

PARKS MASTER PLAN

SECTION 3

System Analysis and Summary

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1998 Resident Input Survey Summary

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2001 Survey Report



**Lake in the Hills
2004 Parks Master Plan
System Analysis**

The following table illustrates the Lake in the Hills facility recommended standards and the actual quantity existing, based on the inventory gathered to date and the 2004 population.

The table below shows the recommended number of facilities for every 1,000 residents. Note the NPRA no longer sets standards for Park and Open Space and therefore we use these numbers *only* as a guideline.

It is important to meet with residents in each neighborhood in order to assess the real facility needs. Through the input of the residents, the 1998 and 2001 surveys, field observations and the guidelines below, the Park Board will be able to assess what and where facilities are needed to accommodate the present and future recreational needs of Lake in the Hills. This approach is similar to many of the Park Districts and Departments in the Chicago suburban area.

Lake in the Hills Facility Standards Facilities Needed When

Recreation Facility	Recommended Standard	LITH Recommended Number of Facilities at the Current Population of 27,728	LITH Current Number of Facilities	LITH Recommended Number of Facilities at the Projected Population of 30,000
Baseball/ Softball Fields	1/ 2,000 people	13	13 3	15
Soccer Field	1/ 2,000 people	13	13	15
Football Fields	1/10,000 people	2.5	3	3
Basketball Court	1/ 3,000 people	9	6.5	10
Tennis Courts	1/ 5,000 people	5	4	6
In-Line Skating Area/Skate Park	1/ 5,000 people	5	2	6
Sand Volleyball Court	1/3,000 people	9	6	10
Water/Beach Access	1/10,000 people	2	4	3
Playground/ Tot Lots	1/1,000 people	27	18	30
Outdoor Ice Skating Rink	1/5,000 people	5	2	6
Swimming Pool	1/10,000 people	2 total, 1 outdoor, 1 indoor	0	3
Community Center	1/20,000 people	1	0	1.5
Picnic Shelters	1/ 4,000 people	6	8	8
Walking/Biking	1 mile/5,000	4+ miles	5.822 miles	6 miles

Trails	people		existing on-street 5.31 miles existing off-street 7.14 miles proposed off-street	
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Using a number of analysis approaches, The Village is currently significantly deficient in the amount of basketball courts, in-line skating area, and to a lesser degree picnic shelter facilities, playground/tot lots, outdoor ice-skating/hockey areas. Increasing the number of these facilities should be considered a priority.

The Village also has a need for a swimming pool/Aquatic Facility and a community center. The fact that the Village of Huntley has constructed a community center west of Sunset Park may have an impact on if or where to locate such a facility in Lake in the Hills. One thing is for sure – the amount of recreational facilities in Lake in the Hills must increase as the population does.

In addition to analyzing the Lake in the Hills facilities based on past NPRA standards and the existing population, a resident survey was conducted in 1998 and 2001. The resident surveys focused on several different areas for user input. Those included the parks most often used, the activities most often participated in within the parks, and ratings for the quality and quantity of various facilities within Lake in the Hills. The survey also developed long range planning criteria for additional facilities and new types of facilities that do not currently exist within the community.

Analysis Process

The Analysis process included: on-site observations, input from user groups, and input received through the 1998 and 2001 resident surveys (see appendix 1 for complete results). The primary recreational uses for the parks were identified in the 1998 survey as being:

- Playground use
- Walking for Pleasure/Exercise
- Bicycling for Pleasure/Exercise

Additional recommendations specific to each park are made in the Park-by Park Implementation Recommendations Section of the Parks Master Plan. These recommendations address what each park throughout the Village of Lake in the Hills would require in order to improve the quality. These improvements might include such items as, landscaping improvements, increased and/or updated signage, additional parking, new playgrounds, and/or new features that will help to meet the needs of the growing population of the Village.

Lake in the Hills Parks System Analysis Summary

Based upon Parks Board Member input, Park Staff input, consultant observations, and input received from the 1998 and 2001 resident input survey, the following summarizes an analysis of the Lake in the Hills Park System:

1. Lake in the Hills has many gaps within the **Village-Wide trail system**. A complete continuous trail with many links to destinations along the route will be a big benefit to the residents.
2. The Lake in the Hills Parks and Recreation Department has many existing parks that recently have been improved, including the installation of better quality playgrounds. There is still a need to address **both the quantity and quality of playgrounds**, throughout the community. The system currently has no themed play areas, which was something requested by the community.
3. There has been a focus recently to add picnic shelters in many parks. This has been a great improvement but **additional shelters are still needed**.
4. The Lake in the Hills Parks and Recreation Department has a deficit of **baseball and soccer opportunities**. Some of these opportunities may be provided for at the site; however, there will still be a need to provide them across town, especially on the east side.
5. **Outdoor ice-skating opportunities** are currently limited and needed in other parks.
6. Lake in the Hills lacks a very desirous and important component of any Park System, that being a **swimming pool/community center/aquatic facility**.
7. Lake in the Hills lacks the new features becoming more prevalent in Park Districts throughout the Country. Items such as **BMX, RC tracks, mini-golf, sport climbing walls, fitness systems, golf centers**, etc. are items that are worth consideration.

PARK CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

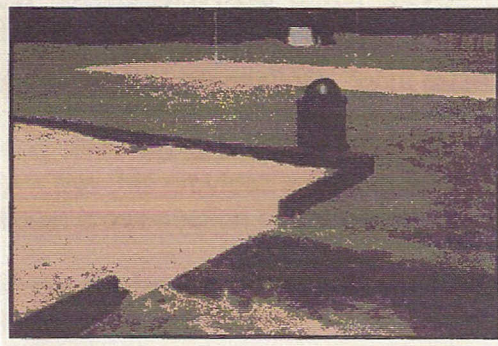
Park Classification	Recommended Standards	LITH Recommended Minimum	LITH Actual
Mini Park	½ acre/ 1,000	13.5 acres	9.46 acres
Neighborhood Park	2 acre/ 1,000	54 acres	49.43 acres
Community Park/Sports Complex	7 acre/ 1,000	189 acres	210.95 acres
Special Use	½ acre/ 1,000	13.5 acres	61.49 acres
Subtotal	10 acre/ 1,000	270 acres	331.33 acres

Natural Resource Area	15 acres/1,000	405 acres	488.71 acres
TOTALS	25 acres/1,000	675 acres	820.04 acres

The Lake in the Hills recommended minimum acres of park types is based on a population of 27,728 for the Village. The amount of recommended park space increases with the population.

The Village is fortunate to have 488.71 acres of natural resource area, which is over 80% more than the recommended minimum amount. The Lake in the Hills Fen accounts for 50% of the natural resource area to be preserved in the community and provides a rare educational opportunity. Note that the 163 acres of the Exner Marsh is included in this total.

Note the National Park and Recreation Association, NPRA, no longer sets standards for Park and Open Space guidelines. The recommended standards listed here are based on a review of existing conditions in the community, the results of the resident survey and knowledge and review of similar sized communities in the area.



A few general observations during analysis are worth noting. Picnic tables as shown in the photo, should not be located within the safe fall zone of any play equipment. Backfilling dirt against any curbing, especially plastic, will strengthen the edging system (see above). Aesthetically, it will look better to have the lawn up to the top of curb. Using the concrete sidewalks for bike paths is not the best option, but if used links should connect together better.



1998 RESIDENT INPUT SURVEY SUMMARY

The following outlines a summary of the 1998 resident survey input received:

- Received a total of 701 surveys. This represents approximately 10% of the Lake in the Hills resident homes. We feel this provides an adequate representation of user sentiment and a reasonable cross-section of the community.
- The three most popular parks are **Barbara Key Park, Ken Carpenter Park, and Indian Trail Beach**, respectively.
- The three most popular activities for the Lake in the Hills area are **playgrounds, walking for pleasure, and biking for pleasure**, respectively. These responses indicate and support the findings for a need of more and/or updated playground parks and walking/biking pathways.
- The parks that were considered the highest priority for improvements included those needing playground and bike trails. Those included **Barbara Key, Sunset Park, LaBuy Park, Ford School, Horner and Ryder Parks**.
- Comparison of resident use of facilities outside Lake in the Hills is an indication of the types of facilities in demand. Question 12 indicated the highest use of recreational facilities outside Lake in the Hills was at the Dolphin Cove facility in the Dundee Park District and Dieke Park in the Huntley Park District. A review of these facilities shows the demand for an Aquatic Facility and for picnicking facilities, soccer and bike and walking trails.
- ❖ **The top 5 most important activities were:**
 - #1 Bicycling for pleasure @ 63.6%
 - #2 Walking for pleasure @ 59.3%
 - #3 Playgrounds @53.4%
 - #4 Swimming in a pool @ 53.1%
 - #5 Picnicking @ 44.7%
- ❖ **The top 5 highest priorities for “Long Range Planning”**
 - #1 Maintain Parks Facilities as they exist
 - #2 Provide more biking trails
 - #3 Provide more walking/jogging trails
 - #4 Provide better maintenance within the parks
 - #5 Provide more playgrounds

Approximately 50% of those responding to this question stated they wanted both a **full-scale aquatic facility** and **full-service fitness/community center**. Of those that responded, 74.9% would vote for a tax increase. The majority would approve an annual tax increase of \$50.00 per year. This would provide the Village with an approximate annual increase of \$350,000 to provide this facility, based on approximately 7000 households.

Lake in the Hills Parks Master Plan
Resident Survey
August, 2001
Appendix 1