



BUFFALO
GROVE
PARK
DISTRICT

Comprehensive Master Plan

Executive Summary



Executive Summary

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I Executive Summary

OVERVIEW

Buffalo Grove Park District (BGPLD) has worked collaboratively with Planning Resources Inc. to develop a Comprehensive Master Plan. This plan will help guide the District in making better more-informed decisions for the future of the community. Buffalo Grove enjoys economic stability and offers its residents a plethora of green space, parkland, trails, golf courses and more. Parks and open spaces are one of the most visible elements of the District and can instill a strong sense of pride in the residents of the community. A great park district lets citizens, visitors, and staff know that the leadership of the District is interested in providing the best for its citizens. The leadership of the BGPLD has long been recognized for its great teamwork,

excellent work ethic, and overall concern for its residents. The District recognizes that recreation plays a critical role in the quality of life for the residents of Buffalo Grove. They also believe that a strong park district promotes multi-generational recreation, activities and trail systems which provide healthier environments, improves well-being of young and old, and reduces the potential for crime in the community.

The purpose of this Comprehensive Master Plan is to provide an assessment of the current system, to allow the citizens and other focus groups to voice their opinions regarding their desires and concerns about the District,

and to provide a set of recommendations and priorities that will guide the District in shaping its future.

Methodology

The planning process for the Comprehensive Master Plan was guided by the BGPLD Executive Director, the elected Park Board, the staff and the public via an input and engagement process. District representatives met with the PRI Team and provided input throughout the plan development. This collaborative effort fully engaged the consultant's expertise and incorporated local knowledge and institutional history.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are the blueprint for action and are key components of the master planning process. The master planning recommendations are shaped by public input, facility assessments, and sound park and recreation planning practices. Based on the research, analyses, visioning and evaluation that are completed, recommendations have been formulated that expand on the philosophies of the agency and provide direction for the Park District. The recommendations are expressed as short, mid and long-term action items that will work toward realization of BGPLD's long-term goals. Over the next 3 to 5 years, many influences will have an impact on the success of this plan. Funding availability, staff resources, and political and community support will play roles in this implementation process. BGPLD residents recognize the many benefits of parks, trails and recreation facilities that have been built upon the District's long-standing tradition of providing parks and conserving open spaces. Parks, trails and recreation facilities support healthy lifestyles, protect ecosystem services, enhance economic activities and sustain a strong sense of community. The BGPLD plays a critical role in leading the community into the future through its adopted mission and values. The vision of the District strengthens a high quality of life for the entire community and the Mission meets community needs by providing an interconnected system of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and natural areas that support environmental stewardship, diverse recreational opportunities and economic development.

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

The master plan involved a comprehensive, community-driven method that evaluated the current conditions of the BGPLD open space and recreational facilities. The team evaluated not only the vision, mission, and goals, but the recommendations and other implementation tools as well. Community outreach was conducted to ensure a broad, effective and defensible public involvement process. This was integral to the development of the plan. The planning method also included an assessment of local and statewide recreational trends as a means to examine park and outdoor recreation user patterns and future demand for amenities and facilities.

SITE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENTS

This section includes the assessments of each of the 51 park sites, facilities and buildings during an on-site evaluation of each property. Each park assessment includes an overall narrative of the site, discussions regarding individual amenities and features of each park, and photographs of the park's amenities. The assessment includes a summary of the recommendations based on our observations and discussions with maintenance staff and others. These recommendations incorporate feedback from the District's public engagement process both online and with focus groups as well as staff meetings and Board discussions.

Mission Statement: Enriching life and community through premier parks, programs, and facilities

Park District Values

Character

Building respect,
integrity, and trust

Fostering teamwork
through communication
and collaboration

Demonstrating professionalism

Community

Embracing cultural
diversity

Encouraging inclusion

Celebrating contributions
of residents, Board,
staff, and volunteers

Excellence

Exceeding expectations

Following best practices

Promoting staff development

Providing quality experience
through guest-centered services

Assuring safety through comprehensive
risk management programs

Stewardship

Demanding fiscal responsibility
to assure transparency

Building green
infrastructure

Ensuring resource
efficiency

Creating and maintaining
effective partnerships

Celebrating
history

Innovation

Inspiring creativity

Communicating a shared vision

Implementing new technology

Recognizing trends by being
responsive and adaptive