County Board Report



DATE: March 19, 2024

FROM: Adam Breest, Parks Director

AGENDA ITEM: 358-032024 Parks Department Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation

Plan 2024-2028

General Description:

The Winnebago County Parks Department has been working with a consultant, engaging the public, and drafting the 2024-2028 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan since June of 2023. The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a plan that allows the department to plan for the next 5 years of improvements in the park system.

Action Requested:

Motion to approve the resolution titled Winnebago County Parks Department 2024-2028 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Procedural Steps:

Parks Committee Meeting Date: 2/13/24

Action Taken Vote: 3-0

Background:

Every 5 years the Parks Department drafts an update to our 5-year comprehensive outdoor recreation Plan. The plan is utilized as a guide for capital improvement projects, long term maintenance needs, property acquisition, and future park amenities needs. The Parks Department worked with MSA Professional Services to host several public meetings, host 2 public surveys, setup a workshop with the Parks Committee, and engage the public. The process began in June of 2023 and concluded in December of 2023.

The comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is included within the board packet. As a part of the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, the Parks Department also worked with MSA Professional Services to create a comprehensive master plan for the Winnebago County Community Park.

Due to the length of the full report, County Board Supervisors can pick up a hard copy at the Clerks office upon request. Otherwise, a link to the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is included below.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Link:

https://www.winnebagocountywi.gov/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/Winnebago%20County%20Parks%20CORP_24-28.pdf

Policy Discussion:

To qualify for many Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grants we need to have an updated 5-year comprehensive outdoor recreation plan on file and adopted by the County Board. In just the last 3 years we have received funding in the amount of \$1,595,212 for the Grundman Boat Landing and Waukau Dam projects. This plan is important to ensure that projects like these can happen in the future. The Butte des Morts Boat Landing Improvement Project scheduled for 2025-2026 is an example of another project that is eligible for substantial state funding. The comprehensive outdoor Recreation plan is also meant to engage the public to see what their interests are within the park system.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation:

Emily Soderberg from MSA Professional Services was in attendance at the committee. Ms. Soderberg went over the 2024-2028 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in detail. She explained the various components such as the capital recommendations, public engagement process, and all the work that went into creating the Comprehensive Plan and the Community Park Master Plan. The committee asked a few questions. Rachael Dowling made a motion, seconded by Jim Ponzer, to recommend to the County Board to approve the Winnebago County Parks Department 2024-2028 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Motion carried 3-0. (Binder absent, Bellville virtual)

Attachments:

None