

# Owosso

## *Parks & Recreation Commission*



**Regular Meeting**  
**7:30 pm**  
**Tuesday, January 24**  
**City Conference Room**  
**Owosso City Hall**



## MEMORANDUM

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301 W. MAIN ▪ OWOSSO, MICHIGAN 48867-2958 ▪ WWW.CI.OWOSSO.MI.US

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DATE: January 22, 2017

TO: Chairman Espich and the Owosso Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development

RE: Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting: January 24, 2017

The Parks & Recreation Commission shall convene at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in council chambers of city hall. The focus of this meeting will be continued discussion of updating the current *Parks & Recreation Master Plan*.

If you have any other updates or new information before the meeting, please send it along to myself and the commission. You can call my office number at (989) 725-0544 or email me at [susan.montenegro@ci.owosso.mi.us](mailto:susan.montenegro@ci.owosso.mi.us) with any questions or concerns you may have.

**Please RSVP!** See you on the 24th!

**AGENDA**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
Tuesday, January 24, 2017 -- 7:30 PM  
City Hall Council Chambers  
301 West Main Street  
Owosso, MI 48867

**Call to order:**

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Roll call:**

**Approval of agenda:** January 24, 2017

**Approval of minutes:** January 10, 2017

**Public comments:**

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. Minutes from January 10, 2017
3. Park system goals
4. Skate park cost breakdown

**Business:**

1. Discussion of Parks & Recreation Master Plan Updates for the following parks:
  - James Minor Trail/Loop – review
  - Curwood Castle Park – review
2. Review of Park System Goals
3. Skate Park project cost breakdown for LWCF grant
4. Hugh Parker Soccer Field

**Public comments:**

**Adjournment:**

The City of Owosso will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/ hearing upon seventy-two (72) hours notice to the City of Owosso. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Owosso by writing or calling the following: Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk, 301 W. Main St, Owosso, MI 48867 or at (989) 725-0500. The City of Owosso website is: [www.ci.owosso.mi.us](http://www.ci.owosso.mi.us)

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 28, 2017** at 7:30 p.m.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.  
City Hall Council Chambers  
301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867**

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Espich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was recited.
- ROLL CALL:** Was taken by Deputy City Clerk Roxane Cramer.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Espich, Vice Chair Jeff Selbig, and Commissioner Randy Woodworth.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Shane Nelson and Kristen Woodbury.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Tom Manke, Community News and Views; Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development; Glenn Chinavare, Utilities Director.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **VICE-CHAIR SELBIG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JANUARY 10 2017, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH.  
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2016, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG  
AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. Minutes from December 13, 2016
3. Park sites for 2011 Parks and Rec Master Plan

**BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION OF UPDATING THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Discussion of Parks & Recreation Master Plan Updates for the following parks:

**9) HUGH PARKER SOCCER FIELD**

Ms. Montenegro explained at the November Parks and Rec meeting the Nick Tereck from the Owosso Rotary Club explained the Rotary wanted to do a grant and do fundraising to raise potentially \$16,000.00 (4,000.00 from the Owosso Rotary Club, 4,000.00 from the YMCA, 4,000.00 from the soccer league and potentially \$4,000.00 from the city) into the field.

Mr. Chinavare suggested doing soil borings of the field for analysis.

*Location:* Southeast limits of City at entrance to Southeast Owosso Industrial Park.

*Size:* 15 Acres

*Key Observations:*

1. This park is a companion park to Rosevear Park across Farr Street.
2. The park is primarily a soccer complex with very adequate parking and a functional open space zone in the southeast.
3. The park gives a barren appearance but has a landscaping plan on file.
4. This park is noted for poor soils that do not provide for good growth of vegetation.

### **2011 Park Plan Components.**

1. Implement the plan on file in the Office of Community Development that demonstrates detailed landscaping recommendations, planned for three phases, for the berms and park borders--

- 65 \_\_\_\_\_ Canopy Trees
- 35 \_\_\_\_\_ Coniferous Trees
- 52 \_\_\_\_\_ Ornamental Trees
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ Spreading Evergreens

(cluster the trees along Monroe Street to preserve views of park)  
(avoid species that will spread tree litter on the fields)

1. Continue partnering with the Owosso Rotary Club or other service clubs to receive grants to improve bathrooms and the playing field.
  2. ~~Create parking "mall" on Farr Street— one side of this 50' right-of-way.~~
  2. Establish a maintenance standard and implement it for the embankments along the Abrey Creek drain. Consider a meandering route alteration.
- Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix?* Yes--Tree/Species List in the Appendix, **Exhibit I.**

### **3) HARMON PATRIDGE PARK**

*Location:* (Insert Annexed portion) -Owosso Township, Section 12; generally Outlots B, C, E, and a portion of D.

*Size:* 5.2 Acres

*Key Observations:*

1. ~~This park received a "makeover" in 2004.~~
2. This park was established for the enjoyment of the public on July 6, 1929, by deed from Laura Patridge. The deed restriction states, "that the premises hereby conveyed shall always be kept in such a condition as to be attractive as a place for recreation."
3. ~~Chippewa Trail was a county road. Now that the road is closed the east side park boundary at the north end had been the east line of the former roadway right-of-way. A city survey of the road revealed that the pathway is on the east side of the roadbed and no longer available to the public. The west half of the road right-of-way is wooded and impassable now.~~
4. ~~The north boundary of the park ends at Wilkinson Road. There is a public way up the hill on a worn pathway that reaches the crest of the valley wall. The serious bicyclists use this as a link on a 16-mile loop trail that routes through Corunna too.~~
5. ~~The park is not in the city but would be an ideal destination for northwest Owosso neighborhoods if there were a footbridge/bicycle path to Chipman and on to North Street.~~

Ms. Montenegro will take No. 2, 3, and 4 and pull it into a more descriptive paragraph. Such as this is a park with a key partnership established with the Owosso Rotary Club. She will bring her changes back to the next meeting for the commissions' approval.

Key observations could be;

1. Three pavilions,
2. Large playscape
3. Wooded setting along the Shiawassee River
4. Great for walking
5. *The Owosso Rotary Club unofficially "adopted" this park and contributes to its beauty and*

*peaceful setting through continued service projects.*

**2011 Plan Components:**

1. Identify a solution to the brackish water supply at the well and redevelop a potable water supply for this heavily used picnic facility.
2. Complete woods trail back to the south from the north terminus.
  1. The park is not in the city, although it has been annexed to the city. It would be an ideal destination for northwest Owosso neighborhoods if there were a footbridge/bicycle path to Chipman and on to North Street. –The city would need partnerships with other organizations and service clubs for funding of the footbridge.
  3. Signage at M-52 and Getman Road. (Chairman Espich shared if he remembers correctly the city didn't want to encourage cars driving through the residential neighborhood to get to the park).

**Maintenance Recommendations.**

**Continued partnership with Rotary Club to do the following:**

1. Routine maintenance of the trail is required along with some repairs to sloped sections where Wash-outs occur.
2. Trees planted by the Rotary club should be inventoried and replaced when trees die. The species must be adhered to in order to maintain compatibility with the interpretive map at the park.

*Site Plan or Graphics in the Appendix?* None.

Mr. Chinavare is going to look into testing the artisan well water at this park.

**2) COLLAMER PARK (previously “Hopkins Lake Park”)**

Chairman Espich noted that someone has put up barbed wire fence and it needs to be addressed because it is so close to the bike trail that is furthest to the south.

*Location:* South central Owosso including areas outside the city limits.

*Size:* 164 Acres

*Key Observations:*

1. Hopkins Lake is regional recreation area and urban park. Since the 1972 Michigan Recreational Bonding Program, Hopkins Lake has had this concept. Four other government units dedicated their bond revenues to this park at that time. A metropolitan park with diversified recreational activities should have at least 200 acres. The park at complete build-out and ownership would have 174 acres and is deemed a sufficient match for that standard.
2. This kind of park serves the whole city and region. It contains activities that cannot be accommodated by neighborhood or community parks.
  1. The 16-acre lake and land area is very sensitive to intensive recreational activity. It is more characteristic of a natural reservation for nature study and hiking. There are soil and slope limitations, and the lake is in an advanced stage of eutrophication. Resource management and carrying capacity monitoring will command attention in the care of this park.
  1. This park has a lake, dog park, disc golf course and an extensive mountain bike trail that has been mapped , showing an interior loop trail system of up to five miles of trail. The local Kiwanis clubs and local mountain bikers are heavily vested in this system and its maintenance.

4. A regional park suggests that there should be a regional support mechanism in place.

**2011 Plan Components:**

1. Selective fencing locations may be required to resolve boundary and use area conflicts. The fencing material in favor is the woven wire 6" fence with cedar posts and a height of 5 feet. A design influence of the enforcement strategy is to maintain the free passage of wildlife to and from the wetland, forests and meadow areas of the park with surrounding uplands outside of the park.

1. 2. A means to improve the oxygen levels in the lake should be investigated. A passive windmill float system is used on smaller ponds and may provide the much needed oxygen supply to the lake's very eutrophic condition. **Do a study of Hopkins Lake and create a plan for restocking.**

3. The plan shows an additional 9 acres of lake area potential beyond the southwest area of the lake. A dredging operation would remove the muck accumulation and create more surface water.

4. A map at Exhibit N shows an interior loop trail system of up to five miles in length. The local Kiwanis clubs are heavily vested in this system and its maintenance. Discussions with BMX bikers may also generate more interest.

5. The 12-acre "Verlac" parcel is designated for about 50 camping spaces. A traveler/visitor campground franchise should be examined for its feasibility at this location.

6. A pavilion for large group outings will overlook Hopkins Lake at the southeast boundary of the Verlac/Fairchild parcel. The setting is ideal for companion use by the campground and daycamp activities planned for the area.

7. A companion east side parking facility will be developed on the upland section between the former Verlac house location and the pavilion

8. An expanded parking facility is possible to serve the pavilions and volleyball courts on the west side.

2. Install a new playground to replace the removed west side playground.

10. Lakeshore plantings are to provide shade for lakeside users and relief from the sterile shoreline — setting on the west side and diminish foraging Canadian geese.

3. Develop an east side parking facility at the lakeshore with fishing pier to satisfy the needs of the trailhead and pier at south of the end of Palmer Street. This lot could supplement parking for the use of the small pavilions.

13. Ultimately, Palmer Street should be vacated as a public street and closed at a point south of the residence at the north end of the Verlac property. This closure would enable structural closing of the east end of the park at dusk.

14. Construct a new 5-acre level playfield on the former landfill and current stump disposal site.

4. A boat launch should be constructed.
5. Develop a potable water supply for the area near the dog park and community garden
- ~~17. The east side of Collamer Park may serve as an alternate disk golf location.~~
6. Make the foot bridge ADA accessible.

**Maintenance Recommendation.**

1. The parkland mowing scheme can be reduced through an edge mowing along roadsides and pathways while converting to twice a year mowing of meadow areas.

**Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix?** There is a hand-drawn trail map for the park in the Appendix, **Exhibit N**. Playground and campground designs are included in the Appendix at **Exhibits O and P** respectively.

**5) RUDY DEMUTH FIELD**

*Location:* Eastern limits of the City along the Shiawassee River.

*Size:* 10.2 Acres

*Key Observations:*

1. This floodplain park is on the inside of a broad meander loop of the Shiawassee River in a beautiful natural setting. This park has as good potential for creating quality of life improvements for the city.
- ~~2. Rudy DeMuth Field is one of three parks slated for "makeovers" in the 5-year plan.~~

**2011 Park Plan Components:**

1. Acquire and develop the school's bus garage area for parking (for football games as well), James Miner Walkway, and riverside landscaping.
2. Create a parking lot on a closed Oakwood Street with turnaround.
3. Eliminate parking between ball diamonds but maintain a gated service drive.
4. Improve drainage, if possible, for fields and add security lighting.
5. Apply some outfield fence landscaping for screening, baseball visibility.
6. Build a small tot lot in the south lot of the bus garage property.
7. Build a Gould Street gated entrance and north side parking lot if stadium parking needs are not met on #1 above.
- ~~8. Relocate tot lot ball diamond to the southeast corner of the park.~~
- ~~9. Install park sign.~~
- ~~10. Build a canoe launch on the south lot of the bus garage site.~~
11. Add a park sign at SE corner of Jerome and Oakwood Streets.
12. Install covered tables and benches [a pavilion has not been recommended for this park].

*Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix.* Yes, a site plan in the Appendix, **Exhibit M**.



## **10) ROSEVEAR PARK ("ROSEVEAR WOODS")**

*Location:* Southeast Owosso limits near Hugh Parker Field and the Southeast Owosso Industrial Park

*Size:* 7.8 Acres

*Key Observations:*

~~1. The better suggestions for this park over the years talk about restricting vehicle access and restricting off-road vehicles that have damaged the parks slopes. The park has a grotto-like setting with a small stream in its center and gently sloping valley walls. It may easily be planted with native shrubs and trees in a natural setting for nature interpretation along a simple trail system. Potential exists to unify with a nearby elementary school for support to this end.~~

This park has an excellent start of a BMX Course with potential for expansion.

### **2011 Park Plan Components:**

1. The park will have a natural plantings master plan with incremental efforts to implement the plan over a period of time.
2. Install a signed interpretive trail constructed with donations.
- ~~3. The Farr Street parking facility will provide the parking for this park.~~
3. The drain culvert will be maintained (repaired) and guarded from accidental falls.
- ~~5. The erosion scars from the bicycle park experiment will be repaired if they conflict with other uses.~~
4. Consider a scenic overview, with sign, above the current access spot and clear an area to establish a visual presence on Farr Street.
- ~~7. Consider a disc golf design that has the potential to integrate with Oak Hill Cemetery~~
5. Investigate the potential for a non-motorized path that can connect Rosevear to Collamer Park via ~~Oak Hill Cemetery industrial park or other routes.~~
6. Add Signage.
7. Investigate potential parking options at this park.
8. Improve the access to the park and rideability and connectivity.

*Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix?* Yes, an interpretive trail map at **Exhibit K.**

## **13) PARK LINKAGES, RIVER, AND BIKE SYSTEM PLANS**

*Location:* The existing park linkage is the James Miner River Walkway that begins on Williams Street at the north boundary of the Owosso Middle School and proceeds to the east city limits on the north side of the Shiawassee River. There is a south side connection that begins at Washington St. and heads east.

*Size:* The James Miner River Walkway is 7,500 lineal feet of trail with a partial roadway section at Jerome Street and Oakwood Street.

*Key Observations:*

1. The city's sidewalk system is offered as a pedestrian link to parks and open space areas and

another basis for keeping fit.

2. The CIS regional trail plan for the former Central Michigan RR line from Owosso to Ionia has been established and connects with the Fred Meijer Trail system. The trail ends at Owosso Township just to the west of the city of Owosso. Volunteer groups continue to work on connecting the city street and trail system to permit access to the James Miner Walkway.
3. The city council has adopted a "Bike City" policy goal in 2011. Efforts are on-going to install and promote wayfinding signs, bike racks, and complete streets.
4. City entered into an intergovernmental agreement with three other jurisdictions to provide maintenance along the James Miner Trail into the city of Corunna.

### **2011 Park Plan Components.**

1. Unite the city on designated routes with clearly marked signs and maps.
2. Establish crossing of M-52 at Cass Street.
- ~~3. Connect Bennett Field with northwest Owosso via 15' easement west of RR to King Street.~~
- 3 Create bikeway through school bus garage site.
- ~~5. Upgrade trail from Oakwood Bridge to Gould Street on south side of river.~~
4. ~~Curb and drain~~ Close Jerome Street and improve existing bikeway to 10' width.
- ~~7. Add two features to bikeway:~~
  - ~~a) Install tot lot at Lyon's Club Park south of the Comstock Center lot.~~
  - ~~b) Through donations, double the size of the skate park off the walkway at South Gould and Allendale Streets with a loop connector from James Miner Walkway to the Gould Street sidewalk.~~
5. Establish pedestrian/biking rail crossing in Westown at Lynn Street and Lansing Street.
6. ~~Initiate~~ Intergovernmental efforts through the joint trail authority to:
  - ~~a) Widen Copas Road to Hintz Road and plaza with dedicated bike lanes.~~
  - ~~b) Develop route to rails-to-trails bikeway trailhead west of Delaney Road.~~
  - c) Apply major maintenance upgrade to James Miner Walkway from Williams Street in Owosso to McCurdy Park in Corunna.
7. Consider constructing Footbridges at the following locations:
  - a) City hall parking lot to Clinton Street (~~covered~~)
  - b) Water treatment plant grounds
  - c) Northwest Owosso from N. Chipman Street to Harmon Patridge Park
- ~~11. Create 5K and 10K road race routes for special events.~~
- ~~12. Narrow M-52 to 3 lanes from M-21 to Wilkinson Road and establish 5' wide bikeways on each side.~~
- ~~13. Upgrade sidewalks for circulation--neighborhood fitness walking and connection to parks at the locations outlined in the Appendix.~~
8. Participate and apply for the Safe Routes to School grant program to increase connectivity throughout Owosso from residential areas to schools.

9. Establish a trailhead in the city that connects to the Ionia trail, preferably in or near downtown. ~~The Consumers gas plant site north of Bentley Park on M-52 and The parcel at the northwest corner of Washington St. and the river are candidates.~~ There is also a parcel that was acquired adjacent to the water treatment plant in 2011 that could be used.

10. Formal designation of National Water Trail

11. Work with the Friends of the Shiawassee River to: ~~replant available riparian areas to their natural state.~~

Install a barrier free landing site at Oakwood Avenue Bridge

Improve landing site at Owosso Middle School and designate as a Trailhead with appropriate signage.

Install kayak storage/locker system near trailhead to encourage through paddlers to access downtown services.

~~Consider multiple canoe/kayak launches that are readily signed.~~

*Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix:*

a) Downtown Loop Trail, **Exhibit F.**

b) ~~Covered bridge concept at Clinton Street, **Exhibit G.**~~ Construct a Footbridge at Clinton Street.

c) "Active Living by Design—Sidewalk Linkage Plan, **Exhibit R.**

d) ~~Recommended 5K and 10K road race route map, **Exhibit L.**~~

e) Map of James Miner Walkway. **Exhibit J.**

**Ms. Montenegro will pull in more information on work with the Friends of the Shiawassee River and bring it back to the commission for approval.**

### **1) CURWOOD CASTLE PARK**

*Location:* Downtown at the confluence of State Highways M-52, M-21 and M-71.

*Size:* 7 Acres

*Key Observations:*

1. This is a historic/cultural area, and that influence has established the underlying theme for this park's development.

2.

2. The park, more than any other public open space in the city, represents a destination for travelers, visitors and tourists and is home to Curwood Castle, Comstock Cabin, Paymaster Building and the Shiawassee Arts Center..

~~3. The downtown greenspace at two major highway intersections is a regional park in a downtown setting.~~

3. Special events occur here on a regular basis.

4. Surrounding land uses represent assets to the park – the armory and middle school.

5. It is helpful to think of the park as consisting of land use zones:

a) Entry/welcome area zone (south end)

b) Museum/heritage zone (arts museum and Cabin area)

c) Castle zone

d) River interaction zone (west of the Castle)

e) Amphitheater and grounds zone

f) Armory/middle school zone

6. The park's objective is to promote cultural/historical themes, and expand engagement with the Shiawassee River.

**2011 Plan Components:** What follows are the planned new or improved facilities:

- a) ~~Reconstruct the parking lot and Curwood Castle drive to reduce traffic speed and design all street access points as park entry drives. A sketch of the traffic and parking concept is in Exhibit E.~~ Add bus parking along Curwood Castle Drive in front of the Castle along with additional barrier free parking spaces.
- b) ~~A new park sign and arrival feature is to be designed and installed at the south entranceway.~~
- c) Establish a traveler's/visitors mini-lot with picnic facilities overlooking the Shiawassee River.
- d) Continue with sidewalk and lighting program for the planned walkways.
- e) Irrigate the castle grounds.
- f) ~~Build a stairway off the Main Street bridge to the walkway.~~
- g) Acquire scenic easements to the west walls of the Matthew's Building and Armory and apply architectural treatment to assure compatible vistas from the park.
- h) ~~Plant evergreens on the east river bank of the middle school from the castle perspective.~~
- i) ~~Continue to explore the establishment of a whitewater dam at the existing dam.~~ j) Acquire the house at 408 Curwood Castle Drive and plan a pond and perimeter landscaping in this area to expand the park.
- k) Work with landowners on Williams Street to maintain a vegetative cover for a scenic, erosion-free embankment on the river.

*Programming or Maintenance Recommendations:*

- a) ~~Clean the island north of the castle of flood debris on an annual basis.~~
- b) Reapply dry-vit surface to the amphitheater roof façade.
- Update sidewalks to become ADA compliant
- Install in-ground lighting along the sidewalk next to the river's edge

*Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix?* Yes—a parking and traffic concept sketch at **Exhibit E** and the report from the Curwood Castle Park Planning Committee **at Exhibit D.**

Ms. Montenegro will make some more suggested changes to the Curwood Castle Park and bring them to the next meeting for review and approval by the commission.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES AS PRESENTED TO THE PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN WITH THE CAVEAT THEY WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE CHANGES MADE AT THE JANUARY 24, 2016 MEETING. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Tom Manke shared his thoughts that the public overwhelmingly want the parks to be continued to be mowed. He stated the Friends of the Shiawassee River want everything back to fields. He said you can have the wild when you leave the park.

He also stated that the Rails to Trails needed to be finished and someone needs to be the person to be a flag bearer and bring it to Owosso.

He also suggested that once the commission has more members that each member adopts a park. So they could report on their park.

Chairman Espich reported that Terry McCloud and Rick Morris are getting a group together to finish it.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 10:00 P.M., SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG. ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

## *Park System Goals*

Goals are visions for the future of Owosso's parks without a reference to a specific time period or outcome. Objectives, where stated later in the plan, are more specific and detail an outcome in a specified time period. Objectives often assign responsibility. These goals were prepared after the Planning Commission examined the conditions of our parks, standards for facilities and programs in good parks, the character of our city and region, and the interests of our citizens through surveys and input during the planning process.

Before the goals statement was prepared it was observed that there is no ground swell of support for major spending to create substantial amounts of open space and even less support for diverting money away from schools and essential local government services to fund the operations of parks. The past thinking of buying open space, building community facilities, and operating recreation programs, when combined with inevitably inadequate funding, has created a legacy of neglect.

A significant exception that will reveal itself in this plan is the effort to reclaim territory for the public realm when waterfront land uses no longer connect to the waterfront. This is an opportunity to re-open the riverbanks for people oriented uses.

Another contemporary movement that has sustaining influence is that *Partnerships for Parks* is a good means to increase citizen, community, and private sector involvement with the local parks. Mobilizing citizen initiative can generate resources and creativity that would not otherwise be available to a municipal agency.

### *The Goals of the 2011 Parks and Recreation Plan are...*

- 1) To recognize the many benefits of parks and recreation to promote healthy life styles, relieve environmental stress, attract tourists, offer recreational outlets for youth, attract retirees, enhance property values, and help preserve the natural environment.
- 2) To set as the first priority and to avoid an all too commonplace legacy of neglect in municipal park systems—follow these practices: a) park maintenance; b) routine repairs of facilities; c) replacement of worn equipment and facilities, and; d) retrofitting and repositioning of our existing parks.
- 3) To recognize the city's fiscal limitations that imposed limits on previous park plan implementation objectives and prepare a plan that is feasible under these conditions.
- 4) To accomplish the parks improvements (that have regional service characteristics) through partnerships with other government units, state and federal financial sources, philanthropy, and local organizations. Trailways and greenways leading to, from and through the city shall be at the forefront of this effort.
- 5) To effect park improvements that result in reasonable service and access to all neighborhoods.

6) To apply a mix of recreational standards, facilities service levels, unique qualities and capacities of each park, benchmarking from other cities, and information from surveys and interest groups in arriving at the recommendations for park improvements.

7) To establish a vision for each neighborhood park, community park, and the linkages between them. For an improved vision, accept as a responsibility the job of standing on the borders of our parks and looking out.

8) To make incremental improvements for non-motorized transportation from every Owosso home to every park and open space area through pathways, dedicated lanes, bikeways, and the sidewalk system.

9) To improve the publicly owned riverbanks and adjoining lands along the Shiawassee River for advances in natural vegetation, fishing access, canoeing, non-point source pollution practices, and walkways and bikeways.

10) To establish short-term and long-term development strategies. In the short-term, existing parks that are considered park resources for the present and future shall accomplish a complete development and maintenance plan prior to the acquisition of new areas, unless natural resource areas are acquired as a conservation zone or neighborhood open space deficiencies are supplied with low-maintenance facilities.

11) To encourage neighborhood associations and service organizations to identify with the City and school neighborhood parks and playgrounds as an added measure of stewardship for care, planning and development.

12) To maintain receptivity for agreements between the City and the Owosso Public School District on the joint ownership, financing, usage and maintenance of certain recreational facilities on or adjacent to school property.

13) To nurture a retirees volunteers corps and special interest recreation groups, a "*Partnership for Parks*," to become stewards of the day-to-day needs of our parks.

14) To reposition the parks system into a comprehensible green infrastructure network that is composed of large hubs, links and smaller sites that make up the natural, historic, cultural, and recreational features of the community.

15) To renovate and reposition the parks into alternative marketing themes such as an "outdoor special event center", "health and fitness system," "neighborhood enhancement investments," or "cultural-historic park." Encourage park naming for development and maintenance support.

16) To establish how the City parks and programs are in unique positions to enhance what our citizens already enjoy doing with their leisure time and implement those enhancements.

## Skate Park Costs

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Skate Park Design & Install	\$ 250,000	
15% contingency	\$ 37,500	
total	<u>\$ 287,500</u>	
LWCF grant amount	\$ 143,750	
Match amount required	\$ 143,750	
Funds from prev polar plunges	<u>\$ 23,000</u>	
Balance	\$ 120,750	
Crowd Fund potential (if we can use this as a way to match money - need to check)	\$ 50,000	
Crowd Fund match needed	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	
balance	\$ 20,750	\$ 120,750
Total amount needed as match	\$ 70,750	