
Policy: City Wide Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Master Plan
Adopted by Board of Park Commissioners: February 2021

In 2020, the BPRYCS Department retained the services of *Activitas* and *Pros Consulting* to guide the staff and Board of Park Commissioners in the formation of the first *City Wide Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Master Plan*. The overarching goal of the plan was to identify current and future needs for the City of Bristol to help guide the Department for the next 5 to 10 years. Additional goals that were codified in the master plan include:

- Gain a better understanding of community needs
- Identify gaps of service, programs and facilities not currently being met
- Identify future trends and benchmarking through the National Recreation and Parks Association and other standards
- Creation potential park renovation/improvement designs for future development with estimated associated costs for such improvements
- Address plans for deferred maintenance
- Define future Capital Improvement Projects as well as staffing/equipment needs to meet recreation and park objectives
- Guidance in the prioritization of projects
- Develop a phased plan for ADA Compliant Upgrades
- CAPRA Accreditation Review

In order to achieve these goals, the following tasks were completed:

- Review and research of existing documentation to build upon what has been previously developed
- Comprehensive, systematic community engagement process
- In-depth site analysis for all of the city parks
- Review each park for ADA compliance and provide recommendations where necessary
- In-depth comprehensive site plan for Page Park
- High level overview of Board of Education facilities
- Inventory of existing city park assets and review of city open space and properties
- Identify and recommend programming and maintenance plans
- Identify sustainability plans and green initiatives
- Recommendations for aggressive and sustainable funding sources

The *City Wide Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Master Plan* process was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the process was slightly altered due to the inability to conduct in-person public meetings, and focus group interviews, however, by use of virtual meetings, the process was able to be altered in order to achieve the same result that would have occurred without the pandemic. Best practices dictate that a system wide master plan should be conducted every ten years. The BPRYCS department will endeavor to retain a professional firm for a new Master Plan in 2030.

(Source: *City Wide Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Master Plan* available at www.bristolrec.com).