City Council Goals for 2020 – Parks

Dan Glynn, Director of Parks & Recreation

1. Identify and designate parkland on all undeveloped land within City Borders and 1 mile beyond City Borders (T. Majewski)

This is something that can be looked at in 2021 and possibly incorporated into the park development guidelines. It will take some time to research and look at potential sites in person. I believe we are starting to head down the path of incorporating more resource protection with our parks. This strategy is only possible if we are able to grow Racetrack Park for more active use that has historically taken place at neighborhood parks in Stoughton.

We emphasized that we wanted a minimum of a 50-foot-wide trail corridor connecting the 51 West parks. The 50-foot-wide corridor minimum was set to provide wildlife movement, based on a DNR recommendation, while giving trail users a better experience.

Protecting natural resources in the Stoughton planning area is also one of the overall goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The objectives outlined in the plan to meet this goal are:

a. Preserve streams, drainageways, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, steep slopes, woodland areas, and other natural features.

b. Protect surface water and ground water quality.

c. For proposed new development, consider opportunities to expand or create corridors for existing (or restoration of) upland habitat such prairies, oak savannas, woodlands, etc.

d. Prevent future problems associated with developing land too close to natural areas, drainageways, and floodplains.

e. Cooperate with other units of government on resources under shared authority.

I will use this as guidance to identify future parkland unless told differently.

2. Increase Parkland Dedication required acreage (T. Majewski)

I am currently working with the City Attorney and the consultant from Baker Tilly on this as part of the park impact fee and fee in lieu of study. It may be possible to increase the current dedication requirement if we use the open space and conservancy acreage to determine our level of service. Please see the attached spreadsheet comparing level of services and the impact to the dedication amount for recent developments.

3. Promote Stoughton as a destination for cyclists. Goal is to attract cyclists to come through Stoughton. (Cyclists seek out bike friendly places when planning their routes).

For example:

a. Encourage a dedicated "parking lot" in downtown with bike racks

This would be under the direction of Public Works or Planning. I have shared the City of Madison bike rack standards with Director Hebert and he purchased bike racks in 2020 for City Hall. We are moving forward with the bike rack initiative and they seemed to be well used at Lowell Park.

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b. Include an air fill station, cycling tools (Vilas County is one place that offers this) I'll bet Wisconsin BikeFed has resources.

I have seen these and they cost roughly $1700 plus the cost of a concrete pad. It would make sense to have on the Virgin Lake Trail and the River Trail possibly by the pedestrian bridge.

c. Way finding signs for available public restrooms (will rotary park restroom be open every day)?? (L. Reeves)

Wayfinding signs on public streets would be under direction of Public Works. However, I do have wayfinding sign standards that the County wants incorporated on pedestrian trails. It is scheduled to pave the River Trail in 2023 in the CIP and we could build in wayfinding signs into the budget. There is wayfinding signage incorporated into the RDA trail budget that can direct people to Rotary Park and the restrooms. The restrooms will have electronic locks that are set to a timer so that they can be open every day.

I came across this self-assessment tool - https://bikeleague.org/bfa/quick-assessment/community. Many of the areas that need to be addressed need to come out of different departments. For example, complete street design or local ordinances promoting safety. One of the things that our department can do is try to develop a volunteer committee to promote biking in the Stoughton area. Many of the members on the Rivers & Trails Task Force bike, so it would be a good starting place to see if there is interest. We do have an up-to-date bicycle map that can be found on our website.

4. Park Development Guidance Document (R. Hirsch)

A draft of the park development guidance section of the park development guidelines has been completed and will be reviewed at the October Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting. The park development guidelines document is something that I work on when I have slack in my schedule.

5. Path to Settlers Point (R. Hirsch)

The Settler's Point trail is in the CIP for 2023. I have had talks conversations with Darren Marsh from Dane County Parks and he will work to get the fence moved when we are ready to put the trail in.

6. Approval of the Whitewater Park and Dam Removal (R. Hirsch).

We are working towards addressing the concerns that we are hearing from the public regarding the water level impacts. We have been coordinating with Dane County regarding this. The engineers are also working on a video that will address the hydraulics and water level impacts from the Stoughton dam upstream to Lake Kegonsa.

We will be having a debriefing meeting with the US DOT this fall regarding our BUILD grant application. They funded two similar projects this year, so I am hopeful that we can refine our application for 2021 and be successful. Steve Steinhoff from CARPC plans on attending the debriefing meeting with myself.

Level of Service Comparison

Current Level of Service - Active Use Parks Only

Park Classification	**Acreage**
Mini Park	2.47
Neighborhood Park	66.43
Community Park	61.76
Total Active Use Land	130.66
2020 Stoughton Population (Source = CORP)	13,130
Acres per 1,000 People	9.95

Current Level of Service - Active Use Parks, Special-Use Parks, Conservancy, Open Space, and Natural Areas

Park Classification	**Acreage**
Mini Park	2.47
Neighborhood Park	66.43
Community Park	61.76
Special-Use Park	2.44
Conservancy and Natural Areas	153.60
Total Land	286.70
2020 Stoughton Population (Source = CORP)	13,130
Acres per 1,000 People	21.84
NRPA Standard for Active Use Lane per 1,000 People	10.50

Park System Acreage

Mini Parks	**Acres**
Criddle	0.22
Division Street	0.76
Riverside	1.36
Roby/Page	0.13
Subtotal	2.47

Neighborhood Parks	**Acres**
Bjoin	7.23
Dunkirk	1.31
East Side	1.95
Lowell Street	14.96
Nordic Ridge	6.62
Norse	8.00
Schefelker	10.41
Veteran's	3.93
Virgin Lake	6.96
Westview Ridge	5.06
Subtotal	66.43

Community Parks	**Acres**
Mandt	33.20
Racetrack	28.56
Subtotal	61.76

Total Active Use Park Acreage	130.66

Special Use Parks	**Acres**
Heggestad	1.29
Rotary	0.71
Victorian Garden	0.44
Subtotal	2.44

Conservancy/Natural Areas	**Acres**
Amundson Park	52.55
Nottingham Park	1.10
Roby/Page Conservancy	5.66
Settler's Point Parkland	41.65
Virgin Lake Natural Area	10.50
Yahara River Natural Area	42.14
Subtotal	153.60

Total Special Use & Conservancy Acreage	156.04

Total Park, Special Use, & Conservancy Acreage	286.70

Fee In Lieu of Land Dedication

Baker Tilly Study

Dwelling Type	Persons per Household (Census Data)
Single Family	2.78
Multi Family	1.93
Group Quarters	1.00

Level of Service	Square Feet/Person	Acres/Person
10.5 acres/1000 People (NRPA Standard, Baker Tilly Rec.)	457.38	0.0105
9.95 acres/1000 People (Current Active Use Parkland LOS)	433.422	0.00995
21.84 acres/1000 People (Current All Parkland LOS & Open Space LOS)	951.3504	0.02184

Level of Service	Square Feet/Unit	Acres/Unit
Current	1468.00	0.033700643
10.5/1000 People (NRPA Standard, Baker Tilly Rec.)		
Single Family	1271.5164	0.02919
Multi Family	882.7434	0.020265
Group Quarters	457.38	0.0105
9.95 acres/1000 People (Current Active Use Parkland LOS)		
Single Family	1204.91316	0.027661
Multi Family	836.50446	0.0192035
Group Quarters	951.3504	0.00995
21.84 acres/1000 People (Current All Parkland LOS & Open Space LOS)		
Single Family	2644.754112	0.0607152
Multi Family	1836.106272	0.0421512
Group Quarters	951.3504	0.02184

51 West Development Example

Housing Breakdown

Single Family Units	12
Multi Family Units	350
Group Quarter Units	0

Park Dedication Comparison	Square Feet	Acres
Current Requirement	531416	12.19963269
10.5 acres/1000 People (NRPA Standard, Baker Tilly Rec.)		
Single Family Units	15258.1968	0.35028
Multi Family Units	308960.19	7.09275
Group Quarter Units	0	0
Total	324218.3868	7.44303
9.95 acres/1000 People (Current Active Use Parkland LOS)		
Single Family Units	14458.95792	0.331932
Multi Family Units	292776.561	6.721225
Group Quarter Units	0	0
Total	307235.5189	7.053157
21.84 acres/1000 People (Current All Parkland & Open Space LOS)		
Single Family Units	31737.04934	0.7285824
Multi Family Units	642637.1952	14.75292
Group Quarter Units	0	0
Total	674374.2445	15.4815024

KPW Development Example

Housing Breakdown

Single Family Units	152	(Includes PD Units)
Multi Family Units	43	
Group Quarter Units	100	(Includes Senior Living)

Park Dedication Comparison	Square Feet	Acres
Current Requirement	433060	9.941689624
10.5 acres/1000 People (NRPA Standard, Baker Tilly Rec.)		
Single Family Units	193270.4928	4.43688
Multi Family Units	37957.9662	0.871395
Group Quarter Units	45738	1.05
Total	276966.459	6.358275
9.95 acres/1000 People (Current Active Use Parkland LOS)		
Single Family Units	183146.8003	4.204472
Multi Family Units	35969.69178	0.8257505
Group Quarter Units	95135.04	0.995
Total	314251.5321	6.0252225
21.84 acres/1000 People (Current All Parkland & Open Space LOS)		
Single Family Units	402002.625	9.2287104
Multi Family Units	78952.5697	1.8125016
Group Quarter Units	95135.04	2.184
Total	576090.2347	13.225212

Nordic Ridge Development

Housing Breakdown

Single Family Units	164
Multi Family Units	97
Group Quarter Units	0

Park Dedication Comparison	Square Feet	Acres
Current Requirement	383148	8.795867769
10.5 acres/1000 People (NRPA Standard, Baker Tilly Rec.)		
Single Family Units	208528.6896	4.78716
Multi Family Units	85626.1098	1.965705
Group Quarter Units	0	0
Total	294154.7994	6.752865
9.95 acres/1000 People (Current Active Use Parkland LOS)		
Single Family Units	197605.7582	4.536404
Multi Family Units	81140.93262	1.8627395
Group Quarter Units	0	0
Total	278746.6909	6.3991435
21.84 acres/1000 People (Current All Parkland & Open Space LOS)		
Single Family Units	433739.6744	9.9572928
Multi Family Units	178102.3084	0
Group Quarter Units	0	0
Total	611841.9828	9.9572928