

Project Criteria and Vision

Park Design Criteria

The Technical Advisory Committee developed the following list of criteria to be followed in the planning process for the park.

- *Make the uniqueness of this park accessible to the user.*
- *Communicate the importance of the geologic history of the Mississippi River to this site.*
- *The park should fill a need and not duplicate things provided in neighboring facilities.*
- *Improve and protect the native habitat of the site.*
- *Conservation should be paramount in design.*
- *The park should work to cooperate and coordinate with the Michaelson Wildlife Management Area.*

These six criteria formed the basis for the creation of the committees' vision for the park.

Vision Statement

To create a regionally significant park for the benefit of people and nature and to provide this for the residents and visitors of Benton County; A park that shall be distinctive in its presentation and preservation of its natural physical characteristics, biological significance and cultural heritage.

The vision and criteria were then used to guide the Technical Advisory Committee in the creation and prioritization of a program for park development and priorities.

Park Program of Development

The program for development of the park is an effort by the Committee to balance the needs of Benton County for human recreation and their desire to respect the history and promote the ecology of the land. This park is to be viewed as a haven for wildlife while providing people with recreation and learning opportunities not found in existing parks in the County.

The program was developed at the first public open house meeting and at a subsequent meeting the Technical Advisory Committee ranked the program items.

Program Item Ranking

Rank	Description	Total Points
1	Provide opportunities and facilities for self guided interpretive education of the following: Wildlife, Vegetation, History, Aquatic, Geologic	40
2	Restore native vegetation on the site.	38
3	Provide for trail connections from the park to other areas and facilities to allow non motorized access. This may include trails linking surrounding communities or regional trails.	30
4*	Any use suggested must be sustainable – (fitting within the framework of the parks ecology). Make the Graves Farm building habitable and find a use for them.	28
5	Interpretive trails should be provided through the 54 acres purchased with monies from the DNR Natural and Scenic Grant Program.	27
6	Work to find ways to complement and take advantage of any recreational opportunities that may exist at the Michaelson WMA .	22
7*	Include cross country ski trails – both standard track and skate/ski track. Incorporate opportunities for actual exhibitions of draft horse use in the historic farm setting.	20
8	Control access to the park – (to minimize indiscriminate motorized vehicle use of the park.	17
9	Collect and make available to the public the oral history of the park.	16
10	Provide opportunities for bird watching – trails, blinds etc.	15
11	Include a historic farm machinery display area.	11
12	Manage the wind breaks, culling mature trees and replanting as required.	9
13	Smaller group picnic areas, (15 to 30 person capacity), with fewer amenities than the large group picnic area and non – reservation based.	8
14	Create a birding area in the southern portion of the park.	7
15*	Make use of the windbreaks for separation of uses. Acknowledge the activist activities of the former property owner through the historic interpretation of the site. Provide bocce and horseshoe courts in conjunction with picnicking and/or the Graves Farm.	6
16*	Provide a non-motorized boat access to the river. (Carry-in access) Created a disc golf course. – (utilize wind breaks in the course) Provide an open green area for non-organized active recreation – ie. games associated with picnicking and camping.	5
17*	Horse Trails Provide for low impact shoreline fishing with platforms or piers.	4
18*	Paved recreational trails for year round use should be provided within the park. Provide for rustic / remote individual camp sites. Provide for a children’s playground associated with the group picnic facilities.	3

19*	Provide an area where additional related historic structures could be moved onto the park. Provide a large group picnic area, (100 to 150 person capacity), and amenities that would be reservation based.	1
20*	Provide an area within the park for mountain biking. Provide a fenced area for dog park. (Maybe a future use) Provide for rustic group camping – ie. for scout troops etc. Create a BMX track.	0

** Multiple items tied for ranking.*

While the Committee made an effort to include as many program ideas as possible in the alternative concept plans developed later in the design process, it must be noted that some of the lower ranking items were not considered due to the limited amount of space, or conflicts presented when the program items were weighed against the Committees vision for the park.

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