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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.................................................................3

PARK HISTORY.............................................................3

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS,
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ...........................................4

PARKS AND RECREATION AREA CLASSIFICATIONS ....6

EXISTING RECREATION AREAS ......................................8

ACTION PLAN...............................................................16
INTRODUCTION

The city of Hudson, Wisconsin is located in southwestern St. Croix County approximately 13 miles east of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Hudson is part of the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and, as of January 1, 2015, had an estimated population of 13,400 according to the Wisconsin Department of Administration. From 2010 Census (12,719) through 2014, the city’s population grew by 681.

Hudson is located at the Wisconsin/Minnesota border on the east bank of the St. Croix River, which is a national scenic river and outstanding water resource. The unique natural scenery of the St. Croix River and the city’s small town character provides an aesthetic appeal that attracts not only residents, but visitors as well.

Parks offer people a sense of place and the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while allowing them to find solitude or spend time interacting with the natural environment, their families, and other members of the community. Recreation is an essential part of life and is often neglected due to busy lifestyles. It is important that residents are given adequate recreational opportunities and programs that take into account a wide range of needs and wants. These needs cover the spectrum of active recreation like softball and biking and passive recreation such as bird watching, photography, and picnicking.

The purpose of planning for outdoor recreation is to identify existing facilities and determine if potential deficiencies exist in recreation opportunities and programs, and to offer realistic proposals for satisfying them. The planning considers location of recreation areas, site planning for design of particular facilities, provisions of recreation programs, financing, maintenance, and management. The outdoor recreation plan is an effort to analyze present recreation needs for the city of Hudson and to plan for future needs. Submission of this plan to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) establishes eligibility for a variety of Federal and State aids to purchase land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreational lands. This plan will be an element of the city of Hudson's Comprehensive Plan.

This Outdoor Recreation Plan was prepared pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program. This section of the state statute serves to “promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain, and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreation facilities and services.”

PARK HISTORY

Christian J. Birkmose, a native of Denmark, arrived in Hudson in 1880 and became one of Hudson’s most prominent merchants. In 1887, he was appointed to the Park Commission and served until his death in 1935. Often referred to as “The Father of Hudson’s Park System,” Christian Birkmose was the first inductee of the Hudson Hall of Fame. Three parks, Birkmose, Prospect and Lakefront, are an important part of Hudson’s history and park system as a whole and serve as the foundation for outdoor recreation within Hudson.

The oldest of Hudson’s parks is Prospect Park, designated in 1885, on land adjacent to the former Memorial Hospital that was purchased from General J. M. Knapp. It was named Prospect Park because of the grand perspective of Hudson and the surrounding river valley. At one point there was a dance pavilion and bandstand, but after a fire destroyed the pavilion, the bandstand became obsolete and was demolished. In 1914, John A. Lee was hired to construct picnic shelters that still exist. Prospect
Park also was home to the city’s first water reservoir, an underground facility that still exists but is secured from public access.

In the late 1910s people tired of the eyesore created by abandoned lumber mills along the shores of the St. Croix River. Citizens wanted beautification, and in 1920 the city bought the lakefront property starting on Walnut Street, north to Myrtle Street from Medora Day and her heirs. Next, the family of Hans J. Anderson donated $2,000 to the Park Board for a memorial in Lakefront Park. Two years later, a bathhouse was built. Subsequently on September 13, 1923, lakefront property south of Walnut Street was acquired from Central and Local Lumber Companies.

Additional improvements were made to Lakefront Park during the 1930s. The Hudson Women’s Club began a beautification project by planting shrubbery and placing a historical marker in Lakefront Park that commemorated French exploration in the St. Croix Valley. In 1938, the city dedicated a band shell, new picnic grounds, and restroom facilities attached to the old waterworks building near the present intersection of First and Buckeye Streets. In 1939 a 370-foot bathing pier was added.

At the time Lakefront Park was initiated, Christian Birkmose purchased land, which later became Birkmose Park, from Anita North. The property presented a panoramic view of the St. Croix River and was the site of Native American burial mounds. In 1923 Birkmose presented the land to the city of Hudson under the condition that fire be prohibited.

Over the past century, Birkmose, Lakefront, and Prospect Parks have served as the foundation of the city of Hudson parks system.

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

VISION STATEMENT

The city of Hudson is a network of parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities that will provide safe and diverse activities that sustain its unique character and natural beauty of the Hudson community and the St. Croix River valley.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the city of Hudson Parks Department is to enhance the quality of life in our community by providing the best possible parks, recreational facilities, open natural spaces and programs for its citizens.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1. Acquisition: To establish a program fund to purchase land for the expansion of the city of Hudson parks system.

1a. To obtain, when opportunities arise, site for future parks, playgrounds, etc.

1b. To utilize local, state, federal, private foundation or other forms of financial assistance when possible to acquire desired land for future park development.

Goal 2. Development: To provide adequate, quality, and varied recreational facilities and opportunities to meet the needs of all residents of our community.

2a. To provide passive and active parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of all age groups.
2b. To provide opportunities for area residents and visitors to enjoy the community's parks and recreation areas.

2c. To determine priorities of development within each city park.

2d. To provide access to the St. Croix River and Lake Mallalieu.

2e. To protect scenic values by implementing context-sensitive design with city parks – particularly Lakefront, Birkmose, and Prospect Parks, which are visible from the St. Croix River.

2f. To protect resource-based recreation areas within the community.

2g. To provide for the recreation needs of persons with disabilities.

2h. Encourage design that provides pedestrian, non-vehicular and vehicular connections to existing and future neighborhoods.

2i. To develop a design standard for restroom facilities.

**Goal 3. Maintenance:** Maintain parks in a high degree of excellence.

3a. To implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality, by reducing the use of fertilizer or weed control applications.

3b. To establish a maintenance program to assure the continual upkeep and replacement of recreation facilities and ancillary parking and restroom facilities.

3c. To establish a tree inventory, maintenance, and replacement program.

**Goal 4. Administration:** To cooperatively work through the Park Board, Park Department staff, other city departments and Hudson residents and businesses to provide an effective and efficient park system.

4a. To coordinate the city of Hudson park and recreation program with the programs of other levels of government and with private enterprise to ensure maximum public benefit.

4b. To maintain a five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), reviewed and amended each year, to project and prioritize maintenance and park facility improvement costs and to serve as a basis for annual budgeting of capital improvements.

4c. To establish a program to periodically survey residents and park users to assess the satisfaction level, desires and frequency of use of the parks and recreation facilities.

**Goal 5. Natural and Cultural Resources:** To provide a park system that preserves natural, historic, and cultural resources.

5a. To designate, preserve, and restore significant natural resource areas within the park system.

**Goal 6. Trail system:** To promote the development and maintenance of a community pedestrian and bicycling trail system within the city of Hudson.

6a. To encourage pedestrian and non-vehicular connections to parks to existing and future neighborhoods.

6b. To develop standards that will accommodate both pedestrian and bicycling activities including rest areas, disability access and the provision of bicycle racks.
PARKS AND RECREATION AREA CLASSIFICATIONS

The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides descriptions of the park types that exist in the Hudson area:

**Mini Park** – A 0.5 to 1.5 acre play lot or playground that provides space for supervised recreation designated for toddlers and young children and is usually located within a neighborhood or part of a larger park. Mini parks are generally located in areas separated from street traffic and have high visibility for optimum safety. Amenities generally offered include sand play areas, playground equipment, and other child-oriented features.

**Neighborhood Playground** – A two to 10 acre playground developed for active recreation, serving the 5-15 year age group.

- Public and private elementary schools:
  - E. P. Rock Elementary
  - Prairie Elementary
  - River Crest Elementary
  - St. Patrick School
  - Trinity Academy
  - Willow River Elementary

**Neighborhood Park** – A neighborhood park is defined as a five to 25 acre park that provides space, and recreation opportunities for the immediate neighborhood. It is often considered an extension of residents’ yards and serves as a commons area for a population of 2,000 to 5,000 people. Neighborhood parks are centrally located to facilitate pedestrian or other non-motorized access. Distance from the neighborhood will vary depending on development, zoning, and densities of adjacent neighborhoods. Amenities offered in neighborhood parks are sports facilities, picnic areas, swimming facilities, cultural activity areas and arts, and passive individual activities.

- Anderson Park
- Burton Field
- Coon’s Hill Park
- Vine Street Square
- Webster Park
- Williams Park

**Community Park** – A community park generally provides many of the same services of a neighborhood park, but for the entire city. Generally community parks are centrally located and adjoin or are immediately adjacent to a collector street that provides community-wide transportation access. Off-street parking will be calculated to satisfy public demand. Community parks will provide sports facilities, but emphasis is placed on passive cultural and community with recreational programming and organized activities. The community park could serve populations outside of the city as well depending on recreation programs offered.

- Birkmose Park
- Grandview Community Park
Lakefront Park
Prospect Park
Weitkamp Park

**Linear Park** – An area developed for recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, canoeing, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and pleasure driving. The classification of park or recreation facility may link components of a recreation system or community features.

Lakefront Park (north of the bathhouse to St. Croix Street)
Trail system from Vine Street to Grandview Drive (through Coon's Hill Park)

**Special-use Park** – Special-use parks are generally used as a revenue-generating project created to satisfy the demand for a particular activity or special event. Special use parks may also be used for sports combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource. The size of the park is determined by available land and facility and market demand for the special uses facilitated by such parks. Special uses include, but are not limited to: water parks, amphitheatres, farmers' markets, league or individual sports complexes, skateboard parks, inline hockey rinks, and recreation programs and classes.

Corky's Pier (Lake Mallalieu public boat access)
Meadows Park (two acres with picnic pavilion and three parking stalls and eight acres of natural state)
Orange Street access (non-motorized boat access to the St. Croix River)
Proehl's Point (non-motorized boat access to Lake Mallalieu)

**Conservancy** – Open spaces, greenways, conservation areas, wetlands, floodplains, etc.

Weitkamp Park (western part)

**School Park** – A combination of recreation and education, the school park allows for the expansion of recreational, social, and educational opportunities available to the community in an efficient way. Depending on size, a school park may serve several capacities, like neighborhood parks, youth athletic fields, and a site for recreation classes. The most important outcome is that both the school district and the park system benefit from the shared use of land and facilities.

School forests are at the High School and at Prairie Elementary/Middle School/Grandview Community Park
Nature area at River Crest Elementary School

**County Park** – A county park provides adequate park and recreation land to meet the needs of county residents. Often they consist of land that is specifically set aside for active and passive recreation activities, large festivities, special events, and individual patrons. The size of county parks varies primarily on what types of programs are exercised there. However, each park should be at least 100 acres, with the exception of those parks that serve a special use or are trail corridors. County parks should be sufficient enough to allow for the operation and maintenance of planned recreational facilities. The location of county parks should be able to accommodate high recreation potential and withstand intensive and extensive use. Programs provided for include camping, picnic areas, multi-recreational trails, play areas, swimming beaches, water and boat access, shelters, showers and restrooms, sports facilities, pet parks, and rock climbing.
Glen Hills Park
Homestead Park
Pine Lake Park
Troy Beach

State Forest – State forests are comprised of well-blocked areas of state owned land between 1,000 and 250,000 acres that are managed sustainably to benefit future generations by contributing to local and statewide economics and providing a healthy environment. Management of state forests is consistent with the ecological capacity of the forest and the long-term goal of maintaining a sustainable forest communities and ecosystems. State forests provide nature conservation opportunities, income to forest owners, supply raw materials, and public recreation.

Governor Knowles State Park, Grantsburg, Wis.

State Park – State parks provide space for outdoor education and recreation based on size, program, and location. State parks are designated to serve a large geographic area or regional populace up to a 100-mile radius. State parks must be large enough to serve a reasonable mix of outdoor recreational activities. Usually state parks are between 500 and 1,000 acres and provide the same recreational opportunities as county parks and state forests.

Willow River State Park, St. Croix County
Kinnickinnic State Park, Pierce County
Interstate Park, St. Croix Falls, Wis./Taylor Falls, Minn.

EXISTING RECREATION AREAS

The first step in developing a recreation planning program involves taking inventory of the community’s recreation facilities, including an estimation of publicly and privately owned properties developed or designated for public recreation use. It includes an analysis of the number and condition of existing facilities and of land development potential for parks within the community.

PUBLIC

Anderson Park

Anderson Park consists of two acres located between Mont Croix Drive and River Ridge Road in between the respective cul-de-sacs. This park includes playground area, basketball court, tennis/pickle ball court, and paved walkways.

Birkmose Park

Birkmose Park consists of 27 wooded acres located off of Coulee Road. There is a scenic bluff line overlook with a magnificent view of the St. Croix River and the Minnesota shore. Flower gardens, paved roads, Native American burial mounds, and parking spaces are also present.

Burton Field

Burton Field is a two-acre fenced grass playfield adjacent to Ninth Street and St. Croix Street with a baseball and softball field; open skating and hockey rinks in the winter, lighting, a warming house, restrooms, and play equipment.
Coon's Hill Park

Coon's Hill Park is 10 acres of undeveloped open space with a large hill (used for winter sledding) and a crushed rock parking area. Access is available via a walking path from Vine and Twelfth Streets, or by motor vehicle from Knollwood Drive.

Grandview Community Park

Grandview Community Park, named after the original Edward Boody farm site, Grandview Dairy Farm, is 53.5 acres with 14 acres developed jointly with Hudson School District for baseball and football with two lighted youth football fields. The city has also jointly developed a youth softball field with the Hudson Boosters. The park also features four lighted regulation adult softball/youth softball fields, concession stand/restroom building, two sand volleyball courts, picnic shelter, playground, and a paved and lighted parking lot.

Lakefront Park

Lakefront Park is a 20-acre park that is adjacent to the St. Croix River. It consists of a swimming beach, bathhouse, band shell, two restroom facilities, paved and lighted pathway along the river between Buckeye Street and St. Croix Street, a boat launch with lighted parking lot (fee charged), sailboat mooring area (with permit), shore fishing, playground, picnic area, and two sand volleyball courts. The park also includes the Walnut Street bridge that encompasses and connects a lighted walkway/roadway referred to as the Dike Road from the main park area to a beach area at the west end. These entities provide for fishing, smaller boats traveling north and south, a scenic walkway, access to the beach area, and a roadway for maintenance issues and emergency access situations.

Lakefront Park is classified as a city-wide park, but has some traits common to a park classified as regional. With Hudson's proximity to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metro area and Lakefront Park's location on a National and Scenic River System, the park has some criteria to be possibly defined as regional. However, parks classified as "regional" are generally 200 acres or more and under the jurisdiction of a park district, county, regional, or state government. A regional park also offers a specialized attraction such as a golf course, zoo, botanical gardens, etc. While water-based recreational activities bring people from large areas of Minnesota and Wisconsin to Lakefront Park, similar facilities are found in nearby communities along the river.

In 2008, Lakefront Park received landscaping and trail improvements from Wisconsin Street to Buckeye Street, including the development of new retaining walls to reduce the amount of flooding during spring flood events. The trail system north of the bathhouse was improved in 2009 with the clearing of invasive plant species and new landscaping.

Prospect Park

Prospect Park is a 35-acre park that overlooks the St. Croix River valley and the older neighborhoods of the city and consists of gardens, two picnic shelters (one with electricity and water), a restroom building, a playground, sand volleyball court, walking paths, and paved road and parking area. In 2008, the city of Hudson purchased seven acres of land including a paved surface parking lot. In late 2008 some of the newly acquired area had been graded and seeded for lawn.

Vine Street Square

Vine Street Square is a five-acre green space area adjacent to 10th Street and Vine Street. It consists of a slope used for sledding in the winter. The differing elevations and drainage runway make it difficult to develop any type of athletic playground.
Webster Park
Webster Park is a two-acre area located on Laurel Avenue. The park has a grass playfield with limited parking opportunities and is surrounded by residences and situated on a dead-end private road.

Weitkamp Park
Weitkamp Park is a 20-acre area in phase one of its development. The vision that guided the original design of the park was to create a place that provided residents and visitors with an opportunity to recreate within the context of western Wisconsin’s native landscape and promote healthy exercise, enhance sociability, and inspire respect for Hudson’s native and cultural heritage. Amenities include surfaced trails, parking, playground, and a sledding hill. Future plans include expansion of trails and roadways, picnic pavilions, and a large community pavilion.

Williams Park
Williams Park is a four-acre area with a playground; large sandbox; small picnic shelter with tables and grills; restrooms; gardens; and off-street parking. This park is located in a residential area and serves people in the immediate vicinity, as well as other community residents. Other facilities include picnic tables, a small restroom, volleyball court, grills, and flower gardens.

Woodland Addition
Woodland addition is a 3.8-acre undeveloped wooded area located on Maple Drive. Currently, there is no trail through it.

Corky’s Pier/Lake Mallalieu Boat Access
Corky’s Pier is a public access point for boat landing into Lake Mallalieu. It consists of a gravel surface launch area and limited parking.

Meadows Park
Meadows Park is a 10-acre area with a picnic pavilion with three parking stalls. Eight acres of the area is to be left in a natural state.

Orange Street Boat Access
The Orange Street Access located at Orange Street and 1st Street, is an unimproved landing point for non-motorized watercraft and has limited parking opportunities.

Proehl’s Point Boat Access
Proehl’s Point is approximately 0.125 acres on Proehl’s Trail. It allows small boat and canoe access to Lake Mallalieu.

E.P. Rock Elementary School
E.P. Rock is 10 acres located adjacent to 13th and Summer Streets and consists of Newton Field; lighted football field; baseball field, regulation track; playground; outdoor basketball and grass play areas.

Willow River Elementary School
Willow River Elementary is 1.5 acres located at 4th and St. Croix Streets. There is a playground and a small baseball field known as Cinder Lot.
Hudson High School
Hudson High School is a seven-acre area adjacent to Vine Street and Wisconsin Street with outdoor softball, soccer, and football fields and tennis courts.

School Forest/Nature Area – Hudson High School
The 10-acre school forest and nature area on Oak Street immediately north of the Hudson High School accommodates short hikes and nature study opportunities. This area is managed by Hudson Public School District.

Hudson Middle and Prairie Elementary Schools
Hudson Middle School and Prairie Elementary are a 40 acre area on Carmichael Road. Currently there is a large playground, outdoor track and soccer field, and grass playfields. In 2009, work was initiated to develop a school forest in cooperation with the city of Hudson.

River Crest Elementary School
The River Crest Elementary School is located on CTH F and Coulee Trail on the city’s south boundary. This 40-acre school facility has playgrounds, athletic fields, walking trails and a nature area.

PRIVATE

St. Patrick School
The St. Patrick School grounds are approximately 0.33 acres located at 4th and St. Croix Street. It is comprised of a small playground area and bituminous and grass play areas.

Trinity Academy
Located at 5th and St. Croix Streets this private school provides a fenced in playground area.

Royal Marine Boat Launch
The Royal Marine Boat Launch is a private/fee pay boat launch located just north of I-94 off of STH 35 south and is approximately four acres. The property facilitates access to the St. Croix River and consists of a paved parking lot and a boat launch ramp.

St. Croix Marina
St. Croix Marina provides private condominium and transient docks and a private access to the St. Croix River. The marina is located just north of I-94 and west of STH 35.

Red Cedar Canyon
Red Cedar Canyon is a planned residential development with walking paths, tennis courts, a softball field, and a soccer field for use by only the residents of the residential development. The development is located north of Hanley Road and west of STH 35.

Heritage Greens
Heritage Greens is a planned residential development located south of I-94 and west of STH 35. The development has three commons areas that are developed for the use by the development’s residents with trails, a pavilion, playgrounds and basketball court.
Stonepine
The Stonepine planned residential development includes walking trails, gazebo area, tennis courts, and playground improvements. The tennis courts and playground recreational improvements are for residents only.

Hazelcrest
Hazelcrest is a one-acre area consisting of a small playfield, tennis court, and playground for use by Hazelcrest residents only.

St. Croix Heights
St. Croix Heights is a 0.4-acre area located north of Hudson High School. Currently it has volleyball net, a small playground, and picnic area for use by the residents only.

YMCA
Hudson YMCA located at 2211 Vine Street offers a skateboarding park and athletic fields for member use.

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Public: 302.80 acres
Private: 55.83 acres (within city)
Semi-public: 11
Bicycle Routes
A system of signed bicycle routes connects the city’s major parks and school systems with neighboring towns and the county routes. The city of Hudson established a Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee to review the bicycle/pedestrian related issues. The city is working with St. Croix County and surrounding jurisdictions to coordinate and implement a county-wide system.

Snowmobiling Routes
All area routes in St. Croix County are managed by the county’s Parks Department. There are no designated snowmobile routes within the city of Hudson.

REGIONAL RECREATION AREAS OUTSIDE OF THE CITY OF HUDSON

Willow River State Park
Willow River State Park is a 2,891-acre park on CTH A about five miles northeast of Hudson managed by the WDNR. Its natural areas consist of prairie, forest, lake, panoramic river, and waterfall. Programs and activities include a nature center, fishing, boating, hunting, camping, picnicking, hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and bike trails. Willow River State Park attracts more than 300,000 visitors per year.

Kinnickinnic State Park
Kinnickinnic State Park is a 1,242-acre park located at the confluence of the Kinnickinnic and St. Croix Rivers and is operated by the WDNR. Like Willow River State Park, it offers several active and passive recreational activities all year around. Boaters wishing to moor overnight are permitted to do so for a nominal fee.

ASSESSMENT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS

2006 Resident Surveys
In 2006 the city of Hudson in conjunction with updating the city’s comprehensive plan surveyed city residents to solicit responses in regard to a number of community issues including the park system. In summary the survey results indicated:

Two-thirds residents indicated the quality of life in Hudson as good to excellent; including parks and recreation as one of the factors for consideration.

A similar percentage (67 percent) of residents responded that the preservation of natural resources is important to very important.

Also, 87 percent of the residents responding considered parks as important to very important natural and cultural resource.

Responses also received indicated the greatest need for development or improvement related to parks and recreation included:

Bike trails
Waterfront improvements
Dog park
Community center
Public golf course
Swimming pool and water park
Teen-focused parks and recreation

**Park Standards**

The two primary methods previously used to evaluate the standards for adequacy of the park system in Hudson are quantitative and qualitative analysis. Quantitative analysis consists of an inventory for all the city's parks and recreational facilities and includes what type of park it is and a measurement of its area in acres.

The population ratio is a widely used method of determining requirements for outdoor recreation and is adopted mostly from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This is accomplished by assigning an acreage requirement for each 1,000 people in a community. Ideally this acreage should be distributed throughout the city so that residential areas, various age groups, and activity needs are served in the best possible manner. This standard does not include school property used for only education; golf courses; vacant, undeveloped land; or public areas not designated for recreational uses.

The city of Hudson recognizes that park quality can't be measured in acreage alone. Qualitative analysis allows us to measure quality of recreational facility based on distribution of parks in relation to population, type and extent of development, traffic safety, and existing conditions of the facilities. When reviewing the provision of additional park land and the provision of new or expanded park improvements by the city of Hudson park department, the city should consider:

1. The NRPA standard of 12.5 acres of municipal park land per thousand people is a recommended standard, and accordingly can offer one form of measurement to assist in determining if the amount of park area provided by a municipality is adequate.
2. The purely quantitative analysis does not consider the quality and extent of recreational facilities provided.
3. A park's service capacity cannot be measured by using quantitative analysis. The provision of adequate park lands and improvements is of utmost importance to this plan and is the basis for a part of the community's park improvement and land acquisition programs.
4. Adequacy of site area, number of parks or the distribution of parks to accommodate intended number of patrons.
5. Adequacy of park programs to serve all age groups in the community with a variety of recreational opportunities.
6. The use of recreation areas during the summer by non-residents.
7. Suitability of site location in relation to accessibility and adjacent land uses.

For the purpose of this plan update, the city will limit the evaluation to a quantitative standard of 12.5 acres per 1,000 city residents for the city of Hudson's parks. In 2015, the estimated population of the city of Hudson was 13,400; thus a population of 13,400 will be used.
ACTION PLAN

To meet existing needs and projected deficiencies in the provision of park land and programs, the city will plan to maintain and improve current facilities and to attain and develop new sites. The city of Hudson's outdoor recreation needs are primarily dependent on the rate at which the city grows. This growth will be the main factor for pursuing land acquisition and specific site improvements. The need to acquire and develop new parks and invest in maintenance and improvements to existing facilities must be anticipated.

The following is a list of recommendations that should be implemented to assure quality of recreational experience for all patrons:

1. All public recreation facilities should be made to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Priority emphasis is given to making all park restroom facilities accessible to the disabled where currently unavailable.

2. The city of Hudson should retain and utilize the open space fee ordinance for meeting the needs of parks and recreation open space generated by new development. The Open Space Fee Ordinance, Park Needs Assessment, and Fee Schedule should undergo annual review.

3. The community development department and plan commission should be continuously consulted in regard to growth and development within the city.

4. Good communication and cooperation should be maintained between the city of Hudson; Hudson School District; Towns of Hudson and Troy; Village of North Hudson; St. Croix County; area service clubs and groups providing public leisure activities; and private agencies providing public activities. This will assist in providing the community with a balanced program of recreational activities and facilities. The potential for joint development should be explored when new facilities are planned, and trail systems should be coordinated. It would be constructive for these groups to meet on a minimum annual basis to review activities, plans, needs, and development of facilities.

5. Playground areas in all parks should be examined regularly and replaced when necessary. This would include replacement of existing and installation of new equipment. Play equipment surfacing should also be continuously reviewed.

6. The city of Hudson should make maximum use of all grants and financial assistance available for acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities.

7. The annual cost of maintaining recreational facilities should be included in the annual budget process.

8. Include existing and desired future park locations in the city official map ordinance.

Park Improvements – Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2016 through 2020

Attached as Appendix C is the adopted five year capital improvement plan entitled:

Park Annual/Capital Proposed Five (5) Year Plan (2016 – 2020)

Note: The attached five year capital improvement plan is attached for illustrative purposes only and should be updated on an annual basis.

Summary of the Five Year Capital Improvement Program

The city of Hudson Park Board established a five-year capital improvement program (CIP) in 2009 and updated the CIP in November 2015 for the period of 2016 through 2020. The Park Board desires to invest in the continued improvement of park facilities during the next five year period including (this
list is not all inclusive of the projects proposed):

Anderson Park - pickle ball courts, restroom, shade plantings, and walking trail
Grandview Community Park – restroom, shelter
Lakefront Park – garage facility, playground equipment
Lakefront Park Trail - St. Croix Street north connection
Lakefront Park (Walnut Street) bridge - repairs
Prospect Park – restroom facilities
Williams Park – pavilion, restroom facilities, and playground equipment
Weitkamp Park – community center, restroom facilities, playground equipment, splash pad, trails, and shelters
Dog park

The capital improvement program is subject to change upon continued annual review of the needs of the park system and the availability of funding for projects.

**Implementation**

The first step in the implementation process is the adoption of the plan by the city of Hudson. After adopting the plan, the city of Hudson Park Board may implement project priorities and capital improvements program.

If the city decides to pursue land acquisition and development of recreational areas, it is recommended that the Community Services Specialist of the WDNR West Central Region be consulted as to the city’s eligibility to participate in state and federally funded grant programs and or other forms of financial aid. Grant programs provided by the WDNR can possibly decrease costs by up to 50 percent. The city of Hudson may submit an outdoor recreation project to the WDNR for cost sharing at anytime during the five-year eligibility period.

Implementation of the parks plan is also enhanced by citizen participation as well as financial assistance through private donations. Funding combined with an engaged community effort to obtain, develop, and improve park lands can assure implementation of Hudson’s five year outdoor recreation plan.

**Conclusion**

If the city of Hudson and surrounding community continues to grow as anticipated, it becomes imperative that we plan for higher park usage, not only by the city’s residents but from the neighboring communities as well. With that comes required planning, development and maintenance to implement the vision of the park board and park department. Parks are an essential asset to any community. Parks and ancillary improvements enhance a community by providing a sense of place and community, and allow people to interact in a setting that is informal and enjoyable.
# 5 Year Park Capital Improvement Plan
## 2016 Through 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK</th>
<th>Costs/Brief Description</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<th>2019</th>
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# 5 Year Park Capital Improvement Plan

## 2016 Through 2020

### Lakefront Park (continued)

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<th>Project</th>
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### Prospect Park

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### Vine Street Square

#### Webster

### Weitkamp Park

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