

# Village of Walworth Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Outdoor Plan 2024-2029 Summary

## Why?

Why does the Village need a comprehensive plan for their parks, recreation and outdoor space?

- Meets federal and state criteria necessary to attain and maintain grant eligibility for acquisition and development of park land and recreation facilities.
- Adds value when applying to other private grant and funding sources.
- Provides focus for local decision making with regards to maintaining and improving parks, recreation, and open spaces in the Village of Walworth.

## Who?

Who was involved with updating the 2024-2029 comprehensive plan?

- Ad Hoc Committee was appointed and made up of three Village residents; one representative from Plan Commission; one representative from the Village Board of Trustees; and Village President.
- Local Government Consultant was hired to review the final draft of the Plan and provided feedback and insight to the Ad Hoc Committee.
- Input from the public was solicited through public comments during Ad Hoc Committee meetings. Also a survey given to the public as part of the 2018-2023 Plan.

## What?

What are the main components of the comprehensive plan?

- Review of existing parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces.
- General plan to address more immediate improvements and basic maintenance of current parks, recreation, and outdoor areas.
- Recommendations for larger projects and future facilities which will require more detailed plans, further public input, and professional assistance.

## Vision Statement

Why is a vision statement needed?

- Communicates the purpose
- Identifies key issues and opportunities
- Articulates Priorities

**“Providing a thriving system of parks, recreational opportunities, and open space that enrich the quality of life for all residents in the Village of Walworth”.**

## 7 Areas of Focus

The following areas for action were identified by the Ad Hoc Committee as being vital in the Village's effort to "provide a thriving system" of parks, recreational opportunities, and open space.

- Preservation
- Maintenance
- Development
- Restoration
- Access
- Communication
- Funding

## Goals and Policies

1. Appoint and sustain a Village Park Committee
2. Provide permanent parks and other open space areas
3. Provide each neighborhood with access to park facilities
4. Provide safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle access
5. Preserve open space areas and stewardship of the lands
6. Support the acquisition of new park sites in the South West and West Central portion of the County that will benefit our Village residents

## Assumptions

- The Village of Walworth will continue to grow at a moderate to high rate and planning should be oriented towards serving a growing population with a variety of park and recreational needs.
- The decision makers will have a collective desire to maintain and improve the existing park and open space sites.
- A Park Committee will be appointed and supported.
- Previous recommendations from the residents by way of the 2018 survey are still viable and relevant and that another survey will be conducted to provide further insight into the resident's perspective and needs.

## Immediate Action Items

- Create a separate 501 (c)(3) Friends of the Village of Walworth Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Create a Maintenance Schedule for park sites
- Create a community calendar for park usage activities
- Stump removals
- Clean up all memorials

- Schedule Safety Checks
- Document and publish history of each park including a list of memorials and their location
- Plan community events that highlight Village park sites, including bike and walking paths and publish information regarding these events
- Create a tree replacement plan

## **Short Term Recommendations (1-3 Years)**

- Create ADA parking spots
- Remove and replace playground mulch with improved product
- Refurbish/replace picnic tables and benches
- Clean up each park in spring
- Upgrade park signs
- Develop plan for repurposing Devils Lane Park and Toynton Park

## **Long Term Recommendations (3-5+Years)**

- Create ADA walkways to access parks from parking areas and include ADA walkways within parks.
- Improvements and additions to playground equipment including equipment that is ADA accessible and provides multi-sensory experiences.
- Consider new park, open space, and trail developments.

## **Other Recommendations**

- Create a Capital Improvement Schedule
- Investigate private grants
- Investigate state and federal grants