

Town of Holland

Long Range Plan for Parks and Recreation Areas

Overall Goals and Objectives

In 2007, the Town of Holland approved its Comprehensive Plan. Due to comments made in the Town Survey done in 2006, various objectives were developed in the Comprehensive Plan as to maintain the rural character of the Town. The Plan was reviewed and updated in 2020. The various objectives that were used to help develop this Long Range Plan for Parks and Recreation Areas are as follows:

Chapter 2, Objective 2-1: Explore ordinances that maintain certain levels of green/open spaces (such as cluster subdivisions) in new developments.

Chapter 4, Goal 3: Continue to provide and improve outdoor recreational facilities for active uses (eg. Ball games) and natural areas for passive uses (eg bird watching).

Chapter 4, Objective 3-1: Recreational facilities and programs should be planned to serve both local residents and tourists and should be designed at a scale appropriate to the intended use and the surrounding environment. Recreational uses and facilities should also be consistent with the other goals and objectives identified in this plan, especially those related to land use, transportation and the environment.

Chapter 5, Action 3-1a: Enforce and update parkland dedication and facilities requirements as identified within the Subdivision Ordinance (#1-2008) to the extent allowed by State Statutes. Determine necessary changes to the measure as determined by increases in public demand for parkland and other facilities.

Chapter 5, Action 3-1b: Create a Town parks and recreation master plan with public input to guide the purchase and development or preservation of parks and recreation areas; identify locations for picnic and playground facilities.

Chapter 5, Action 3-1c: Work with environmental groups in the area, including the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, to identify and acquire significant natural areas including sand prairies and bluff lands.

Chapter 5, Objective 2-1: Work with La Crosse County and the Village of Holmen to Establish and maintain an efficient system of parks, trails, pedestrian pathways, bicycle routes and greenways to provide access and linkage to natural and recreational resources in and around Holland.

Chapter 5, Objective 2-1a: Support the development of new parks within and near areas where significant residential development is occurring. With the parkland dedication requirement, plan for key park facilities by site or area to prevent overlap and enhance Holland's park resource offerings.

Chapter 5, Objective 2-1B: Emphasize the value of the Town's natural resource areas as focal points of natural beauty and recreation that contribute to the community's identity, and as economic benefits to the Town, region, and State of Wisconsin.

Chapter 5, Action 3-1b: Promote conservation development in environmentally sensitive areas and areas with unique environmental features. This means clustering new buildings and protecting scenic areas.

Short-Term Goals

Short-Term Goals will be defined as goals for the next 1-10 years. The main objective of the short-term goals is to update and improve the current parks to make them more appealing and safe to the increased residential development that the township has seen over the last decade. Also incorporated in the goals below is the comments and suggestions from the park survey that was completed in the fall of 2010 for the Gaynor & Holland Estates subdivisions. In 2012, verbal surveys were done with Holland Estates and Country Estates residents.

August Prairie Park (West):

- Pre 2011: Play equipment, basketball court (from Tim Dienger Memorial Fund), trees (from Tim Dienger Memorial Fund), and park benches (from Eagle Scout project).
- 2012: Swing set was added.
- 2015: Soccer kicking wall added.
- 2017: Park bench and picnic tables added
- Future: Possible shelter house, soccer fields on west end of park.

August Prairie Park (East):

- 2011: Started mowing a minimum of four times a year to try to cut down on sumac problem on the land and for a play space.
- 2019: Request to mow at least six times a year.
- Future: prairie plantings on the eastern side and mow one trail through the plantings. Mow the flatter area at least six times a year.

Lloyd Dresen Park (Country Estates):

- 2011: Added one section of replacement bleachers and cement pad along the first base line.
- 2012: Verbal survey to be conducted of neighbors.
- 2014: Ordered swing set to be installed in 2015.
- 2015: New playground equipment installed.
- 2016: Metal roof was installed on shelter house.
- 2020: Renamed park "Lloyd Dresen Park"
- Future: Continue to maintain "as is".

Gaynor Addition:

- Pre 2011: Slide, baseball field, and volleyball net.
- 2012: Added small colorful climbing structure, 4 crab trees, picnic table, bench.

- 2016: Spinner equipment installed
- 2019: Replace swing sets and reinstall teeter totter, took down volleyball posts
- Future: Continue to look at alternatives to update, add to, or improve upon existing structures.

George Hammes Memorial Park (Prairie Meadows/Prairie Woods):

- Pre 2011: Large climbing/slide structure, swings, walking paths, and shelter (which was built by the developer).
- 2011: Signage added in memory of George Hammes. Donation funds were used to offset cost.
- 2015: Added signage for no motorized vehicles on walking paths
- 2017: Broken cement bench removed and replaced.
- 2020: round cement picnic table sold.
- Future: Continue to look at alternatives to update, add to, or improve upon existing structures.

Hidden Prairie:

- 2020: New subdivision developed in the fall.
- Future: Install playground equipment.

Holland Estates and Flury Field:

- Pre 2011: One slide, swings and small amount of play equipment.
- 2011: Added additional play equipment (climbing structure with slide, hexagon climbing structure, and spinner purchased in 2010).
- 2013: Shelter house with steel roof constructed, added two picnic tables and garbage containers.
- 2016: Added soffit to shelter house.
- 2017: Added park trees, garbage cans and picnic bench.
- 2022-23: Flury Field construction - Added baseball/softball and soccer field.
- Future: Add park trees when possible.

Stephenson Farmstead:

- 2020: Land donated by the Stephenson/Arneson family.
- 2021: Parking lot installed to tie-in with the McGilvray Road (7 bridges). Walking paths and interpretative signs added to highlight Stephenson Farmstead.
- 2023: Upgrade walking paths.

Town Hall & Park:

- 2012: Smaller park shelter constructed.
- 2015: North field dug-outs replaced. Batting cage installed.
- 2016: South field dug-outs replaced and addition of soccer field (west side).
- 2016: Benches and picnic tables updated.
- 2017: Shelter #1 – metal roof and soffit installed. Shelter #2 – ceiling and lights replaced, yard hydrant installed. Batting cage installed between ballfields.
- 2018: Shelter #2 – metal roof and gutters installed.
- 2020: Zipline equipment added. Shelter #1 electrical/lights updated (safety).

- 2021: Fitness (ninja) equipment to be added.
- Future: Improvements for the ball fields to be done in conjunction with the Holmen Area Youth Baseball Parents Assoc Inc.

Wildflower Park:

- 2018: Walking trail and parking lot installed. Trees planted along north and south sides of property. Tree line cleared and reseeded.
- Future: Possible gazebo, natural plantings.

Overall parks:

- CAPX2020: In 2014, funds from the CapX2020 environmental fees were used to pay off the Holland Sand Prairie debt.
- SIGNAGE: In 2015 signs were installed for parks showing the name of the park.
- SIGNAGE: Late 2015, signs were installed at all parks requesting that dogs be leashed and pet owners remove dog waste.

Other Short-Term Goals

- COMMUNITY PROJECTS: Promote community projects to help update and maintain our current park system. Some possibilities would be Eagle Scout projects, park equipment or shelters that are built as memorials, etc.
- CHECK-LIST: Continue use of the park maintenance check list to be completed two times a year by the Town's crew. Report to Park Committee at spring meeting.
- MASTER PLAN: With possible significant funds starting in 2013 (and each year after) for the parks and green space in the Township from the CapX project, look at getting outside help to develop a master plan for the Town's parks and green space.
- CAPX2020 FUNDS: Funds became available in 2013 and were depleted in 2018.
- BCL FUNDS: Funds became available in 2017.
- SOCCER FIELDS: Possible development of a soccer complex with 2 full size fields and one small field.
- BIKE TRAILS: Possible development to connect town roads with current bike trail.
- HANDICAP ACCESS: Possible development and construction of handicap access trails leading to park equipment.

Long Term Goals

Long-Term Goals will be defined as goals for the next 11-50 years. The overall long term goal would be to promote conservation/cluster developments so as to minimize the maintenance needed from the Town and to preserve rural character that is desired by the residents. In 2008, the Town's subdivision ordinance was updated to include Section 8.0 to promote cluster style subdivisions and allow for alternative forms of ownership/ maintenance of the open space.

The Park Committee should also identify various scenic and natural areas that they would like to see preserved. This list should be given to the Plan Commission so that it will be considered when land in the various areas will be developed. Various areas of scenic/natural beauty that should be preserved are as follows:

1. Bluffs
2. Wetlands
3. Natural Prairies

Town Recreation Areas

The Town of Holland has wonderful recreational opportunities. Below is a listing of some of the facilities and their rules:

Holland Sand Prairie

Open to the public. Located on County Road MH (McHugh Rd) directly across from Garden Street. Trails and benches are scattered throughout the 61 acre prairie. Foot traffic only, no motorized vehicles.

Holland Bike Trail

Open year round to the public. Trail starts at the corner of Holmen Drive and Main Street and continues north to Sylvester Road approximately 2.5 miles. At the south end, the Trail connects with the Village of Holmen Bike Trail and connects with the Great River State Trail in Midway. No motorized vehicles allowed.

Van Loon Wildlife Area & McGilvray (Seven) Bridges

Open to the public year round. Access and parking available off Amsterdam Prairie Road. The trail from the first bridge to the sixth bridge and back is 3.7 miles in length. Van Loon can be accessed by foot or boat from numerous parking lots and a boat landing along Hwy 53.

Black River Access

Public access can be found at either the boat landing on Highway 35 just west of County Road XX or south of Hunter's Bridge (entrance off Oak Drive, west of Highway 53).

Amsterdam Prairie (MVC Land)

Open to the public. Located on Old NA Road. There is a small public parking lot. Foot traffic only, no motorized vehicles.

Sportsman Retreat

Located at the end of Beaver Road. This is green space that has access to the Black River. Access to the Black River is foot traffic only.

Town Parks

There are various Town parks scattered throughout the Township. All parks are open to the public during daylight hours. Pets are allowed if leashed and "doggie doo" cleaned up.

Town of Holland Park, located on County Road MH next to the Town Hall, has two baseball fields, two volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, sledding hill, play equipment for all ages and three park shelters (two available through reservations).

Lloyd Dresen (Country Estates Park), located on Meadow Way, has play equipment, baseball field and park shelter (available on first-come basis).

Gaynor Park, located on St Croix Avenue, has play equipment, small baseball field.

Hidden Prairie, located on the north side of Old NA, just east of New Amsterdam, new park developed in 2020. Equipment to be determined at a future date.

Holland Estate Park & Flury Field, located on Ducke Drive, has play equipment with ballfields on north end of the park, and a shelter house.

George Hammes Memorial Park (Prairie Woods/Prairie Meadows), has a walking trail (no motorized vehicles allowed), park shelter (available first come, first serve) and play equipment.

August Prairie Park (West), located at Country Ave, has play equipment and a half basketball court and soccer kicking wall.

August Prairie Park (East), located at Country Ave and Pedretti Street, large open green space for public use.

Cottonwood, open green space with a large old cottonwood tree located on a knoll (owned and maintained by the residents of Cottonwood Addition).

Wildflower Park, located east of the Town Hall park, adjacent to the ballfields. Overflow parking with walking trail and large open green space for public use.