

***Parks and Recreation
Master Plan***

Village of Mahomet

2004

Prepared by

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Introduction to Parks and Recreation Planning

Purpose of the Master Plan

The Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was undertaken to determine how to best meet the recreation needs of Village residents and nonresidents served by the Village of Mahomet Recreation Department. The overall purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to maintain a quality parks and recreation system in order to fulfill the expanding needs and expressed desires of program participants through the year 2010.

As part of this planning process, a Community Recreation Survey was conducted during 2001-02 (Appendix I). The purpose of that survey was to:

- Develop a profile of users based on demographics and residency;
- Identify the attitudes of residents toward the recreation department and its operations;
- Identify residents' feelings about user fees;
- Identify activities/programs participated in by residents;
- Identify the interest for participating in future activities/programs; and
- Develop an information database for planning, evaluations, policy, and monitoring for the future.

The Master Plan was developed using a common sense approach. Existing assets, programs, and facilities were analyzed for both current and future anticipated demand. The objective was to produce a plan by which the Village could identify present and future local issues and needs, evaluate alternatives/options available, and prioritize courses of action to meet the projected needs.

Elements of the Master Plan

This plan consists of four basic elements. Each element is a necessary part of the total plan. The exclusion of one element would render the process unable to compile the final recommendation for action. The four elements are:

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

- **Parks and Facility Analysis:** An estimation of the present and future parks and recreation facility needs. A detailed inventory of facilities and buildings, land and other physical resources presently or potentially available for parks and recreation uses was conducted. Participation capacity of the local resources was estimated. Citizen attitudes toward present areas and facilities were taken from the 2001-02 Community Recreation Survey.
- **Recreation Program Analysis:** An estimate of the present and future recreation program demands and participation. A comparison of the usable recreation resources and the recreation users' demand for such resources was based on information provided by the 2001-02 Community Recreation Survey and past participation records. An analysis of "core" recreation programs (baseball/softball, basketball, flag football, soccer, and volleyball) was conducted.
- **Financial Analysis:** A comparison of the existing parks and recreation resources with the costs and methods of providing these desired recreation opportunities. The cost of providing parks and recreation services includes a combination of physical acquisition, construction, programming, salaries and supplies.
- **A Plan of Action:** A plan based on recommendations to accomplish the parks and recreation goals in this plan, i.e., implementation. Specific recommendations for land, physical resources and programs have been advanced. Where appropriate, estimated costs have been included.

Master Plan Objectives

The following goals were adopted from the 1992 Village's Comprehensive Plan. These goals serve as a basis for an analysis of existing and potential facilities and programs leading to a set of recommendations and a plan of action.

- Provide sufficient park and recreational facilities for both active and passive recreation, using the National Recreation and Park Association standards as a guideline.
- Provide, create, and maintain adequate and accessible recreational and open space opportunities in accordance with population projections and densities.

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

- Encourage the development of parks and recreational areas through provisions in the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances and annual capital improvement programs.
- Provide for expansion and improvement of public and semi-public land uses where necessary, including community service facilities, school properties, and parks and recreation facilities.
- Provide for increased funding and support of community services to keep pace with population growth and demand.

Parks and Recreation Mission Statement

The mission of the Village of Mahomet Recreation Department is to improve the quality of life for all participants by meeting the needs of the community through the provision of safe, excellent recreational and leisure-time activities.

Sportsmanship: We promote good sportsmanship, which is a combination of fair play, respect and consideration for opponents, spectators, teammates, coaches, and officials.

Healthy Recreation: Our programs are designed to provide healthy recreation and to keep winning in perspective in an environment where participants can have fun while developing their physical skills and emotional maturity levels.

Responsiveness: The Recreation Department regularly evaluates community needs and responds by offering programs that are desired.

Equal Access: All citizens are encouraged to participate in our affordable programs regardless of their skill level, gender, race, socio-economic status, or any other factor that is not in conflict with our mission.

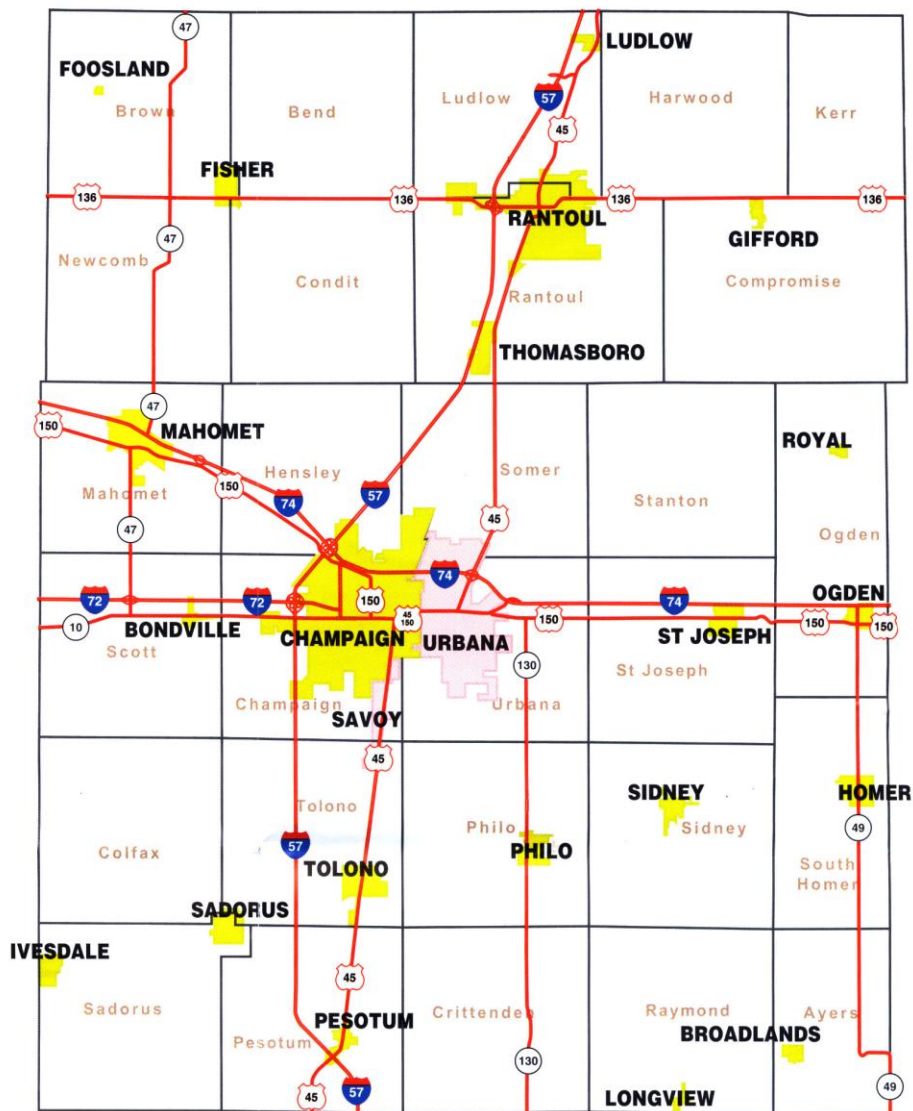
Approved by the Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation Committee, April 10, 2001

The Village

Physical Description

The Village of Mahomet is a rapidly growing community with a population of 4,877 people, based on the 2000 U.S. Census, located in east central Illinois (Champaign County and Mahomet Township), just eight miles northwest of Champaign-Urbana (Figure 1).

Figure 1
Map of Champaign County, Mahomet Township,
and Village of Mahomet



Land Use and Development

Land use areas in Mahomet consist generally of an older, restored central commercial district in the Main Street area, surrounded by older residential neighborhoods around this core, and a broad range of newer residential subdivisions extending beyond the corporate limits. For the most part, land beyond the new subdivision developments is primarily classified as agriculture.

The majority of development, particularly housing development, is taking place on the fringes of the Village—both within the Village of Mahomet and Mahomet Township. Continued new development within the Village can be anticipated. Lakes at River Bend, Country Ridge, Conway Farms, Thornewood, Deer Hollow, Ridge Creek, and Cobble Creek Subdivisions are already planned into the next decade. Development interest has also been expressed for other sites.

Relatively little municipally-owned recreational land now exists within the Village itself. A portion of the existing recreational land in the Village is located on school district property. 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 facilities. Considerable privately-owned recreational land is located in and around the Village, including the Champaign Sportsman's Club area, the Taylor Field area (used by the Village for recreation activities), and Kiwanis Girl Scout Camp.

Parks and Recreation Program

Parks and recreation services and programs in the Village are provided by the Village of Mahomet Recreation Department. The Village owns six park sites, two of which are currently used for program operations. Dowell Park is used for girl's softball and Barber Park, a 51-acre site along the Sangamon River, is primarily open space but includes one full size and one junior soccer field as well as several smaller soccer fields. The other four park sites under Village ownership are: Brooks/Warfel Park, Raymond Park, Russell Park, and Sandy Ridge Park (Figure 2).

The Village has a use agreement with the Mahomet-Seymour School District for the use of some of their sites and facilities in the operation of the Recreation Department's programs. The fieldhouse at the school district is used for programs and is also available for public use. Recreational opportunities at the fieldhouse include the use of the indoor track and the gymnasium. Other school district gymnasiums are used for the volleyball and basketball program participants. 13 Acres Park, centrally-located and owned

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by the school district, is utilized by the Village for baseball, softball, and flay football. The Village also has a use agreement with the Taylor Family for the use of Taylor Field. Taylor field is primarily used for baseball/softball, soccer, and flag football.

The Village's Recreation Department has offered a variety of programs over the previous years. Unfortunately, little information could be obtained about the types of programs and the level of participation in programs prior to 1991, as the Department began collecting such information in 1991. The population served by the Department's programs includes Village residents as well as nonresidents. In recent years, 30 to 40 percent of the programs' participants resided outside the Village, primarily in Mahomet Township. Village of Mahomet boundaries continue to grow and expand into Mahomet Township. **Therefore, for the purpose of this Plan, Mahomet Township (which includes the Village of Mahomet) was considered the most accurate representation of the service area and population served by the Village's Recreation Department.** Essentially, the Village's Recreation Department serves a total population of 10,113 people, 2000 U.S. Census of Mahomet Township, which includes the Village of Mahomet.

Currently, five programs are available for the youth population of the Village. These offerings of the Recreation Department are limited to sporting activities, where the Department provides programs in baseball/softball, basketball, flag football, soccer, and volleyball. These five activities are referred to as the Recreation Department's "core offerings."

On November 7, 1995, the Village held a referendum for the establishment of a park district, to be known as "Mahomet Area Park District." The referendum was defeated by slightly more than a 3 to 1 vote; 661 "yes" compared to 2,136 "no." In 1998, the Village hired its first full-time recreation employee. Prior to that time, the program was staffed with a permanent part-time employee with some seasonal assistance. The Village continues to provide paid seasonal assistance, as well as volunteers.

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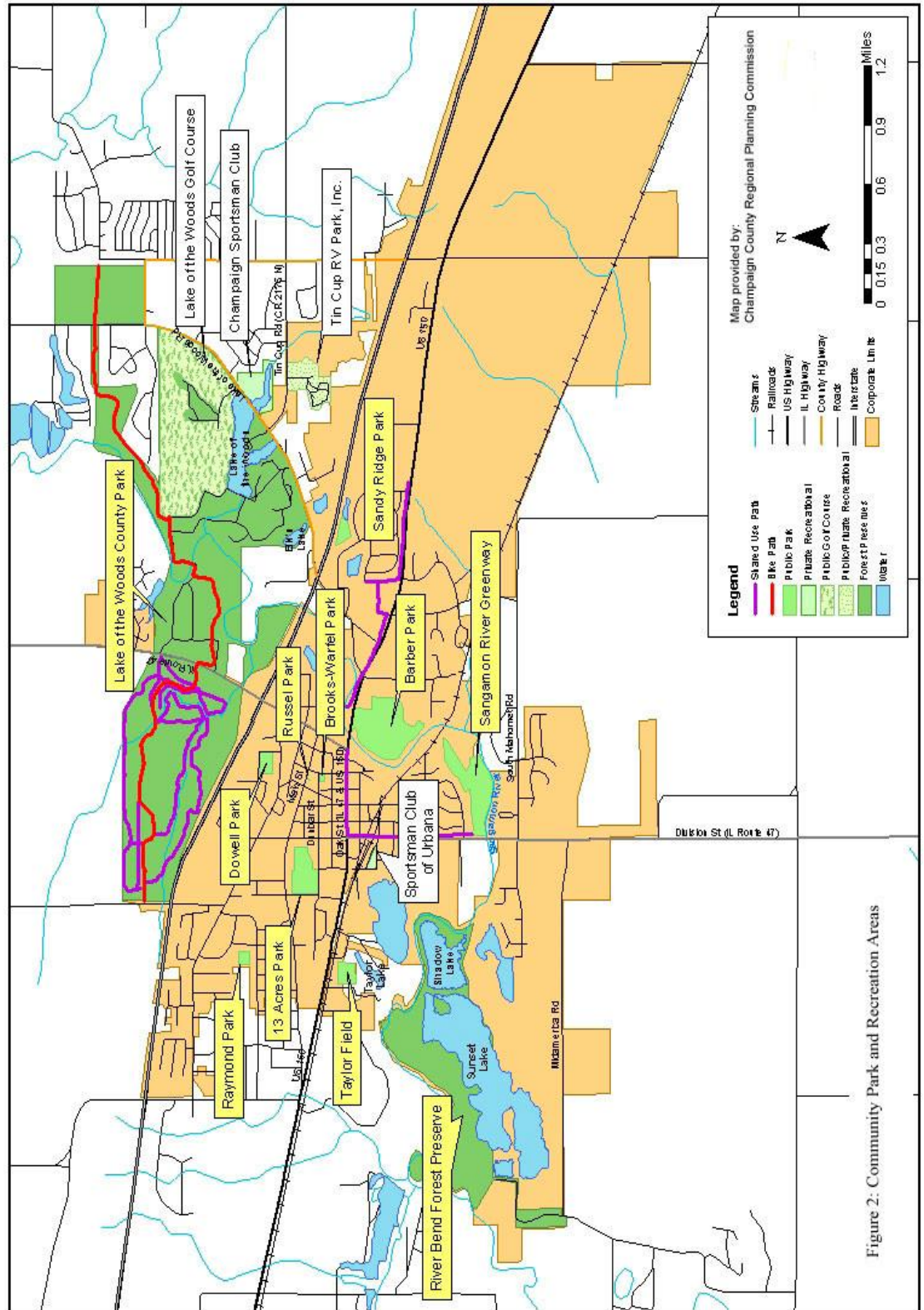


Figure 2: Community Park and Recreation Areas

Village and Township Resident Profiles

Based on the 2000 U.S. Census, the demographics of the Village and Township populations are displayed in Tables 1 through 5. The Village of Mahomet has slightly more male (52%) than female (48%) residents, average age is 34 years of age with 28 percent 14 years of age or younger, and 98 percent of the residents' race category is white. Ninety-seven percent of the Village residents age 25 years or older have graduated from high school and 37 percent have, at least, a college degree. The median household income is \$57,574.

The profile of Mahomet Township residents is very similar to the Village of Mahomet. This is not surprising, since almost one-half of the Township population resides within the corporate limits of the Village of Mahomet. The Township has slightly more male (51%) than female (49%) residents, average age is 34 years with 27 percent 14 years of age or younger, and 98 percent of the residents' race category is white. Ninety-six percent of the Township residents' age 25 years or older have graduated from high school and 34 percent have, at least, a college degree. The median household income is \$54,987.

**Table 1
Gender Characteristics**

Gender	2000 U.S. Census Population Data			
	Village of Mahomet		Mahomet Township	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	4,877	100	10,113	100
Male	2,355	48	4,963	49
Females	2,522	52	5,150	51

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**Table 2
Age Structure**

Age Group	2000 U.S. Census Population Data			
	Village of Mahomet		Mahomet Township	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	4,877	100	10,113	100
Under 5 years	386	8	772	8
5 to 9 years	485	10	913	9
10 to 14 years	502	10	998	10
15 to 19 years	445	9	870	9
20 to 24 years	169	4	438	4
25 to 34 years	532	11	1,178	12
35 to 44 years	1,017	21	1,966	19
45 to 54 years	697	14	1,544	15
55 to 59 years	177	4	432	4
60 to 64 years	130	3	286	3
65 to 74 years	202	4	449	4
75 to 84 years	110	2	223	2
85 years and over	25	1	44	<1
Median Age	34 years		34 years	

**Table 3
Race Characteristics**

Race	2000 U.S. Census Population Data			
	Village of Mahomet		Mahomet Township	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	4,877	100	1,113	100
White	4,788	98	9,884	98
Black or African American	7	<1	39	<1
American Indian & Alaska Native	5	<1	20	<1
Asian	29	1	56	<1
Other	48	1	114	1

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**Table 4
Education Characteristics**

Education Level for Those 25 Years and Older	2000 U.S. Census Population Data			
	Village of Mahomet		Mahomet Township	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population ≥ 25 years	2,907	100	6,230	100
Less than high school	101	3	250	4
High school graduate	673	23	1,558	28
Some college	1,048	36	2,304	34
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,085	37	2,118	34
Percent high school graduates or higher	2,806	97	5,980	96
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	1,085	37	2,118	34

**Table 5
Income Characteristics**

Household Income Level	2000 U.S. Census Population Data			
	Village of Mahomet		Mahomet Township	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Households	1,707	100	3,633	100
Less than \$10,000	64	4	151	4
\$10,000 - \$24,999	197	12	434	12
\$25,000 - \$49,999	462	27	1,033	28
\$50,000 - \$74,999	468	27	965	27
\$75,000 - \$99,999	294	17	531	15
\$100,000 - \$149,999	145	9	356	10
\$150,000 - \$199,999	40	2	99	3
\$200,000 or more	37	2	64	2
Median household income	\$57,574		\$54,987	

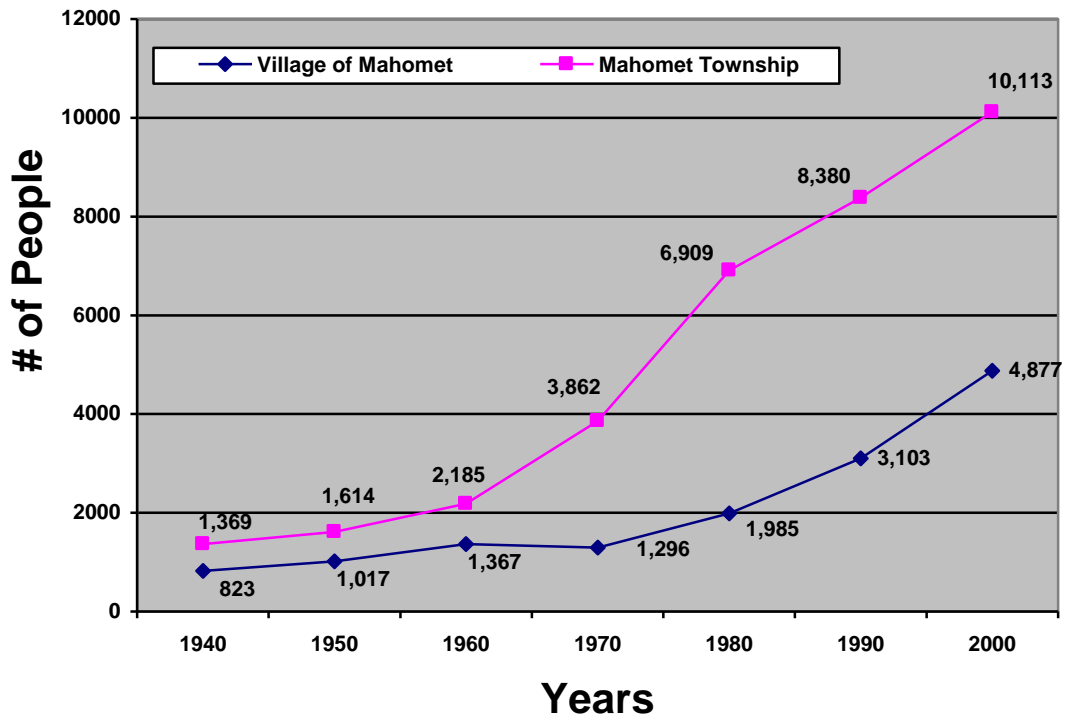
Population Growth

U.S. Census data for the Village of Mahomet and Mahomet Township for the past six decades are displayed in Table 6 and Figure 3. Population increased substantially in the Village between 1970 and 1980 (53.2 %). This increase in population was primarily due to new residential development within the Village. Population growth continued during the 1980's with a 56 percent increase in population. This growth was due to a continued development within the Village as well as annexation of existing developed areas adjacent to the Village. Population growth was sustained in the 1990's at a similar rate, 57 percent. Growth in the 1990's was primarily due to new development, although annexation of some adjacent, previously developed areas also occurred. In percentage terms, the population increased an average of 36.6 percent per decade (3.66% per year) over the last 60 years. Mahomet Township, which is inclusive of the Village proper, has experienced similar growth averaging 41.8 percent per decade over the last 60 years.

**Table 6
Population Growth – 1940-2000, U.S. Census**

Year	2000 U.S. Census Population Data			
	Village of Mahomet		Mahomet Township	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1940	823		1,369	
1950	1,017	23.6	1,614	17.9
1960	1,367	34.4	2,185	35.4
1970	1,296	-5.2	3,862	76.8
1980	1,985	53.2	6,909	78.8
1990	3,103	56.3	8,380	22.2
2000	4,877	57.2	10,113	19.8
Sixty Year Average	36.6% per decade		41.8% per decade	

**Figure 3
Population Growth – 1940-2000, U.S. Census**



Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Overall, the age structure of the population (percent of population in identified age categories) is displayed in Table 7 for the Village of Mahomet and Table 8 for Mahomet Township. Data from the 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census indicate little change in the age structure of the Village and Township populations over the past 10 years. **About 20 percent of the Village and Township residents are between the ages of 5 and 14 (age categories 5 to 9 and 10 to 14), the primary age range of program participants.**

**Table 7
Village Age Structure – 1990-2000, U.S. Census**

Age Structure	1990 U.S. Census Population		2000 U.S. Census Population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	3103	100	4877	100
Under 5 years	246	8	386	8
5 to 9 years	309	10	485	10
10 to 14 years	276	9	502	10
15 to 19 years	258	8	445	9
20 to 24 years	125	4	169	4
25 to 34 years	502	16	532	11
35 to 44 years	606	20	1017	21
45 to 54 years	338	11	697	14
55 to 59 years	107	3	177	4
60 to 64 years	88	3	130	3
65 to 74 years	153	5	202	4
75 to 84 years	72	2	110	2
85 years and over	23	1	25	1
Median Age	34 years		34 years	

**Table 8
Township Age Structure – 1990-2000, U.S. Census**

Age Structure	1990 U.S. Census Population		2000 U.S. Census Population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	8,440	100	10,113	100
Under 5 years	753	9	772	8
5 to 9 years	848	10	913	9
10 to 14 years	762	9	998	10
15 to 19 years	646	8	870	9
20 to 24 years	383	5	438	4
25 to 34 years	1,513	18	1,178	12
35 to 44 years	1,619	19	1,966	19
45 to 54 years	891	11	1,544	15
55 to 59 years	291	3	432	4
60 to 64 years	225	3	286	3
65 to 74 years	341	4	449	4
75 to 84 years	128	2	223	2
85 years and over	40	<1	44	<1
Median Age	34 years		34 years	

Population Growth Projections

Residents in the Village of Mahomet represent only a portion of the population served by the Village of Mahomet Recreation Department. About one-third of program participants reside outside the Village, primarily in Mahomet Township. Therefore, population projections for the Village of Mahomet and Mahomet Township are presented.

Population projections should be looked at as speculative. Annexation of large tracts of presently developed areas in a relatively short time period would outdate a projection which assumes a more moderate growth rate over a long period of time. Continued new development within the Village can be anticipated. Lakes at River Bend, Country Ridge, Conway Farms, Thornewood, Deer Hollow, Ridge Creek, and Cobble Creek Subdivisions are already programmed for continued development in the next decade. Development interest has also been expressed for other sites.

As with any projection into the future, certain assumptions are necessary. For purposes of projecting the population growth of the Village of Mahomet and Mahomet Township through 2010, the following assumptions were made:

- Age structure (percentage of the population in each age category – see Tables 7 and 8) will remain relatively constant during the time period.
- Population growth rate will increase an average of 3.5 percent per year, using 2000 as the base year, for the 10-year period 2001 through 2010 (35% increase).
- Percentage of the population that participates in program/activities sponsored by the Village remains fairly consistent during the time period.
- Assume the service area for the Village's Recreation Department includes the Village of Mahomet as well as Mahomet Township residents residing outside the Village.

For purposes of projecting future population growth in the Village and the Township, three alternative population growth projections were prepared. Those projections are displayed in Table 9 for the Village of Mahomet and Table 10 for Mahomet Township: a "slow" growth rate projection at 25 percent per decade (2.5% average per year), a "moderate" growth rate projection at 35 percent per decade (3.5% average per year), and a "high" growth rate projection at 50 percent per decade (5.0% average per year.)

**Table 9
Village of Mahomet Population Growth Projections**

Projected Growth Rate			
Year	Slow 25% / decade 2.5% / year	Moderate 35% / decade 3.5% / year	High 50% / decade 5.0% / year
2000	4877	4877	4877
2001	4999	5048	5121
2002	5121	5218	5365
2003	5243	5389	5609
2004	5365	5560	5852
2005	5487	5730	6096
2006	5609	5901	6340
2007	5770	6072	6584
2008	5852	6243	6828
2009	5974	6413	7072
2010	6096	6584	7316

**Table 10
Mahomet Township Population Growth Projections**

Projected Growth Rate			
Year	Slow 25% / decade 2.5% / year	Moderate 35% / decade 3.5% / year	High 50% / decade 5.0% / year
2000	10,113	10,113	10,113
2001	10,336	10,467	10,619
2002	10,618	10,821	11,124
2003	10,872	11,175	11,630
2004	11,125	11,529	12,135
2005	11,398	11,883	12,641
2006	11,631	12,237	13,146
2007	11,884	12,591	13,652
2008	12,137	12,945	14,157
2009	12,390	13,299	14,663
2010	12,641	13,653	15,170

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

The selection of the “moderate growth rate option” (35% per decade, 3.5% average per year) for use in projecting population growth is proposed. Using the Village of Mahomet 2000 census population of 4,877 people as the base for the population projection, the population is projected to increase from 4,877 in the year 2000 to 6,584 in the year 2010, an increase of 1,707 people, or approximately 171 people per year over the 10-year period (Table 11).

Since the Village of Mahomet is included in the Mahomet Township population data and the Township is assumed to be the service area for the Recreation Department, the Township population projections will be more representative of the population served and the future demand for Village programs.

Using the same growth rate option (35% per decade, 3.5% average per year) for Mahomet Township, population is expected to increase from 10,113 in the year 2000 to 13,653 in the year 2010, an increase of 3,540 people, or approximately 354 people per year over the 10-year period.

**Table 11
Service Area Population Growth Projections**

Year	Village Population	Township Population
2000	4,877	10,113
2001	5,048	10,467
2002	5,218	10,821
2003	5,389	11,175
2004	5,560	11,529
2005	5,730	11,883
2006	5,901	12,237
2007	6,072	12,591
2008	6,443	12,945
2009	6,413	13,299
2010	6,584	13,653
10-year Increase	1,707	3,540
Average Per/Year Increase	171	354

Considering the age structure of the population and the projected population increase of 35 percent over the next 10-year period (2001-2010), an expected growth in the 5 to 14 age category, primary age category of program participants, can be determined.

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Using the 2000 U.S. Census information contained in Tables 7 and 8, the 5 to 14 age categories make up 20 percent of the Village population and 19 percent of the Township population. Based on the information, the age groups 5 to 14 are expected to increase by 330 children in the Village and 683 in the Township over the next 10-year period (Table 12).

**Table 12
Population Projections for Age Category 5 to 14 – 2000 to 2010**

Year	Village of Mahomet (20% of Village Population in 5-14 Age Category)	Mahomet Township (19% of Township Population in 5-14 Age Category)
2000	987	1,911
2010	1,317	2,594
Increase	330	683

Park and Facility Analysis

The facility analysis is the process of identifying and evaluating the existing parks and recreation facilities that are available to community residents. The facility analysis focused on facilities under Village ownership and facilities used by the Village through formal and informal “use agreements.” For example, the Village has a formal use agreement (rental agreement) with the Mahomet-Seymour School District for the use of indoor facilities and an informal use agreement with the Taylor Family for the use of Taylor Field.

Inventory of Community Parks and Facilities

Recreation programs/activities take place at several locations (parks and/or facilities) in and outside the Village proper. Providers of these recreational opportunities include the Village of Mahomet, Mahomet-Seymour School District, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, River Bend Forest Preserve, and private individuals (Taylor Family). Private recreational facilities in the community include the Champaign Sportsman Club, Tin Cup RV Park, Inc., and Sportsman Club of Urbana. Churches in the community also have a limited number of facilities and programs, primarily for the use of their own congregation, although the facilities are used by others in the community. Table 13 provides an inventory of public and semi-public facilities in the community.

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

**Table 13
Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Community**

Facility	NRPA Standard Number per Population	Provider						
		Village	13 Acres	Taylor Field	Lake of the Woods and River Bend	High School	Jr. High School	Elem Schools
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				1	
Soccer fields – undersize	1/5,000	Many Informal Barber	4	2 Informal Outfield				
Baseball fields – full size	1/5,000		1			1		
Baseball fields – undersize	1/5,000		3	1				
Softball fields	1/5,000	1	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	2	1	many			1
Trails (walking, bicycling)	1 per region	1			1			
Track						1, 1*	1	
Playgrounds		1	1		2			3
Picnic areas/shelters					many			
Passive sitting area		2			many			
Park/Open Space Acreage	10 acres per 1,000	63	13	7	1,175			

Village of Mahomet: Barber Park, Brooks/Warfel Park, Dowell Park, Raymond Park, Russell Park, and Sandy Ridge Park.

High School Facilities: Gymnasiums, Fieldhouse (*) a multiple-use facility

Elementary Schools: Middletown, Sangamon, and Lincoln Trail

Inventory of Village Parks and Facilities

The Village of Mahomet provides park open space and/or programs at six locations in the Village. The National Recreation and Park Association has developed a classification for park areas. This classification is located in Appendix II and is provided for information purposes only. The Village owns six parks and has informal and formal use agreements with the Mahomet-Seymour School District for the use of school facilities, 13 Acres Park and with the Taylor Family for the use of Taylor Field. A large portion of Village programs (e.g., baseball, soccer, etc.) actually occurs at these locations. In addition, the Mahomet-Seymour School District also provides facilities for other recreation activities and programs (e.g., volleyball, basketball). Three of the Village’s six parks, Raymond, Russell, and Sandy Ridge Parks, are small areas where little activity occurs. In fact, no organized programmed activity occurs at these facilities. Another one of the parks, Brooks/Warfel, is a small play lot with playground equipment. Dowell Park is used exclusively for youth softball. Barber Park is the newest addition to the Village’s park and recreation areas and is the only Village-owned facility where there is any potential for significant development. The development plan for Barber Park should take into consideration the location of the park, in a floodplain, and emphasize the development of the facility consistent with such a location. Table 14 provides some basic information about each of the parks and facilities used for Village recreation programs. See Figure 2 for park locations.

**Table 14
Current Recreation Sites and Facilities**

Park	Size	Facilities
Barber Park	55 acres	2 soccer fields: 1 regulation size, 1 junior size, 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
Raymond Park	6 acres when dry	Play structure
Russell Park	3600 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

Park and Facility Needs Based on Standards and Guidelines

In addition to the facilities identified, Table 13 also includes National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommended standards for recreation facilities. NRPA has established standards and guidelines for different types of facilities, suggesting the number of facilities based on service area population (Appendix III). The purpose of these 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 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), including facilities as opposed to undeveloped open space lands which are set aside for the purpose of protection not program/facility development. In 1992, the Village adopted A Plan for a Mahomet Park and Open Space System as part of the comprehensive planning process. According to this Plan, open space standards appropriate for Mahomet are 10 acres per 1,000 population for active parks (developed areas) and 8-10 acres per 1,000 population for open space and greenways (undeveloped areas). These standards are very similar to the National Recreation and Park Association recommendation of 6-10 acres of developed open space (active parks--programs and recreation facilities) per 1,000 population. Based on this information, the local recommendation of 10 acres of open space per 1,000 population for active parks should be used as the guideline for the Village of Mahomet, as well as 10 acres of undeveloped open space lands.

Considering undeveloped open space lands, two rather large areas in the immediate Mahomet area are Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve (900 acres) and River Bend Forest Preserve (275 acres). These areas, under the jurisdiction of Champaign County, are immediately accessible to the Mahomet community and are classified as undeveloped open space lands—very little development with a mandate for protection of the natural resources not for the development of active areas and facility development to compensate for local program and facility needs. Although both areas provide numerous recreational opportunities, development to support active recreation (programs/facilities) is not consistent with their mission. However, these two areas adequately satisfy the guideline for 10 acres per 1,000 population for undeveloped open space lands accessible to the community.

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Using the guideline of 10 acres per 1,000 population for developed open space lands, lands for program and facility development, assuming the service area population based on the 2000 U.S. Census is 10,113 people (includes 4,877 Village residents), approximately 100 acres of developed open space (active parks--parks and recreation facilities) is recommended. Assuming a population growth rate of 3.5% per year over the next ten years (2001-2010), there will be approximately 3,540 new residents in the service area, increasing the total service area population to approximately 13,653 by 2010, or the need for approximately 137 acres of developed open space. The Village currently has about 63 acres under its ownership and another 20 acres used primarily for Village recreation programs through use agreements, totaling 83 acres, falling below the recreation guidelines for the current service area population, as well as the projected service area population of 13,653 in 2010. With the uncertainty for long-term use of Taylor Field and 13 Acres Park and the lack of development potential of Barber Park (primarily flood plain land), Village-owned acreage available for developed open space for parks and facilities is considerably below the recommended standards.

Currently there is a need to expand park and recreation acreage for developed open space lands (active recreation) within the Village based on the NRPA standards as well as the open space recommendations found in the 1992 Village of Mahomet Comprehensive Plan. The Village needs to be proactive in securing formal use agreements with the Mahomet-Seymour School District and the Taylor family and at the same time be proactive in securing open space lands for development of facilities to support current and future program needs. Many facilities have reached or will reach use capacity in the near future. As the service area population increases, additional facilities to support the “core recreation activities” will be needed, especially for baseball/softball, basketball, and soccer.

Concerns With Park and Facility Standards and Guidelines

The mentioned standards are only a guide and other factors such as location of parks and recreation facilities, types of facilities, i.e., baseball fields for different age groups, usability and/or development of parks, uncertainty of long-term use of lands under different ownership, etc., need to be considered in an evaluation of need.

CAUTION must be exercised in applying general standards to specific communities.

- Service Area Population

The Village's Recreation Department has a service area that extends beyond the Village's legal boundary to include

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Mahomet Township. As such, the populations of both units (Village of Mahomet and Mahomet Township) should be considered when comparing existing facilities/parks/open space with NRPA standards and guidelines.

- Park and Facility Ownership

Some facilities used by the Village's Recreation Department for programs are not under its ownership, specifically, 13 Acres Park, Mahomet-Seymour school facilities, and Taylor Field. As such, informal and formal use agreements have been created with the Mahomet-Seymour School District for the use of school facilities and 13 Acres Park and with the Taylor Family for the use of Taylor Field. 13 Acres Park and Taylor Field provide nearly all of the baseball/softball facilities used by the Village. With the uncertainty for long-term use of these facilities, the Village needs to protect these programs by either establishing long-term use agreements or being more proactive at acquiring lands to support the need for future facilities.

- Competition for Space/Facilities

Use of facilities under other's ownership (e.g., school facilities, 13 Acres Park, and Taylor Field) places the Recreation Department in the position of competing for space/facilities with the primary users of those facilities. For example, according to NRPA standards/guidelines, the Village has adequate gym space through a use agreement with the school district for basketball and volleyball. However, competing with school and other private or club activities for the space drastically reduces the availability of such space for the Recreation Department's programs. In fact, even at the current level of activities, it is extremely difficult to meet the demand for facilities for basketball. Such competition will continue to increase as demand for the Village's programs increase, as well as the demand for school and/or private or club activities increase.

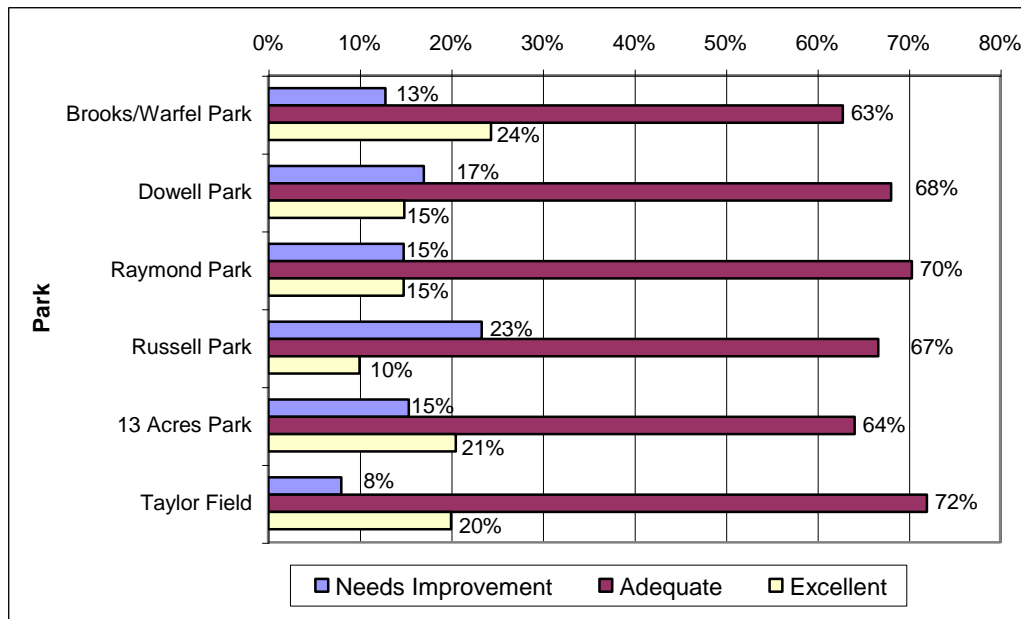
- Population Versus Participation Levels

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 such standards. Obviously, participation (demand) is a much better measure to determine need for additional facilities than population.

Evaluation of Village Parks and Facilities

As part of the community survey conducted in 2001-02, Village residents were asked to evaluate the condition of facilities at four of the six park areas under Village ownership and two park areas (13 Acres Park and Taylor Field) owned by others but used extensively for Village programs. At the time of the survey, Sandy Ridge Park and Barber Park were not in use so no evaluations were conducted; although, Village residents were asked their preference for development of Barber Park. Overall, a majority of Village residents, 60 to 70 percent, felt the condition of park areas were adequate, about 20 percent indicated park areas were in excellent condition, while a similar percentage also indicated park areas need improvements (Figure 4).

**Figure 4
Respondent Opinions of Village Parks**



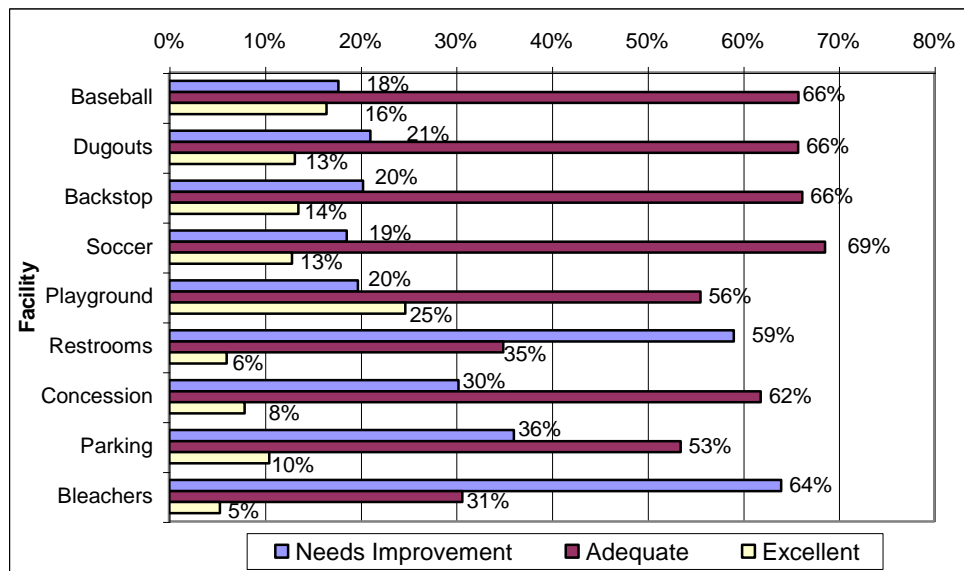
Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

In addition to evaluating the overall condition of a specific park, the community survey also elicited input on the condition of various facilities at 13 Acres Park, Dowell Park, and Taylor Field. Improvements for 13 Acres Park included improving bleachers/seating, adding restrooms, expanding parking, and concessions. Respondents also expressed the need for similar improvements at Dowell Park. For Taylor Field, parking, concessions, and restrooms were the facilities indicated by respondents in need of improvement. Figures 5 through 10 display the evaluation information for the three parks.

**Figure 5
13 Acres Park**



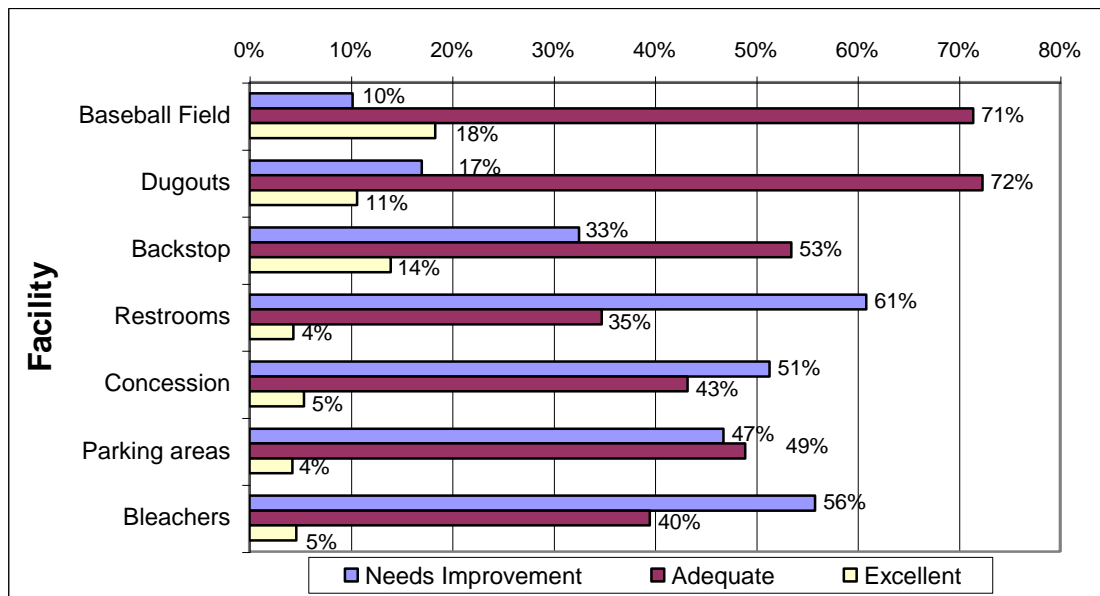
**Figure 6
13 Acres Park Facilities Evaluation**



**Figure 7
Dowell Park**



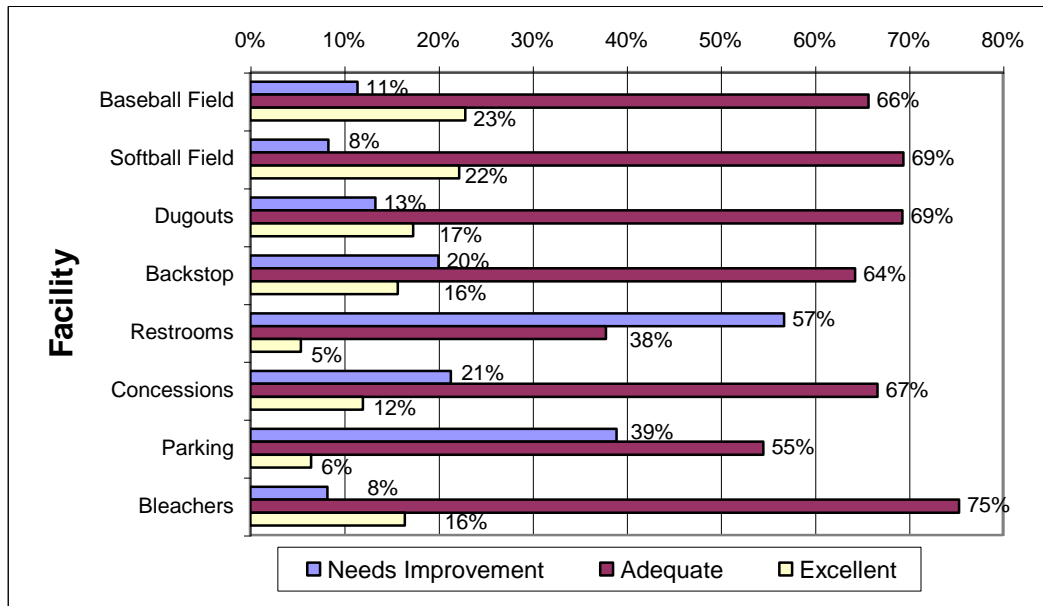
**Figure 8
Dowell Park Facilities Evaluation**



**Figure 9
Taylor Field**



**Figure 10
Taylor Field Facilities Evaluation**



Barber Park Development

In the community survey conducted in 2001-02, respondents were asked to rate their level of opposition/support for various types of developments at Barber Park (Table 15). Developments receiving the greatest support by respondents were restroom facilities (81%), walking trails (75%), playground areas (71%), picnic shelter (67%), and bike pathway (64%). One particular item, preserve natural areas, adds an interesting twist to the results. Two out of every three respondents (67%) supported the creation and preservation of such uses/facilities. It appears as though respondents want some development but would like for it to be consistent with the preservation of natural areas and appropriateness for floodplain development. A majority of respondents supported a recreation center (57%) and a canoe access to the river (57%). A substantial percentage of respondents (ranging from 41 to 47%) indicated support of construction of various playing fields (soccer, baseball, softball, little league baseball, and lighted sport fields) onsite.

**Figure 11
Barber Park**



**Table 15
Barber Park Development**

Development	Oppose ¹ %	Neither Support Nor Oppose %	Support ² %
Restroom Facilities	4	15	81
Walking Trails	6	19	75
Playground Areas	6	24	71
Preserve Natural Areas	5	27	68
Picnic Shelter	6	27	67
Bike Pathway	10	26	64
Recreation Center	12	32	57
Canoe Access to River	8	35	57
Soccer Field	9	45	47
Softball Field	10	48	43
Concession Stand	14	44	43
Lighted Sport Fields	14	44	42
Baseball Field	11	48	41
Little League Field	12	47	41
Tennis Courts	14	48	38
Basketball Court	13	50	38
Gazebo	16	52	32
Volleyball Court	13	55	32

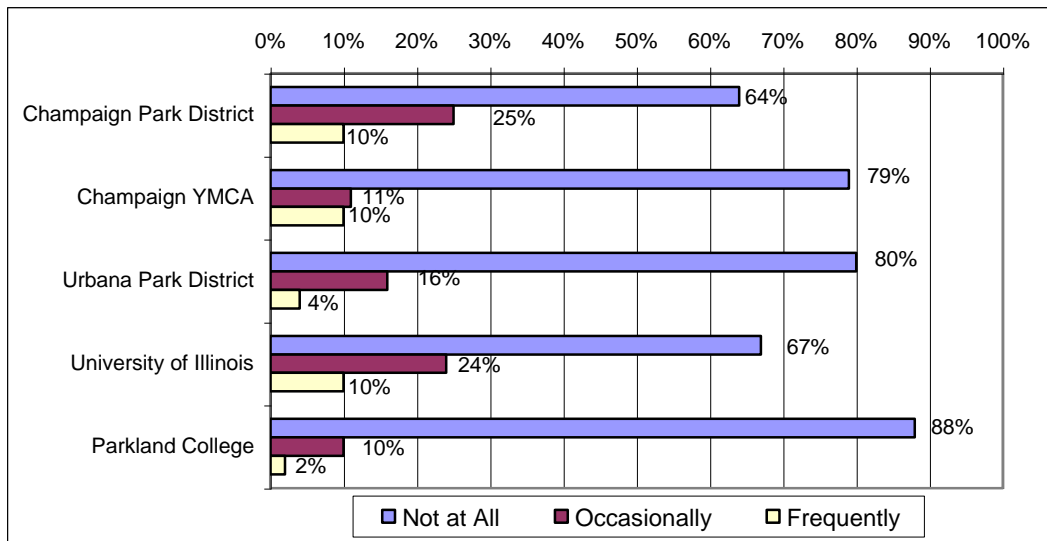
¹ Includes respondents who opposed and strongly opposed the statement.

² Includes respondents who supported and strongly supported the statement.

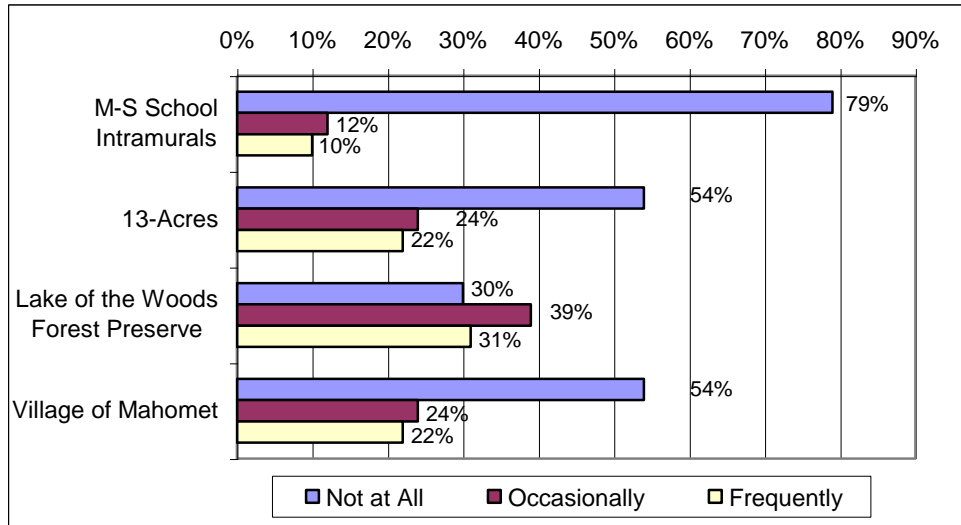
Park and Recreation Areas Used by Residents

Based on information obtained through the community household survey, respondents used a variety of providers to meet their recreation needs during the previous 12 months (Figures 12, 13, and 14). These included providers of recreation opportunities within the Village, as well as those in adjacent communities. Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve was the most frequently used park by surveyed households. Thirty-one percent of the households in the community survey used Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve frequently during the previous 12 months. One of every five households (22%) participated frequently at the Village’s facilities as well as 13 Acres Park. Nineteen percent of the households participated in church-provided activities. Figures 12 through 14 display the level of use by Village households at various parks and recreation facilities in the area.

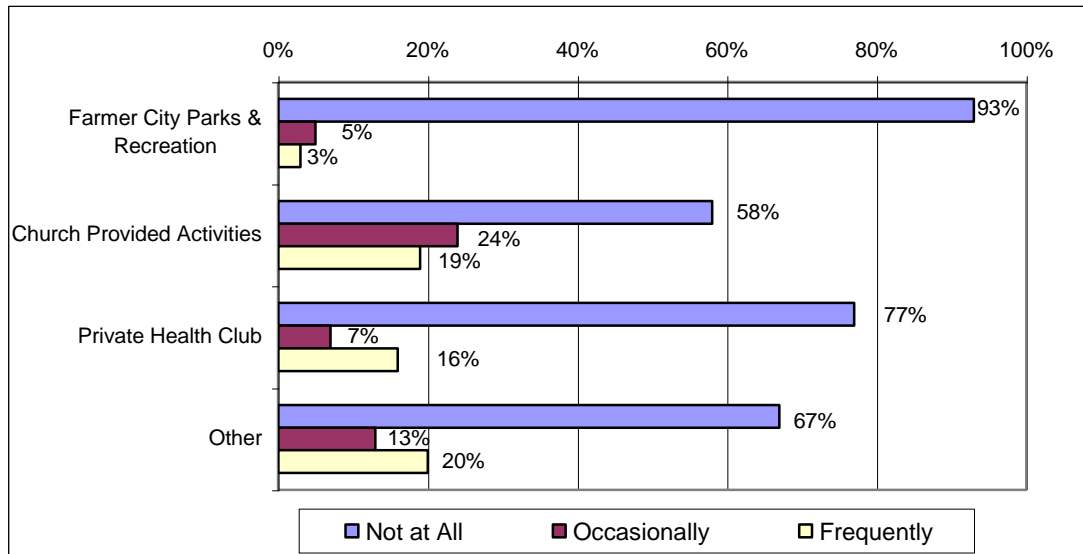
**Figure 12
Champaign-Urbana Recreation Providers and Use**



**Figure 13
Mahomet and Vicinity Recreation Providers and Use**



**Figure 14
Other Recreation Providers and Use**



Village Park and Facility Needs

Currently there is a need to expand park and recreation acreage for developed open space lands (active recreation) within the Village based on the NRPA standards as well as the open space recommendations found in the 1992 Village of Mahomet Comprehensive Plan. The Village needs to be proactive in securing formal use agreements with the Mahomet-Seymour School District and the Taylor family and at the same time be proactive in securing open space lands for development of facilities to support current and future program needs. Many facilities have reached or will reach use capacity in the near future. As the service area population increases, additional facilities to support the “core recreation activities” will be needed, especially for baseball/softball, basketball, and soccer.

At this time and for the near future, improvements to existing facilities should be the focus of attention. Improvements that include accessibility to all facilities, safety of facilities, and improvements to field conditions should be a priority. However, if demand were to significantly increase for current programs and recreation facilities, if additional programs and recreation facilities are to be provided requiring new facilities (e.g., swimming pool), or if the Village’s is unable to secure long-term use agreements for the use of facilities not under their ownership (e.g., Mahomet-Seymour School lands and facilities or Taylor Field), additional facilities would be needed immediately.

Village Park and Facility Recommendations

- **Where possible the Village needs to be proactive in securing long-term use agreements with the Mahomet-Seymour School District (13 Acres Park) and the Taylor Family (Taylor Field) for use of those facilities.** In addition, the Village should attempt to secure facility use agreements with the Mahomet-Seymour School District for other school facilities used by the Village’s recreation program (e.g., basketball, volleyball). The Village should be hesitant to invest (improve the facilities at the two areas) without a reasonable use agreement for each area. In terms of a long-term investment, the Village should develop a plan (alternatives) for the potential loss of 13 Acres Park. With that in mind, the Village should always be looking for additional lands for future expansion, especially considering the potential of losing 13 Acres Park where many activities (especially baseball) occur. Current developments at Barber Park will be able to accommodate the majority of soccer demand; however, the Village has no alternatives for baseball if it were to be displaced from 13 Acres Park.

- **The Village should increase their land base (acreage) for recreation parks and recreation.** The Village currently has about 63 acres under its ownership and another 20 acres under separate ownership used primarily for Village recreation programs, totaling 83 acres, which falls below the current guideline for 100 acres and the projected guideline of 137 acres by the year 2010. Furthermore, with the uncertainty for long-term use of Taylor Field and 13 Acres Park and the lack of development potential of Barber Park (primarily flood plain land) the Village's acres provided for developed open space for parks and recreation facilities potentially could fall well below the recommended guidelines. As such, the Village should consider opportunities for expanding its land base—increase acreage available for parks and recreation facilities. The Village should be proactive in identifying potential land available for park and recreation facilities and be opportunistic when possible. When an opportunity becomes available, the Village should explore grants that would provide some level of financial assistance for land purchase and development. The Village should continue to work with land developers to set aside a portion of land in all subdivision developments. These lands could be used for establishing small neighborhood parks or just set aside, protected, for future use. For small areas, play lot or small neighborhood park, the Village and the neighborhood could partner and share development and maintenance costs providing for a unique quality of life for the entire community.
- **At this time, it is more feasible and efficient to improve existing facilities than it is to purchase and construct new facilities/fields.** Financial resources should be committed to improving existing Village-owned parks and recreation facilities, including developments at Barber Park. These improvements should include accessibility to all facilities, safety of facilities, and improvements to field conditions.

Specific Improvements for Village Parks and Facilities

Barber Park

Development of Barber Park is underway. Presently, soccer is split between Taylor Field and Barber Park. The Village should center soccer activity at Barber Park, leaving Taylor Field as a baseball/softball complex. Providing soccer facilities at this location allows for minimal disturbance of the area (flood plain) and preservation of the natural areas. Two soccer fields have been added.

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There are plans for a concession stand with restrooms, pavilion, and memorial gazebo to be added beginning in 2004. Improving access for walkers and bikers under US Rte 150 to the existing bike path should be prioritized. Development at Barber Park should be limited to those facilities requiring a low level of development (e.g., soccer fields) compatible for a flood plain. Further development at Barber Park should consider adding improved field/playing space, lighting the soccer fields, and adding paved parking. Developments along the Sangamon River include walking trail/nature trail that would connect to the Village and Lake of the Woods' trails, and potentially provide a vital link with the Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve trail system connecting Lake of the Woods with Lakes at River Bend.

- Pavilion
- Memorial gazebo
- Restroom facilities
- Concessions
- Adding improved field/playing space
- Parking lot improvements
- Trail access and development
- Small playground
- Periodically conduct safety inspections
- Lights for new soccer fields

Dowell Park

Dowell Park is currently utilized for girls (ages 7-11) softball. Field improvements are underway with the grass infield being removed, leveled and reconstructed, and field drainage problems addressed. A concession stand serving pre-packaged foods and beverages was added in 2003. The concession stand is not served by water and sewer utilities, but does have electricity. The Village should improve accessibility to the field and consider paving the existing gravel parking lot. Sanitary sewer is not available at the park at this time. In order to provide restroom facilities, utility extensions are necessary.

- Restroom facilities
- Concession stand improvements
- Lights for field
- Improve the field conditions
- Small playground
- Periodically conduct safety inspections

Brooks/Warfel Park

- Construct and maintain planting areas
- Maintain the playground equipment
- Periodically conduct safety inspections

Raymond Park

- Plant additional trees
- Maintain area as open space
- Small playground
- Periodically conduct safety inspections

Russell Park

- Maintain area as a downtown amenity
- Periodically conduct safety inspections

Sandy Ridge Park

- Maintain area as open space
- Plant additional trees
- Periodically conduct safety inspections

13 Acres Park and Taylor Field

13 Acres Park and Taylor Field (owned by others) are used extensively by the Village for its recreation programs/activities. The Village should be hesitant to invest (improve the facilities at the two areas) without a reasonable use agreement for each area. Current improvements should address accessibility, maintenance, and safety of the facilities.

Swimming Pool

There is no swimming pool in the Village of Mahomet. Those wanting to swim must travel to Farmer City, Gibson City, Rantoul, or swimming facilities in the Champaign and Urbana area. Swimming was identified as one of the most popular activities by residents and also as one of the most mentioned concerns/needs of the community—swimming pool facilities. Based on NRPA standards and guidelines, one swimming pool for a population of 20,000, the service area population is not large enough to financially support such a facility now or in the near future. Before a decision as to whether or not to build a swimming pool is made, the Village should conduct a feasibility study for constructing and maintaining a swimming pool for the community.

Recreation Program Analysis

Recreation Programs Offered by Village

The Village's Recreation Program offers several programs/activities. These include:

YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL gives children ages 5-18 an opportunity to play T-ball, baseball, or slow or fast pitch softball. Games are played at Dowell Field, Taylor Field, and 13 Acres Park.

ADULT SOFTBALL is a slow pitch program for area adults. A Men's Church League and Women's League are offered. Games are played at Taylor Field.

BASKETBALL is offered at the school facilities for children grades K-6.

FLAG FOOTBALL is for children in grades 3 through 6. Games are played at Taylor Field and 13 Acres.

SOCCER is for boys and girls ages 4 through 13. Season is played during the school year for 12 weeks in the fall. All games are held in Mahomet except for the Jr. High games – half of their games are a traveling league. There is a Pre-Kindergarten division for children who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall. Games are played at Barber Park and Taylor Field.

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL is an instructional program that takes place Oct-Dec at the Jr. High School gym. The program is designed for children in grades 3 through 6.

The programs are predominately youth sport programs with particular emphasis on soccer, baseball/softball, volleyball, basketball, and flag football. These five activities are the "core activities" offered by the Village.

Recreation Program Evaluations

Evaluations are conducted at the conclusion of every core program. These evaluations provide on-going assessments of the program and provide information for program improvements. An example of recreation program evaluation form can be found in Appendix IV.

Participation Rates in Village Programs

Participation rates, provided by the Village, for various activities and programs are displayed in Table 16.

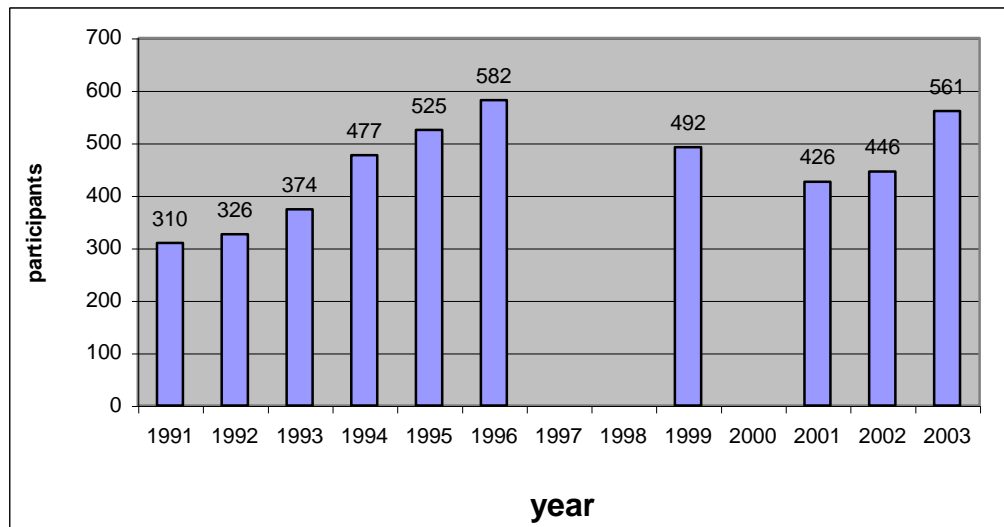
**Table 16
Activity Participation Rates, 1991-2003**

Activity	Participation Rates												
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Soccer	310	326	374	477	525	582			492		426	446	561
Baseball/Softball	991	1017	1281	1188	1358	1336			953		756	774	705
Volleyball	208	258	254	274	275	215			132		87	107	118
Basketball		20	20	20	20	302			302		243	253	300
Flag Football		106	111	130	137	154			161		134	*	108
5-K Run		73	143	145									
Pepsi Hot-Shot					63	52							
3 on 3 basketball						216							
Swimming lessons	330	357	419	309	263	131			191				
Tennis lessons	31	55	43	35	36	55			41				
Baseball camp						23							
Pitching clinic						41							
Soccer camp						21							
Open gym						105							

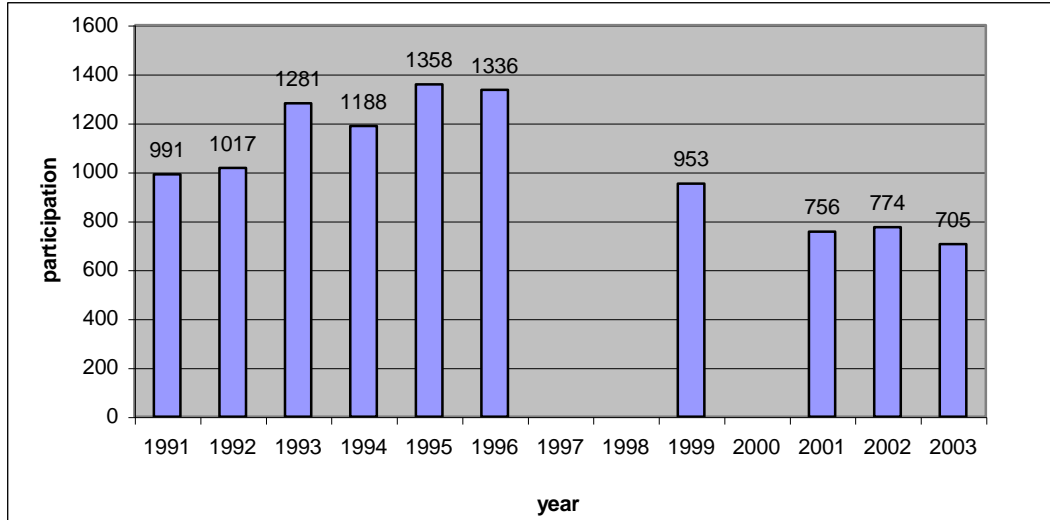
* No fall season offered for flag football in 2002

Participation rates for the years 1991 through 2003, for the five “core activities” are displayed in Figures 15 through 19. With the exception of soccer and basketball, significant increases in participation appear to be leveling off, although the service area population has increased over 50 percent during this time.

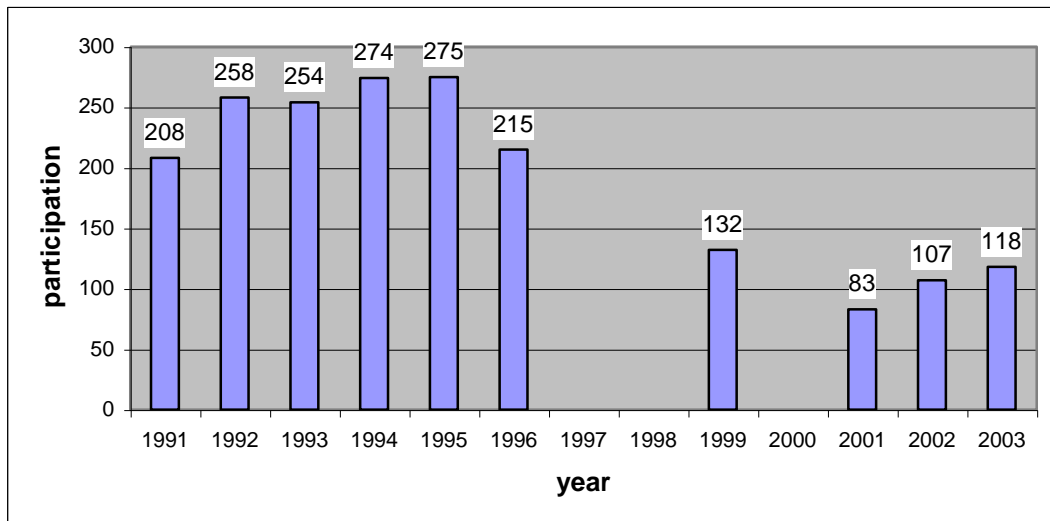
**Figure 15
Soccer Participation Rates**



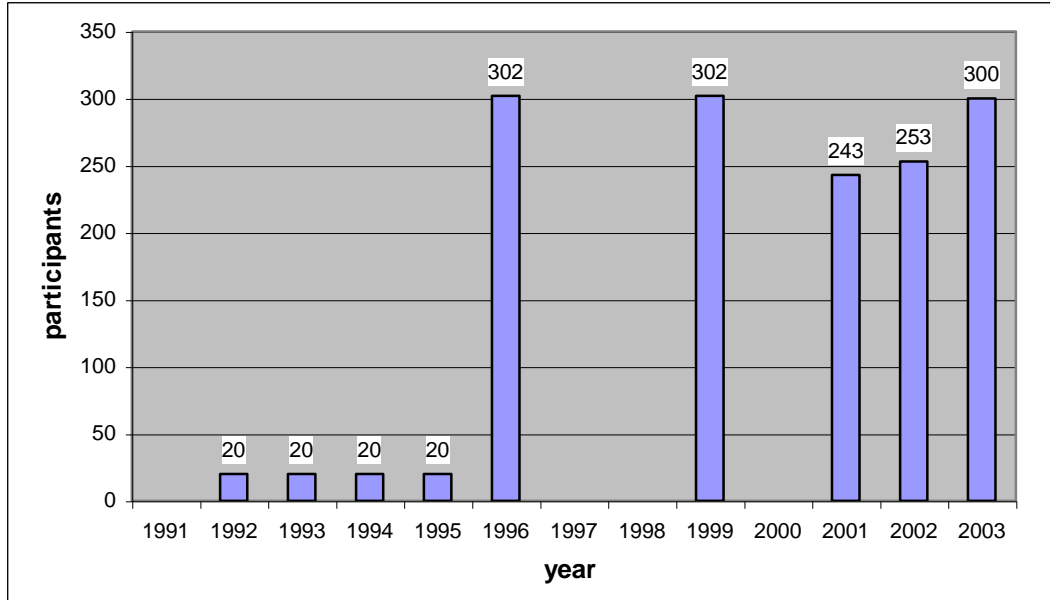
**Figure 16
Baseball/Softball Participation Rates**



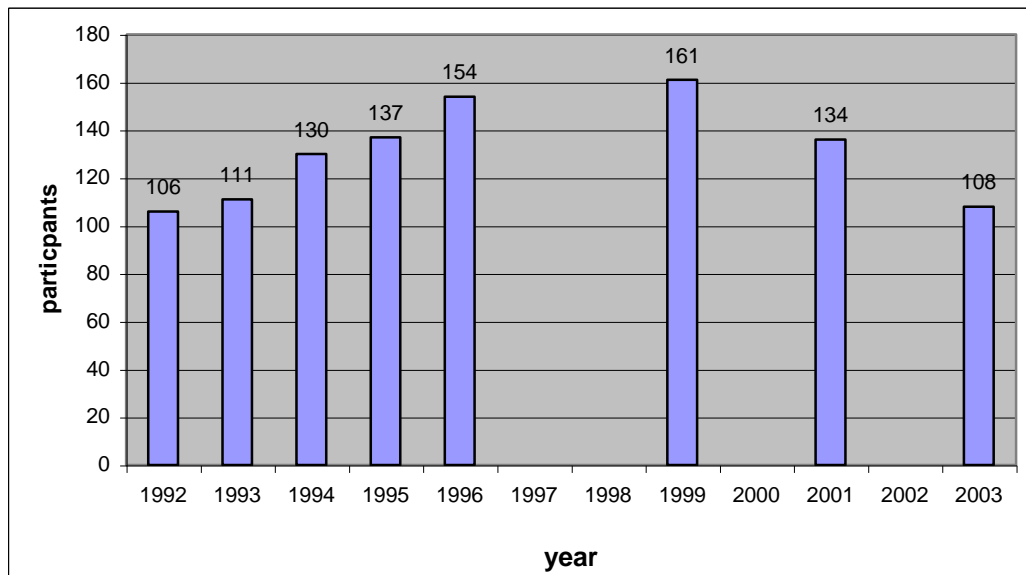
**Figure 17
Volleyball Participation Rates**



**Figure 18
Basketball Participation Rates**



**Figure 19
Flag Football Participation Rates**

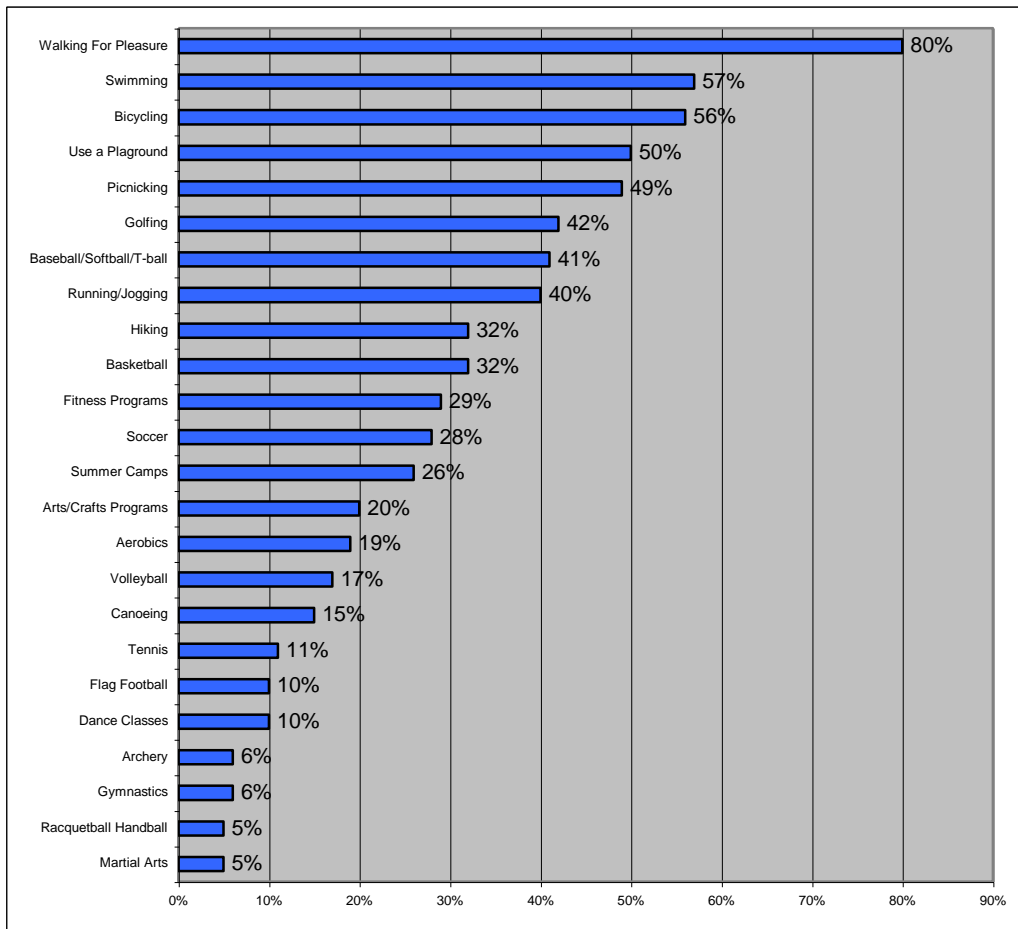


No fall season offered for flag football in 2002

Self-Reported Participation by Households

The community survey conducted in 2001-02 included information on the self-report of household participation in recreation activities and programs. Figure 20 displays a list of activities and the percentage of households that reported at least one household member participated in the activity or program during the previous 12 months. Some of these were programs provided by the Village, while others were activities participated in by households on their own without a formal program (e.g., bicycling) or programs and activities provided by others. Nearly 3 of every 4 respondents (74%) indicated that someone in the household participated in some type of recreation activity or program in the past 12 months. The most popular activities included walking for pleasure (80%), swimming (57%), bicycling (56%), using a playground (50%), and picnicking (49%).

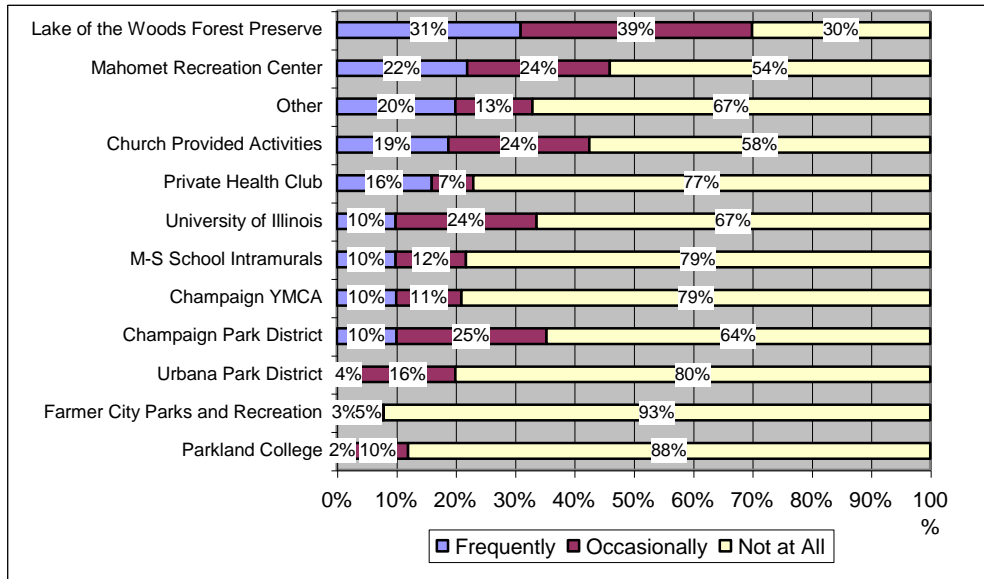
**Figure 20
Activity Participation Anywhere**



Self-Reported Participation in Programs Outside Village

As indicated in Figure 21, respondents participate in recreation programs offered by a wide range of providers. These providers include parks and recreation programs, schools/colleges/universities, as well as nonprofit and government agencies within close proximity of Mahomet .

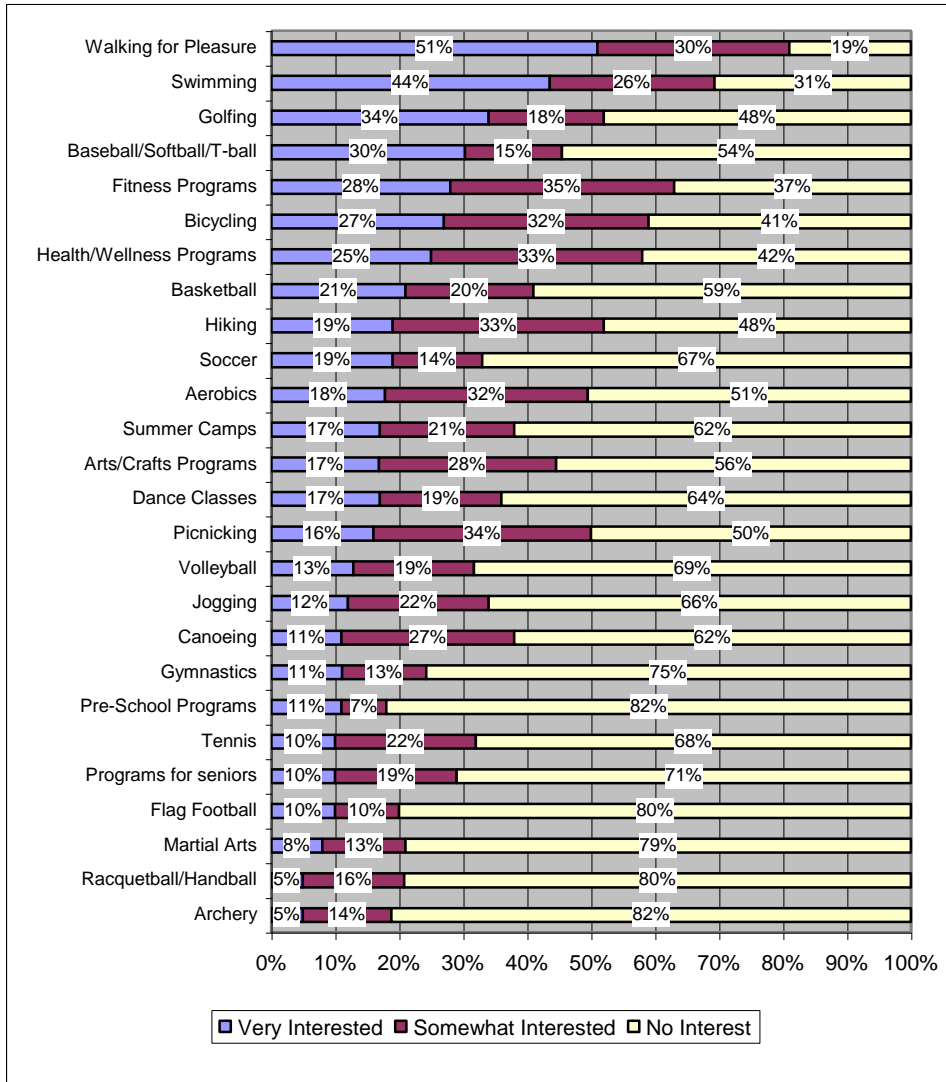
**Figure 21
Recreation Use Providers**



Desired Activities/Programs

The community survey also ascertained interest of respondents for future participation. A majority of respondents indicated that someone in their household would be at least somewhat interested (includes the categories somewhat interested and very interested) in participating in walking for pleasure (81%), swimming (70%), fitness programs (63%), bicycling (59%), health/wellness programs (58%), hiking (52%), and golfing (52%) in the future (Figure 22). Nearly one-half of the households also indicated picnicking (50%), aerobics (49%), baseball/softball/t-ball (46%), and arts/crafts programs (44%) were of interest to them.

**Figure 22
Interest in Future Participation**



Recreation Activity Demand Projections, 2004-2010

Table 17 displays information for the projected growth in participation through 2010 for core activities. Using the number of participants over the past five years 1999-2003 (2000 excluded – no participation records), an average number of participants per year in each of the five core activities was determined. The average number of participants on each activity served as a base in the calculation of projected demand. Using the projected increase in population of 3.5 percent per year (assuming a similar increase in participation), projected growth in participation can be determined. This method also assumes that everyone who wants to participate in any of the core activities is doing so.

The core activities include soccer, basketball, baseball/softball, volleyball, and flag football. Over the period from 2004 through 2010, the core activities are projected to increase by: soccer 131 participants, baseball/softball 217 participants, volleyball 30 participants, basketball 75 participants, and flag football by 36 participants. The projected increase in the number of participants for each activity is based on a 3.5% increase in participation per year, using the average participation levels from 1999 to 2003 (no participation records for 2000) as a base participation level.

**Table 17
Projected Growth in Participation**

Participation Projection Assuming Average of 3.5% increase per year	Activity				
	Soccer	Baseball/ Softball	Volleyball	Basketball	Flag Football
Average Participation Past Five Years—1999-2003	481	797	107	275	134
2004	498	825	111	285	139
2005	515	825	115	295	144
2006	533	884	117	305	149
2007	552	915	123	316	154
2008	571	947	127	327	159
2009	591	980	132	338	165
2010	612	1014	137	350	170
Projected Increase (2004-2010)	131	217	30	75	36
Projected Increase/Year	19	31	4	11	5

No participation records were available for 2000.

Recreation Activity and Program Needs

Area residents participate in a variety of programs and activities across the region. In fact, the majority of participation in recreation programs and activities takes place outside the Village's park and recreation program. Providers of these recreational opportunities include Lake of the Woods Park, Champaign and Urbana Park Districts, churches, and schools/colleges/universities. Village residents participate in a wide variety of activities and programs. It is not feasible for the Village's Recreation Program to meet all the needs of the residents---cannot be everything to everybody.

Core Activities – Soccer, Baseball/Softball, Volleyball, Basketball, and Flag Football

The projected number of participants in the Village's "core sport youth programs" is expected to significantly increase during the time period from 2004 to 2010. For example, baseball/softball is expected to increase by 217 participants or 16 to 18 teams over the 7-year period of time. Soccer is projected to increase by 131 participants or 10 to 12 teams over the same time period.

Although the NRPA facility guidelines show little need to add additional facilities at the present time, the demand (based on the projections of an average increase of 3.5% per year) indicates additional facilities will be needed in the near future. Not only will it be necessary to maximize the use of existing facilities, which are close to capacity at the current time, but also expansion of facilities will be needed to meet demand, especially for baseball/softball, basketball, and soccer.

In the immediate future, the Department of Parks and Recreation should explore the possibility for expanding the usability of facilities. For example, currently basketball only occurs on Saturdays. Perhaps adding one or two nights during the week would reduce the pressure for gymnasium space. The usability of baseball and soccer fields could also be extended by adding lights.

Noting the need for additional facilities based on demand projections and the uncertainty of long-term use of private facilities (13 Acres Park and Taylor Field) the Village should be proactive in acquiring lands for expansion. Acquisition of additional lands should focus on areas suitable for the development of baseball/softball fields, primary activities at 13 Acres Park and Taylor Field.

Other Activities Participated in or Desired

Important activities to residents based on participation include walking, swimming, playground activities, and bicycling. A trail at Barber Park would increase opportunities for walking, bicycling (typical trail activities). Swimming is also another activity with high rates of participation. These needs are being met at facilities in the area; however, a swimming pool has been one of the most mentioned desires of residents. A swimming pool feasibility study should be conducted. In addition, the Village should explore relationships with other recreation providers (e.g., Champaign Park District) for providing recreation program opportunities (not provided by the Village).

Recreation Activity and Program Recommendations

- Continue with the present core activity offerings
- Expand the usability of facilities
- Explore opportunities with other providers
- Swimming pool feasibility study
- Trails (walking, bicycling) – Barber Park
- Increase playground facilities/activities for younger children
- Acquire space for facility development

Financial Analysis

In this section of the plan, the recreation and parks budgets are presented, as well as projections for each budget, based on population and participation projections to the year 2010. In addition, information on grant revenues and expenses are presented.

Recreation Budget

The Village’s recreation budget for the past five fiscal years (FY99-FY03) is displayed in Table 18 (revenues), Table 19 (expenses), and Figure 23 (revenues and expenses).

Recreation Budget Revenues

Over the previous five-year period (FY99-FY03), total recreation budget revenues ranged from a low of \$101,321 (FY01) to a high of \$135,187 (FY99) (Table 18). With the exception of FY99, the recreation budget revenues have been somewhat stable over the last 4 years (FY00-FY03). The difference can be partially explained by program offerings. With the exception of flag football (not offered in FY02), the five “core activities” were offered all 5 years (FY99-FY03); however, in FY99 swimming (191 participants) and tennis (41 participants) lessons were offered, substantially increasing revenues for FY99.

Registration fee revenues are by far the largest revenue producer accounting for 71 to 83 percent of the recreation budget over the five-year period. Revenues from registration fees decreased from \$107,447 in FY99 to a low of \$78,142 in FY03. A general trend over the five-year time period was a decline in the percentage of the recreation budget revenues generated through registration fees with an increase in “other revenue sources.”

**Table 18
Recreation Budget Revenues**

Revenue	Fiscal Year				
	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
Registration Fees	\$107,447	\$90,107	\$84,256	\$78,995	\$78,142
Other Revenues	\$27,740	\$22,382	\$17,065	\$29,980	\$32,590
Total Revenues	\$135,187	\$112,489	\$101,321	\$108,975	\$110,732

Table entries represent actual revenues for FY99-FY02 and budgeted revenues for FY03. “Other revenue” category includes concession income, donations, uniform sales, and scholarships.

Recreation Budget Expenses

Over the five-year period (FY99-FY03), recreation budget expenses ranged from a high of \$137,613 (FY99) to a low of \$89,476 (FY01) (Table 19). For the past two years, both operating and program expenses have been relatively stable, while concession-related expenses have increased by 12 percent. The increase in concession stand expenses is a direct result of paying employees to work in the stands, purchase of new equipment, and additional supplies.

**Table 19
Recreation Budget Expenses**

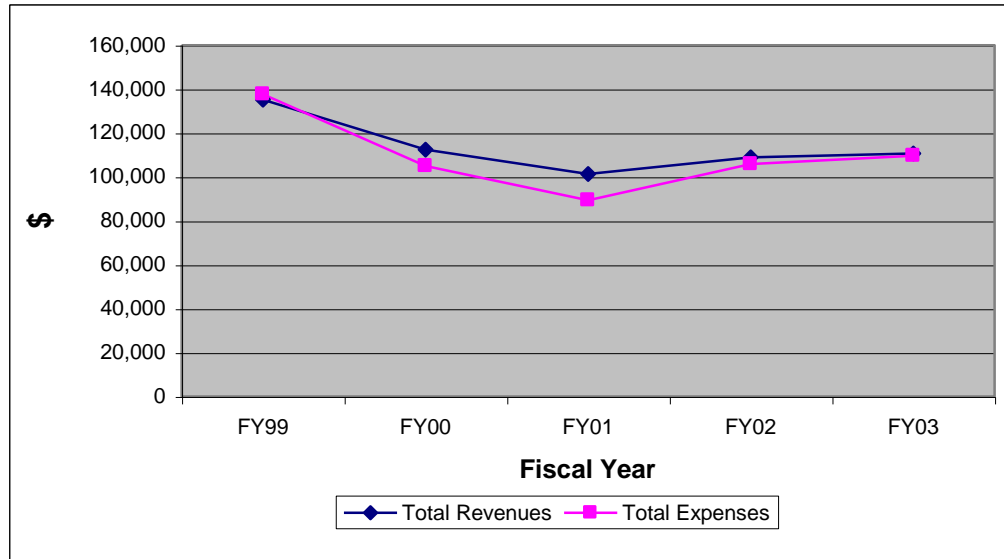
Expenses	Fiscal Year				
	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
Operating	\$53,660	\$46,295	\$38,453	\$55,586	\$56,115
Programs	\$77,203	\$54,483	\$46,763	\$43,273	\$45,699
Concession	\$6,750	\$4,271	\$4,260	\$7,030	\$7,856
Total Expenses	\$137,613	\$105,049	\$89,476	\$105,888	\$109,671

Table entries represent actual expenses for FY99-FY02 and budgeted expenses for FY03.

Recreation Budget Revenue and Expense Comparison

Figure 23 displays recreation budget revenue and expense information for FY99 through FY03. With the exception of FY99, revenues have exceeded expenses. The Recreation program is self-supporting; that is, registration fees have been able to cover the majority of expenses associated with program offerings, although, “other revenue sources” contribute a significant portion of the revenues in the recreation budget.

**Figure 23
Recreation Budget Revenues and Expenses**



Recreation Budget Projections

Since the recreation budget is primarily funded by registration fees, any increase in participation will increase revenues. Using the information from Table 17—projected increase in core activities through 2010, on average, participation is projected to increase by 70 registrations per year through 2010 (baseball/softball-31, basketball-11, flag football-5, soccer-19, and volleyball-4). **Assuming a \$60 average registration fee, revenues from recreation fees can be expected to increase by \$4,200 (70 participants multiplied by \$60) per year** (Table 20). The projected increase in revenues does not include “other income sources” (donations, concession income, uniform sales, etc.). Averaging “other income sources” for the past 5 years (FY99-FY03) provides an estimate that can be used to project future revenues. Over the five-year period, “other revenue sources” for the recreation budget has averaged \$25,951.

**Table 20
Projected Increase in Revenues—Registration Fees**

Revenue	Projected Per Year	Average Registration Fee Per Year	Increase in Revenue Per Year
Registration Fees	70 new registrations	\$60.00	\$4,200

As the recreation program expands, expenses will also be expected to increase, especially operating and program expenses. Without a comprehensive financial analysis, expense projections can be very misleading and therefore, are not provided in this plan.

Parks Budget

The Village’s parks budget for the past five years (FY99-FY03) is displayed in Table 21 (revenues) and Table 22 (expenses).

Parks Budget Revenues

Over the previous five-year period (FY99-FY03), total park budget revenues have ranged from a low of \$40,773 (FY01) to a high of \$55,417 (FY99) (Table 21). The Village real estate tax is the primary source of revenue for the parks budget. During the five-year time period, the Village’s real estate tax allocation increased each year from \$36,319 in FY99 to \$50,675 in FY03, a 40 percent increase. Since FY01, the Village real estate tax has made up over 95 percent of the parks budget revenues. The increase is a direct reflection of an increase in new growth and development (Village real estate tax).

**Table 21
Parks Budget Revenues**

Revenues	Fiscal Year				
	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
Real Estate Tax	\$36,319	\$37,349	\$38,963	\$44,756	\$50,675
Other Revenues	\$19,098	\$11,171	\$1,810	\$1,466	\$1,331
Total	\$55,417	\$48,520	\$40,773	\$46,222	\$52,009

Table entries represent actual revenues for FY99-FY02 and budgeted revenues for FY03.

Parks Budget Expenses

Over the five-year period (FY99-FY03), park expenses (wages, equipment, maintenance, etc.) have been inconsistent, lows of \$14,544 (FY01) and \$18,207 (FY02) to highs of \$54,483 (FY00) and \$57,227 (FY03), respectively (Table 22). The “normal” level of expenditures is better reflected by FY00 and FY03. The inconsistency, particularly in FY01 and FY02, can be attributed to two factors. First, the Village received an Illinois First Grant for the development of Barber Park in the amount of \$150,000 with most of the expenditures occurring in FY01 and FY02, consuming most of the Village’s effort. Secondly, on an annual basis, the revenues from the parks budget are not adequate to take-on major capital improvements in any given year. Therefore, at times the Village has set aside revenues from one year for anticipated capital improvements at a later time, which otherwise could not be undertaken if the Village were to rely solely on the revenues generated in any one year. In FY01 and FY02, the Village was able to set aside a portion of the revenues for capital improvement in successive years for many of the improvements identified on page 55.

**Table 22
Parks Budget Expenses**

Expenses	Fiscal Year				
	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
Total Expenses	\$41,321	\$54,483	\$14,544	\$18,207	\$57,227

Table entries represent actual expenses for FY99-FY02 and budgeted expenses for FY03.

Parks Budget Projections

The Parks Budget is almost entirely funded by real estate tax receipts. As growth and new development occurs, the amount of revenues from the Village’s real estate tax will increase, leading to an increase in the parks budget revenues. Since 1990, the total estimated assessed valuation for the Village has increased, on average 10 percent per year. Furthermore, for the past two years (FY01-02 and FY02-03), the real estate tax revenues contributed to the parks budget has increased 13.2 percent and 14.9 percent, respectively. Based on total assessed value information for the past 12 years and the real estate tax revenues since FY01, it would seem logical and conservative to project a 10 percent increase in real estate tax revenues per year. Using FY03 real estate tax revenues contributed to the parks budget (\$50,675) as the base figure, a 10 percent increase would be \$5,068 per year (Table 23).

Table 23
Projected Increase in Parks Budget Revenues—Real Estate Tax

Revenue	Projected Per Year Increase	FY03 Real Estate Tax Revenues	Average Increase Real Estate Tax Revenues Per Year
Real Estate Tax	10%	\$50,675	\$5,068

As the recreation program expands, the parks budget will incur additional expenses (e.g., maintenance, new facility construction, etc.). As with the recreation budget, expenses are difficult to project without a comprehensive financial analysis. Therefore, projected expenses for the parks budget are not included in this plan.

Grants

The Village of Mahomet received a grant from the state of Illinois, Illinois First Grant, in FY00. The dollar value of the grant was \$150,000 for use at Barber Park. The grant was awarded in FY00 with expenditures in FY01, FY02 and FY03. Specifically, the Village utilized these funds to design future use of the park and to construct one full size and one junior size soccer field. The park served nearly 600 participants in the Mahomet Recreation soccer program and their families this past year. The Village should explore other opportunities for grants to support the recreation program and park acquisition and development. A list of some potential funding sources is located in Appendix V.

Plan of Action – Recommendations

The specific recommendations are discussed in the proceeding sections of this plan. The recommendations are based on an analysis of the Village's population and growth projections, park and facility analysis, recreation program analysis, and financial considerations. The following summary presents a suggested priority schedule, in three stages: Immediate (this year and next), Intermediate (2006-08), and Long Range (2009-10 and beyond). Recommendations within these time categories may well be adjusted, and circumstances may lead to marked changes in the schedule, as well as the recommendations. The plan should be viewed as dynamic to meet the needs of a changing environment. For this reason, the suggested priority schedule should be viewed as a flexible one, subject to change based on an annual review by the Village and the availability of funds to allocate to such improvements, as well as new opportunities that may arise overtime.

As revenues (registration fees, tax allocations, etc.) increase, the Village should consider expanding its staff. There is a need for additional staff for the Recreation Program. Presently, a permanent part-time position could assist with daily operations, as well as provide grant application support for the program. This position could then develop into a full-time position over the next five years. The Village should continue to serve as an internship site for college students. Such relationships benefit both the Village and the students.

Estimated costs, where appropriate, are listed with the recommendation. Costs can vary substantially and depend on a number of features (e.g., distance from electric hook-up, distance from sewage hook-up, size of facility, construction charges, etc). The costs listed below are for materials. On average, an estimate for construction/installation costs is equal to material costs.

Immediate – 2004-05

- Proactive in securing formal agreements with the M-S School District and Taylor Family
- Explore alternatives to 13 Acres Park and Taylor Field
- Actively seek lands for additional facilities and development
- Conduct swimming pool feasibility study
- Explore opportunities with other providers (e.g., Champaign Park District)
- Pavilion/Concessions/Restrooms Barber Park (\$70,000)
- Improve field conditions at Dowell Park (\$3,000)
- Barber Park Trail (walking, bicycling, nature) (asphalt \$10/linear foot; crushed stone, \$5/linear foot)
- Permanent part-time position (\$12,000)
- Landscape Russell Park (\$10,000)
- Construct and maintain planting areas at Brooks/Warfel (\$10,000)
- Seek outside funding opportunities

Intermediate – 2006-08

- Restrooms Dowell Park (\$25,000)
- Playground Dowell Park (\$25,000)
- Lights Dowell Park (\$30,000)
- Memorial gazebo at Barber Park (\$20,000)
- Pave parking lot at Barber Park (\$300,000)
- Continue to seek outside funding opportunities
- Upgrade proposed part-time position to full-time (\$15,000)

Long Range – 2009-10 and beyond

- Playground Barber Park (\$35,000)
- Lights Barber Park soccer field (\$50,000)
- New part-time position (\$15,000)
- Continue to seek outside funding opportunities

Appendices

- I. Community Recreation Questionnaire
- II. National Recreation and Park Association Park Classifications
- III. National Recreation and Park Association
Facility Standards and Guidelines
- IV. Recreation Program Evaluation Form—An Example
- V. Park and Recreation Funding Opportunities

Appendix I

Community Recreation Questionnaire

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Dear Community Resident:

As part of the Village's commitment to providing quality recreational services, the Village, in cooperation with the University of Illinois, is preparing a Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan that will be used to develop short- and long-range goals for the delivery of park and recreation services in the Mahomet community.

You can play a very special role in helping the Village develop a Park and Recreation Plan. Your household and other households in the community have been selected by random sample to represent the opinions of your community through this survey. Please take time to answer the questions in the survey. It is important that you return the survey as soon as possible.

The identification number listed on the last page of the survey is for mailing purposes only. Your responses are completely confidential and will never be associated with your name. If you have questions or need assistance in completing the survey, please feel free to contact Cary McDonald at the University of Illinois (217/333-4410) or Teri Legner at the Mahomet Village Office (217/586-4456).

When you have completed the survey, remove the tape from the tab at the end of the survey, tape the side of the survey closed, and place the survey in the mail, no postage is needed.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. The information you provide will be very helpful as the Village plans for recreational services in coming years.

Sincerely,

Cary McDonald
University of Illinois

Sincerely,

Teri Legner
Village of Mahomet

**Village of Mahomet
Community Recreation Survey**

Section 1: Current Participation

1. Have you or any members of your household participated in any recreational activities or programs, anywhere, during the past 12 months? (Circle one number)

- 1 Yes
2 No _____ à If NO, go to question 4

2. This question has two parts. **For PART 1**, did you or anyone in your household participate in any of the following activities, **anywhere**, during the past 12 months? (Circle one number for EACH activity you or someone in your household participated in during the past 12 months)

For PART 2, if you did participate in any of the activities (answered YES to PART 1), was that activity or program **provided by the Village's Recreation program**? (Circle one number for EACH activity or program you or someone in your household participated in during the past 12 months that the Village provided).

Activity	PART 1 Participate in Activity?		PART 2 Provided by Village?	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Running/Jogging	0	1	0	1
Hiking	0	1	0	1
Aerobics	0	1	0	1
Bicycling	0	1	0	1
Picnicking	0	1	0	1
Baseball/Softball/T-ball	0	1	0	1
Basketball	0	1	0	1
Volleyball	0	1	0	1
Use a playground	0	1	0	1
Tennis	0	1	0	1
Soccer	0	1	0	1
Gymnastics	0	1	0	1
Dance classes	0	1	0	1
Swimming	0	1	0	1
Canoeing	0	1	0	1
Archery	0	1	0	1
Martial arts	0	1	0	1
Golfing	0	1	0	1
Flag football	0	1	0	1
Walking for pleasure	0	1	0	1
Racquetball/Handball	0	1	0	1
Arts/Crafts programs	0	1	0	1
Fitness programs	0	1	0	1
Summer camps	0	1	0	1

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

3. During the past 12 months, how often did you or someone in your household attend recreation programs, activities, or facilities offered by the following recreation providers? (Circle one number for EACH provider)

<i>Recreation Provider</i>	<i>Not At All</i>	<i>Occasionally</i>	<i>Frequently</i>
Champaign Park District	0	1	2
Champaign YMCA	0	1	2
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve	0	1	2
Urbana Park District	0	1	2
Mahomet Recreation	0	1	2
M-S School Intramurals	0	1	2
Farmer City Parks & Recreation	0	1	2
University of Illinois	0	1	2
Parkland College	0	1	2
Church provided activities	0	1	2
Private health club	0	1	2
Other	0	1	2

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Section 2: Future Participation

1. Listed below are many different types of recreational activities. For each activity, indicate how much interest you or someone in your household has in participating in the activity. (Circle one number for EACH activity)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>No Interest</i>	<i>Somewhat Interested</i>	<i>Very Interested</i>
Aerobics	0	1	2
Soccer	0	1	2
Swimming	0	1	2
Dance classes	0	1	2
Baseball/Softball/T-ball	0	1	2
Flag football	0	1	2
Golfing	0	1	2
Volleyball	0	1	2
Archery	0	1	2
Fitness programs	0	1	2
Health/Wellness programs	0	1	2
Pre-school programs	0	1	2
Martial arts	0	1	2
Racquetball/Handball	0	1	2
Gymnastics	0	1	2
Basketball	0	1	2
Arts/Crafts programs	0	1	2
Programs for seniors	0	1	2
Canoeing	0	1	2
Picnicking	0	1	2
Hiking	0	1	2
Bicycling	0	1	2
Tennis	0	1	2
Jogging	0	1	2
Walking for pleasure	0	1	2
Summer camps	0	1	2

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Section 3: Activity and Program Information

5. We are interested in determining the best ways of informing you about the recreational opportunities provided by the Village. How effective is each of the following methods for keeping you informed? (Circle one number for EACH method)

<i>Information Method</i>	<i>Not Effective</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Very Effective</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>
Cable Television	1	2	3	4
Radio	1	2	3	4
News Gazette	1	2	3	4
Mahomet Citizen	1	2	3	4
Word of mouth	1	2	3	4
Direct mail from Village	1	2	3	4
Calling the Village Office	1	2	3	4
Internet/Village Web Page	1	2	3	4
E-mail	1	2	3	4
Flyers in stores	1	2	3	4
Flyers sent home through schools	1	2	3	4

6. From the information methods listed above, what is the one best way the Village can inform your household about the recreational programs and activities offered by the Village? (Fill in blank)

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Section 4: Barber Park Development

7. The Village is beginning the planning process for the development of Barber Park located south of Highway 150 and adjacent to the Sangamon River. The Village would like to know your feelings about the type of facilities that potentially could be developed at the Park. For each of the following items, please indicate whether you oppose or support the development. (Circle one number for EACH item)

<i>Development</i>	<i>Strongly Oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neither Oppose Nor Support</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Strongly Support</i>
Playground area	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation center	1	2	3	4	5
Canoe access to river	1	2	3	4	5
Picnic shelter	1	2	3	4	5
Walking trails	1	2	3	4	5
Gazebo	1	2	3	4	5
Bike pathway	1	2	3	4	5
Soccer field	1	2	3	4	5
Baseball field	1	2	3	4	5
Softball field	1	2	3	4	5
Little league field	1	2	3	4	5
Tennis courts	1	2	3	4	5
Basketball court	1	2	3	4	5
Restroom facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Concession Stand	1	2	3	4	5
Lighted sport fields	1	2	3	4	5
Volleyball court	1	2	3	4	5
Preserve natural areas	1	2	3	4	5

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Section 5: Financing Village Recreational Activities & Programs

8. The primary means of funding the activities and programs of the Village is through participation/registration fees. Currently, participation/registration fees account for about 75% of the Village’s recreation budget. The remaining portion of the recreation budget comes from property taxes. In your opinion, what is the best option (taxes, participation fees, combination of taxes and participation fees, or you’re not sure) for financing the following items? (Circle one number that represents your feelings for EACH item)

<i>Items</i>	<i>Taxes</i>	<i>Participation Fees</i>	<i>Combination Taxes & Participation Fees</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>
Activities/Programs	1	2	3	4
Facilities	1	2	3	4
Land acquisition	1	2	3	4
Personnel	1	2	3	4

9. How do you feel about the participation fees for Village activities/programs? For EACH of the following activities, indicate whether you feel the fee is too low, about right, too high, or you’re “not sure.” (Circle one number for EACH activity)

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Too Low</i>	<i>About Right</i>	<i>Too High</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>
Softball	1	2	3	4
Baseball	1	2	3	4
Soccer	1	2	3	4
Flag football	1	2	3	4
Basketball	1	2	3	4
Volleyball	1	2	3	4

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Section 6: Evaluation of the Village's Recreation Program

10. Overall, how satisfied are you with the Village's Recreation program?
(Circle one number)

- 1 Not at all satisfied _____ à Why are you "not at all satisfied" or "slightly satisfied?" (Fill in blank)
- 2 Slightly satisfied _____ à
- 3 Moderately satisfied
- 4 Very satisfied _____
- 5 Extremely satisfied _____

11. What do you like most about the Village's Recreation program? (Fill in blank)

12. What do you like least about the Village's Recreation program? (Fill in blank)

13. How do you feel about the condition of parks and facilities in our community? For each of the following parks and facilities, indicate whether the condition of the park (overall) and facility listed "needs improvement," is "adequate," is "excellent," or you're "not sure." (Circle one number for EACH park and facility)

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

<i>Park & Facility</i>	<i>Needs Improvement</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>
Brooks/Warfel Park (Overall)	1	2	3	4
Dowell Park (Overall)	1	2	3	4
Baseball field	1	2	3	4
Dugouts	1	2	3	4
Backstop	1	2	3	4
Restroom facilities	1	2	3	4
Concession stand	1	2	3	4
Parking areas	1	2	3	4
Bleachers	1	2	3	4
Raymond Park (Overall)	1	2	3	4
Russell Park (Overall)	1	2	3	4
13 Acres Park (Overall)	1	2	3	4
Baseball fields	1	2	3	4
Dugouts	1	2	3	4
Backstop	1	2	3	4
Soccer fields	1	2	3	4
Playground equipment	1	2	3	4
Restroom facilities	1	2	3	4
Concession stand	1	2	3	4
Parking areas	1	2	3	4
Bleachers	1	2	3	4
Taylor Field (Overall)	1	2	3	4
Baseball field	1	2	3	4
Softball field	1	2	3	4
Dugouts	1	2	3	4
Backstop	1	2	3	4
Restroom Facilities	1	2	3	4
Concession stand	1	2	3	4
Parking areas	1	2	3	4
Bleachers	1	2	3	4
M-S High School Fields (Overall)	1	2	3	4
Baseball field	1	2	3	4
Restroom facilities	1	2	3	4
Concession stand	1	2	3	4
Bleachers	1	2	3	4
Lake of the Woods (Overall)	1	2	3	4
Picnic areas	1	2	3	4
Bicycle/walking trails	1	2	3	4
Golf course	1	2	3	4
Restroom facilities	1	2	3	4

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Section 7: Your Opinions About the Village's Recreation Program

14. We would like to know your opinion concerning several different recreational issues and opportunities offered by the Village. (Circle the number that indicates how much you agree or disagree with EACH statement)

<i>Statement</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
I am satisfied with the recreational opportunities offered by the Village.	1	2	3	4	5
Households outside the Village boundary, should pay higher participation fees.	1	2	3	4	5
Park facilities and recreation programs/activities are important to my quality of life.	1	2	3	4	5
The Village is responsive to the recreational needs of the community.	1	2	3	4	5
The Village staff is helpful and courteous.	1	2	3	4	5
The Village should develop a program brochure.	1	2	3	4	5
The Village and School District should continue to cooperate to maximize the use of recreational facilities in my community.	1	2	3	4	5
The Village should increase collaborative efforts with local businesses and special interest groups to promote and/or sponsor selected activities.	1	2	3	4	5
The Village does a good job of informing the community of its recreation programs & activities.	1	2	3	4	5
Activities and programs are well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation activities, programs, and facilities are important for our community's quality of life.	1	2	3	4	5
The Village should offer more programs and activities.	1	2	3	4	5
The Village should develop additional facilities.	1	2	3	4	5
School facilities should be available for activities and programs during non-school hours (weekends and after school).	1	2	3	4	5
I am willing to support new activities and programs through participation fees.	1	2	3	4	5
The participation fees for Village activities and programs are a good value for the money.	1	2	3	4	5
I am satisfied with the variety of programs and activities offered by the Village.	1	2	3	4	5
I am satisfied with the quality of the programs and activities offered by the Village.	1	2	3	4	5
The Village needs to develop and offer activities and programs for all age groups (pre-school to seniors).	1	2	3	4	5
The Village provides an adequate number of activities and programs for the size of community.	1	2	3	4	5

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Section 8: General Household Information

The following information is helpful in providing the Village with the ability to describe different groups of households so that better management and planning can be made. Your answers will be used for statistical purposes and will not be identified with you personally.

15. Are you: (Circle one number) 1 Male 2 Female
16. How old are you? (Fill in blank) _____ Years old
17. What was your approximate total household income before taxes in 2000? (Circle one number)
- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Under \$20,000 | 6 | \$60,000-\$69,999 |
| 2 | \$20,000-\$29,999 | 7 | \$70,000-\$79,999 |
| 3 | \$30,000-\$39,999 | 8 | \$80,000-\$89,999 |
| 4 | \$40,000-\$49,999 | 9 | \$90,000-\$99,999 |
| 5 | \$50,000-\$59,999 | 10 | \$100,000 or more |
18. Do you own (or purchasing) or rent your primary residence?
(Circle one number)
- 1 Own (or purchasing) 2 Rent
19. Which of the following best describes your primary residence?
(Circle one number)
- 1 Single family home
2 Town house or condominium
3 Apartment
4 Mobile home
5 Other (please specify): _____
20. Which best describes your family unit? (Circle one number)
- | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Single, no children | 4 | Single, with children |
| 2 | Married, no children | 5 | Married, with children |
| 3 | Couple, no children | 6 | Couple, with children |

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

21. How many people (including yourself) live in your household?
(Fill in blank)
- _____ People live in your household
22. How many people in your household are in each of the following categories? (Fill in blanks)
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ Under 6 years of age | _____ 19-30 years old |
| _____ 6-10 years old | _____ 31-49 years old |
| _____ 11-13 years old | _____ 50-59 years old |
| _____ 14-18 years old | _____ 60 years or older |
23. How many years have you lived in the Mahomet-Seymour School District? (Fill in blank)
- _____ Years lived in the Mahomet-Seymour School District
24. Is your residence located inside or outside the Village of Mahomet boundary? (Circle one number)
- 1 Inside the Village of Mahomet boundary
2 Outside the Village of Mahomet boundary
25. Does your household have access to the Internet?
- 1 Yes
2 No

USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE

Appendix II

**National Recreation and Park Association
Park Classifications**

Classification for Park and Recreation Facilities

The National Recreation and Park Association has developed a classification for park and recreation facilities. These park classifications are listed below. The classification is included for information purposes and provides information valuable for the facility analysis.

The National Recreation and Park Association suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a total of 6.25 to 10.50 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population.

Playlots

Description: Small areas intended primarily for the use of children up to early elementary grades. Most suited for apartments, townhouse, and trailer parks.

Contents: Play equipment, swings, slides, sandboxes, benches.

Population served: Generally, serves ages toddlers to nine. Should be designed to have areas that accommodate adult gathering.

Service area and accessibility: The service area is confined to a sub-neighborhood level of 500 to 2,500 residents within a ¼-mile area.

Acres/1,000 people: No ratio established; suggested .1 to .3 acres

Size range: 1,000 square feet to one acre. Can be serviced through mobile recreation programs.

Neighborhood Playground

Description: Designed to provide both active and passive short-term activities. Usually located adjacent to public schools.

Contents: Distinct play areas for preschool and school age children, shelter structures, open space, multiple-use paved for court games, areas for field games, some off-street parking, lighting.

Population served: General focus is for ages 5 to 14, with informal recreation for all ages. One per 1,000 to 5,000 population: possibly one for every elementary school.

Service area and accessibility: Neighborhood. Walking distance within ½-mile radius.

Acres/1,000 persons: 2.0 for cities of 10,000 to 25,000
1.5 for cities of 25,000 to 100,000

Size range acres: 5-10 for cities of 1,000 to 25,000
4-8 for cities of 25,000 to 100,000

Neighborhood Park

Description: Landscaped natural park of limited size primarily for passive recreational needs of all ages but with designated active areas. Provides some scenic and aesthetic value. Should be located in the center of a multiple-family dwelling neighborhood or nearby site.

Content: Open lawn space, shrubbery, small picnic areas, drinking fountain, miniature scenic paths or nature walks, area for court games if not provided at a nearby recreation facility, off-street parking, and lighting. Has some program potential.

Population served: For all ages. From 1,000 to 10,000 maximum.

Service area and accessibility: Entire neighborhood. If park is unique, it may attract others from another neighborhood.

Acres/1,000 persons: 2.0 for cities of 1,000 to 25,000
1.5 for cities of 25,000 to 100,000

Size range acres: 6-8 for cities of 1,000 to 25,000
5-8 for cities of 25,000 to 100,000

Community Playfield

Description: Primarily an athletic complex that serves the recreational needs of the community. Usually one per community, however, if the community is cut by barriers or if sufficient acreage cannot be obtained, then two are recommended.

Content: Athletic complex - lighted court and field games area, community center, swimming pool, lawn areas, adequate parking, may have picnic and play area for children. May be a portion of major community park. Has high potential for recreation programming.

Population served: All ages. Entire population of community, 10,000 minimum to 30,000 maximum.

Service area and accessibility: Within biking distance.

Acres/1,000 persons: Minimum one acre per 1,000 persons. Cities up to 50,000 it is recommended there be 2 acres per 1,000 persons

Size range acres: 15 to 25 for Cities of 1,000 to 250,000

Major Community Park

Description: A large natural area and/or landscaped area to provide urban dwellers escape from city congestion without traveling a long distance. Designed to accommodate a large number of people and a wide variety of activities. Provides for both intensive use and passive use.

Content: Provides for combination of intensive and non-intensive development ranging from play apparatus to bicycle trails. Typical facilities include swimming facilities, picnic tables, paths, game courts, gardens, and natural areas, pavilion, ample parking, sanitary facilities. May include multipurpose trails internally or as part of a system.

Population served: All ages, toddler to retiree. Serves between 40,000 to 100,000 people.

Service area and accessibility: Entire population for cities with population up to 25,000. 1-4 miles for cities of 1,000 to 25,000 persons; within 30 minutes for cities of 25,000 to 250,000.

Acres/1,000 persons: From minimum of one acre to maximum of five acres. Recommended: 5.0 acres for cities of 1,000 to 100,000

Size range acres: 20 - 35 for cities of 1,000 to 25,000
50 - 100 for cities of 25,000 to 100,000

Urban Greenspace or Open Space

Description: Passive areas in landscaped or natural state in or near urban areas. May be planned for conversion to more intensive recreational use when needed. May provide recreational use when needed. May provide recreational experiences, provide environmental quality, or act as buffers. Main recreational purpose is to act as buffer from congestion and provide aesthetic experience.

Contents: Natural lands, watershed and waterfront, forests; landscaped borders, parkways, and boulevards, corner parks, medians, downtown aesthetic parks, plazas, malls, sanitary facilities. May provide bicycle, hiking, and nature trails as a feature or as part of a larger system.

Population served: Entire population, but may also be used as privacy buffer against high traffic corridors.

Service area and accessibility: Not established. Usually part of the park system and viewed as part of urban design and urban beautification program. Primary accessibility is visual, may have hiking paths along traffic corridors.

Acres/1,000 persons: No ratio established. Suggested to be .75 to 1.0 acres per 1,000. Cities of up to 100,000 would be 1.0 per 1,000 persons.

Size range acres: From a few square feet to and extended boulevard or parkway development.

Appendix III

**National Recreation and Park Association
Facility Standards and Guidelines**

Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recognizes the importance of establishing and using park and recreation standards as:

- A national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities.
- A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.
- A basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide system of parks and open space areas.
- One of the major structuring elements that can be used to guide and assist regional development.
- A means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land-use pattern of a region or community.

The purpose of these guidelines is to present park 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 be viewed as a guide. 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 local needs. A variety of standards have been developed by professional and trade associations which are used throughout the country. The standard derived from early studies of park acreages located within metropolitan areas was the expression of acres of park land per unit of population. Over time, the figure of 10 acres per 1,000 population came to be the commonly accepted standard used by a majority of communities. Other standards adopted include the “percent of area” approach, needs determined by user characteristics and participation projections, and area use based on the carrying capacity of the land. The fact that some of the standards have changed substantially is not an indication of their obsolescence. Changes are a measure of the growing awareness and understanding of both participant and resource (land, water, etc.) limitations. Parks are for people. Park, recreation, and planning professionals must integrate the art and science of park management in order to balance such park and open space resource values as water supply, air quality.

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

Activity/ Facility	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Size And Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units Per Population	Service Radius
Badminton	1620 sq. ft.	Singles – 17'x44' Doubles -- 20'x44'	Long axis north- south	1 per 5000	¼ -1/2 mile
Basketball Youth High School Collegiate	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	46-50'x84' 50'x84' 50'x94' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides	Long axis north- south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile
Handball (3-4 Wall)	800 sq. ft. for 4- wall 1000 for 3-wall	20'x40' – Minimum of 10' to rear of 3- wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance	Long axis north- south Front wall at north end	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85'x200' (minimum 85'x185') Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north- south if outdoor	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36'x78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north – south	1 court per 2000	¼-1/2 mile

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Volleyball	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30'x60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
Baseball Official Little League	3.0-3.85 A minimum 1.2 A minimum	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+ Baselines – 60' Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines – 200' Center field – 200' – 250'	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north- east.	1 per 5000 Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5 A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Fall season – long axis northwest to southwest. For longer periods north-south	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football	Minimum 1.5 A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
Soccer	1.7 – 2.1 A	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Golf-driving Range	13.5 A for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis south-west- northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.

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¼ Mile Running Track	4.3 A	Overall width – 276' Length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to north-west-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 A	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance- 46' min. 40' women. Fast pitch field Radius from Plate – 225' Between foul Lines. Slow Pitch – 275' (men) 250' (women)	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	9, 840 sq. ft.	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with <i>primary</i> use is north-south	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles.	
Trails	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10' width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
Archery Range	Minimum 0.65 A	300' Length x Minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90'x45' with bunker.	Archer facing north = or – 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.

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Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)	Minimum 30 A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional/metro park complex
Golf Par 3 (18 hole) 9-hole standard 18-hole standard	50-60 A Minimum 50 A Minimum 110 A	Average length vary 600-2700 yd. Average length –2250 yards Average length 6500 yards	Majority of holes on north-south axis	1/25,000 1/50,000	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. 18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day. Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.

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Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 A site. Competitive – minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	<i>Teaching</i> - minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 ft.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Beach Areas	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5 % (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.

Reference: Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association.

Appendix IV

Recreation Program Evaluation Form—An Example

**WINTER BASKETBALL
2004 SURVEY**

Please check the league in which your child participated in 2004

K____, 1ST GRADE____, 2ND GRADE____

3RD & 4TH GRADE GIRLS____, 3RD & 4TH GRADE BOYS____

5TH & 6TH GRADE GIRLS (if this league applies)

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Mahomet Recreation is to improve the quality of life for all participants by meeting the needs of the community through the provision of safe, excellent recreational and leisure-time activities.

SPORTSMANSHIP: We promote good sportsmanship, which is a combination of fair play, respect and consideration for opponents, spectators, teammates, coaches and officials.

HEALTHY RECREATION: Our programs are designed to provide healthy recreation and to keep winning in perspective in an environment where participants can have fun while developing their physical skills and emotional maturity levels.

RESPONSIVENESS: Mahomet Recreation regularly evaluates community needs and responds by offering programs that are desired.

EQUAL ACCESS: All citizens are encouraged to participate in our affordable programs regardless of their skill levels, gender, race, socio-economic status, or any other factor that does not conflict with our mission.

Please answer the following questions about the Winter 2004 Basketball Season.

SECTION 1: REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. How did you find out about the 2004 Basketball Season?

School Handout

Came by Village Office

Newspaper

Word of Mouth

Television

Other – Please Specify

2. How easily were you able to obtain the registration form for the 2004 Basketball Season?

Difficult

Little Effort

Easily

1

2

3

4

5

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

3. For the services you were provided, the fees for the 2004 Basketball Season were:
Too low A little low Just right A little high Extremely high
4. Were you aware of the registration deadline? YES NO
5. How smooth was the registration process?
Not smooth Somewhat smooth Very smooth
6. Were you kept informed throughout the season as to practice days/times, schedules, games, etc.?
YES NO
7. Who kept you informed? Coaches Mahomet Rec. Other
8. After you signed up, did you know approximately when you would be contacted about the upcoming season? YES NO
9. Were you satisfactorily contacted by a Mahomet Recreation coach or other representative of the team your child was placed on? YES NO
10. Were the coaches helpful in answering all of your questions and concerns?
YES NO
11. Please list your coach and rate the quality of their abilities.
Name:
Knowledge of game excellent good poor
Leadership excellent good poor
On time excellent good poor
Good with children excellent good poor
12. What was your overall impression of your coach?
13. In regards to the registration process, what can Mahomet Recreation do to improve your experience next year? Please consider all parts of the registration process.

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SECTION II: GAME PLAY

14. Once the season began, did the games run smoothly, start promptly, and were they well organized? YES NO
15. Did your child receive adequate playing time? YES NO
16. Were the courts set up properly and in safe playing condition? YES NO
17. Were there enough basketballs to go around for warm-up time? YES NO
18. Do you feel using the Field House was beneficial in the scheduling of the games?
YES NO
19. Did you enjoy playing at the Field House? YES NO

SECTION III: OVERALL EVALUATION

20. Did you/your child enjoy the recreation experience? YES NO
21. What did you enjoy most/least?
22. How can we improve?

If you have any suggestions, comments, complaints, or other evaluation, please let us know.

Return in Box or Village Office or you can mail to:

Mahomet Recreation-Youth Basketball
P.O. Box 259, 503 East Main
Mahomet, IL 61853

Appendix V

Park and Recreation Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunities

National Park Service Assistance for Community Conservation

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as Rivers & Trails or RTCA, works with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. Rivers & Trails works in urban, rural, and suburban communities with the goal of helping communities achieve on-the-ground conservation successes for their projects. Our focus is on helping communities help themselves by providing expertise and experience from around the nation. From urban promenades to trails along abandoned railroad rights-of-way to wildlife corridors, our assistance in greenway efforts is wide ranging. Similarly, our assistance in river conservation spans downtown riverfronts to regional water trails to stream restoration.

This association also works in conjunction with various nonprofit and Federal agency partners groups including:

Nonprofit partners: American Canoe Association, American Hiking Society, American Rivers, American Trails, Association of State Floodplain, Association of State Wetland Managers, The Conservation Fund, Land Trust Alliance, League of American Bicyclists, National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, National Recreation and Parks Association, National Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy, North American Water Trails, Inc., New York Parks and Conservation Association, Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, River Network, Scenic America, Student Conservation Association, The Trust for Public Land

Federal agency partners: American Heritage Rivers, Community-Based Environmental Protection, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, Recreational Trails Program, Scenic Byways Program

Funding Sources for Greenway Projects

The greenway funding opportunities cited below are applicable to organizations and agencies throughout the U.S. that are seeking funding. The most common method for funding greenways is to combine local, public sector and private sector funds with funds from state, federal and additional private-sector sources. Many communities involved with greenway implementation are choosing to leverage local money as a match for outside funding sources, in essence multiplying their resources.

Local advocates and government staff should pursue a variety of funding sources for land acquisition and greenway construction. A greenway program that relies on limited funding sources may one day come to a grinding halt should these sources dry up.

Local and State Funding Sources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources coordinates eight local community grant programs for parks and recreation. The eight outdoor recreation grant programs available through the Department of Natural Resources are divided into four groups:

- Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) / Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Boat Access Area Development (BAAD)
- Open Lands Trust Grant Program (OLT)
- Illinois Trails Grant Programs, which includes the following:
 - Illinois Bicycle Path Program
 - Snowmobile (Local Government)
 - Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF)
 - Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program
 - Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation

For additional information on any of the grant programs, contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Capital Development, Division of Grant Administration.

Bond Referendums for Greenways. Communities across the nation have successfully placed on local ballots propositions to support greenway development. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, NC area passed four consecutive referendums that generated more than \$3 million for greenways. Guilford County, NC passed a referendum in 1986 that appropriated \$1.6 million for development of a specific greenway corridor. In Cheyenne, Wyoming, a greenway bond referendum was used to fund the first three miles of local greenways. Residents throughout the United States have consistently placed a high value on local greenway development and voted to raise their own taxes in support of greenway implementation.

Greenway Funding through Local Capital Improvement Plans. Perhaps the true measure of local government commitment to greenways is a yearly appropriation for trail development in the Capital Improvements Program. In Raleigh, NC, greenways continue to be built and maintained, year after year, due to a dedicated source of annual funding (administered through the Parks and Recreation Department). In addition, the City of Raleigh's Real Estate Department has its own line item budget for greenway land acquisition.

Greenway Trust Fund - Another strategy used by several communities is the creation of a trust fund for land acquisition and facility development that is administered by a private greenway advocacy group, or by a local greenway commission. A trust fund can aid in the acquisition of large parcels of high-priority properties that may be lost if not acquired by private sector initiative. Money may be contributed to the trust fund from a variety of sources, including the municipal and county general funds, private grants, and gifts.

Local Private-Sector Funding. Local industries and private businesses may agree to provide support for greenway development through one or more of the following methods:

- Donations of cash to a specific greenway segment
- Donations of services by large corporations to reduce the cost of greenway implementation, including equipment and labor to construct and install elements of a specific greenway
- Reductions in the cost of materials purchased from local businesses that support greenway implementation and can supply essential products for facility development

One example of a successful endeavor of this type is the Swift Creek Recycled Greenway in Cary, NC. A total of \$40,000 in donated construction materials and labor made this trail an award-winning demonstration project. This method of raising funds requires a great deal of staff coordination. (Note: Some materials used in the “recycled trail” were considered waste materials by local industries!)

Adopt-A-Trail Programs. These are typically small grant programs that fund new construction, repair/renovation, maps, trail brochures, facilities (bike racks, picnic areas, birding equipment).

State Departments of Transportation. Many states are the local administrators of federal funding from the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) - see more info below, under Federal Funding Sources.

Community Development Block Grants. Through its State CDBG Program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides States with annual direct grants, which they in turn award to smaller communities and rural areas for use in revitalizing neighborhoods, expanding affordable housing and economic opportunities, and/or improving community facilities and services. See more info and link below, under Federal Funding Sources.

State Water Management Funds. Funds established to protect or improve water quality could apply to a greenways/trails project if a strong link exists between the development of a greenway and the adjacent/nearby water quality. Possible uses of these funds include: purchase critical strips of land along rivers and streams for protection which could then also be used for greenways; develop educational materials, displays; or for storm water management.

Volunteer Assistance and Small-Scale Donation Programs

Greenway Sponsors. A sponsorship program for greenway amenities allows for smaller donations to be received both from individuals and businesses. The program must be well planned and organized with design standards and associated costs established for each amenity. Project elements that may be funded can include mile markers, call boxes, benches, trash receptacles, entry signage and bollards picnic areas.

Volunteer Work. Community volunteers may help with greenway construction, as well as conduct fundraisers. Organizations which might be mobilized for volunteer work include the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Sierra Club, biking and trail clubs, birding clubs, and local civic clubs. Volunteers included Job Training Partnership Programs involved in building trailside benches and picnic tables, School groups raised funds to build trail amenities. Other volunteers participated in a stream bank improvement project, donating labor and materials.

Estate Donations. Wills, estates and trusts may be also dedicated to the appropriate agency for use in developing and/or operating the greenway system.

“Buy-a-Foot” Programs. “Buy-a-Foot” programs have been successful in raising funds and awareness for trail and greenway projects within North Carolina. Under local initiatives, citizens are encouraged to purchase one linear foot of the greenway by donating the cost of construction. An excellent example of a successful endeavor is the High Point Greenway “Buy-a-Foot” campaign, in which linear greenway “feet” were sold at a cost of \$25/ foot. Those who donated were given a greenway T-shirt and a certificate. This project provided over \$5,000 in funds.

Federal Government Funding Sources

Some Federal programs offer financial aid for projects that aim to improve community infrastructure, transportation, housing and recreation programs. Some of the Federal programs that can be used to support the development of greenway systems include:

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The primary source of federal funding for greenways is through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). There are many sections of the Act that support the development of bicycle and pedestrian transportation corridors. Those sections that apply to the creation of greenway systems include:

Section 1302 - Symms National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRTFA): A component of TEA-21, the NRTFA is a funding source to assist with the development of non-motorized and motorized trails. In fiscal year 1994, Congress did not fund this national program, and it has become apparent that this funding source is not as stable as the national trail community once envisioned it. In 1993, Congress appropriated only \$7.5 million of a \$30 million apportionment. The Act uses funds paid into the Highway Trust Fund from fees on non-highway recreation fuel used by off-road vehicles and camping equipment.

Motorized and non-motorized trail projects receive a 30-percent share of annual appropriations. Forty percent of the appropriation must be spent on projects that accommodate both user groups. States can grant funds to private and public sector organizations. NRTFA projects are 100-percent federally funded during the first three years of the program. Grant recipients must provide a 20-percent match.

Section 1047 - National Scenic Byways Program: This component of TEA-21 is designed to protect and enhance America's designated scenic roads. Money is available for planning, safety and facility improvements, cultural and historic resource protection, and tourism information signage. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities can be developed in conjunction with scenic roadway projects. Some states with Scenic Byway Programs have developed greenways in conjunction with this initiative.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers financial grants to communities for neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improvements to community facilities and services, especially in low and moderate-income areas. Several communities have used HUD funds to develop greenways, including the Boscobel Heights' "Safe Walk" Greenway in Nashville, Tennessee.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants. This Federal funding source was established in 1965 to provide "close-to-home" park and recreation opportunities to residents throughout the United States. Money for the fund comes from the sale or lease of nonrenewable resources, primarily federal offshore oil and gas leases and surplus federal land sales. LWCF grants can be used by communities to build a variety of parks and recreation facilities, including trails and greenways.

LWCF funds are distributed by the National Park Service to the states annually. Communities must match LWCF grants with 50-percent of the local project costs through in-kind services or cash. All projects funded by LWCF grants must be used exclusively for recreation purposes, in perpetuity.

Conservation Reserve Program. The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, provides payments to farm owners and operators to place highly erodible or environmentally sensitive landscapes into a 10-15 year conservation contract. The participant, in return for annual payments during this period, agrees to implement a conservation plan approved by the local conservation district for converting sensitive lands to less intensive uses. Individuals, associations, corporations, estates, trusts, cities, counties and other entities are eligible for this program. Funds from this program can be used to fund the maintenance of open space and non-public-use greenways, along bodies of water and ridgelines.

Wetlands Reserve Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides direct payments to private landowners who agree to place sensitive wetlands under permanent easements. This program can be used to fund the protection of open space and greenways within riparian corridors.

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (Small Watersheds) Grants.

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding to state and local agencies or nonprofit organizations authorized to carry out, maintain and operate watershed improvements involving less than 250,000 acres. The NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to eligible projects to improve watershed protection, flood prevention, sedimentation control, public water-based fish and wildlife enhancements, and recreation planning. The NRCS requires a 50-percent local match for public recreation, and fish and wildlife projects.

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. The USDA provides small grants of up to \$10,000 to communities for the purchase of trees to plant along city streets and for greenways and parks. To qualify for this program, a community must pledge to develop a street-tree inventory, a municipal tree ordinance, a tree commission, committee or department, and an urban forestry-management plan.

Small Business Tree-Planting Program. The Small Business Administration provides small grants of up to \$10,000 to purchase trees for planting along streets and within parks or greenways. Grants are used to develop contracts with local businesses for the plantings.

Economic Development Grants for Public Works and Development of Facilities. The U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), provides grants to states, counties and cities designated as redevelopment areas by EDA for public works projects that can include developing trails and greenway facilities. There is a 30-percent local match required, except in severely distressed areas where federal contribution can reach 80 percent.

National Recreational Trails Program. These grants are available to government and non-profit agencies, for amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000, for the building of a trail or piece of a trail. It is a reimbursement grant program (sponsor must fund 100% of the project up front) and requires a 20% local match. This is an annual program, with an application deadline at the end of January. The available funds are split such that 30% goes towards motorized trails, 30% to non-motorized trails, and 40% is discretionary for trail construction.

Design Arts Program. The National Endowment for the Arts provides grants to states and local agencies, individuals and nonprofit organizations for projects that incorporate urban design, historic preservation, planning, architecture, landscape architecture and other community improvement activities, including greenway development. Grants to organizations and agencies must be matched by a 50-percent local contribution. Agencies can receive up to \$50,000.

Grants through Private Foundations and Corporations

Many communities have solicited greenway funding from a variety of private foundations and other conservation-minded benefactors. Some grants are:

American Greenways Eastman Kodak Awards. The Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program has teamed with the Eastman Kodak Corporation and the National Geographic Society to award small grants (\$250 to \$2000) to stimulate the planning, design and development of greenways.

REI Environmental Grants. Recreational Equipment Incorporated awards grants to nonprofit organizations interested in protecting and enhancing natural resources for outdoor recreation. The company calls on its employees to nominate organizations for these grants, ranging from \$500 to \$8,000, which can be used for the following:

- Protect lands and waterways and make these resources accessible to more people
- Better utilize or preserve natural resources for recreation
- Increase access to outdoor activities
- Encourage involvement in muscle-powered recreation
- Promote safe participation in outdoor muscle-powered recreation, and proper care for outdoor resources.

World Wildlife Fund Innovative Grants Program. This organization awards small grants to local, regional and statewide nonprofit organizations to help implement innovative strategies for the conservation of natural resources. Grants are offered to support projects that accomplish one or more of the following: (1) conserve wetlands; (2) protect endangered species; (3) preserve migratory birds; (4) conserve coastal resources; and (5) establish and sustain protected natural areas, such as greenways.

Innovative grants can help pay for the administrative costs for projects including planning, technical assistance, legal and other costs to facilitate the acquisition of critical lands; retaining consultants and other experts; and preparing visual presentations and brochures or other conservation activities. The maximum award for a single grant is \$10,000.

Bikes Belong. Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. The grant program is a national discretionary program with a small budget, to help communities build TEA-21-funded projects. They like to fund high-profile projects and like regional coalitions. An application must be supported by the local bicycle dealers (letters of support should be attached). Bikes Belong also offers advice and information on how to get more people on bikes. Government and non-profit agencies are eligible and no match is required. The maximum amount for a grant proposal is \$10,000. Applications may be submitted at any time and are reviewed as they are received.

Wal-Mart Foundation. This foundation supports local community and environmental activities and educational programs for children (among other things). An organization needs to work with the local store manager to discuss application. Wal-Mart Foundation only funds 501(c)3 organizations.