic Total	0.35 1.47 1.82	Regional and multi-community parks	0.33 acre per campsite	Rest rooms with showers Utility hookups Natural area backup lands	-- -- 1.5 acres per campsite	1.83	Wooded area Presence of surface water Suitable topography and soils	25.0
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public Nonpublic Total	0.013 0.027 0.040	Regional and multi-community parks	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, maintenance Practice area Woodland or water areas Buffer	8.0 acres per course 5.0 acres per course 35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course	185.0	Suitable topography and soils Presence of surface water Form-giving vegetation	10.0
Picnicking	Tables	Public Nonpublic Total	6.35 2.39 8.74	Regional, multi-community, and neighborhood parks	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking Shelters and grills Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table) -- 0.02 acre per table	0.11	Topography with scenic views Shade trees Presence of surface water Desirable Suitable soils	10.0
Skating	Developed slope (acres)	Public Nonpublic Total	0.010 0.090 0.100	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet Parking Ski tows (and lights) Buffer and maintenance Landscape	0.13 acre minimum 0.25 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.35 acre per acre of slope	2.1	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum) North or northeast exposure	25.0
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Public Nonpublic Total	Major Inland Lakes 6 12 18	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking Bathhouse-concessions Buffer areas	0.2 acre per acre of beach 0.10 acre minimum 10 square feet per linear foot	--	Natural beach Good water quality	10.0
			Lake Michigan 16 -- 16							

OBJECTIVE NO. 4

To provide outdoor recreation facilities to afford County residents adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participation in trail-related activities, which include biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, pleasure driving, ski-touring, and snowmobiling, provides opportunity for contact with natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features. Such activities can increase an individual's awareness of the natural environment and contribute to a better understanding of that environment. Trail activities can be enjoyed by all family members, which can serve to strengthen social relationships within the family and provide an opportunity to educate younger members of the family in the importance of environmental issues.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in trail-related activities should be provided throughout the County. Public facilities provided for these activities should be located within the recreation corridors identified in Objective No. 1. The following the following per capita standards and design criteria should be met:

Minimum per Capita Public Facility Requirements ^{aa}			Design Standards				
Activity	Facility	Per Capita Requirements (linear mile per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Minimum Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Suggested Support Facilities and Backup Lands	Minimum Support Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Resource Requirements
Biking	Route Trail	-- bb 0.16	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	-- 1.45	Route markers Backup lands with resource amenities	-- 24.2	-- Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography (5 percent slope average maximum) and soils
Hiking	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Horseback Riding	Trail	0.05	Recreation corridor Major park	1.21	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Nature Study	Center	1 per county	Regional, multi- community, and community parks	--	Interpretive center building Parking	--	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Regional, multi- community, and community parks	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
Pleasure Driving	Route	-- cc	Scenic roadways recreation corridor	--	Route markers	--	--
Ski-touring	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Regional, multi- community, and community parks	0.97	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Rolling topography
Snowmobiling	Trail	0.11	Private lands (leased for public use)	1.45	Backup lands, including resource amenities and open lands	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Suitable topography (8 percent slope average maximum) and soils

OBJECTIVE NO. 5

To provide access to rivers and major lakes to afford County residents adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities consistent with safe and enjoyable inland lake and river use and the maintenance of good water quality.

PRINCIPLE

The major lakes and streams of the County accommodate participation in such water-based recreation activities as canoeing, fishing, ice fishing, motorboating, sailing, and water-skiing, which may involve unique forms of physical exercise or simply provide opportunities for rest and relaxation in a particularly attractive natural setting. Participation in water-based recreation activities requires access to major lakes and streams. Such access should be available to the general public.

STANDARDS

1. Access sites available for use by the general public on streams and major lakes, that is, lakes of 50 acres or larger, should be provided in accordance with the requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Sections NR 1.90 and NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
2. Access sites providing parking should be provided on major streams throughout the County. The maximum interval between access points on major canoeable streams^{dd} should be 10 miles.

OBJECTIVE NO. 6

To maintain the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity^{ee} of the County by preserving lands having important natural resources.

PRINCIPLE

Ecological balance and natural beauty within the County are primary determinants of the ability to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain the social and economic well-being of the County. Preservation of the most significant aspects of the natural resource base contributes to the maintenance of the biodiversity, natural beauty, and economic well-being of the County.

A. PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PRINCIPLE

The primary environmental corridors are a composite of the best individual elements of the natural resource base including surface water and streams and their associated floodlands and shorelands, woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, areas of groundwater discharge and recharge, organic soils, rugged terrain and high relief topography, and significant geological formations and physiographic features. By protecting these elements of the natural resource base, flood damage can be reduced, soil erosion abated, water supplies protected, air cleansed, biological diversity preserved, and continued opportunities provided for scientific, educational, and recreational pursuits.

STANDARD

1. All remaining undeveloped lands in designated primary environmental corridors in the County should be preserved in natural, open uses.

B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES

PRINCIPLE

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites contain rare, threatened, and endangered animal and plant species which are important components of the biodiversity of the Region. Maintenance of this biodiversity requires the preservation of the habitats concerned.

STANDARDS

1. All natural areas of Statewide or greater significance (NA-1) should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.
2. All natural areas of Countywide or regional significance (NA-2) and natural areas of local significance (NA-3) lying within primary environmental corridors or containing Federal or State-designated rare, threatened, or endangered animal or plant species habitat should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.
3. All critical species habitat sites within primary environmental corridors should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.

C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PRINCIPLE

Prime agricultural lands, in addition to providing food and fiber, can supply significant wildlife habitat, contribute to maintaining an ecological balance between plants and animals, offer locations close to urban centers for the production of certain food commodities which may require nearby population concentrations for an efficient production-distribution relationship, provide opportunities for agricultural and agriculture-related employment, provide open spaces which give form and structure to urban development, and serve to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of Washington County.

STANDARDS

1. Prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.
2. Agricultural lands surrounding adjacent high-value scientific, educational, or recreational resources should be considered for preservation to provide a buffer between such resources and urban development.

OBJECTIVE NO. 7

To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs at the lowest possible cost.

PRINCIPLE

The total resources of the County are limited; any undue investment in park and open space lands must occur at the expense of other public investment.

STANDARD

The sum total of all expenditures required to meet park demands and open space needs should be minimized.

Footnotes

^aIn urban areas, facilities for nonresource-oriented recreational activities are commonly located in community or neighborhood school sites. Such facilities often provide a substitute for intensive recreational facilities within parks; however, school sites generally do not contain areas for passive recreational use.

^bThe identification of a maximum service radius for each park type is intended to assure that each resident of the County has ready access to the variety of outdoor recreation facilities commonly located in parks, including space and facilities for both active and passive outdoor recreational use.

^cThe identification of a maximum service radius for each school site is intended to assure that each urban resident has ready access to the types of active intensive nonresource-oriented facilities commonly located in school recreation areas.

^dFor major and multi-community parks, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total resident population of the County. For community and neighborhood sites, which generally provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities primarily in urban areas, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the County residing in urban areas.

^eUrban areas contain a closely spaced network of minor streets which include concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, or institutional land uses; have a minimum area of 160 acres; and a minimum population of 500 persons. Such areas usually are incorporated and are served by sanitary-sewerage systems. Urban areas have been grouped into the following density classes in the regional land use plan: low-density urban areas or areas with 0.70 to 2.29 dwelling units per net residential acre, medium-density urban areas or areas with 2.30 to 6.99 dwelling units per net residential acre, and high-density urban areas or areas with 7.00 to 17.99 dwelling units per net residential acre.

^fFor public school sites, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the County residing in urban areas.

^gMajor parks are defined as large outdoor recreation sites with a multi-county service area. Such sites rely heavily for their recreational value and character on natural resource amenities and provide opportunities for participation in a wide variety of resource-oriented outdoor recreation pursuits.

- ^aA passive activity area is defined as an area within an outdoor recreation site which provides an opportunity for such less athletic recreational pursuits as pleasure walking, rest and relaxation, and informal picnicking. Such areas generally consist of a landscaped area with mowed lawn, shade trees, and benches.
- ^bMulti-community parks are defined as intermediate size sites with a countywide or multi-community service area. Like major park sites, such sites rely for their recreational value and character on natural resource amenities. Multi-community parks, however, usually provide a smaller variety of recreational facilities and have smaller areas devoted to any given activity.
- ^cIn rural areas of the County, each resident should reside within 10 miles of a major or multi-community park. Within urban areas, each resident should reside within four miles of a major or multi-community park.
- ^dCommunity parks and school sites are defined as intermediate size sites with a multi-neighborhood service area. The location of such sites relies more on easy accessibility for community residents than on natural resource amenities.
- ^eIn urban areas the need for a community park is met by the presence of a major or multi-community park. Thus, within urban areas having a population of 7,500 or more, each resident should be within two miles of a community, multi-community, or a major park.
- ^fThe service radius of school outdoor recreation sites is governed primarily by the service radius, listed under Objective 2, of the outdoor recreational facilities provided at the school site. Because school sites generally do not provide areas for passive recreational use, school sites generally do not fulfill the need for community and neighborhood parks.
- ^gNeighborhood park and school sites are defined as small sites which have a neighborhood as the service area. Such sites usually provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities and are generally provided only in urban areas. Land and facilities to fulfill the requirement for a neighborhood park should most desirably be provided through a joint community-school district venture. Using the neighborhood park standard of 1.7 acres per thousand residents and the school standard of 1.6 acres per thousand residents, a total of 3.3 acres per thousand residents or approximately 21 acres of recreation lands in a typical medium-density neighborhood would be provided. These acreage standards relate to lands required to provide for recreation facilities typically located in a neighborhood park and are exclusive of the school building site and associated parking area and any undevelopable areas which may be incorporated into the design of the park site, such as drainageways and areas of poor soils.
- ^hThe maximum service radius of neighborhood parks is governed primarily by the population density in the vicinity of the park. In high-density urban areas, each urban resident should reside within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park; in medium-density urban areas, each resident should reside within 0.75 mile of a neighborhood park; and in low-density urban areas, each resident should reside within one mile of a neighborhood park. It should be noted that the requirement for a neighborhood park also is met by a higher-order park within the neighborhood park service radius. It should further be noted that in the application of the service radius criterion for neighborhood sites, only parks five acres or greater in area should be considered as satisfying the maximum service radius requirement. Such park sites generally provide areas which offer space for passive recreational uses in addition to facilities which provide opportunities for active recreational uses.
- ⁱA recreation corridor is defined as a publicly owned continuous linear expanse of land which is located within an area of natural, cultural, or historical interest providing facilities for participation in such trail-oriented recreational activities as biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and ski-touring.
- ^jFacilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities generally serve urban areas. The minimum per capita requirements for facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, therefore, apply to the total resident population in each urban area of the County.
- ^kFor each facility for intensive nonresource-oriented activity, the service radius indicates the maximum distance a participant should have to travel from his or her residence to participate in the activity.
- ^lEach urban area having a population of 2,500 or greater should have at least one baseball diamond.
- ^mSupport facilities such as nighttime lighting, concessions, and bleachers generally should not be provided in neighborhood parks. These sites typically do not contain sufficient acreage to allow an adequate buffer between such support facilities and surrounding residences.
- ⁿEach urban area should have at least one public ice-skating rink.
- ^oEach urban area having a population of 7,500 or greater should have one public swimming pool or beach.
- ^pThe minimum per capita requirements for facilities for intensive resource-oriented activities apply to the total resident population of the County.
- ^qParticipants in intensive resource-oriented recreational activities travel relatively long distances from their home. The service radius indicates the maximum distance a participant in the respective resource-oriented activity should have to travel from his or her residence to participate in the activity.
- ^rThe allocation of the 6.35 picnic tables per thousand residents to publicly owned sites is as follows: 3.80 tables per thousand residents of the County to be located in major and multi-community parks to meet the resource-oriented picnicking needs of County residents and 2.55 tables per thousand residents of each urban area in the County to be located in community and neighborhood parks to meet local picnicking needs.
- ^sA picnic area is commonly provided adjacent to a swimming beach as a support facility. Thus, the total amount of acreage required for support facilities must be determined on a site-by-site basis.
- ^{aa}The minimum per capita requirements for trails apply to the total resident population of the County.
- ^{bb}Bike routes are located on existing public roadways; therefore, no requirement is indicated.
- ^{cc}Pleasure-driving routes are located on existing public roadways; therefore, no requirement is indicated. A recreation corridor may, however, provide a uniquely suitable area for the development of a scenic drive.
- ^{dd}Major canoeable streams are defined as those streams which have a minimum width of 50 feet over a distance of at least 10 miles.
- ^{ee}Biodiversity refers to the number and abundance of animal and plant species, their genetic composition and variability, and the ecological connection between and among species.
- Source: SEWRPC.