

# Section 4.0

## Goals, Objectives & Public Input

City of New Baltimore  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan



## **SECTION 4.0**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the broadest sense, a Recreation Plan should offer the community a series of guidelines or recommendations for making consistent and rational public decisions regarding the delivery of recreation programs and facilities. Goals and objectives, in the context of recreation planning, should be the guiding influence in determining the nature and extent of future park development, administrative and programming actions. They should be idealistic to the extent that they provide a desirable condition to strive towards. However, in order to be reasonably capable of being achieved, the goals must be tempered by the recognition of financial, social, physical and political realities. Successful policy should further recognize the evaluation of the community's recreation system and the relationship of this system to relevant demographic characteristics.

New Baltimore's recreation needs today differ from those of earlier decades when the City's population and development was principally concentrated near the waterfront. The size and distribution of the City's population are increasing and the City's Master Plan projects that by 2030 the population will exceed 14,000 persons. New Baltimore has the opportunity to develop parkland to meet the recreational needs of its current and projected population. The City's recreation policies need to reflect these conditions to be valid for the future.

### **PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

An important and essential part of the planning process involves input from the users of the community's parks, facilities and programs. This input helps to develop the policies that define the Plan, as well as provide strategies for implementation. The New Baltimore Recreation Commission held a Recreation Plan discussion session that was open to the public and involved the City Council and the Planning Commission on October 6, 2005. This built on the recreation questionnaire that was distributed in the community in the Spring of 1999 during the development on the former Recreation Plan. The results of that questionnaire, along with meetings held on April 8, 1999 and June 17, 1999 are provided in the appendices. This information, in tandem with the results from the discussion session held on October 6, 2005, were used to develop the goals and objectives of the Recreation Plan. Public input solicited during the public hearing process was also considered in during Plan development.

The following policy statements are based on current recreation needs and demands and reflect the general direction that should be followed in the course of providing future recreation services to New Baltimore residents. Strategies for addressing these needs are specified in the following section of the Recreation Plan.

### **POLICY STATEMENTS**

In an effort to help guide the policy and decision making within the New Baltimore Recreation Commission, both a mission statement and a vision statement have been drafted as part of the goals and objectives section, and, with the adoption of this Plan, these statements should be recognized as the overall policy guides for the Commission.

The following represents the basic ideals of the City of New Baltimore Recreation Department and Commission, as well as more specific objectives to accomplish each of these overall goals. These goals and statements are intended to be long term and not necessarily representative of goals for the next five years.

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES & PUBLIC INPUT

### PROVIDE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES



Through programmed and self-facilitated recreation, a variety of benefits to individuals and society are achieved. Recreational experiences also are important as an end in themselves for personal enjoyment.

- Continue to review current park facilities based on national standards to determine whether sufficient active and passive recreation facilities are being provided.
- Identify park sites where additional active recreation facilities can be accommodated.
- Develop a means of highlighting different park sites and programs within each newsletter.

### SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Recreation programs and facilities attract and retain businesses and residents, as well as attract tourists. Parks and recreation provides jobs and generates income for the community and for local businesses. Park maintenance staff maintains parks and community facilities to protect public investments.

- Work with other organizations within the New Baltimore area to promote car shows, boat shows, festivals and the like.
- Provide advertising space within the New Baltimore newsletter, website, at park locations, or at sports fields.
- Study the potential of developing a new recreation department building

### FOSTER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Parks and recreation services foster social, intellectual, physical and emotional development of children, youth and adults.

- Develop a broader range of programs such as cooking, dance, culinary arts, life skills, business skills, home maintenance, senior activities, etc.
- Consider the potential of merging resources and programming with other recreation providers within the County.
- Develop a continuous survey to monitor interest in new programs via the New Baltimore newsletter or other media.
- Develop outdoor classroom areas in conjunction with the School District.
- Develop pavillion areas within the parks where residents can gather for picnics/events.
- Develop high quality play structures where children can recreate.

### PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES



Protect environmental resources and the habitat required for the survival of diverse species by acquiring, managing, and restoring valuable resources such as; rivers, streams, greenways, view sheds and forests.

- Determine the location of significant environmental features in each park area and the appropriate acreage associated with such amenities.
- Target areas/properties along the Lake for access purposes which are currently vacant or are currently underdeveloped.

## **SECTION 4.0**

### **PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELLNESS**



Participation in recreation improves physical and emotional health.

- Develop an accurate map of existing pathways within the community and develop a sidewalk program/apply for grants to construct segments of the pathway in areas where gaps exist.
- Develop health and wellness programs which educate residents on healthy eating, exercise habits, stress management, etc.
- Provide incentives for users to participate in activities year round, such as awards or T-shirts.

### **STRENGTHEN SAFETY AND SECURITY**



Park and recreation professionals provide safe environments for recreation and design programs and services specifically to reduce criminal activity.

- Work with the police department to ensure monitoring of each park.
- Develop lighting policies for those parks that require such.

### **FACILITATE COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING**



Park and recreation professionals have skills in facilitation and leadership that can be applied to resolve community problems and issues.

- Provide a drop-box for recreation programming and facilities to monitor ongoing community preference.
- Organize annual workshops to measure adequacy of current programming and facilities.

### **INCREASE CULTURAL UNITY**



Parks and recreation increases cultural unity through experiences that promote cultural understanding and celebrate diversity.

- Develop programs with the cooperation of the Historic District Commission that provide education and understanding of the cultural assets of the New Baltimore area.
- Develop theme fairs that allow residents to experience a variety of cultures.