

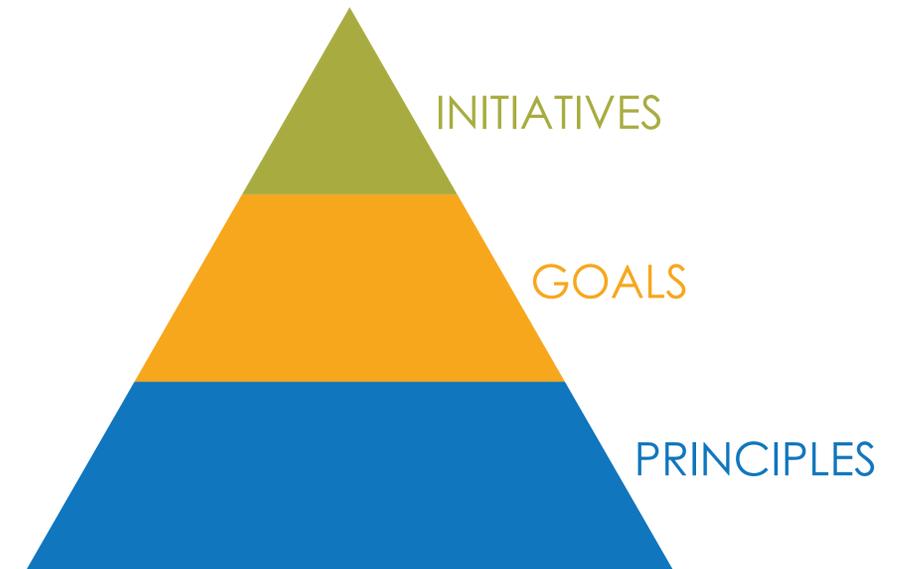
Parks + Recreation System Vision & Principles



VISION STATEMENT: "Provide accessible, flexible, and connected quality parks, facilities, and experiences for all."

Principles

The plan principles support the vision. They unify the park and recreation system, across all physical and program components, through all themes and initiatives. The principles for Winona's Park and Recreation Systems Plan are: Quality, Safety/Accessibility, Flexibility and Natural Resources. These principles are the underlying framework to the entire system, and are a resource upon which to reflect as decisions are made, success is measured, and change is considered.



Quality

Quality investments are a core value of the Winona community. Programs shall be well-organized and relevant with high-quality leadership. Similarly, physical improvements to parks, trails and natural areas shall be:

- well designed, according to best practices,
- high-quality materials and built to last,
- planned to succeed long-term, such that design, implementation and maintenance are part of the plan.

Safety / Accessibility

Winona is an inclusive community that looks out for its most vulnerable members. The parks and recreation system shall be welcoming to all, complying with ADA standards and striving to exceed those standards where practicable.

Park and recreation settings will balance the desire for adventure in the community's wild and scenic terrain with public safety. Unsafe areas shall be closed to the public, unless and until they can be stabilized or redesigned.

Flexibility

The Winona community values year-round activity within the park and recreation system. The community is resourceful and collaborative. As such, amenities within parks and open spaces shall be considered for their viability year-round and for their compatibility with other uses. Flexibility within the system may include everything from staggered scheduling to ensure programming needs are met until system expansion is warranted, to ensuring warm season trails are designed pragmatically allowing for reasonable, enjoyable, and safe winter use.

Natural Resources

Winona's iconic setting along the Mississippi River and within rolling bluff lands is a character defining resource. As the vision statement illustrates, actions to protect and enhance those critical natural resources add real and perceived value to the community. Public parks and open spaces shall embrace the resources unique to Winona ensuring their beauty is appreciated in present day and available for future generations.

"ENHANCING LIVES THROUGH PARKS, EXPERIENCES, AND PLAY."

Winona Parks Department Mission Statement

Parks + Recreation System Goals

Goal 1: Provide a connected, accessible and recognizable network of park and recreation facilities that welcomes all ages and abilities.

1.1 Implement components from the Complete Streets Policy & Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan.

1.2 Develop additional infrastructure to safely connect the community to the Park System.

1.3 Identify premier destinations within the community and overhaul them for accessibility and inclusiveness.

1.3.1 Select a premier waterfront destination (Levee Park) to reinforce Winona's waterfront image and program and market it heavily.

1.3.2 Select an iconic inland destination within Winona (Holzinger Lodge and Sugarloaf) improve, program and market it heavily.

1.4 Support trail accessibility through the identification of easily accessible routes that do not have steep slopes, gaps, or challenging transitions.

1.4.1 Nature Trail

1.4.2 Trout Stream Platform

1.5 Enhance user experiences and placemaking (i.e. benches, lighting, garbage cans, kiosks/signage, etc.) through the addition of user amenities that incorporate art and education.

1.6 Evaluate need for additional downtown park space and maintaining downtown parks and streetscapes.

1.7 Create comprehensive park and recreation system sign package, and site amenities and furnishings, and prepare to implement as park improvements are made.

1.8 Collaborate with other government agencies.

Comments on Goal 1:

Goal 2: Follow Government Environmental Regulations while being mindful of best practices.

2.1 Identify significant impacted waterfronts and improve water and beach quality.

2.2 Identify significant impacted slopes and stabilize or reroute access.

2.3 Incorporate environmental best practices, such as rain gardens, bio-swales, permeable pavers, and native plantings in park and facility design.

2.4 Implement strategies from Waterfowl Management Plan.

2.5 Reduce impervious surfaces and explore turf conversion to native plantings in the design of parks and facilities.

2.6 Preserve and enhance natural buffers and setbacks around wetlands, rivers, ponds, reservoirs, and lakes on appropriate public lands and parks.

2.7 Improve water conservation and energy efficiency of facilities when renovating or constructing new.

2.8 Raise public awareness of the benefits and necessity of natural resources, and the City's efforts through social media, interpretation, and education programming.

2.9 Create a sustainable trail system based on the MN DNR Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines.

2.10 Continue to support Healthy Lake Winona initiative.

2.11 Provide additional education programming opportunities and informational signage with the System.

2.12 Collaborate with other government agencies.

2.13 Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and conservation efforts.

Comments on Goal 2:

Parks + Recreation System Goals

Goal 3: Establish, collaborate, and expand partnerships with state and federal agencies, local associations, non-profits, businesses, and individuals to accomplish parks and recreation vision.

- 3.1 Collaborate with other agencies to assess natural resource areas for recreational and conservation use.
- 3.2 Facilitate or support the outdoor recreation and user groups to provide input and contribute to park and recreation goals.
- 3.3 Add a Volunteer Coordinator to the Park and Recreation Department to empower volunteers through an intentional, consistent effort to recruit, coordinate and recognize their efforts, volunteers should be utilized for park and trail maintenance, vigilance, and upkeep.
- 3.4 Collaborate with non-profits and other organizations to create and produce special events and programs.

Comments on Goal 3:

Goal 4: Communicate clearly with the community, visitors and system partners

- 4.1 Overhaul the Park and Recreation website.
- 4.2 Create comprehensive park and recreation system sign package, and prepare to implement as park improvements are made.
- 4.3 Improve maps and wayfinding to identify loops, distances, and destinations.
- 4.4 Collaborate and expand on promotion of Winona parks and programming for tourism, quality of life and economic development.
- 4.5 Develop and create a marketing plan for parks and recreation.
- 4.6 Explore a consolidated information source for all programming opportunities within the community (and region).
- 4.7 Establish a process for public engagement in the parks and recreation system

Comments on Goal 4:

Parks + Recreation System Goals

Goal 5: Improve the quality of experiences within the parks and recreation system as facilities are scheduled for improvement.

- 5.1 Prepare mini master plans for parks before new facilities are added or when significant renovations of existing facilities are planned, where applicable.
- 5.2 Incorporate permanent restrooms at prominent, highly-used parks and facilities. In other locations use fencing and screening to improve aesthetics of portable restrooms at parks, where applicable.
- 5.3 Incorporate new playground equipment, resurfaced hard courts, and more (and more comfortable) park benches and picnic tables, where applicable.
- 5.4 Provide more social and flexible spaces for all ages throughout the system, where applicable.
- 5.5 Evaluate parks for social interaction opportunities and the potential for consolidation to create flexible multi-use spaces, where applicable.
- 5.6 Evaluate current amenities and incorporate elements to promote year-round use, where applicable.
- 5.7 Enhance user experiences and placemaking (i.e. benches, lighting, garbage cans, kiosks/signage, etc.) through the addition of user amenities that incorporate art and education.
- 5.8 Encourage participation by neighborhoods, community groups, and local artists in the planning for and development of park and recreation facilities.
- 5.9 Incorporate public art within the system.
- 5.10 Identify locations for unique features or improvements to avoid a system of "cookie cutter" parks.

Comments on Goal 5:

Goal 6: Maintain and collect data about the park and recreation system to ensure assets are well managed and decisions well-informed.

- 6.1 Confirm and verify park boundaries and legal descriptions for each park to ensure park assets are documented and clear.
- 6.2 Allocate park improvements into a long-term capital improvement plan and use a maintenance and replacement schedule to keep parks facilities up to date.
- 6.3 Ensure equity across the park and recreation system by determining a system level of service (LoS) and budget, schedule and hire staff to support the LoS.
- 6.4 Work with other City departments to create a comprehensive maintenance plan and consolidate City maintenance services.
- 6.5 Review user agreement strategy and improve as warranted.
- 6.6 Identify data needed to make informed decisions and methods for collecting the data.
- 6.7 Include engagement options or a toolbox for engagement strategies (within this plan).
- 6.8 Support staff in the development and implementation of the engagement plan.
- 6.9 Develop data collection of participation and economic impact on park facilities and amenities.

Comments on Goal 6:

Parks + Recreation System Goals

Goal 7: Identify and manage sustainable funding sources, partnerships and efficiencies.

7.1 Update the park dedication policy to ensure land is suitable for recreation or fee is adequate.

Comments on Goal 7:

7.2 Pursue all funding opportunities.

7.3 Explore gift-giving policy and communicate to entities in Goal 4.

7.3.1 Encourage property owners interested in donating or granting conservation easements on their land.

7.3.2 Support the creation of a non-profit parks and recreation foundation, or create an alliance with existing group(s) to this end.

7.3.3 Explore the creation of a non-profit to help facilitate future arts programming.

7.4 Utilize the parks assets to capitalize on opportunities to generate revenue.

7.5 Research and gather data on similar communities and impact related to tax.

Goal 8: Ensure a quality series of programs that are available to all.

8.1 Continue to provide and increase scholarship opportunities and funds.

Comments on Goal 8:

8.2 Establish a formal review and evaluation process for all programming.

8.3 Evaluate agreements with other agencies to ensure a balanced benefit.

8.4 Renew and build relationships with existing providers.

8.5 Allocate programming assistance funds into an operating budget.

8.6 Annually assess program pricing structure.