TO: Park & Recreation Commission Members  
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator  
           Jon Steffes, Summer Recreation Director  
DATE: September 14, 2021  
RE: Meeting Notice  
   Monday, September 20, 2021  
   5:30 p.m., La Crescent City Hall  
   315 Main Street

AGENDA

1. Introductions.
2. Consideration of meeting minutes – August 24, 2021.
3. Kickoff meeting for the update to the City’s Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan. Representatives from MSA will be in attendance at the meeting. Memo included.
   • Project schedule and scope.
   • Draft on-line community survey.
   • Recommendations from the 2012 Park & Recreation Plan.
   • La Crescent park assessment form.
   • Discuss public walking tour and first public open house.
   • Discuss park system needs and wants.
4. Additional Discussion Items.
5. Adjournment.

Please call me at 895-2595, or e-mail me at bwaller@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov, if you will not be able to attend, have questions, or need more information.

Thank you.
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
    Park and Recreation Commission Members  
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator  
DATE: September 8, 2021  
RE: Meeting Minutes  
    August 24, 2021

The La Crescent Park and Recreation Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, in the City Council Chambers at the La Crescent City Hall. The following members were present: Jon Steffes, Paul McLellan, Sarah Wetterlin, Diana Adamski, Randy Dobbs, Eileen Krenz and Linda Gasper. Also in attendance were Teresa O’Donnell-Ebner, Chris Fortsch and Bill Waller.

1. Brief introductions were held.
2. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting as presented.
3. The Commission reviewed and discussed the draft of a memorandum of understanding between the Outdoor Recreation Alliance (ORA) and the City of La Crescent. Jed Olson, the Executive Director of ORA, was in attendance at the meeting and reviewed the draft agreement. Discussion followed, and input and comments were received from those in attendance at the meeting. This item was informational, and no action was taken.
4. John and Kathy Klug were in attendance at the meeting on behalf of the local pickleball ambassadors. The Klug’s provided an overview on pickleball and the growing popularity of the sport across the country. This item was informational, and no action was taken.
5. The Commission assembled a preliminary list of items/projects/improvements to be considered as part of the update to the City’s Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan. The preliminary list included the following items:
   • Pickleball courts
   • Outdoor skating rink(s)
   • Shelter at Veterans Park
   • Shelter at Wieser Park
   • Replacement of playground equipment at Wieser Park
   • Location for a dog park
   • Splashpad
   • Lights on the sand volleyball courts at Old Hickory Park
   • Root River Bike Trail extension
   • Wagon Wheel Project – phases 1, 3, and 4
   • Drift bike share
- Frisbee/disc golf
- Fishing at the equalization culvert
- Input from kids/students
- Observation deck for bird watching at Blue Lake near the City maintenance facility
- Trail maintenance
- Trail mapping/markers
- Signage/benches
- Band shell
- Apple Blossom Overlook Park partnership
- Update City website to include park features at each City park
- Add City trails to trails app
- Community orchard

6. The Commission reviewed upcoming meeting dates and the first steps in the process to update the City’s Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan.

7. The Commission reviewed a draft of a letter to the organizers of the effort to install lights at the sand volleyball courts at Old Hickory Park advising the organizers that the project has not been approved by the City, and that there is no guarantee that the lights will be installed at the park even if the organizers are successful with their fund-raising activities. It was the consensus of the Commission to forward the letter as presented.

8. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission would be Monday, September 20, 2021, at 5:30 pm., at City Hall.

9. There being nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:04 pm.
To: La Crescent Park and Recreation Commission
From: Becky Binz, AICP, Project Manager
Subject: September 20, 2021 Park & Recreation Commission – Park & Rec Plan Update Kickoff
Date: September 13, 2021

MSA has begun assisting the City in the process of updating the La Crescent Park & Recreation Plan. MSA will be attending your September 20th meeting to kick-off the project. At the meeting we intend to review the following items:

1. **Project Schedule and Scope.** A copy of the project schedule and scope is included in your packet.

2. **Draft On-Line Community Survey.** A pdf copy of the draft survey is included in your packet. Please return survey edits to Bill by Friday Sept. 24. The survey will be available online from Friday Oct 1 through Friday Oct 29.

3. **Recommendations from the 2012 Park and Recreation Plan.** Staff have been asked to review the list of actions from the prior plan and include notes regarding those prior recommendations that have either been (1) completed, (2) not completed but should likely be carried forward into the next plan, and (3) those prior recommendations that were not completed and should likely not be carried forward into the next plan. We do not intend to go through this document in detail. We have included this information in your packet so that you can refresh yourself with the recommendations of the last plan and to inform responses to item #6 below. Future meetings can be used to discuss uncompleted projects to carry forward.

4. **La Crescent Park Assessment Form.** Please individually, or as a group, tour the City’s parks and complete the attached worksheet. This worksheet will ask you to identify improvement projects considering a number of aspects per park.

5. **Discuss Public Walking Tour and first Public Open House.** Discuss logistics for both events.

6. **Meeting Questions.** Please take a look at these questions before the meeting on the 20th and gather your initial thoughts:
   a. Thinking about the park system as a whole – list 3 things you think are strengths in the park system.
   b. Thinking about parks individually or as a whole – list 3 things you think should be added.
   c. Needs/wants for Eagles Bluff Park
   d. Needs/wants for Vollenweider/Vetsch/Stoney Point
   e. Needs/wants for Horse Track Meadows Development Park
SCOPE OF WORK – LA CRESCENT COMPREHENSIVE PARK & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE
May 5, 2021

Project Overview
We understand the City of La Crescent would like to engage a consultant to update its 2012 Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan (CPRP) to reflect changes in the community since that effort, and plan for future changes in the community. To this end we will take a deep dive into the City’s park system to ensure the community has the parks it needs and connected assets within the community now and in the future. The planning process will be an iterative one with the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC), and include evaluating your needs and wants, first with a standard assessment and then by seeking the opinions and preferences of residents. The plan will include master plans and more extensive recommendations for the following parks: 1 – Eagles Bluff Park, 2 – Vollenweider/Vetsch/Stoney Point Park and 3 – Horse Track Meadows Development. The planning effort will result in an updated parks and recreation system vision for the City, cost estimates tied to a prioritized list of improvements, and funding and partnership strategies to set the City up for implementation success.

Project Committee and Oversight
We anticipate working with the PRC to offer guidance on the process, review materials prepared, plan for public engagement, and recommend the draft plan for adoption consideration. We further anticipate that the City Administrator will be our primary point of contact for arranging meetings and will attend PRC meetings.

Phase 1: Outline Mission, Goals, and Objectives (September 2021)

Task 1.1: In-Person PRC Meeting #1 (Week of 9/6/2021)
MSA will conduct an in-person kickoff meeting with the PRC to:
- Verify the project schedule and deliverables.
- Discuss draft community survey and outreach methodologies.
- Plan for the first public open house event and public walking tour.
- Discuss issues, opportunities and desired improvements within the City’s park system.

During the time between the first and second PRC meetings, we will invite members of the Commission to individually, or as a group, tour the City’s parks (without MSA present). We will provide a Park Assessment Form which will ask Commission members to identify improvement projects considering a number of aspects per park.

Task 1.2: Existing Conditions Documentation
MSA will create base maps and complete a desktop review of utilities, topography, slopes, wetland/floodplain for the three master planning sites. MSA will also review the following plans and incorporate applicable recommendations and policies into the CPRP:
- 2012 La Crescent Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan
- 2016 La Crescent Comprehensive Plan
- 2016 LAPC Blufflands Plan
- 2017 La Crescent Blufflands Plan

Phase 2: Update Park Standards and Inventory (September-October 2021)

Task 2.1: Park Inventory & Assessment
MSA will tour the City’s parks to complete an inventory and evaluation of existing park facilities. MSA will utilize existing data provided by the City related to the type of facilities and year built and supplement this data with a general evaluation of existing park facilities through on-site observation. This information will
be used to assist with the development of recommendations for maintenance, replacement or new facilities.

Task 2.2: Geographic/Locational Analysis
- **Map 1 - Existing Parks and Trails.** A map of the location of existing City parks and trails using available GIS data. This map will also include the locations of county, state and federal park and recreational lands/facilities in or adjacent to the City.
- **Map 2 - Park Facility Distribution.** A map visually depicting the type of recreational facilities available in each City park, including whether the facilities are lighted. This map is useful in determining where portions of the City may, or will be underserved or overserved by certain types of amenities.
- **Map 3 - Park Service Areas.** A map identifying service areas for each City park.
- **Map 4 - Potentially Underserved Areas.** A heat map combining population density and park service areas to identify places in the community which are underserved by parks, and parks which might require additional maintenance and repair due to heavy use.

Task 2.3: Quantitative Analysis
MSA will analyze the amount of parkland per person available to City residents based on current and estimated population projections. The results of this analysis will indicate projected deficits or surpluses of total park land, in five-year increments, through 2040. MSA will also compare this data to that of similar sized communities using the National Recreation and Park Association’s latest metrics.

Phase 3: Public Engagement/Qualitative Analysis (September-November 2021)

Task 3.1: Staff Meeting #1
For all PRC meetings for this project, MSA proposes the following sequence of staff meetings via conference call, email, or Skype:
- Three weeks before PRC meeting - transmit draft meeting materials to staff for review.
- Two weeks before PRC meeting - audio or video conference call with staff to review materials.
- One week before PRC meeting - transmit to staff for delivery to PRC revised draft materials as necessary and a summary memo highlighting important topics for discussion.

Task 3.2: Virtual PRC Meeting #2 (November)
MSA will meet with the PRC to:
- Review public feedback (survey, community input mapping, walking tour, and open house)
- Review Maps 1-4 and summary results of Phase 2
- Discuss community needs regarding the three sites that master plans will be prepared for

Task 3.3: Online Community Survey
We propose using an online survey (administered via Survey Monkey) to gather opinions about existing and desired park and recreation facilities and programming. The survey would be available for three to four weeks. MSA will provide a summary report of the survey results. Results will be used to gauge user preferences and determine potential changes or additions to parks to better serve the population.

Task 3.4: Community Input Mapping
We will provide a sharable link to an online map to allow the public to identify concerns with existing park and trail amenities as well as suggest locations for new ones. This application allows anyone, at any time and anywhere convenient for them to take part in the planning process.

Task 3.5: Public Walking Tour (9/25/21 or 10/2/21)
We will invite the Natural Resources Advisory Group and the public to walking tours at Eagles Bluff Park and Stoney Point on the same day – these two tours will be spaced out so people can attend both if they wish. The tours will include a brief presentation on the project and focus on soliciting what the public views as opportunities at each of the sites.
Task 3.6: Public Open House (First Open House to occur 10/5/2021 or 10/12/21)
We are proposing two events for the public to provide in-person feedback. For the first event we will set up a tent at an existing event, such as the Farmer’s Market. This goal of this first event is to gauge needs and concerns of residents through displayed maps and polling questions. The second event will be held near the end of the planning process to ask for feedback on draft plan recommendations and concepts. For the second public meeting we are proposing a more traditional public open house event where people can drop into the meeting, voice their opinions and leave. The event will include a brief orientation with several interactive stations.

Task 3.7: Stakeholder Focus Group
We will hold one virtual focus group with representatives from private sports and outdoor recreation organizations who regularly use City parks to discuss park and recreation needs.

Phase 4: Conceptual Plans (November 2021-January 2022)
Task 4.1: Develop Conceptual Master Plans and Recommendations
After the completion of the Park Inventory and Assessment and initial public engagement, MSA will develop Conceptual Plans for 1 – Eagles Bluff Park, 2 – Vollenweider/Vetsch/Stoney Point Park and 3 – Horse Track Meadows Development. This will include schematic level construction cost estimates to guide budget discussions as improvements occur. Recommendations for the sites will address:

- forestry and vegetation management
- invasive species management
- views/birds/mountains orientation
- access and parking
- trail locations and uses
- other recreational uses
- shelters and restrooms
- sign
- incorporation of solar/renewable energy facilities (Vollenweider/Vetsch/Stoney Point Park)

Preliminary concepts will provide a schematic level layout of proposed park improvements and general recommendations.

Phase 5: Preliminary Recommendations (December 2021-February 2022)
Task 5.1 Preliminary Park Needs
We will develop a list of proposed park and recreation improvements by park. These proposed improvements will be based on the work completed in Phases 1-4 and local and national trends.

Task 5.2: Staff Meeting #2
MSA will facilitate a virtual meeting with staff to review preliminary concept plans and recommendations. Edits will be made to the concept plans and recommendations based on feedback obtained from this meeting.

Task 5.3: Virtual PRC Meeting #3
MSA will facilitate a virtual meeting with the PRC to review preliminary concept plans and recommendations. Edits will be made to the concept plans and recommendations based on feedback obtained from this meeting.

Phase 6: Draft Plan (February-March 2022)
Task 6.1: Plan Development
MSA will draft the La Crescent Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, including master plans for the three selected sites, which will include the following chapters:

- Executive Summary: A clear and concise synopsis of park needs and recommendations.
- Chapter 1—Introduction: Summary of the purpose of the plan and summary of the planning process.
- Chapter 2—Description of La Crescent: Matrix of existing parks and open space throughout the City including location, existing characteristics, classification, and amenities; Map 1 (Existing
Parks and Trails); summary of local recreational facilities not owned or operated by the City; summary of significant natural resources such as waterways, greenways, topography and woodlands; summary of existing and projected demographics; summary of other applicable planning efforts/studies and their impact on park planning.

- **Chapter 3—Goals and Strategies:** An update of the previous CPRP's outdoor recreation principals and objectives. Updated goals and strategies will be based on City staff and PRC input, best practices, and alignment with the National Recreation and Park Association’s Three Pillars: Conservation, Social Equity and Health/Wellness.

- **Chapter 4—Analysis of Park Needs and Demands:** A summary of the quantitative, geographic, and qualitative analyses completed in Phases 1-3, including Map 2 (Facility Distribution), Map 3 (Park Service Areas and Populations Served) and Map 4 (Potentially Uncerserved Areas). Determine gaps and deficiencies based on projected future needs. A summary of current and emerging trends in recreation facilities and programming demand (state, NRPA, peer communities).

- **Chapter 5—Recommendations:**
  - **Existing Parks, MSA** will create a one- to two-page summary sheet for each existing park similar to the spread view shown below. The spread will include the following information: name of park; address; park acreage; park type; a summary table of existing facilities including year installed (as provided by staff); any current issues; a summary table of recommendations including priority (e.g. low, medium, high) and planning-level cost estimates. The two-page spread will also include a picture and a map of each park.
  - **New Park Facilities, MSA** will summarize areas proposed for future City parks, or expansions to existing parks, and new trails as determined through the planning process. MSA will identify the general location of these proposed improvements on Map 5 (Proposed Park and Trail Facilities).
  - **Trail Facilities, Identification of proposed trail facility improvements, focusing on connecting existing and proposed multi- use trails to parks and other community facilities, and further focused on upgrading deficient routes currently marked but unsafe for use. These will be depicted on Map 5.**
  - **Conceptual Master Plans for 3 Selected Sites, MSA** will refine the preferred elements of the preliminary concept plans into final conceptual master plans. Recommendations for the sites will address a variety of topics – forestry and vegetation management, invasive management, viewed maintenance, access and parking, trail locations and uses, other recreational uses, shelters and restrooms, signage, and incorporation of solar/renewable energy facilities.

- **Chapter 6—Implementation**
  - **Capital Improvement Summary, A summary table of recommendations from Chapter 5 outlining recommendations by park, estimated cost (planning level/ballpark cost estimates or cost ranges) and priority.**
  - **Fee, Funding and Staffing Review, A comparison and benchmark of La Crescent's staffing levels, park revenue and expenses, and park dedication and fee-in-lieu to data from up to four other Minnesota communities of comparable size. This section will include a calculation of the funding the City will need to collect from fee-in-lieu (or another source) to fund new parkland acquisition to meet the needs of new residents.**
  - **Funding Opportunities, A summary table of common state and federal park grant programs including information on maximum awards and application due dates.**
  - **Identification of other non-traditional funding options to help mitigate potential funding gaps.**
  - **Identification of potential partnerships to coordinate regional and other local park and trail planning efforts.**

- **Appendices:**
  - **Appendix A: Complete Survey Results and Public Meeting feedback. Chapter 4 will provide an abbreviated summary of the key results from the Community Survey and public meetings.**
  - **Appendix B: Park and Open Space Classifications/Standards. A summary of classifications and general park system guidelines from the National Park and Recreation Association.**
  - **Appendix C: Maps, 11 x 17 copies of the following maps:**
    - Map 1: Existing Parks and Trails
- Map 2: Park Facility Distribution
- Map 3: Park Service Areas
- Map 4: Potentially Underserved Areas
- Map 5: Proposed Park & Trail Facilities

**Task 6.2: Staff Meeting #3**
MSA will have a check-in with staff to discuss the draft plan. The plan will be updated based on this discussion.

**Phase 7: Adoption (April 2022)**

**Task 7.1: PRC Meeting #4 (In person)**
MSA will present the final plan to the PRC for review and recommendation to City Council.

**Task 7.2: Planning Commission Meeting (In person)**
MSA will present the final plan to Planning Commission for recommendation to City Council.

**Task 7.3: City Council Presentation (In person)**
MSA will present the final plan for adoption to City Council. We will provide a PDF copy of the plan to the City.

At the City's discretion, Common Council or the Planning Commission could hold a public hearing before adopting the plan.

**SCHEDULE**
We anticipate a start date in September 2021 with project completion by April 2022.

**PROJECT COST**
The lump sum fee for this scope is $51,200.

**Optional Costs**
All PRC meetings in-person (+$2,500)
La Crescent Park and Recreation Plan Survey

Introduction

The City of La Crescent is updating its Park and Recreation Plan. This plan serves to guide the continual improvement of the City's parks, open space, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The City realizes the importance and benefits of parks, open space, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and is committed to meeting the needs of its current and future residents. By participating in this survey you are helping to shape the future of La Crescent!
Respondent Profile

These questions will help us understand how well the survey responses represent the overall population of the community.

1. What is your age?
   ○ Under 18   ○ 18-24   ○ 25-34   ○ 35-44   ○ 45-54   ○ 55-64   ○ 65 or older

2. Do you have any children living in your home that are under the age of 18?
   ○ Yes   ○ No

3. Where do you live?
   ○ City of La Crescent
   ○ City of La Crosse, WI
   ○ City of Hokah
   ○ City of Houston
   ○ City of Brownsville
   ○ City of Dakota
   ○ Other (please specify)

4. How long have you lived in the City of La Crescent?
   ○ 0-5 years
   ○ 6-20 years
   ○ More than 20 years
   ○ I don't live in the City of La Crescent
5. How often do you....

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>0 times in the past year</th>
<th>1-2 times per year</th>
<th>1-2 times per month</th>
<th>1-2 times per week</th>
<th>3 or more times per week</th>
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<td>Walk or run for exercise</td>
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<td>Walk for transportation from home to work, stores, restaurants, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bike for transportation from home to work, stores, restaurants, etc.</td>
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6. Is there a specific location in the City of La Crescent that needs to be improved for bikers/pedestrians to safely travel to the City's parks?


7. Where would you prioritize the location of new biking/walking trails within the City's parks?


8. How close is the nearest park or trail to your home?

- [ ] Within reasonable walking and biking distance
- [ ] Within reasonable biking distance, but not walking distance
- [ ] I have to drive
La Crescent Park and Recreation Plan Survey

Recreation Programming

9. Did anyone in your household participate in City-sponsored recreation programs in the past year?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No
   ○ Not sure

10. Does the City's current variety of recreational programs meet the needs of your household?
    ○ Yes
    ○ No
    ○ Not Sure

If no, please explain in what ways it is not meeting your needs.
11. When visiting City parks, which activities or facilities do you or members of your household most commonly participate in or use? Check all that apply.

- [ ] Playground Equipment
- [ ] Picnic Facilities (grills, shelters, etc.)
- [ ] Ball Diamonds
- [ ] Basketball Courts
- [ ] Tennis Courts
- [ ] Volleyball Courts
- [ ] Athletic Fields (soccer, football, etc.)
- [ ] Other (please specify)
12. Which of the following amenities would you like to be added to our City Parks? Mark up to 6 preferences.

- Archery/Trap shooting range
- ATV trails
- Ball diamonds
- Basketball courts
- Boating facilities
- Bocce ball courts
- Camping areas
- Canoe/Kayak facilities
- Community Center
- Cricket field
- Curling rink
- Disc golf course
- Dog park
- Equestrian Trails
- Fishing facilities
- Football fields
- Golf course
- Golf driving range
- Horseshoe pits
- Ice skating/Hockey rink
- Indoor athletic complex (for multiple programs/sports)
- Indoor pool
- Lacrosse fields
- Lighted Athletic Fields
- Off-road mountain biking trails
- Off-road walking/biking trails
- On-road bicycle facilities
- Park landscaping/Trees
- Park parking lots
- Park signage/Directional signage
- Pickle ball courts
- Playground equipment (ages 6-23 months)
- Playground equipment (ages 2-5 years)
- Playground equipment (ages 5-12 years)
- Restrooms
- Rugby field
- Sand volleyball courts
- Shelters
- Sidewalks
- Site furnishings (benches, tables, grills, etc.)
- Skateboarding facilities
- Sledding hill
- Snowmobile trails
- Snowshoeing
- Soccer fields
- Splash pad
- Stream & shoreline restoration
- Tennis courts
- X-country skiing trails
- Zipline/Adventure Course
- Fitness Course

Other (please specify):

13. What is your favorite park to visit in the City of La Crescent?

14. Why is this park your favorite park to visit in the City of La Crescent?
15. A master plan is being developed for the new park in the Horse Track Meadows Development located off of County Rd 6 (see image below). What kinds of amenities would you like to see at this location? Please select your top 5 desired amenities.

- Archery shooting range
- Ball diamond
- Basketball courts
- Bocce ball courts
- Camping areas
- Cross country skiing trails/hiking trails
- Disc golf course
- Dog Park
- Horseshoe pits
- Improved biking trails
- Obstacle courses
- Off-road mountain biking trails
- Off-road walking trails
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Outdoor ice skating/hockey rink
- Pickleball courts
- Playground equipment (ages 2-5 years)
- Playground equipment (ages 6-12 years)
- Playground equipment (ages 6 months-23 months)
- Pump track
- Restrooms
- Sand volleyball courts
- Sculpture/art park
- Sledding hills
- Zip line/adventure course

- Other (please specify)
16. A master plan is being developed for Eagle's Bluff Park (see image below). What improvements would you like to see here? Please select your top 5 desired improvements.

- Additional walking trails
- Cross Country Trails
- Forestry and vegetation management
- Improved accessibility
- Invasive species management
- More parking
- Park shelter(s)
- Restrooms
- Signage
- Viewshed/overlook management
- Other (please specify)

[Map of Eagle's Bluff Park]
17. A master plan is being developed for Vetsch/Vollenweider/Stoney Point Parks (see image below). What improvements would you like to see here? Please select your top 5 desired improvements.

☐ Additional walking trails
☐ Forestry and vegetation management
☐ Improved accessibility
☐ Incorporation of solar/renewable energy facilities
☐ Invasive species management
☐ More parking
☐ Park Shelter(s)
☐ Restrooms
☐ Signage
☐ Viewshed/overlook management
☐ Other (please specify)
18. Do you have any concerns about safety or accessibility in any of our parks?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

   If yes, please describe the name of the park and the concern.

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19. Excluding winter months, on average how often do you or members of your household visit or use...?

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<th></th>
<th>3 or more times per week</th>
<th>1-2 times per week</th>
<th>1-2 times per month</th>
<th>1-2 times per year</th>
<th>0 times in the past year</th>
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<td>City of La Crescent Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Root River State Trail</td>
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</table>

Other (please specify)

20. How often do you or members of your household commonly drive somewhere outside of the City of La Crescent to use specific recreational facilities?

- Never
- 1-2 times per year
- 1-2 times per month
- 1 or more times per week

If you do travel outside of La Crescent for specific recreational facilities, please specify where you go and for what activities/facilities.

21. Are there any reasons that you or members of your household do not participate in recreational activities? If yes, check all that apply.

- Not interested
- I'm too busy
- Facilities are not kept clean
- Facilities are not well maintained
- Program or service is not available
- Park doesn't contain desired features or facilities
- Security is insufficient
- Too far from our residence
- Lack of accessibility
- Other (please specify)
La Crescent Park and Recreation Plan Survey

Parks/Open Space

22. Do you think the City should spend less, more, or maintain current levels of spending for the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spend less</th>
<th>Maintain Current Level of Spending</th>
<th>Spend more</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Recreational Activities or Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Maintenance (maintain existing grounds/facilities)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Installing New Park Facilities/Equipment</td>
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<td>Parkland Acquisition</td>
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<td>Bicycle Facilities/Trails</td>
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<td>Sidewalk Facilities/Pedestrian Enhancements</td>
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<td>Tree Plantings</td>
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23. If you would like the City to allocate additional funding for recreational programming, which programs should be enhanced? (select all that apply)

- I do not believe the City should allocate additional funding for recreational programming
- Youth enrichment (e.g. STEM, art)
- Youth sports (e.g. volleyball, soccer, tennis)
- Free After School and Summer Programs
- Adult recreation (e.g. yoga, zumba, photography)
- Adult sports (e.g. volleyball, pickleball, badminton)
24. Please use the space provided below to identify a type of recreation program or service that the City should consider offering.


25. Do you believe that green space contributes to better mental health and wellbeing?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No

26. Please use this space to provide any other comments relating to pedestrian, bicycle, park and recreation services or facilities in the City of La Crescent.
Thank you for helping shape the future of parks and recreation in the City of La Crescent! If you have any questions please contact City Hall at (507)-895-2595.

SAVE THE DATE!
The City will be hosting walking tours on Saturday October 2 at Eagles Bluff Park and Vollenweilder/Vetsch/Stone Point Parks to get additional feedback on improvements people would like to see at these locations. Please check the City’s website for additional details.
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2012 LA CRESCENT PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

- X indicates those recommendations that have been completed or will be shortly
- Stricken text indicates those recommendations that have not been completed and should not be carried forward in the new plan
- Circle indicates recommendations which have not been completed but should be carried forward in the new plan

1. Abnet Field
   - Add ice skating area or outdoor hockey rink at the southeast corner.

2. Frank J. Kistler Memorial Park
   - Add landscaping in the interior portion of the park as well as around the edges to help soften the environment of the park and enhance the visual attractiveness of the area.
   - Add neighborhood connection off of the cul-de-sac bubble on 6th Street South.

3. Old Hickory Park
   - Establish a rain garden in all or a portion of the stormwater retention area.
   - Add a sidewalk connecting the basketball court to the park shelter and sidewalk along Red Apple Dr.
   - Pave gravel parking lot serving the shelter and playground area.
   - Install an irrigation system to maintain high quality turf for soccer and softball.

4. Veterans Park
   - Remove vacant city owned single-family home within park.
   - Add new soccer field.
   - Add three new park pavilions.
   - Relocate skate park.
   - Add a small community amphitheater.
   - Add playground area.
   - Add new trails and walkways throughout the park to enhance connectivity within and external to the park.
   - Construct new sand volleyball courts.
   - Allocate an area for a cricket pitch.
   - Add tree and shrub plantings throughout the park.

5. Eagles Bluff Park
   - Improve trails throughout the property.
   - Add landscaping and a trail sign to entrance areas along Red Apple Drive and McIntosh Road.
   - Construct a trail between Eagles Bluff Park and Veterans Park.
   - Establish and maintain cross country ski trails.
   - Establish picnic areas and scenic overlooks.
6. **North End Park**
   - Add walking trails
   - Add mountain biking trails and/or a pump track.

7. **Other Recommendations**
   - Improve access to the Mississippi River — provide access via Blue Lake in short-term, longer term, redevelop the Twilite area on Highway 61 to create direct access.
   - Enhance La Crescent’s Front Door — add four features to enhance the sense of arrival to the community and expand the range of recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors.
   - Entry Plaza — Add a small welcoming plaza at the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 61 and 3rd Street South.
   - Blue Lake Access — Develop a small park and public access on the city-owned property adjacent to the County’s recycling center on South Chestnut Street.
   - Dog Park — establish a dog park adjacent to the La Crescent Animal Rescue building on South Chestnut Street.
   - Pedestrian Bridge — Construct a new pedestrian/bike bridge over Highway 61 near 1st Street North to improve connectivity to the river.
   - Create a More Connected Trail System — two key regional and national segments currently under various stages of planning and development are the Wagon Wheel Trail and the Mississippi River Trail.
   - Paddling — pursue launch points on the creek near the Kistler Trailer Park.
City of La Crescent
2021 Park and Recreation Plan Update

PARK ASSESSMENT FORM

During September/October MSA encourages members of the Commission to take some time to tour local parks to observe and document potential park improvements to incorporate into the update of the City's Park and Recreation Plan. Tours can be completed individually or as a mobile meeting. This form is intended to guide your visit.

The second page of this form includes each park's name followed by a box to indicate desired improvements considered a need versus a want. Needs generally address maintenance, access or safety items but can include installation of new or replacement equipment or facilities. Wants generally address something you would like to add to a park but may not be as essential in the short term.

As you tour each park consider the following:

- External access to the park (sidewalks, trails, bike routes etc.)
- Signage (including wayfinding to the park and onsite signage)
- Parking & circulation (vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle)
- Internal access to the park (accessible paths to play equipment, shelters or ball fields)
- Shelters and restrooms
- Support facilities (benches, picnic tables, water fountains, grills, etc.)
- Lighting
- Diversity of play equipment or recreational facilities
- Condition of play equipment or recreational facilities
- Location of play equipment or recreational facilities
- The size of the park and any opportunities for expansion
- The main users of the park and opportunities to increase their enjoyment of the park
- Opportunities to attract other users to the park
- Use of the park for special events and special event needs
- The demographics of the surrounding neighborhood and their potential needs
- How the park fits within the entire Park System

If you identify more than one want or one need for each park feel free to number each based on your determination of priority (one being the highest).
Abnet Field (S. 14th St.)

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<th>Wants</th>
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Crescent Valley Park (Valley Ln. and Crescent Ave.)

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Eagles Bluff Park (Red Apple Dr.)

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Frank J. Kistler Memorial Park/La Crescent Aquatic Center (S. 7th St.)

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<td>Wants</td>
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<tr>
<td>John S. Harris Park (N. Elm St.)</td>
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<td>North End Park (Ambrosia St.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Hickory Park (Jonathan Ln.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley South Park (Juniper St. and S. 11th St.)</td>
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Veteran’s Park (Veterans Pkwy)

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<th>Wants</th>
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Vollenweilder/Vetsch/Stoney Point Parks (N. 2\textsuperscript{nd} St. and Stoney Point Rd.)

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Wieser Memorial Park (Hwy 6)

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