

**City of Medford  
2012 Comprehensive Plan Update**

**Element:** Agricultural, Cultural & Natural Resources

**Description:** The protection and management of the City's cultural, natural resources, and outdoor recreation base is vital to the social and economic development of the City. At this time, there are no agricultural activities occurring in the City.

**Committee Members:** Chair Greg Knight, Herb Archibald, Mark Berglund, Terry Lybert, and City Representative Ann Harris.

**Element Committee Update:** January 16, 2012

**Oversight Committee Review:** May 15, 2012 Reviewed: 9-16-13

**Council Approval of Update:** July 17, 2012 Reviewed: 9-23-13

**Short Term Plan Suggestions (0 to 5 Years)**

Suggestion	Responsibility	In Progress	Completion Date	Comment(s)
<b>Regularly review the City's 2004-2009 Outdoor Recreation Plan to establish priorities for upcoming fiscal year(s).</b>	Council			
A. Incorporate the suggestions of the Agricultural, Cultural & Natural Resources Element Committee's suggestions into the City's Outdoor Recreation Plan.	Council			
B. Explore options to tie the Riverwalk to the Frances L. Simek Memorial Library.	Fales			Cannot get railroad crossing.
C. There is a need for directional signs to Flag Field parking lot.	Public Works	x		Exploring various routes
D. Explore ways to better manage shoreland vegetation around the Millpond and Riverwalk to a natural and wild condition.				
(1) Explore options to reduce goose numbers, and discourage goose and duck over use/waste.				1. Protected migratory birds 2. Ban feeding. 3. Purchase a sweeper to clean Riverwalk during Summer and Fall migration.
(2) Remove non-native invasive vegetation.	DNR	x		Done annually.
(3) Maintain Riverwalk Surface.	Public Works			Done as needed
E. Create an inventory of City outdoor recreation facilities; evaluate use, maintenance needs, expansion needs, and develop a replacement schedule.	Public Works	x		
F. Create an inventory of City playground equipment including a maintenance and replacement schedule.	Public Works	x		
G. Create an inventory of the memorial trees located in the park, and develop a maintenance plan.	Public Works	x		There is an existing database of trees that is regularly updated.
H. Continue "Tree City" designation.	Public Works	x		Application is submitted annually.
<b>Enforce Section 9.2.01 of The City Code of Ordinances by locating and penalizing owner(s) or person(s) in charge of any animal that deposits fecal matter on City streets, alleys, and other public or private property.</b>				Enforced upon a complaint.
<b>Consider the creation of an ordinance that requires new housing subdivision to provide new park space and sidewalk and/or trail for access to City parks, sidewalks, and trail system.</b>	Plan Commission	x		
<b>Revisit the City's overall recreation plan.</b>	Council			
A. Explore the possibility of creating a City Recreation Coordinator position to provide coordination, integration, and planning support to volunteer run programs that are members of the Recreation Commission. Also, coordinate with schools and privately owned recreation facilities and programs.	Council			This was addressed by Council, and is not fiscally feasible.
B. Review the City's Recreation Bylaws.	Council		1-3-12	Council approved revised Bylaws.
<b>Cooperate with groups such as the Friends of the Downtown, Taylor County Historical Society, etc. to address historical and cultural issues with the City.</b>		x		This would be an ongoing activity as issues are identified.
<b>Replace pedestrian bridge located near Curling Club.</b>		x		A bridge was purchased from Wisconsin Rapids, and the Public Works Department is exploring a timeline for installation of the new bridge.

**Medium Term Plan Suggestions (6 to 10 Years)**

Suggestion
<b>Park Land &amp; Green Space – Preserve as much green space as possible for conservancy and future park land/recreation facility development. Examples include:</b>
1. Campus woods located behind Northcentral Technical College – Change zoning to W-1 Conservancy and work with County to purchase or insure permanent park land status to protect from development.
2. Zone park land/conservancy north and south along the Black River.
3. Zone park land/outdoor recreation facility land (i.e., soccer fields, etc.) west along Allman Street to County Q and Miller property east of Fairgrounds.
4. Research and identify potential new land(s) that would be suitable for natural and developed recreation park space.
<b>Suggestions to improve the Riverwalk corridor and City Park Systems:</b>
1. Expand the Riverwalk south to County Trunk O as described in the City's 2004-2009 Outdoor Recreation Plan.
3. Acquire Melvin lime storage facility, Medford Cooperative Fertilizer Plant, BP steel sheds, and railroad right-of-way for conversion to park land as described in the City's 2004-2009 Outdoor Recreation Plan.
4. Control the goose and duck populations, and non-native invasive plants.
5. Improve the Millpond and river fisheries to sustainable population, and explore pond dredging as a means to improve fisheries habitat.

**Long Term Plan Suggestions (11 Years Plus)**

Suggestion
<b>Work with interested parties (Friends of the Downtown) on the development of a Performing Arts Center to address cultural needs/issues within the City.</b>