

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges Activity

Lakeside Park Exploratory Committee, 2.24.15

Using the concepts of the park vision determined in the prior exercise, the committee worked in small groups to do an analysis of each one. For the sake of this exercise, “Keep people coming back” and “Destination” were combined since they are related, and “Pride: Make it our own” was left out since that describes the purpose of the work and the feeling they want people to have about the park as a result of this work.

Each small group took one of the remaining vision concepts and thought about the Strengths of the park related to this concept today, the Weaknesses of the park in that way today, the Gap between where the park is today in that area and where they’d like it to be in the vision, Opportunities for improving that aspect of the park, and Challenges that may result from attempting to make that change or from actually making it.

After each group was done with their five sections, the committee reviewed the work of each small group, added in other concepts they thought of for each one, and then noted ideas that came up in common across multiple vision concepts.

I. Gathering Place

Strengths:

- Plenty of Space
- Public Awareness
- Amenities (Shelter, Pavilions)

Weaknesses:

- Limited facilities during inclement or cold weather
- No public boat marina for park access
- Lack public events
- Insufficient Number of restrooms
- Insufficient access for disabled
- No Beach

Gaps:

- Need event organizer
- Dollars
- Strategic Plan
- Community Education
- Regulatory Approvals
- Marketing Plan

Opportunities:

- Add public boat slips
- Build a breakwater for beach
- Build changing room
- Build Ampitheatre
- Build infrastructure; restrooms, utilities, parking, disability access

Challenges:

- Where to add parking
- Where to add boat slips
- DNR; Regulations
- Obtain Community Support

II. Historical

Strengths:

- Historical Markers
- Strong Family Memories
- Festivals
- Location for Athletics
- Fishing

Weaknesses:

- Difficult to change
- Financial upkeep
- Difficult to build new traditions
- Who's History?
- How to relate to newcomers

Gaps:

- \$\$ and planning needed
- Making history relevant to today
- Develop community dialogues
- Consultants to identify regulations and how to manage them
- Getting community buy in

Opportunities:

- Create a new tradition
- Develop plans to preserve Historical Items
- Build new memories
- Engage diversity when planning new traditions
- Engage historical society
- Envision Fond du Lac

Challenges:

- Money
- Fear of change
- Changing demographics
- Space
- Environment/Regulations/DNR = Out of our control

III. Destination

Strengths:

- Large open spaces
- Lakefront
- Playgrounds
- Festivals
- Infrastructure

Weaknesses:

- Little access land to lake and lake to park: Small Door
- Amenities
- Stinky point - WWTX

Gaps:

- Aversion to change
- Shift in City's vision for park
- Lack of a Master Plan

Opportunities:

- Beach
- Business (concessionaire)
- Dock space for transient boaters like 4th of July boaters
- Multi-use path on lakefront

Challenges:

- Room for transient boaters
- Increase water/park access
- Destination Resources – fuel, food/drink (concessionaire)
- Stinky point
- Service vehicles interrupting natural space
- Increased trash

IV. Moving Into the Future

Strengths:

- City Plan 5 year
- Wetlands
- Playground areas
- Green space
- Pavilions
- Facilities/Rest Rooms
- Picnic Area

Weaknesses:

- Limited access/west
- No bike/walk/nature trail
- North Main Street
Entrance/Appearance
- Not enough rest room facilities/heated
- No permanent band stage facility (\$\$ to rent)
- Older children playground – Ages 11+, middle school

Gaps:

- Liability (especially with playgrounds)
- Supervision
- Maintenance

Opportunities:

- More Festivals
- Plenty of room
- Bike Loop/Walk
- Wooden walkway/west/swamp (like in Oshkosh or Horicon Marsh Wetland)
- Nature Groups/Bird watchers
- City Owned Boat Houses – Restaurant above
- Nature/History/Education Center
- More playground amenities

Challenges:

- Funding
- Community Support
- Long range Planning (5 year limit)

V. Improve Quality of Life (social, physical, mental, spiritual, and cultural)

Strengths:

- Areas to exercise
- Festivals (entertainment)
- Softball diamonds
- Kids areas – playgrounds/rides
- Place to relax and connect w/nature
- Lakeside West Ecosystem and dog park
- Great historical significance

Opportunities:

- Large green space and lake front
- Available Space
- Rentals

Challenges:

- Existing infrastructure
- Access Challenges

Weaknesses:

- Fragmented for bikers – Lack of bus service
- Auto traffic through heart of park
- Water is difficult to access
- Lack of cultural events
- Outdated facilities
- Landscaping
- Lakeside West removed
- Largely unused in winter

Gaps:

- Ability connecting with water
- Ability connecting Walk/Bike Trails, in/out
- Ability connecting East/West

In Common Across the 5 Themes

Strengths

- Open, green space
- History
- Playgrounds
- Lakefront
- Sports
- Good infrastructure

Weaknesses

- Access: small door; Need two-way in and out
- Access to Lakeside Park West
- Access to Water

Gaps

- Master Plan
- Budget
- Community support and reluctance to change

Opportunities

- Connect with Fond du Lac Works and Envision Fond du Lac
- Improve/Construct/Update facilities
- More events
- Proposed new bike path
- Amphitheater or stage
- Year-round usage

Challenges

- Environmental/Regulatory
- More recreational opportunities
- Changing wants and needs into the future
- Year-round usage