

## **Program Statement**

### **Mahomet Area Activity and Recreation Center (MAARC)**

**1/13/2012**

#### **INTENT**

This Program Statement describes the recreation programs and facilities that the Mahomet Community provides to area residents, defines community needs and identifies potential opportunities for future development.

A working committee of Community residents, private sports organization representatives, not-for-profit agency leaders, and public officials has been formed to determine the current and future recreational needs for the Mahomet Community. The intent is to clearly define the recreational program and facility priorities for the community; to open public dialog on the need to enhance recreational opportunities in the community; and to seek public support for the project(s) related to an indoor and/or outdoor Mahomet Area Activity and Recreation Center.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Recreation programs and facilities in the community are primarily provided by the Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD). Associated municipal governments, not-for-profit agencies, private sport organizations, and private entities further enhance the recreational programs and facilities available to Mahomet residents. The current population from the 2010 Census of the Village is 7,258, with the adjacent unincorporated subdivisions and rural residential developments within Mahomet Township adding approximately 4,136 residents to the immediate area. As the population of the area increases, new or expanded recreational programs and facilities are likely to be required in order to meet community needs.

#### **Community Program Participation:**

The Parks and Recreation Department's programs serve both Village of Mahomet residents and nonresidents. Approximately 30 to 40 percent of the Department's program participants reside outside of the Village corporate limits, with the majority being from within Mahomet Township. Regardless of residency, the Department's program participation rates have increased steadily over the last decade. Private sport organizations, not-for-profits and private businesses also offer recreational opportunities that supplement MPRD programs and/or provide programs not currently offered by the Department. TABLE I outlines the program participation by activity and by recreational service provider.

**TABLE I  
COMMUNITY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION - 2011**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Participants</b>
MPRD Youth Baseball (VILLAGE)	Baseball	430
American Legion (PSO)	Baseball	30
Diamond Dog Baseball (PSO)	Baseball	72
Mahomet Pony (PSO)	Baseball	15
MPRD Youth Softball (VILLAGE)	Softball	200
MS Fast Pitch Softball(PSO)	Softball	80
MPRD Adult Softball (VILLAGE)	Softball	120
MPRD Youth Soccer (VILLAGE)	Soccer	580
MPRD Soccer Camp (VILLAGE)	Soccer	100
Mahomet Seymour Soccer Club (PSO)	Soccer	190
Bulldog Soccer Camp (School Sponsored)	Soccer	160
Jim Caputo Soccer Camp (PB)	Soccer	75
MPRD Youth Flag Football (VILLAGE)	Football	240
MPRD Adult Flag Football (VILLAGE)	Football	120
Central Illinois Youth Tackle Football (PSO)	Football	90
Biddy Ball (School Sponsored)	Basketball	100
MPRD Youth Basketball (VILLAGE)	Basketball	420
Mahomet Youth Basketball (PSO)	Basketball	70
Bulldog Bash Tourney (School sponsored)	Basketball	80 HS Girls Teams
Mahomet Youth Tennis Association (PSO)	Tennis	15
Mahomet Seymour Wrestling Club (PSO)	Wrestling	60
Mahomet Area Youth Club (Not-For-Profit)	Afterschool	170
Mahomet Swim (PSO)		-
Mahomet Ice Hockey (PSO)		-
FitTek (PB)	Fitness Center	650
Twist and Shout (PB)	Dance and Cheer	300

Private Sports Organization (PSO)

Private Business (PB)

**Community Park and Recreational Facilities:**

The Village of Mahomet owns nine park sites ranging in size from 3,600 sq.ft. to 55 acres for both passive and active recreation. Recreation programs are generally provided at three of the Village park facilities including Dowell Park for MPRD girls softball; Bridle Leash Park for MPRD youth baseball; and Barber Park for MPRD football, along with MPRD and MS Soccer Club soccer programs. The other five parks are more passive in nature and include Brooks/Warfel Park, Brent Johnson Park, Russell Park, Sandy Ridge Park (Water Tower Park) and the Sangamon River Greenway.

The Village has an ongoing verbal use agreement with the Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 for the use of various sites and facilities for MPRD programs. The Fieldhouse located at the High School is available for limited public use and the gymnasium is seasonally used by the MPRD for youth basketball and volleyball programs, as well as, by the Diamond Dogs, MS Soccer Club, MS Travel Basketball, MS Fast Pitch Softball, Mahomet Youth Tennis Association and MS Wrestling Club. Other School District gymnasiums, including Sangamon Elementary and Lincoln Trail Elementary are used for the MPRD volleyball and basketball programs, MS Travel Basketball, CIYFL Youth Tackle Football, and MS Fast Pitch Softball. 13 Acres Park is utilized by the School District, MPRD youth baseball/softball, MS Fast Pitch Softball and Diamond Dogs. The Village also has a use agreement

with the Taylor Family for the use of Taylor Field. Taylor Field is used for a variety of sports activities including MPRD baseball, softball, soccer, and flag football, as well as, the Diamond Dogs. Taylor Field is the only recreation facility with lights in the community.

Publicly-owned recreational land in the area also includes the Champaign County Forest Preserve District's Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve and River Bend Forest Preserve. Additional privately-owned or not-for-profit recreational services and facilities in the immediate area include the Champaign County Sportsman's Club, Urbana Sportsman's Club, Camp Kiwanis, Methodist Church, Tin Cup Campground, Mahomet Area Youth Club (MAYC), Twist and Shout Dance, and Fit Tek.

## **COMMUNITY RECREATION STANDARDS**

### **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Guidelines:**

The purpose of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines is to present parks and recreation space standards that are applicable nationwide for planning, acquisition, and development of park, recreation, and open space lands, primarily at the community level. These standards should only be viewed as a guide and not an absolute. They address minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved. The standards are interpreted according to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific to local needs.

NRPA suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a total of 6-10 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. Developed open space is defined as lands where development can take place in support of program offerings (active parks), as opposed to undeveloped open space for preservation of natural areas.

### **Community Needs Based on NRPA Guidelines:**

In 1992, the Village of Mahomet adopted A Plan for a Mahomet Park and Open Space System. According to the Plan, open space standards appropriate for the Mahomet Community are 10 acres per 1,000 population for active parks (developed areas) and 8-10 acres per 1,000 population for open space/greenways (undeveloped areas). These standards are consistent with the NRPA Guidelines.

Approximately 114 acres of developed open space (active parks and recreation facilities) would currently be recommended for the Community, based on the NRPA guidelines. Assuming a population growth rate of 2% per year over the next ten years (2010-2020), there will be approximately 2,500 new residents in the service area. The projected population of the Community would then be approximately 13,885 by 2020. The projected population equates to a need for approximately 140 acres of developed open space, based on the NRPA guidelines. The Village currently owns approximately 83 acres, with an additional 20 acres through use agreements for MPRD programs, which totals 103 acres of developed open space. The current acreage falls below the recreation guidelines for the current service area population, as well as, the projected service area population of 13,885 in 2020. With the uncertainty for long-term use of Taylor Field and 13 Acres Park, Village-owned acreage available for developed open space for parks and facilities is considerably below the recommended standards.

It is assumed that much of the Mahomet Community's passive recreation needs can be met through the Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve (900 acres), River Bend Forest Preserve (275 acres), Barber Park and the Sangamon River Greenway (32 acres). These areas appear to satisfy the guideline for 10 acres per 1,000 population for undeveloped open space lands accessible to the community.

**TABLE II  
COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITY									
Facility	NRPA Standard Number per Population	Village Parks	Lake of the Woods and River Bend (CCFPD)	13 Acres Park (CUSD#3)	Taylor Field (PRIVATE)	High School (CUSD#3)	Junior High School (CUSD#3)	Grade Schools (CUSD#3)	Other (CHURCH)
Basketball courts - inside	1/5,000					1, 3*	2	2	
Basketball courts/goals – outside		1					4		
Tennis courts	1/2,000			2					
Volleyball	1/5,000					Fieldhouse	Gym 2	Gym 2	
Football fields	1/20,000					1			
Soccer fields – full size	1/10,000	1					1		
Soccer fields – undersize	1/5,000	1+ Many Informal Barber			2 Informal Outfield				
Baseball fields – full size	1/5,000			1		1			
Baseball fields – undersize	1/5,000	1		3	1				1
Softball fields	1/5,000	2		1	1	1			
Swimming pool	1/20,000								
Golf – 18 hole standard	1/50,000		1						
Golf – 9 hole standard	1/25,000		1						
Open space/fields		3	Many	2	1			1	
Trails (walking, bicycling)	1 per region	1	1						
Track						1, 1*	1		
Playgrounds		3	2	1				3	
Picnic areas/shelters		2	Many						
Passive sitting area		2	Many						
Park/Open Space Acreage	10 acres per 1,000		1,175	13	7				

**Village of Mahomet:** Barber Park, Brent Johnson Park, Bridle Leash Park, Brooks/Warfel Park, Dowell Park, Russell Park, Sangamon River Greenway and Sandy Ridge Park (Water Tower Park).

**High School Facilities:** Fieldhouse Multiple-use Facility (\*)

**Elementary Schools Gymnasiums:** Middletown, Sangamon, and Lincoln Trail

**Other:** Church Facilities

**TABLE III**  
**VILLAGE OF MAHOMET RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY**

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Barber Park	55 acres	2 soccer fields: 1 regulation size, 1 junior size, pavilion, restrooms, water fountain. Remainder undeveloped open space, several smaller soccer fields, bleachers, unpaved parking; most acreage in floodplain
Brooks/Warfel Park	1/3 acre	Playground equipment, open space
Dowell Park	3.2 acres	Softball field, dugouts, backstop, concessions, parking areas, bleachers, unpaved parking
Brent Johnson Park	10 acres	9 hole disc golf course, walking path, water fountain, play structure
Bridle Leash Park	10.5 acres	1 baseball field, 1 softball field, 2 horseshoe pits, 1 sand volleyball court, 1 basketball court (6 total hoops), walking path, restroom/concession structure, 2 water fountains, paved parking and play structure
Russell Park	3,600 sq. ft.	Sitting area landscaped
Sandy Ridge Park	4.43 acres	Open area, drainage basin – useable space during dry season
13 Acres Park	13.3 acres	Softball/baseball, dugouts, backstop, soccer/flag football fields, playground and play structure, concessions, parking, bleachers, open space, tennis courts
Taylor Field	7 acres	Softball/baseball field, dugouts, backstop, concessions, parking, bleachers
Sangamon River Greenway	32.66 acres	Unpaved parking, flood plain undeveloped land

## COMMUNITY RECREATION ISSUES

It is anticipated that the Mahomet Community will continue to grow in population and that recreation programs and facilities will need to be established and/or expanded to meet current and future needs. The following are the primary recreation issues facing community.

- Service Area Population

The MPRD has a service area that extends beyond the Village limits to generally include the boundaries of the MS CUSD #3. As such, the populations of both areas (Village of Mahomet and School District) should be considered when comparing existing facilities/parks/open space with NRPA standards and guidelines.

- Park and Facility Ownership

A significant number of MPRD programs are conducted at facilities not under municipal ownership and/or control. These primarily include 13 Acres Park, Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 Facilities, and Taylor Field. 13 Acres Park and Taylor Field provide a major portion of the baseball/softball facilities used by the Mahomet Community. In addition, the School District Facilities serve as the only source of indoor recreational space for the Community. Informal use agreements are in place, but these agreements do not provide adequate protection from a potential change of use of these facilities. With the uncertainty for long-term use of these facilities, the MPRD needs to protect these programs by either establishing long-term use agreements or by being more proactive at acquiring lands to support future program and facility needs.

- Competition for Space/Facilities

Use of Facilities under other's ownership (e.g., School District facilities, Fieldhouse, 13 Acres Park, and Taylor Field) places the MPRD and private sport organizations in the position of competing for space/facilities with the primary users. Although the NRPA standards/guidelines indicate that the Village has adequate gym space through the use of school district facilities, there is often overlap of usage which limits access. Such competition will continue to increase as demand for the Village's programs increase, as well as the demand for school and/or private sport organizations activities increase.

- Demand for Indoor Facilities

The lack of indoor facilities is tremendous. Indoor facilities should take precedence over any outdoor considerations in the near term. However, both indoor and outdoor facilities are needed to support current and future recreation activities.

- Participation Levels versus Population

In evaluating standards, population figures are used to determine need. This may be fine for identifying acreage for parks and open space, however participation figures are not incorporated in these standards. Obviously, participation (demand) is a much better measure to determine need for additional facilities than population.

**RECREATION PROGRAMS AND FACILITY NEEDS**

**TABLE IV  
INDOOR FACILITY**

<b>Priority A</b>	<b>Priority B</b>	<b>Priority C</b>
General Recreation – Children	Programming – Recreation Adult Basketball	Programming – Auditorium/Theater
General Recreation –Adults	Programming – Recreation Youth Volleyball	Programming – Racquet Ball
Programming – Recreation Youth Basketball	Programming – Softball/Baseball Training (Batting Cage Netting)	Programming – Competitive Youth Wrestling
Programming – Recreation Walking/Running	Programming – Turf Sports (Recreation/Competitive Soccer/Flag Football)	Programming – Recreation Adult Volleyball
Programming –Multipurpose (Conference/Banquet Space, Day Camp, Community Programming)	Indoor Splash Pad	Indoor Playground
Programming – Tennis	Programming – Exercise Room	General Recreation - Teens
Programming – Competitive Youth Basketball		Climbing Wall
Programming – Indoor Pool (Competition/Lap Swimming)		
Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices		

### **Priority A Indoor Facility Space Needs:**

- Minimum, 3 - 4 multipurpose courts (regulation size basketball) with curtain dividers
  - Alternate Uses
    - 3 - 4 regulation basketball courts
    - 3 - 4 tennis courts
    - 3 - 4 volleyball courts
- Minimum, 1 elevated walking/running path with area for stretching, agility balls and mats
- Minimum, 1 Multipurpose Activity Room with capacity of up to 150 people and dividers for breakout rooms
- Minimum, 1 Kitchen/Catering area near multipurpose activity room
- Minimum, 3 Offices (Parks & Recreation Administration)
- 1 Indoor Pool to accommodate indoor lap swimming, swim competition, swim lessons

### **Priority B Indoor Facility Space Needs: (All of the above, plus:)**

- 1 Group Exercise Room
- Minimum, 1 turf fields
- Batting nets
- Indoor Splash Pad/Water Feature

### **Priority C Indoor Facility Space Needs: (All of the above, plus:)**

- Auditorium/Theater
- Wrestling Space/Mats
- Climbing Wall Feature
- Racquet ball space

### **Other Indoor Facility Necessities:**

Equipment Storage Room, Lobby, Janitorial Area, Locker Rooms, Ample Parking, Grassy Open Space nearby, Room for expansion, Accessibility, Security/Lighting, Afterhours Rental Friendly, Portable bleachers in gymnasium, Tables and Chairs, Sustainable Design



**TABLE V  
OUTDOOR FACILITY**

<b>Priority A</b>	<b>Priority B</b>	<b>Priority C</b>
General Recreation Children	Programming – Youth Competitive Tackle Football	Programming – Adult Regional Tournaments
General Recreation Adults	Programming – Youth Competitive Fast Pitch Softball Association	Programming – Competitive Tennis
Programming – Recreation Youth T-ball and Baseball Leagues	Programming – Competitive Swimming	Programming – Recreation Adult Soccer Leagues
Programming - Recreation Youth Softball Leagues	Programming –Adult Flag Football Leagues	Programming – Birthday Parties/Rentals
Programming – Recreation Adult Softball Leagues	Programming - Community Programs (Special Events, Day Camps, Sport Clinics)	
Programming – Recreation Youth Flag Football Leagues		
Programming – Recreation Youth Soccer Leagues		
Programming – Recreation Tennis		
Programming – Recreation Swim /Swim Lessons		
Programming – Youth Competitive Club Soccer		
Programming – Youth Competitive Baseball		
Programming – Youth Regional Tournaments		

### **Priority A Outdoor Facility Space Needs:**

- Minimum 400'x400' open space for tball, flag football, mini soccer and overflow
- Minimum 2 - 3, 11 v 11 size irrigated soccer/football fields (at least one should be lighted)
- Minimum 6, 8 v 8 size irrigated soccer/football fields
- Minimum 8, 4 v 4 size irrigated soccer fields (could use open space described above in lieu of dedicated field space.
- Minimum 8, 3 v 3 size irrigated soccer fields (could utilize outfield space/open space in lieu of dedicated field space.
- Minimum 4 - 6, regulation size tennis courts
- Outdoor Swimming Pool:
  - Large Variety of Aquatic Activities for Families with Small Children (0-7) and older children (8-11).
  - Large Variety of Aquatic (thrill) Activities for Children 12 and above
  - Ample seating/shade
  - Family restrooms, secure locker rooms
  - Concession Stand
  - Concession seating with shade
  - Area that allows parents to supervise both young and old children in their activities with plenty of shade
  - Safe environment
  - Area to allow for staff lounge
  - Area for proper supervision of patrons by staff and first aid
  - Adequate sound system
- Minimum 4 youth, lighted/irrigated diamonds (200' permanent fence + 1 adult lighted/irrigated diamond (minimum 300' permanent fence) Plus: Minimum 3 youth, lighted/irrigated baseball fields(competitive)

### **Priority B Space Needs: (All of the above, plus:)**

- Minimum 2 youth, lighted/irrigated softball fields(competitive)
- Additional 2 lighted, regulation size irrigated soccer/football field
- Additional Concession/Restroom facilities
- Competition Lanes for Swimming (25 meters)

### **Priority C Outdoor Facility Space Needs: (All of the above, plus:)**

- 6-8 lighted tennis courts
- Area to accommodate birthday parties/rentals

### **Other Outdoor Facility Necessities:**

Spectator Areas, Concessions, Onsite Maintenance/Storage Structure, Restrooms, Convenient/Ample Parking, Accessibility throughout, Play structure(s), Pavilion(s)