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City of Prescott Master Parks Plan

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**CITY OF PRESCOTT
PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

With Planning Assistance Provided by:



PARKS AND RECREATION VISION

“Citizens of Prescott recognize the inherent human and natural value of parks and other recreational activities. With that realization, we commit to provide and manage park and recreational opportunities for a sustainable quality of life by balancing human needs and natural systems, ensuring the needs of present generations are met, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Promote the Riverfront recreational activities, as well as maintain the current park system in a healthy, safe, sustainable, and functional condition.”

INTRODUCTION AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Master Park Plan was created to analyze the existing parks and recreation facilities and anticipate the future park needs for the City of Prescott. Population growth and residential housing growth during late 1990 and into 2000 has created a need to review and maintain our park and recreation opportunities. This plan will portray a method of park planning that will assist the City in meeting the needs of its residents. In general, this plan evaluates the use of each park, the service areas, people each park serves, and identifies areas for park improvement.

The City of Prescott, located where the St. Croix River flows into the Mississippi River, is Wisconsin’s westernmost incorporated community. It is located on U.S. Highway 10 and State Highways 29 and 35, and is less than one half hour drive to downtown St. Paul, Minnesota.

The City of Prescott actively promotes tourism, with emphasis on the riverfront and the confluence of the two rivers. S.T.H. 35 is designated as The Great River Road, and is part of an international scenic parkway from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Recently, the Wisconsin Great River Road has been designated as a National Scenic Byway. National Scenic Byways are accepted into the national system of scenic byways if they have at least one, out of six possible, intrinsic qualities that elevates them to a nationally

significant recognition. They must have unique qualities that make them the “heart and soul” of the nation.

GENERAL PARK DESCRIPTIONS

The existing public park and recreation facilities in Prescott are generally perceived in six categories.

River Parks: Focused on providing attractive and functional places for residents and tourism.

Inland Parks: Focused on meeting community-based recreational needs, social purposes, and preserving green space.

Public School Parks: Focused on meeting the needs of the school district and providing the City and its residents with access to unique recreational facilities and opportunities. Public School districts and their outdoor recreation facilities are eligible to receive state and federal recreation stewardship grants if the district has adopted an outdoor recreation plan. These grants may provide schools and cities with incentives to improve their park and recreation facilities.

Parochial Schools or Non-Public Organizations: Focused on meeting the needs of its private members for private to semi-public recreational opportunities. These facilities are not eligible for government recreation aids.

Commercially Operated Facilities: Focused on providing services for boat owners and operators, and river based recreation opportunities, consequently making the Mississippi River, St. Croix River, and City of Prescott enjoyable to many people.

Trails: Focused on providing passive recreation to the general public.

Table 1 lists some of the general descriptions and criteria for each category of park that is located in the City of Prescott.

Table 1 – Access and Opportunities Categories

Classification	GeneralDescription	Size&LocationCriteria
River	Parks, recreation, and scenic facilities or opportunities, which front on the St. Croix River or Mississippi River, providing public access for active and passive recreation. Serving the needs of both residents and visitors of the City of Prescott.	Must be located along the St. Croix or Mississippi riverfront accessible to the general public. Size is variable.
Inland	Parks, recreation, and scenic facilities or opportunities, which are not located along the riverfront, and provide public access for active and passive recreation. Primarily serving the needs of residents of the City of Prescott and neighboring municipalities.	Site may be publically or privately owned and accessible to the general public. Size is variable.
School District	Recreation and park facilities or opportunities located on public school property, fulfilling school site space requirements. Often providing unique needs and special uses of the school district, the City of Prescott, and residents.	Located on publically owned lands, with public access determined by the school district not to interfere with regular school activities. Size is variable.
Parochial School	Non-public organizations, such as churches and church related schools, privately owned. Typically providing school site space requirements and private to semi-public recreational opportunities.	Located on privately owned lands, with private to semi-public access determined by the owner. Size is variable.
Private	Public or Private sectors or businesses providing services, recreational opportunities, or facilities to the general public and visitors of the City of Prescott.	Located on public or privately owned commercial or industrial used lands. Size is variable.
Trails	Any public or private path or paved surface utilized for pedestrian use, including, but not limited to walking, hiking, bicycling, etc.	Located on public or privately owned lands or right-of-ways. Size is variable.

EXISTING FACILITIES

Currently there are twenty one (21) park and recreation areas throughout the City of Prescott (see Map 1, Map 2 in Appendix A, and Table 2). They are all well maintained in a healthy and safe condition. The City of Prescott is dedicated to the preservation and creation of parks and recreational opportunities within the City. There are multiple types of parks and recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities. In the past five years, there have been two new parks added, St. Croix Bluffs and the Prescott Skate Park, and one park expansion/upgrade at Freedom Park.

Freedom Park is unique in that it does not have direct river frontage, because of its elevation well above the river level, yet provides a sweeping vista of the St. Croix River and Mississippi River confluence. The Learning Center puts together the essence of the Prescott's connection to the rivers.

Table 2 – Park and Recreation Facilities/Opportunities Inventory

Jurisdiction	Name	Acres	Location	Access	Amenities
City	Prescott City Beach	1.0	Along the St. Croix River, off of Lake Street, north of the US Highway 10 bridge.	Public	A bathhouse/ changing area, restrooms, two picnic tables, one bicycle rack, and sand beach.
City	Mercord Mill Park	4.0	Along the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers, off of Front Street, south of the US Highway 10 bridge. Connects to the River Walk.	Public	A picnic shelter, flag pole, six benches, four picnic tables, grills, and a public fishing dock. The historic auto bridge "gear house" is also open for viewing on weekends.
City	River Walk		Along the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers between the US Highway 10 bridge and Ash Street.	Public	The River Walk connects bicycle/walking trails together and passes through Mercord Mill Park. It features an information kiosk, benches, and picnic tables.
City	City Courtesy Dock	N/A	Along the St. Croix River, between the US Highway 10 bridge and the Railroad bridge.	Public	300 Feet of frontage offers day use of boat docking for transient usage.
City	Jacques Park Public Boat Ramp	N/A	Along the Mississippi River, at the foot of Ash Street.	Public	Boat ramp.

Jurisdiction	Name	Acres	Location	Access	Amenities
City	Freedom Park	2.5	On the bluffs above the Mississippi River Valley, at the intersection of Jefferson Street (S.T.H. 35) and Monroe Street.	Public	19 picnic tables, playground structures, gardens, ten information kiosks, walking paths, picnic shelter, pavilion, eight benches, four grills, one standing binocular, one handicap accessible binocular, seven trash receptacles, a drinking fountain, flag pole, amphitheater, bike rack, four swings, and panoramic views of the Rivers. Also site of the Learning Center.
City	Lake Street Canoe/Kayak Launch	0.5	Located along the St. Croix River, at the North end of Lake Street N.	Public	Stairs provide foot access to launch canoes, kayaks, or wind surfers.
City	Public Square	2.0	Bound by Kinnickinnic Street, Elm Street, Orange Street, and Court Street, Prescott.	Public	Two tennis courts, two basketball hoops, playground structures, climbing walls, monkey bars, three pull-up bars, two bicycle racks, a bench, and an integrated picnic table and shelter.
City	Bell Park	1/2 a City Lot	Adjacent to Welcome & Heritage Center, on Broad Street.	Public	Five benches and flower pots focus on the bell tower which contains the original bell from the Methodist Church, made in 1878 in Baltimore Maryland.
City	Sunset Park	0.5	Tower Road	Public	One bench, one bench-swing, two trash receptacles, two picnic tables, a basketball hoop, sand box, four swings, and individual playground structures.
City	Linn Street Ice Rink - Storm Water Retention Area	1.0	Linn Street and St. Croix Street	Public	Serves as an open green space in the summer, but is flooded in the winter to serve as an ice skating area. There is a warming house on site for winter use.
City	Shane Park	small	End of cul-de-sac of Shane Court.	Public	A geodesic dome play structure, two picnic tables, two trash receptacles, one bench, multiple swings, and a Childs super-scoop.
City	Skate Park		Dexter Street and Glenridge Drive	Public	Multiple ramps, half pipe, rail, and two trash receptacles.

Jurisdiction	Name	Acres	Location	Access	Amenities
City	Veterans Memorial Park	0.2	Bound by Monroe Street, Pine Glen Street, and St. Josephs Street.	Public	Veterans Memorial Marker of stone, five decorative benches, and a flag pole.
City	Welcome and Heritage Center		US Highway 10 and Broad Street	Public	Contains historic exhibits highlighting the local heritage.
City	St. Croix Bluff Park		Pearl and Canton Street	Public	Playground structures, seven swings, geodesic dome play structure, shelter, and basketball hoops.
School District	Senior High School	20.0 total site	Campbell Street and St. Croix Street	Public	Multiple use athletic fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts.
School District	Malone Elementary School	6.0 total site	Campbell Street and St. Croix Street	Public	Two playground structures, marry-go-round, three ball fields, six basketball hoops, ten swings, two picnic tables, and a shelter.
School District	School District Baseball Field		Along Young Street between Walnut Street and Ash Street	Public	Ball fields with dugouts, two metal stands, trash receptacles, and two batting/pitching cages.
Parochial School	St. Joseph School		Dakota Street	Private	Two basketball hoops and playground structures.
Private	Leo's Landing	0.5	Along St. Croix River and Mississippi River, under the US Highway 10 bridge at the end of the River Walk.	Public	35 boat slips, some seasonal and transient docking, boat rental, gasoline, sanitary waste pump out, limited grocery items.
Private	Point St. Croix Marina	0.5	Along Mississippi River just south of the confluence of the St. Croix River and Mississippi River.	Public	78 boat slips with a limited number available for transient docking, restrooms and showers for transient boaters, a ships store with limited marine supplies and light refreshments, and gasoline.
Private	Miss-Croix Yacht Harbor	8.0	Along Mississippi River at the south end of the City of Prescott.	Private	Seasonal and long term berthing, limited space for transient and short term use, toilets, showers, marine supply store, major engine and hull repair available, and boat lift-out service and storage.

Jurisdiction	Name	Acres	Location	Access	Amenities
City	Magee Wilderness Park	13.0	North of Jefferson Street/ The Great River Road at the east edge of the City of Prescott.	Public	Accessible only by foot, this is an area of undeveloped wood and brush lands used as a hiking and wildlife observation area.
City	Bike Lane/Trails		Located along public roads.	Public	Provides connectivity to other trails.
City	Point Douglas Bike Trail		Crosses under the US Highway 10 bridge and connects to State Highway 35.	Public	Connects to the St. Croix Valley Regional Trail and many parks and recreation opportunities throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has developed a recommended standard for the average numbers of park land, in acres, for communities. The range of park land is based on the number of acres per 1,000 residents. The NRPA's recommended standard is 6.25 to 10.0 acres per 1,000 people. This is only a baseline to assess the current amount of parkland a community has. Based on this range the City of Prescott Parks and Public Property committee has agreed to set a minimum standard of 6.25 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents with a goal of 6.25 to 10.0 acres per 1,000 people.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the City of Prescott had an estimated population of 4,053 in 2007. The City currently (2008) has just over 27 acres of parkland. The amount of parkland in the City of Prescott is currently within its recommended standard.

Planning for adequate parkland allows a City to monitor the amount of parkland needed as the population rises and as new developments move into the community. The Parks and Public Property committee has agreed to utilize the population forecasts estimated for 2000 to 2025 that were established by increasing the historic growth rate estimate by 15%, these estimates are also utilized in the Wastewater Treatment Plant planning. If the population projections are accurate, the City of Prescott can estimate a need for 2.0 additional acres of parkland every five years or 33.7 total acres by the year 2025 (see Tables 3 & 4).

Table 3 – Population Forecasts - City of Prescott

Year	2000*	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
WDOA	3,764	3,914	4,088	4,235	4,393	4,575
City Population Estimate**	3,764	4,089	4,414	4,739	5,064	5,389

Source: Wisconsin Department Of Administration, *U.S. Census

** Based on 15% above the average growth from 1960 to 2000; 65 people every year

Table 4 - Additional Parklands needed - City of Prescott

Year	2000*	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
City Population Estimate	3,764	4,089	4,414	4,739	5,064	5,389
Acres needed for Parks**	23.5	25.6	27.6	29.6	31.7	33.7

Source: Wisconsin Department Of Administration, *U.S. Census

** Based on 6.25 acres per 1,000 people

This may not accurately reflect the actual need or use of the parks, but should be used as a general standard when addressing the amount of parkland the City has available for its residents at any given time. It can also be used to address the quantity of land that will need to be acquired by the City or dedicated to the City when a residential development is approved.

The City of Prescott should have active and passive parks and park facilities that provide ease of access for all ages and to those with disabilities that cannot easily travel. Active parks typically include playground equipment, ball fields, and courts. Passive parks provide trails and benches for people. The City of Prescott Park Master Plan evaluates each of the existing parks and identifies areas that need improvements and determine the extent of the need for additional parks and park facilities.

The Prescott Community Recreation Department offers a variety of recreation opportunities to area students that are operated through the Prescott School District. The City of Prescott does not fund the program, but supports it. The Community Recreation Department noted that the availability of public park land in the City does not adequately meet their needs primarily due to a steadily increasing enrollment in the Community Recreation programs and the development of other programs. The needs expressed by the Department include additional indoor gymnasium/ recreation space, one additional ball diamond, and any other designated space available for use by the Community Recreation Department throughout the year. It is important to consider the programs needs because the Department organizes activities for not only City children, but also children from surrounding Towns. This may provide an opportunity for future park planning with the surrounding Towns to address these growing needs.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Local recreation needs can best be met by providing a variety of park and recreation areas that serve all age groups, neighborhoods, and activity levels of the resident population. Map 3 shows park classifications and service areas as recommended by the NRPA. The map should be used to assess the coverage area of existing park and recreation areas and determine if parts of the City are lacking park or recreation opportunities.

The NRPA classifies parks and open space into these categories.

- Mini Park/ Tot Lot
- Neighborhood Parks
- School Parks
- Community Parks
- Regional Park
- Conservancy/Natural Areas
- Special Use Areas
- Park Trails
- Connector Trails

These classifications, summarized in Table 5, should be used to make park inventory and planning more meaningful. The definitions provide standards for comparative purposes.

Map 3 shows that the City of Prescott has many specialty parks, most influenced by the use of the Mississippi River and St. Croix River. The ice rink and skate park are specialty parks also. The City has three community parks that appeal to all residents; the parks vary in purpose. Two neighborhood parks offer a variety of amenities but service a lesser area. There is one tot lot geared towards children and serving the immediate area. In general, the City residents have access to many park and recreation opportunities.

Table 5 – Parks and Open Space Classifications: Parks

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park/ Tot-Lot	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than a ¼ mile distance in a residential setting.	Between 2,500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼ to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered the minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.
School Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of park, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable – depends on function.

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than a neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3-mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Regional Park	Regional parks are generally the largest in size and serve the greatest geographical area, often extending beyond the city or urban growth area limits to include county and/or other adjacent jurisdictions. Their focus is on providing specialized activities, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces or environmental features. They allow for group activities and offer other recreation opportunities not generally found at a community or neighborhood park level. They may also be designed to serve a community or neighborhood park function as well, but are often of a more specialized nature.	They should be situated such that sufficient infrastructure could be developed or already exists to support a large number of visitors, including major arterials, buses and other mass transit capabilities. They should also have access to multi-modal connections. Service area is 5 mile radius or more (as needed).	80 acres or more.
Large Urban Park	Regional or large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks, and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.
Conservancy/ Natural Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/ buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Specialty or Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose visit.	Variable – dependent on specific use.	Variable.

Table 6 – Parks and Open Space Classifications: Pathways

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria
Park Trails	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment.	Type I: Separate/single purpose, hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type II: Multipurpose, hard surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard- or soft-surfaced
Connector Trails	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	Type I: Separate/single purpose, hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/ in-line skaters located in independent r.o.w. (e.g., old railroad r.o.w.) Type II: Separate/single purpose, hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road r.o.w.

Source: NRPA’s Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines

PARK INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the summer of 2008, each City park was toured and the following information identified:

- Park classification
- Primary users
- Amenities
- Recommended improvements
- Timeframe for improvements

A summary for each park is provided.

Park Name: Lake Street Canoe & Kayak Launch

Location: Lake Street

Classification: Specialty Park

Primary Users: Adults

Park Amenities:

Stair access is available to launch canoes, kayaks, and wind surfers.

Improvements:

- Parking
- Picnic Table
- Retaining Wall Improvement

Time frame:

5- 10 years
1- 5 years
5-10 years
12

Park Name: City Beach

Location: Lake Street

Classification: Community Park

Primary Users: All age groups

Park Amenities:

A bathhouse/ changing area, restrooms, two picnic tables, one bicycle rack, and sand beach.

Improvements:

Time frame:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • Green space/ picnic area at north end of park | 5 – 10 years |
| • New fencing along rip-rap | 5 – 15 years |
| • Restripe parking | 5 – 10 years |
| • Update signage from street | 5 – 10 years |
| • Upgrade site with an ADA accessible ramp | 5 – 10 years |

Park Name: Freedom Park

Location: Monroe Street

Classification:
Community Park

Primary Users: All age groups

Park Amenities:

Playground structures, 19 picnic tables, gardens, 10 information kiosks, walking paths, picnic shelter, pavilion, 8 benches, 4 grills, one standing binocular, one handicap accessible binocular, 7 trash receptacles, a drinking fountain, flag pole, amphitheater, bike rack, swing set, and panoramic views of the Rivers. Also site of the Learning Center.

Improvements:

Time frame:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| • Outdoor Restroom | 1-20 years |
| • Acquire Land | 1-20 years |
| • Fence | 1-20 years |

Funding is jointly provided between the City and “Friends of Freedom Park”

Park Name: Jaques Boat Ramp/Fishing Dock Location: Front Street

Classification:
Specialty Park

Primary Users
Adults, Recreational Boaters and
Fisherman

Park Amenities:

Boat launch ramp, docks, vehicle and boat parking, and trash receptacles.

Improvements:

Time frame:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| • ADA Accessible Boat Launch Docks | 1-10 years |
| • Acquire Land | 1-20 years |
| • Restrooms | 1-20 years |

Park Name: Linn Street Skate Rink

Location: Linn St., St. Croix St., &
Hilton St.

Classification:
Neighborhood Park

Primary Users: Summer –
Children Winter – All
age groups

Park Amenities:

Serves as an open green space in the summer, but is flooded in the winter to serve as an ice skating area. There is a warming house on site for winter use.

Improvements:

- New warming building
- Restrooms
- General maintenance to existing warming building

Time frame:

1-20 years
1-20 years
1 – 5 years

Park Name: Magee Park

Location: South Dexter Street & S
.T.H. 35

Classification:
Neighborhood Park

Primary Users: Adults

Park Amenities:

Accessible only by foot, this is an area of undeveloped wood and brush land used as a hiking and wildlife observation area.

Improvements:

Time frame:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Signs | 5 – 10 years |
| • New picnic shelters | 5 – 10 years |
| • Park lighting (solar) | 5 – 10 years |
| • Multipurpose trail w/ connections to future parks/development trails | 5 – 10 years |

Park Name: Mercord Mill Park

Location: Second Street

Classification:
Specialty Park

Primary Users:
Adults, Tourist

Park Amenities:

A picnic shelter, flag pole, six benches, four picnic tables, grills, and a public fishing dock. The historic railroad bridge "gear house" is also open for viewing on weekends.

Improvements:

Time frame:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Signage from Main Street | 1-5 years |
| • Restrooms | 1-20 years |
| • Connection to Point Douglas Trail | 1-20 years |
| • Signage to and from other trails systems | 1-20 years |

Public Utilities are existing on site for future connections.

Park Name: Public Square

Location: Elm St. & Middle School

Classification: Community Park

Primary Users: All age groups

Park Amenities:

Two tennis courts, two basket ball hoops and court, playground structures, climbing walls, monkey bars, three pull-up bars, two bicycle racks, benches, and an integrated picnic table and shelter.

Improvements:

Time frame:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| • Band shelter | 1-20 years |
| • Drinking fountain | 1 – 5 years |
| • New fence around tennis court | 1 – 5 years |
| • Maintenance to basketball court | 1 – 5 years |
| • Park lighting | 1 – 5 years |
| • Restrooms or Port-a-Potties | 1 – 5 years |

Prescott Lions Club helps with the majority of funding and equipment improvements

Park Name: River Walk

Location: Front Street

Classification:
Specialty Park

Primary Users:
Adults, Tourists

Park Amenities:

The River Walk connects bicycle/walking trails together and passes through Mercord Mill Park. It features an information kiosk, benches, and picnic tables.

Improvements:

Time frame:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| • Widen sidewalk | 1-5 years |
| • Restore shoreline | 1-5 years |
| • ADA compliant Dock | 1-5 years |
| • Signage from streets | 1-5 years |
| • Emergency Access | 1-5 years |

Park Name: Shane Park

Location: Shane-Park Circle

Classification: Neighborhood
Park/Tot Lot

Primary Users: Young children

Park Amenities:

Geodesic dome play structure, two picnic tables, two trash receptacles, one bench, a children's super scoop, and swing set.

Improvements:

- Shade trees

Time frame:

1-2 years

New swings have recently been installed

Park Name: Skate Park

Location: South of Pine St., west of
Dexter Street

Classification:
Specialty Park

Primary Users:
School age children/ teenagers

Park Amenities:
Multiple ramps, half pipe, rail, sign, and two trash receptacles.

Improvements:

- Maintenance free
concrete skate park

Time frame:

1-20 years

Park Name: Sunset Park

Location: Tower Road

Classification:
Neighborhood Park

Primary Users: Children

Park Amenities:

A bench, a bench-swing, two trash receptacles, two picnic tables a basketball hoop and half court, swing set, slide, and an individual playground structure.

Improvements:

Time frame:

- New picnic tables
- Eagle Scout playground
Equipment project

1-5 years

1- 2 years

Park Name: Veteran Memorial Park

Location: Pine Glen Rd. &
St. Joseph Street

Classification:
Specialty Park

Primary Users:
Adults, Veterans

Park Amenities:

Veterans Memorial Markers of stone, five decorative benches, and a flag pole.

Improvements:

- Park Sign
- Replace dead trees
- Park lighting (solar)

Time frame:

Improvements are typically completed by local veterans

STANDARDIZING AMENITIES

The development of standards for park amenities will create a uniform design for the City and its parks. The uniformity will create recognition of parks and parklands, attracting more people to the park simply due to the ease of identification. The following items should be considered for standardization:

- Shelters
- Trash receptacles
- Signs
- Benches
- Picnic tables

NAMING OF PARKS

While the naming of City Parks will ultimately be the decision of the City Council, if requested, the following guidelines will be used in making a recommendation to the City Council.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent method for naming or making name changes to public parks, public land, or recreation facilities. Names should identify significant historical, geological, and ecological areas located within the City. Also, appropriate recognition to individuals who have contributed to the growth and development of the City should be considered.

Goals and Objectives for naming:

- (a) The names must be purposeful, suitable, symbolic, uncontroversial and must fall under one of the classifications of this policy
- (b) If possible, names of facilities should be adopted before dedication or development begins for a new facility.
- (c) Names will not be for living persons except when substantial donations are offered to the community for park and recreation purposes.
- (d) Names for public officials will not be used without thorough justification. It will be necessary for this individual to have strong community support.

Classifications in order of priority:

- A. Places and features
 - Natural phenomenon
 - Recognizable area or neighborhood
 - Descriptive
 - Horticultural
 - Assumed name

- B. Historic Events
 - Battles
 - Discoveries
 - Explorations
 - Community development
- C. Organizations
 - Civic
 - Veterans
 - Fraternal
 - Other
- D. Persons Name Large
 - donors Historical
 - groups Local war
 - heroes National war
 - heroes National
 - officials State
 - officials
 - Local official
 - Local individual
- E. Great Ideas or Causes
 - Ecological
 - Friendship
 - Independence
 - Peace

A group may ask to adopt a park or recreation facility for improvement or maintenance purposes, and in return, the park or facility could be named after that group. A written agreement should be signed specifically detailing the future responsibilities of the group adopting the park or facility and any name change must first be approved by the City Council.

It may be appropriate in some cases to name subsections of parks to honor or pay tribute. This shall include ball fields and areas. Naming shall follow the above procedures.

Plaques and markers shall be used to recognize individuals that contributed to the growth and development of areas and facilities as project budgets allow. These markers shall be approved by the City Council before installation.

PARK SIGNS

Park signs identifying the facility to the public should be posted at all entrances. Signage will promote civic pride and will encourage visitors.

Park signs should be standardized in order to make them easily identifiable to residents and visitors. New park signs should incorporate three elements in their design:

1. A logo for City parks.
2. The name of each park.
3. Park hours.

Adding park hours would eliminate the need for many smaller signs that can be found in some parks.

DEDICATION OF TREES AND BENCHES

Residents may want to dedicate trees or benches on behalf of a family, organization, business, or in memory of a loved one. The City will provide a list of specific trees and a bench style that can be donated to the park of the donor's choice. The tree or bench will have a plaque to identify the donor.

SIDEWALK PLAN

The City of Prescott adopted a Pedestrian Network Plan in 2006. The Plan outlines the benefits of sidewalks and identifies routes for future sidewalks. Almost all park areas are or will be accessible by sidewalks as the Plan is implemented. Future trail planning should be coordinated with the Pedestrian Traffic Committee so that the possibility of meeting both entities goals can be realized.

OVERALL GOALS

CityWide

- Protect natural resources through conscious decision-making.
- Promote access and enjoyment of parks and conservancy areas.
- Create a Park and Recreation Department within the City governmental structure.
- Develop a City government commitment for continued annual funding to maintain all existing facilities in a manner conducive to the enjoyment and safety of all using the facilities.
- Develop and design plans for upgrade and development of all parks and recreational lands according to specified standards
- Develop outdoor recreation programs to meet the diverse needs of the citizens.
- Provide a mix of various types of parks for all ages.
- Provide adequate signage for all parks and recreation areas.
- Link parks and recreational lands where possible through designated trails or routes.
- Identify and document all City park, recreation, and cultural amenity sites.
- Form partnerships between the City and volunteers in the care and beautification of parks. Optimize year round use of all recreational facilities available in the community.
- Coordinate the development of parks with Pierce County and the surrounding Towns.
- Review park plan and projects on an annual basis.

RiverfrontArea

Create and enforce ordinances, or guidelines, for building design covering new and remodeled waterfront structures, and for the placement and screening of trash dumpsters, with special attention paid to the river front area.

Encourage private property owners to improve the appearance of their river front buildings.

Acquisition and dedication of lands for adequate park and green spaces for future population growth, with special priority being given to Mississippi River Front lands south of the central business district to maintain or increase public access to the River Front.

Increase rental slip availability and public access and boat access of the riverfront.

FreedomPark

Promote the use of the Learning Center.

Maintain the parks landscaping and facilities to the highest degree possible.

ACTION PLAN

The City of Prescott, through the citizen prepared Comprehensive Plan 2000-2020, has established goals and projects intended to enhance the image of the City's riverfront, and improve the outdoor recreational facilities throughout the City.

City-WidePlan Implementation

Hire a professional consultant to prepare accurate maps and inventory the existing City public outdoor recreation facilities and amenities, as well as school facilities and private commercial outdoor recreational facilities. Keep the map and inventory updated on a timely basis using in-house City staff and resources.

In the short-term, utilize professional consultants to designate rebuilding and enhancement of parks, and create an on-going municipal budget for rehabilitation and maintenance of City parks. This will include seeking grants from outside sources and solicitation and acceptance of donated services and material. The consultant will assist current City staff (City Administrator) and qualified volunteers to implement the recommendations from the consultant, as guided by ongoing public meetings.

In the long-term, hire sufficient City staff, with appropriate professional training, to operate a city-wide park and recreation department, including on-going evaluation of programs and facilities.

Insure that citizen committees, that develop programs and policies, are given professional assistance; either consultant or City staff, to insure the diverse needs of Prescott citizens are recognized and met.

Amend the existing Prescott Subdivision Ordinance to insure that the developer's agreement requires a donation of useable land, accepting cash donations for park land acquisition on a case by case basis.

Establish park design and other physical and cultural standards, and establish a procedure to insure existing facilities are brought to the minimum standards over a scheduled period of time. Require all new lands and facilities acquired comply with the standards as soon as possible.

Coordinate with the school district and other public agencies that provided outdoor recreational facilities to effectively provide for public recreational.

Maintain records of programs, park usage, facility rents, and other indicators for public use and preferences. These will determine the increased or decreased use of the various outdoor recreation facilities to help guide the City in the development of existing and additional facilities. Such usage reports will become a regular feature of the City Council's Parks and Public Property Committee's agenda to maintain Communication and monitor the facilities and programs.

Lease park shelters for group events to serve public needs as well as to build revenue, however, avoid leasing all shelters at the same time, so as not to discourage the occasional and spontaneous use of shelters by the visiting public.

Develop a program that emphasizes the development, rebuilding, or enhancement of one or more facilities each year.

RiverFrontImplementationPlan

Enforce present City ordinance to remove dumpsters from city streets on the river front.

Post signs publicizing the existing dog control ordinance and enforce the ordinance.

Continue to enforce existing parking ordinances and improve parking conditions in the river front area.

Continue to enforce boat docking ordinances and improve boat docking conditions.

Continue to enforce existing weed control and litter laws, especially in the river front area.

Develop incentives for business owners to improve the appearance of their property and exterior building areas, possibly using design criteria and tax credits.

Increase the amount of City owned property along the river front for both “green space” as well as parking purposes.

Extend the River Walk, including river front access, south along the Mississippi River shoreline where possible.

Enforcement of the above mentioned existing ordinances may require additional City staff inspectors, and the formation and sustained operation of a neighborhood watch group.

SpecificRiverFrontPropertyProjectsandPrograms

Construct architecturally designed concrete sea wall along river front between U.S.H. 10 bridge and railroad bridge to replace existing rock rip-rap for improved aesthetics and functionality, and add stairs from boat docks to the roadway above.

ADA compliant boat launch and courtesy docks.

Acquire river front property, on an ongoing basis schedule, south of the U.S.H. 10 bridge.

Improve Ordinance Enforcement in an efficient manner. This Includes placement and screening of refuse dumpsters at commercial businesses, and development of guidelines and incentives for private building renovation.

Improve grounds maintenance by using live plantings to as great extent as possible, and consider using a boardwalk in the long-term planning.

Bicycle Trail Improvements as proposed as part of the Hastings, Minnesota-Prescott, Wisconsin multi-purpose trail project. This includes signing, shoulder installation, and ramping between Broad Street and the River Walk.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR PARK AND/OR TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

With parks, comes park maintenance and improvements. The City of Prescott provides a standard budget for maintenance and operation. Separate budgets are prepared for general parks, the beach, the skating rink, Freedom Park (with assistance from the Friends of Freedom Park), and the boat launch.

Each year, the City reviews capital items on its 5-Year Capital Improvements Program to prioritize potential projects.

The Lions Club also forms partnerships on special projects. CAP (Citizens Adopt Parks) consists of citizens who are interested in the beautification of Prescott, especially parks and other public areas. They recommend and develop plantings, and assist in the maintenance of these areas.

Other funding options are available depending on the type of project.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

City of Prescott and/or Local Support

- A. Impact fees/Parkland dedication
- B. Private funds/donation and citizen involvement
- C. Pierce County
- D. General funds

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The City of Prescott Master Parks Plan identifies numerous goals and proposed improvements. Time and budget challenges make it unrealistic to expect all of them to be addressed in a short period. The Parks and Public Property Committee should maintain a Plan Implementation Worksheet that prioritizes projects to be focused on over a five-year period. Each year, the Plan Implementation Worksheet should be reviewed to acknowledge accomplishments, and updated to reflect current needs. The Plan Implementation Worksheet is kept as a separate document outside of the Master Parks Plan.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND REVISIONS TO THE PLAN

The City of Prescott Master Park Plan is an active document. It is meant to be reviewed and revised as needed. The Parks and Public Property Committee should review the document, particularly the overall goals, action plan, and specific plan implementation recommendations to evaluate the successes and challenges in implementing the plan.

FIVE-YEAR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHEET
City of Prescott Master Parks Plan

Five-Year Period: 2011 to 2016

Reviewed and Revised: November 2010

Park/Area	Proposed Improvement	Responsible Group	Date Completed	Challenges
Boat Launch	Acquire Land	City	2011	Financial
Sunset Park	Playground Equipment	City/Eagle Scout	2011	Financial, Vandalism
Boat Launch	ADA Compliant Docks	City	2012	Financial
River Front	ADA Compliant Dock	City	2013	Financial
River Front	Emergency Access	City	2014	Financial
Mercord Mill Park	Restrooms	City	2015	Financial (possible TIF funds)
Magee Park	Shelter	City/Magee Family	2016	Financial, Vandalism
All Parks	Tree planting & mapping	Parks	ongoing	Financial

TREES ALLOWED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

SPECIES SELECTION

Proper selection of street tree species is important because of the adverse conditions involved with urban areas. In addition to common adversities such as inadequate moisture, sunlight, nutrients, growing space, and insects and diseases there are many factors that a street tree also must contend with. These factors include:

- Exposure to air pollutants from automobiles and industry
- Soil compaction from heavy pedestrian traffic
- Limited growing space due to buildings, roads, and sidewalks
- Salt contamination from winter road maintenance
- Mechanical damage
- Vandalism

It is very important to select a species that is tolerant to these urban stresses or they might become susceptible to insects and diseases. Below is a list of recommended trees for urban areas and advantages of each.

Small Trees (Mature Height of Less Than 30 Feet)

Species	Height	Spread	Growth Rate	Remarks
Washington Hawthorn	20 – 30'	15-20'	Medium	Bears thorns; red to orange autumn foliage. Tolerant to adverse city conditions.
Flowering Crabapple	20 – 30'	18-20'	Medium	Use only where fruits can be tolerated. Very disease resistant.
Ironwood	25'	20'	Slow	Tolerant of dry soil and shade, but intolerant of soil.

Globe Norway Maple	20'	20'	Slow	Low crown globe, withstands salt very well.
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Medium Trees (Mature Height 30 – 40 feet)

Species	Height	Spread	Growth Rate	Remarks
Columnar Norway Maple	30-40'	10-15'	Fast	Grows fast and has a narrow spread, avoids conflict with adjacent trees.
Autumn Blaze Red Maple	40'	10-20'	Fast	A cultivated hybrid maple that is made for urban environments. Has bright red fall color
Greenspire Linden	40'	30'	Medium	Very tolerant to urban conditions, large pyramid spread.

Large Trees (Mature Height of 40 feet or greater)

Species	Height	Spread	Growth Rate	Remarks
White Ash	50-80'	50'	Medium	Broad crowned tree, purple colored fall foliage.
Green Ash	50-60'	30-40'	Fast	Tolerant of both wet and dry soil types, and road salt. Foliage turns yellow in autumn
Norway Maple	50'	50'	Medium	Withstands salt well; avoid using in locations where turf is to be maintained.
Northwoods Red Maple	50-60'	30-40'	Fast	Intolerant of salt, requires a moist and acidic soil. Deep red fall foliage.
Imperial Honeylocust	60'	40'	Fast	Casts only a light shade. Tolerant of salt. Tolerant of all soil types.
Pin Oak	40-50'	30-40'	Medium	Avoid using on alkaline soils. Tolerant of wet soil

Red Oak	60'	40-50'	Medium	Intolerant of heavy or poorly drained soils.
Hackberry	40-50'	40'	Slow	Very sensitive to salt "witches room" is a problem. Tolerant of wet and dry soils.
Kentucky Coffeetree	60'	40'	Medium	Low litter because of twigless branches Very picturesque.