

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLATTE COUNTY, MISSOURI

PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

MAY 2009

“...every county –and particularly those counties around large centers of population – is obligated to provide the best it can for the recreation and health of its citizens, a system of parks and lakes...”

Harry S. Truman





Vision

To create community through people, partnerships, and an interconnected system of parks, greenways, and conserved natural resources, offering recreational opportunities for all citizens.

We will follow our Vision by:

- Continuing to ensure that the Platte County parks system is well maintained and safe;
- Building awareness and promoting parks and recreational facilities in Platte County;
- Continuing to collaborate and partner for funding and facility use;
- Continuing to improve quality of life by asking voters to consider parks and recreation sales tax for the future
- Expanding existing indoor and outdoor facilities and creating a more diverse park system that reflects citizen desires;
- Continuing to make high priority land and water-based trail and greenway connections;
- Encouraging significant green space conservation and parks in development.

Introduction

The implementation of this update to the *Park System Master Plan of 2000* presents a number of intriguing opportunities that capitalize on the enthusiasm generated by Platte County citizens for their park system. This enthusiasm has fueled widespread support for the Guiding Principles of the new Plan, updated and approved by the Platte County Commission in May 2009. These Principles that serve as our foundation are:

- *protecting our natural resources*
- *providing health and wellness opportunities*
- *creating safe recreation places for our children*

The new Plan, and approach to implementing it, will be *citizen-focused, sustainable, and collaborative.*

“Our neighborhoods are only as strong as our parks”

-Citizens Team Member

explore **enjoy**
experience
Platte County Parks!

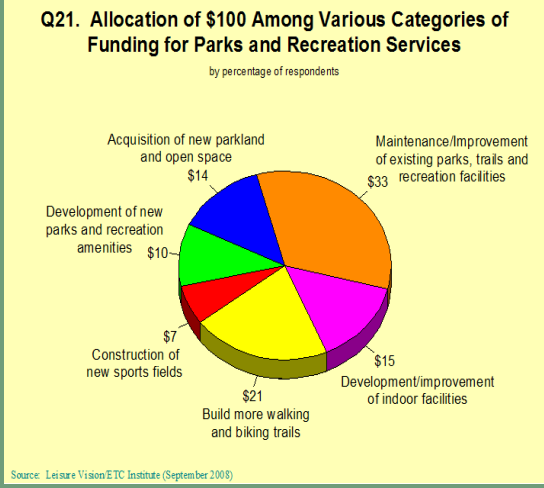
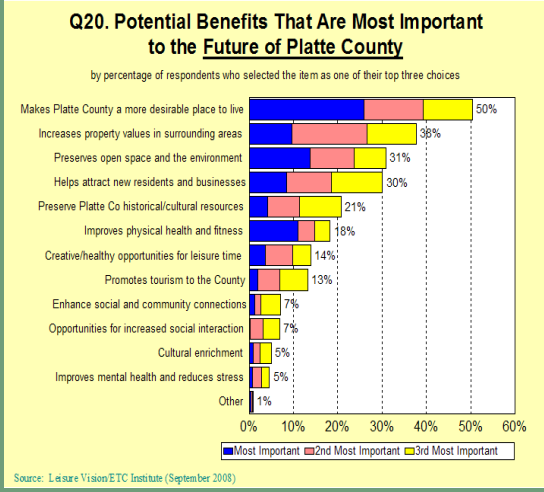
Platte County Profile

As a community, Platte County continues to grow at a steady pace. During the life of this master plan (2010 to 2030), we will **grow by an additional 20,000 people**. Many of these new citizens will move to Platte County because of their preference for a lifestyle that features access to open spaces where wildlife and natural resources can be observed and enjoyed; where trails can be used to maintain one’s health; and where recreation facilities provide families with fun and safe activities.

In this process to update the Master Plan, we evaluated the condition of our existing facilities and management policies and engaged citizens in a process to determine our highest needs and best opportunities. Our existing parks/facilities include 1,300 acres of protected open space, two community centers, five parks, fifteen miles of trails, and one golf course. Evaluations and recommendations for each of these facilities are included in this report

Citizen Involvement Process

Following our review of existing facilities and management policies, it was apparent that a dynamic planning process should be implemented to reach out to all citizens who expressed an interest in getting involved to provide the feedback needed for **“informed decisions”** about the **“preferred future”** of the park system. To that end, we used not one or two citizen involvement venues, but **EIGHT**. Over **four-thousand** Platte County residents participated in this process, receiving information and providing feedback about what was important to them. The entire process was led by a twelve member citizens team made up of residents from throughout Platte County. Two public meetings were held, two statistically valid citizen surveys were conducted, and twenty-six special focus group meetings were hosted to drill down and investigate all current and future issues that would be important to the Plan. Throughout the process our master plan website, www.platteparks.com, was kept current providing citizens with up-to-date information and a feedback forum to instantly express their opinions.



“Our citizens are telling us quality of life issues like better parks are of utmost importance to them”

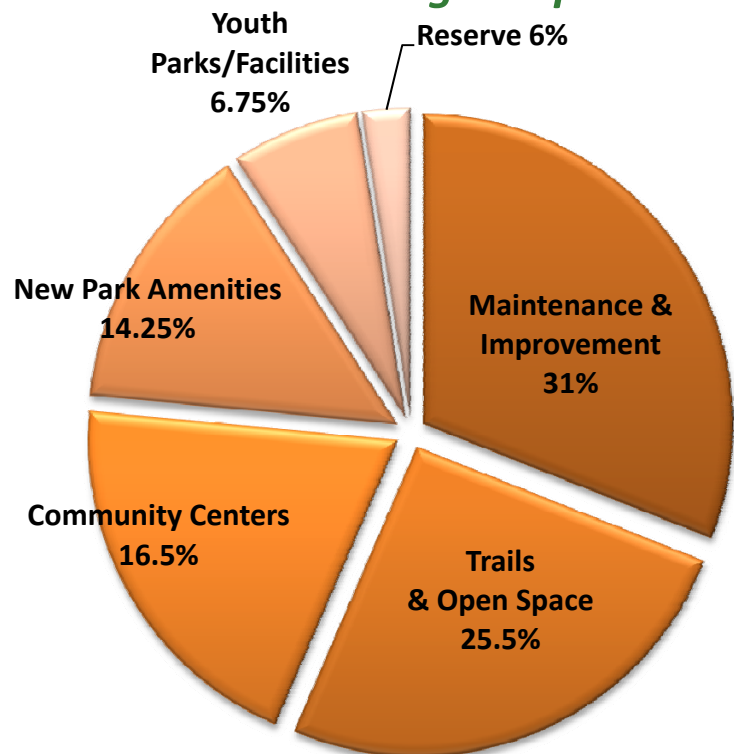
-Focus Group Participant

Action Strategies to accomplish the Goals of the Master Plan

- *connect the greenway trails* network and *preserve* Platte County **open space** for conservation and recreation, primarily along streams and rivers
- *improve* our **community parks** with high value amenities such as trails, playgrounds, dog parks, community gardens, picnic areas, un-programmed open space, and special spaces for music, arts, and cultural heritage sites
- *enhance/expand* existing **community centers** to improve community *health and wellness* and plan for long-term growth by studying options for new facilities

Where will the money go?

Resources to our highest priorities:



If approved by voters, the renewal of the dedicated parks sales tax is estimated to generate approximately \$76 million. Approximately one-third of anticipated revenues will be dedicated to overhead/maintenance and improvement of the existing parks in the County (\$18.25M) and the stormwater program (7.6M). A 6% reserve account (\$4.5M) will be created for future opportunities.



Where the Money from the Parks Tax Will Go:

Connecting our Platte County Trails and Greenways

The amount dedicated to **connecting** our Trails and Greenways in the County is 13% of estimated collections or \$10M for trail and open space protection, primarily along our streams and rivers.

- Trails: 10.5% of estimated collections or \$8M (approx. 30 miles @ avg. cost \$250K/mile for site preparation, paving, signage, and bridge structures); includes \$500K for diverse trails development such as water trails, equestrian, and mountain bike paths
- Greenways: 2.5% of estimated collections or \$2M (estimate approx. 400 acres acquisition as needed; donations and easements will be sought and preferred to connect the trails network)

Completing the Southern Platte County Trail Loop (26 miles total, 12.5 needed to finish)

- Missouri Riverfront Trail** west from Line Creek to Brush Creek (10.5 miles total, 6 miles needed to finish)
- Brush Creek Greenway** trail north from the Missouri River to 45 Highway (3.1 miles total, 3.1 miles needed to finish)
- Southern Platte Pass** from I-435 east to Line Creek (8 miles total, 3.4 miles needed to finish)
- Line Creek Greenway** Trail south from 68th Street to MO River (*Cities to complete 4.5 miles needed to finish*)

Missouri Riverfront Trail Phase 2 (2.5 miles needed to finish)

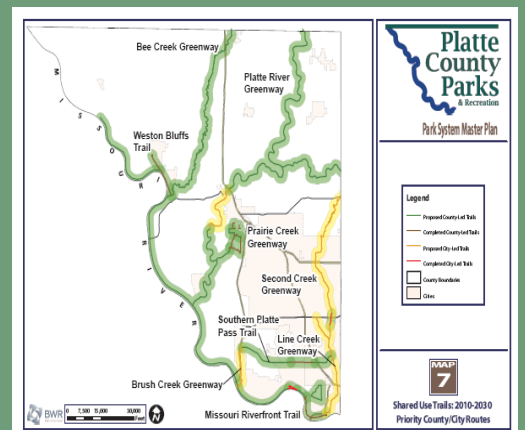
- Missouri Riverfront Trail** west from Brush Creek to Waldron (2.5 miles total, 2.5 miles needed to finish)

Connecting Platte City and Prairie Creek (16.25 miles total, 10.5 needed to finish)

- Prairie Creek Greenway Phase 1**
(5.75 miles total, 1.75 miles needed to finish)
- Platte River Greenway Phase 1**
(5.25 miles total, 5.25 miles needed to finish)
 - 5.25 miles to connect downtown Platte City south to Humphries Access area; Platte City partnerships for planning & volunteers
- Platte River Greenway Phase 2**
(3.5 miles total, 3.5 miles needed to finish)
 - 3.5 miles to complete section from Humphries Access south to Prairie Creek

Weston Bluffs Trail & Extension (8 miles total, 4.5 needed to finish)

- Weston Bluffs Trail Phase 2**
(4.5 miles total, 4.5 miles needed to finish)
 - 2 miles to complete connection from Weston Bend State Park north to new COE conservation lands
 - 2.5 miles to connect S. trailhead to Leav. Bridge

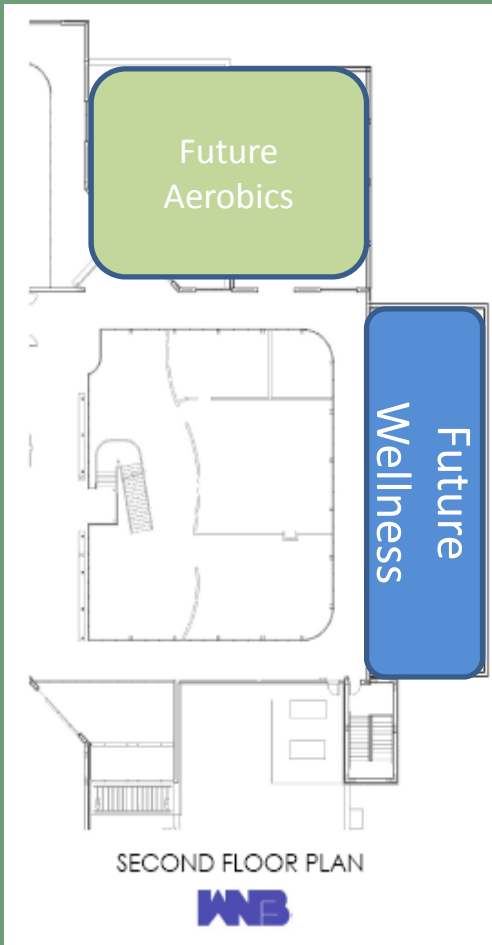


Where the Money from the Parks Tax Will Go:

Enhancing our Community Centers

The amount dedicated to **enhancing** our Community Centers is 16.5% of estimated collections or \$12.5M for expansion of existing facilities in Parkville and Platte City and the study of future needs to address community growth.

Sample Floor Plan
- PCCC South



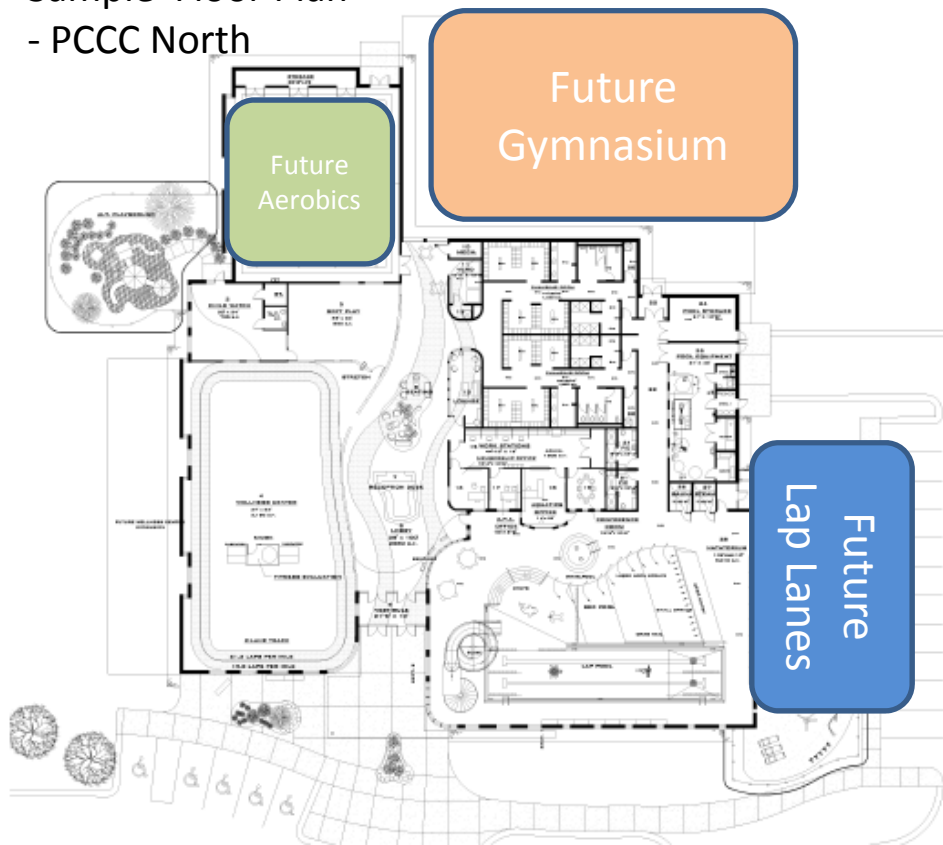
•Expansion Opportunities for Platte County Community Center South

- Study expansion options & evaluate costs (i.e. adding a floor over the Generational Center), including the feasibility of partnering with other organizations to achieve common goals and leverage resources at other locations
- Priority amenities include additional wellness floor space, additional aerobic room, and lap lanes for swimming

•Expansion Opportunities for Platte County Community Center North

- Study opportunities to expand the facility
- Priority amenities include full-size gymnasium, dedicated aerobics rooms, expanded walking track and additional lap lanes for swimming

Sample Floor Plan
- PCCC North



Where the Money from the Parks Tax Will Go:

Improving our Parks and Open Spaces

The amount dedicated to **improving** our Parks and Open Spaces in the County is approximately one-third of estimated collections or \$23.1M for new park amenities, new outdoor facilities for youth, protecting additional open space as opportunities arise and grants to local communities.

- New Community Parks: 9.25% of estimated collections or \$7M at land-banked sites
- Next Phase at Existing Parks: 9.25% of est. collections or \$7M for improvements and open space
- New Youth sports parks and facilities: 6.75% or \$5.1M for high priority amenities for children
- Outreach Grants: 3.25% or \$2.5M for annual grants to local communities (avg. \$250K per year)
- Partnership Grants: 2% or \$1.5M for grants to Dearborn, Edgerton, & Camden Point (\$500K. Ea.)

•New Community Parks from land-banked sites

- (\$2.75M) **130 acres west of English Landing Park**
Planning and engineering for new amenities such as trails, a dog park area, community gardens, open space, nature areas, playgrounds, shelters, recreation ballfields, a boat ramp and fishing areas
- (\$2.75M) **114 acres at 52nd and Northwood**
Planning and engineering for new amenities such as nature trails, mountain bike trails, open space, picnic areas and a natural outdoor performance area
- (\$1.5M) **97 acres at P Hwy and Spratt Road**
Benner Park phase two and planning for new amenities such as cross country trails & picnic areas

•Platte Ridge Park

- (\$3.5M) Update master plan and develop new improvements; upgrade fields, nature preserve in NE area, open space, playgrounds, more walking trails, fishing dock

•Platte Purchase Park

- (\$2M) Update master plan and develop new improvements; upgrade fields, walking paths, wetland restoration, new playgrounds and shelters

•Green Hills of Platte Wildlife Preserve

- (\$1M) Update master plan for priority improvements such as an educational center at the Day Cabin, trails, parking areas, interpretive signage and open space

•Barry-Platte Park

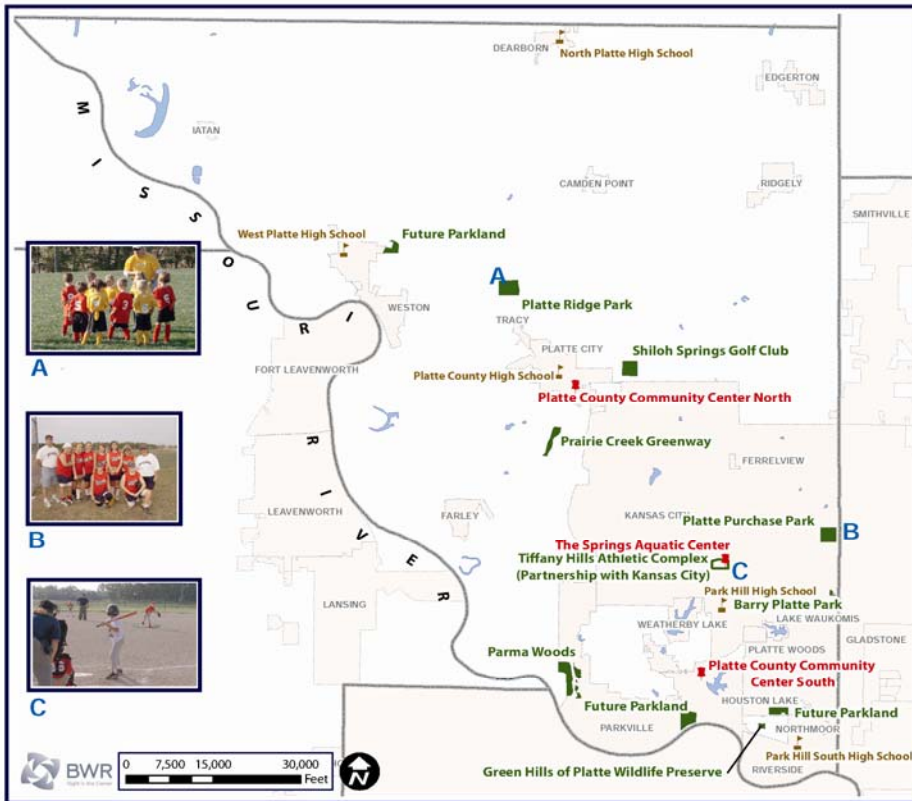
- (\$500K) Tree planting, new shelter/picnic areas, trails

•Youth Sports Parks and Amenities

- (\$2.55M) Feasibility study and potential collaborations with Riverside, SPCAA and other community partners for soccer/football complex themed youth park
- (\$2.55M) Partnership Funds for collaborations with Kansas City, SPCAA and others to complete Tiffany Hills park and other needed recreational amenities for youth



parkland map



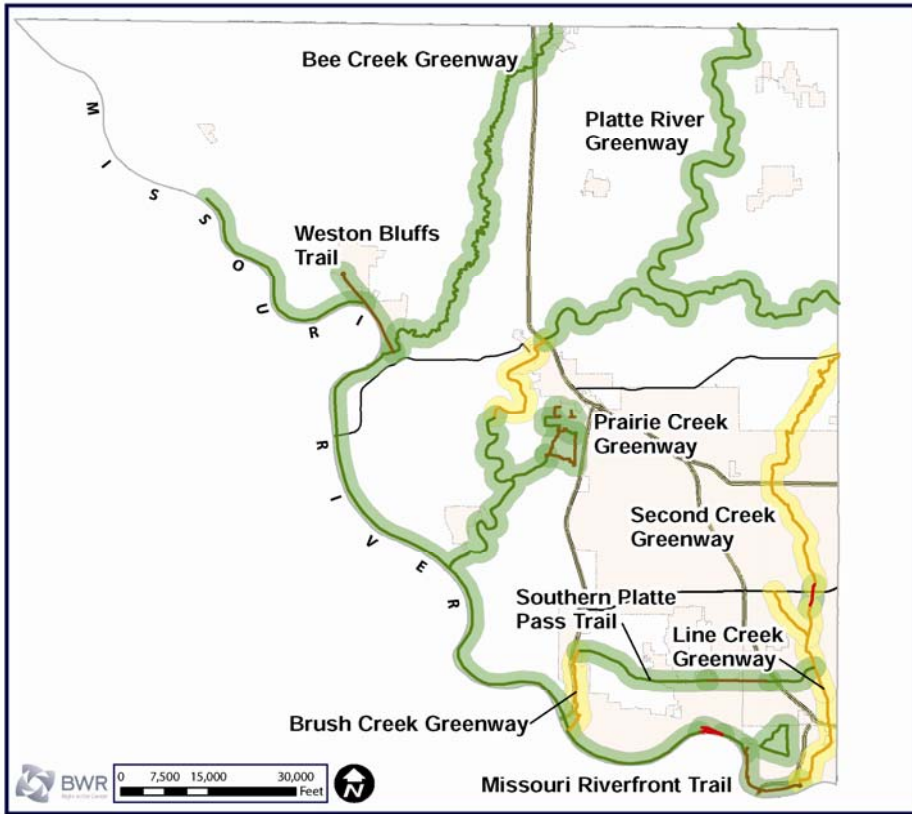
Platte County Parks & Recreation
Park System Master Plan

Legend

- County Boundaries
- Schools
- Lakes
- Community/Aquatics Centers
- County Parks

MAP 3
County Parkland

priority trails map



Platte County Parks & Recreation
Park System Master Plan

Legend

- Proposed County-Led Trails
- Completed County-Led Trails
- Proposed City-Led Trails
- Completed City-Led Trails
- County Boundaries
- Cities

MAP 7
Shared Use Trails: 2010-2030
Priority County/City Routes

For the complete report visit:

www.platteparks.com